

20<sup>th</sup> May 2026

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

### **Annual Report 2025**

**A Chomhairleoir, a chara,**

The Annual Report 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 2025 for Limerick City and County Council.

**Is mise le meas,**



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

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City  
& County Council

ATLANTIC EDGE  
**LIMERICK**  
EUROPEAN EMBRACE

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## JOINT FOREWORD



**John Moran**  
Mayor of Limerick



**Dr. Pat Daly**  
Director General



**Councillor Catherine Slattery**  
Príomh Chomhairleoir of  
Limerick City and County Council

The Annual Report 2025 provides a detailed overview of Limerick City and County Council's (LCCC) achievements over another busy and productive year.

It showcases the wide range of services delivered by the Council. The provisions of these services are continuing to improve the quality of life for Limerick's residents and enhance the profile of both Limerick city and county, while supporting development with a strong emphasis on inclusivity, sustainability and community wellbeing.

In carrying out these services, the council has completed its second year of operating under three pillars of local government: the elected Limerick City and County Council, the Directly Elected Mayor and the Director General, management and staff of the local authority, which remains responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the local authority and the Council Executive led by the Director General.

The year began with Limerick City and County Council facing the challenge of Storm Éowyn in the first few days of January. A Local Coordination Group was established by the Council to support residents in need in areas where further assistance was required, to help ensure that residents who were without water or power for several days, or who required humanitarian assistance could access the supports they need.

A key landmark of 2025 saw the council agree on a balanced budget for 2026, totalling €1.73 billion (including €639.8 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. A key challenge is the ongoing inflationary pressures on all Council services but particularly in the areas of housing maintenance, street-cleaning, grass cutting and roads maintenance.

Housing remains a top priority, guided by the Government's 'Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025-2030' plan along with the revised National Planning Framework, which is intended to provide diverse and sustainable housing solutions for all residents. This revised plan has identified a housing supply of 2,599 units required by the Council between 2025 and 2034.

The anticipation for the Ryder Cup in 2027 continues to build with preparations intensifying throughout 2025. This included the official announcement of the dates for the event, which will position Limerick as the global epicentre of golf from September 13th to 19th in 2027. Limerick City and County Council granted the event licence to Ryder Cup Europe in September 2025, with the Council's Ryder Cup Office continuing to progress various obligations under the 'Host Nation' contract for the event throughout the year. Part 8 planning applications for Park and Ride facilities in Annacotty, Patrickswell and Croagh have been approved by Council. The event promises a significant economic impact and a lasting legacy for Limerick. In preparation for the Ryder Cup event, significant progress was made throughout 2025 on the Adare Bypass, including enabling works, with the project continuing to progress in order to allow this section of the fuller Foynes to Limerick route to be completed by June 2027.

Other major infrastructure projects such as the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project, the King's Island Flood Relief Scheme and the Market Quarter and Cruises Street Public Realm Project continued to progress, which will all be transformative projects that shape the future of Limerick.

Limerick's economic offering has continued to gather momentum, with further job creation and investments underscoring industry confidence in Limerick and the Midwest region. Notable milestones in 2025 included significant announcements from ALDI, Penney's and

OpenChip. Limerick City and County Council also unveiled its Invest in Limerick promotional video at a high-profile launch event in New York City, marking a major milestone in its international investment strategy.

The Council signed an historic Friendship Agreement with the city of Savannah, Georgia, USA. This agreement marks the beginning of a new chapter of collaboration and cultural exchange between Limerick and Savannah. The declaration of friendship aims to foster mutual understanding, promote tourism, and encourage economic development through shared initiatives and projects.

Riverfest Limerick celebrated its 21st edition this year, with more than 140,000 people creating memories in the city during the May Bank Holiday weekend. The event saw buzzing bars, packed restaurants and bustling hotels reaping the rewards of Limerick's biggest party.

A new initiative aimed at enhancing the night-time economy in Limerick city entitled 'Twilight Thursdays' was successfully rolled out, reaping the benefits of Limerick's participation in the national Night Time Economy pilot programme. From May onwards, Twilight Thursdays took place on the last Thursday of every month. The initiative brought together cultural events, live entertainment and late-night business openings to create a dynamic and welcoming atmosphere for all.

Strategic initiatives by Limerick City and County Council's Designated Activity Company (DAC), Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) progressed significantly in 2025. The One Opera Square project, an €80 million development and world-class six-storey office block, was officially launched in September. It comprises 106,000 sq. ft of Grade A office space across five floors with capacity for 1,000 employees, three ground-floor retail/restaurant units and underground car-parking.

Additionally, a planning application for a significant development at the former Cleeves factory site were submitted. These plans include a mixed housing development, commercial space, public realm upgrades and childcare facilities.

Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre officially reopened following an extensive refurbishment and flood-remediation programme. The project was supported by grants under the

Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF), complemented by matched funding from Limerick City and County Council totalling an approx. €2.8 million investment. The Grove Island Leisure Centre in Corbally also saw a major refurbishment and expansion project completed, featuring a refurbished swimming pool deck, enhanced changing village and wellness areas, and an expanded gym with state-of-the-art equipment in an approx. €1.85 million investment.

Reflecting the organisation's priority of continuing to improve quality of life for people in Limerick, Limerick City and County Council has been awarded accreditation to the World Health Organisation (WHO) European Healthy Cities and Counties Network, an initiative underscoring Limerick's commitment to promoting health and wellbeing for all of its residents. The award was presented at a WHO European Healthy Cities Annual Conference attended by a delegation from the Council which took place in Bursa, Türkiye.

Limerick City and County Council's commitment to quality service was reflected in a number of national awards, including being named winner of the "Supporting Tourism" category at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2025 for the 'Limerick Greenway - Embrace the Unexpected!' project, which recognised the Greenway as a transformative tourism and community asset for West Limerick. Limerick City and County Council was also proud to host the all-Ireland Pride of Place community awards in their 23rd edition. In nominating the Council for the Council Community Engagement Award on the night for their ongoing work to improve the city and county, the judges stated that: 'the same pride and passion that is so evident across Limerick's sporting achievements is equally reflected in the dedication of local communities - supported by council staff and management'.

Reflecting on 2025, we extend our sincere thanks to our elected members, council staff, community partners, committed individuals and stakeholders, whose continued support and cooperation have been central to advancing Limerick's growth and success. We remain focused on working together to build a future for Limerick that is vibrant, inclusive and sustainable for all.

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

### MAYORAL PROGRAMME

2025 marked a significant milestone as the first full calendar year of the Mayor and the Mayoral Programme, with a strong emphasis on implementation. With the Programme now fully operational, a Mayoral Fund of €10.5 million was advanced by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to support its delivery. This funding enabled progress across a range of strategic initiatives, including Housing Initiatives (€3.6 million) and Urban Development and Public Spaces (€2.8 million).

To ensure robust governance and oversight, several new structures were introduced during the year. The Programme Governance and Oversight Group (PGOG), an internal body, was established to provide strategic direction, assurance, and accountability for successful delivery and to oversee implementation and coordinate operational management.

The Programme is ambitious in scale, comprising over 300 actionable tasks. By December, 35 Mayoral Programme objectives had been completed, and 251 were in progress, reflecting strong momentum in delivery. Four meetings of the Statutory Mayoral Implementation and Advisory Committee were held during the year, reinforcing collaboration and stakeholder engagement.

2025 was therefore a year of significant progress, laying the foundations for continued success in 2026 and beyond.

#### MORE LIVEABLE LIMERICK

2025 saw significant progress under the More Liveable Limerick pillar, with initiatives focused on enhancing public spaces, improving transport connectivity, and advancing innovative housing solutions. Some key achievements include:

- Progressed the RIAI (Royal Institute of Architects Ireland) Moyross Design Review, supporting regeneration and high-quality urban design.
- Advanced the BusConnects Programme, expanding services into Mungret and planning further extension to Annacotty Business Park.
- Delivered an outdoor volleyball court in Castletroy Park, adding new recreational amenities.
- Minister for Culture, Communication & Sports, Patrick O'Donovan officially opened Grove Island Sports Facility in the presence of the Mayor in December.
- Minister for Culture, Communication & Sports, Patrick O'Donovan officially reopened Askeaton Sports and Leisure Centre in the presence of the Mayor in December following refurbishment.
- Completed the initial phase of the LSAD (Limerick Scholl of Art and Design) Graduate and Local Artists Acquisition Programme, promoting local creativity and cultural vibrancy.
- Secured funding through the Mayoral Fund to maintain operation of the public realm CCTV network through 2026.

- Advanced the SMART (Short-term Modular Affordable Rental Transition) Housing Programme, showcasing two demonstrator units in Arthur's Quay Park. Public feedback strongly supported the 32m<sup>2</sup> compliant one-person, one-bed apartment unit.
- Psychologists conducted comprehensive interviews and surveys, reporting overwhelmingly positive public sentiment toward the programme and recommending progression to a pilot phase to test alternative housing standards.

#### MORE PROSPEROUS LIMERICK

Under the More Prosperous Limerick pillar, 2025 focused on economic growth, cultural vibrancy, and strategic partnerships to position Limerick as a dynamic and competitive city region. Some key achievements include:

- Construction works progressed steadily on the King's Island Flood Relief Scheme, designed to protect residents and properties from future flooding.
- Launched Twilight Thursdays, a monthly initiative combining cultural events, live entertainment, and late-night business openings to create a vibrant city centre atmosphere.
- Secured a successful bid, in partnership with County Clare, to host EuroPride 2028, reinforcing Limerick's reputation as an inclusive and welcoming destination.
- Officially opened the One Opera Square building in September, adding significant high quality commercial space to the city centre.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Limerick School of Art and Design, Limerick City and County Council, and the Brooklyn Fashion Incubator (New York) to support the development of a fashion incubator in Limerick.

#### MORE HEALTHY LIMERICK

The More Healthy Limerick pillar delivered initiatives aimed at improving health equity, supporting childcare and education, and enhancing wellbeing across the city and county. Some key achievements include:

- Allocated €50,000 through the Mayoral Fund to support the Bruff Childcare Project.
- Committed €30,000 in Mayoral funding to Garrydoolis National School for its breakfast and afterschool club.
- Progressed the Parnell Street Pocket Park project with Mayoral funding, creating new green space in the city.
- Supported Limerick Mental Health Week in October, promoting awareness and wellbeing.
- Construction commenced by the Health Service Executive (HSE) of a new ambulance base for the region at Rosbrien, improving emergency response capacity.
- Launched the Limerick Health Equity Region Oversight Group to address health inequalities linked to poverty and disadvantage.

## 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 Catherine Slattery**  
Príomh Chomhairleoir of  
Limerick City and  
County Council

# LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

## 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**  
(NP)



**Cllr. Seán Hartigan**  
(GP)



**Cllr. Sarah Kiely**  
(FG)



**Cllr. Joe Pond**  
(FF)



**Cllr. Elena Secas**  
(NP)



**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)

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## 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)

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## 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)

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## 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)

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## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST - 6 MEMBERS



**Cllr. Michael Collins**  
(FF)



**Cllr. Francis Foley**  
(FF)



**Cllr. Liam Galvin**  
(FG)



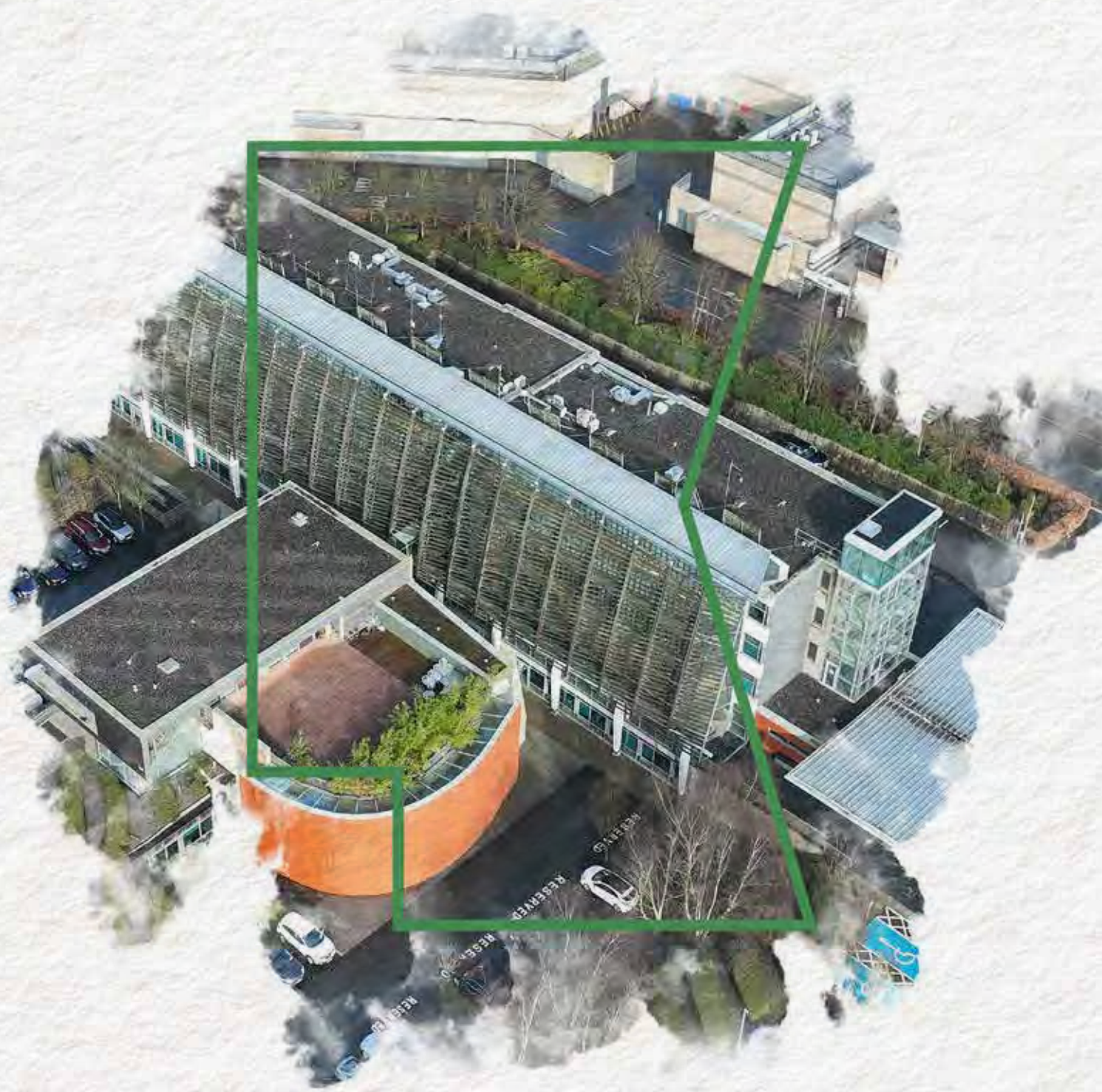
**Cllr. Tom Ruddle**  
(FG)



**Cllr. Jerome Scanlan**  
(NP)



**Cllr. John Sheahan**  
(FG)



COUNCIL MEMBERS  
AND MEETINGS

## 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 23 occasions in 2025.

### MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Metropolitan District of Limerick	21	12
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	6	14
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	7	22
Municipal District of Newcastle West	6	12

### LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA BRIEFINGS

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Limerick City East	7	10
Limerick City North	7	10
Limerick City West	7	10

### 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 and the Chairs of each of the Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs). Membership is as follows:

- John Moran, Mayor of Limerick
- Councillor Catherine Slattery, 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 Michael Collins, 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 2025.

\*Position as at 31/12/2025

### COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Strategic Policy Committee	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Home and Social Development	24	5
Travel and Transportation	24	5
Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning	24	4
Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture	26	5
Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	24	4

Other Committees	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	17	4
Rural Water Committee	13	0
Audit and Risk Committee	7	6
Local Community Development Committee	16	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 31/12/2025

### HOME AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

#### Elected Members:

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

#### Sectoral Representatives:

Mr. Michael Joyce	Development/Construction
Mr. Seán Golden	Business/Commercial
Ms. Carol McNamara	Trade Union
Ms. Una Burns	Community/Voluntary*
Ms. Toyin Salmon	Social Inclusion*
Ms. Eileen Irwin	Community/Voluntary*
Vacancy	Community/Voluntary*
Vacancy	Community/Voluntary*

\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) is responsible for the formulation, monitoring and reviewing of policies related to housing and to advise the Council accordingly. There were five meetings of the Home and Social Development SPC held in 2025. Presentations and policy were progressed on the following:

- Presentation on the role of the SPC for new members
- Changes to Limerick City and County Council Allocation Scheme in relation to Rightsizing

- Presentation on Smart Housing Programme
- Presentation by The Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation on the Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Presentation by Safe Home Ireland
- Presentation on the Proposed Home Improvement Scheme
- Presentation on the Introduction of Charges for Homeless Private Emergency Accommodation Services
- Presentation by Threshold
- Presentation on new Government Housing Plan-Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025-2030
- Presentation on various Grant Schemes such as Housing Adaptation Grants
- Update on Tenant Purchase properties
- Discussion on working group for Autism Friendly Limerick

### 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:

Mr. Philip Ruttle	Agriculture/Farming
Vacancy	Environment/Conservation*
Mr. John Foster	Development/Construction
Mr. Sean Golden	Business/Commercial
Mr. Dan O'Neill	Trade Union
Mr. Farron Flaherty	Community/Voluntary*
Mr. David Tobin	Community/Voluntary*
Ms. Maureen Browne	Social Inclusion*

\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Travel and Transportation SPC held five meetings in 2025. Presentations and policy were progressed on the following:

- Presentation on Community Hedge-cutting Scheme
- Limerick City Centre Transport Plan Update
- Presentation of the Active Travel Interactive Map

- Update on Local Link Service
- Presentation on the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process for Road Schemes
- Update on provision of salt to Resident Associations during extreme weather conditions
- Presentation on ‘Think before you park campaign’
- Presentation on Transport Oriented Development in Limerick
- Presentation on EV Implementation Stage and Update on progress to date
- Presentation on progress of Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS 2022) Implementation Plan
- Presentation on Draft Limerick City and County Council Accessibility Strategy
- Presentation on the integration of Active Travel Programme with Emergency Services

## 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:

Mr. John Hannon	Agriculture/Farming
Vacancy	Environment/Conservation*
Mr. Michael Joyce	Development/Construction
Mr. Sean Golden	Business/Commercial
Ms. Michelle Gallagher	Business/Commercial
Mr. Declan Hehir	Community/Voluntary*
Mr. Brian Thompson	Community/Voluntary*
Mr. Vadivel Raj	Social Inclusion*

\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning Strategic Policy Committee met four times in 2025. The main items discussed were as follows:

- Proposed Development Contributions Scheme 2025
- Proposed Shop Front Guidelines
- Local Enterprise Office update
- Festival and Events: the benefits to tourism
- Market Quarter and Cruises Street Public Realm Upgrades
- Update on Thrive Kings Island Walled Town Area Project
- Nighttime Economy Plan
- New Draft Limerick Tourism Strategy 2025-2030
- Presentation on Pathways to Innovate (RDI Hub)

## 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:

Ms. Louise Crowley	Agricultural/Farming
Vacancy	Environment/Conservation*
Mr. John Ward	Development/Construction
Mr. Randal Hodkinson	Business/Commercial
Mr. Pete Moles	Community/Voluntary*
Ms. Marian Hurley	Community/Voluntary*
Mr. Pádraig Lohan	Community/Voluntary*
Vacancy	Community/Voluntary*
Mr. Khurram Iqbal	Social Inclusion*
Mr. Daniel Nedelcu	Social Inclusion*

\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee met five times in 2025. The main items discussed were as follows:

- World Health Organisation – Healthy Cities Application
- New Local Studies Website
- Local Sports Plan
- Limerick Outdoor Recreation Strategy
- Developing Street Performance in Limerick
- The National Famine Commemoration 2025
- Library Tablet Lending Project in partnership with Vodafone Foundation
- Age Friendly Ireland – National Update
- New Local Community Safety Partnership and the Pilot Community Safety Warden’s scheme
- Consultation on ‘Our Rural Future’ Programme

## 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:

Mr. Sean Lavery	Agriculture/Farming
Mr. Barry Murphy	Agriculture/Farming
Mr. Conor Joy	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)

The Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee met four times in 2025.

Among the main items discussed were the Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan, Limerick Climate Action Plan, Results of Clean Air Together Project and the Council Tree Policy.

# REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

(\*position at 31/12/2025)

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

## 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. Bridie Collins

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MOYROSS COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CENTRE LIMITED

Cllr. Pdraig 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 TWENTY THIRTY 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. Maria Donoghue

Cllr. John Sheahan

**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

Approval to hold the March Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick on 10 March.

Approval to hold the April Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick on 22 April.

Approval of the taking in charge of Crannog, Dublin 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 Proposed Development of 20 Housing Units at Ballycummin Road, Raheen, Limerick.

Adoption of the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2025 for the Metropolitan District of Limerick in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

Part 8 Approval for the Proposed Development of a Design and Innovation Hub at 35-39 Nicholas Street (a Proposed Protected Structure (Ref. No.: P.P.S. 2024/A)) to comprise artist studios, workspaces, retail area, exhibition space and café/restaurant with associated outdoor area adjoining St. Peter Street.

Approval that, Nos. 35-39 Nicholas Street, Limerick be added to the Record of Protected Structures in accordance with the provisions of Sections 54 and 55 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

Approval to amend allocations previously approved under the Community Initiative Scheme 2024 – General Municipal Allocations (GMA).

Approval to hold the Annual Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick on 23 June.

Approval to the taking in charge of the roads in Kylemore Phases 5 and 6, 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 of the proposals under the Community Initiative Scheme 2025 - General Municipal Allocation (GMA).

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

Approval in relation to an amendment under the Community Initiative Scheme 2025 – General Municipal Allocations

(GMA) to change the name for the funding allocation from Castlerock Residents Committee to Castlerock Housing Development.

Part 8 Approval of the Market Quarter and Cruises Street Public Realm Project.

Approval of the granting of a licence for the Christmas in Limerick 2025 Light Up Procession Event in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Approval of the Extinguishment of the Public Right of Way at Bloodmill Road, Limerick in accordance with Section 73 of the Roads Act 1993.

Part 8 approval of the proposed development consisting of works to the public realm at Church Street, Castle Street, The Parade, Nicholas Street and St. Augustine Place, King's Island, Limerick.

Part 8 Approval in relation to the demolition of the existing vacant scout hall building and the construction of five number housing units at Scouthall, Bawnmore Road, Limerick.

Part 8 Approval in relation to the proposed development of 22 number dwelling units and associated public realm improvement works at Cosgrave Park, Moyross, Limerick.

### MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE-KILMALLOCK

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Cappamore Kilmallock for the financial year ending 31 December 2026, details as follows:

Svce	General Municipal Allocation -2026	Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District
B04	Local Roads	130,000
D05	Tourism Development Recreation and Amenity	10,000
F04	Community Initiatives	10,000
	Special Projects – LA Infrastructure	100,000
	Special Projects LPT	77,600
Total	General Municipal Allocation	327,600

Approval of Allocations under the General Municipal Allocation, Development Fund, Community Initiatives Scheme and Community Facilities Grants Scheme 2025.



Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas Chathaoirleach.

Adoption of the 2026 Schedule of Municipal Works for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.

Decision to receive Deputations from the following:

- Killeely Dromkeen Burial Ground Committee;
- Ballyhoura Heritage and Environment;
- Bruree Community Group;
- Hospital Family Resource Centre;
- Bruff Dromin Athlacca Ballinlee Community Action Group;
- Limerick and Clare ETB;
- Maigne River Trust;
- Kilmallock Tourism.

Adoption of the Minutes of Meetings.

Approval of Part 8 planning for the following projects:

- Active Travel Scheme in Cappamore;
- Active Travel Scheme in Doon;
- Housing at former Garda Station, Galbally;
- Housing at Crawford Street, Bruff;

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE

Approval of allocations under the General Municipal Allocation 2025.

Part 8 Approval for the redevelopment of the Monument Hill Walk in Foynes, Co. Limerick.

Adoption of the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2025 for the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District.

Approval to hold the May 2025 Monthly Meeting of the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District in St. Mary's National School, High Street, Croom, Co. Limerick.

Approval to hold the Annual Meeting on the 27 June.

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

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST

Approval of allocations under the General Municipal Allocation 2025.

Approval to hold the Annual Meeting on the 3 June.

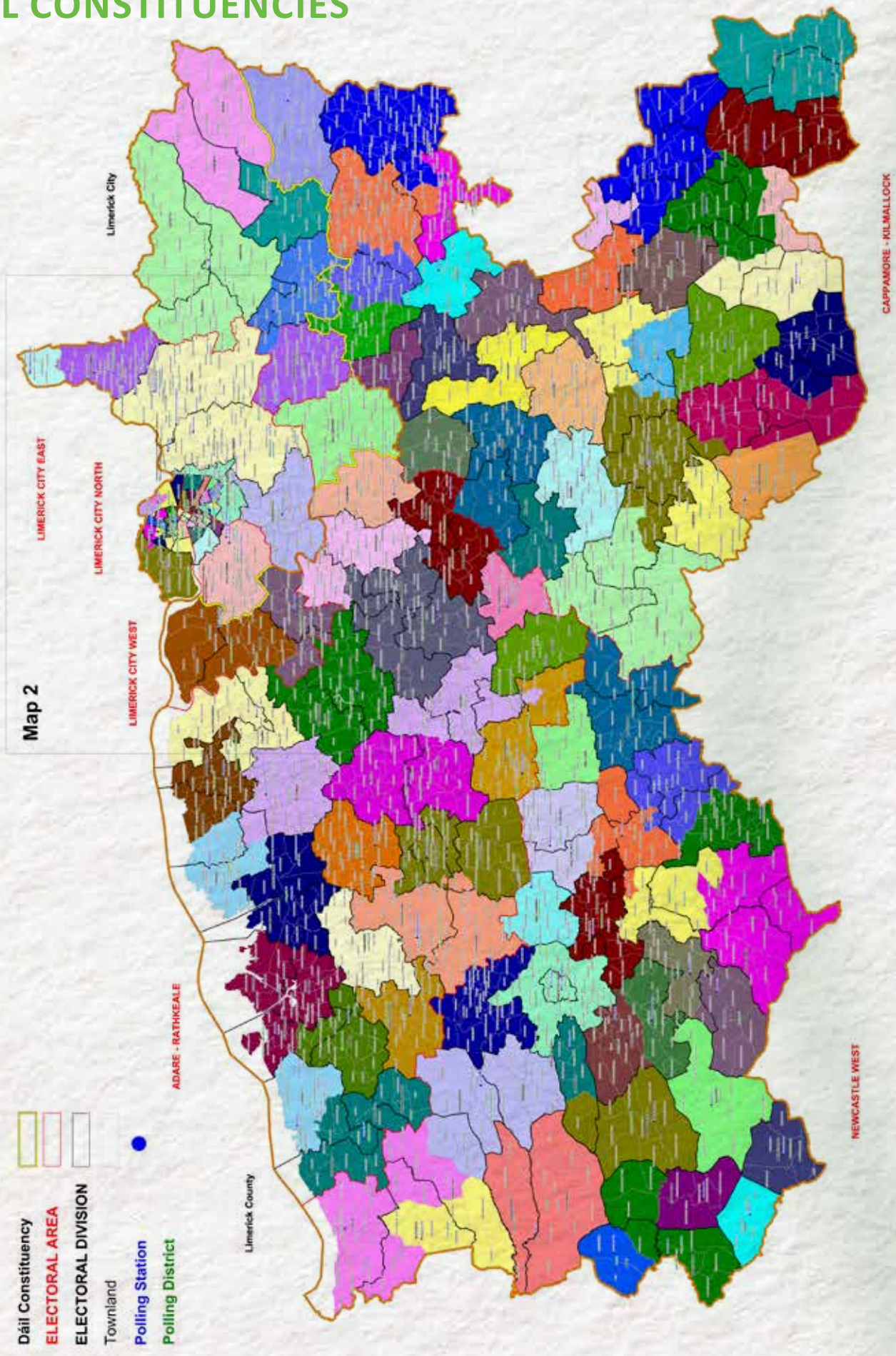
Election of the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Approval to the taking in charge of the Ray's Estate, Mountcollins, Co. 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 development involving the demolition of the existing unfinished structures (12 No. dwellings) and the erection and development of 12 residential units at Cois Na Féile, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

# DAIL CONSTITUENCIES

## Limerick City and County Polling Scheme





EVENTS, HIGHLIGHTS  
AND CIVIC RECEPTIONS

## MAYORAL RECEPTIONS



### 15.01.2025 – Limerick Under 16 Camogie Team

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 15 January for Limerick Under 16 Camogie Team, in recognition of their outstanding success in winning the 2024 Munster and All-Ireland Under 16s Camogie Championships.



### 15.01.2025 – Munster Wheelchair Hurling Camogie Team

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 15 January for Munster Wheelchair Hurling Camogie Team in recognition of their fantastic achievement in winning the 2024 All-Ireland Wheelchair Hurling Camogie Championship.

Photograph includes Back Row L-R: Gerry McNamara (Munster Representative), David Fitzgerald Coach, Darren Dinanne player, the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, John Carey, Coach.

Front Row Players L-R: Ellie Sheehy, Cian Horgan, James McCarty, Cormac Downey, Maurice Noonan.

### 15.01.2025 - Limerick Representatives with Rowing Ireland:

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 15 January for Limerick Representatives with Rowing Ireland in recognition of their stellar performances at the 2024 Home International and Coupe de la Jeunesse Rowing Championships.

Photograph includes L-R: Michael McDonagh, Aida Hehir, Cloda Phillips, Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, Lorna McNamara, Shibeal Ní Fhlaitheartaigh, Derek Bowen and Andrew O'Connor.





**15.01.2025- Diane Moore and Sophie Quirke**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 15 January for Diane Moore and Sophie Quirke in recognition of their outstanding achievement in representing Ireland in the 2024 Under 16s Polocrosse tour to England.

Photograph includes L-R: Diane Moore, the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran and Sophie Quirke.



**15-01-2025 – Castletroy Golf Club**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 15 January for the Members of Castletroy Golf Club in recognition of their outstanding achievements in the Irish Men's Senior Cup in August 2024.



**15-01-2025 – Team Ireland Special Olympics Representatives**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 15 January for Team Ireland Special Olympics Representatives, Andy Coyne, Brian Lowe, Tara Loftus and Emma Griffin in recognition of their outstanding achievement representing Ireland at the Princess Charlene International in Monaco in October 2024.

Photograph includes L-R: Andy Coyne, Brian Lowe, the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, Tara Loftus and Emma Griffin.



**29-01-2025 – Kieran Earls, David Keating, Roisin Ni Riain**  
 A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 29 January for Kieran Earls in recognition of his success in winning the 2024 Pitch and Putt World Cup with Team Ireland. David Keating in recognition of becoming the oldest Irish male to reach the summit of Mount Everest. Roisin Ni Riain in recognition of her success in winning Silver and Bronze Medals in the 2024 Paralympic Games.  
 Photograph includes L-R: Kieran Earls, David Keating, the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran and Roisin Ni Riain.



**29-05-2025 - Michael A. Benn – Grand Marshal of the 2025 NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade**  
 A Mayoral Reception was held on 29 May to honour Limerick native Michael A. Benn, Grand Marshal of the 2025 New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, in its 264th year.



**12-06-2025 - Cathy Halloran**  
 A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 12 June for Cathy Halloran in recognition of her dedicated service to the communities of the Mid-West and her outstanding contribution to Irish broadcasting during her long career as Mid-West Correspondent with RTE News and Current Affairs.



**3-07-2025 – Posthumous Honour for Richard Harris**  
 The Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, hosted a Mayoral Reception at the Hunt Museum to honour the late actor Richard Harris during the launch of the "From Dickie to Richard" exhibition. The event celebrated Harris's remarkable contributions to Limerick's story, the arts, to the cultural legacy of Ireland, and to the global stage. Richard's children - Jared, Jamie and Damian Harris - accepted an official scroll on his behalf.  
 This reception recognised Mr Harris' profound and lasting impact on film and theatre, both as an internationally celebrated actor and as cultural ambassador who elevated Irish cinema worldwide.  
 Tribute:  
 In honour of Richard Harris – a proud son of Limerick and an artist of extraordinary depth – whose legacy in film, theatre, and the arts continues to inspire across generations.  
 Through characters of fierce conviction and quiet vulnerability, he brought to life the spirit of storytelling, shaped by the streets and soul of Limerick.  
 This tribute celebrates a life lived boldly, a craft pursued fearlessly, and a legacy that endures.



**23-09-2025 - Liam Beville**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 23 September, 2025 for Liam Beville in recognition of his lifelong service to Irish Powerlifting.



**23-09-2025 - Des Galligan**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 23 September for Des Galligan in recognition of his lifelong service to Tang Soo Do in Limerick and Ireland.



**23-09-2025 – John Kinsella**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 23 September for John Kinsella, in recognition of his achievement as the first and only Irish person, and the first person over 40 worldwide, to run all six World Marathon Majors in under 2 hours and 30 minutes.



**23-09-2025 - Madison McGuane**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 23 September to honour Madison McGuane in recognition of her achievement as Under 17 Ireland International Women's Player of the Year.

The official scroll was accepted on Madison's behalf by her mother, Marion McGuane. Photograph includes the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran and Marion McGuane.



**23-09-2025 – Jack Rafferty**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 23 September for Jack Rafferty in recognition of his achievement on winning Gold for Ireland at the World Under 19 Rowing Championships.

Photograph includes L-R: Pat McInerney, Rowing Coach, St Michael's Rowing Club, Limerick, the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran and Jack Rafferty, Junior World Champion from St Michael's Rowing Club, Limerick.



**23.09.2025 – Fairview Rangers FC**  
A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 23 September for Fairview Rangers Football Club in recognition of their achievement on winning the FAI Junior Cup 2024/2025

Photograph includes L-R: Shane Duggan, Captain, the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran and Pat Keegan.



**23-09-2025 – Limerick Celtics Basketball Club**  
A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 23 September for Limerick Celtics Basketball Club in recognition of their achievement on being promoted to the Super League.



**23-09-2025 – Limerick Desmond Schoolboy U-14 Team**  
A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 23 September for Limerick Desmond Schoolboy Under-14 Team in recognition of their achievement as Kennedy Cup Winners 2025.

Photograph includes L-R: Deane Maune, Manager, Dan Healy, the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, Darragh O'Connor and Kevin Clifford, Chairman.



**15-10-2025 – Irish Chamber Orchestra**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 15 October to celebrate the Irish Chamber Orchestra's 30th anniversary in Limerick.

**Tribute:-**

On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, the Irish Chamber Orchestra (ICO) is honoured for its outstanding artistic excellence, global impact, and transformative contribution to the cultural life of Limerick. Since relocating to the city in 1995, the ICO has been a powerful force for innovation, education, and community engagement through pioneering initiatives and international collaborations. Today, we celebrate an ensemble that continues to inspire, connect, and elevate through world-class music made in and for Limerick. Photograph includes L-R: Henning Kraggerud, Principal Conductor and Artistic Partner, Helen Phelan, Director of World Music Academy, Aibhlín McCrann, Chairperson of the Board Irish Chamber Orchestra, Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, Gerard Keenan, Chief Executive of the Irish Chamber Orchestra and Cathriona Murphy Deputy CEO/ Operations Manager at Irish Chamber Orchestra.



**6-11-2025 – Limerick Senior Football Team**

The Mayor of Limerick, John Moran and Príomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor Catherine Slattery hosted a Civic Reception at the Council Chamber in Dooradoyle on 06 November to honour the Limerick Senior Football Team for their outstanding achievements during the 2025 season.

The reception recognised the team's success in winning Division 4 of the Allianz National Football League and reaching the Final of the Tailteann Cup. The Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan TD, and other members of the Oireachtas from Limerick were also in attendance.



## PRÍOMH CHOMHAIRLEOIR RECEPTION'S



Councillor Catherine Slattery, Príomh Chomhairleoir held a reception on Wednesday, 22 October, in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle for the Southside Ladies Group - in recognition of their dedication, commitment and effort in encouraging and promoting women in their community.



Councillor Catherine Slattery, Príomh Chomhairleoir held a reception on Wednesday, 22 October, in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle for Lee Reeves - In recognition of his achievements in sport and boxing and his advocacy for mens mental health.

## TWINNING



Limerick City and County Council signed a Friendship Agreement with the city of Savannah, Georgia, USA. This historic agreement marks the beginning of a new chapter of collaboration and cultural exchange.

The signing ceremony took place during a special meeting of Limerick City and County Council in the Council Chamber in Dooradoyle on 18 February.

Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, Príomh Comhairleoir, Cllr Dan McSweeney and the Director General of Limerick City and County Council, Dr Pat Daly welcomed a delegation from Savannah led by Mayor of the City of Savannah, Van R. Johnson II.

The declaration of friendship aims to foster mutual understanding, promote tourism, and encourage economic development through shared initiatives and projects.





CORPORATE SERVICES, HR AND  
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## HUMAN RESOURCES AND BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT



A motivated and committed workforce equipped to support managers in the delivery of high quality services and strategic projects as set out in the Corporate Plan and Mayoral Plan is fundamental to the attainment of the strategic and operational goals of Limerick City and County Council. In 2025, the Human Resources (HR) Department continued to also provide a wide range of supports to our most valuable resource – our staff. HR also supported the organisation to deliver on its strategic objectives, including the appointment of three Directors of Services to replace departing Directors as well as implementing an organisational restructuring. HR also strengthens organisational capability through targeted learning and development and improved recruitment processes, supporting a skilled, agile workforce equipped to deliver on organisational priorities.

### Strategic Workforce Planning

Strategic Workforce Planning is essential to enable Limerick City and County Council to respond to its strategic challenges and evolving environment within which we operate, to deliver the priorities outlined in Corporate Plan and Mayoral Programme. The process requires a review of the existing workforce and deployment of existing skills, competencies, experience and headcount. Background work continued in 2025. The guidelines requires Local Authorities to finalise preparation of a Strategic Workforce Plan following adoption of the Corporate Plan. It is intended to have a workforce Plan in Place in 2026 following adoption of the Corporate Plan.

### Recruitment

The Recruitment Section continues to play a key role in supporting Limerick City and County Council's Workforce Planning process, ensuring we have the right people in place to meet organisational priorities and deliver quality services to our citizens.

Throughout 2025, recruitment activity remained strong, with 53 competitions completed using a mix of online and in-person methods. In total, 887 interviews were conducted for a wide range of positions, following shortlisting processes carried out both remotely and on-site.

Major recruitment campaigns during the year included competitions for Staff Officer, Assistant Staff Officer, Clerical Officer, General Operative, and General Operative/Driver (C1 Licence). We also successfully appointed candidates to several key leadership roles, such as Director of Services, Resident Engineer, Senior Executive Engineer, Senior Executive Planner, Night-Time Economy Advisor, and Programme Manager.

Specialist and niche roles were also a focus in 2025, with competitions for positions such as Assistant Architectural Conservation Officer, Executive Parks and Landscape Officer, Executive Scientist, Tree Officer Housing Welfare Officer, Community Safety Co-ordinator and Community Safety Administrator. These appointments strengthen expertise in critical service areas including Climate Action, Housing and Regeneration.

Recruitment within Fire and Emergency Services continued to be a priority, with campaigns for both management and operational roles. Positions filled included Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Assistant Fire Officer, Full-Time Firefighter, and retained firefighter roles across multiple locations. We also recruited for essential support roles such as Principal Emergency Control Operator and Emergency Control Operator, ensuring the resilience and efficiency of emergency response services.

As in previous years, technical and professional roles in engineering, architecture, planning, and ICT remained challenging to fill, reflecting wider market trends. Our team continues to explore innovative approaches to attract talent in these areas.

To promote the Council as an employer of choice, we participated in numerous Jobs Fairs during 2025 and will maintain this engagement throughout 2026.

We also continued to provide valuable opportunities for students, welcoming 58 placements from third-level institutions during the year. These placements offer meaningful work experience while strengthening our links

with future talent. Our collaboration with educational institutions remains a priority to ensure successful and impactful internships.

In partnership with FIT (Fast Access to Information Technology), the Council continued to strengthen its ICT apprenticeship programme. Following the introduction of the Cybersecurity apprenticeship in 2024, we expanded the initiative in 2025 by taking on an additional Network Engineer apprentice. This programme provides hands-on training and mentorship, helping to develop specialised skills within our ICT team while creating pathways for local talent. By investing in these apprenticeships, we aim to enhance the Council's technological capabilities and support long-term workforce development.

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

### 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 and Development System (PMDS), and the identified Corporate requirements across the organisation. Delivered through a combination of online and face to face events, over 186 training events were attended by staff during the year (see a summary of the main courses in the table below).

Course Name	Attendees
Competency Based Interview Training	195
Raising Awareness Climate Action Programme	83
Staff Induction Day	41
Climate Action - Delivering Action	81
Climate Action Training	28
Freedom of Information - Basic	34
Excel Intermediate	29
Report Writing	18
Excel Introductory	18
Local Governance Management Agency (LGMA) Coaching Training Programme	17
School Warden Refresher Training	16
Age Friendly Housing and Public Realm Training	15
Minute Taking	15
Train the Trainer	15
A-Z of Irish Local Government	66
Institute of Public Administration (IPA) Grade 5 Line Manager Programme	40
IPA Grade 6 Line Manager Programme	24
IPA Grade 7 Line Manager Programme	13
Retirement Planning	12
Freedom of Information - Decision Maker	11
School Warden Training	17
Communication Skills	11
Supervisory Skills - Foreman Grade	11
Conflict Management	10
MyPoint Consultation Training	9
Courtroom Skills	9
Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) Fundamental Awareness	9
Excel Advanced	9
Time Management	9
Temporary Traffic Management Design Level 1 and 2 - Refresher	9
Negotiation Skills	9

Through our training platform, we have a number of in-house online courses in place which cover some of the key areas of governance, including Health and Safety, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Financial Governance and Cyber Security.

To support our managers, leadership training was delivered to 77 staff which comprised of grade 5s, 6s and 7s (with a particular emphasis on newly promoted managers). A supervisory management training course was delivered to 10 of our supervisors and will be rolled out to further groups in 2026.

The Council launched a coaching programme in December 2025 which comprises a coaching panel of 14 recently qualified colleagues. This new initiative will be an invaluable resource going forward for staff.

Interest was high amongst staff to either upskill their level of education and/or develop their knowledge of local government. This is evidenced with 22 going forward with Further Education, 36 enrolled in the A-Z programme, 14 doing the IPA Certificate in Local Government and 5 undertaking the Diploma in Local Government.

Our Induction programme was reviewed and expanded to include a number of new measures to enhance the new employee’s experience during their first 100 days in the organisation. 41 new recruits attended an onsite training day in May and a further 179 completed the online programme either on or before their start date.

**Wellbeing**

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 Wellbeing Committee. The committee, who meet quarterly, is comprised of a cross representation of staff at varying grades, work locations and indoor/outdoor representatives. A number of physical wellbeing events were introduced which proved popular with colleagues who were eager to improve their physical health. Events included Desk Yoga programme, Body Fit classes and Lunchtime Pilates classes.

2025 was the first year for our Financial Wellbeing programme which attracted high attendances at all events. See below:

Talk	Attendees
How to be Financially Well	85
Securing your Future	67
One to one guidance clinics	75
Budget 26	34
Family Finances	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>297</b>

Other wellbeing workshops held during year include;  
 Change Management talks  
 Stress Management talks  
 Retirement Planning events  
 SafeTalk (Suicide Awareness)  
 Goal Setting Talks  
 Menopause Talks

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**

In recognition of the increasing diversity of the current workforce, the Council ran a number of related events in the following key areas;

- Autism Awareness information stands
- Disability awareness training
- Dignity and Respect training

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.

**Work/Life Balance Measures**

A range of work/life balance measures were available to Council employees during 2025. These included Parental Leave, Carer’s Leave, Work-Sharing, Shorter Working Year, and the option to avail of a Career Break. 321 Applications were received in Human Resources in 2025.

**Blended Working**

Blended working in the local government sector reflects the implementation of government policy that public sector employees move to 20% remote working. Following issue of a Local Government Blended Working Framework, Policy, and Frequently Asked Questions (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 645 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. In 2025, the number of employees

reduced to 50 from 150, so organisations with 50 employees and over are required to prepare a Gender Pay Gap Report.

Local authorities use the 30 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.

In 2025, the Council was required to publish the report within five months of the snapshot date. The time scale previously was six months. In common with other Local Authorities, Limerick City and County Council published its Report on 25 November.

### Core - HR Support System

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 Officers and Gartan/Mallon Industries to develop new processes to facilitate a fortnightly pay schedule, in line with wages, and the automation of pension calculations. It is expected that this work will be completed in 2026.

### 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 2025.

New Starts	204
Leavers	145
Refunds	83
Retirements	40
Preserved Benefits	4
Members Gratuity	0
Retained Fire-Fighter Gratuity	0
Death in Service	3
Voluntary Redundancy	4
Deceased Pensioners/Dependent Pensioners	59
New Dependent Pensions	14
Annuity Certs	959

### 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 2025, the payroll unit implemented the pay increase applicable on the 01 March – 2%. At the end of 2025 there were 1,631 employees paid through payroll along with 1022 pensioners. The Payroll bill for 2025 amounted to €115.1 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 2025. This engagement occurred through quarterly meetings of the Partnership forum and also through regular formal meetings and ongoing dialogue with individual unions.

For more information on recruitment opportunities with 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).

### Transition of Water Services Staff 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.

Throughout 2025, Limerick City and County Council continued to support the national transition of local authority Water Services staff to Uisce Éireann, in line with the Transformation Strategy published in July 2023. At that time, 131 staff funded by Uisce Éireann were identified within the Council. As of 16 January 2026, 46 staff remain assigned to the Water Services section.

The change in staffing levels reflects the ongoing movement of personnel through a variety of pathways, including retirements, promotions, resignations, and internal reassignments within the Council. In addition, a number of staff chose to take up direct employment with Uisce Éireann, and further reductions occurred through the Voluntary Redundancy Scheme. This was a national scheme open to all eligible local authority water services staff.

Structural changes, such as the transfer of Laboratory roles from Water Services to Rural Water/Laboratory, also contributed to the overall adjustment.

Since July 2023, a total of 85 staff has departed the Water Services area through these combined routes. The transition process remains ongoing as we continue into 2026, with a focus on maintaining service delivery while managing workforce changes in a structured and supportive manner.

Several Reassignment forum meetings were held during 2025 with unions and their representatives. A nationally agreed Reassignment Protocol is in place. Engagement with staff and unions will continue in 2026.

### Business Improvement Unit

The Business Improvement Unit drives innovation across the delivery of Limerick City and County Council's services. A key focus is the digitisation of business processes in collaboration with service areas and technical teams. In 2025 a new system CoPlan was developed to support the Mayoral programme by providing oversight on the objectives of this five-year programme. CoPlan was shortlisted for an Excellence in Local Government Award, reflecting its impact on strengthening governance and transparency. Service design remains central to the Unit's work, ensuring that innovation translates into better services and business processes.

The Unit further supports internal communication through a Staff App and facilitates public engagement via a Communication Portal, enabling departments to conduct surveys and online consultations on key initiatives.

### Archives and Records Management

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 archives and 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 service continued to promote online access to original material through a digitisation programme and additional volumes of Council Minute Books were added to this resource in 2025.

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

## CORPORATE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

The Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services Department provides a wide range of support services to the Mayor, 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.

### MAYORAL RECEPTIONS

- **Limerick Under 16 Camogie Team**  
15 January, for Limerick Under 16 Camogie Team, in recognition of their outstanding success in winning the 2024 Munster and All-Ireland U16 Camogie Championships.
- **Munster Wheelchair Hurling Camogie Team**  
15 January, for Munster Wheelchair Hurling Camogie Team in recognition of their fantastic achievement in winning the 2024 All-Ireland Wheelchair Hurling Camogie Championship.
- **Limerick Representatives with Rowing Ireland:**  
15 January, for Limerick Representatives with Rowing Ireland in recognition of their stellar performances at the 2024 Home International and Coupe de la Jeunesse Rowing Championships.
- **Diane Moore and Sophie Quirke**  
15 January, for Diane Moore and Sophie Quirke in recognition of their outstanding achievement in representing Ireland in the 2024 Under 16s Polocrosse tour to England.
- **Castletroy Golf Club**  
15 January, for the Members of Castletroy Golf Club in recognition of their outstanding achievements in the Irish Men's Senior Cup in August 2024.
- **Team Ireland Special Olympics Representatives**  
15 January, for Team Ireland Special Olympics Representatives, Andy Coyne, Brian Lowe, Tara Loftus and Emma Griffin in recognition of their outstanding achievement representing Ireland at the Princess Charlene International in Monaco in October 2024.
- **Kieran Earls, David Keating, Roisin Ni Riain**  
29 January, for Kieran Earls in recognition of his success in winning the 2024 Pitch and Putt World Cup with Team Ireland. David Keating in recognition of becoming the oldest Irish male to reach the summit of Mount Everest. Roisin Ni Riain in recognition of her success in winning Silver and Bronze Medals in the 2024 Paralympic Games.
- **Michael A. Benn – Grand Marshal of the 2025 NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade**  
29 May, to honour Limerick native Michael A. Benn, Grand Marshal of the 2025 New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, in its 264th year.

- **Cathy Halloran**

12 June, for Cathy Halloran in recognition of her dedicated service to the communities of the Mid-West and her outstanding contribution to Irish broadcasting during her long career as Mid-West Correspondent with RTE News and Current Affairs.

- **Posthumous Honour for Richard Harris**

The Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, hosted a Mayoral Reception at the Hunt Museum to honour the late actor Richard Harris during the launch of the “From Dickie to Richard” exhibition. The event celebrated Harris’s remarkable contributions to Limerick’s story, the arts, to the cultural legacy of Ireland, and to the global stage. Richard’s children - Jared, Jamie and Damian Harris - accepted an official scroll on his behalf.

This reception recognised Mr Harris’ profound and lasting impact on film and theatre, both as an internationally celebrated actor and as cultural ambassador who elevated Irish cinema worldwide.

- **Liam Beville**

23 September, for Liam Beville in recognition of his lifelong service to Irish Powerlifting.

- **Des Galligan**

23 September, for Des Galligan in recognition of his lifelong service to Tang Soo Do in Limerick and Ireland.

- **John Kinsella**

23 September, for John Kinsella, in recognition of his achievement as the first and only Irish person, and the first person over 40 worldwide, to run all six World Marathon Majors in under 2 hours and 30 minutes.

- **Madison McGuane**

23 September, to honour Madison McGuane in recognition of her achievement as Under 17 Ireland International Women’s Player of the Year.

- **Jack Rafferty**

23 September, for Jack Rafferty in recognition of his achievement on winning Gold for Ireland at the World Under 19 Rowing Championships.

- **Fairview Rangers FC**

23 September, for Fairview Rangers FC in recognition of their achievement on winning the FAI Junior Cup 2024/2025

- **Limerick Celtics Basketball Club**

September, for Limerick Celtics Basketball Club in recognition of their achievement on being promoted to the Super League.

- **Limerick Desmond Schoolboy U-14 Team**

23 September, for Limerick Desmond Schoolboy U-14 Team in recognition of their achievement as Kennedy Cup Winners 2025.

## PRÍOMH CHOMHAIRLEOIR RECEPTIONS

Príomh Chomhairleoir, Cllr. Catherine Slattery held a special reception on Wednesday, 22 October 2025 for the Southside Ladies Group and boxer Lee Reeves to recognise their outstanding contributions to Limerick life.

Southside Ladies Group, also known as the Southside Women’s Shed were recognised for their commitment to building a vibrant and inclusive community in Southhill. The ladies’ group promote health, wellbeing and arts based events in the area. They meet weekly at the Southhill Family Resource Centre and the Príomh Chomhairleoir praised the very positive contribution they make to support and improve their local area on an ongoing basis.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir also honoured Limerick boxer, Lee Reeves. Lee is a professional boxer who trains at Corpus Christi Boxing club, Moyross. Lee claimed the NABF Light Welterweight Champion title in Canada in 2022.

Following the tragic loss of his mother Cathy and brother Tony, Lee has become a passionate advocate for mental health and is a member of Treaty Suicide Prevention. He is a big supporter of young people, helping them to express themselves and find hope.

## DELEGATIONS THAT TRAVELLED ABROAD

The Cathaoirleach of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District, Councillor Martin Ryan, Councillors Bridie Collins and Daniel Butler and accompanied by Mr. Stephane Duclot, Director of Service, Planning and Ryder Cup Directorate, attended the Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Rockaway Beach, Queens, New York from 28 February to 03 March. 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 Elected Members met with members of the Irish American Community and local elected and business representatives and officials. At this function, there were discussions amongst those present on the developments and progress in Limerick in terms of investment and tourism and the importance of further developing 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, Terence Mulin, co-owner of Callie’s and Vice President and Account Executive for Fidelity National Title’s New York National Commercial Services operation. He was joined by several honorary grand marshals, including Dr. James McLaughlin, a cardiologist for Crystal Run Healthcare, and Ms. Eileen Flannelly Mackell, Vice President of the Central Royalty Container Collection Fund of the International Longshoreman Association and the United States Maritime Alliance. Discussions took place with Michael Benn regarding plans and preparations for the New York St Patricks Day Parade.

In response to an official invitation from Mayor Van Johnson of the City of Savannah, Georgia, to the Mayor of Limerick, a delegation from Limerick City and County Council, led by Councillor Adam Teskey, Cathaoirleach of the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District, undertook a civic, economic and cultural visit to Savannah from 15 – 18 March. Along with Councillor Teskey, the delegation comprised of Councillors Sarah Kiely, Michael Collins, Francis Foley and Mr. Vincent Murray, Director of Service. The delegation's primary purpose was to participate in the city's 201st Annual St. Patrick's Day Festival and to further strengthen the growing relationship between Limerick and Savannah. This engagement forms part of a broader strategy to develop long term civic, educational and economic partnerships with key international cities that share historical, demographic and sectoral synergies with Limerick. Over the course of the visit, the delegation engaged with municipal leaders, representatives from higher education institutions and senior figures across several strategic industries including water and environmental management, port logistics, tourism and hospitality and the rapidly expanding aviation sector. These engagements provided valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange, networking and the identification of areas for future collaboration, particularly in joint academic programmes, workforce development and trade facilitation.

Savannah's St. Patrick's Day Parade stands as one of the largest in the world, drawing crowds of over half a million people each year. This iconic celebration not only reflects the city's proud Irish heritage, but also offers a platform to showcase Irish culture, promote international co-operation and deepen people to people links, between Savannah and Irish communities. The Limerick delegation's participation in both the parade and associated events served as a powerful symbol of unity, heritage and mutual respect.

This visit provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen the long standing civic, economic, social and cultural ties between Limerick and Savannah. Savannah's deep rooted Irish heritage dates back to the mid 18th century, when Irish settlers first arrived following the city's colonisation. The visit served not only to honour our shared history and cultural identity but also to explore future collaboration in key areas such as education, economic development, climate resilience and tourism. The delegation held a series of strategic meetings with Savannah's leading institutions and stakeholders, both to build on existing partnerships and to forge promising new alliances. The following provides a summary of the meetings and events attended during the visit:

- Visit to Junior Achievement Savannah 25,000 sq.ft. experience centre
- Visit to Georgia Southern University – Institute for Water and Health (IWH)
- Meeting with Mayor Van Johnson, Mayor of the City of Savannah
- Participation in the Sergeant William Jasper Memorial Ceremony

- Mass in Honor of St. Patrick in Cathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist
- Visit to the Georgia Ports Authority
- Visit to Savannah Tech Culinary Institute
- Visit to the Savannah Technical College Aviation Campus

This visit to Savannah significantly strengthened the civic, economic and cultural ties between both cities through meaningful engagement with municipal leaders, higher education institutions and key industries including health management, port operations, hospitality and aviation. It was proposed that a dedicated working group would be established to advance the shared initiatives and support the development of pilot programmes across the identified sectors. It was also proposed that planning should commence for a reciprocal visit by the Savannah delegation to Limerick later in 2025, in order to sustain momentum and deepen strategic collaboration.

Príomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor Dan McSweeney and Councillors Noreen Stokes, Joe Leddin, Joe Pond, Fergus Kilcoyne, Kieran O'Hanlon and Frankie Daly along with Dr. Pat Daly, Director General and Mr. Donn O'Sullivan, Head of Marketing and Communications, travelled to New York for the Annual St. Patrick's Day celebrations from 14 – 19 March. The Grand Marshal for the Parade was Limerick native Michael Benn. 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 Friday, 15 March they attended a meeting at the Irish Centre in Queens New York. On 17 March they attended the Mayor of New York Networking Breakfast, Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Limerick networking dinner.

An invitation was received by Councillor Francis Foley from the Limerick Birmingham Association in Birmingham to further enhance relationships created during his mayoralty. Councillor Foley was also invited to meet with the Consul General, Ms. Sarah Mangan and the Leader of Liverpool City Council, Councillor Liam Robinson, at Council Offices, Cunard Building, Water Street, Liverpool on 14 April. This was followed by a meeting with Ms. Nuala Gallagher, Corporate Director, City Development. Councillor Foley then attended a lunch hosted by Consul General Mangan with Directly Elected Mayor of Salford, Mr. Paul Dennett and Councillor Mike McCusker, Council's lead member for Planning, Transport and Sustainable Development. He then had a meeting with Metro Mayor of Greater Manchester, Mr. Andy Burnham, which concluded the meetings for the day. On 25 April, Councillor Foley had a private meeting with the Lord Mayor of Birmingham in his offices. This was followed by a Round Table Discussion in the Lord Mayor's Office on the topics of housing, urban development and light rail. Other attendees at this meeting was Councillor Sharon Thompson, Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, Mr. Wayne

Davies, Service Director Asset Management, Birmingham City Council (BCC), Mr. Gary Woodward, Development Planning Manager, BCC, Ms. Jo Shore, Director of Delivery Transport Portfolio, Transport for the West Midlands and Mr. Pat O'Neill and Mr. Eddie Falahee, Birmingham Irish Community Representatives. The evening concluded with dinner with Members of the Limerick Birmingham Association.

Príomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor Dan McSweeney accompanied by Ms. Carmel Lynch, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action, travelled to Vila Nova de Poiaras, Portugal, as part of the URBACT GreenPlace Programme from 12 to 15 May. They participated in a number of site visits and discussions as follows:

- Visit to the green zone project at Vila Nova de Poiaras with URBACT Local Group (ULG) Members
- Presentation about the green zone MasterPlan and detailed Peer Review
- Participated in political panel discussion – How do you feel about green solutions for revitalisation, for and with people.
- Visit to Vila Nova de Poiaras City Hall
- Participated in a second political panel – How do you feel about green solutions for revitalisation, for and with people – after learning from GreenPlace and the visits

#### Field Visits included

- Demonstration of an app to enjoy nature while practicing sport
- School of the Environment
- From invasive greens to a central recreative park

A delegation travelled to Savannah, Georgia, USA, for the Georgia Municipal Association Annual Convention from 18 to 24 June. The delegation comprised of Councillor Dan McSweeney, Príomh Chomhairleoir, Dr. Pat Daly, Director General and Mr. Donn O'Sullivan, Head of Marketing and Communications. Members of the delegation took part in briefings, meetings and events while in Savannah, some of which included:

- Networking Dinner
- Meeting with Savannah Tourism team and attendance at tourism event
- Meeting with Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport
- Meeting with Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA)
- Meeting with WTC Savannah – Trade Bridge
- Attendance at the Georgia Municipal Association Annual Convention on 21 and 22 June.

Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, Príomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor Catherine Slattery and Councillor Gerard Ward, Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, and Chair from the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, travelled to New York 24 – 29 September, to attend the Observer Programme with other government officials at the 2025 Ryder Cup in Bethpage Black, New York. This was the last Ryder Cup event before it comes to

Adare Manor, Limerick in 2027. The delegation travelled to the Bethpage Black course on Long Island for a tour of the course, its controls and infrastructure in advance of the first day of competition. The opening ceremony and final day of the Junior Ryder Cup were due to happen on 25 September but, due to inclement weather, the opening ceremony had been brought forward to the Wednesday and the Junior Ryder Cup golfers stayed at their course in Nassau County. The delegation was briefed by Ryder Cup Europe/US Professional Golfers Association (PGA) Representatives on the logistics of these changes and the implications with a view to learning for such potential changes for Adare. The delegation attended a Ryder Cup Europe Opening Ceremony event with the Ryder Cup Europe Leadership, their Board, the Ryder Cup Committee, past and future host nations, Adare Manor and the other government agencies.

On 26 September the delegation travelled to the event course at Bethpage Black in Long Island for 05.30 a.m. to experience the first day of the competition and the iconic First Tee experience. Observations of traffic management, crowd management and additional security due to the President of the USA First Tee visit to the course that day were key features. The delegation attended a Ryder Cup Europe and Tourism Ireland event 'Ireland meets New York' that evening with Minister Patrick O'Donovan, the McManus family, the Ryder Cup Europe leadership, their board, the Ryder Cup Committee, past and future host nations, Adare Manor and the other government agencies.

