



Limerick City & County Council  
**Corporate Plan**

2015-19

## Introduction

The arrival of this Corporate Plan will herald for many Limerick citizens a new spirit of operational reform in Local Government. For its many contributors and its guiding Management Team, this publication marks a significant milestone in defining and promoting the Plan's vital mission, setting out its organisational objectives and coordinating its implementation, through an integral process of greater inclusion, increased participation and consistent local government professionalism.

**At a time of enormous global change and accelerating economic and social change, from which Limerick is not immune, it is good to reflect on things unchanged, such as local government principles of personal rights of the citizen, open society, civil liberties and political freedoms for all.**

This first Corporate Plan created and adopted by Limerick City and County Council seeks to define the Limerick we all desire to live, work, invest in and enjoy over the coming five years. It was adopted by the elected members on 23/03/15 following extensive consultation and sets out a core vision and strategy, with essential values to lead Limerick City and County Council to continue its implementation and management until 2019.

The new dawn of a single Limerick authority is a significant political and governmental demonstration of a new spirit to modernise and transform Limerick City and County Council in a planned and cost-effective financial model.

This has also led to the implementation of some of the most far-reaching changes ever to take place in local government in the creation of a new model of service delivery. These changes involved the joining-up of processes, systems and technology across more than 500 services to deliver them in a more effective way, while ensuring greater value for money. This overall plan defines the Council's objectives in a focused way forward, and comprises seven separate aims and their respective actions for success.

Mayor of Limerick City and County Council  
Cllr Kevin Sheahan

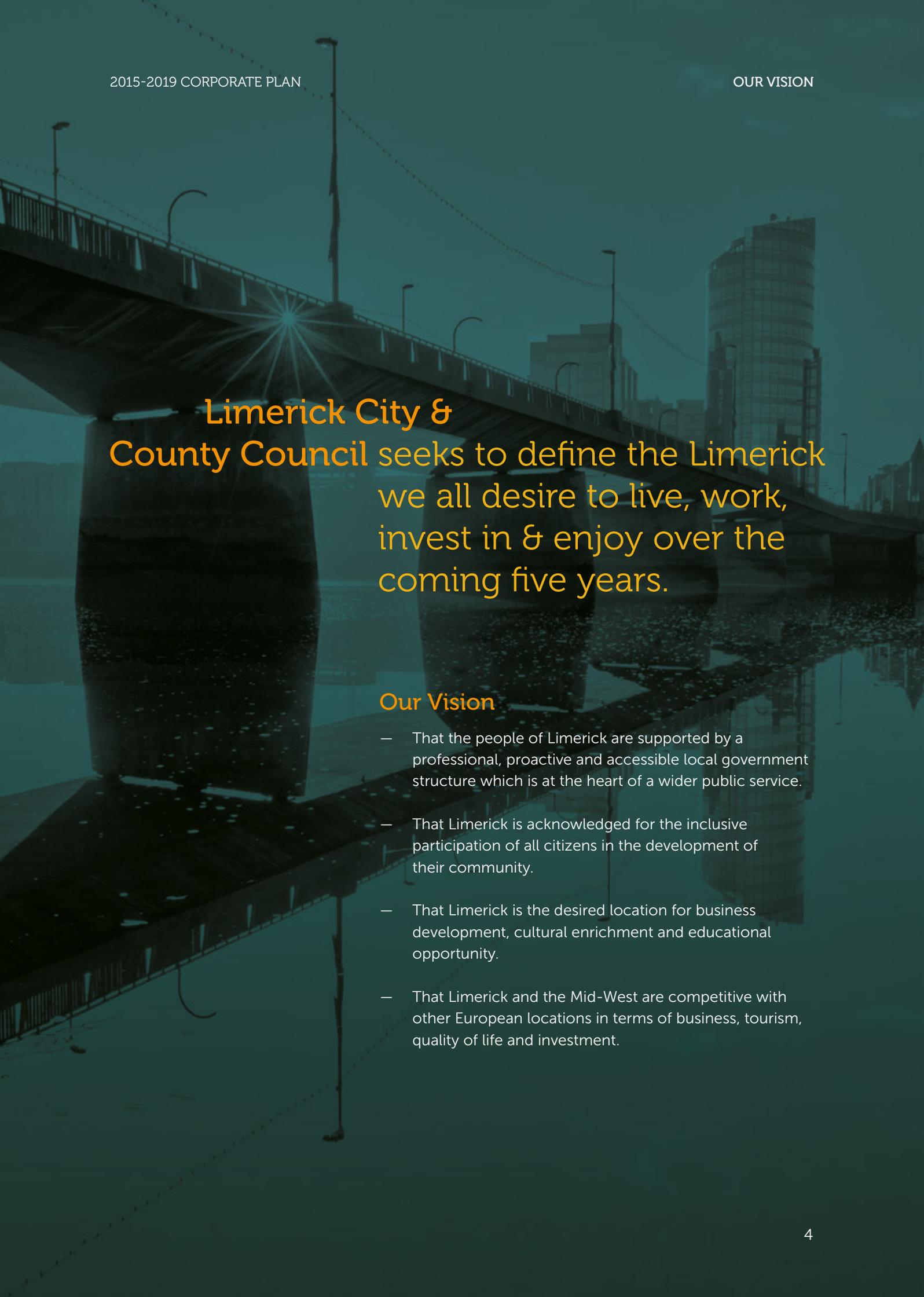
Our goal derives from our ambition and vision for Limerick, and from a guiding leadership that builds on Limerick's growing status as an attractive location for investment and for its high quality of living.

