



SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND CHILDCARE CAPACITY AUDIT –

FOR ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED STRATEGIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT (SHD) ON SITE OF FORMER GREENPARK RACECOURSE, LIMERICK.



PREPARED FOR:

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DATE: October 2021



1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Voyage Property Limited intend to apply to An Bord Pleanála (the Board) for permission for a strategic housing development with a total application site area of c.10.5 ha (with a substantive residential site development area of c.7.9 ha), on lands at the former Greenpark Racecourse, Dock Road, Limerick, principally bounded by existing undeveloped lands to the north, south and west and the adjoining Log na gCapall Housing Estate and Greenpark Avenue to the east. The application site includes the proposed access road (374m in length; a roundabout; cycle lanes and pedestrian footpath) which joins into the Dock Road at the north-western corner of the former Greenpark Racecourse lands and runs adjacent to the Limerick Greyhound Track.

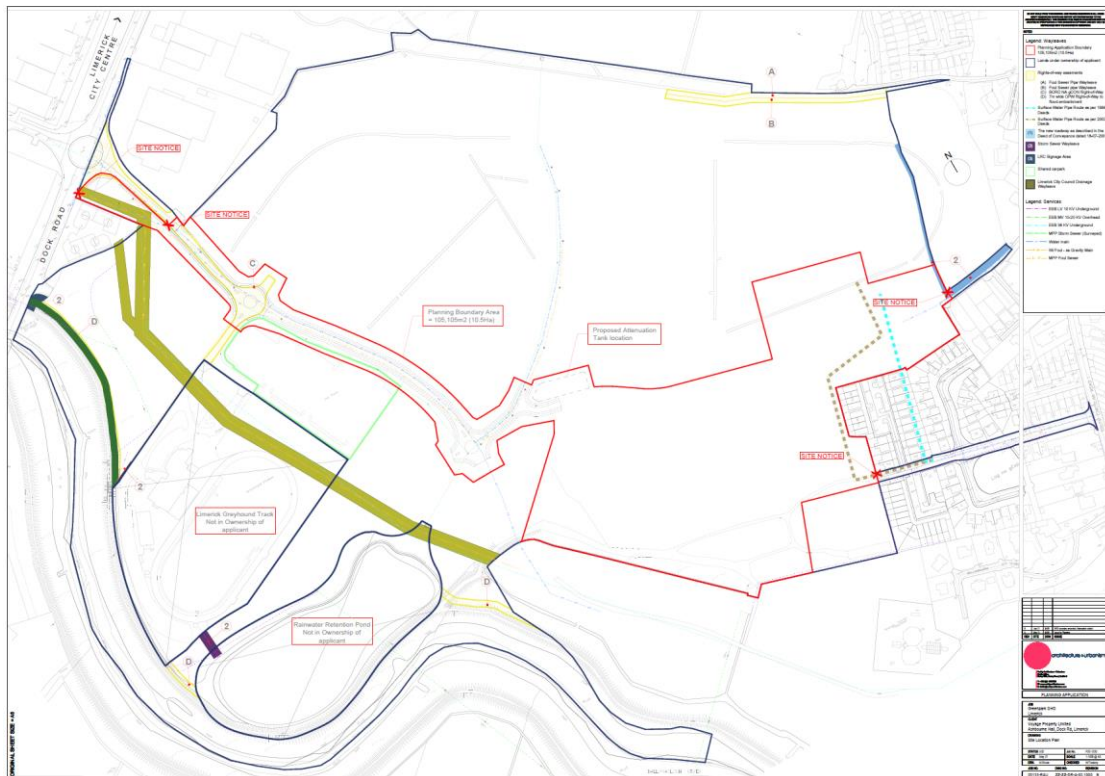


Figure 1.0a: Indicative Site Location Plan. Source: Reddy A+U, 2021.

The proposed development will comprise some 371 No. units in a mix of houses, duplexes and apartments including 70 No. 1-bedroom, 167 No. 2-bedroom, 124 No. 3-bedroom and 10 No. 4-bedroom units, as indicated in Table 1.0, along with supporting residential amenities. See Figure 1.0b overleaf for details of scheme and Appendix A for full description of development.

Table 1.0: Proposed Schedule of Accommodation – Greenpark SHD		
Unit Type	No. of Units	% of Total
1-bedroom	70	19%
2-bedroom	167	45%
3-bedroom	124	33%
4-bedroom	10	3%
Total Units	371	100%

1.2 Local Area Context

The subject site is located within the development boundary of Limerick City, within c. 1km of Corcanree Business Park and the Docks area to the north and the Dooradoyle residential area to the south. The site is predominately comprised of lands zoned for '2A Residential' uses within the *Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016 (as extended)* to provide for residential development and associated uses, with the remaining portion of the lands designated '5C Neighbourhood Centres' and '5A Mixed Use' to provide access to the site from the north (see Figure 1.2a).

The site is located approximately 500m from the N18 Motorway to the west, the Ballinacurra Road (R526 Regional Road) to the southeast and the Dock Road (N69/R510 Regional Road) to the north. The development lands area currently served by Bus Eireann Routes 301, 304, 304A and 304X from Ballinacurra Road to the southeast.

