

LIMERICK DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

What is **your**
vision for
Limerick?



ATLANTIC EDGE

LIMERICK
EUROPEAN EMBRACE



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

The vision of the Limerick Development Plan should include a single approach to the sustainable growth of Limerick as a whole, with a dynamic city and robust towns, villages and rural areas. At the core will be cohesive and sustainable communities where opportunities exist and where our cultural, natural and built environment is protected.

What is your **vision** for Limerick?



Our Plan for Limerick

Limerick City and County Council is commencing the preparation of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028.

The Limerick Development Plan will be the first combined plan for Limerick City and County since the merger of the two local authorities in 2014. The legal basis, function and adoption process for Development Plans is set out in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (amended).

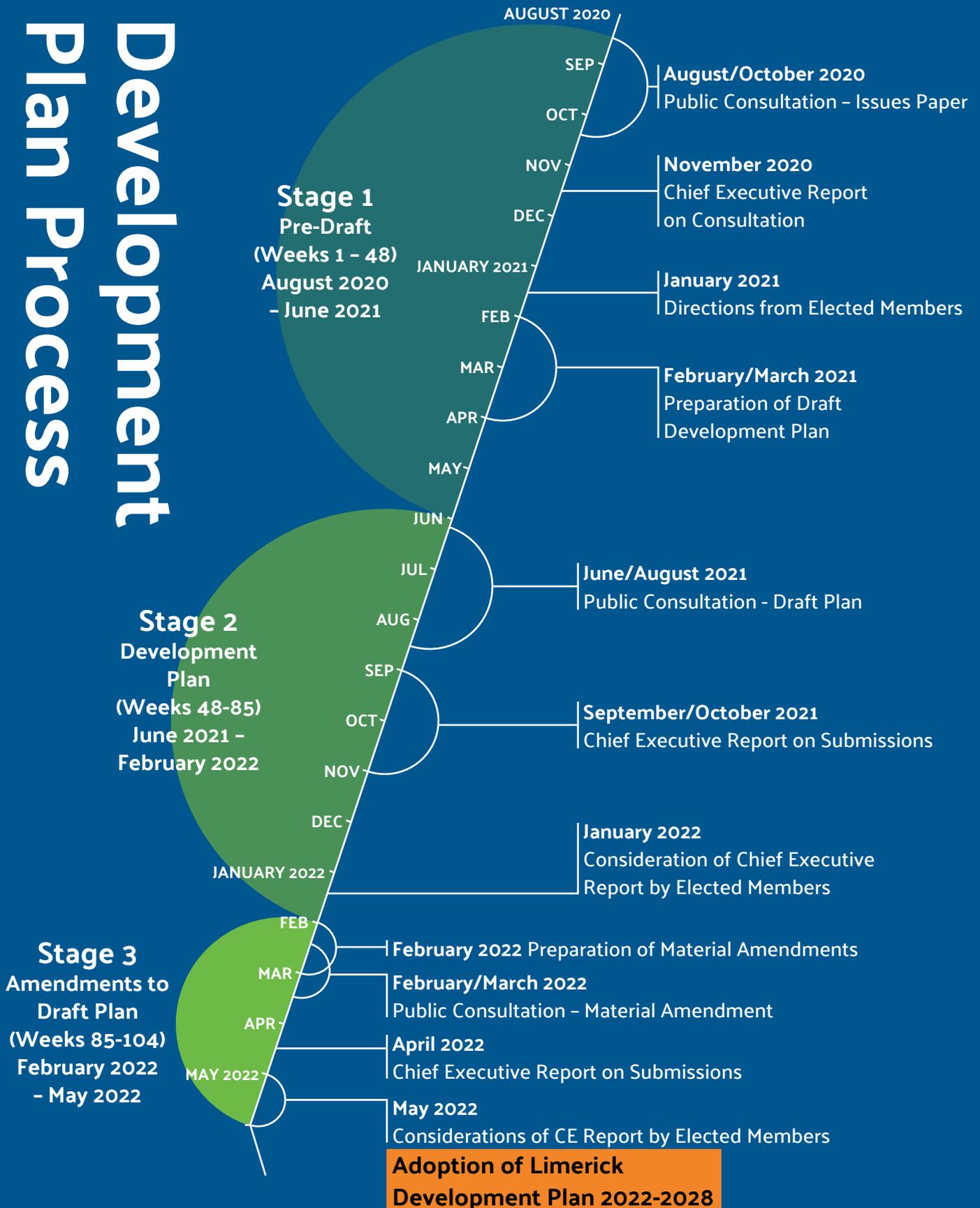
The preparation of the Limerick Development Plan is one of the most important functions of the council acting as the blueprint for the development of Limerick from a physical, economic, social and environmental viewpoint.