Limerick is seizing a unique opportunity to dynamically transform its economy under the Limerick 2030 Economic and Spatial Plan in a wide process of partnership, to develop a sustainable and effective public service.

*This 2015-2019 Corporate Plan ensures that the citizens of Limerick are supported by a professional, proactive and accessible Council which continues to inspire and motivate all to participate in the development of their individual communities.*

Limerick City and County Council and the communities it serves are today in the midst of a unique opportunity, whose pathway to success is embodied in this new plan. We feel a great sense of honour to serve Limerick City and County Council and the communities it represents, and welcome all to engage in this collective project, that is the betterment of Limerick.

Chief Executive,  
Limerick City and County Council  
Conn Murray



**Limerick City & County Council** seeks to define the Limerick we all desire to live, work, invest in & enjoy over the coming five years.

### Our Vision

- That the people of Limerick are supported by a professional, proactive and accessible local government structure which is at the heart of a wider public service.
- That Limerick is acknowledged for the inclusive participation of all citizens in the development of their community.
- That Limerick is the desired location for business development, cultural enrichment and educational opportunity.
- That Limerick and the Mid-West are competitive with other European locations in terms of business, tourism, quality of life and investment.

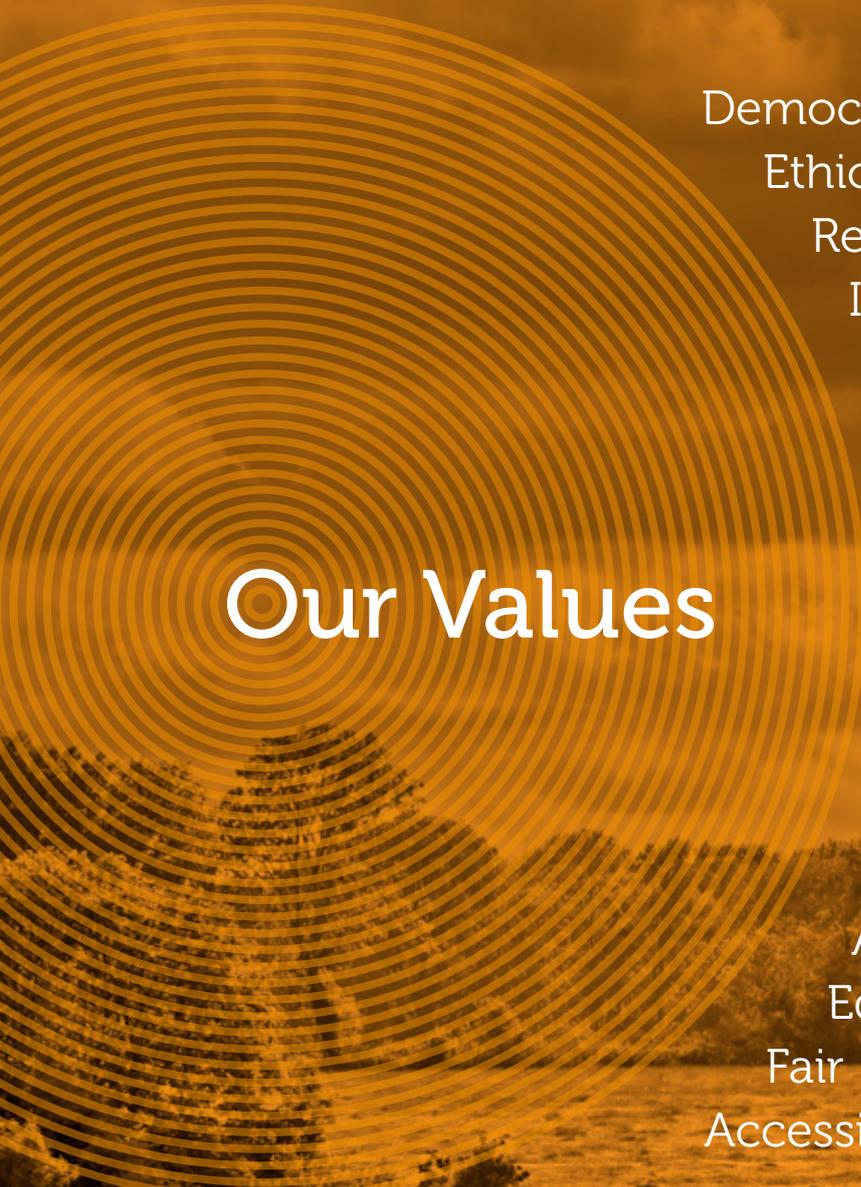
## OUR STRATEGY

### We will:

- Empower the people of Limerick to participate in the development of their community, both rural and urban.
- Create a pro-business environment for sustainable economic development and job creation.
- Create a new model of local governance and service delivery based on excellence in council leadership.

### We aim to:

- Build a City and County Council that is recognised as ambitious for the people of Limerick.
- Grow our economy and create opportunity in Limerick.
- Invest in Limerick's infrastructure, protect its natural and built environment and unique heritage mix.
- Promote a socially integrated, healthy & safe Limerick.
- Actively engage with our communities.
- Work with our colleagues across the public sector and our partners in the private sector to deliver on a shared commitment to Limerick as set out in The Limerick Charter.
- Be efficient, effective and committed to providing services that will underpin an innovative Limerick.



# Our Values

- Democratic
- Ethical
- Respectful
- Impartial
- Accountable
- Transparent
- Participative
- Open
- Innovative
- Efficient
- Trust
- Effective
- Flexible
- Ambitious
- Equality
- Fair
- Accessible

## OUR APPROACH

### Develop an agile organisation that is fit for purpose

- We will be citizen centred, reduce bureaucracy, and be responsive to competing needs.
- We will build stable communities using an integrated approach to the development and implementation of Physical, Social and Economic Policies.
- Our policies are informed through meaningful engagement.