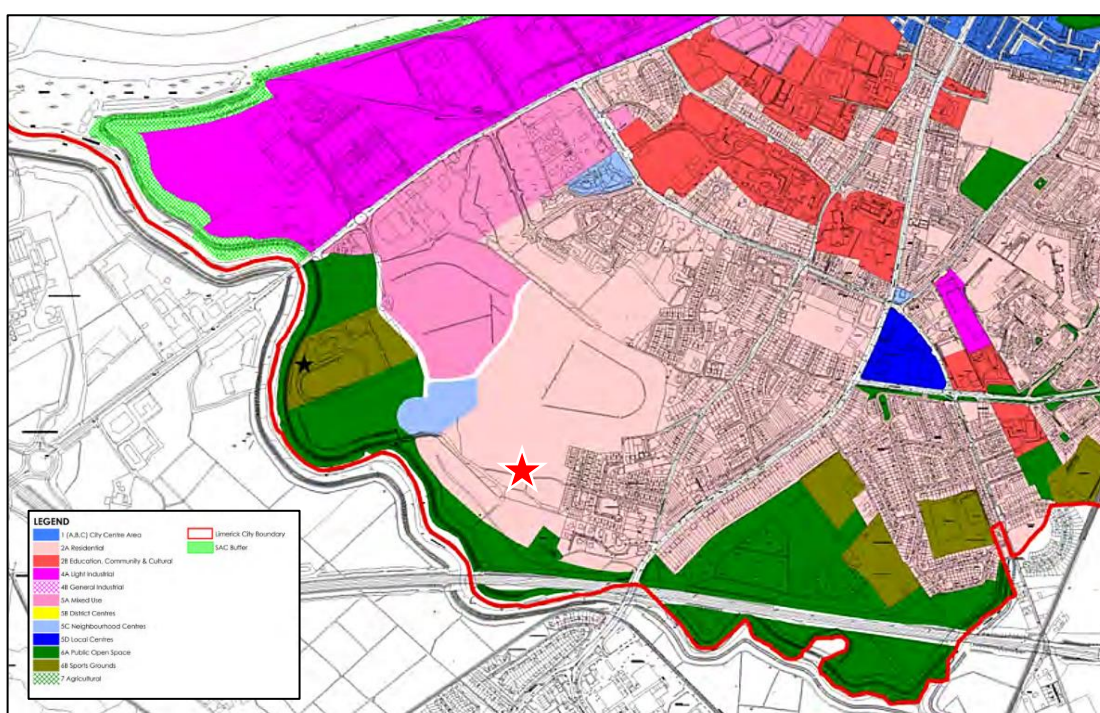


Figure 1.2a: Extract of *Land Use Zoning Map 1, Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016 (as extended)*. Location of subject site indicated by red star. Source: Limerick City & County Council, 2021.

For the purposes of the demographic analysis, the study area comprises 2 No. distinct enumeration areas identified by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) of relevance to the subject development, as follows:

- 1) The local Electoral Division (ED) study area to which the subject site belongs, comprised of 6 No. ED's within a c. 1km radius of the site¹; and
- 2) The larger combined Limerick City and County Local Authority (LA) administrative boundary.

¹ ED Study Area comprised of Ballinacurra A to which the site belongs; Ballinacurra B; Ballycummin; Dock C; Dock D; and Prospect B.

These enumeration areas are identified in Figure 1.2b and provide demographic information for the local and regional populations which are likely to be impacted by the subject development.

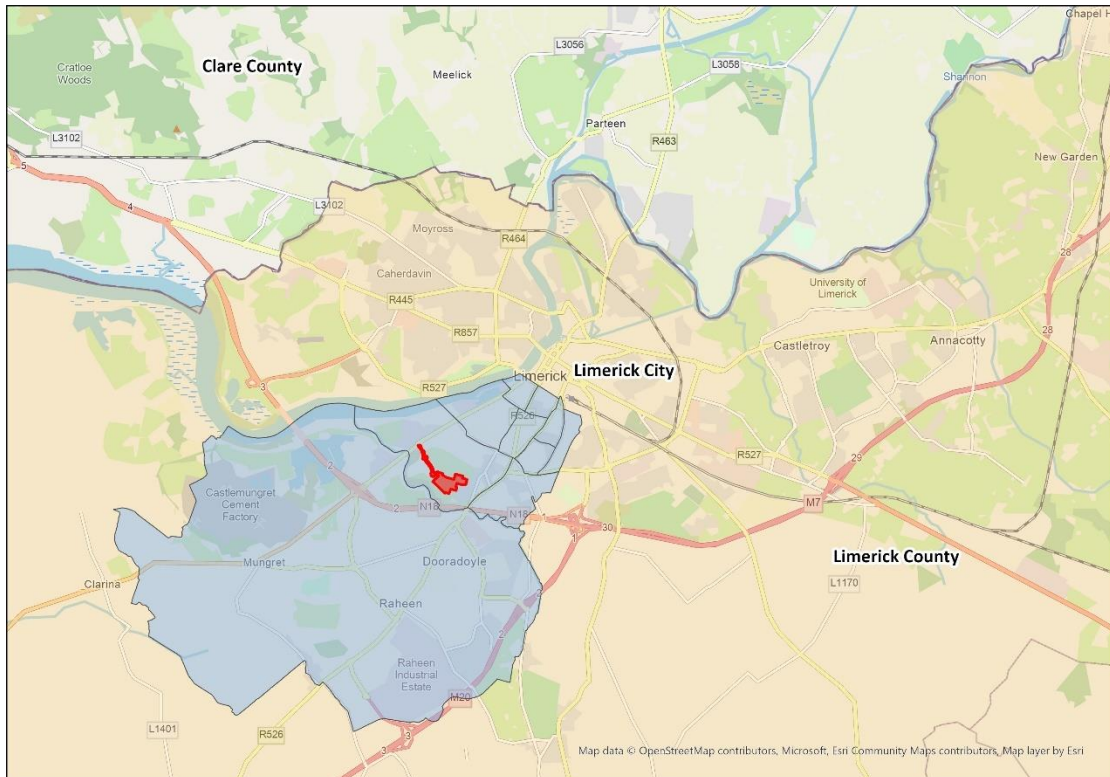


Figure 1.2b: Extent of CSO enumeration areas utilised in demographic analysis. Location of subject site within the ED Study Area indicated by red polygon. Source: CSO/TPA, 2021.

2.0 DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The subject site is located within the 'Ballinacurra A' Electoral Division, which comprised some 1,962 No. persons at the time of the 2016 Census (see Table 2.0a). The total population of the ED Study Area (comprising a c. 1km radius from the subject site) grew approximately 2% between 2011 and 2016, which is on par with growth recorded for the rest of Limerick City and County (c. 2%), but lower than the national average of c. 4% for the same period. We note that the population of Ballinacurra A, including the subject site, decreased by c. 8% from 2011-2016.

Level	Name	2011	2016	5-yr trend
ED	Ballinacurra A	2,137	1,962	-8.1%
Study Area	ED's within c. 1km of Site	23,653	24,185	+2.3%
LA	Limerick City and County	191,809	194,899	+1.6%
State	Ireland	4,588,252	4,761,865	+3.8%

More recent population projections for Limerick City and County were included in the *Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)* for the Southern Regional Assembly (SRA). It is estimated that an additional 51,000-61,500 No. people will need to be accommodated within the local authority by 2031 and an additional 75,500 – 90,500 No. people within the larger Mid-West Strategic Planning Area (SPA) (see Table 2.0b).

Location	2016 Base Year	2026 (low-high)	2031 (low-high)
Limerick	195,000	229,000-235,500	246,000-256,500
Mid-West SPA	385,000	436,000-446,000	460,500-475,500

2.1 Age Profile

The majority of the study area population falls within the Adult (24-64 years) age cohort, comprising 55% of the total population, which is slightly higher than the national average of 53% for this group. The 'Primary' (5-12 years) and 'Older Adults' (65+ years) cohorts were the second largest groups, comprising 11% of the population (11%). The remaining cohorts, 'Preschool' (0-4 years), 'Secondary' (5-12 years) and 'Young Adults' (19-24 years) each comprise less than 10% of the total study area population and were on par with their comparable national cohorts.