On 27 September, the delegation travelled to the Bethpage Black event course on Long Island to experience the second day of the competition, for an official photo with the Samuel Ryder trophy and for a debrief meeting with the officials of the Ryder Cup Europe / PGA of America representatives. That evening the delegation was invited to a sponsor's event in Long Island to experience the scale and standard of venues that will be needed on multiple levels for 2027.

On 28 September, the delegation travelled to the event course again to experience the third day of the competition, to attend the Handing Over of the ceremonial putter on the 15th Tee for the PGA of America to Minister Patrick O'Donovan and JP McManus and Sue Ann McManus. An official photo of the Council delegation with the ceremonial putter was taken on the grounds of Bethpage Black.

Discussions took place with the Ryder Europe, PGA of America, Department of Community, Culture and Sport, National Transport Authority, An Garda Síochana, Tourism Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Adare Manor and the collective delivery required to make the 2027 event the most successful Ryder Cup yet. Lessons learned from the 2025 event were noted. The observer programme, designed by Ryder Cup Europe for the stakeholders involved in the detailed planning of the 2027 event, gave those in attendance great insight into the mechanics of the event and the determinants of success. Councillor Michael Collins travelled to Bilbao, Spain 09 – 10 May, to attend the 12th European Greenways Awards 2025.

The events were held in the Basque Country. The objective of the bi-annual awards is to promote examples of best practices and to support their replication for other greenways all over Europe. He participated in a full day conference on 09 October, which gave examples of best practices in Greenway development and operation, looking at the economic benefits of projects delivered and challenges encountered. Many of the examples looked at exemplary greenways that show the best integration of the various characteristics which define greenways. Examples also demonstrated green transition in the greenways eco-system and contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). Following on from the conference, awards were presented to nine greenways from Ireland, France, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom, awarded as reference of best practices in Europe.

Limerick Greenway secured 3d Prize in the Excellence Category, for creating a greenway that engages and supports local communities through economic and social development, while supporting biodiversity conservation. The 40 kilometre Limerick scenic greenway, converted from a disused railway line, stands out as an exemplary application for its holistic, inclusive and forward-looking approach to rural regeneration, sustainable tourism and community wellbeing. It has achieved great success, in terms of users, and economic and social impact.

Day 2, 10 October, a bike tour took place on the Montes de Hierro / Iron Mountains Greenway, which is sprinkled with mining and industrial remnants in its surroundings that make up a very unique landscape and that is now connected by a bike lane with the city of Bilbao. Overall, a very successful and interesting trip securing an award for the Limerick Greenway.

## 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 2025, there were two Dáil constituencies in Limerick. The constituencies and the number of Dáil seats in each were as follows:

- Limerick City 4 Seats
- Limerick County 3 Seats

As of 31 December there were 147,888 Presidential Electors and 159,246 Local Government electors on the 2025 Rolling Register of Electors. The Local Government Electorate is broken down as follows between the six Local Electoral areas:

• Adare-Rathkeale	24,663
• Cappamore-Kilmallock	29,778
• Limerick City East	28,035
• Limerick City North	27,028
• Limerick City West	25,829
• Newcastle West	23,913

During 2025 there was one electoral event, the Presidential election held on 24 October. The Registration team processed just over 18,000 additions, amendments, and deletions to the Register of Electors.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING UNIT

Corporate Services has two team members 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 2025:

Course Name	Numbers Trained
Abrasive Wheels	28
Asbestos Handling	8
Banksman	24
Biological Agents	5
Chainsaw (New and Refresher)	20
Chemical Awareness	22
Confined Spaces (Low/Medium)	7
Confined Spaces Management	7
Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) Driver (Modules 1-5)	132
Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) Articulated Dumper	4
CSCS 360° Excavator	4
CSCS Health and Safety at Roadworks	8
CSCS Locating Underground Services	16
CSCS Mini Digger	11
CSCS Site Dumper	16
CSCS Signing Lighting and Guarding	24
CSCS Telescopic Handler	24
Dealing with Aggressive Customers	146
Fire Warden	108
First Aid Responder	57
First Aid Responder – Refresher	30
Landscaping Combi Course	9
Lorry Loader/HIAB	8
Lock Out/ Tag Out	3
Manual Handling	511
CSCS Mobile Tower	7
Forklift	3
Safe Pass	83
Institution of Occupancy Safety and Health (IOSH) SHEIC	16
IOSH Safety for Construction Managers Programme (MSIC)	4
Health and Safety Representative	3
Surface Dressing Roller	13
Roller Driver	11
Winter Service Operator (New and Refresh)	18
Working at Heights	20
<b>Total Staff Trained</b>	<b>1,410</b>

## NATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION

The Council hosted a Day of Commemoration Ceremony on 13 July to honour all Irish men and women who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations. This was the thirteenth 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, United Presbyterian and Methodist and the Quakers conducted the multi faith commemoration, at which, the Príomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor Catherine Slattery 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, Alberto De Blas Blazquez.



## 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 30 briefings were held in 2025.

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER SERVICE

A Christmas Prayer Service was held in Istabraq Hall, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay on 17 December, at which Councillors and staff participated.

## PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS DUTY

The Limerick City and County Council Management Board

adopted the The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Policy in March 2025 and staff undertook training with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) as the first step to implementing the Duty. A range of initiatives across the organisation support meetings with, and participation by target groups to examine barriers, and how to deliver services to meet obligations under the duty.

## 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 01 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 2025, the cross departmental Irish Language Working Group met on several occasions to ensure full compliance with the requirements of the Official Languages Act 2003 (as amended) and to continue progressing the objectives of the Act.

As per Section 10.1A of the Official Languages Act, the following outlines our advertising activities in compliance with the with the Official Languages Act, according to parameters set out by the Coimisinéir Teanga for 2025:

- 27.7% achieved in placement of Irish Language ads (this placement is measured on a media category average, measuring Irish Language visibility across the various media channels that we have advertised in).
- 7.56% achieved in money expended on advertising in the Irish Language Media (that is to say, media that has more than 50% Irish Language content).

## 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 from Savannah comprising Mr Van Johnson, Mayor of Savannah, Mr. Trip Tollison, CEO, SEDA and World Trade Centre (WTC) Savannah, Mr. Jay Melder, City Manager, City of Savannah, Mr. Marty Johnston, Deputy Assistant to the Mayor of Savannah, Mr. Joe Marinelli, President and CEO, Visit Savannah and Mr. Ryan Sewell, Partner/Board Member, Sterling Seacrest Pritchard travelled to Limerick 17 – 19 February. Mr. Mike Lynch, Senior Vice President, Global Commercial Banking, Bank of America and Mr. Marty Hogan, CEO, US Intermodal Corporation, WTC Savannah Secretary/Treasurer, were in Limerick separately and connected with the group on arrival.

On the first evening of their visit they met with Mayor of Limerick John Moran and Dr. Pat Daly, Director General. On 18 February they attended a breakfast meeting with Mr. Pat Rickard, PBC Biomed. They received a Presentation by The Ryder Cup 2027 Co-Ordinator, Ms. Elaine O'Connor. In the afternoon they participated at a Round Table Discussion with Mayor Moran, Management Board of Limerick City and County Council, CEO, Shannon Airport Group, CEO, Shannon Foynes Port Company, President, TUS, Acting President of UL, CEO, Munster Rugby, CEO, Limerick Chamber, CEO, Tradebridge, A/CE, Clare County Council, Senior Officials from Enterprise Ireland, IDA, Treaty Stone Partnership, PBC Biomed and Executive Director, GBM. They then attended a Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council where they signed a Friendship Agreement and Mayor Johnson addressed the Council.

On 19 February they visited the Opera Square Site accompanied by officials from Tourism, Trade and Investment, LCCC. This was followed by a working lunch on tourism with external tourism groups in attendance and presentation by Savannah delegates on tourism in Savannah.

## LIMERICK WOMENS 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 07 June, where twelve women were successfully elected to the Council, an increase of 7.5% from the previous Council term.

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.

Three Meetings of Limerick Womens Caucus took place in 2025.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Limerick City and County Council is committed to safeguarding, as far as reasonably practicable, the health, safety, and welfare of all employees and individuals who may be impacted by our activities. This commitment is supported by a centralised Safety Management System accredited to I.S. ISO 45001:2018 – Occupational Health and Safety Management.

The Council ensures continuous improvement of the Safety Management System through:

- Identification and implementation of approved annual objectives and targets.
- Processes for regular consultation and participation at all levels of the organisation.
- A risk-based programme of health and safety inspections.
- A robust internal audit system.
- An annual schedule of external audits.
- Flexibility within the system to address unforeseen matters arising from audits, inspections, or legislative changes.

## 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 to a procured external firm for a set period of time.

Limerick City and County Council's in-house Internal Audit team and the outsourced Internal Auditors completed a number of reviews during 2025. 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 at a minimum four times a year. Meetings of the Audit and Risk Committee were held on 26 February, 21 May, 5 June, 11 September, 03 November and 26 November.

## PROCUREMENT

Limerick City and County Council Procurement Policy 2024-2028 was adopted in June 2024. This policy ensures all procurement undertaken is done so in a manner that is consistent with and in adherence to the European Union's Public Procurement Directive 2014/24/EU European Directives, National Legislation, Policy and Guidelines.

The Procurement Unit staff provides support and guidance in respect of procurement activities. They monitor procurement compliance and measure compliance against total spend. In 2025, the Council had a 99.12% compliance rate against the annual spend.

The staff are also responsible for the setting up and extending existing procurement references on request from all departments within the council and as a result of a competitive process being executed.

The following shows the number of procurement references dealt with from January – December 2025.

New Procurement References set up	400
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	201

The Requisitions Oversight Unit, which falls within the remit of procurement, provides a separation of duties in the procurement cycle and the function of the team is to validate each requisition raised across the entire council to ensure procurement compliance, which brings consistency and a standard to requisitions being raised.

19,359 requisitions were handled between January and December 2025.

- Approved requisitions account for 84.52% of the total requisitions actioned.
- Rejected requisitions account for 15.48% of the total requisitions actioned.

Period	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
Jan-Dec 2025	16,362	2,997	19,359

The top three rejection reasons for 2025 are identified as follows:

Top 3 Rejection Reasons 2025		
Total amount	2997	100%
Memo Requisition not raised in advance – Omitted/Insufficient detail	783	26%
Procurement Reference Omitted/ Incorrect	445	15%
Request for Quotes - Omitted	387	13%

## CUSTOMER SERVICES

During the course of 2025, the Customer Services Team worked tirelessly to engage positively with our Elected Members, Public Representatives, Limerick's citizens and visitors. Two new channels of engagement were set up to help with Councillor Queries namely a dedicated mailbox for Elected Members and a new GDPR portal to log representations online on behalf of constituents.

The Customer Services Management Team have a front-line team engaging with the public on multiple channels, including the Council's telephone contact centre, dedicated email, MyLimerick.ie, Twitter etc huge efforts were made to respond to the public's enquiries and service requests as efficiently as possible.

With the Council's Office infrastructure open throughout 2025, visits to the public counter increased by 8% this year on the 2024 figures with clients choosing to engage with the Council on a face-to-face basis. Total visits to the public counter in 2025 were recorded as 31,661 with April being the highest month with 3,033 visits, accounting for visits and the lowest being December, with 2,178 visits. Counter services included the review and validation of Housing Support Services applications, completion of cash desk receipting transactions, validation of Household Waste Subsidy applications, signposting individuals to the appropriate offices / colleagues and general enquiries in relation to the hundreds of services provided by the local authority.

Receipting terminals in both Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle, recorded a total of 15,708 receipting tasks, with the value exceeding €8.3million throughout the year. A new system Heycentrics was installed this year to replace Agresso, and the Customer Services Team worked very closely with the Finance Team to ensure the seamless changeover.

Other tasks included postal dispatch of information and application forms, responding to and disseminating incoming emails and all other social media contacts, and managing the call centre. 119,540 incoming calls were received with majority of these being concluded at first point of contact. 46,577 emails were received and responded to in 2025.

The overall total volume of Customer Relationship Management (CRM) cases created throughout 2025 was 37,943 with 8,966 being received from public representatives. 83% of the overall total volume of cases created were closed throughout the year. The MyLimerick self-help case creation portal continued to provide an avenue for customers to engage directly with the Council. The total volume of cases for 2025 were 1,630 with 91% (1494) being received from public representatives.

The role of Councillor Liaison Officer, has ensured that the Councillors cases have been managed to an optimum level, with Councillors feedback very positive on this initiative.

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.

Throughout 2025, the team continued to respond to service requests relating to flooding risks, fallen trees, the need to clear roads after road traffic accidents, requirement to undertake pothole repairs, illegal dumping etc and provided support to the Roads Operations Team when dealing with severe weather events.

The Customer Services Department set up an offsite office with volunteers during Storm Eowyn, processing calls and emails and ensuring that on the ground teams were help able to provide support to members of the public. The team provided up to date analysis to the senior team from public reporting and this helped in getting help to people in areas that were in need of support through the major weather emergency.

## 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.

The role of the Council's Data Protection Officer is set out in Article 39 of the GDPR. For all data protection related matters, Limerick City and County Council's Data Protection Officer (DPO) can be contacted at [dataprotectionofficer@limerick.ie](mailto:dataprotectionofficer@limerick.ie).

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 twice throughout the year.

The DPO was part of a working group with the National DPO Network that created and reviewed eleven data protection training courses. In 2025, four of these training courses were rolled out to all staff on our online training portal: Principles of GDPR, Initial Induction/Awareness Training in Data Security, Data Breach Procedures and Clean Desk Policy. The Council's Information and Data Protection Champions completed additional training: Lawful basis for obtaining and processing personal data including special category data. The remaining six courses will be rolled out in 2026.

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 on the Council's website at the following link: [Privacy Statements](#)

The DPO worked with the Environment and Climate Action department to ensure that the process for sanctioning cameras under the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 2022 was implemented. This included the sanctioning and installation of cameras in litter black spots, such as fly tipping and bring banks.

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

The Data Protection Unit processed the following requests in 2025:

- 36 Data Subject Access Requests
- 39 Third Party Data Access Requests
- 7 Internal CCTV Requests
- 71 Internal Waste Enforcement CCTV Requests
- 1 Right of Rectification Request
- 2 Internal Body Worn Camera Footage Requests.

## MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

### Marketing

Marketing managed the Limerick.ie social media accounts, which demonstrated strong growth and engagement across all platforms, including an increase of 13,917 followers in 2025, bringing our total number of followers to 110,481. The year kicked off with the award-winning Limerick on Foot campaign, highlighting three Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) funded trails, namely: The Knight's Walk, Slieveareagh Loop Walk, Broadford/Ashford Walking Trails. The 2025 campaign included a feature length episode on the popular RTE Tracks and Trails programme and an in-person Business to Consumer (B2C) activation at the Crescent Shopping Centre. Before the creation of the Festivals Marketing section, Marketing managed the 2025 Limerick St. Patrick's Festival and Riverfest Limerick 2025, promoting both events to thousands. The team continued its longstanding collaboration with our Limerick Tertiary Education partners under the Limerick Student City brand, successfully managing a six-week 'Welcome to Limerick' multi-platform marketing campaign, creating a collaborative promotional video asset with our partners and engaging thousands of potential higher-level students at the Limerick Open Days. 'Great Days Out' was the clarion call to encourage day trippers and visitors to explore and experience all the city and county has to offer across all our marketing channels this summer. In collaboration with the Ryder Cup team, Marketing created a new sub-brand in Golf Limerick, designed to promote Limerick as a premier golf tourism destination. Marketing created a fictional character 'Val the Viking' and worked with Limerick Libraries to release Val the Viking Activity Packs to all Limerick school going kids. Each pack was made available with a library registration card to connect our youngest readers with the wonderful world of books and their local library and to help them understand where they are living a little better. Marketing created a promotional video asset to highlight the key reasons to invest in Limerick. Mayor of Limerick John Moran launched the asset at a high-profile event in New York in September. Brand

Limerick featured in multiple Out of Home (OOH) activations, including in Welcome to Limerick signage at Colbert Station, on signage totems in Adare and Ballyneety, at Thomond Park and in window wraps on O'Connell Street.

### Communications

In 2025, the Communications team provided extensive support across all departments during an exceptionally busy year. This included drafting and issuing press releases to share key updates, managing media relations through interview coordination and timely responses, and developing communication plans to ensure clear and consistent messaging.

The team also supported event planning and promotion, helping to organise and publicise activities throughout the year. Social media remained a core focus, with content such as videos and reels driving engagement on key initiatives. High-performing posts featured extreme weather updates (including Storm Eowyn), a video on the Council's response to starling nesting on Bedford Row and Thomas Street, and Ryder Cup-related content showcasing installations and signage in Limerick and Adare, among others.

These efforts contributed to strong audience growth and increased interaction.

### Communications for the Office of the Mayor of Limerick

The Communications team continued improving communication channels in the Office of the Mayor in 2025 along with upholding the public reputation of the Office.

The team developed and implemented communication strategies to promote the initiatives, policies and campaigns of the Mayor's Office, including working throughout the year on press releases relating to the Mayoral Programme and the work of the Office to ensure accurate and timely information dissemination to stakeholders and members of the public.

The team also worked on statements from the Mayor on matters of importance, along with speeches and speaking notes for events the Mayor was invited to, both internal and external of Limerick City and County Council. The Communications team also created social media accounts specifically to promote the work and policies of the Office of the Mayor.

### Web Content – Limerick.ie

Limerick.ie continued to serve as the Council's primary digital platform and a regional promotion hub through Discover Limerick. The team worked closely with departments to deliver clear, accessible web pages that meet statutory requirements and support service delivery.

In 2025, the site underwent a significant redesign, offering a more user-friendly and accessible interface across devices. It also served as a key platform for major campaigns, including festivals and events, and expanded its reach with new content such as a dedicated Golf Limerick page and Twilight Thursdays page.

Limerick.ie maintained strong search performance, consistently ranking as the top result for key Limerick-related searches across major search engines.

### 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 2025 Limerick City and County Council received 300 requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. The following is the breakdown of decisions made on these requests:

Open cases at 01/01/2025	17
Requests received 2025	300
Granted	50
Part Granted	151
Refused	49
Withdrawn	46 (of which 6 were invalid)
Transferred	4
Open cases at 31/12/2025	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 2025 Limerick City and County Council dealt with 39 complaints that were made to the Ombudsman in relation to decisions/actions taken by the Council. Of these 39 complaints the following is the breakdown of the results of the investigations carried out by Office of the Ombudsman:

Cases closed	29
Decisions not yet determined	10

### 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 2025 Limerick City and County Council received 33 requests.

The following is the breakdown of decisions made:

Open cases at 01/01/2025	
Requests received 2025	33
Granted	6
Part-granted	17
Refused	7
Withdrawn/Out	3
Open cases at 31/12/2025	1



ECONOMIC, TOURISM,  
CULTURE, PROPERTY AND  
CORPORATE BUILDINGS

## CORPORATE BUILDINGS

Corporate Buildings sits within the Economic, Tourism, Culture, Property and Corporate Buildings Directorate. There are two sections in the department as follows:

1. Capital Projects and
2. Facilities Management.

The Corporate Buildings portfolio is as follows:

1. Corporate Headquarters, Merchant’s Quay;
2. Civic Offices, Dooradoyle;
3. Lissanalta House, Dooradoyle;
4. Barrow House, Michael Street (incorporating the Central Library);
5. Carlton House, Henry Street;
6. Limerick Museum, Henry Street;
7. Limerick Regeneration Southside Office, Roxboro; and
8. Granary, Michael Street (part of the Opera Square Development).

In 2025 Corporate Buildings also took on responsibility for refurbishment of the derelict former Tourist Office at Arthur’s Quay. This project is a key priority of the Mayoral Programme.

over the past decade. As part of our remit to provide a high quality and efficient work environment, Corporate Buildings has worked to standardise space allocation across our building stock. This has resulted in increased building occupancy and avoided the need to construct or lease additional office space.



Aerial Photograph of Corporate Headquarters, Merchant’s Quay

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

The focus of the Capital Projects Team is the delivery of capital works projects to enhance buildings for the citizens, elected members and staff of Limerick City and County Council (LCCC). The upgrade of our buildings also focuses on the challenges associated with Climate Change and the obligations of the organisation in this area.

### Corporate Buildings – Office Accommodation

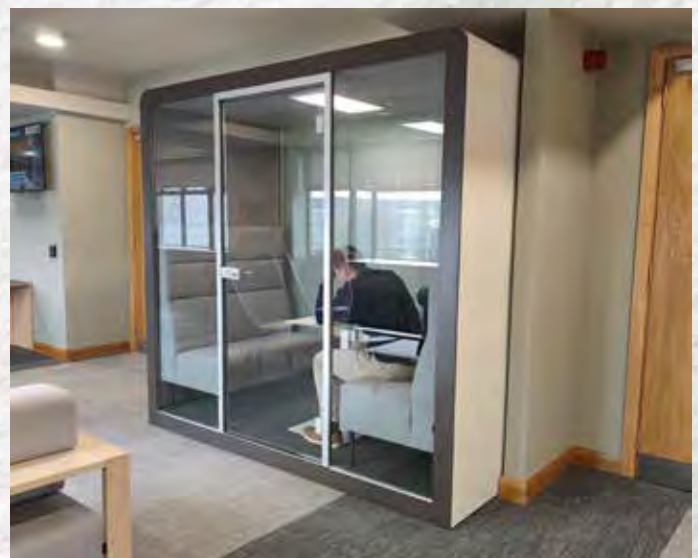
Corporate Buildings is responsible for the larger civic buildings in the ownership or under the control of LCCC. These buildings provide accommodation for a significant number of the staff of LCCC as well as being public buildings where the citizens of Limerick interact with local democracy. LCCC is in a period of growth with staff numbers increasing



Mayor’s Suite Reception



Corporate Headquarters Boardroom



Acoustic Booth

### Corporate Headquarters Merchant's Quay

Corporate Headquarters at Merchant's Quay, constructed in 1988, is in the process of phased refurbishment. Completed work includes work to the Council Chamber at Ground Floor level and a significant refurbishment of the Third Floor. The work to the Third Floor includes the construction of a Mayoral Suite, office space for Corporate Service and Marketing and Communications and the refurbishment of the Director General Suite. The third floor works included a complete upgrade of the fire detection and alarm system as well as a complete upgrade of the Information Technology (IT) networking cabling from Cat5e to Cat6a. The new network infrastructure has faster processing speed and a larger bandwidth than the previous version. A new comms room was also constructed as part of this work to improve overall cyber security. Obsolete plant and equipment are also being systematically removed from the building to facilitate upgrades under the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Pathfinder Programme.

### Canteens in Corporate Headquarters Merchant's Quay and Civic Buildings Dooradoyle

Following a Management Board decision, canteen facilities are being reinstated in Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay and Civic Offices, Dooradoyle. The canteen in Corporate Buildings, Merchant's Quay is being constructed in a new location while the canteen in Civic Offices, Dooradoyle will be provided in the existing location. Both areas have been stripped back to a "grey box", with design work on the new facilities well advanced. The fit-out and new kitchen installation will take place in 2026.

### SEAI Pathfinder Project

The SEAI Pathfinder Programme is an initiative by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) aimed at improving energy performance and achieving sustainability targets in public sector bodies. It funds projects that explore innovative and traditional renovation techniques to enhance energy efficiency and decarbonisation.

LCCC is mandated to improve energy efficiency across the whole of our organisation and to play a leadership role in meeting national and European Union (EU) commitments to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. LCCC intends to be a leading public sector body on building and systems performances and building and asset operation and aims to achieve significant reduction in both energy consumption and carbon emissions.

As a public sector body, we must meet the following mandated targets:

- Reduce fossil fuel Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) (thermal and transport) by 51% by 2030 vs. 2016-2018 baseline;
- Reduce total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 51% by 2030 vs. 2016-2018 baseline; and
- Improve overall Energy Performance Indicator (EnPI) by 50% vs. 2006-2008 baseline.

Three buildings, with high energy usage, have been selected for significant renovation: Corporate Headquarters Merchant's Quay, Civic Offices, Dooradoyle and Lissanalra House. A major renovation/deep retrofit is proposed to Corporate Headquarters and medium renovation to the two buildings in Dooradoyle. Common improvements on all three buildings include the installation of air to water heat pumps, Building Management System upgrades and installation of solar photovoltaics on roofs.

Deeper retrofit is proposed for Corporate Headquarters including significant improvements to the thermal envelope, addressing building defects as part of the fabric upgrade. The proposed upgrade strategies for each building will future-proof the buildings to align with 2050 climate targets and will appreciably improve the working environment for staff. Match funding has been approved under the SEAI pathfinder Programme.



Aerial Photograph of Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay



Aerial Photograph of Civic Offices Dooradoyle



Aerial Photograph of Lissanalta House To Follow

### Investment Grade Audits

TRESS (Transforming Renovation in the Atlantic Seaboard South) is an initiative dedicated to accelerating the retrofitting of public buildings in the Southeast region. It is a collaboration of three organisations, Tipperary Energy Agency (TEA), Vivid Edge and Technological University of the Shannon. Corporate Buildings is engaging with TEA on the preparation of comprehensive building audit reports (Investment Grade Audits) for each of the three designated buildings, including building survey findings, energy analysis, decarbonisation proposals and implementation considerations, namely cost feasibility and actionability. An Investment Grade Audit (IGA) for Corporate Headquarters was completed in 2025. IGAs for Civic Offices, Dooradoyle and Lissanalta House are well advanced and due for completion in early 2026. These audits will inform the work to be carried out under the SEAI Pathfinder Project.

#### Former Tourist Office and Civic Park, Arthur's Quay

The former tourist office pavilion building and civic park was constructed in the early 1990s. The building originally operated as a tourist office. This function subsequently relocated to O'Connell Street. The building operated as a café/wine bar from 2016 to 2018. The building has been vacant since 2018 and had fallen into dereliction.

The building, designed by Murray O'Laoire Associates, is of architectural significance. It is the only building in Limerick to have been awarded a triennial Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) Gold Medal (1989-1991). It is a modern structure evoking a nautical image appropriate to its site, a former harbour. The light pavilion structure has a dual function, forming both an external public space and an enclosed building. The pavilion, nestled among lime and sycamore trees in Arthur's Quay Civic Park, forms a gateway between the city and the river.

Following 2025 Mayoral Funding, Corporate Buildings commenced refurbishment of the pavilion building in June 2025. Works included the following:

- deep clean of the building
- roof repair
- internal reconfiguration to update the layout to modern standards
- stripping of mechanical and electrical equipment and fittings
- replacement of broken glazed units
- internal insulation of the external walls to enhance the thermal performance of the building
- internal plastering and
- painting of external steel

Further Mayoral funding is committed for 2026 which will facilitate completion of the project. Given the high-profile location and inherent flexibility of the building, various uses are being explored to breathe life into the pavilion again and reactivate this key riverfront space.



Former Tourist Office, Arthur's Quay – Before



Former Tourist Office, Arthur's Quay – Current photograph



Former Tourist Office, Arthur's Quay – Before



Former Tourist Office, Arthur's Quay – current photograph

**FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

**Corporate Buildings – Facilities Management General**

On a day-to-day basis Facilities Management staff deal with queries and requests from LCCC staff, elected members, citizens, tenants of LCCC corporate buildings (see below) and community groups using spaces in our buildings. Queries and requests, which are wide-ranging and varied, are dealt with in a professional and efficient manner.

**Corporate Buildings – Cleaning Contract**

Corporate Buildings managed the tender process for the provision of cleaning services to 27 LCCC buildings. The contract was awarded to Grosvenor Services and commenced on 01 July.

**Corporate Buildings – Public Art**

LCCC holds an important collection of artwork assembled over many years by Limerick Corporation/Limerick City Council, Limerick County Council and Limerick City and County Council. It is the policy of Corporate Buildings to display the collection in both public and staff areas across corporate buildings. Significant artworks are now displayed in all corporate buildings. Increasing the number of works on display enhances the office environment and the collection is rotated to increase exposure. Increasing the level of internal planting during 2025 has further enhanced works spaces.

**Istabraq Hall**

Given the public nature of Corporate Headquarters, increasing the use of the main public space, Istabraq Hall was a focus in 2025. Events held in this space during the year included the 41st Edition of EVA International 2025 from August to October, Design@UL in May and June, Fairtrade exhibition in November, the launch of the Limerick Traveller Network Strategic Plan and the Comhairle na nÓg Limerick Youth Conference 2025. Istabraq Hall accommodated over 300 staff for the annual Christmas Lunch which demonstrated the versatility of the space. A number of these events involved evening and weekend opening of Istabraq Hall, contributing to increased footfall in this part of the city.



EVA International 2025



EVA International 2025



Limerick Youth Conference 2025



Design@UL 2025



Christmas Lunch 2025

### Corporate Buildings Car Parks

Corporate Buildings manage the car parks associated with our buildings. This role includes the allocation of staff car parking spaces at Corporate Headquarters, the Potato Market and Arthur's Quay Car Park. The number of car parking spaces which became available during the year was 37. The number of offers made to allocate these spaces was 48. Car Parks are managed jointly with Human Resources, in line with the LCCC Staff Car Park Policy and Procedure adopted in 2023.

At Corporate Headquarters the car park was upgraded to provide a step free route to Nicholas Street via the Widows Alms House. To improve overall security and amenity the bin store was relocated to an internal space while lighting and CCTV was upgraded.

### Corporate Buildings - External Tenancies

At present, external tenancies are accommodated in Civic Offices, Dooradoyle and Lissanalta House. LCCC tenants are as follows:

Apex-FundRock  
 Uisce Eireann  
 M/N20 Project Office  
 Mid-West National Road Design Office and  
 Southern Regional Waste Management Office

Corporate Buildings engages with these tenants to meet the obligations of LCCC under the tenancy agreements. These tenancies generate revenue for LCCC and are managed in conjunction with Property Services.

### Limerick City and County Council Property Audit

An audit of all buildings and sites under the ownership or control of LCCC, excluding social housing properties and the eight corporate buildings listed above, commenced in May 2025. The aim of the audit is to provide a live register of over 200 properties, recording details of location, building condition, insurance value and current use in order to inform future estate management.

In addition, the audit is focusing on building condition and maintenance needs of the three Municipal District Offices for Adare-Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Cappamore-Kilmallock to inform future building maintenance and capital budgets for energy and essential upgrade works.

## ECONOMIC AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Development team 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 centres' is also a key objective for the team.

The team also works to enhance the marketing of Limerick, both domestically and internationally, as a location for investment. Additionally, the team works to foster global partnerships to enhance economic development.

Some notable milestones from 2025 include the following:

### Jobs Announcements

- In March the Bon Secours Health System announced plans to create 300 new jobs with the opening of a state-of-the-art private hospital on the Ballysimon Road, Limerick. The roles span medical and non-medical disciplines, with a focus on nursing and specialised medical teams.
- In April the Home Care services provider, Dovidia, announced plans to bring 60 new jobs in the care sector to Limerick. This comes as the company, which recently rebranded from Home Instead, aims to increase its impact in the private home care sector and expand its offering throughout the Mid-West.
- In July Fusion Logistics, a fourth-generation, family-run Limerick business, announced an investment of €15 million at its base in Annacotty.
- Openchip, pioneering Europe-born company in the design and development of high-performance accelerator chips, platforms and software stacks for advanced computing applications, announced the expansion of its operations in Ireland with the opening of a new design centre in Limerick, providing capacity for up to 70 highly skilled research and development roles.

### Economic Development Officer Forum

- In November the team hosted the inaugural meeting of a Economic Development Officer Forum consisting of local authority economic development officers from around the country.

### International Relations

- Savannah Sister City Agreement - On 18 February, a delegation from Savannah, Georgia, USA, led by Mayor Van R. Johnson II, visited Limerick City and County Council. During a Special Meeting of the Plenary Council at the Council's Offices in Dooradoyle, Mayor Johnson and the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, signed a Friendship Agreement to promote mutual understanding, tourism, and economic development between the two cities. Mayor Johnson expressed a strong commitment to fostering economic, tourism, and cultural ties, highlighting the significant Irish heritage within Savannah. He noted that many residents bear surnames like Hogan, Barry, and McCarthy, reflecting deep ancestral connections to Limerick. The Savannah delegation included key figures from sectors such as trade, transportation, city management, tourism, finance, and business development. Over their two-day visit, they engaged in discussions with local stakeholders, including

representatives from the Industrial Development Authority (IDA), Limerick Chamber, Enterprise Ireland, and local educational institutions. The itinerary also featured presentations, site visits, and a focus on exploring collaborative opportunities, such as establishing a direct flight routes between Shannon and Savannah.

- Delegation from Oeiras, Portugal: Facilitated a trade mission from Oeiras, Portugal, to Limerick. The delegation was led by Mayor Isaltino Morais and included members of the Oeiras Valley Investment Agency. Future economic collaboration was explored throughout the visit and the delegation got a good insight into Limerick's collaborative ecosystem with site visit including: Engine Hub; Hartnett Enterprise Acceleration Centre; Dell Technologies; Adare Manor; Digital Manufacturing Ireland; Limerick Chamber, and Serosep Ltd
- Trade and Investment Department met with a delegation from Nanjing to discuss potential economic development opportunities with the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, on 12 June.
- Invest in Limerick Video Launch, New York: The team supported the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on a trade mission to New York on 09 to 12 September. Participated in a number of business engagements including a high-profile launch of the Council's Invest in Limerick video and brochure at the Consulate of Ireland New York where we promoted Limerick's potential as a hub for investment and promotion.

#### Fashion Incubator

- Secured agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Limerick City and County Council; Limerick School of Art and Design/Technological University of The Shannon (TUS); and the Brooklyn Fashion incubator. The agreement hopes to create a sustainable incubator model for Limerick tailored to Limerick's cultural and economic needs. The Mayor of Limerick, John Moran formally signed the MoU in New York on 25 October.

#### FORGE Design Factory

- Travelled to Helsinki on 24 – 25 September with a delegation from Limerick School of Art and Design (LSAD)/ Technological University of The Shannon (TUS) to visit the Aalto Design Factory. The purpose of this trip was to gain a deeper understanding of the Design Factory model, internationally recognised as an exemplary approach to fostering creative enterprises and design entrepreneurs. The visit provided valuable insights as we work to establish a FORGE Design Factory (FDF) in Limerick, ensuring that we build on best practices and align with proven models of innovation and enterprise support

#### Limerick SME Action Plan

- Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Action Plan - Consultants Research and Dig/Fitzgerald Power were appointed to facilitate the SME Expert Group in the production of a five-year Limerick SME Action Plan in March 2025. Wide ranging consultation took place throughout 2025 and a Draft Plan was prepared. It is intended that the plan, aimed at strengthening the support framework for SME's in the region, will be adopted as Council policy in Quarter 1 2026.

#### Asia Matters – The New Dynamics of Global Business

- Facilitated a significant business summit in Limerick, in partnership with the University of Limerick, on 15 and 16 May. The summit highlighted the current opportunity to deepen ties with Asia. Ambassadors from Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, joined by colleagues from China, India, Japan and Singapore, spoke of the window now for bilateral trade and their commitment to grow investment and business partnerships with Limerick. The programme of events included meetings with a delegation from the Chengdu High Tech Zone.



Asia Matters Conference

### More for Limerick Social Enterprise Fund

- Worked with the Mayors office and Rethink Ireland to launch the More for Limerick Social Enterprise Fund in November. A fund of up to €1,000,000 will be jointly supported through the discretionary Mayoral Fund, the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Rethink Ireland and through various philanthropic sources. The fund will open for applications from Limerick social innovations in 2026 and the successful projects will receive both cash grants and non-financial support through the initiative, managed by Rethink Ireland.



L-R: Pádraic Vallely, Rethink Ireland Senior Philanthropy and Development Manager, John Fitzgerald, Rethink Ireland Board Director, John Moran, Mayor of Limerick and Brendan Troy, Head of Trade and Investment Finance at Limerick City and County Council with the Mayor's red setter, Henri at the launch of the More For Limerick Social Enterprise Fund.

### Retail

Despite a tough economic climate, Limerick City Centre saw the opening of 21 new businesses in 2025 which is a fantastic boost and vote of confidence to the city centre.

#### Retail Investment:

The following stores opened in 2025: Fordes Courtyard, Voza Skin, Babylon Coffee, Turkmen Grill, Gino's Gelato, Mia's Cafe, Big Bowl Pho, Old Barrack Roastery, Ger Robinson Hair Design, Yo! Sushi, Paco, Chillux, Quick Mart, The Rock Shop, Trendy, Nail and Spa Pedicure, Sambros, Aldi, Lidl, Smetenko Gift Store, Rise and ToGo Retail Warehouse.

In addition, there was very significant multi-million-euro investment in two major stores already located in the city centre namely Keanes Jewellers and Penneys who both invested heavily in refurbishment works in their stores. Furthermore in December Spanish retailer, Mango, was confirmed as the new tenant for the former Debenhams building on O'Connell Street.



Keanes Jewellers, O'Connell St

### The Limerick Gift Card

Launched on 27 November 2024, The Limerick Gift Card officially surpassed €300,000 euro in sales at the end of December, reaching an impressive €323,000 in card sales, marking a significant milestone for the initiative after just 13 months in operation and demonstrating strong community support for shopping local across Limerick city and county.

Launched to encourage ringfenced spending within the local economy, the Limerick Gift Card can be used in a wide variety of participating retailers, hospitality venues, and service providers. The continued growth in sales reflects both consumer confidence and the collective effort of businesses and stakeholders working together to keep money circulating locally. This important milestone also serves as a reminder to participating retailers of the importance of actively marketing and promoting their involvement in the programme. Highlighting acceptance of the Limerick Gift Card—both in-store and online—helps drive footfall, increase visibility, and maximise the benefits of being part of this growing and successful initiative.

In addition there was extensive marketing of the gift card by Limerick City and County Council and Limerick Chamber in 2025 that significantly contributed to this impressive figure on gift card sales.

Some examples of the marketing and events included:

- In June facilitated a networking event at 101 O'Connell Street promoting the Limerick Gift Card. There was a packed house (100 registrations) in what was a collaborative effort between Limerick City and County Council, Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick, Limerick Chamber and Studio GBM. A panel discussion on the Limerick Gift Card and its role in strengthening local business was followed by a fireside chat with Olympian, Róisín Upton, in conversation with the Head of Marketing and Communications at Limerick City and County Council.
- Marketing/Animation of the former McDonalds outlet at Cruises Street with Limerick Gift Card/Night Time Economy. Advertising wrap unveiled on 24 July.

- Attended the Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) Budget Breakfast on 08 October. The Limerick Gift Card was promoted and presented at this event by encouraging local businesses to avail of the Revenue Commissioners “Small Benefit Exemption Scheme” to reward their employees.
- Attended the Live95 FM Best of Limerick Awards on the 16 October. The campaign was a huge success across the city and county and was sponsored by The Limerick Gift Card.
- Traders Stakeholders Event at Engine on 20 October where a presentation on the Limerick Gift Card was made encouraging the traders to consider the gift card for their staff bonus/incentives particularly in the run up to Christmas.
- On 30 October the Christmas launch of The Limerick Gift Card, a fantastic evening of music, motivation, and local pride was held at the amazing One Opera Square, an exceptional 106,000 square foot office building to host the October Twilight Thursday showcase event for the Limerick Gift Card. There was a full house to welcome Ray Goggins, former Irish Special Forces Operative and bestselling author, who delivered an unforgettable talk on resilience, leadership, and purpose. The evening was beautifully complemented by a live opera performance from the Limerick Opera Festival.
- Released five Christmas video reels for The Limerick Gift Card across all social media channels showcasing various retailers/businesses for the month of December.

The Limerick 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 195 businesses have signed up to date, including independent businesses and well-known Irish brands who all now accept The Limerick Gift Card.

#### Night Time Economy (NTE)



Ray Goggins One Opera Square

Twilight Thursdays was publicly launched on 28 April. Commercial partners of Twilight Thursday were secured in the form of Uber and FreeNow who offered a 40% discount on taxis for each date. In May, The first edition of Twilight Thursday commenced. Failte Ireland invited LCCC to Dublin to present on Twilight Thursday to businesses, local authorities and visitor attractions in Dublin. The LCCC Night Time Economy Action Plan was published in July also. Five Free Night Time Economy Safety Courses were launched and made available free of charge to the public for the next 12 months. These courses are Bystander Intervention Training, Safeguarding and Vulnerability, Drink Spiking, Violence Against Women and Girls, and Anti-sexual Harassment. In November the Night Time Economy advisor joined a panel discussion at the “SoundWaves” conference in Adare around how the creative industries and night time economy can collaborate. The Night Time Economy advisor also presented on Twilight Thursday and joined a panel discussion with the British Embassy and industry peers as part of the “Joining the Dots” conference. We ran our 7th edition of Twilight Thursday on the 27 November and also announced two new grant calls in the form of “Leave a Light On” and “Christmas NTE Grant” which were both very well received. In 2025 Twilight Thursday featured 400 different events in Limerick City Centre.





**European Union (EU) Programmes**

The EU Programmes Team continued to support Departments interested in participating in EU funded projects throughout 2025. Limerick City and County Council are participating in the following EU Projects:

**FutureLakes (HORIZON)**

The project will undertake a detailed assessment of all existing environmental data and plans for Lough Gur. The outcome will be the development of a consolidated Environmental Management Plan for the lake and its catchment area. The Plan will set out specific recommendations and proposed mitigation measures aimed at supporting the achievement of the lake’s ecological potential. The project is scheduled to run from September 2025 to September 2027.

**ReDAN (URBACT)**

An URBACT Transfer Network facilitates the transfer of a recognised URBACT Good Practice from a Lead Partner city to other partner cities within the network. This particular network will focus on the regeneration of degraded areas, transforming them into zones that promote biodiversity, nature conservation, and nature based tourism. The network will transfer the Good Practice developed by the Ormož Razojno Raziskovalni Centre in Slovenia.

**Sport 2025 (Erasmus+)**

Limerick Sports Partnership has secured €450,000 in EU funding to host the European Sport for All Games 2026, a five-day celebration of traditional sports, physical activity and cultural diversity taking place in Limerick from 6 - 11 August 2026. The event will welcome over 250 participants

from 26 European countries and transform parks, streets and public spaces across the city into lively sporting venues, encouraging strong community involvement and public engagement. Organised in partnership with The Association for International Sport for All (TAFISA), Limerick City and County Council, the University of Limerick and the Shannon Region Conference and Sports Bureau, the Games aim to promote inclusion, integration and healthy living through sport, alongside cultural performances and interactive workshops for people of all ages and abilities. Coinciding with Ireland's EU Presidency in 2026, the Games are expected to deliver significant social and economic benefits, boosting tourism and strengthening Limerick's profile as a centre for sport and culture.

### **CO LAB (PEACEPLUS)**

In 2025, Limerick successfully secured PEACEPLUS funding for the CO LAB (Collaborative Leadership Across the Border) project, a cross-border initiative focused on addressing social exclusion, poverty and access to healthcare. Working with partners across the island of Ireland, including the Centre for Effective Services, Monaghan Children and Young Peoples Committees (CYPSC) and Local Community Development Committees (LCDC), The Executive Office in Northern Ireland, the Department of the Taoiseach and Limerick City and County Council, the project will co-design a collaborative cross-border strategy and engage government departments through pilot actions and long-term legacy planning. Rathkeale, Co. Limerick has been identified as the pilot site, where actions will include research and data collection, development of strategies to support social inclusion and healthcare access, pilot and demonstration projects to test solutions, and capacity-building initiatives to strengthen local skills and leadership.

### **URBAN (Interreg)**

This Interreg URBAN project—Understanding the Recovery of Biodiversity and Animal Networks—offers Limerick a significant opportunity to implement a whole-of-society approach to nature. It addresses urgent conservation, and ecological restoration needs while safeguarding nature's contribution to both present and future generations. Central to this vision is enabling the Groody Valley to function as an urban Green Lung, enhancing ecological resilience within a highly urbanised setting.

The project prioritises improved connectivity between fragmented habitats through enhanced ecological permeability across public and private lands, including wildlife canopy corridors and aerial guidance structures. These interventions support mammal movement - particularly for species such as bats and squirrels - while also integrating health, educational, and recreational benefits for surrounding communities.

### **SLOWTOUR (interreg)**

Limerick City and County Council's application to the Interreg North-West Europe (NWE) Programme for the SLOWTOUR project has been approved.

SLOWTOUR focuses on unlocking industrial heritage through inclusive slow tourism, creating authentic, low-impact visitor experiences that strengthen local identity and economic resilience.

The initiative is intended to position Limerick as a leader in sustainable tourism innovation and deliver transformative benefits for the city and county.

As part of the project, Limerick will implement a pilot action that develops a new food tourism offering based on its rich heritage of the food industry. This will include immersive experiences designed to celebrate local traditions, promote sustainable food practices, and engage citizens through storytelling and co-creation workshops in heritage locations.

Over the next three years, Limerick will deliver a flagship multi-day food festival, with potential for additional events to build on this success. These activities will aim to attract diverse visitor profiles, increase dwell time, and foster community pride.

The total budget for Limerick City and County Council for the project is €606,400, with €363,840 funded by the European Regional Development Fund and €242,560 co-financed by Limerick City and County Council, including support from the Mayor's discretionary fund to ensure the success of this transformative initiative.

### **THRIVE European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

This landmark ERDF funded project THRIVE (Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme) will see the regeneration of 35-39 Nicholas Street, incorporating the surviving medieval fireplace and historic fabric into a new educational and innovative Design Hub. The Forge Design Factory will provide space for artists, makers, entrepreneurs, and visitors, including studios, exhibition and retail areas, and a café/restaurant, with the aim of creating a vibrant destination at the heart of Limerick's Medieval Quarter.

During 2025, Limerick City and County Council submitted a number of applications for European funded projects across multiple Directorates. Decisions on these funding applications are expected in 2026.

## **TOURISM STRATEGY**

### **Limerick City and County Council's Tourism Plan (2025 – 2030)**

- Limerick City and County Council's Tourism Plan (2025 – 2030), developed in conjunction with Repucon Consulting, was adopted at the September Council meeting on 22 September.
- The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening reports and associated suggested texts for SEA and AA screening determinations were completed by CAAS Ltd. and received by Limerick City and County Council on 27

August. The determinations were subsequently actioned by the Council, taking into account the screening reports, prior to the proposed adoption and finalisation of the plan.

- Limerick City and County Council’s Tourism Plan (2025 – 2030) and associated documents were subsequently published on the Limerick.ie website on 15 October.
- This Plan will now be in place until 2030, providing the guiding framework for the future development of tourism, within the remit of Limerick City and County Council.
- This plan is a roadmap built on creativity, sustainability, and collaboration to shape the future of tourism in Limerick city and county. At the heart of the Tourism Plan is the concept of ‘ReThinking Tourism’ - a commitment to telling the Limerick story in new and creative ways, building on Limerick’s reputation for innovation, authenticity, and memorable experiences. The Plan introduces ‘Project 10’, a strategic roadmap comprising of ten key focus areas that will guide the development of tourism across the city and county. These projects will be delivered collaboratively across multiple Council directorates and with external partners, ensuring that tourism reflects the aspirations of both the local community and the wider industry.
- Furthermore, Ruth Graham was appointed by the Tourism Department to complete an ‘infographic’ in relation to the new plan. The finalised infographic was received on 22 September and was subsequently shared across social

- The festival was delivered by Limerick City and County Council and was supported by the Mayor’s fund, thereby aligning with the broader Mayoral Programme’s goal to promote local produce and food heritage (MP46 - Develop an annual Limerick Food Festival to celebrate and promote local produce, integrating national tourism strategies to enhance Limerick’s visibility as a food destination).
- The programme featured three flagship events: a one-night-only ‘Mystery Dinner’ in the Hunt Museum on 18 September; a lively Street Feast on Nicholas Street in partnership with Culture Night on 19 September and on 21 September chefs Trisha Lewis, Eoin Sheehan and Tom Flavin hosted live demos and tastings at the Milk Market. In addition to these pillar events, the festival offered a range of fringe experiences across the city, hosted by local businesses and food experts.

**Official Opening of the Limerick Greenway Hub at Rathkeale**

- The official opening of the Limerick Greenway Hub at Rathkeale took place on 19 September.
- The visitor hub was officially opened by Mayor of Limerick, John Moran with Jerry Buttimer TD, Minister of State at the Department of Transport.
- The site includes 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.
- The design team was led by Feeney McMahon Architects and construction was carried out by Thomas Nolan and Sons Builders Ltd.
- The finalised project cost was €2.48 million. The project was jointly funded by the Department of Transport/Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Limerick City and County Council and the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.



Limerick Tourism Plan (2025 - 2030) Infographic  
Designed by Ruth Graham.

**TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**

**Flavours of Limerick Food Festival 2025**

- From 18 – 21 September the Tourism Department organised Flavours of Limerick - a food festival bringing together the people, produce, and culture that makes Limerick a food destination on the rise. This festival celebrated Limerick’s vibrant culinary culture through a four-day programme of tastings, live demonstrations and immersive food experiences.



Official Opening of the Limerick Greenway Hub  
@ Rathkeale on 19 September.

### Tracks and Trails

- On 23 May, Limerick Greenway featured in Episode 3 of RTÉ's popular travel series, Tracks and Trails.
- Host Doireann Ní Ghlacáin, Broadcaster; Musician and Podcaster, was accompanied by former Munster and Ireland Rugby Player and frontman of Hermitage Green, Barry Murphy.
- The episode began with a cycle along the 40 kilometre Limerick Greenway, starting in Abbeyfeale and winding through Barnagh, Newcastle West, and Ardagh, before reaching Rathkeale.
- Highlights of the journey included visits to the Desmond Castle Banqueting Hall and the site of the famous Ardagh Chalice discovery.



Tracks and Trails – Limerick.

### Limerick City Walking Tour – 'Explore Limerick: Stories, Streets and Heritage'

- From June to September, the Tourism Department in Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with the Limerick Civic Trust, offered a guided walking tour of Limerick City, available seven days a week. Led by expert guides from the Limerick Civic Trust, this immersive experience took participants through the heart of the city, exploring iconic landmarks such as King John's Castle, St. Mary's Cathedral, the Treaty Stone, and Arthur's Quay Park.
- On 6 June, staff from the Tourism and Marketing and Communication Departments attended the walking tour, to market and promote the tour on Limerick.ie social media platforms. The tour was promoted to hotels and accommodation providers, third level institutions and staff members of Limerick City and County Council via email correspondence, social media channels and LCCC's staff portal and Council Connect staff app.
- On 29 August LCCC staff were provided with a fantastic opportunity to explore the city and uncover its rich history with the tour providing centuries of stories and landmarks, thereby enabling staff to discover how Limerick's unique quarters have evolved over time.
- A total of 381 people booked and attended the tour. The tour was attended by various nationalities with tourists coming from the United States of America, Central Europe, Asia and South America.

### Virtual Mapping of Limerick Greenway

- An innovative Virtual Reality (VR) project designed and developed by Limerick City and County Council and Global Virtual Asset Management (VAM) Ltd. to showcase Limerick Greenway and key tourist attractions across Limerick City and County took place throughout the course of 2025. Limerick Greenway is now the first ever fully virtually mapped Greenway in Ireland.
- The project involved conducting a VR mapping exercise of Limerick Greenway. 360-degree imagery of some of the top locations and attractions across Limerick City and County were also captured by Global VAM Ltd. as part of this project
- The initiative aims to enhance tourism, promote cultural heritage, and provide immersive experiences for global audiences.
- By leveraging cutting-edge VR technology, the project will deliver interactive tours of Limerick Greenway and Limerick City and County, accessible via VR headsets, mobile devices, and web platforms, driving engagement, increased tourism and economic growth to the region.

### Discover Limerick Maps and Brochures

- The Discover Limerick Map is a user-friendly guide which lists city and county attractions and activities for visitors to the Limerick region.
- The Tourism Department received delivery of Discover Limerick Maps and Brochures for 2025, which were designed by Placemarque and produced by Fitzsimons Printers.
- Hotels and third level institutions across Limerick city and county received delivery of the Discover Limerick Maps throughout June.
- In November, staff from the Tourism Department delivered an additional supply of Discover Limerick Maps to hotels across Limerick City and County.
- The map has proven to be very popular with the hospitality sector with hotels requesting and receiving an additional supply of the maps for the 2025 Christmas period.

### TOURISM INDUSTRY TRADE EVENTS 2025

#### The Holiday World Show

- Staff of the Tourism, Festivals and Events Department attended and operated an information stand on behalf of Limerick City and County Council at the Holiday World Show 2025, which was hosted at the Strand Hotel on 08 and 09 February.

#### Active Travel and Greenways Conference

- Staff of the Tourism Development and Tourism Capital Projects Team attended the Active Travel and Greenways Conference hosted by Fáilte Ireland in the Strand Hotel on 26 and 27 March. As part of the conference activities over 80 attendees from across Ireland cycled 22km of the Limerick Greenway.

### Get Limerick Walking Conference

- Staff of the Tourism Development Team attended the Get Limerick Walking conference held on 03 April. As part of the conference, discussions focused on how to better develop walking in Limerick City and County.

### Augment the City Showcase

- Senior staff members were given an opportunity by the Belfast City Council to attend a one-day Augment the City Showcase event on 03 April.

### Tourism Ireland Great Britain Networking Lunch

- Tourism Department staff attended a Networking Lunch with the Tourism Ireland Great Britain team, on 09 April in No.1 Pery Square. This was a partnership event between Tourism Ireland and Fáilte Ireland as a “Twinning Initiative” between Limerick and Great Britain.

### Irish Tourism Industry Confederation (ITIC) Council Meeting

- Senior members of the Tourism Department attended the Irish Tourism Industry Confederation Council Meeting which was hosted in Edinburgh on 30 April.

### National Outdoor Recreation Conference

- On 25 June the Tourism Department and the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht kicked off the 2025 National Outdoor Recreation Conference by hosting a cycle along Limerick Greenway.
- Along the 24km cycle from Barnagh to Rathkeale, the Tourism Department provided intermittent information sessions about the plans and upcoming improvement works being completed at each of the various Limerick Greenway Hubs which have received Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) funding.
- Staff from the Tourism Department attended the conference on 26 June in the Radisson Blu hotel, where insights were provided in relation to Greenways, Blueways, water-based activities and the incredible work being done in various outdoor amenities across the country.

### Limerick and Clare Tourism Networking Event

- Limerick City and County Council’s Tourism Department was delighted to co-organise the Limerick and Clare Regional Tourism Networking Event 2025 in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, hosted at the Limerick Strand Hotel on 07 October.
- The event brought together over 80 passionate tourism professionals and businesses from across Limerick and Clare for a day of connection, collaboration, and inspiration. With more than 465 one-to-one meetings, it was a wonderful reminder of the power of networking - how a simple conversation can spark new ideas, build partnerships, and create opportunities that truly move our region forward.



Limerick and Clare Tourism Networking Event 2025 held at the Limerick Strand Hotel on 07 October

### Ireland’s Association for Adventure Tourism (IAAT) 2025 Conference

- The Tourism Department attended Ireland’s Association for Adventure Tourism (IAAT’s), Annual Conference held in Knockranny House Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo on 27 November.
- This conference featured expert presentations and panel discussions from the Irish Tourism Industry Confederation (ITIC), Adventure.ie, Irish Independent and Tourism Ireland among other notable organisations.

### 2025 Awards

#### Chambers Ireland Excellence Awards 2025

- The Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards ceremony was held in Dublin on 27 November. Limerick City and County Council’s Tourism Department was proud to announce that the ‘Limerick Greenway – Embrace the Unexpected’ initiative was awarded first place in the ‘Supporting Tourism’ category at the 2025 awards.
- ‘Limerick Greenway – Embrace the Unexpected’ is the Council’s largest outdoor tourism project to date. Following the old Limerick to Kerry railway line, Limerick Greenway links historic towns and scenic landscapes across West Limerick. It offers family-friendly walking and cycling routes, cultural heritage experiences, and nature-based attractions like Tullig Wood and Barnagh.
- Limerick Greenway has been funded through a combination of national and local supports, including the LEADER programme, Department of Transport, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Department of Rural and Community Development, Fáilte Ireland, Limerick City and County Council and other partners. With features including restored relics, hand-crafted art and age-friendly amenities, Limerick Greenway integrates local culture and accessibility for all. Visitor numbers reached 680,000 since it opened in 2021, delivering a major socio-economic boost to the region.
- The award recognises Limerick Greenway as a transformative tourism and community asset for West Limerick. The win is an acknowledgement of the Council’s commitment to showcasing Limerick Greenway as a

must-visit destination, inviting locals and visitors alike to discover hidden gems, breathtaking scenery, and unforgettable experiences along the route.



'Supporting Tourism Award' for Limerick Greenway at Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards

**12th European Greenways Awards 2025**

- Limerick Greenway achieved international recognition after being awarded third prize in the Excellence category at the 12 European Greenways Awards ceremony, held between 8 – 10 October in Abanto-Zierbena, Basque Country, Spain.
- The awards celebrated outstanding greenway projects across Europe that promote sustainable tourism, active mobility, and community development, with Limerick Greenway being recognised for its transformative impact on rural regeneration, tourism, and wellbeing.
- Since opening in 2021, Limerick Greenway has welcomed over 680,000 users to-date, contributed significantly to the local economy, and provided meaningful social benefits to the community. It features age-friendly infrastructure, accessible paths, heritage restoration, and inclusive amenities such as U-Turn audio installations with Irish Sign Language interpretation.
- The project has received €10 million in initial capital investment, including funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Department of Transport and Fáilte Ireland.



Limerick Greenway Achieves Prestigious European Greenways Recognition

**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**

- Meetings of the working group for the Ballyhoura Destination Experience Development Plan took place throughout 2025. 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.

**Limerick Greenway Marketing and Social Media:**

**Limerick Greenway Marketing and Promotion for 2025**

In 2025, Limerick City and County Council continued the promotion and development of Limerick Greenway. Limerick Greenway hosted a number of events throughout 2025 including the following;

**Limerick Greenway Wellbeing Series**

A joint partnership between Live95, Limerick City and County Council, Limerick Mental Health Association, Flexitime, Cardio Flourish, Limerick Sports Partnership, and Healthy Limerick/Sláintecare Healthy Communities, the series brought together communities across Limerick together through movement, mindfulness and connection.

- **21 April – Wellbeing Series Stage 1 (Barnagh Hub)**  
An Easter Monday event with a 5km/10km run or walk, 20km cycle from Barnagh to Newcastle West and back, wellness sessions from experts and family fun for all ages. Live entertainment, face painting and an Easter Egg giveaway for the kids was also provided.
- **18 May – Wellbeing Series Stage 2 (Abbeyfeale Hub)**  
Part of Bike Week, offering 6 km and 30 km cycle routes with bike rentals available. Free cycling accessories and refreshments were provided to participants.

• **22 June – Wellbeing Series Stage 3 (Ardagh Hub)**

A Summer Solstice celebration with an evening walk/run. Focused on healthy eating and community engagement in a scenic setting.

• **13 July – Wellbeing Series Stage 4 (Rathkeale Hub)**

Back-to-school health day featuring fitness classes and mental health talks. Families enjoyed interactive workshops promoting wellness and nutrition.

• **21 September – Wellbeing Series Stage 5 (Newcastle West Hub)**

Following four hugely successful days out in Barnagh, Abbeyfeale, Ardagh, and Rathkeale, the Limerick Wellbeing Series concluded on September 21, at the Newcastle West Greenway Hub. Participants of all ages and fitness levels were invited to take on a 5km or 10km route along the stunning Newcastle West stretch of the Greenway.

• **10–18 May – Bike Week Social Cycles**

Included inclusive cycling sessions, youth rides, and a social cycle led by Southside Wheely Wheelers. Promoted active travel and community cycling along the Greenway.

• **13 September – Limerick Greenway Walk for Brú (Ardagh Station)**

Charity walks up to 10 km supporting Brú Columbanus, with tea, coffee, and scones for participants. The suggested donation was €30, making it a popular fundraising event.

In 2025, Limerick City and County Council engaged Springboard Communications to deliver a national, integrated communications and marketing campaign for the Limerick Greenway, building on the strong foundation established in 2024. The campaign was designed to strengthen Limerick Greenway’s position as a premier destination and achieve sustained growth in visitor engagement.

**Key Objectives:**

- Enhance Brand Awareness: Maintain Limerick Greenway as a top-of-mind amenity for local, regional, national, and international visitors.
- Stakeholder Alignment: Co-ordinate marketing and promotional activities with key partners, including Fáilte Ireland, to ensure consistency and impact.
- Support Local Communities: Highlight hub towns and local businesses along Limerick Greenway, fostering economic benefits and community engagement.
- Expand Audience Reach: Broaden target demographics by leveraging events and collaborations with local enterprises to attract diverse visitor segments.

**2025 Promotional Activities Included:**

- Seasonal photography and videography shoots along Limerick Greenway, with the imagery and videos captured being the key element in driving the marketing campaign.
- Influencer Marketing: influencer visits were coordinated in 2025 along Limerick Greenway, with a series of content created by each. These influencers were Louise

Cantillon, Eoin Sheehan, Fiona Mangan, Siobhan O’Hagan and Marius Monaghan. 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.

