



**LIMERICK**

**JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2016**

## **Message from the Chairman of the Limerick Joint Policing Committee**

As Chairperson of the Limerick Joint Policing Committee I welcome the publication of the 2016 annual report. The report details the work of the committee in delivering on its work during 2016 and is an important means of communicating the role and work of the committee.

The Joint Policing Committee aims to develop greater consultation, cooperation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, Limerick City and County Council, Community Representatives and Elected Local Representatives. During 2016, the JPC continued to take a strategic approach to its work in addressing local issues collectively and strategically.

During the year significant progress was made in the development of the Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 and it is hoped that this plan will be finalised early in 2017. While the preparation of the plan has taken a considerable period of time, I am happy that the end product will be a very worthwhile document with full buy-in from the various sectors across the City and County of Limerick.

I wish to record my appreciation to An Garda Síochána and the Local Authority for their very valued contributions and to each Member of the JPC for their continuing support in fulfilling the role and purpose of the JPC and to Limerick City and County Council for the administration of the Committee.

**Councillor Seán Lynch,  
Chairman of the Limerick Joint Policing Committee.**

## Functions of the Joint Policing Committee

The Garda Síochána Action (2005) (Section 36) provides for the establishment of a Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in each local authority administrative area. The function of the JPCs is *“to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area”*.

Particular functions are identified in the Joint Policing Committee Guidelines (as revised, 2014) as follows:

- a) Keep under review
  - i. The levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs); and
  - ii. The factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area;
- b) Advise the local authority and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions having regard to the need to do everything feasible to improve the safety and quality of life and to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the area;
- c) Arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policy of the local authority’s administrative area;
- d) Establish, in consultation with the local Garda superintendent, as the committee considers necessary within specific neighbourhoods of the area, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the committees concerning matters that it is to keep under review under paragraph (a) or on which it is to advise under paragraph (b), in so far as those matters affect their neighbourhoods; and
- e) Coordinate the activities of local policing fora under paragraph (d) or otherwise.
- f) A local authority shall, in performing its functions, have regard to the importance of taking steps to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within its area of responsibility.

The JPC’s role is to provide input to policing plans and local authority plans and policies for the local authority administrative area. JPCs provide advice and make recommendations to the relevant agencies. The relevant agencies – An Garda Síochána and the local authority - are responsible for resourcing, establishing policy (and bye-laws) and operational matters.

## JPC Strategic Plan and Annual Work Plans: Requirements

Under the JPC Guidelines, JPCs are required to prepare a six-year JPC Strategic Plan and Annual Work Plans and these should be linked to objectives of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021. The requirement for consistency between the LECP and the JPC Strategy is to promote alignment of JPCs with the new local government structures, particularly the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) and the Public Participation Network (PPN). JPC Strategic Plans are focused on achieving coordinated actions to enhance policing and crime prevention in the local authority administrative area.

As well as linking to the objectives of the LECP, Annual Work Plans must include relevant objectives from the Garda Annual Policing Plan(s) for the local authority area. The JPC

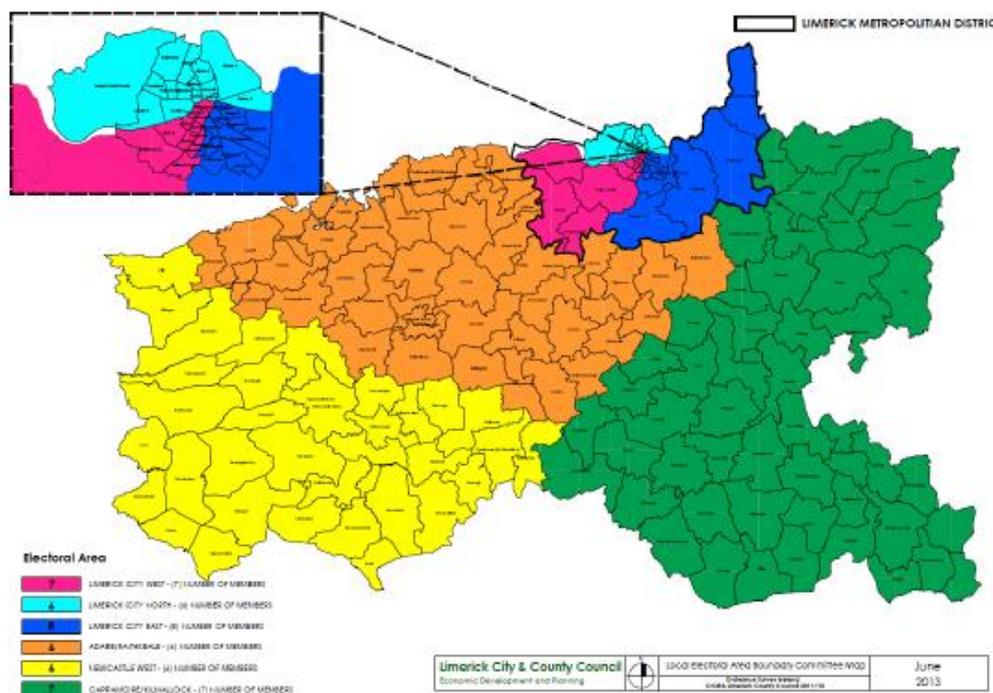
Strategic Plan and Annual Work Plans should be linked to other elements of local authority or Garda strategies such as accommodation plans, particular crime prevention initiatives in the area, Drugs’ Task Force Plans and other issues which the JPC considers important for crime prevention, policing and public safety including road safety.