Age Cohort	ED Study Area	% Total	Ireland	% Total
Preschool (0-4 years)	1,970	8%	331,515	7%
Primary (5-12 years)	2,716	11%	548,693	12%
Secondary (13-18 years)	1,688	7%	371,588	8%
Young Adults (19-24 years)	1,647	7%	331,208	8%



Adults (25-64 years)	13,420	55%	2,541,294	53%
Older Adults (65+ years)	2,744	11%	637,567	13%
Total	24,185	100%	4,761,865	100%

At the county level, the 'Older Adults' cohort increased by c. 17% from 2011-2016, followed by a c. 8% increase in the 'Primary' group and a c. 3% increase in the 'Secondary' group (Table 2.5a). The other cohorts, including 'Preschool' and 'Young Adults' groups decrease by c. 7% and 10% respectively, which the 'Adults' group decreased by a more moderate c. 1% during the 5-year period. The overall population within Limerick City and County grew by c. 2% from 2011-2016.

At the local level, we note that all but two of the age cohorts were recorded as having increased from 2011-2016, with the largest growth rates recorded for the 'Older Adults' (20%) and 'Primary' (16%) groups overall. The 'Young Adults' cohort, which also declined at the county level, demonstrated the decrease at 21%, followed by the 'Preschool' cohort with a 1% decrease from 2011-2016 (Table 2.1c).

Age Group	2011 Population	2016 Population	% Change
Preschool (0-4 years)	14,194	13,135	7% decrease
Primary (5-12 years)	19,851	21,500	8% increase
Secondary (13-18 years)	14,803	15,243	3% increase
Young Adults (19-24 years)	17,268	15,550	10% decrease
Adults (25-64 years)	102,380	102,053	<1% decrease
Older Adults (65+ years)	23,313	27,418	17% increase
Total	191,809	194,899	2% increase

Age Group	2011 Population	2016 Population	% Change
Preschool (0-4 years)	1,988	1,970	1% decrease
Primary (5-12 years)	2,347	2,716	16% increase
Secondary (13-18 years)	1,633	1,688	3% increase
Young Adults (19-24 years)	2,073	1,647	21% decrease
Adults (25-64 years)	13,325	13,420	1% increase
Older Adults (65+ years)	2,287	2,744	20% increase
Total	23,653	24,185	2% increase

2.2 Educational Attainment

With respect to the levels of educational attainment within the study area, the largest proportion of residents had completed 'Third Level' education (44%) in 2016, compared to only 38% in the rest of the country. We note that 13% of the population had also completed



'Post-graduate Education or higher'² at the time of the Census, compared to 10% elsewhere, and that less than 1% were recorded as having 'No Formal Education'. These figures indicate higher levels of educational attainment within the study area population compared to the national average.

Education Level	ED Study Area	% Total	Ireland	% Total
No Formal Education	192	1%	52,214	2%
Primary Education	1,024	7%	334,284	11%
Secondary Education	4,331	29%	1,023,409	33%
Third Level Education	6,542	44%	1,175,611	38%
Postgraduate or higher	2,007	13%	312,866	10%
Not stated	870	5%	198,668	6%
Total	14,966	100%	3,097,052	100%

2.3 Economic Status

The economic profile of the study area is similar to the national population, with 56% of the population over the age of 15 being categorized as 'At work' in 2016. A total of 13% were categorized as 'Retired' within the study area, followed by 12% as 'Students' in 2016, with the remaining economic cohorts (comprising the 'Unemployed', homemakers and jobseekers, etc.) each forming less than 10% of the population overall (see Table 2.3).

Principal Economic Status	ED Study Area	% Total	Ireland	% Total
At work	10,519	56%	2,006,641	53%
Looking for first job	153	<1%	31,434	<1%
Unemployed	1,287	7%	265,962	7%
Student	2,256	12%	427,128	11%
Looking after home/family	1,311	7%	305,556	8%
Retired	2,479	13%	545,407	15%
Unable to work	809	4%	158,348	4%
Other	108	<1%	14,837	<1%
Total	18,922	100%	3,755,313	100%

2.4 Demographic Summary

The demographic profile of the local ED Study Area (i.e., age, education and economic status) was largely consistent with the rest of Ireland in 2016. This area appears to be growing at a similar rate as the rest of Limerick City and County Council (c. 2% increase from 2011-2016). Population projections for Limerick provided by the RSES also estimate that an additional 51,000-61,500 No. people will need to be accommodated within the local authority by 2031.

² Comprised of the following CSO sub-categories: Postgraduate Diploma or Degree, Doctorate (Ph.D) or higher.



The majority of residents were 'Adults' between the ages of 25-64 (55%), followed by 'Older Adults' (65+ years) and 'Primary' (5-12 years) children at 11%. We note that the majority of the population aged 15 years or older within the study area had completed 'Third Level Education' courses in 2016 (44%), with an additional 13% in possession of 'Postgraduate' qualifications. The majority of this population (aged 15 years or older) were 'At Work' (56%) or 'Retired' (13%) at the time of the Census.

We note that the 'Older Adults' and 'Primary' school population cohorts also demonstrated a significant increase from 2011-2016, c. 20% and 17% respectively, while the 'Young Adults' cohort declined by 21%. This indicates that a higher proportion of community facilities may be required for the working population and retired persons at this time than other demographic groups.

As the number of 'Primary' school children residing in the area has also increased, additional playground facilities and other recreational amenities for young children are likely to be desired. However, the current population figures do not account for the development capacity of additional zoned land within the study area and potential population growth arising from future developments.



3.0 RELEVANT PLANNING GUIDANCE

3.1 *Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas*

This audit has regard to the *Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (DoEHLG, 2009)* set out the following categories of community infrastructure as being most relevant in the development of new residential areas: schools, childcare, community centres, healthcare facilities and district centres (see Table 3.1).

These criteria were considered in the development of the comprehensive infrastructure categories applied during the course of the study area audit, as set out in Section 4.0 to follow.