- Radio proved very successful for Limerick Greenway in 2025, with adverts and segments mentioned on Live 95FM, Clare FM, RTÉ One, Today FM, Newstalk, Radio Kerry and RTÉ Lyric FM.
- Also, Native and Non-Native content pieces and adverts featured in the Irish Farmers Journal, Woman’s Way, Limerick Post, Irish Country Magazine, Mallow Star, Irish Independent, The Kerryman, and many more publications across Ireland.
- Business of the Month Project, where each month, we celebrated one local gem that brings life, flavour, and character to the Limerick Greenway across our Facebook and Instagram pages and our Limerick Greenway website. Businesses involved in the series in 2025 included Barnagh Greenway Hub, LiKe Bikes, Greenway Café 1709 and Tea N’ Tales.
- Social Media Competitions.
- A comprehensive monthly Social Media postings schedule.

**Limerick Greenway Social Media Analysis for 2025**

- 2025 was a busy year for Limerick Greenway’s online presence with 5 influencer trips; appearing on RTÉ’s Tracks and Trails series; establishing Limerick Greenway’s Business of the Month; and starting the People of Limerick Greenway series. These types of content helped drive the growth of Limerick Greenway’s social channels throughout the year, taking it from 11,815 followers (Facebook) and 7,426 (Instagram) to 12,654 and 8,965, respectively. The Limerick Greenway TikTok account, a secondary channel, achieved over 30,000 views, broadening the reach of Limerick Greenway even further.
- Summer saw a massive surge in engagement with Facebook views maxing out at 328,000 and Instagram hitting 44,000. This can be attributed to several reasons including an increase in spend on Meta ads; boosting posts from the home feed; Tracks and Trails as well as the influencer videos (Fiona Mangan, Marius Monaghan and Louise Cantillon) that occurred during this period. We began with the People of Limerick Greenway series in August, which also increased engagement with comments and likes as people spotted familiar faces.
- In September, we launched Business of the Month (BOTM) with Barnagh Greenway Hub. It received over 34,000 views, over 330 reactions and was shared 28 times. Since then, the BOTM series has received 80,000 views, 658 reactions, and 74 shares.
- In September, the Limerick Greenway Hub at Rathkeale was launched, receiving great attention. It received numerous comments across all the posts as well as being shared on digital news outlets, increasing the reach for Limerick Greenway nationally.

- We continued posting consistently throughout these months, sharing award wins, upcoming events as well as evergreen content. This resulted in Limerick Greenway achieving strong results in October and November, beating some of the summer months.
- At the beginning of December, we posted about making a new Christmas tradition by taking a visit to Limerick Greenway. This post was the highest performing post for December reaching 4,500 accounts.

#### Top performing posts:

- Rathkeale Transformation – 12,000 views with 96 interactions.
- People of Limerick Greenway – 9,500 views, 130 reactions and 27 shares.
- Louise Cantillon’s posts got over 100,000 views and received 1,500 reactions and 100 shares.
- Marius Monaghan’s content got over 120,000 views, over 2,000 reactions, 400+ saves and 90 shares.

#### Limerick Greenway Photoshoot

- On 16 June, the Tourism Department completed a photoshoot along Limerick Greenway as part of the marketing of this amenity for 2025.
- Photographs and drone footage were captured at the Barnagh Tunnel, Tullig Wood, Fergusons Viaduct and Abbeyfeale. The content captured was subsequently utilised as promotional material for 2025.

#### Business of the Month Campaign

- The “Business of the Month” campaign for Limerick Greenway has been a cornerstone in promoting local enterprises and strengthening their connection to the Limerick Greenway experience. Throughout the year, businesses such as Tea N’ Tales in Abbeyfeale, Barnagh Greenway Hub, Greenway Café 1709 in Rathkeale, and The Arra Café in Newcastle West were highlighted across social media and the Limerick Greenway website.
- These features showcased unique offerings, from cozy cafés and artisan treats to multi-activity hubs with bike rentals and family amenities, positioning them as integral parts of the visitor journey. By amplifying these businesses, the campaign fosters stakeholder engagement, encourages cross-promotion, and demonstrates the collaborative spirit that underpins sustainable tourism. Most importantly, it reflects the vital role of community partnerships in ensuring Limerick Greenway’s long-term success, reinforcing that its longevity depends on a united approach benefiting both residents and visitors.

#### Campaign Highlights

- Limerick’s own Live95FM actively promoted Limerick Greenway through news bulletins in 2025. Highlights included coverage of the national Active Travel and Greenway Conference hosted in Limerick and the European Award recognition for Limerick Greenway in late 2025, with live interviews featuring Council officials and community voices, ensuring wide local and regional engagement.

- Influencer and blogger outreach was spearheaded by Springboard Communications in collaboration with the Tourism Department in LCCC, which curated media trips, press reviews, and local influencer visits.
- The campaign included earned-media features in top outlets like The Irish Times and Discover Ireland, driving a reported 20% of visitors via social media channels.
- Ongoing social media activity across official channels amplified this, with consistent content showcasing picturesque routes, historic landmarks (such as Barnagh Tunnel, Ferguson’s Viaduct), and family-friendly facilities. Content performance was strong, contributing to record visitor numbers, over 1.5 million annually as highlighted in campaign case studies.

#### Statistics for Limerick Greenway Socials 01 January to 31 December:

##### Facebook

Reach:	1,338,358
Profile Visits:	12,534
New Page Followers:	1,099

##### Instagram

Reach:	162,994
Profile Visits:	4,763
New Page Followers:	2,159

##### Social Media Ads

Accounts Reached:	890,891
Post Engagements:	86,171
Link Clicks (to Website):	11,765

##### Google Ads

Clicks:	17,635
Impressions:	119,906

## FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

#### Festivals and Events Strategy 2025-2030

Limerick City and County Council published The Festivals and Events Strategy 2025-2030. The Strategy a culmination of over 18 months of work by the Festivals and Event team set out an ambitious roadmap to support and grow a dynamic calendar of festivals and events that celebrate Limerick’s rich heritage, foster innovation, and connect people across all ages and backgrounds.

The strategy recognises Limerick’s existing Festivals landscape, which encompasses a broad range of festivals and events from local community festivals to large scale events across arts, culture, food, sport and heritage, including business events and conferences.

The strategy seeks to establish Limerick as a high-quality festivals and events destination and to develop existing and new festivals and events which will create a world class offering that contributes to Limerick’s economic, cultural and social development.

## **Festivals and Events Grants Scheme 2025/2026**

Limerick City and County Council provided strategic investment to Festivals and Events via a competitive open call in 2025. This investment was provided as a stimulus to elevate Limerick's Festival and Events offering and contributes 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 2025/2026 was €208,000.

The total ask for the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2025/2026 was €634,324.97

The Scheme was awarded to successful applicants across three strands.

**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. Festivals and Events Grants**

### **Strand 1:**

22 applications were considered under this Strand with a total ask of €99,639.

€32,000 was awarded to 18 applicants under Strand 1.

### **Strand 2:**

20 applications were considered under this Strand with a total ask of €466,030.97.

€171,500 was awarded to 17 applicants under Strand 2.

### **Strand 3:**

17 applications were considered under this Strand with a total ask of €68,655.

€4,500 was awarded under Strand 3.

## **St Brigid's Festival**

In a change from previous years, LCCC's animation of St Brigid's weekend focused on the new 'All we have are Days' festival, an initiative supported under the Mayoral programme.

Presented in partnership with Guinness and Limerick City and County Council, 'All we Have are Days' was a music-centred festival embedded in the city, hosting shows in Limerick's churches, theatres, pub corners, public spaces and more intimate traditional venues.

Headlined by Oscar nominee Ruth Negga, Lisa Hannigan, Quantic and filmmaker Dream Hampton, All Have are Days featured a broad range of shows across the weekend,

including performances, conversations, screenings and pop-up sets with Bell X1's Paul Noonan, Sinéad Gleeson, Gemma Hayes, Anna B Savage, Denise Chaila, Niamh Regan, windings, Donal Dineen, Brian B+ Cross to name but a few.

Shows were hosted in County Limerick, welcoming festival artists to venues around the county and broadening the festival's reach to a wider Limerick audience and linking city and county.

The **'What Next Festival'** of dance took place from 10 - 15 February. The festival was supported by LCCC Festivals and Events. Audiences experienced a selection of fresh and inspiring works featuring current modern dance. Featuring both national and international performances, there was a varied programme including workshops and talks. Some of the highlights included The Body Symphonic, a solo performance by Aerowaves and Twenty25. The Parsley Collective performed their newest show, Un-One-Ing as well. Other events included the upbeat world Music Céilí dance that consisted of different dance styles from around the world, finishing with traditional Irish Céilí dances.

The **'Limerick Literary Festival'** took place from 21 - 23 February. The festival returned to the Belltable with a poetry exchange event on the Friday. The festival launch night was opened by acclaimed Author, Donal Ryan, and a performance from opera singer, Sarah-Ellen Murphy. Across the weekend, multiple authors were interviewed about their new books including Karen Fitzgibbon, Ciaran O'Driscoll, Delphine Minoui and Anna Abney. The festival also had an event portraying Heaney in translation marking the publication of 'The Translations of Seamus Heaney' hosted by Niall MacMonagle.

**St. Patrick's Festival.** Limerick welcomed 80,000 visitors across the weekend to the city for the hugely successful three day 'Limerick St. Patrick's Festival 2025'. Festival highlights on the Saturday included, 'The most Dangerous Animal in the World', 'A Snail's Tale', 'Inis' which saw the city streets come alive with family fun 'Shamrock Street Shows' at Cruises Street, Bedford Row and Thomas Street.

The 53rd International Band Championships took place on the 16 March. Tens of thousands lined the streets of Limerick to see Marching Bands from Ireland and across the world. The Bands entertained the crowds with their music, chorography and costumes. The overall Champions were the Doherty High School Spartan Legion Marching Band from Colorado. The Band Championship brought a display of exceptional musical talent and explosive energy.

Over 50,000 people lined the streets of the city for the flagship event, St. Patrick's Day. The parade theme was 'A More Fun Limerick' and the Grand Marshal for 2025 was Paralympic Silver Medallist, European Champion and World Champion limerick's Róisín Ní Riain. There were over 1200 participants from 70 groups with a wide range of interests, including

Scout Groups, Sports Clubs, cultural and Community Groups. Amazing floats included aerial performance company, Fidget Feet enhanced by the music and fun.

To promote St. Patrick's Festival, the marketing and communications team delivered a three-week campaign commencing 24 February. The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness and generate positivity around Limerick's St. Patrick's Festival. The call-to-action was to encourage attendance at flagship events and activities, attract locals and visitors to Limerick, increase length of visit and dwell time in Limerick City and raise the festival profile both locally and nationally. St. Patrick's Festival acted as a magnet - encouraging footfall into Limerick City, promoting Limerick as a go-to destination for overnight stays and weekend staycations. The campaign also aimed to increase followers across Limerick's festival social channels Facebook, Instagram, X and TikTok, with a view to driving traffic to Limerick.ie and the dedicated festival webpage.

The campaign featured a digital festival guide and tent cards with Quick Response (QR) codes directing to St. Patrick's Festival website hub, bi-lingual print and digital advertising with local media, dedicated e-newsletters and a dedicated St. Patrick's festival hub with comprehensive listings. The marketing campaign posted paid and organic content across all festival social media channels while live coverage was captured for the channels which included the St. Patrick's Day parade and the International Band Championship among others.

Photography and videography included the event launch featuring the Grand Marshal as well as capturing imagery across the festival event. Videography was produced which culminated in a highlights video showcasing the best of the festival event shared on all social media channels.



St. Patrick's Festival Launch with the parade Grand Marshal, Róisín Ní Riain Photo: Piquant



Overall Parade Champions the Doherty High School Spartan Legion Marching Band (Colorado). Photo: Don Moloney

'Catalyst International Film Festival', took place from 03 - 05 April. The main theme of Catalyst International Film Festival is to address inequality in film, on screen and behind the camera. The programming is featured around inclusion such as gender equality, youth and diversity. The festival celebrated this by offering bursaries, industry events, student day events and screenwriting lab, as well as short screenplay awards.

'Fresh International Film Festival' took place from 07 – 13 April, inspiring young film makers to create, engage in film and the making of film. Throughout the year in the run-up to the festival, Fresh worked with young people to run programmes under the following four headings: Education, International, Production and International Film Festival. Fresh have an impressive record of working towards the sharing of ideas and empowering young filmmakers from Ireland and Internationally. Ireland's Young Filmmakers of the Year Awards is a renowned event on the film calendar with this year's awards featuring young filmmakers from 150 countries, 13,648 applications and 212 awards'.

**Riverfest.** The 21st Riverfest took place over the May bank holiday weekend. The work of the Festivals and Events team on Riverfest 2025 was recognised by being awarded winner of the **Best Irish Festival Award** at the LAMA All-Ireland Community and Council Awards 2025.

Over the bank holiday weekend 140,000 people attended the festival with 67,000 people passing through the festival village 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, Fashionfest, the Riverfest Village, the Shannon free drop, the Panoramic Wheel and National BBQ Competition. Also included were on-river events and aerial shows from Limerick's own Fidget Feet and a new Autism Spectre Disorder (ASD) Ireland mobile sensory unit on site adjacent to Arthurs Quay Park.

LCCC Festivals and Events partnered with iconic brand Red Bull for Riverfest to deliver a weekend Street Party. The iconic 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 Regatta event centred at the St. Michaels 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 Great Limerick run supported by LCCC Festivals and Events took place on the Sunday of the Riverfest weekend. Over 18,000 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. LCCC was the 2025 title sponsor for the 'Children's Run for Fun', over 2,000 Children's participated.

Sunday evenings night sky was illuminated by the annual 'Riverfest Fireworks'. Tens of thousands attended Clancy strand while music lovers had box office viewing from Dolans at the Castle.

Riverfest 2025 was a huge success for Limerick City. The overseas and domestic visitor to Riverfest is estimated to deliver a minimum of €9.3 million to the local economy.

Riverfest was supported by the Marketing and Communications team to promote the festival using a multi-channel approach to maximize reach and engagement around the May Bank Holiday weekend.

Radio and digital advertising spend on local station Live 95 and regional station Spin Southwest featured radio ads and social media content. Print and online media included full-page ads on the Limerick Post and Weekly Observer/Vale Star. The Limerick Leader ran ads on its website and social platforms.

Five press releases issued via the Communications Office, culminating in a round-up video with an accompanying release.

A four-week social media campaign was scheduled on Riverfest channels promoting events. To further promote Riverfest Google graphic ads and influencer collaborations for pre-promotion and live coverage were utilised. Out-of-Home advertising was placed on buses and ad towers in shopping centres across Limerick, Cork, and Galway.

Direct and Email marketing utilised E-marketing emails to subscribers, while influencer boxes sent were sent to social media influencers. Riverfest 2025 resulted in more than 140,000 people dancing, laughing, and creating lasting memories in glorious sunshine making Limerick a sizzling hot spot for the May Bank Holiday weekend.



Riverfest Village Photo: Piquant



Revellers enjoying the atmosphere in the Hunt Museum garden during Riverfest Weekend Photo: Piquant

**'Fleadh By the Feale'** the annual weekend-long event took place in Abbeyfeale from 01 – 05 May. Traditional entertainment was showcased in every corner of the town, including a Trad Disco, local Comhaltas Groups, Sliabh Luachra musicians and Polka, to name but a few. There was great traditional entertainment provided by young people from schools within the vicinity, as well as storytelling and different live performances in the Town Square.

**'Hear Say International Audio'**, the annual festival attracts audio makers from all over the world to join their peers in the village of Kilfinane and be inspired by the beautiful surroundings. Now in its 11th year, the festival has become a hub for International Artists who work with film sound, audio features sound art or radio drama to explore the Co. Limerick countryside and share their experiences and stories as contributors to the festival, which this year ran from the 26 May to 02 June.

The **'Maigue River Festival'** took place at Croom Town Park on 31 May. There was a mix of events lined up for the day, including 'Life in the Maigue' where Geoff Hunt (Heritage in Schools) gave a talk about the food cycle of the river and had a display of a selection of aquatic invertebrates and fish. Other events included Folklore talks with Brian Collopy, Aquatic Insects with Colum Walsh of the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) and flyfishing workshops.

**Fleadh Ceoil Luimnigh** Held in Coláiste Chiarán Secondary School in Croom from 30 May to 01 June. Fleadh Ceoil Luimnigh is an annual event where members and non-members resident in Co. Limerick are welcome to compete in the music festival with an array of Irish musical instruments, including the Harp, Uilleann Pipes, Accordion and Fiddle.

**Limerick Sings International Choral Festival** held between 06 - 08 June, showcases and promotes choral singers, both newly starting out and professional, from the Limerick and the Mid-West Region, as well as welcoming choirs from Ireland, Europe and the United States. This non-competitive Choral Festival sees a diverse range of Choirs perform in several venues around Limerick and the Mid-West. The festival ethos is to create wellbeing and a unique experience for participants and audiences to enjoy.

**Limerick Garden Festival** took place on 15 June at the Limerick Milk Market, featuring a food market and stalls from all over Ireland. These included specialist nurseries and garden centres, all there to offer their advice and knowledge to garden enthusiasts of all interests. There was also a large range of arts and crafts on display on the market stalls with everything from metal crafts to paintings. Other displays included beekeeping and books, as well as specialist talks, demonstrations and workshops.

**Limerick Summer Proms.** The Limerick Summer Proms, now in its second year, is fast becoming a Limerick festival of note, celebrating Limerick's proud cultural heritage, as well as drawing artists and audiences from further afield. Starting its four-day repertoire of events on 19 June, the Irish Chamber Orchestra, with Kristian Bezuidenhout, performed Beethoven's Piano Concertos No. 2 and 4. On 20 June, the University Concert Hall had an evening with the Military Pipes and Bands of the Defence Forces, followed by Marty in the Evening with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra on 21 June, and Family Concert – The Incredible Voyage of Alasdair Malloy, with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, on 22 June.

The annual **'Welcome to the Neighbourhood,'** is presented by Askeaton Contemporary Arts, and is an artist's residency programme and festival inviting Irish and International Artists to make and display artwork throughout Askeaton. This is a unique experience where the artists find themselves at the heart of everyday life in the county town of Askeaton. They get to know the community, and their work is often informed by these shared experiences with the people they meet along the way. These cultural exchanges see work made during their time in Askeaton being presented and displayed at some of the most prestigious festivals, biennials and arts institutions in Ireland and abroad.

**Limerick Wild Geese Festival.** Now in its sixth year, the Limerick Wild Geese Festival took place from 03 - 06 July. This festival commemorates the Flight of the Wild Geese, a celebration of Bastille Day, the national day in France. The festival has become a unique annual event, celebrating the friendship between Ireland and France. The main day of the

celebrations was 05 July which saw the launch of the festival by the Mayor of Limerick and the French Ambassador. Events on the day were included traditional Living History Camp at the Hunt Museum gardens with reenactors from the Francolish Historical Society.

**Limerick Pride Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ)** took place on 12 July, the parade is the headline event of Limerick Pride. The parade is a celebration of diversity and equality for all with an emphasis on bringing friends, families and communities together to promote equal rights. The parade was a sea of colour with lively floats and groups adorned with joy and celebration. This year's festival took place from 07 - 13 July and had numerous events and activities including a family friendly day with live music and entertainment with the annual Tea Party.

**EuroPride.** LCCC Festivals and Events met with an international EuroPride delegation during Limerick Pride Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) as part of the initial bid process. Limerick was presented to the delegation over the July weekend to showcase all the city had to offer as a potential host city. LCCC Festivals and Events continued to support the bid in the lead up to the annual conference.

Bids were presented at EuroPride's annual conference in Barcelona in October. More than 120 member organisations cast their votes and West of Ireland (Limerick /Clare) secured the win with 70% of the votes. LCCC will work closely with national and European organisations, the local LGBTQ+ community, and stakeholders in culture, tourism to deliver EuroPride in 2028.

EuroPride 2028 is expected to attract over 100,000 visitors from across Europe and beyond, generating a substantial boost to the local economy. LCCC Festival and Events support was central to the successful bid.

**Féile Na Gréine.** Limerick's city streets and venues became a backdrop for the annual Féile Na Gréine, which took place from the 15 – 18 of August. The festival encourages and fosters experimental musicians to play and showcase their talent, all with the help of volunteers and festival friends. The festival provides a platform for Limerick's rich cultural music identity, while carving out their own diverse repertoire.

**Halloween in Limerick.** Via a competitive process Limerick was selected to receive funding under Fáilte Ireland's new Home of Halloween Pilot Destination Development Scheme. The pilot scheme aims to deliver immersive, culturally rich experiences that celebrate Ireland's heritage, extend the tourism season into October and November, and stimulate sustainable regional economic growth through collaboration between local authorities, tourism businesses, and cultural organisations.

‘Where Darkness Dances with Delight’, was presented by Limerick City and County Council, to transform the city streets, county towns, and rural corners into a five-week spectacle of spooky enchantment, local folklore, creative exploration, and community celebration. The festival showcased Limerick’s rich tradition and vibrant arts scene, creating a unique Halloween experience that blends ancient customs with contemporary creativity.

The Limerick Home of Halloween programme featured a five-week programme of events from street theatre to a brand-new Harvest Festivals, fire performances to storytelling. Events took place throughout the city and county.

A highlight of the festival was of the gigantic 23-foot mythical figure Con Mór (a creation by Macnas) which appeared at King John’s Castle in Limerick from 18 October for four weeks and included five sell out nights of an illuminated immersive experience. Another highlight of Halloween in Limerick was the Fire and Shadows Procession by Lumen Street Theatre. The procession transformed the streets of Limerick into a spectacle of illuminated mythological beings, supernatural characters and theatrical fire-art.



The Festivals and Events Marketing team delivered an extended Halloween in Limerick five-week campaign with a full calendar of events happening throughout the month of October. This was a new approach in 2025 as Limerick had been chosen as one of Fáilte Ireland’s “Home of Halloween” hubs this year.

The launch was supported with tangible collateral – maps and tent cards that were distributed to pubs, hotels, visitor attractions and libraries across the city and county. A competition was run in conjunction with the Absolute Hotel to drive traffic to our dedicated Halloween in Limerick social media channels.

A radio advertising campaign rolled out across local and national stations – Live 95, Spin Southwest, Beat FM, Today FM and 98FM to amplify the messaging that Limerick is going big for Halloween this year. Come to Limerick – the Home of Halloween! We also hosted two influencers on behalf of

Fáilte Ireland, showing them around Limerick and bringing them to Halloween themed events to give them a flavour of Halloween in Limerick. Feedback from both influencers was very positive and they enjoyed their time in Limerick experiencing a different kind of energy!



Lumen Samhain Fire and Shadows Procession, 25 October  
Photo: Brian Arthur



ROGU, Desmond Castle, 31 October  
Photo: Kieran Ryan Benson

The **Ireland Canada Homecoming** was a week-long event from 15 – 21 September, in the Ballyhoura region (covering parts of Cork and Limerick), commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Peter Robinson Settler Emigration Scheme. Around 190 descendants of the emigrants returned to Ireland from Canada and the United States to connect with their ancestral homes and take part in heritage tours, community gatherings, and cultural performances, including the play *The Robinson Experiment*. The event honoured the families who departed from Cobh in 1823 and 1825 for Ontario, Canada, fostering a shared connection between descendants, locals, and the communities of origin.

The **18th Polish Arts Festival** took place in Limerick from 18 – 21 September, offering a blend of contemporary Polish and Irish culture through performances, exhibitions, and workshops. Highlights included a headline concert by jazz pianist Leszek Możdżer at the Belltable and a collaborative music commission by Greg Oleksevich and Paddy Mulcahy.

The festival also featured visual art, theatre, family events, and a forum discussion on community integration, all aimed at fostering cultural exchange and community connection. The festival included a number of partnerships with local and national stakeholders, including but not limited to Limerick City and County Council, the Arts Council, the Belltable, and The Hunt Museum.

**Limerick Jazz Festival 2025** ran from 24 – 28 September, featuring a vocal-focused programme with performers including UK vocalist Ian Shaw with When Bowie Met Joni, Brigitte Beraha and Ant Law, and Irish artists Deborah Swiney, Nigel Mooney, Emilie Conway and Cormac Kenevey. The festival also included instrumental performances by the Julian Siegel Quartet, Dimitris Angelakis Quartet, and the Rory Conneally Trio, along with free Jazz Trail events and performances by Magical Dog.

**Bualadh Bos Children's Festival.** The 11th Bualadh Bos Children's Festival took place from 01 to 11 October at the Lime Tree Theatre and Belltable, plus schools, libraries and community venues across Limerick. The Bualadh Bos Children's Festival is an annual arts festival in Limerick for young audiences, featuring professional theatre, dance, music, and workshops. It is the only festival of its kind in the mid-west and aims to make world-class arts accessible to all children and families in the city and county. The festival also included community collaborations, school programmes, and initiatives like the Pay It Forward campaign to ensure wider participation.

**The 29th Ballyhoura Walking Festival and Joyce Brothers Music Festival,** the longest-established Walking Festival in Ireland, ran from 02 to 05 October. For the fifth consecutive year the walking festival was held in tandem with the Joyce Brothers Music Festival, which brings a strong cultural and music dimension alongside the outdoor activity. The combined event emphasises nature, outdoor exploration, heritage, community, music and local culture. The 2025 programme was diverse — catering for seasoned walkers, families and those looking for gentler experiences.

**Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Autumn School.** The 4th Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Autumn School, an annual event held in Bruff and its surrounding area, took place from 24 – 26 October. 2025 was the 30th anniversary of the death of Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy (mother of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy). Inspired by the local roots of the Fitzgerald-Kennedy family, the school explores the life of Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy and the broader history of Irish American emigration, with a special focus on women's experiences. The three-day event features discussions, talks, music, and cultural events at locations like the Thomas Fitzgerald Centre and Lough Gur.

**EVA International.** The 41st edition of EVA International ran from 29 August to 26 October 2025, in Limerick. Titled - "It Takes a Village" explored themes of social justice, state and government, and the environment through exhibitions at

thirteen venues across the city. Curated by Eszter Szakács, the biennial featured new commissions and existing works by Irish and international artists, focusing on topics like anti-colonialism, the climate crisis, and communal alternatives for property and economy. This edition of EVA marked the implementation of EVA's new Strategic Plan (2025-2030), prioritizing national and international engagement, local impact, and organizational sustainability.

**Light Moves Festival,** the 8th edition of the festival, was held in Limerick from 06 to 08 November, celebrated adventurous dance, film, sound, and new media, featuring artists from around the globe. Events were held across various Limerick venues, including Dance Limerick, the Belltable, and the Avista EHub, with a focus on accessibility. The festival aimed to be inclusive, with all main venues wheelchair accessible and some films featuring subtitles. Curated by Jessie Keenan and Laura Murphy, the festival presented works that explored the moving body across diverse environments, from natural landscapes to city streets.

**Christmas in Limerick.** The theme for Christmas in Limerick 2025 was "Together for Christmas in Limerick" a six-week programme of over 150 events.

In a first for Limerick, the switching on of the Christmas lights incorporated an illuminated street theatre procession. Internationally renowned street spectacle company Luxe wowed the audience of 12,000 people on 22 November. Other firsts included a wonderful four weeklong projection of children's artwork on to Bank of Ireland, O'Connell Street and an interactive light and sound installation at the band stand on Howley's Quay. The light and sound interactive installation titled 'making Spirits Bright' featured the work of two Limerick based artists, Catherine Ireton and Jose Luis Berna Moya.

Limerick City and County Council's Festivals and Events team partnered with the Milk Market to ensure there was a city centre Santa Experience. Limerick City and County Council grant aided the procurement of a Santa Grotto for the Milk Market which was very well received by the public and will be available to the Milk Market in future years for Christmas at the Iconic Milk Market.

Festive favourites like the Toots Christmas Train, Limerick on Ice and Fossett's Christmas Circus enthralled young and old over a six-week period driving footfall and dwell time in the city. Street shows and costumed seasonal walkabouts entertained city centre shoppers on the weekends. Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) brought live music to Limerick on the community stages.

To promote the programming of Christmas in Limerick, the Festivals and Events Marketing team delivered a six-week campaign targeting both city and county events. A new departure this year was a spotlight put on the Christmas to New Year (Twixmas) period which is an important trading time for many stakeholders around the city.

Light Up Limerick procession took place on 22 November and was a great success, with 15,000 people turning up to watch the event – it was a great way to kick-start the campaign and bring everyone “Together for Christmas in Limerick”. Coverage of the event was really positive, capturing the colourful displays of LUXE Theatre company, it made for great live footage on social media in particular and was warmly received by audiences.

A robust marketing campaign was actioned with the advent of the online digital guide on the 18 November, coupled with a strong social media campaign – underpinned with weekly competitions, boosted posts and incorporating a €500 Limerick gift card prize, uptake on the competitions via online engagement was very encouraging.

Social Media Influencers formed part of our social media campaign also – Emma O’ Leary (Life with Tiny Humans) who has over 80,000 followers on Instagram enjoyed a “family fun day out in Limerick”. Her curated itinerary saw her meet Santa at the Milk Market, attend street shows in Cruises Street and visit Limerick on Ice with her family.

Influencer Sinead O’ Brien (Sinead’s Curvy Style) was hired to promote the launch “Making Spirits Bright” an interactive light and sound installation situated at the boardwalk at Harvey’s Quay and it secured front page coverage in the Limerick Leader (15 December).

A strong radio advertising campaign was executed with Clare FM and media partners Live 95 and Spin Southwest. This included competitions with Limerick Gift Cards as the prize. Print media adverts also ran throughout the campaign with four full page adverts featuring in the Limerick Post highlighting Christmas in Limerick events.



LUXE Theatre company, Light Up Limerick Procession, 22 November Photo: Paul Corey

**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 2025. Significant efforts were made to ensure events had a city centre impact.

In collaboration with Shannon Region Sports and Conferencing Bureau, Fáilte Ireland and University of Limerick (UL), Limerick City and County Council once again presented Limerick as a high-quality destination for hosting international sporting and conferencing events in 2025.

**European Dodgeball Championships 2025** ran from 26 – 29 June. Over 600 athletes from 21 countries took part in the men’s, women’s and mixed events. The competition showcased the exciting and fast game that is taking a strong hold in Europe, as well as bringing a large economic boost to the region. This type of Sports Tourism has been well received and welcomed in Limerick with participants coming from the UK, Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Czechia, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Croatia, and Serbia.

**European 400 Metre Obstacle Course Racing (OCR) Championships** Limerick played host to the first-ever European 400-meter OCR Championships from 18 – 20 July. This landmark event, secured through a successful bid supported by University of Limerick, Shannon Region Conference and Sports Bureau, Fáilte Ireland, and Limerick City and County Council, welcomed approximately 300 top-tier athletes from across Europe to compete in this highly technical sporting event. While OCR is a widely recognized sport across Europe and the globe, this was the inaugural European Championships for the 400m format. Competitors from over 40 countries - including France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Ukraine - travelled to Limerick to put their strength, agility, and strategy to the test. Unlike traditional races, OCR challenges competitors not only physically but also mentally.

**Atlantic Youth Touch Cup 2025.** Limerick hosted the Atlantic Youth Touch Cup from 31 July – 03 August, the largest Touch Rugby tournament to ever take place in Ireland. The competition, which was organised by the Federation of International Touch (FIT) in conjunction with the Ireland Touch Association (ITA), featured 45 teams from 12 nations competing in nine categories of competition across Under-15, Under-18 and Under-20 age groups. Touch Rugby, a fast-paced, non-contact sport that prioritises skill, speed, and spatial awareness, is growing in popularity across Ireland.



LUXE Theatre company, Light Up Limerick Procession, 22 November Photo: Paul Corey

## CULTURE

### LIBRARIES

Limerick's Public Libraries support people at all stages of their lives to access reading opportunities, develop skills to navigate life in our changing world and to take part in a rich variety of events, cultural experiences and commemorations. Highlights during 2025 include recording over 464,526 visits to libraries, shortlisting for the Age Friendly Ireland National Awards and hosting the National Famine Commemoration 2025 at Kilmallock.



National Famine Commemoration 2025

The National Famine Commemoration is held annually to honour those lost to the famine and remember the devastating and long-lasting impact of the Great Famine. In 2025 Limerick Libraries were successful in their bid to host this significant state event. The National Famine Commemoration 2025 was delivered in partnership with Department of Culture, Communications and Sport and the Office of Public Work OPW, the Defence Forces and Áras an Uachtaráin. On 17 May Mayor of Limerick John Moran welcomed President of Ireland Michael D Higgins, Sabina Higgins, Minister Patrick O'Donovan T.D. and the full Diplomatic Corps to Kilmallock to mark this solemn and significant occasion in the state calendar. A full reception for the Diplomatic Corps was hosted at Kilmallock Library followed by the state ceremony at Kilmallock Famine Park which was televised and broadcast live on Raidió Teilifís Éireann (RTÉ). The impactful keynote address of Uachtarán na hÉireann, Michael D Higgins, one of the last addresses of his presidency, was reported both locally and nationally. In addition, a keepsake commemorative booklet was produced by the library team to accompany the ceremony which has been shared to Ireland's embassies overseas.



National Famine Commemoration, Kilmallock Famine Park

### Limerick Local Studies

The research and selection of extracts for inclusion in the ceremony for National Famine Commemoration drew heavily on the resources of the Limerick Local Studies collections. A significant number of these local studies collections can be accessed on the Limerick Local Studies website [www.limericklocalstudies.ie](http://www.limericklocalstudies.ie) The website is a portal to explore the Library's extensive collections and Limerick's cultural memories. 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 from 2025 include:

**Total Views = 77,929**

#### Top 5 Countries using Website

1. Ireland
2. United States of America
3. China
4. Australia
5. Canada

#### Top 5 Cities using Website

1. Dublin
2. Limerick
3. Cork
4. London
5. Des Moines

### Centenary of birth of Ciarán Mac Mathúna,

In addition the commemoration programme for 2025 included a special event to celebrate the life and work of broadcaster and Limerick man Ciarán Mac Mathúna. The event held at King John's Castle was a fitting celebration of the renowned broadcaster and traditional Irish music revivalist, who was born at St. John's Avenue off Mulgrave Street on 26 November 1925. Mayor of Limerick John Moran opened the event where family, friends and associates of Mr. Mac Mathúna gathered for a superb presentation from acclaimed piper, broadcaster and academic, Peter Browne. The event finished with the premier performance of a remarkable and moving musical composition in Ciarán's honour by distinguished Limerick harper, Michelle Mulcahy. The event was characterised by Ciarán's son, Peter, as 'a wonderful occasion and a fitting celebration of Ciarán's life.'



Image courtesy of Deirdre Power

### Europe Direct

In addition to providing information on a broad range of European Union policies and institutions, the Europe Direct Centre at City Library hosted a varied programme of well-attended events. This included a talk on countering disinformation on social media with information expert Anthony Angelini as part of Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival in April. On 09 May, Europe Day was marked with competitions and treats, also in May CyberSafeKids Ireland held information sessions looking at keeping young people safe online. In the latter half of the year, Drop-In Energy Clinics and Sustainable Lifestyle workshops focused on Climate Transition and the European Green Deal. In November with the anticipation of Ireland’s upcoming Presidency of the Council of the EU commencing in mid 2026, Minister for European Affairs, Thomas Byrne TD visited the Europe Direct Centre at City Library. Minister Byrne TD met with Mayor of Limerick John Moran and Limerick City and Council Director General Dr. Pat Daly. Minister Byrne TD attended the community outreach event to meet with local groups in partnership with the Limerick Public Participation Network PPN to raise awareness of Ireland’s upcoming presidency of the Council of Europe.



Senator Dee Ryan, Mayor of Limerick John Moran, Minister Thomas Byrne and Dr Pat Daly Director General

The annual Europe Direct soapbox public speaking competition for young people has gone from strength to strength, with 50 second level students taking part in the regional public speaking final. Ellie McCaffrey from Laurel Hill Secondary School was the winner in the 17 years and over age category, with Dylan O’Donnell from Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh taking first place in 16 years and under age group. Both students went on to compete in the National Soapbox final held in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland in Dublin where Ellie McCaffrey was placed second overall in her category, winning a €500 gift voucher.



Paula Butler Assistant Chief Executive, LGMA and Ellie McCaffrey at Europe Direct National Soapbox Final, Royal College of Physicians, Dublin

### Inclusive Accessible Libraries

We continue to make our libraries and library collections more engaging, welcoming and inclusive and have progressed a number of initiatives aimed at making our libraries more accessible for all users.

- **My Open Library**

My Open Library, which offers access to the library outside of normal opening hours, is working very well at Cappamore Library. Members with My Open Library membership can enter and use the facilities of the library from 8am to 10pm, 7 days a week. The service allows members to borrow and return books, access the internet, computers and print facilities in addition to study spaces. The service is delivered through a fully integrated technological solution for entrance control, membership validation, lighting, public access computers, print kiosks, loudspeaker announcement and all library lending operations.

- **Age Friendly Shortlisting**

Limerick Libraries Digital Tablet Lending in partnership with Vodafone Foundation aims to empower older people to access digital technology. In partnership with Vodafone Foundation, and the charity Alone, Limerick Libraries offers tablet devices for loan which have been preloaded with data and the Hi-Digital tuition course. The project has been very successful with over 104 loans registered over the course of the project. One testimonial stated “It was really brilliant to be able to borrow a tablet from the library, with the Hi Digital training app and the backup support of the library staff, it made it so easy to use”.

The impact and the potential of the initiative was recognised by Age Friendly Ireland with a shortlist award at the National Age Friendly Awards held in Galway in October.



Age Friendly Award for Limerick Libraries Digital Device Lending Scheme

• **Assistive Technologies**

We continue to make assistive technologies available to all library users to assist access to reading opportunities. Touch Type Read Spell (TTRS) is a multi-sensory, structured online course, which assists students to learn at their own pace. In addition to developing typing skills, TTRS is designed to benefit students of all ages, particularly those who experience challenges in reading, spelling or writing. In 2025 we increased the number of licenses available to 1500. 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 2025 we increased the number of licenses available to 300. The Focus 40 Braille Display Device is a durable portable device which allows for a tactile interface with a computer for anybody who may have visual impairment.

• **Sensory Rooms and Pods**

We continue to develop autism and neurodiverse friendly services throughout the library network. In addition to the award-winning Sensory Suite at Watch House Cross Library, we have added Sensory Pods and sensory spaces in several libraries including Abbeyfeale Library and Newcastle West Library. In 2025, we recorded 1,631 sessions in the sensory suite facilities with 6,494 people of all ages using this facility.

• **Libraries for Literacy**

Kilmallock and Cappamore Libraries, in association with Ballyhoura Development, ran a series of engaging workshops targeting priority groups in the community to engage with the public library. These workshops were funded by the Collaboration and Innovation Fund of the Adult Literacy for Life Programme.



Digital Skills at Cappamore Library

• **Skills for Life**

Skills for Life is a new national programme, launched in September, offering practical learning opportunities to support everyday life. The programme focuses on six key themes:

- Basic Digital Skills
- Financial Literacy
- Media Literacy
- Business and Employment Skills
- Health Awareness
- Sustainable Lifestyles and Environmental Awareness

From October to December Limerick Libraries delivered 14 events across the library network with 213 attendees at events.

**Celebrating Reading and Writing**

Our libraries run Creative writing workshops and book clubs throughout the year in addition to welcoming many writers and illustrators, poets and creative facilitators to libraries. Reading and literacy is at the heart of what we do and providing opportunities for writers and reader to meet and mingle is key to nourishing a vibrant inclusive community. Local writers, international award-winning writers, new and emerging writers popped up at libraries. Helena Close, Siobhan MacDonald, Karen Fitzgibbon, Padraig Kenny, Roisin Meany, Lucy O’Callaghan and Celina Buckley were some of the fantastic writers visiting libraries during 2025.



Writers Karen Fitzgibbon and Lucy O’Callaghan at Kilmallock Library

**Families and Children**

Right to Read is the national programme to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages. The programme encompasses seasonal initiatives specifically targeted to promote the joy of reading for children – Spring into Story Time, Summer Stars, Little Library Book Bag, Children’s Book Festival and Family Time at your Library.

**Spring into Story Time** in the month of April focuses on promoting the joys of reading to our youngest children. With a total of 53 events, including outreach events, Spring into Storytime reached 937 children in month of April.

**Summer Stars** takes place from June to August inclusive, when our younger readers are encouraged to visit libraries, borrow books and take part in the many fun family focused events happening in libraries throughout the summer. In 2025, instead of paper and plastic based merchandise, we offered children the chance to win passes to some of Limerick finest family experiences. This has proved very popular with both families and our local family attractions. 2,964 young people took part in Summer Stars which had 108 events at libraries recording 2,981 attendees.

**Little Library Bag** is a book gifting initiative supported by the Department of Children Disability and Equality whereby children starting school in 2025 are gifted a wonderful book bag with books, library membership, library card and wallet. Parents collect the Little Library Bag from their local library, and each child gets to keep their very own book bag. In 2025, over 460 Little Library Bag were given to children starting school.

**Children’s Book Festival** in October celebrates reading and writing for children. Libraries recorded 1,838 participants at 71 Children’s Book Festival events throughout the month.



Writer Celina Buckley with students from Scoil Iósaf at Newcastle West Library

**Family Time at the Library** rounds out the year for our younger readers with 20 events in the month of December recording 803 participants.

**Online Services**

In addition to eBooks and eAudiobooks, the Library offers online newspapers and magazines, graphic novels, music and movie streaming with the Freegal and Kanopy app available to members. 12,330 songs were streamed in 2025 with the Top 5 Genres being Pop, Rock, Classical, Electronic and Country. Kanopy, the movie streaming app recorded 16,477 unique visitor sessions. The Top 5 Video Titles were Pride and Prejudice, Call the Midwife, 55 Years of Star Trek, Horrible Histories and Normal People.

**Healthy Ireland at Your Library**

In 2025, the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme at Limerick Libraries continued to expand, delivering 108 events with a collective attendance of 1,933 participants. These events, designed to support and enhance community health and wellbeing, covered many different topics such as anxiety and depression, women’s health, healthy hormone management, heart health, active ageing, chronic illness management, Tai Chi, children’s yoga, and mindfulness for children. In addition, the Library Outreach team facilitated nine chair-yoga sessions across several Nursing Homes in the City and County.



Walk and Talk Group Kilmallock Library in association with Limerick Sports Partnership

Library Service Indicators	
Visits Recorded	464,526
Items Loaned	426,891
Online items loaned (ebooks, eAudio, ePress)	418,344
Registered Borrowers	31,443
Public Access Computer and Internet Sessions	27,442
Library Events	1,785

## MUSEUM

Visitor numbers to Limerick Museum reached 48,082 in 2025 which represents a 20 percent increase over the previous year. In 2025, Limerick Museum held twenty temporary exhibitions, the largest number in its 118-year history.

Exhibition	Date	Exhibitor
Objects of the Revolution in East Limerick	January-May	School of Archaeology, Univerist College Dublin and Abarta Heritage
Spring Forward	January	Group of artists
River Songs	February	Anne Mulcrone
Revival Through Art	March	Ukrainian art studio Art UA Limerick
St Patrick Day Exhibition	March	Limerick Museum
Shifting	March-April	Group exhibition by guest curator Mary Doyle Burke
Adrian Kelly Memorial 'Spirit of Ireland' Photography Exhibition	April-May	Limerick Camera Club
Shaped by the Shannon	May	Limerick Museum
Exhibition of Art Works	May	Geraldine Sadlier and Brian McMahon
Opera in Limerick	May	Limerick Opera Festival
The Great Famine in Limerick	May-November	Limerick Museum
In Honour of Sarah	June	Grace Roberts
Linked II	July	Mary O'Connor
A Tribute in Thread. Limerick's Forgotten Lacemakers	August-September	Limerick Museum
EVA International 2025	August-October	EVA International
160 Years of St John's Brass and Reed Band	August-November	St John's Band and Limerick Museum
Moving the Goalposts	September-October	Limerick Museum
Permanent Impermanent Images	October	Holger A Baehr
Canticle of Creatures	November	Deborah Watkins
From the GDR to Dromcolliher: The Story of Irish Dresden	December	Limerick Museum and Irish Dresden

One of the highlights of the year was the Museum's role in the National Famine Commemoration 2025. On 13 May, an exhibition, The Great Famine in Limerick, opened in Kilmallock Library, Áras Mainchín Seoighe, Kilmallock. It was curated by the Museum Curator and used objects, images, books, and documents to tell the story of this most tragic period in our history. In addition, Museum staff were on duty for the National Famine Commemoration ceremony on 17 May.

In 2025, Limerick Museum introduced two very significant innovations. For the first time in its history, Limerick Museum was a venue for EVA International, Ireland's Biennial of Contemporary Art. The 41st EVA International took place from 29 August until 26 October and Limerick Museum hosted a video installation that forms part of A Disentailing Deed, a body of work by Ruth Clinton and Niamh Moriarty. Also, in collaboration with the Arts Office the Museum hosted its first ever artist in residence, Mary Conroy. She produced a

very successful response to the theme of the Shannon Hydro Electric Scheme. Construction commenced at Ardnacrusha in 1925. Although it was based in Clare, the Scheme had a major impact on Limerick and fisheries on the Shannon.



Limerick Lace exhibition at Limerick Museum

On 04 July, a very rare, illuminated manuscript roll by Limerickman and Jacobite James Terry (1660-1725) was donated to Limerick Museum at a special handover ceremony in the Limerick Protestant Young Men's Association (LYPMA) Hall on 97 O'Connell Street. The three-meter-long manuscript roll was purchased in London by Irish company Heavey Technology to be put on permanent display at Limerick Museum. It was created between 1699 and 1701 is the most important single Wild Geese-related artefact in the Museum's collection.

Limerick Museum continued its very successful outreach programme including lectures, workshops and media appearances. One of the most interesting examples was an article by the Curator on one of the Museum objects appeared in the summer issue of the *Irish Arts Review*. It was entitled 'Curator's choice. Matthew Potter selects a painting, The Exchange, Nicholas Street, from the Limerick Museum Collection.'

The Museum enjoyed significant coverage in local and national media this year. On 05 December, the *Irish Independent* carried an illustrated story about the official opening of *Shipibo-Konibo: Portraits of my Blood*, an exhibition of photographs by Peruvian photographer David Díaz Gonzáles which had taken place in Limerick Museum the previous week. In advance of the *From the GDR to Dromcolliher: The Story of Irish Dresden exhibition*, the Assistant Curator, along with Sabina Saar and Kristian Schnittger-Saar of Irish Dresden were interviewed on 10 December by Joe Nash on his Limerick Today programme, broadcast on Limerick Live 95FM. The interview was filmed and later hosted on the Limerick Live 95FM website.

Successful collaborations were continued with our existing partners including the Limerick Library Service, Hunt Museum, St Mary's Cathedral, the University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick Civic Trust, Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society, Friends of Lace Limerick, Discover Limerick DAC, Limerick Opera Festival and Limerick Camera Club. Limerick Museum sponsored the Crafts Section of Limerick Show, which was held on 24 August.

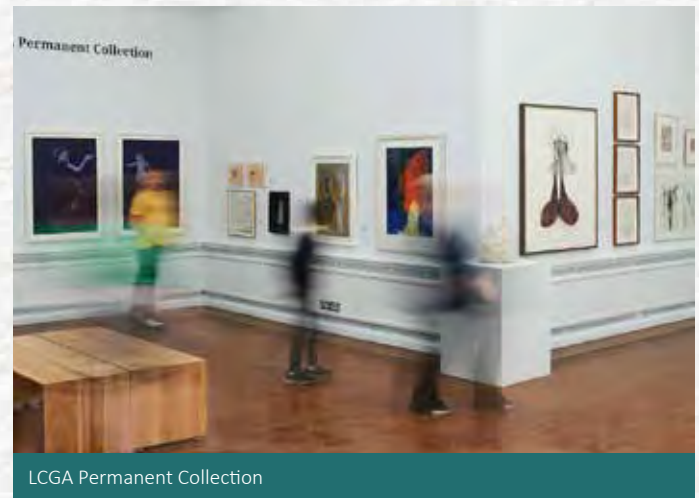
### LIMERICK CITY GALLERY OF ART (LCGA)

In 2025, LCGA celebrated its 40th Anniversary (1985-2025) as the largest contemporary art gallery in the Mid-Western Region. As a designated public Visual Arts Gallery, wholly owned and managed by the Limerick City and County Council, LCGA plays a significant role in Limerick and the wider Mid-West region.

#### PERMANENT Collections Exhibitions

LCGA's Permanent Collections featured in 10 separate exhibitions with over 300 artworks and 276 artists exhibited in the East Gallery and the first-floor galleries throughout 2025. A notable exhibition opened on 08 March on National Women Day featuring 40 Women Artists, titled 40x40 Women

Artists. With works from both the LCGA and University of Limerick Collections, 40 x 40 Women Artists celebrated both individual and collective women's art practices.



LCGA Permanent Collection



Installation view 40 x 40 Women Artist

Another exhibit was The Director's Cut, a selection by the out-going Director of LCGA Úna McCarthy, featuring artworks from LCGA collection acquired between 2015 and 2025 through donations, independent acquisitions and those made through the Mayoral Art Acquisitions fund of 2025.

LCGA continued to highlight works from its collection within its exhibition areas, juxtaposed against its contemporary programme, and with a significant display of local artist works.



Director's Cut Opening reception 11 September

**Donations to LCGA Permanent Collections:**

A significant number of donations was made to LCGA by six individuals, totalling 58 artworks by 23 artists. The largest donation to date comprised of a significant body of original lithograph prints produced by American international artists from the 1960's, among these are works by John Cage, James Rosenquist, Sam Francis, Robert Morris, Robert Rauschenburg and Jasper Johns.

**Permanent Collections Loans out:**

In 2025 LCGA continued to collaborate with local and national organisations in the loan of artworks from the Permanent Collections for temporary exhibit. The highlight was the loan of the artwork by Walter Osborne of Miss Webb to an exhibition titled Homecoming: Walter Osborne's Portraits of Dublin, 1880–1900 which took place in Raclin Murphy Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame, in the United States. LCGA continued to collaborate with national institutions like the Highlanes Gallery, for the loan of 17 artworks for a temporary exhibition, as well as with SÚIL, the newly opened gallery space in Ennis, Co. Clare.

**The Contemporary Exhibition Programme 2025, funded by the Arts Council's annual Strategic Fund.**

In line with the Arts Council's funding agreement LCGA mounted seven contemporary exhibitions in 2025. These comprised three Solo exhibitions Boulder Milt by Séan Cotter, Culchie boy, I love you / Grá mo chroí thú, mo chábóigín féin by Kian Benson Bailes and An Ciúnas/The Silence by Marianne Keating. Along with this were four group exhibitions; Sore Spot, featuring Helen O'Leary and Eva O'Leary; BOW, featuring four Irish artists, Stephanie Deady, Fionna Murray, Sarah O'Brien and Richard Proffitt, curated by Sarah Seanson; ON WAKING, featuring seven artists from the UK and Ireland, Jenny Eden, Christopher Hanlon, Harminder Judge, Gillian Lawler, Damien Meade, Karen Roulstone and Rebecca Sitar and EVA International's 41st exhibition, It takes a Village curated by Eszter Szakács featuring over 30 artists. The 2025 programme aptly reflects the national significance of LCGA as the largest contemporary art gallery in the Mid-Western Region.

Other temporary exhibits which were hosted at LCGA included URBANESQUE by Mike Byrne, the Limerick Camera Club, a special presentation of the Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) and touring exhibition Journey Home, from Focus Ireland.

Along with the contemporary exhibitions LCGA continued its series of Artists' Talks, hosting conversations with Sean Cotter, Kian Benson Bailes and Marianne Keating. Further to this, Helen and Eva O'Leary hosted a talk with the students from the Limerick School of Art and Design. LCGA also initiated two celebratory talks for the 40th anniversary by invited speakers: Delphine Munroe, Head of Arts and Culture at the European Investment Bank, Belgium; and Adam Stoneman, Acting Director, Galway City Museum.

**TEST SPACE Residency 2025**

LCGA's TEST SPACE onsite residency programme, funded by The Arts Council, continued with three residencies by Anna O'Leary, Sheenagh Geoghegan and Sara Dowling. Two residencies comprised the artists using the Herbert Gallery as a studio space where they continued to develop their individual artforms while providing an insight to visitors on a working artist's studio, chatting with visitors and groups and hosting informal workshops. Sheenagh Geoghegan was given a temporary exhibition within the Herbert Gallery following her residency, to showcase her paintings and development during her time in LCGA. This was granted to Geoghegan, as LCGA deemed it appropriate to showcase her practice to wider audiences. Sara Dowling's residency comprised of further curatorial development and research of LCGA collections for future exhibitions programming and development of publications related to cataloguing of the collections.

**Education/Outreach/Events**

The Shinnors Scholar is a vital cog in the LCGA operation. The 2025 recipient, Adela Passas, took up the position in March 2025 and continued to develop significant partnerships with local schools, Dance Limerick, Creative Ireland, Dóchas and Limetree Theatre. The programme has a strong focus on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), in line with Arts Council priorities. Local primary schools Limerick School Project, St. Michael's National school and Christian Brother School (CBS) Scoil Íosagáin have participated in tours and workshops, reaching over 200 primary school pupils. A free children's summer camp was hosted by the Shinnors Scholar in LCGA's HUB space, which was well attended, along with a partnership between LCGA and Dóchas Autism support Centre delivering sensory inclusive workshops, as part of Cruinniu na nÓg.

LCGA continued to collaborate with the Limerick School of Art and Design in facilitating talks with artists that were part of the contemporary exhibition programme. Along with this, tours, talks and curatorial discussions were facilitated for leaving cert art students from local secondary schools and for students of the Atlantic Technological University's (ATU) Fine Art department.

**Events and Meeting:**

LCGA continued to provide a meeting place for organizations including the University of the Third Age (U3A), University of Limerick, The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance and Master of Art Students in an inter active workshop. Limerick School of Art and Design (LSAD), and Helium Arts held a series of art workshops for children with long term illnesses over the year. LimeTree Theatre's collaboration on Bualadh Bós saw performance and workshops over 3 days, and the College of Further Education and Training Graduate exhibition is a continuing collaboration.

Hosting of national events included Culture Night 2025 with a musical event by local artist Brendan Markham, the Association of Local Authority Arts Officers Seminar and Annual General Meeting (AGM) with the hosting of

the Arts Council’s reception with Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O’Donovan TD. Other collaborators included The Wheel, Narrative 4, Arts Council Creative Associates in the Creative Schools programme, and local dance performers the Parsley Collective.

LCGA has continued to increase its Visitors number to around 95,180 people visiting the Gallery throughout 2025.

## ARTS OFFICE AND CREATIVE LIMERICK

Limerick Arts Office manages and implements the Arts Council framework programme for Limerick, the Creative Ireland and Creative Communities programme, artists residential properties and studios and the Limerick City and County Council programme of arts contributions, grants and bursaries. 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 Culture, Communications 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.

**Limerick City and County Council funded programmes for Arts:** In 2025 the arts office managed the following open call grant schemes and organisational annual grants/ supports. These are 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 bursaries contribute to growing Limerick’s arts capacity by supporting focused sectoral training, upskilling and investment for creative’s at different stages in their careers.

- 23 Grants under the Arts Act scheme from a total allocation of €20,000;
- Eight Individual Arts Bursaries from a total allocation of €27,600;
- Four Theatre bursaries from a total allocation of €15,000;
- One Dolores O’Riordan music bursary of €4,000;
- 19 Strategic Fund supports from a total allocation of €45,000.



Creative Communities on a Shared Island, Contemporary Cities project concert October 2025, Ulster Youth Orchestra, Limerick School of Music and Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble;

### Annual contributions were provided to as follows:

- University Concert Hall - €25,000;
- Dance Limerick - €25,000;
- Hunt Museum - €25,000;
- EV+A - €10,000;
- Lime Tree Theatre /Belltable - €225,000;
- Irish Chamber Orchestra - €11,000;
- County Limerick Music Generation - €30,000.

### Arts Council Partnership Programme

Funding is provided annually through the Local Authority and Arts Council Partnership Fund, to implement the Limerick City and County Council framework agreement programme with the Arts Council. The programme focuses on four key strategic areas:

**Supporting Artists and Key Strategic organizations.** In 2025 organisations including Ormston House, Irish Aerial Creation Centre (IACC) and Limerick Printmakers were supported; opportunities for training and professional development (visual arts, music, street performance and spectacle workshops) were provided; poets were supported through publication of the 50th anniversary edition of the Stony Thursday book; practitioners were supported through the following bursary schemes - the Drama League of Ireland, Blas and Irish Writers Centre, Performing Arts Forum and Tyrone Guthrie bursary schemes. A traditional music composition was commissioned to mark the centenary of the birth of Ciarán MacMathúna. A Dancer in Residence project was supported at Dance Limerick and Artist in Residence programmes were implemented in St Mary’s Cathedral and Limerick Museum. Projects such as these aim to open up new audiences to art while offering important opportunities to artists.

**Rural Arts and Excellence:** Eigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival in Newcastle West and the 2025 Michael Hartnet Poetry prize took place in October; Castleconnell Autumn Series Concerts ran from August to November; high quality performance by the Irish Chamber Orchestra string quartet took place in Abbeyfeale. Collaboration continued with Kerry and Cork on the Sliabh Luachra Musician in Residence project; a choral commission was placed for the development of work towards the Dromcollogher

centenary (2026). This rural programme aims to assist in the further development of arts in the county while supporting professional artists to develop new work.

**Young People Children and Education.** The arts office supported the Limerick Arts Industries in Schools pilot; the Inclusive Dance Programme with Dance Limerick; County Limerick Youth Theatre and Limerick Youth Choir.

**Culture Night 2025.** Funding was provided to artists, organisations and creatives, following an open call to assist with the implementation of an arts and culture programme for Culture Night on 19 September. Over 70 events took place throughout city and county. A flagship Culture Night Late Irish electronic music event took place at King John’s Castle and cultural events at various locations, including libraries, took place all around the county. A vibrant programme of exhibitions, workshops, on street entertainment and performances took place.



Culture Night September, Sionna at King John’s Castle

**Arts Properties**

**Artists Short Term Apartments:** In 2025, 35 individual artists stayed in 2 short-term stay apartments, which offer Limerick Arts Organisations subsidised short-term accommodation for visiting artists.

**Artists Residential Apartments:** One three year licence was offered to an artist following an open call. 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.

**Artist Studios:** The James Street Artist Studios and Cappamore Artist Studios continued at full occupancy, providing affordable studio spaces for individual artists.

**Creative Ireland Limerick - Creative Communities programme**

The Creative Ireland Creative Communities programme focuses on creating and supporting programmes and projects to deliver on the strategic priorities and objectives identified in the Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy (2023-2027). Significant progress was made in 2025 including

the development of projects based on creativity and social inclusion, programmes supporting creatives and connecting communities across Limerick City and County by nurturing creativity.

In 2025, the Culture and Creativity Team at Limerick City and County Council secured the following funding for implementation of the Creative Communities Programme:

2025 Core Funding (Dept of Culture, Communications & Sport)	€123,548
2025 Core Funding (Dept of Local Gov)	€64,516
2025 Cruinniú na nóg	€30,000
2025 Health & Wellbeing (Live Music)	€30,000
2025 Additional Funding (Cruinniú X NTE)	€3,000
2025 Additional Funding (Cruinniú)	€12,474.26
302 Iemenonal Funding (Shared Island Youth)	€30,000
2025 Additional Funding (Supplementary July)	€12,000
2025 Additional Funding (Supplementary November)	€2,338.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>€307,876.69v</b>

In 2025 the Cruinniú na nÓg celebration continued to develop and expand, bringing creative opportunities to young people across city and county. 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 more.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2025 in Limerick featured an exciting variety of events, including a 48-hour film challenge, circus arts exploration, printmaking workshops, sensory-friendly poster making, and engaging storytime sessions with sock puppets. Young artists could create pop art portraits at the Hunt Museum, while budding musicians could join the Irish Chamber Youth Orchestra for hands-on workshops in Abbeyfeale.

The lineup also included a short film screening by local students, a showcase of creative talents at the Friars Gate Creative Hub, interactive Wonder Walls workshops, autism-inclusive workshops, live performances, and baby sign language sessions.

13 Individual awards under the Creative Communities Small Grants Scheme 2025 were granted to facilitate projects following an open call for applications.

The Creative Limerick team project managed two three year projects through to completion in 2025, the Creative Climate Action project ‘Síolta Glasa’ and Creative Communities on a Shared Island: Laces of Ireland.

**Musicians on Call.** A grant of €30,000 was secured by the Creative Limerick team 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.

**Creativity @ Limerick Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS):** A visual artist worked with the young people, staff and families of Limerick CAMHS to co-create an artwork to be displayed at the centre.

Dromcollogher and District Respite Care Centre and Milford Care Centre both undertook creative projects to enhance the wellbeing and social inclusion for their users and staff. 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.



