

LIMERICK DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

Mayor's

Two-Year Progress Report

17th September 2024



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1

Introduction, Vision and Strategic Overview

1.0 Chapter 1: Introduction

In accordance with the provisions of Section 12 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028 was adopted by the Elected Members of Limerick City and County Council on the 17th of June 2022. The Development Plan came into effect on the 29th of July 2022.

On the 4th of November 2022, a Section 31 Ministerial Direction was issued in respect of the Zoning Map for Limerick City and Suburbs, including Mungret and Annacotty and directed that the zoning of a number of sites at flood risk be altered to less vulnerable uses.

Variation No. 1 to the Limerick Development Plan 2022–2028 was adopted by the Elected Members on the 22nd of May 2023, comprising amendments to Policy TR P11 Road Safety and Carrying Capacity of the non-national Road Network and Objective TR O37 Land Uses and Access Standards.

Under Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and as outlined under the Development Plan Guidelines 2022, the Planning Authority is required to give a report to the Elected Members on the progress achieved in securing the objectives of the Plan. This Mayor’s Report demonstrates that in the two years since the making of the Development Plan, considerable progress has been made towards achieving the policies and objectives of the Plan.

1.1 Interim National and Regional Policy, Legislative Updates and Guidelines

Further to the adoption of the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028 in June 2022, there has been a number of updates and amendments to national and regional planning policy and associated legislation, as well as Section 28 ministerial guidelines. These updates are outlined in brief in the sections below.

1.1.1 National Planning Framework

The National Planning Framework (NPF) was published in 2018, replacing the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) as the overall spatial planning and development strategy for Ireland. The NPF combined with the National Development Plan (NDP) 2021, forms Project Ireland 2040, the overarching policy and planning framework for the social, economic and cultural development of the country.

In June 2023, the Government issued “A Road Map for the First Revision of the National Planning Framework”. Subsequently in July 2024, the Government published a Draft Revision of the National Planning Framework for public consultation. The Draft Revision focuses on the need to update the Framework to reflect changes to Government policy that have taken place since its publication in 2018. Such changes include climate transition, regional development,

demographics, digitalisation, investment and prioritisation. The Draft Revision retains the original NPF's focus on a more balanced distribution of growth across all of Ireland's regions – emphasising the potential for regional growth to harness the attractiveness and assets of all regions and places to a greater extent. The Draft Revision also retains the original NPF commitment to the promotion of city-based population and employment growth with a target of 50% of future population and employment growth to be focused in the existing five cities and their suburbs, including Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford. Greater investment and jobs-led growth in the cities will support a stronger urban structure and enhanced economic performance, and investment for the respective wider regions.

Once finalised, the revised National Planning Framework will be incorporated into the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and the City and County Development Plans. Such revisions will include updated Housing Supply Targets.

The public consultation on the Draft Revision closed on 12th September 2024. A submission has been made by the Planning Authority on behalf of Limerick City and County Council. The Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028 remains substantially in accordance with the overall objectives of the Draft Revision.

1.1.2 National Marine Planning Framework

Ireland's Marine Spatial Plan, the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) was published in June 2021. The NMPF sets out the framework for the forward planning component of our marine planning system. The NMPF brings together all marine-based human activities for the first time, outlining the government's vision, objectives and marine planning policies for each marine activity.

At time of writing, no review of the NMPF has commenced, the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028 remains in accordance with the NMPF.

1.1.3 Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) was published in 2018. The RSES provides the framework through which the NPF's vision, policies and objectives will be delivered for the region over a 12-year timeframe. The strategy sets out a framework for how society, the environment, economy and land use should develop while supporting the delivery of Project Ireland 2040. The RSES includes a Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area.

At time of writing, no review of the RSES has commenced, the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028 remains in accordance with the MASP.

1.1.4 Transport Strategy

The National Transport Authority (NTA) published the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) in December 2022. This Strategy sets out the framework for the

delivery of the transport system required to further the development of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area and provides a long-term strategic framework for the planning and development of transport infrastructure and services. The implementation of LSMATS by the National Transport Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Limerick City and County Council and Clare County Council will transform this city-region.

The policies and objectives of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 with respect to transport in the Metropolitan Area substantially aligns with LSMATS.

1.1.5 Planning and Development Legislation

- **Planning and Development Bill 2023:** The Planning Bill is the third largest Bill in the history of the State and represents the largest reshaping of the planning system in Ireland for more than two decades. This Bill, when finalised will replace the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). The Bill is expected to progress through the final stages of the Oireachtas in 2024 and the final approved version will then be signed into law by the President.

The main proposed changes from the perspective of the Development Plan include:

- **Development Plans** – The duration of a Development Plan will be amended to 10-years, with an ‘Interim Report on Implementation’ to be prepared after 4 years. This report can include recommendations for a variation if necessary.
- **Area Based Plans** – The automatic need to prepare Local Area Plans (LAPs) based on population size will be replaced by specific types of area-based plans to meet particular needs. These plans include Urban Area Plans for towns designated as ‘regional growth centres’ or ‘key towns’ in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, Priority Area Plans for a sub-part of an urban area, Joint Area Plans for an urban area that is in the administrative area of more than one Local Authority and Urban Development Zones for strategic underutilised lands.

At time of writing, the Planning and Development Bill has completed the Dail Éireann stages and is now going through the Seanad Éireann stages.

1.1.6 Section 28 Guidelines

- **Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements, Guidelines for Planning Authorities:** Published in January 2024, these guidelines set out national planning policy and guidance in relation to the planning and development of urban and rural settlements, focusing on sustainable residential development and compact settlements. The guidelines replace the Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas-Guidelines for Planning Authorities issued in 2009.

The guidelines expand on the higher-level policies of the National Planning Framework, setting policy and guidance in relation to the growth priorities for settlements, residential density, urban design and place making and introduce development standards for housing.

Density ranges set out in the guidelines respond to settlement size and contexts, recognizing the differences between cities, large and medium sized towns and smaller towns and villages. The development standards for housing will support flexibility, innovation and support the delivery of an enhanced range of housing options.

These Guidelines will require a review of the density standards contained within the Plan to determine compliance. This work is on-going.

- **Design Standards for New Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities:** Published in July 2023, the overall aim of these guidelines is to achieve a balance between the provision of high quality apartment developments and the requirement to achieve substantially increased apartment supply.

These guidelines are implemented through the Planning Authority's Development Management function and do not affect the policies and objectives of the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028.

- **Regulation of Commercial Institutional Investment in Housing, Guidelines for Planning Authorities:** Published in July 2023, these guidelines set out planning conditions to which Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála must have regard in granting planning permission for new residential development, including houses and/ or duplex units. The guidelines aim to ensure that own-door housing units and duplex units in lower density housing developments are not bulk-purchased for market rental purposes by commercial institutional investors, in a manner that causes the displacement of individual purchasers and/ or social and affordable housing, including cost rental housing.

These Guidelines are implemented through the Planning Authority's Development Management function and do not affect the policies and objectives of the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028.

- **Residential Zoned Land Tax, Guidelines for Planning Authorities:** A Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) to activate land for residential purposes and which in time will replace the Vacant Site Levy, was introduced by the Department of Finance and the Revenue Commissioners in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Section 80 of the Finance Act 2021. The associated Guidelines were issued in June 2022.

In order to implement this new tax measure, Local Authorities are required to undertake annual mapping exercises to identify the lands in scope for the tax in their respective functional areas. Provisions exist to allow landowners with lands identified as being within the scope to challenge this decision by making submissions to the Local Authority or, where the challenge to the Local Authority is unsuccessful, An Bord Pleanála.

The RZLT will be first payable in 2025 in respect of land identified on the maps to be published on the 31st January 2024 and which meets the relevant criteria as detailed in the Finance Act 2021.

As part of the submission process in 2024, it is not the intention of the Planning Authority to vary any zoning of land subject to RZLT. The RZLT does not affect the policies and objectives of the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028.

1.1.7 Town Centre First

The Town Centre First Policy published in 2022, is a cross-government policy aiming to address vacancy, dereliction and bring vibrancy back into town centres. It advocates for a holistic, place-based approach to sustainable rural development. Irish towns are facing significant challenges and opportunities that require a coordinated and comprehensive response.

The policy contains 33 no. actions which will give towns the tools and resources they need to become more viable and attractive places in which to live, work, socialise and run a business.

These Guidelines are implemented through the Town Centre First section of the Local Authority and do not affect the policies and objectives of the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028. A Town Centre First Plan has been prepared for Abbeyfeale. Rathkeale has been selected as the next town to be subject to a Town Centre First Plan.

1.2 Introduction, Vision and Strategic Overview of the Development Plan

The first chapter of the Development Plan, Chapter 1: Introduction, Vision and Strategic Overview, outlines the strategic vision, key ambitions and 10 no. interlinked strategic objectives and sets out an overview of the Plan.

The Strategic Vision ‘Limerick – A Green City Region on the Waterfront’ reads as follows ‘By 2030, Limerick will become a green City region on the Shannon Estuary connected through people and places. This will be achieved through engagement, innovation, resilient urban development and self-sustaining rural communities’.

The vision is underpinned by 10 no. interlinked strategic objectives, which provide the framework for the Plan and cover a range of overarching themes. In summary, the strategic objectives include maximising the competitive advantages of Limerick, achieving a transition to a carbon neutral and sustainable economy, creating sustainable, healthy and inclusive communities, revitalisation of the urban environments, enhancing connectivity and improving infrastructure, conserving and enhancing the built and natural heritage and developing the tourism sector. The progress made in achieving these overarching strategic objectives is considered through the analysis of the key policies and objectives set out in this report.

Chapter 1 of the Development Plan also outlines the context of planning and environmental policy, legislation and local level strategies, in which the Plan was prepared.

1.3 Format of this Report

This report comments on the progress made on the strategic policies and objectives of Volume 1 Written Statement of the Limerick Development Plan 2022 - 2028 during the first two years of its implementation. The strategic policies and objectives are laid out following the chapters of the Development Plan. All policies and objectives contained in Volume 1 Written Statement of the Development Plan are listed with an indication of progress under Appendix I of this report.

This report also includes an indication as to progress made on the strategic objectives associated with the Volume 6 Accompanying Strategies, in particular the Retail Strategy, Building Heights Strategy and Housing Strategy.

Appendix II includes the Annual Core Strategy Monitoring Report for 2023-2024, the second year of implementation of the Development Plan.

Appendix III includes the Strategic Environmental Assessment Monitoring Report.



2

Core Strategy

2.0 Chapter 2: Core Strategy

Chapter 2: Core Strategy of the Plan's Volume 1: Written Statement sets out the projected population and household growth targets for Limerick over the lifetime of the Development Plan to 2028. These targets were set out in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Framework (NPF) Implementation Roadmap, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) and the Economic and Social Research Institute's (ESRI) 'Regional Demographics and Structural Housing Demand at a County Level'. As set out in the Core Strategy, the population in Limerick was 194,899 in 2016, 209,536 in 2022 and is projected to grow to 244,121 by 2028.

Further to the population projections, the housing supply targets outlined in the Core Strategy were prepared utilising the ESRI forecast in accordance with the 'Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2020). The ESRI report sets out a forecasted requirement for an additional 15,591 no. residential units in Limerick City and County over the Plan period 2022 – 2028.

Prior to outlining the progress made in the strategic objectives of Chapter 2, Core Strategy below, this report firstly considers the results of Census 2022 and examines where growth has occurred in the intercensal period since 2016.

2.1 Census of Population 2022

During the preparation of the Limerick Development Plan 2022 - 2028, the 2016 Census provided the primary and most up to date statistics available at the time to the Planning Authority. In this regard, all data relating to population, housing and employment etc. in the Development Plan was obtained from the 2016 Census datasets. The most recent Census took place on 3rd April 2022, with the results published on an incremental basis as part of a series of themed reports as follows:

- Profile 1 – Population Distribution and Movement
- Profile 2 – Housing in Ireland
- Profile 3 – Households, Families and Childcare
- Profile 4 – Disability, Health and Carers
- Profile 5 – Diversity, Migration, Ethnicity, Irish Travellers and Religion
- Profile 6 – Homelessness
- Profile 7 – Employment, Occupations and Commuting
- Profile 8 – The Irish Language and Education
- Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS)
- Place of Work, School, College – Census of Anonymised Records (POWSCAR)

The Census 2022 data is fundamental to establish the rate of population growth and the locations of such growth in Limerick. This will determine the progress being made in the Core

Strategy and facilitate the Local Authority in establishing the associated requirements for infrastructure and services.

2.1.1 Population Trends

This section provides a brief overview of the population trends nationally and regionally, followed by a short analysis of the performance of Limerick County, City and settlements designated in the hierarchy in terms of population growth.

Ireland's population was recorded as 5,149,139 in the 2022 Census. As set out in Table 1 below, the Census data indicates that Ireland experienced steady population growth between 2011 and 2016, with an actual growth of 173,613 and a percentage increase of 3.8%, followed by a surge in growth of 387,274 or 8.1% in the 2016 to 2022 intercensal period. The Southern Region's population was 1,703,393 in the 2022 Census, having experienced growth of 117,487 or 7.4% since 2016.

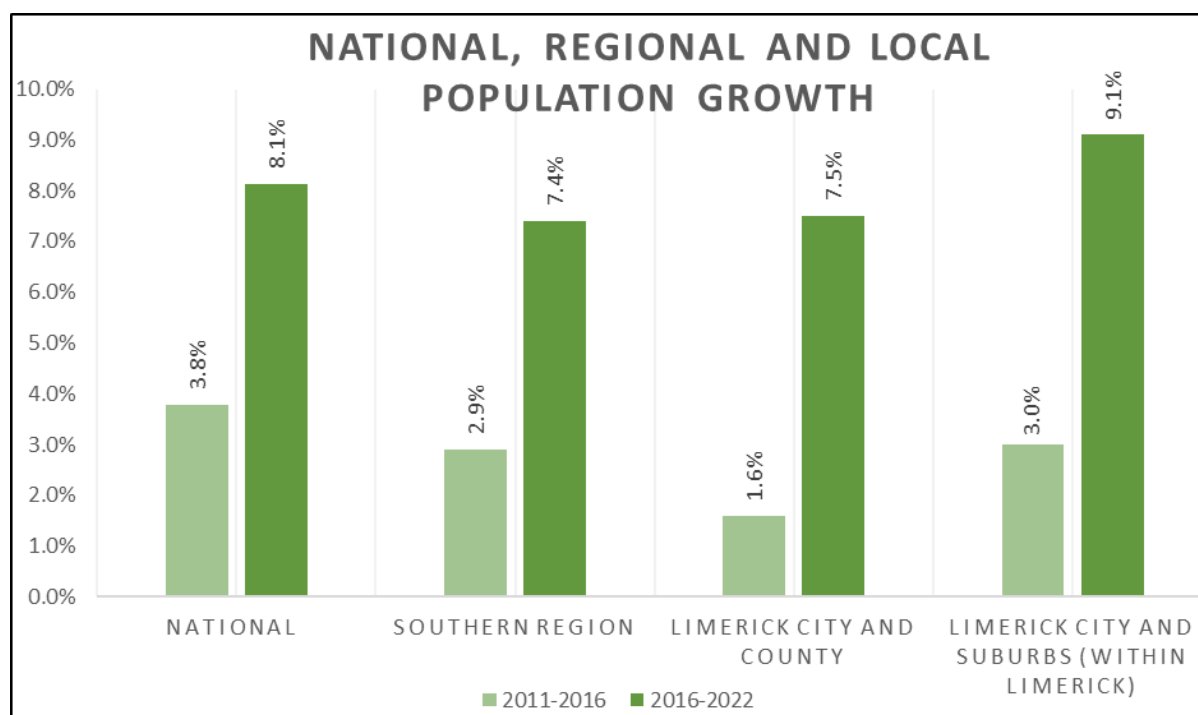


Table 1: National, Regional and Local Population Growth Trends, CSO 2022

As set out in Table 1 above and Table 2 below, Limerick City and County experienced population growth throughout both intercensal periods. Between 2011 and 2016, the population grew by 3,090 or 1.6%, followed by a surge in growth of 14,637 or 7.5% between 2016 and 2022 when the population reached 209,536.

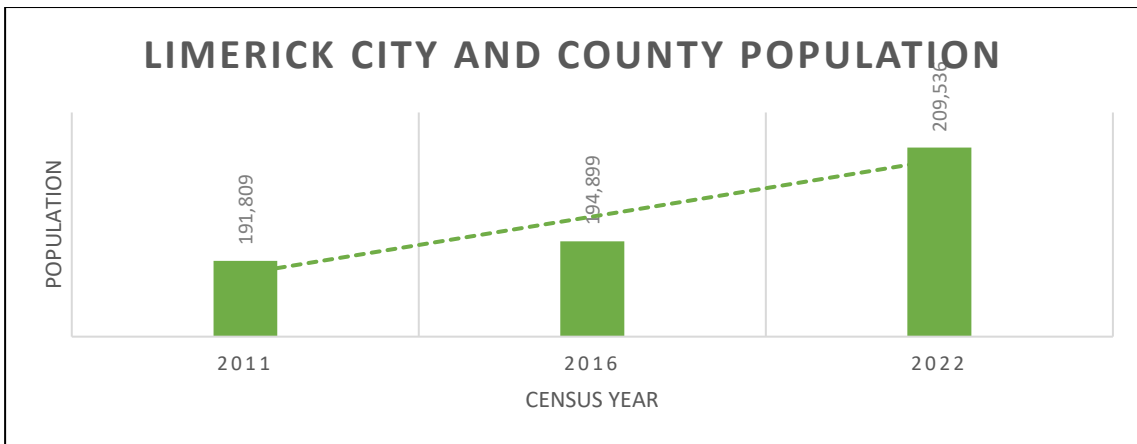


Table 2: Limerick City and County Population, CSO 2022

The majority of this growth was concentrated in Limerick City and Suburbs (in Limerick), where population growth was 2,590 or 2.97% between 2011 and 2016, followed by exceptional growth of 8,181 or 9.1% between 2016 and 2022 as indicated in Table 3 below. The City and Suburbs (in Limerick) recorded a total population of 97,852 in 2022. In accordance with the Core Strategy forecast, the population of Limerick will grow to 244,121 by 2028, with a forecasted population of 123,242 in the City and Suburbs (in Limerick).

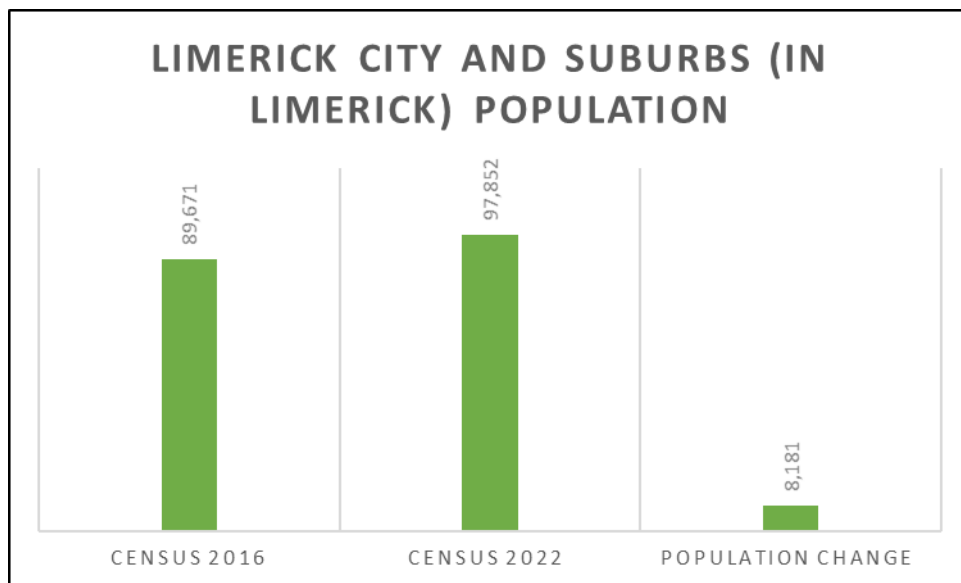


Table 3: Limerick City and Suburbs Population, CSO 2022

The notable population increase experienced in Limerick City and Suburbs during the 2016 to 2022 intercensal period, aligns with the strategic approach of the Local Authority to encourage urban living, through the provision of zoned and serviced land, with investment in regeneration and infrastructure to facilitate consolidation and compact growth of the settlement.

The growth of the City and Suburbs demonstrates the desirability of the settlement as a place to live and work, with a range of third level institutes and strengths in various employment

sectors. As per Table 4 below, the Metropolitan settlements have also generally experienced population growth. The pattern of population growth in the Metropolitan Area accords with the objectives of the National Planning Framework (NPF), the Regional and Spatial Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) and is in line with the Core Strategy of the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028.

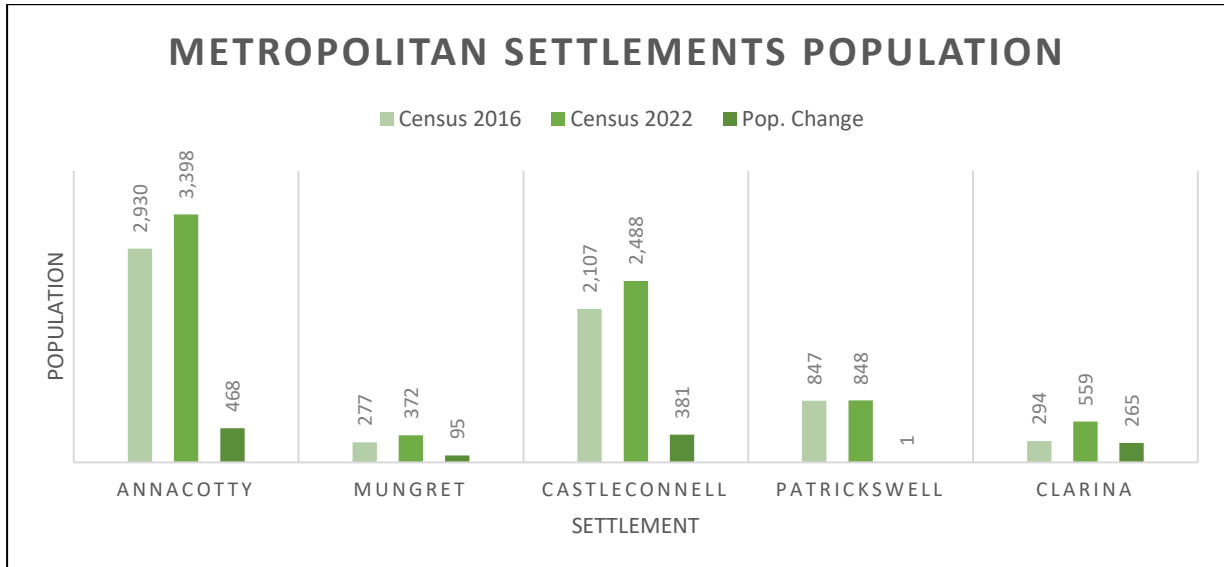


Table 4: Metropolitan Settlements Population, CSO 2022

The Planning Authority would like to note that the population growth in Clarina from 2016 to 2022 was due to a change in the area contained within the CSO’s boundary for the settlement.

Outside of the Metropolitan Area, notable growth is evident in the Key Town of Newcastle West. As set out in Table 5 below, the settlement experienced substantial growth of 8.9% between 2016 and 2022 to reach a population of 7,209. As per the Core Strategy, the Key Town is forecast to continue to grow to 8,607 persons by 2028. Such projected growth is in accordance with the objectives as set out in the RSES for a designated Key Town.

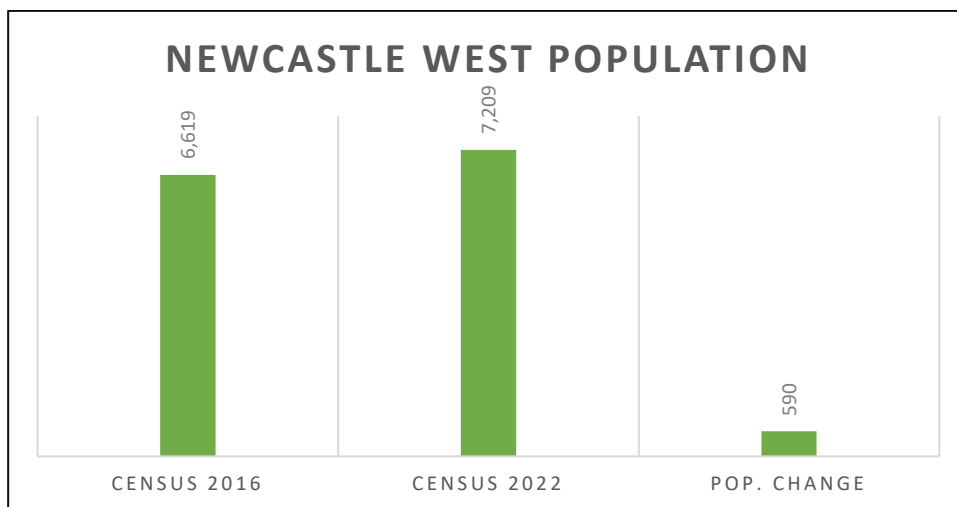


Table 5: Newcastle West Population, CSO 2022

As set out in Table 6 below, the Level 3 Towns of Abbeyfeale, Kilmallock and Caherconlish, have also shown consistent population growth, with Abbeyfeale increasing by 9% to 2,206, Kilmallock increasing 5.6% to 1,761 and Caherconlish increasing 6.3% to 1,569. On the other hand, the Level 3 Town of Rathkeale has experienced a decline in population of 14.6% (210) to 1,231 over the last intercensal period. The population in Rathkeale varies throughout the year given the migratory nature of a large proportion of the Traveller members of the community. However, a recovery in the population to 1,844 by 2028 is forecast in Rathkeale as set out in the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy identifies a forecast for population growth to a total of 8,383 across the combined Level 3 Towns to 2028, indicating positive prospects for the continued development and attractiveness of these settlements for residential and employment growth.

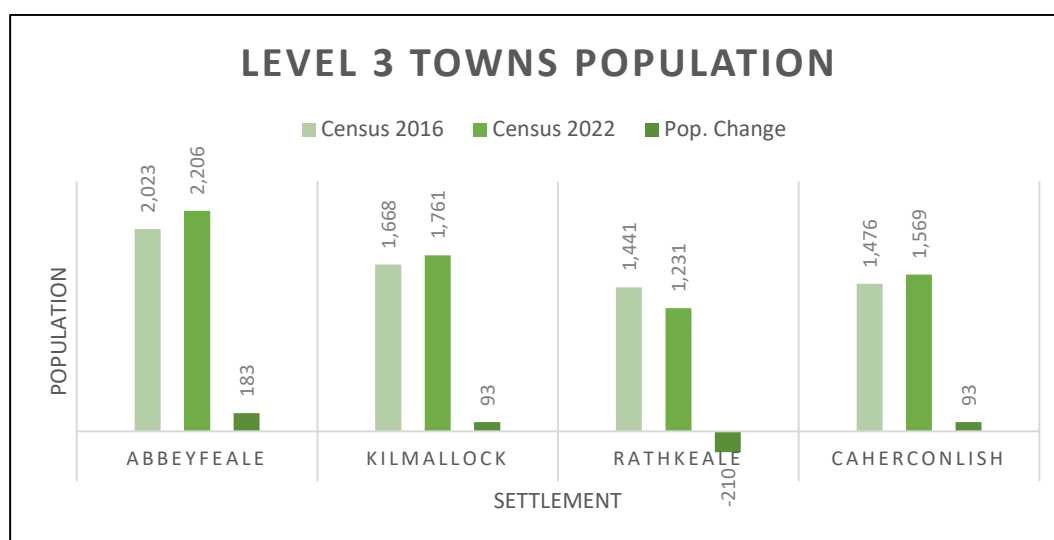


Table 6: Level 3 Towns Population, CSO 2022

The 2022 Census data shows varied population trends across the Level 4 Settlements as set out in Table 7 below. Some of the Level 4 settlements demonstrated steady growth and resilience, while others are facing challenges for recovery. The settlements with consistent and substantial population growth include Adare (+8.4% to 1,224), Murroe (+4% to 1,432) and Doon (+26.2% to 651). This demonstrates the attractiveness and opportunities for continued regeneration and compact growth in these settlements.

The Planning Authority notes that the settlement boundary for Doon changed from 2016 to 2022, resulting in the considerable population increase for the settlement. In contrast, the settlements of Pallasgreen and Pallskenry have experienced a decline in population of 59% to 229 and 6% to 610 respectfully. The Planning Authority would like to note that the stark decline in the population figure for Pallasgreen is due to a significant reduction in the area within the settlement boundary designated by the CSO, resulting in the omission of the conjoining village of Nicker.

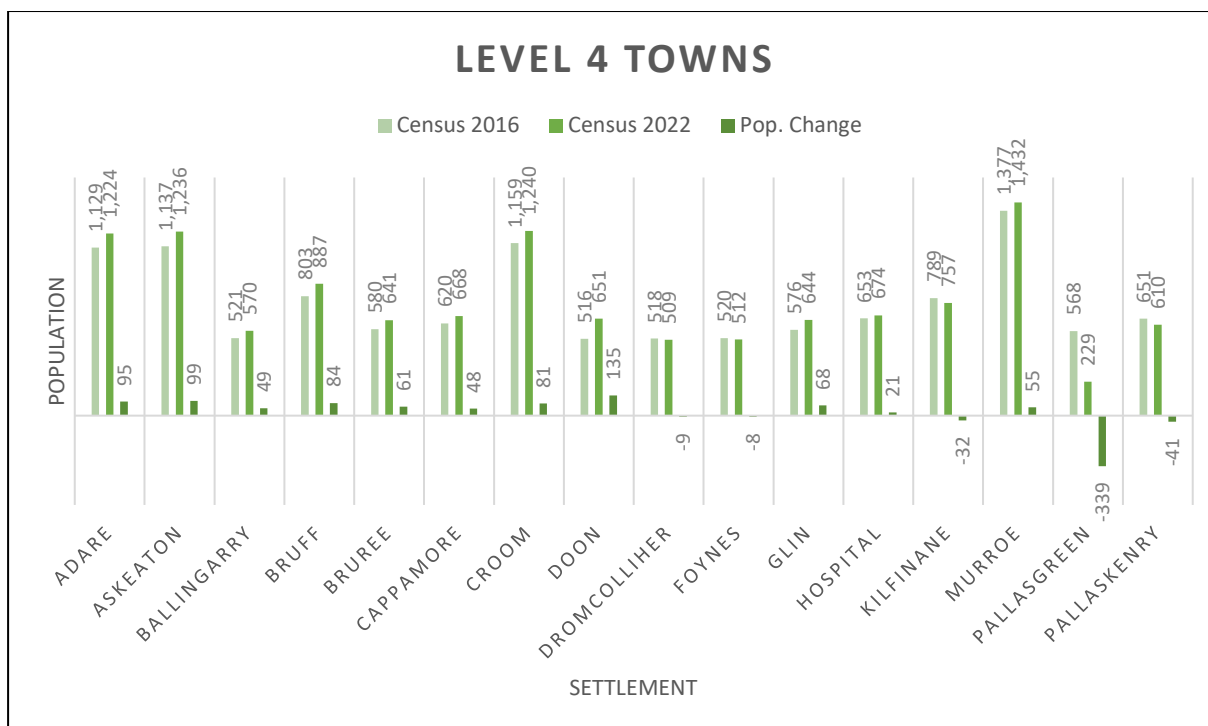


Table 7: Level 4 Towns Population, CSO 2022

Overall, the 2022 Census data demonstrates positive population growth in the designated settlements in the hierarchy. To this effect, the population growth trends demonstrate that the Core Strategy has accurately directed population growth towards the designated settlements across the hierarchy of the Plan. The population trends provide confidence that the annual monitoring report will demonstrate that the objectives of the Core Strategy can be achieved over the lifetime of the Plan.

2.2 Core Strategy Policies and Objectives

Core Strategy Policies and Objectives	
Policy CS P1 - Core Strategy Implementation	<i>It is a policy of the Council to implement the Core Strategy for Limerick to ensure consistency with policies at a national and regional level, in particular population targets and distribution.</i>
Ancillary Policies/Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective CS O3 - Monitoring Growth
Progress Commentary	The Core Strategy aims to ensure that there is an acceptable equilibrium between the supply of zoned and serviced land to cater for the projected demand for new housing, facilitate economic development and provide community facilities, soft and hard infrastructure. The implementation of the Core Strategy is largely a function of the Development Management section of the Planning Authority, through the consistent application of policies and

Core Strategy Policies and Objectives

objectives of the Development Plan in the assessment of planning applications.

In accordance with Section 10.3 of the 'Development Plans Guidelines for Planning Authorities' a Year Two Core Strategy Monitoring Report for 2023 - 2024 has been prepared as set out in Appendix II. The Year One Core Strategy Monitoring Report for the Development Plan 2022 – 2023 has been published on the Development Plan website. These reports outline the progress in the residential and commercial indicators specified in the guidelines.

The reports set out that approximately 1,632 no. dwellings have been completed across Limerick City and County in the first two years since the adoption of the Development Plan. The majority of the units were completed in Limerick City and Suburbs, followed by the Key Town of Newcastle West. Such development is substantially in accordance with the objectives for compact growth (NPO 3) of the NPF and the Core Strategy of the Development Plan. However, the level of completions remains below the average annual target of 2,598 no. units, across all settlements as set out in the Core Strategy Monitoring Report. This is likely due to the continuing economic situation of high inflation, increased costs of construction, lack of viability and the affordability of purchasing new properties.

With respect to planning permissions, a total of 3,038 residential units have been granted permission across the City and County during the first two years of the Plan. Across all of the settlements, 2,692 no. residential units have been granted permission, comprising 1,216 no. apartments and 1,476 no. dwelling units. The majority of units granted (1,072 no.) comprise three bedrooms, followed by two bedrooms units (712 no.). The quantum of lands zoned for residential development that remains without planning permission across all settlements is sufficient to cater for the forecasted housing requirements to 2028.

In relation to rural areas, 346 no. one off dwellings have been granted planning permission during the first two years of the Plan, this is in excess of the Core Strategy average target of 128 no. units per annum. The majority of these units (248 no.) were granted in the areas designated Strong Urban Influence, with 34 no. of the permissions located within the Rural Metropolitan Area.

On the basis of a population projection of an additional 49,222 persons to 2028, the Core Strategy allocated proportionate residential growth targets across all levels of the settlement hierarchy in Limerick

Core Strategy Policies and Objectives	
	<p>City and County. As set out under the Census 2022 section of this report, the intercensal period since 2016 has demonstrated a population increase of 14,637 (7.5%) persons to reach 209,536. This is broadly aligned with the population growth projected in the Core Strategy, which provides for an annual average population growth of 4,101 persons. In the event that the population continues to increase at a similar rate, it is reasonable to anticipate that the population in 2028 will be broadly aligned with the projections of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Further to the pattern of population growth in the intercensal period 2016 to 2022, it is evident that the Core Strategy has accurately directed the forecasted growth towards the designated settlements, particularly Limerick City and Suburbs. In conjunction with population growth, the pattern of planning permissions granted for residential development, particularly in the settlements, creates confidence that the annual monitoring reports will demonstrate that the objectives of the Core Strategy can be achieved over the lifetime of the Limerick Plan 2022 - 2028. However, it is noted that dwelling completions are not in line with population growth as considered in the Core Strategy Monitoring Reports.</p>
Policy CS P2 - Compact Growth	<i>It is a policy of the Council to support the compact growth of Limerick City Metropolitan Area, towns and villages by prioritising housing and employment development in locations within and contiguous to existing City and town footprints where it can be served by public transport and walking and cycling networks, to ensure that development proceeds sustainably and at an appropriate scale, density and sequence, in line with the Core Strategy Table 2.7.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy CGR P1 - Compact Growth and Revitalisation • Objective CGR O1 - Prevention of Urban Sprawl • Objective CGR O3 - Urban Lands and Compact Growth
Progress Commentary	<p>Compact growth is fundamental for achieving the sustainable growth of settlements. The compact growth of settlements will facilitate the creation of critical mass and the revitalisation of centres, while supporting existing and enabling expansion of economic opportunities, local facilities and services, including public transport. The implementation of the Compact Growth policies is largely a function of the Development Management section of the Planning Authority.</p> <p>Developments which are considered to contribute to compact growth are located on sites in settlements which are either centrally located, close to or within the footprint of existing built up areas, including infill/ brownfield and underutilised sites, that have ease of</p>

Core Strategy Policies and Objectives	
	<p>connectivity to existing infrastructure and services, such as public transport and schools.</p> <p>In order to achieve compact growth and consolidation of the built environment, the Development Plan aims to deliver developments at a higher population density and progress active land management measures, including facilitating the development of brownfield and infill sites to achieve a more efficient use of zoned land. Achieving compact growth requires a balance between the provision of both high quality and appropriate high-density developments, to ensure that living in settlements is an attractive option for the population.</p> <p>As set out in the Core Strategy Monitoring Report, where zoned lands have come forward for development in the settlements, of the 182 no. residential planning applications permitted, approximately 91% are considered to contribute to compact growth. This demonstrates that the growth pattern is consistent with national and regional policy to deliver consolidation of the urban areas and will contribute to the compact growth pattern of the settlements. Such patterns of development will also assist in the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society.</p> <p>With respect to the Settlement Consolidation Sites in Limerick City, development works are ongoing on the Opera Square site. A number of Framework and Masterplans have been completed on the other sites, including Colbert Quarter and Cleeves Riverside Quarter. The commencement of development on some of these sites will be in the medium (2-5 years) to long term (5-10 years).</p> <p>With respect to commercial development, permissions have been granted for all types of commercial uses in Limerick City and Suburbs, followed by retail development in Newcastle West. Such development will contribute to the compact growth and economic development of the settlements in accordance with the objectives of the RSES, MASP and Development Plan.</p>
Policy CS P3 - Availability of Land	<i>It is a policy of the Council to ensure that sufficient zoned land continues to be available for the projected population and employment growth over the lifetime of the Plan.</i>
Progress Commentary	This policy will continue to be monitored and secured over the lifetime of the Plan by the Forward Planning section of the Planning Authority, through ensuring that sufficient zoned lands remain available to fulfil housing and employment needs to 2028 and beyond.

Core Strategy Policies and Objectives

The Plan incorporates zoning objectives for the settlements of Limerick City and Suburbs, Annacotty and Mungret and the Level 4 Large Villages. There have been no variations to the zoning objectives for the settlements incorporated in the Plan since adoption. Subsequent to the adoption of the Plan as examined under Policy CS P4 below, a number of new Local Area Plans are now in effect and include sufficient quantities of zoned land to cater for the projected growth of the settlements.

Notwithstanding the planning permissions granted for residential development prior to 31st July 2022 and which remain live, since the adoption of the Development Plan 2,692 no. residential units have been granted permission across the zoned settlements in the hierarchy. In Limerick City and Suburbs alone, in the event that all granted planning permissions were implemented, the remaining capacity for residential development on lands zoned for residential, or a mixture of uses that include residential as per the Settlement Capacity Audit, equates to approximately 8,933 no. residential units.

The quantum of residential and employment land zoned in the settlements is set out in the table below:

Settlement	Zoned New Residential and Serviced Sites (ha.)	Zoned for Employment Related Uses (ha.)
Limerick City and Suburbs, including Mungret and Annacotty	362.82	274.60
Abbeyfeale	10.97	40.14
Adare	18.01	5.71
Askeaton	10.70	0.229
Caherconlish	8.951	5.89
Cappamore	2.92	0.65
Castleconnell	15	10.77
Croom	13.90	6.45
Foynes	3.49	124.6
Newcastle West	59.50	61.77
Patrickswell	22.03	10.81
Rathkeale	9.27	60
Kilmallock	23.51	18.85
Total	557	706

Core Strategy Policies and Objectives	
	<p>A significant area of lands zoned for residential or employment uses in the settlements have not come forward for development. Therefore, the quantum of lands zoned for residential and employment use that remains undeveloped and/or without planning permission, is sufficient to accommodate the forecasted housing and employment requirements to 2028.</p> <p>The First Revision of the National Planning Framework outlines a projected population growth to 150,000 people in Limerick City and Suburbs by 2040. The quantum of existing undeveloped zoned land available to 2028 is considered to align on a pro rata basis with the requirements to cater for long-term population growth as set out under the First Revision.</p>
Policy CS P4 - Local Area Plans	<i>It is a policy of the Council to use Local Area Plans, that form part of the hierarchy of plans within Limerick, to promote and embed the principles of good urban design in the delivery of new and existing, sustainable communities. Following the adoption of the Plan, a review of the existing Local Area Plans will be undertaken to ensure consistency with the Core Strategy and policies and objectives of the Development Plan.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective CS O1 - Phase 2 Residential Development Lands • Objective CGR O12 - Newcastle West Local Area Plan • Objective CGR O13 - Level 3 – Towns • Objective CGR O16 - Local Area Plans in Level 4 Settlements
Progress Commentary	<p>The Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 sits at the top of Limerick’s local level planning policy and operates in conjunction with a number of lower tier Local Area Plans (LAPs). The Forward Planning section of the Planning Authority has pursued a programme of LAP reviews since the adoption of the Plan. This programme has allowed development of specific strategies for the individual settlements and emphasises the need for the integration of land use and transport, the need to address climate change and enhance the public realm etc.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Plan, the LAPs for Abbeyfeale, Adare, Caherconlish, Castleconnell, Newcastle West, Patrickswell and Rathkeale have been reviewed and new LAPs are now in effect. The previous approach to the phasing of lands for residential development has been removed from the new LAPs. An amendment process for the Kilmallock LAP has been completed and the lifetime of this LAP has been extended by 5 years. It is the intention of the Planning Authority to also extend the life of the Croom LAP. Development Plan Objective CS O1 - Phase 2 Residential Development Lands remains applicable to the settlement of Askeaton only. In the first two years of the Plan, no development has received planning permission on Phase 2 lands.</p>

Core Strategy Policies and Objectives	
	<p>As set out under Section 2.1 Census of Population 2022 and in the Core Strategy Monitoring Report in Appendix II, the Level 3 towns have experienced combined population growth of 540 between 2016 and 2022. Since the adoption of the Development Plan, 55 no. residential units have been granted planning permission in the towns and 55 no. units were completed in 2022 and 2023. Of the units granted, 95% will contribute to the compact growth of the Level 3 towns.</p>
Policy CS P5 - Road Network	<p><i>It is a policy of the Council to maintain the strategic function, capacity and safety of the national roads network, including planning for future capacity enhancements and ensure that the existing extensive transport networks, which have been greatly enhanced over the last two decades, are maintained to a high level to ensure quality levels of service, safety, accessibility and connectivity to transport users.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>The function, capacity and safety of the national roads network will continue to be secured throughout the lifetime of the Plan through the Development Management section of the Planning Authority, the Roads Authority and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).</p> <p>In order to maintain the efficiency and functionality of the national road network, it is important that the number of new accesses and the intensification of existing accesses are restricted. It is the intention of the Planning Authority that no development that would materially compromise the capacity and safety of the network is permitted. Furthermore, TII provides funding for various projects including the realignment and re-surfacing of roads, ensuring a high standard of road maintenance and improvement of the standard of junctions.</p>
Policy CS P6 - LSMATS	<p><i>It is a policy of the Council to ensure that the Core Strategy is in line with the objectives of the final LSMATS and the integration of land use planning and transport in reducing the need to travel and promote modal shift from the use of the private car.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>The National Transport Authority (NTA) published the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) in December 2022. The Core Strategy was prepared in conjunction with the Draft LSMATS and substantially accords with the objectives of the final strategy. In this regard, both the Plan and LSMATS aim to integrate land use and transport planning. This is evident through the Plan's application of population targets, active land measures and varied density zones across each of the settlements. The Core Strategy and Plan objectives will in turn enable the creation of compact growth and associated critical mass to justify investment in sustainable modes of transport, whilst encouraging modal shift. Furthermore, proposals,</p>

Core Strategy Policies and Objectives	
	which incorporate higher density, as well as providing linkages for walking and cycling to the centre of settlements, public transport nodes and employment locations, are also promoted through the Development Management section of the Planning Authority.
Policy CS P7 - Settlement Strategy	<p><i>It is a policy of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Align with the provisions of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region.</i></p> <p><i>b. Accord with the Core Strategy set out in Chapter 2: Core Strategy and the Housing Strategy, including the Housing Needs Demand Assessment for Limerick set out in Volume 6 of the Plan.</i></p> <p><i>c. Seek to promote the creation of sustainable places and healthy communities, while ensuring that development occurs at an appropriate pace and that infrastructure is delivered in tandem to support this growth.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy CS P8 - Development of Limerick in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy
Progress Commentary	<p>The Plan's Settlement Strategy is aligned with the settlement hierarchy set out in the National Planning Framework (NPF) and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES). In setting out the Settlement Strategy, the Plan considered the National and Regional Planning Objectives, which support economic development, compact growth, revitalisation, brownfield and infill development. The Settlement Strategy is supported by a Housing Strategy and Housing Need Demand Assessment as set out in Volume 6 of the Plan, the strategic objectives of which are considered under section 4.0 Chapter 4: Housing below.</p> <p>An analysis of the population growth at a settlement level confirms that the pattern of growth is aligned with the projections of the Core Strategy. This also confirms that the Settlement Strategy is being implemented successfully, with particular respect to the prioritisation of the City and Suburbs and Key Town of Newcastle West for population and economic development.</p> <p>Development Management will continue to assess planning applications for compliance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy. Planning applications will continue to be assessed to ensure that appropriately scaled and sustainable patterns of development are delivered in the settlements in accordance with available capacity in public infrastructure. In some settlements, a lack of capacity in wastewater and/or water treatment facilities is inhibiting growth and obstructing sustainable urban development.</p>

Core Strategy Policies and Objectives	
Objective CS O2 - Capacity of Town/Village to Absorb Development	<i>It is an objective of the Council that development within towns and villages shall be considered on the basis of its connectivity to the existing town/village core, capacity (infrastructural, social, cultural and economic), good design, community gain and proper planning and sustainable development.</i>
Progress Commentary	The Forward Planning section of the Planning Authority will continue to monitor growth patterns and the pace of growth in the individual settlements of the hierarchy. Development Management will continue to ensure that appropriately scaled and sustainable forms of development will be permitted in settlements, where sufficient capacity is available in hard and soft infrastructure to absorb such development in accordance with compact growth.

2.3 Conclusion

In conclusion, it is considered that implementation of the Core Strategy and associated Settlement Strategy has been successful over the first two years of the Development Plan. As demonstrated, population growth has occurred in the settlements designated for growth and the rate of such growth is consistent with the targets set out in the Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy includes a housing target of 15,591 no. units across Limerick City and County. Notwithstanding the residential planning applications granted permission prior to the 31st of July 2022 and which remain live, in the first two years of the Plan alone, planning permission has been granted in the settlements and open countryside for 3,038 no. units, or approximately 19.4% of the target over the lifetime of the Plan.

Whilst the rate of new dwelling completions is below annual targets, the number of completions are generally increasing year on year since the lowest level in the recession. Dwellings being completed in recent times are generally from permissions granted prior to 31st July 2022. The annual Core Strategy Monitoring Report demonstrates that there are a large number of extant permissions for residential development, which have not yet commenced construction. Permissions are in place for a large number and range of apartment and dwellings units.

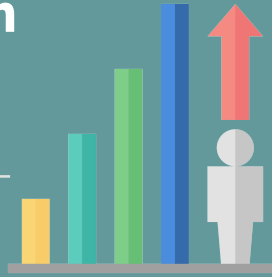
The Council continues to support housing and economic development through a significant bank of lands that are zoned and serviced, or serviceable, for residential and employment purposes across all settlements. The Council will continue to liaise with key stakeholders and agencies to provide enabling infrastructure and support the release of residentially zoned lands to ensure the housing targets set out in the Core Strategy can be achieved. In particular, the Council will continue to work with Uisce Éireann to address issues identified in the annual water and wastewater capacity registers, which in some instances is inhibiting the sustainable growth of settlements.

Core Strategy Two Year Progress Report

Limerick City and County Population

2022 209,536

2016 194,899



Population increase of **7.5%**
from 2016-2022

15,591



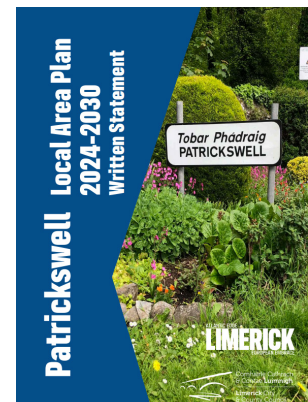
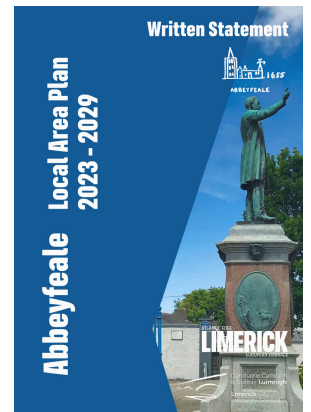
Additional Households
Forecasted 2022-2028

Planning Permissions



3,038

Residential units granted
permission comprising 1,216
apartments and 1,822 houses



8,933

Dwellings Capacity

Land Available in Limerick
City and Suburbs without
planning permission

Compact Growth



182 Urban residential
planning applications
granted, **91%** contribute to
Compact Growth

3

Spatial Strategy



3.0 Chapter 3: Spatial Strategy

Chapter 3: Spatial Strategy sets out the Spatial Strategy for the sustainable population growth of Limerick, in accordance with the Core Strategy, whilst achieving a balance between social, economic and environmental factors over the lifetime of the Development Plan.

The following tables set out a brief outline of the progress made in achieving the strategic policies and objectives of the Spatial Strategy chapter of the Limerick Development Plan 2022 - 2028. It should be noted that some Compact Growth policies and objectives in this chapter are already addressed under Section 2.2 Core Strategy above.

3.1 Compact Growth

Compact Growth	
Objective CGR O2 - Place-making, Universal Design and Public Realm	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Ensure that all developments are designed to the highest quality with respect to the principles of place-making, universal design and public realm including the guidance set out under the Urban Design Manual – A Best Practice Guide (2009) and the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2013) the Whole of Government National Disability Inclusion Strategy (NDIS) 2017-2022 and the 2020 DMURS Interim Advice Note – Covid 19 Pandemic Response.</i></p> <p><i>b. Prepare and facilitate implementation of Public Realm Plans for settlements including Limerick City, Adare and Rathkeale.</i></p> <p><i>c. Ensure the construction of the highest quality and innovative designed buildings, in particular on the approaches to Limerick City, along the Riverfront/Quays, on important street corners or junctions, corner sites, the end of vistas and gateways, Town Centres and the edges of public squares or open space.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>The Plan emphasises the importance of place making to enable the City, towns and villages across Limerick to provide attractive environments for people to live, work, invest and visit. Limerick City and County Council has established a Directorate to specifically deal with Planning and Place-making. While the Development Management section ensures that proposed developments comply with the principles that guide place making, universal design and public realm, the Place-making and Public-realm sections have responsibility for public realm projects across Limerick.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, the following projects are of note:</p>

Compact Growth

-O’Connell Street Revitalisation: The O’Connell Street Urban Revitalisation Project Phase 1 public realm upgrades are fully complete. Phase 1 extended from Denmark Street to Cecil Street. The works included the widening and repaving of footpaths, the provision of a shared road surface, the removal of parking to include cycle lanes and the provision of street furniture to include seating, planting, lighting and bike racks.

-Limerick City Public Realm Strategy: The aim of this strategy is to guide the enhancement, management, use and development of the public domain in collaboration with all stakeholders. The strategy examines the public spaces within the area of Limerick City zoned City Centre, including the streets, squares, laneways, linkages, riverside, bridges, parks and green spaces. The strategy sets out a vision for improvements to guide investment and development and aims to create a simple, uncluttered and consistent design approach. It is intended that the Draft Strategy will be placed on public display in conjunction with the Limerick City Transport Plan.

-Limerick City Wayfinding and Orientation Signage Project: This project aims to enhance the visitor experience and encourage people to explore key areas of the City. The project consisted of the removal of 45 no. signs and the installation of 70 no. new pedestrian wayfinding and orientation signs, comprising 18 no. map totems, 19 no. route markers and 33 no. finger posts at various locations throughout the City Centre. The project was partly funded by Fáilte Ireland through the Destination Towns Scheme for €468,750, with the remaining funding provided by Limerick City and County Council. The project received Part 8 Planning in November 2023 and works commenced in 2024.

In 2023, a de-cluttering project to remove obsolete and redundant signs from Limerick City’s streets was completed following a comprehensive survey of all signage and consultation with stakeholders. The success of the project provided a blueprint on how the Council assess existing street signage and more street signage de-cluttering was carried out in 2024.

-King’s Island Walled Town Spatial Framework: This framework will set out a blueprint for the potential transformation of this strategically significant area in Limerick City over time. The framework will outline the role of the public realm, including key urban spaces, pedestrian-friendly connections and streetscape enhancements, with a particular focus on Nicholas Street. An occupancy review of Nicholas Street is undertaken annually. This

Compact Growth

framework will guide and stimulate future investments in the area and is set to be completed in 2024.

-Abbeyfeale Public Realm Scheme: Limerick City and County Council in conjunction with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the National Transport Authority (NTA) are progressing the Abbeyfeale Public Realm Scheme. The scheme will improve road safety for all users, improve traffic flow through the town and will provide a comfortable environment within the town centre. An advance works contract is currently on site for demolition of O’Riordan’s Pub on Main Street and demolition of a house at the junction of New Street and Colbert Terrace to facilitate road widening. Phase 1 of the main scheme involves 450 metres of road and footpath works on the N21 Killarney Road, construction of a new 100 metre road between Main Street and Grove Crescent car park, and upgrading and extension of the car park. Tender documentation for Phase 1 is currently being finalised. Phase 2 involves 600 metres of road and footpath upgrade from the Church to Cellar Bar on the N21, upgrade of the Square and Colbert Terrace.

-Adare Public Realm Plan: The Adare Public Realm Plan is incorporated into the Adare Local Area Plan 2024 - 2030. This plan seeks to address public realm within Adare village and place well-designed streets and other public spaces at the centre of sustainable communities. The enhanced streetscape, will create connected physical, social and transport networks that promote and encourage use of sustainable modes of transport.

-Askeaton Public Realm Plan: The Askeaton Public Realm Plan was published in March 2023. Works identified in the plan that will commence in 2024 include a parklet project, kerb realignment, connection of footpaths and a feasibility study on the bank building. Funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme was awarded to support the delivery of the Askeaton Public Realm Plan. Working with the local community, 2 no. projects were initiated. Firstly, the footpath upgrades and delivery of connections and undergrounding of overhead power lines which is complete. The second project on the delivery of a parklet in the West Square involves the removal of a derelict property to deliver a high quality open space in the centre of the town. The works also open up views, which expose the rich heritage in Askeaton Town. Works are ongoing and it is envisaged that the project will be completed by the end of 2024, delivering a high quality open space in the heart of the town centre of Askeaton.

Compact Growth	
	<p>-Planting: During the first two years of the Development Plan, the Council has undertaken a number of planting projects, including for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Wildflower Meadow at The Parade, Nicholas Street • A Street Trees Project with 28 trees planted • Provision of flower planters along Park Canal from Lock Quay to Lelia Street • Installation of planters and planting at Le Chéile and Our Lady Queen of Peace National Schools, Roxboro Road • Provision of additional floral arrangements on the City Quays/ Three Bridges Walk • Provision of additional planters on William Street and Bedford Row • Provision of additional flowers baskets on Wickham Street and High Street • Preparation of Parklet Guidance • Preparation of a design for a pocket park on Parnell Street • Delivery of a mobile tree forest, with current locations at Colbert Plaza and Honan’s Quay.

3.2 Active Land Management

Active Land Management	
Objective CGR O4 - Active Land Management	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Promote an active land management approach through cooperation with relevant stakeholders and infrastructure providers to deliver enabling infrastructure to achieve compact growth.</i></p> <p><i>b. Support and facilitate the reuse and revitalisation of derelict, vacant and underutilised sites and disused buildings throughout Limerick for residential, economic, community and leisure purposes.</i></p> <p><i>c. Establish a database of strategic brownfield and infill sites in the City Centre to be updated on an annual basis to monitor the progress of the active land management measures.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy CGR P2 - Monitoring of Brownfield/Infill Sites • Objective CGR O5 - Vacant Site Levy • Objective CGR O6 - Derelict Sites • Objective CGR O7 - Unfinished Estates • Objective HO O4 - Re-use of Existing Buildings
Progress Commentary	<p>The creation of compact, dense and sustainable urban centres as envisaged in the NPF requires the use of active land management measures, to bring vacant and underutilised land in urban areas into beneficial use. The Council recognises the importance of active land</p>

Active Land Management

management to increase housing stock and contribute to the regeneration of settlements. In order to address these issues, the Council set up a Dereliction Vacancy and Re-use Unit in 2018. The unit is committed to supporting communities by taking a proactive approach to dereliction and vacancy in Limerick City and County. The unit works collaboratively with property owners, seeking timely actions and improvements to sites of concern. Staff collaborate closely with the Housing Development, Planning and Enforcement sections, as well as public representatives and communities to bring properties back into use. Owners of properties are advised of various grant schemes available to refurbish and improve the appearance of properties. Where all reasonable alternatives are exhausted, the Council may commence compulsory acquisitions under the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (as amended).

Since the adoption of the Development Plan, progress in active land management measures includes the following:

-Vacant Site Levy: The Vacant Site Levy is aimed at incentivising the use of vacant sites and buildings in urban areas for residential and regeneration purposes. The Vacant Site Register was established on 1st January 2017 with levies being charged on an annual basis since January 2019.

Vacant Site Register	1 st August 2022 to 31 st July 2024
No. of Sites on Register	9
Vacant Site Levies Invoiced	€1,367,800
Vacant Site Levies Collected	€234,499.96

-Derelict Sites: A team of derelict site officers identify properties which contravene the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (as amended) and work with land owners to address dereliction and repurpose properties. Where the works are beyond the capacity of the property owner, the Council may progress to Compulsory Purchase the property and seek to redevelop or sell the property on the open market, the primary objective is to reactivate the property. Significant progress has been made in this area. The Derelict Site Levy is a mechanism aimed at improving the character of an area, by addressing derelict buildings and sites.

Derelict Sites	1 st August 2022 to 31 st July 2024
Derelict Site Inspections	3069

Active Land Management

Statutory Notices issued under Derelict Sites Act, 1990	1307
Properties added to Derelict Site Register	182
Properties removed from the Derelict Site Register	151
Compulsory Acquisitions commenced	91
Properties vested in the name of the Council	56
Properties sold/ for sale/ sale agreed	43
Properties assigned to Social Housing	16
Derelict Sites Levies Invoiced	€2,160,051
Derelict Sites Levies collected	€ 701,501.91

-Unfinished Estates: There are a small number of unfinished housing estates in Limerick, which are being pursued through the Derelict Sites Act.

-Vacant Homes Survey: Utilising existing housing stock is a key pillar of Housing For All. Following a Department of Housing initiative in 2022, the Council carried out a survey and mapping exercise of vacant homes across the City and County. In 2023, the Council continued to identify vacant properties, particularly in areas of high housing demand. The objective of the Limerick City and County Vacant Homes Activities is to establish an accurate picture of vacancy in Limerick and to increase availability of housing supply by assisting property owners to reactivate their properties for housing.

-Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF): Under the third round of URDF funding, Limerick City and County Council has received €10 million to address long-term vacancy and dereliction. This funding will enable the acquisition of vacant or derelict properties, which are either not for sale, or which have failed to sell. These properties can be acquired by agreement, or under the Compulsory Purchase process and then offered for private sale to individuals, who must commit to bringing the property into use for residential purposes.

-Croi Conaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant: This grant facilitates applicants to refurbish vacant or derelict properties as their principal private residence, or a rental property. Grants of up to €50,000 are available, with an additional €20,000 top up for derelict

Active Land Management

properties. The grant can be combined with the SEAI's Home Energy Grants.

Croi Conaithe	1 st August 2022 to 31 st July 2024
Applications Received	406
Applications Approved	265
Total Grant Aid Committed	€11,882,731

-Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT): The RZLT is a new tax that seeks to activate zoned and serviced land for residential purposes. It is intended that the RZLT will replace the Vacant Site Levy over time. As part of the process of identifying lands that are to be subject to this tax, Draft and Final Maps are published by Limerick City and County Council on an annual basis. Draft Maps outlining the land considered to be in scope for the tax have been prepared for 17 settlements including Limerick City and Suburbs, Abbeyfeale, Adare, Ballingarry, Bruff, Bruree, Caherconlish, Cappamore, Castleconnell, Doon, Kilfinane, Kilmallock, Newcastle West, Pallasgreen, Pallaskenry, Patrickswell and Rathkeale. The Draft Map for the tax year 2025 includes 1,911.49ha. of Residential zoned lands and 65.45ha. of City/Town Centre/ Mixed Use lands across the settlements in the City and County. The tax will be administered by the Revenue Commissioners.

-Town Centre First: In 2022, the government launched the Town Centre First initiative, which aims to address vacancy and dereliction and breathe new life into town centres. Abbeyfeale is one of 26 no. towns across the country that received government funding for the preparation of a Town Centre First Plan. The Council established a Town Team with responsibility for the formulation and delivery of the plan, in conjunction with the Town Regeneration Officer. The Abbeyfeale Town Centre First Plan was finalised in November 2023 and focuses on targeting regeneration and renewal and translates into an ambitious action plan to help revitalise the town centre. Subsequently, Rathkeale was announced in February 2023 as the second town to receive funding to prepare a Town Centre First Plan.

Limerick City and County Council has secured funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development to support the development of Town Teams in Newcastle West, Kilmallock and Askeaton, under the Town Centre Suite of Supports 2024.

-Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme (THRIVE): A new funding scheme under Ireland's two European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programmes is providing support to Limerick City and County

Active Land Management	
	<p>Council to renovate, refurbish and adapt vacant or derelict heritage buildings within the King’s Island area of the City and Newcastle West. The scheme has been co-designed by the Regional Assemblies and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to address European, national and regional policy objectives.</p> <p>In 2024, the Council was awarded €199,000 for the delivery of an Integrated Urban Strategy for Newcastle West and €199,575 for the King’s Island area of the City.</p> <p>The Council will promote the values and working principles of the new European Bauhaus initiative in the strategy and project, to ensure that the projects are sustainable, aesthetically pleasing, inclusive and accessible. The Local Authority will have an opportunity to apply for a second round of capital funding under THRIVE in 2025.</p> <p>-Notes: In relation to the Living Limerick City Centre Initiative see Section 4.1 Housing Strategy and Housing Need Demand Assessment.</p> <p>In relation to vacant units and shopfronts in Limerick City Centre see Section 5.2 Retail in Limerick in this report.</p>

3.3 Level 1: Limerick City and Suburbs (in Limerick), Mungret and Annacotty

Level 1: Limerick City and Suburbs (in Limerick), Mungret and Annacotty	
Policy CGR P3 - Level 1 Growing Limerick City and Suburbs (in Limerick), Mungret and Annacotty	<i>It is a policy of the Council to strengthen and consolidate Limerick City and Suburbs (in Limerick), Mungret and Annacotty as a key driver of social and economic growth in Limerick and become a vibrant living, retailing and working City. In accordance with national and regional policy it is a requirement that at least 50% of all new homes will be located within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement, in order to deliver compact growth and reduce unsustainable urban sprawl.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective CGR O8 – Limerick City and Suburbs (in Limerick), Mungret and Annacotty • Objective TP 01 - Thomond Park • Objective BM 01 - The Bays, Moyross • Objective PV 01 - Parkway Valley • Objective GV 01 - Groody Valley • Objective TN 01 – Towlerton
Progress Commentary	Further to the strategic revitalisation projects being undertaken by Limerick City and County Council as set out under Objective CGR O10 – Revitalisation further below, the following opportunity sites have

Level 1: Limerick City and Suburbs (in Limerick), Mungret and Annacotty													
	<p>been identified for re-development. Re-development of these sites would contribute to the revitalisation of the area of the City and Suburbs in which they are located, while also contributing to compact population and employment growth:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Opportunity Site</th> <th style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Thomond Park</td> <td>No progress to date</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Bays, Moyross</td> <td>Planning permission granted</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parkway Valley</td> <td>Ongoing discussions with Planning Authority regarding preparation of a Masterplan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Groody Valley</td> <td>Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy published and development of a Blue Green Ring proposed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Towlerton</td> <td>Significant development complete including infrastructure and school, construction ongoing on private hospital and permission granted for convenience retail unit</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Opportunity Site	Status	Thomond Park	No progress to date	The Bays, Moyross	Planning permission granted	Parkway Valley	Ongoing discussions with Planning Authority regarding preparation of a Masterplan	Groody Valley	Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy published and development of a Blue Green Ring proposed	Towlerton	Significant development complete including infrastructure and school, construction ongoing on private hospital and permission granted for convenience retail unit
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Groody Valley	Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy published and development of a Blue Green Ring proposed												
Towlerton	Significant development complete including infrastructure and school, construction ongoing on private hospital and permission granted for convenience retail unit												
<p>Objective CGR 09 - Building Heights</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Ensure that all new tall buildings in Limerick City are designed in accordance with the character area objectives, tall building recommendations and criteria set out in the Development Management Standards. All such buildings shall be of an exceptional architectural quality and standard of design and finish.</i></p> <p><i>b. Focus delivery of tall buildings in the City Centre, in particular the areas that have been identified as having potential for increased building height. In particular, tall building clusters will be encouraged at The Quays, Colbert Station Quarter, Cleeves Site and The Docklands in accordance with the building classification criteria set out in the Building Height Strategy. There shall be a general presumption against tall buildings in other areas, except at designated areas and the gateway locations identified in the Tall Buildings at City Level Map below.</i></p> <p><i>c. Protect the unique intrinsic character, scale and significant views of Limerick City, the skyline and key landmark buildings in the delivery of increased building heights, through the application of the Tall Building Classifications, Recommendations, High Level Principles and Assessment Tools and Criteria set out in the Building Height Strategy.</i></p> <p><i>d. Ensure applications for tall buildings are supported by the following assessments and any additional assessments required at the discretion of the Planning Authority - Environmental Assessment, Wind Analysis, Sunlight and Daylight Analysis, Verified View Analysis, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment,</i></p>												

Level 1: Limerick City and Suburbs (in Limerick), Mungret and Annacotty	
	<i>Architectural Design Statement, Traffic Impact Assessment including a Mobility Management Plan for non- residential uses, Building Services Strategy.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCA 1 - City Centre, UCA O2 - Surrounding Suburban Area • UCA O3 - Castletroy/ Plassey/ Annacotty • UCA O4 - Southern Environs - Dooradoyle/ Raheen/ Mungret • UCA O5 - Thomandgate/ Moyross/ Caherdavin/ Ennis Road
Progress Commentary	<p>The Building Height Strategy for Limerick City is set out in Volume 6 – Accompanying Strategies of the Plan. Objective CGR O9 Building Heights incorporates the key elements of the strategy into the Plan.</p> <p>Planning applications for tall buildings are considered through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority. Proposed developments comprising tall buildings are assessed in the context of consistency with the Building Height Strategy principles and guidance. Tall buildings are particularly encouraged in areas such as the City Centre, The Quays, Colbert Quarter, Cleves and the Docklands area of the City. The Planning Authority will continue to work in collaboration with developers to facilitate achievement of tall buildings in Limerick City.</p> <p>A number of taller buildings have been granted since the implementation of the Building Height Strategy commenced, such as at Ardhú Ryan, Ennis Road and the South Court Hotel, Raheen.</p>

3.4 Strategic Revitalisation

Strategic Revitalisation	
<i>Objective CGR O10 - Revitalisation</i>	<i>It is an objective of the Council to promote and support the utilisation of targeted incentives, investment opportunities and various funding sources such as the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund and the Town and Village Renewal Scheme to facilitate the revitalisation and transformational renewal of Limerick’s City, towns and villages for residential, employment, community and recreation purposes.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective LLO1 - Limerick Laneways • Objective CRQ O1 - Cleves Riverside Quarter • Objective ULCC O1 - UL City Campus • Objective AQ O1 - Arthur’s Quay • Objective ES O1 - Ellen Street Car Park • Objective MF O1 - Mungret Framework

Strategic Revitalisation

Progress Commentary

At a national level, the government is promoting the regeneration of settlements through a number of funding streams including the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF).

There are significant plans for development of the City Centre in Limerick. Limerick is investing over €1.3 billion in enterprise and investment infrastructure as part of the Limerick Twenty Thirty Vision: An Economic and Social Plan for Limerick, which aims to transform Limerick through the economic, social and physical renaissance of Limerick City Centre and the wider Mid-West Region. Key to the delivery of the plan is the development of a number of strategic sites that will revitalise the city centre and raise the quality of development.

Since the adoption of the Development Plan, the Council has been successful in funding applications for a number of projects including the following:

-World Class Waterfront: The Waterfront Infrastructure Works - World Class Waterfront project proposes the revitalisation of the City Quays as the main entertainment and leisure destination for Limerick City. The project will make Limerick a more active and vibrant urban centre, which is attractive as a location of choice in which to live, invest, work and visit. Through collaboration with the OPW, the design and development of the waterfront is to be progressed in conjunction with the Flood Relief Scheme for the City Centre area. This will create a more pedestrian friendly and aesthetically pleasing environment that will maximise the amenity potential of the waterfront in Limerick City. Preparation of a Preliminary Business Case for the project was progressed in 2023.

Further to the waterfront, the project also incorporates the Cleeves Riverside Quarter, University of Limerick City Campus and Arthur's Quay.

-Cleeves Riverside Quarter: A Masterplan has been prepared for the re-use of this 10-acre former Cleeves factory site in the City Centre into a mixed use urban quarter. A design team has been appointed to prepare a planning application. The Masterplan provides for up to 220 no. residential units, with the potential to provide a further 275 no. student bed spaces. The Masterplan also includes proposals for an educational hub and landmark office building, while preserving historic buildings. See Section 5.1 Strategy – Policy ECON P1 Strong Economy for further details.

Strategic Revitalisation

-University of Limerick (UL) City Campus: Planning permission for the change of use of the former Dunnes Stores building on Sarsfield Street in Limerick City Centre from retail to education was granted by Limerick City and County Council in November 2023. This application is part of UL's plans to develop a City Centre Campus.

-Arthur's Quay Framework Plan: A multi-disciplinary team has been appointed to progress a framework for the Arthur's Quay area of Limerick City, which includes Arthur's Quay, Sarsfield House, the former Debenhams site, Penney's site and the UL City Campus. The framework will set out the guidelines for a comprehensive, plan-led and place-based approach to the redevelopment of this area and lead to the transformation of the City Centre. Stakeholder engagement and preparation for Public Consultation by the multi-disciplinary team is continuing. The framework aims to be completed in 2024 and will feed into the Worldclass Waterfront project. A Preliminary Business Case for the pedestrian bridges and infrastructure works has been received by AECOM for Council review. The framework will guide development, however it will be reliant on individual landowners thereafter to initiate planning applications. Public consultation will inform the ongoing design proposals for the framework plan.

-Limerick Laneways: A toolkit is being prepared to give best practice guidance to support the upgrading of the historical streets and laneways in Limerick City Centre. The Preliminary Business Case will advance in 2024 for a pilot lane project and will outline the preferred options to advance both the laneways and City Centre streets. This project is funded by the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) and the National Transport Authority (NTA).

-Mungret Framework: The Phase 2 Link Street has now been completed and is operational. This 1,610m long Link Street comprises footpaths, cycle path, bus stops, bus priority at junctions, new roundabout, refurbishment of existing roundabout, water mains, foul sewer, surface water sewer, ducting, electric vehicle chargers, public lighting and fencing. The street has opened substantial areas of land to development for approximately 1,800 no. dwellings and the new secondary school. A Part 8 has been granted for 252 no. housing units, a crèche, community café and two retail units. Construction is due to commence in Q4 2024. In addition, the Land Development Agency and Limerick City and County Council are progressing plans for 181 no. affordable purchase dwellings on lands forming part of the Mungret Framework.

Strategic Revitalisation

-Living Limerick City Centre Initiative (LLCC Initiative): This initiative was awarded funding in 2021 under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund and is a 7-year programme focused on targeted interventions to renew vacant and underutilised building stock in Limerick City Centre. This includes a targeted programme of renewal that will increase footfall and support the development of economic, employment and residential uses. The project aims to lead the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient City, deliver compact growth, transform the City’s public realm and strengthen the economy through innovation and enhancement of public amenities and heritage.

Under the Living Georgian City Programme, a historic city centre revitalisation process is being piloted in the Georgian Neighbourhood, with a view to possible replication in other neighbourhoods and towns in Limerick and elsewhere. The key element of the programme is a Housing Demonstration Project for sites at 58 O’Connell Street and 33/34 Thomas Street, to create residential development in the City Centre. Part 8 planning approval was granted in 2023. Detailed design is being undertaken of the project and will provide best practice in adaptive reuse of historic buildings. Emergency stabilisation works at 33 and 34 Thomas Street are complete and detailed design for the redevelopment is continuing.