Table 3.1: Community Infrastructure Categories as per DoEHLG Guidelines	
Infrastructure Types	Sample Facilities
Schools	Primary, Post-Primary, Special Education, Third-Level Institutions
Childcare	Registered Facilities (Full Time, Part Time, Sessional)
Community Centres	Community Centres, Resource Centres, Sports Centres, Youth Centres, Training Centres
Healthcare Facilities	General Practitioners, Healthcare Centres, Hospitals, Nursing Homes
District Centres	Supermarkets, Shops, Convenience Shops

3.2 *Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031 (SRA)*

We note that the *Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)* prepared by the Southern Regional Assembly (SRA) was published 30 January 2020 and supersedes the previous *Mid-West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022*. The study area is located within Limerick City and is governed by the new Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Spatial Plan (MASP) included in the RSES. With respect to the provision of social infrastructure within Limerick City, the MASP states:

“The Limerick-Shannon MASP supports ongoing collaboration with regional stakeholders to ensure that social infrastructure such as education, health and community facilities are provided and to ensure that opportunities for social as well as physical regeneration are realised.”

[Our emphasis. – Limerick-Shannon MASP, Section 10]

More specific policy objectives for the development of social infrastructure within the region, including Limerick City, are included in Section 10.0 of the RSES, as follows:

Table 3.2: Select Regional Policy Objectives for Social Infrastructure (RSES)	
Pol. Obj. 22	<p>Social Inclusion</p> <p>a) <i>It is an objective to seek investment in delivering actions and stakeholder initiatives of the Local Economic Community Plans (LECPs) of Limerick City and County Council and Clare County Council to strengthen community infrastructure and promote social inclusion for all citizens across all our communities.</i></p>



	<p>b) <i>It is an objective to seek continued investment in delivering initiatives to achieve the physical, economic, social and environmental regeneration of disadvantaged areas in the Metropolitan Area, in particular supporting the ongoing regeneration of the Limerick City RAPID areas.</i></p> <p>c) <i>It is an objective to support the development of an inter-agency Social Enterprise Strategy to support the retention and expansion of existing social enterprises and the development of new social enterprises.</i></p>
Pol. Obj. 23	<p>Healthy Cities and Health Infrastructure</p> <p>a) <i>It is an objective to seek investment in health service infrastructure within the Limerick-Shannon MASP area to meet existing and future regional population growth including supporting University Hospital Limerick to develop a consolidated integrated health district incorporating acute care, primary care, health education, innovation and research.</i></p> <p>b) <i>It is an objective to grow and develop health care facilities as proposed by the University Hospital Limerick in their Strategic Plan.</i></p> <p>c) <i>It is an objective to support the role of Limerick as a WHO Healthy City and seek investment in the delivery of recreation, environmental improvements, active travel and health services infrastructure that retains and improves on this status.</i></p>
RSES, Limerick-Shannon MASP, Section 10 - Our emphasis.	

3.3 Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016, as extended (LCDP)

Limerick City and County Council published the extended *Limerick City Development Plan 2010 – 2016* (LCDP) on 29th May 2017, which includes guidance for the sustainable development of the area, including the proposed development site within the former Greenpark Racecourse.

The LCDP sets out Limerick City and County Council’s policies for the development of the County until a new Development Plan is published, including social, community and cultural development. We note that consultation is ongoing for the *Draft Limerick City and County Development Plan 2022-2028* (Draft LCDP), which is discussed further in Section 3.3.1 to follow.

This audit has regard to the policies and objectives contained within the current LCDP, which acknowledges a wide range of community infrastructure typologies in Chapter 8, as follows:

“Community development is about increasing the extent and effectiveness of community activity and improving the local authority’s relationship with communities. It involves adopting and facilitating a range of practices dedicated to increasing the strength and effectiveness of community life, improving local conditions and enabling people to participate in public decision making and achieving greater long-term control over their circumstances which improves the quality of life within the City and in turn makes it a more attractive place for inward investment.

All communities need social infrastructure to support itself, this comes in many forms, childcare, healthcare, education, community centres etc. These facilities provide a local focus for community activity and in turn supporting the development of sustainable communities.”

[LCDP, Chapter 8 – Our emphasis.]



Chapter 8 of the LCDP also contains a number of relevant policies for the delivery of additional social and community infrastructure throughout the County, which are summarised in Table 3.3 as follows:

Table 3.3: Select Policies for Community Services and Facilities	
Policy	Description
SC 1	<i>General Development - It is the policy of Limerick City Council to support the Limerick City Development Board in the sustainable implementation of its economic, social and cultural strategy for the City.</i>
SC 2	<i>Education - It is the policy of Limerick City Council to support the provision of education and training facilities to serve the needs of the City and the Region.</i>
SC 3	<i>Third Level Institutions - It is the policy of Limerick City Council to support the sustainable development of third level institutions in the City.</i>
SC 6	<i>Health Services - It is the policy of Limerick City Council to support the provision of medical facilities within the City boundary.</i>
SC 7	<i>Childcare - It is the policy of Limerick City Council to encourage the provision of childcare facilities in appropriate locations, including residential areas, City Centre and neighbourhood centres, in areas of employment and educational institutions and convenient to public transport nodes.</i>
SC 8	<i>Community Centres - It is the policy of Limerick City Council to encourage the provision of a range of community facilities across the City, which cater for all age groups and various community activities.</i>
SC 10	<i>Social Services - It is the policy of Limerick City Council to work in cooperation with relevant organizations to reduce the extent of social exclusion across the City.</i>
LCDP, Chapter 8 - Our emphasis.	

3.3.1 Draft Limerick City Development Plan 2022-2028 (Draft LCDP)

The *Draft Limerick City and County Development Plan 2022-2028 (Draft LCDP)* is currently being prepared, having recently undergone public consultation for the preliminary *Issues Paper* from August to October 2020. The *Background Paper for Community & Recreation* included with the *Issues Paper* acknowledged the impact of COVID-19 and the national restrictions on the recreational facilities and amenities within the Development Plan area as follows:

“Covid – 19 has changed the way the citizens of Limerick use their community and recreational facilities; many facilities have been closed for months as a result of the pandemic. The communities of Limerick have engaged with their local amenities within the immediate vicinity of their homes, have become more aware of the facilities that exists in their own neighbourhoods, embraced nature and accepted the required change. This experience will assist in informing the policies of the new Development Plan.”

[Draft LCDP Issues Paper, Community & Recreation – Our emphasis.]

The following categories of social and community infrastructure are recognised within the *Issues Paper*: education and lifelong learning; childcare; healthcare; open space; playgrounds; sporting facilities; arts and culture; libraries; and burial grounds. These categories have been taken into account in the *Social Infrastructure Audit* for the proposed development, as summarised in Section 4.0.