Castleconnell Autumn Series October, John O'Connor and Ailbhe McDonagh in concert

**Equality Diversity and Inclusion projects and partnerships**

A number of projects in 2025 focused on working in partnership with community organisations and in the areas of social inclusion, health and wellbeing. For example: Inclusive Dance continued at Dance Limerick. This initiative provides supported access to high quality dance workshops for young people with additional needs.



International Dance at Dance Limerick

## PROPERTY SERVICES

The Property Management Services Department covers three specific areas:

- Property – Acquisitions and Disposals
- Property Management and Digitisation
- Dereliction, Vacancy, Reuse

### PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS

Property Acquisitions and Disposals provides a key support to other directorates for the acquisition, leasing and licencing of council properties. The department is also responsible for all disposals (including freehold and leasehold property interests) under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended).

During 2025 this team acquired Properties for the Housing Directorate under the Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP), Buy and Renew, Part 5 and “Tenant in Situ” programmes. In addition, the department supported numerous house swaps for Regeneration among other strategic acquisitions and disposals managed during 2025.

#### Acquisitions:

- Ongoing at year end (all acquisitions – housing and others) - 33
- Completed property acquisitions - 69
- At inspection/valuation stage – 19

Significant acquisitions that were being finalised during 2025 included:

- Two Properties at Sarsfield Street, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick (Rural Regeneration Project).
- 112, 113, 114 Upper Maiden Street, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick (Town Centre Regeneration Project).
- Lands at Attyflin, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.

#### Disposals:

- 183 Disposals presented to Council during 2025 – 48

Significant disposals that were finalised during 2025 included:

- 650 lease over land at Opera Square to the Office of Public Works (OPW) and a 650 year licence to the OPW over 60 car parking spaces in the underground car parking area
- Disposal of Lands at Speakers Corner to Tinwat Holdings Ltd (as nominee for Cluid Housing and Whitebox Ltd
- Disposal of Lands in Ballygrennan to Tinwat Holdings Ltd (as nominee for Cluid Housing and Whitebox Ltd
- Disposal of Lands in Rosbrien to Health Service Executive (HSE)

Support to community groups has remained strong in 2025 including numerous transactions to Community groups being actioned:

- Disposal of Land at Mungret to Dooneen Athletic Club (AC)
- Lease of land to Dromore United
- Lease of land to Ballyorgan Community Group
- Lease on Grange Schoolhouse to Bruff Scouts
- Lease of old Glin library building to Glin Knights Visitor Centre
- Lease to building Kilmallock Tourism CLG.
- Lease to Newcastle West Scouts.

### PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND DIGITISATION

The Property Management and Digitisation Section looks after capital works on existing, acquired and vested properties. During 2025 the following projects were procured and completed:

Minor Works (<€2,000)	17
Medium Works (€2,000 - €10,000)	22
Major Works (>€10,000)	6

The Department responded to 489 new property related queries in 2025, with 468 site visits carried out. The Department also prepared legal mapping for 142 Acquisitions, Disposals, Leases and Licences.

Progress is continuing on the Property Interest Register, centralising the Digitisation of LCCC owned Properties and Lands, Licences and Leases.

### DERELICTION, VACANCY AND RE-USE

The Dereliction, Vacancy and Re-use section 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. LCCC has achieved great success in this area and offers ongoing talks with other local authorities seeking assistance with using the Derelict Site Act, 1990

**Outcomes in 2025**

- 2,235 derelict site and vacant homes inspections
- 535 statutory Notices issued under Derelict Site Act, 1990
- 60 properties added to the Council’s Derelict Site Register
- 88 properties removed from the Derelict Site Register
- 26 Compulsory Acquisitions were commenced under Derelict Site Act 1990
- 9 vesting orders made for properties acquired compulsorily
- €585,915 in Derelict Sites Levies collected in 2025 supported by the Debt Management Unit

**Example of Derelict Property refurbished due to activity of the Derelict Sites team:**



Derelict Property BEFORE



Derelict Property AFTER

**Vacant Sites**

There are currently 6 sites on Limerick City and County Council’s Vacant Sites Register. The Residential Land Zoned Tax has replaced the Vacant Sites Levy applied under the Urban Regeneration Housing Act, 2015. The Residential Land Zoned Tax is now collected by the Revenue Commissioners.

**Vacant Homes 2025**

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 LCCC supported schemes – “Buy and Renew” and “Repair and Lease”.

**Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant**

The Council 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, over 680 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 Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)’s Home Energy Grants.

The table below summarises the outcomes of the **Croi Conaithe / Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant 2025:**

Croi Conaithe - Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant			
	2025	2024	2023
Applications Received	239	227	215
Applications Approved	173	161	148
Applications Paid	190	60	10
Value of Grant Payments made	€6,712,362	€3,079,335	€503,740

**Examples of properties which were entered on the Council's Derelict Sites Register and were returned to family homes with the use of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant.**

**Property No 1:**



Vacant Property 1 – BEFORE



Vacant Property 1 – AFTER



Vacant Property 1 – BEFORE



Vacant Property 1 – AFTER

**Property No 2:**



Vacant Property 2 – BEFORE



Vacant Property 2 – AFTER



Vacant Property 2 – BEFORE



Vacant Property 2 – AFTER

## REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN

### Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan

#### Introduction

The Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2025 was launched in April 2022. A steering committee is in place chaired by Mr. Eamonn Murphy. The steering committee incorporates key stakeholders, including representatives from Enterprise Ireland, Industrial Development Authority (IDA), Education and Training Board (ETB), Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Third Level Institutions, Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Office (LEO)'s, South Regional Assembly and Mid-West Regional Skills Forum. The steering committee ensures oversight and implementation. The plans are focused and timebound, while the steering committee maintains a live agenda at regional level, responsive to emerging opportunities and challenges requiring joined up responses. To help drive delivery of the Regional Enterprise Plans, drive best practice across regions, and encourage cross-regional collaboration on areas of common interest and opportunity, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) established a National Oversight Group (NOG) for the Regional Enterprise Plans, chaired by the relevant Minister.

#### Extension of Plans

In 2024, the decision was made to extend the lifetime of the plans to end of 2025 with the intention of developing a new set of Regional Enterprise Plans by Quarter 2 2026. This Regional Enterprise Plan for the Mid-West Region contains 31 actions under 5 Strategic Objectives as follows:

#### 1. Enable innovation to make the Mid-West a leading digital region.

This objective includes actions across themes such as advanced manufacturing, future mobility, film, sportstech and healthcare.

#### 2. Make the Mid-West Ireland's leading sustainability / low carbon region.

This objective includes actions across themes such as bioeconomy, renewable energy and sustainability in the built environment.

#### 3. Enable Enterprise growth in regional towns and rural areas.

This objective includes actions such as the development of a network of high-quality Enterprise Hubs, development of food hubs, a skills mapping exercise, and digitalisation of the tourism sector.

#### 4. Initiatives to support Small and Medium-sized Enterprise's (SME), Start-ups and Microbusiness.

This objective contains actions such as industry cluster development, promotion of apprenticeships and traineeships, management and financial training, efforts to develop and accelerate start up enterprises.

#### 5. Develop Social Enterprises and Job Creation Initiatives for areas of high unemployment.

This objective includes actions such as the growth of social enterprise to achieve sustainable progress towards employment equality and the development of a connected jobs strategy to address long-term unemployment in blackspot areas.

The Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan and the Mid-Term Report can be viewed on the departments website: [Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 - DETE](#)

#### Programme Manger Appointment

Nationally, 2025 saw competitions for the permanent Programme Manager roles taking place following signing of the Service Level Agreement between the Local Authorities and Enterprise Ireland in 2024. Brian Bourke was successful in securing the position in the Mid-West Region and is based here in Limerick City and County Council.

#### Current Plan reaches its conclusion

2025 brings the current Regional Enterprise Plan initiative to a close following a 12-month extension. This region has delivered impressive outcomes, strengthened collaboration, and built on regional strengths in innovation. The final progress reports are an opportunity to showcase all this work and the positive impact of the Regional Enterprise Plans in the region. The final report is currently being collated by the Programme Manager for publication in early 2026.

#### Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme

In December, Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, Peter Burke TD announced details of €18 million in investment in 40 projects across Ireland under the Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme – see press release below:

[€18 million Smart Regions investment designed to boost regional enterprise - DETE](#)

Projects approved in the Mid-West Include:

- Precision Turned Manufacturing Association SMART Regions Stream 4 Feasibility
- Emerald Aero SMART Regions Stream 2
- The Mid-West Regional Design Centre SMART Regions Stream 4 Priming
- Future Mobility Campus Ireland SMART Regions Stream 3

#### TALENT4S3 Regional Stakeholder Group

In autumn 2025, stakeholders from across the Southern Region of Ireland came together in Limerick City and County Council Offices, Merchant's Quay, Limerick for the TALENT4S3 Project Regional Stakeholder Group Meeting.

TALENT4S3 is a project designed to tackle some of Europe’s most pressing challenges, including demographic changes, economic disparities, and regional development needs. The project aims to create vibrant, attractive environments that are conducive to retaining and attracting high-skilled professionals across various sectors. This effort is not just about enhancing economic competitiveness; it’s about fostering sustainable growth and equal opportunities throughout the regions.



Included in the photo above is Brian Bourke (second from the left) Programme Manager of the Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan and Aileen Hurley (third from the left) Programme Manager of the South-West Regional Enterprise Plan. The Programme Managers of the Regional Enterprise Plans work closely with the Regional Assemblies on projects such as TALENT4S3.

The session focused on how our region can better harness the strengths of our diaspora and aspiring diaspora to support talent attraction, knowledge exchange, and innovation.

**Regional University Network European University (RUN EU)**

Coordinated by the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) RUN-EU is a European University Alliance of like-minded regional (urban and rural areas outside of capital cities) higher education institutions and associated partners, including Limerick City and County Council, Innovate Limerick and the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation. The alliance is drawn from multiple regions across nine European countries (Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Finland, Austria, Czechia and Romania). The European Universities alliances are part of a flagship initiative of the European strategy for Universities. As a transnational alliance of higher education institutions, RUN-EU is paving the way towards the universities of the future where regional development is core. The European University embodies the values of sustainability, multiculturalism, and inclusiveness in all its work.

The Mid-west Regional Enterprise Plan has featured at multiple RUN-EU events and many Irish Enterprises have both contributed to and benefited from RUN-EU.

The Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan prioritises innovation, skills, and enterprise collaboration. RUN-EU directly supports these pillars by fostering regional innovation, strengthening education-enterprise linkages, promoting smart specialisation and supporting Internationalisation.



Above is a photo of the Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan Programme Manager, Brian Bourke, attending the October RUN-EU General Assembly, hosted at IPCA in Barcelos, Portugal. The event fosters collaboration across education, innovation, and regional development. It includes thematic sessions, working groups, and networking opportunities aimed at strengthening cooperation and regional innovation ecosystems. The Associated Partners Event is a key component of the General Assembly, bringing together non-academic stakeholders—regional authorities, enterprise agencies, and industry representatives. The programme manager gave a presentation on the Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan at the Associated Partners Event thus ensuring that Mid-West Ireland priorities are represented in RUN-EU’s strategic direction.

**Enterprise Facilities - supporting long-term sustainability**

In Limerick, Innovate Limerick continues to play a pivotal role in managing and scaling enterprise infrastructure and facilities which have revitalised rural towns, supported job creation, and attracted new businesses to the region.

Integration with the national Connected Hubs framework ensures long-term sustainability, while community-focused initiatives such as digital skills training and learning programmes have reinforced the social and economic impact of the hubs.



- The four Regional Enterprise Plan Programme Mangers: Brian Bourke, Aileen Hurley, Grainne Tuomey, Kenneth Deery attending the Connected Hubs – National Hub Summit 2025 held in Ballinasloe, Galway in November.

The National Hub Summit brings together hub teams, representative bodies, state agencies and government departments to discuss the future of the National Hub Network in Ireland.

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)

2025 was a busy but productive year for Limerick Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and our clients located throughout the Limerick city and county. A new updated Service Level Agreement was signed between Enterprise Ireland and Limerick City and County Council during the year which lays out the policy and funding structure through which the LEO operates and puts business sustainability, exporting, competitiveness and digitisation as core objectives.

Other highlights during the year saw six client businesses graduate from LEO Limerick’s client portfolio to Enterprise Ireland and the 2025 Annual Employment Survey of Local Enterprise Office (LEO) clients showed significant positive job creation again by Limerick businesses.

LEO Limerick surveyed 310 businesses that had previously received Measure 1 (M1) financial supports and these businesses created 259 net new jobs in 2025. That puts Limerick as one of the top performing counties for job creation by LEO clients in the country.

Representing the true spirit of Limerick entrepreneurship’s, Sarah O’Sullivan and her business SOS Cookies represented Limerick at the National Enterprise Awards where a great night was had by all.

While recognising this excellent job creation performance of our client base, we also continue to support businesses with a wide range of soft measures as follows:

- General Training Programmes: 80 programmes with 1,286 participants
- Start Your Own Business Programmes: 12 programmes with 216 participants
- Management Development Programmes: 11 programmes with 145 participants
- Mentoring: 555 assignments
- Microfinance Ireland: 18 applications

### LEO Performance Indicators 2025

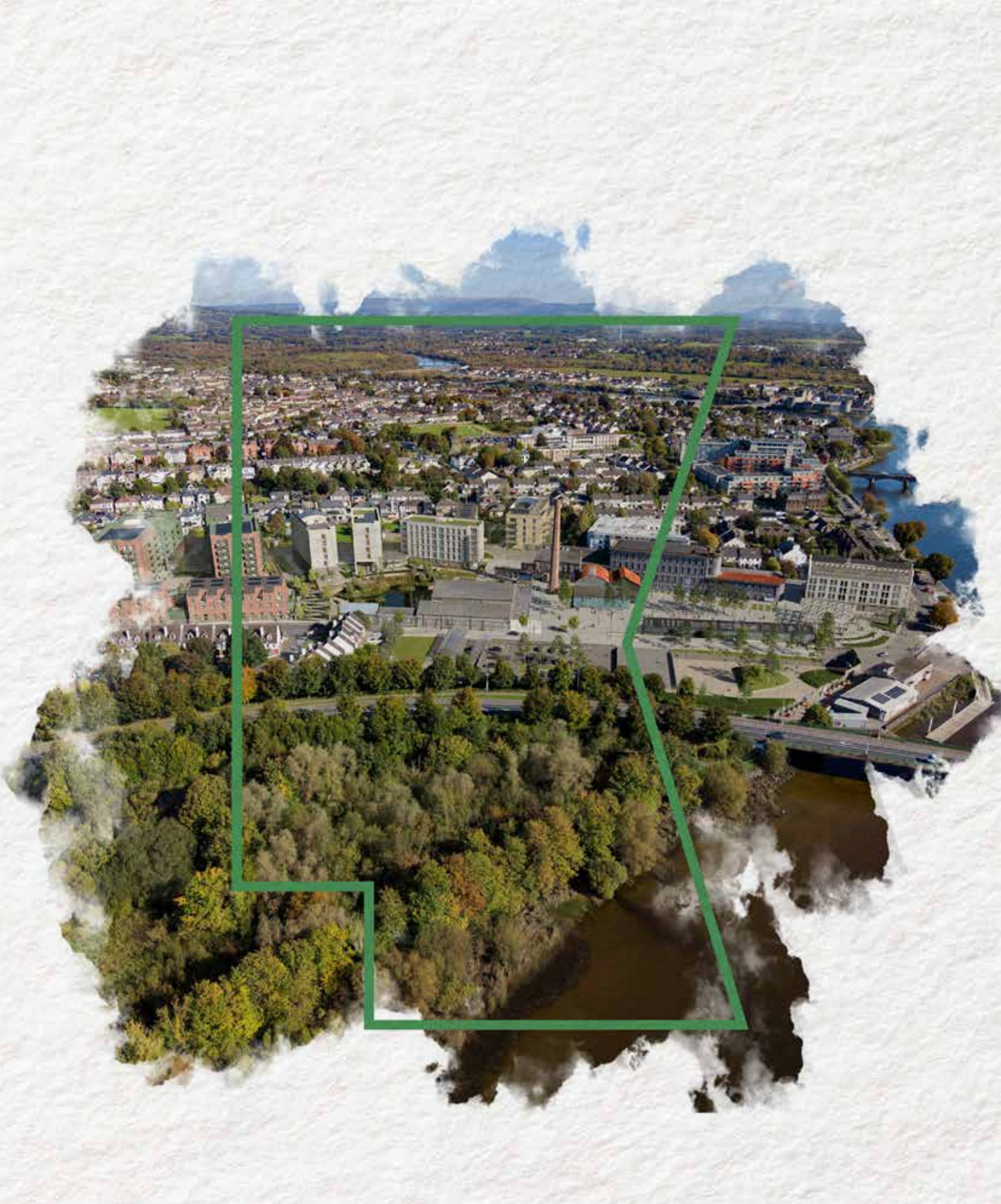
Scheme	Output
Financial Support Packages	45
Lean	21
Green	42
Trading Online Voucher (TOV) (discontinued)	15
Grow Digital Voucher	10
Start Your Own Business (SYOB)	216
Management Development Programme	145
General Training	1,289
Mentoring	555
Market Explore	6
Digital for Business	46
Micro Finance Ireland	18

Client Transfers to Enterprise Ireland	6
Energy Efficiency Grant	22

- 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 and was availed of by 46 businesses in 2025.
- 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 and 10 businesses availed of this support in 2025.
- The Market Explorer Grant was launched early in 2025 and provides support for businesses seeking to explore a new geographic market for an existing product/service or an existing geographic market for a new product/service. Six business were approved for Market Explore grant aid in 2025 and a number of others continue to work with our Export Business Advisor and should be ready to apply in 2026.
- The Energy Efficiency Grant was updated in 2024 to support the investment in energy saving technologies and equipment by enterprises. The Energy Efficiency Grant (EEG) follows on from a Green for Business Report, Green Start Report or a SEAI Energy Audit with a maximum grant rate at 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. The EEG is available to the retail and hospitality sectors also and 22 businesses were approved in 2025 with a strong pipeline of applications for 2026.



Above is SOS Cookies, who are supported by Local Enterprise Office Limerick, took home the Winner of the Mid West Regional award at the 2025 National Enterprise Awards. The awards, which took place at the Round Room in the Mansion House in Dublin, were in their 25th year and run annually by the Local Enterprise Offices.



FINANCE INVESTMENT  
AND GOVERNANCE

# FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

### Annual Financial Statement for Financial Year ended 31st December 2025

#### Balance Sheet Review

The Balance Sheet presented shows that Limerick City & County Council had Fixed Assets of €3,522M and Work In Progress of €358.7M as at 31 December 2025.

Capital income amounted to €367.7m in 2025, compared to the 2024 figure of €287.1m. Grants accounted for 85% of total capital income in 2025.

Collection percentages for Commercial Rates was 97% (compared to 95% in 2024) with collection percentages for Housing Loans of 90% and Housing Rents (including HAP) of 93%.

#### Revenue Expenditure Review

Revenue expenditure for the year amounted to €909,677,732 before transfers. Transfer to reserves amounted to €6,053,076 giving a total expenditure figure for 2025 of €915,730,808 Actual income for the year was €915,743,829 leading to a revenue surplus for 2025 of €13,021 This when added to the opening surplus of €982,962 gives an accumulated surplus at 31 December 2025 of €995,983.

Payroll continues to be the most significant cost with a total payroll cost in 2025 of €105,592,320. The change between 2025 and 2024 is mainly due to national pay agreement increases. The pay costs and staff numbers will continue to be examined during 2026 in order to identify further savings where possible.

Expenditure is summarised by main area of expenditure as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>% of Expenditure</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>% of Expenditure</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Payroll</b>	105,592,320	11.5%	100,372,491	10.7%
<b>Operational expenses</b>	748,953,749	81.8%	783,181,807	83.5%
<b>Administration expenses</b>	22,588,500	2.5%	18,146,422	1.9%
<b>Establishment expenses</b>	9,485,118	1.0%	6,764,837	0.7%
<b>Financial expenses</b>	11,738,324	1.3%	8,765,120	0.9%
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	11,319,720	1.2%	11,021,008	1.2%
<b>Transfers to reserves (Note 14)</b>	6,053,075	0.7%	9,649,389	1.0%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>915,730,807</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>937,901,075</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Income Review

Revenue income for the year amounted to €915,743,829. This represented a decrease of €22,184,172 on the total income in 2024 (€937,928,000). The following table summarises the main income sources:

	2025		2024	
	€	%	€	%
<b>Grants &amp; Subsidies</b>	613,330,914	67%	639,065,761	68%
<b>Contributions from other local authorities</b>	3,787,911	0%	3,206,962	0%
<b>Goods &amp; Services</b>	210,579,379	23%	208,273,022	22%
	<b>827,698,204</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>850,545,745</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>Local Property Tax</b>	21,405,932	2%	21,329,591	2%
<b>Rates</b>	66,370,539	7%	64,012,409	7%
<b>Transfer from Reserves (Note 14)</b>	269,154	0.0%	2,040,256	0.2%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>915,743,828</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>937,928,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Summary

The revenue surplus for 2025 is €13,021. As a result the accumulated revenue surplus at the end of 2025 is increased to €995,983 compared to €982,962 at the end of 2024. 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 2026.

**Dr P Daly**  
**Director General**

## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT) FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2025

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
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	732,133,499	729,427,344	2,706,155	1,108,144
Roads Transportation & Safety	54,666,469	34,043,684	20,622,786	21,073,560
Water Services	12,245,335	11,421,414	823,921	96,919
Development Management	32,461,105	13,226,734	19,234,371	17,046,674
Environmental Services	44,232,388	13,287,905	30,944,483	28,297,582
Recreation & Amenity	19,636,621	1,610,893	18,025,728	15,669,765
Agriculture, Food and the Marine	1,137,259	423,101	714,158	711,545
Miscellaneous Services	13,165,054	24,257,128	(11,092,074)	(6,298,247)
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>909,677,732</b>	<b>827,698,204</b>		
<b>Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates &amp; Local Property Tax</b>			<b>81,979,527</b>	<b>77,705,942</b>
Rates			66,370,539	64,012,409
Local Property Tax			21,405,932	21,329,591
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers</b>			<b>5,796,943</b>	<b>7,636,059</b>
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(5,783,922)	(7,609,134)
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>			<b>13,021</b>	<b>26,925</b>
General Reserve @ 1st January 2025			982,962	956,037
<b>General Reserve @ 31st December 2025</b>			<b>995,983</b>	<b>982,962</b>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

	2025	2024
	€	€
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Operational	958,368,958	931,452,132
Infrastructural	2,521,242,906	2,521,242,907
Community	12,093,476	12,228,648
Non-Operational	30,692,793	30,709,952
	<b>3,522,398,132</b>	<b>3,495,633,640</b>

<b>Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses</b>	358,777,450	225,301,480
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<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	161,535,386	153,202,092
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stocks	292,841	374,083
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	88,399,440	61,816,081
Bank Investments	120,560,127	108,089,647
Cash at Bank	523,841	1,322,756
Cash in Transit	2,912	2,912
	<b>209,779,161</b>	<b>171,605,479</b>

<b>Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)</b>		
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	104,532,547	91,081,318
Finance Leases	-	-
	<b>104,532,547</b>	<b>91,081,318</b>

<b>Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>105,246,615</b>	<b>80,524,162</b>
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<b>Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)</b>		
Loans Payable	148,967,307	154,872,202
Finance Leases	0	0
Refundable deposits	7,145,759	7,059,239
Other	72,879,365	59,424,238
	<b>228,992,431</b>	<b>221,355,678</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>3,918,965,152</b>	<b>3,733,305,695</b>

<b>Represented by</b>		
Capitalisation Account	3,522,398,133	3,495,633,640
Income WIP	407,718,148	197,294,880
General Revenue Reserve	995,983	982,962
Other Specific Reserves	-	-
Other Balances	(12,147,113)	39,394,212
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>3,918,965,152</b>	<b>3,733,305,695</b>

## HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT SHARED SERVICE CENTRE (HAP SSC)

Building on the progress of “Housing for All”, the new housing plan “Delivering Homes, Building Communities” aims to speed up the delivery of new homes and tackle homelessness including delivery of social housing including Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). The State currently supports over 49,600 tenancies nationally. All financial transactions for both the Landlord and Tenant are the responsibility of the HAP Shared Services Centre (HAP SSC) 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 2025 was €485 million.

The aim of the HAP SSC 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 HAP SSC and its stakeholders.

During the year, HAP SSC worked on 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 3 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 3 is the roll out an Irish version of the App and improve user accessibility in line with the European Union Accessibility Act (Directive 2019/882)
- Improved data quality and enhanced cyber security with increased integration of systems.

The principal financial transactions carried out by HAP SSC 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 2025 a total of 6,569 tenancies were completed.
- Payment of monthly landlord rent which in December 2025 was in excess of €50.8 million per month.
- Charge of tenant differential rent for all tenancies which is in excess of €3.1 million per week.
- Management of the debt collection process (99% collection rate for 2025).
- Over 53,800 customer calls and 46,900 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 58,000 amendments completed in 2025.
- Tax clearance checking of landlords.
- Data analytics for stakeholders including local authorities and government departments.
- At the end of 2025 over 131,680 tenancies have been set up since the inception of the scheme.
- 49,663 active HAP tenancies were managed by the HAP SSC as of 31 December.

## NATIONAL MOBILISATION AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (NMACS)

### NATIONAL MOBILISATION AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (NMACS)

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. NMACS has a national responsibility for Command-and-Control Systems and Information and Communications technology in the Irish Fire Service.

The National Mobilisation and Communications System team, under the direction of the Head of NMACS, is mandated authorised and is responsible for the technical and operational management of the fire services national command and control platform, national communications infrastructure and its associated technical platforms.

The National Mobilisation and Communications System sit at the fulcrum of central and local government and is a partnership delivered as a shared service in Local Authorities. Limerick City and County Council are the contracting authority for the National Mobilisation and Communications System. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, through the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management, provide capital funding and provide oversight on policy implementation. The Management board, of the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM), is tasked with the establishment of governance arrangements and ensuring consistency in the national delivery of the NMACS operations and infrastructure.

The NMACS team currently manages the national Fire Service command and control platform in operation in the Munster and Western regions providing receipt, dispatch, mobilisation and communications services to the 121 Fire Stations and 12 Local Authorities. In 2024 and 2025 NMACS successfully delivered projects replacing legacy regional command and control platforms with a new central national platform. The next phase of the project will see the Eastern Region Fire Authorities migrate from their legacy systems to the new national platform.

The National Mobilisation and Communications System receives and manages approximately 30,000 emergency calls each year.

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 weather events, major incidents or major emergencies. In 2025 NMACS supported responses to several significant events such as storms and other climate related events.

### MUNSTER REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE (MRCC)

Operating under the direction of the Head of NMACS the Munster Regional Communications Centre (MRCC), is located on Cathedral place in Limerick City. MRCC is, one of three national Fire Service, communications centres, providing centralised 24-hour 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).

## DIGITAL SERVICES AND ICT

### DIGITAL SERVICES

#### Key Achievements / Projects Delivered in 2025

- Delivered day to day operational support for the Council's extensive application portfolio—nearly 100 systems spanning all City and County functions—including core platforms such as Dynamics 365 Customer Relationship Management (CRM), MyLimerick, CapGov, iHouse, iPlan, Agresso, iReports and numerous custom Power Apps. Ensured these business critical systems remained stable, secure and available to Housing, Planning, Finance, Environment, Economic Development, Community, and other service areas.
- Delivered extensive Geographic Information System (GIS) services across the organisation, supporting record high Quantum Geographic Information System (QGIS) usage (90 staff), providing tailored spatial analysis and mapping for priority programmes, and delivering in house QGIS training. Continued to expand map applications, strengthen GIS related cybersecurity, and maintain an open source GIS approach that provides significant value and avoids dependency on costly proprietary licensing.
- Delivered new and enhanced digital functionality across multiple systems, including major updates to Dynamics 365 CRM (GDPR consent processes, Housing/Grants improvements, Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) CRM migration design and planning), a redesigned Bin

Waivers service, improvements to MyLimerick Portal architecture, and new digital processes supporting Defective Concrete Blocks, Building Information Modelling (BIM), Variable Message Signs (VMS) signage, and other cross departmental workflows.

- Designed and built CoPlan, a new digital platform created in 2025 to manage and track progress on the Mayoral Programme. CoPlan now forms the foundation for a wider transformation of how large strategic plans are managed, governed and reported across the organisation.
- Planned the migration and redevelopment of the Council's internal Sintel forms, initiating the design of a modernised digital forms framework to improve consistency, governance and workflow automation across departments. This included planning and early design work for a new Director General and Mayoral Order e Signature application to replace paper-based processes and enable secure, end to end digital approvals.
- Strengthened the organisation's application-level cybersecurity posture by improving governance of digital systems, enhancing Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) and access controls for the platforms we manage, documenting secure design standards, and embedding secure by default practices across new digital solutions and workflows.
- Supported public safety across the City and County by maintaining the Council's complex Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) ecosystem, ensuring continuous operation during critical road realignment projects, housing works, and flood defence infrastructure developments. Installed and maintained new litter enforcement cameras under the Circular Economy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2022, strengthening environmental monitoring and compliance. Continued proactive engagement with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Department of Justice to address long term funding and operational challenges, while maintaining an exceptionally strong working relationship with An Garda Síochána to ensure that CCTV infrastructure consistently supports policing, community safety and incident response.
- Advanced the Council's move toward a data driven organisation by designing, building and maintaining a growing suite of dashboards—including regional waste management, transport and mobility insights, CoPlan and Mayoral Programme reporting, and other city and county wide operational datasets. Expanded data governance activity, strengthened data quality practices, and continued to evolve internal and external dashboards that support evidence based decision making across the organisation.

- Implemented a new design for Limerick.ie and continued to maintain the platform as a secure, resilient and accessible digital service. This included ongoing hardening of the underlying architecture, continuous monitoring for vulnerabilities, applying accessibility improvements, optimising performance, and supporting content and feature updates to ensure Limerick.ie remains the trusted, high availability gateway for information and services for residents, businesses and visitors across the City and County.
- Progressed the modernisation of the Council’s SharePoint and records management environment by designing the processes and structures needed for a large-scale migration of legacy content. Work in 2025 focused on establishing sustainable information management practices, improving site governance, and implementing a digital cold storage approach for large archival files to support long term retention, reduce storage overhead, and strengthen the foundations for compliant records management as the programme continues into 2026.

**Plans, Policies and Programmes Undertaken in 2025**

- Implemented the Council’s Artificial Intelligence (AI) Acceptable Use Policy and established internal oversight processes to guide the safe and ethical use of AI across Council services. Supported the rollout and monitoring of Microsoft Copilot pilot tools, helping staff explore practical productivity benefits in a controlled environment. Progressed research and development on the use of AI to support analysis of public consultation submissions, ensuring all work remained exploratory and not used in any live consultation processes.
- Introduced the Council’s eSignature Policy to support the future digital signing of Mayoral and Director General Orders and initiated the development of ORCA (Orders Routing and Compliance Automation), a new workflow system designed to enable these Orders to be prepared, reviewed and electronically signed in a highly auditable and legally compliant manner. Work in 2025 focused on establishing the policy framework, governance structures and technical design required to ensure that, once operational, ORCA will deliver a secure, high integrity, end to end digital process that meets all statutory and operational requirements.
- Supported delivery of the Mayoral Programme (2024–2029) through digital infrastructure, reporting tools and workflow improvements.
- Progressed ICT and Digital Strategy alignment with national Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) digital categories (Digital Workforce, Digital Services, Digital Communities, Digital Systems).

**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)**

**Support for Departmental Objectives**

The ICT Section of Limerick City and County Council continued to support all departments in achieving their objectives throughout 2025. This support encompassed a range of ongoing operational activities, including the continuous monitoring of security, the maintenance of critical infrastructure and systems, and the provision of comprehensive user and desktop support services.

**Major Projects and Initiatives**

In addition to these day-to-day operations, the ICT Section successfully completed several major projects and initiatives during 2025. These efforts were instrumental in enhancing the Council’s technological capabilities and ensuring the effective delivery of services across all departments.

**Cyber Security**

The ICT Section made significant advancements in strengthening Limerick City and County Council’s cyber security posture in 2025. A wide range of initiatives were implemented to ensure the security and integrity of Council systems, data, and operations.

**Privileged Access Management (PAM)**

Privileged Access Management was extended to cover all third-party contractors as well as internal teams. This extension ensured application of the principle of least privilege to administration roles, while providing comprehensive visibility over all privileged accounts. By doing so, the Council minimised the likelihood of security breaches and improved overall compliance with relevant standards and regulations.

**Privileged Identity Management (PIM)**

Enhancements to Privileged Identity Management included the introduction of just-in-time access and time-bound permissions. Role activation for privileged accounts was made subject to approval, and mandatory multifactor authentication (MFA) was enforced for all privileged roles. Regular access reviews and the ability to download audit histories further supported compliance requirements and ensured transparency in privileged account management.

**Managed Extended Detection and Response (XDR)**

The Council continued its partnership with a dedicated Security Operations Centre (SOC), providing round-the-clock monitoring and rapid response capability. This Managed Extended Detection and Response solution enabled the Council to detect and respond swiftly to emerging cyber threats, thereby enhancing overall resilience.

**Security Awareness Training and Phishing Campaigns**

Monthly security awareness campaigns and targeted training sessions for staff who were repeat offenders contributed to a measurable reduction in susceptibility to phishing attacks. In addition, all Council devices were kept up to date with the latest security patches, and infrastructure activity was subject to continuous monitoring, further reducing vulnerabilities across the organisation.

### **Managed Print Service**

Building on the successful rollout of the Managed Print Service (MPS) in 2024, further optimisation was achieved throughout 2025. The ICT Section focused on several key areas to maximise the benefits of MPS for the organisation.

### **Cost Efficiency**

The ongoing management of print resources led to continued reductions in printing costs. This was accomplished by optimising usage patterns and improving supply management, ensuring efficient allocation of resources and minimising unnecessary expenditure.

### **Improved Productivity**

Proactive maintenance and comprehensive support for the print fleet contributed to reduced downtime. As a result, staff productivity was enhanced, with fewer interruptions to daily operations caused by printer issues.

### **Enhanced Security**

The MPS maintained robust secure printing solutions, ensuring that sensitive information was only accessible to authorised users. Compliance with data protection regulations remained a priority, safeguarding both organisational and personal data.

### **Environmental Benefits**

Efforts to minimise the environmental impact of printing operations continued, with a focus on reducing both paper and energy consumption. These initiatives supported the Council's wider sustainability goals.

### **Centralised Management**

The centralised oversight of the print fleet by the ICT team streamlined management processes. This enabled more effective monitoring, maintenance, and deployment of printing resources across the organisation.

### **Follow-Me Printing**

The Follow-Me printing feature was sustained, providing increased security and cost savings. Staff benefited from the flexibility to access their print jobs securely from any device on the network, enhancing both convenience and control over printing activities.

### **Video Conferencing**

Throughout 2025, the ICT team undertook a significant expansion of video conferencing capabilities across the organisation. Additional meeting rooms were equipped with advanced video conferencing technology, enhancing the infrastructure needed to support hybrid meetings and remote collaboration. This expansion resulted in an increased total number of rooms enabled for video conferencing, making it easier for staff and stakeholders to connect regardless of their physical location.

The improved accessibility and availability of these facilities promoted seamless connectivity and greater inclusivity, ensuring that remote attendees could participate

fully in meetings and discussions. By investing in these enhancements, ICT further supported the organisation's commitment to flexible working arrangements and effective communication across distributed teams.

### **Business Systems Enhancements**

In 2025, the ICT team worked closely with Digital Services to implement and upgrade several key business systems. These efforts focused on improving operational efficiency, compliance, transparency, and the overall user experience across the organisation.

- **Dynamics CRM:** The customer relationship management platform was enhanced to provide improved functionality. These upgrades supported better management of customer interactions and data, contributing to more effective service delivery.
- **Ethics Register:** Updates were carried out to the Ethics Register, ensuring that the system continued to meet compliance requirements and maintained high standards of transparency within the organisation.
- **AI Assistant for Public Consultations:** An AI-powered assistant was deployed to support forward planning activities. This tool facilitated more efficient handling of public consultations, streamlining processes and improving accessibility for stakeholders.
- **Capital Project Governance Tool (CAPGOV):** The CAPGOV system received significant upgrades, enabling more robust oversight and management of capital projects. These enhancements supported better monitoring, reporting, and governance of ongoing initiatives.
- **Mayoral Programme Portal and Reporting Tool:** Enhancements to the Mayoral Programme Portal and its associated reporting tool resulted in more streamlined reporting processes. This contributed to more effective programme management and easier access to key information.
- **LGMA Systems:** Multiple upgrades were completed across LGMA systems, further strengthening the organisation's technological foundation and supporting a broad range of business needs.

### **ICT Service Desk**

The ICT Service Desk handled a record number of tickets in 2025, reflecting ongoing support for remote and hybrid work. This high volume of managed tickets demonstrates the continued demand for technical assistance as the organisation adapts to new working models and evolving technology needs. The Service Desk played a crucial role in maintaining operational continuity, swiftly addressing user queries and technical issues associated with both on-site and remote collaboration environments.

- Tickets Managed 2025: 21,191
- Year-on-Year (YoY) Change:

Year	Tickets	YoY change	YoY %
2016	9,623		
2017	10,083	460	4.78%
2018	11,000	917	9.09%
2019	12,000	1,000	9.09%
2020	14,000	2,000	16.67%
2021	14,323	323	2.31%
2022	15,672	1,349	9.42%
2023	15,124	-548	-3.50%
2024	17,210	2,086	13.79%
2025	21,191	3,981	23.13%

**Growth Trends Analysis**

Over the past decade, there has been consistent and sustained growth, with a notable acceleration occurring after 2023. This period is characterised by a marked increase in growth rates, indicating a positive trend in overall performance.

The most significant year-on-year increase was observed between 2024 and 2025, with a remarkable jump of 23.13%. This represents the largest single-year growth within the analysed period, highlighting a period of exceptional expansion.

Conversely, the only year-on-year decline occurred when comparing 2023 to 2022. This decrease stands out as an exception in an otherwise upward trajectory.

**Key Service Desk Activities**

**Knowledge Base Article Creation**

Service Desk staff are responsible for developing comprehensive knowledge base articles. These resources are designed to empower users by providing clear guidance and solutions to common queries, enabling users to resolve issues independently.

**Collaboration with ICT and Digital Strategy Teams**

Regular liaison with the ICT and Digital Strategy teams is essential for resolving existing issues and proactively preventing future problems. This collaborative approach ensures that technical challenges are addressed efficiently and that strategies are in place to mitigate potential disruptions.

**User Communication**

Keeping users informed about relevant changes and ongoing issues is a core activity. Timely and transparent communication helps maintain user confidence and ensures that end-users are always aware of the status of the systems and services they rely on.

**Policy and Procedure Development**

The Service Desk plays a critical role in developing, implementing, and enforcing organisational policies and procedures. By establishing clear guidelines, the team ensures consistency and compliance across all operations.

**Office and Equipment Management**

Organising and maintaining office spaces and equipment is a key responsibility. This includes overseeing the functionality and readiness of essential tools and ensuring that all resources are available and well-maintained for daily operations.

**ICT Project Support**

Providing support for ICT projects is another important aspect of Service Desk activities. The team assists with project-related tasks, contributing expertise and practical assistance to ensure successful project outcomes.

**INNOVATE LIMERICK DAC**

In 2025, Innovate Limerick continued to play a central role in driving enterprise innovation and economic development across Limerick city and county. Building on strong foundations, the company’s mission remains closely aligned with Limerick City and County Council’s strategic priorities for regional growth, competitiveness, and sustainable job creation.

Innovate Limerick supports the establishment, scaling, and long-term resilience of businesses, with a strong focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), high-potential startups, and international companies seeking to locate or expand within the region. This is delivered through integrated infrastructure, collaboration, and sector-focused programmes that enable innovation and enterprise development.

**Key Strategic Areas**

**1. Enterprise Infrastructure Development**

Innovate Limerick develops and manages a portfolio of enterprise hubs across Limerick city and county, including the Engine Collaboration Centre, ENGINE, The Old Bank, and the N21 Enterprise Centre. These facilities provide high-quality, flexible space to support businesses at every stage of growth.

**2. Enterprise Collaboration, Strategic Programmes and Regional Initiatives**

Innovate Limerick fosters collaboration between industry, academia, and government, supporting knowledge exchange, skills development, and innovation-led business growth through networking, education, and partnership initiatives. The organisation also delivers targeted programmes that drive sectoral development and regional collaboration, including:

- Film in Limerick – A dedicated initiative to attract and support film and television production across the region, contributing to the growth of creative industries and enhancing Limerick’s profile.
- ENGINE Hubs Network – A connected ecosystem of 20 enterprise hubs across Limerick city, county, and the wider Mid-West region, strengthening collaboration and improving access to enterprise supports.

## ENTERPRISE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Innovate Limerick’s provision of enterprise infrastructure remains central to supporting sustainable economic growth and creating opportunities for businesses across both urban and rural areas of Limerick. Through the ownership and management of four enterprise Hubs, Innovate Limerick enables innovation, collaboration, and long-term enterprise development across multiple sectors.

The hubs include:

- ENGINE and Engine Collaboration Centre (Cecil St, Limerick City)
- N21 Enterprise Centre (Rathkeale)
- The Old Bank (Abbeylea)

### Enterprise Hubs Performance and Impact

- 95 to 100% occupancy across all enterprise hub spaces, reflecting strong demand.
- 15 plus businesses directly supported through hub facilities, including startups, SMEs, and scale-ups.
- 130 plus jobs sustained in Limerick City via Engine and Engine Collaboration centre
- 110 jobs sustained in West Limerick via N21 Enterprise Centre, Rathkeale and The Old Bank, Abbeylea

### Operational Management

Tenant Relationships were actively managed across all hubs, ensuring smooth daily operations.

- Building upkeep included cleaning, painting, and exterior maintenance to maintain high facility standards.
- During Orange and Red Weather Warnings, all hubs remained fully operational, supporting over 200 tenants, and providing safe workspace for businesses and individuals affected by severe weather.
- Levels of diversity across all hubs are well balanced by gender, ethnicity, and physical ability. Support for new communities, diversity, and inclusion occurs organically, with the “door always open” approach fostering a welcoming, inclusive environment.

### Individual Hub Review

#### ENGINE and Engine Collaboration Centre

The ENGINE, opened in 2018 on Cecil Street, Limerick, serves as a hub for innovation and enterprise in the city. In 2022, the Engine Collaboration Centre was added as a modern extension to ENGINE, providing additional space, resources, and facilities for businesses. Together, the two buildings operate as a joined, integrated enterprise hub, offering high-quality workspaces, co-working areas, and collaboration spaces.

The ENGINE and Engine Collaboration Centre has established itself as a central hub for innovation and entrepreneurship in Limerick City, running at 100% occupancy. The space has fostered:

1. Improved Opportunities for SMEs – providing a supportive environment where small and medium-sized enterprises can scale and create employment.
2. Enhanced Entrepreneurial Culture – facilitating collaboration, idea exchange, and venture development.
3. Increased Skills and Innovation – hosting diverse businesses and boosting local capacity in both indigenous and multinational companies.

### Engine Hub Performance

#### • Engine Hub Capacity and Utilisation:

25 private offices (100% occupied), 130 desks fully in use, and four meeting rooms with a combined capacity of 41 people. Meeting room usage has steadily increased over the past three years, surpassing 2024 levels, reflecting growing demand for collaborative and flexible workspace.

#### • Collaboration and Engagement:

From January–November, the Engine Collaboration Centre hosted 3,660 plus attendees across 213 plus enterprise-focused events, partnering with 34 plus government, academic, and industry organisations, and driving the highest participant engagement in the Pathway to Innovate Midwest programme among national partner hubs.

### Engine Hub Tenant Business

The Engine Collaboration Centre hosts a variety of businesses, supporting over **130 employees**:

- **Vitalograph** – Global leader in spirometers and respiratory medical devices; strengthens Limerick’s medtech sector
- **Treaty Software** – incubated as fledgling business of five and has grown to 35 and working with the larger international market, Limerick born and now with a USA base
- **MDS Global** – Limerick office of this UK-based company, providing Business Support Systems (BSS)-as-a-Service solutions for Business to Business (B2B)
- **Mavarick** – Carbon accounting and reporting software, Limerick startup and now with a London base
- **Ministry of Brands** – Tech solutions for international church operations. Limerick, Galway and USA base
- **Accounting Pro** – Online accounting software providers – Limerick second office from Cork base
- **Axis BIC** – Business accelerator preparing founders for investment and growth.
- **Local Enterprise Office (LEO), Limerick** – Provides mentoring, training, and events directly within the Centre, making enterprise supports easily accessible for startups and SMEs.

- **Film in Limerick** – Supporting the creative and film industry in the Mid-West.
- **Land Development Management Agency** – Regional land planning and management support.
- **Narrative 4** – non-profit organisation that trains educators and youth workers to facilitate the Story Exchange, a tool that fosters empathy and connection through storytelling
- **SkillsCoLab**

### **N21 Enterprise Facility Tenant Business**

The N21 Enterprise Facility in Rathkeale spans 120,000 sq. ft across nine enterprise units, strategically located off the N21, the main route linking Limerick City and Newcastle West. The facility supports over 15 businesses, including Design Pro, The Butterfly Club, and McAdare, providing employment for more than 150 people—a significant contribution to sustainable economic growth in West Limerick.

Enterprise spaces remain in high demand, operating at 95 to 100% occupancy, reflecting the facility’s critical role in the regional enterprise ecosystem. The facility not only provides high-quality infrastructure but also enables innovation, collaboration, and long-term enterprise development for a diverse range of local businesses.

### **The Old Bank Tenant Business**

The Old Bank, located on Main Street, Abbeyfeale, continues to serve a dual role as both an enterprise and community hub in West Limerick. In 2025, the facility celebrated its three year anniversary as an Abbeyfeale eHub, hosting a diverse mix of enterprises, including a patents company, physiotherapy practice, remote workers and plumbing business, with hot-desk usage of approximately 60 days annually.

The hub also provides essential community services, including a full-time walk-in and out-of-hours GP service, collectively supporting around 10 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs.

### **Community use remains a core feature of The Old Bank:**

- **Abbeyfeale Tourist Office** utilizes the hub seasonally and relocates there during peak tourism months to welcome visitors.
- **Three local voluntary organisations** access the hub on a free-of-charge basis for employment supports, festivals, and local events.
- **Christmas initiative:** Innovate Limerick provided power access to Limerick City and County Council, enabling temporary street and parking lighting, enhancing safety and accessibility for town centre visitors.

## **ENTERPRISE COLLABORATION, STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES**

From January through December 2025, the Engine Collaboration Centre served as a vibrant hub for enterprise growth, innovation, and collaboration. Over this period, the centre hosted over 3,660 attendees across 213 plus events, providing platforms for startups, SMEs, and stakeholders to connect, share knowledge, and develop new business opportunities.

### **Impact and Reach**

- **3,660 plus attendees** across **213+ enterprise-focused events**
- **34 plus government, academic, and industry partnerships**
- **Pathway to Innovate Midwest** – highest participant engagement among partner hubs nationwide

### **Enterprise Support and Innovation**

Innovate Limerick collaborated with **government agencies, policymakers, and international stakeholders** to strengthen the enterprise ecosystem in Limerick.

- The Centre delivered multiple Local Enterprise Office (LEO) workshops and mentoring sessions, supporting SMEs in business growth, international expansion, and sustainability practices.
- Startup-focused initiatives included the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Hub Startup Sprint, Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) Start-Up Awards 2025, and Pathway to Innovate – Innovation Clinic, helping entrepreneurs transform ideas into scalable businesses.
- In May, “Powering Smarter Business: The SME Sustainability Advantage”, co-hosted with Limerick Chamber and LEO Limerick, guided SMEs on sustainability strategies and future growth.
- Enterprise and creative sectors intersected through collaborative projects, such as Engine Shorts Film Scheme, youth film screenings, and Film in Limerick meetings, supporting innovation, skill development, and regional engagement.
- Hosted Enterprise Ireland “Meet The Business” sessions, Industrial Development Agency (IDA) familiarisation and multinational information events, showcasing regional enterprise supports and investment opportunities.
- Leading the Pathway to Innovate Midwest programme, managing project delivery, marketing, and events, achieving the highest participant engagement among all partners, supporting startups and established businesses with workshops and one-to-one mentoring.
- Launching the “Innovation in Action” series, a cross-industry initiative equipping SME leaders with tools to turn ideas into actionable outcomes.

- Partnering with Industry Research and Development Group (IRDG) Innovation and Skillnet Innovation Exchange on a six-month intensive business development programme.
  - Supporting enterprise mapping in the Mid-West region via AxisBIC Cork, contributing insights to strengthen collaboration and identify growth opportunities.
  - Hosting visits from international dignitaries, including the Italian Ambassador and British Ambassador to Ireland, to strengthen regional economic, academic, and cultural collaboration.
  - Facilitating hub-tenant introductions and providing space for productions, such as “Connie”, supporting occupancy, network growth, and enterprise-community engagement.
  - Participating in National Women’s Enterprise Day and TUS Technological University workshops, promoting entrepreneurship, innovation, and talent development.
  - Recognising tenant success: Treaty Software, an Engine tenant, won Best Emerging Business Award at the Limerick Chamber Awards.
  - May networking and collaboration events included LEO Limerick Business Clinics across five Engine Hubs, concluding with a session at The Old Bank.
  - New tenant onboarding expanded the Engine Hubs network, with lease agreements signed at The Old Bank and Ballybrown/Clarina Community Enterprise Centre.
  - Innovate Limerick engaged with national oversight bodies, contributing to the annual review of the Connected Hubs programme, focusing on operational performance, success metrics, and booking systems.
  - Strategic meetings with Doon Social Farm and E-Hub explored growth opportunities for local enterprise and community engagement.
- Innovate Limerick Board Meeting
  - Treaty Software and MDS Global meetings
  - Film in Limerick meetings
- April** – Over 608 attendees across 25 events, including:
- TUS Start-Up Awards 2025
  - Catalyst International Film Festival
  - Skillnet Innovation Exchange visit
  - LEO workshops and business mentoring sessions
  - Fresh Film events and Film/Video training
- May** – Over 1,500 attendees across 34 events, including:
- HBAN Angel Networking and Pitching Event
  - Romanian Presidential Elections polling station
  - LEO workshops
  - Delegation from Japan – Innovation Park development insights
  - “Powering Smarter Business: The SME Sustainability Advantage”
- June** – Over 177 attendees across 23 events, including:
- Local Enterprise Office workshops
  - Engine Shorts Film Scheme 2025 Edition
  - Fresh Flicks Youth Film Screening
  - Supporting enterprise collaboration and mentoring programs
- September** – Over 375 attendees across 20 events, including:
- Chamber of Limerick Network event
  - Pathway to Innovate launch – Innovation Clinic
  - LEO workshops
  - Film in Limerick meetings
  - Small to Medium Enterprise Taskforce workshops
  - Mayoral visits (Slovakia and Spokane)
  - Connected Hubs Mid West Regional Meetup

## ENTERPRISE EVENTS HOSTED

**January** – Over 110 attendees across 18 events, including:

- LEO Workshops (multiple dates)
- IDA Familiarisation event
- Sportstech Ireland session
- Creative Producing Course
- Discover Limerick and Land Development Agency meetings
- Innovate Limerick internal meetings

**February** – Over 60 attendees across 20 events, including:

- LEO workshops
- Crew Academy Training
- Mayo County Council knowledge-sharing visit
- IDA Ireland sessions
- Welsh Government St. David’s Day Celebration
- Enterprise Ireland “Meet The Business” sessions

**March** – Over 390 attendees across 30 plus events, covering startups, business networking, enterprise growth, and enterprise collaborations, including:

- Local Enterprise Office meetings and workshops
- RDI Hub Startup Sprint

**October** – Over 180 attendees across 16 events, including:

- Industry Research and Development Group meetings
- Enterprise Ireland Drop-in clinic
- Pathway to Innovate sessions
- Visit of Italian Ambassador to Engine
- National Innovation Summit representation
- National Women’s Enterprise Day participation
- Connie production support

**November** – Over 287 attendees across 25 events, including:

- LEO workshops and mentoring sessions
- Pathway to Innovate – Startups and Established Businesses workshops
- Skillscolab sessions
- Visits from British Ambassador to Ireland
- AI and Your Business event (CeADAR and Mid West Regional Skills Forum)
- Enterprise Ireland, IRDG, and Mid West Regional Skillsnet workshops

## IMPACT SUMMARY 2025

In 2025, Innovate Limerick played a central role in driving enterprise growth and innovation across Limerick city and county. Through its four enterprise hubs – ENGINE and Engine Collaboration Centre, N21 Enterprise Centre, and The Old Bank – the organisation supported over 200 tenants, sustained 240 plus jobs, and maintained 95 to 100% occupancy. Over 3,660 attendees participated in 213 events, while 15 businesses, including startups, SMEs, and international companies, benefited from mentoring, sector programmes, and networking.

The Hubs fostered diversity, inclusion, and community engagement organically, offering resilient, high-quality infrastructure that promotes collaboration, skills development, and long-term regional growth.

The hubs continue to provide resilient, high-quality infrastructure for startups, SMEs, and community-focused enterprises, fostering innovation, skills development, and long-term economic growth across Limerick.

### MID-WEST REGIONAL FILM ACTIVITY: FILM IN LIMERICK / INNOVATE LIMERICK

**Creative producing course** – 16 individuals participated in Creative producer training.

**Limerick Film Lab Participants:** 18 producers (06 from Ireland, 06 from Scotland, 06 from Canada) 07 organizations (Screen Scotland, Picture NL, Screen Ireland, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, Screen Producers Ireland, Limerick City and County Council, Enterprise Ireland).

**Limerick Persons of the Month** – Limerick film industry collective: Honoured with Limerick Persons of the Month for significantly boosting the region’s production output, including Troy Studios’ hosting of The Wayfinders and Don’t Forget the Lyrics.

**Engine Shorts Scheme** – Over 80 applications, 06 short films commissioned and over 150 emerging crew involved.

#### Filming:

**The Wayfinders** (US Irish fantasy series)

Filmed across Troy Studios (Limerick), Clare, and Tipperary in spring/summer 2025. The production is noted for employing 140 crew and 200 extras daily, providing a “**significant economic impact**” and hundreds of local jobs.

**Don’t Forget the Lyrics** (US game show) Filmed in April at Troy Studios with local crew hires and paid audience members.

**RTÉ’s The Big Pet Project:** The family oriented unscripted series conducted segments in **Nenagh and Cashel (Tipperary)** in December 2025, with post-production and broadcast planned for 2026.

**“Neven’s Christmas in Limerick”** – a two-part RTÉ One Christmas special filmed in early December.

**The Traitors Ireland: Uncloaked** (the official companion/ after-show to The Traitors Ireland) was filmed in **RTÉ’s Limerick studio**.

**Crew Academy Initiative** – (collaboration with Screen Ireland)

#### 14 courses - 208 Participants

Passport to Production - West Cork, Creative Production Sound for Filmmakers, Sound Workshop, Screenability Programme, AD Bootcamp, MBS Illumination Course, 03 Set Etiquette, Video Assist, 03 Stunts Programme in collaboration with Screen Ireland Skills Team and The Wayfinders Production, EVS Sports Replay, GrandMA3 Lighting, Props - Odyssey Studios.

#### 9 Events - 693 guests (Regional, national and international visibility)

Fastnet Networking event, Fastnet Panel guest, Galway Film Fleadh Networking, National Talent Academy (NTA)s Networking Event at Dublin International Film Festival (DIFF), NTA Networking Event at Catalyst Film Festival, Women in Film and Television (WIFT) Toronto Networking, World Skills Screen Ireland (SI) & NTAs.

#### Next Gen - 1035

Access All Areas (Next Gen), University of Limerick - Presentation. Irish Film Institute (IFI) Careers In Screen Day for Next Gen with NTAs.

#### Film / TV Productions = 38 work placements

4 kids walk into a bank (Limerick), Hokum (West Cork), The Wayfinders (Limerick), Young Offenders (West Cork), Body is water (West Cork),

3 Unscripted - Don’t forget the lyrics (Limerick), Next Level Chef (Dublin), Beat Shazam (Dublin)

Jimmy (West Cork).

Crew Shadowing Scheme launched and 2 Mentoring Placements.

**Total: 1,976 Individuals trained and participated across 23 programmes, events, productions and activities in 2025.**



Engine Collaboration Centre



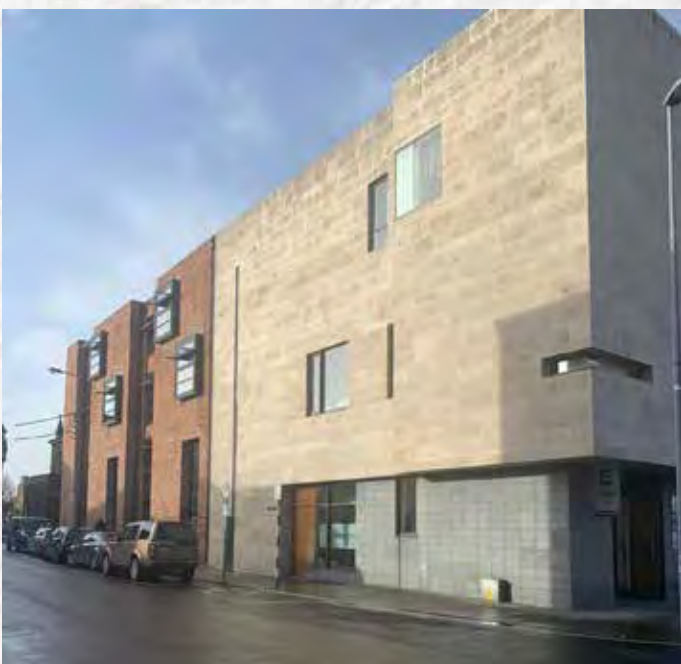
The Old Bank, Abbeyfeale



Engine Collaboration Centre



N21 Rathkeale Enterprise Centre



ENGINE



David Jefferies -action point software



Doon Hub Social Farm Wetland walk



GASP 2025



GASP 2025



Pathway to innovate Launch



Podcast studio



The Old Bank Abbeyfeale tourist information



Vitalograph breaktime



Treaty Software team in Engine Hub



Treaty Software Wins Best Emerging Business at the Limerick Chamber Awards

## DISCOVER LIMERICK DAC

Discover Limerick Designated Activity Company (DAC) plays a central role in Limerick tourism across its three key visitor attractions: King John’s Castle, Adare Heritage Centre, and Lough Gur Visitor Centre. Each site played a distinct role in strengthening Limerick’s city and county tourism offering and increasing visitor engagement.

- The team engages face to face with approximately seven out of every 10 visitors to Limerick City and County during visits to these sites.
- This represents direct engagement with approximately 480,000 out of 700,000 annual visitors to Limerick.
- The team welcomes approximately 1.2 million visitor interactions annually, positively influencing first impressions and championing the delivery of the Limerick welcome in person.
- The sites operate seven days per week, 360 days per year.

### ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Significant progress was made during 2025 in strengthening the organisation’s leadership capacity and governance structures, supporting both operational delivery and long-term development.

#### People

- Ruth Vaughan was appointed as Sales and Business Development Manager
- Emma Aherne was appointed as Acting Junior Sales and Marketing Manager
- Gillian Lattimore was appointed as General Manager at King John’s Castle

#### Board of Discover Limerick DAC

New shareholder appointments to the board.

- Andrew Carey – Board Director, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Public Affairs, UL
- Donnacha Hurley – Board Director, General Manager, The Absolute Hotel
- Kim Mc Cormack - Board Director, COO ViClarity
- Noel Gavin – Board Director, Senior Vice President, Northern Trust

#### Governance and Oversight

- Discover Limerick DAC delivered its first organisational strategy in 2025
- Discover Limerick DAC also implemented its first annual work programme
- King John’s Castle and Lough Gur Visitor Centre launched their first comprehensive year-long programme of events for 2026, designed to celebrate Limerick’s rich heritage, vibrant culture, and artistic traditions



### VISITOR EXPERIENCE, BUILDING AND DIVERSIFYING THE AUDIENCE

#### King Johns Castle

2025 was an exceptionally successful year for King John’s Castle, with strong visitor numbers, expanded cultural programming, and the introduction of several new initiatives that enhanced the visitor experience and strengthened its role as a major cultural venue.

- King John’s Castle welcomed over 100,000 visitors through its core tourism experience, reflecting its continued popularity as one of Limerick’s most important heritage attractions.