## OUR SOCIAL COMMITMENT

- We are committed to improving the quality of life for people and communities. We will support, develop and maintain quality recreational, cultural and civic facilities. We value safe & sustainable communities where people of all ages enjoy a good quality of life, a good home and a sense of pride in their place. We will actively promote diversity, equality and partnership and ensure due regard for human rights in everything we do.

## OUR ECONOMIC COMMITMENT

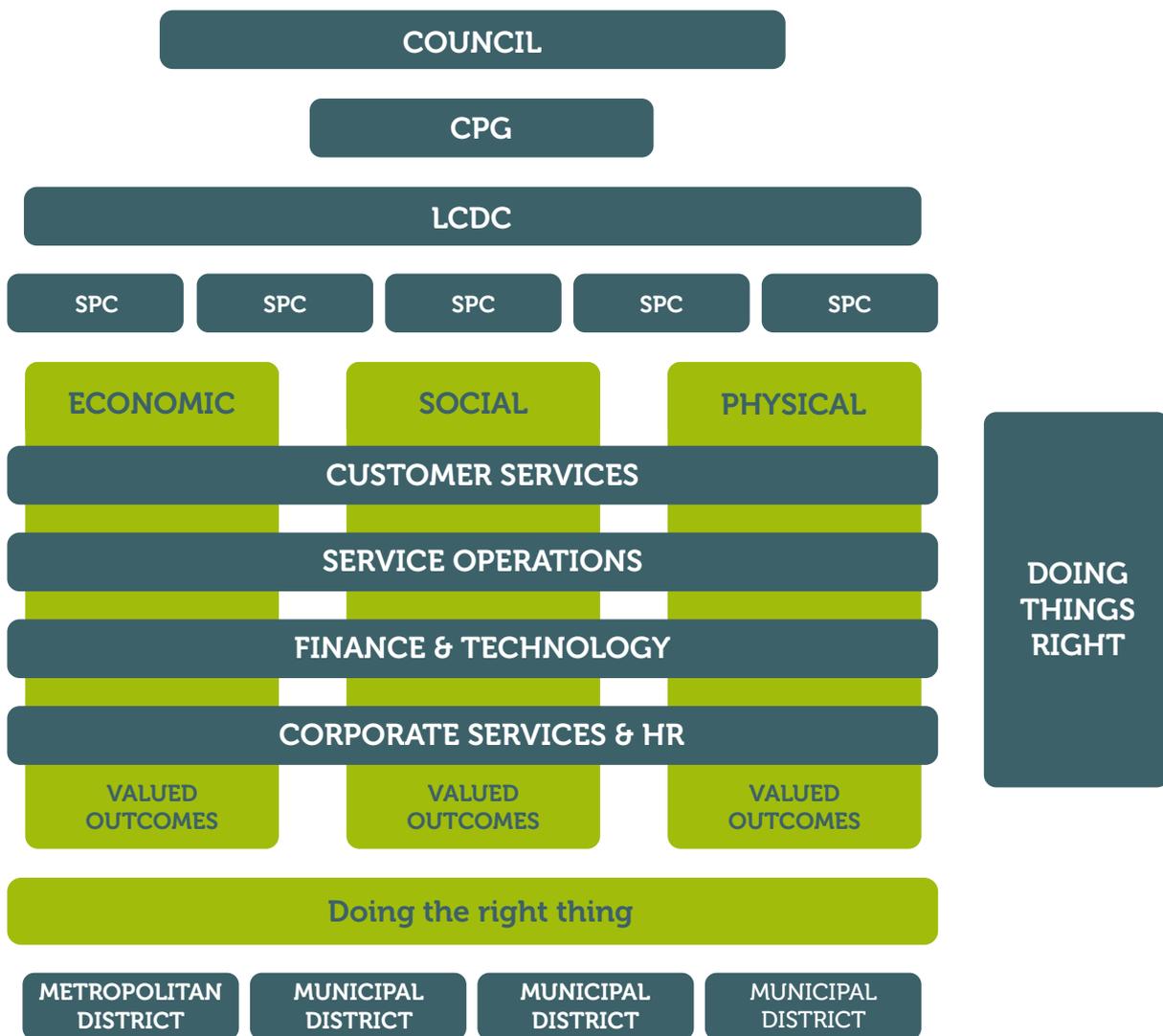
- We will develop our urban and rural communities as engines of economic growth that are central to the Mid-West region creating an environment that will establish Limerick as a premier investment location and a friendly place to set up a new business. We will strengthen our rural communities to underpin better economic performance and imaginatively develop strategic sites and locations that will anchor new clusters of economic development.

## OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- We all have a responsibility to protect our assets for the next generation of citizens. As an organisation we will promote sustainable development including quality transport infrastructure, environmental infrastructure, smarter travel options, accessibility to quality housing and encourage and support the arrival of new digital technologies. We will provide a public realm that is: accessible and safe for people of all ages and abilities to use; one that supports and promotes healthy lifestyles and behaviours for all; celebrates the quality of Limerick's unique spaces and historic character; creates areas where people can come together; and promote Limerick at its best, making it more attractive to business and investors.

## OUR STRUCTURE

We will do the right thing by doing things right



### Our structure will:

- Empower our staff to make informed decisions efficiently and equitably.
- Seek to simplify processes and procedures so that where possible we will operate on a one call answers all basis so that those engaging with us for our services have only to deal with one staff member. However certain services require multiple engagements and more time to resolve, and where this arises we will work to ensure they are dealt with as soon as possible so there are no unnecessary delays.
- Engage with our local development and social partners to actively participate through our Public Participation Network, our Local Community Development Committee and our Strategic Policy Committees.