The need for a “*proper communications strategy to support interaction with local communities and effective and efficient coordination with other structures is emphasised*” in the revised JPC Guidelines (2014). Actions to enhance communication with the public and other fora such as Drugs’ Task Force, local policing fora, Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch Groups and other relevant local fora should be included in JPC Plan.

### Limerick City and County Council Administrative Area JPC

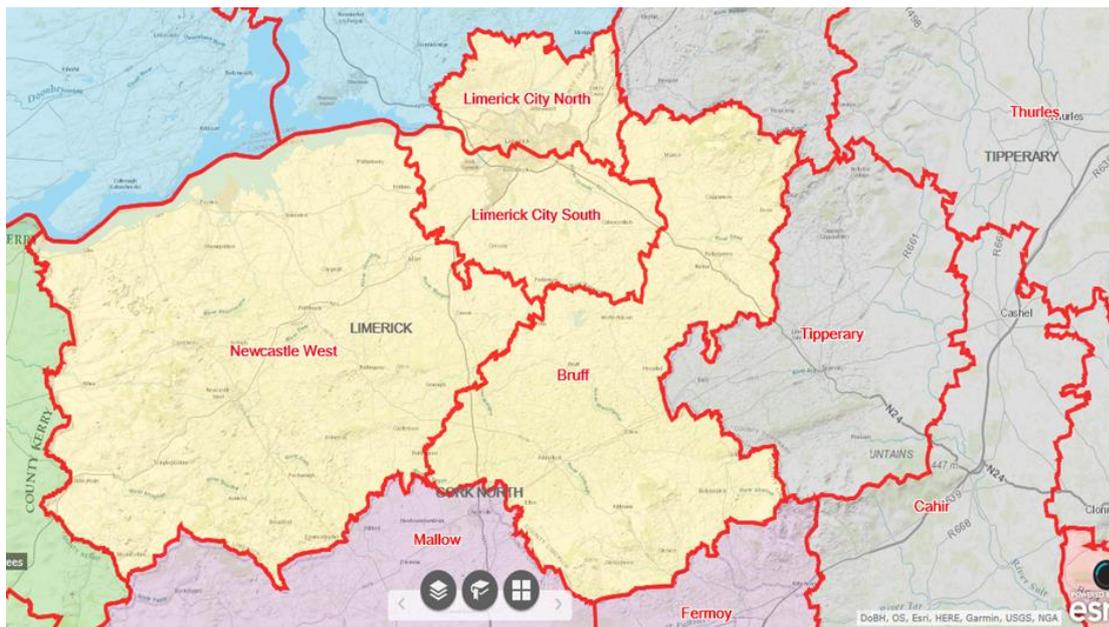
The Limerick JPC has been established for the administrative area of Limerick City and County – See Figure 1 below.

**Figure 1: Limerick Metropolitan (Limerick City West, Limerick City North, Limerick City East) and Municipal Districts - Cappamore-Kilmallock, Adare-Rathkeale and Newcastle West.**



The boundaries of Limerick Garda Division, within the Southern Garda Region, cover the territory of Limerick city and county. Limerick Garda Division extends into the sub-urban areas of the city (e.g., into Clare County) taking in some territory beyond the administrative area of Limerick City and County Council. See Figure 2.

**Figure 2: Limerick Garda Division and Districts**



### Membership of the JPC

The Limerick JPC comprises elected members of Limerick City and County Council (15), Oireachtas elected members (5), An Garda Síochána (AGS) nominations (2); Local Authority Officials (2) and community representatives (7) nominated to the JPC by the Public Participation Network (PPN). Representatives of the media are entitled to be present at JPC meetings. In special cases, where the JPC is of the opinion that the absence of members of the public and representatives of the media from the whole or part of the meetings is desirable, the JPC may decide to meet in committee.