The process includes a review of the existing Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016 (as extended) and the Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 (as extended) and will set out the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Limerick as a whole over a six year period up to 2028.

The Development Plan review has come at a challenging and unprecedented time where the recovery of our economy, rebuilding of our society, renewing of our communities and responding to the wide ranging challenges we now face, is critical for our county and indeed our country post the Covid-19 pandemic.



Development Plan Process



How do you see Limerick in 2028?

The publication of this document, which is the Issues Paper, is the first step in the making of the Limerick Development Plan. This consultation document presents an overview of the main planning and development issues in Limerick and seeks to encourage public debate on what broad issues should be considered in the new Plan.

The Limerick Development Plan presents an opportunity to the general public to shape Limerick for the future and ‘have your say’ when it comes to important issues such as housing, economic development, community and heritage. Your input into this process by considering the ‘bigger picture’ issues facing Limerick, is crucial to its success.

Split into eight themes, additional supportive material is included as separate ‘Background Papers’. The issues and questions outlined are by no means exhaustive, instead acting as a guide to stimulate thoughts, feedback and debate on guiding the future of Limerick.



Guiding the Plan

The Limerick Development Plan will be guided by the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** and will be consistent with the **National Planning Framework ‘Project Ireland 2040’** and the **Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region** in areas such as climate action, clean energy, sustainable cities and communities, economic growth, reduced inequalities and innovation and infrastructure, as well as education and health.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages countries to develop national responses to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and incorporate them into planning and policy.

Adopted by all United Nations member states, “Agenda 2030” focuses on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

This application of the SDG’s at local level will allow us to set out clearly what kind of society we want to live in and how we want to measure it. Each theme discussed in the Plan will include an alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals

**In your opinion,
what UN
Sustainability Goals
are most relevant
for Limerick?**



www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment

Project Ireland 2040 – National Planning Framework

The National Planning Framework (NPF) is a national document, which will guide high level strategic planning and development for the country over the next 20+ years. The NPF aims to guide the future development of Ireland taking into account a projected population increase of 1 million people, 660,000 additional jobs and 550,000 homes by 2040.

The NPF’s focus is on compact growth, strengthening rural economies and communities, high-quality international connectivity, a low-carbon and climate-resilient society, sustainable water and environmental resources, access to high-quality health, education and childcare services.

Some of the objectives and projects planned under the NPF for Limerick include

- An additional 56,000 people in Limerick City and Suburbs by 2040
- 50% of new homes will be within the existing built up area in Limerick City and Suburbs and 30% in our towns and villages.
- City Wide public transport network
- Implementation of the Limerick 2030 economic strategy
- Sustainable greenfield development
- Regeneration of City’s Georgian Quarter
- Expansion of third level institutions



<p>1. Compact Growth</p> 	<p>2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility</p> 	<p>3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</p> 	<p>4. Sustainable Mobility</p> 	<p>5. A Strong Economy supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</p> 
<p>6. High-Quality International Connectivity</p> 	<p>7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage</p> 	<p>8. Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society</p> 	<p>9. Sustainable Management of Water, Waste and other Environmental Resources</p> 	<p>10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</p> 

Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) sets out a 12-year strategic development framework for the delivery of the objectives of the National Planning Framework within the Southern Region.

The RSES includes a Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan for the Limerick – Shannon Metropolitan Area. A key component of the RSES is to strengthen the settlement structure of the Southern Region. This aims to capitalise on the strength of the region's cities (Limerick, Cork & Waterford), metropolitan areas, key towns, towns and villages and key networks. The RSES also seeks a revitalised rural area to make it one of Europe's most creative, innovative, green and liveable regions.