### This means that:

- Under the leadership of our elected members we will change our organisation to meet the needs of Limerick over the coming years.
- Our staff will be central to delivering on our commitments in this Plan and we will equip them with the necessary professional development.
- Our services will be aligned with the economic, social and physical challenges facing Limerick and the Mid West.
- We aim by the end of 2016 to have redesigned our customer services, our service operations, our finance and technology units and our corporate service and human resources units to deliver measurable, time-based services which will demonstrate value for money and high quality.
- We are committed to reporting on and delivering on a broad range of services under the direction of our municipal and metropolitan councillors.

a new equation for success

**1** ambition

Building a City & County Council with ambition for the people of Limerick

**3** commitments

Economic • Physical • Social

**+** **3** ways

Democratic & Community Activation • Public & Private Engagement • New Ways of Delivering

**= 7 aims**  
**for a better Limerick**

**Achieving our aims:**

We will use an integrated approach to economic, social and physical development underpinned with the following seven aims

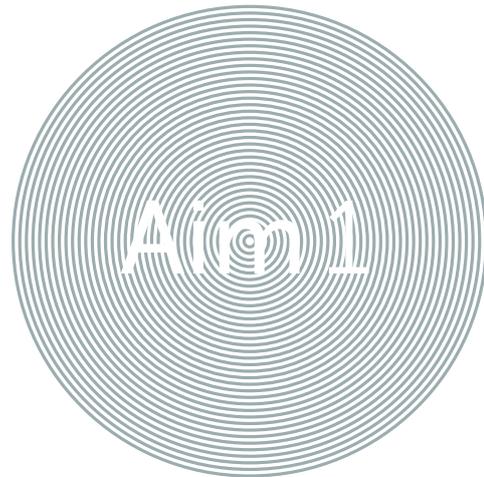


## **Build a city and county council that is recognised as ambitious for the people of Limerick**

Maintain momentum... The time is opportune to create a new set of aspirations for Limerick. As the new City and County Council we will drive this ambition.

Under the leadership of our democratically elected members, we will build on Limerick's status as a vibrant and attractive location to invest in, and in parallel, grow our international reputation as a confident and ambitious place to live, work and visit.

We as a council will focus our resources on providing enhanced services to the people of Limerick with a renewed energy to achieve the very best economic, physical and social conditions for all.



## We Will:

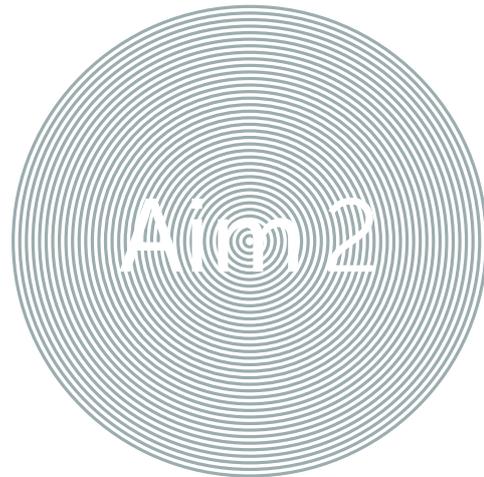
- 1 Work with Government Agencies, community and private partners to secure funding and other resources to create a more sustainable future, sufficient accessible housing and an urban and rural environment where the people of Limerick can enjoy a good quality of life.
- 2 Maximise the revenue from rates and local property tax raised in Limerick. This means we take responsibility for our share of locally raised resources and align spending to the needs and aspirations of Limerick while delivering value for money.
- 3 Strenuously pursue the implementation of the Limerick 2030 Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick which will create the conditions for a vibrant Limerick, ensuring that the regeneration of communities in the City and County continues to progress.
- 4 Achieve value for money for citizens by working with our public and private sector partners to pool and align the resources of public and private service organisations and agencies to make the most effective use of our resources.
- 5 Enhance the profile, impact and influence of Limerick internationally to maximise our potential, seize global market opportunities and secure sustainable economic progress. We will put in place a new marketing plan, a Local Economic and Community Plan, a Rural Development Strategy, a Diaspora Development Plan and deliver the supporting infrastructure necessary to re-vitalising our communities and spaces.
- 6 Continue to build upon the success of City of Culture 2014 and bid for the European Capital of Culture 2020.
- 7 Deliver the Regeneration Implementation Framework Plan in conjunction with the Government's Construction 2020 – a Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector, and the Housing Strategy 2020.
- 8 Explore and pursue opportunities for additional funding resources for Limerick whether Exchequer, EU, private or other sources.



## Grow our economy and create opportunity in Limerick

Limerick has an enviable reputation and international recognition as a place of successful economic development and innovation. We plan to build further on this by attracting new investments, clustering economic activity and connecting our enterprise ecosystem so it delivers greater opportunities for Limerick. This ecosystem will seek to link our education and training services/ facilities so that more sustainable micro, SME and international companies are connected and flourishing in Limerick. We will support continued economic activity through the retail/tourism/sporting and cultural sectors so as to maximise opportunities from an increasing vibrant economy and the growth of a digital connected society in Limerick.

Limerick 2030, the economic and spatial plan for Limerick, sets out ambitious objectives for the re-development of Limerick. The plan envisions a transformed Limerick economy that creates opportunities for all our citizens and delivers an additional 12,000 new jobs by 2030. The next five years 2015-2019 will be central to the delivery of this plan. In this period, job creation will be enabled by the imaginative re-development of strategic sites and locations to anchor new clusters of economic development in financial services and creative industries.