As part of the Limerick City Initiative, implementation of Meanwhile Uses on 2 of 3 key transformational sites began in Q3 of 2022. The Meanwhile Uses were funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF, 75%), and Limerick City and County Council. The Meanwhile Uses come under the “Worldclass Waterfront” strand of funding and include the following:

- Murals: UL City Campus and the Toll Cottages at Verdant Place
- Mobile Forest: 70 no. silver birch trees planted in marine plywood containers, along with ping-pong tables and events, which included live music, art and food have been positioned at Honan’s Quay. The Mobile Forest was shortlisted for the Green Cities Europe Award 2023 – Ireland. A series of free family fun days were held to encourage the use of this area for recreation and leisure. The mobile forest has subsequently been partially relocated from Honan’s Quay to Colbert Station
- Outdoor Cinema: Temporary outdoor cinema adjacent to King John’s Castle.

Strategic Revitalisation	
	<p>-Notes: In addition, a number of projects which will facilitate revitalisation of the public realm are set out in Section 3.1 Compact Growth of this report.</p> <p>Further projects being carried out under Limerick Twenty Thirty are considered under Policy ECON P1 Strong Economy under Section 5.1 of this report.</p> <p>The progress made in projects under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund and the Town and Village Renewal Scheme are set out in Section 3.12 Revitalisation of Towns and Villages of this report, including Policy CGR P4 - Revitalisation of Towns and Villages.</p>

3.5 Land Development Agency

Land Development Agency	
Objective LDA 01 - Land Development Agency	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support and work with the Land Development Agency in the planning, co-ordination and development of large-scale and strategic land banks, particularly lands in state ownership, in order to achieve compact growth, sustainable development and economic and physical revitalisation.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective CSQ O1a - Colbert Quarter • Objective CSQ O1b - Colbert Quarter
Progress Commentary	<p>The Land Development Agency (LDA) focuses on managing the State's own lands to develop new homes and regenerate under-utilised sites. In Limerick, the LDA is progressing the development of the Colbert Quarter area and a number of additional sites in the City Centre.</p> <p>The Land Development Agency published 'The Spatial Framework for The Colbert Quarter in Limerick' in December 2022. This Spatial Framework sets out a vision for the area with principles to guide its future development, aligning with key objectives and policies within the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. It also supports and aligns with the ambitious growth plans for Limerick for compact urban growth and optimising brownfield land as set out in the National Planning Framework. The Colbert Quarter project will transform this part of Limerick City, incorporating new urban districts to be developed over time delivering a significant number of homes in addition to commercial floorspace and public spaces alongside sustainable transport options.</p>

3.6 Limerick City Opportunity (Regeneration) Areas

Limerick City Opportunity (Regeneration) Areas	
Policy RA P1 - Regeneration Strategy	<i>It is a strategic policy of the Council to support the implementation of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan, in a coordinated and sustainable manner and to co-operate with other agencies in the Region to deliver the goals and objectives set out in the Plan.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective RA 01 - Regeneration Opportunity Areas • Objective M 01 – Moyross • Objective MK 01 - St. Mary’s Park and King’s Island • Objective BW O1 Ballinacurra Weston • Objective OK 01 - O’Malley Park and Keyes Park • Objective KC 01 - Kincora and Carew Parks
Progress Commentary	<p>The Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan 2014 – 2023 (LRFIP) which formed the policy basis on which the Regeneration Programme was delivered finished at the end of 2023.</p> <p>In lieu, a Draft LRFIP Status Update prepared by KPMG was submitted as a working draft to the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government (DHLGH) in July 2023 for their consideration. The document assesses the current position in the four Regeneration Areas and recommends an updated physical, social and economic regeneration strategy with indicative actions. The document shows that the communities need significant ongoing investment from 2024-2030, to support the provision of additional housing and place-making infrastructure, together with an economic and social intervention fund that underpins and builds on the successes already made.</p> <p>While the Department’s review of the document is ongoing, funding is available during 2024 for the continuation of projects and applications can be made under the Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF). A proposal for ESIF 2024-2030 was submitted to the Department in December 2023, which focuses on the principles and objectives outlines in the Draft Status Update 2024-2030.</p> <p>The Government has made a significant financial commitment throughout the LRFIP programme. The majority of annual funding (an average of €30 million) was for physical works focusing on new housing schemes, demolitions, housing up-grades, community facilities and public realm enhancements. A further €4 million per annum is available for economic and social regeneration though the</p>

Limerick City Opportunity (Regeneration) Areas	
	<p>ESIF. The ESIF is a critical instrument to help address disadvantage in Limerick City.</p> <p>In 2024, the Council employed a Social Regeneration Officer and Social Researcher. The role of the Social Regeneration Officer involves engaging with the local communities and statutory bodies/state agencies with the objective of promoting the Economic and Social pillars of Regeneration. The role of the Researcher will support the overall function of the Regeneration programme through data collection, information and analysis.</p>
<p>Objective SF 01 - Social Framework Strategy</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Improve the quality of life of residents in the regeneration communities, focused on improving health and well-being, closing gaps in health with the average population, improving the social environment and safety on the estates, stabilising community life and supporting civic engagement in the community.</i></p> <p><i>b. Address the needs of the population so that they can access opportunities, closing gaps with the average population. This covers improved access to economic and social opportunities linked to preventive interventions in early years, interventions to improve attainment in education from the earliest stages and access to further education, training and work.</i></p> <p><i>c. Improve the coherence of service provision across the statutory and voluntary/community sector, with a view to improving effectiveness in responding to needs of the population and to achieve better value for money invested by the totality of the services.</i></p> <p><i>d. Continue to support and develop Community Enterprise Centres as Community Hubs.</i></p> <p><i>e. Continue to support sport, recreation and cultural activities.</i></p> <p><i>f. Enhance and build civic engagement and community participation.</i></p> <p><i>g. Continue to support community safety through CCTV, improved communication and community policing.</i></p> <p><i>h. Enhance monitoring and review of the Social Intervention Fund by providing training and follow up support to local projects.</i></p> <p><i>i. Progress and strengthen through the role of the Local Strategic Advisory and Monitoring Group, to ensure a whole of Government approach.</i></p> <p><i>j. Connect the Social Intervention Fund to mainstream programmes so that different funding streams can work together to sustain quality services that meet the needs of the regeneration residents.</i></p> <p><i>k. Continue to fund a balance of preventative interventions,</i></p>

Limerick City Opportunity (Regeneration) Areas	
	<i>working with children and young people and targeted interventions to support individuals and families with more complex needs.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective RA 01 - Regeneration Opportunity Areas • Objective M 01 – Moyross • Objective MK 01 - St. Mary’s Park and King’s Island • Objective BW O1 Ballinacurra Weston • Objective OK 01 - O’Malley Park and Keyes Park • Objective KC 01 - Kincora and Carew Parks
Progress Commentary	<p>The Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) underpins the Limerick Regeneration Framework Integration Plan’s (LRFIP) primary objectives aim to improve access to opportunities for residents of the regeneration areas, as well as improve service provision across the statutory and voluntary/ community sector.</p> <p>The ESIF invests in projects that share these aims, whether the projects are run by voluntary and community organisations or other public agencies. Projects supported by the ESIF fall under the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Learning • Health, Wellbeing and Ageing Well • Employability and Work • Families and Youth at Risk • Community. <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, allocation of funding to grass-roots community organisations has continued. While involving relatively small amounts of funding, these projects are generally volunteer-led and are highly appreciated and visible in local regeneration communities.</p> <p>In 2022, over 80 organisations working in the Regeneration Communities received €3.63 million in funding allocated to 127 no. projects. In 2023, over 90 no. organisations received funding of €3.9m for 194 no. projects. A core group of projects supporting youth and families with complex needs also maintained their funding in 2024. These are important in stabilising this element of the population, enhancing connection to mainstream services and promoting social inclusion.</p> <p>Grants to schools and other services for education and learning have also continued. The additional support available in programmes delivered in schools, or out-of-school services (after school</p>

Limerick City Opportunity (Regeneration) Areas	
	<p>programmes, summer camps, therapeutic services offered to children in schools) is contributing to the achievement of better educational outcomes for children in regeneration areas/ from disadvantaged social backgrounds. These outcomes include better educational attainment, improved school attendance, improved retention in second level education and improved behaviour.</p> <p>-HAPPEE Project: This project was established in 2023, funded by ESIF, St. Gabriel’s Foundation and the University of Limerick through its UL Engage Programme. UL health professional students carry out their practical placements in schools as opposed to clinical settings, designed to improve outcomes for schoolchildren by supporting them to achieve their academic and health goals. The project will benefit the community by increased early identification of need, reducing non-attendance for health interventions and providing services in community with community support. The project benefits UL by creating new and sustainable student placements.</p> <p>-Equine Education and Therapeutic Programme: This programme is funded by ESIF, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine along with Moyross Youth Diversion Project and operates in 6 no. primary schools in the Regeneration Areas. Animal welfare is to the fore with education visits to RACE Jockey Academy, the National Stud and the Clare Equestrian Centre where practical elements of the programme take place.</p>
<p>Objective EF 01 - Economic Framework Strategy</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Promote sectoral training, work experience, work placements and job creation initiatives.</i> <i>b. Deliver an economic engagement platform bringing together all stakeholders.</i> <i>c. Deliver social innovation/social enterprise hubs with supports for start-ups.</i> <i>d. Develop niche economic activities that can develop in line with national opportunity sectors such as green technologies.</i> <i>e. Develop a ‘knowledge economy’ sub-sector in community development and enterprise as skills are built locally.</i> <i>f. Strengthen inward investment through incentivisation such as long-term revolving loan financing for new public, social and educational infrastructure.</i> <i>g. Develop ICT infrastructure, skills training and usage projects to support economic and social development.</i> <i>h. Continue a priority focus on young people and youth unemployment.</i> <i>i. Focus on projects of scale that will become a citywide catalyst for</i>

Limerick City Opportunity (Regeneration) Areas	
	<p><i>economic development that will have a transformational effect on the Regeneration Areas.</i></p> <p><i>j. Develop and strengthen a Sector Focused Skills Development – Skills training approach to support economic focus on sectors of strength and growth opportunities.</i></p> <p><i>k. Create platforms for increased levels of private sector engagement in enterprise, training, work experience and employment development (e.g. Corporate Social Responsibility).</i></p> <p><i>l. Replicate the successful model employed for the Hospitality Education and Training Centre for economic sectors with growth potential through inter agency collaboration and private sector involvement.</i></p> <p><i>m. Embed the Social Contracts Clause – develop an increased focus on the monitoring and stewardship of the social contracts clause.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective RA 01 - Regeneration Opportunity Areas • Objective M 01 – Moyross • Objective MK 01 - St. Mary’s Park and King’s Island • Objective BW O1 Ballinacurra Weston • Objective OK 01 - O’Malley Park and Keyes Park • Objective KC 01 - Kincora and Carew Parks • Objective LEDP O1 - Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership
Progress Commentary	<p>There are a number of routes to employment for residents of regeneration areas. The Regeneration Directorate supports job creation by investing in the development of community and social enterprises through the Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF). ESIF funded organisations such as Limerick Island Community Partners and Limerick City Build, provide incubation space and/ or business supports to local start-ups and jobs are created in social enterprises, such as community cafés and meals on wheels.</p> <p>The ESIF supports programmes that reach out to unemployed residents in order to reconnect them with education, increase their employability and help them progress into the labour market. There is a focus particularly on addressing youth unemployment in the regeneration areas. For example, the ESIF has partnered with the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) on projects which are delivering results in the area of pathways to employment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The investment in the development of the Moyross Development Company’s Pathways to Construction Programme

Limerick City Opportunity (Regeneration) Areas

- The Hospitality Education and Training Centre (HETC) in Roxboro
- Support of the FAI Soccer Skills Programme, which uses football as an access point to education and training.

-Outreach to Employment: This programme is an initiative led by the Regeneration, Sports and Recreation Directorate, led by the Employment Co-ordinator and implemented by a multi-stakeholder project team. The programme provides an integrated services approach designed to equip unemployed young people with the skills and confidence to secure training, further education and employment. A key component of the programme is the role of Community Mentors, who provide wrap around support to further education and employment through reducing barriers. The programme engages directly with employers and training partners in order to match an individual's skills development to jobs, creating opportunities for residents of the regeneration areas. Links have been established with local multinational and construction companies in order to lay down further pathways to employment. Expansion of the Community Mentor Network is ongoing.

The Personal Development Pilot Programme is a multi-agency initiative, which was developed by the Employment Project Team to work with people in the Regeneration Communities who have experienced addiction.

In 2022, mentors worked with 110 no. participants with 60 no. participants securing employment and/ or engaging in further education and training.

-Jobs Fairs: The Jobs Fairs are held in each of the Regeneration communities providing the opportunity for local people to engage directly with employers and training providers. In 2023, 45 no. people were directly employed from these community events.

-Junior Careers Fair: A pilot initiative took place in 2023, in partnership with Junior Achievement Ireland, working with primary school children in St. Mary's National School and Corpus Christi Primary School. The objective was to expose children from the regeneration communities to employment opportunities and involve their parents. The 6th class pupils and their parents interacted with companies in the schools and chose a company to visit for a two-hour plant tour to see a real work environment and highlight opportunities for careers.

Limerick City Opportunity (Regeneration) Areas	
	<p>-Limerick Growing Communities: This horticultural working group has been established under Social Enterprise Limerick, following the securing of funding for a feasibility study through the Dormant Accounts Fund. A Tender was issued to appoint a Consultant to carry out a feasibility study to explore the potential to harness existing services within disadvantaged communities and facilities across the city. This study will act as a vehicle to grow food produce to supply existing community cafes, sell produce locally and to act as a training, educational and employment pathway for school leavers/unemployed and promote healthy eating in the local community.</p>
Objective PF 01 - Physical Framework Strategy	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Build a strong competitive economy.</i></p> <p><i>b. Promote healthy communities.</i></p> <p><i>c. Require good design.</i></p> <p><i>d. Promote sustainable movement.</i></p> <p><i>e. Deliver a wide choice of high quality homes.</i></p> <p><i>f. Support high quality communications infrastructure.</i></p> <p><i>g. Meet the challenge of climate change and flooding.</i></p> <p><i>h. Conserve and enhance the natural and historic environments.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective RA 01 - Regeneration Opportunity Areas • Objective M 01 – Moyross • Objective MK 01 - St. Mary’s Park and King’s Island • Objective BW O1 Ballinacurra Weston • Objective OK 01 - O’Malley Park and Keyes Park • Objective KC 01 - Kincora and Carew Parks • Objective LEDP O1 - Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership
Progress Commentary	<p>The physical regeneration pillar encompasses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement housing • Thermal upgrades • Refurbishments • Strategic demolitions • Provision of community infrastructure • Environmental management • New and improved connectivity of roads, footpaths and cycle ways. <p>-Housing: Throughout 2023 and 2024, there has been significant progress in the delivery of replacement housing with 74 no. houses completed/ handed over, 78 no. houses commenced and under construction, 51 no. houses at pre-construction and a further 118 no.</p>

Limerick City Opportunity (Regeneration) Areas

units being advanced through the design/planning stage. Housing projects currently ongoing include the following:

Project	No. of Units	Status
Dalgaish Park / Cosgrave Park, Moyross	57	30 units handed over
Regeneration Area Derelicts Lot 4a and 4b	18	1 unit handed over
Cliona Park Phase 3, Moyross	18	Complete
Delmege Park, Moyross Peter McVerry Trust	14	Complete
Churchfield Phase 2, O'Malley Park, Southill	37	11 units complete
Sheep Street / Athlundard Street, King's Island	8	Construction ongoing
Infill housing, Carew Park, Southill, Delmege Park and Hartigan's Villas, Moyross	24	Construction ongoing
Orchard Housing development, King's Island	27	Pre construction
Cliona Park Phase 4, Moyross	20	Pre-planning
Pineview Gardens Infill Project	78	Pre-planning
Cosgrave Park Phase 2, Moyross	20	Pre-planning

Significant progress has also been made in the delivery of thermal upgrades as follows:

Thermal Upgrade Contract	No. of Units	Status
No. 112, Ballinacurra Weston	24	Complete
No. 122, St Mary's Park	19	Snagging
No. 124, St Mary's Park	19	Snagging
No. 121, Moyross	47	Works ongoing
No. 123, Southill	53	Works ongoing

Limerick City Opportunity (Regeneration) Areas

No. 125A, St. Mary's Park	26	Works ongoing
No. 126, Southill	50	Works ongoing
No. 127, Ballinacurra Weston	12	Works ongoing
No. 128/ 129, St. Mary's Park	25	Works ongoing
No. 121A, Moyross	18	Pre-construction
No. 130, Moyross	51	Pre-tender
St. Mary's Park	6	Mop-Up Scoping Stage
Moyross	19	Mop-Up Scoping Stage
Ballinacurra Weston	2	Mop-Up Scoping Stage
Southill	30	Mop-Up Scoping Stage

-Demolitions: There were 33 no. strategic demolitions of dwellings carried out in regeneration areas since the adoption of the Development Plan. The old petrol station building in Galvone was also demolished. In addition, redundant hardstanding areas in Salvia Court, Keyes Park, Southill were removed.

-Minor Refurbishment: Since the adoption of the Development Plan, €1.865 million has been spent on minor refurbishment of housing stock in regeneration areas and to return casual vacancies to pre-letting standards in a cost effective, timely and compliant manner. This includes 53 no. dwellings which were refurbished and made available for letting, 43 no. of which were new allocations.

-Community and Social: Projects and events undertaken in the first two years of the Development Plan include:

Project/ Event	Notes
Mural at St. Mary's Park Handball Alley	Completed
Southill Boxing Club, Galvone Industrial Estate	Building upgrade substantially completed
Extension of Thomond Rugby Club facilities towards Moyross Avenue	Part 8 approved, detailed design commenced
District Play Area, Southill	Part 8 approved
Southill Play Space and Associated Landscaping	Tender for contractor complete with Stage 4 approval received
King's Island Community Centre	Extension and associated public realm along Verdant Place and the River Shannon – Working Group

Limerick City Opportunity (Regeneration) Areas

		formed, Stage 1 Approval achieved, Design stage commenced with an Integrated Design Team appointed
	Turner Vinery, Southill House	Supported through the Historic Structures Fund a Grade 1 Conservation Architect led Integrated Design Team appointed in relation to the Restoration and refurbishment of the Vinery
	St. Mary's Park, Multi-Use Games Area	Integrated Design Team appointed with Economic Social Intervention Fund secured
	Equine Centre, Moyross	Stage 1 Funding Approval received
	Community Fairs	
	Community Health and Wellbeing Days	
	Community gardens, allotments and greenhouses	
	Gardening workshops	

-Connections: The LRFIP envisages improvements to connectivity to and from the City Centre, within regeneration areas, and to and from adjacent areas. Since the adoption of the Development Plan, a number of connectivity projects have progressed including:

Project	Status
Moyross	Ongoing design development of a connection between Old Cratloe Road and Moyross Avenue, serving the TUS and Thomond Community College campuses
Moyross	Ongoing design development of a connection between Moylish Road and the new Dalgaish Park development
Moyross Avenue	Section adjacent Corpus Christi School and Church, Part 8 application approved
Moyross Avenue	Section between the Health Centre and Pineview Gardens, Section 38 application approved

-Southside Connectivity Project: Separate planning applications have been lodged for improved cycleway and footway connectivity

Limerick City Opportunity (Regeneration) Areas

on Childers Road, Roxboro Road, Synge Drive, Rathbane Terrace, Deer Court, John Carew Park. A Part 8 application has also been lodged for works interfacing with private lands. A Section 38 application has been approved for works on public lands.

-Environmental Management Regeneration: Since the adoption of the Development Plan, the Council has continued to invest in small capital and environmental projects across all four regeneration areas, via community safety initiatives, street cleansing, grass cutting, landscaping, clean-ups and footpath realignments. The Council has also continued to undertake Japanese Knotweed treatment including at O'Malley Park, St. Mary's Park and along Childers Road.

-Community CCTV Provision: The Regeneration programme continues to promote and invest in community safety and reduction in anti-social behaviour impacts.

3.7 Level 2: Key Town

Level 2: Key Town

**Objective CGR
O11 - Level 2 –
Key Town
Newcastle West**

It is an objective of the Council to:

- a. Promote Newcastle West as a key service centre and to promote the sustainable growth of the town to become a self-sufficient settlement and act as a service centre for its inhabitants and rural hinterland. At least 30% of all new homes shall be located within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement, in order to deliver compact growth and reduce unsustainable urban sprawl.*
- b. Support and promote the role of Newcastle West as a strategically located urban centre of significant influence in a sub-regional context. In particular, it is an objective to promote the opportunity for interregional collaborations across county boundaries with Abbeyfeale, Listowel and Rathkeale and locations identified in the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary, which offer collective strengths and potential for project partnerships to drive sustainable economic growth in the West Limerick/ North Kerry area;*
- c. Support the initiatives of the Atlantic Economic Corridor to realise the full potential of the Newcastle West enterprise assets to support job creation, improve competitiveness, attract investment and create future economic growth;*
- d. Support the delivery of the infrastructural requirements identified for Newcastle West subject to the outcome of the planning process and environmental assessments;*
- e. Support and promote the tourism potential of Newcastle West's*

Level 2: Key Town	
	<p><i>historical heritage to facilitate the expansion of the existing tourism offer and to develop connectivity to, and synergies with, Newcastle West and the Great Southern Greenway;</i></p> <p><i>f. Support the identification of opportunities for investment in incubation and innovation infrastructure for ICT and related companies and capitalise on Newcastle West’s ability to accommodate remote working, enterprise start-ups and up-scaling companies.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies / Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective CGR O12 - Newcastle West Local Area Plan
Progress Commentary	<p>The Development Plan acknowledges the role of Newcastle West as a Key Town within the settlement hierarchy of Limerick in accordance with the designations of the RSES. The Key Town has capacity for economic and residential growth, whilst noting the town’s strong sub-regional interdependencies with Listowel, Rathkeale and Abbeyfeale.</p> <p>Following the adoption of the Development Plan, the Local Area Plan (LAP) has undergone review. The Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023-2029 sets out a more detailed approach to the development of Newcastle West as a Key Town. The LAP considers employment and economic development opportunities, place making initiatives, upskilling, lifelong learning and social infrastructure etc. The LAP identifies 9 no. actions that support the enhancement of vitality, through creation of a positive public realm experience in the town. The LAP also identifies 9 no. development opportunity sites to encourage and support the appropriate and sustainable development, or redevelopment of lands identified. In conjunction with the LAP review, a Local Transport Plan (LTP) was prepared, in order to improve integration of land use and transport. The LTP addresses sustainable mobility and place making to be delivered in tandem with compact growth, in order to achieve sustainable development of the settlement.</p> <p>As set out under Section 2.1 Census of Population 2022 in this report and in the Core Strategy Monitoring Report in Appendix II, Newcastle West has experienced population growth of 590 between 2016 and 2022. Since the adoption of the Development Plan, 201 no. residential units have been granted planning permission in the town and 41 no. of units were completed in 2022 and 2023. Of the units granted permission, 91.5% are located on sites which will contribute to the compact growth of the settlement. While planning activity and population growth is strong, a deficit in dwelling completions remains evident.</p>

Level 2: Key Town

The continued growth of the settlement may however be restricted in the future due to a lack of capacity in the wastewater treatment plant serving the town. This may result in the town not meeting the target population set out in the Core Strategy.

-Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC): Limerick City and County Council is one of the 10 no. Local Authorities who play a key role in the Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) initiative. The AEC aims to attract investment, support job creation and improve quality of life for the people who live there. Since the adoption of the Development Plan, 19 no. Limerick hubs have signed up to the Connected Hubs Platform, while Innovate Limerick has been a lead partner on the submission of two Connected hubs, multi hub applications totalling €408,250, with the aim to improve hub infrastructure at 7 no. hubs. In April 2023, the national Connected Hubs showcase event was held in Limerick. Furthermore, Engine Hubs, the first collaborative cluster of business hubs spanning the Mid-West and North Kerry, were launched and developed by Innovate Limerick.

-Newcastle West Regional Athletics Hub: With the support of funding from the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF), the new regional athletics hub at Cloonyschrehane, Newcastle West was officially opened in 2023. The project included the construction of an 8 no. lane athletics track to International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) standard, floodlights and all associated track facilities with disability access. Additional equipment including a high jump, javelin and long jump were provided in 2024.

-Masterplan for the Castle Demense: A Draft Masterplan for the Demesne Parklands in Newcastle West has been prepared and an information evening was held to seek public feedback. The purpose of the masterplan is to maximise the potential of this amenity area for recreational and associated tourism benefits for the town.

-Amenities: Proposals for the existing playground upgrade and extension plans are being progressed, with funding of over €50,000 already obtained. In addition, a Dog Park was completed in Newcastle West in 2024.

-Other: Newcastle West has and will continue to benefit from a number of revitalisation and tourism projects, including THRIVE as set out under Section 3.2 Active Land Management, Section 3.12 Revitalisation of Towns and Villages and Section 5.4 Tourism of this report.

Level 2: Key Town	
	<p>-Infrastructure: Limerick City and County Council are aware that there are issues with respect to the capacity of the water and wastewater treatment plants in Newcastle West. The Council will work with and facilitate all upgrades of the plants necessary to increase capacity and enable the Key Town to reach its projected population and employment growth targets.</p>

3.8 Level 3: Towns

Level 3: Towns	
<p>Objective CGR O14 - Scale of Development within Level 3</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to ensure that the scale of new housing developments, both individually and cumulatively, shall be in proportion to the pattern and grain of existing development generally. No one proposal for residential development shall increase the existing housing stock by more than 10 – 15% within the lifetime of the Plan, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the settlement has adequate capacity, in terms of both physical and social infrastructure to support additional growth.</i></p>
<p>Progress Commentary</p>	<p>As set out in the Settlement Hierarchy of the Plan, the Level 3 Towns comprise Abbeyfeale, Castleconnell, Rathkeale, Caherconlish and Kilmallock.</p> <p>As set out under Section 2.1 Census of Population 2022 and in the Core Strategy Monitoring Report in Appendix II, the Level 3 towns have experienced combined population growth of 540 between 2016 and 2022. Since the adoption of the Development Plan, 131 no. residential units have been granted planning permission in the towns and 59 no. units have been completed during 2022 and 2023. Of the units granted permission, 98% are located on sites which will contribute to the compact growth of the towns.</p>

3.9 Level 4: Large Villages

Level 4: Large Villages	
<p>Objective CGR O15 - Requirements for Developments within Level 4 Settlements</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council within these settlements to facilitate development, subject to compliance with the following:</i></p> <p><i>a. To ensure that the scale of new housing developments both individually and cumulatively shall be in proportion to the pattern and grain of existing development. Generally, no one proposal for residential development shall increase the existing housing stock by more than 10 – 15% within the lifetime of the Plan, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the settlement has adequate</i></p>

Level 4: Large Villages	
	<p><i>capacity in terms of both physical and social infrastructure to support additional growth.</i></p> <p><i>b. The development of these centres shall provide for serviced sites and a variety of other house types and densities as appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>c. New commercial developments shall generally be located within the core area and shall contribute positively to the village urban fabric and streetscape.</i></p> <p><i>d. New community and social facilities shall be provided in conjunction with residential development as required.</i></p> <p><i>e. Where there is no treatment plant or limited capacity in the existing treatment plant, sewerage treatment for serviced sites shall generally be by means of individual treatment systems, subject to satisfactory site assessment and compliance with EPA guidelines. All systems shall be constructed so as to allow connection to public sewers in due course when capacity becomes available.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>As set out in the Settlement Hierarchy of the Plan, the Level 4 Large Villages comprise Adare, Askeaton, Ballingarry, Bruff, Bruree, Cappamore, Croom, Doon, Dromcolliher, Foynes, Glin, Hospital, Kilfinane, Murroe, Pallasgreen, Pallaskenry and Patrickswell.</p> <p>As set out under Section 2.1 Census of Population 2022 in this report and in the Core Strategy Monitoring Report in Appendix II, the Level 4 large villages have experienced combined population growth of 597 between 2016 and 2022. A boundary change to the Large Village of Pallasgreen by the CSO, omitting the settlement of Nicker, has resulted in an apparent population decline of 339. While there has therefore been no real decline in population, this boundary change has affected the combined population growth of the Level 4 settlements.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, 285 no. residential units have been granted planning permission in the large villages and 63 no. of units have been completed in 2022 and 2023. Of the units granted permission 95% are located on sites which will contribute to the compact growth of the large villages.</p>

3.10 Level 5: Small Villages

Level 5: Small Villages	
Objective CGR O17 - Development within Level 5 Settlements	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council within these settlements to facilitate development, subject to compliance with the following:</i></p> <p><i>a. The scale of new residential schemes shall be in proportion to the pattern and grain of existing development and shall be located within the development boundary, thus avoiding 'leap frogging' of</i></p>

Level 5: Small Villages	
	<p><i>development and delivering compact growth and providing for the organic and sequential growth of the settlement. Infill and brownfield sites will be the preferred location for new development. In this regard, any development shall enhance the existing village character and create or strengthen a sense of identity and distinctiveness for the settlement.</i></p> <p><i>b. New commercial developments shall generally only be located within the core area and shall contribute positively to the village streetscape.</i></p> <p><i>c. New community and social facilities shall be provided in conjunction with residential development as required.</i></p> <p><i>d. The development of these centres shall provide for serviced sites and a variety of other house types and densities as appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>e. Where there is no treatment plant or limited capacity in the existing treatment plant, sewerage treatment shall generally be by means of individual treatment systems, subject to satisfactory site assessment and compliance with EPA guidelines. All systems shall be constructed so as to allow connection to public sewers in due course when capacity becomes available.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies / Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective CGR O18 – Scale of Growth for Level 5 Settlement
Progress Commentary	<p>As set out in the Settlement Hierarchy of the Plan, the Level 5 Small Villages comprise Ardagh, Athlacca, Athea, Ballyagran, Ballyhahill, Ballylanders, Ballyneety, Broadford, Carrigkerry, Castlemahon, Clarina, Croagh, Fedamore, Galbally, Herbertstown, New Kildimo, Kiltely, Knocklong, Loughill, Oola, Montpelier, Mountcollins, Nicker, Shanagolden, Templeglantine and Tournafulla.</p> <p>As set out under Section 2.1 Census of Population 2022 in this report and in the Core Strategy Monitoring Report in Appendix II, the Level 5 small villages have experienced combined population growth of 809 between 2016 and 2022 to 6,722. Since the adoption of the Development Plan, 40 no. residential units have been granted planning permission in the small villages and 46 no. units have been completed in 2022 and 2023. Of the units granted permission 91% are located on sites which will contribute to the compact growth of the small villages.</p>

3.11 Level 6: Rural Clusters

Level 6: Rural Clusters	
<p>Objective CGR O19 - Development in Level 6 Settlements</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to ensure that:</i></p> <p><i>a. Permitted growth will be very small scale and on an incremental basis and must be reflective of the rural nature of these settlements. New developments shall be located within or contiguous to the core identified for each settlement, thus avoiding ‘leap frogging’ of development and shall be designed, to deliver compact growth within the existing villages and provide for the organic and sequential growth of the settlement. Infill and brownfield sites will be the preferred location for new development.</i></p> <p><i>b. Single units or very small-scale commercial or employment generating development will be encouraged, provided it is of a scale appropriate to the village setting, the infrastructure has the capacity to accommodate same and adjoining uses are not adversely affected.</i></p> <p><i>c. Where there is public sewage and water infrastructure and where there is capacity within same, a limited number of units may be permitted around the core area. In this case, no one proposal shall be larger than 3 – 4 houses, depending on the existing housing stock and the pattern and grain of the village.</i></p> <p><i>d. Where there is no sewage treatment plant or limited capacity in the existing treatment plant, sewage treatment shall generally be by means of individual treatment systems, subject to satisfactory site assessment and compliance with EPA guidelines.</i></p>
<p>Progress Commentary</p>	<p>As set out in the Settlement Hierarchy of the Plan, the Level 6 Rural Clusters comprise Anglesboro, Ardpatrick, Ashford, Ballybrown, Ballyorgan, Ballysteen, Banogue, Caherline, Cappagh, Castletown, Crecora, Drombanna, Dromkeen, Elton, Feenagh, Feohanagh, Glenbrohane, Glenosheen, Glenroe, Granagh, Kilbeheny, Kilcolman, Kilcornan, Kilfinny, Kilmeedy, Knockaderry, Knockainy, Knockdown, Martinstown, Meanus, Monagea, Old Pallas, Patrickswell (Lough Gur), Raheenagh, Roxborough and Strand.</p> <p>As set out under Section 2.1 Census of Population 2022 in this report and in the Core Strategy Monitoring Report in Appendix II, the Level 6 rural clusters have experienced combined population growth of 107 between 2016 and 2022 to 1,989. Since the adoption of the Development Plan, 13 no. residential units have been granted planning permission in the rural clusters. The development of dwellings in rural clusters provides a real alternative to one off rural dwellings in the open countryside.</p>

3.12 Revitalisation of Towns and Villages

Revitalisation of Towns and Villages	
<p>Policy CGR P4 - Revitalisation of Towns and Villages</p>	<p>It is the policy of the Council to:</p> <p>a. Actively address issues of vacancy and dereliction in settlements across Limerick.</p> <p>b. Promote projects contributing to compact growth and the physical, social and economic revitalisation of the towns and villages throughout County Limerick.</p>
<p>Ancillary Policies/ Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective CGR O20 - Town and Village Revitalisation • Objective ECON O12 - County Towns and Villages
<p>Progress Commentary</p>	<p>The Local Authority is committed to addressing vacancy and dereliction, supporting revitalisation and improving the viability of rural towns and villages, to enable economic, residential and social opportunities as well as improvements to the quality of life. To progress this agenda, in 2023 the Council appointed a Town Regeneration Officer with responsibility for Rural Development.</p> <p>Through the various funding streams, such as the Rural Regeneration and Development Funding, Town and Village Renewal, Outdoor Recreation infrastructure Scheme, and CLÁR, the Council in conjunction with local community groups, seek to deliver projects to enhance the quality of lives of residents in towns and villages, across the County.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, to facilitate revitalisation of the towns and villages the following schemes have progressed:</p> <p>-Town Centre First: In 2022, the government launched the Town Centre First policy initiative. This seeks to tackle vacancy and dereliction and breathe new life into town centres. Funding was received for the preparation of a Town Centre First Plan for Abbeyfeale which was finalised in 2023. Work commenced in late 2023 to establish a Town Team in Rathkeale, with a view to completing a Town Centre First Plan in 2024.</p> <p>Limerick City and County Council was also successful in securing funding to develop town teams in Newcastle West, Kilmallock and Askeaton.</p> <p>-Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF): The Council have been successful in securing funding and delivering a number of projects across Limerick. Many projects are directly linked to the enhancement of towns and villages, including increased economic activity through tourism projects, adaptive reuse of vacant or underutilised properties, or through the redevelopment of derelict properties. The table below outlines the progress made in some projects funded by RRDF:</p>

Revitalisation of Towns and Villages			
	Project	Total RRDF Funding Approved	Project Status
	Limerick Greenway, Abbeyfeale, Rathkeale, Newcastle West: Barnagh Tunnel Works and Trail Resurfacing (Category 1)	€2,724,657	Completed
	West Limerick Tourism Gateway incorporating Fuller's Folly, Newcastle West (Category 2)	€330,000	Completed
	Expansion and upgrading of Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum, Category 1, 3rd Call	€1,750,000	Completed
	Rural Limerick Housing Development Initiative: Dereliction and re-use for housing development in the core of target towns and villages in rural Limerick	€2,500,000	In progress
	Limerick Greenway Hubs at Ardagh and at Abbeyfeale: Preparatory, Category 2	€600,000	In progress
	Limerick Greenway Hubs Development Project: Redevelopment of three former stationhouses along the greenway, Category 1 (5 th Call)	€9,629,693	In progress
	West Limerick Tourism Hub – Fuller's Folly, Category 1 (5 th Call)	€3,956,028	In progress
	<p>-Rural Limerick Housing Development Project (RLHDP): Limerick City and County Council are proactive in tackling dereliction and vacancy across Limerick, working with property owners and utilising the legislative powers under the Derelict Site Act 1990 (as amended), including Compulsory Purchase Orders to acquire properties, where works to tackle dereliction are not progressing. A successful application was made to the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) in 2020 with €2.5m of funding awarded towards the regeneration of 5 no. towns - Askeaton, Ardagh, Abbeyfeale, Bruff and Rathkeale. In 2022, 7 no. additional towns - Ballingarry, Croom, Cappamore, Hospital, Kilfinnane, Kilmallock and Newcastle West were included.</p>		

Revitalisation of Towns and Villages

This project enables the Local Authority to tackle dereliction and revitalise towns and villages across rural Limerick. Properties vested to the Council via the Dereliction Process will be refurbished and sold on the open market. These properties tend to have a limited market in the private sector, given their existing derelict state. This is a demonstrator project with Limerick being the first County to receive such funding. It is envisaged that the project will provide local employment and will breathe new life into local communities.

Rural Limerick Housing Development Project (RLHDP)	
Activity	No. of Properties 1st August 2022 to 31st July 2024
Stage 1: Feasibility Reports: Structure, Cost plan, Asbestos Assessment	53
Stage 2: Design and Cost Plan	2 - Bruff
Stage 3: Tender to Main Contractor	5 – Abbeyfeale 4 – Askeaton 1 - Ardagh
Stage 4: On site refurbishment	5 - Abbeyfeale 1 – Ardagh 4 – Askeaton
Completed and for future sale	2 - Askeaton

Furthermore, Limerick City and County Council have been successful in securing €10m under the Urban Regeneration and Development Act to tackle dereliction and vacancy in the settlements of Limerick City and Newcastle West (€9m for Limerick City and €1m for Newcastle West). The purpose of this funding is to bring property out of dereliction/ vacancy and back into active residential use.

-Town and Village Renewal Scheme: In 2022 the Town and Village Renewal Scheme was announced with some amendments to the Scheme following the launch of Our Rural Future and subsequently the Town Centre First Policy. The 2023 funding continued to focus on tackling vacancy and dereliction and bringing additional footfall into town and village centres. The funding is also available for outdoor public realm projects such as plazas, parks or farmer and artisan markets, as well as the refurbishment of existing community centres.

The table below outlines the progress made in Town and Village Renewal Scheme projects:

Revitalisation of Towns and Villages			
	Project	Funding	Notes/ Status
	Parochial House, Feohanagh - Community resource centre	€150,000 Building Acquisition Measure	Completed
	Bank of Ireland, Rathkeale - E-hub and multi-purpose community facility	€250,000 Building Acquisition Measure	Completed
	Broadford Community Centre Refurbishment	€99,991 TVRS 2019 Phase 1 €192,844 LEADER Phase 2	Completed
	Feenagh Community Park	€100,000	Completed
	Foyne Streetscape Enhancement Measure	€56,679	Completed
	The Knights of Glin Interpretive Centre project	€90,351	Completed
	Kilteely Community Wildlife Area	€48,309	Completed
	Ballingarry Reimagining of the Mall	€79,604	Completed
	Askeaton	€200,000	Completed
	Rathkeale	€200,000	Completed
	Patrickswell Community Centre	€500,000	Completed
	Doon Community Services and E Hub	€250,000	Completed
	Ardagh	€250,000	Redevelopment will enable a third party to lease the building to provide a retail and tourism use. Expected completion Q3 2024
	Bruree DeValera Museum	€50,000	Project Development Measure Feasibility Study and Options completed. Expected completion Q3 2024
	Athea Project Development Measure	€50,000	Expected completion Q4 2024
	Askeaton West Square	€250,000	Expected completion Q4 2024

Revitalisation of Towns and Villages															
	Herbertstown	€495,229	In progress. Expected completion Q2 2025												
	Bruff	€250,000	Feasibility study underway to examine and recommend end-use options.												
	Garrienderk Community Centre	€250,000	Funding secured in 2024												
	Kilcornan	€223,805	Funding secured in 2024												
	Rathkeale Community Centre	€207,000	Funding secured in 2024												
	<p>-CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais): Clár 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.</p> <p>In 2022, the Department of Rural and Community Development increased funding by over 25% in recognition of the importance of the programme to some of the most remote rural areas. In the 2023 CLÁR, the Department of Rural and Community Development announced a new €5m fund to support over 100 no. sports clubs throughout the country. In December 2023, 7 no. Limerick clubs received a total of €263,426 in funding. These projects range from improving spectator areas, refurbishing clubhouses and installing outdoor gym equipment. In January 2024, a further 7 no. Limerick community groups were awarded funding of €254,801. This funding will facilitate car park developments, upgrading of community centres, access road improvements and outdoor gym equipment for adults.</p> <p>The table below outlines the progress made in CLÁR projects:</p>														
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project</th> <th>Scheme</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Coolfree Community Crèche / Afterschool Facility</td> <td>Schools/ Community Safety Measure - Footpath outside the school, road signage and other works</td> <td>Completed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oola National School</td> <td>Schools/ Community Safety Measure - Multisensory/ accessible play area</td> <td>Completed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feenagh Soccer Club</td> <td>Schools/ Community Safety Measure - Footpath, lighting and other works</td> <td>Completed</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Project	Scheme	Status	Coolfree Community Crèche / Afterschool Facility	Schools/ Community Safety Measure - Footpath outside the school, road signage and other works	Completed	Oola National School	Schools/ Community Safety Measure - Multisensory/ accessible play area	Completed	Feenagh Soccer Club	Schools/ Community Safety Measure - Footpath, lighting and other works	Completed
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Feenagh Soccer Club	Schools/ Community Safety Measure - Footpath, lighting and other works	Completed													

Revitalisation of Towns and Villages			
	Tournafulla Sustainable Living Community	Community Gardens/ Allotments Measure	Completed
	Glin Development CLG	Upgrade of Adult Exercise Equipment	Completed
	Martinstown National Primary School	Car park resurfacing	Completed
	Mountcollins AFC	Installation of fencing and walkways around the perimeter of pitches	Completed
	Glenroe GAA	LED flood lighting installed at their All-Weather Sports Facility	Completed
	Athea GAA	Car park resurfacing	Completed
	Kilteely Tidy Towns	Car park resurfacing	Completed
	Templeglantine GAA and Camogie Club	Artificial playing surface at the Ball Wall	Completed
	Oola GAA Club	Installation of fencing and accessible walkways around the perimeter of pitches	Completed
	Kantoher Development Group - Ashford Village carpark	Car park resurfacing	Completed
	Rathkeale Municipal District Office	Provision of 6 no. passing bays on substandard (in terms of width) public access road	Completed
	Tournafulla Community Council	Development of an Outdoor Community Recreation Area	Completion due Q3 2024
	Water Fountains	Innovation Measure - Four locations	Completion due Q3 2024
	Feenagh Old Schoolhouse CLG	Physical upgrades / renovations, energy efficiency upgrade and safety and security upgrade (replacing emergency door)	Completion due Q4 2024
	Templeglantine Community Development Association	Community car park works	Completion due Q3 2024
	Athea Utd	Seating/ Shelter Area for all users of the grounds	In progress

Revitalisation of Towns and Villages			
	Ballylanders AFC	Refurbishment of Clubhouse. Upgrading doors, windows, insulation and heating. Wheelchair access and parking toilet facilities, tea station and meeting room	In progress
	Mountcollins AFC	The purchase of some critical equipment to serve the needs of all users. To comply with FAI Safety Standards suitable mobile dugouts aluminium goalposts and replacement LED lights	In progress
	Galtee Gaels GAA	Outdoor Gym Equipment	In progress
	Galbally GAA	Improvement works to GAA grounds spectator area, repair to embankment wall, provision of fully accessible routes, viewing area and biodiversity enhancements	In progress
	Cappamore GAA	Phase 2 - Kerb protection, cable and water supply, e-charging facility, bench pads, e-fill water station and PV panel installation for lights and clubhouse	In progress
	Blackrock GAA	Repair steps at spectator stand, installation of fencing dividing the walking track and the pitch and upgrade works to yard area / walking track, including the installation of two benches	In progress
	Doon Community Centre	Community Centre roof repair	In progress
	Tournafulla Development Association	Roof repairs to community centre	In progress
	Mountcollins Community Centre	Tarmac yard of Community Centre and GAA complex	In progress
	Galbally Community Council	Outdoor gym equipment suitable for all age groups	In progress

Revitalisation of Towns and Villages

	<p>-Other Initiatives: The Council continues to support initiatives including Tidy Towns, Pride of Place and Going for Gold, a competition to make Limerick a cleaner, brighter place to work, live and visit.</p>
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3.13 Conclusion

In conclusion, it is considered that the progress made in implementation of the Spatial Strategy and associated policies and objectives has been successful over the first two years of the Development Plan.

The Council has made significant progress to achieve compact growth and have actively pursued measures available for active land management. Further to the Derelict Sites and Vacant Sites powers of the Local Authority, a vacancy survey of all towns and villages across the County has been completed to enable the targeting of vacant properties for re-use. In addition, URDF Funding to address dereliction and vacancy, and schemes including Croí Cónaithe, will combine to revitalise settlements while alleviating demand for dwellings and achieving compact growth.

The Council has also commenced various projects for the revitalisation of the City, towns, villages and rural areas throughout the County. On completion, such public realm projects and strategic revitalisation sites identified in the Development Plan, will act as catalysts for investment in the settlements throughout Limerick. Such projects will facilitate the creation of compact and attractive urban environments with improved vibrancy, economic opportunities and the critical mass to maintain services and facilities for their populations. These projects will facilitate the revitalisation of the town and village centres across Limerick, making them attractive locations for people to live, visit and operate businesses.

In order to build on the progress made in the projects undertaken to date, the Council's commitment to town and village centre renewal will require a continuation of successful applications for available funding schemes and implementation of Town Centre First Plans, public realm plans and other projects. Such funding schemes include, but are not limited to, the Urban Regeneration Development Fund, the Rural Regeneration Development Fund, the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and the CLÁR programmes. Therefore, in many instances the success, or otherwise, of the objectives of the Development Plan is a function of available funding and successful funding applications.

Spatial Strategy Two Year Progress Report



Opera Square



Cleves Riverside Quarter

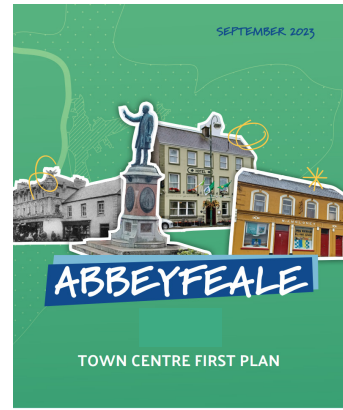


O'Connell Street Revitalisation



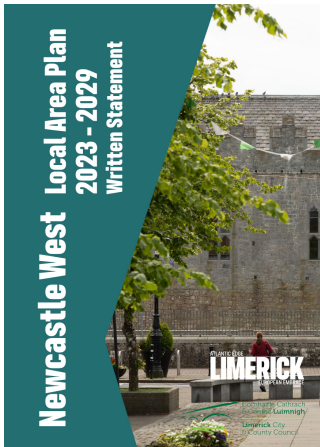
Building Height Strategy for Limerick City

Adopted June 2022
LIMERICK
Limerick City & County Council



SEPTEMBER 2023
ABBAYFEALE

TOWN CENTRE FIRST PLAN



Newcastle West
Local Area Plan
2023 - 2029
Written Statement



Review of the
Limerick Regeneration
Framework
Implementation Plan

Delivering safe and sustainable communities



Colbert Quarter Framework



Adare Local Area Plan
2024 - 2030 | VOLUME 2
Public Realm Plan



Moyross Jobs Fair



Town and Village
Renewal Scheme

A large blue circular graphic is overlaid on a night photograph. The background shows a river with white water rapids, illuminated by warm lights. To the left, a building with lit windows and a parked car is visible. The blue circle is semi-transparent, allowing the background scene to be seen through it.

4

Housing

4.0 Chapter 4: Housing

Chapter 4: Housing sets out the policies and objectives for the provision of housing in Limerick over the lifetime of the Development Plan to 2028. The delivery of housing must comply with the Core Strategy set out in Chapter 2 and must align with the principles established in the Spatial Strategy as outlined in Chapter 3. Limerick, like the rest of the country is affected by the current housing crisis, including supply shortages, increased demand for social and affordable housing, a pressurised rental sector, rising building costs and vacant homes. The Council has a key role to play in enabling the delivery of new housing, ensuring sufficient zoned and serviced land is available and that the best use is made of existing stock and delivering strong, sustainable communities.

The following tables set out a brief outline of the progress made in achieving the strategic policies and objectives of the Housing chapter of the Limerick Development Plan 2022 - 2028.

4.1 Housing Strategy and Housing Need Demand Assessment

Housing Strategy and Housing Need Demand Assessment	
<i>Policy HO P1 - Implementation of the Housing Strategy, including the Housing Need Demands Assessment</i>	<i>It is a policy of the Council to facilitate the implementation and delivery of the Housing Strategy and Housing Need Demand Assessment (HNDA) 2022 – 2028, to meet the increasing projected population, changing household size and housing needs, including social and affordable housing requirements for Limerick over the lifetime of the Plan.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>The preparation of a Housing Strategy is a requirement under Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The purpose of a Housing Strategy is to assess the housing needs of the existing and projected population over the lifetime of the Development Plan and translates national and regional housing policies to the local level. The Housing Strategy and Housing Need Demand Assessment (HNDA) are set out in Volume 6: Accompanying Strategies of the Development Plan. The Housing Strategy and HNDA were used to develop a long-term view of the housing need of the population across all tenures and types, and subsequently informed the preparation of the housing policies and objectives of the Development Plan.</p> <p>The Housing Strategy indicates a housing supply target of 15,591 no. dwellings over the lifetime of the Development Plan to meet projected housing demand. This target includes 3,107 no. households which will have a requirement for social housing supports over the lifetime of the Development Plan.</p> <p>The Core Strategy Monitoring Report in Appendix II sets out the most recent data in relation to housing completions. In addition to residential</p>

	<p>planning permissions which were granted prior to the implementation of the Limerick Development Plan, as outlined under Section 2.2 Core Strategy Policies and Objectives in this report, planning permission has been granted for 2,692 no. units in the settlements and 346 no. units in the open countryside (3,038 no. units in total). The data on house completions demonstrates that 1,632 no. dwellings were completed during the first two years of the Development Plan.</p> <p>With respect to the delivery of social housing, 1,041 no. units have been provided during the first two years of the Plan. This is examined under Objective HO O13 – Provision of Social and Affordable Housing below.</p>																														
Objective HO O1 - Social Inclusion	<i>It is an objective of the Council to ensure that new developments are socially inclusive and provide for a wide variety of housing types, sizes and tenure, in suitable locations, throughout Limerick, to cater for the demands established in the Housing Strategy and the Housing Need Demand Assessment.</i>																														
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective HO O3 - Protection of Existing Residential Amenity • Objective HO O5 – Apartments • Objective HO O6 - Build–To-Rent Accommodation • Objective HO O7 - Shared Accommodation /Co-Living 																														
Progress Commentary	<p>The Housing Strategy and Housing Need Demand Assessment recognises the importance of providing a mix of house types to meet the needs of people across all tenures, ages and abilities. The 2022 Census figures indicate that there are 76,472 no. households, comprising 33,989 (44.4%) detached dwellings, 19,936 (26.1%) semi-detached dwellings, 13,517 (17.7%) terraced dwellings and 8,800 (11.5%) apartments in Limerick.</p> <p>A mix of unit types and sizes, including life adaptable properties where appropriate, are encouraged in new residential developments through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority. Since the adoption of the Plan, planning permission has been granted for residential units across the settlements and rural Limerick as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Unit Type</th> <th>No. of Units</th> <th>% of Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Apartments</td> <td>1,216</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Houses</td> <td>1,822</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>3,038</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No. of Bedrooms</th> <th>No. of Units</th> <th>% of Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Studios/ 1 bedroom</td> <td>459</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 bedrooms</td> <td>727</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 bedrooms</td> <td>1,207</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4+ bedrooms</td> <td>645</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>3,038</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Unit Type	No. of Units	% of Total	Apartments	1,216	40	Houses	1,822	60	Total	3,038	100	No. of Bedrooms	No. of Units	% of Total	Studios/ 1 bedroom	459	15	2 bedrooms	727	24	3 bedrooms	1,207	40	4+ bedrooms	645	21	Total	3,038	100
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	<p>The tables above demonstrate that a good mix of dwelling types and sizes have been granted permission in the first two years of the Development Plan in accordance with Objective HO O1 Social Inclusion.</p> <p>-Housing Disability Strategy Plan 2022: In accordance with the National Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027, Limerick City and County Council finalised the Housing Disability Strategy Plan. The vision of the plan is to facilitate access, for people with disabilities, to the appropriate range of housing and related support services, delivered in an integrated and sustained manner, which promotes equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living.</p>						
<p>Objective HO O2 - Density of Residential Developments</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Promote, where appropriate, increased residential density in the exercise of its development management function and in accordance with Table 2.6 in Chapter 2: Core Strategy and the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas – Guidelines for Planning Authorities and the accompanying Urban Design Manual, DEHLG, May 2009.</i></p> <p><i>b. Encourage increased densities that contribute to the enhancement of a town or village by reinforcing street patterns or assisting in re-development of backlands and centrally located brownfield sites.</i></p>						
<p>Progress Commentary</p>	<p>A key objective of the NPF and RSES is to increase the density of development in built up areas, in order to achieve population growth in a compact and sustainable manner. Increasing the density of urban areas will optimise the use of serviced lands and maximise investment in social and physical infrastructure. To facilitate achievement of compact growth and consolidation of the built environment, the objectives of the Development Plan integrate transport and land use and aim to deliver developments at higher densities, particularly in areas served by public transport. Successful higher density developments require a high quality design and layout to create an attractive environment in which to live. The objective to achieve higher density is being progressed through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority.</p> <p>A review of planning permissions granted since the adoption of the Development Plan indicates average densities as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Settlement</th> <th>Density Applicable</th> <th>Average Density (No. of Units/ Site Area = Units per Ha.) across all Residential Developments Granted Permission</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Level 1 Limerick City and Suburbs,</td> <td>All Density Zones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100+ </td> <td>Apartments – 279 uph Houses – 31 uph</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Settlement	Density Applicable	Average Density (No. of Units/ Site Area = Units per Ha.) across all Residential Developments Granted Permission	Level 1 Limerick City and Suburbs,	All Density Zones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100+ 	Apartments – 279 uph Houses – 31 uph
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Level 1 Limerick City and Suburbs,	All Density Zones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100+ 	Apartments – 279 uph Houses – 31 uph					

	Mungret and Annacotty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45+ • 35+ 	
	Key Town Newcastle West	35 for 80%/ 10 for 20%	Apartments – 60 uph Houses – 22 uph
	Level 3 Towns	22 for 80%/ 10 for 20%	Apartments – 58 uph Houses – 35 uph
	Level 4 Large Villages	22 for 80%/ 10 for 20%	Houses – 17 uph
	<p>As set out under Section 1.1.6 Section 28 Guidelines of this report, new Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities were published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in 2024. These Guidelines will require a review of the density standards contained within the Plan to determine compliance. This work is on-going.</p>		
Objective HO O8 -Student Accommodation	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Support the provision of high quality, professionally managed purpose-built student accommodation either on campus, or in appropriate and accessible locations on public transport or cycle networks. All forms of student accommodation shall respect and protect the existing residential amenities of the area in which it is proposed. Student accommodation shall be of appropriate design, in accordance with the Department of Education and Science ‘Guidelines on Residential Development for Third Level Students’ (1999), and (2005) and any subsequent updates. Applications for change of use from student housing to any other form of use shall be strongly resisted, without adequate demonstration that there is no longer a need for such use in the area and an over-provision of student housing exists’.</i></p> <p><i>b. Ensure that all applications for new off campus purpose built student accommodation, the change of use to student accommodation in existing residential areas, or extensions to existing dwellings to facilitate student accommodation, must include details outlining the presence and distribution of any permanent residential occupiers, the extent of students renting in the private housing market and the presence of any other housing catering primarily for students and short term lets in the area/estate. The application should address any potential impacts of the proposal on residential amenity and any permanent residents in the area.</i></p> <p><i>c. Require all applications for off campus purpose built student accommodation to be accompanied by a Student Management Plan outlining how the scheme will be professionally managed. The Plan shall demonstrate how the development will be managed so as to avoid potential negative impacts from occupants on surrounding properties and neighbourhoods and ensure the maintenance of safe, secure and clean environments for the community, occupants and</i></p>		

	<p><i>nearby residents.</i></p> <p><i>d. Ensure permissions for student accommodation will be subject to a condition requiring planning permission for a change of use to any other type of use, including short term holiday letting. Future applications for this type of change of use will be resisted. Where it is demonstrated that such student accommodation is no longer required, a planning application will require details of a proper management plan for the non-student use of the units to prevent adverse impacts on traditional residential estates.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>According to Census 2022, 12,223 residents of Limerick City and Suburbs (Limerick and Clare) reported their principle economic status as students (14.5% of all those aged 15 and over), as did 20,759 residents of Limerick City and County combined (12.2%), which includes some secondary-level students.</p> <p>Housing demand in Limerick, particularly in Limerick City, Suburbs and Annacotty includes student accommodation to cater for the third level institutes such as the University of Limerick, Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest and Mary Immaculate College. The main third level institutions are seeking to increase student numbers within the lifetime of the Development Plan, which accordingly will result in increased demand for high quality student accommodation.</p> <p>Objective HO 08 Student Accommodation aims to provide high quality student accommodation while ensuring the protection of existing residential amenities, particularly permanent residents in family dwellings. This objective is being pursued through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Plan, 3 no. planning permissions have been granted for student accommodation, comprising 414 no. bed spaces in Limerick City and Suburbs. Proposals for student accommodation will form part of plans for the Cleeves Riverside Campus and Colbert Quarter redevelopment.</p>
Objective HO 09 - Support Housing Options for Older People	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Support the provision of specific purpose built accommodation, including assisted living units and lifetime housing and adaptation of existing properties, which will include opportunities for ‘downsizing’ or ‘right sizing’ within their community.</i></p> <p><i>b. Support the concept of independent living for older people within their community and ensure, where possible that such accommodation is integrated with mainstream housing.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective HO 010 - Location Criteria for Nursing Homes/ Care Home Accommodation • Objective HO 011 - Subdivision of Dwelling to Accommodate Dependent Relative

Progress Commentary	<p>Census 2022 indicated that 16% of Limerick’s population or 33,588 are aged 65 years and over, while 3.6% of the population are 80 years and over. The Development Plan acknowledges that an ageing population, combined with a longer life expectancy, will increase the demand for residential care, retirement homes, nursing homes, retirement villages and sheltered accommodation etc.. In the two years since the adoption of the Plan, 54 no. of independent living units have been granted planning permission.</p> <p>In addition, since the adoption of the Development Plan, Limerick City and County Council has issued adaptation, mobility aid and housing aid grants to enable older and disabled people to remain in their own homes longer as follows:</p>																	
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grant</th> <th>No. approved</th> <th>Expenditure</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MAGs Mobility Adaptation Grants Approved</td> <td>142</td> <td>€615,373</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HAGs Housing Adaptation Grants Approved</td> <td>721</td> <td>€5,134,246</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HOPS Housing Aid for Older People Grants Approved</td> <td>1,207</td> <td>€4,446,217</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DPGs Disabled Person's Grant Expenditure</td> <td>114</td> <td>€1,381,819</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Grant	No. approved	Expenditure	MAGs Mobility Adaptation Grants Approved	142	€615,373	HAGs Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	721	€5,134,246	HOPS Housing Aid for Older People Grants Approved	1,207	€4,446,217	DPGs Disabled Person's Grant Expenditure	114	€1,381,819
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<p>Furthermore, the Housing Directorate have been active since 2022 in the delivery of private rightsizing schemes. Limerick City and County Council developed a policy where persons over the age of 55 who own their own home, and who find their dwelling 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 Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs). To date, Limerick have held 6 no. Rightsizing campaigns for specific older persons accommodation in Limerick City and 1 no. in Newcastle West. The concept of private rightsizing addresses evidence-based concerns about elderly individuals living in homes that are too large for their needs. According to Eurostat data, as of 2020, Ireland is classed as having the highest percentage (91%) in Europe of those over the age of 65 living in under-occupied homes. The rightsizing scheme is one mechanism to try and free up larger homes for those in need and make more efficient use of under-occupied homes.</p>																		
<p>Private rightsizing schemes include the following:</p>																		

	Scheme	No. of Units
	Mungret Gate Apartments	12
	Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West	9
	Newtown Meadows, Phase 1 and 2, Limerick	16
	Bru Na Gruadan Phase 1 and 2, Limerick	11
	Bru Na Gruadan Phase 3 and 5, Limerick	4
	The Mills, Castletroy	8
	Clonmacken, Limerick	8
Objective HO O12 – The Living Limerick City Centre Initiative	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the Living Limerick City Centre Initiative for the delivery of community housing across the City and rural towns and villages and the extension of a similar initiatives to rural towns and villages.</i>	
Progress Commentary	The Living City Initiative is a scheme of property tax incentives designed to regenerate both historic buildings and other buildings in Limerick. The initiative comprises two parts - Residential and Commercial. The initiative which offers income tax deductions to people carrying out refurbishment of homes, rental properties, commercial and retail spaces. To qualify, the building must be built before 1915 and be located in special regeneration areas of historic Limerick. This initiative has been extended to 2027. The scheme is administered by the Public Realm Section.	
Objective HO O13 - Provision of Social and Affordable Housing	<i>It is an objective of the Council to require lands zoned for residential use, or for a mixture of residential and other uses and any land which is not zoned for residential use, or for a mixture of residential and other uses, in respect of which permission for the development of 4 or more houses is granted, to comply with the Affordable Housing Act 2021 and Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and any subsequent amendments thereof. The Council reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of 'Part V' Cost Rental and/or affordable purchase delivery on individual sites on a case-by-case basis.</i>	
Progress Commentary	Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) is one of the means through which Limerick City and County Council can seek to address demand for social housing in Limerick. The Council works in partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Approved Housing Bodies to deliver and manage social housing. A requirement for Part V is included by way of a condition on any planning permission granted for the development of housing and must be agreed with the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development. Since the adoption of the Plan, over 100 no. units have been purchased through Part V.	

<p>Objective HO O14 - Limerick Housing Delivery Action Plan</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to support the implementation of the forthcoming Limerick Housing Delivery Action Plan.</i></p>										
<p>Progress Commentary</p>	<p>As part of the Government's Housing for All plan, Limerick City and County Council has developed a Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022 – 2026, setting out a strategy for social and affordable housing delivery over the lifetime of the Plan. The Council continues to be proactive in the delivery of housing and works closely with the various government departments, agencies, stakeholders and developers in order to achieve delivery targets.</p> <p>Under Housing for All, Limerick has a delivery target of 2,693 no. new homes between 2022 and 2026. This target is twice that of 1,365 no. homes set out under the 'Rebuilding Ireland' programme from 2018-2021. The main delivery stream is through construction, with 60% to be delivered by Limerick City and County Council and 40% by Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs).</p> <p>-Social Housing: Limerick City and County Council has access to 30 no. significant and complex programmes to deliver social housing via the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p> <p>The total number of social housing applicants approved on Limerick City and County Council's social housing waiting list was 2,892 in August 2024. This nett figure excludes applicants who have secured HAP and RAS accommodation.</p> <p>At the end of August 2024, Limerick City and County Council has 2,959 no. units awaiting start, to deliver homes through the Build, Buy and Lease delivery streams. Under the various Build, Buy and Lease streams, 1,041 no. units have been delivered since the commencement of the Development Plan.</p> <p>The LA Housing Construction and Maintenance team is dedicated to delivering the build programme on Local Authority owned lands and the refurbishment and maintenance of social housing stock.</p> <p>The table below outlines the various dwelling delivery types under Social-Rental and no. of units delivered during the first two years of the Development Plan and in the pipeline as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Delivery Type</th> <th>No. of Units Delivered</th> <th>No. of Units Pipeline</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Build</td> <td>778</td> <td>2,883</td> <td>3,661</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Delivery Type	No. of Units Delivered	No. of Units Pipeline	Total	Build	778	2,883	3,661
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Buy	183	136	319
Lease	80	37	117
Total	1,041	3,056	4,097

-Affordable Housing: Limerick City and County Council has access to 15 no. significant and complex programmes to deliver affordable housing via the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The Local Authority is pursuing a number of developments under the Affordable Housing Fund (previously Serviced Sites Fund), which assists Local Authorities in developing affordable housing schemes.

Central Government set a target for Limerick to deliver 264 no. affordable housing units by 2026:

- This includes Council-led sites for affordable purchase and cost rental, as well as turnkeys with the private sector
- Excluded from this target are AHB cost-rental, Private Investor/ LDA activity and URDF projects
- As of May 2024, Limerick has identified a pipeline of 653 no. affordable homes across 27 no. projects, exceeding the target by 389 no. homes
- Additional funding streams (LDA STAR, and CREL) will contribute 347 no. more affordable homes across 12 no. projects at this time. Pipeline is increasing month-on-month.

Progress over the first two years of the Development Plan includes the following delivery and projects:

Delivery Type	No. of Units Delivered	No. of Units Pipeline	Total
Build	130	1,505	1,635

Project	No. of Units	Type	Status
Toppins Field	Phase 1: 28 Phase 2: 115	Affordable Purchase	-Phase 1: Pre-planning design, layout and junction options, baseline surveys/ environmental reports and site investigation progressed -Phase 2: Site and brief development advancing, East-West link road funding approved
Curragower Lands	7	Affordable Purchase	Pre-planning design, site investigations ongoing

	Sonny's Lands	19	Cost Rental	Design Team appointed to move forward to pre planning. Archaeological digs complete
	Guinness Lands	270	Cost Rental	Capacity and viability analysis ongoing, LDA finalising project charter
	Clonmacken Lands	22	Affordable Purchase	Viability study complete and sent for Justification Test analysis
	Speaker's Corner	36	18 Cost Rental	Part 8 approved, work progressed on land transfer to AHB
	New Road, Thomondgate	22	Cost Rental	AHB, Project with An Bord Pleanála
	Ballygrennan Lands	73	Cost Rental	Cost Rental Expression of Interest being progressed with AHB
	Mungret	181	Affordable Purchase	LIHAF, Public consultation on proposed development, Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening Report closed
	Thomas St./ O'Connell St.	21	Affordable Purchase	URDF, work to progress this proposal is ongoing
	Adare	8	Affordable Purchase Self Build Plots	Work to progress this proposal is ongoing
<p>-Rental Housing: Social housing support via private owned housing is not counted under Housing for All targets.</p> <p>-Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS): The number of properties in the private rented sector under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) was 660 no. and a further 572 no. tenancies were supported under RAS in the voluntary housing sector at the end of July 2024.</p> <p>-Housing Assistance Payment (HAP): HAP is a form of social housing support provided by Local Authorities and has been identified as a key part of the national strategy to provide a more integrated system of housing supports. There were 1,985 no. active HAP tenancies in Limerick City and County Council at the end of July 2024. The HAP Unit set up 517 no. HAP tenancies and there were 845 no. cessations in the first two years of the Development Plan.</p>				

	<p>-Other: In addition to the housing supports outlined in brief above, since the Development Plan came into effect, the Housing Authority has approved 57 no. tenant purchase applications and 37 no. Local Authority Home Loans.</p>										
Policy HO P2 – Homeless Accommodation	<i>It is a policy of the Council to implement measures to address the homeless crisis in Limerick.</i>										
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective HO O15 - Homeless Accommodation • Objective HO O16 – Youth Homelessness Strategy 										
Progress Commentary	<p>Prevention of homelessness has become as important as the delivery of accommodation service and engaging with those who are at risk of becoming homeless is critical. Limerick City and County Council’s 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 the Council’s ability to respond to the issue of homelessness in the Region. The Homeless Action Team has been developed as a direct result of actions arising from the Government’s National Homeless Strategy. The multi-disciplinary team is focused on ensuring that all services to homeless persons are delivered to the highest quality and in a coordinated and integrated way, allowing a wide range of supports to be put in place.</p> <p>The number of homeless cases at the end of July 2024 consisted of 127 no. adults, 149 no. children and 82 no. families.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, the following services continued to be rolled out in relation to supporting those at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness in the Limerick region:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Services</th> <th>Notes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Housing First</td> <td>Over 45 no. tenancies set up since February 2018, housing individuals in permanent, stable and supported housing units for homeless single persons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing Assistant Payment (HAP) Placefinder</td> <td>Two HAP Placefinder roles support clients experiencing homelessness to source properties in the private rental market, which are supported through HAP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family Hubs</td> <td>Suaimhneas and Dublin Road Family Initiative catering for families</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tenancy Sustainment Services</td> <td>Provide a key response in preventing tenancies from ending and in providing support to clients to maintain their accommodation</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Services	Notes	Housing First	Over 45 no. tenancies set up since February 2018, housing individuals in permanent, stable and supported housing units for homeless single persons	Housing Assistant Payment (HAP) Placefinder	Two HAP Placefinder roles support clients experiencing homelessness to source properties in the private rental market, which are supported through HAP	Family Hubs	Suaimhneas and Dublin Road Family Initiative catering for families	Tenancy Sustainment Services	Provide a key response in preventing tenancies from ending and in providing support to clients to maintain their accommodation
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Tenancy Sustainment Services	Provide a key response in preventing tenancies from ending and in providing support to clients to maintain their accommodation										

	The Street Outreach	An increase in numbers have been accessing this service, each client is engaged with to ensure a seamless support is offered
Objective HO O17 - Traveller Accommodation	<i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i> <i>a. Support improvements in the quality and quantity of Traveller specific accommodation, in conjunction with the relevant agencies;</i> <i>b. Implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024 and any subsequent updates.</i>	
Progress Commentary	<p>Limerick City and County Council established a dedicated Traveller Accommodation Unit within the Housing directorate in 2022. This is a multi-disciplinary team, who work specifically with members of the Traveller community in Limerick. The Unit provides a one-stop shop to support Travellers with regard to accommodation supports and helps signpost tenants or applicants to other supports as required.</p> <p>The Traveller Accommodation Programme for 2019-2024 sets out to permanently accommodate 105 no. Traveller families over the lifetime of the programme. This target has been exceeded, with 108 no. Families accommodated. A new Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme for 2025 – 2029 is currently being prepared.</p> <p>During the first two years of the Development Plan, progress made by Limerick City and County Council is outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have completed a pilot caravan loan schemes for 3 no. families who will now be responsible for their own repair and maintenance costs going forward • Held meetings with individual families on Childers Road halting site and have subsequently progressed site layout plans which have been positively received • Continued to undertake social work assessments for individual housing applicants • Tendered to procure a repair and maintenance contractor to year end 2024 • Completed fire audits on all Metropolitan District halting sites • Completed the acquisition and refurbishment of a specific unit in Limerick City • Ongoing completion of requests for maintenance issues • Completed demolition of redundant bays and hard standing area to the rear of the Long Pavement halting site, enhanced site safety and resurfacing of roadway • Completed social and engineering assessments of the existing chalets within the Hillview halting site in Rathkeale. A tender has been advertised for new and enlarged chalets together with improved site infrastructure works 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Villa Maria demolished • Toppins Field, demolition and replacement of Welfare Facility and improved safety to all walkways through reduction in vehicle congestion and bollard installation • Boher, demolition and replacement of Welfare Facility.
<p>Objective HO O18 - Accommodation for Refugees and Asylum Seekers</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Implement government policy in relation to the provision of accommodation for refugees and asylum seekers.</i></p> <p><i>b. Work with Central Government, relevant State Agencies, AHBs and other bodies to support the provision of appropriate housing for asylum seekers and refugees in Limerick in accordance with identified requirements, and to support the phasing out and replacement of the Direct Provision system in accordance with national policy and requirements.</i></p>
<p>Progress Commentary</p>	<p>Limerick City and County Council set up a new team in 2022 to respond to the need for emergency accommodation for those fleeing the war in Ukraine. Limerick has welcomed over 3,000 beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine since March 2022. Accommodation has been sourced for multi occupancy temporary accommodation on behalf of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, throughout the City and County.</p> <p>Limerick City and County Council will continue to work with Central Government, State Agencies and AHBs to support the provision of appropriate housing for asylum seekers and refugees in accordance with Government requirements.</p> <p>Further to accommodation, the Ukrainian Community Response Forum meets fortnightly. The role of the Forum is to facilitate the coordination of support services and community lead responses in the provision of assistance. The Forum is chaired by the Director General of Limerick City and County Council and has a membership of over 22 no. organisations across the state, private, community and voluntary sectors. The Form ensures that the required supports are delivered in a coordinated manner and identified gaps in service provision are addressed where possible.</p> <p>Limerick City and County Council established the Local Authority Integration Team in 2024. Funding of €1,400,378 was awarded to the Council to fund projects of a capital nature that deliver medium-long term benefits to support communities that have welcomed people from Ukraine and other countries.</p>

4.2 Serviced Sites in Towns and Villages

Serviced Sites in Towns and Villages	
Objective HO O19 - Serviced Sites in Towns and Villages without adequate Water Services Infrastructure	<i>It is an objective of the Council to permit serviced sites in towns and villages across Limerick to offer an alternative to rural one off housing, where individuals can build their house on a Serviced Site, in the case where each house is served by an individual on-site wastewater treatment system, in settlements where there is insufficient wastewater treatment capacity, the existing municipal wastewater treatment plant is not scheduled for upgrade by Irish Water in its current investment plan and there is no risk of nuisance or pollution. (Refer to Chapter 11: Development Management Standards for further information).</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>To help strengthen and consolidate the settlement structure and reverse the decline in Limerick's towns and villages, residential serviced sites will be promoted in the settlements. These sites offer an alternative to the single one-off rural house, enabling those who seek the opportunity to build their own homes to one's own design, but located in a town or village. Since the adoption of the Plan, planning permission has been sought on approximately 30 no. serviced sites in various settlements across the County.</p> <p>New Local Area Plans completed since the adoption of the Plan include appropriate lands zoned for serviced sites.</p>

4.3 Rural Housing

Rural Housing	
Objective HO O20 - Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence	<i>It is an objective of the Council to consider a single dwelling for the permanent occupation of an applicant in the area under Strong Urban Influence, subject to demonstrating compliance with ONE of the criteria below:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Persons with a demonstrable economic need to live in the particular local rural area;</i> <p><i>Persons who have never owned a house in the rural area and are employed in rural-based activity such as farming/bloodstock, horticulture or other rural-based activity, in the area in which they wish to build, or whose employment is intrinsically linked to the rural area in which they wish to build, or other persons who by the nature of their work have a functional need to reside permanently in the rural area close to their place of work (within 10km). (Minimum farm size shall be 12 hectares for farming or bloodstock).</i></p> <p><i>The applicant must demonstrate that they have been actively</i></p>

Rural Housing	
	<p><i>engaged in farming/bloodstock/horticulture or other rural activity, at the proposed location for a continuous period of not less than 5 years, prior to making the application. In the event of newly acquired land, to demonstrate that the proposed activity would be of a viable commercial scale, a detailed 5 year business plan will be required.</i></p> <p>2. Persons with a demonstrable social need to live in a particular local rural area;</p> <p><i>Persons who have never owned a house in the rural area and who wish to build their first home on a site that is within 10km of where they have lived for a substantial period of their lives in the local rural area (Minimum 10 years). The local rural area is defined as the area outside all settlements identified in Levels 1 – 4 of the Settlement Hierarchy. Excluding Level 4 settlements, where there is no capacity in the treatment plant.</i></p> <p>3. Persons with a demonstrable local exceptional need to live in a particular local rural area, examples include:</p> <p>a. Returning emigrants who have never owned a house in the rural area, in which they lived for a substantial period of their lives (Minimum 10 years), then moved away or abroad and who now wish to return to reside in the local rural area (within 10km of where they lived for a substantial period of their lives). The local rural area is defined as the area outside all settlements identified in Levels 1 – 4 of the Settlement Hierarchy. Excluding Level 4 settlements, where there is no capacity in the treatment plant.</p> <p>b. A person who has lived a substantial period of their lives in the local rural area, (at least 10 years), that previously owned a home and is no longer in possession of that home, due to the home having been disposed of following legal separation/divorce/repossession and can demonstrate a social or economic need for a new home in the rural area.</p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective HO O22 - Refurbishment/ Replacement of Traditional Rural Dwellings • Objective HO O23 - Occupancy Condition
Progress Commentary	<p>The rural development strategy for Limerick seeks to achieve a balance of promoting sustainable rural development, which enhances the vibrancy and vitality of rural areas, while protecting the heritage, amenity and recreational value of rural landscapes, in accordance with national and regional policies.</p> <p>‘Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence’ are those within the commuter catchment of the City, large towns and centres of employment. This area includes Electoral Divisions where at least 15% of the workforce commutes into Limerick City. ‘Rural Areas Elsewhere’ are outside of these catchments, where a more flexible approach to rural housing applies.</p>

Rural Housing	
	<p>The population of the rural area increased by 3,285 between 2016 and 2022 to 69,212. This demonstrates that the rural population in Limerick is growing at a strong rate. In conjunction with this population growth, pressure for development in the open countryside continues. In this regard, the Core Strategy sets out a target of 128 no. one off dwellings per annum over the lifetime of the Development Plan.</p> <p>In accordance with Objective HO O20, since the adoption of the Plan, 248 no. planning permissions for one off dwellings have been granted in the Rural Areas Under Strong Urban Influence. Permissions granted therefore exceed the annual target of growth allocated to the rural area.</p> <p>Of the 248 no. rural dwellings permitted in the Rural Areas Under Strong Urban Influence since the Plan came into effect, commencement notices were submitted for 76 no. units.</p>
Objective HO O21 – Rural Areas Elsewhere	<i>It is an objective of the Council that to help stem the decline and strengthen Rural Areas Elsewhere, in general demand for permanent residential development should be accommodated, subject to meeting normal planning and environmental criteria.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective HO O22 - Refurbishment/ Replacement of Traditional Rural Dwellings • Objective HO O23 - Occupancy Condition
Progress Commentary	Further to the commentary under Objective HO O20 Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence above, since the adoption of the Development Plan, 147 no. planning applications have been received for one off dwellings, with 96 no. one off dwellings granted permission in the Rural Area Elsewhere.