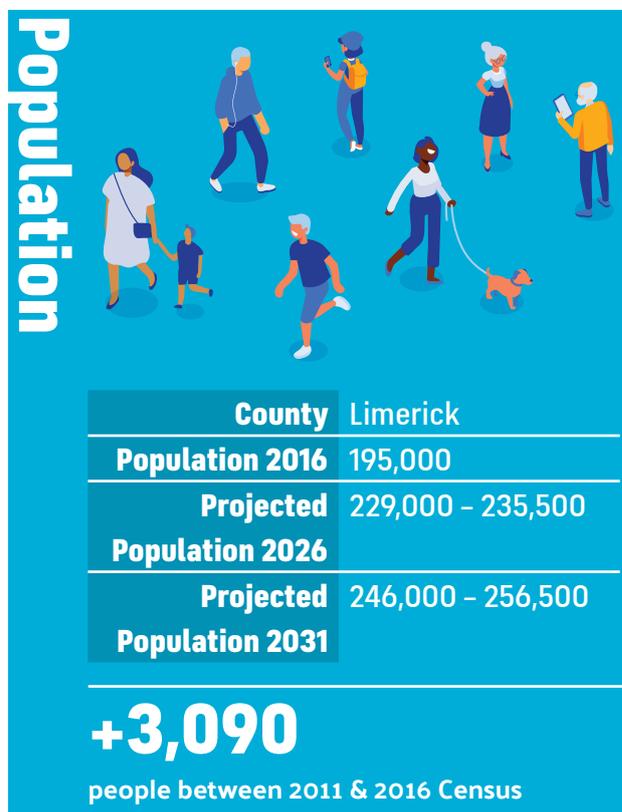
People & Places

The National Planning Framework identifies Limerick for significant growth to 2040, which includes a 50% population increase for the city and suburbs. The Limerick Development Plan will play a crucial part in creating the conditions to accommodate these ambitious targets for Limerick City and suburbs. Development of Newcastle West as a key town and consolidating Limerick's towns and villages will also be a key element of the proposed Development Plan.

The Plan will promote the use of appropriate residential densities and the identification of infill and brownfield development to consolidate development in the city. The urban centres of our towns and villages need to be reinforced as the central hub of activity resulting in vibrant and bustling towns and villages with a diverse mix of uses.

The Core Strategy sets out key locations for population and housing as required under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (Amended). While the Core Strategy guides the development of designated settlements within Limerick, there remains an ongoing demand for rural one-off dwellings in the

rural hinterland. The Council acknowledges this demand and seeks to ensure that a balance is struck between facilitating housing for people who have a rural housing requirement (demonstrating economic and social need) while ensuring that balanced sustainable development takes place in our towns and villages.





Consider the following questions:

How do we encourage more people to live close to where they work so they can walk, cycle or use public transport?

What tools can be used to deliver compact growth on infill and/or brownfield sites in our city, towns and villages?

How do you think we can bring vacant and derelict buildings back into use?

How can we achieve vibrant towns and villages, while allowing dispersed rural development?

Links:



Background Paper:

- People & Places
- Settlement and Key Facts

Economic Development & Employment

National and Regional Policy have earmarked Limerick and the Midwest Region as an important driver of national growth and a key regional centre in the Irish and European economy.

It is crucial that policies and objectives set down in the Limerick Development Plan provide the foundations to bring people and economic activity back into the city supporting the creation of quality jobs, in the right locations while creating a vibrant county with a high-quality environment.

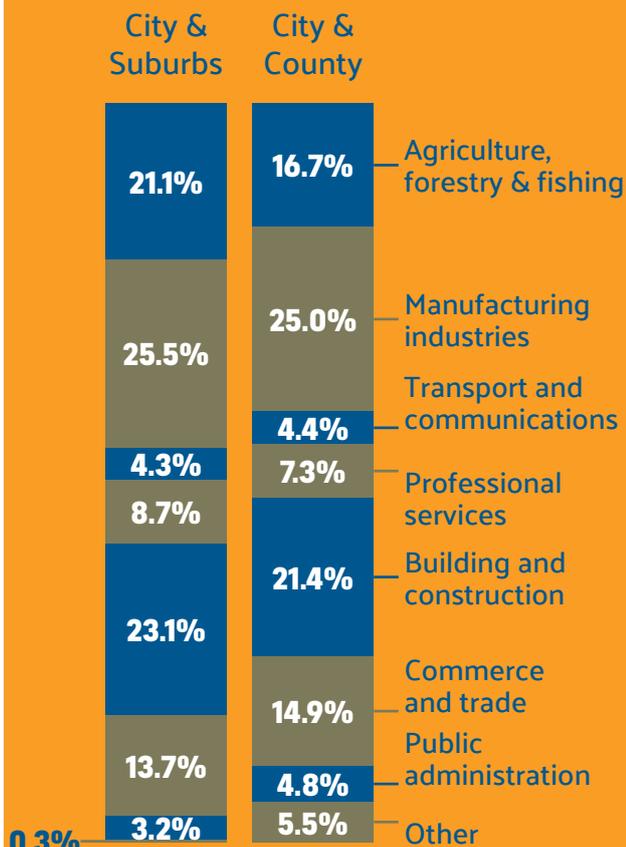
A key focus of the plan will be strengthening our smaller towns and villages as well as rural areas by investment in services and policy support to return them to the strong, active and economically vibrant local drivers they once were.