### Links to Objectives and Actions of the Limerick LECP

The Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021 was adopted by Council in July 2016. The overall goal of the LECP is “to promote improved quality of life and well-being of people and communities in Limerick City and County”. The LCDCs and the LECPs were introduced under the reform of local government, “Putting People First” – Action Programme for Effective Local Government (2012), and operate under the remit of the Department Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DGPCLG).

The LECP has nine high level goals. Goals relevant to the functions of the JPC are shown below.

#### High-Level Goals of the LECP Relevant to JPC

Goal 1 is particularly relevant to the functions of the JPC, namely:

Goal 1: to promote equally vibrant and **safe** communities with high quality of life, access to quality services in urban and rural Limerick, engaged in civic life and local decision-making.

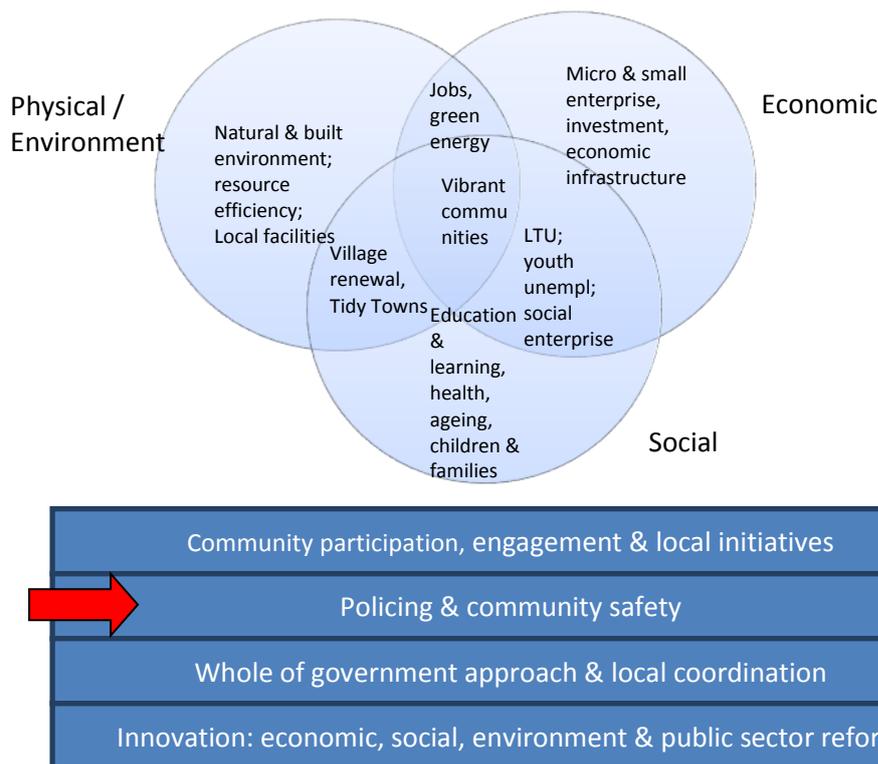
Other Goals with links to the functions of the JPC are as follows:

Goal 4: To reduce the number of people living in deprivation, promote social and economic inclusion and a reduction of social inequalities particularly addressed to local communities and groups in Limerick with a profile of social disadvantage and / or at risk of exclusion.

Goal 5: To create a strong urban core, thriving towns, attractive and socially sustainable villages and countryside ...

The LECP is based on an integrated approach structured around three pillars – (1) *Economic*, (2) *Social* and (3) *Physical / Environment*. The three pillars are under-pinned by four cross-cutting themes including *Policing and Community Safety*. The integrated approach and cross-cutting themes are shown in Figure 3 below.

**Figure 3: The Integrated Strategy of the LECP: Pillars and Cross-Cutting Themes**



The Policing and Community Safety Priority Theme is consistent with the functions of the JPC as outlined above:

**“Priority 5: Policing and Community Safety:** where low crime, trust in policing and safe communities are fundamental to creating the conditions for economic and social interventions to be successful and for good quality of life.”

Under the Policing and Community Safety Theme in the LECP, there is a focus on preventive action, the role of communities in crime prevention (*LECP 5.2*), addressing factors associated with higher risks of crime (low education, deprivation, poor mental health, risk behaviours), building trust in policing, confidence in the policing services (coverage, accessibility) as well as responding to crime and offending behaviour.