The Castle hosted a vibrant programme of cultural events and workshops throughout the year:

- Six sold-out concerts as part of the Live at the Castle series, in addition to a special Culture Night concert
- Two workshops during Heritage Week, ‘Shaped by Water’ with Daithi Collopy followed by live music
- Seasonal events, including celebrations for St Brigid’s Festival, St Patrick’s Festival, and an Easter Egg Hunt.
- The castle hosted three exclusive courtyard corporate hire events (small, medium, and large scale), demonstrating the Castle’s potential as a unique event venue (new)

King Johns Castle piloted children's, historical and cultural events designed to diversify the visitor experience

- Summer Art Workshops for Children: Two creative sessions titled 'Create a Dragon Puppet' were launched to engage younger audiences through hands-on craft activities.
- September Guided Tours: Daily guided tours were introduced at specific scheduled times throughout September to provide a more structured and enhanced educational experience for visitors.
- Lunchtime Music Series: A new musical initiative aimed at boosting the castle's daytime cultural appeal, providing live performances for visitors and locals during the day

King John's Castle served as a key location for national cultural launches and community-led initiatives, strengthening its role in supporting youth creativity and regional heritage.

- Cruinniú na nÓg 2025 Launch: Minister for Arts, Culture, Communications, Media and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan TD officially launched Ireland's national day of free creativity for young people at the castle. The event featured the Irish Chamber Youth Orchestra and the County Limerick Youth Theatre.
- RTÉ's This is Art! Island, King Johns Castle was one of five national locations chosen to host a pop-up public art gallery. A unique three-sided cube installation in The Siege Café showcased work from three talented young Limerick artists as part of this all-island initiative
- IPB Pride of Place Awards Launch, the castle hosted the launch for the 23rd year of these prestigious awards. The main awards ceremony, hosted by Limerick City and County Council, took place in Limerick in November.
- Intergenerational Storytelling Project Launch, this project brought together students from the University of Limerick, children from St. Mary's School, and their grandparents to share local narratives.
- Ciarán Mac Mathúna Celebration: A special event in the Castle Suite commemorated the life and work of the renowned broadcaster and folklorist, featuring live music and presentations.



Children's workshops King Johns Castle

As part of Ireland's Home of Halloween celebrations, Con Mór, a spectacular large-scale installation came to life in the courtyard over five nights in a dramatic display of sound, light, and smoke, transforming the medieval setting into an immersive mythological experience.

Additional Halloween workshops included:

- 'Legends in Print' Halloween Printmaking Workshop
- 'Legends in Disguise' Mask-Making Workshop
- 'Pumpkin painting' children's art workshop
- 'Samhain Tales' with Daithi Collopy

King John's Castle delivered an extensive and successful Christmas programme, transforming the site into a vibrant festive venue.

- The 'Live at the Castle Suite' featured nine performances over five days, supported by Limerick City and County Council. These performances brought music and culture to the historic setting overlooking the River Shannon.
- Family audiences were at the heart of the programme with 'Merry Mayhem', a brand-new children's Christmas production written and directed by Limerick's Margaret Hough.
- Limerick Opera Workshop presented 'Opera and Carols', two enchanting concerts blending favourite carols, timeless songs, and opera highlights rounding off the celebrations they hosted top Irish artists Paddy Casey, Mundy and Jerry Fish.
- The Castle also hosted piloted two children's workshops, including We're Going on a Bear Hunt Musical Workshop and the Create Your Own Jingle Bells Workshop, providing creative and engaging festive experiences for younger audiences.
- Families were treated to a storytelling afternoon, 'Christmas Tales with Daithi Collopy, featuring traditional Irish storytelling, song, and verse, festive sing-alongs, and a special children's Wren parade.
- Throughout the Christmas period, the Castle was beautifully illuminated, with lighting highlighting its historic towers and creating a striking visual presence across the River Shannon. The courtyard was further enhanced with decorative uplighting and 30 Christmas trees, creating a warm and magical festive atmosphere.



Opera & Carols, Live at The Castle Suite, Christmas 2025

### Adare Heritage Centre

Adare Heritage Centre played an important supporting role in delivering visitor services and promoting heritage tourism within the region, particularly in preparation for the Ryder Cup 2027.

- They welcomed 280,000 visitors to the centre with almost 8-10 coaches per day during the summer season
- They provided visitor information, walking tours and guided tours of Desmond Castle during June, July, August and September
- The Centre contributed to community engagement through participation and support in the St. Patrick's Day Parade
- As part of Heritage Week, the public were invited to a 'Shaped by Water' event. This unique event featured a traditional Seanchaithe storytelling performance with Daithi Collopy followed by live music.



Loughnasa Festival, Lough Gur

### Lough Gur

Lough Gur Visitor Centre delivered a highly successful year focused on heritage preservation, cultural programming, community engagement, and sustainable tourism.

- They welcomed over 25,000 visitors
- The received grant funding of €25,000 from the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine to support the development of agri-food tourism initiatives

They delivered 3 new festivals:

- 'Lough Gur Bee Festival', a celebration of Natures Pollinators
- 'Summer Solstice Festival', celebrating the magic of midsummer where nature, myth and community meet
- 'Loughnasa Harvest Festival' Irelands oldest harvest festival, celebrating traditional crafts, farming heritage and community connection.

These festivals featured lakeshore markets, traditional music, storytelling, craft workshops, educational talks, and family activities, attracting strong visitor attendance and supporting cultural tourism in the region. Visitors also enjoyed hands-on activities such as a willow weaving and

spinning demonstration and workshops, a sacred soil tour of the Grange Stone Circle, and lively traditional Irish music. Children enjoyed a family fun day with arts and crafts kids zone and farm animal encounters.

Lough Gur continued to play a vital role in in heritage education, hosting a diverse programme of talks, performances and workshops

- 'The Magic of an Irish Rainforest, an inspiring talk with Eoghan Daltun
- St Brigids Poetry Afternoon, featuring local poets
- St Patricks Weekend 'Fairytales and Folklore' children's storytelling with local storyteller John Carew
- Easter Sunday Scavenger Hunt for children
- 'From Skellig to Tory Islands: A lifetime of Exploring Ireland with Irelands foremost archaeologist, Michael Gibbons
- Heritage Week workshop, 'Shaped by Water' lakeside seanchaí storytelling with John Carew
- Culture Night performance, 'Cu Roi Mac Daire' combining music, drama, storytelling, and art
- As part of the 'Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Autumn School', Brian Collopy Lough Gur spoke about the Folklore project and initiative that gathered recollections form a range of local people to capture a moment in Lough Gur's long history.
- Traditional Christmas wreath-making workshop, where participants created seasonal wreaths using locally sourced, natural materials.

Youth engagement remained central to the Centre's mission. Key initiatives included:

- Two-day kayaking summer camps for children focussing on nature, biodiversity,
- School tour programmes supporting curriculum learning in history, folklore, and environmental awareness

These initiatives fostered a deeper connection between young people and their local heritage.

As part of Ireland's Home of Halloween celebrations, Lough Gur hosted a vibrant programme of events throughout Halloween week

- Pumpkin carving workshop
- Mask making workshop for children followed by a spooky scavenger hunt
- Storytelling: The Origins of the Fairies in Irish Tradition with Brian Collopy
- Storytelling with John Carew
- An immersive and atmospheric séance experience
- A spectacular fire performance by ROGU
- Family-friendly cultural activities celebrating Ireland's ancient Halloween traditions

**MEDIA COVERAGE | FAMILIARISATION TRIPS**



Blaithnaid Ni Choighigh Nationwide with King Johns Castle team members

- King John’s Castle received significant national and international media exposure during the year, including RTÉ television broadcasts for Nationwide celebrating Heritage Week and Culture night strengthening the Castle’s profile and reinforcing its position as one of Ireland’s leading heritage attractions.
- The National launch of Cruinniú na nÓg 2025 took place with a celebration of creativity in the castle courtyard
- The castle welcomed the ‘Roses’ as part of the 2025 International Rose of Tralee Tour
- The 2025/26 Specsavers Limerick Panto at the University Concert Hall (UCH) was launched with a royal photoshoot featuring the cast at King John’s Castle.
- King John’s Castle celebrated Ryder Cup Putter handover with Giant Golf Ball installation. A striking 6 x 6 giant golf ball was unveiled in the castle courtyard to mark the symbolic Ryder Cup Putter Handover from New York to Adare Manor, Limerick.
- Brian Collopy, historian Lough Gur Visitor Centre shared captivating stories about Lough Gur and Grange Stone Circle on The Sunday Show with Ed Finn on Sunshine 1068FM.
- King Johns Castle welcomed three delegations to King John’s Castle, CEO Chambers Ireland Executive forum, a tourism delegation from Northern Ireland and Kara Owen, the British Ambassador to Ireland, along with delegates attending the ‘Joining the Dots’ event.
- Overall Discover Limerick DAC hosted a total of 21 familiarisation and promotional visits, comprising 12 familiarisation trips and nine influencer and travel trade visits. These visits provided valuable opportunities to promote our sites and the wider Limerick region to key tourism partners, media, and international representatives.



Great Britain Coach Tour Operators Familiarisation Trip, King Johns Castle



CEO Discover Limerick DAC, Elaine Donohue with The British Ambassador to Ireland, Kara Owen

**Business Development**

2025 was a highly productive year for Discover Limerick from a sales and business development perspective, with a strong focus on global outreach and industry engagement. The team attended nine key industry workshops and events, both domestically and internationally, providing valuable platforms to showcase Limerick as a vibrant and compelling destination to visit, stay, and explore while positioning itself strategically for future growth associated with the Ryder Cup.

The team attended the following trade events.

- Fáilte Ireland’s Great Britain Coach Operator Workshop
- Fáilte Ireland’s Global Inbound Workshop
- Fáilte Ireland Luxury Workshop
- Irish Tourism Industry Confederation (ITIC) 2025 Conference
- Association of Visitor Experience and Attractions Conference (AVEA)
- Fáilte Ireland’s Clare and Limerick Tourism Industry Networking event.
- Irish Tour Operators Workshop
- World Travel Market, London
- Lintz learning journey



Sales & Business Development Manager, Ruth Vaughan at World Travel Market, London

## LIMERICK TWENTY THIRTY STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT DAC

### OPERA SQUARE



Opera Square CGI

The 3.7-acre Opera Square project is a landmark mixed-use development in a regional and national context and one that reflects Limerick's status as a leading city in sustainability and innovation. Opera Square includes 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 entire basement and Parcel 1 building were completed on 29 October. The tendering process for the Library, Four Opera Square, and Central Plaza Public Realm is complete, with a preferred contractor identified, though the contract award is on hold pending funding confirmation. The Office of Public Works (OPW) Landmark Building, Bank Place Public Realm and Granary refurbishment works project is underway with Sisk appointed to deliver the contract by Quarter 1 2028.

The grand launch of One Opera Square took place on 08 September at Michael Street, Limerick. This landmark event celebrated the practical completion of the building, marking a significant milestone in Limerick's urban regeneration and sustainable development. The launch was attended by over 200 guests. The Limerick Card launch was another highlight of 2025, introducing a new initiative designed to support local businesses and encourage city centre engagement. Two major exhibitions were also held at One Opera Square in October, including the 41st EVA International and a Limerick School of Art and Design Graphics exhibition.

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.

### CLEEVES RIVERSIDE QUARTER



Cleeves Riverside Quarter CGI

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 funds 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. On 11 November Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development DAC, formally submitted a planning application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for a transformative mixed-use development at Cleeves Riverside Quarter. The application covers Phase 2 of the overall masterplan and seeks consent under Section 175 and 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000. The proposed development includes:

- 234 new high-quality, energy-efficient homes
- 270 purpose-built student bedspaces supporting Limerick's academic institutions
- 0.78 hectares of public realm, including Reservoir/Quarry Park and Flaxmill Plaza
- A crèche facility and 299 sqm of commercial floorspace

Throughout 2025, Limerick Twenty Thirty placed a strong emphasis on community engagement as part of the planning process for the Cleeves Riverside Quarter. A series of public consultations were organised to ensure that local residents, businesses, and stakeholders had the opportunity to contribute their views and insights on the proposed development. These consultations included open information sessions, interactive workshops, and online feedback platforms,

Heritage works to the Flaxmill Building have advanced, with detailed design and tender documents completed and tenders received. Stage 2A2 for the public realm and residential zones has commenced, with interim designs and viability checks completed. Environmental baseline analysis and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) chapters have been assigned.

The TUS Cleaves City Campus design brief, feasibility study, and output specification are complete, with the final Stage 1 report being finalised.

### GARDENS INTERNATIONAL



Gardens International

Gardens International welcomed new tenants to the building in 2025 including Openchip and Babylon Coffee Shop. The building also 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

- Limerick School of Arts and Design (LSAD) Ceramics 'Grounded' Exhibition
- International Women's Day Coffee Morning
- University of Limerick Citizens' Assembly
- FashionFest (Riverfest Opening)
- Limerick School of Music Black Tie Fundraiser
- LSAD Fashion Graduate Exhibition
- DM Financials Table Quiz
- Garryowen Business and Leadership Lunch
- Men's Health Day Coffee Morning
- Gardens Tenant Christmas Gathering
- OpenChip Industrial Development Agency (IDA) Launch

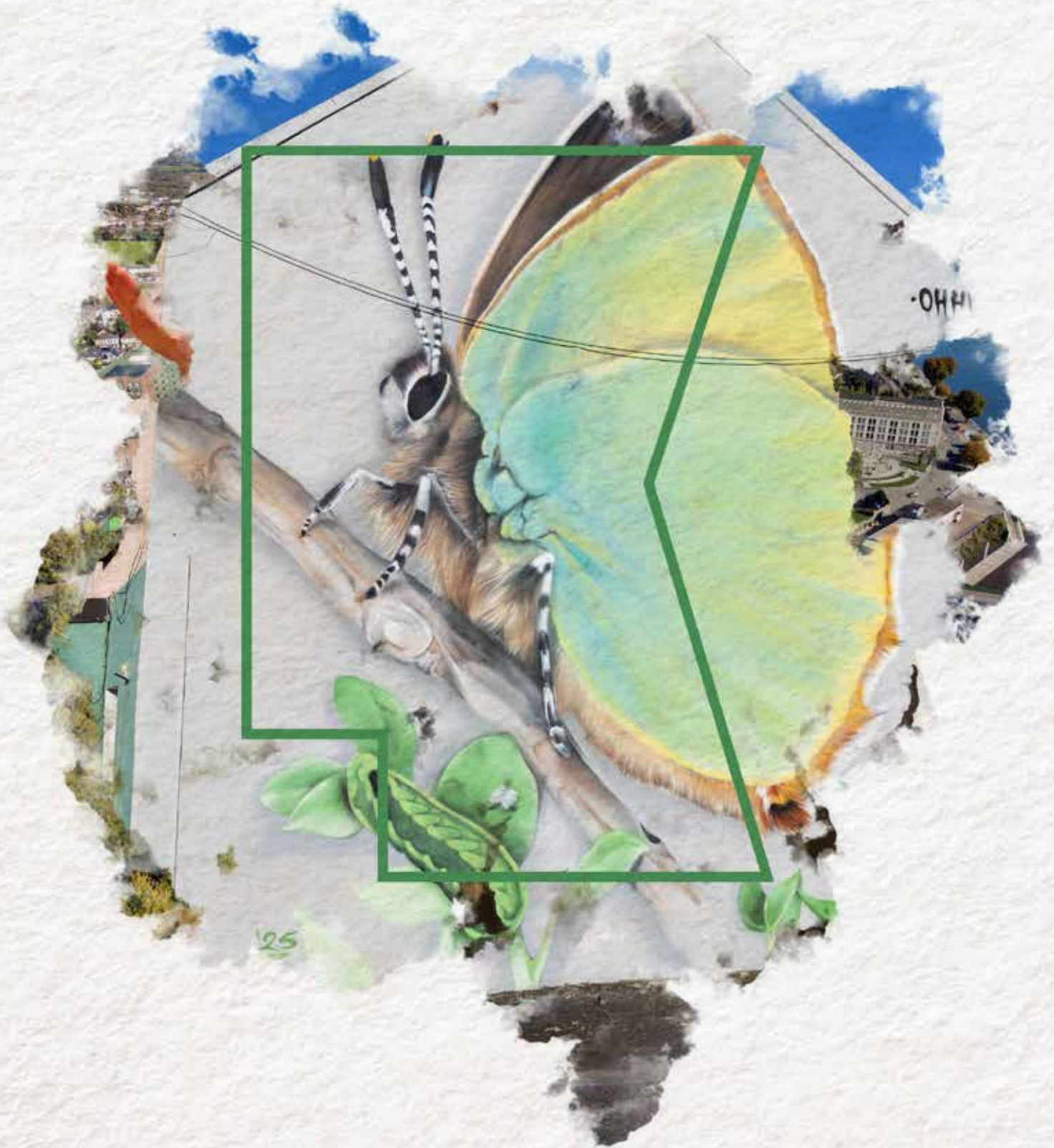
### ASKEATON SWIMMING POOL – PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

In 2025, significant progress was made on the Askeaton Swimming Pool upgrade project. Works focused on flood defence measures and energy efficiency improvements, including the installation of modern heating systems and the replacement of mechanical and electrical equipment. These upgrades are designed to reduce operational costs and ensure the long-term sustainability of the facility. The project also included enhancements to the plant room and minor capital works, reinforcing the pool's role as a vital community resource. Following water safety tests, the pool reopened for limited school use on 12 November, marking the first phase of its return to service. The official full reopening of the leisure centre took place on 08 December.

### THEATRE ROYAL

Limerick Twenty Thirty played a leading role in bringing the historic Theatre Royal on Cecil Street back into use after almost three decades of closure. As part of its social remit, the company partnered with Mayor of Limerick John Moran and the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board to enable the restoration works. Renovations included roof repairs, installation of a new fire safety system, and accessibility upgrades to make the building safe and operational.

The reopening was marked by the premiere of "Connie", a play celebrating the life of Hollywood actress Constance Smith, which opened in October 2025.



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE ACTION AND FIRE

# ENVIRONMENT, RURAL WATER AND CLIMATE ACTION

## NOISE ACTION PLANNING

Work progressed on the Limerick Agglomeration and County Noise Action Plans 2024-2028, under the Environmental Noise Regulations 2018, with the completion of two Department of Climate Energy and the Environment funded pilot projects. One reviewed the impact of the new 30 kph speed limit in Limerick City and the second was a soundscape study, assessing the quality of sound along the Castletroy Greenway. The pilot Castletroy Greenway Acoustic Project was awarded highly commended at the prestigious John Connell Awards 2025 at Westminster Palace, London.



Representatives from Noise Consultants Limited and Limerick City and County Council with Dr Danny Chambers MP for Winchester.

Acoustic and soundscape studies were also completed for the People's Park in 2025.

### Air

The Council continues to monitor air quality and ensures that data is made available to the public from its sensors. Monthly reports of air quality in 2025 are available on the Council's website.

### Clean Air Together Limerick City

In February, the Council hosted, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), hosted an event to present the results of the Clean Air Together Limerick City – a citizen science project that recruited over 400 participants within the Limerick Metropolitan area to measure levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) pollution (traffic-related air pollution) in their local area in October 2024. NO<sub>2</sub> levels across Limerick were generally low.



Speakers and representatives of Limerick City and County Council and the EPA at the results evening of Clean Air Together Limerick City.

### Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE)

Following on from the success of the Clean Air Together Limerick City project, the Council working in partnership with An Taisce, the EPA and Cork University to support the roll out of a pilot air quality monitoring campaign, under the GLOBE program.



Final workshop at Merchant's Quay for a pilot air quality monitoring project as part of the GLOBE programme.

### Online Environmental Dashboard

In 2025 the Council launched a new online environmental dashboard. The interactive map includes results from the Council's and EPA's air quality and sound level monitors in Limerick.

### WATER

The primary focus of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Team is to ensure the protection and restoration of water quality in Limerick.

Key activities carried out by the WFD Team include:

**Farm Surveys and Support:** The EPA, through the National Agricultural Inspection Programme (NAIP), sets out the required numbers of Farm Inspections to be achieved in Limerick County. There were 342 Farm Inspections carried out across the County in 2025.

**Pollution Incidents:** pollution incidents applicable to the agricultural sector, notified to the Team via Dynamics Customer Relationship Management (CRM), were investigated with appropriate action taken where necessary, primarily the cross reporting of farmers to the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine.

**Collaboration with Local and Sectoral Agencies:** The team actively supports the Local Authority Water Programme (LAWPRO).

## WATER SERVICES

All operational services on public water and wastewater are now under the control of Uisce Éireann.

Delivery of the Rural Water Programme remains 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 €1,503,881.20 in subsidy payments to 31 Group Water Schemes in respect of their operational costs in 2025.

### Private Well Grants

Limerick City and County Council processed 165 individual grants at a total value in grant aid of €376,097.59 in 2025. The purpose of the grant is to help householders provide good quality, potable drinking water for their homes.

## BIODIVERSITY

### Non-Native Invasive Species

During 2025, 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 seven years now. The works to eradicate non-native Giant hogweed from the river Loobagh and the Maigue River continued during 2025.

The Morningstar Giant Hogweed (GHW) Removal Project, led by the Maigue Rivers Trust (MRT) and supported by Limerick City and County Council (LCCC), has made significant strides in controlling Giant Hogweed along a 7.5 km stretch of the Morningstar River in Co. Limerick.

## 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 between 2023 to 2025. In 2025 based on intensive transnational exchange and learning, Limerick prepared an integrated action plan together with local stakeholders to tackle the most pressing issues around urban biodiversity.



BiodiverCity Woodland Festival National Tree Week



Final Network Meeting URBACT BiodiverCity

## URBACT Transfer Network

In 2025 Limerick was accepted as a partner city in the URBACT transfer network Reviving Degraded Areas for Nature and People. The transfer of the Good Practice from ORMOŽ in Slovenia will support Limerick in developing tailored approaches to the regeneration of degraded areas and in strengthening collaboration with diverse stakeholders.

**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 2025 with the identification of a route which was subject to public and stakeholder consultation. It is anticipated that the optimum route will be finalised in mid-2026.

The Council benefitted from Heritage Council Funded Projects in 2025 to support the following:-

- Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan 2025–2030
  - The Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan 2025–2030 was adopted and launched.



Biodiversity Action Plan

- National Woodland Monitoring Scheme – Bats
- Two woodlands in Limerick (Curraghchase and Newcastle West Demesne) were surveyed as part of a national bat monitoring scheme.
- Lesser Horseshoe Bat Survey – Rathkeale
  - Static bat surveys across Rathkeale recorded lesser horseshoe bats at 18 of 64 locations.
- Return to Nature Faith Communities Project
  - This project saw the Biodiversity Officer collaborate with the Limerick Diocesan Centre and ten church grounds across Limerick to improve biodiversity.



Faith Communities funded in collaboration with the heritage council

**National Parks and Wildlife Local Authority Biodiversity Action Fund Projects**

269 on-the-ground biodiversity actions delivered via The Hare’s Corner (woodlands, orchards, hedges, ponds; €35,000 programme, public-private funded).

- Three new ‘Limerick Wildlife Walls’ murals in high-visibility locations, boosting public engagement with nature.



Emperor Dragon Fly Grove Island Corbally



LCCC Lesser Horseshoe bat Limerick Wildlife Walls



LCCC Green Hairstreak butterfly Limerick Wildlife Walls

- Hosted the national conference on the Future of Moths and Butterflies in Ireland



LCCC Future of Moths and Butterfly Conference



LCCC Éanna Ni Lamhna leads a walk during the Broadford Garden Day 2025

### Events and Engagement

- A full programme of free events, often in collaboration with local groups, for National Biodiversity Week and National Heritage Week, including walks, talks, workshops, farm visits and online events



Limerick's Comhairle na Nog present Thomas and Michael Keane the Limerick Farm booklet



LCCC Awesome Pollinators Corbally Meadows Biodiversity Week 2025

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

### TIDY TOWNS

#### National

The National Tidy Towns results were released on 24 October and Limerick communities did Limerick proud. We had 57 groups participating this year including 5 new groups. Limerick City Tidy Towns moved from Silver to Gold, Adare Tidy Towns retained their gold medal, Galbally Tidy towns retained their County 2nd and silver medal with Castleconnell Tidy towns retaining County 3rd and silver medal. Newcastle West Tidy Towns and Ardpatrick Tidy towns both retained their bronze medal and Kilmeedy Tidy Towns received an endeavour award for the first time. In the Schools category, Scoil Dean Cussen in Bruff was named Tiny Tidy Towns Regional Winner for the Southwest and Mid-West region receiving a €1,000 prize.

#### Limerick

The annual Tidy Towns Seminar was held in the Woodlands House Hotel on 03 April and was very well attended. Support continues to be given to Tidy Towns groups as required.

### LIMERICK GOING FOR GOLD

Kilmallock took first place in the Tidy Towns Category and have been named the Overall Champions of the 2025 Limerick Going for Gold Competition funded by Limerick City and County Council in partnership with the JP McManus Charitable Foundation. The following were also successful: Templeglantine 2nd, Castleconnell 3rd, Kilfinane 4th and Galbally 5th.

This year out of 77 applicants, 32 community groups reached the final. Over €70,000 was awarded in prizes at the final ceremony to groups across Limerick who actively promote the circular economy, reduce waste, enhance biodiversity and create cleaner, greener and more sustainable communities.

In the Residential Areas category, Meadowbrook Residents Group Corbally were awarded first 1st prize, Thomondgate Residents Association 2nd with Southville Gurteen Residents Association coming in 3rd.

Kilteely Tidy Towns were the overall winner in the Limerick Bee Friendly, Anglesboro Tidy Towns 2nd and Pallasgreen Residents Association 3rd. Granagh Development Association won the Endeavour Award.

In the Sustainability, Waste Prevention and Community Engagement category (former Reuse category), Kilmeeady and Hospital Tidy Towns were joint first and Newcastle West and Castleconnell Tidy Towns were both highly commended in this category.

The Limerick Going for Gold Judges Award went to Bruff Tidy Towns (Best Use of Natural Resources), Thomondgate Residents Association (Creative Enhancement of Public Area), Northside Family Resources Centre and Hospital Family Resource Centre (both for the Exceptional Integration of Biodiversity into daily Community Life) and Rathkeale Tidy Towns (Visual Enhancement Community Entrance).

A new category, Best New Entrant, was introduced this year as well to welcome and encourage participation of new groups. Kildimo Tidy Towns was the winner in this category.



Going for Gold Gala in October

**WASTE PREVENTION**

**Limerick City and County Council continues to participate in local, regional and national waste prevention initiatives following the launch of the National Waste Plan for a Circular Economy in March 2024.**

The Limerick Re-love paint initiative has progressed very well with the launch of their retail outlet in March at units 13 and 14 Galvone Industrial Estate. Throughout 2025, we worked in collaboration with the Southern Regional Waste Planning Office, the Rediscovery Centre, Tait House Community Enterprise Limited, Limerick Recycling Centres, and our Housing Maintenance team to prevent waste paint being incinerated and keeping paint in circulation as a resource.

[Relove Paint | Limerick.ie](#)



Relove Paint Limerick Launch

**GREEN SCHOOLS AND OTHER SCHOOL CAMPAIGNS**

Following assessment by the Environmental Awareness Officer and An Taisce, 38 Limerick schools were awarded their green flags at the Green Schools award ceremony held in Killarney in May. Mungret Community College won the overall National Water Flag for 2024/2025 school year. Limerick City and County Council supported all Limerick young people between ages 12-19 to participate in [relovefashion](#) and participating green schools to participate in [Let's Fix Fashion](#). The [PickerPals](#) initiative continued during 2025 as did the Education for Sustainability Empowering Change in Ireland initiative. 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](#) toolkit.



Mungret Community College- National Water Flag Green School Winner

The Anti-Dog Litter Awareness campaign and the Anti-dumping campaign continued during 2025. 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 Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC's) National Gum Litter Campaign in conjunction with Limerick City Tidy Towns.



Gum Litter Taskforce, and Limerick City and County Council staff



Climate Action Week 2025



Toy Library at Climate Action Week

## FAIRTRADE

Limerick City is a Fairtrade city for 20 years and during 2025 two school events were hosted in Istabraq Hall – poster and Christmas Card creation. The birthday party on 25 November was a really special event to commemorate all the achievements of the Limerick Fairtrade Committee over a two decade period.

## CLIMATE ACTION

### Climate Action

The Climate Action Section’s role is to support the Council and our wider community to address the challenges of Climate Change.

In the course of 2025, the section has:

- Established a Climate Action Team as part of the Senior Forum which meets on a monthly basis.
- Established Climate Action Implementation Teams across the organisation who report twice a year on progress being made at project level.
- Carried out an organisational wide “Climate Action Awareness” survey to ascertain the level of climate knowledge in the organisation.
- Developed a Climate Champions Programme for staff from across the organisation who will lead out on initiatives within the organisation that will support the objectives of the Climate Action Plan.
- Organised Limerick’s first Climate Action Week in April.
- 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.

### Citizen Innovation Lab

The Citizen Innovation Lab (CIL) is located in the University of Limerick (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.

## FUNDING INITIATIVES

### 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 completed a project supported by Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) to create a smart buildings lab. The project has seen a range of sensors deployed in over 60 buildings in the city center measuring a range of issues including energy use, temperature, humidity etc.

### Support Instrument (TSI)

The TSI programme is an EU initiative that provides direct support to public bodies. Limerick City and County Council with the Office of Public Works (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.

## DOMESTIC WASTE AND LITTER

### Litter Enforcement

The Domestic Waste and Litter Team consist of five Environmental Control Officers supported by an administrative unit. The team take all practical measures for the prevention, control and correct disposal of litter. 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.

1325 cases were recorded during the year
5885 inspections were carried out.
225 on-the-spot fines were issued for litter / presentation of waste offences
745 number of warnings issued
48 cases were referred for legal proceedings under the Litter Pollution / Waste Management Acts

### Improving Litter Black Spots

In 2025, seventeen major clean-up operations targeting illegal dumping were successfully carried out across the City and County. These projects were funded under the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority's (WERLA) Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI), which supports efforts to restore areas affected by persistent dumping and strengthens enforcement through enhanced surveillance measures. This year's programme included sites in Coonagh, John's Square, Roxboro, Castleconnell, and Lisnagry.

Building on the improved results in the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) report in recent years, further progress was achieved in 2025. Galvone recorded its best-ever ranking, placing 26th out of 40 towns surveyed, with particular commendation for Litter Team projects at Galvone Industrial Estate and Roxboro. Additional IBAL clean-up works at previously littered sites near King John's Castle and William Street were funded through Mayoral support. The city also achieved its highest rating in four years, ranking 33rd out of 40 towns surveyed.

## DOG CONTROL AND HORSE CONTROL

### Control of Dogs

The Dog Control 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.

### Key Outputs 2025

1313 customer cases during 2025  
 170 dogs were processed in the Dog Shelter during the year, 14 were Bully XL  
 112 of these were re-homed, 26 were reclaimed and 32 were humanely euthanized.  
 7,717 dog licences issued in Limerick in 2025.  
 22 Fines were issued

### Control of Horses

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

### Key Control of Horse outputs for 2025

The Horse Control Team dealt with 236 cases.  
 70 horses were seized and processed in the Horse Pound during the year.

53 of these were re-homed.  
 17 were reclaimed by their owners.

## ENVIRONMENT REGULATION

### Waste Infrastructure

This Department manages key infrastructure including two closed landfill sites operating under licenses issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). One site is located at Longpavement within the City area and the other at Gortadroma near Shanagolden. In addition, the Department oversees 26 historic landfill sites across Limerick, which were previously operated by the Council before licensing requirements were introduced.

Limerick City and County Council manage 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, the Council also operates four recycling centres located in Mungret, Newcastle West, Kilmallock and Gortadroma. These centres provide residents with an expanded range of recycling options, accepting materials such as cardboard, plastics, metals, and electronic waste. Each facility is designed to manage various waste streams, ensuring residents have the resources to dispose of recyclable materials responsibly.

### Water Quality

Key water quality activities in 2025 included implementing measures under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), with a particular focus on agriculture, unsewered industries, and septic tanks. As part of the EPA's National Inspection Plan, the Council carried out 164 septic tank inspections—125 first-time inspections and 38 verification inspections. Of the first-time inspections, 40% were found to be compliant, while advisory notices were issued for 75 cases where additional works were required.

### Environmental Enforcement

Throughout 2025, the Commercial Waste Team and the Air, Noise, and Water Teams have successfully delivered a comprehensive range of activities and tasks as outlined below.

No. of cases = 499  
 No. of Inspections = 657  
 No. of Prosecutions = 32  
 No. of Warning letters = 70  
 No. of Notices = 30  
 No. of Directions = 73  
 No. of Fixed Penalty Notices = 13

These efforts reflect the Council's strong commitment to environmental protection and the promotion of sustainable practices. These actions addressed key environmental challenges, enhanced compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements.

## 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

SERVICE INDICATORS	FULL TIME AND RETAINED COMBINED 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time and Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	<b>Whole-Time:</b> 1 minute 35 seconds  <b>Retained:</b> 5 minute 11 seconds
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time and Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents	<b>Whole-Time:</b> 1 minute 33 seconds  <b>Retained:</b> 4 minute 56 seconds
<b>Percentage of Attendances at Scenes</b>	
Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	<b>Whole Time Attendance:</b> 90%  <b>Retained Attendance:</b> 51%
Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	<b>Whole Time Attendance:</b> 9%  <b>Retained Attendance:</b> 41%
Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes.	<b>Whole Time Attendance:</b> 1%  <b>Retained Attendance:</b> 8%
Total number of incidents in respect of fire	930
Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	<b>Whole Time Attendance:</b> 81%  <b>Retained Attendance:</b> 55%
Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	<b>Whole Time Attendance:</b> 18%  <b>Retained Attendance:</b> 39%
Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	<b>Whole Time Attendance:</b> 1%  <b>Retained Attendance:</b> 6%
Total number of incidents in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire)	886

**Training**

In 2025, Limerick Fire and Emergency Services delivered a comprehensive training program to ensure operational readiness and statutory compliance. Training covered whole time and retained firefighters, officers, and new recruits, focusing on core firefighting skills, technical rescue, medical response, leadership, and instructor development.

**Highlights:**

- **Firefighting Skills:** Full Breathing Apparatus refresher compliance; Initial Wearers and Compartment Fire Behaviour courses completed.
- **Specialist Training:** Road Traffic Collision, Hazardous Materials, Swiftwater Rescue, and Boat Operator courses delivered.
- **Medical Readiness:** Advanced Cardiac First Responder and Emergency First Responder training across stations.
- **Leadership and Development:** Officer training in Fire Service Management and Incident Command; collaboration with South East Technological University (SETU) for leadership programs.
- **Instructor Capacity:** Expanded expertise in Breathing Apparatus (BA), Confined Space, Swiftwater, and Bronto operations.
- **Recruit Training:** Five new recruits completed UK Fire Service College and local modules covering firefighting, Breathing Apparatus, Road Traffic Collision, medical, and ladder skills.
- **Wellbeing and Community:** Transition Year fire safety programs; Critical Incident Stress Management and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) training introduced.

**2025 Training Summary (Documented Figures):**

Area	Personnel
Breathing Apparatus Refresher	130+
Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearers	7
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	56
Hazardous Materials (HazMat)	61
Cardiac First Responder Advanced (CFR-A)	60+
Emergency First Response (EFR)	10
Swiftwater Rescue Technician and Boat Operator	15
Bronto Refresher	20
Recruit Training	7
Leadership and Officer Development	12
Instructor Development	8

**Overview:**

Delivered structured, compliance-driven training across all disciplines, strengthened internal capacity, enhanced emergency preparedness, and supported staff wellbeing.



Water Rescue Training



Breathing Apparatus Training



Hazardous Materials Training



New Recruit Training



Emergency Preparedness Exercises

Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	15%
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority	669
Number of new buildings notified to the local authority that were inspected	101

### Disability Access Certificates

2025 Statistics	
Total Number of valid Disability Access Certificates received	148
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	144
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates invalidated	6

### Planning Referrals

Total number of Planning Referrals processed 2025	293
Total number of Valid Commencement Notices (CN's) received (includes CNs, Short CNs, Opt-out CNs and 7-day Notices)	504

### Civil Defence

Total Expenditure costs for Civil Defence in 2025	€299,196
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## 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

2025 Statistics	
Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	191
Total number of fire safety certificate applications Granted	233
Total number of applications deemed invalid.	14

## 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. In 2025, Limerick City and County Council continued to strengthen their Major Emergency Management capacity under the 2006 Framework. Key activities included:

- Reviewing and updating the Major Emergency Plan, sub-plans, and local authority risk assessments.
- Conducting a training needs assessment and delivering courses such as Information Management Officer and On-Site Coordination
- Testing external emergency plans under Control of Major Accidents Hazards (COMAH) regulations and updating mobilisation procedures.
- Enhancing severe weather preparedness through weekly monitoring, a winter campaign, and a comprehensive storm debrief.
- Improving communications and capabilities with new equipment, Starlink connectivity, drones, and the Storm Day app.
- Maintaining interagency collaboration through regional meetings and exercises.



Severe Weather related call centre Storm Eowyn



Coordination Centre Storm Eowyn

### FIRE SERVICE PROJECTS

The following projects were carried out in 2025.

- **Limerick City Fire Station Project**  
 Extensive repairs were carried out to the façade and roof of Limerick City Fire Station along with improvements to the public appearance of the building and the means of access and circulation around the building for persons of limited mobility. As a consequence of these works, the building is also more thermally efficient, which aligns with Limerick City and Council’s goals for decarbonisation and reduced energy usage.
- **Cappamore Fire Station Redevelopment Project**  
 A contract was awarded for enabling works ahead of a full redevelopment of Cappamore Fire Station, which is scheduled to commence in 2026.
- **Facilities Maintenance Project**  
 A comprehensive tender was prepared issued, evaluated and awarded for the provision of planned, preventative and reactive maintenance services to our 7 Fire Stations, the Fire Service Pontoon in Limerick City and the Fire Service Training Centre in Kilmallock as well as 2 Civil Defence sites. This ensures that our buildings and facilities are safe, compliant and well-maintained as well as being operationally ready to respond to emergencies 24 a day, 365 days a year.



Limerick City Fire Station



Cappamore Fire Station

### LIMERICK CIVIL DEFENCE 2025

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 persons. Limerick Civil Defence also supports community events throughout the year.

- Tasks undertaken by Limerick Civil Defence in 2025 include:
1. 16 Sports Events covering various areas including Running, Walking, Football, Cycling, Racecourse, Athletics Day, swimming
  2. 7 Parades were attended throughout the year
  3. 18 events were attended to providing Medical Cover
  4. Three Mission Persons Searches
  5. 44 Tasking in January were completed during the snowstorm
  6. Two Patient Transfers
  7. Other Events that were attended to were:
    - a. National Services Day Launch - Dublin
    - b. Reception for the 75th anniversary of the Civil Defence in Ireland in Áras an Uachtaráin
    - c. Storm Eowyn – Assisting Mayo Civil Defence

**Total number of tasks in 2025 is 100.**



Civil Defence in the Snow

Closure of the Askeaton pool during the year continued to be an issue for the County Committee, who do not have anywhere else to teach lifesaving classes and bring on more instructors and lifeguards for next year. Thankfully in November the pool was re-opened and classes can recommence teaching lifesaving.

**Limerick City Water Safety Area Committee Update**

A summer week was run by the University of Limerick pool with the assistance of Limerick City Water Instructors. Lifesaving classes continue to be run on a Wednesday night by the City Committee during the winter/spring months, with a number of trainee instructors teaching some of the classes to eventually qualify as full instructors.



Civil Defence Medal Ceremony

**Lifebuoy inspections**

No. of lifebuoy replacements	Total 2025
Metropolitan District	17
Municipal Districts	10
No. of lifebuoy sensor activations	Total 2025
Metropolitan District	67
Municipal Districts	48



Civil Defence National Services Day



Water Safety

**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 Killeery Pier. The lifeguards were busy again this year with the arrival of many visitors to the Piers for their daily swim and water safety weeks run by the local area committee.

Limerick County Water Safety Area Committee Update  
8 Lifeguards were on duty during the summer, and they kept the two piers open all summer.

Lack of instructors was an issue again this year for our county committee with instructors being brought in from other counties to assist to ensure the weeks were able to go ahead.



Water Safety Officers

## REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING OFFICE - SOUTHERN

### 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) and the Connaught Ulster (CUR) Waste Regions.

Limerick City and County Council 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”.

A National Waste Management Work-Plan for 2024 to the end of 2025 was prepared and the Regions worked with the local authorities to implement the key deliverables, priority and supporting projects as well as some key actions and all governance arrangements were established.

#### MY WASTE.IE

MyWaste.ie is an initiative of the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices (RWMPO), developed on behalf of the Department of Climate, Energy and Environment (DCEE). A number of national initiatives were progressed during 2025 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 Tool Kit** which was updated in 2025

MyWaste.ie also manages a **Voluntary On-pack Labelling** scheme which over 70 Irish household brands avail of. The labelling scheme is provided free of charge to all businesses for use on their packaging. **National Food Waste Recycling Week** took place from 01-08 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.

**Think Before You Skip It** campaign ran in April and November. Its purpose was to encourage all citizens, particularly Do It Yourself (DIY) enthusiasts, renovators, and those moving home or doing a spring clean to prioritise reuse, repurposing, and proper waste segregation.



Minister of State for Small Business and Retail and Circular Economy, Alan Dillon TD launches the campaign with Regional Waste Co-Ordinator's Philippa King and Kevin Swift.

The national Take a Minute Before You Bin It campaign ran for a second year in 2025 to promote better segregation of the three bins as earlier studies revealed incorrect use of bins.

#### GREEN HUBS

The Adare Green hubs Initiative continued in 2025. The initiative provided resources and support to local businesses looking to adopt more sustainable waste management practices, particularly waste prevention strategies and improve waste separation. Limerick City and County Council and Local Enterprise Office organised a Green Support Breakfast meeting in Adare in October.



Adare Green Support Breakfast Meeting

**MyClub Mywaste Toolkit** organised a series of four webinars that took place during September and was aimed at sporting clubs and organizations nationally. Approximately 400 clubs were represented from across the country, including several Limerick based sporting organisations.

The Mywaste projects were funded by DCEE and further information can be found on [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie)

# METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK, PARKS AND CEMETERIES

## CEMETERIES

### CEMETERIES WORKS 2025

#### Metropolitan District of Limerick

- Restoration of wrought Iron Entrance Gates at Stradbally (Old) Graveyard
- Construction of New Topsoil / Spoil Storage Area in Mount Saint Lawrence (Old) Graveyard
- Footpath overlay works at Mount Saint Lawrence (Old) Graveyard
- Development of next phase of Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery

#### Municipal District of Adare - Rathkeale

- Installation of CCTV at Saint Joseph's Cemetery Rathkeale
- Disabled persons access to Beagh Graveyard, Ballysteen
- Footpath and walls repair to Saint Peter and Paul's Graveyard, Crecora
- Installation of water harvesting unit to Loughill Graveyard
  - Tree Surgery Works at Ballingarry Church of Ireland, Nantinan Graveyard and
  - Drehidtrasna Graveyard, Adare

#### Municipal District Cappamore - Kilmallock

- Improvements at Caherelly, Effin, Bruree, Clonkeen and Effin (Old) Graveyard

#### Municipal District Newcastle West

- Improvements at Holy Cross Cemetery Athea and Castlemahon Graveyard



Stradbally Graveyard Wrought Iron Gates Restoration



Saint Peter and Paul's Graveyard, Crecora following footpath repairs and boundary wall replacement.

### Circular Cups for Community Events.

In 2025 the RWMPO – Southern received funding from the Anti Dumping Initiative (ADI) towards the establishment of the Circular Cups for Community Events, a first-of-its-kind initiative in Ireland. This pioneering program, operated by IRD Duhallow a social enterprise, provides access to high quality reusable cups, designed to eliminate single-use waste at community events. This service was piloted at a number of events in 2025 and will be available throughout the Southern Waste Region from early 2026 with full details available on <https://mywaste.ie/sustainability/circular-living/circular-cups-for-community-events-in-the-southern-region/>



Cups from the Circular Cups for Community tin action in Limerick City, November

### Haz Waste Collection Pilots.

In 2025, the DCEE provided funding to the RWMPOs to support the collection of hazardous waste with 3,269 customers attending 11 collection days, at various locations across the country, where 151 tonnes of waste was collected, 80% of which was waste paint.



HHW Collection November

### Historic landfill

Progress on the road map for historic landfill has been achieved, with investigations and remediation funded by DCEE. In 2025 €460,000 was spent in the Southern Waste Region.

### Waste Capacity Monitoring

The RWMPOs published a quarterly waste capacity report during 2025 and these indicated that Ireland still has a capacity deficit of over 300,000 tonnes per annum. Contingency capacity was activated during 2025 to assist with construction and demolition and municipal solid waste Deficits.

**Burial Ground Awards 2025**

The Annual Burial Ground Awards took place on 22 October in the Millennium Centre, Caherconlish. As on previous years, a large number of community groups were represented. Councillor Greg Conway deputised for the Mayor on the night. 25 local maintenance groups were awarded prizes ranging from €500 to €1,500 per group. The overall winner in the Ancient Category was Lismakeera Maintenance Committee with Crecora Maintenance Committee being the overall winner in the Modern Category. In addition, there was a “Judges Choice – Best Burial Ground not placed” award which went to Dromcollogher Cemetery. The guest speaker was Frank McCormack who spoke on the importance of correct preservation techniques within our historic graveyards and the importance of education.



Castlemahon (Old) Graveyard, Footpaths and Boundary Fence Replacement



Caherelly Graveyard, Footpath Upgrade Works.



Effin Graveyard, Footpath Replacement Works



Crecora Maintenance Committee accepting their prize from Príomh Chomhairleoir Councillor Catherine Slattery and Councillor Greg Conway



Willie Foley of Lismakeera Burial Ground receiving his prize from Príomh Chomhairleoir Councillor Catherine Slattery and Councillor Greg Conway



Guest speaker Frank McCormack at the 2025 Burial Ground Awards

### Askeaton Burial Ground Extension

The extension to Askeaton Burial Ground was officially opened by Councillor Tommy Hartigan, who deputised for the Mayor, on 29 September. The burial ground is being developed on a phased basis with phase 1 having a capacity of 292 burial plots and 41 ashes plots. The overall extension, when fully developed, will have capacity yielding 1,300 grave spaces and 164 ashes plots in total. The inclusion of ashes burial plots within the cemetery is catering for growing preference by the public to inter the cremated remains of their loved ones within a burial ground whilst providing them a suitable place of rest.



Councillor Tommy Hartigan, deputising for the Mayor of Limerick, performing the official opening of Askeaton Burial Ground Extension



The Official Opening of Askeaton Burial Ground Extension on 29 September

### Kilmurray Columbarian Wall

The Council provided its first Columbarian Walls in Kilmurray Cemetery where provision has been made for a total of six Columbarian Walls. Two Columbarian Walls have initially been provided to gauge interest from the public and for decision making purposes for future investment in the provision of Columbarian Walls in other cemeteries. The burial ground data has indicated the need for facilities for the interment of ashes and there is increasing evidence of same.



Kilmurray Columbarian Walls as they reach end of construction

### Proposed Abbeyfeale Burial Ground

A new burial ground is proposed for Abbeyfeale. A site has been secured and is located just north of the greenway hub. The project is progressing to a Part 8 application in early 2026.

### Abbeyfeale Old Burial Ground

Conservation works to the eastern boundary wall was undertaken in 2025. These works involved the rebuilding of the eastern wall and the stabilisation of two tombs under the supervision of a Conservation Consultant.



Abbeyfeale Old Burial Ground boundary wall



Abbeyfeale Old Burial Ground boundary wall from adjoining property

### Cemetery Byelaws

A review has commenced of Limerick City and County Council Cemetery Bye Laws, which date from 2015. An initial online consultation began in November, and further consultations will be carried out throughout 2026.

**PARKS**

**Parks and Open Green Spaces**

The Parks department manage and maintain 24 parks/amenities, 15 playgrounds, six Multi-Use Games Areas and seven outdoor exercise equipment locations, throughout the City and County as well as working towards the design and construction of additional facilities. The Parks department also maintains 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 neighborhoods. The following outlines works and projects that were undertaken in 2025:

**Mungret Park**

A cricket batting cage was installed in Mungret Park to acknowledge and facilitate the growing interest in cricket. The project was funded by General Municipal Allocation by Limerick City West Members.



Cricket Batting Cage in Mungret Park

Further sports have been added to Mungret Park with two existing basketball courts at Mungret College being made available in July for the public to use on Saturdays, 1s and all school holidays. A new pedestrian entrance has been provided from the Park for public access with opening and closing times similar to Park opening and closing times.



Mungret Basketball Courts

**Adare Park**

Site clearance works were carried out in 2025 at the proposed Sensory Garden site in Adare Park. It is intended that the project will be delivered by direct works over a period of time with assistance from the Tidy Towns Group.

Adare Park also received new planting in preparation for the Ryder Cup in 2027. Suitable planting as per the horticulture calendar was identified for the vehicular entrance roadway to the back entrance to Adare Manor. It was planted up in September to ensure sufficient growth for September 2027.

**Castletroy Park**

A volleyball court was provided in Castletroy Park in 2025.

**Westfield Wetlands**

The boardwalk platform at Westfields was replaced with new hand railings, anti-slip decking and support beams. This viewing platform is used by many bird watchers and wildlife enthusiasts.



Viewing Point at Westfields Wetlands upgraded February

**Lough Gur**

Lough Gur continued to receive a high level of maintenance. The wastewater tank replacement was completed and commissioned in 2025. The wastewater tank provides capacity to cater for increasing number of tourists at Lough Gur.

**Parnell Street Pocket Park**

The Mayor provided €50,000 Mayoral funding for an enhancement of the existing pocket park in Parnell Street. A design was prepared and works subsequently undertaken in 2025 to deliver the project. The wall adjacent to the primary school was stabilised with 50% of the budget and ground works and pathways installed. A boules area has been provided and spring bulbs planted at the end of the year.



Photo of Parnell Street Pocket Park

### Garryowen Green Spaces

A number of landscape plans were prepared for the Garryowen area. The Mayor provided funding for an upgrade of St Patrick's Well green in Garryowen. A design was prepared and subsequently delivered in 2025.



St Patrick's Well Project Works, Garryowen

### Patrickswell Green Space

A masterplan was finalised for the green in Lisheen Park in Patrickswell. The masterplan provides for multiple recreational facilities to cater for the existing and growing population in Patrickswell. The masterplan provides for two pitches, changing rooms, car and bike parking, perimeter walkways, playground, basketball court, multi-use games area, outdoor exercise equipment and landscaping. The masterplan has been designed to cater for all ages and abilities. The design was progressed in 2025 towards a Part 8 application.

### Green Flags

Limerick City and County Council continues to demonstrate its commitment to excellence in public green spaces with a number of parks recognised in the prestigious 2025 Green Flag Awards, announced by An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland. This year marks a special milestone for Mungret Park, which has received its first ever Green Flag Award. This achievement reflects the dedication and hard work of the outdoor Parks staff at Limerick City and County Council.



Mungret Park which attained its first Green Flag Award in 2025

In addition to Mungret Park, Adare Town Park retained the Green Flag status it first achieved in 2024 and The People's Park continues to uphold its standard of excellence, maintaining its Green Flag.

### Dog Parks

Four new dog parks with 1.8 metre fencing and play elements have been provided in O'Brien Park, Mayorstone Park, Castletroy Park and Caherdavin Green. The dog parks have been funded by the Mayoral fund and will be open to the public Spring 2026 once the weather improves.

The existing dog park in Mungret also received some improvements with increased width, a higher fence was added and entrance located to a more suitable location.



Caherdavin Dog Park



Castletroy Dog Park



Dog Park O'Brien Park



Mungret Dog Park

**Hospital - Multi Use Games Area**

The multi-use games area in Hospital was in need of refurbishment. Following a successful sports capital funding application, the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) was completely replaced in 2025.



Hospital Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

**Inclusivity**

The Council continues to provide facilities in our Parks to ensure inclusivity and accessibility for all. Disability and Autism friendly parking spaces have been provided in a number of our Parks. Communication boards were installed at ten playgrounds around the city and county. The purpose of these communication boards is to enhance communication and inclusion for all children in playground settings.

**PLAYGROUNDS**

The following playground projects have all been upgraded to make these playgrounds accessible for all children:

**Cappamore Playground**

An upgrade of Cappamore playground was undertaken in 2025 with the provision of inclusive play elements and replacement of some of the play units with a Community Recognition Fund grant of €50,000.



Hospital Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

**Kilmallock Playground**

An upgrade of Kilmallock playground was undertaken with inclusive play elements provided including an inclusive carousel, an inclusive trampoline, new swing seats and an inclusive swing seat. Funding for these works were provided by a €50,000 grant from the Community Recognition Fund.



Kilmallock playground

**Askeaton Playground**

Upgrade works were completed to Askeaton playground which included an inclusive roundabout, an inclusive trampoline and new sensory play panels. Funding for these works were provided by a capital grant from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.



Askeaton Playground

**Newcastle West Playground Upgrade and Extension**

A design layout was prepared for a new playground and other recreational facilities for the Demesne Parklands Newcastle West.

**MAINTENANCE OF PARKS AND GREEN SPACES**

In addition to the general maintenance in Parks and green spaces, Storm Eowyn in January led to significant clean ups being required with fallen trees and branches strewn in housing estates across the city and county. The Clare Glens Woodlands and loop walks was particularly affected with sixteen large trees fallen across pathways.

A large tree also fell in Ted Russell Park and will be repurposed for natural play.



Fallen trees in Clare Glens following Storm Éowyn

### 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.

### Open Spaces Grants

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. In 2025, grants were paid to 57 community groups who cut or arrange the cutting of grass in their area.

### Tree Maintenance

Tree maintenance works in housing estates taken in charge across the city and county continued in 2025 with 595 number of requests received through the Customer Relationship Management system. Tree reviews also took place for Mungret Park and Baggott Estate, where works have commenced felling trees in Baggott Estate due to ash die back. These trees will be repurposed in 2026. Tree maintenance also took place in the city centre, Thomas Street, Catherine Street, Shannon Street, Howley's Quay and Bedford Row.

### Tree Planting

Tree planting took place in a number of locations in 2025. Such locations included Castletroy Greenway, Abbeyfeale and Raheen. Parks staff also met with community groups in Askeaton and Abbeyfeale exploring tree planting locations.



Tree planting Raheen

Askeaton Park received significant maintenance in preparation for the opening of the swimming pool. The pathways were upgraded and a maintenance regime put in place with the assistance of the local Community Employment scheme. Also, a new landscape plan for Askeaton Park was agreed with Uisce Eireann in 2025 and will be constructed as part of the storm water and wastewater contract in Askeaton Park.



Askeaton Park Upgrade Works

National Tree Week occurred in March and the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran planted a tree in People's Park to mark the occasion.



Tree Planting People's Park

**Bridges in Bloom and City Centre**

Works for the annual "Bridges in Bloom" continued in 2025 with preparatory works in March in Corbally Nursery for roll out for the June Bank Holiday weekend. Flower tiers and planters are also distributed throughout the city to ensure the city is looking its best for the summer period. Additional planting and planters were provided for the Christmas period including the planters on O'Connell Street and Nicholas Street. The three bridges were also adorned with buxus balls with lights as a trial to enhance the bridges over the Christmas period. The mobile tree planters were also painted with different vibrant colours and placed throughout the city to provide impact in public realm areas.



Painted Mobile Tree Planters

**EU URBACT 4-GreenPlace**

Limerick is one of ten partner cities in the URBACT GreenPlace Project who are collaborating on urban regeneration plans in respective specified areas. The objective of the GreenPlace 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 final Core Network Meeting was held in September in Limerick, where all nine Partner cities were in attendance. The countries were officially welcomed by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran for the three day event.



Christmas Planting in City Centre



Official welcome by Mayor John Moran to EU Partner Cities



Loading Flower Tiers for the City



Tour of City Wall by the Council's Archaeologist

Also in 2025, the now annual “Irishtown Heritage Fest” took place, which saw the Limerick City Pipe Band march on the Walls of Limerick led by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran.



The Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, pipe band, residents and Council staff at Street Party on 17 August

Significant maintenance works were undertaken in Watergate in June as part of the URBACT GreenPlace project. This has engaged residents in Watergate who are starting to take an interest in their surrounding area. The before and after photos below show the difference that it has made to the community.



Watergate before works



Watergate after works

### Roundabout Sponsorship

The Council continues to seek expressions of interest on the Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme on an annual basis and in 2025, a sponsor was secured for the Clarina roundabout and the Garryglass roundabout.



Garryglass Roundabout sponsored by UMR Group

**Mayoral Expert Group - Heritage and Green Spaces**

The Mayor of Limerick, John Moran requested an expert group to be set up in 2025 to develop a programme of works for enhancing Heritage and Green Spaces throughout the city and county.

The purpose of the Expert Group was to identify and secure land for future potential projects to transform Limerick to be more attractive with a focus on liveability to create more liveable settlements to attract people to live and remain in Limerick. In particular was the need to look at our natural resources and assets such as heritage sites, waterways and greenways. In 2025 four meetings took place: 30 April, 03 June, 24 June, 05 September. By the end of 2025, the Expert Group had identified a list of possible ideas at a high level for projects for each of the four districts. These ideas for projects will be progressed further in 2026.

**CITY CENTRE RESPONSE TEAM (CCRT)**

The City Centre Response Team (CCRT) was established in 2024. The team is dedicated to enhancing the public realm of Limerick City Centre. Comprising three General Operatives, a Foreman 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:

**Limerick Lane Resurfacing**

Description: Resurfacing of Limerick Lane to enable improvements on the laneway for cleansing and presentation of bins.



Limerick Lane before works



Limerick Lane after works

**Glentworth Mews Resurfacing**

Description: Resurfacing of Glentworth Mews to enable improvements on the laneway for cleansing and presentation of bins.



Glentworth Mews before works



Glentworth Mews after works



Lights on Catherine Street

### Lighting of Catherine Street

Description: A permanent lighting installation on Catherine Street was installed by an electrical contractor.

Photo 70 - Lights on Catherine Street

### Footpath Repairs City Centre

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



Footpath repairs City Centre



Footpath repairs City Centre

**Installation of Buddy Benches**

Description: Installed seating and other items to allow for Mental Health Initiative with Healthy Ireland Limerick Division.



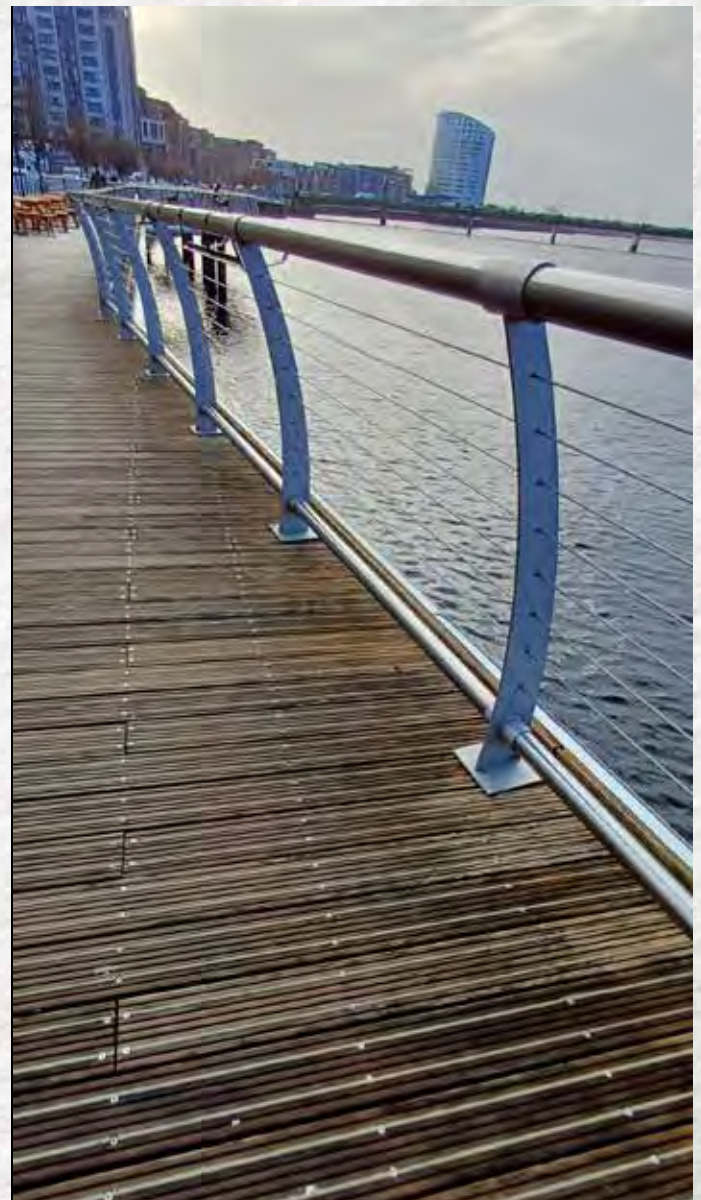
Buddy Benches

**Cleaning the Boardwalk Surface and Bandstand along the Quays**

Description: Removal of dirt and detritus from the boardwalk using specialist crews.



Cleaning the Boardwalk



Cleaning the Boardwalk



**Painted Sylvester O'Halloran Bridge**

Description: Painted the bridge.

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



Footpath repairs City Centre



TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY  
AND PUBLIC REALM

**The Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm Directorate** plays a central role in delivering transport infrastructure across Limerick City and County.