The recent brand launch of 'Limerick: Atlantic Edge, European Embrace' aims to internationalise Limerick as a destination of inward investment, industry, tourism, education, the arts and culture and for people to live and work in.

Tourism is increasingly playing a significant role in the growing economy of Limerick. The Plan has a key role in facilitating the development of Limerick's tourism potential.



Employment by Sector, 2016



Source: Derived from CSO, Census 2016

Consider the following questions:

How can we attract new employers and highly skilled works to Limerick?

How can the Development Plan assist in revitalising our City Centre?

What can the Development Plan do to support tourism in Limerick?

How do we protect traditional on-street retailing with the increase of online shopping?

Links:



Background Paper:

- Economic Development and Employment

Connectivity

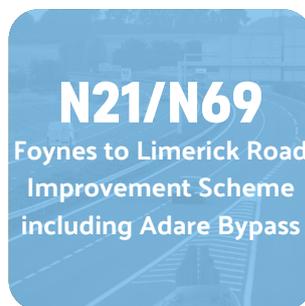
National and Regional Transport Policy emphasises the need to reduce the demand for travel and the reliance on the private car in favour of public transport, car-pooling, cycling and walking. Current transport trends are unsustainable and in order to meet future travel demand, change is needed.

Limerick City and County Council in partnership with the National Transport Authority are currently preparing the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Plan. The strategy will consider all transportation modes in developing a comprehensive transport strategy for the area. Movement and transport policy will be a critical aspect of the plan for whole of Limerick playing a central role in achieving sustainable development.

Connectivity advancement however is not just physical. Telecommunication infrastructure and broadband capacity represent one of the most critical steps in creating a more competitive economy. Limerick City and County Council is committed to examining how Limerick can increasingly use integrated digital

technologies, ICT, data and analytics to operate in a smarter, more efficient way of living. Limerick's proactive approach to smarter technologies can be seen in being awarded the first Irish European 'Lighthouse' City and the role out of the European Union +CityxChange Programme in the city.

Key Enablers



N21/N69
Foynes to Limerick Road
Improvement Scheme
including Adare Bypass



M20
Limerick to
Cork Scheme

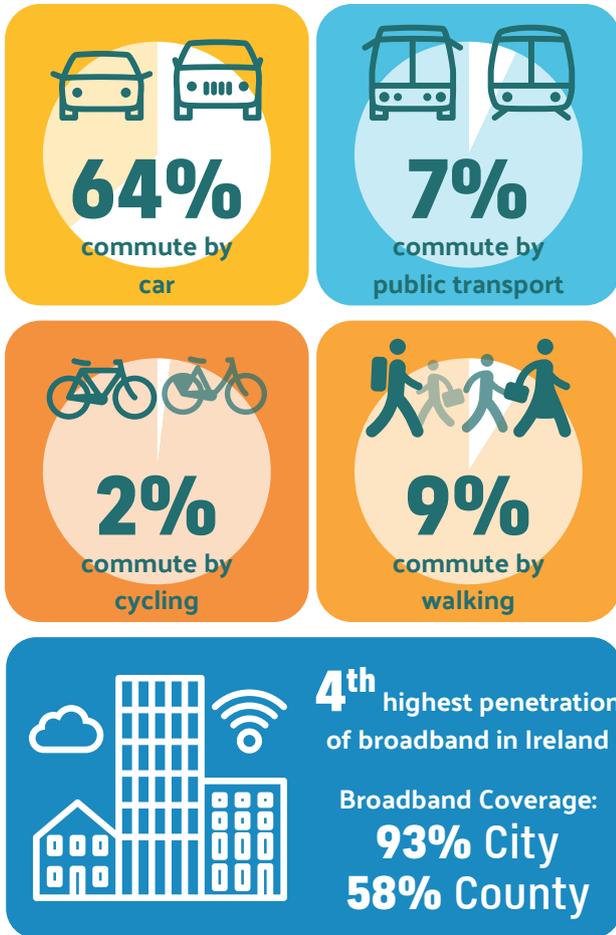


LNDR
Limerick Northern
Distributor Route
connect N18 to M7



Bypasses
Newcastle West
Bypass
Abbeyfeale
Bypass

Modal Split



Consider the following questions:

How do we reduce car dependency, and increase cycling, walking and public transport use?

Do you think car parking standards should be reduced for residential developments?