4.0 SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AUDIT

For the purposes of the audit, 8 No. categories of social infrastructure were utilised for assessment which take into account the guidance provided in this respect in the national and regional planning guidance (incl. the *Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016, as extended*) and summarise the range of existing facilities and services available to residents of the local study area:

Table 4.0: Social Infrastructure Categories Applied During Audit	
Category	Sample Facilities
Education and Training	<i>Primary, post-primary, special education, third-level and other training facilities</i>
Childcare	<i>Registered childcare facilities (i.e., full time, part time, sessional)</i>
Healthcare	<i>Hospitals, health centres, GPs, nursing homes, clinics, etc.</i>
Community and Social Services	<i>Community centres, meeting rooms, libraries, council buildings, charitable organisations and other social services</i>
Arts and Cultural	<i>Theatres, museums, cinemas, art galleries, venues, etc.</i>
Faith and Burial	<i>Religious institutions and other facilities incl. burial grounds</i>
Open Space and Recreation	<i>Playgrounds, parks, sports centres, sports clubs, pitches etc.</i>
Retail Centres and Services	<i>Shopping centres and supermarkets, post offices, etc.</i>

With respect to these infrastructural categories, a geospatial survey was undertaken using GIS-software in September 2021 which identified more than 250 No. relevant social infrastructure facilities in the vicinity of the subject proposal for further assessment, as summarised in Figure 4.0 overleaf. The facilities identified in each category are described in more detail in Sections 4.1 through 4.8 to follow.

In our opinion, there is sufficient provision of existing social infrastructure in the vicinity of the subject site to support the proposed development (i.e., within c. 10-minutes' drive). The site is served by an existing schools' network of 7 No. primary schools and 7 No. post-primary schools, as well as 17 No. existing childcare facilities within c. 1.5km of the proposed development, which held an estimated 25% capacity (i.e., 166 No. childcare spaces) for new enrolments at the time of the survey.

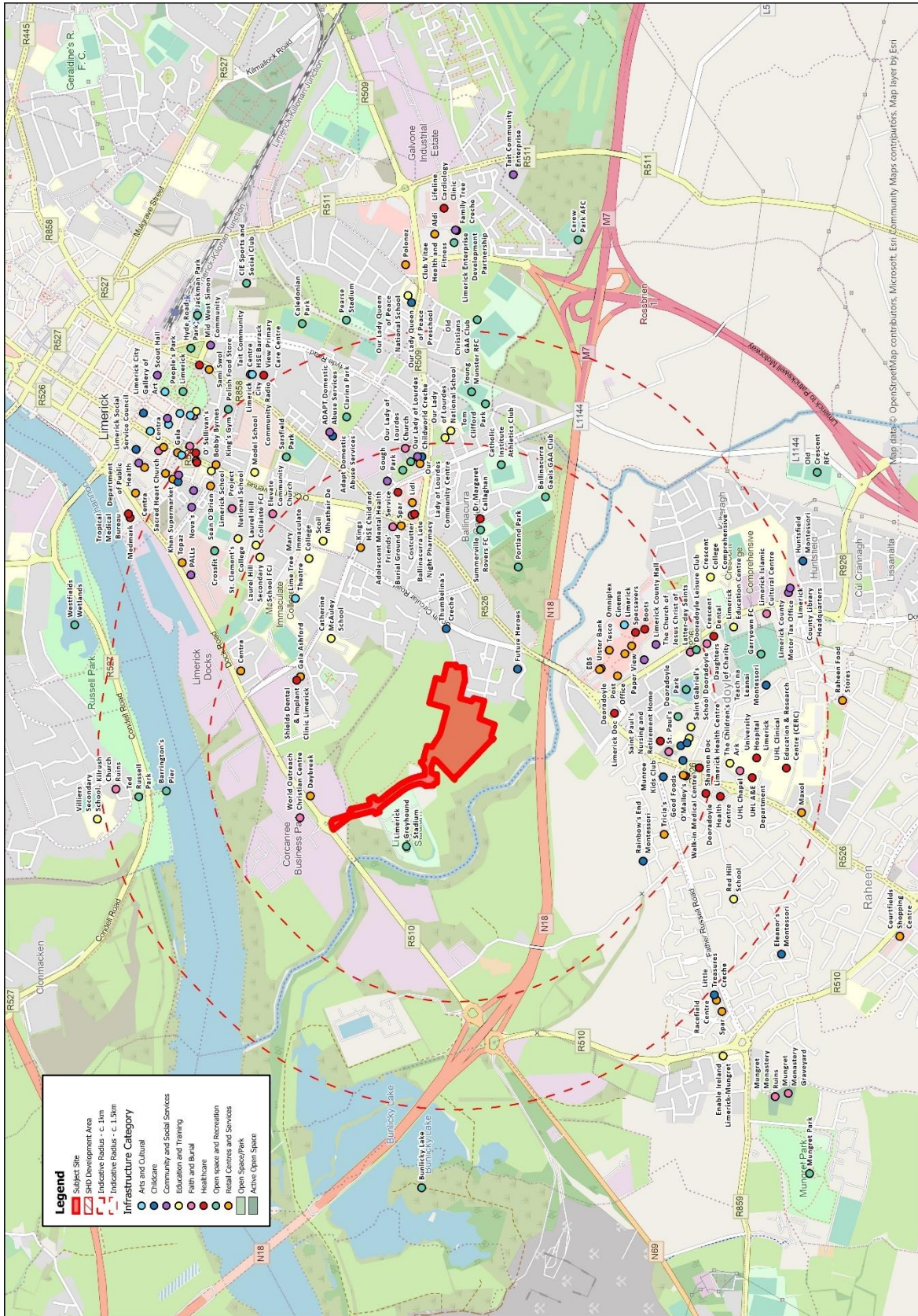


Figure 4.0: Indicative location of 250+ No. social infrastructure facilities identified in the vicinity of subject site. Indicative 1km and 1.5km radius from subject site provided in red dash. Source: TPA, 2021.

There is an adequate supply of community and cultural facilities, religious institutions, health care services (incl. University Hospital Limerick) within a reasonable distance of the subject lands, as well as a range of sports and recreational facilities (incl. children’s play areas) to serve the growing population. The site’s proximity to Limerick City Centre to the north and Crescent Shopping Centre to the south also ensures an appropriate quantum of retail services for future residents.

On the basis of this audit, potential gaps in the existing social infrastructure serving the catchment area are limited to a broader range of cultural facilities (such as museums, music venues and art galleries) and specialty recreation amenities such as food-growing allotments and community gardens. Additional playground facilities may also be desirable for the growing primary school population within the area.