The Directorate leads the development of high-quality transport infrastructure, oversees the day-to-day maintenance of the road network, and promotes sustainable travel options, contributing significantly to climate change mitigation.

It is responsible for policy and strategy and provides support to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). The Directorate prioritises and secures funding for all major physical and infrastructure projects related to roads and sustainable travel schemes.

The Directorate also includes the Mid-West National Road Design Office (MWNRDO), which manages major infrastructural projects such as the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Road Scheme and the Foynes-Limerick Road (including the Adare bypass). In addition, MWNRDO oversees the development and management of the Limerick Greenways on behalf of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

Close collaboration with TII, the National Transport Authority (NTA), and the Department of Transport (DoT) ensures the successful delivery of major road projects and an extensive programme of active travel initiatives. The Directorate includes the Placemaking Team who deliver the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) projects for Limerick that promote physical, economic, environmental sustainability and social inclusion.

The Directorate also includes the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Team who manage the delivery of the major capital flood relief schemes across the county, in collaboration with Office of Public Works (OPW). The CFRAM Programme is funded by OPW with supplementary funding for the public realm and active travel elements of the projects through Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)/NTA.

Looking ahead, the Directorate will work with the NTA and its consultant team to finalise the Limerick City Centre Transport Plan for public consultation in 2026.

Throughout 2026, we will continue to support the NTA in implementing the proposed BusConnects network improvements and in advancing the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS). These efforts aim to enhance sustainable connectivity and mobility across the region.

## TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC REALM AND PLACEMAKING

### Market Quarter and Cruises Street Public Realm

The Market Quarter and Cruises 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.



Market Quarter and Cruises Street Public Realm – Integrated Design Team Contract Signing

Funding for 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.

In 2025, the Place Making Team finalised and submitted the Part 8 Planning Application for the Project which was approved in July. The Team also tendered for an Integrated Design Team to manage the detailed design and construction elements of the Project with contracts signed with a design Consultant in December.



Market Quarter and Cruises Street Public Realm – Visualisation on High Street, Limerick.

### The Limerick Laneways Programme

The Limerick Laneways Programme 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 Limerick Laneways project builds on the Limerick Laneways Toolkit and Guidance document, which was published in 2025, which was developed as part of the Call 1 Living Georgian City Programme. City centre Laneways are currently being 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. Concept designs have been developed for a priority laneway, Theatre Lane, through some initial engagement with local stakeholders and the scheme will be further developed with wider stakeholder engagement commencing in Quarter 1 2026.



Concept for Dalys Lane from Limerick Laneways Toolkit and Guidance Document

### Food Hub Market Quarter

Funding has been allocated through Call 2 Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the implementation of a Food Hub at the Milk Market. 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.

The search for an appropriate property for the development of a Food Hub, within close proximity to the Milk Market being a key priority for the Project, continued in 2025. This search will carry on into 2026.

### 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 Todds Bow, designed to support the local businesses, to make the streets more attractive and strengthening the links to the Milk Market.

The enhancements, funded by Limerick City and County Council, were the first step to a longer-term strategy of comprehensive public realm enhancements which will be implemented as part of the Market Quarter and Cruises Street Public Realm Project.

To build on the enhancements provided in 2024, in January, Limerick City and County Council installed festoon lighting on Cruises Street, Chapel Street and Todds Bow along with uplighters in the Todds Bow Archway, all of which created a vibrant atmosphere and improved the lighting quality on the streets.



Festoon Lighting Implemented in 2025 on Cruises Street, Todds Bow and Chapel Street

### Greening Georgian Limerick

The Greening Georgian Limerick Project aligns with the More Liveable (ML) Limerick Objective, ML72, of the Mayoral Programme. The main elements of the scheme consist of the detailed design, greening and public works for laneways and streets of Newtown Pery. As part of a pilot project for the objective, the Place Making Team are working on a concept for Davis Street which will be implemented in 2026. The overall Greening Georgian Limerick scheme is expected to progress to Part 8 in 2026, subject to provision of funding.

### Living Georgian City Programme

This project builds on the feasibility report that was developed on the Housing Demonstration Project as part of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) Call 1, Living Georgian City Programme. Funding of €10.07million has been allocated by the URDF for Call 2 of the Living Georgian City Programme for the development of two mixed-use housing projects at 58 O'Connell Street and 33/34 Thomas Street, Limerick. This initiative aims to renew vacant and underutilised stock, increase the level of residential use in the city, showcase the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient city, deliver compact growth, strengthen the economy through innovation, and enhance existing public amenity and heritage. This project consists of the following sub-projects:



**33/34 Thomas Street**

The works comprise the refurbishment and conversion of the Georgian property at No. 33 into five apartment units of differing sizes over five storeys (including basement), as well as the demolition of the existing structures at No. 34 and the development of a new five-story block comprising eight apartments and one commercial and one community unit at ground level, with an internal courtyard. Part 8 planning approval has been granted, Tenders were received in 2025 and PBC Ltd., Contractors will carry out the construction which will commence in 2026.

**58 O’Connell Street**

Remedial works to the roof of the building and painting of the front façade were carried out in 2025, supported by the Mayoral Fund.

**Limerick Wayfinding and Signage**

The Limerick Wayfinding and Signage project included the removal of unnecessary signage and the installation of 70 new pedestrian wayfinding and orientation signs in Limerick City Centre to include route markers, finger posts, and map totems. The project aimed to improve connectivity between key locations, promote walking in the city centre, and enhance visitor experience. The Limerick Wayfinding and Signage project is completed.



Limerick Wayfinding and Orientation Signage Map Totem



Finger Post Limerick Wayfinding and Signage



Route Marker Limerick Wayfinding and Signage

### Croom Square

The Croom Square Project comprises the revitalisation of the former Post Office building and public realm upgrades to the Town Square. Local Authority funding of €20,000 has been committed to the project in 2025.

In July LCCC submitted an application for Project Development Measures from the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Total funding of €50,000 was granted in December.

Limerick City and County Council are preparing Options for consultation to develop a brief for the project and define a future use for the former post office building. Limerick City and County Council has also appointed a local contractor to fully clean and paint the building with work set to commence in early 2026.



Croom Square Project Site

### Mungret Stage 3 Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) Road

The Mungret LIHAF Roads Project progressed in 2025 with preliminary design of the Stage 3 infrastructure incorporating a 700 metre road with bus lanes, on-street Electric Vehicle (EV) charging, pedestrian and cycle infrastructure. The route extends from the constructed Stage 2 road south to the R526 Patrickswell Road.

During 2025, design focus has been on the surface water and sustainable urban drainage solutions associated with the road, informed by extensive on-site groundwater/flow monitoring and ecological surveys.

It is planned to progress the Mungret LIHAF Stage 3 scheme to Planning in 2026.

The Mungret LIHAF scheme activates lands for potential development of circa 1900 housing units and mixed-use development. 2025 saw planning applications lodged for 169 units and a creche and preplanning discussions on a further 180 units and creche. Construction is also due to commence shortly on 250 units being progressed through the Land Development Agency.

### Abbeyfeale Public Realm Scheme

In 2025 design work has progressed on the Killarney Road Phase and the Grove Crescent Carpark Link.

There have been ongoing discussions regarding funding for the project with TII and Uisce Éireann as well as engagement with Local Elected Representatives. The main scheme is now divided into three phases, with demolition works having already taken place in 2024.



100 metre road between Main Street and Grove Crescent car park

Initial Contract-Construction of new 100 metre road between Main Street and Grove Crescent car park, upgrading and extension to Grove Crescent car park. Tender for these works was published with a tender deadline of 24 November. Limerick City and County Council plan to award this contract with works to commence early in 2026.

N21 Phase 1- Reconstruction of 440 metres of modified traffic lane widths on Killarney Road N21 with new footpaths and build outs. Revised design work will be undertaken early in 2026 to finalise tender documents, and it is hoped to commence this phase in 2026 following installation of new watermains by Uisce Éireann.

N21 Phase 2 (Main Street including Colbert Terrace). Uisce Éireann plan to replace the watermains in these two areas in 2026 while Limerick City and County Council will progress the detailed design in parallel. This phase includes reconstruction of 450 metres on Main Street, and Colbert Terrace. The project will provide new signalised junctions at Joys Corner and Colbert Terrace as well as two new pedestrian crossings and reallocated road space and parking.

### Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

The Tender for the completion of the Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road Project was awarded to Wills Bros Ltd in December 2024. The Works are being undertaken on the northwestern outskirts of Limerick City, linking the existing Coonagh Roundabout on the N18 to the Knockalisheen Road at a location close to the Limerick Clare County Boundary.

The Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road comprises the following: 2.2 kilometres (km) of new urban dual carriageway road with 2 x 7.0 metre wide carriageways, footways, cycleways, verges and embankment construction works, 0.6km of new urban single carriageway road providing a new link into Moyross with footways, cycleways and verges, 2.0km of major improvements to the existing Knockalisheen Road with footways, cycleways and verges, 1.0km of minor improvements to the existing Cratloe Road, two road over railway bridges- Ballygrennan Bridge and Ballynanty Bridge, three new roundabouts at Cratloe Road, Moyross Roundabout and Knockalisheen Road Roundabout.

Works commenced on site in January. Phase 1 of the project was completed in October which included the opening of the mainline dual carriageway from Coonagh Cross Roundabout to Cratloe Road Roundabout which facilitated the closure of Cratloe Road.

Significant Progress has been made on the construction of the Cratloe Road Roundabout, Moyross Roundabout and the Knockalisheen Road Roundabout.



Knockalisheen Road Roundabout



The newly constructed transformative Link Road into Moyross is nearing completion and due to open in Quarter 1 of 2026



Works has commenced on the installation of the foul and storm sewer on the Cratloe Road



Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road Scheme



Cratloe Road Roundabout



Moyross Roundabout



The Bridge Deck waterproofing of Ballygrennan Bridge has been completed with the remainder of Bridge works due for completion in Quarter 1 2026

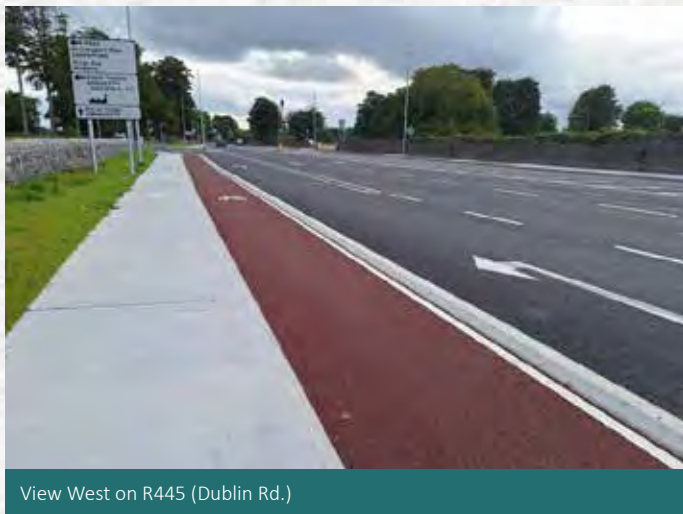
**Cappamore Junction Improvement Scheme**

In June the Cappamore Junction Improvement Scheme was completed ahead of programme by P and D Lydon Ltd.

The junction, where the R445 (Dublin Rd.) and R506 (Murroe Rd.) intersect, encounters significant challenges during peak hours due to the high number of people traveling to the National Technology Park, the University of Limerick at Plassey, and the Annacotty Business Park. This creates pressure on the surrounding infrastructure, leading to delays that extend to the M7 at Junction 28 (Mackey Roundabout). The situation raises safety concerns, as the potential for an incident at the M7 interchange is heightened.

The completed works improved connectivity between the R445 and R506 and addressed the traffic challenges, including reducing stacking on the M7 at Junction 28. By enhancing the infrastructure, the scheme created a more efficient and safer road network, reducing delays and the risk of accidents.

In addition to improving vehicle movement, the scheme incorporated active travel measures to promote sustainable transport options in the Annacotty area. These measures are designed to encourage a shift towards walking, cycling, and other sustainable modes of travel, ultimately reducing reliance on cars and easing pressure on the local road network.



View West on R445 (Dublin Rd.)



View South on R506 (Murroe Rd.)

**Bloodmill Road Extension Scheme**

In March the Bloodmill Road Extension Scheme was completed ahead of programme by Priority Construction Ltd.

The primary aim of the scheme was to realign the old sub-standard Bloodmill Road to link with the new developer provided urban road section to the east of the site. The scheme implemented improved Active Travel measures for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport to serve the new Educate Together Secondary School, the new Bon Secours private hospital, Medical Diagnostics Facility and the Lidl retail unit on surrounding zoned lands.

The scheme will encourage the uptake of more sustainable transport options by providing safer road infrastructure for vulnerable road users. It 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 road is also a significant element of the NTA BusConnects Project for Limerick City as it will be included under the Coonagh Cross/TUS to University of Limerick cross-city high frequency route. The old section of road was rural in nature and was the final link required in opening up the existing zoned lands to the east to current and future development potential.

**ACTIVE TRAVEL**

The Active Travel team, supported through funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA), has continued to build and expand Limerick’s cycling and pedestrian networks throughout 2025. As part of the National Transport Authority’s 2025 funding programme, €20.5 million was allocated to Limerick City and County Council’s Active Travel team to support the design, planning and construction of walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure across the city and county. The actual drawdown of funds from the National Transport Authority for 2025 was €25.7 million, as a result of a number of schemes progressing to construction and available funding from the NTA.

It’s estimated around 22km of Active Travel infrastructure in the city and county has been completed since the team was established in 2021. A further 24km (approx.) of Active Travel infrastructure is in the design process, with 10km (approx.) currently under construction.



Mill Road Active Travel Launch

## COMPLETED SCHEMES

### Mill Road Active Travel Scheme

The scheme was completed in Quarter 3 2025 and officially launched in November.

The Mill Road scheme delivered 1.4 kilometres of new infrastructure designed to improve safety and connectivity for residents, with a particular focus on pupils attending Scoil Íde and students of St. Munchin's College. The scheme comprised the delivery of a new offroad shared path, the installation of raised pedestrian crossings, and the implementation of a range of traffic calming measures along the route. In support of environmental sustainability and biodiversity objectives, the project also incorporated the planting of over 280 new trees within the scheme area.



Mill Road Active Travel Scheme

### R510 Raheen to Quinn's Cross Active Travel Scheme

The scheme was completed in Quarter 2 2025.

The project delivered new cycle tracks, upgraded footpaths and enhanced crossing facilities along the corridor between Raheen Roundabout and Quinn's Cross Roundabout, improving safety and accessibility for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users in the area. The works also included upgrade improvements to bus stops and side road junctions along the route, enhancing public transport integration and overall network functionality.

Landscaping formed a key component of the scheme, with more than 160 new trees planted as part of the works, supporting environmental sustainability and biodiversity objectives.

In addition, significant upgrade works to the area in front of St. Nessian's National School were completed in 2024 as part of the Safe Routes to School programme, contributing to improved safety and accessibility for pupils and the wider school community.



R510 Raheen to Quinn's Cross Active Travel Scheme

### Plassey Park Road Improvement Scheme

The scheme was completed in Quarter 1 2025.

The scheme encompassed works along Plassey Road and Plassey Park Road in Castletroy, within the National Technology Park and adjoining the University of Limerick. The project included the signalisation of the Plassey Road and Plassey Park Road junction and the Plassey Park Road and University Road junction, together with the delivery of dedicated bus lanes along both corridors and the provision of bus priority measures at each junction. The scheme also provided approximately 750 metres of dedicated cycle and pedestrian infrastructure, improving sustainable transport connectivity within the area.



Plassey Park Road Improvement Scheme



Plassey Park Road Improvement Scheme

### Safe Routes to School

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme launched in March 2021 and all schools in Ireland were invited to apply to take part. The programme is an initiative of the Department of Transport and supported by the Department of Education. It is operated by An Taisce in partnership with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and local authorities. The SRTS Programme is designed to encourage as many pupils and students as possible in primary and post-primary schools to walk, cycle and wheel.

### The following Safe Routes to School projects were delivered in 2025:

#### Scoil Mhuire Ma Rua National School

The project was completed in Quarter 4 2025

#### The works included:

- Enlarged build-out areas/footpaths adjacent to school gates
- Introduction of raised pedestrian crossing adjacent to school
- Introduction of two Blue Badge accessible parking spaces at front of school
- Reconfiguration of traffic flow around island junction to a one-way system
- New footpath all around island junction, and overall junction tightening, with two new controlled pedestrian crossings
- Widened footpath on western approach to junction, with accessible bus stop and shelter



Murroe SRTS

### Athea National School

The SRTS works in Athea included a range of measures designed to improve safety, accessibility and traffic management within the village, with a particular focus on the school environment.

#### Key elements of the scheme included:

- Introduction of traffic calming measures on the eastern approach to the village, including chicanes and buildouts
- Pedestrian safety and access upgrades, including the relocation of the pedestrian crossing closer to the school entrance
- Reconfiguration of parking and public transport facilities, including cemetery parking, bus bay and accessible parking
- Implementation of School Zone measures, including road markings, pencil bollards and public lighting adjustments

### St. Bridgid's National School

#### The SRTS works included:

- Installation of bollards for traffic calming
- Installation of planters to narrow the road for traffic calming
- Installation of signage restricting traffic to "local access only" during school operational times

Addition of a new pedestrian and cycling permeability link between Childers Road and St. Brigid's National School (NS), consisting of a gated entrance from Childers Road, and a shared footpath/cycle path connecting to the school grounds



St. Brigid's SRTS

### Towns and Villages Active Travel Programme

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 (€750,000 each).

The projects are then delivered through the Central Services, Traffic and Roads department (Roads, Traffic and Cleansing department).

**Towns and Villages Projects delivered in the following areas in 2025:**

**Metropolitan Municipal District – Towns and Villages:**

The works in the Metropolitan District included junction and road safety improvements, footpath improvements and new footpaths, permeability links. The Metropolitan roads crew maintain 18% of the county's roads.

- Rivers/Aisling Annacotty
- Grangewood, Newport Road
- Blackthorn Drive Caherdavin
- R445 Clare Street/Old Dublin Road
- R511 Roxborough
- Clarina village
- Patrickswell NS
- Church Road and Nessans Court, Raheen
- Oakview Drive Ballincurra

**Adare Rathkeale Municipal District – Towns and Villages**

- Askeaton Plunkett/Railway Road Link
- Rathkeale Connectivity - Colaiste na Trocaire and Holycross to Overbridge
- Lough National School to Woodlawn Connectivity

**Cappamore Kilmallock Municipal District – Towns and Villages**

- Ballyorgan
- Killeely to GAA Club L8503
- Cappamore R506
- Doon to Toomaline Road R505

**Newcastle West Municipal District – Towns and Villages**

- Feohanagh Village
- Strand Footpath Improvements
- Ballyagran Village Improvements

**Bus Stop Enhancement Programme**

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme and Wheelchair Accessibility Bus Stop Programme are designed to improve accessibility and comfort for public transport users across the city and county. As part of this programme, works have included:

- Installation of disability access kerbing for improved accessibility
- Creation of concrete hard-standing areas
- Upgraded road markings and paving
- Installation of new bus stop poles and signage
- Provision of bus shelters at key locations

Works were completed in the following locations: University of Limerick (UL), Mulcair Road, Avonmore Road, Ballyclough Avenue, Hyde Avenue, Kilbane, Castletroy Shopping Centre, Foynes, and Loghill.



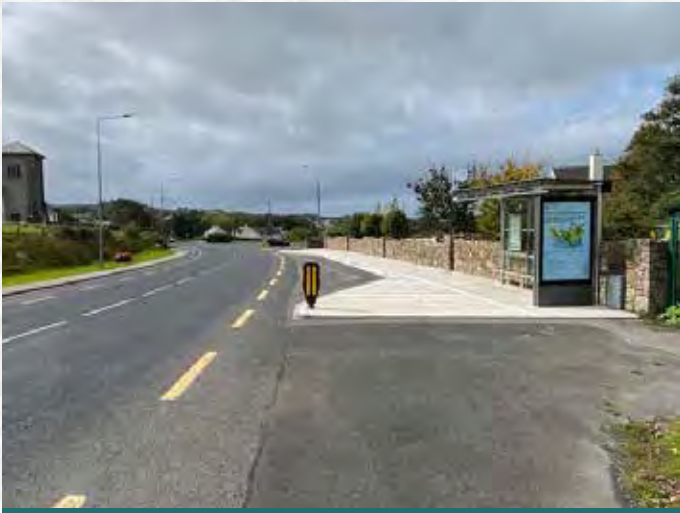
New bus shelter at University of Limerick



Bus stop enhancement at Golf Links Road



Bus shelter at the train station in Foynes



Loghill bus shelter



TUS to City Centre Active Travel Scheme

**SCHEMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

**TUS to City Centre Active Travel Scheme**

The works that commenced in May will deliver upgrades to footpaths and segregated cycle lanes along Cratloe Road, Sexton Street North and High Road, together with new crossing facilities. An inbound bus lane is planned on Cratloe Road from the Moylish Roundabout to Hassett’s Cross, alongside improvements to bus stops, side road junctions and resurfacing works along the route. Shared surface and new footpaths are being implemented in Belfield Gardens. The project also includes extensive landscaping and biodiversity measures, with plans for over 100 trees, native hedgerows, rain gardens and wildflower planting.



TUS to City Centre Active Travel Scheme

**Corbally Road Safe Routes to School**

The works commenced in October and will deliver approximately 400 metres of upgraded infrastructure from Scoil Íde to St. Munchin’s College, including a shared walk and cycle path on the Scoil Íde side of Corbally Road and a widened footpath on the Irish Estates side.

**Garryowen Pedestrian and School Safety Improvement Scheme**

The works commenced in November and will include five new pedestrian crossings, traffic calming build-outs, reconfigured one-way traffic flow at key locations, and new footpath construction, alongside improvements to bus stops and junctions.

**Schemes under development:**

**Safe Routes to Schools – Round 4**

In December, six more schools were added to the programme for 2026.

**The schools added to the SRTS Programme are:**

- Corpus Christi Primary School
- St. Mary’s NS
- Scoil Na Trocaire, Doon
- Ahane NS
- St. Joseph’s Boys National School, Rathkeale
- St. Michael’s Infant School.

**South Circular Road Active Travel Scheme**

The tender for the scheme that will link Dooradoyle to city centre via South Circular Road was published in December following Part 8 approval in February 2023 and extensive engagement with stakeholders.

**St. Paul’s to Ballykeefe Active Travel Scheme**

Tender process to appoint a contractor completed in 2025.

**Castletroy Urban Greenway to National Technology Park (Holland Road, Castletroy)**

Part 8 design progressed on foot of non-statutory public consultation process.

### **Castletroy Link Road**

Planning permission for the Castletroy Link Road was granted by An Coimisiún Pleanála. The project will progress to the next stage, subject to securing the necessary funding allocation.

### **Wickham Street to Clare Street**

It is anticipated a Part 8 planning application will be submitted in 2026.

University of Limerick (UL) to National Technology Park (NTP) Active Travel Limerick submitted an application to An Coimisiún Pleanála seeking approval for the proposed Limerick City Greenway (UL to NTP). The scheme begins west of the existing River Groody Bridge and extends for approximately 3.3 km to McLaughlan Road, where it transitions into segregated footpaths and cycleways as part of the Active Travel network.

### **Roxboro Road**

Statutory processes anticipated in 2026.

### **Ennis Road**

Statutory processes anticipated in 2026.

### **Limerick's Three Pedestrian Bridges**

Plans for three new pedestrian bridges were progressed by issuing a tender for consultancy services for the design. These bridges - Shannon Active Travel Bridge, Abbey Bridge, and Sylvester O'Halloran Bridge - form part of a wider initiative to improve connectivity across Limerick, creating safe and scenic walking and cycling links between parks, neighbourhoods, and public spaces.

### **Old Cratloe Road Active Travel Scheme**

Section 38 process completed in Quarter 4. Works are anticipated to start in Quarter 1 2026.

### **Minor connectivity works**

As well as developing new schemes, the Active Travel team continued to audit existing infrastructure to identify gaps in the network and progress minor connectivity works. In 2025, two projects advanced through the Section 38 process: cycle lane demarcation along Condell Road and proposed upgrades at Hyde Road Park, including new road markings, tactile paving, shared pathways, extensions to existing cycle lanes, bus stop relocation, and conversion of crossings to toucan crossings. Further stages of these projects are anticipated in 2026.

### **Other Active Travel projects:**

#### **Russell Court Quietway**

Russell Court Quietway links the existing Father Russell Road Scheme with St. Nessian's Road. The works included improved access for pedestrians and cyclists, including shared surfaces and improved landscaping.

### **Patrickswell National School Safe Routes to School**

The Active Travel team played a key role in design and planning stages, including statutory processes, to facilitate delivery of the scheme.

### **Active Travel Interactive Map**

In March, the Active Travel team launched a new interactive digital map on Limerick.ie, providing the public with a single platform to track the progress of walking, wheeling and cycling projects across Limerick city and county. For the first time, the map displays the full cycle network, approximately 104 km in the city and 41 km in the county, as well as works in progress and approved schemes. The map is a continuously updated resource that supports journey planning and transparency by showing completed and upcoming projects, Safe Routes to School works, bus shelter upgrades, bike parking locations and air quality monitoring sites.

### **NetZero Cities**

Limerick was selected as one of 24 European cities to be awarded Twin City status under the EU Horizon NetZero Cities initiative – a programme designed to support cities across Europe in achieving climate neutrality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Limerick City and County Council's successful application was led by the Active Travel department, with support from colleagues across the Transportation and Mobility Directorate, the Climate Action team, and Limerick's Citizen Innovation Lab. Limerick was twinned with Tampere, Finland, a city focusing on increasing sustainable transport modes to account for 69% of all mobility choices by 2030 through investment in cycling and public transport infrastructure. The partnership was established under the theme "Mobility Mindshift – Codesigning a Mindshift for Sustainable Mobility" and was designed to support an 18 month programme of collaboration and best practice exchange.

A delegation from Limerick's Active Travel team visited Tampere in May to share experiences and approaches to sustainable urban mobility and climate neutral transport planning. This was followed by a reciprocal visit from the Tampere delegation to Limerick in October, during which Council teams, community representatives and local stakeholders participated in meetings, presentations and workshops. These sessions focused on behavioural science, communications, and the design of inclusive, people centred walking and wheeling infrastructure, supporting knowledge transfer and strengthening collaborative approaches to sustainable mobility in both cities.



NetZero Cities visit to Tampere



NetZero Cities in Limerick



NetZero Cities visit to Tampere



Masterplan for Walking

### Active Travel Workshop

Active Travel hosted a workshop in June focused on European standards and best practices in Active Travel, alongside an overview of various Irish projects. Attendees included staff from Active Travel, Transport Strategy, Operations and Municipal Districts. The event featured presentations, a site visit and case study workshops to encourage knowledge sharing and idea development.

### Master Plan for Walking

Limerick Active Travel organised a drop-in workshop in the Citizen Innovation Lab to gather personal experiences of walking and wheeling in Limerick. By engaging directly and listening to peoples lived experiences we aim to identify and rectify the pain points and missing links in the network. 79 issues were mapped and 70 global issues were raised in the first workshop, with follow-up actions emerging: a thematic analysis of findings followed by scoring and prioritisation of issues will take place next; followed by further direct engagement with disability groups. Adopting an agile approach will ensure the most important issues are the first to be addressed.

### Transport and Mobility Forum (TMF)

Active Travel Limerick facilitated the inaugural meeting of the Limerick Transport and Mobility Forum (TMF). The event was organised with support from the Cork TMF and

brought together a diverse group of stakeholders committed to improving mobility options across Limerick. TMF is a network of organisations with a common goal to promote and enable sustainable and active travel. Its mission is to improve accessibility, influence policy, and promote the modal shift to sustainable travel alternatives.

### Integration of Active Travel Programme with Emergency Services – Integration and Impact Assessment Study

Following the passing of a Notice of Motion in December 2024, Active Travel commissioned a study to consider the impact of active travel infrastructure on emergency services response times. The study was carried out by the independent consultant Egis and presented to the Councillors of the Metropolitan District in November.

### Active Travel Measures 2025 (City Environs and County)

Following on from the significant additional expenditure allocated to Limerick in 2021, further Active Travel projects, including Footway Construction, junction tightening and permeability measures, valuing over €3million were delivered in 2025 through the District Engineering teams completed throughout the City and County.



Footpath works at Ballyagran Village



Oakview Pedestrian Permeability Improvement Scheme



Active Travel Project near Loughill school



Active Travel Scheme Works Ballyorgan

### Active Travel Measures 2025 (Newcastle West)

Active Travel Programme National Transport Authority  
The villages of Strand, Feohanagh and Ballyagran benefited from funding under this scheme in 2025 with the projects being progressed by the Newcastle West Roads Department. The works involved the construction of new footpaths which linked different areas of the villages to the core amenities and services such as shops, churches, schools and so on.

### Outreach events

In September Active Travel Limerick took part in Freshers Week events in University of Limerick (UL), Mary Immaculate College (MIC) and Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) to inform the students and staff of the new sustainable travel infrastructure delivered by Limerick City and County Council and to conduct a travel survey among the students.



Active Travel Team at Freshers Week in UL

## MID WEST NATIONAL ROAD DESIGN OFFICE (MWNRO)

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 planning, design and construction of new roads and road improvement schemes, greenways, 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 thus implementing the European Union TEN-T (Trans-European Network - Transport) Regulation requirement for a Core Network Route to Shannon-Foynes Port by 2030.

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 (Heavy Goods Vehicle) HGV 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 2025, the Mid-West National Road Design Office continued to oversee the implementation of many advance/enabling works contracts for civil works, utilities diversions, ground and archaeological investigations across the full extent of the project lands.

Along with the forgoing contracts, the construction of two notable advance/enabling works contracts continued during 2025.

#### Irish Rail Bridges

A Contract to construct the three rail bridges necessary to facilitate the project was completed in late 2025. Construction commenced on the first of the bridges in July 2024 and the third and final bridge was completed in late 2025. Two of the three bridges are located on the Adare

Bypass, and they were completed first in order to facilitate construction of the Bypass.

#### Adare Bypass



Croagh Junction, with Croagh Link Road connecting to the Existing N21 in the background.



Foynes to Limerick Railway, Railbridge RB02 – Gortnagrour Adare

The Adare Bypass forms part of the overall Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass). The key features of the Adare Bypass include 7km of new motorway construction between the Adare and Croagh termini, two grade separated junctions at Adare and Croagh, a 200metre long 3-span bridge with a central span of approximately 95metre's over the river Maigue, over 20 major structures including bridges, underpasses and culverts. The Adare Bypass also includes the construction of two rail bridges over the Foynes to Limerick Rail Line, which were earmarked for early delivery to facilitate the extensive earthworks required for the Scheme.

The Adare Bypass Design and Construction Contract was awarded to Sisk Sorensen Joint Venture (SSJV) in December 2024. Construction commenced in January 2025, and the contract completion is scheduled for June 2027 ahead of the Ryder Cup.

Upon commencement of the Adare Bypass the SSJV built on the success delivery of several enabling works packages implemented throughout 2024, comprising of archaeology resolution, site investigation, civil enabling, topographical, ecological and environmental compliance. These enabling works contracts allowed the SSJV to commence earthworks immediately and avail of the fine weather experienced in the spring and summer of 2025.

Some key milestones have been achieved since construction commenced in January, most notably, the completion of two rail bridges (RB02 and RB03) and the completion of Croagh Roundabout. Earthworks are currently at 90% completion, and all major structures are advancing well with the first beams being placed on two bridges, M21-C3 over the Clonshire river and at underbridge UB07 over local road-L8025 at the end of November. The bridge deck at UB07 was subsequently poured prior to Christmas. Drainage works are progressing on several fronts across the scheme and will continue throughout the winter period. The steel girders for the River Maigue Crossing are being manufactured by bridge specialists ‘Cimolai’ in Italy, with fabrication at 65% completion towards year end. The contractor continues to process site won aggregates in preparation for paving activities which are due to commence in Quarter 2 2026. Landscape planting also commenced within the 2025 planting season. Further information is available at [www.adarebypass.ie](http://www.adarebypass.ie)



Beam installation complete at River Bridge M21-C3, over the Clonshire River and at underbridge UB07 over Local Road-L8025 in the background.

In November 2025, Jacobs Engineering Ireland Ltd. were appointed to provide technical advisory services to assist the Council in the delivery of the remaining sections of the project. The project must be fully constructed by 2030 in order to comply with European Union (EU) TEN-T Regulations.

### N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project

Limerick City and County Council is progressing the development of the N/M20 Cork to Limerick project in partnership with Cork County Council, Cork City Council, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the Department of Transport. The project is a priority investment in the Government’s National Development Plan 2021-2030.

The latest project update was published on the 16 June 2024 to inform and consult with the public and stakeholders. Public Display events were held in Charleville, Adare and Mallow on the 17 to 19 of June.

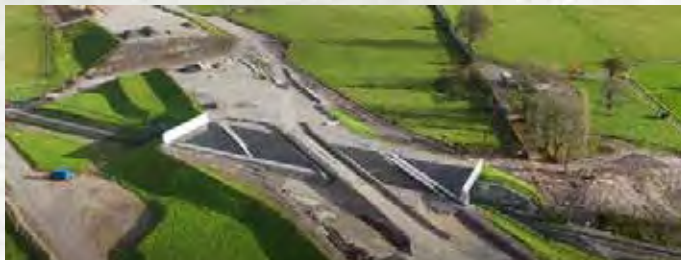
The N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project will facilitate economic development through improved connectivity between Ireland’s second and third largest cities and along the Atlantic Corridor to Galway and deliver substantial community, business and environmental gains along the route through the significant reduction of traffic volumes and the elimination of traffic congestion.

It will provide safer, shorter and more reliable journey times between Blarney and Patrickswell:

- 40 minutes for cars and light goods vehicles (120 km/h)
- 45 minutes for Buses (100km/h)
- 50 minutes for HGVs (90km/h)

The project will include one of Ireland’s largest Active Travel Network creating safe and inclusive walking and cycling options for all users, connecting the communities of Blarney, Rathduff, Mourneabbey, Mallow, New Twopothouse, Buttevant, Charleville, Banogue, Croom and Patrickswell.

Seven Transport Hubs along the route at Rathduff, Mourneabbey, Mallow, Buttevant, Charleville, Bruree and Croom will provide charging points for electric vehicles and encourage car sharing and travel mode change to active travel and public transport. A freight hub at Mallow will facilitate safe, secure parking and rest areas for HGV drivers and provide charging points to encourage the transition towards zero emission HGVs and buses.



Foynes to Limerick Railway, Railbridge RB03 – Ardshanbally Adare



Aerial View of the River Maigue Bridge (RVB04) looking west



View of Eastern Central Piers of River Maigue Bridge (RVB04) looking west. Note plinths cast on top in preparation for steel girder placement in Quarter 2 2026.

A multidisciplinary team has informed the design on matters such as aquatic ecology, archaeology, architectural heritage and biodiversity. Following an assessment of the impact the project will have on the existing environment; the biodiversity value of replacement and additional planting will be maximised. Thousands of acres will be planted with native tree species, bushes, hedgerows, shrubs and grasslands.

During 2025 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 Unmanned Ariel Vehicle (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 information available at [www.corklimerick.ie](http://www.corklimerick.ie).

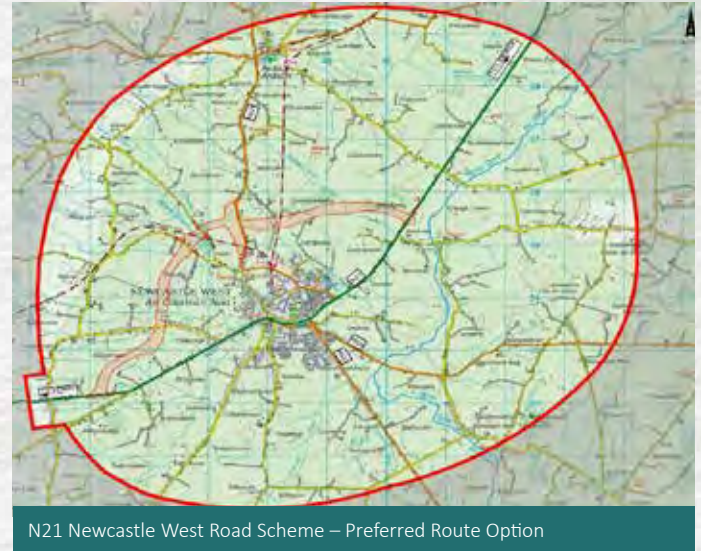
**N21 Abbeyfeale and N21 Newcastle West Road Schemes**

In 2025, Limerick City and County Council, in consultation with TII, progressed through Phase 3 of TII’s Project Management Guidelines which covers design and preparation of statutory documents.

The design and environmental evaluation are now nearing completion and include additional design requirements identified through consultations with affected landowners since the design update in March.



This design update presented the proposed mainline alignment, side road realignments and junction layouts, along with details on whether sections of the road will be in cut or on fill. It also outlined proposed access arrangements, material deposition areas, watercourse diversions and the location of drainage ponds and other related infrastructure. Further information on these projects is available at [www.N21Abbeyfeale.ie](http://www.N21Abbeyfeale.ie) and [www.N21Newcastlewest.ie](http://www.N21Newcastlewest.ie)



**ROAD IMPROVEMENT/ REALIGNMENT**

**N20 O’Rourke’s Cross Road Improvement Scheme**

A new roundabout-controlled junction is proposed to be constructed requiring changes to the existing junction layout, and the construction of new N20 approaches, and modifications to the existing R518 approaches at N20 O’Rourke’s Cross.

Following a second oral hearing, in October 2024 regarding the N20 O’Rourke’s Cross Compulsory Purchase Order 2020 (CPO), An Coimisiún Pleanála confirmed the compulsory purchase order (CPO) in May 2025 to acquire the land needed for the road development. In July, a judicial review application against the CPO confirmation. The hearing date for this judicial review has not yet been set and is expected in 2026.





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 2026.

**Road Safety Audit**

The MWNRDO continued to undertake road safety audits on behalf of local authorities in the region during 2025. The road safety audit is undertaken to identify potential safety issues within a scheme design or construction as they could affect road users.

**GREENWAY PROJECTS**

**University of Limerick (UL) to Montpellier**

Following the publication of a network of possible route options in late 2023, the project consultants, (AtkinsRealis), 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.

Ongoing stakeholder engagement is taking place to further develop the emerging preferred route.

This project is currently in Phase 2 (Options Selection).

**Rathkeale to Limerick Greenway**

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 the greenway within the existing railway corridor and

adjacent 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 was run on eTenders during the summer of 2025 to appoint Technical Consultants to examine and appraise potential route corridors for the greenway between Limerick and Rathkeale.

MWNRDO completed the Tender evaluation process for the appointment of Technical Consultants for Phase 1 to Phase 4 of the Limerick to Rathkeale Greenway and requested TII approval. On the 08 September TII replied "However please note that TII are not currently in a position to approve the appointment of the consultant for the consultancy Services for the Rathkeale to Limerick Greenway as a review of the 2026 Greenway funding is currently under review. Funding for 2026 is currently unknown but indications to date from the Department of Transport is that funding for Greenways will be limited in 2026."

Following a query to TII on the 22 December they replied "lease note that TII are not in a position to approve the appointment of the technical consultants for the Rathkeale to Limerick Greenway. Alternative options for the delivery of an Active Travel facility along the R526 regional road from Patrickswell to Limerick City will need to be explored with all the relevant parties."

**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.

### Ennis to Limerick Greenway

MWNRDO completed the Phase 0 (Scope and Pre-Appraisal) TII Gate Review Statement for Clare County Council. Clare County Council submitted the Phase 0 (Scope and Pre-Appraisal) TII Gate Review Statement to TII on the 25 April.

Since this the TII have not responded to either Clare County Council or MWNRDO about this Scheme.

### OTHER MWNRDO PROJECTS IN THE REGION:

#### N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Improvement Scheme

During 2025, 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.

The Design and Environmental Evaluation stage of the scheme (Phase 3) continued throughout 2025. This involved further development of the scheme, including design of the road and active travel components, liaison with stakeholders, identifying the land take required and the preparation of the environmental impact assessment report. The final Phase 3 Deliverables awaits TII approval to publish.

#### N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction Project

During 2025, 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 and Oola Transport 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 May 2025, Design Update No. 3 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 and a 2 day public display event at Ballykisteen Great National Hotel.

The Design and Environmental Evaluation stage of the project (Phase 3) continued throughout 2025. 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.

### N67/N85 Ennistymon Inner Relief Road (Blake's Corner)

During 2025, the Midwest National Road Design Office assisted Clare County Council to progress the planning and design for the N67/N85 Ennistymon Inner Relief Road (Blake's Corner) project.

The inner relief road will deliver significant safety benefits to the local area and is designed to address long-standing traffic congestion at Blake's Corner, a key junction in the town. The scheme includes the construction of a new bridge upstream of the Michael Conway Bridge, pedestrianisation of the existing bridge, and significant public realm improvements.

In October the High Court dismissed an application for leave to bring a judicial review challenge against the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the inner relief road. The applicant submitted an application to the High Court appealing this decision. Prior to a court hearing a settlement was reached between the applicant and Clare County Council and the leave to appeal application to the High Court was withdrawn. The scheme is scheduled to progress to enabling and Procurement (Phase 5) in 2026.

### Pavement Renewal

During 2025, the Mid West National Road Design Office assisted Tipperary County Council in awarding the Contract for the Construction of the N75 Liberty Square to Anner Hotel Pavement Improvement Scheme. The scheme included 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.

### 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 (Ireland's national bridge management system) 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 4-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 works orders are prepared for each year. The contract also deals with reactive and emergency repairs. 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. Scour is an ever increasing issue, below is a photograph from work to stabilise an embankment and bridge abutments after flooding in Kerry.

A Task Order is a specific, actionable and legal request for services issued under an existing contract. It defines the scope of work, timeline and deliverables for a particular project allowing agencies to quickly procure services without creating a new contract.



Embankment and Bridge Abutment Sytabilisation following flooding

**Task Order 338**

This task order involves bridges in County Kerry on the N22, N70, N71 and N86. The design works are nearly complete to replace four bridges, strengthen one bridge and rehabilitate three bridges. The task order has been on going throughout the year, work completed includes topo, Structural investigation, geotechnical investigations, section 50 applications, environmental screening and preliminary design. All landowners affected by the scheme have been met and verbal agreements to purchase lands are in place. Detailed design was 95% completed and the tender documents are 75% complete.

**Task Order 352- Principal Inspection and Inventory Gathering of Munster Bridges 2025**

This Task Order involved the undertaking of Inventory Gathering and Principal Inspections on 340 Bridge Structures in Munster. All inspections are completed except for special access and CCTV inspections.

**Laune Bridge**

Laune Bridge underwent significant refurbishment. Most of the bridge required repointing. Concrete repair works were required to the scour apron and skirts around the east abutment and pier 7. The Cutwater at piers 3 and 4 underwent complete reconstruction. Cement grouting below the base of piers 4, 5, 6 and 7 and into the piers to strengthen and prevent further settlement. Complete replacement of the rock armour around the piers and abutments. We also installed new architectural lighting and standard roadside lighting. Below is a photograph of the dewatering around piers 4 to 7 in order for work to commence.



Refurbishment Works on Laune Bridge

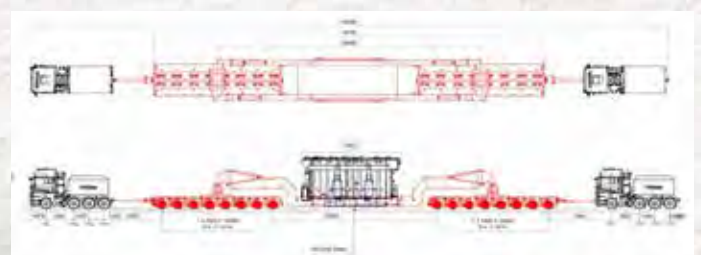
**STRUCTURES**

**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 super loads 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.



Schematic of 300T load

## CATCHMENT FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT (CFRAMS)

### CFRAMS PROJECTS

#### King's Island Flood Relief Scheme

King's Island Flood Relief Scheme is a €32million project designed to protect 506 residential and 22 non-residential properties from flooding. Construction commenced in November 2024 and throughout 2025, significant progress has been made across all works locations. The scheme will deliver 2.2kilometres (km) of flood embankments and the construction and upgrade of almost 2km of flood defence walls.

#### Key Achievements in 2025 across the works areas:

- Area A1- Raising of the quay wall in Verdant Place and repointing on river side
- Area A2- New stepped access for fishing with reinforced concrete wall with stone cladding
- Areas A3, A4, A5 importation of core materials and construction of earthworks embankments around St Marys Park
- Areas A6- Major progress on construction of new flood wall at Athlunkard Boat Club
- Area A7- Sir Harrys Mall. Temporary roundabout at the Absolute Hotel which facilitates traffic management during the works. Phase 1 of the piling for the new quay wall completed.
- Area A10- Former Gaelscoil site. Archaeological excavation undertaken uncovering a medieval wall and further excavation planned for early 2026
- Area B1/B2-Georges Quay, initial trial holing works have been completed, diversion of existing watermain and drilling of rock anchors commenced
- Area B3- Civic Offices, courthouse up to King Johns Castle. Early in 2025 the archaeological excavation uncovered 36 human remains. Civil Engineering works in this area that have been completed include piling and excavation of tidal tanks A and B, removal of the cantilever deck at Courthouse, piling around the Courthouse, pointing of quay walls as well as preliminary service installation works

Additionally, Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) funding approval was secured for public realm works associated with the scheme.

2026 will see works progress in all areas of the project including completion of piling, construction of new flood wall along Sir Harrys Mall, Georges Quay and at the courthouse and Civic offices. There will also be significant public realm upgrades taking place with the installation of new paving along the south of Kings Island. In 2026 the project works

will include completion of the flood embankments in St Marys Park including construction of the 3metre wide shared footpath cycle way to create a valuable new amenity for the community.



Archaeological Excavation at Merchant's Quay



Archaeology



Embankment St. Marys Park



Athlunkard Boat Club



Piling at Civic offices



Steelfixing in Tidal Tank B



Tidal tank A



Tidal Tank B excavation

### Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme

In November 2025, Planning approval was received from An Coimisiún Pleanála. This followed detailed responses to submissions made on the application from statutory consultees and members of the public.

Landowner engagement continued throughout 2025 with several agreements now significantly advanced. Further site investigation and survey works were completed in 2025 to inform detailed design.

Looking ahead, 2026 will focus on developing the detailed design, enabling the progression of the scheme to construction in 2027.

### Adare Flood Relief Scheme

In 2025, the options report, associated technical assessments and Risk to Life Memos were concluded with a formal submission made to the Office Public Works (OPW) (Project Sanctioning Authority) in September to progress the preferred option.

In parallel, planning documentation is being prepared to ensure milestone dates are achieved. Subject to OPW approvals, the scheme will be lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála in 2026.

Additionally, a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) application was submitted to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) to secure all necessary advance consents are in place prior to lodging the planning application.

### Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

In 2025, development of multiple options across the 13 scheme appraisal areas continued.

Technical Assessments of the Options were also commenced with Multi Criteria Assessments of the established options and the Benefit Cost Analysis of the options also progressed through 2025 with several workshops undertaken. These assessments are informed by the ongoing geotechnical and ecological assessments being undertaken within the scheme area.

Public Realm proposals were progressed through 2025 in tandem with the Options development to establish potential for public realm enhancements to be delivered with the flood defence options.

Significant stakeholder engagements progressed through 2025 which informed deliverable options in some private ownerships. Wider public consultation will progress through 2026 where several public consultation events will be scheduled to seek the input of the public on the options and the emerging preferred options.

Stakeholder engagement continued throughout 2025 to identify and agree required accommodation works ahead of land acquisitions and agreements.

### **Athea Flood Relief Scheme**

In 2025, the options report, associated technical assessments and Risk to Life Memo were concluded with a formal submission made to OPW (Project Sanctioning Authority) in August 2025 to progress the preferred option.

In parallel, planning documentation is being prepared to ensure milestone dates are achieved. Subject to OPW approvals, the scheme will be lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála in 2026.

Ecological surveys and invasive species management continued throughout 2025.

## **CENTRAL SERVICES, TRAFFIC AND ROADS**

The Central Services, Traffic and Roads Department (CTR) 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 4,000kilomtres (km) of the county and city public road network.

Improvements are delivered through the four Municipal District Offices and our Central Services Team based in County Hall. The CTR 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 CTR 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 on-street parking in Limerick City and provides support to developments, events and new infrastructure. The Traffic Section co-ordinates the

control and management of traffic and parking within the city. This work includes the design, installation and maintenance of traffic signals, traffic signs and road markings. One of the aims of the Traffic Section is to provide safe and efficient traffic movement within the city. This is achieved by traffic management plans, provision of on-street parking, parking enforcement, and managing statutory procedures such as road closures and traffic diversions to facilitate road works, the upgrading of underground utility services or the holding of special events such as races, carnivals, parades, and so on.

The Traffic Section is responsible for enforcement of parking byelaws and national legislation on the City and Environs' streets. On street parking charges can be paid by either displaying a physical disc on the vehicle or by using the Limerick e-Parking app. Enforcement of the parking byelaws and the traffic regulations is carried out by Traffic Wardens employed by Limerick City and County Council, contravention of Limerick City and County Council Parking Byelaws or Regulations can result in the issuing of Fixed Charge Penalty Notices (FCPNs). School Wardens provide supervised crossings at national schools and busy junctions during school terms.

The Cleansing Section is responsible for street cleaning and public realm washing, litter bins and road sweeping. In 2025 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 €35.8million of expenditure on Roads related projects in 2025.



As part of the estate taking-in-charge scheme, unsafe sections of the footpath in Meadows, Corbally were replaced to improve pedestrian safety



Upgrade works were carried out on Shannonvale footpath facilities, with unsafe sections replaced to enhance safety



Mount Kenneth Road resurfacing scheme involving a macadam overlay, delivered as part of the multi-annual road resurfacing programme



Oakview Pedestrian Permeability Improvement Scheme, enhancing connectivity between Ballinacurra Avenue and Oakview Estate with upgraded pedestrian facilities



Clonnanna Surface Dressing Improvement resurfacing scheme involving a double surface dressing, delivered as part of the multi-annual road resurfacing programme



Old Clare Street Footpath Upgrade Works, where unsafe sections of the footpath were replaced to enhance pedestrian safety

## NON-NATIONAL ROADS PROGRAMME 2025

### Restoration Improvement (Local and Regional Roads) Expenditure of €15.2million

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 2025, €15.2million (including €0.75million on former National Roads) was expended on Restoration Improvement schemes throughout the County improving approx. 2% of the road network. This provides for a one in 50-year treatment cycle.



Mount Kenneth Road resurfacing



R516 Crean Cross Resurfacing

**Restoration Maintenance (Local and Regional Roads) – Expenditure of €2.9million**

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 2025 €2.9million was expended on Restoration Maintenance Schemes which improving approximately 3% of the network providing for a network maintenance rate of one in 34 years.



Surface Dressing Works Kiltteery Pier



Surface Dressing Works Clonnanna

**MINOR PUBLIC ROADS**

**Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) 2025 Department of Transport Grant – Expenditure of €452,050**

In 2025 17 schemes were completed costing an average of €26,592. 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) 2025 Private Roads Department of Rural and Community (DCRD) Grant – Expenditure of €1.4million**

As a result of funding in 2025, 21 schemes were completed at an average cost of €67,142 under this programme with grant aid from the Department of Community and Rural Development.

**Bridge Rehabilitation Expenditure 2025: Expenditure of €885,800**

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, LCCC typically repair 10 bridges per annum. In 2025 13 bridges were refurbished.



Structure A - L80001 Coolattin Bridge



Structure B – R505 Toomaline Upper Bridge

## FLEET MANAGEMENT AND 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 2025

The Fleet Management team supports all the operational sections in the Council with a significant portion associated with Roads Traffic and Cleansing.

CTR tendered for the supply of Plant, Machinery and Vehicles in 2025 at a budget allocation of €859,000 funded from LCCC own resource budgets. The list of plant added to the fleet in 2025 is listed below;

1. Mayoral Funded Compact Sweeper for Metro Roads
2. Office of Government Procurement (OGP) Supplied Three Axled Tipper for the Surface Dressing Fleet (In Build)
3. New Dog warden vehicle For Environment
4. FL700 Replacement Gritter for the Metro Route 14
5. New 10 Tonne Plant truck for the Parks dept (In Build)
6. New Mobile Welfare Unit for Cappamore Killmallock Roads
7. FL696 Replacement Gritter for Route 12
8. FL514 New Bitumen Sprayer for the Surface Dressing Fleet

In addition, a further €486,000 of department funding has been approved for the supply of two number salt gritting trucks to be supplied in 2026.



Mobile Welfare Unit



New Bitumen Sprayer

### National Roads Expenditure 2025

- National Primary and National Secondary Geo Apps Total Spend €108,200
- HD28 (National Road Safety Resurfacing Works), National Primary and National Secondary Total spend €593,056
- Emergency Pavement Maintenance works N24 and N21. Total Spend €755,416
- National Primary /National Secondary Ordinary Maintenance (Hedge Cutting) Total Spend €117,574
- Road Safety Improvement and Fencing is €60,824
- Ordinary maintenance €149,000 on National Primary, €37,000 on National Secondary



Mayoral Funded Road Sweeper



FL700 Replacement Gritter



Abbeyfeale Western Approach Resurfacing



Barnagh Resurfacing



Salt loading Operation

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS**

**Municipal District of Cappamore Kilmallock**

The Cappamore Kilmallock roads crew maintains 32% of the county’s roads.

**Road Grant Funding**

**Regional and Local Roads**

Road expenditure programs included:

- Surface Dressing works of 35 kilometres of road network carried out at a cost of €1,007,300
- Road Reconstruction works of 25 kilometres of road network carried out at a cost of €3,889,975
- Road Reconstruction works on R516 at Crean’s Cross, Bruff, R662 at Castlecreagh Junction, Galbally and L1123 at Annagh Cross, Murroe under Junction and Bend funding at a cost of €118,000
- Road Reconstruction works on R663 Kilbehenny at a cost of €355,000 under Former National Roads Grant
- Eight Drainage Improvement Schemes on three Regional Roads and five Local Roads carried out at a cost of €180,000
- Climate Change Adaption and Resilience Works on the R513 in Caherconlish, on L1127 in Farnane, Cappamore and on L1525 in Angelsboro at a cost of €205,000
- Low-Cost Safety Scheme works on the R513 Rathjordan, Herbertstown on the R506 Five Cross Roads, Murroe on the R512 Ballinastona, Bruff and on L1413 Tankardstown Junction, Bruff at a cost of €180,000
- Road Reconstruction of eight private passages under Local Improvement Scheme funding at a cost of €551,545
- Fourteen scheme works undertaken under Community Involvement Scheme funding at a cost of €299,500 including the road reconstruction of five number cul de sac roads
- General Maintenance Safety Works consisting of road stud installation, sightline improvement works at junctions and road markings at a cost of €55,000
- Winter maintenance on the N20 and N24 (TII funded) and Regional Roads (Department of Transport funded)

**Active Travel Scheme Funding – Cappamore Kilmallock**

Four schemes were completed under the Towns and Villages Active Travel programme at Ballyorgan, Killeely, Cappamore and Doon at a cost of €750,000

**Severe Weather Response**

The CTR department responded to several severe weather events in 2025 in addition to its seasonal winter maintenance salting operations which operates from October to April annually.

In January, LCCC experienced two separate extreme weather events, requiring a significant response by department staff. The snow event in early January resulted in an ongoing and prolonged response over the course of a week with the west of the county worse impacted and required significant resources and effort by roads staff to clear roads and provide access to vulnerable persons. Following the response to the snow event, storm Eowyn hit Limerick at the end of January and resulted in considerable wind damage county wide and resulted in a large-scale cleanup operation by the CTR department.



Snow Clearing Operation West Limerick NCW MD



Surface Dressing Scheme Works on R511 Meanus



Restoration Improvement Scheme Works on L1413 Bruff



Road Reconstruction Works R516 Crean Cross



Drainage Scheme Works on R513 Knocklong



Climate Adaption and Resilience Scheme Works on L1525 Angelsboro



Low Cost Safety Scheme Works on R513 Rathjordan Herbertstown



General Maintenance Safety Scheme Works R511



GMA Works R513 Knocklong

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST**

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2025 were financed by way of Government grants and the Council’s own resources. The Newcastle West roads crew maintains 26% of the county’s roads.

Road expenditure programmes during 2025 included:

- Road surface dressing of 34km of roadway to the value of € 810,000
- Road reconstruction works of 28km to the value of € 3,175,000
- Road overlays at Ardagh village, Tournafulla Village, and Glin Village
- Bridge rehabilitation works at L3030 Sugarhill, Templeglentine
- Low-cost safety improvement works at R522/L7027 Clonmore, Dromcollogher and R523/L6080 Knockfinish, Athea.
- Major drainage improvements at Hill Road, Abbeyfeale, Monagea, R522 Dromcollogher Road 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 the year
- Local Improvement Schemes - five schemes completed to the value of €202,000
- Climate Action Schemes – Schemes at Monagea, Castlemahon village. The total spend was €100,000
- Further improvements were carried out to the Top Yard, Newcastle West, and Doonakenna Depots. A new concrete yard was installed in pound depot, Newcastle West, while an upgrade of other depots is planned for 2026.
- The district dealt with a number of weather events in 2025 including the major snow event in January which resulted in the roads crews being on the ground clearing and salting roads.
- The installation of the Christmas Lights in Newcastle West town were managed by the District Office in December 2025.

Three schemes were completed under Active Travel Towns and Villages programme in Feohanagh Village, Strand Footpath Improvements and Ballyagran Village to the value of €750,000.

The total expenditure on road related projects managed and implemented through the Newcastle West District during 2025 including the above was €7,000,000 approx.



Road Overlay on the R512 between Ballyneety and Grange



Road Overlay on the R518 between Rathkeale and Askeaton



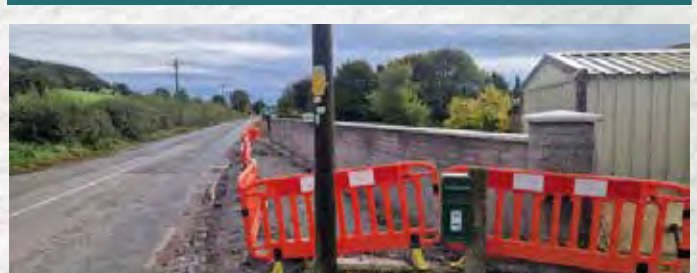
Active Travel Project near Loughill school



Resurfacing and Improvement works at Kiltteery Pier



Footpath and Resurfacing works at Croom



Low-cost Safety Works – Junction Improvement at Chawke’s Cross

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE RATHKEALE

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2025 were financed by way of Government grants and the Council's own resources. The Adare Rathkeale roads crew maintain 24% of the county's roads.

Road expenditure programmes during 2025 included:

- Road surface dressing of 22.6km of roadway to the value of €708,500
- Road reconstruction works of 12.7km to the value of €2,514,000
- Road reconstruction works from Cahill's Cross to Ballingarry to the value of €660,000
- Road overlays on R518 at Rathkeale and R512 at Grange
- Low-cost safety improvement works at L1210 at Chawke's Cross.
- Four drainage improvements at Ballingarry, Kildimo, Ballyhahill and Shanagolden. Works completed to the value of €180,000

- Winter maintenance of the N21, N20 and N69 (TII funded) and Regional Roads (Department of Transport funded) from October to April annually.
- General road maintenance and Road safety measures carried out as required during the year
- Climate Change Adaptation works at Ballinleeny, and detailed design and costings complete for Banogue and Ballyhahill.
- Local Improvement Schemes - Seven schemes completed to the value of €502,000
- Community Involvement Schemes; three schemes completed to the value of €205,000

Three schemes were completed under the Towns and Villages Active Travel programme at Askeaton, Loughill and Rathkeale to the value of €750,000

The total expenditure on road related projects managed and implemented through the Adare Rathkeale District during 2025 including the above was €7.2million approx.



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: Housing Strategy and Mixed-Tenure Partnership Unit, Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance, Housing Support Services and the Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation Unit.