4.4 Conclusion

In conclusion, it is considered that implementation of the policies and objectives set out in Chapter 4: Housing has been successful over the first two years of the Development Plan. This report demonstrates that delivery of private, social and affordable housing across all types is progressing throughout Limerick. The Housing Authority is actively pursuing all funding streams and mechanisms open to it in order to achieve housing targets. A variety of delivery methods relating to build, repair and lease have enabled the provision of 1,041 no. dwellings by the Housing Authority and Approved Housing Bodies during the first two years of the Development Plan.

The Local Authority acknowledges that the level of dwelling completions, particularly in the private sector is not yet at levels to meet market demands, however it is anticipated that the level of completions will continue to increase over the lifetime of the Plan and that housing targets can be achieved. The continued implementation of the objectives in the Housing chapter will ensure that

the mix and tenure of new residential developments are inclusive and will create sustainable lifelong communities catering for all members of society.

Housing

Two Year Progress Report

1,632



Units completed during
2022 and 2023

1,041



Social units delivered

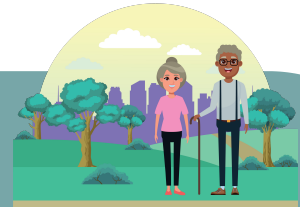
Planning Permission Granted

Unit Type	No. of Units
Apartments	1,216
Houses	1,822
Studios/ 1 bedroom	459
2 bedrooms	727
3 bedrooms	1,207
4+ bedrooms	645



Affordable Housing Scheme Newcastle West

€10.8m+



Provided through Grants
for Older and Disabled
Persons



Density

279 uph Apartments

31 uph Houses

Average density in
Limerick City and Suburbs
(Units Per Hectare)

Limerick Affordable Housing Scheme



A night city street scene with light trails and a large blue circular graphic overlay. The scene shows a modern city street at dusk or night, with buildings, streetlights, and light trails from traffic. A large blue circular graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the number 5 and the text 'A Strong Economy'.

5

A Strong Economy

5.0 Chapter 5: A Strong Economy

Chapter 5: A Strong Economy aims to support the growth of employment and enterprise, retail, tourism and the marine economy in Limerick, in a manner, which ensures that economic development does not adversely affect the environment. The future growth, resilience and competitiveness of Limerick's economy is dependent on a range of factors. These factors include export-led growth, a diverse sectoral mix, indigenous enterprise and foreign direct investment, innovation, infrastructure, skills/ talent and a high quality of life to attract and retain a future labour supply.

Chapter 5: A Strong Economy sets out a framework for economic growth, which encompasses a range of key economic sectors across the City and County, in accordance with national, regional and local policies. The success of economic growth in Limerick is intertwined with maintaining and enhancing its attractiveness as a high-quality place to live, work and visit. The Employment Strategy seeks to align strategic employment locations with public transport corridors, increasing the efficiency of land-use, reducing sprawl and minimising carbon footprints. The strategy also seeks to retain and enhance the important role of employment in the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area and the town and village centres across the County. Furthermore, the Council will seek to work in conjunction with state agencies and the government to support and facilitate education, upskilling and job creation programmes.

The most recent Census data indicates growth in jobs from 2016 to 2022 of 17% (13,438) to 90,623 people at work in Limerick. Census 2022 included a new question regarding working from home. The Census indicates that 24,866 persons in Limerick work from home some of the time, which accounted for 27.4% of all persons aged 15 years and over at work in 2022. Some 9,215 residents in Limerick worked mainly from home in 2022, which had increased by close to 138% since 2016.

Since the Plan came into effect, there have been considerable changes in the Irish economy. The ESRI 'Economic Quarterly Report Summer 2024' highlights that national productivity, as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP), declined in 2023 and continued to fall in Q1 2024. This was largely due to a decline in multinational export activity. However, the domestic oriented sectors are experiencing a steadying of the growth rate following the volatility of the COVID-19 period. The commentary outlines that the stabilisation of growth in the domestic economy, albeit at a lower rate, points towards a degree of resilience despite the inflationary pressures and higher interest rates. The ESRI commentary also states that global trade is expected to pick up in 2024 and grow strongly in 2025 and into 2026.

Total household disposable income has experienced year on year growth to Q2 2024, with consumption expected to continue to grow strongly in 2024 and 2025. The ESRI commentary shows that the 2023 increase in housing investment translated into a housing output of just under 33,000 units, which is the highest level since the onset of the financial crisis in 2007. However, in Q1 2024, housing completions dropped back to just over 5,800 units. The Central Bank's Bulletin for Q2 states that housing supply needs to increase at a faster pace if it is to meet the underlying demand for housing in the Irish economy.

The Central Bank’s Quarterly Bulletin for Q2 also highlights that employment levels are increasing steadily, albeit at a slower rate than in recent years, while the monthly unemployment rate remains close to historical lows of 4%, with the labour market continuing to remain tight.

The Bulletin outlines that global influences on Irish inflation have eased. While domestic price pressures are high, central projections are consistent with inflation returning to sustainable levels. Moreover, the ESRI Quarterly Economic Commentary, states that headline and underlying indicators of the Irish economy both suggest that the economy will grow in a robust fashion in 2024 and 2025. This will be driven by a better-than-expected international outlook and robust domestic growth.

The following tables set out a brief outline of the progress made in achieving the strategic policies and objectives of the Strong Economy chapter of the Limerick Development Plan 2022 - 2028.

5.1 Strategy

Strategy	
Policy ECON P1 – Strong Economy	<i>It is a policy of the Council to support the review and implementation of Limerick Twenty Thirty – An Economic and Spatial Plan to guide the economic, social and physical renaissance of Limerick City Centre and the wider County/Mid-West Region.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>The Limerick Twenty Thirty Plan is an economic and spatial framework for the redevelopment and growth of Limerick City Centre, which was originally published in 2013. Subsequently, an Interim Review and Update of the Limerick Twenty Thirty Plan was undertaken as part of the Development Plan preparation process. The projects included in the 2030 Plan for Limerick City Centre will be transformational for the City and region.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, the following progress in the various Limerick Twenty Thirty projects has been made:</p> <p>-Opera Square: Opera Square in Limerick City Centre will be transformational for the city and region. The project is well underway, with the first contract, the ‘Demolition and Enabling Works’ completed in 2022. In January 2023, upon entering a Joint Venture with the Irish Strategic Infrastructure Fund (ISIF), Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) awarded John Sisk & Sons a contract for the site-wide basement and One Opera Square building.</p> <p>Works progressed very well in 2023, with the basement pile wall fully completed, and the majority of the capping beam installation and excavations works completed. 2023 commenced with the first piling rig being mobilised to site and first excavation works commenced in February. This increased to 3 no. piling rigs in April and by late August formation level was reached with excavation of One Opera Square. The first tower crane was erected onsite in September, and standing at 42.4 meters, is one of the largest luffing cranes in the country. Q3 saw drainage installation for One</p>

Strategy

Opera Square, and significant concrete pours with a basement slab pour of over 350m³ in October. A second tower crane was erected in November 2023 showing significant progress on site and a large basement slab pour of 900m³ took place. The basement slab for One Opera Square was completed with a 600m³ pour in December 2023.

2024 has built further on the successes of 2023, with the basement works for the full site currently more than 75% completed and five storeys of the six-storey One Opera Square building already constructed. Q4 of 2024 will see the completion of the basement and One Opera Square structures and the commencement of building commissioning and landlord area fit-out works.

2024 also saw the completion of the Tender Process for the 14-storey landmark building, the Granary refurbishment and Bank Place public realm. Construction works will commence on these key elements into Q4 2024.

Detailed design and tender documentation have been finalised for the New Public Library, Four Opera Square, 4/5 Rutland Street apartments and the new Public Realm (Central Plaza) and subject to stakeholder approvals, Limerick Twenty Thirty intend tendering these works with a view to commencing construction before the end of 2024. The Opera Square development is funded through commitments from ISIF, European Investment Bank and the Council of Europe Development Bank. Limerick Twenty Thirty is also engaging with other investors on the remaining elements of the development.

Opera Square will be developed over a six-year period and on completion in late 2026, the development will be capable of employing over 3,000 people across a 450,000 sq. ft. campus. Following in the footsteps of the Gardens International development, Opera Square will again set the highest standards in terms of sustainability and architectural standing, with the project being developed to LEED Platinum, WELL Platinum and Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) standards.

The design will be entirely complementary to and protect existing Georgian architecture. Specialist conservation works commenced in 2021 to stabilise 16 no. buildings of architectural heritage on the site, and this delicate work is ongoing.

-Cleeves Riverside Quarter: The iconic 10-acre former Cleeves factory site is located on the northern bank of the River Shannon but will very much be part of the emerging City Centre. The site connects both sides of the North Circular Road/ O'Callaghan Strand and has several distinct character areas, including the historic Cleeves factory, the Shipyard site and the Salesian's site.

Strategy	
	<p>The site’s potential has been underscored by the initial commitment of €34.5 million under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) in 2021, representing a pivotal moment for a project of local, regional and national significance.</p> <p>2023 saw the completion and communication of the Masterplan for Cleeves Riverside Quarter (CRQ). Following a series of public and private consultation events in Q1, the Masterplan was published, outlining Limerick Twenty Thirty’s vision for this 10-acre brownfield site in Limerick’s City Centre. Cleeves Riverside Quarter will embrace the modern international sustainability goals through embracing the ‘One Planet Living’ concept, with the Masterplan setting out the vision for a mixed-use development, comprising residential accommodation, along with education, workspace, and cultural amenities. The development will also introduce a destination for locals and visitors to enjoy a new riverside public realm and bring this location back into everyday City Centre use. The Masterplan provides for up to 220 no. plus residential units, with the potential to provide a further 275 no. plus student bed spaces.</p> <p>The Masterplan also includes proposals for an educational hub and landmark office building. Currently, the Technological University of the Shannon will avail of 10,000m² to accommodate 1,600 no. students and 150 no. staff. The Urban Regeneration Development Funding (URDF) has contributed significantly towards the completion of the Masterplan, and in October of 2023 Limerick Twenty Thirty instructed the Design Team to commence the preparation of the planning application. In parallel with development of planning, Limerick Twenty Thirty is engaging with a number of development partners and investors in order to secure funding for the delivery of this strategic site.</p> <p>Throughout 2022 to 2024, Cleeves Riverside Quarter has hosted the Shoebox Appeal, Scare Factory and Fossett’s Circus among others, giving the location useful purpose while works on the Masterplan and planning applications are ongoing. The famous Cleeves Chimney was also lit up in support of Limerick in the All-Ireland, Limerick Pride Festival, St. Patrick’s Day celebrations and Christmas Festivities.</p> <p>-Mungret Framework: Initially Limerick Twenty Thirty completed an overall masterplan for Mungret Park in December 2018 on a total area of 59.6 hectares, of which 27.1 hectares are owned by Limerick City and County Council. This masterplan identified the location of the LIHAF road which opened in April 2024. Following the successful delivery of the masterplan, in 2021 Limerick Twenty Thirty with Limerick City and County Council lodged a Part 8 planning process for 252 no. residential units, which included 202 no. residential units, a crèche and community centre and 50 no. step down elderly units.</p>

Strategy	
	<p>During 2023 and 2024 and following resolution of a judicial review of the planning application, the Housing Directorate of Limerick City and County Council took responsibility of the Mungret Housing Scheme and are actively working with the LDA and Cluid Housing on accelerating the delivery of the Mungret mixed-use, mixed tenure residential scheme. The LDA and Cluid Housing has been requested by the Housing Directorate to deliver the scheme for mixed tenure affordable sale and social rental homes (older persons accommodation), with construction due to commence in Q4 2024.</p> <p>-Project Management Services: Limerick Twenty Thirty has provided Project Management services to Limerick City and County Council under a number of projects under the Expression of Interest process, comprising 3 no. sites in Council ownership, Speakers Corner, New Road Thomondgate and Ballygrennan.</p> <p>In 2023, Speaker’s Corner adjacent to the People’s Park, was successful in receiving planning permission through a Part 8 planning application for 36 no. new residential units, concluding Limerick Twenty Thirty’s work on the scheme.</p> <p>Planning for 47 no. units, together with a biodiversity park at New Road Thomondgate was granted in 2023. A third-party objection was lodged with An Bord Pleánala, with the Bord upholding the original grant of planning. This concludes Limerick Twenty Thirty’s work on the scheme.</p> <p>Phase 1 of the Ballygrennan development comprising a 100 no. Bed Day Hospital and Medical Campus secured planning in January 2024. Phase 2 of the Ballygrennan development, comprising a 90 no. Bed Nursing Home, 115 no. residential units, ancillary creche and commercial units was granted planning in February 2024. The proposed development by Whitebox in collaboration with its partners UPMC, Bons Secours and Cluid Housing will provide medical diagnostic and surgical services and enhance the residential offering on the north side of the city.</p>
<p>Policy ECON P2 - Economic Development and Enterprise</p>	<p><i>It is a policy of the Council to work in partnership with Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, adjoining Local Authorities, the Regional Assembly and all other relevant agencies to promote, facilitate and enable sustainable enterprise and economic development, in line with the policies and objectives as set out in national, regional and local strategies.</i></p>
<p>Ancillary Policies/ Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy ECON P4 – Urban Economy • Policy ECON P6 – Enterprise and Employment Development Opportunities • Objective ECON O27 – Social Enterprise • Objective ECON O29 - Office Development • Objective ECON O30 - Light Industrial and Related Uses

Strategy													
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective ECON O31 - Data Centres • Objective ECON O32 - Cultural and Creative Industries • Objective ECON O33 - Enterprise Incubator Unit • Objective ECON O29 - Office Development • Objective ECON O30 - Light Industrial and Related Uses • Objective ECON O31 - Data Centres • Objective ECON O32 - Cultural and Creative Industries • Objective ECON O33 - Enterprise Incubator Unit • Objective ECON O20 - Location of Industry or Enterprise in Brownfield Sites 												
Progress Commentary	<p>The Trade and Investment Unit of Limerick City and County Council is tasked with supporting the efforts of IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, other state agencies and the business community, to ensure that Limerick is positioned to attract and facilitate investment and job creation.</p> <p>The Local Authority continues to work in collaboration with government agencies including the IDA and Enterprise Ireland, to market and promote Limerick for economic investment. The Limerick Economic Forum continues to meet on a regular basis. The Local Authority also ensures that sufficient zoned land and business supports are in place to facilitate and enable economic development.</p> <p>-Zoned Lands: The Planning Authority acknowledges the necessity to provide sufficient zoned lands to cater for employment growth. There is a significant land bank of strategically located and undeveloped lands zoned for employment related uses in Limerick City and Suburbs, as well as in the Key Town of Newcastle West, the Level 3 Towns and Level 4 Large Villages across the County. These lands are suitable for a wide range of businesses, industries and employment generating uses.</p> <p>The table below sets out the capacity of undeveloped zoned lands to cater for further enterprise and employment development:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Settlements</th> <th style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Zoned Land Available for Employment Related Uses (ha.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d9ead3;">City and Suburbs</td> <td style="text-align: center;">274.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Key Town - Newcastle West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">61.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Level 3 Towns</td> <td style="text-align: center;">146.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Level 4 Large Villages</td> <td style="text-align: center;">163.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: center;">731.95</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Limerick City and County Council are preparing a study examining the potential of suitable lands to accommodate additional enterprise and employment opportunities in the long-term.</p>	Settlements	Zoned Land Available for Employment Related Uses (ha.)	City and Suburbs	274.60	Key Town - Newcastle West	61.77	Level 3 Towns	146.46	Level 4 Large Villages	163.14	Total	731.95
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City and Suburbs	274.60												
Key Town - Newcastle West	61.77												
Level 3 Towns	146.46												
Level 4 Large Villages	163.14												
Total	731.95												

Strategy

-Commercial Development: The Core Strategy Monitoring Report as set out in Appendix II sets out the indicators for commercial development across all settlements in Limerick City and County. The table below sets out the various floor areas for various commercial developments that have been granted planning permission in the first two years of the Plan:

Commercial Type	Floor Area (m2)
Offices	5,587.58
Industrial	27,234.23
Retail	9,902.40
Warehousing/ Logistics	18,956.10
Services	22,970.00
Total	84,650.31

As indicated in the table above, substantial new commercial development has been permitted during the first two years of the Development Plan, with a focus of permissions located within Limerick City and Suburbs. The attraction of new commercial development to the City and Suburbs is consistent with the objectives of the RSES and Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for the growth of the region.

-Job Announcements and Investment: Between August and December (inclusive) 2022, 961 no. new jobs were announced in Limerick with over €100m of investment committed by companies including Johnson & Johnson, EY and Aldi. In 2023, a further 2,741 no. new jobs were announced, with a record of €1.26bn in total investments by companies including OMC Technologies, Peregrine Technologies, Eli Lilly, Analog Devices, H&MV, BRITVIC Ireland and Verizon. To the end of July 2024, 319 no. new jobs have been announced, with over €26m in investments by companies including Everise, Clarelon Global Solutions and North American Bancard. In this regard, in the first two years of the Development Plan, 4,021 no. new jobs and investments of €1.386bn have been announced.

In 2022 and 2023, Limerick ranked first for FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) Strategy in the Micro European Cities of the Future category in the FDI European Cities and Regions Award. This looks at urban areas with an immediate population below 100,000. Limerick City ranked highly in 3 no. other awards, Human Capital and Lifestyle, Business Friendliness and Economic Potential. The awards are hosted by FDI magazine, an international news and foreign direct investment magazine published by FDI Intelligence, a specialist division from The Financial Times Ltd. The awards benchmark European cities and regions according to their economic, financial and business strengths.

-Innovate Limerick DAC: Innovate Limerick's Engine Collaboration Centre (13,500 sq. ft.; REDF and URDF funded) fully opened in 2023 as the City

Strategy	
	<p>Centre's only collaborative workspace and co working venue. The Engine Collaboration Centre become home to 11 no. new businesses accommodating over 50 no. personnel, in addition to the existing 100 no. employees of Vitalograph. The award winning collaboration centre has already hosted several hundred events in the centre with several thousand attendees for networking, meetings and trade events in sectors ranging from medtech, sports-tech, film, global business, early stage start up, community and enterprise networking. The centre fosters a collaborative environment where businesses can exchange ideas, cross-pollinate, collaborate on projects and gain inspiration.</p> <p>During the first two years of the Development Plan, Innovate Limerick has continued to work on enterprise development in County Limerick, through its ownership and management of Workbase Abbeyfeale and N21 Enterprise Facility, Rathkeale (120,000 sq. ft.). All enterprise spaces are in high demand and are at 95-100% capacity. Over 15 no. businesses are located in these premises providing employment for over 150 no. people in West Limerick.</p> <p>The Local Enterprise Office is co-located on the Engine campus and provides on site mentoring, training and events.</p> <p>-Local Enterprise Office (LEO): LEO Limerick operates through a service level agreement between Enterprise Ireland on behalf of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Limerick City and County Council. LEO provides a range of business supports and funding to assist entrepreneurs in the pre-start, start-up and growth phases of their business.</p> <p>Grant funding such as Feasibility Study Grants, Priming Grants and Business Expansion Grants are available to manufacturing and international traded service businesses employing up to 50 no. employees. In addition, Microfinance loans of up to €50,000 are available to viable businesses who have difficulty obtaining traditional bank funding.</p> <p>LEO also runs numerous national programmes such as the Student Enterprise Programme, Women In Business Network, National Enterprise Awards and Showcase for the craft and design sector to foster entrepreneurship, business skills development and innovation. LEO training programmes aim to respond to the needs of the SME sector and encourage sustainability and growth through tailored management development, LEAN and mentoring programmes. These programmes are vital to support local companies and give them a competitive edge in a global market.</p> <p>During 2024, greater emphasis has been placed on programmes such as Green for Business, LEAN, Export and Digital. These supports have been designed to aid competitiveness and develop exports in an environmentally</p>

Strategy													
	<p>friendly manner and the new Energy Efficiency Grant at 75% up to €10,000 is available to a wide range of businesses including retail.</p> <p>Some of the supports provided over the first two years of the Development Plan are set out in the table below:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #d9ead3;">LEO Supports</th> <th style="background-color: #d9ead3;">1st August 2022 to 1st August 2024</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Jobs Created</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, LEO Limerick worked with 305 no. client companies supporting 1,815 no. jobs with a net gain of 177 no. jobs on the previous year • In 2023, LEO Limerick worked with 313 no. client companies and there was a net gain of 238 no. on the previous year </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Training</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85 no. sessions in 2022 • 65 no. sessions in 2023 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Business Advice Clinics</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 259 no. mentoring sessions in 2022 • 402 no. mentoring sessions in 2023 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Feasibility, Priming and Expansion Supports</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44 no. supports in 2022 • 44 no. supports in 2023 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d9ead3;">IP/ GradStart Grants</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 no. grant in 2022 • 5 no. grants in 2025 </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	LEO Supports	1 st August 2022 to 1 st August 2024	Jobs Created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, LEO Limerick worked with 305 no. client companies supporting 1,815 no. jobs with a net gain of 177 no. jobs on the previous year • In 2023, LEO Limerick worked with 313 no. client companies and there was a net gain of 238 no. on the previous year 	Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85 no. sessions in 2022 • 65 no. sessions in 2023 	Business Advice Clinics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 259 no. mentoring sessions in 2022 • 402 no. mentoring sessions in 2023 	Feasibility, Priming and Expansion Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44 no. supports in 2022 • 44 no. supports in 2023 	IP/ GradStart Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 no. grant in 2022 • 5 no. grants in 2025
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Policy ECON P3 – Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Economy	<i>It is a policy of the Council to promote the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area as a key location for economic development supporting the provision of increased employment through the expansion of the existing enterprise ecosystem in the region and the development of smart specialisation.</i>												
Progress Commentary	<p>In accordance with the Regional and Spatial Economic Strategy for the Southern Region’s Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Spatial Plan (MASP), the Development Plan has identified the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area as a strategic focal point for economic growth. The MASP provides a strategic focus on the development of Limerick City and the metropolitan settlement of Shannon. The MASP supports Limerick City in becoming a major economic force in the Irish and international economy. The concentration of development in this area will create a critical mass of population and employment opportunities, enabling these settlements to develop as centres of scale and act as a counterbalance to Dublin, thereby supporting more balanced regional development.</p> <p>The Development Plan recognises the strategic location of Limerick City and Suburbs with respect to Shannon Airport and the access to national and international markets that this connectivity provides. The opportunities to</p>												

Strategy	
	<p>strengthen cross county links between Limerick and Clare and the potential for these links to act as a driver for economic growth is also recognised.</p> <p>The Trade and Investment section of the Economic Directorate of Limerick City and County Council continue to promote the MASP as an attractive location in which to invest. As set out under Policy ECON P2 above, approximately 274.60ha. of land is zoned and available for employment related uses in Limerick City and suburbs.</p>

5.2 Retail in Limerick

Retail in Limerick	
Policy ECON P5 - Retail	<i>It is a policy of the Council to support the sustainable long-term growth of the retail sector, in accordance with the Core and Retail Strategies of the Plan, including the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities and the accompanying Retail Design Manual published by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in 2012 and the Retail Strategy for the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area and County Limerick in determining planning applications for retail development.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective ECON O1 - City Centre • Objective ECON O2 - Limerick Suburbs Retail • Objective ECON O3 - District Centres • Objective ECON O4 – Dooradoyle Urban Quarter • Objective ECON O5 - Local/Neighbourhood Centres • Objective ECON O6 – Click and Collect • Objective ECON O7 - Retailing and Motor Fuel Stations • Objective ECON O8 - Retail Warehousing • Objective ECON O14 - Casual Trading Areas
Progress Commentary	<p>The Retail Strategy for Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area and County Limerick 2022 – 2028 is set out in Volume 6: Accompanying Strategies of the Development Plan. The Strategy has been prepared in accordance with national and regional retail policy and the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2012. This strategy identifies the retail hierarchy for settlements across Limerick and the core retail areas of the City and Key Town of Newcastle West. The Strategy sets out the quantity and form of retail activity appropriate for the individual settlements over the lifetime of the Development Plan. The key objectives of the Strategy have been incorporated into the Development Plan. Through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority, the Local Authority will continue to promote the core retail area of Limerick City and permit appropriate retail development elsewhere in accordance with the Retail Strategy.</p>

Retail in Limerick

-City Centre: The Local Authority acknowledges that the retail and leisure services sectors are vital to the economic, social and cultural life of Limerick, in particular the vitality of the City Centre. The City Centre retail sector continues to experience challenging times due to changes in customer preferences and competition from online and out of centre retailers.

The Planning Authority carries out an annual land use and vacancy survey of properties in Limerick City Centre. The survey focuses on the health check area defined in the Retail Strategy and the retail core area. The Local Authority acknowledges that there is a high vacancy rate, particularly in commercial ground floor units, with 97 no. vacant commercial units. In the commercial city centre area defined in the Retail Strategy, the number of vacant ground floor units has increased to 278 no. in 2024 from 228 no. units in 2023. Across the entire City Centre zoning there were approximately 544 no. vacant commercial units. Commercial vacancy is quite high across all cities and towns in Ireland. This pattern of vacancy has been increasing since 2013.

In relation to vacant units and shopfronts there are a number of existing initiatives to help facilitate occupancy:

Initiative	Notes
Living Georgian Limerick	A scheme of property tax incentives designed to regenerate both historic buildings and other buildings. See also Objective HO O12 – The Living Limerick City Centre Initiative in Section 4.1 Housing Strategy and Housing Need Demand Assessment
The Vacant to Vibrant Retail Economic Incentive Scheme	Financial incentives towards the fit out and overhead costs of business and retail within the core retail and business area of the City Centre
The Increased Cost of Doing Business Grant	A grant available to qualifying businesses as a contribution towards rising costs.

Another example of an initiative by Limerick City and County Council relates to Cruises Street and the allocation of an additional budget of €180,000 to help revitalise the street. Lighting, seating and an improved public realm will be part of a Cruises Street facelift in 2024. Preparatory works commenced in February 2024. Planters and seating were positioned on Cruises and Chapel Streets in April, while the installation of a ground mural commenced in July and lighting contractors have been appointed for the installation of festoon lighting along the streets as well as spot lighting to the arch at Todd's Bow.

Retail in Limerick

An internal Technical Working group has also been established, to examine the wider Market Quarter/ Cruises Street area, with the objective of improving and enhancing the existing streets and public spaces. This aims to revitalise the area and make the Market Quarter, the Milk Market and Cruises Street, key locations within the City for both locals and tourists. In 2024, the Council have:

- Progressed appointment of contractors as well as a Project Supervisor
- Issued an Request for Quote for Environmental Screening
- Developed a Suitability Assessment Questionnaire for an Integrated Design Team
- Developed preliminary design road layout options
- Developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan which will outline the strategy of informing and communicating with all stakeholders in the Project
- Arranged for the installation of a number of micro radars in the area, which will provide key data for both existing and future modal splits.

In addition, in 2024, the Council received funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the Preliminary Business Case for the revitalisation of the Milk Market by establishing a new Food Hub.

The Trade and Investment team actively seeks to attract new business to the City Centre by:

- Engaging directly with prospective businesses and investment leads
- Working with existing City Centre stakeholders to increase economic activity
- Promoting the strengths, resources and advantages of the City Centre
- Appointment of a Night Time Economy Officer
- Developing an Action Plan to enhance and support a diverse and vibrant City Centre Night-time Economy
- Researching and advocating for policies and infrastructure investment that support the economic development of the City.

The Council will also continue to collate and monitor City Centre economic data (footfall, vacancy, ownership etc.).

Since the adoption of the Development Plan, the following floor areas have been granted permission for retail, hospitality and service related development in the City Centre:

Limerick City Centre	Permission granted (m2)
Retail	668

Retail in Limerick																										
	Services	7,079																								
	<p>In the first two years of the Development Plan, despite the closure of some businesses, a number of new retail and hospitality businesses have opened in Limerick City, including SOS Cookies, The Trading Post and Variety Coffee.</p> <p>-Suburbs: The Retail Strategy for Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area and County Limerick 2022 – 2028 acknowledges that the retail centres (district and local centres) throughout Limerick City’s suburbs serve the retail and service needs of the local population and in the case of the larger centres, the wider Mid-West Region. While the role of the retail centres in the suburbs is recognised, these areas should support and compliment the role of the City Centre at the top of the retail hierarchy. Through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority, the Local Authority will continue to ensure the sequential approach to retail development, shall not undermine the City Centre at the top of the retail hierarchy in accordance with the Retail Strategy.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, the following retail and service related floor areas have been granted in the City’s suburban neighbourhood areas:</p>																									
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	<p>The Retail Strategy provides broad guidance as to the indicative floorspace apportioned to the suburbs. The quantum of floorspace granted since the adoption of the Development Plan is generally in accordance with the guidance provided in the Retail Strategy.</p>																									

Retail in Limerick	
Objective ECON O9 - Newcastle West	<i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i> <p><i>a. Support and promote the role of Newcastle West as a strategic urban centre of significant influence to realise the full potential of the town, including its role as part of the Atlantic Economic Corridor Initiative.</i></p> <p><i>b. Support the improvement of retail facilities in Newcastle West Town Centre, through the provision of modern shop units and a growth in floor space.</i></p> <p><i>c. Support opportunities for brownfield redevelopment to support mixed-use sustainable urban development, improve on and enhance the vitality and viability of the Town Centre and increase its competitiveness with other retail destinations.</i></p> <p><i>d. In areas adjacent/contiguous to the core retail area to support the diversity of non-retail uses at street level contiguous to the core retail area, where such uses attract customers that complement the vitality and viability and bring linked trips to the Town Centre.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective ECON O10 – Networks • Objective ECON O11 – Inter Urban Links
Progress Commentary	<p>The role of the Key Town of Newcastle West is to strengthen the settlement pattern and act as the main driver of economic development and provider of services within west Limerick.</p> <p>-Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC): It is an objective to develop the AEC initiative as a driver for enterprise growth, investment and attracting entrepreneurial skills and talent to the rural catchments as an economic complement to the role of metropolitan areas and larger urban centres located on the AEC. The RSES recognises the combined advantages and opportunities of the AEC, including delivering a high-value and low-carbon economy. Limerick City and County Council is one of the 10 no. Local Authorities who play a key role in the AEC initiative. The AEC aims to attract investment, support job creation and improve quality of life for the people who live there.</p> <p>Newcastle West was one of 6 no. hubs that the AEC showcased in Limerick as part of a national event, which highlighted the range of remote networking hubs located in the County. The aim of the initiative is to connect and deepen the remote working infrastructure across rural Ireland.</p> <p>-Retail: A Health Check of the Town Centre in Newcastle West was carried out in 2024. The survey found that the overall vacancy rate of ground floor units in the town centre is 21.7% i.e. 91 no. ground floor units out of 419 no. being vacant. Of these ground floor units, 76 no. are in buildings that are vacant on all floors. The retail vacancy is 23.5%.</p> <p>The Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area and County Limerick Retail Strategy provides broad guidance as to the indicative floor space</p>

Retail in Limerick							
	<p>apportioned to the Key Town of Newcastle West. Since the adoption of the Development Plan, the following commercial floor areas have been granted in the core retail area of Newcastle West:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Newcastle West</th> <th>Permission granted (m2)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Retail</td> <td>953.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Services</td> <td>367</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The quantum of floorspace granted since the adoption of the Development Plan is in accordance with the guidance provided in the Retail Strategy.</p>	Newcastle West	Permission granted (m2)	Retail	953.8	Services	367
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Retail	953.8						
Services	367						
Objective ECON O13 - Rural Retail	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to direct rural retail to existing town and village settlements. Rural shops that are not functionally or spatially connected to a settlement shall not be considered, except for exceptional circumstances where the development of certain types of retail units in rural areas could be acceptable. Small scale retail units may be considered on a case by case basis and subject to compliance with all relevant Development Management Standards for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retail units which are ancillary to activities arising from farm diversification. - Retail units which are designed to serve tourist or recreational facilities and are ancillary to the main use. - Retail units attached to an existing or approved craft workshop. 						
Progress Commentary	<p>Through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority, the Local Authority will continue to assess planning applications for rural retail developments in accordance with the Development Management Standards of the Development Plan. Since the adoption of the Development Plan, 3 no. applications have been granted for rural retail developments.</p>						
Objective ECON O15 - Active Street Frontages	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Control the provision of non-retail uses at ground floor level in the principal shopping streets of Limerick City Centre, Town Centres and District Centres and within the shopping parades of mixed-use Local/Neighbourhood Centres. b. Encourage the upgrade and refurbishment of existing retail units and the maintenance of original shopfronts, or the reinstatement of traditional shopfronts where poor replacements have been installed, discourage the use of external roller shutters, internally illuminated signs or inappropriate projecting signs. c. Prepare Shopfront Design Guidelines, within the lifetime of the Development Plan and ensure implementation of these guidelines on completion. d. Promote quality retail design which will be implemented through the development management process due to the dominant visual and use role it plays in a city, town or village streetscape in accordance with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities: Retail Planning (DoECLG, 2012) and the accompanying Retail Design Manual. 						

Retail in Limerick	
	<i>e. Promote the revitalisation and reuse of vacant or derelict properties and shop units. Where viable retail cannot be sustained then alternative uses for the property/unit will be considered.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>Through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority, the Local Authority will continue to facilitate the revitalisation of active street frontages, through enabling appropriate reuse and refurbishment of vacant units.</p> <p>The Public Realm section of the Council is preparing a shopfront guide. This guide recognising that shopfronts play a crucial role in shaping the character, quality and perception of retail streets in towns and villages.</p>
Objective ECON O16 – Night Time Economy	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the development of the night time economy throughout Limerick and to prepare a night time strategy and ensure the implementation of this strategy on completion.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>In 2022, Limerick City was included in the National Night Time Economy Pilot Programme funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. As part of this pilot, a dedicated Night Time Economy Advisor was employed by Limerick City and County Council in 2024 to help re-invigorate the City's night time economy.</p> <p>The Council have undertaken a proactive approach to support development of and enhance the night time economy, including collaborating with key stakeholders. Initiatives undertaken include awarding funding for Night Time Economy events during Culture Night to winning applicants. The Council has also obtained approval for seed funding for piloting night time economy initiatives in the City Centre which were implemented in Summer 2024.</p> <p>A Night Time Economy Stakeholder Engagement Plan is being prepared and will be delivered in 4 no. steps. The first step, comprising a Business and Public Perception Survey has been completed.</p> <p>A number of community and stakeholder engagement events are scheduled for September 2024. These will be workshops and roundtables, exploring the outcomes of the Business and Public Perception Surveys, identifying key priorities and establishing the evidence base for a comprehensive Action Plan. An initial meeting of the Night Time Economy Steering Group, chaired by the Mayor, is scheduled for October 2024. The group will consider relevant goals and actions in the plan and monitor the ongoing implementation and progress of the Action Plan.</p> <p>A Night Time Economy Innovation grant has been established with many applicants from both the business, not for profit and creative sectors successful in their applications. The proposed activities will be pilot initiatives designed to enhance vibrancy and diversify the social offering in</p>

Retail in Limerick	
	<p>Limerick City between Sunday and Thursday after 6pm. The events will take place between August and October 2024 and are subject to various Night Time Economy criteria.</p> <p>The Night Time Economy Advisor has worked closely with the Mayor's office in delivering a suite of activities to animate the city centre throughout August 2024. The Advisor is also working collaboratively at a national level with other pilot locations to develop solutions for improvements to safety, transport and data collection relevant to the Night Time Economy.</p>

5.3 Enterprise and Employment

Enterprise and Employment	
<p>Objective ECON O17 – Strategic Employment Locations City and Suburbs (in Limerick), Mungret and Annacotty</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Promote, facilitate and enable a diverse range of employment opportunities by facilitating appropriate development, improvement and expansion of enterprise and industry on appropriately zoned lands, accessible by public and sustainable modes of transport, subject to compliance with all relevant Development Management Standards and Section 28 Guidance at Strategic Employment Locations and other appropriately zoned locations in a sustainable manner.</i></p> <p><i>b. Facilitate and support Limerick City Centre, University Hospital Limerick, Raheen Business Park, the National Technology Park, Higher Education Institutes, Public Hospitals, Dock Road, Northside Business Campus, Opera Centre and Cleeves Site as Strategic Employment Locations, identified in accordance with the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan.</i></p>
<p>Ancillary Policies/ Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective ECON O18 - Specific Site Requirements
<p>Progress Commentary</p>	<p>Through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority, the Local Authority will facilitate employment generating uses on appropriately zoned lands in accordance with the Development Management Standards of the Development Plan.</p> <p>See Policy ECON P2 – Economic Development and Enterprise under Section 5.1 Strategy of this report.</p>
<p>Objective ECON O19 -Employment Locations County Limerick</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Safeguard Askeaton industrial park for the accommodation of large establishments of regional importance. The application of appropriate mitigation measures for this zone as detailed in Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary (SIFP), Volume 2, Appendices C and D, the Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report which accompanied the SIFP, will apply for</i></p>

Enterprise and Employment							
	<p><i>proposed developments within this zone. An overall masterplan for the site outlining the proposed infrastructural provision, including the provision of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), shall be provided. Access to the development location site at Askeaton should be facilitated from the non-national road network.</i></p> <p><i>b. Facilitate the sustainable development of Annacotty Business Park, of a scale, phasing and character compatible with surrounding land uses and capacity of the road network. All buildings and associated services shall be contained within this area and a buffer zone of 20m. in width shall abutt the undeveloped north-western portion of the site and shall be suitably landscaped, to screen development from dwellings on the Clyduff road. An appropriate buffer zone must be considered for any future planning application on these lands in the interests of protecting the residential amenity of the area.</i></p>						
Progress Commentary	<p>Through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority, the Local Authority will facilitate employment generating uses at Askeaton Industrial Park and Annacotty Business Park in accordance with the Development Management Standards of the Development Plan.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, the following business related floor areas have been granted in these parks:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Employment Location</th> <th>Floor Areas m2 Granted Permission</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Askeaton</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Annacotty</td> <td>562</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Employment Location	Floor Areas m2 Granted Permission	Askeaton	0	Annacotty	562
Employment Location	Floor Areas m2 Granted Permission						
Askeaton	0						
Annacotty	562						
Objective ECON O23 - Education and Skills	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Sustain the existing high levels of educational attainment and skilled workforce, to encourage employment generation to maintain this resource within Limerick and to promote the availability of education opportunities to all residents in Limerick City and County.</i></p> <p><i>b. Support the continued collaborative work undertaken by the Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan (REP) and the Mid-West Regional Skills Forum in employment generation and fostering of the knowledge-based economy to the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area and Mid-West.</i></p>						
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective ECON O21 - Knowledge Economy • Objective ECON O22 - Learning Region • Objective ECON O25 - Clustering and Innovation • Objective ECON O24 - Further and Higher Education Institutions Objective ECON O28 - Smart City 						
Progress Commentary	<p>Census 2022 shows that there has been a significant increase in the level of educational attainment in the adult population. The number of people with a third level qualification in Limerick increased from more</p>						

Enterprise and Employment	
	<p>than 45,500 in 2016 to just over 57,000 in 2022. This accounted for 41% of the population aged 15 and over in Census 2022, which had increased from 36% in 2016.</p> <p>The Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 has been developed by regional stakeholders to undertake collaborative initiatives to help deliver enterprise growth across the region. The plan contains a number of targeted actions to encourage enterprise growth across the areas of technology, sustainability, regional towns and rural areas, SME growth and social enterprise.</p> <p>Limerick City and County Council continues to collaborate and support schools and higher education institutes to enable the expansion of the education system to cater for population growth and facilitate employment generation. The steering group of the Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan continues to meet with officials from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. The region’s Local Authorities, Industrial Development Agency, Enterprise Ireland and the region’s education and training providers are progressing a wide range of enterprise growth actions across the region, covering sectors including manufacturing, film, engineering, bio economy, regeneration and renewables.</p>
Objective ECON O26 - Tackling Unemployment	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the work undertaken by the Education and Training Boards, in relation to courses provided under SOLAS and the establishment of Community Training Centres, Local Training Initiatives and Specialist Training Provision in Limerick.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>Since 2016, the number of unemployed persons has declined from 12,900 to 8,562 in April 2022 (a decrease of 34%). The unemployment rate declined significantly from 14% in 2016 to 9% in 2022.</p> <p>Through the Economic and Social Intervention Fund, Limerick Regeneration supported the development of the following training initiatives:</p> <p>-LCETB Further Education and Training Hospitality Campus: The Hospitality Education and Training Centre (HETC) provides employer driven hospitality and culinary training in courses tailor made to meet the needs of regeneration residents and long-term unemployed individuals. ESIF funding supports overhead costs and continuing professional development. In 2022, 383 no. Transition Year students from DEIS schools participated in Taster Courses from the Pathways to Apprenticeship Programme. In addition, 128 no. adult learners participated in courses ranging from QQI Levels 4 – 9.</p>

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	<p>-Limerick City Build: In collaboration with LCETB, this programme provides employment training and personal development supports to long-term unemployed residents. In 2022, 18 no. learners participated in this holistic programme.</p> <p>-Moyross Development Company – Employment Training Initiative: This programme provides mentoring, pre-development training, and employer-led core skills training modules in collaboration with LCETB. In 2022, 110 no. young people aged 17-20 who were not in employment, education or training participated.</p>
Objective ECON O34 – Rural Remote Working Hubs	<i>It is an objective of the Council to facilitate the development of remote working/rural working hubs at appropriate locations across the County.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective ECON O41 - Home Working/ E-Working
Progress Commentary	<p>The Development Plan recognises that a changing working environment has resulted in an increase in remote working. With the acceleration of remote working in recent years, a new question was included in Census 2022, which shows that of the over 90,600 people at work in Limerick in 2022, some 25,000 people worked from home at least some of the time. The Development Plan supports hubs to provide co-working facilities and flexibility in working arrangements to meet the needs of both start-ups and established businesses.</p> <p>Innovate Limerick continues to develop its collaborative reach from the City hub base at the Engine Collaboration Centre into Limerick County and the Mid-West through the Engine Hubs network. The Engine Hubs network is a collaborative network established and developed through Innovate Limerick. There are 19 no. hubs participating in the network (a mixture of private, not for profit and community) that provides a hybrid working infrastructure for remote workers and business owners, as well as landing pad services to multinationals looking to set up or expand their operation in Limerick City and County. The hubs network is an integral part of the enterprise ecosystem throughout Limerick connecting urban, peri-urban and rural hub users.</p> <p>In 2022, Innovate Limerick secured funding of €408,250 through the Connected Hubs fund, Department of Rural and Community Development to upgrade 7 no. Hubs throughout Limerick City and County including Spark Hub, Roxboro; Bruree Food Units; Croom Enterprise Centre; The Boat Club, Limerick; The Pavilion, Adare; The Yard, Newcastle West; and Engine, Limerick. This built on the €230,450 funding secured in 2021 and divided through City and County Hubs. The project expanded remote working capacity and supported the hubs in</p>

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	<p>improving their sustainability goals. This investment will enable the continued development of a collaborative hub network, which will feed into the regional and national economic development strategy, the development of the National Remote Work Strategy and support the National Hubs network.</p> <p>In 2022, the Abbeyfeale E-Hub was opened at Provincial House, Main Street, following the purchase of the former bank building. The E-Hub provides a central community space including access to high-speed broadband, co-working space, meeting rooms and a training room. The services offer support for start-ups and small businesses. This project was part-funded by the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.</p> <p>In 2022, there was an average occupancy of 90-95% in the Engine Hubs through remote workers and small business users with over 900 no. members using available desk space. In turn, this supported off site positions throughout Limerick and nationally contributing to in excess of 1,200 no. jobs.</p> <p>Over 400 no. events were undertaken in the Engine hubs network in 2022, ranging from enterprise workshops, training, conference and networking events etc. Over 15,000 people attended the large range of events, with local, national and international attendees. The events are an integral part of the enterprise ecosystem throughout the City and County.</p> <p>In addition to business users, the hubs provide access to community groups and voluntary groups in a number of locations. In Abbeyfeale, the Hub provides a town centre location for the tourist office during the summer months and in Rathkeale the Butterfly club and Community Crisis Group are located in the Rathkeale Enterprise Centre.</p> <p>The Engine Hubs Network was awarded €50,000 Town and Village Renewal Funding in 2022. The purpose of this grant was to market the E-hubs in the Engine Hubs network, promote remote working opportunities and grow the hub network across the region, nationally and internationally.</p>
<p>Objective ECON O35 - Rural Development</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Facilitate the development of acceptable rural enterprises and to minimise pollution from agricultural and industrial sources by means of development management and water pollution legislation.</i></p> <p><i>b. Encourage the redevelopment of vacant commercial units for enterprise and industry creation including Kantoher Business Park, Castlemahon and other identifiable rural commercial brownfield sites, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria.</i></p>

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	<i>c. Promote the development of our rural Towns and Villages as an important focus of restaurant, leisure and evening uses - subject to the safeguarding of surrounding residential amenity and environmental criteria.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective ECON O36 - Agricultural Developments • Objective ECON O37 - Farm Diversification • Objective ECON O38 - Support Sustainable Forestry • Objective ECON O40 - Equine Industry
Progress Commentary	<p>Through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority, the Local Authority will facilitate appropriate rural enterprises and development which contributes to the vitality of rural towns and villages, including appropriate reuse of vacant commercial and residential units. Since the adoption of the Development Plan, 140 no. planning applications have been granted permission for agriculture related developments.</p> <p>With respect to forestry, Ireland's Forest Strategy 2023-2030 was published in September 2023. This Forestry Strategy has a vision for significant change and is designed to provide an overriding framework to identify the actions needed to implement that change. These actions are described in the Forest Strategy Implementation Plan 2023-2030. The Council will support the implementation of the Forest Strategy, which if successfully implemented, will have lasting benefits for climate change, biodiversity, water quality and quality of life.</p>
<i>Objective ECON O39 - Mineral Extraction and Environmental Impacts</i>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Recognise the potential of the extractive, mineral and mining industries to contribute to Limerick's economy and endeavour to protect access to these resources, where known.</i></p> <p><i>b. Minimise environmental and other impacts of mineral extraction through rigorous application of development management and enforcement requirements for quarry and other developments; and</i></p> <p><i>c. In particular, to have regard to visual impacts, methods of extraction, noise levels, dust prevention, protection of rivers, lakes and other water sources, impacts on residential and other amenities, impacts on the road network (particularly with regard to making good any damage to roads), road safety, phasing, re-instatement and landscaping of worked sites.</i></p> <p><i>d. Ensure that development for aggregates/mineral extraction does not significantly impact on County Geological Sites / Sites of geological interest.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>The aggregates and minerals created from the extractive industry play a critical role in the construction and many other industries. The National Planning Framework recognises the importance of the extractive industry and aims to balance the process with environmental</p>

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	<p>safeguards. County Limerick contains a variety of natural resources including sand, gravel and stone reserves.</p> <p>The Development Management function will ensure that the County's natural resources are sustainably utilised through the careful consideration of proposed expansions and new locations and associated environmental assessments.</p>
Objective ECON O42 - Limerick Food Strategy	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Support The Food Vision 2030 Strategy and the Food Strategy for Limerick 2016–2018 and any subsequent updates.</i></p> <p><i>b. Develop and enhance Limerick's reputation for outstanding food and drink, by supporting producers and to ensure the development of Limerick as a leader of innovation for sustainable food and agriculture systems. Support the production of safe, nutritious and high-value food, while protecting and enhancing our natural and cultural resources and contributing to vibrant communities and the economy.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective ECON O43 – Food Destination Limerick
Progress Commentary	<p>Through the Local Enterprise Office and West Limerick Resources LEADER funding, Limerick Food Group launched the Limerick Food and Drink Producers Directory, featuring fifty food and drink businesses. The Directory aims to promote local food producers and Limerick as a leading food destination, while highlighting the unique food heritage and culture of the County.</p>
Objective ECON O44 - Circular Economy	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to support the economic benefits and opportunities that exist in the transition to a more circular economy.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>The Council will support the circular economy through both public and private initiatives. Limerick Twenty Thirty's Opera Square development is breaking new ground in the construction industry's sustainability drive. This is due to a unique reuse and repurpose programme that will give new life to stone and brick, palisade fence panels, metal gates, stone pillars, cobblestones, carpet tiles, ceiling tiles, timber and glass that would otherwise be discarded.</p> <p>In a partnership between the Southern Region Waste Management Office, Limerick Twenty Thirty and the contractor John Sisk & Son, over 1,000 tonnes of stone and brick material that would otherwise have been destined for landfill, have been salvaged and are being put to good uses. The reuse programme commenced with what was the country's first ever pre-demolition audit. This audit identified in advance of demolition works, which materials could be reused.</p>

5.4 Tourism

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Objective ECON O45 - Tourism	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Support strong growth in the tourism sector in Limerick ensuring the economic and societal benefits of tourism are effectively distributed throughout the County, through connections between complementary sites and attractions, by encouraging visitors to move around the County and to enable them to do so with ease.</i></p> <p><i>b. Support the development of Limerick’s capacity for largescale group tourism, through improved transport amenities for bus tours, group tours and cruise ship visitors.</i></p> <p><i>c. Recognise the heritage value of Limerick’s towns and villages such as Adare, Kilmallock and Askeaton and seek opportunities to enhance their tourism potential.</i></p> <p><i>d. Support and harness the tourism potential of existing rural and heritage site amenities/attractions, including The Clare Glens, Lough Gur, Knockfierna, Munster Vales, Ballyhoura Country, Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum, The Shannon Estuary Way, Curragh Chase, Fullers Folly and Adare Heritage Centre, in a way that promotes sustainable tourism.</i></p> <p><i>e. Actively develop Limerick as an Events location with the appropriate infrastructure to attract international conferences, sporting, cultural and commercial events, including the development of an International Conference Centre and improved public realm, which supports outdoor performance and events of scale (Refer to Chapter 3: Spatial Strategy Section 3.4.5.1).</i></p> <p><i>f. To adopt a strategic collaborative approach to the delivery of the Ryder Cup in Adare/Limerick in 2027 to leverage the legacy potential of this major event and ensure maximum return on investment for Limerick and the region.</i></p> <p><i>g. To work with Waterways Ireland and Fáilte Ireland to develop the water activity sector in Limerick by exploring the potential for increased accessibility to Limerick’s waterways for water-based tourism activity (refer also to Chapter 10: Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure and Chapter 11: Development Management Standards).</i></p> <p><i>h. Support and promote the development of the Shannon River Interpretative Centre in Limerick City.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy ECON P7 – Tourism • Objective ECON O46 – Festivals • Objective ECON O51 – Clustering of Tourist Facilities • Objective ECON O53 - Digital Innovations to support the Tourism Industry • Objective EH O44 - Lough Gur
Progress Commentary	Limerick City and County Council aims to continue to support the tourism sector in Limerick, which has a strong tourism product with significant

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	<p>potential for growth. The Council continues to work in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland and the Ireland Tourist Board etc. to promote Limerick as a tourist destination and to market the County's unique built and cultural heritage, festivals and arts. The Council continues to work with Fáilte Ireland to leverage funding in schemes such as Participatory Festivals Grant Scheme and to deliver on the objectives of the Wild Atlantic Way Gateway and Region.</p> <p>The Council also continues to work closely with the relevant stakeholders including Clare, Kerry and Tipperary County Councils, in maximising the tourism potential of Limerick and progressing various projects. The tourism sector is essential to the local economy, through increasing employment, tourist expenditure and contributing to the vibrancy of urban areas.</p> <p>-Wild Atlantic Way: In 2021 the Limerick Wild Atlantic Way Gateway City Strategy was launched, which provides a framework for tourism businesses and stakeholders to work in partnership to 2026, to create new and improve existing visitor experiences, while maximising the City's role as a base to explore the Wild Atlantic Way. The Strategy envisions Limerick as a compelling destination for visitors and a base for exploring the Wild Atlantic Way.</p> <p>The visitor experience brand and strategy for Limerick City as a Wild Atlantic Way (WAW) Gateway City, entered its second year in 2022. This is a multi-stakeholder collaborative approach to realise Limerick's potential to become an international, urban tourism destination of significance.</p> <p>As part of the key actions, the Tourism Development Team has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented a new Discover Limerick Pass, the first on the Wild Atlantic Way, providing 1, 2 or 3 day sightseeing passes for visitors to some of the most popular 14 no. attractions in the City and County • Completed a feasibility study to consider how accessibility to the river in the City environs can be maximised • Completed development of the Nicholas Street and King's Island Brand. <p>-Ryder Cup: Limerick City and County Council continues to strategically plan and prepare for the Ryder Cup, due to be held in Adare Manor in 2027. The centenary Ryder Cup golf event with Europe playing against the USA, will be the largest sporting event in Ireland for over a decade.</p>

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The Council has established an internal strategic management structure for oversight and collaboration across the organisation for the delivery of the event. Planning with government and local stakeholders is ongoing. In 2023, the Council appointed a Ryder Cup coordinator to act as a point of contact on all local services for the event. A strategic plan of action has been prepared.

As part of the initiatives in place to prepare for the hosting of the Ryder Cup, the Tourism Department partakes in the Working Group with the Shannon region Sport and Conference Bureau and University of Limerick.

Brand Adare has been launched to maximise opportunities from the lead-up to, duration and aftermath of the 2027 Ryder Cup, to ensure a legacy that helps Adare develop and grow sustainably. It also plays a vital role in helping Adare become more of a support and strength for 'Brand Limerick', its parent brand and widening meaning and relevance of Adare to drive positive reappraisal by potential visitors.

In addition to the Ryder Cup, the Council will continue to develop Limerick's profile as a host of international sporting events.

-Discover Limerick Development Activity Company (DAC): The DAC was established in 2022, as a wholly owned company of Limerick City and County Council. The DAC's role is to operate and develop key tourism attractions in Limerick that will strengthen Limerick as a destination and attract increased visitor numbers. This is part of a wider Council Strategy to drive tourism development and promotion.

The DAC has management and control of King John's Castle, Lough Gur Visitor Centre and Adare Heritage Centre. The DAC also aims to develop new attractions such as the West Limerick Tourism Hub, Newcastle West.

The overall objectives of the DAC are to provide an improved tourism offering in Limerick, ensure effective management of these attractions and generate a return to the Council. The company has a commercial focus and a board with expertise in the area of visitor attractions of scale.

-King John's Castle: The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is providing €2.26m in funding to support the development of King John's Castle as a major tourist attraction. The Discover Limerick DAC has appointed international design consultants Galmstrup Architects to develop the King John's Castle Masterplan, which aims to enhance the tourist offering and transform the 13th-century site into a world class visitor attraction. The first stage of the redevelopment comprises the completion of a Conservation and Management Plan to assist in planning a programme of conservation measures and works, including making

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	<p>recommendations on the protection and conservation of the castle and improving the visitor experience. The Council will continue to support and facilitate the use of the Castle for events, including the summer concert series, music festivals and culture night.</p> <p>-International Rugby Experience: In 2023, the International Rugby Experience was opened in the City Centre.</p> <p>-River Shannon Accessibility Study: Limerick City has been designated as a destination hub in the River Shannon Tourism Masterplan as one of the main destination hubs along the river Shannon. The Tourism Department is working with Waterways Ireland to further advance, in partnership with other key stakeholders, tourism on the River Shannon within the Limerick Region. A feasibility study is being prepared to consider how accessibility to the river can be further maximised, under the actions for the River Shannon Tourism Masterplan.</p> <p>-Lough Gur: The Council will continue to enhance the facilities at the site, while protecting the biodiversity that makes Lough Gur unique. Since the adoption of the Development Plan, progress made at Lough Gur, the following is of note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Megalithic art discovery leading to national coverage • Walkway project is ongoing • Bird hide and environmental initiatives are ongoing • Development of new visitor services are being progressed • First Green Heritage Site Accreditation for Limerick • New Green Flag award for 2022/ 2023 • New planting, new tree trail signs, installation of safety bollards, car park resurfacing, bike stands, park improvement works • Pride of Place Award in the Tourism Category • SFI Education Centre Accreditation • Leave No Trace Ireland Accredited Centre. <p>-Ballyhoura: In 2022, the Ballyhoura Region joined Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands. Work on the transfer of this tourism region to the Fáilte Ireland Brand commenced in August 2022. A strategic implementation plan has been prepared in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland, Limerick City and County Council, Ballyhoura Fáilte and key stakeholders. A Destination Experience Development Plan is being commissioned by Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands for the Ballyhoura Region which will commence in Q4 2024.</p> <p>-West Limerick Tourism Gateway Strategy: A feasibility and options report was completed in 2020 for the Fullers Folly buildings and courtyard with a view to developing a tourism experience of scale. Consultants were appointed in 2022 to develop tender documents for the appointment of</p>

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an architect led multidisciplinary team to develop the options outlined. In early 2024, a Part 8 was approved by the Elected Members to refurbish and renovate the buildings and courtyard and change the use to commercial, community and tourism. The project includes the construction of a new building between the two existing structures. The redevelopment will include toilets, café, visitor information, retail, viewing area, interpretation and open courtyard space. In addition, the development will provide for a pedestrian link between the Fullers Folly courtyard and the riverside. The site and location is strategic to developing a tourism experience of scale in the town of Newcastle West. Category 1 Funding has been received and the project is progressing.

-Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum: A successful application was made to the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) in 2021 with an allocation of €1.5m funding for the expansion and re-imaging of the Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum and integrated Digital Hub, which was progressed throughout 2022. This project transformed the Museum from a regional tourist amenity and community space to an internationally-focused tourism product on the Shannon Estuary Way, yielding significant socio-economic benefits. The project was also funded with a grant of €1.75 million by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Limerick City and County Council and resources of the Museum. The Category 1 Funding has been fully drawn down and the project is now complete.

-Festivals and Events Strategy Development for Limerick 2022-2027: ‘Embrace the Experience’ Limerick City and County Council’s Festival and Events Strategy 2022-2027 was adopted in 2023. The strategy identifies Limerick’s diverse festival and events offering, which encompasses from local community festivals to major international events, across arts, culture, sport and heritage, including business events and conferences. The vision seeks to inspire and engage local residents and visitors through an authentic, distinct and diverse year round programme of festivals and events that celebrate Limerick’s culture on a world stage and contributes to economic, social and cultural development.

The Council continue to provide further strategic investment in festivals and events, through competitive open call, to the sum of €205,750 in 2022, €208,000 in 2023/ 2024 and €208,000 in 2024/ 2025 for the delivery, programming and development of festivals.

The Council held and supported numerous events and festivals throughout the first two years of the Development Plan, including but not limited to:

- The Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limerick Senior Hurling team Homecoming • The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Autumn School – Bruff – Celebration of the Fitzgerald family • The Ashford Festival – Killeedy – A weekend reunion celebrating local arts, culture and heritage while connecting with the Global Limerick network • Richard Harris International Film Festival • Pigtown Food and Culture Series • The Limerick Opera Festival • St. Brigid’s Festival • St. Patrick’s Festival • International Band Championships • Riverfest Weekend • House! • EVA International, Ireland’s Biennial of Contemporary Art • Culture Night Limerick • Halloween in Limerick • Christmas in Limerick • Castleconnell Autumn Concerts Series • Eigse – Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival 2022 • Fleadh Cheoil Luimnigh • Fleadh by the Feale • Ballyhoura Walking Festival • The Great Limerick Run • Limerick Sings International Choral Festival • Limerick Garden Festival • Limerick Summer Proms • Limerick Literary Festival • Welcome to the Neighbourhood – Askeaton • Global Irish Festival Series • Bealtaine Festival held in Lough Gur <p>Note: See also Objective ECON O48 - Limerick Greenway below.</p>
<p>Objective ECON O47 - Shannon Tourism Masterplan</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Promote, encourage and facilitate the implementation of the Shannon Tourism Masterplan and its objectives in co-operation with Waterways Ireland, Fáilte Ireland and adjoining Local Authorities. This includes proposals for the increased access to and visibility of the Shannon’s scenic attributes and its use for land-based activities, such as cycling and walking.</i></p> <p><i>b. Promote, encourage and facilitate the implementation of the Lower Shannon Priority Projects as identified in the Shannon Tourism Masterplan, where they relate to Limerick.</i></p>

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Progress Commentary	In accordance with the Shannon Tourism Masterplan, the Council in partnership with West Limerick Tourism and counterparts in County Clare, have been working with appointed consultants to deliver the Shannon Estuary Way Destination Development Programme. This regionally significant driving route of 207km along the estuary, is part of the Wild Atlantic Way. The route connects Limerick City with North Kerry and the southern shores of Clare. The estuary way compliments Limerick's designation as a Wild Atlantic Way Gateway City.
Objective ECON O48 - Limerick Greenway	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to support:</i></p> <p><i>a. The provision of car parking, bike hire and ancillary facilities at suitable locations along the Limerick Greenway.</i></p> <p><i>b. Extend the Limerick Greenway from Rathkeale to Adare/Patrickswell.</i></p> <p><i>c. Extend the greenway from the University of Limerick to Annacotty.</i></p> <p><i>d. Develop a greenway from the University of Limerick to Montpelier.</i></p> <p><i>e. Support the development of the Limerick to Scariff/Tuamgraney Greenway in partnership with Waterways Ireland and Clare County Council.</i></p> <p><i>f. Examine the potential for a greenway from Patrickswell, Bruree to the Limerick/Cork Border (Charleville).</i></p> <p><i>g. Support the development of a greenway link from Limerick City to connect with the Suir Blueway in Cahir, County Tipperary, in so far as it falls within County Limerick, subject to ecological assessment and design.</i></p> <p><i>** Tourism projects will be required to adhere to adequate environmental and ecological assessment to ensure that they do not cause adverse environmental and ecological effects.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>The 40km Limerick Greenway reopened in 2021 following a €10m investment by Limerick City and County Council to upgrade the surface and develop additional amenities along the route. The greenway connects Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale, along the former Limerick to Kerry railway line. The greenway is now a significant recreational and tourism amenity for Limerick. By the end of July 2024, the Greenway has recorded a total of 665,672 visits, with over 180,000 visitors in 2023 alone. A number of events are held throughout the year, including Easter egg hunts, Bike Week activities, sponsored walks and charity cycles. During 2023 and 2024, a national integrated communications and marketing campaign for the Greenway continued to build on the success on the 2022 campaign.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, Limerick City and County Council has continued operation, maintenance and development of the greenway. The Council is advancing a work programme for facilities and amenities for all greenway users, including picnic areas, seating/ bike stands at regular intervals, small children's play areas, e-bike charging</p>

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	<p>points, bike repair points and water points. Funding for these works was awarded under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS).</p> <p>In 2023, work commenced on the restoration of the Railway Goods Shed at Rathkeale as the centrepiece of a new visitor facilities project, which will provide bike hire and toilets, with a public realm area to provide local recreation space and an upgraded car park with electric vehicle charging. The Greenway Hub in Rathkeale opened in summer 2024. In addition, Part 8s were granted for trailhead and railway building developments at Ardagh, Barnagh, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale and will be progressed in 2024. Pilot rehabilitation works on a section of the 19th Century Barnagh Tunnel also took place in 2023, to inform the long-term rehabilitation of the tunnel and renewal of the railway heritage asset which is now in progress.</p> <p>A number of over and under passes were added to the Greenway, to facilitate the crossing of dairy cows and allow a safer experience for farmers and patrons. These works including two cattle passes between Abbeyfeale and the Kerry border are now complete.</p> <p>The development of the trailhead and hub at Rathkeale was also completed in 2024, providing services to users of the Greenway and the local community. The €1.9m project involved the renovation and refurbishment of a derelict railway goods shed and is now complete.</p> <p>In March 2024, a €2m greenway investment programme was announced, which includes a link between the Limerick Greenway and Patrickswell.</p> <p>Work is continuing on development of greenway hubs at Rathkeale, Ardagh, Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West, as well as the West Limerick Tourism Hub at Fullers Folly. There are proposals to provide an active travel connection from the greenway at Abbeyfeale into the town itself with 2 no. route options.</p> <p>Further to the Limerick Greenway, the Mid West National Road Design Office is developing a number of greenway schemes in the region as part of the National Cycling Network, in conjunction with TII. These greenway schemes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UL to Montpellier via Castleconnell – Consultation ongoing • Patrickswell to Charleville – Consultants appointed • Limerick to Cahir (Limerick to Oola) • Rathkeale to Limerick – Possibility process ongoing

Tourism	
Objective ECON O49 - Tourism Facilities and Environmentally Sensitive Areas	<i>It is an objective of the Council to ensure that tourism facilities, are not located or designed where they would be significantly detrimental to environmentally sensitive areas, such as designated ecological areas, areas of archaeological potential or historic landscapes either existing or which may arise in the future, as a result of any surveys.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective ECON O50 - Facilities and Amenities incidental to Tourist and Recreational Attractions and Scenic Views • Objective ECON O52 - Location of Tourism Accommodation
Progress Commentary	<p>The Planning Authority through the Development Management function, will ensure that development proposals are sensitively located to avoid adverse impacts on environmentally sensitive areas or the landscape. The provision of tourism facilities in appropriate locations close to services and amenities and where they can be sensitively integrated into the landscape will ensure that visitors can have an enjoyable experience and the unique landscape of the County can be preserved.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, 4 no. planning permissions have been granted for tourism accommodation in the City and County.</p>

5.5 Marine Spatial Planning

Marine Spatial Planning	
Objective ECON O54 – National and Regional Marine Planning	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Support and facilitate the implementation of the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) and the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021.</i></p> <p><i>b. Continue to work with the relevant Government Departments and other relevant stakeholders in the promotion of integrated marine management and following the adoption of the NMPF to identify those areas that may have particular management requirements and, where appropriate set out any requirement that may exist for Maritime Spatial Plans (MSPs) and Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs).</i></p> <p><i>c. Support the potential of the marine environment by nurturing opportunities for innovation in the maritime economy while ensuring that its ecosystems are managed sustainably.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) is the forward planning component of the marine planning system and is a key consideration for decision makers on all marine authorisations. The NMPF contains a number of policies and objectives that seek to improve our environmental, economic and social relationship with the marine environment.</p> <p>Limerick City and County Council recognises the significant economic asset of the Shannon Estuary which has existing international linkages.</p>

Marine Spatial Planning	
	The Council will facilitate the harnessing of significant opportunities arising from potential marine related developments. Off-shore wind in coastal areas and greater utilisation of the ports will create enterprise opportunities and enable sustainable economic development.
Objective ECON O56 – Strategic Integrated Framework Plan	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support and facilitate the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy ECON P8 - Marine Economy
Progress Commentary	<p>The Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary (SIFP) is set out in Appendix 6: Accompanying Strategies of the Development Plan. The SIFP sets out a comprehensive framework for the development of Limerick’s coastal assets. The SIFP identifies 9 no. strategic development locations (SDLs) on the estuary and encourages, facilitates and promotes a balanced approach to the estuary’s growth, whilst simultaneously encouraging careful protection, management and enhancement of its natural environmental resources.</p> <p>Further to the new Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (MAP Act) and the establishment of the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA), a Strategic Policy Review of the SIFP has commenced. A Steering Group met with relevant stakeholders and agencies in Q1 2024 and agreed to undertake a review of the policy contained within the SIFP. The steering group have met a number of times and have made the decision to proceed with the preparation of both the scope and costs associated with undertaking environmental data collection within the Shannon Estuary.</p>
Objective ECON O58 - Shannon Foynes Port	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Support the expansion of the Port at Foynes and promote the economic and industrial development of the Shannon Estuary as a strategic transport, energy and logistics Hub, serving Limerick and the wider region by utilising naturally occurring deep water characteristics and by identifying and safeguarding existing and future strategic transportation links, subject to fulfilling the requirements of the Habitats Directive and the conservation objectives of the Lower River Shannon SAC site.</i></p> <p><i>b. Promote and support Shannon Foynes Port Company’s Masterplan Vision 2041.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective ECON O57 - Safeguard Strategic Development locations along the Estuary
Progress Commentary	The Development Plan recognises the important role of the ports at Limerick and Foynes in enabling economic growth and providing international connectivity. Proposals for development at these ports are

Marine Spatial Planning

managed through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority. An expansion of the jetty and industrial serviced logistics hub opened in 2024 following a €32m investment. These works will position the port to become an international logistics location of scale.

The Council fully supports the operations at the port as a key trade route for Limerick and the region and acknowledges the importance of the port for direct and indirect employment, business and economic growth. The Council is promoting Limerick as the primary hub for the development of Ireland's west coast renewable energy industry, with potential in research, innovation, logistics, development, maintenance and administration.

Objective TR O28 Docks and Ports supports the continued development of Shannon Foynes Port as an EU Core Network Port (TEN-T) and Limerick Docks as marine related assets, in accordance with the 2013 National Ports Policy.