4.1 Education and Training Facilities

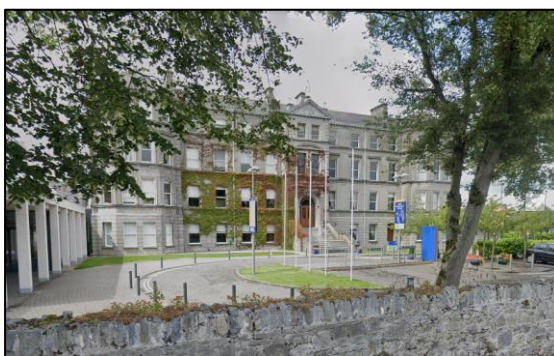
The study area is served by 7 No. existing primary schools (incl. Scoil Mhathair De and Our Lady of Lourdes National School) and 5 No. post primary schools (incl. St. Clement’s College and Laurel Hill Collaiste FCJ) located within c. 1.5km of the proposed development site. There were also 5 No. special education facilities operating within c. 1.5km, including Catherine McAuley School immediately north of the proposed development site. The third level campus of Mary Immaculate College (MIC) is located c. 800m north of the site, with other training facilities such as the Limerick Education Centre and Enable Ireland Centre Limerick-Mungret also available to local residents.



Scoil Mhathair De



St. Clement's College



Mary Immaculate College (MIC)



Catherine McAuley School



Table 4.1: Education and Training Infrastructure within c. 1.5km	
Type	Facilities
Primary (7)	Scoil Mhathair De, The Model School, Lady of Lourdes National School, Our Lady Queen of Peace National School, Limerick School Project National School, Saint Paul's National School (Scoil Phoil Naofa), St. Michael's National School
Post-Primary (5)	Laurel Hill Collaiste FCJ, Laurel Hill Secondary School FCJ, St. Clement's College, Crescent College Comprehensive, Villiers Secondary School
Special Education (5)	St. Gabriel's School (Dooradoyle), Midwest School for the Deaf, Catherine McAuley School, Red Hill School, The Children's Ark
Third Level and Training	Mary Immaculate College (MIC), Limerick Education Centre, Enable Ireland Limerick-Mungret, University of Limerick Clinical Education & Research Centre (CERC)

4.2 *Childcare Facilities*

A total of 17 No. operational childcare facilities were identified within a c. 1.5km radius of the subject site (equivalent to a c. 10-minutes' drive time) during the course of the audit, as shown in Figure 4.2. Current capacity of these facilities was estimated using the most recent Inspection Report available for each facility (dating c. 2016 to 2021) through the Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Portal³, which suggest that 661 No. childcare places are on offer in these existing facilities with an estimated 166 No. vacant places (c. 25% of total capacity). See Table 4.2 overleaf.

We note that a representative of the Limerick Childcare Committee was consulted in April 2021 regarding childcare needs in Limerick City and advised that childcare provision for children under 3-years and older school age children within the Ballinacurra A ED area (comprising 3 No. childcare services) was lower than the EU recommendation for provision.⁴

The independent childcare survey undertaken by TPA takes into consideration a much larger study area (comprising a c. 1.5km radius from the proposed development site), to provide a more comprehensive analysis of provision within the area.

³ Source: <https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/creche-inspection-reports/>, accessed September 2021.

⁴ By email with Limerick Childcare Committee Development Officer, March 2021.

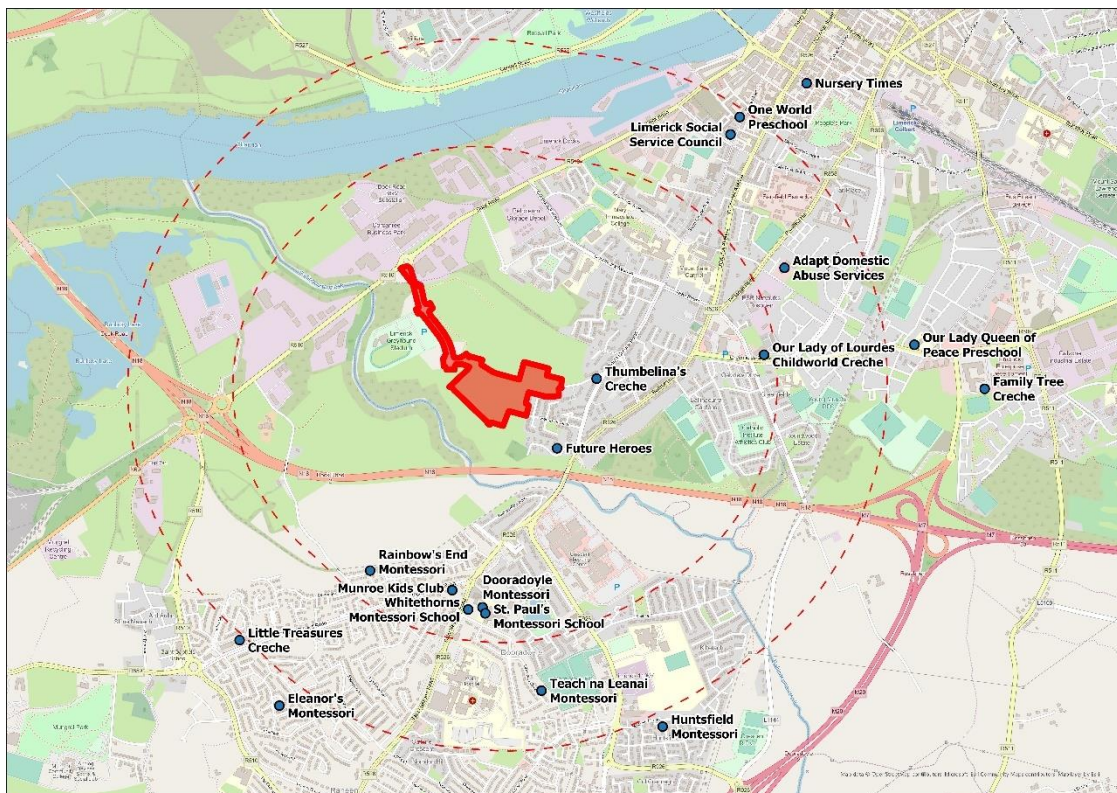


Figure 4.2: Location of existing childcare facilities (shown in blue) within study area. Indicative 1km and 1.5km radius from subject site provided in red dash. Source: TUSLA/TPA, 2021.