Where should we locate Park and Stride/Park and Ride facilities?

How do we create a 'smarter' Limerick so as to grow sustainably and attract inward investment?

Links:



Background Paper:

- Connectivity and Infrastructure

Infrastructure

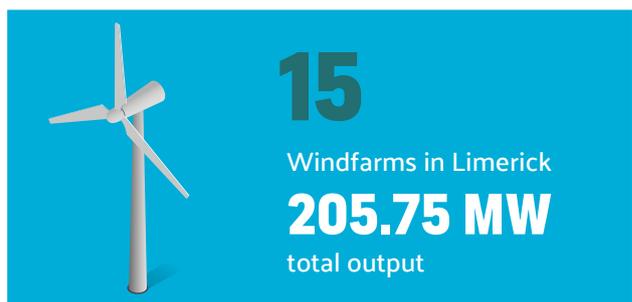
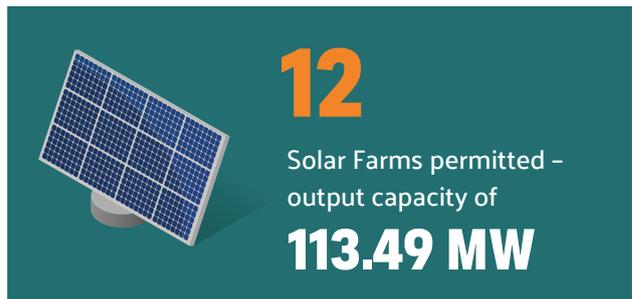
The provision of adequate infrastructure is essential for Limerick to function, now and into the future. The term 'infrastructure' encompasses water and wastewater, transport, energy, telecommunications and waste management.

One of the key challenges is the ability to address and keep pace with the infrastructural demands of the growing City and County while safeguarding public health and managing the protection of key environmental resources.

Limerick has a large number of dispersed towns and villages, many of whom have capacity issues in both water supply and waste water disposal.

Limerick City and County Council supports a low carbon economy and the use of renewable energy for a cleaner future. Renewable energy comes in many forms including wind energy, solar energy or biomass. Development of alternative energy sources is a priority at National and European level.

The Plan will identify policies for the provision of energy from renewable and indigenous sources in line with National Policy and targets for reducing dependency on fossil fuels and emissions of greenhouse gases.



Consider the following questions:

How can we encourage use of renewable energy sources?

How can the Development Plan improve and support the provision of essential services and infrastructure?

Are there adequate public recycling facilities and services in Limerick?

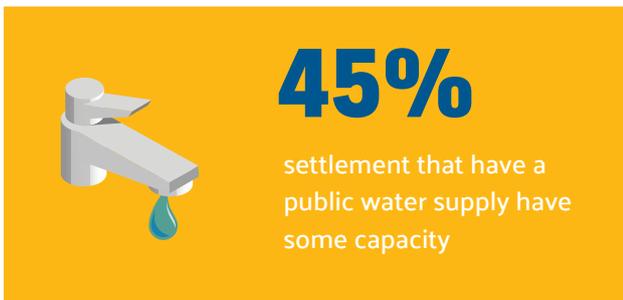
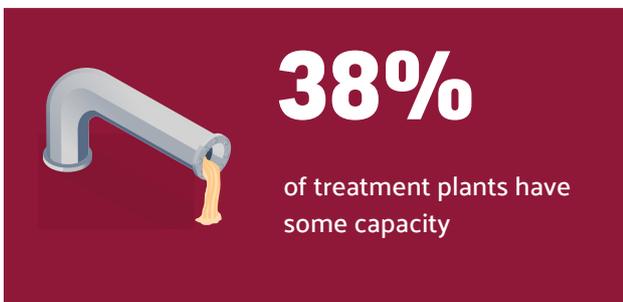
What measures can be introduced to protect and safeguard the water quality of our rivers and groundwater?

Links:



Background Paper:

- Connectivity and Infrastructure
- Energy, Climate Change, Flooding and Transition to a Low Carbon Economy

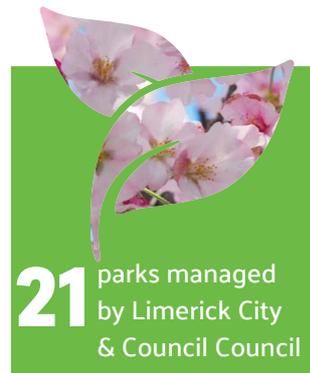


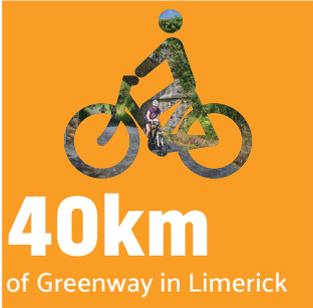
Landscape, Heritage & Green Infrastructure

Limerick's natural heritage is an integral part of our inheritance and forms part of our sense of identity, providing resources of social, educational, recreational and aesthetic value. Heritage doesn't just include buildings, it includes our landscapes, rivers, woodlands, hedgerows, geology, plants and animals.