## We Will:

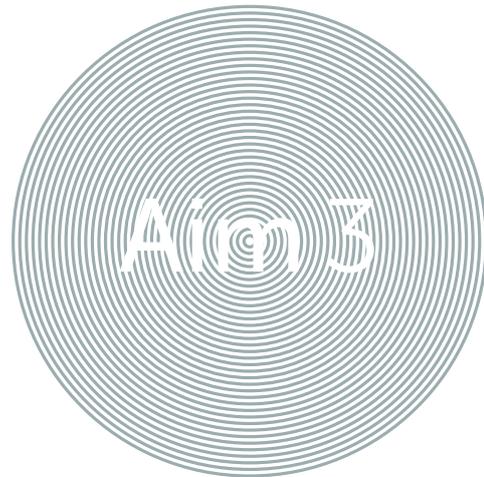
- 1 Position Limerick as a competitive knowledge economy, known for its skills base and excellence in high-tech sectors.
- 2 Develop a unique environment for starting and growing new businesses - making Limerick Ireland's most business friendly location.
- 3 Create the conditions for long-term economic growth to help create 12,000 new jobs (5,000 in City Centre) working with our partners to achieve this.
- 4 Create a vibrant economy with a new mix of economic uses and a strong education presence thus ensuring we benefit from a Multi-Sectoral, Clustering Approach that helps future-proof Limerick.
- 5 Develop Rural Economic Nodes around our Principal Towns that dovetail economic opportunities with Strategic Uses for Industrial Zoned Lands in County Limerick.
- 6 Provide direction and vision around digital infrastructure provision with an objective of Limerick becoming more attractive to new investors and supporting local businesses to gain competitive advantage in the digital marketplace.
- 7 Encourage other Public Service Organisations in Limerick to engage in a coordinated uptake of digital technologies so that the overall public services in Limerick are improved.
- 8 Work to ensure that any regeneration or development programme we undertake will create new local employment and training opportunities. We believe that our activities can be targeted on areas of persistently high unemployment. This will maximise local employment impact from development and Regeneration.
- 9 Ensure Limerick 2030, the Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick is central to the design and delivery of the Local Economic and Community Plan and the proposed Regional Action Plan for jobs.



## Invest in Limerick's infrastructure and protect its natural and built environment and unique heritage mix.

Limerick has a dynamic relationship with the River Shannon and the Shannon Estuary and a valuable long standing heritage in both the built and natural environment of Limerick. This is central to developing a sustainable community which is a key platform on which to build our future.

The Council in protecting our invaluable infrastructure and heritage relies on partnerships with organisations and communities.



## We Will:

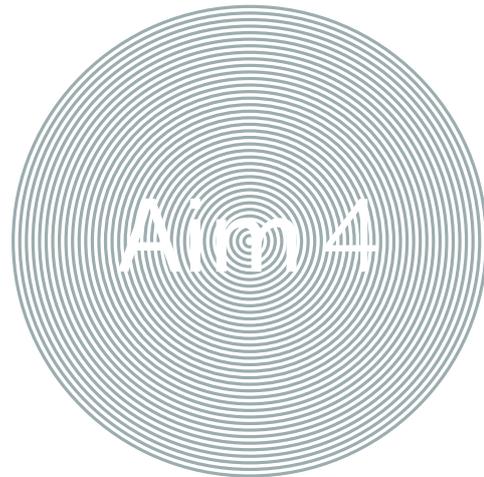
- 1 Optimise the continued investment in roads and transport infrastructure in partnership with the National Roads Authority, National Transport Authority and the Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport.
- 2 Advance key transport infrastructure projects over the next five years including the Limerick-Cork Motorway, Foynes Limerick Road Improvement Scheme, Parnell Street upgrade, Colbert Station re-development and the Limerick Northern Distributor Road.
- 3 Enhance the protection of our infrastructure through the provision of flood protection schemes at Kings Island, Foynes and Askeaton and other vulnerable locations.
- 4 Deliver a multi-annual building programme together with the Approved Housing Bodies to increase social housing supply.
- 5 Optimise our social housing allocation procedures to reduce the period a social housing unit is vacant.
- 6 Improve the public realm infrastructure so that people can live, work, and access culture and recreation in a safe and friendly environment.
- 7 In partnership with Irish Water, encourage continued investment in Water Services infrastructure.
- 8 Enhance our museum and archives experience by relocating the Limerick Museum and Archives to a central location at the Franciscan Friary, Henry Street.
- 9 In the interest of keeping our communities safe, review and re-structure the Fire Service in Limerick to meet new national standards to demonstrate that we are delivering a consistent quality and cost effective service to reduce loss of life, injury and damage from fire and protect the people of Limerick.
- 10 Maximise the potential of the library service to further develop its role in the provision of information, literacy and job seeking support in the community through the implementation of Opportunities For All – A Strategy for Public Libraries 2013 -2017.
- 11 Optimise public use of our buildings and other amenities for the benefit of citizens and communities.



## Promote a socially integrated, healthy & safe Limerick

Through leadership we will ensure the development of a thriving, integrated and healthy Limerick. We will work with our partners in the State sector and with the community and voluntary sector to deliver this. We will foster a Limerick that is stable and safe and provides a good quality of life for all its citizens. We will play a key role in responding to citizens needs for a good home, life-long learning, employment and training opportunities, recreation and culture, and health and well-being.

Social integration will be supported by the principles of digital enablement, strong social cohesion and recognition of fundamental human rights.