Table 4.2 - Childcare Facilities Audit - c. 1.5km Study Area						
No.	Facility Name	Type	Insp. Date	Inspection Enrolment	Maximum Capacity ⁵	Estimated Full Day Capacity ⁶
1	Thumbelina's Creche TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK178	Full Day	02.09.2020	AM - 34 PM - 27	46	12
			13.02.2019	AM - 49 PM - 46		
2	Future Heroes Childcare ⁷ TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK075	Full Day	03.05.2019	AM - 24 PM - 16	44	20
			11.03.2019	AM - 26 PM - 19		
3	Childworld Creche TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK045	Full Day	02.12.2020	AM - 52 PM - 39	80	28

⁵ Data within this column represents the maximum number of children the service can accommodate as per the TUSLA Register of Early Years Services for Limerick dated July 2021, available at: <https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/list-of-pre-school-services-by-county/>.

⁶ The Full Day Capacity estimation represents the lower capacity calculated among facilities offering Full Day services. The services offering sessional services have been excluded from this calculation.

⁷ This facility might have lesser spaces on offer than calculated due to 42 No. children being registered to the service out of a total capacity of 44 No. childcare spaces at any one time. See column on inspector's notes taken from TUSLA reports.



			22.02.2018	AM - 32 PM - 32		
4	Munroe Kids Club TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK127	Full Day	09.09.2020	AM - 21 PM - 17	44	23
			14.06.2018	AM - 38 PM - 24		
5	Limerick Social Service Council Early Years' Service TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK106	Full Day	04.02.2021	AM - 10 PM - 10	50	40
			01.11.2018	AM - 42 PM - 23		
6	Family Tree Creche (Limerick Enterprise Dev. Partnership) TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK069	Full Day	05.05.2021	AM - 40 PM - 33	66	26
			12.11.2019	AM - 43 PM - 34		
7	Nursery Times TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK135	Full Day	07.09.2020	AM - 35 PM - 0	52	17
			11.05.2018	AM - 41 PM - 43		
8	Little Treasures Creche TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK115	Full Day	09.05.2019	AM - 95 PM - 76	95	0
9	Huntsfield Montessori TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK086	Sessional	18.05.2021	AM - 6 PM - 6	6	0
			29.01.2018	AM - 6 PM - 5		
10	Teach Na Leanai Montessori TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK173	Sessional	03.03.2020	AM - 7	11	0
			07.01.2019	AM - 9		
11	Whitethorns Montessori TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK193	Sessional	18.11.2020	AM - 18 PM - 0	22	0
			10.01.2018	AM - 18 PM - 13		



12	Rainbows End Montessori TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK146	Sessional	29.04.2021	AM - 9 PM - 0	9	0
			20.09.2018	AM - 11 PM - 0		
13	Dooradoyle Montessori School TUSLA Ref. TU2016LK004	Sessional	16.11.2018	AM - 17 PM - 0	22	0
			13.05.2021			
14	St. Paul's Montessori School TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK160	Sessional	10.01.2020	AM - 20	22	0
			08.02.2018	AM - 5		
15	Our Lady Queen of Peace Pre School ⁸ TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK138	Sessional	10.02.2020	AM - 14 PM - 13	40	0
			11.05.2018	AM - 16 PM - 15		
16	One World Pre School TUSLA Ref. TU2018LK506	Sessional	22.09.2020	AM - 20 PM - 20	22	0
17	Eleanor's Montessori TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK065	Sessional	21.10.2020	AM - 24	30	0
			10.02.2020	AM - 39 PM - 9		
			24.05.2018	AM - 5 PM - 5		
-	Loyola Montessori	Sessional	11.09.2018	Closed Permanently		
Indicative Childcare Provision					661	166

We note that a number of inspection reports for the facilities in Table 4.2 above were conducted post March 2020 during extraordinary circumstances when the Covid-19 pandemic was declared, therefore, the estimated capacity calculated must be considered against a number of caveats, such as, the possibility of reduced capacity due to the pandemic restrictions to assist infection control. For this reason and because several of the latest TUSLA inspection reports available were published more than a year ago, the respective facilities were contacted to obtain up to date information regarding capacities and the impact of Covid-19 on childcare enrolments. However, it was not possible to retrieve this information due to a lack of response and codes of practice within each facility that dictate against providing such information to the public.

As a result, the inspector's notes from TUSLA inspection reports dated 2018 to 2021 were further analysed to ascertain a predicted estimated AM, PM and Full Day childcare capacity within the foreseeable future when a return to normal scenario is achieved based on past

⁸ This facility might have lesser spaces on offer than calculated due to 20 No. children being registered to the service during the morning hours and 19 No. children being registered in the afternoon hours out of a total capacity of 40 No. childcare spaces at any one time. See column on inspector's notes taken from TUSLA reports.



enrolment patterns and TUSLA inspectors' notes available. See Appendix B of this report for a detailed table containing data recorded for analysis.

Based on our findings, it is predicted that the estimated Full Day Capacity across 17 No. childcare facilities⁹ identified within the Study Area is 25% capacity (i.e., 166 No. childcare spaces) for new enrolments, with additional sessional childcare spaces on offer among the facilities exclusively offering sessional services¹⁰. Thus, the demand generated for childcare spaces (c.18-33 spaces only, see Section 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 below) from this development will very likely be absorbed by the crèche proposed within the subject development as well as existing facilities within the Study Area.

4.2.1 Potential Childcare Uptake

The average number of children per family recorded in the State at that time was 1.38, which is equivalent to 415 No. children (aged 0-18 years) when applied to the 301 No. units of 2-bedrooms or more within the development that can reasonably accommodate families. Of this number, an estimated 109 No. children would be considered preschool age (0-4 years) with respect to the age cohorts recorded for Limerick City and County in 2016¹¹ (see Table 4.2.1).

Age Group	2016 Population	% of Total Cohort
Preschool children (0-4 years)	13,135	26.3%
Primary school children (5-12 years)	21,500	43.1%
Secondary school children (13-18 years)	15,243	30.5%
All children (0-18 years)	49,878	100%

The demographic profile outlined above indicates that some 109 No. Preschool children (0-4 years) will occupy the development once completed. However, if the average rate of non-parental childcare uptake for this age-group in the Mid-West Region (incl. Limerick) is applied (53%, see Figure 4.2.1¹²) to the proposed development population, it is estimated that 58 No. children would be likely to avail of childcare in the area. If the lower average rate of uptake for crèche, Montessori, playgroup and after-school services for the Mid-West Region is applied (28%)¹³, it is estimated that only 31 No. children would be likely to avail of childcare in the area.

⁹ One additional Childcare facility named ADAPT Child and Youth Service has been excluded from this estimation as it offers specialist services for children who have faced domestic abuse.

¹⁰ See Table B within Appendix B of this report for the estimated AM and PM capacities calculated for individual facilities offering sessional services.