The demands being placed on our environment, both natural and built, to satisfy the needs of farming, forestry, industry, housing, transport, leisure and urban growth are increasing. We must seek to maintain a high quality environment while satisfying economic and social need.

Blue and Green Infrastructure can be described as the interconnected networks of land and water around us - nature conservation areas, parks, open space, rivers, floodplains, wetlands, farmland and coastal areas found throughout Limerick. The Limerick Development Plan will aim to identify what green networks/corridors require protection and where greenways may be considered for development.





Consider the following questions:

How do we achieve and maintain a balance between development pressure and protection of our built and natural heritage?

How do we encourage sensitive reuse of redundant or derelict Protected Structures or buildings with heritage value?

What do you think are Limerick's key cultural and built heritage assets that need to be protected?

How do we promote the health, environment & heritage benefits of Green Infrastructure?

Links:



Background Paper:

- Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure

Social Community & Recreation

Sustainable communities are those that are economically, environmentally, socially healthy and resilient. The Limerick Development Plan will have a key role to play in safeguarding, strengthening and consolidating Limerick's communities by ensuring physical environments are well planned, services and amenities are equal and safe and accessible to all, socially inclusive and to ensure all citizens enjoy optimal health and well-being.

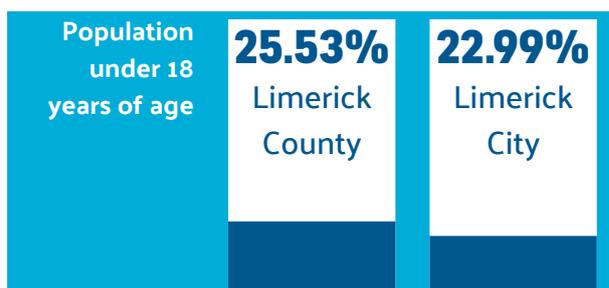
Some of our towns and villages are suffering from vacancy, dereliction and population decline. We need our towns and villages to be more attractive, vibrant and liveable places that encourage a younger population to choose to live in.

Demographic change has helped make Limerick more diverse and vibrant, with immigration from many different countries contributing to cultural, economic and social diversity. The quality of services and amenities for a diverse and multi-cultural society will be a key determinant to achieve sustainable communities.

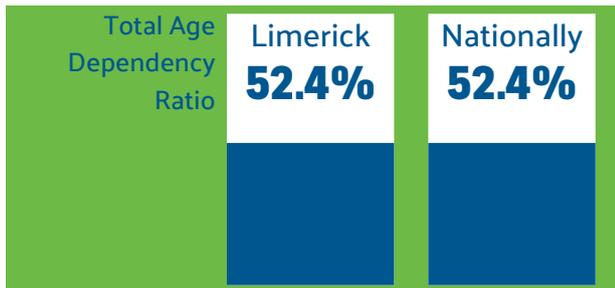
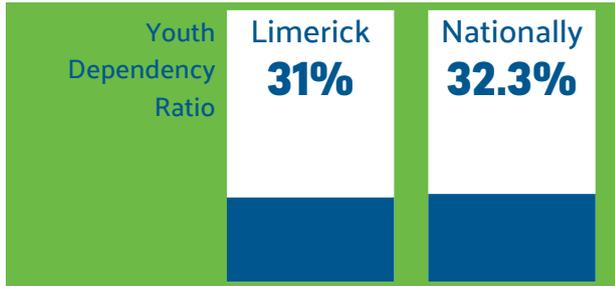
Health



Age



Dependency Ratios



Population



Consider the following questions:

Do you think there is adequate community facilities in your area?

How can the Plan promote social inclusion and equality for all our citizens?

How can we plan for an aging population?

How can the value of existing community facilities be maximised?