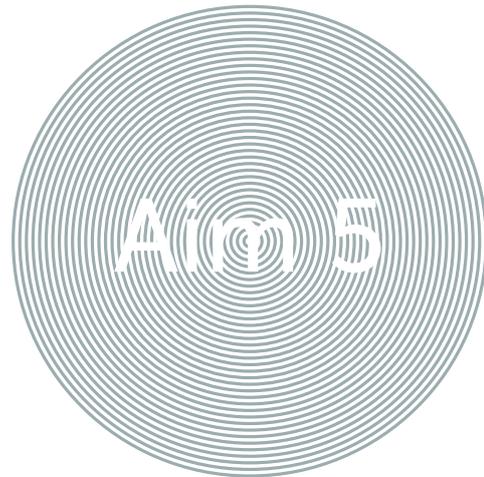
## We Will:

- 1 Provide attractive and safe facilities and public spaces which are fully accessible to all in our community.
- 2 Enhance the quality of life in our housing estates through pro-active and supportive estate management policies and meaningful engagement with estate residents.
- 3 Build on the legacy of Limerick City of Culture 2014 to develop high quality recreational and cultural amenities for citizens. Use our libraries, museum and arts infrastructure to promote a welcoming and dynamic Limerick which values its heritage and culture.
- 4 Work with the training and education agencies in Limerick to improve opportunities for learning, education and training.
- 5 Use our library services and branch network to enable learning, provide information and promote skills, creativity, ideas and knowledge.
- 6 Promote equality and diversity across the functions of Limerick City and County Council. Make an assessment of the equality and human rights issues that are relevant to our functions, and of the policies, plans and actions that address them.
- 7 Promote health and well-being by supporting the development and implementation of a Healthy Ireland Strategy and through programmes such as Intercultural Cities and Age-Friendly Programmes.
- 8 Inform, enable and educate communities across Limerick to increase their participation in physical activity through the implementation of the Limerick Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2015-2018.
- 9 Support Limerick Childcare Committee in their endeavours to promote access to affordable childcare.
- 10 Make the most of digital opportunities when delivering Council services, work with partners to provide digital services to customers, while supporting more households to get online.
- 11 Deliver a smart, integrated, transport network that improves connectivity. Through our role as Ireland's demonstration city for smarter travel, promote change in our travel behaviour by creating safe, attractive walking and cycling conditions and by increasing public transport usage.



## Actively engage with our communities

Citizens from all walks of life play a central role in shaping their local communities. It is through democratic and community activation that the Council and our State Agency partners will ensure that Limerick continues to develop as a vibrant, inclusive place. We will ensure our decision-making processes are informed in a meaningful way by a broad and diverse range of views from across the City and County. We will ensure that community voices are listened to and placed fairly at the policy table within the Council by providing effective and inclusive consultation structures. This will ensure the planning of better services and use of resources to help us build stronger relationships with citizens and communities.



## We Will:

- 1 Establish and support an effective Public Participation Network which will underpin all our consultation and participation processes. Key to this will be the roll out of a Charter for Civic Engagement.
- 2 Ensure that work undertaken by inter-agency and community fora including the Public Participation Network, Comhairle na n-Og, Limerick Older Adults Forum, Limerick Residents Forum, the Interagency Working Group, the Traveller's Support Forum and other groups are supported and their interests considered in the formulation of our policies.
- 3 Clearly set out in our service delivery plans the range and extent of our services and we will work to embed community participation into our service planning. We will strengthen our internal systems to ensure they respond effectively to the requirements of public participation processes and this will be reflected in our monthly reports to the elected members.
- 4 Pursue voluntary participation and active citizenship as vital elements of vibrant and flourishing communities. This will enable community led development by bringing people, resources and planning together to make sure that all citizens play an active role in determining how their community will develop.
- 5 Work in partnership with organisations and groups providing services in the community to make sure that a citizen centred approach to delivering services is consistently delivered by us and our partners.
- 6 Co-ordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of Local Community Development Programmes including the Governments Social Inclusion Community and Activation Programme. We will seek to ensure effectiveness, consistency and co-ordination to eliminate duplication between local and community development programmes.
- 7 Adopt a partnership approach to developing and implementing LEADER local development strategies to optimise the delivery of services for the communities that need them most.
- 8 Explore new and innovative ways of connecting and engaging communities, through the use of web-based fora and networks.

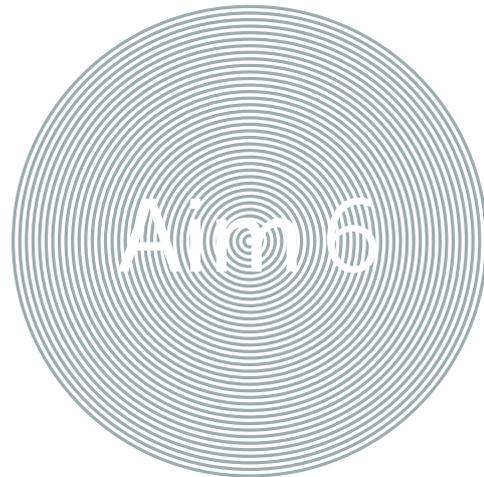


**Work with our colleagues across the public sector and our partners in the private sector to deliver on a shared commitment to Limerick as set out in The Limerick Charter.**

Limerick City and County Council is one of several public bodies operating in Limerick. While we strongly commit to achieving our objectives, in many cases we will only be able to achieve active partnering with other public and private bodies, including the state funded community sector.

We also need to work with organisations operating at regional, national and international level if we are to further build a vibrant Limerick.