5.6 Conclusion

In conclusion, it is considered that implementation of the economic strategy and associated policies and objectives has been successful over the first two years of the Development Plan. The Plan aims to develop Limerick as an attractive and competitive location to do business and sets the basis for continued economic success, including investment in infrastructure, transport, public realm and communities. Priority has been given to maximising the potential of Limerick's assets to attract investment and employment opportunities. This approach has proven successfully with over 4,021 no. job announcements since adoption of the Development Plan.

Significant progress has also been made in support of a strong economy through the ongoing work of Limerick Twenty Thirty and across the Local Authority, in particular the Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate. Direct investment in revitalisation of the City Centre and public realm projects in various settlements have been progressed to create an environment that is attractive to economic (and residential) development. Various schemes and supports for enterprises and businesses, including through the Local Enterprise Office and via a network of connected hubs in the settlements, aim to optimise the economic potential of the City and County.

Further to the Planning Authority's continued support through the Development Management function, which has granted planning permission for 84,650m² of commercial development in the first two years of the Plan, the Council will ensure that sufficient zoned and serviced lands remain available in the City and settlements to facilitate economic development to 2028 and beyond. The zoning of employment related land will ensure Limerick City and County is suitably

positioned to cater for any economic investment arising and support sustainable employment growth in the long term.

The Council will also continue to work closely with government agencies, including the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to promote Limerick as the location of choice for economic development.

Further to enterprise, the Council are pursuing opportunities from tourism and the marine environment, which will continue to play an increasingly important role in contributing to a vibrant economy within the County. The Council continuously promotes and develops the tourism sector. With substantial investment in tourism, the Council has made significant progress since the adoption of the Plan. The implementation of various projects demonstrate the realisation of part of the County's tourism potential and provides a strong platform to continue to create new experiences and attract more visitors to the County.

A Strong Economy Two Year Progress Report

Zoned Land Available for Enterprise

360.59 ha City and Suburbs

61.77 ha Key Town - Newcastle West



Planning Permission Granted

Commercial Type	Floor Area (m2)
Offices	5,587.58
Industrial	27,234.23
Retail	9,902.40
Warehousing/ Logistics	18,956.10
Services	22,970.00
Total	84,650.31

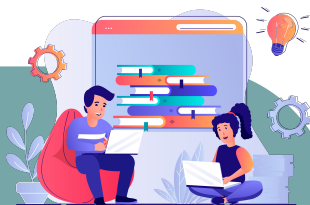


4,021 Jobs

€1.39bn Investment

Announced during the first two years

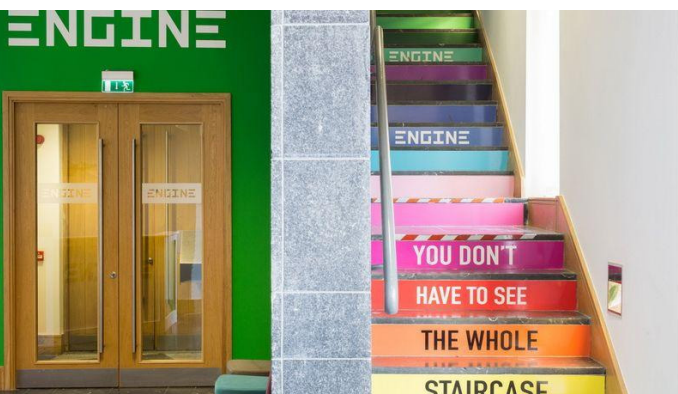
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Limerick LEO Training Sessions

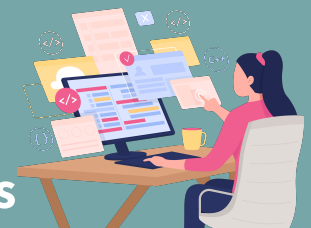


ADARE MANOR IRELAND



19

Enterprise Spaces



In the ENGINE Hubs Network



6

**Environment, Heritage,
Landscape and Green
Infrastructure**

6.0 Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure

There is huge variety in the natural, built and cultural heritage of Limerick. The conservation and enhancement of, and access to Limerick’s heritage, has the potential to contribute to individual wellbeing, shared community identities, social cohesion and the liveability of our towns and villages, as well as the tourism economy. A healthy natural environment is vitally important for society and the economy. The Development Plan includes policies and objectives, which seek to facilitate development in appropriate locations while ensuring the conservation of the natural environment.

The following tables set out a brief outline of the progress made in achieving the strategic policies and objectives of the Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure chapter of the Development Plan.

6.1 Overarching Policies

Overarching Policies	
Policy EH P1 - Protection of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity	<p><i>It is a policy of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Protect and conserve Limerick’s natural heritage and biodiversity, in particular, areas designated as part of the European Sites Natura 2000 network, such as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservations (SACs), in accordance with relevant EU Directives and national legislation and guidelines.</i></p> <p><i>b. Maintain the conservation value of all Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) for the benefit of existing and future generations.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective EH O1 - Designated Sites and Habitats Directive
Progress Commentary	<p>There are 12 no. Special Areas of Conservation, 3 no. Special Protection Areas and 4 no. Natural Heritage Areas in Limerick. The protection and conservation of these sites is of significant importance to the Council. The Development Management section of the Planning Authority will continue to screen all planning applications for Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. The Council will also continue to have regard to the candidate Natura 2000 Sites when screening plans and projects for Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment.</p>

Overarching Policies											
Policy EH P2 - Sustainable Management and Conservation	<i>It is a policy of the Council to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of areas of natural environmental and geological value within Limerick and to protect, enhance, create and connect, where ecologically suitable, natural heritage, green spaces and high quality amenity areas for the benefit of biodiversity.</i>										
Progress Commentary	<p>During the first two years of the Development Plan, the Council has continued to support measures which promote and enhance biodiversity throughout the County. Some of the measures include the following:</p> <p>-Biodiversity Officer: Limerick City and County Council has recruited a Biodiversity Officer funded by The Heritage Council who will promote biodiversity actions throughout the City and County.</p> <p>-Limerick Biodiversity Plan Update: Public consultation was completed on the Discussion Paper for the Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan 2024/2025 – 2030.</p> <p>-Partnership Projects: The Council was successful in collaborating in two URBACT 4 projects - BiodiverCity and GreenPlace.</p> <p>BiodiverCity will develop methods of measuring and creating biodiversity in an urban environment. As part of National Tree Week 2024, the project organised a tree identification walk in Baggot Estate, Ballinacurra, planting Limerick Heritage apple trees as part of the event.</p> <p>GreenPlace will develop a methodology of greening and introducing biodiversity into derelict and neglected urban areas. As part of National Tree Week 2024, the Greenplace project, together with the local community in Johnsgate Village, planted a mini orchard with Limerick Heritage apple trees.</p> <p>-Biodiversity Projects: Funding has been obtained for projects which improve and create habitats for a variety of flora and fauna and offer opportunities to increase biodiversity such as those set out in the following table:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Project</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mungret Park</td> <td>Additional pollinator friendly planting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Castletroy Park</td> <td>Additional pollinator friendly planting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Baggott Estate</td> <td>Biodiversity garden funded by Healthy Ireland</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adare Park</td> <td>Council took over maintenance, additional</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Project	Mungret Park	Additional pollinator friendly planting	Castletroy Park	Additional pollinator friendly planting	Baggott Estate	Biodiversity garden funded by Healthy Ireland	Adare Park	Council took over maintenance, additional
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Adare Park	Council took over maintenance, additional										

Overarching Policies												
	planting including fruit bushes, increasing colour, appeal and supporting the enhancement of biodiversity											
Lough Gur	Council took over maintenance, additional planting, increasing colour, appeal and supporting the enhancement of biodiversity											
O’Connell Monument, George’s Quay, Honan’s Quay, People’s Park, Shelbourne Park and O’Brien Park	Replanted areas with pollinators											
Castletroy, Mayorstone, Mungret and the Newcastle West Demesne Parks	An increase in areas which were left to grow into wildflower meadows to support pollinators as per All-Ireland Pollinator Plan – ‘Let it Bee’											
Castletroy Greenway	Enhanced as part of the Go Green Routes European Project, to enhance linear routes through, planting/natural play, mini forest creation. A bioblitz identified as many species as possible.											
<p>Further to the above, the Council has undertaken a number of campaigns, surveys and projects including for example:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type</th> <th>Project</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="5">Communication Campaigns</td> <td>Awareness Biodiversity Week</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Awareness Heritage Week</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Awareness Hedgerow Week</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Library Links</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IWT and BWI Branch talks</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Habitats</td> <td>Wetlands Survey - Phase 1 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ecological Survey of NCW Demesne</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Type	Project	Communication Campaigns	Awareness Biodiversity Week	Awareness Heritage Week	Awareness Hedgerow Week	Library Links	IWT and BWI Branch talks	Habitats	Wetlands Survey - Phase 1 2024	Ecological Survey of NCW Demesne
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Overarching Policies										
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	Morning Star (Hogweed)									
	Himalayan Balsam - Citizen science project									
Policy EH P3 - Climate Action and the Natural Environment	<i>It is a policy of the Council to take into account the contents of the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the Biodiversity Climate Adaptation Plan and any forthcoming guidance or legislation on climate action, whether adaptation or mitigation that will emerge during the course of the Plan.</i>									
Progress Commentary	<p>The Planning Authority has incorporated biodiversity objectives in the reviewed Local Area Plans. Biodiversity is a key consideration of all Local Authority projects and plans. Measures for adaptation or mitigation under the National Biodiversity Action Plan and Biodiversity Climate Action Plan are taken into consideration in the planning of all Council projects.</p> <p>The appointment of a Climate Action Team, Biodiversity Officer and Ecologist demonstrate Limerick City and County Council’s commitment to achieving Policy EH P3.</p>									

Overarching Policies	
Policy EH P4 - Compliance with Limerick's Heritage Plan	<i>It is a policy of the Council to place ecological and environmental issues at the centre of planning policies and decisions and in doing so will adhere to the objectives set out in Limerick's Heritage Plan 2017-2030.</i>
Progress Commentary	The Planning Authority through the Development Management function will continue to ensure compliance with the objectives of Limerick's Heritage Plan 2017-2030 where relevant in the assessment of planning applications. This function will be enhanced by the appointment of a Biodiversity Office and Ecologist by Limerick City and County Council.
Policy EH P5 - Protection of the Built Environment	<i>It is a policy of the Council to promote high standards for conserving and restoring the built environment and promote its value in improving living standards and its benefits to the economy.</i>
Progress Commentary	Limerick City and County Council has a dedicated team in place to ensure the conservation and restoration of the built environment. In order to achieve this policy, an additional Assistant Architectural Conservation Officer position was secured and filled by the Planning Authority in 2024.
Policy EH P7 - Environmental Noise	<i>It is a policy of the Council to proactively manage environmental noise, where it may have a significant adverse impact on the health and quality of life of communities in Limerick and to support the aims of the Environmental Noise Regulations, through the development and implementation of Noise Action Plans.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective EH O20 - Quiet Areas • Objective EH O21 - Noise and Vibration during Construction and at Open Sites • Objective EH O22 - Commercial and Industrial Noise • Objective EH O23 - Entertainment Noise
Progress Commentary	<p>-Strategic Noise Mapping: As required under the Environmental Noise Regulations 2018, Limerick City and County Council completed strategic noise mapping in mid-2023 for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All roads, rail and EPA industrial sites in the Limerick Agglomeration (Limerick City and Suburbs including part of County Clare – Parteen area) in partnership with Clare County Council • Major roads (> 3m vehicle passages per year) in County Limerick (outside the Limerick Agglomeration). <p>This is the first time that noise assessments have been undertaken for all roads, rail and industrial sites in Limerick City and Suburbs.</p>

Overarching Policies

-Noise Action Planning: The Council has continued to implement the Noise Action Plan 2018 to 2023. During the first two years of the Development Plan, a pilot study was undertaken by the Council and TII to bring forward routine road maintenance and resurface the M7 between Junctions 28 and 30 with a low noise road surface (stone mastic asphalt). This work followed a cost benefit assessment prepared by the Council for the Monaleen Hotspot adjacent to Monaleen/ Castletroy. Works are also underway from 1st August 2024 along the M20 adjacent to the Ballycummin and Patrickswell Hotspots to resurface the pavement with stone mastic asphalt.

Fixed sound pressure level monitoring is undertaken on O’Connell Street in Limerick City Centre, to calibrate and confirm strategic noise monitoring with summary results being L_{den} 73.3 dB, 2022 and L_{den} 73.0 dB 2023).

In relation to planning and the prevention of additional members of the population being exposed to undesirable noise levels from major roads, 38 no. planning applications for proposed residential developments have been reviewed where environmental noise from major roads may have a significant adverse effect on residents. This is for a mixture of developments ranging in size from individual properties to Large Residential Developments (6 no. LRDs) with a total of approximately 1,400 no. of units.

Sound pressure level monitoring has been undertaken for a number of green spaces in Limerick to assess their potential for Quiet Area designation with summary results being:

- The People’s Park: L_{den} 57.4 dB, 2022, L_{den} 57.8 dB, 2023
- Lough Gur: 54.4 dB, 2022, 51.8 dB, 2023
- Castletroy Greenway: L_{den} 55.2 dB, 2023 (installed January 2023).

These results are higher than expected compared to the traditional national criteria of 55 dB L_{den} . This is because natural sounds providing tranquillity and relaxation can have a high sound pressure level e.g. the Curraghower Falls besides the Robert Byrne Park. The Council has therefore piloted a citizen science approach, undertaking 5 no. sound walks (listening walks) with the public, as well as 3 no. psychoacoustic surveys. The purpose is to combine the assessment of sound pressure levels (and the characteristics of the sounds) and visitors perceived responses to their acoustic environments to develop an alternative criteria for the designation of Quiet Areas.

Overarching Policies

The Council has prepared 2 no. Noise Action Plans 2024-2028 for County Limerick comprising:

- Agglomeration of Limerick in partnership with Clare County Council
- County Limerick (outside the Agglomeration).

The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Noise Regulations 2018 and noise action planning guidance issued by the EPA. This is to adopt a strategic approach to managing environmental noise with the aim to:

- Identify appropriate **mitigation** measures to reduce noise levels where they are potentially harmful to human health
- **Prevention** of additional members of the population being exposed to undesirable noise levels where they are likely to have significant adverse impact on human health and,
- **Protection** of areas that are desirably quiet through a process of identification, validation and formal designation of Quiet Areas.

The Plan and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Reports have been prepared by Limerick City and County Council in collaboration with relevant stakeholders (e.g. Transport Infrastructure Ireland, EPA) and went to public consultation in 2024. Following minor amendments to the Plan after the public consultation period, the EPA was notified of its completion on 18th July 2024, as required under the Regulations.

-Planning Applications: During the first two years of the Development Plan, the Council reviewed 229 no. planning applications with a specific focus on noise considerations. This thorough review process helps to identify any potential noise issues early on and allows for the implementation of strategies to address them before they become a problem for the community. By doing so, the Council not only helps to safeguard the quality of life for local residents but also supports businesses in operating in a manner that is considerate of their surroundings.

Recently, there has been a noticeable increase in planning applications for mechanical extraction and ventilation systems in food establishments located within multi-occupancy buildings. These systems, while essential for the operation of restaurants and cafes, can also produce noise that affects nearby residents, especially in urban areas where buildings are close together. In response to this trend, the Council's technical staff have intensified their efforts to monitor these applications closely.

Overarching Policies

This proactive stance on noise control in the planning process reflects the Council's commitment to balancing development needs with environmental protection and community well-being. By continuing to monitor and manage noise risks effectively, Limerick City and County Council aims to create a more sustainable and peaceful environment for all its residents.

-Noise Complaints: During the first two years of the Plan, 217 no. noise complaints were received. These complaints relate to a range of sectors, including energy developments, industrial units, roads, commercial units and from noise generated by outdoor dining areas and the licensing issues associated with these spaces. As outdoor dining has become more popular, especially in urban areas, the increased noise levels have led to concerns from nearby residents. The Environment section is actively collaborating with the Licensing section to develop and implement a procedure that ensures environmental enforcement is integrated into the licensing process from the outset. By involving environmental enforcement early on, the Council can more effectively assess the potential noise impacts of new or existing outdoor dining areas, and consider the history of noise-related complaints linked to these spaces. This proactive approach helps to mitigate potential conflicts and ensures that licensing decisions are made with a comprehensive understanding of their environmental implications.

In addition to issues related to outdoor dining, another significant area of concern involves noise complaints between neighbours. Such complaints often arise from various sources, including loud music, late-night activities, or other disturbances that can affect the quality of life for those living nearby. These types of disputes can be particularly challenging, as they often involve sensitive interpersonal dynamics. To support residents dealing with these situations, Limerick City and County Council provides advisory services to guide individuals through the process of addressing noise issues with their neighbours. These services offer practical advice on how to resolve disputes amicably and inform residents of their rights and options should the matter escalate to a civil case.

The advisory services are made easily accessible through the Council's website, where residents can find information and resources to help them navigate noise-related issues. Additionally, the Council offers direct contact options, allowing residents to speak with staff who can provide tailored advice based on the specifics of their situation. This comprehensive approach ensures that residents are supported in managing noise disturbances, whether they arise from commercial

Overarching Policies	
	activities like outdoor dining, or from residential settings, contributing to a more harmonious community.

6.2 Natural Heritage and the Environment

Natural Heritage and the Environment	
Objective EH O3 – Ecological Impact Assessment	<i>It is an objective of the Council to require all developments where there are species of conservation concern, to submit an ecological assessment of the effects of the development on the site and nearby designated sites, suggesting appropriate mitigation measures and establishing, in particular, the presence or absence of the following species: Otter, badger, bats, lamprey and protected plant species such as the Triangular Club Rush, Opposite Leaved Pond Weed and Flora Protection Order Species generally.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective EH O2 - Lesser Horseshoe Bat
Progress Commentary	In certain instances, planning applications will be required to submit ecological impact assessments to examine the effects of a proposed development on ecology. Such proposals are managed through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority. An Ecologist has been appointed to facilitate evaluation of ecological assessments.
Objective EH O4 – Creation of New Habitats	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Seek the creation of new habitats by encouraging wild green areas and new water features such as, pools and ponds in new developments.</i></p> <p><i>b. Encourage management plans for green areas to use the minimum of pesticides and herbicides.</i></p> <p><i>c. The creation of areas that are not subject to public access in order to promote wildlife use is strongly encouraged.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective EHO O5 New Infrastructure Projects Objective EH O6 – Barn Owl Conservation Objective EH O8 - Roosting Habitats Objective EH O14 - Nature Based Solutions
Progress Commentary	<p>The Development Management function of the Planning Authority will require the inclusion of proposals for the creation of new habitats and management plans for certain development proposals. These proposals will supplement efforts by the Council to create new and conserve existing habitats in public parks, recreational areas and infrastructure projects across the County.</p> <p>The Limerick City and Environs Green and Blue Infrastructure provides guidance for the planning and management of a network of green and</p>

Natural Heritage and the Environment	
	blue spaces, including the creation of new habitats in settlements across the County.
Objective EH 07 – All Ireland Pollinator Plan	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Continue to actively support the aims and objectives of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021 – 2025, by encouraging measures to protect and increase the population of bees and other pollinating insects in Limerick.</i></p> <p><i>b. Support the aims of the National Bio-Diversity Action Plan and succeeding plans, in emphasising the importance of ecological issues in planning.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>In the first two years since the adoption of the Development Plan, Limerick City and County Council has continued to actively encourage compliance with the requirements of and maintained its commitment to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP). The Council has maintained significant areas of late mowed grass and meadow lands, including sections of road verges. ‘Let it Bee’ signage has been erected in these locations to inform the public. In addition, large sections of green space in several parks have been designated as ‘Let it Bee’ areas. This has led to an increase in biodiversity, with an abundance of native wildflowers for pollinators, nesting sites and winter food for birds.</p> <p>A Biodiversity Officer funded by the Heritage Council has been appointed by the Council to promote biodiversity actions throughout the City and County to develop a local biodiversity action plan in line with the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan. A Biodiversity Forum has been convened and a consultation process on a discussion paper for the Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan has taken place. The drafting of the plan is ongoing.</p> <p>A series of Biodiversity Events have been undertaken including events for World Wetlands Day, National Biodiversity Week and National Heritage Week.</p>
Objective EH 09 – Geological Sites	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Protect from inappropriate development, the County Geological Sites contained in the Limerick Geological Heritage Strategy 2021.</i></p> <p><i>b. Seek the conservation and protection of features of geological interest within Limerick, particularly those that would have been recognised in the past as Areas of Scientific Interest or by the Geological Survey of Ireland as being of particular value.</i></p> <p><i>c. Undertake a survey of such sites during the lifetime of the Plan.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	Through various consent processes, including Development Management, the Local Authority will continue to protect and conserve the geological features of County Limerick.

Natural Heritage and the Environment	
<p>Objective EH O10 – Trees and Hedgerows</p>	<p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a. Retain and protect amenity and biodiversity value of the County and City by preserving as far as possible trees, woodlands and hedgerows, having regard to the significant role that trees and hedgerows play in local ecology, climate change and air quality and their contribution to quality place making and the associated health and wellbeing benefits.</p> <p>b. Require, in the event that mature trees or extensive mature hedgerow is proposed to be removed, that a comprehensive tree and hedgerow survey be carried out by a suitably qualified tree specialist to assess the condition, ecological and amenity value of the tree stock/hedgerow proposed for removal and to include mitigation planting and a management scheme. The Council will seek in all cases to ensure when undertaking development or when permitting development that the loss of or damage to, existing trees is minimised.</p> <p>c. Require the planting of native trees, hedgerows and vegetation and the creation of new habitats in all new developments and public realm projects. The Council will avail of tree planting schemes administered by the Forest Service, in ecologically suitable locations, where this is considered desirable.</p> <p>d. To identify and prepare TPO's where trees of exceptional amenity, cultural or environmental value are identified which warrant a high level of protection.</p> <p>e. To implement the Limerick City and County Tree Policy when completed and review as appropriate.</p>
<p>Progress Commentary</p>	<p>The Council acknowledges the significant contribution that trees make to visual amenity, revitalisation of the built environment, the public realm and to climate change mitigation. The Council will continue to support and implement tree planting along streets and in areas of public open space. In addition, through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority, the Council will ensure that proposed developments contribute positively to tree coverage.</p> <p>-Hedgerow Survey: The Council undertook a hedgerow survey in 2023, which used a standard methodology to assess 10 no. sample 1km squares, covering approximately 1% of its total area. The focus of the survey was to record information on the extent, species composition, structure, condition and management of hedgerows in County Limerick and made recommendations for preservation.</p> <p>-Tree Planting: In 2022, the Council planted 1,455 no. saplings throughout the County including in Ted Russell Park, Thomond Pocket Forest, Mayorstone Park, Ballynanty, Ashbrook, Garryowen, Mungret</p>

Natural Heritage and the Environment	
	<p>Park, Patrickswell Green, Raheen, Mulcair Road and the Demesne in Newcastle West. As part of National Tree Week, the Council provided 2,200 no. saplings to the public at the Recycling Centres.</p> <p>In 2023 circa 955 no. new trees were planted by the Parks Department and 2,000 no. sapling were provided to the public as part of National Tree Week. In addition, fruit trees were planted in Mungret Park and Castletroy Park and a stumpery in Adare Park. 16 no. trees were planted at the Fairways in Monaleen at the request of the residents, comprising Birch, Oak and Beech.</p> <p>Limerick City and County Council has also received €25,000 development funding to progress Tree Planting/ Biodiversity Parks City and County as part of decarbonisation measures.</p>
Objective EH O11 – Invasive Species	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Work with and facilitate the work of agencies addressing the issue of terrestrial and aquatic invasive alien species (IAS), by implementing biosecurity measures, selected control measures and surveys, where appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>b. Address the presence of Invasive alien species on derelict sites under the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act through the preparation of a management and eradication plan for these species.</i></p> <p><i>c. Require the submission of a control and management program for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process, if developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are present.</i></p> <p><i>d. Employ biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of invasive alien species and disease and to insist that all such measures are employed on all development sites.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>The Council has continued to develop a strategy for dealing with non-native invasive species.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, a number of projects have been undertaken to address invasive species, including the following:</p> <p>-Giant hogweed on the River Loobagh: Works to remove this species continued in 2022 and 2023. The work focused on the river Loobagh from Kilfinane to the Farm Bridge west of Kilmallock Town. Previous years digging out and maceration of roots has been successful in eradicating mature plants. Results indicate that manual control methods are both effective and efficient. The Council has extended this program further along the catchment in 2024 and are currently working in Bruree.</p>

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	<p>-Mulkear Catchment Feasibility Estimate: In 2023, the catchment was surveyed to estimate how much it would cost to undertake a Hogweed removal program for the whole catchment, incorporating both Limerick and Tipperary functional areas. Work on this project is ongoing with potential funding sources being examined.</p> <p>-Himalayan Balsam: Limerick City and County Council has worked with community groups to facilitate the removal of Himalyan Balsam in areas adjacent to Limerick City and the University of Limerick. A community ‘Balsam Bashing’ event was facilitated by the Local Authority Biodiversity Officer in May 2024.</p> <p>-Invasive Plants App: A web link for reporting invasive plants is available with more than 1,800 no. occurrences of invasive species in Limerick reported. The link allows flexible data input and easy access to data by the public. All data is shared with the National Biodiversity Data Centre.</p>
Objective EH O12 – Blue Green Infrastructure	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Promote a network of Green and Blue infrastructure throughout Limerick.</i></p> <p><i>b. Promote connecting corridors for the movement of species and encourage the retention and creation of features of biodiversity value, ecological corridors and networks that connect areas of high conservation value such as woodlands, hedgerows, earth banks, watercourses, wetlands and designated sites. In this regard, new infrastructural projects and linear developments in particular, will have to demonstrate at design stage, sufficient measures to assist in the conservation of and dispersal of species. Projects which would be detrimental to existing Blue – Green Infrastructure features will not be permitted.</i></p> <p><i>c. Ensure the integration and strengthening of green infrastructure into the preparation of Local Area Plans.</i></p> <p><i>d. Where possible remove barriers to species movement, such as the removal of in-stream barriers to fish passage for example.</i></p> <p><i>e. Seek to advance the use of an ecosystem services approach and ecosystem services valuation as a decision-making tool in plans and projects, subject to appropriate ecological assessment.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies / Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective EH O13 – Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy
Progress Commentary	<p>The Local Authority continues to focus on the development, enhancement and maintenance of green and blue open spaces. The Council has implemented a number of plans to enhance open spaces around the City and County.</p>

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	<p>The Local Area Plans for Adare, Abbeyfeale, Caherconlish, Castleconnell, Newcastle West and Patrickswell prepared since the adoption of the Development Plan, include a number of policies and objectives to guide and support the delivery and enhancement of green and blue infrastructure within these settlements.</p> <p>The Limerick City and Environs Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy was published in 2023. This strategy has been prepared for Limerick City and environs as a key document to underpin the strategic vision and key ambitions outlined in the Development Plan. In particular, the vision for Limerick to transition to a carbon neutral society with the aim of becoming ‘a Green City Region on the Shannon Estuary connected through people and places’. The aim of the strategy is to inform and guide the planning and management of a network of multifunctional green and blue spaces in Limerick City and environs, including its rivers, parks and open spaces, helping drive the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society.</p> <p>The strategy identifies 10 no. high-level priority actions. These objectives, while specific to the City and environs, are relevant to all towns and villages in the County and can be incorporated and promoted as appropriate. One of the main elements of the strategy is the development of the Limerick Blue Green Ring, which will encircle the City. This ring is the first major action and crosscuts many of the priorities identified in the strategy.</p> <p>The Limerick Blue Green Ring will form Ireland’s first city scale strategic planning and environmental corridor. Work on this vision commenced in 2024 with the appointment of consultants to progress a Masterplan to formulate and illustrate options for the development and enhancement of the ring and incorporate where feasible, active travel measures. The proposed ring includes the River Shannon, some of the most important wetlands (such as Bunlicky, Coonagh and Westfields) as well as other important habitats for fauna and flora such as King's Island, Shannon Fields, the Baggot Estate, Ballinacurra Creek and the Groody Valley in the city.</p>
<p>Objective EH O15 – Ground Water, Surface Water Protection and River Basin Management Plans</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Protect ground and surface water resources and to take into account the requirement of the Water Framework Directive when dealing with planning and land use issues.</i></p> <p><i>b. Implement the provisions of the River Basin Management Plan 2022 - 2028 and any succeeding plan. The filling of wetlands, surface water features and modifications and drainage of peatlands shall</i></p>

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	<p><i>generally be prohibited.</i></p> <p><i>c. Implement the measures put forward in the Limerick Groundwater Protection Plan, in assessing planning applications and their consequences for ground water.</i></p> <p><i>d. The Blue Dot Catchments programme is a key action under the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2028. The aim of the programme is to protect and restore high ecological status to a network of rivers and water bodies in Limerick. In Limerick, the following rivers and water bodies are Blue Dot Catchments, Bleach Lough, the Ogeen River and the Behanagh River. The Council will take a precautionary approach to development which might affect water quality in these areas in line with requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective EH O16 – Septic Tanks and Proprietary Systems • Objective EH O17 - Water Quality • Objective EH O18 - Riparian Buffers
Progress Commentary	<p>The EU Water Framework Directive is implemented through River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) based on six-year cycles. The third cycle Water Action Plan 2024: Ireland’s River Basin Management Plan has been issued. The plan aims to protect and restore water quality nationally and locally in Ireland. The overall aim of the plan is to ensure that natural waters are sustainably managed and that freshwater resources are protected to maintain and improve the water environment. Groundwater is a key natural resource for drinking and commercial purposes, in addition to sustaining a variety of important ecosystems.</p> <p>Limerick’s rural areas are under significant development pressure from rural housing, agricultural activities and rural based enterprises, all of which have the potential to adversely affect the quality and quantity of groundwater resources. As part of the ongoing Development Management function of the Planning Authority, consideration for the Limerick Groundwater Protection Plan and the potential impacts of proposed developments on groundwater is undertaken in the assessment of planning applications.</p> <p>Specific areas of activity relating to water quality in the first two years of the Development Plan included implementing the programme of measures under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), particularly in relation to agriculture, un-sewered industries and septic tanks.</p> <p>Working in conjunction with the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO), the Council has identified a number of Priority Areas of Action (PAAs). The Council will focus resources on inspections and enforcement in these areas over the next 4 years.</p>

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From 2022 to 2024, the Council WFD team focused its efforts on 24 no. PAAs, including waterbodies for restoration and protection. These areas include the Maigne Catchment (Morningstar, Loobagh and Glasha Rivers), the Deel Catchment (Owenskaw, Arra, Bunoke and Broadford Streams) and the Feale Catchment (Caher, Galey, Knockfinnisk and Owvane Rivers).

Furthermore, the team carried out investigative assessments to identify the significant pressures causing water bodies to be at risk of not achieving the objectives of the WFD. Over 300 no. farm inspections were completed, including intensive farms, which are considered to be presenting a particular risk to a number of water bodies. The team work very closely with the farming community to address issues directly and to ensure that the impact from each farm is mitigated and controlled to an acceptable level, which is compatible with achieving the requirements of the RBMP.

The team also have a protective role under the WFD and will aim to ensure that waterbodies which currently are at 'good status' do not deteriorate. The team works with sectoral interests to resolve any pressures identified which are impacting on water quality.

The European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022 (as amended) sets out the minimum standards for farming practices to realise the Water Framework Directive's ambition of achieving 'Good' status for all waters by 2027. Limerick City and County Council's role is to oversee implementation of these regulations and to ensure that farming practices do not negatively affect water quality.

In 2023, the Council published a booklet 'Building Resilience into your Farming System', which includes a compendium of articles, prepared by various agencies, which focus on topics such as water quality, biodiversity and agricultural emissions. The booklet aims to help build greater resilience into farming operations, is available online and is given to every farmer at the time of an inspection.

In addition, each Local Area Plan prepared since the adoption of the Development Plan, recognises the importance of ensuring the protection of ground water through the use of ground water protection schemes as part of land use planning. These LAPs provide the necessary policy protection for the water cycle in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.

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Objective EH O19 - Ecosystem Services Approach	<i>It is an objective of the Council to promote an Ecosystem Services Approach, subject to suitable assessment, in the preparation of lower-level Plans, Strategies and in the Development Management process.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>Policies for ecosystem services and nature-based solutions have been included in the new Local Area Plans, particularly in relation to Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS).</p> <p>Nature-based solutions have been included in the design of both Local Authority and private developments with benefits for both biodiversity and human health. Such solutions include constructed wetlands, green urban spaces, bio swales, natural wetlands and reforestation. These developments have been approved through the Development Management function of the Local Authority and will be implemented in due course.</p>
Objective EH O24 - Light Pollution	<i>It is an objective of the Council to ensure that the design of external lighting schemes minimise the incidence of light spillage or pollution in the immediate surrounding environment. In this regard, developers shall submit lighting elements as part of any design, with an emphasis on ensuring that any lighting is carefully directed, not excessive for its purpose and avoids lights spill outside the development and where necessary will be wildlife friendly in design.</i>
Ancillary Policies/Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective EH O25 - 'Dark Sky' Parks and Reserves
Progress Commentary	Through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority, the Council will, as far as possible, continue to ensure that proposed developments include appropriately designed and sustainable forms of lighting to avoid overspill and additional light pollution.
Objective EH O26 - Air Pollution	<i>It is an objective of the Council to implement the provisions of national and EU Directives on air pollution and other relevant legislative requirements in conjunction with other agencies as appropriate.</i>
Ancillary Policies/Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy EH P6 - Water and Air Quality • Objective EH O27 - Improvement of Air Quality • Objective EH O28 - Air Quality Monitoring • Objective EH O29 - Air Quality during Construction • Objective EH O30 - Odour
Progress Commentary	The Environmental Protection Agency Air Quality Report 2022 identifies Ireland as having generally good air quality, but there are concerning localised issues. Air quality monitoring results show that

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fine particulate matter mainly from burning solid fuel and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) mainly from road transport, remain the main threats to good air quality. According to the EPA Bulletin in February 2024 there were two exceedance events for PM₁₀ (particles with a diameter of 10 micrometres or less) in Limerick City. There were no exceedances of NO₂ or Ozone.

The Council was undertaking NO₂ diffusion tube monitoring for the EPA monthly up until August 2022. Subsequently, the Environment Section has been supporting the Active Travel Team undertake NO₂ diffusion tube monitoring over the last 12 months at 25 no. sites across the Metropolitan Area. These sites relate to active travel schemes, some at locations previously assessed by the EPA, where monitoring ties in with upcoming Active Travel projects, this is to build on the existing records in each area. The work is to compare nitrogen dioxide levels in the air around Limerick City to norms across the European Union, which in part is a measurement of the efficiency of the Active Travel schemes across Limerick. This information will allow citizens to make informed choices regarding the use of Active Travel infrastructure going forward.

The Environment Section has been undertaking continuous indicative air quality monitoring at 3 no. sites in the Metropolitan area, monitoring particulate matter and gases (including NO₂, O₃, SO₂ and CO) at O'Connell Street, in Mungret and Castletroy. This network provides enhanced real-time information to the public. This monitoring indicates that the air quality in Limerick City is generally good, meets EU norms and meets the air quality standards for Ireland. The Environment Section reports on these levels monthly, which are published on the Council's website.

The Council also supports the EPA to manage two reference monitors in Limerick City to report to Europe, at the People's Park (background air quality), Henry Street (traffic-related air quality) and an indicative air quality monitor for particulate matter in Abbeyfeale.

The Council has been supporting the EPA during 2024 to prepare for the roll out of a citizen science initiative Clean Air Together Limerick City, which aims to get 400 no. participants across the Limerick Metropolitan Area to measure NO₂ outside their home for the month of October.

Since the adoption of the Development Plan, 2022 saw the introduction of new solid fuel regulations, leading to significant efforts to raise awareness of these regulations and the ban on marketing, selling, distributing, or burning smoky fuel. Awareness campaigns were

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	<p>conducted and inspections of fuel retailers and wholesalers were carried out by staff.</p> <p>In 2023, Limerick City and County Council partnered with 5 no. other Local Authorities to apply for a grant from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to conduct a major solid fuel sampling exercise. As the lead authority, Limerick City and County Council was responsible for assembling the grant application, coordinating sample collection, and managing financial and administrative functions.</p> <p>In 2024, the Council continued to lead another sampling program, now expanded to include 2 no. additional Local Authorities. The Department has prepared a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document to assist in responding to public inquiries about the new regulations. A Department staff member also continues to co-chair the national Local Authority Implementation Group for the Solid Fuels Regulations, promoting active cooperation among Local Authorities.</p> <p>Air pollution enforcement staff received 118 no. complaints during the first two years of the Plan and worked closely with waste enforcement staff to address reports of unauthorized waste burning.</p>

6.3 Landscape and Visual Amenity

Landscape and Visual Amenity	
Policy EH P8 - Landscape Character Areas	<i>It is a policy of the Council to promote the distinctiveness and where necessary safeguard the sensitivity of Limerick's landscape types, through the landscape characterisation process in accordance with the 'Draft Guidelines for Landscape and Landscape Assessment' (2000) as issued by the Department of Environment and Local Government, in accordance with the European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention) and with 'A National Landscape Strategy for Ireland – 2015-2025'. The Council shall implement any relevant recommendations contained in the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's National Landscape Strategy for Ireland, 2015 – 2025.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective EH O31 - Views and Prospects • Objective EH O32 - Historical Landscapes • Policy EH P9 - Historic Gardens, Designed Landscapes and Parklands • Objective EH O33 – Castlepark

<p>Progress Commentary</p>	<p>The Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) divide the County into 10 no. Landscape Character Areas. The LCAs describe, map and set out associated specific objectives for each area. The areas are used to inform decision making in relation to the protection of the environment, natural resources and heritage, to monitor change and guide development.</p> <p>Through the Development Management function, the Planning Authority will continue to ensure that the unique landscapes are protected, while contributing to appropriate levels of sustainable development.</p> <p>In addition, through the Development Management function, the Council will continue to manage development in order to avoid adverse effects on the views and prospects identified in the Development Plan. This approach will ensure that Limerick’s natural beauty, local landmarks and historic landscapes are maintained and preserved.</p>
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6.4 Archaeology and Built Heritage

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<p>Objective EH O34 - Special Control Areas</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to protect and maintain the integrity of the Special Control Areas. Continue to zone important archaeological areas as appropriate as Special Control Areas where no development is permitted, other than possibly sensitively designed access.</i></p>
<p>Ancillary Policies/ Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective EH O35 - Special Control Areas Mungret
<p>Progress Commentary</p>	<p>There are 8 no. Special Control Areas in Limerick as set out in the Development Plan. The Planning Authority through the Development Management function is committed to preserving the sites and settings of these areas of archaeological heritage, including any views listed in the SCAs. In the first two years of the Development Plan, no planning applications have been permitted which would adversely affect the integrity of any of the SCAs.</p>
<p>Objective EH O36 - Preservation of the Archaeological Heritage</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to seek the preservation of all known sites and features of historical and archaeological interest. This is to include all the sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. The preferred option is preservation in situ, or at a minimum preservation by record.</i></p>

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Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective EH O37 - Preservation of unrecorded/ newly discovered Archaeological Heritage • Objective EH O38 - Preservation of the Underwater Archaeological Heritage • Objective EH O39 - Protection of the setting of Archaeological Monuments • Objective EH O40 - Proper procedures during the planning process • Objective EH O41 - Archaeological Monuments in Local Authority ownership/ guardianship • Objective EH O43 - Industrial Archaeology • Objective EH O45 - Raise public awareness and encourage active participation • Objective EH O47 - Increase access to Archaeological Monuments • Objective EH O48 - Assessment and Recognition of Archaeological Landscapes • Objective EH O49 – Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage
Progress Commentary	<p>Limerick City and County Council is fully committed to preserving archaeological heritage through the Development Management and Heritage functions of the Planning Authority, and through the role of the Local Authority Archaeologist.</p> <p>Planning applications for proposed developments which are located adjacent to, or within the ‘zone of notification’ for archaeological sites, projects over 0.5ha. or over 1km for linear development, or covered by an Environmental Impact Assessment, or landfill, are referred to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Heritage Council and the Local Authority Archaeologist for their consideration. As a result of pre-planning consultation, such planning applications may include Archaeological Heritage Assessments. If not, then where appropriate, these are requested as part of Further Information. Any submissions received are considered in the assessment of planning applications by the Development Management section and archaeological mitigation is conditioned, and compliance is subsequently assessed.</p> <p>With respect to Forward Planning, the Council ensures, through the participation of the Local Authority Archaeologist, that any new Local Area Plans or other land use plans and strategies, protect, integrate and enhance any features of archaeological</p>

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interest as well as generalised protections for the archaeological heritage.

In the first two years of the Development Plan, 159 no. applications have had mitigation applied either at Further Information stage by Archaeological Impact Assessments, which can include non-invasive geophysical reports and licenced test trenching, or at Condition stage, in the form of licensed archaeological monitoring, buffer zones, advance excavation and/ or re-design. A further 210 no. referrals have been assessed for archaeological implications by the Local Authority's Archaeologist.

Archaeological sites uncovered in advance of, or during construction, are mitigated by avoidance and buffer (preferred) or full excavation. Any new archaeological sites are reported to the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, National Monuments Service and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Limerick City and County Council finalised the Burial Ground Strategy in 2022, which catalogued all the masonry remains in the graveyards and has committed to achieve a programme to deal with the most urgent.

In the first two years of the Development Plan, the Archaeological Section has secured funding from various schemes to assist with the conservation and preservation of various monuments and sites, in order to facilitate the conservation of Limerick's archaeological heritage. The funding enables conservation of archaeological monuments in need of urgent support, to encourage access, to improve presentation, and build resilience to withstand the effects of climate change.

Details of Local Authority structures are outlined below:

Project	Status
Ballynoe Tower House, Bruree	-2022: CMF22-1-LI001 €85,000 and €21,078.01 own funds, Phase 1
RMP LI039-102001	-2023: CMF23-1-LI001 €100,000 and €8,090.75 own funds, Phase 2 -2024: CMF24-1-LI002 €100,000 to complete final phase to 15th/16th tower house in LA graveyard

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Galbally Church RMP LI049-086002	<p>-2022: Heritage Council SF17609 €7,950 and €7,295.1 own funds advance works</p> <p>-2023: CMF-2-LI002 €19,965.38 advance works</p> <p>-2024: CMF-1-LI001 €100,000 Phase 1 Capital works to medieval church</p>
Kilfinnane Church RMP LI048-058	<p>-2022: CMF22-1-LI002 €85,000 and €13,015.66 own funds Capital works and clean out of church, substantially complete</p>
Kilmallock RMP LI047-019001/002	<p>CMF22-03-LI001 €9,840 for non-invasive survey of site of early Christian Monastery in partnership with the community</p>
Mahoonagh Church RMP LI036-172001	<p>-2023: €10,230.50 own funds for advance works</p> <p>-2024: CMF-2-LI003 €21,600 for advance works to tender stage</p>
Glenogra Church RMP LI031-038005	<p>-2023: €8,547 own funds for advance works</p> <p>-2024: €15,000 own funds for advance works to tender stage</p>
<p>In addition to the Council's own sites, the Local Authority Archaeologist has assisted groups and individuals to apply for Community Monuments Funding. Successes include:</p>	
Project	Status
Ballingarry Tower House	<p>-2023: Ballingarry Development CMF23-2-LI004 for a Conservation and Management Plan</p> <p>-2024: CMF24-3-LI001 a further grant for emergency works</p>
Croom Castle	<p>-2024: CMF-2-LI002 for a Conservation & Management Plan</p>
<p>With respect to industrial sites, Limerick City and County Council participated in the Military, Maritime and Industrial Atlantic Heritage Project and in 2022 completed Phase 1 consolidation works to the Canal Harbour Buildings.</p>	

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Objective EH O42 - Town Defences and Layout	<i>It is an objective of the Council to protect town defences and plot layout, carry out the objectives of the conservation and Management Plans for Limerick City and Kilmallock and support the work of the Irish Walled Towns Network. Review the potential for surviving medieval and historic fabric within the standing buildings in our medieval urban cores.</i>															
Progress Commentary	<p>Within the jurisdiction, there are 2 no. members of the Irish Walled Towns Network, namely Limerick City and Kilmallock. Both have Conservation and Management Plans and a regular programme of consolidation and maintenance works are carried out. Works to the extensive upstanding walls of Kilmallock are substantially complete. In 2024, works to interpret the below ground section of wall in the South Eastern corner of the town were initiated.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, the following projects have been progressed:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Defence/ Walled Town</th> <th>Project</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Kilmallock Town Walls RMP LI047-022006</td> <td>-2023: IWTN Capital Grant W18372 €73,000 and €10,733.29 own funds to consolidate the final 6 no. discrete sections of standing town wall</td> <td>Complete</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Limerick City Walls RMP LI005-017010 Irishtown</td> <td>-2022: IWTN Capital Grant W17578 €70,290 and €7,809.99 own funds Phase 2 of 158m of Irishtown Wall -2023: IWTN Capital Grant W18397 €73,000 and own funds €31,522.47 to complete Phase 3</td> <td>Complete</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Limerick City Walls RMP LI005-017010 Irishtown</td> <td>-2024: Grant from Sláinte care €14,250 and own funds €1,750. Phase 1 Works to the Clay bank</td> <td>Complete</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Limerick City Walls RMP LI005-017010 Englishtown</td> <td>-2024: IWTN Capital Grant W19125 €70,000. Work to City Walls in Englishtown Phase 1</td> <td>In progress</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Defence/ Walled Town	Project	Status	Kilmallock Town Walls RMP LI047-022006	-2023: IWTN Capital Grant W18372 €73,000 and €10,733.29 own funds to consolidate the final 6 no. discrete sections of standing town wall	Complete	Limerick City Walls RMP LI005-017010 Irishtown	-2022: IWTN Capital Grant W17578 €70,290 and €7,809.99 own funds Phase 2 of 158m of Irishtown Wall -2023: IWTN Capital Grant W18397 €73,000 and own funds €31,522.47 to complete Phase 3	Complete	Limerick City Walls RMP LI005-017010 Irishtown	-2024: Grant from Sláinte care €14,250 and own funds €1,750. Phase 1 Works to the Clay bank	Complete	Limerick City Walls RMP LI005-017010 Englishtown	-2024: IWTN Capital Grant W19125 €70,000. Work to City Walls in Englishtown Phase 1	In progress
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Objective EH O46 - Heritage Plan 2017-2030	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the archaeological objectives in the Heritage Plan.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>The Limerick City and County Heritage Plan 2017 - 2030 aims to ensure that Limerick’s heritage continues to be unique and diverse, while being accessible to all. During Heritage Week 2022 and 2023 City Wall tours were given by the Council Archaeologist and a public talk in Galbally. In 2023 and 2024, tours were given in Kilmallock in conjunction with Kilmallock Tourism Development Ltd. In 2024, two community events were organised in Irishtown to raise awareness of the City Walls. In 2023, ongoing work in Ballingarry Graveyard supported by the Council, were visited by the Follies Trust.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, a number of heritage projects have been delivered through grant allocations from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Heritage Council. See commentary under Objectives EH O36 and EH O42 above.</p>
Objective EH O50 - Work to Protected Structures	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Protect structures included on the RPS from any works that would negatively impact their special character and appearance.</i></p> <p><i>b. Ensure that any development proposals to Protected Structures, their curtilage and setting, shall have regard to the ‘Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities’ published by the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</i></p> <p><i>c. Ensure that all works are carried out under the supervision of a qualified professional with specialised conservation expertise.</i></p> <p><i>d. Ensure that any development, modification, alteration, or extension affecting a Protected Structure and/or its setting, is sensitively sited and designed and is appropriate in terms of the proposed scale, mass, height, density, layout and materials.</i></p> <p><i>e. Ensure that the form and structural integrity of the Protected Structure is retained in any redevelopment and that the relationship between the Protected Structure and any complex of adjoining buildings, designed landscape features, or views and vistas from within the grounds of the structure are respected.</i></p> <p><i>f. Respect the special interest of the interior, including its plan form, hierarchy of spaces, architectural detail, fixtures and</i></p>

Archaeology and Built Heritage	
	<p><i>fittings and materials.</i></p> <p><i>g. Support the re-introduction of traditional features on protected structures where there is evidence that such features (e.g. window styles, finishes etc.) previously existed.</i></p> <p><i>h. Ensure that new and adapted uses are compatible with the character and special interest of the Protected Structure.</i></p> <p><i>i. Protect the curtilage of protected structures and to refuse planning permission for inappropriate development within the curtilage and attendant grounds, that would adversely impact on the special character of the Protected Structure.</i></p> <p><i>j. Protect and retain important elements of built heritage including historic gardens, stone walls, entrance gates and piers and any other associated curtilage features.</i></p> <p><i>k. Ensure historic landscapes and gardens associated with Protected Structures are protected from inappropriate development.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective EH O51 - Energy Efficiency of Protected Structures
Progress Commentary	<p>There are 2,345 no. Protected Structures in Limerick as set out in Volume 3: Architectural Conservation Areas and Record of Protected Structures of the Development Plan. Since the Plan came into effect, 176 no. planning applications have been received in relation to works to Protected Structures, with over 80 no. permissions granted.</p> <p>In addition, 63 no. Section 57 (of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)) declarations have been issued. Section 57 allows the owner or occupier of a protected structure to seek a declaration in relation to the type of works, which would or would not, materially affect the character of the structure or any element of the structure. The declaration clarifies which works would be considered exempted development. When determining planning applications and Section 57 declarations, the Council has regard to the protection and enhancement of the character of the Protected Structure, relevant guidance and legislation.</p> <p>Section 59 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), enables the Planning Authority to issue a notice to an owner of a Protected Structure to require works against endangerment. Since the Development Plan has come into effect, one such notice has been issued by Limerick City and County Council.</p>

Archaeology and Built Heritage										
	<p>Through the administration of the Historic Structures Fund and Built Heritage Investment schemes, the Council has provided financial assistance to the owners and custodians of protected structures to undertake essential conservation works. Details of the projects funded in the first two years of the Development Plan are set out in the table below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Fund</th> <th>No. of Projects Awarded</th> <th>Amount Awarded</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Historic Structures Fund</td> <td>11</td> <td>€416,496</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Built Heritage Investment Scheme</td> <td>82</td> <td>€708,991</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>With respect to the energy efficiency of protected structures, a tender for consultancy services to support the renovation wave – ‘Deep Energy Renovation of Historic Buildings in Ireland’, was launched in 2022. The services will examine potential innovative financial and technical mechanisms that can accelerate the retrofitting of historic buildings in Limerick.</p>	Fund	No. of Projects Awarded	Amount Awarded	Historic Structures Fund	11	€416,496	Built Heritage Investment Scheme	82	€708,991
Fund	No. of Projects Awarded	Amount Awarded								
Historic Structures Fund	11	€416,496								
Built Heritage Investment Scheme	82	€708,991								
Objective EH O52 - National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)	<i>It is an objective of the Council to review and update the RPS on foot of any Ministerial recommendations including the NIAH and any future updates. The Ministerial Recommendations, made under Section 53 of the Planning Act, will be taken into account when the Planning Authority is considering proposals for development that would affect the historic or architectural interest of these structures.</i>									
Progress Commentary	<p>There are approximately 1,000 no. structures on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in Limerick. The NIAH aims to identify, record and evaluate post 1700 architectural heritage in Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid to the protection and conservation of Ireland’s built heritage. In the event of any national review of the NIAH, the Planning Authority will consider the necessity to include all new NIAH structures on the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>-NIAH Built Heritage Stocktake: Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, is carrying out a stocktake of approximately 360 structures in the Georgian Neighbourhood of Limerick City and King’s Island, including structures in the NIAH Building Survey and structures on the Record of Protected Structures.</p>									

Archaeology and Built Heritage	
	<p>The stocktake will capture the condition and status of each structure and describe changes to fabric and/ or features, if any, since the structure was recorded by the NIAH (2005) and/ or included on the RPS. The Built Heritage Stocktake involves 3 no. processes, all carried out by appropriately qualified contractors, including fieldwork on the ground, entering data under specific headings in a digital survey form and taking a set of high quality digital photographs of each structure. The Built Heritage Stocktake is designed to help shape future policy on dereliction and vacancy in the historic built environment and to secure additional resources to assist custodians, owners and conservation professionals in the appropriate care and repair of the historic built environment. The stocktake will be completed by the end of 2024.</p>
Objective EH O53 - Architectural Conservation Areas	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Protect the character and special interest of an area, which has been designated as an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) as set out in Volume 3.</i></p> <p><i>b. Ensure that all development proposals within an ACA be appropriate to the character of the area having regard to the Character briefs for each area.</i></p> <p><i>c. Ensure that any new development or alteration of a building within an ACA or immediately adjoining an ACA, is appropriate in terms of the proposed design, including scale, height, mass, density, building lines and materials.</i></p> <p><i>d. Seek a high quality, sensitive design for any new development(s) that are complementary and/or sympathetic to their context and scale, whilst simultaneously encouraging contemporary design which is in harmony with the area. Direction can also be taken from using traditional forms that are then expressed in a contemporary manner, rather than a replica of a historic building style.</i></p> <p><i>e. Seek the retention of all features that contribute to the character of an ACA, including boundary walls, railings, soft landscaping, traditional paving and street furniture.</i></p> <p><i>f. Seek to safeguard the Georgian heritage of Limerick.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective EH O54 - Shopfronts within an ACA
Progress Commentary	<p>There are 25 no. Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) across Limerick City and County. An ACA is a place, area, group of structures or townscape that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, technical, social, cultural, or scientific</p>

Archaeology and Built Heritage	
	<p>interest, or that contributes to the appreciation of a protected structure.</p> <p>The Development Management function of the Planning Authority will ensure the continued preservation and restoration of structures in the ACAs, through the ongoing assessment of planning applications and enforcement in accordance with the provisions of the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011).</p> <p>Through collaboration with the National Built Heritage Service, Limerick City and County Council are preparing new walking trails to celebrate the ACAs in Foynes and Newcastle West.</p> <p>Limerick City and County Council are finalising Shop Front Guidelines which will be published in 2024. The guidelines will facilitate protection of traditional shopfronts and ensure that new shop fronts are well designed in a manner sympathetic to the scale, proportion and materials of other shop fronts in ACAs.</p>

6.5 Conclusion

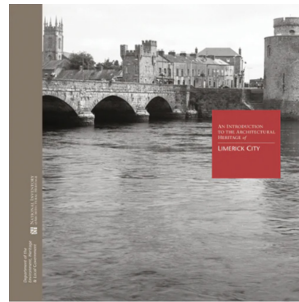
In conclusion, it is considered that implementation of the environment, heritage, landscape and green infrastructure policies and objectives has been successful over the first two years of the Development Plan. Limerick's environment, heritage and landscape forms an intrinsic part of the County's identity. Since the adoption of the Development Plan, the Council has continued its commitment to protecting and enhancing Limerick's environmental and heritage assets, while managing appropriate change of the natural and built environment through the Development Management functions.

The Council will continue to undertake projects, such as those of a blue green infrastructure nature and support biodiversity initiatives, such as the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and encourage groups to implement projects in their communities. The continued monitoring of environmental quality including air and noise pollution and campaigns of environmental awareness will ensure environmental quality and a high standard of living for local communities.

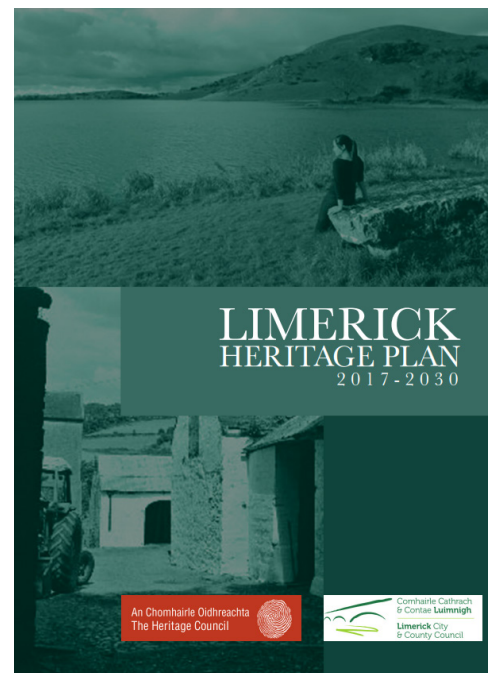
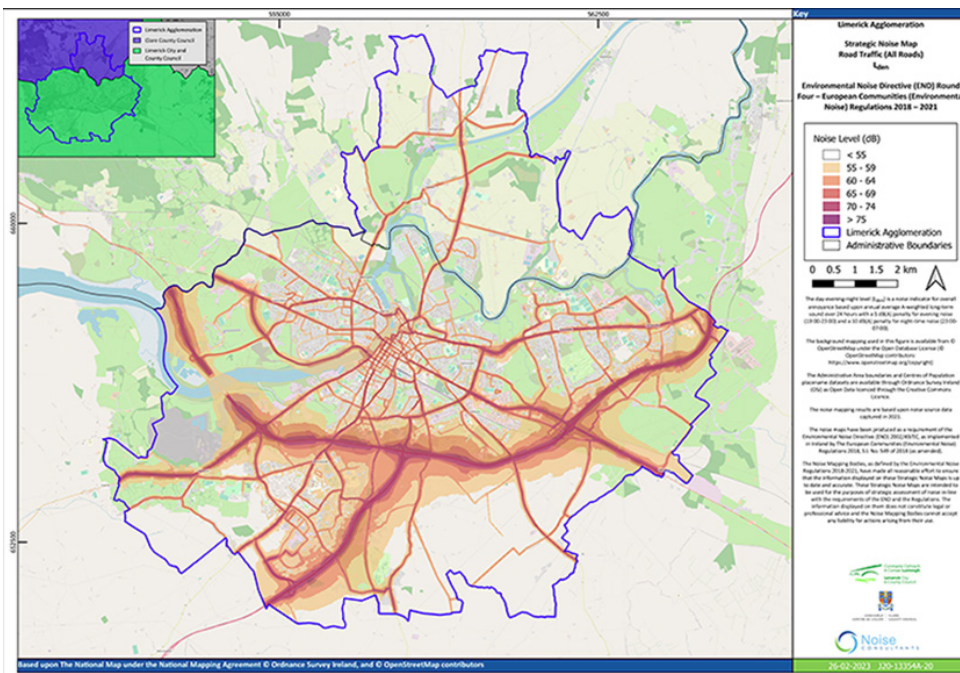
The Plan acknowledges the importance of protecting and safeguarding Limerick's archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage. The Council will continue to implement various projects, invest in and administer funding schemes for improvement and conservation of the natural environment and built heritage, which will be secured on an ongoing basis throughout the lifetime of the Plan.

The delivery of the policies and objectives set out in this Chapter will ensure that Limerick's environment and heritage are protected for future generations and continue to contribute to the quality of life of local communities. In this regard, the Council will continue to secure the policies and objectives while enabling sustainable development that respects the character and sensitivities of the environment.

Environment, Heritage and Landscape and Green Infrastructure Two Year Progress Report




25
 Air Monitoring sites
 across the Limerick
 Metropolitan Area



Noise Action Plan



7

**Sustainable Mobility and
Transport**

7.0 Chapter 7: Sustainable Mobility and Transport

Chapter 7: Sustainable Mobility sets out the Council’s strategy to provide an effective, sustainable and accessible transport system. A functional and effective transport network is fundamental for the creation of a compact and connected built environment. The National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region seek to reduce dependency on the private car and secure a shift towards sustainable modes of transport, with associated benefits for carbon emissions and climate change. Sustainable mobility is a vital component of the Development Plan, which promotes a shift to more sustainable modes of transport including bus, rail, walking and cycling, while ensuring the continued delivery and maintenance of the road network and improving connectivity within the region.

The following tables set out a brief outline of the progress made in achieving the strategic policies and objectives of the Sustainable Mobility chapter of the Development Plan.

7.1 National and Regional Planning

National and Regional Planning	
Policy TR P1 – National Investment Framework for Transport Investment	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the implementation of the Department of Transport’s National Investment Framework for Transport Investment.</i>
Progress Commentary	Limerick City and County Council continues to support the Department of Transport in the implementation of the National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI). A number of transport projects in Limerick have been identified within the National Planning Framework, National Development Plan and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region. These projects are being developed in accordance with the NIFTI Investment Priorities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decarbonisation • Mobility of People and Goods in Urban Areas • Protection and Renewal • Enhanced Regional and Rural Connectivity.
Policy TR P2 - Five Cities Demand Management Study	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the recommendations of the Department of Transport’s Five Cities Demand Management Study.</i>
Progress Commentary	Limerick City and County Council has progressed the implementation of a number of the short and medium term measures and continues

National and Regional Planning	
	<p>to support other organisations leading in the implementation of measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum residential and workplace parking standards for new developments are being implemented through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority. EV and Car Club spaces are also secured through the Development Management function. • The Council continues to engage with workplaces in Limerick regarding their mobility management plans and support/encourage these employers in the promotion of flexible/home working arrangements where possible. • Draft Bye-Laws have been prepared for the Metropolitan District to regulate the operation of a Car Club Scheme. • The Council are working with the NTA to progress Park and Ride (P&R) sites around Limerick City. Land has been purchased close to Annacotty to facilitate a P&R off the M7. Other suitable lands have also been identified in Raheen and at Coonagh. • The Safe Routes to School programme is being delivered in partnership with the NTA and An Taisce. The Council also continues to engage with schools regarding mobility management. • The Council have developed an EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy for Limerick and are implementing a pilot project at 12 no. sites across the City and County.

7.2 Integration of Land Use and Transport Planning

Integration of Land Use and Transport Planning	
Policy TR P3 - Integration of Land Use and Transport Policies	<i>It is a policy of the Council to support and facilitate the integration of land use and transportation policies ensuring the delivery of sustainable compact settlements served by sustainable modes of transport.</i>
Progress Commentary	The Development Plan aims to ensure that land use and transport are fully integrated to enable compact and consolidated growth of the settlements served by sustainable modes of transport. Limerick City in particular, is capable of achieving higher densities of residential and employment development, given that it is well served by public transport infrastructure, including the railway and bus networks. The Council have continued to liaise with the NTA, TII, Iarnród Éireann and other stakeholders to support the ongoing

Integration of Land Use and Transport Planning	
	<p>maintenance of existing infrastructure and to identify and progress projects such as BusConnects to meet the needs of the existing and future population.</p> <p>Policies and objectives in relation to the integration of land use planning and transport have also been incorporated into the new Local Area Plans for Abbeyfeale, Adare, Caherconlish, Castleconnell, Newcastle West and Patrickswell by the Forward Planning section. Transport Plans for Adare and Newcastle West are incorporated into these new respective LAPs. Facilitating the integration of land use and transport in the settlements, will facilitate the achievement of sustainable and compact growth with a beneficial reduction in carbon based emissions arising from vehicle-based transport in these settlements.</p>

7.3 Key Enablers for Growth in Limerick

Key Enablers for Growth in Limerick	
Policy TR P6 - Delivery of Transport Infrastructure in line with National Policy	<i>It is a policy of the Council to support the delivery of transport infrastructure identified within the National Planning Framework, National Development Plan, 2021 -2030 (and any update) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region and to support enhanced connectivity within Limerick and inter-urban connectivity within the regions.</i>
Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective TR O42 - Roads and Streets • Objective TR O2 - Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets
Progress Commentary	<p>The Council continue to liaise with the NTA, TII, Iarnród Éireann and other stakeholders to support the delivery of transport infrastructure. In addition, the Council continues to progress a number of transport infrastructure projects around Limerick City and County, which have been identified within national and regional strategies. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BusConnects – The review of the bus network in Limerick is complete and the redesign of the bus network has been published. • Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass) – the project has received approval from An Bord Pleanála. • N/ M20 Cork to Limerick road scheme – refinement of the corridor and design development continues. • Active Travel - The ‘Limerick Metropolitan Area Active Travel Pathfinder Project’ creates connectivity and continuity of

Key Enablers for Growth in Limerick	
	<p>active travel infrastructure to the City Centre from the main residential and employment areas in the City and its suburbs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N21 Newcastle West and N21 Abbeyfeale road schemes – the projects continue to progress through the planning and design process. The reduced corridor for both road schemes was published in Q1 2024.

7.4 Sustainable Mobility

Sustainable Mobility	
Policy TR P7 - Sustainable Travel and Transport	<i>It is a policy of the Council to support, facilitate and co-operate with relevant agencies to secure sustainable travel within Limerick and seek to implement the 10 minute city/town concept, promote compact growth and reduce the need for long distance travel, as a means to reduce the impact of climate change.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy TR P4 - Promotion of Sustainable Patterns of Transport Use • Policy TR P5 - Sustainable Mobility and Regional Accessibility • Objective TR O1 - Climate Proofed Transport Infrastructure • Objective TR O3 - Delivery and Servicing Strategy • Objective TR O8 - Walking and Cycling Infrastructure • Objective TR O9 - Limerick Cycle Network • Objective TR O10 - Limerick Regeneration Areas Sustainable Travel Infrastructure
Progress Commentary	<p>Limerick City and County Council acknowledges that reducing dependency on the use of the private car is vital to achieving a quality, sustainable and climate resilient transportation network. The Council therefore established the Smarter Travel section in 2021 with responsibility for the transformation of the cycling and walking networks in the City and County.</p> <p>-Active Travel Schemes: Since the adoption of the Development Plan, the Active Travel team has received allocation of €42m (€21m in 2023 and €21m in 2024) for the design, planning and construction of infrastructure projects by the National Transport Authority (NTA). These projects will improve walking and cycling infrastructure in the County in order to promote sustainable transport and active travel. The funding has enabled expansion and improvement of Limerick’s walking and cycling facilities, with approximately 12.7km of infrastructure completed since the establishment of the dedicated Active Travel unit in 2021. Such completed schemes include Hyde Road Active Travel Scheme, Brookville Avenue Active Travel Scheme and Shannon Bridge</p>

Sustainable Mobility

segregated cycle lanes. Approximately 3.26km of infrastructure is currently under construction including at Mill Road and Plassey Park, while a further 20.9km of facilities are under design, including a link at Baggot Estate from Ballinacurra to Rosbrien.

In addition to active travel schemes, various asset renewal, additional and improved pedestrian crossings, new cycle paths, greenways, as well as new and renewed footpath projects and low cost permeability measures have been undertaken in various locations across the City and settlements.

-Adare/ Rathkeale Municipal District: A range of active travel measures to provide improvements for pedestrians, including footpath construction projects, have been undertaken in Adare, Rathkeale, Askeaton, Cappagh, Croom, Banogue, Ballysteen, Fedamore and Crecora. Pedestrian Crossing projects completed in Adare and Ballingarry.

-Newcastle West Municipal District: New footpaths were constructed in Newcastle West Municipal District at Knockane/ Bother Bui., St. Ita's Road Abbeyfeale, Ardagh, Mounctcollins, Athea, Dromcollogher, Feenagh, Kilmeedy, Tournafulla, Glin and Monagea Village.

-Cappamore/ Kilmallock Municipal District: Footpath projects were undertaken in Galbally, Herbertstown, Bruff, Elton, Caherconlish, Ballylanders and Pallasgreen. Draft option reports have been completed for the public realm in Cappamore and Doon, with the Part 8 process anticipated in 2024.

-Safe Routes to School: During the first two years of the Development Plan, works progressed on the delivery of the Safe Routes to School programme at a number of schools including for example:

School	Status
The Model School	Complete
Gaelscoil Sáirséal Bóthar Shíol Bhroin	Complete
St. Paul's National School, Dooradoyle	Complete
Laurel Hill Coláiste FCJ	Ongoing
Limerick School Project National School	Ongoing
Scoil Íde, Corbally	Ongoing

Sustainable Mobility		
	St. Munchin’s College, Corbally	Ongoing
	Caherconlish National School	Developing plans
	Crescent College Comprehensive S.J., Dooradoyle	Developing plans
	Hazelwood College, Dromcollogher	Developing plans
	Lisnagry National School	Developing plans
	St. Patrick’s Girls National School, Dublin Road	Developing plans
	<p>-Bike Parking: Bike bunkers were installed at Barrow House, the UL Building, Sarsfield Street, and at The Engine building, Cecil Street for employees and students in the adjacent buildings. Across the Metropolitan and Municipal Districts, a total of 199 no. bike stands were installed.</p> <p>-Bike Share Scheme: A pilot dockless bike share scheme has been established in the Metro area, which offers e-bikes and pedal bikes at bike stands throughout the Castletroy area, at Colbert Station, Locke Quay and Merchant’s Quay.</p> <p>-Drive for More Cycling in Limerick – Research Project: Limerick City and County Council’s Active Travel team is engaging researchers from the University of Limerick to conduct detailed analysis into the potential of cycling across the City. The project, entitled ‘The Drive for More Cycling in Limerick’, will involve the completion of a number of projects aimed at understanding perceptions of cycling infrastructure within Limerick specifically. The collaboration with UL follows the beginning of air quality monitoring and the installation of radar traffic counters from the Active Travel team in 2023. The research will take place for a duration of 24 no. months, with findings to be collated thereafter.</p> <p>-Greenway Projects: The Council continues to progress several greenway schemes throughout the County including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rathkeale to Limerick Greenway • Cork to Limerick Greenway • Limerick to Cahir Greenway • UL to Montpelier Greenway • Abbeyfeale Greenway Extension. 	

Sustainable Mobility	
	<p>-Mobility Campaigns: A number of mobility campaigns were held during the first two years of the Development Plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Mobility Week: Annually in September, Limerick City and County Council participates in European Mobility. The week aims to raise awareness about sustainable mobility and inspiring behavioural change towards active and sustainable travel methods, including walking, cycling, carpooling and public transport. • Bike Week: Annually in May, Limerick City and County Council hosts a number of events including a family bike ride from UL to the City Centre and a riverbank and sunset cycling event in the City. <p>-Limerick City Centre Transport Plan: Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with the National Transport Authority and Jacobs Consultants, have commenced the development of a new Limerick City Centre Transport Plan.</p> <p>-BusConnects: The review of the bus network in Limerick is complete and the redesign of the bus network has been published.</p> <p>-Car Clubs: Limerick City and County Council has prepared car club bye-laws to support the set-up and operation of a public car club scheme.</p>
Objective TR O5 - Limerick – Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy	<i>It is an objective of the Council to facilitate the implementation and delivery of the proposals that will be contained in the final Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy, in conjunction with the National Transport Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Clare County Council and other relevant stakeholders. This partnership will achieve successful integration between land use and transport planning and targeted growth along high quality public transport corridors and sustainable higher densities.</i>
Progress Commentary	In 2022, Limerick City and County Council in conjunction with Clare County Council and the National Transport Authority published the Limerick – Shannon Metropolitan Transport Strategy (LSMATS), which provides a strategy for the delivery of key infrastructure and sustainable transport within the Metropolitan Area. A comprehensive transport system is required to further the development of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area as a hub of cultural and social development, regeneration and an economic core for the Mid-West.

Sustainable Mobility	
	Limerick City and County Council continues to work with the National Transport Authority on the implementation and delivery of the LSMATS.
Policy TR P8 - Local Transport Plans	<i>It is a policy of the Council to prepare a Local Transport Plan (LTP), Mobility and Public Realm Plan for the Key Town of Newcastle West, in consultation with the National Transport Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and other relevant stakeholders, as part of the Local Area Plan process and for other settlements as deemed necessary.</i>
Progress Commentary	A Local Transport Plan has been prepared for Newcastle West as part of the Local Area Plan review process. This new Local Area Plan came into effect in January 2024. The Local Transport Plan provides a long-term strategic integrated transport plan for the town and addresses sustainable mobility and place-making as a key element for the sustainable and compact growth of Newcastle West. The Local Transport Plan was undertaken in consultation with the National Transport Authority and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
Objective TR O6 - Delivering Modal Split	<i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i> <i>a. Promote a modal shift away from the private car towards more sustainable modes of transport including walking, cycling, carpool and public transport in conjunction with the relevant transport authorities;</i> <i>b. Support investment in sustainable transport infrastructure that will make walking, cycling, carpool and public transport more attractive, appealing and accessible for all.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective TR O7 - Behavioural Change Measures • Objective TR O4 - Universal Design • Objective TR O18 - Park and Ride Facilities • Objective TR O19 - Park and Stride Facilities • Objective TR O20 - Car Clubs/Car Sharing • Objective TR O22 - Micro-Mobility
Progress Commentary	Further to the work being undertaken by the Active Travel section as outlined under Policy TR P7 - Sustainable Travel and Transport above, the Development Plan aims to promote a modal shift away from the private car towards more sustainable modes of transport. In this regard, the Development Plan sets out modal share targets for commuting to work and education to 2028. This includes walking, cycling and public transport share targets for the LSMATS study area and Limerick City and Suburbs (in Limerick), Mungret and Annacotty. Targets are also provided for Newcastle West and the

Sustainable Mobility

remainder of the County. Modal share targets have also been transposed into the recently adopted Local Area Plans.

The policies and objectives of Chapter 7 Sustainable Mobility support the 'Avoid – Shift – Improve' approach to transport planning, creating a focus on the integration of land use and transportation. This includes the promotion of a 10-minute town/ neighbourhood concept and facilitating the transition to a low carbon society, through implementation of both infrastructure and behavioural change measures.