Links:



Background Paper:

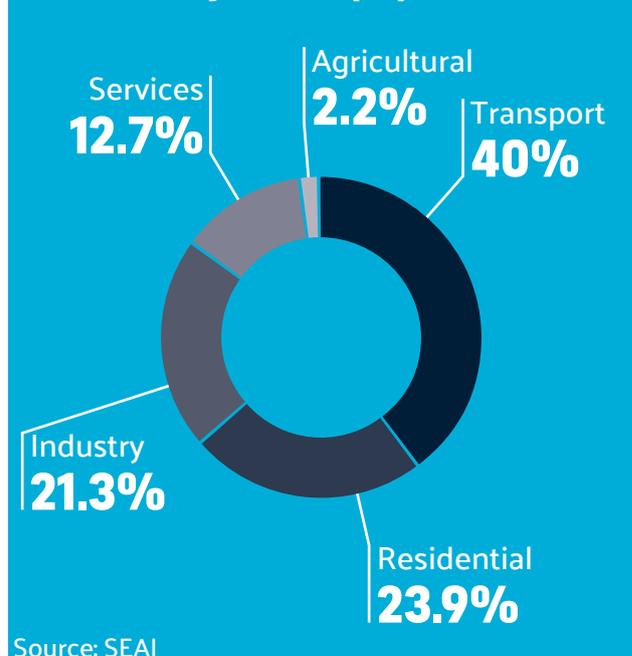
- Community and Recreation

Climate Change & Flood Relief

A new approach is needed to manage our future in a planned, productive and sustainable way with increased emphasis on travel patterns, energy use and the protection of the environment. The challenges of climate change and the transition to a low carbon society is a key component of National and Regional Policies and is a significant cross cutting theme to be included throughout much of the policy and objectives in the Limerick Development Plan.

Climate change brings with it new challenges for Limerick City and County Council in the area of flood management. The challenges relate to extreme weather events and the rise in mean sea-levels with potential storm surges. Comprehensive consideration of flood risk is now a key requirement in the preparation of development plans and in determining planning applications. A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will be prepared as part of the development plan process which will assess all flood risk in Limerick so as to inform land use planning decisions..

Share of energy related CO₂ emissions by sector (%), 2018



€60m investment proposed into Flood Relief Schemes

Proposed Schemes:

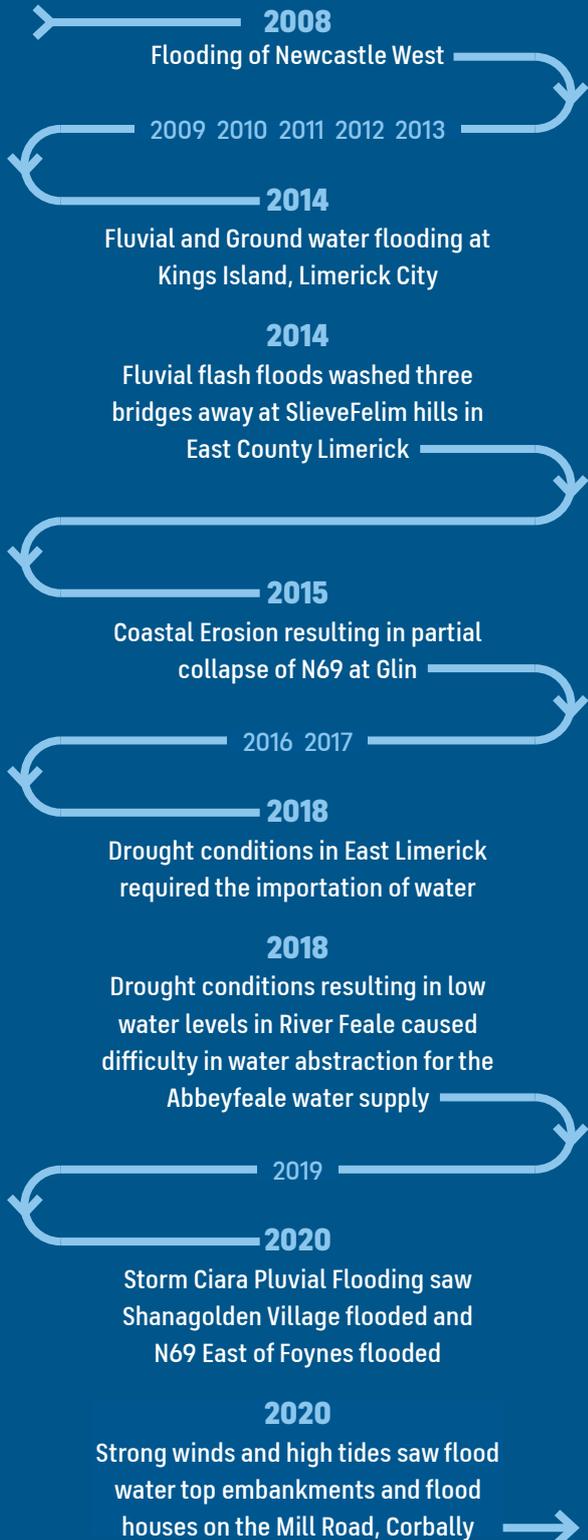
Limerick City & Environs Flood Relief Scheme

Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme

Athea Flood Relief Scheme

Rathkeale Flood Relief Scheme

Examples of Climate Change Impacts in Limerick



Consider the following questions:

How can the development plan best address the challenges of climate change?