We are in a position to influence the work of other public bodies and deployment of public resources and we will work to coordinate these efforts.



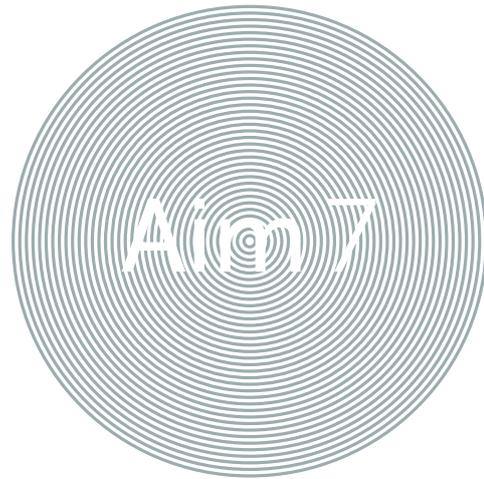
## We Will:

- 1 Lead and support an integrated approach in the development of communities across Limerick for the purpose of education & Learning, health & well-being, ageing well, support for families and youth at risk through Community Participation, Empowerment and Civic Engagement. We will make sure that the Regeneration Areas make real progress in the next five years in the social, economic and physical affairs of the targeted estates as we have set out to do in our Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan.
- 2 Together with our colleagues in the wider public service, we will create a more integrated public service to develop greater sharing of expertise and knowledge and to become more focussed on its contribution to the achievement of citizen-centred societal outcomes.
- 3 Enable effective inter-agency collaboration through the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), and collaborate with, among others, the Integration Working Group, Age-Friendly Alliance, Older People's Advisory Group, Traveller Interagency Committee, Limerick Sports Partnership to achieve their objectives.
- 4 Together with our partners we are committed to openness in exploring different and innovative joint service delivery and trading options including co-location and sharing administrative functions and facilities as far as possible.
- 5 Where appropriate, take an integrated, co-ordinated and more commercial approach to public procurement to maximise the return on Limerick's spending by increasing value for money.
- 6 Work with appropriate partners to increase the number of social housing units and social housing supports in line with Government Policy.
- 7 Focus on making the best use of resources and achieve value for money by implementing integrated evidenced based approaches to local service planning and delivery that seek to optimise available public and private sources of funding.



## **Be efficient, effective and committed to providing services that will underpin an innovative Limerick**

Limerick City and County Council is a new Council, placing customer services at the heart of everything we do. We are maximising new and innovative service delivery channels to provide services that matter for the people of Limerick in the best possible way, achieving better value for money. The ultimate test of the efficacy of the new council will be the quality of the citizen and service outcomes it achieves either directly or indirectly. In seeking value for money the council will take into consideration the social, economic and physical goals.



## We Will:

- 1 Be an agile organisation that will be outcome driven through policies, processes and systems.
- 2 Innovate and adopt new ways of working including the expansion of Customer Services to make access to Council services easier and more cost effective while providing a high quality customer service and experience.
- 3 Through information provided by a new Customer Relationship Management System, employ data and feedback from users to shape policy and service design.
- 4 Consolidate our Service Operations to focus on best international practice with a particular emphasis on our maintenance services including housing and roads.
- 5 Increase the use of technology to provide Council services and greater coordination of digital service provision with partners to enable and encourage more households to get online.
- 6 Implement and publish appropriate performance measurement with targets that are relevant to the public.
- 7 Implement an integrated career based development programme for our staff to make sure that they have the necessary skills and capacity to meet the challenges that will arise during the life of this Plan.

## How will we know we are meeting our commitments?

Progress on achieving objectives will be measured in a variety of ways including through:

- National Service Indicators
- Recommendations from National Oversight & Audit Commission
- Local Authority Annual Report
- Annual Progress Report on Corporate Plan Implementation
- Audit Committee Reports
- External Local Government Audit Reports
- Monthly Chief Executive Report to Council
- End of Year Accounts and Outturn Report
- Customer Surveys
- Quarterly review of Annual Service Plan targets to include taking of corrective action to revision or re-prioritisation of actions if deemed necessary.

## Strategy and Policy Documents relevant to Limerick City and County Council

### NATIONAL/EU

- Action Plan for Jobs
- Action Programme for Effective Local Government 2012
- Action Programme for Effective Local Government, Putting People First
- Construction 2020 – A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector
- Europe 2020
- Health and Wellbeing
- Healthy Ireland Strategy
- Housing Strategy 2020
- Infrastructure & Capital Investment Programme and associated strategies
- Keeping Communities Safe - Fire Services Framework 2013
- Medium-Term Economic Strategy 2014-2020
- National Anti-Poverty Strategy
- National Climate Change Adaptation Framework 2012
- National Development Plan for the period to 2016
- National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan 2013-2015
- National Homeless Strategy
- National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011-2016
- National Policy Framework for Children 2014-2020
- National Secondary Roads Needs Study National Roads Authority - March 2011
- National Spatial Strategy 2002 – 2020
- “Opportunities for All” – A Strategy for Public Libraries 2013 – 2017
- Our Sustainable Future A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012
- Public Service Reform Plan 2014 – 2016
- Public Service Stability Agreement 2013 - 2016 (Haddington Road)
- Restructuring of Rural Transport Programme
- Smarter Travel A Sustainable Transport Future A New Transport Model for Ireland 2009-2020

### REGIONAL

- Action Plan for Jobs - Regional
- Mid West Area Strategic Plan 2012 – 2030
- Mid West Regional Homelessness Action Plan 2013 - 2018
- Regional Planning Guidelines
- Southern Draft Regional Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021