In order to monitor progress made towards modal split targets, 19 no. radar monitor counters have been placed in dispersed locations throughout the City. These counters will allow for the comparison of cars, cycle and pedestrian levels before and after the delivery of active travel projects. See also comments under Policy TR P7 - Sustainable Travel and Transport further above.

-Modal Shift: The table below shows 2016 and 2022 Census data for mode of travel for persons aged 5 years and over, usually resident by means of travel to work, school, college or childcare (total and % of total):

Mode of Travel	2016	% of Total	2022	% of Total
On Foot	17,537	14.4%	17,663	12.3%
Bicycle	1,888	1.5%	2,167	1.5%
Bus, minibus or coach	8,611	7.0%	9,780	6.8%
Train, DART or LUAS	221	0.2%	289	0.2%
Motorcycle or Scooter	234	0.2%	265	0.2%
Car Driver	52,228	42.8%	53,595	37.2%
Car Passenger	26,130	21.4%	29,893	20.8%
Van	5,053	4.1%	5,636	3.9%
Other (incl. lorry)	524	0.4%	582	0.4%
Work mainly at or from home	3,912	3.2%	9,460	6.6%
Not stated	5,826	4.8%	14,690	10.2%
Total	122,164	100.0%	144,020	100.0%

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The Census data indicates that in terms of population there has been an increase in the use of all modes of transport. It is anticipated that further to the substantial investment in active travel infrastructure being undertaken by the Council, that the next Census in 2027 will demonstrate substantial changes in modal shift towards the use of more sustainable modes of transport.

-Bike Week: The annual Bike Week promotes cycling as a sustainable mode of transport and a fun leisure activity through a schedule of events. The week includes family cycles on the Limerick Greenway, Bike Clinics, and a parade around the Three Bridges loop followed by entertainment in Arthur's Quay Park. Bike Week also provides funding to support events by community groups, schools and workplaces. In 2023, 31 no. applications for funding were received.

-European Mobility Week: European Mobility Week takes place in September annually aimed at promoting sustainable and active modes of transport. During this campaign, the Council raised awareness about sustainable mobility and inspiring behavioural change towards active and sustainable travel methods, including walking, cycling, carpooling and public transport.

-Dockless Bicycle Scheme: Limerick City and County Council launched a pilot dockless shared bicycle scheme in Castletroy in April 2023. The scheme offers electric bicycles as well as push bicycles, which can be parked in marked bays, or at selected existing bike stands throughout the Castletroy area, Colbert Bus and Rail Station and Locke Quay in the City.

-BusConnects: The review of the bus network in Limerick has been completed and the redesign of the bus network has been published.

-Park and Rides: The Council are working with the NTA to progress Park and Ride (P&R) sites around Limerick City. Land has been purchased close to Annacotty to facilitate a P&R off the M7. Other suitable lands have also been identified in Raheen and at Coonagh, work continues to progress all sites.

-Car Clubs: Limerick City and County Council has prepared car club bye-laws to support the set-up and operation of a public car club scheme.

-Bike Share Scheme: A pilot dockless bike share scheme has been established in the Metro area, which offers e-bikes and pedal bikes

Sustainable Mobility	
	<p>throughout the Castletroy area, at Colbert Station, Locke Quay and Merchant's Quay.</p> <p>-Appointment of a Behavioural Scientist: Limerick City and County Council's Active Travel team has appointed a new Behavioural Scientist. The Behavioural Scientist is tasked with conducting assessments with various stakeholders in Limerick and helping to deliver effective measures to promote the usage of both the new and existing Active Travel network across both the City and County.</p>
Objective TR O11 - Enhanced Public Transport	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support and encourage public transport providers to enhance the provision of public transportation and frequency of services in Limerick, including the provision of enhanced accessibility from the City Centre to Shannon Airport.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective TR O14 - Management of Coaches • Objective TR O15 - Transport Interchange • Objective TR O50 - Taxi/Hackney Transport
Progress Commentary	<p>The Council continues to engage with public transport providers, private bus operators and coach operators to promote, support and facilitate enhanced public transport in Limerick.</p> <p>Through the development of the Bus Connects programme and the Park and Ride sites, the Council are working to facilitate opportunities for transport interchanges.</p> <p>During May 2024, the National Transport Authority undertook public consultation on planned enhancements for bus services in Limerick and Clare. The plans outline improvements to public transport between Limerick, Shannon and Ennis, including a 24-hour service to Shannon Airport.</p>
Objective TR O12 - Limerick Bus Connects Programme	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to support the implementation of the Limerick BusConnects programme including the following:</i></p> <p><i>a. An improved Metropolitan Bus Service Network which will deliver a step change in the quality of bus service across the City and suburbs.</i></p> <p><i>b. A programme of Core Bus Corridors, which seeks to provide end-to-end full bus priority on key bus routes via measures such as new bus lanes, bus gates and bus priority signals, in order to ensure that bus services are no longer subject to traffic congestion impacts in Limerick. The following corridors are a priority:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>from the M7/Dublin Road junction to the City Centre;</i> • <i>from Mungret, Raheen and Dooradoyle to the City Centre;</i>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>on the Ennis Road to the City Centre;</i> • <i>on the Ballysimon Road from the proposed Park and Ride site to the City Centre and on Childers Road between Parkway Roundabout and Ballinacurra Road</i> <p><i>c. To provide for further bus priority measures on radial routes into the City Centre, as identified by the NTA and Limerick City and County Council as part of BusConnects Limerick;</i></p> <p><i>d. To provide for bus priority measures through the development site to the rear of Colbert Station, as part of an emerging masterplan to be agreed between the NTA, Limerick City and County Council, the landowner and other stakeholders;</i></p> <p><i>e. To provide for bus priority through Limerick City Centre linking the Dublin Road Bus Corridor to the Raheen/ Dooradoyle corridor, with a preference for O'Connell Street as the most direct route into the centre, delivering passengers as close as possible to their destinations;</i></p> <p><i>f. To increase the capacity of Sarsfield Bridge by reallocating the carriageway to the movement of buses, cyclists, pedestrians and taxis;</i></p> <p><i>g. To carry out any minor works required to facilitate additional and altered service patterns arising out of a review of the service network under BusConnects Limerick.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective TR O13 - Core Bus Corridors
Progress Commentary	<p>In collaboration with Limerick City and County Council, Clare County Council and Bus Éireann, the NTA carried out an extensive review of the bus network in Limerick in 2022 and following an extensive public consultation process, published a final new bus network for Limerick in December 2023. The new network will be delivered on a phased basis from 2025.</p> <p>Key benefits of the BusConnects programme will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 70% increase in bus services in Limerick City and suburbs • Extension of bus services to new areas with more routes and frequent services • A new 24-hour bus service operating between University Hospital Limerick, the City Centre and the University of Limerick • Provision of bus services to previously unserved areas such as Ennis Road, Dock Road, University of Limerick north campus and Ardnacrusha • Simpler fares.

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	The new bus network will enable more people to avail of public transport resulting in increased access to a greater number of schools and workplaces across Limerick City. Overall, 61% of residents will live within 400 metres of a high frequency bus route running every 15 minutes or less.
Objective TR O16 - Rail Network	<i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i> <i>a. Explore a pathway to rail-based development in the review of the RSES and MASP, in conjunction with the National Transport Authority and the Southern and Western Regional Assemblies;</i> <i>b. Support and facilitate new and upgrading of existing rail networks, railway stations and services across Limerick as identified in LSMATS and protect, as required, lands necessary for the upgrading of existing railway lines or stations, which would improve journey times and enable an increase in the frequency of services and connections.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>The Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) proposes to maximise the opportunities offered by the existing rail network to enhance regional and suburban connectivity to and from Limerick. LSMATS includes objectives to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate improvement in InterCity services and journey times between Dublin, Limerick Junction, Waterford and Cork in accordance with the All-Island Strategic Rail Review and rail proposals which emerge from strategic infrastructure projects. • Provide a dual-track between Limerick Colbert and Limerick Junction to facilitate improved national and regional connectivity and improve service frequency in line with increased demand. <p>Having regard to targeted population and employment growth, objectives for compact growth and higher densities, and LSMATS, it is the intention of the NTA, in conjunction with Irish Rail, the Southern Regional Assembly, Limerick City and County Council and Clare County Council to provide investment in the Phase 1 Rail Network for the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area. The investment includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new rail station at Moyross as demand for travel increases in line with regeneration of this area. • A new rail station at Ballysimon, including Park and Ride. • Review the potential for additional stations on an on-going basis.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the frequency of services on the Ennis Rail Line to provide for an efficient and effective commuter rail service in the long term. • Improve the frequency of services on the Limerick-Nenagh-Ballybrophy line as demand for travel increases. <p>As part of a Phase 2 Rail Network for the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area, the feasibility of a full commuter rail network for the study area will be examined, including the re-use of the Foynes line and the provision of new stations at appropriate locations.</p> <p>A Strategic Transport Objective of LSMATS aims to identify and protect key strategic routes for the movement of freight traffic and improve access to Shannon-Foynes Port and Shannon Airport. As part of this transport strategy, actions include the reinstatement of the Limerick to Foynes line to provide a freight only service, adopting a cost effective design approach (See Objective TR O17 – Limerick to Foynes Line below). Further consideration regarding the linking of the Tier 1 Ports of Cork and Foynes and the Tier 2 Port of Rosslare by rail is also recommended over the lifetime of the Strategy, in addition to the assessment of a rail freight facility at Limerick junction.</p>
Objective TR O17 – Limerick to Foynes Line	<i>It is an objective of the Council to retain the Limerick to Foynes rail line and avoid encroachment of inappropriate development, which may compromise the line’s potential future use.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>The Limerick to Foynes railway line covers a distance of 42km. Since the adoption of the Development Plan, advances have been made in the first phase of the project to reopen the Foynes to Limerick railway line for freight transport. Excavation and earthworks for the new track bed and ballast are underway, accompanied by the installation of ducting and drainage pipes along the route. Track laying, a critical phase of the project, began in May 2024.</p> <p>Phase 2 of the project will see the implementation of a modern signalling system for the railway route, CCTV-equipped level crossings, an advanced train communications system, necessary track connections and upgrades at Limerick and Foynes Port. Subject to funding allocations for phase 2, it is anticipated that this work will take approximately 18 no. months to complete. It is anticipated that the route will be ready for operation in December 2025, with freight services commencing in early 2026.</p>

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	<p>Iarnród Éireann has indicated that the significant upgrade of the line will facilitate rail freight services, but will not preclude the possibility of passenger services being reintroduced in the future, subject to further infrastructure upgrades and funding.</p>
Objective TR O21 - Electric and Compressed Natural Gas Vehicles	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Encourage the switch to Electric Vehicles and e-bikes through the roll-out of additional electric charging points at appropriate locations, throughout Limerick, in association with relevant agencies and stakeholders;</i></p> <p><i>b. Facilitate the provision of electricity charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, both on street and in new developments, in accordance with the Development Management Standards set out in Chapter 11;</i></p> <p><i>c. Encourage the switch to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles through the roll-out of additional CNG points at appropriate locations, throughout Limerick, in association with relevant agencies and stakeholders.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>During the first two years of the Development Plan, Limerick City and County Council has undertaken the following:</p> <p>-Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy: Limerick City and County Council has prepared a Draft EV Charging Strategy ‘Paving the Way for a Sustainable Future’. The strategy takes a proactive approach in assessing the expected power requirements on the network and determining the necessary number of charge points needed to support the growing number of electric vehicles across Limerick. In tandem, the Transport Strategy team have progressed the development and delivery of a pilot EV charging project.</p> <p>-Pilot Charging Project: The Council are progressing a pilot charging project with a focus on delivering residential and destination charging solutions at a number of locations around the City and County. There are 14 no. pilot locations identified, 8 no. of which are located in the Metropolitan Area. The project will begin operation in 2024.</p>
Objective TR O23 - Mobility Management	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to require the submission of Mobility Management Plans, subject to the guidance provided in the Toolkit for School Travel, Safe Routes to School Programme, Workplace Travel Plans – A Guide for Implementers and Achieving Effective Workplace Travel Plans – Guidance for Local Authorities, for any development that the Council consider will have significant trip generation and attraction rates, at peak</i></p>

Sustainable Mobility	
	<i>hours or throughout the day and where existing or proposed public transport may be utilised.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective TR O24 - Area Wide Mobility Management Planning/ Networks • Objective TR O48 - Traffic Management • Objective TR O45 - Industrial and Enterprise and Employment lands adjacent to Junction 2, Dock Road
Progress Commentary	<p>As appropriate, the Development Management section of the Planning Authority, will require the submission of Mobility Management Plans for planning applications, in consultation with the Transportation and Mobility Directorate.</p> <p>Limerick City and County Council's Transportation and Mobility Directorate have regular meetings with the IDA and larger employers to discuss their mobility management and to provide updates on projects and initiatives. The Council also engages with and provides advice at pre-planning stage and at planning compliance stage following implementation of planning permission.</p> <p>The Council is continuously collaborating with recently established schools, such as Educate Together in Towlerton and prominent employers including Northern Trust. The aim of the mobility management project is to guarantee the effective execution of mobility and travel management plans, facilitated by travel coordinators, to attain realistic targets.</p>

7.5 Rural Transport

Rural Transport	
<i>Policy TR P9 - Sustainable Transport in Rural Areas</i>	<i>It is a policy of the Council to support the objectives contained in Our Rural Future: Government's Blueprint to Transport Rural Ireland, including investment in public transport and high-quality walking and cycling infrastructure specifically targeted at towns and villages.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>The Council continues to support the delivery and implementation of the objectives of Our Rural Future: Government's Blueprint to Transport Rural Ireland. The Council continues to engage with public transport providers, private bus operators and coach operators to promote, support and facilitate enhanced public transportation in Limerick.</p> <p>Through the Active Travel unit, significant investment has been made in delivering walking and cycling infrastructure in towns and</p>

	<p>villages across Limerick. In addition, bus shelters have and continue to be delivered across towns, villages and rural areas throughout Limerick.</p> <p>The Draft Limerick EV Charging Strategy has identified the requirements for EV charging facilities in rural towns and villages around Limerick.</p>
Policy TR P10 - Rural Transport	<i>It is a policy of the Council to continue to support the 'Local Link' rural transport service and to encourage operators to improve the service to meet the social and economic needs of the rural communities in Limerick.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>Limerick City and County Council continues to support the Local Link rural transport service and engage with public transport providers, private bus operators and coach operators to promote, support and facilitate enhanced public transportation and improved services in Limerick.</p> <p>In October 2023, enhanced Local Link services were delivered from Newcastle West to Charleville, Co. Cork (Route 521). The improved service includes the addition of an early morning service and higher frequency Thursday to Sunday services.</p> <p>During May 2024, the National Transport Authority undertook public consultation on planned enhancements for bus services in Limerick and Clare, including a new Local Link route (Route 317) between the Jetland Shopping Centre and Ennis.</p>

7.6 Strategic Connections

Strategic Connections	
Objective TR O25 - Inter- city, Regional, Commuter Services	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support and facilitate the on-going review and enhancements to the inter-city, regional and commuter services in conjunction with the National Transport Authority.</i>
Progress Commentary	Limerick City and County Council is actively engaging with commuter service providers to identify opportunities for improvements, and to facilitate expansion of the public transport network across the City and County.
Objective TR O26 - Bus Transport Infrastructure	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the development of bus shelters and bus stops to incorporate universal access and bicycle parking facilities where possible.</i>

Strategic Connections	
Progress Commentary	<p>Both public and private operators provide bus services in Limerick City and County. These services include express coaches to Dublin, regional services between towns and the Local Link service in the rural area. The Council continues to work in conjunction with the various public transport providers to improve bus services, bus stops and shelters and associated facilities to make bus services a more attractive and accessible mode of transport.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, a total of 22 no. bus shelters have been installed throughout County Limerick to promote the use of public transport in rural towns and reduce the modal share of the private car. Bus shelters have been rolled out in locations including Hospital, Bruff, Rathkeale, Askeaton, Croagh and Mungret. The Active Travel department have been allocated €900,000 for Bus Shelter Enabling Works. This funding will be used towards the provision of new bus shelters across the County.</p>
Objective TR O27 - Shannon Airport	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the continued operation and growth of Shannon International Airport and measures to enhance public transport connections to the Airport from the City Centre.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>The Mid-West National Road Design Office has continued to assist Clare County Council with the planning and design for the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Improvement Scheme. The scheme relates to a 2.2km stretch of road between Drumgeely roundabout and Knockbeagh Point roundabout on the approach to Shannon International Airport. The Preferred Option for the road and active travel components was published in March 2023. The design and environmental evaluation stage of the scheme continued throughout 2023. This phase includes design of the road and active travel components, identifying the land take required, junction design and the preparation of the environmental impact assessment report.</p> <p>During May 2024, the National Transport Authority undertook public consultation on planned enhancements for bus services in Limerick and Clare. The plans outlined improvements to public transport between Limerick, Shannon and Ennis, including a 24-hour service to Shannon Airport.</p>
Objective TR O28 - Docks and Ports	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the continued development of Shannon Foynes Port as an EU Core Network Port (TEN-T) and Limerick Docks as marine related assets, in accordance with the 2013 National Ports Policy.</i>

Strategic Connections	
Progress Commentary	<p>Limerick City and County Council is continuing to support and progress improvements to the road and rail network to and from Foynes Port.</p> <p>In May 2024, An Bord Pleanála approved the Compulsory Acquisition of Land for the Dock Road Improvement Scheme – Upgrade of Atlas Avenue and Courtbrack Avenue Junctions. This project will improve accessibility to Limerick Docks.</p>

7.7 Strategic Roads Infrastructure

Strategic Roads Infrastructure	
Objective TR O29 - N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the delivery of the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project, which will connect Cork and Limerick, in accordance with all environmental and planning assessments.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with Cork County Council, Cork City Council, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the Department of Transport are developing the N/ M20 Cork to Limerick Project. The N/ M20 Cork to Limerick project was at Design and Environmental Assessment stage in 2022/ 2023. This has included developing the alignment of the N/ M20 dual carriageway within the published 500m wide preferred option, undertaking ecological surveys, geotechnical investigations, archaeological geophysical surveys, traffic surveys, along with ongoing consultation with the key stakeholders, including property owners, businesses and community groups along the study area.</p> <p>A project update was published in November 2023. This update included the identification of the reduced road corridor, expanded active travel infrastructure, transport hubs, freight hub, enhanced public transport integration and environmental integration for the N/ M20 Cork to Limerick road.</p> <p>A further project update was published in June 2024. A motorway road type has been selected following detailed consideration of all alternatives. The design continues to develop for up to 100km of safe, shared active travel infrastructure. The location of 6 no. Transport Hubs has been identified, including Bruree and Croom in Limerick. Recommendations have been made for multi-point, barrier free tolling on the new motorway, which will base road toll charges on distance travelled. This recommendation will encourage greater use of sustainable travel options, such as active travel, park and ride (public transport), and park and share which</p>

Strategic Roads Infrastructure	
	<p>are embedded in the design. These measures will help support the Government’s Climate Action Plan in reducing transport emissions.</p> <p>Further project updates will be published in 2024 (design and fence line), and following this, government approval to submit the planning application to An Bord Pleanála.</p>
Objective <i>TR O30 - Foynes to Limerick (including Adare Bypass) Road</i>	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the delivery of the Foynes to Limerick (including Adare Bypass) Road, in accordance with all environmental and planning assessment.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>In 2022, An Bord Pleanála approved the Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare By-Pass) which comprises the Foynes to Rathkeale Protected Road Scheme 2019, the Rathkeale to Attyflin Motorway Scheme 2019 and the Foynes Service Area Scheme 2019. The road consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15.6km of dual carriageway from Foynes to Rathkeale, with 1.9km of single carriageway road between Ballyclogh and Askeaton • 17.5km of motorway from Rathkeale to Attyflin (N21/N20/M20 junction), including a by-pass to the north of Adare Village • A service area for heavy goods vehicles near Foynes. <p>The proposed road is 35km in length and when completed will connect the core port of Foynes to the motorway network near Limerick City. The project will cost in the region of €450m. The by-pass of Adare will remove 70%- 80% of the c. 17,000 vehicles per day passing through Adare village, eliminating regular traffic congestion in the village. The Council will continue to actively work with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and all relevant stakeholders to progress the scheme.</p> <p>The process of formally taking possession of the lands required for the Scheme commenced in November 2023. A number of enabling works contracts commenced in October 2023. In November 2023, the Government gave cabinet approval to fast track the delivery of the Adare Bypass element of the overall project as an enabling work. It is intended that a contractor will be appointed by the end of 2024, or early 2025. This accelerated programme is part of an effort to have the Adare Bypass in place prior to the Ryder Cup in September 2027.</p>

Strategic Roads Infrastructure	
	Other enabling works contracts will continue to be implemented, as will the design and preparation of contract documentation for the construction of the remainder of the project, with a view to having the entire project completed by the end of 2030 in accordance with the European TEN-T objective.
Objective <i>TR O31 - N21 Newcastle West and N21 Abbeyfeale Road Schemes</i>	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the delivery of N21 Newcastle West and N21 Abbeyfeale Road Schemes, subject to all environmental and planning assessment.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>Limerick City and County Council in consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) continued to progress planning of the N21 Abbeyfeale Road Scheme and the N21 Newcastle West Road Scheme to relieve congestion on the N21 Limerick to Tralee Road. These are key projects to enhance regional connectivity within the southwest region and alleviate congestion.</p> <p>-Newcastle West: The Design and Environmental Evaluation stage of the scheme (Phase 3) commenced in early 2022. This involved further development of the scheme, including design of the road, identifying the land take required, junction design, landowner and stakeholder engagement and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment. In order to inform the design process, the project team continued to undertake a range of engineering and environmental site surveys.</p> <p>During 2023, the initial route selection and public consultation has been completed. The route option is currently being finalised with a planning application planned to be lodged to An Bord Pleanála in 2024.</p> <p>The project is progressing through Design and Environmental Evaluation. The Reduced Corridor for the N21 Newcastle West Road Scheme was published on the project website in February 2024.</p> <p>-Abbeyfeale: The project is at Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation. This involves further development of the scheme, including design of the road, identifying the land take required, junction design and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment.</p>

Strategic Roads Infrastructure	
	The project is progressing through Design and Environmental Evaluation. The Reduced Corridor for the N21 Abbeyfeale Road Scheme was published on the project website in February 2024.
Objective <i>TR O32 - N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction</i>	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the delivery of N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction Road Scheme, subject to all environmental and planning assessment.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>The Mid-West National Road Design Office continues to assist Tipperary County Council with the progression of the planning and design for the N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction Project. The project relates to the N24 between the M8 motorway north of Cahir, Tipperary to the west of Brooks Bridge, Limerick.</p> <p>The preferred transport solution comprising a reduced 100m corridor for the road was on public display in January 2023. The design and environmental evaluation stage of the scheme (Phase 3) continued throughout 2023. This involves further development of the scheme, including design of the active travel, demand management and road component, identifying the land take required and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment. The project team continues to undertake a range of engineering and environmental site surveys in addition to stakeholder and landowner engagement to inform the design process.</p>
Objective <i>TR O33 - Motorway Network Arterial Roads</i>	<i>It is an objective of the Council to upgrade arterial roads from the motorway network to increase capacity, where deemed necessary.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>The R445 Dublin Road/ Cappamore Road Junction improvement scheme has progressed to tender stage. The project will provide for a junction, which will enhance the pedestrian and cycling environment on the Dublin Road and maintain traffic capacity, whilst improving traffic flows. The project aims to address traffic congestion on the Dublin Road/ Cappamore Road Junction by improving traffic flows by means of traffic management and Intelligent Transportation Systems proposals.</p> <p>The Council are working with the NTA to progress Park and Ride sites around Limerick City. Land has been purchased close to Annacotty to facilitate a P&R off the M7. Other suitable lands have also been identified in Raheen and at Coonagh. Work continues to progress on all sites.</p>

Strategic Roads Infrastructure	
Objective TR O34 - O'Connell Street Improvement Works	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the delivery of the O'Connell Street Improvement Works in the provision of a more efficient traffic management system, as well as facilitating future transport mode needs in accordance with requirements of LSMATS.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>The Limerick Urban Centre Revitalisation O'Connell Street (LUCROC) project is being co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF), the National Transport Authority and Limerick City and County Council.</p> <p>Limerick City and County Council undertook a comprehensive transformation of O'Connell Street and Thomas Street in Limerick City under the O'Connell Street Revitalisation project. Completed in 2023, the primary objective of this project was to rejuvenate the City's main street. This was achieved by expanding pedestrian amenities and establishing dedicated cycling lanes, as well as improving public transport connections. The overall aim was to create a more vibrant and welcoming urban environment for both residents and visitors.</p> <p>This collaborative effort has significantly improved the urban environment in Limerick City, through reducing traffic volumes, increasing cyclist and bus accessibility, providing wider and improved footpaths, reducing urban clutter, increasing landscaping and urban trees and is generally contributing to a more pleasant environment.</p>
Objective TR O35 – Connecting Limerick's Southside	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to explore improved accessibility to Limerick Southside, including the possible provision of a motorway interchange connection from the M20/M7 to Limerick Southside, subject to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- The requirement for a Motorway Order;</i> <i>- Demonstration of consistency with the criteria in Section 2.7 of the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012), including that additional traffic loading can be satisfactorily accommodated at the junction and on the national road network;</i> <i>- The special requirements of the tolling scheme (N18 and Limerick Tunnel Scheme) and the financial implications for the Exchequer of new road schemes in that context shall be evaluated;</i> <i>- An assessment of environmental impacts.</i>

Strategic Roads Infrastructure	
Progress Commentary	The Regeneration team are considering the viability of developing a motorway interchange connection from the M20/ M7 to Limerick Southside.
<i>Objective TR O36 - Limerick Northern Distributor Road</i>	<i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i> <i>a. Support the development of the Limerick Northern Distributor Road, which will connect the Coonagh to Knockalisheen Road Scheme to the existing R445 (old N7) and adjoining road network to the east of Limerick City, which will incorporate Smarter Travel measures, in accordance with all environmental and planning assessments.</i> <i>b. Ensure the LNDR will be subject to the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines and its implementation will not support any significant development along the route, subject to any strategic and/or national considerations.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>Limerick City and County Council continue to ensure that the identified Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR) route corridor in County Limerick is preserved from development.</p> <p>Construction work ceased on the Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road in March 2022, due to the main contractor going into receivership. Progress continued on the project with the completion of the Cratloe Road Emergency works contract and the fencing contract in 2022. The Ballygrennan Bridge Contract and the Trunk Watermain Contract were completed in 2023.</p> <p>Following Department of Transport approval to proceed to tender for the Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road, the Council procured and appointed a contractor to complete the Main Works Contract for this Scheme. Phase one will include the completion of the mainline dual carriageway from Coonagh Cross to Knockalisheen Road, including works on the Old Cratloe Road and the new Moyross Link Road. It is expected that works will commence on site in Q3 2024.</p> <p>Phase two will complete the full road reconstruction of Knockalisheen Road to Watch House Cross, including the reconstruction of Ballynanty Railway Bridge, which is expected to take 12 months.</p>

7.8 Protection of Road Hierarchy

Protection of Road Hierarchy	
Policy TR P11 - Road Safety and Carrying Capacity of the Road Network	<i>It is a policy of the Council to safeguard the carrying capacity and safety of the non-national road network throughout Limerick.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective TR O37 – Land Uses and Access Standards, • Objective TR O39 - National Roads, • Policy TR P12 - Safeguard the Capacity of National Roads, • Objective TR O40 - National Road Network Drainage Regimes, Objective TR O41 – Strategic Regional Roads
Progress Commentary	<p>Limerick is located at a strategic location on the national and regional road network, with a number of national and strategic regional routes traversing through the County. These roads provide an essential connection between urban settlements and the wider region.</p> <p>Limerick City and County Council acknowledges the importance of maintaining the safety, capacity, efficiency and functionality of the national and regional road networks. Through the Development Management function, the Planning Authority will continue to protect the functionality of the national and regional road networks and will continue to manage proposed development that may adversely affect these roads. In this regard, it is necessary to restrict the number of new accesses and the intensification of use of existing accesses.</p> <p>Transport Infrastructure Ireland are consultees on planning applications where access is proposed via a national road.</p>
Objective TR O38 - Improvements to Regional and Local Roads	<i>It is an objective of the Council to provide for and carry out sustainable improvements to sections of regional roads and local roads, that are deficient in respect of alignment, structural condition, or capacity, where resources permit and to maintain that standard thereafter.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective TR O43 - Upgrade works/ New Road Schemes • Objective TR O44 – Link Roads
Progress Commentary	<p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, Limerick City and County Council has progressed a number of road improvement schemes in all municipal districts. Some of the key road improvement schemes carried out include:</p>

Protection of Road Hierarchy	
Scheme	Status
N24 Beary's Cross Road Improvement Scheme	Complete 2023
N21 Ward's Cross Road Safety Scheme	Complete 2022
N20 O'Rourke's Cross Road Improvement Scheme	CPO with An Bord Pleanála
N69 Mungret and Boland's Cross Road Safety Improvement Scheme	Part 8 approved, detailed design ongoing
Bloodmill Road Extension Scheme	Approved by An Bord Pleanála in 2024
Croom Distributor Road	Landscaping contract awarded

7.9 Traffic Management

Traffic Management	
Objective TR O46 - Limerick City Centre Traffic Management Plan	<i>It is an objective of the Council to facilitate the completion and implementation of the Limerick City Centre Traffic Management Plan, for the rebalancing of the City's street network towards sustainable modes of transport and management of all transportation modes, in compliance with the principles of LSMATS. This will include a review of the traffic system and the quantum, location and layout of on-street parking, with the aim of providing for safe and convenient movement by walking and cycling.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective TR O47 - HGV Restrictions
Progress Commentary	Limerick City and County Council in conjunction with NTA and Jacobs consultants has commenced preparation of the Limerick City Centre Transport Plan. A survey issued in June 2024, invited submissions on travel patterns in the City Centre and views on potential changes to the transport network. Such changes may include the rebalancing of road space, introduction of bus priority, improved pedestrian facilities and a safer cycling environment.
Objective TR O49 - Car and Cycle Parking	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the provision of parking and cycle standards in accordance with Section 11.8.3, Table DM 9(a) and 9(b) of Chapter 11: Development Management Standards.</i>

Traffic Management	
Progress Commentary	Through the Development Management function, the Planning Authority will require car and cycle parking provision in accordance with the Development Management standards and the Specific Planning Policy Requirements of the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements, Guidelines for Planning Authorities as appropriate.

7.10 Roadside Signage

Roadside Signage	
Objective TR O51 - Roadside Signage	<i>It is an objective of the Council to regulate, control and improve signage throughout Limerick and avoid a proliferation of roadside signage, in accordance with the Spatial Planning and National Roads – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoECLG, 2012) and the National Roads Authority’s policy statement on the Provision of Tourist and Leisure Signage on National Roads (March 2011) and any updated versions of these documents.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective TR O52 - Directional Signage
Progress Commentary	Through the Development Management function, the Planning Authority will continue to regulate and control the proliferation of roadside signage.

7.11 Noise Sensitive Development

Noise Sensitive Development	
Objective TR O53 - Noise and Transportation	<i>It is an objective of the Council to identify appropriate mitigation measures to reduce noise levels from traffic where they are potentially harmful, in accordance with Limerick’s Noise Action Plan.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective TR O54 - Noise Sensitive Development
Progress Commentary	<p>The Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 primarily considers the long-term environmental noise impact from road traffic noise sources and sets out an approach to review noise impact levels near to the major sources assessed during strategic noise mapping. The Plan emphasises identifying potential solutions in areas where noise is currently deemed excessive. This entailed developing in house noise monitoring and modelling capabilities.</p> <p>A new Noise Action Plan has been prepared. Public consultation was held during April and May 2024 on the Draft Agglomeration of</p>

Noise Sensitive Development

Limerick Noise Action Plan 2024-2028. This draft is a four-year strategic plan with the main purpose to inform and consult the public about the health effects of noise exposure from road, rail and major industry sources and the measures that may be considered to address this issue in the Agglomeration of Limerick.

Cost benefit assessments have been prepared for noise hotspots to assess the benefit to health by the implementation of intervention measures along major roads, versus the cost of implementing them. In 2022, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) upgraded the road surface along the M7 between Junctions 28 and 30 to a low noise road surface. The Council has continued to highlight at the National Local Authorities Noise Steering Group and to the Department of Environment, the need for further measures to be implemented on national roads in Limerick based on cost benefit assessments, such as at the Ballycummin and Patrickswell Noise Hotspots.

The Council will continue to work with community interests and citizen scientists to identify potential quiet areas using the Hush City smart phone app.

In certain instances, proposed developments are assessed for noise impacts through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority.

See also Policy EH P7 – Environmental Noise under Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure.

7.12 Conclusion

In conclusion, it is considered that implementation of the sustainable mobility policies and objectives has been successful over the first two years of the Development Plan. The Council has made significant progress in the implementation of objectives relating to active travel and transport infrastructure.

The Development Plan recognises one of the key challenges for the transition to a low carbon economy is to reallocate resources from carbon-intensive to climate-neutral developments and infrastructure. The integration of land use and transportation is a fundamental principle, which supports the rebalancing of the transport system towards more sustainable modes, in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change and to alleviate traffic congestion.

The Council will continue to support the modal shift from private car usage towards more sustainable and active means of transport to facilitate and support the development of active

travel infrastructure. The successful provision of active travel projects will continue over the lifetime of the Plan. Such projects provide benefits not only for sustainable travel, but provide amenities and health benefits to local communities.

The Council acknowledges that investment in bus and rail transport is essential for successful integration of land use and transportation and create a more sustainable transport network. In this regard, the Council will continue to progress projects and work with key stakeholders to support delivery of transport measures identified in the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Plan. In particular, the expansion and enhancement of public transport services with provision of higher frequency services will offer a realistic alternative to use of private cars.

Further to the above, the Local Authority acknowledges that road infrastructure is essential for the movement of goods, services and people across Limerick and the wider region. The Council will continue to progress maintenance and improvement of regional and local roads and construction of new roads where necessary.

Sustainable Mobility Two Year Progress Report

€42m

Allocated for walking and cycling infrastructure



NTA, Project Ireland 2040, Jacobs, SVSTRA

Limerick | Shannon
METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2040



Active Travel Infrastructure

12.7km Completed

3.26km Under construction

20.9km Under design

A Draft New Bus Network designed for Limerick's future. We want to hear from you.



Bike Share Schemes



Mode of Travel	2022	% of Total
On Foot	17,663	12.3%
Bicycle	2,167	1.5%
Bus, minibus or coach	9,780	6.8%
Train, DART or LUAS	289	0.2%
Motorcycle or Scooter	265	0.2%
Car Driver	53,595	37.2%
Car Passenger	29,893	20.8%
Van	5,636	3.9%
Other (incl. lorry)	582	0.4%
Work mainly at or from home	9,460	6.6%
Not stated	14,690	10.2%
Total	144,020	100.0%

8

Infrastructure



8.0 Chapter 8: Infrastructure

Chapter 8: Infrastructure seeks to advance the Strategic Vision of the Development Plan established in Chapter 1: Introduction, Vision and Strategic Overview as informed by the NPF and RSES, through the provision of the necessary supporting infrastructure. The Development Plan recognises that Limerick’s infrastructure must keep pace with modern demands. The provision of high-quality infrastructure, energy networks and environmental services is fundamental to ensure the long-term physical, environmental, social and economic prosperity of the City and County. The efficient and cost effective provision of infrastructure must be provided in tandem with projected population growth to ensure sustainable forms of development are achieved.

The following tables set out a brief outline of the progress made in achieving the strategic policies and objectives of the infrastructure chapter of the Development Plan.

8.1 Strategic Infrastructure

Strategic Infrastructure	
Policy <i>IN P1 – Strategic Infrastructure</i>	It is a policy of the Council to: <i>a. Secure investment in the necessary infrastructure (including digital technology, ICT, telecommunications networks, water services, surface water management, waste management, energy networks), which will allow Limerick to grow and realise its full potential.</i> <i>b. Fulfil Limerick’s ambition as a contemporary City and County in which to live, work, invest and visit, with supporting infrastructure, whilst complying with the relevant EU Directives and national legislation, including the protection of the environment.</i>
Progress Commentary	The Development Plan recognises the importance of strategic infrastructure to facilitate the improvement of, or servicing of lands for development. This includes transport and water services projects. The Council will continue to work actively with the key agencies, landowners and other stakeholders in progressing infrastructure projects.

8.2 Climate Action in Infrastructure Planning

Climate Action in Infrastructure Planning	
Objective IN O1 - Climate Action in Infrastructure Planning	It is an objective of the Council to: <i>a. Require all infrastructure development, whether above ground or subterranean, to avoid flood risk areas and areas at risk of coastal erosion.</i>

Climate Action in Infrastructure Planning	
	<p><i>b. Require site selection, location, design and materials to have regard to and be resilient to the changing climate (high winds, temperature fluctuations, increased storm intensity and changes in rainfall).</i></p> <p><i>c. Collaborate with utility and service providers to ensure their networks are resilient to the impacts of climate change, both in terms of design and ongoing maintenance.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>Through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority, all planning applications are assessed in accordance with Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities to ensure the suitability of a proposal and its location with respect to potential flood risk. The Planning Authority will also continue to encourage the climate proofing of developments, through the appropriate use of materials and design.</p>

8.3 Digital Connectivity and Limerick’s Digital Strategy

Digital Connectivity and Limerick’s Digital Strategy	
Objective IN O2 - Digital Connectivity	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Develop Limerick’s digital infrastructure, as guided by the settlement strategy as engines for a Smart City and County and drivers of a wider Smart Region including the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area, the Limerick Digital District and to progress Limerick’s ambition to be Ireland’s first Digital City.</i></p> <p><i>b. Seek opportunities under the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum including funding and partnership opportunities with stakeholders, to implement the programmes of the Limerick Digital Strategy and EU Digital Single Market.</i></p> <p><i>c. Encourage the use of good practices, nationally and internationally, through living labs, test beds, innovative research, disruptive technologies and collaborations with other agencies, including third level institutions and the private sector.</i></p> <p><i>d. Capitalise on opportunities in partnership with other agencies to deploy innovative, disruptive technologies and smart infrastructure across Limerick City and County, including more peripheral locations to eliminate any disparities on digital connection and reliability of service.</i></p> <p><i>e. Explore opportunities to ensure all communities can transition to digitalisation for a better quality of life and eliminate digital inequalities, in terms of access to digital networks for the purposes of business, access to public services including education and contemporary cultural and entertainment experiences.</i></p>

Digital Connectivity and Limerick's Digital Strategy	
	<p><i>f. Support the development of Smart Homes and Smart Buildings and facilitate the Smart Limerick concept in accordance with the Limerick Digital Strategy 2017 – 2020 and any subsequent plans.</i></p> <p><i>g. Support investment in incubation and ICT infrastructure to capitalise on remote working opportunities, enterprise start-ups, e-commerce and up-scaling for businesses across all settlements in the County.</i></p> <p><i>h. Support emerging innovations in the digital transformation of transportation, E-Mobility and sustainable mobility in line with RPO 160 Smart Mobility, including those identified in LSMATS.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective IN O3 - Digital Innovations Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area
Progress Commentary	<p>The Development Plan includes policy support for the development of digital services to enhance digital innovations and digital transformation throughout Limerick.</p> <p>Progress made in digital infrastructure in the first two years of the Development Plan includes the following:</p> <p>-Digital Roadmap: In 2024, EU funding was successfully secured for consultancy services to develop a 'Digital Roadmap' for Limerick City and County.</p> <p>-Digital Systems: In 2023, the Council undertook an upgrade of the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, initiating an 18-month project to migrate to a modern, cloud-based solution. This technological transformation utilising Microsoft Dynamics 365, is a strategic move to enhance service delivery capabilities. It positions the Council to effectively serve the community for the coming decade with an enterprise-scale, modern data infrastructure. Alongside this, the implementation of data and dash-boarding using technology in Qlik Cloud is a significant step forward, enabling more sophisticated data analysis and decision-making capabilities, breaking down data silos.</p> <p>This technological advancement supports the Council's commitment to becoming a smarter, more connected and efficient City region. The infrastructure is fundamental to becoming a smart region, encompassing the City, towns and rural communities. It enables Limerick to capitalise on smart technologies such as IoT, Artificial Intelligence and Digital Twins.</p> <p>-European Projects: The Digital Strategy section of the Council has continued to actively participate, and support departments in, various EU projects like +CityxChange, INTEgreat, PACTE Plus and</p>

Digital Connectivity and Limerick's Digital Strategy

GoGreen Routes. Participation in these projects reflect the Council's commitment to European collaboration in smart city and regional development. See Objective CAF O13 +CityXChange Project further below.

INTEgreat is a €1.6m 3-year project aimed at building a stronger integration strategy and ecosystem for migrants and asylum seekers in Europe. Limerick City and County Council in conjunction with their local partner Doras, implemented pilot activities across the areas of healthcare, employment, social cohesion, capacity building and training of migrants and local citizens. Some of the key activities include:

- Establishment of Limerick Migrant Integration Forum
- Information Hub for New Communities making Limerick their Home
- Migrant Health and Wellbeing Fairs and Arts and Craft Classes
- Africa Day.

PACTE Plus involves Limerick and other European cities, focusing on promoting active living across 4 no. areas including schools, workplaces, mobility and governance. Limerick hosted an Active Governance workshop highlighting the role of Local Authorities in integrating physical activity into urban planning.

The GoGreen Routes project in 2023 included the enhancement of the Castletroy Greenway, by creating an eco-friendly greenspace, engaging over 50 no. volunteers in planting 450 no. native trees.

-Smart Cities Initiatives: With respect to progress made in the smart cities initiatives, the following has taken place:

Project	Notes
Digital Collaboration Centre in Limerick's Georgian Innovation District	Development comprising a tech collaboration centre for SMEs and MNCs
Digital First Day Champions of Collaboration Event	Engaged remote and digital hubs with a wider audience, promoting new economic opportunities arising from digital connectivity, innovation and enterprise

Digital Connectivity and Limerick's Digital Strategy					
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Engine Hubs Network</td> <td>19 no. hubs to enable growth opportunities, linkages and optimise connectivity between urban and rural areas. Hubs provide a hybrid working infrastructure for remote workers and business owners, as well as full landing pad services to multinationals looking to set up or expand their operations</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Med Tech incubation centre- Phase 3 of Engine</td> <td>Proposed development will attract young indigenous and international med tech companies that can avail of innovation supports and programmes delivered through Innovate Limerick. The facility will offer companies mentorship, networking and connections enabling them to scale rapidly</td> </tr> </table>	Engine Hubs Network	19 no. hubs to enable growth opportunities, linkages and optimise connectivity between urban and rural areas. Hubs provide a hybrid working infrastructure for remote workers and business owners, as well as full landing pad services to multinationals looking to set up or expand their operations	Med Tech incubation centre- Phase 3 of Engine	Proposed development will attract young indigenous and international med tech companies that can avail of innovation supports and programmes delivered through Innovate Limerick. The facility will offer companies mentorship, networking and connections enabling them to scale rapidly
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Med Tech incubation centre- Phase 3 of Engine	Proposed development will attract young indigenous and international med tech companies that can avail of innovation supports and programmes delivered through Innovate Limerick. The facility will offer companies mentorship, networking and connections enabling them to scale rapidly				
Objective IN O4 – Broadband	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Support the delivery and implementation of the National Broadband Plan and any subsequent plans.</i></p> <p><i>b. Encourage the provision of WiFi zones in public buildings and advance Limerick's participation in the WiFi4EU programme (a European-wide initiative promoting free access to WiFi connectivity for citizens in public spaces) and facilitate a network of 40-50 free public WiFi access points (APs) in Limerick City.</i></p> <p><i>c. Require carrier neutral, open access, multi-duct infrastructure serving new residential, commercial/business units, community hubs/centres, communal residential services and other appropriate new development (e.g. rail and road development), to be incorporated into the design and layout of new developments in Limerick.</i></p> <p><i>d. Require ducting for broadband fibre connections to be provided underground during the installation of services and during the carrying out of any work to roads or rail lines.</i></p> <p><i>e. Ensure broadband installation shall comply with the Guidelines for NBI End Users when laying ducting to facilitate the installation of Fibre Networks on Private Property and the requirements of the National Broadband Plan 2020 and any subsequent plans.</i></p> <p><i>f. New development (commercial, community, leisure) or housing development exceeding four units will be required to demonstrate, in a written statement, how fibre-enabled internet is made available to users when assessing planning applications.</i></p>				

Digital Connectivity and Limerick's Digital Strategy	
Progress Commentary	<p>The National Broadband Plan aims to deliver a high-speed broadband service to all premises in Ireland. Limerick City and County Council's Broadband Office has continued to support National Broadband Ireland (NBI) in the roll out of high-speed broadband across Limerick.</p> <p>In Limerick there are approximately 22,000 no. premises including homes, farms, commercial businesses and schools included in the state's intervention plan. Approximately 10,600 no. premises benefited from the roll out by May 2024. In total, Limerick will see an investment of €84m in the high-speed fibre network.</p> <p>Limerick City and County Council has delivered 40 no. free public WiFi access points across the City and County under the WiFi4EU initiative. These points are located in settlements such as Limerick City, Abbeyfeale, Bruff, Caherconlish, Foynes and Rathkeale.</p> <p>For rural Limerick, Broadband Connection Points continue to be supported. Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) are sites in rural towns where a quality commercial broadband service is not readily available and where a 150Mbps broadband connection has been provided. This initiative by the Council in cooperation with the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and NBI is an interim solution as part of the rollout of the National Broadband Plan. In 2024, 16 no. BCPs were connected in rural towns across Limerick, including for example Patrickswell, Rathkeale and Askeaton. The BCP centres promote the use of high-speed fibre broadband by all members of the community for e-health, entertainment, education, connecting to family and friends, or using online public services including motor tax, library services, planning queries and MyPoint Online Public Consultation.</p> <p>The Council will continue to support the implementation of National Broadband Plan projects through the Development Management and licensing functions of the Planning Authority.</p>
Objective IN O5 - Telecommunication Support	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Promote shared telecommunications infrastructure in all new developments to facilitate multiple network providers. Shared infrastructure should be made available to all broadband service providers on a non-exclusive basis to both suppliers and users of the new infrastructure.</i></p> <p><i>b. Work closely with the telecommunications industry during the development and deployment phase of telecommunications infrastructure to carefully manage Limerick's road networks and</i></p>

Digital Connectivity and Limerick’s Digital Strategy	
	<p><i>minimise future road infrastructure works.</i></p> <p><i>c. Require co-location of antennae support structures and sites where feasible. Operators shall be required to submit documentary evidence as to the non-feasibility of this option in planning applications for new structures.</i></p> <p><i>d. Facilitate the public and private sector in making available where feasible and suitable, strategically located structures or sites, including those in the ownership of Limerick City and County Council, to facilitate improved telecommunications coverage if the need is sufficiently demonstrated.</i></p> <p><i>e. Require best practice in both siting and design in relation to the erection of communication antennae and support infrastructure, in the interests of visual amenity and the protection of sensitive landscapes. There is a presumption against the location of antennae support structures where they would have a serious negative impact on the visual amenity of sensitive sites and locations.</i></p> <p><i>f. Require the de-commissioning of a telecommunications structure and its removal off-site at the operator’s expense when it is no longer required.</i></p> <p><i>g. Apply a presumption against erecting satellite dishes where they would materially affect the character and appearance of a Protected Structure, an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) or in any other area where they could cause unacceptable effects on visual amenity.</i></p> <p><i>h. Ensure the orderly development of telecommunications throughout the County in accordance with the requirements of the Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG, 1996, except where they conflict with Circular Letter PI07/12 as takes precedence and any subsequent guidelines.</i></p>
<p>Progress Commentary</p>	<p>To deliver this objective, close alignment with utility operators, especially in the telecom industry, will be required to ensure existing infrastructure is used, as much as possible, to enhance the rollout of telecommunication infrastructure in Limerick.</p> <p>In addition, the Council is working on the creation of a Telecoms Unit, whose purpose will be to enable the implementation of the Gigabit Infrastructure Act and become a central point of contact for all telecoms related challenges and queries.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, it is noted that 6 no. planning applications have been received in relation to telecommunications infrastructure.</p>

8.4 Water Services and Surface Water

Water Services and Surface Water	
Objective IN O6 - Water Services	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Support Irish Water in the provision of water and wastewater infrastructure and services in accordance with the Service Level Agreement, until such time as the Agreement is terminated.</i></p> <p><i>b. Collaborate with Irish Water in the protection of water supply sources to avoid water quality deterioration and reduce the level of treatment required in the production of drinking water, in accordance with Article 7(2) of the WFD. Protection and restoration of drinking water at the source can have co-benefits for biodiversity and climate change.</i></p> <p><i>c. Liaise with Irish Water during the lifetime of the Plan to secure investment in the provision, extension and upgrading of the piped water distribution network and wastewater pipe network across Limerick City and County, to serve existing population and future population growth and sustain economic growth, in accordance with the requirements of the Core and Settlement Strategies.</i></p> <p><i>d. Collaborate with Irish Water to resolve the existing water services infrastructural constraints in Newcastle West – a Key Town designated by the RSES.</i></p> <p><i>e. Ensure that development proposals connecting to the public water and/or wastewater networks, now or in the future comply with Irish Water Standard Details and Codes of Practice. Where relevant, ensure developments comply with the EPA Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2021.</i></p> <p><i>f. Require future developments to connect to public water services and wastewater if available to the site. Combined water and wastewater systems will not be permitted. Consent to connect to Irish Water assets will be requested as part of the planning application process.</i></p> <p><i>g. Have regard to Section 28 Guidelines – Draft Water Services Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DHPLG, 2018 and any subsequent guidelines when carrying out the forward planning and development management functions of the Planning Authority.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy EH P6 - Water and Air Quality • Objective IN O7 - Drinking Water Source Protection
Progress Commentary	<p>Uisce Éireann is responsible for the delivery of water services infrastructure in Ireland. This is achieved through the implementation of a number of plans and programmes which are currently ongoing throughout the County. Limerick City and County Council will continue to work in partnership with Uisce Éireann to ensure the timely delivery of required water services to enable development.</p>

Water Services and Surface Water

The Uisce Éireann Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 identifies the priority projects to enable population and economic growth to take place at the level anticipated in national and regional policy. The Capital Investment Plan sets out the prioritisation of investment to deliver the most urgently needed improvements in drinking water quality, leakage reduction, water availability, wastewater compliance, efficiencies and customer service.

The Capital Investment Plan identified 6 no. local capital projects, 1 no. water and 5 no. wastewater in Limerick. Some of the key water services infrastructure projects include:

Project	Status
Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant	Planning Permission granted and project gone to tender
Foynes Sewerage Scheme	Detailed design and a planning application are currently being completed. A Marine Area Consent application has been submitted to MARA in April 2024 and we await a decision. Land agreements are in place.
Glin Sewerage Scheme	Detailed design and a planning application are currently being completed. A MAC application has been submitted to MARA in April 2024 and we await a decision. A CPO process for lands commenced in June 2024.
LIHAF/ MUHDS Growth Programme (Wastewater and Water) Mungret	Projects being completed in 3 Phases. Phase 1 was completed in 2021 and Phase 2 was completed in Q1 2024. The water and wastewater infrastructure was funded by Uisce Éireann, but delivered through the LCCC LIHAF Roads Contract. Phase 3 is currently with LCCC at the design stage.
Bunlicky Wastewater Treatment Plant	Preliminary Business Case has been progressed

Water conservation and leakage reduction projects present a significant opportunity to reduce our water consumption and increase the efficiency of our water usage. The National Leakage Reduction Programme has invested over €500m upgrading the underground network across Ireland. Towns and villages across Limerick have benefitted from this investment, with 21.8km of water main replaced,

Water Services and Surface Water	
	<p>565 no. leaks repaired, 7 no. pressure valves installed and 54 no. pressure loggers fitted and 33m litres of water saved.</p> <p>The Council will continue to actively facilitate and support Uisce Éireann in the progression of capital investment projects, water conservation and leakage reduction projects in Limerick.</p>
Objective IN O8 - Private Water Supply	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to require that in locations where a connection to an existing public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply may be considered. The development must demonstrate that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health, or would not affect the source of an existing supply, particularly a public supply/well. Such information will be required as part of the planning application process.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>According to the 2016 Census, 13.7% of private households in Limerick City and County were connected directly to a private water supply, which was higher than the State average of 12.5%. Subsequently, the 2022 Census results showed that this had increased to 14.8% of private households connected to a private water supply. This was higher than the State average of 13.3%.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, planning permission has been granted to 249 no. residential units with a private water supply.</p>
Objective IN O9 - Public Waste Water	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Ensure adequate and appropriate wastewater infrastructure is available to cater for existing and proposed development, in collaboration with Irish Water, to avoid any deterioration in the quality of receiving waters and to ensure that discharge meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</i> <i>b. Require all new developments to connect to public wastewater infrastructure, where available and to encourage existing developments that are in close proximity to a public sewer to connect to that sewer. These will be subject to a connection agreement with Irish Water and evidence of this agreement will be required as part of any planning application.</i> <i>c. Require all new development to provide separate foul and surface water drainage systems, to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water.</i> <i>d. Apply a presumption against any development that requires the provision of private wastewater treatment facilities (i.e. Developer</i>

Water Services and Surface Water	
	<i>Provided Infrastructure) other than single house systems and in very exceptional circumstances.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>The provision of wastewater treatment infrastructure is essential to achieve sustainable development without adversely affecting the receiving environment.</p> <p>According to the 2016 Census, 61% of private households in Limerick City and County were connected directly to the public sewerage network, which was below the State average of 65.9%. Subsequently, the 2022 Census results showed that 62.2% of private households were connected to the public sewerage network.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, planning permission has been granted to 173 no. residential units for effluent disposal by way of connection to the public sewer.</p> <p>Uisce Éireann’s Capital Investment Plan key projects for wastewater schemes are outlined under Objective IN O6 - Water Services above.</p>
<i>Objective IN O11 - Private Waste Water Treatment</i>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Promote the changeover from septic tanks to the public foul water collection networks where feasible and to strongly discourage the provision of individual septic tanks and domestic wastewater treatment systems, in order to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</i></p> <p><i>b. Ensure single house wastewater treatment systems in those areas not served by a public foul sewerage system to comply with the EPA Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2021 as may be amended or updated.</i></p> <p><i>c. Require non-domestic wastewater treatment systems in those areas not served by a public foul sewerage system to demonstrate full compliance with EPA Wastewater Treatment Manuals (Treatment Systems for Small Communities, Business, Leisure Centres and Hotels) as maybe amended or updated.</i></p> <p><i>d. Ensure all private wastewater treatment systems shall be located entirely within the site boundary. Under no circumstances shall single domestic treatments units or septic tanks be shared between dwellings.</i></p> <p><i>e. Ensure that private wastewater treatment facilities, where permitted, are operated in compliance with their wastewater discharge license, in order to protect water quality.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective IN O10 – Trade Discharge
Progress Commentary	All planning applications for one off dwellings in areas not served by public sewers are required to seek permission for a private

Water Services and Surface Water	
	<p>wastewater treatment system in compliance with the EPA Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2021. Compliance with this Code of Practice is managed through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority.</p> <p>According to the 2016 Census, 30.8% of private households rely on septic tank systems to dispose of their wastewater in Limerick. This figure was 30.0% in Census 2022.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, planning permission has been granted to 396 no. residential units for effluent disposal by way of private wastewater treatment system.</p> <p>The Council is also responsible for licensing discharges of trade and sewage effluent to waters from un-sewered industries. There are currently 37 no. licences in place which cover a range of facilities including hotels, nursing homes, quarries and industrial premises. All of these licences have been screened to ensure that the conditions attached to them are compatible with the achievement of the Council's water quality obligations. Any discharge license issued by the Council includes conditions to ensure the discharge is treated and controlled in a manner that protects the receiving environment.</p>
<p>Objective IN O12 - Surface Water and SuDS</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks within application site boundaries.</i> <i>b. Work in conjunction with other public bodies towards a sustainable programme of improvement for riverbanks, back drains, etc.</i> <i>c. Maintain, improve and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of surface waters and groundwater, including reducing the discharges of pollutants or contaminants to waters, in accordance with the National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 (DHPLG) and the associated Programme of Measures and any subsequent River Basin Management Plan.</i> <i>d. Ensure adequate storm water infrastructure to accommodate the planned levels of growth within the Plan area and to ensure that appropriate flood management measures are implemented to protect property and infrastructure.</i> <i>e. Cater for the future developments through public and private driven initiatives where discharge capacity permits.</i> <i>f. Address the issue of disposal of surface water generated by existing development in the area, through improvements to surface water infrastructure, including for example attenuation ponds, the</i>

Water Services and Surface Water

application of sustainable urban drainage techniques, or by minimising the amount of hard surfaced areas, or providing porous surfaces as the opportunity arises.

g. Protect the surface water resources of the Plan area and in individual planning applications request the provision of sediment and grease traps and pollution control measures where deemed necessary.

h. Require all planning applications to include surface-water design calculations to establish the suitability of drainage between the site and the outfall point and require all new developments to include SuDS, to control surface water outfall and protect water quality in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 11: Development Management Standards of the Plan.

i. Promote SuDS and grey water recycling in developments and responsible use of water by the wider community, to reduce the demand for water supply.

j. Require SuDS schemes to be designed to incorporate the four pillars of water quality, water quantity, biodiversity and amenity to the greatest extent possible within the constraints of a given site.

k. Allow sufficient land take for SuDS when planning the site and consider the region as a whole, in association with adjoining lands and their requirements in designing SuDS. Developers may be required to set aside lands to cater for not only their own SuDS but also regional SuDS.

l. Promote the provision of suitable blue and green infrastructure (BGI) and Nature Based Solutions to the surface water disposal in new development, as a means to provide urban flood resilience. This approach capitalises on the potential of urban green spaces and natural water flows, subject to the other planning considerations such as amenity, maintenance, traffic safety, proper planning and sustainable development and environmental requirements.

m. To prohibit the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water. In areas where street scape enhancement or resurfacing is planned, seek to introduce NbSUDS to cater for rainfall run-off at source in order to maximize the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water.

n. Encourage green roofs for the following types of development:

- Apartment Developments;*
- Employment Developments;*
- Retail Developments;*
- Leisure Facilities;*
- Education Facilities.*

Water Services and Surface Water	
Progress Commentary	<p>The Council continues to promote the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) measures through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority.</p> <p>In addition, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, objectives to encourage the integration of sustainable water management solutions have been incorporated into the reviewed Local Area Plans. This includes policy objectives that require all new developments to include measures to control surface water outfall and protect water quality.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Plan, the Limerick City and Environs Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy has been published. Priority Action No. 1 includes objectives for the use of nature based solutions and SuDS in new developments, including capital investment programmes.</p>

8.5 Energy Networks – Resource Efficiency, Electricity and Gas Networks

Energy Networks – Resource Efficiency, Electricity and Gas Networks	
Objective IN O13 - Energy and Gas Network	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Support the sustainable reinforcement and provision of new energy infrastructure by infrastructure providers (subject to appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process), ensuring the energy needs of future population and economic expansion across Limerick and the wider Southern Region can be delivered in a sustainable and timely manner.</i></p> <p><i>b. Protect existing infrastructure and strategic route corridors for energy networks from encroachment by development that might compromise the performance of the networks.</i></p> <p><i>c. Require energy transmission infrastructure to comply with best practice with regard to siting, design and least environmental impact, in the interest of landscape protection.</i></p> <p><i>d. Require that, in all new developments, multiple services are accommodated in shared strips underground and that access covers are shared, whenever possible. The location of services shall be subterranean, where appropriate. Where existing and proposed high voltage lines traverse new residential, commercial or civic developments, these should be relocated underground where technically feasible. The Council will require written consent to this relocation as part of the planning application process.</i></p> <p><i>e. Support the transition of the gas network to a carbon neutral network by 2050, thereby supporting Limerick to become carbon neutral.</i></p> <p><i>f. Support Community Energy Companies to create positive energy</i></p>

Energy Networks – Resource Efficiency, Electricity and Gas Networks	
	<p><i>districts.</i></p> <p><i>g. Ensure that in the delivery of energy infrastructure, the strategic function of the national road network is safeguarded in accordance with national policy by utilising available alternatives.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective IN O14 - Energy Interconnection • Objective IN O15 - Electricity Grid Development • Objective IN O16 - Gas Development
Progress Commentary	Limerick City and County Council will continue to support and promote the provision of new energy infrastructures, renewable energy and gas projects and international energy interconnection infrastructure, subject to appropriate environmental assessments, through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority.

8.6 Waste Management

Waste Management	
<p><i>Objective IN O17 - Waste Management and the Circular Economy</i></p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Support innovative, smart solutions and processes, based on the principles of the circular economy to implement the Regional Waste Management Plan for the Southern Region 2015 – 2021 and any subsequent plan, including any targets contained therein.</i></p> <p><i>b. Collaborate with the Regional Waste Management Office and other agencies to implement the EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy – Closing the Loop, 2015, its successor the Circular Economy Action Plan: A New Circular Economy Action Plan for a Cleaner More Competitive Europe, 2020 and the Resource Opportunity-Waste Management Policy, DECLG, 2012 and any subsequent plans.</i></p> <p><i>c. Promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production in the areas of product design, production processes and waste management.</i></p> <p><i>d. Implement the provisions of the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy – Ireland’s National Waste Policy 2020 - 2025, DECC, 2020 in the assessment of planning applications.</i></p> <p><i>e. Protect existing civic amenity sites and bring sites throughout Limerick and support the development of additional sites in accordance with the Southern Regional Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021 and any subsequent plans.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective CAF O16 – Circular Economy
Progress Commentary	The Southern Waste Region comprises 10 no. Local Authorities, including Limerick City and County Council, Carlow, Clare, Cork City, Cork County, Kerry, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford City and County

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and Wexford. Limerick City and County Council in conjunction with Tipperary County Council are the lead authorities for the Southern Waste Region, responsible for coordination, implementation and monitoring of the Southern Region Waste Management Plan, through the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices (RWMPOs).

The National Waste Management Plan for the Circular Economy was published in March 2024. This is the first single national waste plan and sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland. The plan includes statutory circular targets underpinned by the Circular Economy Act, with national reuse and future repair targets. The Plan aligns all of Ireland's policies, strategies and programmes, centred around a circular ambition.

The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy: Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020-2025 aims to place Ireland at the forefront of EU efforts to achieve a circular economy. The Plan aims to ensure that materials and products remain in productive use for longer, make producers of disposable products environmentally accountable, encourage an 'all sector' approach and support clear and robust institutional arrangements through the strengthened role of local government.

Some of the initiatives that have taken place during the first two years of the Development Plan include:

-My Waste.ie: Campaigns on enhanced commercial waste regulations, a brown bin campaign and awareness raising of single use products and how to avoid them were progressed.

-Food Waste Recycling Project: This project was launched to distribute over 150,000 no. food waste recycling packs to households nationwide. This included over 8,000 no. kitchen caddy packs distributed across Limerick. The annual National Food Waste Recycling Week provides advice and guidance to citizens on managing their food waste and included awareness raising initiatives at the Limerick and Cappamore Shows. The success of this project is demonstrated in the EPA's National Waste Characterisation Report which shows that 93% of all material in organic bins is garden and food waste.

-Circular Living Initiatives: The 'Choose to Reuse' campaign ran in November and December 2022 to reduce the reliance on single use packaging and food related items such as beverage cups. Initiatives to encourage more reuse and less waste were also prominent throughout 2023, especially at peak consumer times such as

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Christmas. Increasingly, more households are participating in reuse initiatives such as purchasing reused paint, carrying reusable cups and water bottles.

-Team Limerick Clean-Up: The April 2023 clean-up had a record 21,500 no. participants, across 568 no. community groups who collected 59 tonnes of litter.

-Single Use Plastics at Events: A Guide to Plastic Free Events and Festivals has been developed by RWMPOs, to support reduction or elimination of single use plastics at public events.

-Refill Ireland Tap Map: This app is an initiative to encourage more consumption of tap water and reduce unnecessary plastic bottle usage. Limerick City and County Council has 71 no. refill points, including 3 no. on Limerick's Greenway.

-Reuse Month (October): Established 6 years ago, this initiative has the main objective of increasing awareness about the value of reusing and repairing everyday items, helping individuals and communities transition to a circular economy. A number of events are hosted by the Council, including a staff Reuse Challenge.

-Resource and Waste Management Plans: The Regional Waste Management Office worked in conjunction with Limerick Twenty Thirty and the Place-making section of Limerick City and County Council to secure EPA funding to prepare Resource and Waste Management Plans for Limerick Twenty Thirty projects, and to help the Council transition to a circular economy. These plans are based on the EPA's best practice guidance for the preparation of resource and waste management plans for construction and demolition projects.

-Farm plastics: The Council organises collection points for farm plastics. Collection points are organised 7 no. times per year. The volume of plastics recycled at these points has increased from 1,790 tonnes in 2022 to 1,958 tonnes in 2023. The collections for 2024 are ongoing.

-Deposit and Return Scheme (DRS): The Council Staff DRS scheme was introduced in July 2024 with funds collected receipted in support of the Staff Humanitarian Benevolent fund.

-Battery/Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Recycling Collection Points: In conjunction with both European Recycling Platform (ERP) and WEEE Ireland, successful public collection points

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	for WEEE and Batteries were organised by the Council in 2022, 2023 and 2024.
Objective IN O18 - Waste Infrastructure	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Direct waste management facilities to appropriately zoned lands, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the relevant Development Management Standards as set out in Chapter 11 of this Plan.</i></p> <p><i>b. Maintain recycling facilities and require the provision of bring banks or other appropriate recycling facilities as part of the overall development in the case of new or extended retail centre development and commercial local/neighbourhood centres, educational, sports and recreational facilities. These facilities shall be provided and maintained by the developers, operational management companies and occupiers.</i></p> <p><i>c. Use the regulatory enforcement powers available to the Council under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended), to address unauthorised waste facilities and the illegal disposal of waste in Limerick.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective IN O19 - Sludge Management • Objective IN O20 - Agricultural Waste • Objective IN O21 - Construction and Demolition
Progress Commentary	<p>-Waste Facilities: Waste facilities and waste collectors in Limerick are regulated under the Waste Management Act and its associated regulations. These regulations ensure that waste management practices adhere to environmental standards and public safety guidelines. While some authorisations for waste facilities and collectors are granted by other regulatory bodies, Limerick City and County Council is responsible for enforcing these authorizations to ensure compliance.</p> <p>Currently, there are 65 no. permitted waste facilities operating within the County, reflecting the diverse range of waste management activities in the area. During the first two years of the Development Plan, 48 no. new applications for waste facility permits were processed, indicating ongoing growth and development in the waste management sector.</p> <p>In addition to waste facilities, Limerick City and County Council is responsible for the enforcement and monitoring of 78 no. authorised waste collectors. These collectors are essential for the proper handling, transportation and disposal of waste, and their operations must comply with strict statutory obligations.</p>

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The Council's enforcement responsibilities involve regular monitoring and inspections to ensure that all authorised facilities and collectors are adhering to the terms of their permits. This includes verifying that they meet environmental standards, follow best practices for waste management, and fulfil their legal obligations. By doing so, the Council helps to maintain a high standard of waste management in Limerick, protecting both the environment and the community.

The Council are witnessing a growing awareness and adoption of alternative waste management practices, highlighted by the licensing of a new composting facility in Limerick. During the first two years of the Plan, there has also been a noticeable increase in the number of applications for the classification of materials as Article 27 by-products rather than as waste. This trend signifies a positive shift towards more sustainable and efficient material management practices, aligning with broader goals of reducing waste and promoting the circular economy.

Given the significant volume of construction and demolition (C&D) waste activities in County Limerick, the Council has implemented a proactive approach to managing potential compliance issues related to waste generation. This approach aims to ensure that all construction projects adhere to proper waste management practices from the outset. To pre-empt compliance issues, all planning applications are reviewed on a weekly basis. This regular review helps to identify projects that may generate waste allowing the Council to address potential issues before they arise.

In addition, the Council utilises the Building Control Management System (BCMS) to track and crosscheck commencement notices against the submission of site-specific Waste Management Plans (WMP). The system helps verify whether a WMP has been submitted as required before the commencement of construction activities. To assist developers and applicants in preparing satisfactory WMPs, the Council provides a comprehensive template plan including all essential information.

During the first two years of the Development Plan, the Council reviewed a total of 527 no. WMPs. This review process ensures that waste management practices are appropriately planned and implemented, reducing the risk of environmental impact and promoting compliance with regulations.

-Recycling: Limerick City and County Council manages 65 no. recycle bank locations across the County, providing convenient and accessible drop-off points for the recycling of glass, cans and textiles. These banks

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play a vital role in the Council's overall waste management strategy, encouraging residents to recycle and reduce the volume of waste sent to landfills.

In addition to bottle banks, the Council operates 3 no. recycling centres strategically located in Mungret, Newcastle West and Kilmallock. These centres offer residents a broader range of recycling services, accommodating materials such as cardboard, plastics, metals and electronics. Each recycling centre is equipped to handle various types of waste, ensuring that residents have the facilities needed to dispose of recyclable materials responsibly.

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

During this period, there has been an encouraging increase in the number of households utilising the Council's recycling facilities. The Council continues to monitor and expand its waste management programs, ensuring that they meet the evolving needs of the population and contribute to a cleaner, greener Limerick.

By providing regulatory support and enhancing public awareness for the deposit return schemes (DRS) introduced in 2024, the Council are playing a crucial role in ensuring that these programs operate smoothly and effectively. The regulatory support includes developing and enforcing the necessary legislation and guidelines that govern the DRS. This ensures that all stakeholders, such as beverage producers, retailers and consumers, adhere to the scheme's requirements.

Overall, the deposit return scheme has demonstrated significant success, contributing to a cleaner environment and fostering a culture of recycling within the community. By continuing to support and promote the DRS, the Council ensures that the initiative remains effective, sustainable and beneficial to both the environment and the public.

-Waste Enforcement: During the first two years of the Development Plan, the Commercial Waste and Litter teams issued a total of 2,852 no. Notices, Directions, Warnings and Fixed Penalty Notices. This comprehensive enforcement action reflects a proactive approach to maintaining compliance with waste management regulations and addressing various issues related to waste disposal and management.

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	<p>In addition, 164 no. waste prosecutions were undertaken. These prosecutions represent more serious enforcement actions where legal proceedings were pursued against individuals or businesses, for significant or repeated violations of waste management regulations.</p> <p>The undertaking of enforcement action during this period underscores the commitment of the Commercial Waste and Litter teams to tackle serious waste management issues. By pursuing action in these cases, the teams aim to ensure that waste management practices are followed correctly, reduce environmental impact and promote a culture of responsibility among businesses and residents in Limerick.</p>
<p>Objective IN O22 - Closed Landfills or Historical Landfill Sites</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Continue to restore the Long Pavement landfill site into a positive landscape feature that provides a recreational, amenity and biodiversity resource for the community, as guided by best practice in environmental protection, public amenity, proper planning and sustainable development.</i></p> <p><i>b. Co-operate with the EPA regarding historical landfills. Risk assessments by the Council shall be carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice - Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites and to the requirements of the EPA. When zoning lands for development and/or considering future developments on, or in the vicinity of, identified historic landfill sites, the Council will have regard to this Code.</i></p>
<p>Progress Commentary</p>	<p>The landfill infrastructure managed by Limerick City and County Council includes 2 no. closed landfill sites, which are currently being overseen under licenses issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In addition to these, there are 26 no. historic landfill sites across Limerick. These are former landfills that were operated by the Council before the introduction of licensing regulations.</p> <p>To ensure the proper management and remediation of these sites, a tender is currently being prepared to appoint consultants who will undertake remediation works at the Long Pavement landfill, which is an EPA-licensed site. The appointment of these consultants is expected in Q4 of 2024.</p> <p>Furthermore, in 2022 consultants were procured to advance remediation efforts at the closed landfill in Churchtown, Newcastle West. The work on this site is ongoing, demonstrating the Council's commitment to addressing environmental concerns related to its landfill infrastructure and ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements.</p>

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Objective <i>IN O23 - Hazardous Waste and Contaminated Sites</i>	It is an objective of the Council to: a. Implement the EPA’s National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NHWMP) 2014-2020 and any subsequent plans. b. Collaborate and seek guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Health and Safety Authority (HAS), Health Service Executive (HSE) and Southern Region Waste Management Office, on the technical requirements for clearance and redevelopment of any contaminated lands when dealing with planning applications at these locations.
Progress Commentary	<p>In accordance with Recommendation No. 15 of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (2021-2027)(NHWMP), which aims to promote best practices in managing asbestos-contaminated waste, the Council has adopted a proactive approach to asbestos management, particularly in relation to refurbishment and demolition projects.</p> <p>During the first two years of the Development Plan, 93 no. refurbishment and demolition asbestos surveys were requested. In most instances, although asbestos was identified, the project works did not interfere with the asbestos-containing materials. When issues related to asbestos removal were identified, follow-up inspections were conducted to ensure that management and disposal were handled appropriately.</p> <p>By carrying out comprehensive surveys, effectively managing identified asbestos and documenting disposal activities, the Council contributes to the NHWMP’s objectives of mitigating hazardous waste risks and safeguarding environmental and public health. Maintaining this proactive approach and adapting to emerging challenges will further enhance compliance and effectiveness in hazardous waste management.</p>
Objective <i>IN O24 - SEVESO Sites Objectives</i>	It is an objective of the Council to: a. Inform the Health and Safety Authority of any development proposals within the thresholds of the Seveso II Directive (96/82 EC) and the EC (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No. 476 of 2000), including modifications to existing Seveso establishments. b. Have regard to potential adverse impacts on public health and safety, including maintaining appropriate safe distances between Seveso sites and residential areas, areas of public use and areas of environmental sensitivity. c. Ensure in addition to normal planning criteria, that new developments such as transport links, locations frequented by the public and residential areas in the vicinity of existing Seveso sites,

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	<i>comply with the requirement of the Seveso Directive, including the consultation distances surrounding establishments designated as containing hazardous substances.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>The Seveso II Directive aims to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and limit the consequences in the event of such a major accident. In Limerick, there are 2 no. Upper Tier Seveso Sites and 2 no. Lower Tier Seveso Sites.</p> <p>The Planning Authority through the Development Management function, will continue to ensure that any proposals within SEVESO zones are referred to the Health and Safety Authority. Any planning application in relation to a SEVESO site will be considered in the content of potential adverse impacts on public health and safety and compliance with all normal planning criteria.</p>

8.7 Conclusion

In conclusion, it is considered that implementation of the infrastructure policies and objectives has been successful over the first two years of the Development Plan. The Council acknowledges that the provision of and investment in key infrastructure including digital, water and wastewater services, energy supply and waste management is essential to facilitate sustainable development and economic growth of Limerick. This acknowledgement has resulted in underpinning the objectives, which aim to facilitate new and enhanced infrastructure.