How can we increase awareness and reduce the impacts of climate change in Limerick?

How do you suggest the transition to a low carbon economy be best achieved?

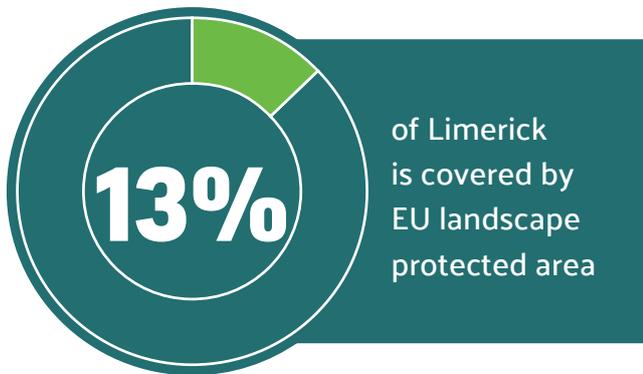
How can we manage pressure for development in flood risk areas?

Links:



Background Paper:

- Energy, Climate Change, Flooding and Transition to a Low Carbon Economy



- 12 Special Area of Conservation:**
- 1 Askeaton Fen Complex SAC
 - 2 Ballyhoura Mountains SAC
 - 3 Barrigone SAC
 - 4 Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC
 - 5 Carrigeenamronety Hill SAC
 - 6 Clare Glen SAC
 - 7 Curraghchase Woods SAC
 - 8 Galtee Mountains SAC
 - 9 Glen Bog SAC
 - 10 Glenstal Wood SAC
 - 11 Lower River Shannon SAC
 - 12 Tory Hill SAC

- 3 Special Protection Areas:**
- 13 Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA
 - 14 River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA
 - 15 Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA

- 4 Natural Heritage Areas:**
- 16 Carrigkerry Bogs NHA
 - 17 Moyreen Bog NHA
 - 18 Lough Gay Bog NHA
 - 19 Grageen Fen and Bog NHA

Consider the following questions:

What do you consider to be the main environmental issues facing Limerick?

How can we ensure that Limerick's environment is protected?

Can you identify other environmentally sensitive areas in Limerick?

What are the main threats to biodiversity in Limerick?

Links:



Background Paper:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Document
- Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure

How to find out more

Public meetings will be held, **by appointment only** and subject to government guidance, on the following dates:

7TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Corporate Headquarters, Limerick City and County Council, Merchant's Quay, Limerick, V94 Eh90 from 2.00 pm – 7.00 pm

8TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Newcastle West Municipal Office, V42 EH73 from 2.00 pm – 7.00 pm

9TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Cappamore – Kilmallock Municipal Office, V35 K497 from 2.00 pm to 7.00 pm

14TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Corporate Headquarters, Limerick City and County Council, Merchant's Quay, Limerick, V94 Eh90 from 2.00 pm to 7.00 pm

15TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Rathkeale House Hotel, V94 NP64 from 2.00pm to 7.00pm

Book an appointment by emailing devplan@limerick.ie or 061-556508

A **webinar** will be hosted by Limerick City and County Council on

THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2020

AT 7PM, on the proposed Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028.

For full details log on to www.limerick.ie to **register** for this event.

Data Protection Note:

Submissions received by the Planning Authority will be published on Limerick City & County Council website on www.limerick.ie/limerickdevelopmentplan within 10 working days of receipt, along with your name in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (Amended). Your contact details will not be published. Please do not include personal, confidential or other sensitive information in submissions.

Queries: Email devplan@limerick.ie

How to make a submission

You can make a submission through our
online portal <https://mypoint.limerick.ie>

Alternatively you can email
devplan@limerick.ie

or write to
Forward/ Strategic Planning,
Limerick City & County Council,
Merchant's Quay,
Limerick V94 EH90.

The deadline for submissions is
Monday 12 October 2020 at 5pm.