## 1. Housing Strategy and Mixed-Tenure Partnership Unit:

- **Housing for All Programme:** Progress from 2021 to Quarter 3 2025 shows 3,248 solutions were delivered under Build, buy and leasing schemes. There is also a very strong pipeline from now out to 2030, with, to date, over 3,300 social homes at all stages of design and build across the city and county.
- A further circa 796 housing solutions are estimated for delivery during Quarter 4 2025 to the end of 2026, bringing total delivery from 2021 to end-2026 to approximately 4,224 housing solutions, benefiting over 11,000 individuals and families.
- 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.
- **Acquisitions and Leasing:** Focus on tenant-in-situ acquisitions to prevent homelessness and various leasing schemes such as Repair and Lease. Additional funding provided to purchase properties for families more than 12 months in homeless emergency accommodation.
- Since 2022 583 affordable housing supports been provided through Approved Housing Bodies, private developer partnerships, the Land Development Agency, and national schemes including the First Home Scheme and the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant. There is also a very strong pipeline from now out to 2030, with over 1,995 affordable homes at all stages of design and build.
- **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 SUPPORT SERVICES

## 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 2025.

The number of homeless cases as of the 10 December is as follows:

- Individuals -261
- Families - 150 families (229 Adults and 245 Children)

The Limerick Homeless Action Team continues to operate a multidisciplinary team, staffed by operational clinical staff from the Health Service Executive (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 2025 the service remained committed to supporting those at risk of Homelessness and those who are Homeless in the region the establishment of the Mayoral expert working group is an added layer of focus and support to address the challenge of Homelessness and to identify suitable responses around service delivery and suitability for the region

- **Housing First**

Housing First targets a group of people who have experienced long-term homelessness and are currently experiencing mental health and/or addiction issues. Housing First is delivered for Limerick and Clare by FOCUS Ireland and has proven very successful in accommodating, clients who need an extra layer of support to allow them to manage and maintain a tenancy.

- **Housing Assistance Payment (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 Cost Rental Tenant In-Situ (CRTIS) and Tenant in Situ (TiS) schemes.

- **Family Hubs**

Suaimehneas, Childers Road Family Initiative and Dublin Road Family Initiative have been operational throughout 2025 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.

Peter Mc Verry Trust and Focus Ireland provide this service to clients through referrals from the Housing department of Limerick City and County Council.

- **Street Outreach**

The Street Outreach team from Ana Liffey have seen an increase in numbers accessing this service throughout 2025, each client is engaged with, signposted and supported to engage with the correct service around their accommodation and health needs.

- **Clann Nua**

This is a shared living model of housing delivered by Mid-West Simon 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. There are now 56 individuals living in the Clann Nua shared living model in Limerick.

The service was supported in 2024 in acquiring a building through Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)/ Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) construction that resulted in 19 new units which were occupied in 2025.

- **Mirth**

Ship/CAS Construction project was completed in 2024 by Associated Charities Trust. This has resulted in 18 single units being occupied in 2025.

## DISABILITY SERVICES

### Housing Grants – Adaptation, Mobility Aid and Housing Aid for Older People

A total of 940 housing adaptation grants were completed under the Housing Adaptation, Mobility Aids and Housing Aid for Older People grant schemes in 2025. The total expenditure on grant schemes was €5,948,444.33

January - December 2025		Total
Mobility Aid Grants (MAG)	No. Approved	81
	MAG Expenditure	€330,305.59
	No. Paid	72
Housing Adaptation Grants (HAG)	No. Approved	294
	HAG Expenditure	€2,787,047.99
	No. Paid	300
Housing Aid for Older People (HOP)	No. Approved	401
	HOP Expenditure	€2,831,090.75
	No. Paid	568
Year to date Total No. Approved		776
Year to date Total Monies Paid		€5,948,444.33
Year to date Total No. Paid		940

In addition to private grants, adaptation works were completed to a further 40 local authority properties at a total spend of €582,721.40.

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.

## TENANT SERVICES

### Housing Assessments

The total number of social housing applicants approved on Limerick City and County Council's social housing waiting list at 31 December is 6,142. This includes applicants who have secured 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/Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) tenants that have been approved for housing is 3,287 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 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

In 2025, 407 units from Limerick City and County Council housing stock were allocated to successful applicants, along with 288 social housing nominations made to Approved Housing Bodies.

### Housing Rents

Differential rents collection from social housing increased by 13% with €23.3 million collected in 2025.

The rent assessment unit completed 1,960 rent reviews from an ongoing global review of accounts as well as responding to tenant led rent reviews. An additional 333 new rent accounts were set up during 2025, with a total of 5,968 social housing rent accounts being managed (an increase of 2.6% from 2024).

The Rents Unit continue to actively pursue the collection of all outstanding rent arrears. There were 5 tenancy warnings issued for rent arrears in 2025. Arising from these warnings, the Courts granted 2 Orders for Possession.

### 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 3,136 inspections in 2025 which is 20% of the private rented accommodation in Limerick.

### Deed of Discharge/Consent to Sale/Cottage Purchase Annuity/Ground Rent/Title Deeds

Limerick City and County Council carried out a total 478 transactions in relation to the above during 2025. This figure included processing 179 Deeds of Discharge, 40 Consents to Sale, 22 Cottage Purchase Annuities, 58 Ground Rent Applications, 172 Title Deeds and 7 Title Deed Rectifications.

### Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The number of properties in the private rented sector under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) was 550 and a further 651 tenancies were supported under RAS in the Voluntary Housing Sector at year-end.

39 Notices to Quit were received in RAS in 2025. A further 41 Notice to quits have been received for 2026. The Rental Accommodation Scheme is striving to find alternative accommodation for these households via all means, such as other RAS properties, Council housing stock and Approved Housing Bodies.

### **Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)**

There were 1,709 active HAP tenancies in Limerick City and County Council at the end of December.

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 173 HAP tenancies in 2025.

In managing existing tenancies, HAP carried out 3,439 amendments in 2025.

### **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 to softer measures such as committee skills training, contributing towards clean-up days, events for children and so on.

There were many projects carried out in 2025 by the Community Sustainment Unit in conjunction with the residents and in collaboration with other units across the Council. These included:

- Landscaping works carried out within the public open green spaces in Thomondgate with themed tree and bulb planting with remembrance nameplates inserted at foot of each tree, cleaning of footpaths, painting and a community sports day. Ongoing engagement with the community in preparation for the Pride of Place Competition. The cross departmental engagement with Thomondgate Residents Association contributed to the success of this group obtaining first place in the Urban Neighbourhood under 3,000 Category in November.
- Physical improvement works at the entrance roadway into Collins Park, Abbeyfeale including tree lining and bulb planting, upgrading of footpaths and roadway in collaboration with officials from Parks and Roads Departments
- Physical enhancement works at Hillview Drive, Abbeyfeale including deep cleaning, painting, planting of trees and plants/flowers
- Communal area cleaning at Watergate Development to enhance the physical appearance of the area
- Riverview Estate clean up with the Residents of Riverview Estate in Kilmallock followed by cleaning of laneways and painting works to enhance the estate
- Fence installed at Scanlon Park, Castleconnell following storm damage
- Planting day with the residents in Glengrove Estate, Kilmallock with the assistance of officials from Parks and Roads
- Clean up of laneway at Sycamore Drive, Bruff
- Upcycling project in Mullaly Lawn with the installation of new benches



Thomondgate Remembrance Tree Project



Hillview Drive Estate Enhancement Project



Hillview Drive Estate Enhancement Project



Hillview Drive Estate Enhancement Project

**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 2025 was 364. Community Sustainment Officers carried out 2,130 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 2013-2025, 25 such orders were secured. The Unit carries out formal Garda checks on prospective new tenants. Approximately 1,113 such formal reviews were undertaken during the year.

### Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016

30 applications have been received by Limerick City and County Council under the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016. Of these, 14 were deemed eligible to proceed to letter of offer. By year-end of 2025, 17 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. €5,520,000 was allocated for new lending approvals in 2025. Loans approved in principle remain valid for six months.

77 applications have been received by Limerick City and County Council under the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme for 2025. Of these 56 are for Private purchase, seven for Tenant Purchase, one for Affordable Home Scheme and 13 for Incremental Purchase Scheme. 23 loan applications have been approved in principle to a total value of €3,325,549 of which four of these relate to the Tenant Purchase Scheme, where tenants were approved funding to buy the property they were renting from Limerick City and County Council. Eight loans, based on 2025 approval in principle, to a total value of €1,114,197 have been drawn down by applicants in 2025.

## HOUSING WELFARE AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

### TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

The Traveller Accommodation Programme for 2025-2029 sets out to accommodate 120 Traveller families over its lifetime. By December, 24 families were accommodated in Limerick.

The new Local Traveller Consultative Committee (LTACC) was formed in September 2024. In 2025 the Local Traveller Consultative Committee met 4 times.

In 2025 Limerick City and County Council's Traveller Accommodation Unit:

- Have undertaken 667 social work assessments and interventions for individual housing applicants and tenants.
- Received 443 new requests for maintenance in the Metropolitan area within Traveller Specific Accommodation through Customer Services and Sugar Customer Relationship Management (CRM)/Dynamics. 435 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.

- Eleven Traveller clinics took place in 2025. Twenty Seven tenant / housing applicants attend these clinics.
- The unit worked closely with Community Gardai, Community groups and Local Traveller groups to improve amenities in Traveller specific accommodation in the Metropolitan area.
- The unit organised and co funded two events in conjunction with the Limerick Youth Service for the children of Clondrinagh Park.
- The unit funded Community projects in Rathkeale in conjunction with Rathkeale Together and the local boys school.
- Seven Caravan loans were provided in 2025 totaling €400,000.

Capital Works undertaken at:

### Askeaton

- Planning permission approved for extension to property in Askeaton.
- Project has been tendered and contract awarded.
- Awaiting Stage 4 approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

### Hillview Halting Site, Rathkeale Upgrade

- Works completed in August.

### New Crescent Halting Site, Childers Road

- Refurbishment completed on 3 units in 2025
- Funding proved for Extensions to Bays 5, 6 and 11. Project has been tendered and the contract was awarded in December.
- Funding sought from Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to regularise four bays and install four bays to accommodate young families residing in the site.

### Boher

- Installation of 3 Modular homes and site upgrade.
- Funding has been applied for to the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage.

### Clondrinagh

- Extension to one unit in Clondrinagh and the construction of one unit in Clondrinagh. Staged funding has been approved, and planning permission has been applied sought.

### Dormant Account Fund

- Works completed in Butcher's Field, Rathkeale and Hillview Park, Rathkeale.

**Limerick City and County Council claimed a total of €2,557,976 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for Traveller Accommodation Capital Works in 2025.**

## HOUSING WELFARE

In 2025, 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 also in operation, which allows 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. In 2025 there were 213 Housing welfare referrals, made to the team from various sources. Over a quarter of the referrals were housed successfully.

The Housing Welfare team work collaboratively with all departments within the Council and Public Representatives. In 2025, the Housing welfare team focused strongly on streamlining the Supported tenancy service with staff from the Community sustainment team and two approved housing bodies.

Currently, Housing welfare manages 218 Supported tenancies in the city and county in conjunction with the approved housing bodies. An additional 37 Supported tenancies were closed in 2025 as the extra supports were no longer required. The Housing welfare team liaise with specialised services, statutory bodies, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and Approved housing bodies to explore options and improve the quality of accommodation for vulnerable tenants or housing applicants.

The Housing welfare team also assesses and nominates suitable housing applicants for Age Friendly accommodation with Approved housing bodies and Voluntary housing associations in County Limerick where vacancies occur. In 2025, the Housing welfare team successfully nominated 63 housing applicants for suitable accommodation.

## 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
Radharc Cillín, Kilfinane	10
Clare Street	7
Single Units (Build)	8



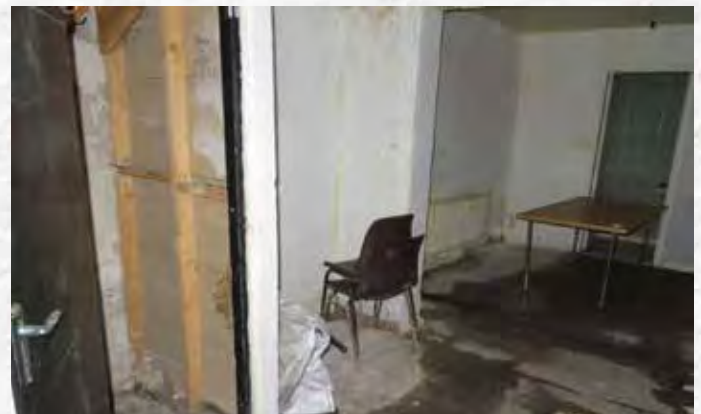
Radharc Cillín, Kilfinane



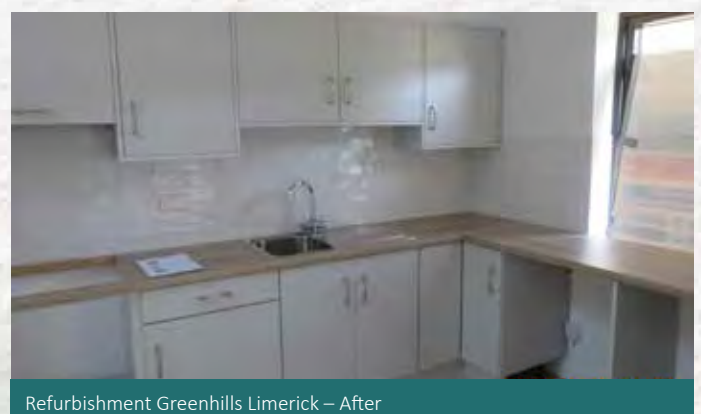
Radharc Cillín, Kilfinane

### Single Units

Houses are also delivered under various delivery streams. The Local Authority has delivered units under Buy and Renew, Supported Housing in Partnership (SHIP) Acquisitions, Voids and SHIP Renew.



Refurbishment Greenhills Limerick – Before



Refurbishment Greenhills Limerick – After

## Single Units Refurbished Under Other Schemes

Funding Stream	Number of Units Completed
Buy and Renew	6
SHIP Renew	8
SHIP Acquisitions	51
Voids	3

### VOIDS and Planned Maintenance Programme 2025

Limerick City and County Council refurbished 129 units in 2025. €735,894.70 was spent on non-Void funded properties. Under the Voids Funding Scheme 2025, Voids expenditure of €3,752,862.31 was spent on 86 units which were partially funded (€11,000 per property) with €891,000 being recouped from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. 81 units were completed before the claim deadline date of 21 November and the remaining five units will be recouped in the first claim of 2026. The average cost per unit is €38,672.63. 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 the housing stock for reletting throughout the year to meet the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations Standards 2019.

Limerick City and County Council completed planned maintenance works on 8 units under the Planned Maintenance scheme in 2025 including 1,079 Stock Condition Surveys. The nature of the works included providing new chimneys, windows, doors and roof repairs. Funding of €196,478 was drawn down upon completion of works during 2025. A contract was awarded in Quarter 1, 2025 for Stock Condition Surveys to cover in excess of 6,000 Council properties over a 3-to-5-year period.

In 2025 Limerick City and County Council commenced an extensive boiler servicing and upgrade programme under Planned Maintenance. In 2025, 1,876 dwellings had their heating system serviced, and repaired where necessary, at a cost of €606,090.60.

### Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme 2025

The Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP) 2025 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 Building Energy Rating (BER) rating of B2 where the fabric of the building is upgraded, and energy efficient heating system is installed. Works were completed to retrofit 63 occupied housing units with €2,123,970.45 being recouped from the Department for claims, Project Management fees and Energia credits. The units are spread across the four Municipal Districts. The average cost per unit is €33,713.



41 Canon Breen Park Thomondgate- Before and After EERP works

### Housing Maintenance

Housing Maintenance received 14,264 new requests for maintenance through Customer Services and Dynamics CRM in 2025. An average of 288 requests were closed out per week in 2025.

The response maintenance works undertaken during 2025 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 2025, Limerick City and County Council continued the administration of the Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme for eligible privately owned houses in Limerick within Department guidelines. A total of 34 applicants registered on the online application portal. 28 applications met the damage threshold for eligibility for the Scheme. Seven applicants were approved for a remediation grant option. Two applicants began remedial works on their houses.

### Communal Areas

The Communal Areas team manages maintenance complaints in respect of hallways, stairs, fire alarms, security alarms, lifts, lighting in Council owned apartments/ flats/ group housing. Projects which were undertaken during 2025 by the Communal Team were as follows:-

- Aherlow View, Galbally (including Wixted Old pub) – painting, gutter cleaning and general clean up
- Eden Court Apartments, South Circular Road – painting, gutter cleaning and general clean up
- The Forge Apartments, Hospital - painting, gutter cleaning and general clean up
- Oak Lodge (Mid-West Simon Community), Clare Street – Roof Repairs, new heating boilers, and internal bathroom repairs, Fire remedial report
- Thomond Court Apartments, Hassetts Cross - painting, gutter cleaning and general clean up
- Park View Apartments, Hassetts Cross – power washing, gutter cleaning and general clean up
- Sarsfield Park Apartments, Lord Edward Street - power washing, gutter cleaning and general clean up
- DeValera Park Apartments, Bruree - power washing, gutter cleaning and general clean up
- Turagh Crescent Apartments, Cappamore – painting, gutter cleaning and general clean up



6-11 Aherlow View, Galbally (including Wixted Old pub)



Thomond Court Apartments, Hassett's Cross



Eden Court Apartments, South Circular Road



Park View Apartments, Hassett's Cross



Sarsfield Park Apartments, Lord Edward Street



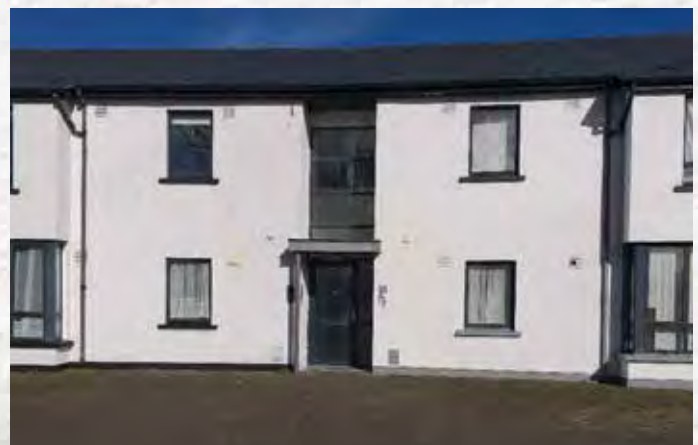
The Forge Apartments, Hospital



DeValera Park Apartments, Bruree



Oak Lodge (Mid-West Simon Community), Clare Street



Turagh Crescent Apartments, Cappamore

## HOUSING STRATEGY AND MIXED TENURE PARTNERSHIP

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
- Rightsizing Scheme
- Lease Programme
- Short-term Modular Affordable Rental Transition (SMART) Housing Programme

### Affordable Housing Fund

The following direct build/Local Authority led design projects were advanced in 2025:

- Toppins Field – Proposed development of minimum 285 residential units, of which 146 units are proposed for affordable purchase housing. Stage 1 Part 8 planning submitted for 57 units of which 31 are affordable purchase units and 26 social units
- Guinness Lands – Proposed development of total 219 residential units, of which 118 are cost rental units, with 41 affordable purchase housing. Design to planning was progressed in 2025.
- Clonmacken Lands – Proposed development of 18 residential units, of which 15 units are proposed to be affordable purchase housing. Viability review was progressed in 2025 and justification test completed.
- Sonny's Lands – Proposed development of 21 residential units, of which 19 units are proposed to be cost rental housing. Planning project was progressed and necessitated Part 10 submission. Part 10 submission progressed in 2025.
- Curragower Lands – Proposed development of six units, which are proposed to be cost rental units. Planning project was progressed and necessitated Part 10 submission. Part 10 submission progressed in 2025.

Work commenced in 2025 on Local Authority owned sites at Lord Edward Street, Limerick City (7 affordable purchase homes) and Main Street, Rathkeale (4 cost rental homes).

The Land Development Agency (LDA) completed delivery of 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. Applications for these homes opened in January 2025 and all 81 homes have been allocated. 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 2025 in the progression of schemes.

The following schemes below were progressed with Cluid Housing Association:

- Speakers Corner, Limerick City (18 cost rental units)
- Newtown Meadows, Castletroy Phase 4 (36 cost rental units)
- Amharc Abhann, Knockhill, Ennis Road, Limerick (12 cost rental units)
- Newtown Manor Phase 2, Castletroy (14 cost rental units)
- Autumnfields, Ballygrennan (42 cost rental units)

### 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 5 (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.

### 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 continued on this programme during 2025 with the following activities being completed:

- 2 workshops for Elected Members.
- Setting up a working group with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage which meets weekly.
- Preparation of Preliminary Business Case which was submitted to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Provision of specific advice on SMART Housing and affordability assessment.
- Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment Screenings on potential sites for SMART Housing Programme.
- Procurement of and completed provision of specialist Modular Methods of Construction advice on fire, structure and innovative modular technologies.
- Provisional site surveys on potential sites for the SMART Housing Programme.
- Market 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.
- Procurement and appointment of Contractor for Arthur's Quay Public Engagement Event.
- Arthur's Quay Public Engagement Event.
- Procurement and appointment of the Integrated Design Team for the SMART Housing Programme.
- Tender for design expert review and feasibility assessment in relation to the early-stage design of SMART Modular units.
- Preparation of documentation for future procurement of financial and legal advisors.

### **Advance Purchase Turnkeys for Affordable Housing and Mixed Tenure**

Limerick City and County Council has an open call 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:

- Bruff
- Caherconlish
- Cappamore
- Doon
- 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 housing 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) were completed during 2025 and a scheme of seven affordable purchase units (Phase 1) in Castle Place, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick continued to be progressed during 2025.

The following affordable purchase schemes were launched in 2025:

- Carraig Desmond, Newcastle West, (three affordable purchase units)
- Newtown Meadows, Castletroy (Phase 1), (10 affordable purchase units)
- Castle Place, Newcastle West (Phase 2), (seven affordable purchase units)

An additional pipeline of potential affordable purchase units, via advance purchase turnkey expressions of interest, were progressed with home builders and developers throughout 2025 with a view to progressing them as affordable housing schemes in the future.



20 Castle Place Newcastle West Affordable Purchase

To launch the affordable purchase housing schemes in Carrig Desmond Newcastle West, Castle Place Newcastle West and Newtown Meadows Castletroy, 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 March of this year, Limerick City and County Council launched the fifth New Build Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme in Cois na Sionainne, Clonmacken, 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, shops and sports grounds.



The sixth New Build Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme was launched in De Vere Court, John Carew Park, Limerick in September. Three-bedroom properties were available at discounted prices to eligible applicants. The properties provide a great opportunity for families to put down roots in a well-established area of Limerick City. The homes have spacious, private back gardens and have an A BER rating. We are engaging with applicants and hope to progress to legals in the new year.

The seventh New Build Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme was launched in October, located at Radharc Cillín, Kilfinane, County Limerick. These three-bedroom homes are located in the town, central to local shops and amenities.

**Rightsizing Scheme**

Limerick City and County Council developed a policy where persons over the age of 55 who own their own home, and who find their dwellings too large for their needs, may request the Council to purchase their home in return for a lifelong tenancy in a managed Older Persons Scheme. The ‘rightsizing’ scheme is entirely voluntary and in partnership with AHB’s.

In August 2025, Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with Focus Housing Association, launched its 8th Rightsizing Scheme at Woodlawn Park, Ballysimon Road. The development consisted of 15 one and two bed apartments, of which 5 were made available to the rightsizing scheme. The properties are located in a dedicated over 55’s development and are near many amenities, including nearby shopping centres, churches and sports grounds. 26 applications were received in total.



September 2025 saw the 9th Rightsizing Scheme launched in An Tobar, Patrickswell. The two bed, two storey homes are located near the village, within easy walking distance of all the local amenities. The scheme received 17 applications and units have been offered to successful applicants.



**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 Company Limited by Guarantee (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 54 Approved Housing Bodies operating in Limerick City and County. As per the most recent AHB Occupancy Audit for the year 2024, AHBs collectively own, lease and manage 2,518 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 2025 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 2025. 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.

### Leasing

Under 'Housing for All' the following leasing streams were pursued in 2025;

- **Repair and Leasing Scheme (RLS)**

The scheme is aimed at better utilisation of exist 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 2025 was 10 and 15 units were delivered under the scheme in 2025.

- **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 arrangement takes the form of a series of contracts between the property owner, a housing authority and a tenant. These arrangements are normally for periods of up to 10 years but can be for the duration of the existing tenancy of the property. 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. Nine homes were delivered under the scheme in 2025.

- **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 becomes the 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. 14 units were delivered under the scheme in 2025.



PLANNING, HERTIAGE AND RYDER CUP

## PLANNING, HERITAGE AND RYDER CUP

A revised organisation structure was put in place during Quarter 4 2025, forming the Planning, Heritage and Ryder Cup Directorate.

Planning leads in the fields of forward planning, urban development, heritage, conservation, archaeology, environmental strategy and protection, development management and enforcement.

Limerick City and County Council is the key local delivery partner under Ireland's Host Nation Contract for the centenary Ryder Cup 2027 at Adare Manor. Through this front-line delivery, the Council will help unlock major economic, tourism, sport, and legacy benefits for Adare, Limerick City and County, and Ireland. The prestigious event marks a major milestone in Ireland's sporting history and positions Limerick as the global epicentre of golf for an unforgettable week in 2027.

As well as having responsibility for policy and strategy in these areas, the Directorate supports and administers the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

The Directorate comprises the following Departments:

1. Development Management
2. Forward Planning, Heritage and Urban Development
3. Ryder Cup Project Management

### DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The role of the Development Management Planning section is to administer, regulate, assess and control development under a broad range of processes to ensure it aligns with the local authority's adopted strategic development plan and national/regional policies.

#### Planning and Development Act 2024

The new planning act, which has not yet commenced fully, continued to come into operation on a phased basis throughout 2025.

The body formerly known as An Bord Pleanála was re-established as An Coimisiún Pleanála from 18 June 2025, following the commencement of Part 17 of the Planning and Development Act 2024. These provisions put in place a revised structure for this body by separating its decision-making role from its corporate and organisational functions.

New legislation underpinning the National Planning Framework, Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and National Planning Statements – partial commencement of Parts 3 and 6 of the Planning and Development Act 2024.

National Planning Framework Implementation – Housing Growth Requirements - Guidelines for Planning Authorities issued under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

The Planning Amendment Act 2025 brings in a number of important updates to Irish planning law to help developers maximise the use of existing planning permissions for residential development, including 3 key changes:

1. Extensions for un-commenced housing
2. Suspension of time for planning permission during judicial review
3. Modification of permission for residential development

National Housing Plan 2025 - Delivering Homes, Building Communities has set out ambitious new targets to deliver 300,000 homes by 2030 including 90,000 starter homes, 72,000 social homes and an increased budget for the Land Development Agency.

**The Renewable Energy Directive (RED III)** has been transposed into Irish legislation by way of European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025 (S.I. 274 of 2025). The majority of the provisions came into effect on 07 August.

- The Directive is broad ranging and includes provisions that aim to speed up the permit granting process for renewable energy projects by providing mandatory permit granting timelines for various types of renewable energy projects, as well as provisions concerned with environmental protection Directives and how they are applied to certain renewable energy projects. The provisions of the Regulations apply to onshore and offshore renewable energy development.
- The RED III regulations, in addition to introducing mandatory permit granting timelines, also introduces a completeness check process which commences once the application is received and mandatory scoping for Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which are required for applications lodged from mid 2026.



**Resourcing** – The government added 'Town Planning Officer' to the Critical Skills Occupation List in March, a significant and strategic step in delivering the Ministerial Action Plan for Planning Resources.

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The Planning Section is responsible for the evaluation of planning applications received across the County. A total of 1,806 applications were received in 2025; broadly in line with 2024 where 1,796 applications were received.

There was an increase in activity of Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD) planning applications during 2025; 4 new LRD applications were submitted, 3 LRD applications were granted (1 of which was submitted in 2024), 2 LRD applications are awaiting final decision, and some minor amendments were made to 2 existing LRD decisions.

A number of significant planning applications were granted in 2025, including Ely Lilly Ltd, the Health Service Executive (HSE), University of Limerick and Cook Ireland Ltd.

**Strategic infrastructure development** - The Planning Section received notification from An Coimisiún Pleanála that two Strategic Infrastructure Developments (SID) were submitted directly to them and sought the views of the Planning Authority. These were two Large Scale Wind Energy Projects located in the County at Garrane (25/323635) and Ballinlee (25/323780).

### Development Contributions

The Temporary Waiver Development Contribution Scheme under Circular PL02/2024 continued to be processed and claimed up until May. The waiver applied to all permitted residential developments that commenced between 25 April 2023 and 31 December 2024. Developments must be completed not later than 31 December 2026.

The Waiver Scheme has been subject to audit and review nationally and Limerick City and County Council participated in same.

Monies received up to end of December 2025 in accordance with the Development Contribution Scheme for the year 2025 totalled €4,699,625.99.

The New Developmental Contribution Scheme 2025 – 2031 was adopted by the Elected Members and came into effect on 23 September 2025. The new scheme introduces changes to some of the charges and new Residential Development bands.

### Online Planning

Online Planning is an online portal developed by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) through which planning applications can be made and applicants can be kept updated on the progress of their application. The portal went live in Limerick City and County Council on 15 December 2022. In 2025 online applications continued to increase with 77.5% of applications submitted online. This was an increase of 5% compared to 2024 and it is envisaged that online applications will steadily continue to increase.

The portal also allows for the applications for Local Authority development (Part 8 developments) to be submitted and managed online. The Planning Section supported 17 Part 8 proposals in 2025 including housing, active travel, tourism community and public realm projects.

### Planning Enforcement

The Planning Section is responsible for the regulation of unauthorised development. The table below sets out the enforcement activity carried out in 2025:

	December 2025	Percentage increase/decrease on 2024
No. of complaints received	444	-10%
No. of warning letters issued	305	-7%
No. of enforcement notices served	195	61%
No of prosecutions initiated*	70	63%
One injunction was sought under Section 160 of the Planning and Development Act 2000		

### Taking in Charge of Housing Estates

Progress continued with taking estates in charge following a significant year in 2024. Three estates were taken in charge during 2025 and the process to take an additional five estates in charge is in an advanced stage.

### Licensing

Fees for the placement of tables and chairs on public lands were waived by the Minister again under Planning and Development (Street Furniture Fees) Regulations 2025, waiving street furniture fees up to and including the 30 September 2026. However, the requirement to licence street furniture remains. In 2025 the Council issued 104 licences granted under section 254 of act for National Broadband Ireland structures, scaffolding and hoarding and telecommunication structures.

Five licenses for large-scale events issued in 2025.

- Ryder Cup 2027
- Limerick St. Patrick's Festival
- Riverfest Limerick
- Thomond Park
- Gaelic Grounds Concert

## FORWARD PLANNING, URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HERITAGE

The Forward Planning, Heritage and Urban Development team is responsible for the preparation of plans to enable the medium to long term development of Limerick City and County. These include the Development Plan, Local Area Plans, Public Realm Plans and masterplans. The responsibility for coordinating the heritage, conservation, archaeology functions and participating in the work of the Atlantic Economic Corridor also lies within this Department. The Department 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

Following months of preparatory work, including a series of public engagement events and the enhancement of the King's Island Walled Town Framework, the King's Island Walled Town Integrated Urban Strategy was completed. This achievement paved the way for submitting a funding application under THRIVE 2 for the redevelopment of the Fireplace site on Nicholas Street.

In June, a submission was made on behalf of Limerick City and County Council to Government on the National Development Plan Review, setting out the level of investment needed in Limerick to deliver on the growth targets set out in the revised National Planning Framework 2025.

In October, a submission was made to the Department on the 'Renewable Energy Directive on National Territory mapping for renewable electricity'.

The Draft Limerick Development Contribution Scheme 2025-2031 was prepared and placed on public display. At the full Council Meeting held in September, Limerick City and County Council adopted the Development Contribution Scheme 2025-2031. The Scheme took immediate effect.

In response to new Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines on National Planning Framework Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements, a call for Expressions of Interest was published in November seeking lands suitable for zoning for residential purposes that would contribute to accelerated housing delivery. Following public consultation, lands considered by Limerick City and County Council as suitable and necessary for residential zoning, may come forward as part of a formal variation of the Limerick Development Plan in early 2026.

Following, the passing of a motion at the September council meeting in relation to substandard roads, the team commenced the process to vary the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028.

A Draft Enterprise and Employment study was undertaken to identify opportunities for Enterprise lands through a coordinated approach that integrates land use, transport and essential supporting infrastructure.

In November, Forward Planning participated in the "Joining the Dots" event in Limerick, a high-level, British Embassy-led programme focused on regional economic development, sustainability, and urban planning.



Joining the Dots event, Limerick

As part of the Mayoral Programme – More for Limerick 2024-2029, which sets a vision for a more Liveable Limerick through the delivery of affordable housing, a design review was completed by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, in consultation with Limerick City and County Council, following briefings with the Moyross Partners Forum and with the Elected Members of the Metropolitan District. *More for Moyross Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) Design Review* was placed on public display during December, with submissions invited from interested members of the public.

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 16 settlements across the City and County identifying lands considered to be in-scope for the purposes of the tax to activate residential development. Following public submissions, reports and determinations were prepared in line with the requirements of the Finance Act 2021 (as amended) and the Residential Zoned Land Tax Guidelines for Planning Authorities.

The Forward Planning team continued to produce and publish quarterly monitoring reports to analyse Limerick's key economic indicators and statistics, and review and measure progress since the adoption of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028.

Limerick City and County Council's Executive Ecologist continued to provide cross-Directorate technical support, analysis and professional advice in relation to environmental and marine matters, as well as policy development in line with the Habitats Directives and Strategic Environmental Assessment legislation. Ecology received 154 planning referrals throughout 2025.

## URBAN DEVELOPMENT

A Part 8 proposal was submitted for the development of the historic Fireplace site on 35-39 Nicholas Street. Under a THRIVE Strand 2 application, Limerick City and County Council received funding of €6.56 million to transform the site. This landmark project will see the regeneration of the site, incorporating the surviving medieval fireplace and historic fabric into an Innovation and Design Hub. THRIVE is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021-2027 to restore vacant or derelict heritage buildings in public ownership.



Proposed Innovation and Design Hub, 35-39 Nicholas Street

The Innovation and Design Hub will provide a space for artists, makers, entrepreneurs and visitors, including studios, exhibition and retail spaces, and a café, with the aim of creating a vibrant destination in the heart of Limerick's Medieval Quarter. The project has already been granted planning permission, following approval by Limerick City and County Councillors. There has also been positive engagement with the Kings Island Community throughout the process to date.

Following a tender process in November for a Multidisciplinary Consultancy Services team, consultants were engaged for the refurbishment and new build work, putting the project in a strong position to progress quickly in 2026.

In July, the Shopfront Design Guidelines were completed, providing a set of guidelines to establish a minimum standard for shopfronts across Limerick City and County. The guidelines aim to maintain Limerick's rich architectural heritage features and ensure best practice in conservation and urban design.

A Part 8 proposal for public realm works at Church Street, Castle Street, The Parade, Nicholas Street and St. Augustine Place was prepared and placed on public display. The Scheme was approved by the Elected Members at the Metropolitan District meeting in November.

A Public Engagement event took place regarding the Ballybrown/Clarina proposed Public Realm Enhancement Plan. The plan, which will be informed through public consultation, aims to enhance community spaces, connectivity, and public infrastructure in the village.

The team made a successful application to the Creative Ireland Creative Communities Fund 2025 for €7,500 for the animation of vacant windows on Nicholas Street, Limerick. A digital art display featuring four short, animated films by artist Freya Porritt Wessman was launched in December, bringing contemporary animation, drawing and storytelling into one of the city's most historic quarters, supporting the Mayoral objective to reanimate Limerick's valued heritage assets. The project was delivered in collaboration with Technical University of the Shannon (TUS) Limerick School of Art and Design.



Nicholas Street Winter Animation

Work continued on the Draft Limerick Public Realm Strategy to explore the current condition of central Limerick's cityscape and its network of public and green spaces and set out a vision and strategy for improvements to guide investment and development in the future, consistent with the aims of the 2022-2028 Development Plan and the Mayoral Programme.

Under the Living City Initiative 3 Expressions of Interest and 9 new applicants were made for 2025.

## 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 referrals, grant funding, forestry files and Ministerial Consents.

The Heritage Officer continued to work with community groups and individuals and assisted four local heritage groups to submit applications for the Community Grants Fund over the last 12 months. The team provided support to the Heritage Council throughout Heritage Week in August with 43 events taking place across Limerick City and County. €31,907 was awarded under Community Heritage grants for Limerick projects, which included the Askeaton digital trail, designed to provide virtual access to sites especially for those with disabilities.

Following an application to the Heritage Council under the Heritage Stewardship Fund, Limerick City and County Council received funding to run a five-part lecture series on the built, archaeological and natural heritage of the Shannon Estuary which was delivered during September and October.



Heritage Week public workshop, Abbeyfeale

The inaugural meeting of the Irish Community Archive Network was held in Limerick in November. This initiative, established by the National Museum of Ireland in partnership with local authority Heritage Officers, encourages and supports communities to collect and share their local history and heritage online.

## CONSERVATION

In relation to Development Management, the Conservation Section completed the following:

- 180 Planning Referral reports were issued
- 26 Section 57 Declaration applications were determined
- 1 Section 59 Declaration was issued

Limerick City and County Council administered grants totaling €354,887.55 under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2025 and the Historic Thatched Buildings Scheme 2025. The Built Heritage Investment Scheme (B.H.I.S.), Built Heritage Investment Scheme – Historic Thatched Buildings (B.H.I.S.-H.T.B.) and Historic Structures Fund grant funding schemes for 2026 were also launched with a public information evening held for potential applicants.

The Conservation team launched two Wonder Wander Walking Trails, in collaboration with the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, celebrating the diverse architectural heritage of the Architectural Conservation Areas in Foynes and Newcastle West.



Wonder Wander Walking Trail launch, Foynes

Works to enhance the setting of the Sarsfield Monument, Cathedral Place, were designed, procured, and completed. This project was funded through the Mayoral Programme.



Sarsfield Monument, Cathedral Place before conservation works



Sarsfield Monument, Cathedral Place with conservation works completed

In May, the team coordinated a Conservation Clinic aimed at homeowners within Georgian Limerick. Two specialist Conservation consultants held free one-to-one meetings with homeowners to advise about potential conservation and repair projects to their historic homes. The initiative was operated with funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Following a statutory process, 35-39 Nicholas Street (the Fireplace Site), was added to the Record of Protected Structures.

The Conservation team collaborated with the Irish Architectural Foundation's programme 'New Life, Old Buildings' in Limerick. The team's contributions to the programme included a guided walking tour exploring the range of building typologies within Newtown Pery, and the delivery of an information webinar on grant funding opportunities for historic buildings.

Work continued on the digitisation of over 24 years of conservation files. 83% of files relating to the Metropolitan District of Limerick were digitised by year end.

## ARCHAEOLOGY

The Local Authority Archaeologist represented the Council at a number of events throughout 2025. These included:

- presenting at the National Built Heritage Service's Symposium: 'Sense of Place' on the Urban Landscape
- presenting at the Irish Historic Towns Atlas/Irish Walled Towns Network Seminar at the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin
- presenting at the Irish Walled Towns Network at Kilkenny;
- participation in the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2025-2030 workshop
- participation as a member of the Local Authority Archaeologist's Network, in the Local Authority Heritage Professionals Seminar
- delivery of an ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) (Ireland) lecture jointly with Bradford University on the Visualising Heritage Project for Derry-Kilmallock-Bradford. This project was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council's UK-Ireland Collaboration in the Digital Humanities. The Local Authority Archaeologist represented the Local Authority and contributed to the Kilmallock material in this project, which was launched in November.

The Local Authority Archaeologist helped organise the Dancing the Walls of Limerick event as part of Heritage Week 2025 and wrote the Kilmallock script for Archaeology Ireland's Heritage Guide series winter edition.

The Local Authority Archaeologist successfully applied for, project-managed and drew down three Community Monuments Fund Grants for capital works in Galbally Medieval Church (€100,000); conservation management at Glenogra Medieval Church (€21,000), and enhancement of access infrastructure/provision of interpretation at Ballynoe Tower House, Bruree (€30,000). In addition, a further Community Monuments Fund capital scheme in Croom Castle (€100,000) was administered.

The Local Authority Archaeologist applied for, project-managed and drew down an Irish Walled Town Network Capital Fund Grant (€40,000) for Phase 2 works to the Limerick City Wall on Island Road.



Community Monuments Fund works in progress on Galbally Medieval Church

## RYDER CUP PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The Council's Ryder Cup Project Management team's role is to work with the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, government stakeholders and Ryder Cup Europe (RCE) to plan for the delivery of the 2027 Ryder Cup at the Adare Manor golf resort in Limerick.



Council delegation at the handing over of the putter at the 2025 Ryder Cup

The remit of the Council under the arrangement with government is:

- Upgrading of roads in and around the event venue
- Park and Ride sites for 25,000 car park spaces
- Emergency Services including fire and civil defence
- Licences, consents and clearances for the event
- Variable Message Signs (VMS) signage
- Securing ancillary venues

The Council has been actively represented on the event management governance structure including the Government's National Steering Group and National Key Stakeholder Group shaping key decisions on the event. Other working groups the Council has been active on includes transport and mobility, safety and security, community engagement, marketing, communications etc.

**Outputs in 2025 include:**

- Event licence granted in July 2025
- Project tracker in place for all Council projects that impact the event
- Regular updates to government on the progress of the Adare Bypass
- Planning for Park and Ride service as an integral part of the event transport plan
- Presentation to the Department of Sport on ancillary venue options in Limerick including the Year To Go Captains photo shoot and press conference October 2026, gala dinner in September 2027 and fan zone in the city September 2027
- Leading on the community engagement liaison in Adare with Ryder Cup Europe and the other key stakeholders, including schools and churches to date
- Signposted Ryder Cup Europe to all the community voluntary groups in Limerick in terms of recruitment for the volunteer programme
- Planning a golf programme for Limerick with Golf Ireland and the Limerick Sports Partnership to include schools, colleges, clubs and community groups
- Exchanged information with RCE on context of climate action in Limerick prior a sustainability plan being put in place for the event.
- Participated in government stakeholder observer programme for the 2025 Ryder Cup in Bethpage Black, New York
- Represented Limerick/Ireland at the Tourism Ireland stand at Bethpage Black which had a record number of visits
- 2027 Ryder Cup activations with banners, flags and a giant golf ball in the city centre, Adare and Ballyneety

- Worked with Marketing and Communications on a golf page on [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie) and on developing a look for Golf Limerick
- Participated in the Nationwide programme preparations for 2027 Ryder Cup broadcast in October
- Planning for how Limerick will be animated in 2026 and 2027 including flags, banners, giant golf balls, light festivals and events in city, towns and villages of Limerick
- Liaising with Ryder Cup Europe on the business opportunities for Limerick suppliers
- Securing investment for some key capital projects in Limerick
- Briefed elected representatives on the event throughout the year at meetings and via email
- Presentations on Limerick's role in the event to Chamber of Commerce, Association of Irish Local Government (AILG), All Place Race Conference, Wild Atlantic Way (WAY) Gateway City and to delegations from Savannah and Portugal



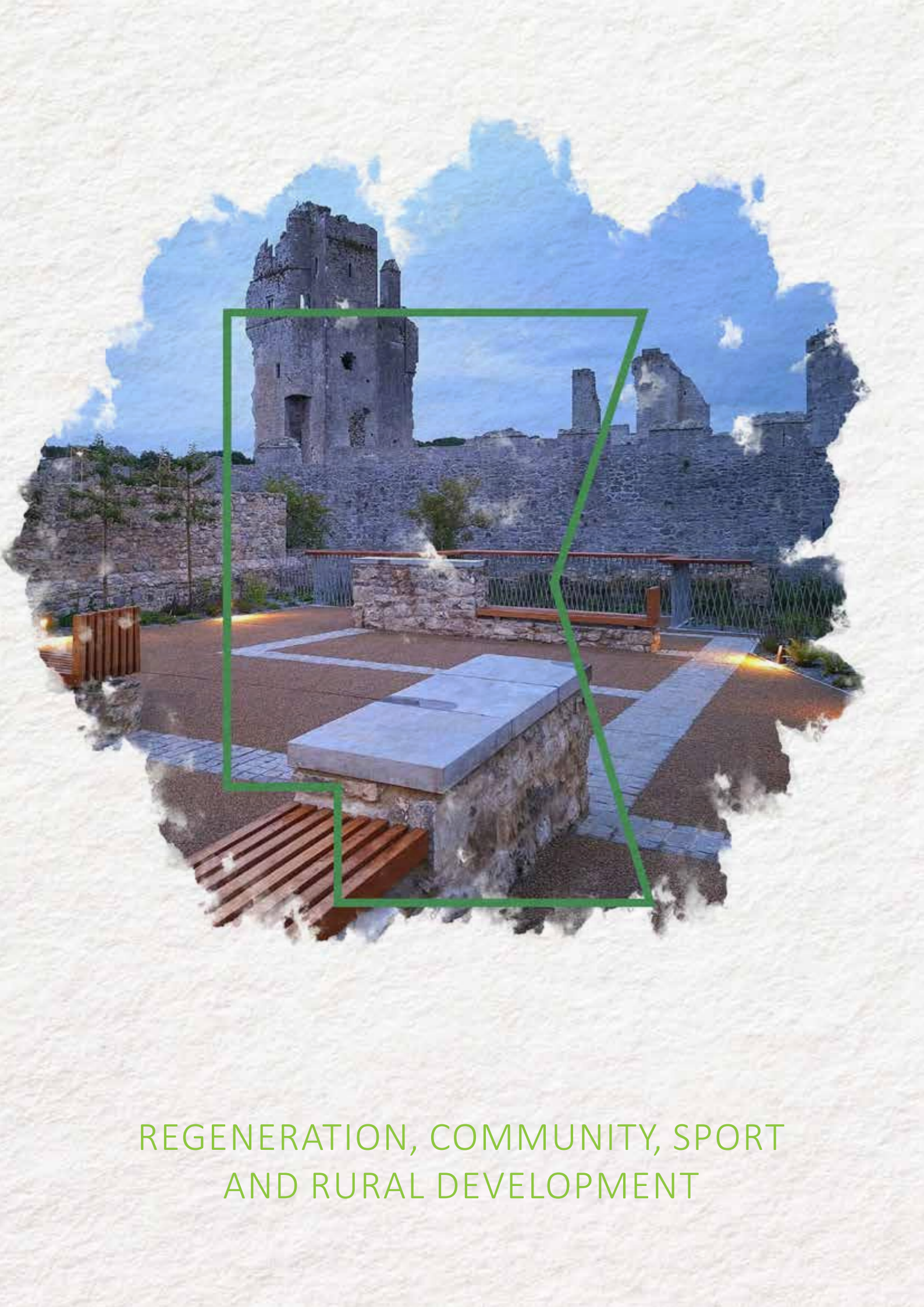
Handing over of the putter from New York to Adare celebration, Adare Village



Handing over of the putter from New York to Adare celebration, King John's Castle

- New wayfinding signs installed in Adare and Ballyneety signifying the villages as hosts of the next Ryder Cup
- Supported the Adare community in the celebrations of the handing over of the putter from New York to Adare Manor, Limerick on 28 September
- Marketing of Limerick - Limerick represented on event Marketing Working Group. Ensured Limerick featured in promotional materials commissioned by Tourism Ireland with Ryder Cup Europe such as the video advert that was broadcast on Sky Sports during the Ryder Cup event in New York

The Council will continue to advocate for Limerick interests in terms of event related transport, marketing communications, festival and events, Adare as a host community, Limerick as a host destination, community programmes, sustainability, business opportunities, fund and legacy.



REGENERATION, COMMUNITY, SPORT  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

# REGENERATION, COMMUNITY, SPORT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## REGENERATION

### PHYSICAL REGENERATION

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. The Regeneration Programme is underpinned by the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP), which was launched in 2013 and outlined a 10-year multi-annual programme for the areas of Moyross, St. Mary's Park, Southill, and Ballinacurra Weston. Work under the LRFIP is funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and delivered across three pillars:

- Physical
- Economic
- Social

The DHLGH continue to support the Regeneration Programme through the funding of capital projects and the Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF). Physical projects continue to proceed through annual budgetary allocations based on individual capital project submissions. In May 2025, the DHLGH notified Limerick City and County Council of the continued support of the Economic and Social Intervention Fund to 2028 albeit on a reduced basis.

### NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Housing contracts completed in 2025:

- **Churchfield Phase 2 (26 units), O'Malley Park, Southill** – completed in December
- **Limerick Infills (10 units), Delmege Park and Hartigan Villas, Moyross** – completed in December

Housing contracts awarded / under construction in 2025:

- **Limerick Infills (16 units), Carew Park, Southill** – construction continued

Housing projects at design stage in 2025:

- **Cosgrave Park Phase 2 (22 units), Moyross** – received Part 8 approval in December
- **Pineview Gardens, Moyross** – preparation of Part 8 application in progress.
- The Directorate is in receipt of Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) Stage 1 Approval to progress delivery of a **27-unit infill scheme, St. Marys Park.**

- Stage 1 approval issued in October for a **93-unit infill scheme at College Avenue, Moyross** and a tender issued in December for an integrated design team to progress the associated design and public consultation.
- A capital appraisal for a **20-unit infill scheme in Carew Park** was submitted to the DHLGH in July.

### House Refurbishments

#### Major Refurbishments

- 6 units completed in St. Mary's Park, 1 unit completed in Moyross, 2 units completed in Ballinacurra Weston and 3 units completed in Southill
- At the end of 2025, 2 major refurbishments were ongoing in St. Mary's Park and Ballinacurra Weston
- Single-Stage Approval submission for major refurbishment of 7 units issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Preparation of Part 8 application in progress for change of use and major refurbishment of 3 derelict units in St. Mary's Park to accommodate relocation of Barnardos from Bishop Street

#### Minor Refurbishments

- 12 houses were refurbished in 2025 – all were allocated
- Stage 3 approval received for seven properties and tendering process is in progress through eTenders.

### Thermal Upgrades

Thermal Upgrade contracts completed in 2025:

- **Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 121, Moyross (48 units)** - works completed.

Thermal Upgrade contracts awarded / under construction in 2025:

- **Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 123, Southill (52 units)** - works continued
- **Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 125, St. Mary's Park (26 units)** - works continued
- **Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 126, Southill (53 units)** - snagging in progress
- **Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 128/129 St. Mary's Park (25 Units)** - works continued
- **Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 131B (16 units)** - works commenced

Thermal Upgrade contracts at pre-construction stage in 2025:

- **Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 131A (29 units)** - contract awarded

Thermal Upgrade contracts at design stage in 2025:

- **Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 130** – scope alterations to align with proposed infill housing at Pineview Gardens, Moyross

## Demolitions

There were six strategic demolitions carried out in 2025 to facilitate new development and safer communities. All six demolitions were undertaken in O'Malley Park, Southill.

## Connectivity and Public Realm Infrastructure

Schemes progressed in 2025 included:

- Southside Connectivity Project – Consultants continued their activities in relation to the detailed design of the scheme along the southside of Childers Road, between the Roxboro Road and Kilmallock Road Roundabouts.
- Moyross Avenue Upgrade – Consultants continued their activities in relation to the detailed design of the scheme between Pineview Gardens and Corpus Christi Church, Moyross.
- University Avenue – review of potential alignment options continued following previous public consultation

## Community and Social Infrastructure

Continued to improve communities by delivering community infrastructure projects including:

### Southill Play Space and Associated Landscape

The official opening of the Southill Play Space and Associated Landscape took place on 11 July.

Launched by Príomh Chomhairleoir, Cllr. Catherine Slattery, the Play Space is a celebration of community spirit, creativity, and connection, designed to bring joy to families and children for generations to come.

From the outset, the Regeneration, Community, Sport and Rural Development Directorate at Limerick City and County Council, was committed to creating a vibrant and inclusive amenity for all residents. The project has delivered a natural play space, a designated small children's play area, gathering spaces and a high-quality landscaped area in the heart of the community.

Funding for this came from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, under the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan.

Feeney McMahon Architects led the Integrated Design Team for this project which included extensive community and stakeholder engagement. The consultation with key stakeholders was undertaken in a collaborative manner resulting in the provision of much needed community infrastructure in a location that complimented the compact provision of services within Southill.

Limerick based company, McSweeney Sports Surfaces constructed the Play Space, which includes log fencing and natural play logs sourced from Curraghchase Forest Park in County Limerick.

The Council acknowledge the tremendous contribution made by the Southill Hub, Southill Residents Association and Tidy Towns Committee, Southill Family Resource Centre, Tait House Community Enterprise and Southill After Schools Club in providing funding and manpower to complete the planting of the raised flower beds in preparation for the opening. Fr. John Walsh, Parish Priest of Our Holy Family Church, Southill was also in attendance to bless the area.

### Kings Island Community Centre

Limerick City and County Council submitted a Part 8 application for the extension and renovation of the existing single-storey Kings Island Youth and Community Centre building. Plans include alterations and extensions to the existing building (232 sqm), including an additional storey at first floor level and new roof structure.

The extended building floor area of 911 sqm (gross internal floor area) shall comprise at ground floor level: a community café and servery area, multi-purpose sports hall, office and meeting/training room accommodation and at first floor level further office and meeting/training room accommodation in addition to ancillary toilet, circulation, storage and plant spaces at both ground and first floor levels.

The proposal incorporates public realm works at Verdant Place comprising a mixture of soft and hard landscaped areas.

The proposal has been developed in close collaboration with the Community and the Kings Island Community Centre Working Group.

### Restoration and Refurbishment of Turner Vinery, Southill House

The Regeneration, Community, Sport and Rural Development Directorate continued to progress the Restoration and refurbishment of Turner Vinery, Southill House.

### St. Marys Park, Multi-Use Games Area

Limerick City and Council submitted a Part 8 for a new Multi-Use Games Area (250sqm) to the north of the community centre building and adjoining the existing playground on St. Ita's Street, in December 2025.

### Verdant Place

In October, the Directorate received DHLGH Stage 1 approval to progress Public Realm Works at Verdant Place, St. Marys Park, Limerick.

### Southill Multi Use Games Area

The Directorate appointed an architect led Integrated Design Team for services in relation to the delivery of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at Southill Hub, Castle Oaks View, Southill, Limerick.

The Southill MUGA, is part of a multi-site strategy for the provision of permanent community, sporting, and youth service facilities for the Southill area, known as the 'Southill Integrated Youth Centre'.

The Directorate progressed the appointment of an Architect led Integrated Design to bring the Integrated Youth and Educational Campus, Kilmallock Road to Part 8.

### **Integrated Sports and Educational Campus**

The Integrated Sports and Educational Campus, Kilmallock Road, is part of a multi-site strategy for the provision of permanent community, sporting, and youth service facilities for the Southhill area, known as the 'Southhill Integrated Youth Centre'. It is envisioned that the Integrated Sports and Educational Campus, Kilmallock Rd. will function as a key recreational amenity in the area, providing community access to both indoor and outdoor sporting facilities.

The proposed campus site plan sees 3 playing pitches, a hurling wall and walking/ running trail integrated into the grounds.

### **Equine Centre**

The Regeneration Directorate continued to seek match funding for the project as per the Stage 1 approval from the DHLGH.

### **Sunnyside Court, Carew Park**

Various public realm improvement works comprising reduction in wall heights and permeability link undertaken to increase permeability between Sunnyside Court and Deer Court/Lawn Way.

### **Southside Boxing Academy**

Southside Boxing Academy was officially reopened by the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan TD in June 2025 following an investment of over €430,000 to upgrade the Club's facilities.

The project saw an extensive overhaul of the facility, which is located in Galvone Industrial Estate. Limerick City and County Council's Regeneration, Community, Sport and Rural Development Directorate, co-ordinated the works with local firms Carr Architects leading the design team and contractor PBC Ltd. completing the works in 2024. The removal of a partition on site opened significant space, allowed the installation of a second boxing ring and accompanying training area. A new heating system, emergency doors and lighting complement the building while upgrades to the dressing room area and toilet blocks provide improved facilities for boxers, trainers and visitors.

### **Thomond Rugby Football Club (RFC) Extension**

The Regeneration, Community, Sport and Rural Development Directorate commenced works in September in partnership with Thomond RFC to expand the club's existing grounds in Moyross, paving the way for upgraded facilities at Fitzgerald Park to support the club's growing membership.



The official sod turning on 17 September, as Martin's Construction, members of Thomond RFC and LCCC staff joined Cllr Frankie Daly and Mayor of Limerick, John Moran to launch the Thomond RFC extension project

The works which are funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, under the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan programme of work, continued in 2026, by Martins Construction Ltd.

The additional land will facilitate provision of a full-sized rugby pitch, as per Irish Rugby football Union (IRFU) requirements, and an additional training area. The works comprise of construction of a new boundary to the extension area, demolition of an existing boundary wall, associated paths and steps, foul drainage and utility diversions. It is expected that works will be completed in Quarter 1 2026.



Young members of Thomond RFC give their thumbs up for the Club's new pitch project

## ECONOMIC REGENERATION

The economic development strategy for regeneration is focused on the delivery of the following key objectives:

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, Community, Sport & Rural Development Directorate. The objective of the strategy is to address unemployment and disadvantage within the Limerick Regeneration communities.

The Outreach to Employment Programme is led by the Employment Co-ordinator and implemented by a multi-stakeholder project team including Limerick & Clare Education & Training Board (LCETB), Department of Social Protection, Technological University of the Shannon (TUS), Limerick City 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 the 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 Community 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 its inception in 2021, 451 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 programme's success rate is evident with just under 5% having opted out of the programme since 2021.

The Outreach to Employment Programme, in partnership with TUS and LCETB, host a series of Skills Fairs that supports each of the Regeneration areas.



Outreach to Employment Southside Skills Fair



Junior Careers Fair – Including site visits Atlantic Aviation Group

Typically, the Skills Fairs are hosted in easily accessible local venues, encouraging participation from 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 with new employers coming on board each year. This year also marked the inclusion of senior cycle students from secondary schools in the regeneration areas, supporting increased awareness of career pathways and employment opportunities and strengthening collaborative links with local schools.

#### Junior Careers Fair- including site visits

The objective of this initiative is twofold: to engage children from the regeneration communities, along with their parents, in discussions around future employment opportunities.

The programme commenced in 2023 with the 6th class pupils from Corpus Christi School, Moyross and St Marys National School and their parents attending an event at Corpus Christi school. Five companies attended in the school hall to demonstrate the nature of their work, with interactive stands staffed by Irish Rail, Analog Devices, Takumi Precision Engineering, Johnson & Johnson and H&F Electrical.

In Part 2 of the Junior Careers Fair students and their parents visited both the Analog Devices International and Irish Rail campuses, to gain direct insight of the working environment. In April 2025 students and their parents visited Takumi Precision Engineering, further strengthening their understanding of workplace skills and career pathways. As the programme evolved, Atlantic Aviation engaged with the initiative to support its objective of providing early exposure to employment opportunities. In December, a site visit to Atlantic Aviation was facilitated, offering students insight into the skills required within the aviation sector and highlighting potential future career pathways.

#### Public Sector Administration Traineeship

December 2025 saw the launch of the Level 5 Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Public Sector Administration Traineeship, an initiative of the Outreach to Employment Programme developed in partnership with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB).

The fully funded 11-month program equips participants with the knowledge and practical skills essential for a career in office administration within the public sector. Learners will gain valuable experience in administrative support, IT and digital skills, booking, communication and customer service – alongside 14 weeks of guaranteed on the job training with participating public sector employers, Limerick City and County Council, Health Service Executive, University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College, Technological University of Shannon, Department of Social Protection, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and Limerick City Partnership.

Successful completion of this course will support learners to progress into employment in various administrative roles within the public sector or continue their learning journey with higher or further education and training opportunities.

## SOCIAL REGENERATION

Under the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP), the Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) is the main instrument for addressing social and economic inclusion in the regeneration areas. ESIF is delivered on a yearly basis, subject to funding by the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage. It supports the development of innovative projects that fill service and policy gaps, and it provides core funding to community hubs in the regeneration areas. Following guidance from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), the fund is currently stepping down with a final allocation to be delivered in 2028.

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. Priorities for the fund are set each year in collaboration with the LSAMG subcommittees. The assessment process is reviewed by an Independent Assessment Panel. The DHLGH reviews and approves the grants following recommendations from the LSAMG.

Social and economic regeneration are delivered across five themes in the Limerick Regeneration

Programme, and applicants are invited to submit applications for projects fall under an appropriate theme. ESIF 2025 funded 112 projects, totalling €2,018,906.00. Priority areas for ESIF 2025 were as follows:

- **Community Safety & Development:** Community Centre Running Costs and Partnership Projects
- **Education and Learning:** Wraparound supports
- **Health, Wellbeing and Ageing Well:** Out-of-hours and community-based addiction supports and reducing isolation of the elderly
- **Employability and Work:** Intensive pre-development and early intervention
- **Families and Youth at Risk:** Extending access to youth provision

Details on the objectives under each theme are available in the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP). ESIF aims to deliver on these objectives in the four regeneration areas of St. Mary's Park, Moyross, Southill, and Ballinacurra Weston, as well as other Very and Extremely Disadvantaged areas of Limerick City as defined under the POBAL HP Deprivation Index.



Extending Youth Provision

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 Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, TUSLA, the Department of Social Protection, and the HSE. Granted projects complement mainstream programmes, fostering economic and social inclusion across the life course through the provision of services and supports. Allocations for 2025 targeted areas where access to services need to be improved or particular need has been identified in the communities.