The Council's support of digital infrastructure and the development of the connected hubs network reflects the commitment to support the economic potential and revival of the settlements. In this regard, the Council acknowledges the essential nature of high quality telecommunications and digital infrastructure for the social and economic development of settlements across Limerick. The Council will therefore continue to support the roll out of the National Broadband Plan.

The Council recognises the need for investment in water services infrastructure in many of the towns and villages across Limerick and will continue to collaborate with and support Uisce Éireann in the provision of upgrades to this essential infrastructure. The Council further acknowledges that investment in such infrastructure is vital to enable the development of settlements and the achievement of the Core Strategy targets. Therefore, the support of Uisce Éireann in expediting the delivery of solutions for settlements such as Newcastle West to prevent a potential curtailment of development in the future can be prevented.

The Council will continue to facilitate and support the provision and improvement of all types of hard and soft infrastructure to serve the existing and targeted population of the City and County.

Infrastructure Two Year Progress Report

National Broadband Plan

22,000

Premises to benefit

10,600

Premises already benefit

€84 million

Investment



Team Limerick Clean Up



Food Waste Recycling Project

Water Services



62%

Houses connected to public sewerage network

85%

Houses connected to public water supply

Waste and Recycling



65

Waste facilities

3

Recycling centres

78

Authorised waste collectors



+CityXChange Project



Ireland's guide to waste
mywaste

9

Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy



9.0 Chapter 9: Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy

Chapter 9: Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy sets out the Council’s position in relation to addressing the issues of climate change. The chapter outlines the approach to achieving a transition to a low carbon economy and to Limerick becoming climate resilient, with a strong emphasis on the reduction in energy demand and emissions, through a combination of effective mitigation and adaptation responses to climate change.

The following tables set out a brief outline of the progress made in achieving the strategic policies and objectives of the climate action, flood risk and transition to a low carbon economy chapter of the Development Plan.

9.1 Climate Change

Climate Change	
Policy CAF P1 – Climate Action Policy	<i>It is a policy of the Council to implement international and national objectives, to support Limerick’s transition to a low carbon economy and support the climate action policies included in the Plan.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective CAF O1 - Compliance with Higher Tier Climate Legislation and Guidance • Objective CAF O2 - Partnership with Service Providers • Policy CAF P4 – Co-operation with Relevant Stakeholders • Objective CAF O18 – Energy and Emissions Balance
Progress Commentary	<p>Climate action is a cross cutting theme of the Development Plan. During the first two years of the Plan, the Council’s Environment and Climate Action Department was formed.</p> <p>Limerick City and County Council’s Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 -2024 concentrates on dealing with the effects of climate change, such as flooding, storms and increased temperatures. The strategy aligns with national commitments to climate change adaptation to build resilience and respond effectively to the threats posed by climate change.</p> <p>The team has continued to collaborate with the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) to work towards achieving the goals and objectives of the strategy.</p> <p>Further to this strategy, the Council has adopted a Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 to implement at a local level, the national legislation provided in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. This Act commits Ireland to a legally binding</p>

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target of net-zero emissions by 2050. The Climate Action Plan sets out how the Local Authority can help tackle climate change and promote a range of mitigation, adaptation and other climate action measures, to help deliver the national climate obligations.

The Council will be responsible for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from across all assets and infrastructure, whilst also taking on a broader role of influencing and facilitating others to meet their own targets. The Plan further incorporates a proposed decarbonisation zone centred on the Georgian core in Limerick City Centre. In consultation with KPMG, Limerick City and County Council has developed an evidence base, which includes a Climate Change Risk Assessment, a Baseline Emissions Inventory for County Limerick and for the proposed Decarbonisation Zone, details of which are presented in the Climate Action Plan Summary Report.

The Climate Action Team are actively working to reduce the Council's own energy emissions. An Energy Management Team (EMT) has been in place since 2009. The EMT is responsible for the monitoring, reporting and oversight of initiatives to reduce the overall energy consumption across the Council as per ISO standard 5001. The EMP has overseen the Council's drive to reduce its energy consumption and associated carbon emissions by 51% by 2030. As of Q3 2023, the Council has achieved an improved energy efficiency of 47% and a total CO2 emissions reduction of 43.9% over the 2016-2018 baseline.

In the first two years since the adoption of the Development Plan, the following progress has been made:

-Climate Action Team:

- Climate Action Team recruited – a Climate Action Coordinator, Community Climate Action Officer, Climate Action Officer.
- Completed a number of training programmes delivered by the Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) as part of building the capacity with the section.
- Recruited an Energy Engineer to support the preparation of the Climate Action Plan.
- Procured 3 no. Building Energy Audits. The Merchant's Quay Audit started in June 2024 and contracts are in place to carry out audits at Lissanalta and Dooradoyle. These audits will generate a list of measures that can save energy and also outline different options for de-carbonising Council buildings.

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-Community Climate Action Programme: The Community Climate Action Programme is a new programme aimed at supporting all communities to achieve climate action within their local area. In cooperation with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Limerick City and County Council will support communities to stimulate and affect real change in the area of climate action. The overarching aim of this programme is to build low carbon, sustainable communities that will contribute to Limerick's City climate action targets. A budget of €811,000 has been allocated to Limerick City and County Council for the first phase of the programme with projects commencing in September 2024.

-Decarbonising Together: The Council completed the Decarbonising Together project funded by the Creative Climate Action Fund. This project involved 5 no. communities across Limerick City investigating and carrying out a climate action initiative with the support of the Creative Community. Each group explored an aspect of Decarbonisation through a creative collaboration with arts and creative industry partners, resulting in 5 no. creative outputs. Decarbonising Together was a joint cross-Directorate collaborative project between Limerick City and County Council's Urban Innovation Department (Project Management and implementation) and Arts Office. Delivery was through the Citizen Innovation Lab and supported by Limerick City and County Council, University of Limerick Department of Economics and School of Architecture/ Fab Lab Limerick, Colaborativa.eu and Space Engagers. Decarbonising Together was shortlisted in the category of sustaining the arts for the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. Funding was secured in late 2023 for a follow up initiative Síolta Glasa.

-Síolta Glasa: The Council led a successful application to the second strand of the Creative Climate Action Fund, securing a grant of €249,936 for delivery across 2023, 2024 and 2025. The project will partner with 7 no. creative and 7 no. community partners, with the aim of exploring creative climate action and enabling localised behaviour change. It is anticipated that there will be 7 no. outputs from the collaborations in a range of creative mediums and skills. The collaborations will support learning and will use as appropriate, Limerick's Citizen Innovation Lab as a collaboration platform to create impact through empowering communities in decarbonising Limerick by 2050, with citizen creativity placed at the core of the process.

Climate Change	
<i>Objective CAF O3 - Sustainable Development</i>	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support sustainable travel, energy efficient projects, provision of green spaces and open space and sustainable residential development projects, as a means of addressing climate change.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective CAF O4 - Climate Proofing • Objective CAF O6 - Energy Efficiency in New Developments • Objective CAF O7 - Near Zero Energy Buildings • Objective CAF O9 - Achieving Climate Resilience • Objective CAF O10 - Woodland Creation, Forestry and Preservation of Bogs • Objective CAF O11 – Nature Based Solutions • Objective CAF O12 – Urban Greening • Objective CAF O17 – Low Energy Building Materials • Objective CAF O39 – Carbon Capture
Progress Commentary	<p>-Smart Buildings Lab: Limerick City and County Council in partnership with UL, Integrated Environmental Solutions Research and Development and the Convex Lens, commenced a project supported by SEAI to create a smart buildings lab. The project has seen a range of sensors deployed in over 60 no. buildings in the City Centre, measuring a range of issues including energy use, temperature, humidity etc. The outputs of the research will provide a better understanding of the performance of the building stock in the City and provide an evidence base for the development of future initiatives to support the refurbishment of the historic building stock.</p> <p>-Energy Saving Kits: In September 2022, the Council launched Home Energy Saving Kits (HESK) in 11 no. libraries. The kits aim to help householders to better understand energy use and reduce bills. The kits identify common issues such as lack of insulation, poor ventilation and the appliances that might be driving up electricity bills.</p>
<i>Objective CAF O5 - Energy Efficiency in Existing Development</i>	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the retrofitting of existing buildings over their demolition and the integration of renewables into existing buildings, thereby ensuring a fabric first approach is taken.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>-Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme: This is a 10-year programme to meet the Programme for Government retrofit commitment. In the first two years of the Development Plan, the Council has received an allocation for the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme. Work was completed to retrofit a number of occupied housing units across the Municipal Districts. The units achieved a minimum BER rating of B2 on completion.</p>

Climate Change	
	<p>-Energy Efficiency Grant: This grant offers 50% of the eligible costs up to a maximum grant of €5,000 for investments in technologies and equipment to reduce the impact of enterprises on the environment, thereby increasing the agility and resilience of these businesses e.g. meters, installation costs and smart energy controls.</p> <p>-Energy Retrofitting: The Council has secured funding under the Technical Support Instrument Initiative from DG REFORM. The project in partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW) will produce guidance on the energy retrofitting of historic buildings and the business case for the establishment of a sustainable investment fund to support historic building retrofitting in Limerick. This will include advice on the legal and technical structures such a fund should have.</p> <p>In addition, a bespoke training programme is being developed on energy efficiency measures for historic buildings, which will be delivered in early 2025.</p>
Objective CAF O13 - +CityXChange Project	<i>It is an objective of the Council to promote Limerick City to become the First Lighthouse City in Ireland and support the outcomes of the +CityXChange project and the use of digital technologies, in empowering communities and citizens to become more climate resilient.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>In 2023, the five-year Horizon 2020 +CityxChange Project concluded. The Positive City Exchange (+CityxChange) project explored the development of a structured approach to decarbonising cities.</p> <p>Limerick was one of 2 no. EU ‘lighthouse’ cities selected for a major climate-change pilot programme that will lead the rest of Europe on how to dramatically reduce the carbon footprint of urban areas. Funded by the EU through Horizon 2020, the overall aim of the project was to trial new kinds of technology and community solutions to turn Limerick into a positive energy City, producing more energy than it consumes. The project aimed to influence citizen behaviour around energy in order to meet the challenge of moving to a low carbon sustainable future.</p> <p>The Council effectively met all project deliverables and a number of projects were completed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtaining planning permission for the GKinetic Tidal Turbines, initiating a sustainable investment fund for building retrofit and establishing an EV Car Sharing station • Limerick Citizen Observatory

Climate Change	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limerick 2050 Vision, Integrated Action Plan and Digital Guide • Limerick Innovation Lab Solutions Catalogue 2. <p>Participation in the project has resulted in Limerick City and County Council being successful in 2 no. other applications for support in becoming a Climate Resilient City:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Support Instrument • Intelligent Cities Challenge.
Policy CAF P2 - Transition to a Low Carbon Economy	<i>It is a policy of the Council to support the transition to a low carbon climate resilient economy, by way of reducing greenhouse gases, increasing renewable energy and improving energy efficiency and will future proof policies and objectives to deliver on this approach, in so far as possible.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy CAF P3 – Promote Awareness and Behavioural Change
Progress Commentary	Each Local Area Plan prepared since the adoption of the Development Plan includes policies to support the transition to a low carbon economy. Each lower tier plan has a dedicated chapter outlining how climate action is a key consideration and provides policy support for the protection and enhancement of the quality of our environment and implementation of climate action measures.
Objective CAF O19 – Decarbonising Zones	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the identification of a Decarbonising Zone by designating a spatial area, in which a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and action owners are identified, to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs, to contribute to national climate action targets and work with statutory agencies and stakeholders as appropriate.</i>
Progress Commentary	The Limerick Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 designated a decarbonisation zone centred on the historic City Centre core and incorporating the Colbert Station Quarter, which is being developed by the LDA. The range of opportunities identified include energy retrofitting, district heating, transportation and environmental management.

9.2 Flooding, Flood Risk Management and Water Management

Flooding, Flood Risk Management and Water Management	
Policy CAF P5 – Managing Flood Risk	<i>It is a policy of the Council to protect Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B from inappropriate development and direct developments/land uses into the appropriate lands, in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (or any subsequent document) and the guidance contained in Development Management Standards and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). Where a development/land use is proposed that is inappropriate within the Flood Zone, but that has passed the Plan Making Justification Test, then the development proposal will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test and Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the criteria set out under The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 and Circular PL2/2014 (and any subsequent updates). This will need to demonstrate inclusion of measures to mitigate flood and climate change risk, including those recommended under Part 3 (Specific Flood Risk Assessment) of the Site-Specific Plan Making Justification Tests detailed in the SFRA. In Flood Zone C, the developer should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed and should consider other sources of flooding, residual risks and the implications of climate change.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective CAF O20 – Flood Risk Assessments • Objective CAF O21 – Identified Flood Risk • Objective CAF O22 – Cooperation with Other Agencies • Objective CAF O25 – Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
Progress Commentary	<p>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and associated Technical Appendices and Circulars, are the basis of the Council’s policy in relation to proposed development and flood risk management.</p> <p>Further to the undertaking of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in conjunction with, and to inform, the preparation of the Development Plan, the Zoning and Flood Zone Maps identify lands that are at varying levels of potential risk of flooding (Zones A and B). Where particular areas have been identified as being at flood risk, a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment will be required to accompany any planning application. Such an assessment may include mitigation measures for site and building works as necessary. The design and mitigation of proposed developments</p>

Flooding, Flood Risk Management and Water Management									
	<p>must consider the effects of climate change and associated potential for increased flood risk.</p> <p>New Local Area Plans completed since the adoption of the Plan also include Strategic Flood Risk Assessments.</p> <p>The management of flood risk in accordance with the requirements of the Guidelines is carried out through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority.</p>								
Objective CAF O23 – Flood Relief Schemes	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support and facilitate the development of Flood Relief Schemes as identified in the CFRAM 10 Year Investment Programme and ensure development proposals do not impede or prevent the progression of these measures.</i>								
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective CAF O24 – Minor Flood and Mitigation Works and Coastal Protections Schemes 								
Progress Commentary	<p>Limerick City and County Council received approval in 2018 for Flood Risk Management Plans under Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAMS) to progress flood relief schemes (FRS) in Limerick City and Environs, Athea and Castleconnell. Subsequently, approval was received to progress a flood relief scheme in Adare.</p> <p>Design and investigation works are advancing for all schemes as set out in the following table:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Project Name</th> <th style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Stage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d9ead3;">King’s Island</td> <td>The tenders for construction of the King’s Island Flood Relief Scheme are currently being assessed. It is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed in the coming months, with works to commence on site in Q4 2024. The project has a 2-year construction period.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Castleconnell</td> <td>Productive dialogue continues with the landowners impacted with a final Public Participation Day held in late 2023 to display the preferred scheme, setting the stage for completing the planning design, Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and submission of the scheme to An Bord Pleanála. Draft planning pack is nearing completion, including final review of the Options Report.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d9ead3;">Athea</td> <td>The Options Report is drafted and under review. Planning Design, including ongoing development</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Project Name	Stage	King’s Island	The tenders for construction of the King’s Island Flood Relief Scheme are currently being assessed. It is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed in the coming months, with works to commence on site in Q4 2024. The project has a 2-year construction period.	Castleconnell	Productive dialogue continues with the landowners impacted with a final Public Participation Day held in late 2023 to display the preferred scheme, setting the stage for completing the planning design, Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and submission of the scheme to An Bord Pleanála. Draft planning pack is nearing completion, including final review of the Options Report.	Athea	The Options Report is drafted and under review. Planning Design, including ongoing development
Project Name	Stage								
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Athea	The Options Report is drafted and under review. Planning Design, including ongoing development								

Flooding, Flood Risk Management and Water Management		
		of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has commenced. Engagement with landowners affected by the scheme is ongoing. Compilation of a planning package in order to submit to An Bord Pleanála will be prepared in due course.
	Limerick City and Environs	Hydraulics and hydrology aspects of the scheme completed, including finalisation of flood extent mapping for the scheme area. Site Investigation of existing flood defence embankments complete with ongoing site investigation in the City Centre now underway. Channel and bathymetric survey works completed. Optioneering to determine technically viable flood defence options has commenced.
	Adare	Engagement with landowners affected by the scheme continuing, facilitating the completion of the planning design and identification of a preferred option. Public realm design finalised. Multi criteria analysis and cost benefit analysis have commenced. Planning package compilation commenced for submission to An Bord Pleanála.

9.3 Renewable Energy

Renewable Energy	
Policy CAF P6 - Renewable Energy	<i>It is a policy of the Council to support renewable energy commitments outlined in national and regional policy, by facilitating the development and exploitation of a range of renewable energy sources at suitable locations throughout Limerick, where such development does not have a negative impact on the surrounding environment landscape, biodiversity, water quality or local amenities, to ensure the long term sustainable growth of Limerick.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective CAF O8 - Renewable Energy • Objective CAF O14 – Energy Generation • Objective CAF O15 – Local Energy Production • Policy CAF P8 – Community Based Renewable Energy • Policy CAF P9 – Renewable Energy Technologies • Objective CAF O26 - Bio Energy • Objective CAF O27 – Renewable Energy Production • Objective CAF O28 – Assessment of Renewable Energy Projects • Objective CAF O29 – Wind Energy Development and Environmental Considerations

Renewable Energy	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective CAF O30 – Location of Wind Energy Developments Objective CAF O31 - Wind Energy supporting Infrastructure • Objective CAF O34 - Wind Energy Development • Objective CAF O35 - Community Based Energy Initiatives • Objective CAF O36 – Life Extension and Repowering of Wind Farm Objective CAF O37 - Geothermal Energy • Objective CAF O38 - Emerging Technologies • Objective CAF O40 - Energy Storage • Objective CAF O41 - Community Renewable Energy
Progress Commentary	<p>Limerick needs to ensure that it has a safe, secure, sustainable and affordable means of energy supply, which can keep pace with increasing energy demands arising from the forecast population and economic growth of the County. In this regard, renewable energy is of strategic importance to energy production locally and nationally and is essential to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change. Limerick City and County Council welcomes collaborations at a regional level on the preparation of any future regional renewable energy strategy and a bio-energy implementation plan.</p> <p>Renewable energy is defined as renewable non – fossil fuel sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, wave, tidal, hydropower and bioenergy etc. As new and improved renewable energy technologies emerge, Limerick must position itself to support and facilitate such technologies. For example, as solar energy technology has become more efficient, Ireland’s temperate climate has become viable for solar panels and solar farms with storage facilities.</p> <p>In addition, through +CityxChange, the EU H2020 project has supported the development of an innovative tidal turbine. In September 2023, a 12kW hydrokinetic tidal turbine was deployed downstream of Sarsfield Bridge on the River Shannon in the City Centre. The deployment saw successes in a number of areas and pioneers a design that showcases the most advanced urban deployment of river turbine technology to date. The deployment process has also been expanded into learnings for other cities. The turbines received planning permission in 2023. Changes in regulations will enable an application for Marine Area Consent to be made. Once approved, the turbines will be installed. A critical element of the proposal is development of a Renewable Energy Community that will take ownership of the turbines. Regulations to facilitate the formation of Renewable Energy Communities are in development.</p> <p>Further to the above, approximately 52 MW of solar renewable energy planning permissions have been granted since the adoption of the Development Plan. It should be noted that planning exemptions</p>

Renewable Energy	
	are in place for domestic installations of renewable energy. While figures are not available for the quantity of installations, such energy is positively contributing to Ireland’s renewable energy production. In this regard, according to SEAI data, solar photovoltaic generation accounted for 1.9% of electricity supply in 2023.
Policy CAF P7 – Atlantic Green Digital Basin (GDB)	<i>It is a policy of the Council to support the development of Atlantic Green Digital Basin (GDB) proposals within Limerick and the wider region, subject to appropriate levels of environmental assessment and planning considerations and to work with relevant stakeholders to realise its potential.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective ECON O59 - Offshore Renewable Energy • Objective CAF O32 – Off Shore Wind • Objective CAF O33 – Development of Foynes Port • Policy CAF P9 – Renewable Energy Technologies
Progress Commentary	<p>The Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce Report sets out the vision for the Shannon Estuary to become Ireland’s Atlantic Green Digital Corridor. This initiative aims to create a net-zero technology region along the Wild Atlantic Way. The taskforce, established in April 2022, carried out extensive consultation with regional, national and international stakeholders. These included the Government, Local Authorities, elected representatives and members of the public.</p> <p>The report was published in July 2023 and envisions the Shannon Estuary as a lead location for Atlantic offshore wind energy generation. The plan sets out recommendations for the delivery of up to 30GW of Atlantic offshore wind energy, throughout the Estuary by 2050 and measures to maximise the spin off industrial opportunities. This includes clear targets such as the creation of 10,000 no. new green jobs by 2035, having 2GW of green energy capacity in development by 2030 and up to 30GW installed by 2050.</p> <p>The plan also includes proposed actions for scaling up the deployment of onshore renewable energy sources across the region and new initiatives in the transport, logistics, connectivity and tourism sectors. One of the actions included in the Taskforce report includes the re-establishment and resourcing of the Shannon Estuary Strategic Integrated Framework Plan Steering Committee and the role in which the Local Authorities have in considering a collective planning designation for the Shannon Estuary region.</p> <p>The Council will continue to support and liaise with the various stakeholders and project leads in the development of the Atlantic Green Digital Basin. The Council recognises that Limerick’s coastal location presents significant opportunities for economic development</p>

Renewable Energy	
	<p>in servicing off-shore wind developments and increased renewable energy production.</p> <p>In December 2023, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment published its first update on the actions contained in the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce Report. An Implementation Update is published bi-annually and sets out the taskforce’s progress on the actions contained in the report.</p>

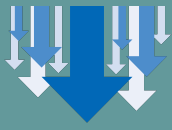
9.4 Conclusion

In conclusion, it is considered that implementation of the climate action, flood risk and transition to a carbon neutral economy policies and objectives has been successful over the first two years of the Development Plan. The Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028 was the first Plan to include a specific chapter relating to climate action, although this is a cross cutting theme of the Plan. The Plan contributes significantly to the delivery of measures to alleviate impacts and enhance resilience, through for example compact growth, active travel, renewable energy, circular economy, biodiversity and flood risk management.

Addressing climate change requires a collective effort from all of society. The Climate Action Plan aims to deliver effective climate actions at a local level, while aligning with national climate policies. The Council will continue to deliver initiatives and actions to reduce energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions in Limerick, including in Council owned assets and infrastructure. The Council will continue to coordinate and support communities in undertaking climate action projects, including renewable energies, administer energy efficiency grants and progress flood relief schemes. In this regard, in conjunction with the Office of Public Works, the Council are actively advancing flood relief schemes to prevent widespread flood damage to homes and properties in various settlements across Limerick.

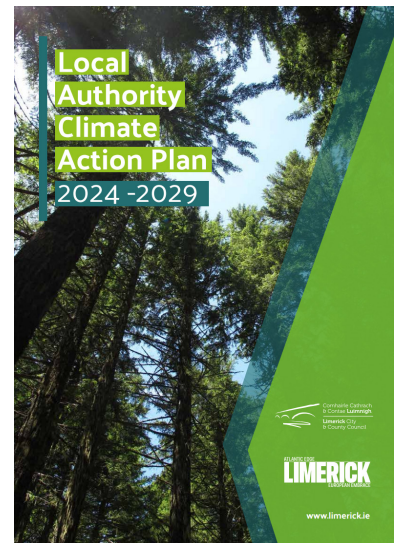
The Council will also continue to support and facilitate the transition to a carbon neutral economy. The Development Plan acknowledges the necessity of increasing the capacity of renewable energy and includes strong policy support for renewable energy development, with ambitious targets to create security of supply. Through the Development Management function, some progress has been made in achieving these targets, with particular respect to the granting of planning permissions for solar energy. As renewable energy technology advances, it is likely that other forms of renewable infrastructure will contribute to energy supply. Limerick City and County Council will continue to support the development of renewable energy in appropriate locations and subject to compliance with all relevant planning criteria. The Council will also continue to support the provision of strategic infrastructure by providers that are necessary to accommodate renewable energy projects.

Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy Two Year Progress Report



51%

Council's target to reduce its energy consumption and associated carbon emissions by 2030



Decarbonising Together



Energy Saving Kits in **11** libraries



Solar Energy



52MW granted planning permission

47%

Energy efficiency improvement achieved by the Council as of Q3 2023



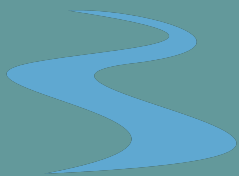
43.9%

CO2 emissions reduction over the 2016-2018 baseline



Flood Relief Schemes

- King's Island
- Castleconnell
- Athea
- Limerick City and Environs
- Adare



A photograph of a modern pedestrian bridge with a white metal railing and a concrete walkway. A person in a blue shirt and black shorts is jogging on the bridge. The bridge is surrounded by lush green trees. A large blue circular graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the number '10' and the text 'Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure'.

10

Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure

10.0 Chapter 10: Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure

Chapter 10: Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure focuses on social infrastructure and how it fits into the overall land use planning framework for Limerick to create healthy, sustainable, inclusive and attractive communities in a manner that both enhances quality of life and their connection to place.

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) was prepared and adopted by the Council in 2023. The Plan is a 6-year statutory plan which sets out the objectives and actions to promote and support economic and community development in the County. The LECP covers all aspects of the community and economy in an integrated manner, developed following consultation with all sectors of the communities. The implementation of the LECP will require ongoing cooperation between all agencies to ensure that all the identified actions for both economic and community development can be delivered.

The following tables set out a brief outline of the progress made in achieving the strategic policies and objectives of the sustainable communities and social infrastructure chapter of the Development Plan.

10.1 Sustainable Communities

Sustainable Communities	
Policy SCSI P1 - Sustainable Communities	<i>It is a policy of the Council to seek to improve the provision of community infrastructure and recreational opportunities for the wider community, in co-operation with relevant bodies, in a sustainable manner in accordance with the settlement strategy of the Plan. This is conducive to ethical principles of healthy communities, inclusivity and accessibility to facilities for all abilities and sustainability to ensure that Limerick is a greener, cleaner, more welcoming place to live, work and attract investment.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy SCSI P2 - Location of Community Facilities • Policy SCSI P3 - Social Infrastructure • Objective SCSI O7 - Smart Towns and Villages
Progress Commentary	<p>In the first two years since the adoption of the Development Plan, significant progress has been made to facilitate and support sustainable communities including the following:</p> <p>-Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP): The Limerick Community Development Committee (LCDC) oversaw the delivery of the previous SICAP programme and approved payments to the 3 no. Local Development Companies (LDCs) contracted to deliver the programme in Limerick – PAUL Partnership in the City and suburban Limerick, West Limerick Resources in West Limerick and Ballyhoura Development in East Limerick. The programme budget in</p>

Sustainable Communities

2022 was €2,598,398 and €2,670,088 in 2023, including €208,734 provided for services for Ukrainian refugees. The new Limerick SICAP 2024 – 2028 Framework Contract is €19.2m with contracts awarded to the previous LDCs. The budget for SICAP in Limerick in 2024 is €2.9m.

The Local Development Companies continued to adapt their programmes to meet the needs of the most excluded groups. Priority groups for support were people in, or leaving, the Direct Provision system (in the urban SICAP programme), young people with mental health problems, Travellers/ Roma, long-term unemployed and older people living in rural isolation (in the rural SICAP programmes).

The Local Development companies play a key role in coordinating sub-area forums, in the City, east and west Limerick, to respond to needs of Ukrainian refugees. The Local Development Companies collaborate with other partners in the statutory and voluntary sectors to reach and support people and families most at risk of, or in social exclusion, and assist them to access a wide range of services.

-Rathkeale Together: A specific programme is in place to build cohesion with, and the relationship between, the Traveller and settled communities. Rathkeale Together is delivered under the management of West Limerick Resources, with specific funding provided for staff to support the Traveller and the settled with communities working together.

-EU LEADER Programme: The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), as the Local Action Group (LAG) for the LEADER Programme, completed the full allocation of the 2014-2021 LEADER Programme. Over the period of the programme, the LCDC approved 210 no. projects to the value of €10.6m. An example of a completed LEADER programme is the purchase of the old Ashford Tavern pub/dance hall by the Kantoher Development Group and refurbishment as a much needed community facility. The LCDC were successful in their bid for the 2023-2027 LEADER Programme, to the value of €6.9m, which will assist the delivery of further rural development initiatives throughout rural Limerick.

-Rural Settlement Network North Kerry/ West Limerick Periphery and Border Areas Initiative: This was a cooperation project funded by the LEADER Programme involving West Limerick Resources CLG and North East West Kerry Development (NEWKD), where the latter was the lead partner. Peripheral parts of North Kerry and West Limerick are impacted by demographic weakness (population decline and

Sustainable Communities

population ageing), economic underperformance and lack of services. However, core zones in the border areas have experienced population growth and a number of them have development potential, particularly in rural tourism and other diversification opportunities. This project involved profiling and working on community planning with a number of settlements in the area, to plan for their sustainable development addressing social and economic needs, overall quality of life and climate change. The Limerick settlements involved in the project were Abbeyfeale, Ardagh, Athea, Ballyhahill, Carrigkerry, Glin, Loughill, Mountcollins, Shanagolden, Templeglantine and Tournafulla.

The EU SMART Villages Concept was used to explore how local services can be enhanced and sustained through well planned community-led actions and projects, the deployment of information and communication technology (ICT) tools and consideration of future impacts of climate change. It involved multi-stakeholder engagement, including participation of Limerick City and County Council and Kerry County Council. The outcome was a Regional SMART Village Plan for the border area of North Kerry and West Limerick, structured under the core pillars of Digitalisation and Technology, Innovation, Enterprise and Employment, Sustainability and Community. Local actions under the same pillars were developed for each of the settlements.

-Healthy Ireland/ Healthy Communities: In 2024, funding was received to implement health and wellbeing locally. Following a submission to Pobal in early 2024, €136,000 was awarded to Limerick City and County Council to continue the work of Healthy Limerick and the Healthy Communities Programme. The programmes are leading various initiatives in partnership with a range of statutory and community stakeholders, including Limerick Food Partnership, the Social Health and Education Project, GAA Wellbeing Boards, SláinteCare Healthy Communities Programme, Enhancement Fund Projects, Healthy Relationships, Move Well Physical Activity for Health, Venture Out, Local Development Companies and local communities.

Limerick successfully secured an allocation from the Department of Health Seed Fund in 2023. This place-based initiative was part of the broader Healthy Ireland programme, aiming to reduce health inequalities across the country. The Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme operates in 19 no. community areas, where health inequalities are most prevalent, using an evidence-based approach to address local needs and building upon existing health and wellbeing

Sustainable Communities

programmes. The programme creates a collaborative platform for agencies and government departments including residents, the Health Service Executive and community partners. Its primary objective is to work collectively towards enhancing the long-term health and wellbeing of Healthy Community residents. The Healthy Ireland Programme delivers Health and Wellbeing programmes across the City and County.

The Enhancement Fund supports infrastructural projects aimed at improving health and wellbeing in Sláintecare Healthy Communities. With a €250,000 fund awarded to Limerick City and County Council, the fund has been allocated to the delivery of 3 no. Greenspace projects within the programme area. Work is ongoing to complete these projects in Garryowen, Ballynanty and Johnsgate. Work includes enhancements to greenspace to deliver enhanced recreational amenities and facilities.

Ten groups in Sláintecare Healthy Community areas were awarded funding to establish or enhance community gardens. This initiative aims to enhance access to fresh produce while fostering community engagement. The Limerick Growing Communities participated in the annual Limerick Garden Festival in June at the Milk Market.

The MoveWell and Venture Out projects encourages the participation of Healthy Community residents in targeted activities, which improve their overall health and wellbeing. Through engagement with the most vulnerable living in Healthy Community areas, a need was identified from people who have not engaged in a social/ physical activity for a long time, which leads to isolation, loneliness and inactivity. They face multiple barriers which prevent them from accessing supports and activities in their communities, including a lack of confidence and fear of commitment to longer term activity. Engaging in taster sessions in small group settings allows people to try something new in a safe structured way and builds confidence, making it more likely that they will engage in activities, groups and classes in their own community. Some of the programmes include Activator Walking for Neuro Conditions, Pilates for Chronic Pain and Arthritis, Age Well – Falls Prevention, Singing for Lunch Health and Wellbeing through Art Class.

-Autism-Friendly Limerick: Autism Awareness training has been delivered to Local Authority staff, Elected Members and members of the Public Participation Network. 26 no. sessions were delivered. 365 no. participants took part in the initial training and 45 no. in follow-up training by Q2 2024. A further 4 no. sessions are planned for later in

Sustainable Communities

2024, including for the Limerick Comhairle Na nÓg. As part of the initiative, the Council has funded installation, or are examining the feasibility of the installation of, sensory equipment, to make public buildings and/ or public space more user-friendly for autistic persons. Sensory Wall Panels have been installed in meeting rooms in City Hall, County Hall and Rathkeale Municipal Offices and in the lobbies of both Municipal offices in Kilmallock and Newcastle West. LED waterless tubes, which are calming to people with sensory needs, were installed in City Hall, County Hall and Rathkeale Municipal offices. The libraries were allocated funding to purchase sensory equipment for their branches that support access to their services by autistic people. Examples of equipment purchased include sensory mood light tables (2), dark dens (3), liquid floor tiles and numerous fidget toys and sets.

Funding was also provided for both the St. Patrick's Day festival and Riverfest to provide an area designated as an Autism friendly space in conjunction with ASD Ireland. A new bespoke mobile ASD Unit was used for the first time at St. Patrick's Festival weekend in 2024. At a community level, the Council engaged with West Limerick Resources who have initiated some Autism friendly work in West Limerick. Funding was provided to West Limerick Resources to purchase a sensory room package for St. Ita's Hall in Abbeyfeale, as part of wider renovations to this community facility. Funding was used to hire a co-ordinator for the café in the DOCHAS centre, Parnell Street, Limerick City. The purpose of the funding was to train service members (with intellectual disability and autism) in work skills and support them to apply for mainstream employment in the hospitality and catering/ services industry.

-The Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme at Limerick Libraries: This programme continues to grow, with over 45 no. in-branch events annually, with over 1,000 no. attendees. These events were strategically targeted towards the promotion of health and wellbeing in communities.

-Not Around Us: Signage promoting this no smoking campaign has been placed and distributed within the Council and to external stakeholders. Future signage distribution will target both primary and post primary schools and will align with the published vaping materials for schools, including information and guidance on e-cigarettes. Substance misuse, vaping and smoking prevention is a top priority for young people in Limerick in 2024.

-Limerick Food Partnership (LFP): A new Limerick Food Partnership coordinator is in position 3 days a week since November 2023.

Sustainable Communities

Healthy Ireland, the Redemptorists and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board fund this position. Research has commenced to collate localised data on food poverty/ food security, including a mapping exercise of existing services. A research sub group has been established to oversee this project, with representatives from the Schools of Allied Health, University of Limerick and Mary Immaculate College providing their guidance and expertise. It is expected that a high-level report will be available within 18 months and the final report ready within 2 years. Further to the above, Limerick Food Partnership delivered programmes outside of Sláintecare areas in 2023.

-Social Health and Education Project (SHEP): This programme aims to achieve improved health and wellbeing for communities through the delivery of community led supports, in the form of advocacy, counselling, community organisation supports and improved interagency response at a local level. Programme delivery will continue in Limerick with programmes such as Caring for Your Wellbeing and Introduction to Personal Development, amongst others planned across the County. These programmes directly support actions within Connecting for Life – Ireland’s National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2024.

-Health and Wellbeing Programmes – Limerick: Healthy Limerick is an initiative of the LCDC. It aims to improve health and wellbeing by ensuring that all sectors are aware of and collaborate to achieve a Healthy Limerick, working through the social determinants approach to health. A Healthy Limerick Coordinator has been employed by the Local Authority, as part of a funding and resourcing partnership with the Department of Health.

Limerick City and County Council have been working with local communities throughout Limerick, through Healthy Limerick and the Age Friendly initiative to improve quality of life for all residents. Healthy Limerick was successful in its submission under the Healthy Ireland Fund for the period 2023 – 2025. Healthy Ireland is a government led initiative aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of everyone living in Ireland. Healthy Ireland takes a ‘whole of government’ and ‘whole of society’ approach. The Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025 provides a roadmap towards good health, access to services, healthy environments and the promotion of resilience in a manner that leaves no one behind.

-Community Recognition Fund: The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) announced the launch of the

Sustainable Communities	
	<p>Community Recognition Fund in 2023 to support communities that welcomed people from Ukraine and other countries. Limerick City and County Council has been awarded €1.4m from this fund. Areas eligible for the scheme include Abbeyfeale, Ardagh, Askeaton, Bruff, Cappamore, Castleconnell, Clarina/ Ballybrown, Foynes, Glin, Hospital, Kildimo, Kilfinnane, Kilmallock, Limerick City and suburbs, Newcastle West and Shanagolden. Over 60% of the projects have been delivered in 2023, with the remaining projects ongoing. The projects include upgrade of sports facilities, improvement of community centres including energy efficiency upgrades, purchasing of equipment for festivals, clubs and community projects and the construction of a childcare facility etc. In 2024 an additional €1.3m was allocated to Limerick under the Community Recognition Fund and in August 2024, an allocation of €795,000 was awarded to 14 no. Community Groups in Limerick. The balance of the monies will be allocated in Q1 2025.</p>

10.2 Community Facilities and Amenities

Community Facilities and Amenities	
Objective SCS1 O1 - Community Facilities	<i>It is an objective of the Council to ensure new residential developments incorporate appropriate provision for community and recreational facilities, for the benefit of local residents, or are located within easy access to such facilities.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective SCS1 O3 - Community Hubs • Objective SCS1 O5 - Multi-Use of Facilities • Policy SCS1 P4 - Rural Community Development
Progress Commentary	<p>In May 2023, the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) approved €1,389,505.00 for the delivery of 90 no. projects. These projects were recommended to the Department by Limerick City and County Council from across the City and County, based on direct engagement with local communities. Proposals were required to be consistent with the Local Economic and Community Plan for Limerick. In 2024, the DRCD approved €795,000 for the delivery of 14 no. projects in Limerick.</p> <p>These projects will contribute to upgrading and improving sports and community facilities, energy efficiency upgrades, purchasing of equipment for festivals, clubs and community projects and the construction of a childcare facility among other projects.</p>
Objective SCS1 O2 - Accessibility for All	<i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i> <i>a. Seek the provision of appropriate, inclusive and accessible, safe</i>

Community Facilities and Amenities	
	<p><i>amenity, recreational open space and community facilities that are available for all sections of the community, both urban and rural at a convenient distance from their homes and places of work.</i></p> <p><i>b. Ensure that community facilities, recreation, play and leisure facilities are fully accessible to all users and are compliant with current legislative requirements.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>Limerick City and County Council acknowledges that creating a quality sense of place is vitally important in encouraging people to live, work and visit Limerick's towns and villages. The principle of universal design plays an important role in promoting the attractiveness of public spaces. This objective is being implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management function, whereby accessibility is a key consideration in the design of social and community projects.</p>
Objective SCS1 O4 - Ten - Minute Neighbourhood	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to implement a strategy based on the sustainable compact settlements concept '10-minute city and town', whereby, a range of community facilities and services are accessible in short walking and cycle timeframes from homes, or are accessible by high quality public transport services by connecting people to larger scaled settlements delivering these services.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>The Development Plan includes the necessary policy support for the implementation of the 10-minute city/ town concept. The Development Plan promotes a series of neighbourhoods and vibrant towns and villages, which are compact and can support a range of jobs, services and housing choices, provide the basis for strong economies and communities, and support a greater range of sustainable modes of transport, both within and between settlements.</p> <p>This concept has been transposed into each of the new Local Area Plans, which promote the Town Centre First approach, focusing on creating a thriving town or village centre, with a strong service and social function.</p> <p>The Development Plan also focuses on active land management, including the re-use of vacant buildings, infill and brownfield development, re-purposing of under-utilised lands within town and village centres for mixed uses, including residential, retail or commercial. Each LAP seeks to consolidate the town or village rather than facilitating urban sprawl. In addition, each of the LAPs support the investment in a high quality pedestrian and cyclist friendly public realm, increased permeability, connectivity and creating attractive</p>

Community Facilities and Amenities	
	public spaces where people can gather socially. This is provided through a list of actions identified within each LAP, which when implemented, will meet town centre first objectives.
Objective SCS1 O6 - Strategy on Community Facilities	<i>It is an objective of the Council to develop a strategy based on the community facilities audit and identify where new and/or improved community infrastructure should be provided throughout Limerick.</i>
Progress Commentary	Conclusions and recommendations of the audit of community facilities undertaken for the Local Community Development Plan are being implemented in the preparation of funding applications and requests for development and upgrading of community facilities across Limerick. Funding opportunities from central government programmes are evolving and changing in this area and this has delayed preparation of a strategy. However, the preparation of a specific strategy for community facilities in Limerick is due to commence in Q4 2024/ Q1 2025.

10.3 Healthy Place-Making and Communities

Healthy Place-Making and Communities	
Objective SCS1 O8 – Place-making for the Community	<i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i> <i>a. Develop and protect an open space network and hierarchy of quality public and community spaces, to extend close to where people live and which can accommodate a variety of recreational amenities and facilities for the community at large.</i> <i>b. Incorporate specific facilities and amenities that would promote exercise and movement as well as rest and relaxation in a natural way and in a variety of settings.</i> <i>c. Protect areas which are considered to be quiet or which offer a sense of tranquillity, through a process of identification and validation followed by formal designation of ‘Quiet Areas’.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective SCS1 O9 - Health Place Audits
Progress Commentary	In the first two years of the Development Plan, Limerick City and County Council has undertaken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of new pathways on green spaces in communities to support physical activity and recreation, including at Vartry Green in Raheen, Caherdavin Green, Mayorstone Quarry and Boro field in Janesboro

Healthy Place-Making and Communities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrading of paths to tarmac surface to support physical activity for mothers with buggies and the mobility impaired at Baggott Estate and Ted Russell Park • Prepared landscape designs for greens in Ballynanty and Garryowen Green • Delivery of a Community Park in Castleconnell on Council owned land adjacent to the burial ground with pathways and tree planting • Provision of a trim trail with adult exercise equipment in 2023 in Baggot Estate Park • Development of Fitsticks trail in 2024 at O'Brien Park • Progress in designations of Quiet Areas with noise mapping surveys completed at Lough Gur Park.

10.4 Education Facilities

Education Facilities	
<p>Objective SCSI O10 – Educational Facilities</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. To ensure that existing and new school sites are protected for educational use and that lands adjacent to existing schools are protected for future educational use in order to allow for expansion of these schools, if required, subject to site suitability.</i></p> <p><i>b. Ensure that there are sufficient educational places to meet the needs generated by proposed residential developments, by requiring the completion of a Sustainability Statement and Social Infrastructure Assessment for residential development of 5 or more dwellings.</i></p> <p><i>c. In order to ensure availability of educational provision to meet projected increased requirements arising from the consolidation and densification of development within the City Centre, all existing City Centre schools (and land buffers around them if available) should be protected so that they can be purposed to meet future educational requirements.</i></p> <p><i>d. Commence work in conjunction with the Department of Education and Skills, to identify potential school sites in the City and Suburbs (in Limerick), Mungret and Annacotty that will address the future educational needs of the projected population.</i></p>
<p>Ancillary Policies/ Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective SCSI O11 – Location of Schools • Objective SCSI O12 - Multi-Use of School Facilities
<p>Progress Commentary</p>	<p>Census 2022 shows that there were 21,869 no. children aged between 5 to 12 years at primary school in Limerick, while there were 15,272 no. children aged between 13 and 18 years at secondary school in 2022. The CSO's Population and Labour Force Projections 2023 to 2057 shows that annual average births are projected to experience periods</p>

Education Facilities																	
	<p>of decline under all 3 no. scenarios to 2057. The CSO's report states this is due to declining fertility rates, the increasing trend towards later births, and the decrease in the number of women in the younger age groups.</p> <p>The Council will continue to actively collaborate with the Department of Education to ensure that adequate capacity is available within the various schools to cater for existing and target population growth. The Council also facilitates the Department in identify new lands for the extension of existing schools, or the provision of new schools, particularly in tandem with substantial residential developments.</p> <p>An example of such collaboration is the Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh. The school moved in 2023 to its new grounds on the former brownfield Kerry Group site at Clare Street in the City following an investment of more than €28m from the Department of Education's capital programme. The school first welcomed students in 2006 and was in a temporary location on Sir Harry's Mall in the City. Measuring 8,000m², the new building will accommodate 750 no. students.</p> <p>During the first two years of the Development Plan, planning permission has been granted for school developments including the following:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>Project</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Colaiste Mhichil, CBS Sexton Street</td> <td>Redevelopment of school and extension of 6,419m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Banogue National School</td> <td>Extension of 190m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St. Anne's Primary School, Rathkeale</td> <td>Extension of 388.5m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Corpus Christi Primary School, Moyross</td> <td>Special Needs Base extension of 519m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh, Castletroy</td> <td>Extension of 236m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scoil Náisiúnta Ailbhe, Boher</td> <td>Extension of 1,037m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bohermore National School, Ballysimon</td> <td>Temporary classroom of 82m²</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	School	Project	Colaiste Mhichil, CBS Sexton Street	Redevelopment of school and extension of 6,419m ²	Banogue National School	Extension of 190m ²	St. Anne's Primary School, Rathkeale	Extension of 388.5m ²	Corpus Christi Primary School, Moyross	Special Needs Base extension of 519m ²	Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh, Castletroy	Extension of 236m ²	Scoil Náisiúnta Ailbhe, Boher	Extension of 1,037m ²	Bohermore National School, Ballysimon	Temporary classroom of 82m ²
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<p>Objective SCS1 O13 - Further and Higher Education Facilities</p>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to support:</i></p> <p><i>a. The continued expansion of the City's third level institutions and integration with the wider City.</i></p> <p><i>b. The development of the University of Limerick's City Centre campus in the heart of the City.</i></p> <p><i>c. The development of third level outreach, vocational and lifelong</i></p>																

Education Facilities	
	<i>learning and digital capacity for lifelong learning, including fourth level education, lifelong learning and up skilling generally.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>Census 2022 shows that there has been a significant increase in the level of educational attainment in the adult population. The number of people with a third level qualification in Limerick increased from more than 45,500 in 2016 to just over 57,000 in 2022 (41% of the population aged 15 years and over).</p> <p>The Council continues to actively collaborate with the various third level institutes in Limerick, including University of Limerick, Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) and Mary Immaculate College to ensure that adequate capacity is available within the colleges to cater for existing and target student growth. The Council also facilitates the third level institutes in identifying new lands for the provision of additional campuses, particularly in the City Centre.</p> <p>TUS has opened a new 5,819m² engineering building at its Coonagh Campus.</p> <p>-Lifelong Learning Limerick: 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 comprises 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 lifecycle, 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 annual Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival comprises a week of events covering a variety of topics and sectors.</p>

10.5 Childcare Facilities

Childcare Facilities	
Objective SCSI O14 - Childcare Facilities	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Encourage the provision of appropriate childcare facilities as an integral part of proposals for new residential developments and to improve/expand existing childcare facilities.</i></p> <p><i>b. Encourage the provision of childcare facilities in a sustainable manner to encourage local economic development and to assist in addressing disadvantage.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	Census 2022 shows that there were 5,315 no. children in a crèche/ Montessori/ playgroup/ after school service in Limerick City and County (42%).

Childcare Facilities	
	<p>The Local Authority acknowledges that the growth in demand for childcare services will continue in tandem with population growth and facilitating good quality services close to communities is therefore of importance. The Local Authority also acknowledges that the availability of childcare places is essential to facilitate participation in education, training, the labour force and to increase and sustain economic productivity. The Plan therefore supports the provision of childcare facilities in appropriate locations.</p> <p>All Large Scale Residential Developments (LRDs) are required to be accompanied by an analysis of childcare provision and capacity near the site, in consultation with the Childcare Committee. Where a deficit in childcare facilities is evident, the applicant is required to provide such facilities. The Council will continue to require the timely provision of the necessary social infrastructure to facilitate the creation of sustainable and inclusive communities.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, planning permission has been granted for a number of new crèches and extensions to existing crèches in various locations throughout the County.</p>

10.6 Health and Respite Care

Health and Respite Care	
Objective <i>SCSI O15 - Health Care Facilities</i>	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Support and facilitate development and expansion of health service infrastructure by the Health Service Executive, other statutory and voluntary agencies and private healthcare providers in the provision of healthcare facilities at appropriate locations - including the system of hospital care and the provision of community-based primary care facilities, mental health and wellbeing facilities.</i></p> <p><i>b. Encourage the integration of appropriate healthcare facilities within new and existing communities.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective SCSI O16 – Emergency Services
Progress Commentary	<p>There are a wide range of healthcare facilities available throughout Limerick including hospitals, general practitioners, health centres, dentists, physiotherapists, pharmacies etc.. The Council will continue to support the provision of new and expanded health care facilities by the public, private and voluntary sectors through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority.</p>

Health and Respite Care	
	<p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, the Planning Authority has granted permission for a range of healthcare related developments. Some examples of significant developments include a private hospital at Ballysimon, an ambulatory medical facility at Moyross and extension to the radiology unit at University Hospital Limerick.</p> <p>The Council continues to provide a fire and rescue service throughout Limerick.</p>

10.7 Age Friendly Strategy

Age Friendly Strategy	
Objective <i>SCSI O17 - Age Friendly Strategy</i>	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support and facilitate the implementation of Age Friendly Limerick Strategy 2016-2020 or any update thereto.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>The Age Friendly Ireland Programme has been operational in Ireland since 2008 and is affiliated to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Age Friendly Cities and Communities Programme. Ireland was the first country to have full affiliation to the Global WHO Programme.</p> <p>Limerick City and County Council has continued to support the Age Friendly Limerick Programme since the adoption of the Development Plan. Census 2022 indicated that 16% of Limerick's population or 33,588 are aged 65 years and over, while 3.6% of the population are 80 years and over.</p> <p>The Age Friendly Limerick Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028 was launched in 2024, to create a more inclusive and vibrant community for people of all ages. The strategy reflects Limerick's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for every member of the community as the age profile of the population continues to grow older. The strategy emphasises the importance of empowering older residents to actively engage in volunteering and civic endeavours, fostering a sense of purpose and belonging. It aims to create a universally attainable environment, where individuals can remain socially active and valued members of their communities.</p> <p>The Age Friendly Alliance is a senior level cross-sector group whose member agencies form the overarching strategic partnership to develop and oversee the realisation of the Strategy.</p>

Age Friendly Strategy	
	<p>Age friendly initiatives cover areas including housing, community engagement, transport, cultural activities and social inclusion.</p> <p>Age friendly initiatives which have been undertaken since the adoption of the Development Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A familiarisation trip to the Limerick Greenway to ascertain insights and views of the executive members on making the greenway age friendly. • Event to observe World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. • Dementia Conference hosted by Family Carers Ireland at the Strand Hotel. • Limerick City and County Library partnered with the Vodafone Ireland Foundation to pilot a tablet tuition and loan scheme for older people in November 2023. The objective of the scheme is to eliminate barriers and to enable older people to access the digital world. Tablet devices are available for loan from the library. This scheme is targeted at older people who have the option of taking part in a 4 week tuition course funded through Europe Direct, or to follow the Hi Digital self - directed learning option which the Vodafone Ireland Foundation have developed with older people in mind. • Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme has provided the Council with 2 no. Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinators to assist older people to live as independently as possible in their own homes for as long as possible.

10.8 Active Cities

Active Cities	
Objective <i>SCSI O18 - Active City Initiative</i>	<i>It is an objective of the Council to facilitate the Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018-2030 in the development of the 'Active City' Initiative, in partnership with the relevant authorities and stakeholders.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>Funding was secured by Limerick Sports Partnership (LSP) for a new Active Cities initiative which will be delivered over a 3 year period. The Council and University of Limerick are key partners on this project.</p> <p>LSP were successful with an EU PACTE+ project promoting Active Cities, partnered with Graz, Fredrikstad and Angers. The project included 4 no. European cities examining Active Schools, Mobility, Workplaces and Governance.</p>

10.9 Sports and Recreation

Sports and Recreation	
Objective SCS1 O19 - Protection of lands zoned for Open Space and Recreation	<p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a. Protect existing open space, by not permitting development which encroaches on open space and would result in reducing the recreational value to the public.</p> <p>b. Protect semi-natural open space areas from inappropriate development in the interest of recreational enjoyment, community health and well-being, flood protection and biodiversity.</p>
Progress Commentary	<p>In the first two years of the Development Plan, the Planning Authority through the Development Management function has continued to protect open space from inappropriate forms of development. The overall extent of lands zoned for public open space throughout the County has remained substantially unchanged and the Council will continue to support opportunities to enhance and improve areas of open spaces. Such opportunities include those identified in the Limerick City and Environs Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy published in 2023.</p>
Objective SCS1 O20 - Protection of Sports Grounds/ Facilities	<p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a. Ensure that adequate playing fields for formal active recreation are provided for in new development areas.</p> <p>b. Protect, retain and enhance existing sports facilities and grounds.</p>
Progress Commentary	<p>The Planning Authority through the Development Management function will ensure that playing fields are provided where necessary. The Planning Authority will also continue to facilitate enhancement of sports facilities and grounds. Since the adoption of the Development Plan, a number of sports facilities have been granted permission for development or upgrade, including spectator stands, new clubhouses, provision of pitches etc.</p> <p>In addition, there are a number of sports and recreation projects throughout the County which are at various stages. These include:</p> <p>-Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre: Limerick City and County Council received grant funding of €646,659 under the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LLSIF) to carry out emergency flood relief upgrade works. Further requirements for upgrades to ensure flood</p>

Sports and Recreation

protection and improved energy efficiencies were identified in 2022. A second tranche of funding (€619,091) was received under Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Funding in December 2023, bringing the total funding to €1,265,750. The successful contractor was appointed and commenced works in August 2024, with an estimated completion date of December 2024.

-Rathbane Golf Course: This course was awarded All Ireland All Star Public Course of the year 2022 for the third year in a row. Limerick City and County Council continues to provide ongoing financial support to enable the operation of Rathbane Golf Course. A tender for an energy upgrade and refurbishment of the accessible WC within the clubhouse was completed in 2023. The contractor was appointed in June 2024 and will complete the works in Q4 of 2024.

-Grove Island Leisure Centre: Due to large costs involved in heating and operating a swimming pool, Limerick City and County Council continued to provide support to the operator of Grove Island Leisure Centre. Design consultants were appointed in July 2024 to prepare a design for the upgrade to the ground floor changing village, dry changing rooms, health suite and dry and wet areas of the complex.

-Sports Capital Funding: In 2023, the Sports and Recreation Directorate applied for Sports Capital Funding for 4 no. projects across Limerick City and County. The projects are aimed at improving existing sporting facilities across a range of sports. A decision in relation to the applications is awaited as of 1st August 2024. These projects include the following:

- Upgrade to the Grove Island Leisure Complex, which includes a pool, gymnasium, exercise studios and sports hall
- Provision of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) in Hospital
- Upgrade to flood lights in Kennedy Park Soccer Pitches
- Mungret Park Pitch upgrade.

-Other Facilities: A number of sports facilities have been granted permission for development or upgrade, one of the key applications is set out below:

Project	Status
Southside Boxing Academy, Galvone Industrial Estate, Limerick	In 2024, refurbishment works were undertaken to expand the existing training areas and number of dressing room facilities to allow for female participants and improve

Sports and Recreation	
	the energy efficiency of the structure (ESIF funded).
Objective SCS1 O21 - Improve Open Space Provision	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Co-operate with sports clubs, schools, cultural groups and community organisations to provide quality sports and recreational facilities to the community. The Council encourages a multi-use and co-use of facilities of a complementary nature to support more diverse range of sport and recreational opportunities. Proposed development shall demonstrate quality pedestrian and cyclist linkage.</i></p> <p><i>b. Ensure residential development incorporates appropriate provision of quality public open space and play lots in accordance with the Development Management Standards set out in Chapter 11. Open space provision will be proportional to the number of residential units proposed, consider access to existing open space and have regard to the principles of national guidance including accessibility, personal and child safety, linkage, place-making and permeability and the hierarchy of open space.</i></p> <p><i>c. Ensure that proposals for largescale development on land zoned Enterprise and Employment incorporate active and passive recreational opportunities for employees.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>It is an ongoing objective of the Council to support the provision and enhancement of public open spaces. Since the adoption of the Development Plan, Limerick Sports Partnership and the Parks Department have provided fixed infrastructure in parks throughout the City, which encourages activities such as basketball, table tennis, volleyball, techball, ping pong, weights training etc.</p> <p>Limerick City and County Council continue to work with communities to assist identification of pathways for the provision of sports resources. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of lands for a cricket batting area within the parks in the City or suburbs. A site within Mungret Park has now been agreed upon for this Cricket Crease • Identification of a suitable site for the provision of a full cricket pitch in the City or suburbs • Soccer pitch provision in Pallaskenry • Provision of funding for basketball court, table tennis and petanques in Shelbourne Park • Securing of funding to upgrade the Multi Use Games Area in Hospital and Cappamore • New pedestrian bridges were manufactured for the Clare Glens amenity and will be installed and in use before end 2024

Sports and Recreation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary plan prepared for sport and recreation in Lisheen Park in Patrickswell.
Objective SCS1 O22 - New City Amenity Areas	<i>It is an objective of the Council to identify suitable sites for the provision of new parks/playgrounds in the vicinity of Caherdavin, Corbally and the Groody Valley.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>In the first two years of the Development Plan, Limerick City and County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified land in the Bishops field in Corbally for a playground, with funding also identified. • Identified the preferred site option for a playground in Caherdavin. A public consultation will commence in September 2024. • Identified the Groody Valley in the Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy as an important green space. The site should develop as a natural play space while maintaining habitat and ecological value.
Objective SCS1 O23 - Limerick Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy	<i>It is an objective of the Council to facilitate the preparation and implementation of a Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy on completion.</i>
Progress Commentary	A Draft Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy has been prepared by the appointed consultants. However, due to the completion of the release of Census 2022 data results, the document requires detailed review prior to being formally agreed and adopted by the Council.
Objective SCS1 O24 - Limerick Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2018-2021	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the implementation of Limerick Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and any subsequent updates.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>In the last 2 years over 21,000 no. participants have engaged in Limerick Sports Partnership (LSP) programmes, events, and education initiatives, including successful targeted programmes, resource development and the provision of equipment to disadvantaged communities. An extended summer provision across all marginalised groups and additional supports for the Ukrainian community is facilitated through summer camp opportunities.</p> <p>In 2022, LSP secured funding to the value of €1,400,000 (including Core, Education and programme funding) from multiple funds to assist with its operations and programme delivery. Key sources of</p>

Sports and Recreation

funding are Sport Ireland, LCETB UBU Fund, the HSE and the Dormant Accounts programme.

Since the adoption of the Development Plan, the Council through the LSP has undertaken a number of projects including:

- Upgrade to the Grove Island Leisure Complex, which includes a pool, gymnasium, exercise studios and sports hall
- Provision of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) in Hospital
- Upgrade to flood lights at Kennedy Park Soccer Pitches
- Mungret Park Pitch upgrade
- Expanded the Community Sports Hubs offerings in Garryowen, Moyross and Athlunkard
- Inclusion equipment for cycling and vision sports
- Transition Year VIP Leadership Programme
- Youth leadership
- Your Place Your Space Youth Programme, providing numerous programmes supporting youths of 10 to 24 years
- Drug and alcohol education
- Sports Ability Day
- Women in Sports
- Get Girls Active
- Sport4Empowerment Programme
- Return to Sport/ Covid Grant Scheme
- Men’s Health Week and Active Sports Week
- Clare Street Park BoxUp equipment lockers with 656 no. registered users
- Minority Clubs/ Community Group Grant Scheme supported up to 80 no. groups to deliver sport and physical activity
- Good2Go Inclusion initiative
- Youths from Disadvantaged Area Supports
- Energy scheme to assist clubs and community groups with energy costs
- Migrants and Ukrainian Supports
- Opened a regional office in Newcastle West to establish a stronger presence in West Limerick
- Recruited a Physical Activity for Health Officer to engage and support individuals with chronic conditions post level 3 care into community based physical activities
- Recruited a Social Innovation in Sport Officer
- Facilitated 3 no. Community Sports Hubs, which host part-time and full-time facilitators in Croom, Moyross and Garryowen. These Hubs will have an investment of €650,000

Sports and Recreation	
	<p>over a 5-year period promoting physical activity and enhancing local amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborated with Healthy Limerick on inclusive programmes targeting people with disabilities, including Inclusive Rowing at Castleconnell Boat Club, Adapted Physical Activity Programme Brothers of Charity Rathkeale and Adapted Physical Activity Programme Daughters of Charity, Lisnagry. A migrant specific badminton programme also ran in Limerick City Centre • Move Well Physical Activity for Health targeting health inequalities by promoting physical activity and improving the overall well-being of individuals with chronic conditions in Limerick's Healthy Community areas.
Objective SCS1 O25 – Limerick City Centre Leisure Strategy	<i>It is an objective of the Council to prepare a Leisure Strategy for Limerick City Centre, within the lifetime of the Plan and seek to deliver the strategy on completion, subject to resources.</i>
Progress Commentary	No progress has yet been made in preparation of a Leisure Strategy
Objective SCS1 O26 - Local Sports Plan	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support and assist the National Sports Policy 2018-2027 in coordinating all essential bodies and facilitating the drive towards greater sports participation at a local level, with the development of a Local Sports Plan.</i>
Progress Commentary	No progress has yet been made in preparation of a Local Sports Plan

10.10 Play Areas

Play Areas	
Objective SCS1 O27 – Playgrounds	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Support play policies to address the play and recreation needs of children and young people, with specific consideration given to the needs of children and young adults with Disabilities.</i> <i>Support local communities in the provision of a range of play facilities in appropriate locations across Limerick, including urban and rural locations.</i> <i>Encourage the use of nature based play with respect to the provision of play opportunities.</i> <i>Require developers of new residential schemes commensurate with the scale and purpose of the development to provide in situ, natural play areas for children, or as the case may be, small</i>

Play Areas															
	<i>playgrounds, where it is considered necessary and opportune to address local deficits in provision as set out in Table DM2 Open Space Hierarchy within Residential Estates.</i>														
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy SCS1 P5 - Play 														
Progress Commentary	<p>Limerick City and County Council recognises the importance of play facilities for the existing and target population and will fully support and facilitate their development. During the first two years of the Development Plan, the Council continued to provide support in terms of public liability insurance for the operation of 19 no. community playgrounds. The Council also provided financial support to playgrounds to carry out minor repair works to the playgrounds and provided training to the community groups to enable them to carry out weekly Health and Safety inspections.</p> <p>Limerick City and County Council also introduced a Repair and Upgrade Scheme of Assistance for Community Playgrounds'. 20 no. community playgrounds have availed of the Scheme of Assistance.</p> <p>In addition, during the first two years of the Development Plan the following projects were undertaken by the Council:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Playgrounds/ Parks</th> <th>Project</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ted Russell Park, Adare Park and Baggott Estate</td> <td>New willow structures for natural play. 2024/2025 Adare Park Green Flag status applied for-awaiting outcome</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Castletroy Urban Greenway</td> <td>Go Green Routes, installation of large natural play site</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newcastle West Demesne</td> <td>Playground improvements, upgrade of walkways and connection to the Multi Use Games Area</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kennedy Park, Corbally Baths and Mayorstone</td> <td>Pop Up Natural Playgrounds reusing trees felled for Active Travel projects</td> </tr> <tr> <td>People's Park</td> <td>Upgraded to the first fully inclusive playground in the City and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive seat swing with lockable harness • Wheelchair accessible roundabout, trampoline and sand digger • Inclusive Springer • Addition of Irish Sign Language </td> </tr> <tr> <td>O'Brien Park</td> <td>Upgraded to inclusive playground to include:</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Playgrounds/ Parks	Project	Ted Russell Park, Adare Park and Baggott Estate	New willow structures for natural play. 2024/2025 Adare Park Green Flag status applied for-awaiting outcome	Castletroy Urban Greenway	Go Green Routes, installation of large natural play site	Newcastle West Demesne	Playground improvements, upgrade of walkways and connection to the Multi Use Games Area	Kennedy Park, Corbally Baths and Mayorstone	Pop Up Natural Playgrounds reusing trees felled for Active Travel projects	People's Park	Upgraded to the first fully inclusive playground in the City and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive seat swing with lockable harness • Wheelchair accessible roundabout, trampoline and sand digger • Inclusive Springer • Addition of Irish Sign Language 	O'Brien Park	Upgraded to inclusive playground to include:
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O'Brien Park	Upgraded to inclusive playground to include:														

Play Areas	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive seat swing • Wheelchair accessible roundabout and trampoline • Inclusive Springer Installation of table tennis, teqball tables, volleyball nets and basketball court. BoxUp equipment lockers installed
Castletroy Park	Playground extended and inclusive play elements provided
Shelbourne Playground	Wheelchair accessible roundabout installed in 2024
<p>The Development Plan requires residential developments of more than 50 no. units to incorporate a play lot. This is managed through the Development Management function of the Planning Authority.</p>	

10.11 Trails and Green Routes

Trails and Green Routes	
Objective <i>SCSI O28 - New amenity walkways</i>	<i>It is an objective of the Council to continue to promote and facilitate the development of walkways subject to an appropriate level of environmental and ecological assessment. Any proposed development adjacent to such walkways must incorporate connecting pathways into the designated walkway in their design. Developments shall be designed to ensure that properties overlook proposed walkways.</i>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective SCSI O29 - Trails, Hiking and Walking Routes
Progress Commentary	<p>The Council supports and facilitates the provision and enhancement of walkways throughout Limerick.</p> <p>The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, provides for the development of new and existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas, building 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 largescale projects.</p>

Trails and Green Routes	
	<p>In the first two years of the Development Plan, some of the projects undertaken through this funding includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballyhoura Country and Galbally (Moore Abbey) • Kilmallock Riverside Walk and Park (universal access) • Foynes (Monument Hill Walk) • Lough Gur Walkway • Limerick Greenway signage and animation • Adare Riverside Nature Trail • Development measures at Killeery Pier, Loghill and Blackrock Loop, Ballyhoura Way • Croom Riverside Walk • Bruff to Holycross Slí na Sláinte <p>Further to the above projects, in May 2024 funding was secured by Limerick City and County Council to deliver a County Outdoor Recreation Strategy for Limerick from the Department of Rural and Community Development. This is due to commence in Q3 2024. In July 2024, Limerick City and County Council was approved funding of €595,191 for 2 no. new outdoor recreation projects, namely a new trail between the villages of Ashford and Raheenagh to link up with Killeedy Eco Park and the established Broadford Ashford trails network and the Adare Manor Fields Eco Trail.</p>

10.12 Water Based Sports

Water Based Sports	
Objective <i>SCSI O30 - Water-Based Sports</i>	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support and encourage water based sports and leisure activities at appropriate locations throughout Limerick, subject to Council Bye-Laws and the Habitats and Birds Directives.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>Limerick Sports Partnership engaged with a number of Outdoor Swimming groups in relation to Healthy Ireland's grant scheme for the provision of equipment and support for water based activities.</p> <p>The Local Authority are also examining the potential to enable access to Lough Gur for water based sports.</p>

10.13 Arts and Culture

Arts and Culture	
Objective SCSI O31 - Arts and Culture	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Support the objectives of Limerick Cultural Strategy 2016-2030, Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 and Limerick City and County Heritage Plan 2030;</i></p> <p><i>b. Ensure the capacity to stage public events is a factor in the provision and design of public spaces;</i></p> <p><i>c. Promote appropriate public art installations including ‘Per Cent for Arts Scheme’ as part of all major infrastructural projects and also renewal;</i></p> <p><i>d. Ensure that the potential for the accommodation of creative hubs and clusters is a key consideration in renewal programmes such as within the City Centre Innovation District; the Colbert Station Quarter; the Docklands and in historic Town Centres.</i></p> <p><i>e. Promote the provision of venues that are flexible spaces that are fit for purpose for theatre, music or dance performance and visual arts in locations that are accessible with respect to public transport, are inclusive in terms of accessibility and would contribute to creative clusters through their location, design and accessibility;</i></p> <p><i>f. Strengthen existing art and cultural infrastructure;</i></p> <p><i>g. Promote the provision of studios and specialised facilities for arts and music production, film and digital media, where they would help revitalise the City Centre, historic towns, areas earmarked for regeneration or renewal and as part of renewal programmes or projects;</i></p> <p><i>h. Consider the protection of spaces and facilities for the arts.</i></p>
Ancillary Policies/ Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective SCSI O32 - Public Art Strategy
Progress Commentary	<p>One of Limerick City and County Council’s key objectives is delivering a cultural and arts programme for the benefit of the citizens of, and visitors to, Limerick. The Council has developed and/ or supported multiple art and cultural initiatives to facilitate the arts and the role it plays in enhancing quality of life. Overall objectives developed through consultation with relevant stakeholders are contained within the Limerick Cultural Strategy - A Framework 2016 to 2030 and the Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023 – 2027.</p> <p>The Limerick Cultural Strategy – A Framework 2016 to 2030 aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grow Limerick’s cultural capacity by retaining and attracting creative practitioners to live and work in Limerick Grow the physical and human resources, infrastructure and support for staging large scale interventions, performances, festivals and productions Support and grow innovate and creative collectives in Limerick

Arts and Culture

- Foster multiple examples of imagination, innovation and integration in Limerick and to use creative approaches to help citizens and visitors re-imagine Limerick
- Place culture at the heart of the economic growth and regeneration of Limerick.

Further enhancement and development of the aims and objectives contained within the 2016-2030 plan, was facilitated through the development of the Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027, as a requirement of the Creative Ireland Programme Creative Communities programme development and funding drawdown. Arts Leaders Associates were engaged to support Limerick City and County Council for the consultation, research and writing of the Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027. The resulting Strategy sets out five strategic priorities for Limerick:

- Place-making
- Cultural and Creative Careers
- Connections
- Change-making
- Cultural and Creative Economy.

The Creative Communities programme is being developed and implemented. A Creative Communities Engagement Officer was appointed in August 2023, to facilitate greater engagement and deepening and roll out of the programme.