Specific objectives and actions under *the Social Pillar* and the *Community Participation, Engagement and Local Initiatives* of the LECP also focus on policing and community safety issues.

Actions in the LECP relevant to the JPC strategy include: safety and security for older people (*LECP 2.3 Ageing Well / Age-Friendly City and County*); interventions for young people at risk of offending (*LECP 2.5 Children, young people and families*); and working in partnership with communities, especially those experiencing deprivation (*LECP 4.1 Public Participation Network (PPN) and Civic Engagement*).

*Policing and Community Safety* is also relevant to actions under *the Physical / Environment Pillar* including: revival of Limerick city centre and village and town renewal (*LECP 3.2 Urban and Village Renewal, strategic sites and civic projects*).

Inter-agency structures that focus on policing, crime prevention and community safety which are already in place are referenced in the LECP. These include: the Age-Friendly Alliance; the Limerick Children’s and Young People’s Services Committee; the Strategic Advisory and Monitoring Group on Regeneration; the Local Regeneration Committees and the Inter-Agency Traveller Group (*LECP 5.1*). Other areas of An Garda Síochána, local authority and wider inter-agency cooperation include: the Resettlement Programme, for Syrian Refugee Families (under the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration, Department of Justice and Equality) and Emergency Planning.

## Meetings of JPC

The JPC met on two occasions during 2016, in April and September. Outside of these meetings significant work was done on the preparation of the Joint Policing Strategy, which will be completed in early 2017. A Public Meeting was not held in 2016 as it was considered premature pending the finalisation of the strategy.

<b>15<sup>th</sup> April 2016</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> September 2016</b>
Regular meeting	Regular Meeting

## JPC Steering Group

The Limerick Joint Policing Committee Steering Group comprises the JPC Chairman, Councillor Seán Lynch, Mr Conn Murray, Chief Executive and the Chief Superintendent David Sheahan.

## JPC Membership

<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Regular Meetings Attended</b>
Councillor	Frankie	Daly ②	Limerick City and County Council	1
Councillor	Liam	Galvin	Limerick City and County Council	
Councillor	Michael	Hourigan ①	Limerick City and County Council	
Councillor	Stephen	Keary	Limerick City and County Council	2
Councillor	Paul	Keller	Limerick City and County Council	2
Councillor	Joe	Leddin	Limerick City and County Council	
Councillor	Séan	Lynch	Limerick City and County Council	2
Councillor	Ciara	McMahon	Limerick City and County Council	
Councillor	Gerald	Mitchell	Limerick City and County Council	2
Councillor	Emmet	O'Brien	Limerick City and County Council	2
Councillor	Seighin	Ó Ceallaigh	Limerick City and County Council	2
Councillor	Jerry	O'Dea	Limerick City and County Council	
Councillor	Richard	O'Donoghue	Limerick City and County Council	2
Councillor	Eddie	Ryan	Limerick City and County Council	1
Councillor	John	Sheahan	Limerick City and County Council	1
Councillor	Kevin	Sheahan	Limerick City and County Council	1
Chief Executive	Conn	Murray ⑦	Limerick City and County Council	1
Senior Executive Officer	Christy	O'Connor	Limerick City and County Council	2
Chief Superintendent	David	Sheahan	An Garda Síochana	2
Superintendent	Derek	Smart	An Garda Síochana	2
Deputy (TD)	Niall	Collins	Oireachtas Member	
Deputy (TD)	Patrick	O'Donovan	Oireachtas Member	
Deputy (TD)	Jan	O'Sullivan	Oireachtas Member	

Senator	Kieran	O'Donnell	Oireachtas Member	1
Senator	James	Heffernan ⑥	Oireachtas Member	
Mr	Patrick	McElligott ⑤	Community / Voluntary	1
Ms	Monica	McElvaney ③	Community / Voluntary	1
Mr	Tommy	O'Dwyer ④	Community / Voluntary	1

1. Councillor Michael Hourigan resigned from the JPC with effect from 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
2. Councillor Frankie Daly appointed to fill this vacancy with effect from 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
3. Monica McElvaney appointed to the JPC with effect from 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
4. Tommy O'Dwyer appointed to the JPC with effect from 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
5. Patrick McElligott appointed to the JPC with effect from 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
6. James Heffernan no longer an Oireachtas Member with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> April 2016.
7. Pat Dowling, Deputy Chief Executive represented the Chief Executive at meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

**Note:** The Community / Voluntary Members are drawn from the Public Participation Network and represent the following, Adapt Services, Anglesboro Tidy Towns and GOSHH.