## Strategy and Policy Documents continued

### LOCAL

- Age Friendly Programme
- Limerick 2030 An Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick
- Limerick Charter
- Limerick City Development Plan and Limerick County Development Plan 2010 – 2016
- Limerick City and County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018
- Limerick Integration Plan 2013-2016
- Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan
- Local Area Plans
- Local Development Plans
- Local Economic & Community Plan (to be adopted in 2015)
- Rural Development Strategy (to be adopted in 2015)
- Sports Partnership 2015-2018 Strategic Plan
- Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary 2013 – 2020
- Towards Intercultural Limerick
- Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018

## Our Principal Collaborators

### NATIONAL

- All Government departments
- All State agencies
- Voluntary agencies & Non Governmental Organisations

### REGIONAL

- Southern Regional Assembly
- Shannon Airport Authority
- Shannon Foynes Port Company
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Shannon Consortium
- Education and Training Board (ETB)

### LOCAL

- Locally we work with the Public Participation Network, Local Development Agencies, communities, schools, government departments, statutory agencies, business networks, professional bodies, private sector, University of Limerick, Limerick Institute of Technology, Mary Immaculate College other academic institutions, non-governmental organisations, voluntary and community groups.

And all other Organisations with whom we collaborate with to advance the development of Limerick.

## Socio-Economic Profile of Limerick, 2014

### 1 POPULATION

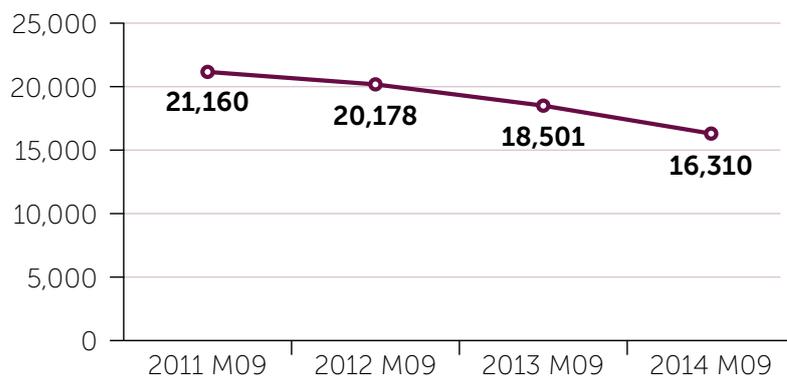
The CSO's Census 2011 shows that Limerick City and County recorded a combined population of close to 192,000 persons, with an overall increase of 4.2 per cent since Census 2006. While the county's population showed a very favourable growth rate of 8.4 per cent which was higher than the national average (8.2%), the City experienced a considerable decline of 4.5 per cent since 2006, with a population of over 57,000 recorded in 2011.

### 2 LABOUR FORCE

Census 2011 shows that there were 71,041 persons in Limerick at work in 2011, with 18,535 unemployed, bringing the total labour force to close to 90,000. While recent unemployment data are not available from the CSO at a county level, the Mid West ILO unemployment rate (which would be similar to Limerick's unemployment rate) was 13.2% in Q2 2014 just slightly higher than the national unemployment rate of 11.8%. The Mid West unemployment rate has declined substantially since its peak at 17.1 per cent in Q4 2010.

The Live Register can be used as an *indicator* of recent unemployment performance. The number of persons on the Live Register in Limerick has declined substantially, by 4,850 persons, from September 2011 to 2014.1

Live Register Limerick, Sept 2011-2014



Source: CSO

<sup>1</sup> The Live Register does not measure unemployment as it includes part-time, seasonal and casual workers entitled to Jobseeker's Allowance and or Jobseeker's Benefit.

## Socio-Economic Profile of Limerick, 2014

### 3 Key Economic Sectors

The major employment sectors in Limerick include wholesale and retail trade (accounting for 15.3% of employment), manufacturing (14.3%), education (10.1%), health and social work (11.5%) and real estate and business activities (8.4%). Similar to the national trend the majority of the workforce is employed in the service sector (70%).

### 4 Gross Value Added (GVA)

Mid West GVA (which can be used as an indicator for Limerick's productivity) shows that regional GVA, as a percentage of the national average, declined from 94.4 per cent in 2010 to 81 per cent 2011.<sup>2</sup> However, the Mid West has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest GVA across the Irish regions.

### 5 Disposable Income

At €19,247, Limerick recorded the 4<sup>th</sup> highest disposable income across all Irish counties in 2011, higher than the State average of €19,055.

### 6 Educational Attainment

Census 2011 shows that the percentage of the population with a third level qualification or higher in Limerick County was 29 per cent, slightly lower than the national average of 31 per cent. However, just 23 per cent of the population in Limerick City had a third level qualification in 2011.

### 7 Deprivation Index

Limerick City has a profile of socio-economic disadvantage. Based on a composite measure of deprivation, the Haase Pratschke Index, Limerick City is the most deprived of the five cities in the State (2011).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Productivity is measured by the CSO at a regional level only in Ireland.

<sup>3</sup> This measure is based on three dimensions of affluence/deprivation, namely: Demographic Profile, Social Class Composition and Labour Market Situation.

## How our Council and Municipal Districts are organised

Limerick City and County Council operates through three municipal districts and one metropolitan district structured within a unified local government organisation for the first time in over a century. We have forty members elected until 2019 and the Council is chaired by the Mayor who is elected by the members annually.

The Corporate Policy Group and the 5 Strategic Policy Committees initiate, develop and recommend policy to the Council. The day-to-day affairs of the Council are overseen by our Chief Executive who is supported by 1180 employees.



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