Actions completed in the first two years of the Development Plan, which directly relate to the implementation of both strategies, include the following:

Category	Initiative
Artists' bursaries and grants schemes	Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme
	Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary
	Engine Short Film Bursaries
	Limerick Theatre Bursaries
	Grants under the Arts Act
	Arts Strategic Fund – to support artists in leverage of national funding
	Summer School Bursaries (Tyrone Guthrie, Blas, Meitheal, Drama League of Ireland)
	Words Ireland National Mentoring Programme

Arts and Culture	
	<p>Internal review of arts grant schemes</p> <p>Completed June 2024, to ensure that funding conditions are clear and monitored, to maintain standards and achieve good practice</p>
	<p>Visual Artists Ireland Professional Development Training</p> <p>Arts and disability training in partnership with Arts and Disability Ireland. VAI Professional development training for professional individual artists, in partnership with Clare and Tipperary Councils</p>
	<p>Artists Supports</p> <p>Publication of Stony Thursday poetry book</p> <p>Michael Hartnett Poetry award 2023</p> <p>Limerick Residential Apartments for Artists (subsidised) managed and occupied</p> <p>8 no. Artist Studios at James Street Limerick City and 6 no. studios at Cappamore managed and occupied</p>
	<p>Creative Ireland Creative Communities Programme</p> <p>Extensive no. of projects, grants and initiatives, including Made in Limerick Grants and Musicians on Call</p>
	<p>Cruinniú na nÓg</p> <p>Supporting creative projects across formal and informal education settings in the delivery of Cruinniú na nÓg and in the approach to Creative Schools, the Local Creative Youth Partnership and youth engagement</p>
	<p>Culture Night</p> <p>The 2022 and 2023 Culture Night programmes delivered in the region of 70 no. events each September, to enhance Limerick's cultural offering</p>
	<p>-Per Cent for Art: The Government Per Cent for Art Scheme creates opportunities for people to engage with contemporary art and artists in everyday settings. The scheme is linked to public infrastructure projects such as schools, social housing, road development and healthcare buildings. Work created under this scheme is most often referred to as public art. A new Limerick public art policy has been prepared in consultation with internal and external stakeholders and the general public in 2023. It aims to maximise the take up of this funding for Limerick City and County and the Policy aims to provide the framework to facilitate this vision and programme. The policy was noted by full Council in March 2024.</p>

Arts and Culture	
	<p>-Strengthening Infrastructure: Limerick Arts Office works to lever national funding for arts organisations through supporting the organisations in applications for capital funding. The Irish Aerial Creation Centre (IACC) was supported in this way and successfully completed a refurbishment project to provide workspace. 50% project funding of €350k was provided by the Council.</p> <p>Artist apartments and studios are provided by the Council at John’s Square, James’s Street and Cappamore. In June 2024, a new capital scheme for the provision of artists’ workspaces was announced by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht Sport and Media. The Council commenced work to lever funding from the scheme through investigating possible projects.</p> <p>-Facilities: The announcement in June 2024 of funding being made available nationally for the provision of Artist Workspaces allows for consideration and investigation of potential projects.</p>
Objective SCS1 O33 - Limerick City Gallery of Art Strategy	<i>It is an objective of the Council to support the actions set out in Limerick City Gallery of Art, Statement of Strategy: 2020-2025.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>The Limerick City Gallery of Art, Statement of Strategy: 2020-2025 sets out an ambition to deliver open access to quality art and to become a model of a civic gallery for the 21st Century. To achieve this ambition, Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA) has engaged in the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development and delivery of the LCGA Artistic Programme as set out in the Limerick City Gallery of Art, Statement of Strategy: 2020-2025, continued with a successful programme of exhibitions. There were 6 no. major contemporary exhibitions launched each year alongside a number of complementary exhibitions showcasing works from the Gallery’s Permanent Collection. • In addition to the annual programme, the Gallery acted as the main venue for EVA International in 2023, in its 40th anniversary year. One of the notable elements of EVA International 2023 was the inclusion of the Gallery’s Permanent Collection as part of the Gallery’s ongoing commitment to maximise the potential of this outstanding collection.

Arts and Culture	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to developing audiences, strengthening public engagement and developing artistic endeavour is ongoing through initiatives such as the Shinnors Scholarship in Engagement and Learning and Test Space Residencies. • Collaborations with external organisations and agencies continue to provide an engaging programme of additional events and activities in order to increase audience numbers and participation. In 2022-2023, there were collaborations with organisations including University of 3rd Age (U3A), Limerick School of Art and Design (LSAD), Paul Partnership, Helium Arts, Print Networks Ireland and the Light Moves Festival. • Limerick City Gallery of Art continues to collaborate with local, national and international institutions and organisations in relation to making artworks available for exhibitions and in providing information about the Permanent Collections.
Objective SCS1 O34 – Cultural Audit	<i>It is an objective of the Council to undertake a cultural audit and create a dynamic database and associated map of existing and future locations and landmarks that incorporates, or has the potential to incorporate cultural/creative arts.</i>
Progress Commentary	The Urban and Rural Community Development Department (URCD) of Limerick City and County Council published an audit of community buildings and community cultural and arts facilities across the City and County in 2022. This involved a survey and mapping of all known facilities open for general community use. These include specific purpose community facilities, schools and sports clubs that are available to communities and cultural and arts centres. The survey findings were reported, providing analysis of issues including the age and self-assessment of the condition of the buildings, energy efficiency, activities run, staffing and volunteering and enterprise/revenue generation.
Objective SCS1 O35 – Museum Service	<i>It is an objective of the Council to develop a Museum Development Strategy to facilitate the continued protection and preservation of Limerick’s archaeological and historic heritage.</i>
Progress Commentary	A Draft Museum Development Strategy has been prepared for the period 2024 – 2030.
Objective SCS1 O36 – Limerick Museum	<i>It is an objective of the council to support and promote The Limerick Museum</i>

Arts and Culture	
Progress Commentary	In the first two years of the Development Plan, Limerick Museum has delivered an extensive series of exhibitions, and outreach activities including pop up museum, collaborations and partnerships with the Hunt Museum, St. Mary's Cathedral and the Peoples' Museum. The museum also enhanced its social media presence with a significant growth of followers recorded.

10.14 The Library Service

The Library Service	
Objective SCSI O37 - Library Service	<i>It is an objective of the Council to promote the expansion of the Library Service across Limerick and support the actions set out in People-Place-Platform: Limerick Libraries Development Plan 2021-2025.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>The central vision of People Place Platform: Limerick Libraries Development Plan 2021-2025 is to offer attractive and welcoming spaces to enable all members of the community to access knowledge and ideas and provide space where people can reflect, connect and learn. In the last two years the following progress has been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 2 Detailed Plans for Flagship new City Library at Opera Square approved by Department of Rural and Community Development • Continued improvement and maintenance of the fabric of the library network with a programme of improvements and refurbishment • Completion of a major redevelopment of Newcastle West Library to enhance facilities and services including the creation of meeting room, sensory space, accessible toilets and upgrade to public IT Systems • Complete repaint of Abbeyfeale Library both internally and externally • Installation of new green (air to air) heating system at Kilmallock Library • Replacement of lighting system at Dooradoyle Library to more sustainable LED lighting system • Options Studies complete to identify possible sites available to meet the requirements of a new library for the Castletroy/Annacotty community • Architect's report on options for refurbishment of library at Askeaton complete • Library delivery van replaced

The Library Service

- Mobile Library grant fund submitted, approved and tender published.

The Library Service has successfully achieved grant funding in excess of €385,000 in the period 2022 – 2024 under the following schemes:

- Europe Direct €75,000 in 2022 -2024
- Dormant Account Library Supports €44,000 2022 – 2024
- Public Access ICT Grant €31,687 in 2023
- Healthy Ireland at Your Library Programming €10,000
- Mobile Library Grant €225,000.

During the first two years of the Development Plan, the following actions have also been achieved:

- Provision of an extensive programme of events, workshops, adult education classes, exhibitions and outreach activities designed to support library visits and community engagement.
- Expanded the Right to Read programme to increase participation of children, young people, families and adults in reading and learning activities.
- Development of autism and neuro diverse friendly services and programming is now in place across the library network. This includes Sensory Dens, Magic Tables and collections of Sensory Toys.
- Creation of new Local Studies website to provide access to Limerick’s rich culture and history through curated content, features and highlights.
- Delivered the Decade of Centenaries programme commemorating the events of this period in a sensitive and inclusive manner.
- Enhanced e-library service offer with introduction of music and film streaming service.
- Introduction of My Open Library service at Cappamore Library offering extended opening hours on a self-service basis.
- Developed a social media and marketing plan for the Library Service.
- Expanded the age friendly library programme with completion of training for library staff to become Age Friendly Champions and promote Age friendly initiatives across the library network.
- Provision of Home Energy Saving Kits with tools to help better understand the energy use at home and advice on how to take steps to reduce energy use.

The Library Service	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued to address objectives of Climate Action Plan, including programming to support environmental awareness and education. Continued growth of the Healthy Ireland At Your Library programme. Provide digital and literacy aids to support children and adults to facilitate reading skills, this includes C-Pen Readers, Reading Egg and Touch Type Read Spell software licences.

10.15 Burial Grounds and Crematoria

Burial Grounds and Crematoria	
Objective SCS1 O38 – Burial Grounds/ Crematoria	<p><i>It is an objective of the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a. Support the implementation of the Burial Ground Strategy which is currently under preparation.</i></p> <p><i>b. Provide and facilitate the provision of burial grounds in Castletroy and other towns throughout Limerick identified in the Burial Grounds Strategy (under preparation).</i></p> <p><i>c. Support the development of crematoria in Limerick, subject to normal planning considerations.</i></p> <p><i>d. Support the future provision of new funeral homes, in appropriate locations, which are designed to sensitively meet the needs of the service.</i></p> <p><i>e. Ensure protection of water quality, in particular drinking water sources, with any proposed development.</i></p>
Progress Commentary	<p>Limerick City and County Council is responsible for the management of approximately 255 no. burial grounds and the provision of new and extended cemeteries in accordance with the Burial Ground Strategy.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, the Council has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed an extension to Caherconlish Burial Ground to provide 240 no. additional burial spaces for the community Completed purchase of lands in Newcastle West for extension of the Calvary Burial Ground Completed an extension to the Ballylanders Burial Ground Completed an extension to the Askeaton Burial Ground Completed a Muslim Burial Ground in Patrickswell Completed site suitability testing for new burial grounds to serve the Ballysimon DED, Adare and Murroe/ Cappamore Columbarium Walls at Mount Saint Lawrence and Kilmurry Burial Grounds

Burial Grounds and Crematoria	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made available cremation plots in Mount Saint Lawrence Burial Ground • Granted planning permission for a new graveyard in Monaleen, with 3,300 plots planned over 3 phases. This grant of permission has been appealed to An Bord Pleanála.

10.16 Community Gardens and Allotments

Community Gardens and Allotments	
Objective <i>SCSI O39 - Community Gardens and Allotments</i>	<i>It is an objective of the Council to facilitate the development of community gardens and allotments in Limerick, subject to normal planning and environmental considerations.</i>
Progress Commentary	<p>In the first two years of the Development Plan, the Council has made the following progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a community garden in Baggot Estate containing 5 no. areas which have now been given over to community group such as schools. • Community Gardens/ Allotments Measure under CLÁR 2021 project was completed in 2024 by Tournafulla Sustainable Living Community group. • As part of the SláinteCare Healthy Communities, community gardens are being developed in some of the disadvantaged areas of the Limerick City. • Through the Economic and Social Intervention Fund, Limerick Regeneration supported the development of 6 no. Community gardens and allotments in Limerick city: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Hub Limerick, Kileely: Installation of Geodome and extension of Community Garden • Limerick Civic Trust, Grove Island and King's Island: Continued planting of urban orchards • Southill Family Resource Centre, Southill: Ongoing development of community allotments including landscape for 6 no. planting beds, materials shed.

Community Gardens and Allotments	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Munchin’s Community Enterprise Centre, Kileely: Programming and ongoing maintenance and upkeep of allotments • Moyross Community: Watchouse Cross Library facilitated the community development and planting of a pollinator garden.

10.18 Conclusion

In conclusion, it is considered that implementation of the sustainable communities and social infrastructure policies and objectives has been successful over the first two years of the Development Plan. The Local Authority acknowledges the need to provide and enable community and social infrastructure to meet the needs of all members of society, of all ages and abilities on a continuous basis.

A targeted and coordinated approach is required to support communities and the adoption of the Local Economic and Community Plan will contribute to achieving this, through the work of the Local Authority and other stakeholders. There has been considerable progress in the provision of new and the upgrade of existing social and community infrastructure throughout the County since the Development Plan came into effect. The Council will continue on an ongoing basis to deliver, and facilitate delivery of, community facilities in tandem with new development. The Council will also continue to collaborate with statutory and voluntary agencies, as well as local communities to secure new and enhance existing community facilities and infrastructure. Furthermore, the Council will continue to liaise with the Department of Education and Skills to ensure that adequate capacity is available in Limerick’s school infrastructure to cater timely for targeted population growth.

The Council is committed to facilitating the creation of sustainable vibrant neighbourhoods, thereby creating a strong, socially inclusive society.

Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure Two Year Progress Report

Healthy Ireland at your Library

The Healthy Ireland at Your Library service is available in all local libraries across the country

- Health Information**
Guidance on access to information
- Books on Health and Wellbeing**
Large collections of books on health and wellbeing
- Online Health Information**
E-books, e-audiobooks and e-magazines
- Programmes and Events**
Talks, discussions and workshops relating to various health and wellbeing topics

5,315

Children in a crèche/ Montessori/ playgroup/ after school service in Limerick (Census 2022)



Healthy Limerick



WORK & ENTERPRISE

INDIVIDUAL

COMMUNITY

FAMILY

UNIVERSAL

Learning Limerick presents
Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival

2024

Monday April 15th - Sunday April 21st

Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival

love learning

IN-PERSON, ONLINE AND HYBRID EVENTS



11

Summary Conclusion and Key Recommendations

11.0 Summary Conclusion and Key Recommendations

The Two-Year Report has provided commentary on the progress made in achieving the key policies and objectives of the Development Plan during the first two years of implementation. Extensive engagement with all Directorates of the Local Authority has taken place in order to determine the ongoing progress on over 440 no. policies and objectives set out in the Development Plan. Appendix I lists all policies and objectives and indicates progress on each.

The following text sets out summary conclusions and key recommendations.

-Chapter 1: Introduction: With respect to legislation and guidelines, publication of the Final Revision of the National Planning Framework is awaited. The Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028 remains substantially in accordance with the overall objectives of the Draft Revision. In this regard, it is not envisaged that substantial alterations with respect to population, housing and employment targets will be required. However, the enactment of the Planning and Development Bill 2023 may have implications for the content and lifespan of the next Limerick Development Plan.

The Sustainable and Compact Settlement Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2004 sets out requirements for density, open space and car parking. These Guidelines will require a review of the standards contained within the Plan to determine compliance. This work is on-going.

-Chapter 2: Core Strategy: In terms of the Core Strategy, Census 2022 results demonstrate growth throughout the recent intercensal period, with the population of Limerick reaching 209,536 people in 2022, having increased from 194,899 in 2016. Utilising Census 2022 and data from the ongoing monitoring of planning applications for the purpose of the annual Core Strategy Monitoring Report, this report demonstrates that the Development Plan's Core Strategy has accurately directed population growth targets across the settlement hierarchy.

In order to ensure that spatial patterns of residential development continues in the correct locations across the County, via the Development Management function, monitoring of planning applications and preparation of an annual Core Strategy Monitoring Report in accordance with Section 28 Development Plan Guidelines will continue.

-Chapter 3: Spatial Strategy: The Spatial Strategy of the Development Plan aims to develop and revitalise the City, towns, villages and rural areas across Limerick in accordance with the settlement hierarchy. The Council will continue to seek funding under all streams available and carry out projects to facilitate the revitalisation of settlements. Investment in projects such as transport, public realm and community projects is essential to ensure that environments are attractive places to live, work, invest and visit.

It is recommended that the investment in revitalisation, infrastructure, community facilities and the environment across the City and County continues, to ensure that sustainable patterns of development are achieved in accordance with the spatial strategy.

-Chapter 4: Housing: With respect to housing, in addition to live permissions which pre-date the Development Plan, 3,038 no. dwelling units have been granted planning permission in the

first two years of the Plan across the City and County. This demonstrates that the Planning Authority is taking an active role in ensuring that obtaining planning permission is not an obstruction to housing delivery. The substantial majority of land zoned, particularly in Limerick City and Suburbs, is serviced or serviceable by infrastructure necessary to allow the immediate commencement of development once granted permission. However, the most significant challenge continues to relate to a lack of delivery of residential units per annum. This is due to prevailing economic conditions around costs of construction, transport, energy and labour, as well as a lack of construction workers and issues of affordability for potential buyers. House completions are however appearing to demonstrate an upward trend, with a small increase year on year over the last few years. With respect to the delivery of dwelling units by Limerick City and County Council, 1,041 no. units have been provided in the first two years of the Development Plan and work is actively continuing on various projects to exceed the annual targets set out in Housing For All.

It is recommended that the Planning Authority continue to provide pre-planning advice to potential applicants and assess planning applications for residential developments in a timely manner. It is also recommended that the Council continue to work with all stakeholders and infrastructure providers to deliver the infrastructure necessary to facilitate development. It is further recommended that the Council continue to seek funding for and activate projects for Local Authority provided dwelling units.

-Chapter 5: A Strong Economy: Significant progress has been made in relation to the development of a strong economy in Limerick, with particular respect to investment in enterprise, jobs growth and tourism. Census 2022 results show a continued increase in the numbers at work in Limerick with 90,623 people employed. This positively demonstrates the progress in the actions of the Local Authority and Local Enterprise Office in attracting and supporting economic development. In the first two years of the Development Plan, planning permission has been granted for 84,650.31m² of all types of commercial floor areas. This will enable the Local Authority to continue to achieve jobs targets and economic growth.

It is recommended that the Council continue to work with all stakeholders to promote Limerick as a key choice for economic investment, support enterprise and job creation and ensure sufficient lands are zoned and serviced to enable continued strong economic performance.

-Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure: Implementation of the environment, heritage, landscape and green infrastructure policies and objectives has been successful over the first two years of the Development Plan. The Council has carried out successful programmes of environmental projects, monitoring and protection, awareness and educational campaigns. The Council will continue to work with communities to enhance biodiversity and protect the natural environment.

It is recommended that the Council continues its commitment to protect and enhance Limerick's environmental and heritage assets, while managing appropriate change of the natural and built environment through the Development Management functions.

-Chapter 7: Sustainable Mobility: Limerick City and County Council has made significant progress in relation to sustainable mobility and the provision of associated infrastructure. In accordance with the provisions of the National Planning Framework, the Local Authority are seeking to reduce dependency on the private car and secure a shift towards sustainable modes of transport, with associated benefits for carbon emission reduction. In this regard, the Local Authority has made significant progress in relation to the provision of active travel infrastructure in particular.

It is recommended that the Council continue to actively work with transport providers to ensure delivery of LSMATS, public transport, active travel modes and roads projects throughout the City and County.

-Chapter 8: Infrastructure: Limerick City and County Council will enable, facilitate and carry out a range of projects to facilitate delivery of all forms of hard and soft infrastructure across the City and County. With respect to water services infrastructure, concerns are raised in relation to a lack of water and wastewater treatment plant capacity in some settlements, in particular the Key Town of Newcastle West. Issues of capacity may result in impediments to the sustainable development of the settlement and prevent the achievement of the Core Strategy targets.

It is recommended that the Council continue to work with and facilitate all infrastructure providers, including Uisce Éireann, TII, NTA, ESB, Bord Gáis, EirGrid etc. to seek the timely delivery of all forms of necessary infrastructure to enable sustainable development across the City and County.

-Chapter 9: Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy: The Council will continue to support projects and initiatives to address climate level at a local level. Significant progress has been made in the CFRAMS flood relief schemes in the City and County, aimed at responding to the challenges associated with climate change, protection of communities and enhanced resilience. The Council are supportive of the development of the renewable energy sectors and the improvement and provision of supporting infrastructure.

It is recommended that the Council continue to progress actions to reduce carbon emissions, energy uses and strive to alleviate climate change, including through working with the OPW to carry out flood relief schemes. It is also recommended that the Council continue to explore potential for renewable energy, including offshore wind energy and associated infrastructure.

-Chapter 10: Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure: Limerick City and County Council made significant progress in the delivery of, and facilitation of the delivery of, new community, education and recreation facilities and amenities across the City and County in the last two years.

It is recommended that the Council continue to work with the Department of Education and Skills and third level education providers to ensure that school and other educational facilities are provided in a timely manner to meet the growth of the population.

It is also recommended that the Council continue to invest in community infrastructure and progress the actions contained in the Local Economic and Community Plan.

This monitoring report demonstrates that overall, significant progress has been made in the implementation of the Development Plan thus far. The nature of the majority of the policies and objectives is such that they will require ongoing implementation throughout the lifetime of the Plan. The realisation of many of the policies and objectives is dependent on the availability of adequate funding and the Local Authority will continue to seek funding from all sources available, many of which are competitive bids.

The Planning Authority will utilise this review and any emerging trends and issues to inform the next review of the Development Plan.

A vibrant outdoor festival scene. In the background, a colorful carousel with ornate decorations and lights is visible. A crowd of people, including children and adults, is gathered around tables covered with blue and white checkered tablecloths. Some people are sitting at the tables, while others are standing. A sign with the word "mas" in a stylized font is visible on the right side. The overall atmosphere is festive and lively.

Appendices

Appendix I – Volume 1 Written Statement – All Policies and Objectives Progress

In setting out an indication as to the progress made to achieve the policies and objectives listed below and for information purposes, the following indications have been included:

Categories		
Action	Direct action by LCCC in a co-ordination capacity - e.g. Promote, Prepare	✓
Supportive	Supporting/ tracking work of other agencies and a signal of LCCC support for key initiatives, strategic projects and bids for funding pursued by stakeholders - e.g. Support something, facilitate, favourably consider	✓
Instructive	Statutory obligation for stakeholders to comply in formulating their own policies, plans and strategies - e.g. Comply with	✓
Timeframe		
Complete	The policy/ objective has been achieved	✓
Ongoing	The policy/ objective will be implemented on an ongoing basis over the lifetime of the Plan. The policy/ objective may form part of permanent functions of the Local Authority e.g. Development Management, Housing, Roads etc.	✓
Beyond Life of Plan	The policy/ objective will commence implementation during and will continue beyond the lifetime of the Plan	✓
Progress Status		
Progress Clearly Evident	Work to achieve the policy/ objective is already evident (partially achieved)	✓
Some Progress Made	Work to achieve the policy/ objective is ongoing	✓
Requires Uplift	Work to achieve the policy/ objective is yet to commence	✓

Chapter 1: Introduction, Vision and Strategic Objectives										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Strategic Objective 01 – Competitive advantages of Limerick	All Limerick City and County Council	✓				✓		✓		
Strategic Objective 02 – Carbon Neutral Economy	All Limerick City and County Council	✓				✓		✓		
Strategic Objective 03 – Create sustainable, healthy, inclusive and resilient communities	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		
Strategic Objective 04 – Revitalisation	-Planning and Place-Making -Rural, Community and Cultural Development	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Strategic Objective 05 – Sustainable and economic development	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓	✓			✓		✓		

Chapter 1: Introduction, Vision and Strategic Objectives										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Strategic Objective 06 – Enhance connectivity	Transport and Mobility	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Strategic Objective 07 – Key infrastructure	-Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services -Transport and Mobility - Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓				✓		✓		
Strategic Objective 08 - Natural heritage, green infrastructure and open space	-Planning and Place-Making -Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓		✓		
Strategic Objective 09 - Built and cultural heritage	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		
Strategic Objective 10 - Tourism	Economic Development,	✓	✓			✓		✓		

Chapter 1: Introduction, Vision and Strategic Objectives										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
	Enterprise and Tourism									

Chapter 2: Core Strategy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective CS O1 - Phase 2 Residential Development Lands	Planning and Place making	✓				✓			✓	
Policy CS P1 - Core Strategy Implementation	Planning and Place-Making			✓		✓		✓		
Policy CS P2 - Compact Growth	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Policy CS P3 - Availability of Land	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		

Chapter 2: Core Strategy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Policy CS P4 - Local Area Plans	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		
Policy CS P5 - Road Network	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓		✓		
Policy CS P6 - LSMATS	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Policy CS P7 - Settlement Strategy	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Policy CS P8 - Development of Limerick in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓		✓		
Objective CS O2 - Capacity of Town/ Village to Absorb Development	Planning and Place making	✓				✓		✓		
Objective CS O3 - Monitoring Growth	Planning and Place making	✓				✓		✓		

Chapter 3: Spatial Strategy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Policy CGR P1 - Compact Growth and Revitalisation	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CGR O1 - Prevention of Urban Sprawl	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CGR O2 - Place-making, Universal Design and Public Realm	-Planning and Place-Making -Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓		✓		
Objective CGR O3 - Urban Lands and Compact Growth	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Policy CGR P2 - Monitoring of Brownfield/ Infill Sites	-Planning and Place-Making -Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 3: Spatial Strategy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective CGR O4 - Active Land Management	-Rural, Community and Culture Development -Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective CGR O5 - Vacant Site Levy	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CGR O6 - Derelict Sites	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CGR O7 - Unfinished Estates	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Policy CGR P3 - Level 1 Growing Limerick City and Suburbs (in Limerick), Mungret and Annacotty	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CGR O8 – Limerick City and Suburbs (in Limerick), Mungret and Annacotty	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 3: Spatial Strategy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective CGR O9 - Building Heights	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
UCA 1 - City Centre	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
UCA O2 - Surrounding Suburban Area	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
UCA O3 - Castletroy/ Plassey/ Annacotty	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
UCA O4 - Southern Environs - Dooradoyle/ Raheen/ Mungret	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
UCA O5 - Thomandgate/ Moyross/ Caherdavin/ Ennis Road	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective CGR O10 - Revitalisation	-Rural, Community and Culture Development -Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓		✓		

Chapter 3: Spatial Strategy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective LLO1 - Limerick Laneways	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CRQ O1 - Cleeves Riverside Quarter	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective ULCC O1 - UL City Campus	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective AQ O1 - Arthur's Quay	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective ES O1 - Ellen Street Car Park	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓							✓
Objective MF O1 - Mungret Framework	-Housing -Land Development Agency via Housing	✓				✓		✓		
Objective LDA O1 - Land Development Agency	LDA via Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective CSQ O1a - Colbert Quarter	LDA via Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CSQ O1b - Colbert Quarter	LDA via Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	

Chapter 3: Spatial Strategy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective TP 01 - Thomond Park	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓						✓
Objective BM 01 - The Bays, Moyross	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓		✓		
Objective PV 01 - Parkway Valley	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Objective GV 01 - Groody Valley	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓		✓		
Objective TN 01 - Towlerton	Planning and Place-Making			✓		✓		✓		
Policy RA P1 - Regeneration Strategy	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation		✓			✓		✓		
Objective RA 01 - Regeneration Opportunity Areas	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Objective SF 01 - Social Framework Strategy	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation	✓				✓		✓		
Objective EF 01 - Economic Framework Strategy	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation	✓				✓		✓		

Chapter 3: Spatial Strategy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective PF 01 - Physical Framework Strategy	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Objective M 01 - Moyross	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Objective MK 01 - St. Mary's Park and King's Island	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Objective BW O1 Ballinacurra Weston	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Objective OK 01 - O'Malley Park and Keyes Park	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation	✓				✓		✓		
Objective KC 01 - Kincora and Carew Parks	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation	✓				✓		✓		
Objective LEDP O1 - Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership	-Regeneration, Sports and Recreation -Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓		✓		

Chapter 3: Spatial Strategy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective CGR O11 - Level 2 – Key Town Newcastle West	-Planning and Place-Making -Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective CGR O12 - Newcastle West Local Area Plan	Planning and Place-Making	✓			✓			-	-	-
Objective CGR O13 - Level 3 – Towns	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CGR O14 - Scale of Development within Level 3	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CGR O15 - Requirements for Developments within Level 4 Settlements	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective CGR O16 - Local Area Plans in Level 4 Settlements	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		

Chapter 3: Spatial Strategy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective CGR O17 - Development within Level 5 Settlements	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective CGR O18 – Scale of Growth for Level 5 Settlements	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CGR O19 - Development in Level 6 Settlements	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Policy CGR P4 - Revitalisation of Towns and Villages	-Rural, Community and Culture Development -Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		
Objective CGR O20 - Town and Village Revitalisation	-Rural, Community and Culture Development -Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		

Chapter 4: Housing										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Policy HO P1 - Implementation of the Housing Strategy, including the Housing Need Demands Assessment	-Planning and Place-Making -Housing	✓				✓		✓		
Objective HO O1 - Social Inclusion	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		
Objective HO O2 - Density of Residential Developments	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		
Objective HO O3 - Protection of Existing Residential Amenity	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective HO O4 - Re-use of Existing Buildings	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓				✓		✓		
Objective HO O5 - Apartments	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		

Chapter 4: Housing										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective HO O6 - Build-To-Rent Accommodation	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective HO O7 – Shared Accommodation/ Co-Living	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective HO O8 - Student Accommodation	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Objective HO O9 - Support Housing Options for Older People	-Planning and Place-Making -Housing		✓			✓		✓		
Objective HO O10 - Location Criteria for Nursing Homes/ Care Home Accommodation	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective HO O11 - Subdivision of	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	

Chapter 4: Housing										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Dwelling to Accommodate Dependent Relative										
Objective HO O12 – The Living Limerick City Centre Initiative	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective HO O13 - Provision of Social and Affordable Housing	Housing			✓		✓		✓		
Objective HO O14 - Limerick Housing Delivery Action Plan	Housing		✓			✓		✓		
Policy HO P2 – Homeless Accommodation	Housing	✓				✓			✓	
Objective HO O15 - Homeless Accommodation	Housing		✓			✓			✓	
Objective HO O16 – Youth Homelessness Strategy	Housing	✓	✓			✓			✓	

Chapter 4: Housing										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective HO O17 - Traveller Accommodation	Housing	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Objective HO O18 - Accommodation for Refugees and Asylum Seekers	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Objective HO O19 - Serviced Sites in Towns and Villages without adequate Water Services Infrastructure	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective HO O20 - Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence	Planning and Place-Making			✓		✓		✓		
Objective HO O21 – Rural Areas Elsewhere	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓		✓		
Objective HO O22 - Refurbishment/	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		

Chapter 4: Housing										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Replacement of Traditional Rural Dwellings										
Objective HO O23 - Occupancy Condition	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		

Chapter 5: A Strong Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Policy ECON P1 – Strong Economy	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓		✓		
Policy ECON P2 - Economic Development and Enterprise	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓				✓		✓		

Chapter 5: A Strong Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Policy ECON P3 – Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Economy	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓				✓		✓		
Policy ECON P4 – Urban Economy	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		
Policy ECON P5 - Retail	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Policy ECON P6 – Enterprise and Employment Development Opportunities	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓				✓			✓	
Policy ECON P7 - Tourism	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Policy ECON P8 - Marine Economy	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 5: A Strong Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective ECON O1 - City Centre	-Planning and Place-Making -Rural, Community and Culture Development -Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective ECON O2 - Limerick Suburbs Retail	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON O3 - District Centres	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective ECON O4 – Dooradoyle Urban Quarter	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective ECON O5 - Local/ Neighbourhood Centres	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective ECON O6 – Click and Collect	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓			✓	

Chapter 5: A Strong Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective ECON O7 - Retailing and Motor Fuel Stations	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON O8 - Retail Warehousing	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON O9 - Newcastle West	-Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism -Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective ECON O10 – Networks	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON O11 – Inter Urban Links	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 5: A Strong Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective ECON O12 - County Towns and Villages	-Planning and Place-Making -Rural, Community and Culture Development		✓			✓			✓	
Objective ECON O13 - Rural Retail	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON O14 - Casual Trading Areas	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON O15 - Active Street Frontages	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON O16 – Night Time Economy	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓				✓		✓		
Objective ECON O17 – Strategic Employment Locations City and Suburbs (in Limerick), Mungret and Annacotty	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓		✓		

Chapter 5: A Strong Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective ECON O18 - Specific Site Requirements	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective ECON O19 - Employment Locations County Limerick	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective ECON O20 - Location of Industry or Enterprise in Brownfield Sites	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective ECON O21 - Knowledge Economy	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON O22 - Learning Region	Rural, Community and Culture Development		✓			✓			✓	
Objective ECON O23 - Education and Skills	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓	✓			✓			✓	

Chapter 5: A Strong Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective ECON O24 - Further and Higher Education Institutions	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective ECON O25 - Clustering and Innovation	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON O26 - Tackling Unemployment	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation		✓			✓			✓	
Objective ECON O27 – Social Enterprise	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON O28 - Smart City	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism		✓			✓			✓	
Objective ECON O29 - Office Development	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 5: A Strong Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective ECON O30 - Light Industrial and Related Uses	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON O31 - Data Centres	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON O32 - Cultural and Creative Industries	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON O33 - Enterprise Incubator Unit	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective ECON O34 – Rural Remote Working Hubs	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓			✓			-	-	-
Objective ECON O35 - Rural Development	-Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 5: A Strong Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
	-Rural, Community and Culture Development									
Objective ECON O36 - Agricultural Developments	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective ECON O37 - Farm Diversification	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective ECON O38 - Support Sustainable Forestry	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective ECON O39 - Mineral Extraction and Environmental Impacts	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON O40 - Equine Industry	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective ECON O41 - Home Working/ E-Working	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON O42 - Limerick Food Strategy	Economic Development,	✓	✓			✓			✓	

Chapter 5: A Strong Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
	Enterprise and Tourism									
Objective ECON O43 – Food Destination Limerick	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓				✓		✓		
Objective ECON O44 - Circular Economy	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services		✓			✓		✓		
Objective ECON O45 - Tourism	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism		✓			✓		✓		
Objective ECON O46 - Festivals	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Objective ECON O47 - Shannon Tourism Masterplan	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 5: A Strong Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objectives ECON O48 - Limerick Greenway	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Objective ECON O49 - Tourism Facilities and Environmentally Sensitive Areas	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON O50 - Facilities and Amenities incidental to Tourist and Recreational Attractions and Scenic Views	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective ECON O51 – Clustering of Tourist Facilities	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓				✓
Objective ECON O52 - Location of Tourism Accommodation	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 5: A Strong Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective ECON 053 - Digital Innovations to support the Tourism Industry	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism		✓			✓			✓	
Objective ECON 054 – National and Regional Marine Planning	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective ECON 055 - Marine Economy	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON 056 – Strategic Integrated Framework Plan	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective ECON 057 - Safeguard Strategic Development locations along the Estuary	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective ECON 058 - Shannon Foynes Port	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓		✓		

Chapter 5: A Strong Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorates Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective ECON O59 - Offshore Renewable Energy	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓			✓	

Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Policy EH P1 - Protection of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Policy EH P2 - Sustainable Management and Conservation	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓		✓		

Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Policy EH P3 - Climate Action and the Natural Environment	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓			✓	
Policy EH P4 - Compliance with Limerick's Heritage Plan	Planning and Place-Making			✓		✓			✓	
Policy EH P5 - Protection of the Built Environment	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		
Policy EH P6 - Water and Air Quality	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓			✓	
Policy EH P7 - Environmental Noise	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓		✓		
Objective EH O1 - Designated Sites and Habitats Directive	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O2 - Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Planning and Place-Making			✓		✓			✓	

Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective EH O3 - Ecological Impact Assessment	Planning and Place-Making			✓		✓			✓	
Objective EH O4 - Creation of New Habitats	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓		✓		
Objective EH O5 - New Infrastructure Projects	Planning and Place-Making			✓		✓			✓	
Objective EH O6 - Barn Owl Conservation	Transport and Mobility			✓		✓			✓	
Objective EH O7 - All Ireland Pollinator Plan	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services		✓			✓		✓		
Objective EH O8 - Roosting Habitats	Planning and Place-Making			✓		✓			✓	
Objective EH O9 - Geological Sites	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O10 - Trees and Hedgerows	-Planning and Place-Making -Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓		✓		✓			✓	

Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective EH O11 - Invasive Species	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services -Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓		✓		
Objective EH O12 - Blue Green Infrastructure	-Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services -Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		
Objective EH O13 - Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓			✓			-	-	-
Objective EH O14 - Nature Based Solutions	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O15 - Ground Water, Surface Water Protection and River Basin Management Plans	-Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services -Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective EH O16 – Septic Tanks and Proprietary Systems	-Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services -Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective EH O17 - Water Quality	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services		✓			✓			✓	
Objective EH O18 - Riparian Buffers	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O19 - Ecosystem Services Approach	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O20 - Quiet Areas	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O21 - Noise and Vibration during Construction and at Open Sites	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective EH O22 - Commercial and Industrial Noise	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O23 - Entertainment Noise	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O24 - Light Pollution	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective EH O25 - 'Dark Sky' Parks and Reserves	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective EH O26 - Air Pollution	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓		✓		
Objective EH O27 - Improvement of Air Quality	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓		✓		
Objective EH O28 - Air Quality Monitoring	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective EH O29 - Air Quality during Construction	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O30 - Odour	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓			✓	
Policy EH P8 - Landscape Character Areas	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
LCA 01 Agricultural Lowlands	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
LCA 02 Ballyhoura /Slieve R eagh	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
LCA 03 Galtee Uplands	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
LCA 04 Knockfierna	Planning and Place-Making			✓		✓			✓	
LCA 05 Lough Gur	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
LCA 06 Shannon Coastal Zone	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
LCA 07 Southern Uplands	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
LCA 08 Slieve Felim Uplands	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
LCA 09 Tory Hill	Planning and Place-Making			✓		✓			✓	
LCA O10 Western Uplands (Western Hills/ Barnagh Gap/ Sugar Hill)	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O31 – Views and Prospects	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O32 - Historical Landscapes	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Policy EH P9 - Historic Gardens, Designed Landscapes and Parklands	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O33 – Castlepark	Planning and Place-Making	✓								✓
Objective EH O34 - Special Control Areas	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective EH O35 - Special Control Areas Mungret	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O36 - Preservation of the Archaeological Heritage	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O37 - Preservation of unrecorded/ newly discovered Archaeological Heritage	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O38 - Preservation of the Underwater Archaeological Heritage	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O39 - Protection of the setting of	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Archaeological Monuments										
Objective EH O40 - Proper procedures during the planning process	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective EH O41 - Archaeological Monuments in Local Authority ownership/ guardianship	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O42 - Town Defences and Layout	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		
Objective EH O43 - Industrial Archaeology	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective EH O44 - Lough Gur	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Objective EH O45 - Raise public awareness and encourage active participation	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		

Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective EH O46 - Heritage Plan 2017-2030	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓		✓		
Objective EH O47 - Increase access to Archaeological Monuments	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O48 - Assessment and Recognition of Archaeological Landscapes	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O49 – Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓							✓
Objective EH O50 - Work to Protected Structures	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	

Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective EH O51 - Energy Efficiency of Protected Structures	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O52 - National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O53 - Architectural Conservation Areas	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective EH O54 - Shopfronts within an ACA	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		

Chapter 7: Sustainable Mobility and Transport										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Policy TR P1 – National Investment Framework for Transport Investment	Transportation and Mobility		✓			✓			✓	
Policy TR P2 - Five Cities Demand Management Study	Transportation and Mobility		✓			✓			✓	
Policy TR P3 - Integration of Land Use and Transport Policies	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Policy TR P4 - Promotion of Sustainable Patterns of Transport Use	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓		✓		
Policy TR P5 - Sustainable Mobility and Regional Accessibility	Transportation and Mobility		✓			✓			✓	
Policy TR P6 - Delivery of Transport	Transportation and Mobility		✓			✓		✓		

Chapter 7: Sustainable Mobility and Transport										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Infrastructure in line with National Policy										
Policy TR P7 - Sustainable Travel and Transport	Transportation and Mobility	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Objective TR O1 - Climate Proofed Transport Infrastructure	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O2 - Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective TR O3 - Delivery and Servicing Strategy	-Transportation and Mobility -Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective TR O4 - Universal Design	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O5 - Limerick – Shannon	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 7: Sustainable Mobility and Transport										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy										
Policy TR P8 - Local Transport Plans	-Transportation and Mobility -Planning and Place-Making	✓			✓			-	-	-
Objective TR O6 - Delivering Modal Split	Transportation and Mobility	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective TR O7 - Behavioural Change Measures	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O8 - Walking and Cycling Infrastructure	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓		✓		
Objective TR O9 - Limerick Cycle Network	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓		✓		
Objective TR O10 - Limerick Regeneration Areas Sustainable Travel Infrastructure	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation		✓			✓			✓	

Chapter 7: Sustainable Mobility and Transport										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective TR O11 - Enhanced Public Transport	Transportation and Mobility	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective TR O12 - Limerick BusConnects Programme	Transportation and Mobility		✓				✓		✓	
Objective TR O13 - Core Bus Corridors	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O14 - Management of Coaches	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O15 - Transport Interchange	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O16 - Rail Network	Transportation and Mobility	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective TR O17 – Limerick to Foynes Line	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		
Objective TR O18 - Park and Ride Facilities	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O19 – Park and Stride Facilities	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 7: Sustainable Mobility and Transport										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective TR O20 - Car Clubs/ Car Sharing	Transportation and Mobility		✓			✓			✓	
Objective TR O21 - Electric and Compressed Natural Gas Vehicles	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O22 - Micro-Mobility	Transportation and Mobility	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective TR O23 - Mobility Management	Planning and Place-Making			✓		✓			✓	
Objective TR O24 - Area Wide Mobility Management Planning/ Networks	Transportation and Mobility	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Policy TR P9 – Sustainable Transport in Rural Areas	Transportation and Mobility		✓			✓		✓		
Policy TR P10 – Rural Transport	Transportation and Mobility		✓			✓		✓		
Objective TR O25 – Inter-city,	Transportation and Mobility	✓	✓			✓			✓	

Chapter 7: Sustainable Mobility and Transport										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Regional, Commuter Services										
Objective TR O26 - Bus Transport Infrastructure	Transportation and Mobility		✓			✓		✓		
Objective TR O27 – Shannon Airport	Transportation and Mobility		✓			✓			✓	
Objective TR O28 – Docks and Ports	Transportation and Mobility		✓			✓			✓	
Objective TR O29 - N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project	Transportation and Mobility		✓				✓		✓	
Objective TR O30 – Foynes to Limerick (including Adare Bypass) Road	Transportation and Mobility		✓			✓		✓		
Objective TR O31 - N21 Newcastle West and N21 Abbeyfeale Road Schemes	Transportation and Mobility		✓			✓			✓	

Chapter 7: Sustainable Mobility and Transport										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective TR O32 - N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction	Transportation and Mobility		✓			✓			✓	
Objective TR O33 - Motorway Network Arterial Roads	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O34 - O'Connell Street Improvement Works	Planning and Place-Making		✓		✓			-	-	-
Objective TR O35 – Connecting Limerick's Southside	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation	✓					✓		✓	
Objective TR O36 - Limerick Northern Distributor Road	Transportation and Mobility	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Policy TR P11 - Road Safety and Carrying Capacity of the Road Network	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O37 - Land Uses and Access Standards	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 7: Sustainable Mobility and Transport										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective TR O38 – Improvements to Regional and Local Roads	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓		✓		
Policy TR P12 - Safeguard the Capacity of National Roads	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O39 - National Roads	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O40 – National Road Network Drainage Regimes	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Policy TR P13 – Strategic Regional Road Network	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O41 – Strategic Regional Roads	-Transportation and Mobility -Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective TR O42 – Roads and Streets	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 7: Sustainable Mobility and Transport										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective TR O43 - Upgrade works/ New Road Schemes	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O44 - Link Roads	Transportation and Mobility	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Objective TR O45 - Industrial and Enterprise and Employment lands adjacent to Junction 2, Dock Road	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓						✓
Objective TR O46 – Limerick City Centre Traffic Management Plan	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O47 – HGV Restrictions	Transportation and Mobility	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective TR O48 - Traffic Management	Planning and Place-Making			✓		✓			✓	
Objective TR O49 - Car and Cycle Parking	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	

Chapter 7: Sustainable Mobility and Transport										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective TR O50 – Taxi/ Hackney Transport	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O51 – Roadside Signage	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O52 – Directional Signage	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O53 – Noise and Transportation	-Transportation and Mobility -Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓			✓	
Objective TR O54 - Noise Sensitive Development	Planning and Place-Making			✓		✓			✓	

Chapter 8: Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Policy IN P1 – Strategic Infrastructure	-Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services -Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓				✓			✓	
Objective IN O1 - Climate Action in Infrastructure Planning	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective IN O2 - Digital Connectivity	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓				✓		✓		
Objective IN O3 - Digital Innovations Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area	Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism	✓				✓		✓		
Objective IN O4 – Broadband	Economic Development,	✓		✓		✓		✓		

Chapter 8: Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
	Enterprise and Tourism									
Objective IN O5 - Telecommunication Support	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective IN O6 - Water Services	-Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services -Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Objective IN O7 - Drinking Water Source Protection	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective IN O8 - Private Water Supply	Planning and Place-Making			✓		✓			✓	
Objective IN O9 - Public Waste Water	-Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services -Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	

Chapter 8: Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective IN O10 – Trade Discharge	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services		✓			✓			✓	
Objective IN O11 - Private Waste Water Treatment	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective IN O12 - Surface Water and SuDS	-Planning and Place-Making -Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective IN O13 - Energy and Gas Network	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Objective IN O14 - Energy Interconnection	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective IN O15 - Electricity Grid Development	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective IN O16 - Gas Development	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	

Chapter 8: Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective IN O17 - Waste Management and the Circular Economy	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Objective IN O18 - Waste Infrastructure	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓		✓		✓		✓		
Objective IN O19 - Sludge Management	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Objective IN O20 - Agricultural Waste	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective IN O21 - Construction and Demolition	Planning and Place-Making			✓		✓			✓	
Objective IN O22 - Closed Landfills or Historical Landfill Sites	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓			✓	
Objective IN O23 - Hazardous Waste and Contaminated Sites	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓		✓		✓		✓		

Chapter 8: Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective IN O24 - SEVESO Sites Objectives	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓		✓		✓			✓	

Chapter 9: Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Policy CAF P1 – Climate Action Policy	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓		✓		
Objective CAF O1 - Compliance with Higher Tier Climate Legislation and Guidance	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services		✓			✓		✓		

Chapter 9: Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective CAF O2 - Partnership with Service Providers	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O3 - Sustainable Development	-Transport and Mobility -Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective CAF O4 - Climate Proofing	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O5 - Energy Efficiency in Existing Development	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective CAF O6 - Energy Efficiency in New Developments	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O7 - Near Zero Energy Buildings	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective CAF O8 - Renewable Energy Objective	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓			✓	

Chapter 9: Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective CAF O9 - Achieving Climate Resilience	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O10 - Woodland Creation, Forestry and Preservation of Bogs	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O11 – Nature Based Solutions	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O12 – Urban Greening	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services		✓			✓			✓	
Objective CAF O13 – +CityXChange Project	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓			✓			-	-	-
Policy CAF P2 - Transition to a Low Carbon Economy	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services		✓			✓		✓		
Policy CAF P3 – Promote Awareness and Behavioural Change	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 9: Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Policy CAF P4 – Co-operation with Relevant Stakeholders	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O14 – Energy Generation	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective CAF O15 – Local Energy Production	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective CAF O16 – Circular Economy	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O17 – Low Energy Building Materials	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O18 – Energy and Emissions Balance	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services		✓			✓			✓	
Objective CAF O19 – Decarbonising Zones	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services		✓		✓			-	-	-
Policy CAF P5 – Managing Flood Risk	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		

Chapter 9: Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective CAF O20 – Flood Risk Assessments	Planning and Place-Making			✓		✓			✓	
Objective CAF O21 – Identified Flood Risk	Planning and Place-Making	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Objective CAF O22 – Cooperation with Other Agencies		✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O23 – Flood Relief Schemes	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Objective CAF O24 – Minor Flood and Mitigation Works and Coastal Protections Schemes	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective CAF O25 – Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Policy CAF P6 - Renewable Energy	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	

Chapter 9: Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Policy CAF P7 – Atlantic Green Digital Basin (GDB)	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Policy CAF P8 – Community Based Renewable Energy	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Policy CAF P9 – Renewable Energy Technologies	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O26 - Bio Energy	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective CAF O27 – Renewable Energy Production	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O28 – Assessment of Renewable Energy Projects	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O29 – Wind Energy Development and	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 9: Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Environmental Considerations										
Objective CAF O30 – Location of Wind Energy Developments	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O31 - Wind Energy supporting Infrastructure	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective CAF O32 – Off Shore Wind	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective CAF O33 – Development of Foynes Port	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective CAF O34 - Wind Energy Development	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O35 - Community Based Energy Initiatives	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective CAF O36 – Life Extension and	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	

Chapter 9: Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Repowering of Wind Farm										
Objective CAF O37 - Geothermal Energy	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O38 - Emerging Technologies	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O39 – Carbon Capture	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective CAF O40 - Energy Storage	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective CAF O41 - Community Renewable Energy	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓			✓	

Chapter 10: Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Policy SCSI P1 – Sustainable Communities	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓				✓			✓	
Policy SCSI P2 - Location of Community Facilities	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Policy SCSI P3 - Social Infrastructure	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective SCSI O1 – Community Facilities	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective SCSI O2 - Accessibility for All	All Limerick City and County Council	✓				✓			✓	
Objective SCSI O3 - Community Hubs	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓				✓			✓	
Objective SCSI O4 – Ten - Minute Neighbourhood	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective SCSI O5 - Multi-Use of Facilities	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓		✓		✓			✓	

Chapter 10: Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective SCSI O6 - Strategy on Community Facilities	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓				✓			✓	
Policy SCSI P4 - Rural Community Development	Rural, Community and Culture Development		✓			✓			✓	
Objective SCSI O7 - Smart Towns and Villages	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services		✓			✓			✓	
Objective SCSI O8 – Place-making for the Community	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓		✓		
Objective SCSI O9 - Health Place Audits	Rural, Community and Culture Development		✓			✓			✓	
Objective SCSI O10 – Educational Facilities	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective SCSI O11 – Location of Schools	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective SCSI O12 - Multi-Use of School Facilities	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 10: Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective SCS1 O13 - Further and Higher Education Facilities	Planning and Place-Making		✓			✓			✓	
Objective SCS1 O14 - Childcare Facilities	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective SCS1 O15 - Health Care Facilities	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Objective SCS1 O16 – Emergency Services	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective SCS1 O17 - Age Friendly Strategy	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Objective SCS1 O18 - Active City Initiative	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓				✓			✓	
Objective SCS1 O19 - Protection of lands zoned for Open Space and Recreation	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective SCS1 O20 - Protection of Sports Grounds/ Facilities	Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 10: Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective SCS1 O21 - Improve Open Space Provision	-Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services -Planning and Place-Making	✓				✓			✓	
Objective SCS1 O22 - New City Amenity Areas	-Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓		✓		
Objective SCS1 O23 - Limerick Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation	✓				✓			✓	
Objective SCS1 O24 - Limerick Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2018-2021	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation		✓					✓		
Objective SCS1 O25 – Limerick City Centre Leisure Strategy	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation	✓								✓
Objective SCS1 O26 - Local Sports Plan	Regeneration, Sports and Recreation		✓							✓

Chapter 10: Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Policy SCS1 P5 - Play	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓				✓				
Objective SCS1 O27 - Playgrounds	-Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services -Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Objective SCS1 O28 - New amenity walkways	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓				✓		✓		
Objective SCS1 O29 - Trails, Hiking and Walking Routes	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective SCS1 O30 - Water-Based Sports	Planning and Place-Making	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Objective SCS1 O31 - Arts and Culture	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Objective SCS1 O32 - Public Art Strategy	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓				✓			✓	

Chapter 10: Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective SCS1 O33 - Limerick City Gallery of Art Strategy	Rural, Community and Culture Development		✓			✓			✓	
Objective SCS1 O34 – Cultural Audit	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓			✓			-	-	-
Objective SCS1 O35 - Museum Service	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓				✓		✓		
Objective SCS1 O36 - Limerick Museum	Rural, Community and Culture Development		✓			✓			✓	
Objective SCS1 O37 - Library Service	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓				✓		✓		
Objective SCS1 O38 – Burial Grounds/ Crematoria	Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Objective SCS1 O39 - Community Gardens and Allotments	Rural, Community and Culture Development	✓				✓		✓		

Chapter 10: Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure										
Policy/ Objective Reference	Directorate Responsible	Category			Timeframe			Progress Status		
		Action	Supportive	Instructive	Complete	Ongoing	Beyond Life of Plan	Progress Clearly Evident	Some Progress Made	Requires Uplift
Objective SCS1 O40 - Public Rights of Way	Transportation and Mobility	✓				✓			✓	

Appendix II – Core Strategy Monitoring Report

LIMERICK DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

Core Strategy

Year Two - Monitoring Report 2023 - 2024

17th September 2024

ATLANTIC EDGE



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

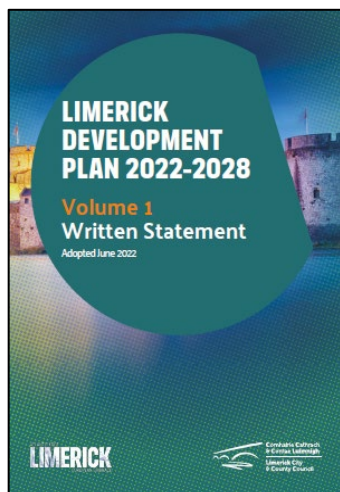


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1. Introduction

Following a two year statutory process, the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 (hereafter referred to as the Plan), came into effect on the 29th of July 2022, six weeks after the date of adoption. The Plan sets out a blueprint for the development of Limerick to 2028 and beyond, in the context of higher tier regional and national level planning policy. In this regard, the Plan is consistent with the policies and objectives of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES).



Chapter 2, Core Strategy of the Plan's Volume 1: Written Statement, sets out the projected population and household growth for Limerick in accordance with the requirements of the NPF Implementation Roadmap, the RSES and the Economic and Social Research Institute's (ESRI) 'Regional Demographics and Structural Housing Demand at a County Level'.

The housing supply targets outlined in the Core Strategy were prepared utilising the ESRI forecast in accordance with the requirements of the 'Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2020). The ESRI report sets out a forecast for an additional 15,591 no. residential units in Limerick City and County over the

Plan period 2022 – 2028.

This report comprises the Year Two Core Strategy Monitoring Report and indicates the development trends between 1st August 2023 and 31st July 2024 relative to the Core Strategy of the Plan, during the second year of its implementation. The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Section 28 'Development Plans Guidelines for Planning Authorities', 2022.

This report provides an update on the Year One Core Strategy Monitoring Report for 2022 – 2023, which indicated the development trends during the first year of implementation of the Plan, between 1st August 2022 and 31st July 2023. While certain tables and figures, such as Core Strategy maps and tables are included in this report for ease of reference, the Census 2022 analysis or other substantially similar commentary is not repeated. In this regard, while summary tables of key data for year one have been included hereunder, this update should be read in conjunction with the Year One Core Strategy Monitoring Report for 2022 – 2023.

2. Core Strategy

Chapter 2, Core Strategy of Volume 1: Written Statement sets out the Core Strategy of the Plan. The Core Strategy comprises maps and a table setting out a quantitative based strategy for the spatial development of Limerick across the settlement hierarchy as per the following extracts:

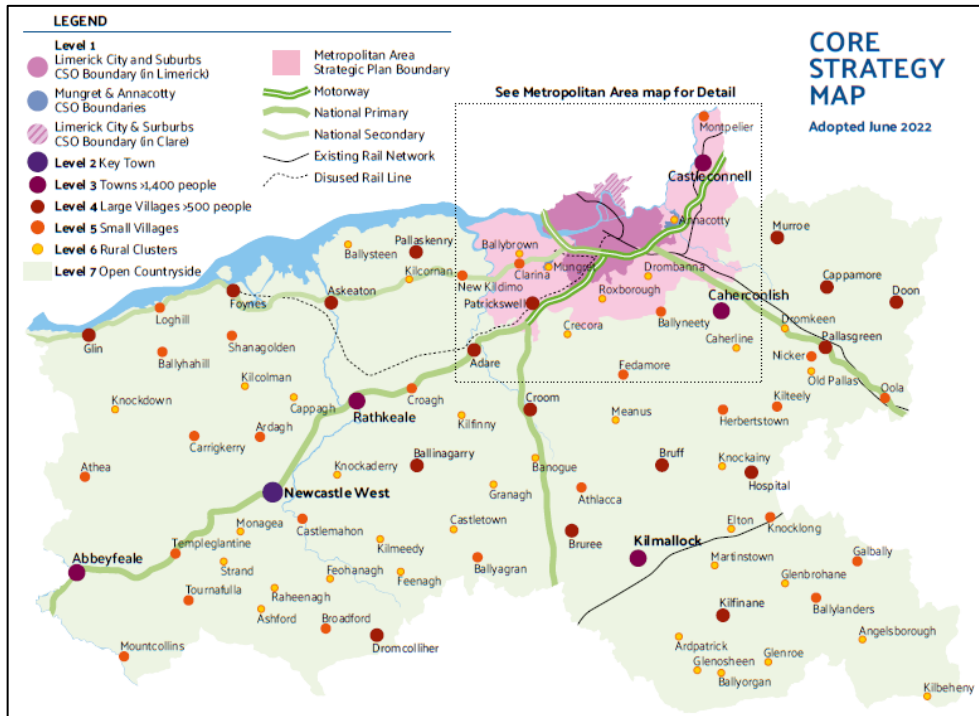


Figure 1: Extract of Map 2.3 Core Strategy Map, Chapter 2, Core Strategy

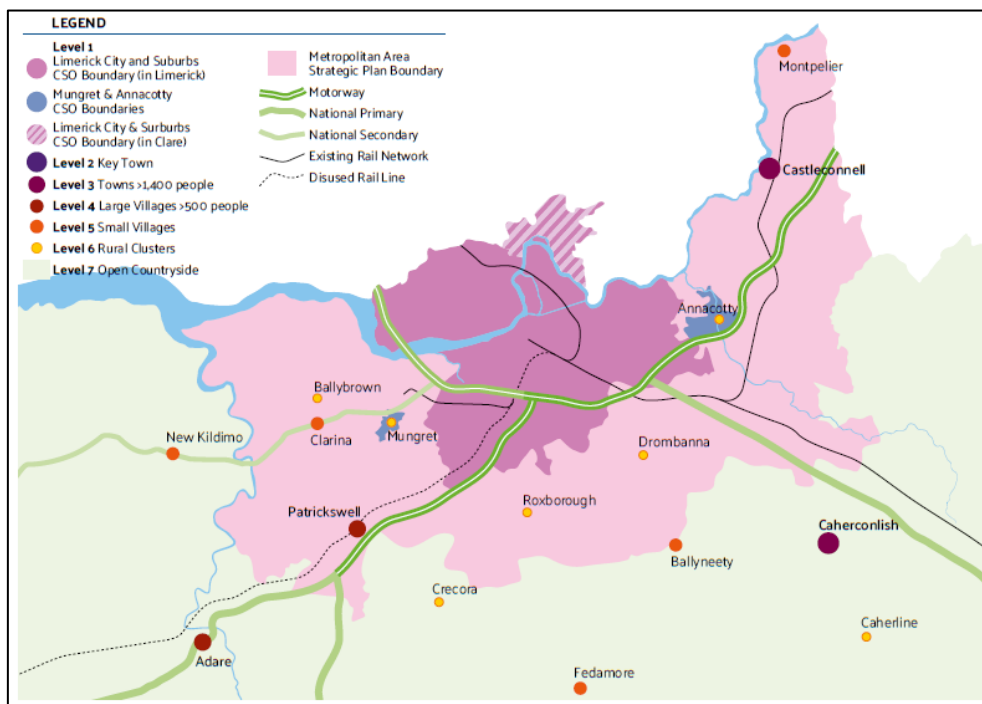


Figure 2: Extract of Map 2.4 Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area (in Limerick) Core Strategy Map, Chapter 2, Core Strategy

In accordance with the Economic and Social Research Institute's (ESRI) 'Regional Demographics and Structural Housing Demand at a County Level', the Core Strategy as set out in the table below, outlines a forecast for an additional 15,591 no. residential units in Limerick City and County over the Plan period 2022 – 2028.

As set out in the Core Strategy, the zoned settlements (Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4) have an additional household forecast of 13,709 no. units. Subsequent to the adoption of the Plan, the Planning Authority has undertaken a programme of Local Area Plan (LAP) and zoning map reviews. New LAPs for Abbeyfeale, Adare, Caherconlish, Castleconnell, Newcastle West, Patrickswell and Rathkeale are now in effect. The zoned lands in the new LAPs, combined with the zoning in Limerick City and Suburbs and the remaining Level 4 Large Villages set out in Volume 2 of the Plan, included a total of 596.97ha. of land with potential for residential development.

In addition to the settlements with objectives for the zoning of land, the Core Strategy also allocates a further 1,176 no. dwelling units across the Level 5 Small Villages, Level 6 Rural Clusters and Level 7 Open Countryside. With respect to the Open Countryside, the Core Strategy forecasts an additional 772 no. dwellings over the lifetime of the Plan.

Level	Settlements	Census 2016 population	Population totals 2028	Population growth as % of 2016 base ¹	Additional households forecasted 2022-28	Target residential density ranges (UPH) ²	Zoned land Required (hectares)	Existing zoned land available (hectares)	Infill or brownfield as % of total zoned lands ³	Shortfall (-) or excess (+) of zoned land (hectares)
Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area (in Limerick)	Limerick City and Suburbs (in Limerick)	89,671	123,242		11,054	35 to 100+	25925	353.06	84%	93.81
	Annacotty	2,930	3,641		235	45+	522	838	80%	3.16
	Mungret	277	687		153	35+	437	438	100%	0.01
	City and Suburbs (in Limerick), Mungret and Annacotty	92,878	127,570	37%	11,442		268.84	365.82	84%	96.98ha. (Capacity for 12,750 units on zoned lands)
	Castleconnell	2,107	2,697	28%	205	10 or 22+	1159	2489		1330
	Patrickswell	847	1,153	36%	95	10 or 22+	536	3793		3257
	Clarina	294	591	101% ⁴	20					
	Montpelier	150	172	15%	7					
	Rural Metro Area	8,676	9,237	6%	104					
	Remainder of Metro Area	12,074	13,850	16%	431		16.95	62.82		45.87
	Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area (in Limerick)	104,952	141,420	35%	11,873		285.78	440.57		154.78
Key town	Newcastle West	6,619	8,607	30%	706	10 or 35+	3026	139.02		108.76
Level 3 Towns	Abbeyfeale	2,023	2,589	28%	211	10 or 22+	1189	4550		33.61
	Kilmallock	1,668	2,135	28%	162	10 or 22+	914	19.61		10.47
	Rathkeale	1,441	1,844	28%	147	10 or 22+	830	38.12		29.82
	Caherconlish	1,476	1,815	23%	125	10 or 22+	702	994		2.92
	Level 3 Aggregate	6,608	8,383	27%	645		36.35	113.17		76.82
Level 4 Large Villages	Adare	1,129	1,455	29%	122	10 or 22+	688	5835		51.48
	Askeaton	1,137	1,455	28%	119	10 or 22+	672	2354		16.82
	Ballingarry	521	667	28%	55	10 or 22+	308	589	29.71%	2.81
	Bruff	803	1,043	30%	83	10 or 22+	468	552	12.30%	0.84
	Bruree	580	740	28%	39	10 or 22+	221	213	65.49%	See Footnote ⁵
	Cappamore	620	794	28%	65	10 or 22+	366	332	17.62%	See Footnote ⁵
	Croom	1,159	1,484	28%	104	10 or 22+	584	1245		6.61
	Doon	516	660	28%	52	10 or 22+	291	273	100.00%	See Footnote ⁵
	Dromcolliher	518	663	28%	54	10 or 22+	306	243	65.06%	See Footnote ⁵
	Foynes	520	666	28%	55	10 or 22+	307	349	0.00%	0.42
	Glin	576	737	28%	59	10 or 22+	333	310	38.71%	See Footnote ⁵
	Hospital	653	836	28%	64	10 or 22+	359	332	100.00%	See Footnote ⁵
	Kilfinane	789	1,010	28%	81	10 or 22+	459	381	100.00%	See Footnote ⁵
	Murroe	1,377	1,694	23%	117	10 or 22+	661	582	66.79%	See Footnote ⁵
	Pallasgreen	568	727	28%	60	10 or 22+	338	311	50.32%	See Footnote ⁵
Pallaskenny	651	836	28%	63	10 or 22+	353	360	86.28%	0.07	
Level 4 Aggregate	12,117	15,467	28%	1,191		67.15	142.61		75.46	
Level 5	Small Villages	5,469	6,453	18%	313					
Level 6	Rural Clusters	1,882	1,855	15%	91					
Level 7	Open Countryside	57,252	61,936	8%	772					
City and County	Totals	194,899	244,121	25%	15,591		419.54	835.97		416.42

Table 1: Extract of Table 2.7, Core Strategy Table, Chapter 2, Core Strategy

3. Population Trends

Since the adoption of the Plan, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) has released the results of the Census of Population 2022. The statistics were examined in the Year One Core Strategy Report for 2022 – 2023. While this analysis is not repeated, a brief summary is provided hereunder.

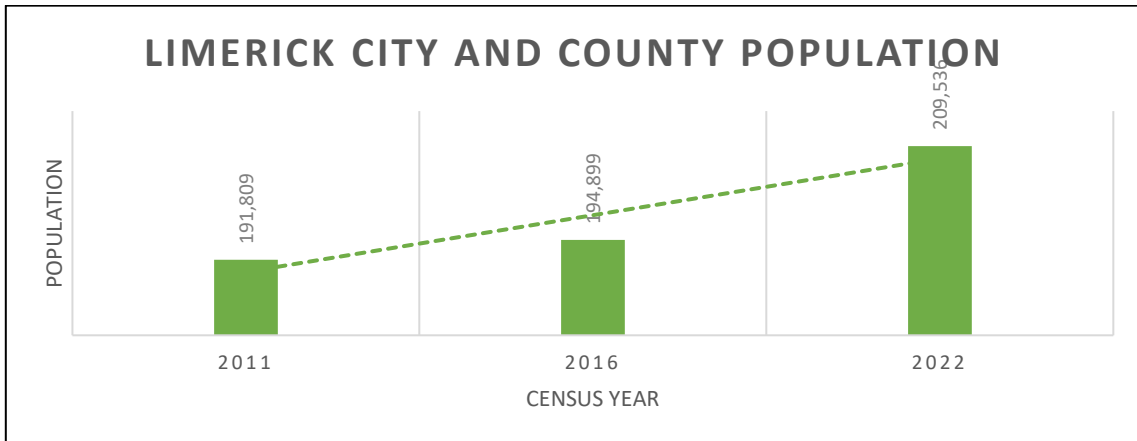


Figure 3: Limerick City and County Population, CSO

As demonstrated in Figure 3 above, Limerick City and County has experienced population growth throughout the recent intercensal periods reaching 209,536 in 2022.

The Census of population statistics for 2016 and 2022 and the additional households forecast in each of the settlements in the Core Strategy is set out in Table 2 below:

Level	Settlement	Census Data 2016 - Population	Census Data 2022 - Population	Additional Households Forecasted 2022-2028
Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area (in Limerick)	Limerick City and Suburbs (in Limerick)	89,671	97,582	11,054
	Annacotty	2,930	3,398	235
	Mungret	277	372	153
	Castleconnell	2,107	2,488	205
	Patrickswell	847	848	95
	Clarina	294	559	20
	Montpelier	150	172	7
Key Town	Newcastle West	6,619	7,209	706
Level 3 Towns	Abbeyfeale	2,023	2,206	211
	Kilmallock	1,668	1,761	162
	Rathkeale	1,441	1,231	147
	Caherconlish	1,476	1,569	125
Level 4 Large Villages	Adare	1,129	1,224	122
	Askeaton	1,137	1,236	119

Level	Settlement	Census Data 2016 - Population	Census Data 2022 - Population	Additional Households Forecasted 2022-2028
	Ballingarry	521	570	55
	Bruff	803	887	83
	Bruree	580	641	39
	Cappamore	620	668	65
	Croom	1,159	1,240	104
	Doon	516	651	52
	Dromcolliher	518	509	54
	Foynes	520	512	55
	Glin	576	644	59
	Hospital	653	674	64
	Kilfinane	789	757	81
	Murroe	1,377	1,432	117
	Pallasgreen	568	229	60
	Pallaskenry	651	610	63
Level 5	Small Villages	5,913	6,280	313
Total	All Settlements	127,533	138,487	14,625

Table 2: Limerick City and County Settlements Population, CSO

The Census figures for 2016 and 2022 demonstrate that the overall pattern of population growth accords with the objectives of the National Planning Framework (NPF), the Regional and Spatial Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) and is in line with the Core Strategy of the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028. In this regard, the pattern of population growth is concentrated in the City and Suburbs, Metropolitan settlements and Key Town of Newcastle West. The Level 3 Towns of Abbeyfeale, Kilmallock and Caherconlish have also shown consistent population growth.

The overall increase in population growth experienced in settlements during the 2016 to 2022 intercensal period, aligns with the strategic approach of the Local Authority to encourage urban living, through the provision of zoned and serviced land, with investment in regeneration and infrastructure to facilitate consolidation and compact growth. The growth of the City and Suburbs demonstrates the desirability of the area as a place to live and work, with a range of third level institutes and strengths in various employment sectors.

Overall, the 2022 Census data demonstrates positive population growth in the settlements. This indicates that the Core Strategy has accurately directed population growth towards the designated settlements across the hierarchy of the Plan. The population trends provide confidence that the annual monitoring report will demonstrate that the objectives of the Core Strategy can be achieved over the lifetime of the Plan.

4. Core Strategy Monitoring

Section 10.3.1 Core Strategy Monitoring (Annual) of the ‘Development Plan Guidelines’ sets out 7 no. indicators for Residential, Commercial and Settlement Consolidation Sites to determine the progress in achieving the Core Strategy of the Plan. The 7 no. indicators are set out in Table 3 below:

Indicator	
Residential	
1	New home completions (including through refurbishment/ conversions)
2	New home completions per NPO 3 - Compact Growth
3	Planning permission granted for residential development with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A breakdown of 1, 2, 3 and 4+ bedroom units permitted and (ii) A breakdown per Tier 1 and Tier 2 lands
4	Breakdown by relevant rural area type of housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Planning Applications lodged (ii) Breakdown in decisions (iii) New home completions
Commercial	
5	Developed and occupied commercial floor space
6	Planning permissions for business/ employment uses (m2) for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Office (ii) Industrial (iii) Retail (iv) Warehousing/ Logistics
Settlement Consolidation Sites	
7	Specific reporting on the progress of the Settlement Consolidation Sites identified in the Development Plan. This should include information on enabling infrastructure services delivery, planning permissions granted, housing constructed, funding applications made, project timelines, Vacant Site Levy commentary etc.

Table 3: Annual Report Monitoring Indicators, Development Plan Guidelines

The following sections include tables and a brief commentary with respect to the various indicators for the second year of implementation of the Limerick Development Plan 2022 - 2028.

4.1 Indicators 1 and 2 - Dwelling Completions

This section provides an overview of the number of dwellings required and completed in Limerick during year two of the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028. As set out in Section 2 of this report, in accordance with the ESRI’s ‘Regional Demographics and Structural Housing Demand at a County Level’, the Core Strategy table identifies a forecast of 15,591 no. additional households between 2022 and 2028 in Limerick City and County. This equates to an average requirement for 2,598 no. additional dwellings per annum, or 649 no. additional dwellings per quarter to 2028.

Having regard to the information available on the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage’s Housing Delivery Tracker and the CSO’s New Dwelling Completions Q2 2024 Report, the following table sets out the average no. of units required by quarter and the residential completions by unit type across Limerick City and County in year two of the Plan:

Quarter/ Year	Average No. of Units Required	No. of Apartments Built	No. of Scheme Houses Built (In estates)	No. of Single Houses Built	Total No. of units Built
Q3 2023	649	46	107	44	197
Q4 2023	649	48	137	58	243
Q1 2024	649	17	121	60	198
Q2 2024	649	46	130	52	228
Total	2,598	157	495	214	866

Table 4: Housing Completions, Housing Delivery Tracker/ CSO

The number of dwellings completed in year two (866 no. units) compared to the average number of dwellings required per annum (2,598 no. units) over the lifetime of the Plan, indicates a shortfall of 1,732 no. units for the second year of the Plan.