### Extending Youth Provision

A key priority for ESIF 2025 was to increase access to youth provision in Limerick's Very and Extremely Disadvantaged areas. Applicants submitted projects to extend their evening and weekend offerings, provide holiday and summer camps, and include primary school-aged children who are not yet eligible for mainstream youth provision.

Activities such as youth clubs and sports camps create opportunities for young people to grow and thrive, while youth workers and teachers act as mentors, role models, and trusted adults who can identify issues before they become problems. Activities delivered on school premises in the afternoons boost attendance among at-risk children and young people. Youth provision also keeps young people off the streets and out of the reach of organised crime.

Based on feedback from service providers, ESIF 2025 is estimated to have funded over 1,000 holiday and summer camp places for primary and secondary school-aged young people, as well as over 6,000 afterschool and weekend activity places. Of those places, 5,000 were for primary school-aged children.

### Addressing Loneliness Among Older People

The Covid pandemic is long past now, but increased loneliness among older people is an enduring effect of the prolonged lockdowns. Social isolation is detrimental to mental and physical health, and intergenerational participation is crucial for a community to thrive. Across the city, ESIF-funded organisations to provide social outlets for older people, as well as one-to-one supports such as check-in and befriending services. Community centres are hubs for activity, from bingo nights to lunch clubs and lifelong learning. Arts and sports groups encourage personal growth and social connection. Overall, ESIF-funded groups estimate that over 1,000 places in activities and events were provided to older people using the 2025 grants.



Limerick Sport Partnership's Active 55's Health Wellbeing Programmes delivers Men on the Mat in Tait House, Southill

## SPORT AND RECREATION

The Regeneration, Community, Sport and Rural Development Directorate has responsibility for a certain number of Limerick City and County Council's leisure facilities. These include the Limerick Regional Athletics Hub, Rathbane Golf Course, Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre and Grove Island Leisure Centre. The Directorate 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.

### Grove Island Pool and Leisure Centre

An extensive upgrade in Grove Island Pool and Leisure Centre was completed in 2025. It was marked by the unveiling of a plaque by Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan TD, in the presence of Mayor of Limerick, John Moran and Príomh Chomhairleoir, Cllr Catherine Slattery on 08 December.

Upgrade works coordinated by the Directorate were completed in two phases. The first was the refurbishment of the sports hall into a State of the Art Gym, repurposing of the old gym into an exercise studio and members wellbeing area. These works were completed in partnership with the centre's operator, Aura Holohan Group.

Phase 2 consisted of the refurbishment of the changing village, dressing rooms, re-tiling of the pool decking area, refurbishment of the health suite and replacement of the air handling unit. These were undertaken by the appointed contractor, Martins Construction Ltd. with PUNCH Consulting Engineers acting as the design lead team. The total investment of €1.85 million was funded primarily through the Council's own resources, supplemented by €500,000 from the Community Sports Facilities Fund. The facility's long-term operator, invested €340,000 in state-of-the-art gym equipment.

The upgrades deliver a modern, accessible, and more energy-efficient facility. Alongside improved lighting, ventilation, and finishes, the works incorporate sustainable design and energy-saving systems, creating a safer, greener, and more welcoming environment for the community.

The facility remains affordable and accessible with membership and pay-as-you-go options. It is the only pay-as-you-go pool and gym facility of its kind in the vicinity.

Four additional full-time staff were hired because of the increased footfall bringing the staff complement to 40. Grove Island Leisure Centre is owned by Grove Island Leisure Centre Ltd, now a subsidiary of Discover Limerick DAC. The Designated Activity Company (DAC) was set up by Limerick City and County Council to operate and develop key tourism attractions to strengthen Limerick as a visitor destination.

### Askeaton Pool and Leisure

The Minister of Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan, in the presence of Mayor of Limerick, John Moran re-opened the facility on 08 December following an extensive refurbishment and flood-remediation programme.

The project was supported by €1,265,750 in grants under the Large-Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund, which was complemented by matching funding from Limerick City and County Council's own resources. In total, circa €2.8 million has been invested to bring the centre back into full operation.

Key works included raising the floor level of the water-treatment plant room, replacement of all mechanical and electrical systems, upgrades to the jacuzzi, steam room, sauna, gym and general repairs throughout the building, as well as installation of sustainable energy-efficient systems including air-to-water units, a rooftop solar-panel array, and a new biogas-fired heating system. The facility is affordable and accessible offering membership and pay-as-you-go options.

Construction was carried out by Martins Construction Ltd., following a design by PUNCH Consulting Engineers and Don O'Malley and Partners Consulting Engineers with Tom McNamara and Partners providing cost management services.

Swim Ireland was appointed as the Operator for the facility in May 2025, who are now operating and managing the facility. The swimming pool and gym complex is locally managed by a new team, creating more than 20 jobs including management, lifeguards, receptionists and support staff.

### Rathbane Golf Course

Rathbane Golf Course welcomed several programmes and initiatives in 2025. Among them was the 'Get Into Golf Kidz' programme, giving young golfers a flavour of team-based competition. Additional programmes delivered included Golf on the Green, aimed at increasing participation by women, Get into Golf for Seniors and golf taster sessions delivered during Mental Health Week. All of these programmes were delivered with the support of Limerick Sports Partnership and the community golf tutors based in the course. These sessions proved to be a fantastic success, with the format promoting and building on values of respect, fair play and sportsmanship within the game of golf. The local Southill After Schools Club also took an opportunity to drop in and introduce their students to the game of golf, as part of their summer camp provision.

2025 witnessed a significant increase in the growth of Student and Junior course membership, with numbers increasing by more than 100% throughout the year.

The final elements of the energy efficiency works, funded with the support of the Sports Capital programme, concluded in 2025. This proved to be a very positive project, resulting in the increased sustainability of the club house with real energy savings being realised at the resource.

## Limerick Regional Athletics Hub



The Irish Wheelchair Association in action at the Para Athletics Grand Prix Event in August

In 2025, the track entered its second full year of operation and continued to serve as a vibrant hub for community and sporting activities. Throughout the year, numerous events were hosted, attracting participants from across the region. Highlights included the highly popular Couch to 5k program, which encouraged individuals to embrace fitness and achieve personal goals, and the Limerick Clare Education and Training Board's Athletics Day, which provided an engaging platform for students to showcase their athletic skills.

In addition, the Athletics Hub hosted the County Juvenile Outdoor Championships on 10 and 11 May, where over 100 junior athletes competed in a variety of disciplines. Another significant event was the Para Athletics Grand Prix, organised by the Irish Wheelchair Association on 23 August, which highlighted Hub's commitment to inclusivity and accessibility in sport.

In September, the Munster Development Squad, under the guidance of Athletics Ireland, participated in a series of focused training sessions, reinforcing the hub's role in nurturing emerging talent.



Olympian Tom Walsh (New Zealand) with LCCC staff at LRAH in August 2025

In addition, Tribal Running hosted a dynamic mini track meet that saw 60 athletes compete, creating an energetic atmosphere for both participants and spectators. A particular highlight of the season was the visit of world-renowned shot-putter Tom Walsh from New Zealand. Walsh, a two-time Olympic medallist, utilised the hub's facilities for training during his stay in Ireland, offering inspiration to athletes and the local community alike. The perimeter lit pathway remains a year-round favourite for walkers, enhancing the hub as a space for health, fitness, and community connection.



Limerick Regional Athletics Hub

### Community Sports Facilities Funding

Following successful applications for Community Sports Facilities Funding in 2023/2024, projects at Mungret Park and Kennedy Park were progressed this year:

#### Mungret Park Pitch Development

Proposed works will upgrade the existing municipal pitch in Mungret Park in order to make it a more durable grass surface. The pitch is primarily used for soccer and is located to the east of the existing GAA pitch. The existing surface has sub-standard drainage and needs development work to create an amenity for the neighbouring schools, local clubs and community groups. The pitch is owned by Limerick City and County Council and is part of the municipal Mungret Park facility.

Funding of €39,939 was secured from the Community Sports Facilities Fund. This is complemented by €54,239 secured from the Community Recognition Fund, in June 2025.

A tender was issued in September and following assessment the preferred contractor is expected to be appointed in Quarter 1 2026, subject to approval to proceed from funding partners.

#### Kennedy Park Pitch Floodlighting

The project works include floodlighting of the existing soccer pitch and associated civil and electrical engineering works. Preparation of tender documents commence with tender expected to be issued in Quarter 1 2026.

Funding of €55,583 was secured from the Community Sports Facilities Fund. This is complemented by €50,540 secured from the Community Recognition Fund, in June.

### 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.

## SPORTS POLICY

### Limerick Local Sports Plan

Limerick City and County Council has commenced the process of developing a Local Sports Plan for Limerick. The Sports Plan will review needs and set out actions to increase participation in sport and physical activity in Limerick.

Under the Government’s National Sports Policy 2018-2027, Local Authorities are positioned as key stakeholders in the context of public spaces for sport and physical activity as well as providing opportunities for participation initiatives. Under Action 8 of the National Sports Policy 2018 -2027, Sport Ireland has been given the directive to support Local Authorities in developing their Local Sports Plans. This action states:

“We will establish, through Sport Ireland, an initiative to support Local Authorities in developing Local Sports Plans consistent with the overall vision and objectives of this National Sports Policy. The Local Plan will review needs and set out actions to increase participation locally. It will be developed and implemented in cooperation with Local Sports Partnership (LSPs), Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), Children and Young People’s Services Committees (CYPSC), clubs, communities, and partners within and beyond sport.”

The Government has stated that Local Authorities are uniquely positioned;

- To be charged within the policy with a formal leadership role in facilitating the drive towards greater participation at a local level throughout the population,
- To foster a strong sense of collaboration across traditional boundaries with key roles for clubs, LSPs, community groups, leisure centres and other partners locally.

Recognising the pivotal role of the Local Authorities and in light of the participation trends, each Local Authority will develop a Local Sports Plan to increase participation locally, in a manner consistent with the vision and objectives set down in the National Sports Policy and taking appropriate account of any existing plans. An extensive public consultation was carried out both online and in four countywide facilitated workshops to provide opportunities for members of the public to discuss emerging themes, share their views and help shape the future of physical activity and sport in Limerick.

### Limerick Local Sports Partnership (LSP)

In 2025, Limerick Sports Partnership secured funding in the region of €2,200,000 (which includes Core, Education, and programme funding) from multiple funders to assist with its operations and programme delivery.

Key funders are Limerick City and County Council, Sport Ireland, Limerick, and Clare Education Training Board’s UBU Your Place, Your Space Fund, Health Service Executive (HSE), Dormant Accounts funding, Erasmus Plus and the European Social Fund programme.

A key highlight of 2025 was when Limerick LSP secured Global Active Cities Certification status for the city of Limerick. This certification relates to the LSP’s programme of work under the Active Cities banner with a particular emphasis on the Active Systems Pillar.

LSP were successful in securing €450,000 from the Erasmus Plus Fund to host The Association for International Sport for All (TAFISA) Sport For All Games in 2026. 26 delegations from across the world will come to Limerick to demonstrate their traditional sports and games.

The three key functions of the LSP are to Inform, Educate and Enable individuals and communities to engage in regular physical activity. 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 28,042 participants engaged in programmes, events, and education initiatives throughout 2025. 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.

Having access to St. John’s Pavilion in the City Centre enabled an accessible facility to target communities for different programmes. City centre communities are supported through our work under the Active Cities banner, and Limerick Sports Partnership plan to enhance local parks in the city with facilities and amenities that promote physical activity. These include O’Brien’s Park, Shelbourne Park, and The People’s Park in Limerick City.

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 a Sports Inclusion Officer.

These are supported by two Community Sports Hubs Officers in Garryowen and Moyross.

The LSP has an Active Cities Officer, a Physical Activity for Health Officer (supporting people with chronic conditions), a

Regional Comms Officer 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.

LSP success is built on partnership and collaboration, and a highly active board of directors of statutory and community organisations. The LSP also had an active role in the development of the Limerick Outdoor Recreation Strategy and the Limerick Local Sports Plan.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Significant and meaningful engagement with communities across Limerick continued throughout 2025, ensuring the effective delivery of services by the Community Development section. A range of engagement methods supported strong, ongoing collaboration with local communities. The Department of Rural, Community Development and the Gaeltacht, along with other Government Departments, provided continued support. The Community Development section remains committed to enhancing community services, facilities, and overall wellbeing, working closely with communities to achieve 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 as well as strategies at local level. 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.

A key part of the implementation of the LECP was to prepare the engagement of all stakeholders involved and this work will be rolled out further in 2026.

### 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 Gaeltacht along with 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 Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) for West Limerick rural area (LOT 21-1)
- Ballyhoura Development CLG for East Limerick rural area (LOT 21-3)
- Limerick City Area Partnership 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 2025 was €3,025,828. The core Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme budget was €2,710,135 with an additional €315,693 provided for services targeted on New Arrivals located in Limerick.

### 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, Summer Walking Programme, Children's Christmas, Easter and Summer Camps, Annual International Women's Day, Dancing on the Greenway, 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. A highlight of the year was the Rathkeale Together Seminar, held on 16 October, in Rathkeale House Hotel. The theme for this year, "Stories that Shape Us" in Rathkeale, was born from the Rathkeale Together and the Council supported Oral History Project in 2024. Recorded stories from the Traveller Community are forming part of an archived history in Limerick City and County Council and Dr. Tomás Mac Conmara joined as a keynote speaker on the day. Altogether, approximately 80 people attended, which included members from all the agencies, the Men's Group, Rathkeale Women's Group, local businesses, the clergy and An Garda Síochána.



Rathkeale Together at International Women's Day on 07 March

### Empowering Communities

In recognition of the extreme deprivation experienced in specific urban areas of Ireland, the Department of Rural and Community Development made funding available for the Empowering Communities programme, aimed at supporting participation in community and civic activities and working 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 PAUL Partnership to agree objectives, a 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 successfully delivered a number of initiatives in St. Mary's Park in 2025 and continues to receive significant community support and participation. Following the success of setting up of an Empowering Communities Advisory Group made up of community stakeholders and community members, a key focus for 2025 was to further develop community leaders and have community members actively involved in the design and delivery of the programme and its various projects.

### LEADER Programme

The 2023-2027 EU LEADER Programme; €5.1 million funding to support rural development projects, was rolled out in 2025. Supports under LEADER 2023 – 2027 are 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 Action Group (LAG) 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. 39 projects proceeded to full application stage, with a total of €1,911,419.71 approved by the Local Action Group (LAG) in 2025.

### Local Enhancement Programme 2025

In 2025, 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, as well as funding to cover running

costs such as rent and insurance. The Local Community Development Committee on behalf of the Department and Community Development allocated funding under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025. The Local Community Development Committee approved 131 applications for projects across Limerick to the value of €264,714.68 broken down as follows:

- Metropolitan Area – 33 Applications Approved €87,805.03
- West Limerick – 30 Applications Approved €89,984.24
- East Limerick – 47 Applications Approved €86,925.41

The majority of the projects funded were completed in 2025 and contributed significantly in supporting communities, particularly in disadvantaged areas with projects to improve their buildings and facilities.

### **Community Recognition Fund**

In 2025, the Department of Rural and Community Development announced Window 03 of the 2024 Community Recognition Fund, with Limerick receiving funding for eight new projects. In conjunction with previously announced funding in 2024, this tranche brought the total number of projects in Limerick to 19, including playground upgrades, community centre improvements and other community led projects. 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.

### **Public Participation Network**

Public Participation Network Limerick (PPNL) Secretariat had six meetings in 2025 with four Plenary meetings held. There are now 286 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 the 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.

From June to September PPNL delivered a series of training events for Groups ranging from "Green Transition" for groups wanting to move to more sustainable practices to capacity building training related to effective fundraising, record keeping and preparing grant applications.

In line with their Social Inclusion goals PPNL supported the Céad Míle Fáilte initiative, a program delivered by Conradh na Gaeilge, which offers Irish language classes, events, and workshops specifically designed for people from diverse and new communities living in Ireland.

PPNL also partnered with the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) to deliver Legal Observer training. Legal observers are independent observers who are trained to monitor protests. They also supported an ICCL workshop regarding Political communications and advocacy skills.

The Public Participation Network has nomination rights for the Strategic Policy Committees in Limerick as well as the Local Community Development Committee and Limerick Local Community Safety Partnership Committee (LCSP). During 2025 PPNL conducted four election cycles for available seats, including vacant social inclusion Pillar and environmental Pillar seats on the Local Community Development Committee. At the end of 2025 PPNL had 19 Representatives on the Various Committees, with 7 new representatives Ratified by the PPNL Plenary at the December Plenary Meeting awaiting appointment to their committees by the Full Council/ Department of Justice for the two LCSP Representatives.

### **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 during 2025 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.

### **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.

The 23rd edition of the popular awards were hosted by Limerick City and County Council - who were also awarded the Council Community Engagement Award on the night

for their ongoing work to improve the city and county. The Judges said the enthusiasm of Limerick City and County Council shown towards their communities made them a worthy winner of the best overall council award.

Limerick has an impressive record of achievement in this competition. Limerick community groups triumphed at 2025 gala ceremony on the night of 07 November in Strand Hotel:

- Thomondgate Residents Association took first place in the Urban Neighbourhood under 3000 category, with judges particularly impressed with the community fostering a deeper sense of community, remembrance, and resilience.
- Templeglantine took a runner-up place in the Town with a Population between 1000 and 2000, Category.
- The Local Hub, Glenbrohane, took a runner-up place in the Community Wellbeing Initiative category.
- Foynes Flying Boat Museum received a nomination in the Community Tourism initiative and were represented on the night.



Pride of Place Picture winners Thomondgate Residents Association

## INTEGRATION, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

### Community Integration Forum (CIF)

THE CIF continued to meet monthly throughout 2025. The Forum was initially established to facilitate the coordination of support services to the community-led response to the provision of assistance to displaced Ukrainians in Limerick. However, due to the rise in International Protection Applicants, coupled with the ongoing arrival of large numbers of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection to 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 20 organisations across the state, private, community and voluntary and Non-Government Organisation (NGO) sectors is ensuring that the supports being provided locally 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.

### Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

In 2025, The team continued to work throughout Limerick City and County Council supporting International Protection

Applicants, beneficiaries of the International Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BoTP). In 2025 responsibility for the management of the LAITs nationally, transferred from the Department of Disability, Children, Equality, Integration and Youth to the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

The LAIT continued to provide all the existing supports that had been set up previously such as one to one meetings, membership of Migrant Integration Steering Group and various sub groups, draft and circulate weekly newsletters in both Ukrainian and English language.

Some of the key initiatives/work undertaken by the Local Authority Integration Team in 2025 include:

### SALAAM Project

In collaboration with the University of Limerick, Limerick's Local Authority Integration Team launched the SALAAM exhibit, part of the Suitable Alliances Against Anti-Muslim Hatred (SALAAM) initiative. The exhibit features compelling artwork by Soufeina Hamed, known for exploration of identity, racism, and Islamophobia through visual storytelling.

Entitled "Building Bridges: Forging Pathways Beyond Prejudice," the exhibit presents seven poignant comic pieces that reflect the lived experiences of Muslim communities in Ireland.

It aims to spark meaningful conversations around diversity, equality, and inclusion. Hosted at Istabraq Hall, Merchant's Quay, the exhibit was open to the public throughout the Summer months until the end of August. It will also travel to various locations across County Limerick, with further dates and venues to be announced.



SALAAM here

### Africa Day

In collaboration with Limerick Youth Service, LAIT proudly hosted the Africa Day Youth Culture Festival — a vibrant celebration of African heritage, creativity, and community spirit. The event featured a wide array of exciting activities for all ages, including fun-filled games for children, face painting, a charming magic show, and a youth fashion show showcasing traditional and modern African styles. Attendees also enjoyed live music, dance performances, and a delicious African cooking experience. The festival was a joyful and inclusive gathering that highlighted the talents and cultural pride of young people in Limerick and beyond.

**Integration, Health and Wellbeing Conference**

The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) in collaboration with and Healthy Limerick and Sláintecare Communities, hosted the First National Integration, Health and Wellbeing Conference on October 14 and 15 at the Strand Hotel, Limerick. The two-day event focused on the key themes of “Integration and Inclusion” from a local government perspective, and “Migrant Health and Wellbeing.” The conference featured contributions from a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives from Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Midwest Simon, the Local Government Management Agency, Limerick City Partnership, Ballyhoura Development, West Limerick Resources, DORAS, Mary Immaculate College, the Jesuit Refugee Centre, and others.



Integration Health and Wellbeing Conference

**Ukrainian Independence Day**

We were proud to collaborate with DORAS and the Limerick Sports Partnership to mark Ukraine Independence Day on 24 August. This year, we brought the celebration to People’s Park, giving the event a vibrant and welcoming outdoor atmosphere. The programme featured a dedicated stage showcasing live Ukrainian musical performances, including an amateur Ukrainian community choir that delighted the audience. We were honoured to welcome the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran who joined us on stage to address the crowd and express continued support for the Ukrainian community. Families enjoyed a wide range of activities, including magicians, sports games, and other family-friendly entertainment. For 2025, we expanded the fun even further with two bouncy castles and free ice cream for children and families, both of which proved incredibly popular.



Ukrainian Independence Day

**Intercultural Soccer Tournament-Refugee Week 2025**

The Local Authority Integration Team in collaboration with Limerick City Area Partnership organised an Intercultural Soccer Tournament for International Protection Applicants and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection living in Limerick City and County on the 19 June at the Factory Southside Youthspace in Limerick City. This event was held as part of Refugee Week activities, and offered participants an opportunity to compete in a fun and friendly manner with the aim of fostering inclusion and respect for intercultural diversity within the teams participating in the tournament. The event consisted of seven teams with 5 players in each team. The teams were all drawn from International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) centres in Limerick City and County. This event highlighted the positive impact Intercultural activities such as this can have on the social cohesion and integration of diverse groups of people living in IPAS and BOTP centres in Limerick City and County.



Intercultural Soccer Tournament

**Art and craft workshops**

Workshops ran over the summer months of July and August for adults and children, facilitated by individual artists in collaboration with the Hunt Museum. Each week saw between 50 - 60 adults and children attending, with a waiting list for classes before they commenced.



Art and craft workshops

## Ukrainian Community Response

### Accommodation Centres:

Limerick City and County Council's Ukrainian Response team continued to operate two accommodation centres in Abbeyfeale and Askeaton. Askeaton accommodation centre closed in October; residents were all relocated by Department of Justice Home Affairs and Migration assisted by Limerick City and County Council. Abbeyfeale accommodation centre remains operational, housing 15 individuals.

### Dedicated Accommodation Centre (DAC) Fernbank:

Limerick is one of six local authorities with a DAC, offering 30-day state accommodation for new arrivals. Limerick City and county Council manage a weekly Pathways to Accommodation clinic provide guidance and support for BOTP. Assistance in securing housing and matching to Offer a Home properties and private rental properties in collaboration with Irish Red Cross and IOM (International Organisation for Migration) is ongoing. In 2025 approximately 1,400+ arrivals were.

### Offer a Home

Limerick City and County Council continue to oversee the Offer a Home programme, currently managing 143 allocated properties that accommodate 425 individuals.

### Healthy Limerick

#### World Health Organisation (WHO) European Healthy Cities/Counties Network

In June 2025, Limerick City and County Council was awarded accreditation to the World Health Organisation European Healthy Cities and Counties Network, an initiative underscoring Limerick's commitment to promoting health and wellbeing for all of its residents. The award was presented at the WHO European Healthy Cities Annual Conference which took place in Bursa, Türkiye and was attended by a small delegation from Limerick City and County Council, led by Mayor of Limerick, John Moran. The theme of the three day conference was 'Resilient Healthy Cities: Creating Sustainable Urban Futures for All.' The accreditation further affirms Limerick's dedication to the pivotal role of local Government in improving health outcomes and addressing the broader determinants of health. 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. 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

An event was held on 07 October in King John's Castle to mark National Breastfeeding Week which runs from 01 October to 08 October. The event was delivered in Partnership with We're Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick, the Health Service Executive (HSE) community lactation team, ABC Startright and community partners. There was great attendance at the event as it celebrated Breastfeeding in a supported community setting. 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 2025, 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.

### Buddy Bench Project

The Buddy Bench Project, a collaborative effort between Limerick Mental Health Association (LMHA), Limerick City and County Council, the HSE, and local community groups, designates existing public benches as safe, welcoming spaces for connection and support. This new initiative is aimed at fostering positive mental health, reducing urban isolation, and promoting inclusivity was officially launched in Limerick. Strategically located along Limerick's riverfront and suicide patrol routes, each Buddy Bench features subtle signage, positive messaging, and a Quick Response (QR) code linking to emergency mental health supports. These benches serve as non-verbal signals that someone may be open to conversation or in need of support. The initiative is supported by a citywide awareness campaign to destigmatise mental health conversations and encourage community resilience. It aligns with Limerick's commitment to the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Good Health and Wellbeing, Reduced Inequalities and Sustainable Cities and Communities.



Buddy Bench launch

### Limerick Food Partnership

Limerick City and County Council's Healthy Limerick is supporting Limerick Food Partnership to conduct a comprehensive food environment mapping initiative. This research project aims to investigate the key drivers of food poverty, including economic, social, environmental, and systemic factors. The project involves designing maps of where and what kind of food can be purchased commercially or accessed in the community/voluntary sector. Maps will be informed by combining quantitative data from the mapping process and surveys to qualitative data derived from focus groups. This work is the beginning of broader food systems transformation work. This mapping of community and commercial food outlets has resulted in the development of two digital tools; a digitised food environment mapping tool and a complementary app for the public. Limerick is leading the development of these innovative digitised tools with support from Healthy Ireland. The next step mapping of schools and the provision of in school meals is underway. In parallel Healthy Limerick and Limerick Food Partnership have started to explore a school meals pilot.

Limerick Food Partnership participated in the "Transformative governance for food systems and biodiversity conference" in Copenhagen on 03 December. This conference brings together European leaders and change agents. The presentation focused living labs and policy councils (partnerships/collaborations) as enablers of transformative change in local food systems.

The delivery of Healthy Food Made Easy, a basic food and nutrition programme is ongoing. Funding was secured from Safefood in 2025 ensuring delivery of this programme continues until 2028. Sláintecare Healthy Communities fund the delivery of the programme is designated Sláintecare areas of Limerick city.

Various camps and workshops took place across the year including:

- "Healthy snacks" summer camp in King's Island (4 groups of 10)
- "Healthy snacks and recipes", Dock Road
- "Nutrition for men's health" 3 talks for Men's Health Week
- Nutrition talk at Men's Shed Open Day - 85 men attended
- Nutrition talk for Women's Shed
- International Cooking Sessions hosted in Tait Kitchen in collaboration with Doras and the LAIT.

### Social Health and Education Project

Social Health and Education Project is a community and voluntary 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 group work for the promotion of health and well-being. Through the funding of Healthy Limerick, twelve short programmes were delivered in 2025. The main focus of the interventions is to promote resilience and connection for people who are living in local communities that want to enhance their health and well-being.

### Play Week 2025

The period between 05 and 13 July (inclusive) was dedicated to National Play Day events in 2025. The theme for National Play Day 2025 was 'The Power of Play!'. On 09 July a live outdoor event for children and young people was delivered in the Thomondgate area of Limerick city. It created external play and recreation opportunities and was organised by Thomondgate Residents Association with support from the Community Sustainment Unit, Healthy Limerick and Sláintecare Healthy Communities. Limerick Sports Partnership facilitated outdoor games on the green aimed at the Under 12's and An Garda Síochána were also present. Live music aimed at the 12–17-year-olds also formed part of the event and refreshments were provided. The event builds on community capacity and cohesion in the area.

### Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme

The Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme in Limerick City and County continued to demonstrate its impact in 2025, 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. Since 2023, the programme engaged with over 1,141 individuals who took part in our MoveWell chronic condition specific programmes and educational talks. A total of 50 iterations of MoveWell programmes and educational talks have taken place to date from 2023. The programme has engaged directly with over 270 individuals who have been signposted to the Limerick Sport Partnership through their Physiotherapist for Physical Activity. 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.

### **SingStrong Programme**

Co-designed with PAUL Partnership and the Social Prescribing Service, Phase 2 of SingStrong began in December. This community-based singing intervention will deliver 48 sessions for people living with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), promoting respiratory health, mental wellbeing, and social inclusion in Moyross, King's Island, and Ballinacurra Weston.

### **Shelbourne Park Physical Activity Infrastructure**

In partnership with Limerick Sports Partnership and Limerick City and County Council, pre-development works commenced in 2025 to create inclusive, multi-generational activity spaces. Planned features include basketball and pickleball courts, walking trails, and BoxUp lockers, embedding physical activity into daily life through urban design.

### **Biodiversity Engagement**

In collaboration with Men's and Women's Sheds, Family Resource Centres, Midwest Simon, and ADAPT, pre-development meetings were held to support community-led biodiversity projects.

The Climate Action Officer assisted these groups in applying for biodiversity grants, strengthening local capacity for sustainable action.

### **Full Pitch Short Film**

Developed in partnership with Emerging Limerick Filmmakers and Ballinacurra Gaels GAA/Ladies Galic Football Association (LGFA), this short film explores the lived experience of girls in sport. Co-created with local athletes, the project aims to amplify voices, challenge stereotypes, and promote inclusion and wellbeing through creative storytelling. Work on this project began in 2025.

### **Garryowen Community Project**

In collaboration with Garryowen Community Development Project, this initiative organised a Community Fair and day

trips for older residents. The project aimed to promote social inclusion, reduce isolation, and enhance wellbeing among older members of the community.

### **Citizen Research Community Project**

Delivered in partnership with Mental Health Ireland, this project facilitated community-led workshops to empower residents to identify and address local health and wellbeing needs. The initiative is building sustainable, community-driven solutions and strengthening long-term engagement.

### **Limerick Mental Health Association Collaborations**

In partnership with Limerick Mental Health Association, and Healthy Limerick, Sláintecare Healthy Communities supported Mental Health Week activities across the city and county, including supporting the launch of Mental Health Week. Wellbeing sessions were hosted along the Limerick Greenway, encouraging active travel and social connection. These initiatives promoted positive mental health and community engagement.

### **Oak Lodge Social Innovation Collaboration**

Delivered in partnership with Midwest Simon and Limerick Sports Partnership, this ongoing initiative aims to provide nature-based and creative wellbeing activities for residents experiencing homelessness. Co-designed with participants, the programme promoted confidence, resilience, and social connection.

### **Limerick Growing Communities**

Working with community groups across the city and county, this initiative supported 15 active community gardens and delivered workshops on winter gardening, fermenting, and sustainable food practices, promoting environmental stewardship and social inclusion.

### **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. 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. Completed in 2025 in collaboration with St. John the Baptist Boys School and community partners, this flagship initiative created a sensory garden and geodome for outdoor learning. The space now hosts inclusive workshops and activities, promoting mental wellbeing, environmental education, and family engagement.

### **Midwest Simon Community Kitchen**

In collaboration with Midwest Simon and Limerick City and County Council, the renovated kitchen funded by Sláintecare Healthy Communities became fully operational in 2025. It now hosts cooking classes, food preparation workshops, and gardening activities, supporting food security, skill development, and mental wellbeing.

### ADAPT Wellbeing Cabin

Completed in 2025 in partnership with ADAPT Domestic Abuse Services, the Wellbeing Cabin now hosts therapeutic sessions, workshops, peer-supported activities and outreach supports for women and children affected by domestic abuse, creating a safe and nurturing environment for recovery.

### Period Equity Programme

The Period Equity Programme continued its expansion in 2025. Additional budget of €40,000 was secured with vending machines providing free menstrual products now operating in 49 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. Products were distributed to community groups and Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) secondary schools through library activity. In addition to vending machines educational workshops were also funded in 2025. Workshops were facilitated by qualified midwife and demand was unprecedented. A total of 43 education workshops took place throughout the year.



Migrant Event in Clarion

### Comhairle na nÓg

Limerick City and County Council continued to support Comhairle na nÓg in 2025. Comhairle na nÓg worked collaboratively with various stakeholders on their chosen theme of 'Public Transport.' Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, closed Limerick Comhairle na nÓg Annual Youth Conference on the 13 of 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 2026, chosen on the day, is "Relationships and Sexual health."



Comhairle na nÓg Youth Conference Limerick 2025

### Lifelong 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.

This year's festival was officially launched by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 21 March in Newcastle West Library. The event was a precursor to what was a very successful weeklong run of events that spanned a variety of topics and sectors. The theme for 2025 was based around "Literacy". Among them were "Hi-Digital-Improving your online skills", "Age with independence at home" and "Thriving After 55" all aimed at older people along with a wide range of other online and in person events.



Lifelong Learning Festival Launch 2025

### AGE FRIENDLY LIMERICK

Some of the key Age friendly events that took place throughout 2025 include the following:

#### Public Realm Consultation:

Older Persons Executive (OPE) Members Participated in a Focus Group Meeting in Istrabraq Hall in Limerick Civic Buildings at Merchant's Quay on 11 March which provided the opportunity for the voice of the older people to be included for the design for the Market Quarter and Cruises street public realm.

#### Adare Library - Artificial intelligence Training Session

On 25 April, Limerick's Age Friendly Programme Manager hosted a "Talk on the role of Artificial intelligence in the future for people as they age". This was run in conjunction with the Adare branch of Limerick City and County Councils library service. A presentation was given by Caroline and Aisling from CramdenTech Ltd. This event was fully subscribed and attended by 40 older people from within the local community including the Men's shed and Active retirement group

### The Age Friendly Ireland Convention

The Age Friendly Ireland Older People’s Councils (OPC) Convention 2025, whose theme was “The Wisdom of Years – A Lifetime of Perspective” was hosted by South Dublin County Council. The two-day convention ran from 08 May and concluded on 09 May.



Age Friendly Ireland Convention 2025 in South Dublin Age Friendly Limerick delegates with Kieran O’Donnell, Minister of State for Older People and Housing

### Irish Physical Activity Research Collaboration Workshop

A stakeholder workshop was hosted by the Irish Physical Activity Research Collaboration (IPARC) and Active Cities Limerick on 28 May at the Moyross Community Enterprise Centre. The session brought together key stakeholders involved in the delivery of physical activity programmes for older adults across Limerick. Stakeholders included Limerick Sports Partnership, Age Friendly Limerick, Slaintecare Healthy Communities, Healthy Ireland, PAUL Partnership, St Munchin’s Community Centre, HSE Health Promotion, HSE Physiotherapists, Moyross Community Companions, and the University of Limerick.

### Comhairle na nÓg “Creating a Dementia Inclusive Generation- Youth Programme.”

The Age Friendly Programme Manager as chair of Comhairle na nÓg steering group, extended an invite to Alison McCarthy, National activities co-ordinator with the Alzheimer’s Society of Ireland, to join the Comhairle na nÓg steering group meeting 23 May.

### Age Friendly and Universal Design Training

On 28 May “Age Friendly and Universal Design training” was held in the council chamber, Dooradoyle. This training focused on universal design and age friendly principles in housing and the public realm. It was attended by staff members from a range of departments across Limerick City and County Council including Place Making, public realm, housing capital, town centre first and Kilmallock area office.

### Age-Inclusive Symposium

“From Principles to Practice,” took place on 30 May, at the School of Medicine, University of Limerick. All OPE members invited. A number attended along with the Age Friendly programme manager.

### Crafty Angel Visit

On 28 July, the chairperson of Limerick’s OPE invited the Age Friendly Programme manager and team to visit the “Crafty Angels” group at Caherlonish Millennium Centre. This vibrant group, made up of around thirty-five members, gathers every Monday morning to enjoy a wide range of craft activities.

### Focus Group Held in Moyross to Advance Research on Active Ageing in Limerick

On 11 July, a focus group was held in Moyross, Limerick, as part of the second phase of a collaborative research project between IPARC (Irish Physical Activity Research Collaboration) and Limerick Sports Partnership, with support from Age Friendly Limerick. experiences, needs, and perspectives around physical activity programmes. Representatives from the OPE attended.

### Age Friendly Sports Day 2025

Members of Limerick’s OPE, accompanied by the Limerick Programme Manager, proudly took part in the National Age Friendly Sports Day. The event offered a fantastic range of taster sessions, including Cricket for All, Go for Life Games, parkrun demonstrations, inspiring guest speakers, Fitstix, and an Active Class with Weights.

### UL Age Friendly University Launch

The Age Friendly Limerick Programme manager attended the launch of an Age Friendly University at the University in Limerick on 02 September. This is a world first and the Limerick Age friendly programme is leading out on this with Clare and University of Limerick (UL).

### Limerick’s Older People’s Executive trip to Killarney

On 16 October, members of Limerick’s Older People’s Executive, accompanied by the Age Friendly Limerick Programme Manager, enjoyed a scenic trip to Killarney via the Limerick–Killarney Expressway service in conjunction with Bus Eireann “Expressway”.

### Age Friendly Ireland Achievement and Recognition Awards

Two initiatives from Limerick were submitted to the Age Friendly Ireland Achievement and Recognition Awards. A collaborative pilot project between Alone, Limerick Libraries and Vodafone where data enabled tablets were supplied to older people on a loan basis which was shortlisted for an award. The second project is a project sending care packages to family of people suffering from Dementia. The awards ceremony took place in Galway on the 23 October.

### School Meals Scheme

The School Meals Programme (Bun and Milk Scheme) continued in 2025 providing the service to 10 DEIS schools, approximately 1,900 children.

### Team Limerick Clean Up (TLC)

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.

In 2025 Team Limerick Clean Up (TLC) marked its 10th year with over 23,500 volunteers participating in the event, spread over 547 registered groups including 89 schools. There was an increase in individual litter collection points from 265 to 277, with Mr Binman reporting a collection of 50.61 tonnes of litter, a decrease from last year's 55 tonnes, equating to approximately 2000 household wheelie bins of rubbish.



Team Limerick Clean Up

A Christmas Tree Competition was held in November, where pupils across 59 primary schools in Limerick decorated over 170 Christmas trees using recycled and recyclable materials. The aim of the competition was to encourage children to learn more about the importance of recycling, sustainability and teamwork.



Team Limerick Clean Up Christmas Tree Awards

### Bin Waiver Scheme

Approximately 3,900 waivers were issued to applicants under the Bin Waiver Scheme in 2025, which was funded by Limerick City and County Council.

### Local Community Safety Partnership

The Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) was established in Limerick under the Department of Justice to strengthen collaboration between statutory agencies, community representatives, and local stakeholders in addressing safety and wellbeing. The LCSP will provide a platform for co-designing solutions to local safety challenges, ensuring that community voices are central to decision-making.

The LCSP directly supports the LECP High-Level Goal 1: People and Community by promoting wellbeing, inclusion, and active participation. Through collaborative safety initiatives, it strengthens community resilience and engagement across Limerick.

In 2025, the Community Safety team focused on:

- Building trust and engagement through inclusive forums and consultations.
- Reducing anti-social behaviour and improving perceptions of safety in public spaces.
- Supporting vulnerable groups by linking them to appropriate services.
- Sitting on the CAST Forum to help people suffering with mental health problems, or addiction issues.
- A major milestone was the introduction of Community Safety Wardens, a visible, non-enforcement presence in priority areas. Their role includes:
  - Engaging with residents and businesses to identify and resolve local safety concerns.
  - Acting as connectors between communities and services, promoting social inclusion.
  - Providing reassurance and visibility in public spaces, complementing initiatives such as playground enhancements, green space projects, and community events.

The wardens have become a trusted point of contact for communities, contributing to safer, more welcoming environments. Their work supports broader programmes such as Empowering Communities, Healthy Limerick, and integration initiatives, ensuring that safety is embedded in community development.

Looking ahead, the LCSP will be convened in Quarter 1 of 2026 with all members being appointed by the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration Jim O' Callahan. This will ensure that the Council continues to expand its collaborative approach, integrating safety into the wider Local Economic and Community Plan objectives and strengthening partnerships across Limerick.

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Work continued at pace in the Rural Development section in 2025, ongoing community engagement, working with Town Teams and local voluntary groups, in rural communities, supporting the delivery of ongoing projects, seeking funding through numerous funding calls and securing new projects under the various streams, continued throughout the year. Engagement with communities is the cornerstone to ensure there is effective delivery of projects throughout Limerick and this engagement continued in 2025. The Rural Development team grew in 2025, with the recruitment of the Capital Delivery Team, an initiative funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, to expedite the delivery of projects funded by this Government Department.

In line with national policy, such as the National Planning Framework, Our Rural Futures and the Town Centre First policy, supporting the growth and development of our towns and villages is a key objective of the Council and in order to support population growth, investment in the provision and delivery services is crucial to ensure that the necessary infrastructural development is available to support this growth. Limerick City and County Council continue to work with all relevant groups to deliver projects utilising all relevant funding opportunities.

### Town Centre First

In line with the Town Centre First policy and working closely with the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, the Rural Development teams continued the work of 2024, working closely with Town teams across Limerick. The Rathkeale Town Centre First Plan was completed and launched in November, Rathkeale came together in force for the launch of the Town Centre First Plan, marking a memorable morning for the entire community. The Plan was launched by Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, and the large attendance showcased the town's shared commitment to regeneration. The Rathkeale Town Centre First Plan sets out a strategic vision to make Rathkeale a vibrant, accessible, and sustainable town for residents, businesses, and visitors. Following considerable engagement and work on the ground, through the local development officer, the final plan reflects the priorities and aspirations of the local community. The Council will continue to work with the local community to realise the projects, identified in the plan, utilising available funding streams, to revitalise the town.

Engagement continued throughout the year with Town Teams in Abbeyfeale, Newcastle West, Kilmallock and

Askeaton, including the completion of Town Centre Health Checks, project identification and securing funding and project delivery.

### Key Programmes and Funding Streams

The delivery of the rural development programme for Limerick is underpinned by several funding programmes funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, the Council continue to work with Town Teams, community and voluntary groups and all relevant stakeholders to identify projects to enhance rural communities.

### Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund is a major programme of investment established under the National Development Plan which seeks to support large-scale, ambitious projects which can achieve sustainable economic and social development in rural areas. Limerick City and County Council have benefitted from significant investment through Limerick under this funding stream.

Throughout 2025, work continued on the delivery of the Limerick Greenway Hubs Development Project and the West Limerick Tourism Hub at Fullers Folly, which were both successful in receipt of Rural Regeneration and Development Funding in 2024. The Limerick Greenway Hubs Development Project consists of four distinct work packages, namely (a) The Limerick Greenway Hub at Ardagh Project, which includes the redevelopment of the Station House and goods shed, at Ardagh (b) The Greenway Hub at Newcastle West Building Project (c) The Limerick Greenway Hub at Newcastle West Carpark Project and (d) The Barnagh Station House Project, which includes the restoration works at the Station House at Barnagh. The four projects are ongoing and at various stages of design and construction.



The Limerick Greenway Hub at Newcastle West Carpark Project – construction commenced September



The Barnagh Station House Project – restoration commenced May



Launch of Rathkeale Town Centre First Plan in November

Construction works commenced on the Limerick Greenway Hub at Newcastle West Carpark Project in September and works are advancing at pace, with completion envisaged in mid 2026. The overall construction costs of this project is €2.179 million, which will provide a significant amenity for visitors and the local community, with the creation of a vibrant public plaza, signalised pedestrian and bicycle crossing connecting to Bishop’s Court and expanded parking for bicycles, coaches and electric vehicles. Construction works also advanced on the restoration at the Station House in Barnagh, works include the full refurbishment of the building, platform and the public realm; to create an amenity on the Limerick Greenway. The overall construction cost of this project is approximately €450,000 and it is scheduled for completion in mid 2026. The Limerick Greenway Hub at Ardagh is currently at tender stage with a tender closing in early 2026 and it is envisaged that the works will commence on this project in Quarter 2 2026. Detailed design continues on the Limerick Greenway Hub at Newcastle West Building Project and significant progress will be made on the delivery of this project in 2026.

The Limerick Greenway Hub at Rathkeale was officially opened by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran and Minister of State Jerry Buttimer, in September, following €2.48 million investment from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, under Town and Village Renewal Scheme and Limerick City and County Council’s own resources, the project included the transformation of a derelict 19th Century railway goods shed to a modern work space, the property is currently occupied by LiKe Bikes, providing bike rental and repair services on site, thus enhancing the offering at the start of the Limerick Greenway and is clustered with the Palatine Museum and the Greenway Café 1709.



Limerick Greenway Hub at Rathkeale Official Opening September

Rural Regeneration and Development 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. The appointed multidisciplinary design team progressed the detailed design in 2025, and it is envisaged that the project will go to tender in Quarter 1 of 2026.

In addition, the Rural Development Team secured a total of €1.2 million funding under Category 2, Rural Regeneration and Development Fund for two projects in County Limerick in 2025. The projects include (a) restoration of the Merchant’s House in Kilmallock and (b) repurposing and restoration of the former Bank of Ireland in Rathkeale. This funding will be utilised to bring both projects to a shovel ready stage, to advance for future funding calls. Both projects are critical to the revitalisation of the town centres and will seek to bring vacant buildings back into use and activate key town centre sites.



Official opening of The Parklet Askeaton by Minister Dara Calleary in June



The Parklet in Askeaton



Herbertstown Hub Redevelopment utilising Town and Village Renewal Funding

### Town and Village Renewal Scheme

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme was first introduced in 2016. It is managed on behalf of the Department by the local authorities, and the programme is funded under Project Ireland 2040. Towns and villages across Limerick have benefitted from the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, since the introduction of the scheme. Throughout 2025, a number of projects progressed, which had been awarded funding and commenced in 2023/2024, projects including the parklet in the West Square in Askeaton, which removed a derelict building, from a prominent location and delivered a new public space in the town centre, which was officially opened by Minister Dara Calleary in June 2025. Other projects completed include the redevelopment of a derelict unit in Ardagh, to a new retail unit, electrical and roof upgrades to community facilities in Rathkeale and the enhancement of a recreational amenity in Kilcornan. Phase 1 of Herbertstown Hub was also completed in 2025, utilising Town and Village renewal funding. This project took a derelict building and transformed the building into a dynamic community space, now occupied by a Café, the Men’s Shed and community garden, Phase 2 of the project, will seek funding to deliver enterprise space to support job creation within the village. Progress was also made with two Project Development Measures, which facilitates communities to bring projects to a shovel ready stage Project Development Measures completed in 2025, included (a) Streetscape enhancement project for Abbeyfeale Square, including paint scheme, shopfront upgrade and street furniture and (b) Refurbishment proposals for Galbally Community Centre, which is a protected structure. Proposals were progressed to planning stage and will go forward for future funding calls.

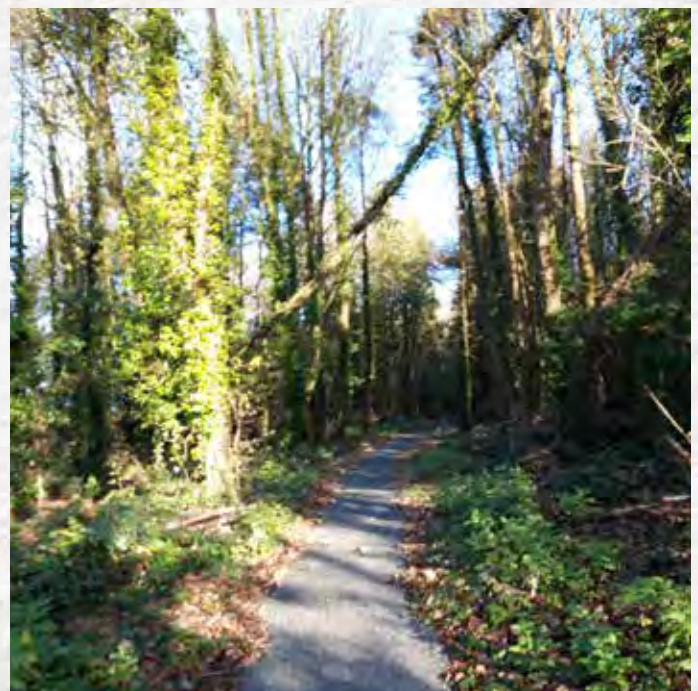
The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht issued a new call in 2025 for projects, the 2025 Town and Village Renewal Scheme is designed to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland by focusing on stimulating town centre economic and social regeneration. This call focused on projects which supports sustainable employment creation, town centre resilience and regeneration, enhancing our streetscapes, and bringing vacant and derelict buildings and lands back into use as community multi-purpose spaces through refurbishment and renovation. Limerick City and County Council were successful in securing funding for two projects under the main Town and Village Renewal Scheme, including (a) redevelop Athea Community Council Building into a modern, energy-efficient hub with meeting spaces, workshop, and accessible facilities and (b) public realm enhancement project in Adare village focusing on improved access and two further Project Development Measures, including (a) design plan for a multi-use community green space including site assessments (site surveys, environmental assessments etc), stakeholder engagement, design work, planning preparation and cost planning in Cappamore and (b) design of public realm improvements to the open area market square in the centre of Croom and the redevelopment of the former Post Office building. Furthermore, the Council secured funding under the Building/Land Acquisition Measure of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, to

purchase 3 vacant and derelict buildings on Maiden Street, Newcastle West, which will be redeveloped, subject to funding being secured under the various funding streams.

### Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme

The Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure. It also provides support for the necessary repair, maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas across Ireland. The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructural 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.

Several projects funded under the Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme in previous years, were completed in 2025, including: Project Development Measures for (a) the planning/detailed design of new walking trail at Lough Gur and (b) preparation of a proposal for planning for changing rooms, shower facilities and slipway at Kiltteery Pier, Loughill. Capital works have been completed on a number of projects across Limerick, such as (a) a new link between Darragh Creamery Carpark and the Molanna Loop (Keale River) Trail, (b) enhancement works to Ahnagurra Trail and Griston Bog sites, near Ballylanders and (c) re-instatement of the Castle Oliver Loop, near Ardpatrick. Work also advanced on the delivery of an accessible 1.4km, recreational eco trail, illuminated with low level LED lighting, at the Manor Fields in Adare.



Reinstatement of Castle Oliver Loop, funded under Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme



Enhancement works included a new Picnic Area at Ahnagurra – Griston Bog – funded under Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme



New link between Darragh Creamery Carpark and Molanna Loop Trail – funded under Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Limerick City and County Council were successful in securing funding for a number of projects, under Measures 1, 2 and 3 of the 2024/2025 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. Projects secured under Measure 1, which seeks to deliver small scale repair and upgrade works, projects included (a) Kilmoylan nature walk improvements, including enhancement of a section of the walkway, alongside necessary repairs to the pedestrian footbridge (b) the provision of public lighting to the Limerick Greenway Link from Newcastle West town centre at Bishops Court to the Greenway trailhead and (c) marketing and promotion of Adare riverbank walk and nature trail, Kilmallock looped walks and Killeedy EcoPark.

Under Measure 2, Limerick City and County Council were successful in securing funding for two projects as follows (a) the delivery of a Bird-Hide development which will provide a publicly accessible screened and controlled vantage point for bird watching at Lough Gur and (b) enhancement of Abha Bhán amenity areas and upgrade of access to the Abha Bhán River Walk in Ballyhahill. Under Measure 3. Limerick City and County Council were successful, in securing funding for the development of a significant project to redevelop the Monument Hill Walk including steps, pathway and viewing platform in Foynes.

**CLÁR Programme (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais)**

The CLÁR Programme 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. Measure 1 of the CLÁR Programme

supports a variety of capital projects, delivered by local communities, provided they contribute to the enhancement of existing, and/or the development of new, accessible community recreation facilities. Limerick City and County Council have been successful in securing funding under the CLÁR Programme, to support the development and enhancement of community facilities, in designed CLÁR areas.

Several projects funded under the CLÁR Programme in previous years, were completed in 2025, including: (a) Seating/Shelter area at Athea United, (b) Improvement to spectator area, repair to embankment wall, provision of fully accessible routes with viewing area and biodiversity enhancements at Galbally GAA, (c) Repair steps at spectator stands, installation of fencing dividing the walking track and the pitch, upgrade works to walking track at Blackrock GAA, (d) Repair of community centre roof in Doon and (e) Replacement of stage lighting and sound systems at Anglesborough Community Centre.



Athea United – Seating and Shelter Area – funded by the CLÁR programme



Doon Community Centre Roof Upgrade – funded by the CLÁR programme



Galbally GAA - Improvement to spectator area, repair to embankment wall, provision of fully accessible routes with viewing area – funded by the CLÁR programme

Total funding received by Limerick City and County Council in 2025 totalled €546,132, with a total of 9 no. projects funded across the county, which are designated within CLÁR areas. Projects included (a) Community Centre enhancements in Anglesborough (b) Development of new playground in Athea- Phase 1 of a large scale project (c) Construction of ball wall and preparatory works for astro at Ballylanders GAA (d) Community centre upgrade in Feenagh (e) Carpark upgrade in Galbally (f) Community walkway development at Glin GAA (g) Development of community gym at Galtee Gaels (h) Carpark upgrade in Kilfinane and (i) Playground upgrade at Board of Management of Glenbrohane National School.

#### **Limerick Outdoor Recreation Plan**

The Council led the preparation of an Outdoor Recreation Plan for Limerick in 2025 and completed the preparation of the Plan. This plan reflects the priorities of the national strategy, Embracing Ireland's Outdoors – National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023 – 2027, and the relevant strengths, needs and aspirations of Limerick for the next five years. The plan has been developed collaboratively, with a project team, including representatives from Limerick City and

County Council, Limerick Sports Partnership, West Limerick Resources Limited, Ballyhoura Development CLG, Fáilte Ireland and Coillte. It is envisaged that the Plan will be launched in early 2026.

#### **Limerick Greenway Maintenance**

Limerick City and County Council continued operational maintenance and infrastructural development of the Limerick Greenway. Some examples of the maintenance work completed throughout the year include hedge cutting, grass cutting, weed management, drain clearing, maintenance of carparks and blowing and sweeping of debris including fallen leaves and branches. There were several weather events in 2025 and in the aftermath of these events, the efficiency of the maintenance team ensured that the Greenway was reopened timely and made safe for users to enjoy. Works were completed on the Barnagh Tunnel Masonry Rehabilitation Works Project in November, funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland.



## APPENDIX

## APPENDIX

### CONFERENCES/SEMINARS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL			
JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2025			
DATE	TITLE	VENUE	NO.
29 April	Seminar organised by Dublin City University entitled All Hallows Campus, Dublin City University, Dublin 2 'The Martin McEvoy 2025 Conference, Mayoral Governance in Dublin – Democracy, Devolution and Impact'	All Hallows Campus, Dublin City University, Dublin	2
29 to 30 August	Seminar organised by the Daniel O'Connell Summer School entitled 'The Daniel O'Connell Summer School 2025'	The Ring of Kerry Hotel, Caherciveen, Co. Kerry and Derrynane House, Caherdaniel, Co. Kerry.	2
19 to 20 September	Seminar organised by La Touche Legacy in association With Greystones Archaeological and Historical Society entitled '2025 La Touche Legacy Seminar 10th Festival of History'	Greystones Golf Club, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	3
11 October	Seminar organised by Salmon Watch Ireland entitled 'Saving the Irish Salmon – Annual Conference Salmon Watch Ireland 2025'	Sheraton Athlone Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.	1
05 to 07 December	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'Irish Health Services Entitlements'	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	1

## STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL (SIC)

### Acknowledgement of Responsibility of the Director General

As Director General of Limerick City and County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for the system of internal control in Limerick City and County Council, including putting in place processes and procedures for the purpose of ensuring that the internal control system is operating, maintained and effective.

The system can provide reasonable and not absolute assurance to Limerick City and County Council that assets are safeguarded, all risks are managed, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely period.

Below, I confirm the key structures and elements of the control environment at Limerick City and County Council.

### Risk Management

Limerick City and County Council has put in place a risk management framework which provides the basis for effective and embedded risk management processes and reporting. A risk management process is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. 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 responsibility for operation of controls assigned to specific staff.

The Senior Management Team undertakes regular reviews of the Corporate Risk Register as part of the Council's system of internal control. The Audit Committee reviews and provides oversight of the Council's risk management arrangements, including consideration of key risks as reported from directorate or service-level registers, in accordance with its statutory responsibilities and annual work plan.

The organisation has a risk register. Our key risks and appetite are considered in the context of the annual service plan and corporate plan. A staff member at an appropriate level has been delegated responsibility to oversee Risk Management.

The risk management framework supports Limerick City and County Council in managing risk. It does not eliminate risk but supports the organisation in identifying and managing risk within tolerable levels.

### Internal Control Environment

#### Financial Control Environment

I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability
- Regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against budget forecasts
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action
- There is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management at service division level.

### **Administrative Controls and Management Reporting**

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 there are:

- control procedures for key business processes across the organisation
- systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems and data
- systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority
- appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation to ensure compliance with the Infrastructure Guidelines/Public Spending Code
- agreements in place with shared service providers, and
- subsidiary companies have been established in line with company law with Boards of Directors and oversight mechanisms in place to ensure appropriate accountability to the local authority.

### **Annual Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Control Systems**

I can confirm that the Annual Review of the effectiveness of the Internal Control System was conducted for 2025 in accordance with Code of Corporate Governance for Local Authorities (2024) and accompanying guidance as issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and supported by a Risk Register that has been developed for Limerick City and County Council.

The internal control system in place was found to be effective.

### **Procurement Compliance**

Limerick City and County Council ensures that there is an appropriate focus on good practice in purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant procurement regulations.

Procurement compliance is monitored in accordance with procurement requirements and guidelines and where instances of non-compliance were noted, corrective procedures were put in place to ensure non-recurrence.

### **Senior Management Team**

I confirm that a Senior Management Team (SMT) is in place, which supports me in operating and maintaining the system of internal control. Appropriate governance and assurance structures support the system of internal controls and the SMT monitors Risk Management, the organisation's budget, key procurement activity and the close-out of external and internal audit recommendations.

### **Audit Committee**

I confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended), and that the Committee operates in accordance with the Guidance for Audit Committees in Local Authorities (2014).

I acknowledge the Audit Committee's independent role in advising the elected 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 Limerick City and County Council.

### **Internal Audit**

I confirm that Limerick City and County Council has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel and capacity, which operates in accordance with a written charter and in line with internal audit standards. Its work is informed by analysis of the key risks to which Limerick City and County Council is exposed and its annual internal audit plan is based on this analysis, with the plan approved by the Audit Committee (following SMT input).

The Internal Audit function also carries out an annual quality assurance of the Council's compliance with the Infrastructure Guidelines/Public Spending Code including an in-depth review of a sample of projects.

I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports and recommendations of the internal audit function are followed-up in a timely manner. The Audit Committee keeps under review the effectiveness of the Internal Audit function and provides advice to me on matters of internal audit effectiveness and capacity.

The Head of Internal Audit has a direct reporting line to myself as Director General, and to the Chair of the Audit Committee.

### **External Audit**

I confirm that, in line with our statutory obligations under Section 108(6) of the Local Government Act, 2001, the draft annual financial statement for 2025 was provided to the Director of Audit. My organisation supports the assigned Local Government Auditor in conducting their work by providing timely access to information and responses to any queries arising.

I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that any findings and recommendations arising from the Local Government Auditor's work will be followed-up in a timely manner.

**National Oversight and Audit Commission**

I confirm that Limerick City and County Council engages fully with the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) and that there are procedures in place to implement actions arising from NOAC’s reports as they relate to the organisation and furthermore to examine recommendations which have sectoral application.

**Other Third Party Assurances**

I can confirm, additionally, in the context of the system of internal control and assurances, that Limerick City and County Council engaged as required with third party reviewers and assurance providers which further complemented other elements of the control environment.

I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that any findings and recommendations arising from the third parties are followed-up in a timely manner.

**Disclosures**

Any material weaknesses or breaches in internal controls which arose during the period of this statement were addressed in accordance with the Local Authority’s governance, risk and assurance arrangements.

Signed by:

Dated:



11.5.2026

**Director General**

## 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.

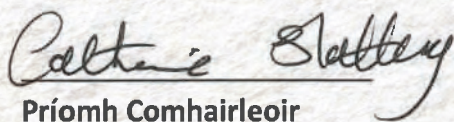
### **Our Commitment to Good Governance**

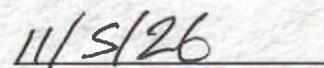
As the Príomh Comhairleoir and Director General of the council, and on behalf of the elected members, management and staff we confirm that;

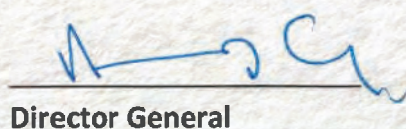
1. We have adopted the governance principles as the fundamental bedrock and philosophy on how we operate as a governing body and as an executive.
2. The Local Government Code of Governance has been adopted and the extent to which the Council is in compliance with the Code has been reviewed and assessed.
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.

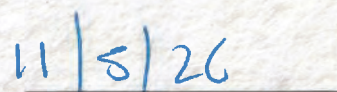
Signed by:

Dated:

  
Príomh Comhairleoir

  
11/5/26

  
Director General

  
11/5/26

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

**\*\*TO FOLLOW ONCE APPROVED BY NOAC (JULY/  
SEPTEMBER) – 15 PAGES APPROXIMATELY**