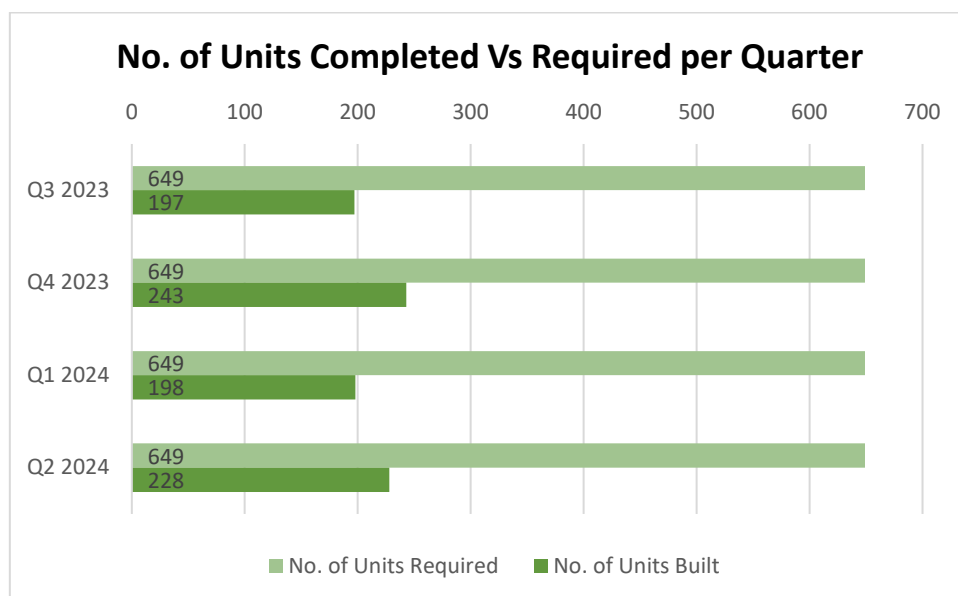


Figure 4: No. of dwellings completed vs no. required per quarter for the second year of the Development Plan

It is noted that 766 no. units were completed during year one, equating to a total of 1,632 no. units during the first two years of the Plan as set out in the table below:

Development Plan Implementation	Average No. of Units Required	No. of Apartments Built	No. of Scheme Houses Built (In estates)	No. of Single Houses Built	Total No. of units Built
Year One	2,598	70	477	219	766
Year Two	2,598	157	495	214	866
Total	5,196	227	972	433	1,632

Table 5: Housing Completions, Housing Delivery Tracker/ CSO

Further to Table 5 above, utilising the Housing Delivery Tracker and GeoDirectory data, a breakdown by settlement of the number of units required per annum and the number of units completed across the City and County including in the surrounding rural areas, in 2022 and 2023 is set out in the following table:

Level	Settlement and Surrounding Area	Average No. of units required per annum	New home completions including refurb/ conversions (2022)	New home completions including refurb/ conversions (2023)	New home completions as % of no. of units required per annum
Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area (in Limerick)	Limerick City and Suburbs (in Limerick)	1,842	385	393	21
	Annacotty	39	1	-	-
	Mungret	26	-	-	-
	Castleconnell	34	2	12	35
	Patrickswell	16	1	12	75
	Clarina	3	-	14	466
	Montpelier	1	1	-	-
Key Town	Newcastle West	118	39	2	11
Level 3 Towns	Abbeyfeale	35	2	2	6
	Kilmallock	27	27	2	7
	Rathkeale	25	10	5	20
	Caherconlish	21	3	4	19
Level 4 Large Villages	Adare	20	-	9	45
	Askeaton	20	-	-	-
	Ballingarry	9	1	5	55
	Bruff	14	2	3	21
	Bruree	7	-	-	-
	Cappamore	11	-	-	-
	Croom	17	4	4	23

Level	Settlement and Surrounding Area	Average No. of units required per annum	New home completions including refurbishments/conversions (2022)	New home completions including refurbishments/conversions (2023)	New home completions as % of no. of units required per annum
	Doon	9	-	-	-
	Dromcolliher	9	-	3	-
	Foynes	9	-	1	-
	Glin	10	1	-	33
	Hospital	11	-	21	190
	Kilfinane	14	1	1	7
	Murroe	20	2	1	50
	Pallasgreen	10	3	-	-
	Pallaskenry	11	-	1	9
Level 5	Small Villages	52	13	33	63
Total	All Settlements	2,440	498	528	42%

Table 6: Residential Forecast, unit requirements and completions by settlement, Housing Delivery Tracker

With the exception of the Metropolitan settlement of Clarina and the Level 4 Large Village of Hospital, the number of new dwelling completions is below the average annual target across all settlement levels. Dwelling completions are not in line with the annual growth targets set out in the Core Strategy, which are required to serve the projected population growth to 2028. It should be noted that there are a significant number of live planning permissions, including those that pre-date the Development Plan for residential units across the City and County. In the City and Suburbs alone, planning permission is in place for 4,054 no. units. In this regard, it would appear that economic conditions are stifling the delivery of dwelling units.

With respect to Limerick City and Suburbs, where the greatest target of growth is envisaged, only 21% of the annual target (1,842 no. units) of dwellings required per annum was completed in 2023 (393 no. units). The number of completions in the City and Suburbs during 2023 represents a slight increase on the number of completions during 2022 (385 no. units), equating to 42% of the total required per annum.

4.2 Indicator 3 - Residential Planning Permissions - Settlements

This section provides an overview of the planning permissions granted for residential developments in the settlements across Limerick City and County during year two of the Development Plan 2022 – 2028. This section also sets out a brief outline of the availability of zoned land to cater for residential development over the lifetime of the Plan. Section 4.4 further below provides an overview of planning permissions granted in rural areas for one off dwellings.

The spatial distribution of the residential planning permissions granted are set out in Figure 5 further below. Table 7 further below provides a breakdown of the number of residential

planning permissions granted, the percentage of total applications that contribute to compact growth, the type and number of units and the number of units by bedrooms permitted for the settlements across Limerick for year two of the Plan from 1st August 2023 to 31st July 2024.

As set out in Table 7 below, across the settlements in the hierarchy, 112 no. residential planning permissions have been granted, comprising 1,701 no. units during the second year of the Development Plan. The majority of permissions granted (51 no.) are located within Limerick City and Suburbs and comprise 1,162 no. residential units (626 no. apartments and 536 no. houses). Planning permission has been granted for 142 no. units in Patrickswell, 110 no. units in Newcastle West, followed by 75 no. units in Bruff. The majority of the units granted permission comprise three bedroom units (1,067 no.) across all settlements.

Student accommodation comprising 212 no. bed spaces in 41 no. units have been granted permission in Limerick City and Suburbs during year two of the Plan.

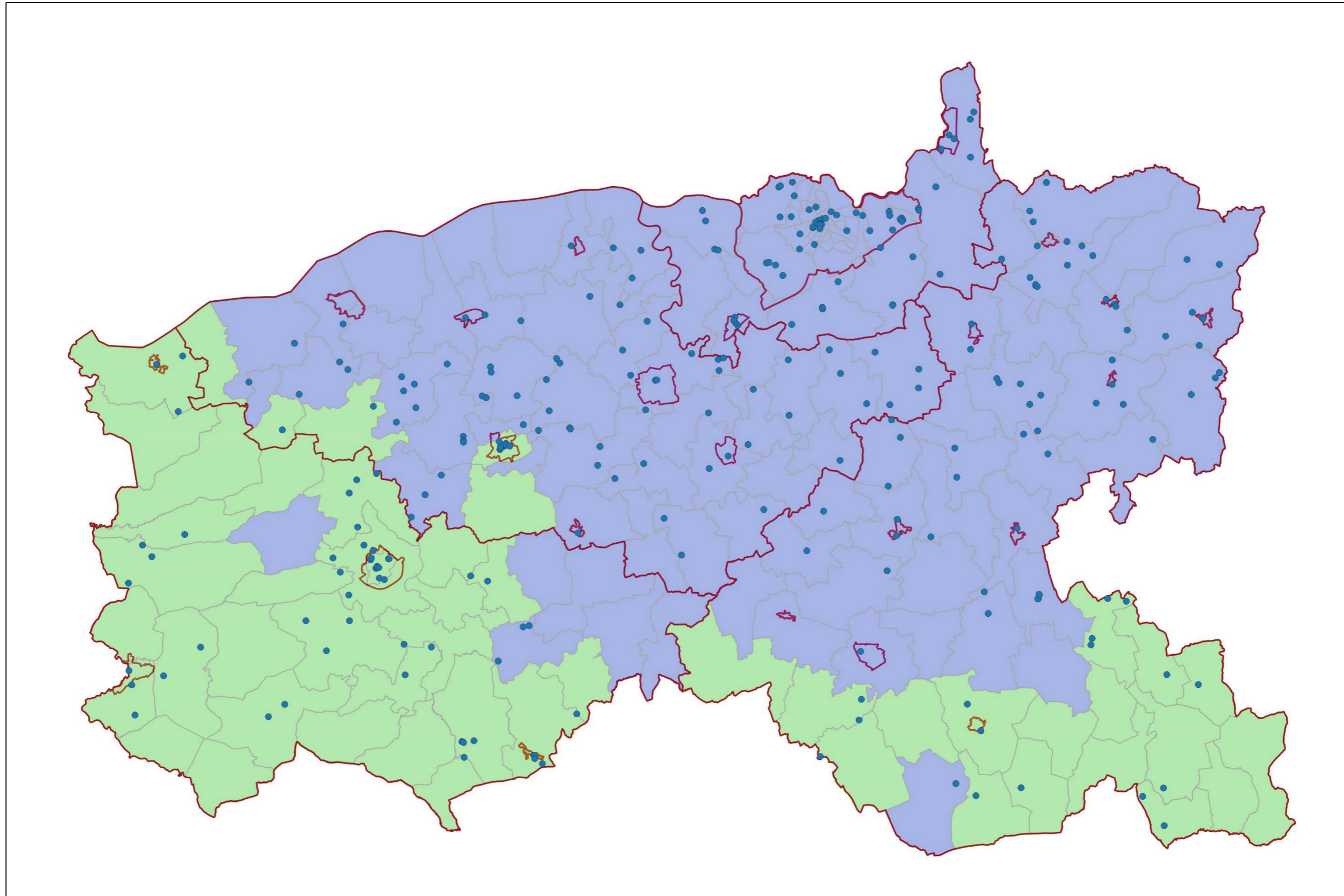


Figure 5: Spatial Distribution of Grants of Planning Permission for Residential Units in Limerick City and County during the Year Two of the Development Plan

Level	Settlements	Total No. of Planning Permissions Granted	% of Total applications contributing to Compact Growth	Total No. of Units granted	No. of Apartments granted	No. of Houses granted	No. of Student bed spaces granted	No. of studios/ 1 bed units	No. of 2 bed units	No. of 3 bed units	No. of 4+ bed units	No. of units granted on Tier 1 lands	No. of units granted on Tier 2 lands
Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area (in Limerick)	Limerick City and Suburbs (in Limerick)	51	75	1,162	626	536	212	277	355	410	120	2,422	1,395
	Annacotty	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	Mungret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Castleconnell	3	100	76	1	75	-	1	12	31	32	75	-
	Patrickswell	4	75	142	-	142	-	-	9	121	12	92	-
	Clarina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Montpelier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Key Town	Newcastle West	12	83	110	23	87	-	12	41	52	5	67	-
Level 3 Towns	Abbeyfeale	1	100	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	Kilmallock	1	100	28	-	28	-	-	-	16	12	-	-
	Rathkeale	8	87.5	13	3	10	-	1	1	10	1	-	-
	Caherconlish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Level 4 Large Villages	Adare	2	100	2	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
	Askeaton	1	100	2	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
	Ballingarry	1	100	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	Bruff	2	50	75	-	75	-	-	6	60	9	74	-
	Bruree	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Cappamore	2	100	28	-	28	-	-	4	18	6	-	-
	Croom	1	100	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	Doon	1	100	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	Dromcolliher	2	100	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
	Foynes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Glin	1	100	10	-	10	-	6	4	-	-	10	-
	Hospital	1	100	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	Kilfinane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Murroe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pallasgreen	1	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	
Pallaskerry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Level 5	Small Villages	13	83	36	4	32	-	4	16	7	9	N/A	N/A
Level 6	Rural Clusters	3	100	5	-	5	-	-	1	1	3	N/A	N/A
Total	All settlements	112	91	1,701	660	1,041	212	303	453	730	215	2,740	1,398

Table 7: Settlements – Residential Indicators - Planning Permissions Granted

The tables below sets out a summary of the no. of residential permissions granted in year one and two, the total no. of units granted, the type of units, no. of student bedspaces and no. of bedrooms. It is noted that a change in the no. of student bed spaces granted that was granted in year one has been reduced downwards following the issuing of the Year One – Core Strategy Monitoring Report, this is as a result of the outcomes of appeals and/ or Judicial Reviews.

Development Plan Implementation	Total No. of Planning Permissions Granted	Average % of applications contributing to Compact Growth	Total No. of Units granted	No. of Apartments granted	No. of Houses granted
Year One	70	98	991	556	435
Year Two	112	91	1,701	660	1,041
Total	182	94.5	2,692	1,216	1,476

Table 8: Settlements – Residential Indicators - Planning Permissions Granted Year One and Two

Development Plan Implementation	No. of Student bedspaces granted	No. of studios/ 1 bed units	No. of 2 bed units	No. of 3 bed units	No. of 4+ bed units
Year One	202	156	259	337	234
Year Two	212	303	453	730	215
Total	414	459	712	1,067	449

Table 9: Settlements - No. of Units by No. of Bedrooms Granted Permission during Year One and Two of Development Plan

Development Plan Implementation	No. of units granted on Tier 1 lands	No. of units granted on Tier 2 lands
Year One	217	0
Year Two	2,740	1,398
Total	2,957	1,398

Table 10: Settlements – No. of Units granted on lands designated Tier 1 (serviced) or Tier 2 (serviceable)

Of the 112 no. residential permissions granted in the settlements during year two of the Plan, commencement notices have been received for 16 no. developments comprising 169 no. units. With respect to the units commenced, 147 no. are located within the City and Suburbs (in Limerick). In addition, of the 70 no. residential permissions granted for 987 no. units in the settlements during year one of the Development Plan, it is noted that 18 no. commencement notices have been received for 78 no. units.

Development Plan Implementation	No. of Apartment Units Commenced by Year Granted - Settlements	No. of House Units Commenced by Year Granted - Settlements	Total No. of Units Granted in Year One and Two and Commenced
Year One	58	20	78
Year Two	9	160	169
Total	67	180	247

Table 11: No. of Units Commenced Construction and Granted during the first two years of Development Plan Implementation

With respect to the availability of land to cater for population growth, following a review of the 160 no. Settlement Capacity Audit sites in Limerick City and Suburbs, it is noted that live planning permission is in place for 3,817 no. units across 56 no. sites on approximately 132ha.. These permissions comprise 1,655 no. apartments and 2,162 no. houses. Including planning permissions which pre-date the Development Plan, Commencement Notices have been received for approximately 765 no. units on the City and Suburb's Settlement Capacity Audit sites. In the event that all permissions granted were implemented in full, the remaining capacity for residential development on lands identified in the Settlement Capacity Audit for the City and Suburbs alone would equate to approximately 8,933 no. dwellings on 233ha. Therefore, the quantum of lands zoned for residential development that remains without planning permission is sufficient to cater for the forecasted housing requirements to 2028.

With respect to the settlements, as set out in Section 2 of this report, the Plan operates in conjunction with a number of Local Area Plans. Following the adoption of the Plan, the Local Area Plans for Abbeyfeale, Adare, Caherconlish, Castleconnell, Newcastle West, Patrickswell and Rathkeale and have been reviewed and new Local Area Plans are now in effect. The Kilmallock Local Area Plan has been amended and extended.

The quantum of zoned land available without planning permission in Limerick City and Suburbs and in the reviewed Local Area Plans is set out in the table below and accords or exceeds the requirements for land identified in the Core Strategy. Therefore, sufficient lands remain zoned to cater for targeted population growth throughout the remaining lifetime of the Development Plan.

Settlement	Available Land for Residential use (ha.)
Limerick City and Suburbs, including Mungret and Annacotty	362.82
Abbeyfeale	10.97
Adare	18.01
Askeaton	10.70
Caherconlish	8.951
Cappamore	2.92
Castleconnell	15.00
Croom	13.90
Kilmallock	23.51
Newcastle West	59.50
Patrickswell	22.03
Rathkeale	9.27
Total	557

Table 12: Quantum of Residential Zoned Land in the City and Suburbs and Local Area Plans

4.2.1 Residential Pipeline Development – Limerick City and Suburbs

Section 4.2 Indicator 3 – Residential Planning Permission – Settlements focuses on planning permissions granted in the settlements during year two of the Development Plan. A grant of planning permission remains live for a period of 5 no. years. Therefore, on examination of all live planning permissions for Limerick City and Suburbs, planning permission is in place for 4,054 no. units. In addition, decisions were pending on planning applications received during year two for a further 965 no. units across all settlements at time of writing this report.

Table 13 below sets out a breakdown of the pipeline applications by area in the City and Suburbs. Figure 6 further below indicates the spatial distribution of pipeline residential developments in the City and Suburbs.

Neighbourhoods	No. of Units Granted Year 1 and Year 2	No. of Units Pending Decision	No. of Units Granted Permission – Not Commenced	No. of Units Granted and Commenced
City Centre	270	153	165	12
Corbally Kings Island	1	1	0	1
Ballysimon Singland Garryowen Rhebogue	34	80	28	0

Neighbourhoods	No. of Units Granted Year 1 and Year 2	No. of Units Pending Decision	No. of Units Granted Permission – Not Commenced	No. of Units Granted and Commenced
Annacotty Castletroy Plassey	469	9	110	95
Janesboro Southhill Crossagalla	1	33	2	0
Dooradoyle Raheen Mungret	468	18	160	69
Ballinacurra South Circular Rd. Dock Rd.	3	22	29	0
Thomondgate Moyross Caherdavin Ennis Rd.	614	407	62	4
Total No. of Units	1,858	723	556	181

Table 13: Residential Pipeline Development – Limerick City and Suburbs

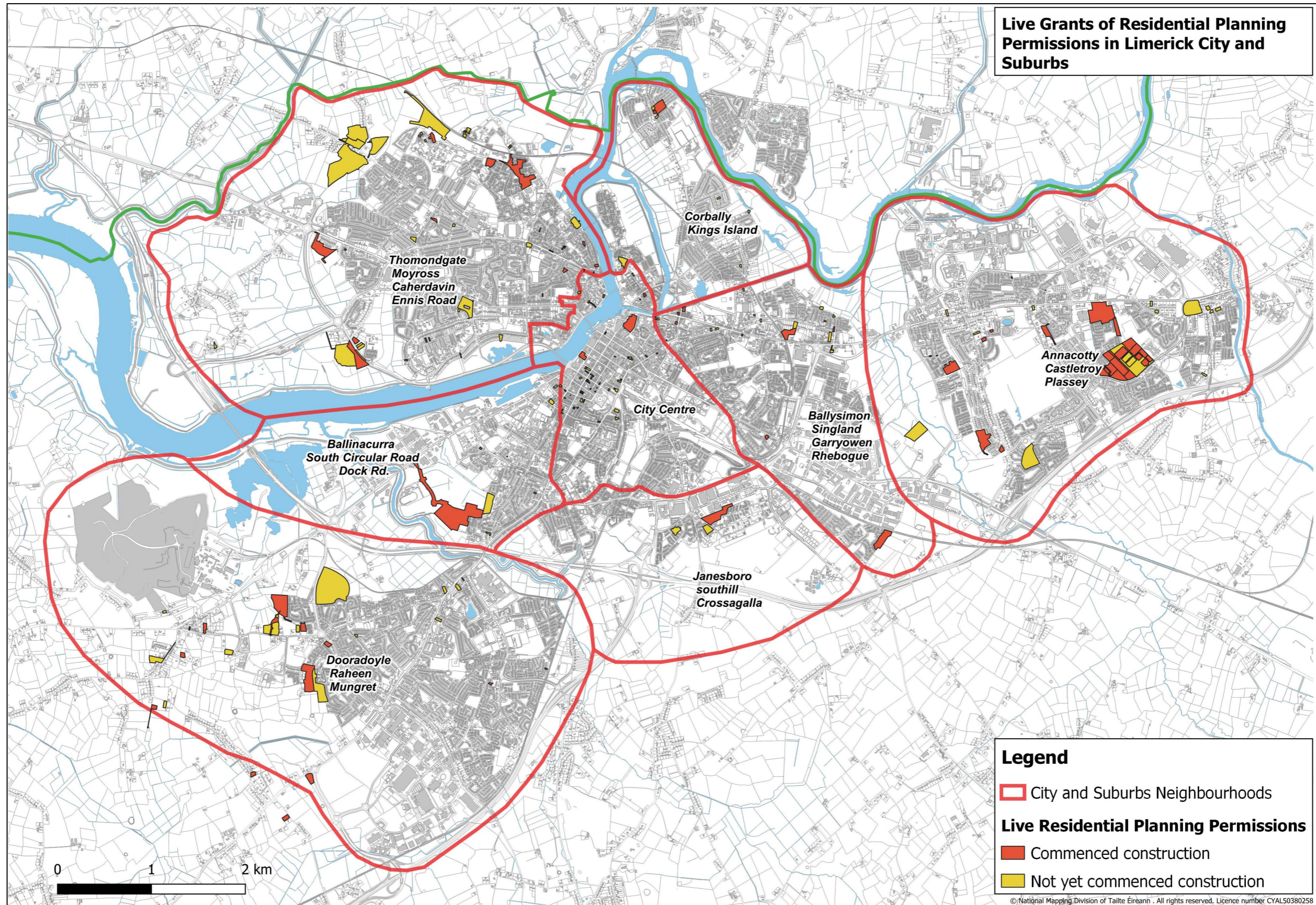


Figure 6: Spatial Distribution of Residential Pipeline Sites – Limerick City and Suburbs

4.3 Indicator 4 - Residential Planning Applications – Rural

This section outlines the pattern and status of planning applications for single dwellings located in the rural areas of Limerick during year two of implementation of the Plan.

Table 14 below outlines the indicators for residential development in the rural housing strategy areas, comprising Category 1 – Areas under Strong Urban Influence and Category 2 – Rural Areas Elsewhere. The table outlines a breakdown of the planning applications in the two rural housing strategy areas and decision types for year two of the Plan from 1st of August 2023 to 31st of July 2024. The rural housing strategy areas are identified in Figure 7 further below.

Level	Settlements	Rural Housing Category	Planning Applications lodged	Permissions Granted	Applications Refused/ Withdrawn
Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area (in Limerick)	Rural Metro Area	Areas under Strong Urban Influence	28	17	6
Level 7	Open Countryside	Areas under Strong Urban Influence	176	117	30
		Rural Areas Elsewhere	76	47	0
Total	Countryside		280	181	36

Table 14: Rural Areas - Residential Indicators – Breakdown of Planning Applications

The Core Strategy allocated 772 no. additional dwellings in the open countryside to 2028. This allocation equates to an average of 128 no. dwellings per annum. During year two of the Plan, 181 no. rural one off dwellings have been granted planning permission, this exceeds the average annual target by 53 no. dwellings. It should be noted that this relates to planning permissions only. Commencements of permissions granted in year one and two are set out in table 16 below. A further 58 no. planning applications for rural one off dwellings, received during year two, were undecided at time of writing.

Development Plan Implementation	No. of Rural Dwellings Allocated	No. of Planning Applications Lodged	No. of Permissions Granted
Year One	128	265	165
Year Two	128	280	181
Total	256	545	346

Table 14: Rural Areas – No. of Planning applications lodged and granted during Year One and Two of the Development Plan

Development Plan Implementation	No. of Rural Houses Granted	No. of 2 bed units	No. of 3 bed units	No. of 4+ bed units
Year One	165	6	64	95
Year Two	181	9	71	101
Total	346	15	135	196

Table 15: Rural Areas – No. of units by no. of bedrooms granted during Year One and Two of the Development Plan

With respect to the commencement of construction of one off dwellings, during year two of the Plan, commencement notices have been received for 28 no. units, consisting of 6 no. units in the area designated Rural Area Elsewhere and 22 no. units in the area designated Strong Urban Influence. Of the permissions granted for rural dwellings during year one, commencement notices have now been received for 78 no. dwelling units.

Development Plan Implementation	No. of Commencement Notices – Strong Urban Influence	No. of Commencement Notices – Rural Area Elsewhere	Total
Year One	54	24	78
Year Two	22	6	28
Total	76	30	106

Table 16: Commencement Notices by Rural Housing Category

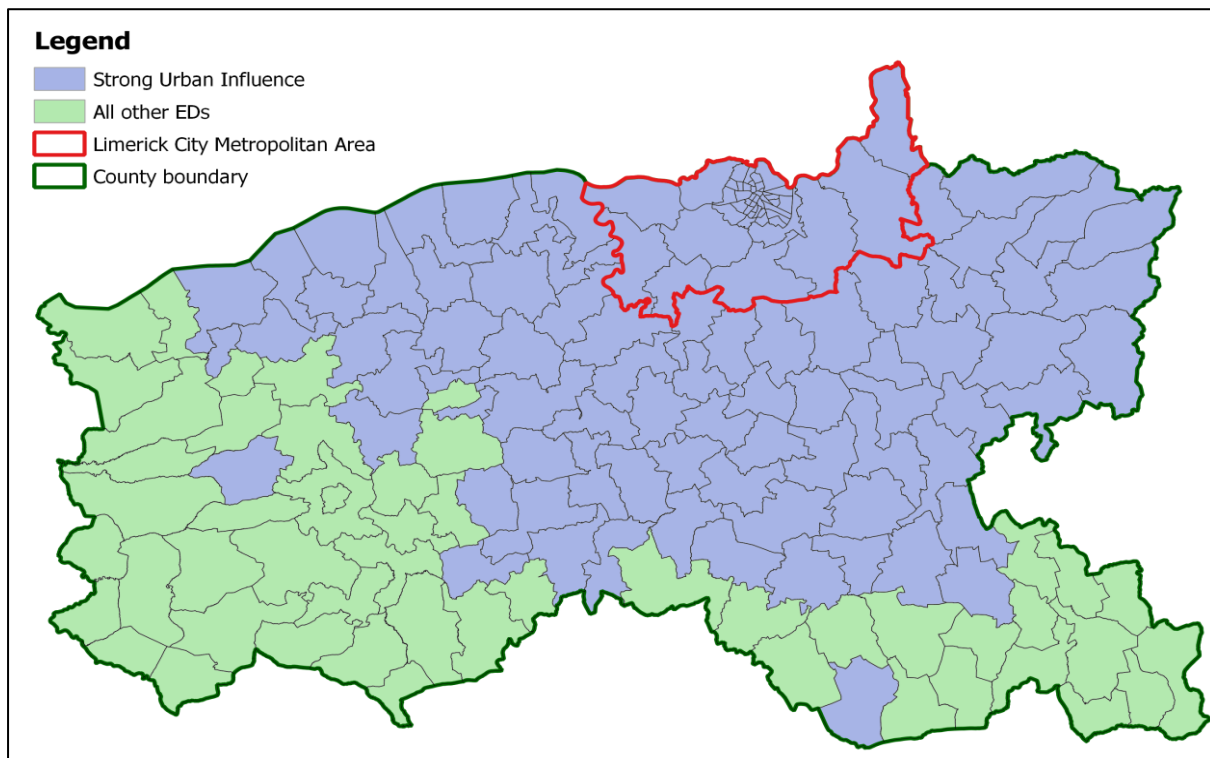


Figure 7: Extract of Map 4.1: Rural Housing Strategy Map, Chapter 4 Housing

4.4 Obstacles to Dwelling Delivery

As set out under Sections 4.2 Residential Indicator 3 - Residential Planning Permissions – Settlements and 4.4 Residential Indicator 4 - Residential Planning Applications – Rural above, during year two of the Plan, a total of 1,701 no. residential units have been granted planning permission across the City and County. This is an increase of 552 no. units on the number of units granted in year one (1,149).

The year one Core Strategy Monitoring Report 2022 – 2023 identified various obstacles to dwelling delivery. This report should be read in conjunction with same. In brief, the year one report identified obstacles including delayed decision making at An Bord Pleanála, inflation and costs of finance, energy, transport, materials, construction, labour costs and shortages, all combining to create issues around the viability of projects. In addition, the long lead in times for delivery are exacerbating pent up demand. The report also outlined the various Government schemes, waivers and rebates in place to facilitate and enable development.

4.5 Indicators 5 and 6 – Commercial Floor space and Permissions

This section sets out in brief the indicators for commercial development across the settlements in Limerick City and County. The table below sets out the indicators comprising the areas of commenced floor space and the floor space granted permission in 67 no. applications for various commercial uses during year two of the Plan.

Level	Settlement	Commenced Commercial Floorspace (m2)	Offices Granted (m2)	Industrial Granted (m2)	Retail Granted (m2)	Warehousing / Logistics Granted (m2)	Services ¹ Granted (m2)
Limerick Shannon Metro. Area (in Limerick)	Limerick City and Suburbs (in Limerick)	17,441	3,949	11,164	5,373	7,641	18,357
	Annacotty	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Mungret	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Castleconnell	-	242	2,454	-	-	-
	Patrickswell	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Clarina	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Montpelier	-	-	-	-	-	-
Key Town	Newcastle West	45	-	-	45	-	254
Level 3 Towns	Abbeyfeale	58	58.5	-	-	-	-
	Kilmallock	-	-	4,499	-	-	-
	Rathkeale	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹ For the purpose of this report, Services include professional/financial services, betting offices, laundrette kiosks, hair/ beauty salons, restaurants, leisure centre, conference facilities, medical services, gyms, guest houses, nursing homes, dog grooming etc.

Level	Settlement	Commenced Commercial Floorspace (m2)	Offices Granted (m2)	Industrial Granted (m2)	Retail Granted (m2)	Warehousing / Logistics Granted (m2)	Services ¹ Granted (m2)
	Caherconlish	-	-	-	-	-	-
Level 4 Large Villages	Adare	50	50	-	-	-	-
	Askeaton	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Ballingarry	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Bruff	-	-	-	-	-	178
	Bruree	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Cappamore	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Croom	860	30	3,050	-	830	-
	Doon	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Dromcolliher	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Foynes	-	-	293	-	-	-
	Glin	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Kilfinane	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Murroe	7	-	-	-	-	7
	Pallasgreen	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pallaskenry	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Level 5	Small Villages	76	-	-	-	-	76
Level 6	Rural Clusters	-	-	-	198	-	-
Level 7	Countryside	475	52	1,641	45	542	-
Total		19,012	4,382	23,101	5,661	9,013	18,872

Table 17: Commercial Indicators

The table below sets out a summary of the total floor areas permitted for the various types of commercial developments during Year One and Year Two of implementation of the Development Plan:

Development Plan Implementation	Office (m2) Permitted	Industrial (m2) Permitted	Retail (m2) Permitted	Warehousing / Logistics (m2) Permitted	Services (m2) Permitted
Year One	1,205.58	4,133.23	4,241.4	9,943.1	4,098
Year Two	4,382	23,101	5,661	9,013	18,872
Total	5,587.58	27,234.23	9,902.40	18,956.10	22,970.00

Table 18: Commercial floor areas permitted during Years One and Two

The substantial majority of new commercial developments permitted during year two of the Plan are located within Limerick City and Suburbs. At time of writing, of the 67 no. permissions granted for commercial developments during year two, commencement notices have been submitted for 21 no. applications. The total commenced commercial floor areas across all

levels of the settlement hierarchy that was granted permission in years one and two, is outlined in the table below.

Development Plan Implementation	Office (m2) Commenced	Industrial (m2) Commenced	Retail (m2) Commenced	Warehousing / Logistics (m2) Commenced	Services (m2) Commenced
Year One	567	0	1,709	5,682	2,569
Year Two	1,942	5,034	2,448	830	8,760
Total	2,509	5,034	4,157	6,512	11,329

Table 19: Commercial development commenced by floor area

The attraction of new commercial development to the City and Suburbs is consistent with the objectives of the RSES and Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP). In this regard, the MASP supports Limerick City in becoming a major economic force in the Irish and international economy and a leading centre for commercial investment, capitalising on the City's higher education institutions and skills of the workforce. In addition, the granting of commercial permissions in Kilmallock will facilitate the town's role in facilitating a spread of economic growth into the County. Commercial investment in the other settlements will also facilitate economic development, employment opportunities and provide services for the local population. It should be noted that the substantial areas of office and industrial development permitted in the Countryside, includes applications within Annacotty Business Park.

4.6 Indicator 7 – Settlement Consolidation Sites Limerick City and Suburbs

A number of strategic brownfield consolidation sites have been identified for redevelopment in Limerick City Centre, which will have transformative effects on the revitalisation of the City. The Residential Settlement Capacity Audit as set out under Volume 2a Level 1 Limerick City and Suburbs (in Limerick), Mungret and Annacotty of the Plan, identifies these Settlement Consolidation Sites. These sites include Opera Square, Cleeves Riverside Quarter, the University of Limerick Riverside Campus and Colbert Station Quarter. The table below outlines the indicators of progress for development of these sites:

Consolidation Site	Infrastructure Requirements	Services Delivery	Permissions Granted	Dwellings Constructed	Funding Applications	Project Timelines	Vacant Site Levy	Other
Cleeves Riverside Campus	Perimeter fencing, lighting within the perimeter, internal water supply and sanitary arrangement, drains, sewerage, electricity sub-stations, electricity mains, transformers, water mains, sewer mains utilities, parking	Project delivery team in place Design Team commenced the next stage of the development, and are working on preparation of the planning application	Non-statutory masterplan completed August 2023 Planning due for submission January 2025	N/A	URDF (Urban Regeneration Development Fund) 2 - €34.5m approved Preliminary Business Case approved Drawdown commenced	4–5-year construction period	RLZT Draft Maps 2024	Design team appointed to prepare planning application in line with a view to selling site or attracting development partners to complete the development.

Consolidation Site	Infrastructure Requirements	Services Delivery	Permissions Granted	Dwellings Constructed	Funding Applications	Project Timelines	Vacant Site Levy	Other
	facilities, waste disposal systems, Security offices, maintenance of environmental conditions							
Opera Square	Under construction	Project delivery team in place Demolition and Enabling Works Contract (Dec. 2020- Dec. 2022) Complete Basement and One Opera Sq. Contract (Jan. 2023 to Feb. 2025) Ongoing	An Bord Pleanála Permission Granted Feb. 2020 Amendments Submitted – and was granted by An Bord Pleanála January 2024	Q3 2023 - drainage installation for One Opera Square, and concrete pours 2024 - basement works for the full site 75% completed and five storeys of the six-storey One Opera Square	URDF 1 - €1.8m approved. Draw down complete Department of Rural and Community Development on 5 th May 2023. Under Review Libraries Capital Programme	Construction Q4 2020 to Q4 2026 Opera Square will be developed over a six-year period and is due for completion, in late 2026.	RLZT Draft Maps 2024	Works progressing on site

Consolidation Site	Infrastructure Requirements	Services Delivery	Permissions Granted	Dwellings Constructed	Funding Applications	Project Timelines	Vacant Site Levy	Other
		<p>14-storey OPW Building Mar. 2024-Aug. 2026) now at Tender Stage</p> <p>Library, Central Plaza, and Four Opera Sq. (Mar. 2024-Dec. 2026) now at Tender Stage</p>		building constructed	2023 - 2027 submitted on 2 nd June 2023. Under Review			
Arthur’s Quay	None	In place	None	None	URDF – Part of Worldclass Waterfront funding allocation (€32.4m)	Framework Plan – Next step Public Consultation Q3/4 2024 to feed into Worldclass Waterfront	N/A	Framework will guide development, reliant on individual landowners thereafter to initiate planning applications

Consolidation Site	Infrastructure Requirements	Services Delivery	Permissions Granted	Dwellings Constructed	Funding Applications	Project Timelines	Vacant Site Levy	Other
Colbert Station Quarter	Going forward some infrastructure may be required to support St. Joseph's and Carey's Road sites	None	None	None	TBC	Carey's Road site design team appointed to prepare planning application. Design team being put in place for St. Joseph's Hospital site	RZLT Draft Maps 2024	Overall Framework completed.

Table 20: Settlement Consolidation Sites

5. Conclusion

This Year Two Core Strategy Monitoring Report for 2023 – 2024 outlines progress in the residential and commercial indicators specified under Section 10.3.1 of the Development Plan Guidelines 2022 during year two of the Development Plan 2022 - 2028.

During the second year of the Plan, approximately 866 no. dwellings were completed across Limerick City and County. The majority of units were completed in Limerick City and Suburbs, followed by the Large Village of Hospital, substantially in accordance with the objectives for compact growth (NPO 3) and the Core Strategy. However, the level of completions remains below the average annual and quarterly targets across all settlements. This can be attributed to continuing issues around costs and viability.

With respect to planning permissions, a total of 1,882 units have been granted permission across the City and County during year two of the Plan. Across all of the settlements, 1,701 no. residential units have been granted permission, comprising 660 no. apartments and 1,041 no. dwelling units. The majority of units granted (730 no.) comprise three bedrooms, followed by two bedrooms units (453 no.). The quantum of lands zoned for residential development that remains without planning permission across all settlements is sufficient to cater for the forecasted housing requirements to 2028.

In relation to rural areas, 181 no. one off dwellings have been granted planning permission during year two of the Plan, this is in excess of the Core Strategy average target of 128 no. units per annum. The majority of these units (122 no.) were granted in the areas designated Strong Urban Influence, with 17 no. of the permissions located within the Rural Metro Area.

With respect to the Settlement Consolidation Sites in Limerick City, development works are ongoing on the Opera Square site. A number of Framework and Masterplans have been completed, or are nearing completion on the other sites. The commencement of re-development of some of these sites will be in the long term. It is noted that some reliance on third party owners will be required to progress the re-development of two of the sites.

Permissions have been granted for all types of commercial uses in Limerick City and Suburbs, followed by industrial development in Kilmallock. Such development will contribute to the economic development of the settlements in accordance with the objectives of the Development Plan.

The pattern of planning permissions granted for residential development, particularly in the settlements, creates confidence that the annual monitoring report will demonstrate that the objectives of the Core Strategy can be satisfactorily achieved over the lifetime of the Limerick Development Plan 2022 - 2028.

Appendix III – Strategic Environmental Assessment Monitoring

LIMERICK DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

Mayor's

Strategic Environmental Assessment
Monitoring Report

17th September 2024

ATLANTIC EDGE

LIMERICK
EUROPEAN EMBRACE



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council



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1. Introduction

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of plans and projects is required by European Directive 2001/42/EC ('the SEA Directive'). A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was therefore prepared in conjunction with the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028 and is set out in Volume 4, Environmental Reports. The SEA process informed decision making during the preparation of the plan, by improving environmental compliance and raising awareness of the potential environmental consequences of implementation, so that these consequences may be mitigated or avoided altogether.

Article 10 of the SEA Directive requires monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Limerick Development Plan, to identify, at an early stage, unforeseen adverse effects and to enable appropriate remedial action to be undertaken. This report sets out the SEA Monitoring for the first two years of implementation of the Development Plan. It is noted that there is some overlap in information set out hereunder and contained within the Two-Year Progress Report.

The report has been prepared with consideration for guidance documents including 'Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Guidelines' (2022) and 'Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring' (2023).

2. SEA Monitoring

2.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
<p>B1: Protect, conserve and enhance habitats, species and areas of regional and local importance, including aquatic habitats and species and promote the sustainable management of ecological networks.</p> <p>B2: Ensure the continued conservation of the Natura 2000 sites, Natural Heritage and Proposed Natural Heritage sites. These sites are important, both as an amenity and natural history resource.</p> <p>B3: Preservation of the character of the historic built fabric.</p> <p>B4: Preservation of the</p>	<p>Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation.</p> <p>Identification of sites of local biodiversity and ecological corridors.</p>	<p>There are 12 no. Special Areas of Conservation, 3 no. Special Protection Areas and 4 no. Natural Heritage Areas in Limerick.</p> <p>The Development Management section of the Planning Authority screens all planning applications for Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in order to protect the natural heritage and biodiversity of Limerick. The Council also has regard to the candidate Natura 2000 Sites when screening proposals for Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Strategic Environmental Assessment screening and Appropriate Assessment screening and assessments , as necessary, were carried out on all new Local Area Plans prepared since the adoption of the Development Plan. This includes new Local Area Plans for Abbeyfeale, Adare, Caherconlish, Castleconnell, Newcastle West, Patrickswell and Rathkeale. Each Local Area Plan includes objectives to protect biodiversity, flora and fauna, and built heritage.</p> <p>In certain instances, planning applications are required to submit ecological impact assessments to examine the effects of a proposed development on ecology.</p> <p>The Development Management function of the Planning Authority will require the inclusion of proposals for the creation of new habitats and management plans for certain development proposals. These proposals will supplement efforts by</p>

2.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna																
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation														
archaeological heritage.		<p>the Council to create new and conserve existing habitats in public parks, recreational areas and infrastructure projects across the county.</p> <p>The Limerick City and Environs Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy provides guidance for the planning and management of a network of green and blue spaces, including the creation of new habitats in settlements across the County. Limerick City and County Council has continued to actively encourage compliance with the requirements of and maintained its commitment to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.</p> <p>-Biodiversity Projects: Funding has been obtained for projects which improve and create habitats for a variety of flora and fauna and offer opportunities to increase biodiversity such as those set out in the following table:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Project</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mungret Park</td> <td>Additional pollinator friendly planting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Castletroy Park</td> <td>Additional pollinator friendly planting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Baggott Estate</td> <td>Biodiversity garden</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adare Park</td> <td>Council took over maintenance, additional planting including fruit bushes, increasing colour, appeal and supporting the enhancement of biodiversity</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lough Gur</td> <td>Council took over maintenance, additional planting, increasing colour, appeal and supporting the enhancement of biodiversity</td> </tr> <tr> <td>O'Connell Monument, George's Quay, Honan's Quay, People's Park,</td> <td>Replanted areas with pollinator friendly species</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Project	Mungret Park	Additional pollinator friendly planting	Castletroy Park	Additional pollinator friendly planting	Baggott Estate	Biodiversity garden	Adare Park	Council took over maintenance, additional planting including fruit bushes, increasing colour, appeal and supporting the enhancement of biodiversity	Lough Gur	Council took over maintenance, additional planting, increasing colour, appeal and supporting the enhancement of biodiversity	O'Connell Monument, George's Quay, Honan's Quay, People's Park,	Replanted areas with pollinator friendly species
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2.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation	
		Shelbourne Park and O'Brien Park	
		Castletroy, Mayorstone, Mungret and the Newcastle West Demesne Parks	An increase in areas which were left to grow without mowing to promote seed creation thus supporting pollinators
		Castletroy Greenway	Enhanced as part of the Go Green Routes European Project, to enhance linear routes through, planting/natural play, mini forest creation. A bioblitz identified as many species as possible.
		Further to the above, the Council has undertaken a number of campaigns, surveys and projects including :	
		Type	Project
		Communication Campaigns	Awareness Biodiversity Week
			Awareness Heritage Week
			Awareness Hedgerow Week
			Library Links
			IWT and BWI Branch talks
		Habitats	Wetlands Survey
			Ecological Survey of NCW Demesne
			Hedgerows Training
		Species Related	Lesser Horseshoe Bats
			Mayfly Survey
		Invasive Species	IAS Treatment and Awareness (Hogweed)
			Morning Star (Hogweed)

2.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna				
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation		
		<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Himalayan Balsam</td> </tr> </table> <p>-Limerick Greenway Biodiversity Plan: The Council has published the Limerick Greenway Biodiversity Plan to inform actions and make recommendations for future implementation. The plan aims to support, protect, enhance, restore and conserve the flora and fauna of Limerick Greenway, and to plan, manage and maintain the 40km route, placing biodiversity at the centre of this process, with sympathetic management and retention as a natural corridor. The plan will ensure that biodiversity on the Limerick Greenway is further recognised, protected and strengthened.</p> <p>-Westfields Wetland Management Plan: A plan for the management of the Westfield Wetland, located on the north side of the City has been completed and presented to the Elected Members. These wetlands are an important ecological and biodiverse habitat located in an urban environment. The plan focuses on the protection of the area for future generations, while sustainably developing the amenity value of the wetlands.</p> <p>The council has also undertaken a number of studies that intend to inform biodiversity conservation including:</p> <p>-Wetland Survey: A county wide Wetland Survey was conducted over the first and second quarter of 2024. The first phase of the survey identified important wetland sites in Limerick. The second phase of this survey is planned for completion in 2025. This will provide detailed information on the quality and composition of the wetland sites identified in the first phase. Data collected during this survey will be used to inform conservation and management decisions</p>		Himalayan Balsam
	Himalayan Balsam			

2.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
		<p>going forward.</p> <p>-Swift Survey: A county wide Swift Survey was undertaken in 2022. Citizen science was used to help achieve maximum data harvest. A baseline data set of swift usage of habitats available in Limerick was gathered and can be used to inform future conservation and management decisions.</p> <p>-Barn Owl Study: A comprehensive county wide Barn Owl Study was conducted in 2022. This study aimed to generate information on Barn Owl populations to assess their status, trends and breeding performance in County Limerick, to assess the effectiveness of existing conservation measures and to inform the conservation requirements of Barn Owl populations. The data gathered by this study can be used to inform conservation and management decisions going forward.</p> <p>Recommendation: No remedial action is required.</p>

2.2 Population and Human Health		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
P1: Facilitate a good standard of quality of life for the population through ensuring high quality residential, recreational and	Increase in educational opportunities, services within the area.	Limerick City and County experienced population growth throughout recent intercensal periods. Between 2011 and 2016, the population grew by 3,090 or 1.6%, followed by a surge in growth of 14,637 or 7.5% between 2016 and 2022 when the population reached 209,536.

2.2 Population and Human Health		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
<p>working environments.</p> <p>P2: Provide policy support for the provision of suitable infrastructure and facilities for the local population.</p>		<p>Development Management will continue to assess planning applications for compliance with the Core Strategy, Settlement Strategy and Housing Needs Demand Assessment. Planning applications will continue to be assessed to ensure that appropriately scaled and sustainable patterns of development are delivered in the settlements in accordance with available capacity in public infrastructure. In some settlements, a lack of capacity in wastewater and/or water treatment facilities is inhibiting growth and obstructing sustainable urban development.</p> <p>Approximately 1,632 no. dwellings have been completed across Limerick City and County in 2022 and 2023. The majority of the units were completed in Limerick City and Suburbs, followed by the Key Town of Newcastle West. With respect to planning permissions, a total of 3,038 no. residential units have been granted permission across the City and County during the first two years of the Plan.</p> <p>The Council has commenced various projects for the revitalisation of the City, towns, villages and rural areas throughout the County, including through the Urban and Rural Regeneration Development Funds. On completion, the various public realm projects and strategic revitalisation sites identified in the Development Plan, will act as catalysts for investment in the settlements throughout Limerick. Such projects will facilitate the creation of compact and attractive urban environments with improved vibrancy, economic opportunities and the critical mass to maintain services and facilities for their populations. These projects will facilitate the revitalisation of the town and village centers across Limerick, creating a high quality environment and making them attractive locations for people to live, visit and operate businesses.</p> <p>The Development Plan recognises the importance of strategic infrastructure to</p>

2.2 Population and Human Health																		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation																
		<p>facilitate the improvement of, or servicing of lands for development. This includes transport and water services projects. The Council will continue to work actively with the key agencies, landowners and other stakeholders in progressing infrastructure projects. The Council will continue to actively collaborate with all infrastructure providers, including the Department of Education to ensure that adequate capacity is available within the various forms of infrastructure, such as schools to cater for existing and target population growth. Appropriate support policies and objectives have been incorporated into each of the new Local Area Plans.</p> <p>During the first two years of the Development Plan, planning permission has been granted for school developments as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>Project</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Colaiste Mhichil, CBS Sexton Street</td> <td>Redevelopment of school and extension of 6,419m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Banogue National School</td> <td>Extension of 190m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St. Anne's Primary School, Rathkeale</td> <td>Extension of 388.5m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Corpus Christi Primary School, Moyross</td> <td>Special Needs Base extension of 519m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh, Castletroy</td> <td>Extension of 236m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scoil Náisiúnta Ailbhe, Boher</td> <td>Extension of 1,037m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bohermore National School, Ballysimon</td> <td>Temporary classroom of 82m²</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	School	Project	Colaiste Mhichil, CBS Sexton Street	Redevelopment of school and extension of 6,419m ²	Banogue National School	Extension of 190m ²	St. Anne's Primary School, Rathkeale	Extension of 388.5m ²	Corpus Christi Primary School, Moyross	Special Needs Base extension of 519m ²	Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh, Castletroy	Extension of 236m ²	Scoil Náisiúnta Ailbhe, Boher	Extension of 1,037m ²	Bohermore National School, Ballysimon	Temporary classroom of 82m ²
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2.3 Water		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
<p>W1: Ensure that wastewater infrastructure keeps pace with development proposals.</p> <p>W2: Ensure that the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are incorporated into the Plan.</p> <p>W3: Ensure that wetland and peatland sites are preserved.</p>	<p>Protect and restore areas identified in the River Basin District Management Plan required to achieve “good” status, i.e. 4+ for water quality by 2021 in line with the Water Framework Directive objectives.</p> <p>No deterioration in levels of compliance with drinking water quality standards and maintenance of national average compliance rate.</p>	<p>Uisce Éireann is responsible for the delivery of water services infrastructure in Ireland. This is achieved through the implementation of a number of plans and programmes which are currently ongoing throughout the County. Limerick City and County Council will continue to work in partnership with Uisce Éireann to ensure the timely delivery of required water services to enable development.</p> <p>The provision of wastewater treatment infrastructure is essential to achieve sustainable development without adversely affecting the receiving environment.</p> <p>According to the 2016 Census, 61% of private households in Limerick City and County were connected directly to the public sewerage network, which was below the State average of 65.9%. Subsequently, the 2022 Census results showed that 62.2% of private households were connected to the public sewerage network.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, planning permission has been granted to 173 no. residential units for effluent disposal by way of connection to the public sewer.</p> <p>The Uisce Éireann Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 identifies the priority projects to enable population and economic growth to take place at the level anticipated in national and regional policy. The Capital Investment Plan sets out the prioritisation of investment to deliver the most urgently needed improvements in drinking water quality, leakage reduction, water availability, wastewater compliance, efficiencies and customer service.</p> <p>The Capital Investment Plan identified 6 no. local capital projects, 1 no. water and</p>

2.3 Water														
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation												
		<p>5 no. wastewater in Limerick. Some of the key water services infrastructure projects include:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant</td> <td>Planning Permission granted and project gone to tender</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foynes Sewerage Scheme</td> <td>Detailed design and a planning application are currently being completed. A Marine Area Consent application has been submitted to MARA in April 2024 and we await a decision. Land agreements are in place.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Glin Sewerage Scheme</td> <td>Detailed design and a planning application are currently being completed. A MAC application has been submitted to MARA in April 2024 and we await a decision. A CPO process for lands commenced in June 2024.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LIHAF/ MUHDS Growth Programme (Wastewater and Water) Mungret</td> <td>Projects being completed in 3 Phases. Phase 1 was completed in 2021 and Phase 2 was completed in Q1 2024. The water and wastewater infrastructure was funded by Uisce Éireann, but delivered through the LCCC LIHAF Roads Contract. Phase 3 is currently with LCCC at the design stage.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bunlicky Wastewater Treatment Plant</td> <td>Preliminary Business Case has been progressed</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The EU Water Framework Directive is implemented through River Basin</p>	Project	Status	Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant	Planning Permission granted and project gone to tender	Foynes Sewerage Scheme	Detailed design and a planning application are currently being completed. A Marine Area Consent application has been submitted to MARA in April 2024 and we await a decision. Land agreements are in place.	Glin Sewerage Scheme	Detailed design and a planning application are currently being completed. A MAC application has been submitted to MARA in April 2024 and we await a decision. A CPO process for lands commenced in June 2024.	LIHAF/ MUHDS Growth Programme (Wastewater and Water) Mungret	Projects being completed in 3 Phases. Phase 1 was completed in 2021 and Phase 2 was completed in Q1 2024. The water and wastewater infrastructure was funded by Uisce Éireann, but delivered through the LCCC LIHAF Roads Contract. Phase 3 is currently with LCCC at the design stage.	Bunlicky Wastewater Treatment Plant	Preliminary Business Case has been progressed
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2.3 Water		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
		<p>Management Plans (RBMPs) based on six-year cycles. The third cycle Water Action Plan 2024: Ireland’s River Basin Management Plan has been issued. The plan aims to protect and restore water quality nationally and locally in Ireland. The overall aim of the plan is to ensure that natural waters are sustainably managed and that freshwater resources are protected to maintain and improve the water environment. Groundwater is a key natural resource for drinking and commercial purposes, in addition to sustaining a variety of important ecosystems.</p> <p>Limerick’s rural areas are under significant development pressure from rural housing, agricultural activities and rural based enterprises, all of which have the potential to adversely affect the quality and quantity of groundwater resources. As part of the ongoing Development Management function of the Planning Authority, consideration for the Limerick Groundwater Protection Plan and the potential impacts of proposed developments on groundwater is undertaken in the assessment of planning applications.</p> <p>Specific areas of activity relating to water quality in the first two years of the Development Plan included implementing the programme of measures under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), particularly in relation to agriculture, un-sewered industries and septic tanks.</p> <p>Working in conjunction with the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO), the Council has identified a number of Priority Areas of Action (PAAs). The Council will focus resources on inspections and enforcement in these areas over the next 4 years.</p>

2.3 Water		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
		<p>From 2022 to 2024, the Council WFD team focused its efforts on 24 no. PAAs, including waterbodies for restoration and protection. These areas include the Maigne Catchment (Morningstar, Loobagh and Glasha Rivers), the Deel Catchment (Owenskaw, Arra, Bunoke and Broadford Streams) and the Feale Catchment (Caher, Galey, Knockfinnisk and Owvane Rivers).</p> <p>Furthermore, the team carried out investigative assessments to identify the significant pressures causing water bodies to be at risk of not achieving the objectives of the WFD. Over 300 no. farm inspections were completed, including intensive farms, which are considered to be presenting a particular risk to a number of water bodies. The team work very closely with the farming community to address issues directly and to ensure that the impact from each farm is mitigated and controlled to an acceptable level, which is compatible with achieving the requirements of the RBMP.</p> <p>The team also have a protective role under the WFD and will aim to ensure that waterbodies which currently are at ‘good status’ do not deteriorate. The team works with sectoral interests to resolve any pressures identified which are impacting on water quality.</p> <p>The European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022 (as amended) sets out the minimum standards for farming practices to realise the Water Framework Directive’s ambition of achieving ‘Good’ status for all waters by 2027. Limerick City and County Council’s role is to oversee implementation of these regulations and to ensure that farming practices do not negatively affect water quality.</p>

2.3 Water		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
		<p>In 2023, the Council published a booklet ‘Building Resilience into your Farming System’, which includes a compendium of articles, prepared by various agencies, which focus on topics such as water quality, biodiversity and agricultural emissions. The booklet aims to help build greater resilience into farming operations, is available online and is given to every farmer at the time of an inspection.</p> <p>In addition, each Local Area Plan prepared since the adoption of the Development Plan supports the higher level policies and objectives. The LAPs recognise the importance of ensuring the protection of ground water through the use of ground water protection schemes as part of land use planning. These LAPs provide the necessary policy protection for the water cycle in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>As mentioned previously, a county wide wetland survey was conducted during 2024. The first phase of the survey identified important wetland sites in Limerick. The second phase of this survey is planned for completion in 2025. Data collected during this survey will be used to inform conservation and management decisions going forward.</p> <p>Wetland and peatlands throughout Limerick are protected through environmental and planning legislation. This legislation is used to protect and maintain the integrity of the wetland and peatland habitats that would otherwise be sensitive to inappropriate development.</p> <p>Recommendation: No remedial action is required.</p>

2.4 Geology and Soils		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
<p>GS1: Place an emphasis on the development of brownfield sites rather than greenfield sites. By reducing the possible development of greenfield sites this makes a positive contribution to soil conservation.</p> <p>This can also be achieved through the sensitive reuse of existing buildings, reducing the need for new build.</p> <p>GS2: Protect geological sites within the plan area.</p>	<p>Concentrate development in the selected zoned areas and encourage re-use of existing sites.</p>	<p>The Council recognises the importance of active land management to increase housing stock and contribute to the regeneration of settlements. The Council set up a Dereliction Vacancy and Re-use Unit in 2018. The unit is committed to supporting communities by taking a proactive approach to dereliction and vacancy in Limerick City and County. The unit works collaboratively with property owners, seeking timely actions and improvements to sites of concern. A proactive approach to seeking out derelict properties with a view to promoting reactivation has been taken by LCCC. The aim of this approach is to minimise the amount of derelict properties within the County going forward.</p> <p>Where zoned lands have come forward for development in the settlements, of the 112 no. residential planning applications permitted, approximately 91% are considered to contribute to compact growth. This demonstrates that the growth pattern is consistent with national and regional policy to deliver consolidation of the urban areas and will contribute to the compact growth pattern of the settlements. Such patterns of development will also assist in the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society.</p> <p>Geology and important geological sites are considered as part of the EIA process and as such are considered as part of the overall planning process.</p> <p>Recommendation: No remedial action is required.</p>

2.5 Air and Climate, Flooding and Renewable Energy		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
<p>AQC1: To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and where necessary to ensure the sensitive application of energy saving measures to the historic built fabric.</p> <p>AQC2: To avoid deterioration of air quality in the plan area.</p> <p>AQC3: To include climate action concerns into the plan policies.</p>	<p>Increase in upgraded sources of energy production from renewable sources.</p>	<p>The Council has adopted a Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 to implement at a local level, the national legislation provided in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.</p> <p>The Council will be responsible for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from across all assets and infrastructure, whilst also taking on a broader role of influencing and facilitating others to meet their own targets. The Plan further incorporates a proposed decarbonisation zone centered on the Georgian core in Limerick City Centre.</p> <p>The Climate Action Team are actively working to reduce the Council's own energy emissions. An Energy Management Team (EMT) has been in place since 2009. The EMT is responsible for the monitoring, reporting and oversight of initiatives to reduce the overall energy consumption across the Council as per ISO standard 5001. The EMP has overseen the Council's drive to reduce its energy consumption and associated carbon emissions by 51% by 2030. As of Q3 2023, the Council has achieved an improved energy efficiency of 47% and a total CO2 emissions reduction of 43.9% over the 2016-2018 baseline.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, 52MW of solar energy has been granted planning permission.</p> <p>In the first two years since the adoption of the Development Plan, the following progress has been made:</p> <p>-Climate Action Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action Team recruited – a Climate Action Coordinator, Community

2.5 Air and Climate, Flooding and Renewable Energy		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
		<p>Climate Action Officer, Climate Action Officer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed a number of training programmes delivered by the Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) as part of building the capacity with the section. • Recruited an Energy Engineer to support the preparation of the Climate Action Plan. • Procured 3 no. Building Energy Audits. The Merchant’s Quay Audit started in June 2024 and contracts are in place to carry out audits at Lissanalta and Dooradoyle. These audits will generate a list of measures that can save energy and also outline different options for de-carbonising Council buildings. <p>-Community Climate Action Programme: The Community Climate Action Programme is a new programme aimed at supporting all communities to achieve climate action within their local area. In cooperation with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Limerick City and County Council will support communities to stimulate and affect real change in the area of climate action. The overarching aim of this programme is to build low carbon, sustainable communities that will contribute to Limerick’s City climate action targets. A budget of €811,000 has been allocation to Limerick City and County Council for the first phase of the programme with projects commencing in September 2024.</p> <p>-Decarbonising Together: The Council completed the Decarbonising Together project funded by the Creative Climate Action Fund. This project involved 5 no. communities across Limerick City investigating and carrying out a climate action initiative with the support of the Creative Community. Each group explored an aspect of Decarbonisation through a creative collaboration with arts and creative industry partners, resulting in 5 no. creative outputs. Decarbonising Together was a joint cross-Directorate collaborative project between Limerick City and County</p>

2.5 Air and Climate, Flooding and Renewable Energy		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
		<p>Council’s Urban Innovation Department (Project Management and implementation) and Arts Office. Delivery was through the Citizen Innovation Lab and supported by Limerick City and County Council, University of Limerick Department of Economics and School of Architecture/ Fab Lab Limerick, Colaborativa.eu and Space Engagers. Decarbonising Together was shortlisted in the category of sustaining the arts for the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. Funding was secured in late 2023 for a follow up initiative Síolta Glasa.</p> <p>-Síolta Glasa: The Council led a successful application to the second strand of the Creative Climate Action Fund, securing a grant of €249,936 for delivery across 2023, 2024 and 2025. The project will partner with 7 no. creative and 7 no. community partners, with the aim of exploring creative climate action and enabling localised behaviour change. It is anticipated that there will be 7 no. outputs from the collaborations in a range of creative mediums and skills. The collaborations will support learning and will use as appropriate, Limerick’s Citizen Innovation Lab as a collaboration platform to create impact through empowering communities in decarbonising Limerick by 2050, with citizen creativity placed at the core of the process.</p> <p>-Air Quality: Air quality monitoring results show that fine particulate matter mainly from burning solid fuel and nitrogen dioxide (NO2) mainly from road transport, remain the main threats to good air quality. According to the EPA Bulletin in February 2024 there were two exceedance events for PM10 (particles with a diameter of 10 micrometres or less) in Limerick City. There were no exceedances of NO2 or Ozone.</p>

2.5 Air and Climate, Flooding and Renewable Energy		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
		<p>The Environment Section has been undertaking continuous indicative air quality monitoring at 3 no. sites in the Metropolitan area, monitoring particulate matter and gases (including NO₂, O₃, SO₂ and CO) at O'Connell Street, in Mungret and Castletroy. This network provides enhanced real-time information to the public. This monitoring indicates that the air quality in Limerick City is generally good, meets EU norms and meets the air quality standards for Ireland.</p> <p>The Council has been supporting the EPA during 2024 to prepare for the roll out of a citizen science initiative Clean Air Together Limerick City, which aims to get 400 no. participants across the Limerick Metropolitan Area to measure NO₂ outside their home for the month of October.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, 2022 saw the introduction of new solid fuel regulations, leading to significant efforts to raise awareness of these regulations and the ban on marketing, selling, distributing, or burning smoky fuel. Awareness campaigns were conducted and inspections of fuel retailers and wholesalers were carried out by staff.</p> <p>Air pollution enforcement staff received 118 no. complaints during the first two years of the Plan and worked closely with waste enforcement staff to address reports of unauthorized waste burning.</p> <p>-Flooding: Further to the undertaking of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in conjunction with, and to inform, the preparation of the Development Plan, the Zoning and Flood Zone Maps identify lands that are at varying levels of potential risk of flooding (Zones A and B). Where particular areas have been identified as being at flood risk, a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment will be required to</p>

2.5 Air and Climate, Flooding and Renewable Energy								
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation						
		<p>accompany any planning application. Such an assessment may include mitigation measures for site and building works as necessary. The design and mitigation of proposed developments must consider the effects of climate change and associated potential for increased flood risk.</p> <p>Limerick City and County Council received approval in 2018 for Flood Risk Management Plans under Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAMS) to progress flood relief schemes (FRS) in Limerick City and Environs, Athea and Castleconnell. Subsequently, approval was received to progress a flood relief scheme in Adare.</p> <p>Design and investigation works are advancing for all schemes as set out in the following table:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project Name</th> <th>Stage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>King’s Island</td> <td>The tenders for construction of the King’s Island Flood Relief Scheme are currently being assessed. It is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed in the coming months, with works to commence on site in Q4 2024. The project has a 2-year construction period.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Castleconnell</td> <td>Productive dialogue continues with the landowners impacted with a final Public Participation Day held in late 2023 to display the preferred scheme, setting the stage for completing the planning design, Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and submission of the scheme to An Bord Pleanála. Draft planning pack is nearing completion, including final review of the Options Report.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Project Name	Stage	King’s Island	The tenders for construction of the King’s Island Flood Relief Scheme are currently being assessed. It is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed in the coming months, with works to commence on site in Q4 2024. The project has a 2-year construction period.	Castleconnell	Productive dialogue continues with the landowners impacted with a final Public Participation Day held in late 2023 to display the preferred scheme, setting the stage for completing the planning design, Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and submission of the scheme to An Bord Pleanála. Draft planning pack is nearing completion, including final review of the Options Report.
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2.5 Air and Climate, Flooding and Renewable Energy		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
		<p>Athea</p> <p>The Options Report is drafted and under review. Planning Design, including ongoing development of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has commenced. Engagement with landowners affected by the scheme is ongoing. Compilation of a planning package in order to submit to An Bord Pleanála will be prepared in due course.</p>
		<p>Limerick City and Environs</p> <p>Hydraulics and hydrology aspects of the scheme completed, including finalisation of flood extent mapping for the scheme area. Site Investigation of existing flood defence embankments complete with ongoing site investigation in the City Centre now underway. Channel and bathymetric survey works completed. Optioneering to determine technically viable flood defence options has commenced.</p>
		<p>Adare</p> <p>Engagement with landowners affected by the scheme continuing, facilitating the completion of the planning design and identification of a preferred option. Public realm design finalised. Multi criteria analysis and cost benefit analysis have commenced. Planning package compilation commenced for submission to An Bord Pleanála.</p>
		<p>Recommendation: No remedial action is required.</p>

2.6 Cultural Heritage		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
<p>C1: Protect and conserve features of archaeological heritage and their setting.</p> <p>C2: Protect conserve and promote the sustainable reuse of architectural heritage.</p> <p>C3: Conserve and record those aspects of cultural heritage that may be affected by planning related activities</p>	<p>To maintain and increase the number of archaeological features recorded and protected.</p> <p>No damage occurring to structures or monuments and their settings due to development.</p>	<p>There are 8 no. Special Control Areas in Limerick as set out in the Development Plan. The Planning Authority through the Development Management function is committed to preserving the sites and settings of these areas of archaeological heritage, including any views listed in the SCAs. In the first two years of the Development Plan, no planning applications have been permitted which would adversely affect the integrity of any of the SCAs.</p> <p>-Archaeological Heritage: Limerick City and County Council is fully committed to preserving archaeological heritage through the Development Management and Heritage functions of the Planning Authority, and through the role of the Local Authority Archaeologist.</p> <p>In the first two years of the Development Plan, 159 no. applications have had mitigation applied either at Further Information stage by Archaeological Impact Assessments, which can include non-invasive geophysical reports and licenced test trenching, or at Condition stage, in the form of licensed archaeological monitoring, buffer zones, advance excavation and/ or re-design. A further 210 no. referrals have been assessed for archaeological implications by the Local Authority's Archaeologist.</p> <p>Archaeological sites uncovered in advance of, or during construction, are mitigated by avoidance and buffer (preferred) or full excavation. Any new archaeological sites are reported to the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, National Monuments Service and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p> <p>In the first two years of the Development Plan, the Archaeological Section has secured funding from various schemes to assist with the conservation and</p>

2.6 Cultural Heritage												
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation										
		<p>preservation of various monuments and sites, in order to facilitate the conservation of Limerick’s archaeological heritage. The funding enables conservation of archaeological monuments in need of urgent support, to encourage access, to improve presentation, and build resilience to withstand the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Details of Local Authority structures are outlined below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> Ballynoe Tower House, Bruree RMP LI039-102001 </td> <td> -2022: CMF22-1-LI001 €85,000 and €21,078.01 own funds, Phase 1 -2023: CMF23-1-LI001 €100,000 and €8,090.75 own funds, Phase 2 -2024: CMF24-1-LI002 €100,000 to complete final phase to 15th/ 16th tower house in LA graveyard </td> </tr> <tr> <td> Galbally Church RMP LI049-086002 </td> <td> -2022: Heritage Council SF17609 €7,950 and €7,295.1 own funds advance works -2023: CMF-2-LI002 €19,965.38 advance works -2024: CMF-1-LI001 €100,000 Phase 1 Capital works to medieval church </td> </tr> <tr> <td> Kilfinnane Church RMP LI048-058 </td> <td> -2022: CMF22-1-LI002 €85,000 and €13,015.66 own funds Capital works and clean out of church, substantially complete </td> </tr> <tr> <td> Kilmallock RMP LI047- </td> <td> CMF22-03-LI001 €9,840 for non-invasive survey of site of early Christian Monastery in partnership with the community </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Project	Status	Ballynoe Tower House, Bruree RMP LI039-102001	-2022: CMF22-1-LI001 €85,000 and €21,078.01 own funds, Phase 1 -2023: CMF23-1-LI001 €100,000 and €8,090.75 own funds, Phase 2 -2024: CMF24-1-LI002 €100,000 to complete final phase to 15th/ 16th tower house in LA graveyard	Galbally Church RMP LI049-086002	-2022: Heritage Council SF17609 €7,950 and €7,295.1 own funds advance works -2023: CMF-2-LI002 €19,965.38 advance works -2024: CMF-1-LI001 €100,000 Phase 1 Capital works to medieval church	Kilfinnane Church RMP LI048-058	-2022: CMF22-1-LI002 €85,000 and €13,015.66 own funds Capital works and clean out of church, substantially complete	Kilmallock RMP LI047-	CMF22-03-LI001 €9,840 for non-invasive survey of site of early Christian Monastery in partnership with the community
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2.6 Cultural Heritage														
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		<p>accessible to all. There are 2 no. members of the Irish Walled Towns Network, namely Limerick City and Kilmallock. Both have Conservation and Management Plans and a regular programme of consolidation and maintenance works are carried out. Works to the extensive upstanding walls of Kilmallock are substantially complete. In 2024, works to interpret the below ground section of wall in the South Eastern corner of the town were initiated.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the Development Plan, the following projects have been progressed:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Defence/ Walled Town</th> <th>Project</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Kilmallock Town Walls RMP LI047-022006</td> <td>-2023: IWTN Capital Grant W18372 €73,000 and €10,733.29 own funds to consolidate the final 6 no. discrete sections of standing town wall</td> <td>Complete</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Limerick City Walls RMP LI005-017010 Irishtown</td> <td>-2022: IWTN Capital Grant W17578 €70,290 and €7,809.99 own funds Phase 2 of 158m of Irishtown Wall -2023: IWTN Capital Grant W18397 €73,000 and own funds €31,522.47 to complete Phase 3</td> <td>Complete</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Limerick City Walls RMP LI005-</td> <td>-2024: Grant from Sláinte care €14,250 and own funds €1,750. Phase 1 Works to the Clay bank</td> <td>Complete</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Defence/ Walled Town	Project	Status	Kilmallock Town Walls RMP LI047-022006	-2023: IWTN Capital Grant W18372 €73,000 and €10,733.29 own funds to consolidate the final 6 no. discrete sections of standing town wall	Complete	Limerick City Walls RMP LI005-017010 Irishtown	-2022: IWTN Capital Grant W17578 €70,290 and €7,809.99 own funds Phase 2 of 158m of Irishtown Wall -2023: IWTN Capital Grant W18397 €73,000 and own funds €31,522.47 to complete Phase 3	Complete	Limerick City Walls RMP LI005-	-2024: Grant from Sláinte care €14,250 and own funds €1,750. Phase 1 Works to the Clay bank	Complete
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2.6 Cultural Heritage			
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation	
		017010 Irishtown	
		Limerick City Walls RMP LI005-017010 Englishtown	-2024: IWTN Capital Grant W19125 €70,000. Work to City Walls in Englishtown Phase 1 In progress
		<p>-Protected Structures: There are 2,345 no. Protected Structures in Limerick as set out in Volume 3: Architectural Conservation Areas and Record of Protected Structures of the Development Plan. Since the Plan came into effect, 176 no. planning applications have been received in relation to works to Protected Structures, with over 80 no. permissions granted.</p> <p>-National Inventory of Architectural Heritage: There are approximately 1,000 no. structures on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in Limerick. Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, is carrying out a stocktake of approximately 360 structures in the Georgian Neighbourhood of Limerick City and King’s Island, including structures in the NIAH Building Survey and structures on the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>The stocktake will capture the condition and status of each structure and describe changes to fabric and/ or features, if any, since the structure was recorded by the NIAH (2005) and/ or included on the RPS.</p>	

2.6 Cultural Heritage		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
		Recommendation: No remedial action is required.

2.7 Landscape		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
<p>L1: Protect and conserve the quality, character and distinctiveness of the Limerick landscape both urban and rural.</p> <p>L2: Retain the protected views in the Development Plan.</p>	Increase in quality of individual applications	<p>The Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) divide the County into 10 no. Landscape Character Areas. The LCAs describe, map and set out associated specific objectives for each area. The areas are used to inform decision making in relation to the protection of the environment, natural resources and heritage, to monitor change and guide development.</p> <p>Through the Development Management function, the Planning Authority will continue to ensure that the unique landscapes are protected, while contributing to appropriate levels of sustainable development.</p> <p>In addition, through the Development Management function, the Council will continue to manage development in order to avoid adverse effects on the views and prospects identified in the Development Plan. This approach will ensure that Limerick's natural beauty, local landmarks and historic landscapes are maintained and preserved.</p> <p>Recommendation: No remedial action is required.</p>

2.8 Material Assets		
Environmental Protection Objectives	Target	Commentary and Recommendation
<p>MA1: Maintain sustainable access to assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure.</p> <p>MA2: Ensure that there is adequate policy support for infrastructural provision in the plan area.</p>	<p>Increase in area of amenity space within the Plan area.</p> <p>Increased usage of open space as a public amenity.</p> <p>Increased visitor numbers to cultural heritage sites.</p>	<p>The continued development of the current greenway and the provision of further routes is currently at planning phase. The Limerick Greenway in Limerick is a 40km off-road walking and cycling route along the old railway line that connects the three towns of Rathkeale, Newcastlewest and Abbeyfeale.</p> <p>There has been on going progress with regard to the provision of new bus shelters as part of The Limerick Active Travel plan.</p> <p>An increase in households serviced under the National Broadband plan with a large number of households receiving connection to fibre optic broadband services under the national broadband plan.</p> <p>There has been funding allocated to a number of Blue Green infrastructure projects. The aim of these projects to enable the effective planning and management of Limerick’s blue and green spaces, is including our rivers, parks and open green spaces, helping drive the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society.</p> <p>Recommendation: No remedial action is required.</p>

3. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), set out in Volume 4 Environmental Reports, was prepared in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL 2/2014. The SFRA was utilized to inform the approach to the zoning of lands in all settlements and the provision of flood risks management, utilizing up to date flood risk information and the best available data at the time of preparation. Water compatible zoning and uses were included for lands at risk of flooding, with minor development only considered in existing built up areas and requirements for the sequential approach. Plan Making Justification Tests were carried out for some sites. The Planning Authority, through the Development Management function will continue to apply the provisions of the SFRA and Flood Risk Management Guidelines in the assessment of all planning applications.

4. SEA Monitoring Conclusion

As demonstrated in the tables above, numerous projects and undertakings are currently being progressed so as to fulfil the objectives of the Limerick Development Plan. These projects have been designed and implemented in a conscientious manner and as a result no remedial action is required.