¹¹ <https://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/Define.asp?maintable=E3003&PLanguage=0>

¹² QNHS Childcare Module Quarter 3 2016 - Table 3: <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/q-chi/qnhschildcarequarter32016/>

¹³ QNHS Childcare Module Quarter 3 2016 - Table 3: <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/q-chi/qnhschildcarequarter32016/>

Table 3: Types of childcare used by children by school-going status and region, Quarter 3 2016

Type of childcare	Pre-school children								State
	Border	Midland	West	Dublin	Mid-East	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	
Parent / Partner	65	56	59	62	65	51	67	65	62
Unpaid relative or family friend	16	13	18	16	16	16	20	22	17
Paid relative or family friend	2	5	2	3	5	1	4	2	3
Childminder / Au Pair / Nanny	13	18	21	8	13	13	13	12	13
Creche / Montessori / Playgroup / After-school facility	15	14	15	25	14	28	17	16	19
Other	1	<1	<1	1	<1	1	1	1	1
Total pre-school children using non-parental childcare	45	47	49	46	45	53	45	45	46
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	198	136	234	525	244	189	230	316	2,072

Figure 4.2.1: Types of childcare used by status/region (% children) Source: QNHS, Quarter 3 2016, CSO.

4.2.2 Planning Policy Requirements

The *Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2001)* produced by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government require that a new childcare facility be provided for new housing areas, as follows:

“Planning authorities should require the provision of at least one childcare facility for new housing areas unless there are significant reasons to the contrary for example, development consisting of single bed apartments or where there are adequate childcare facilities in adjoining developments. For new housing areas, an average of one childcare facility for each 75 dwellings would be appropriate...”

The threshold for provision should be established having regard to the existing geographical distribution of childcare facilities and the emerging demographic profile of areas.”

[Our emphasis, Section 2.4, p. 5]

As the total proposed development comprises 371 No. unit types which can accommodate families (i.e., 2-bedrooms or more), the *Childcare Guidelines, 2001*, stipulate that planning authorities should require one childcare facility (providing a minimum of 20 No. childcare places) per 75 No. dwellings. On this basis, the proposed development of 301 No. units (1-bedrooms excluded) would be required to provide a childcare facility for approximately 80 No. childcare spaces¹⁴.

However, as the potential childcare uptake of the proposal is likely to only be 31-58 No. places and the local childcare network had indicative capacity of c. 25% capacity (i.e., 166 No. childcare spaces) for new enrolments across 17 No. existing facilities, we submit that the total number of childcare places to be accommodated by this facility could potentially be reduced with respect to the geographical distribution of existing childcare facilities and the emerging demographic profile of the area evidenced by the childcare audit, subject to the agreement of the Planning Authority. We note that a substantial childcare facility of 550 sq. m is proposed to be provided as part of the subject development.

¹⁴ 301 No. units / 75 No. units) x 20 spaces = 80 No. places required

4.3 *Healthcare Services*

The subject site is located within c. 1.5km of University Hospital Limerick (UHL) to the south, which includes the UHL Clinical Education & Research Centre (CERC) and UHL A&E Department. The site is served locally by the HSE Barrack View Primary Care Centre, Shannon Doc Limerick Health Centre and Dooradoyle Health Centre as well as a range of smaller family clinics and GP services.



University Hospital Limerick (UHL)



UHL Clinical Educ. Research Centre (CERC)



HSE Barrack View PCC



Dooradoyle Health Centre

We note that a number of other specialty clinics are also available within the area, such as the HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Shield's Dental & Implant Clinic, and Medmark Occupational Healthcare, as well as a range of supporting pharmacies. The site is also located within c. 1.5km of St. Paul's Nursing Home to the south, which provides residential care services for older and disabled persons within the area.



St. Paul's Nursing Home



Shield's Dental & Implant Clinic

Table 4.3: Healthcare Infrastructure within c. 1.5km radius	
Type	Facilities
Hospitals	University Hospital Limerick (UHL), UHL A&E Department, UHL Clinical Education & Research Centre (CERC)
Health Centres and GP Clinics	HSE Barrack View Primary Care Centre, Shannon Doc Limerick Health Centre, Dooradoyle Health Centre, People's Park Medical Centre, Walk-in Medical Centre, Limerick Doc, Medmark, Lifeline Cardiology Clinic, Dr Margaret Callaghan GP
Specialty Clinics and Pharmacies	HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Crescent Dental, Shields Dental & Implant Clinic Limerick, Specsavers, Rebecca Leahy Optician, Tropical Medical Bureau, Medmark, O'Sullivan's Pharmacy, O'Malley's Pharmacy, Ballinacurra Late Night Pharmacy, Boots
Nursing Homes	Saint Paul's Nursing and Retirement Home

4.4 Community and Social Services

The subject site is supported by a number of local community facilities, including the Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre and West End Youth Centre on Childers Road and the Tait Community Centre and Enterprise Centre on Tait Place. A range of social and civic services are also located within c. 1.5km of the site, including the Limerick Social Service Centre, Limerick City and County Council, and Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership, amongst other charitable services such as the Mid-West Simon Community and Novas Low Income Housing Service. The nearest library facility to the site is the Dooradoyle Branch Library, located c. 5 minutes to the south by car.



Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre



Tait Community Centre



Dooradoyle Branch Library



Limerick City and County Council

Table 4.4: Community and Social Infrastructure within c. 1.5km radius	
Type	Facilities
Community Centres	Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre and the West End Youth Centre, Tait Community Centre, Scout Hall
Social Services	Limerick Social Service Centre, Limerick City and County Council (Limerick County Hall), Limerick County Motor Tax Office, Department of Public Health, Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership, Tait Community Enterprise Centre
Charities and other Support Services	Novas (Low Income Housing Service), PALLs (Education and Training Centre for Probation Clients), Irish Red Cross, Mid-West Simon Community, St. Vincent de Paul, Midwest Rape Crisis Centre, ADAPT Domestic Abuse Services
Libraries	Dooradoyle Branch Library, Limerick County Library Headquarters

4.5 Arts and Cultural Facilities

Cultural facilities located within c. 1.5km of the proposed development include the Lime Tree Theatre within Mary Immaculate College MIC and the Omniplex Cinema Limerick within Crescent Shopping Centre, as well as a number of significant facilities in the city centre to the north such as Limerick City Gallery of Art, the Limerick Arts and Culture Office (Culture House) and the historic Leamy House. Limerick City Community Radio also operates from the Tait Community Centre to the northeast of the site, with smaller arts facilities such as Limerick Youth Theatre and the Limerick School of Acting also identified within the area.



Lime Tree Theatre (MIC)



Omniplex Cinema Limerick

Table 4.5: Arts and Cultural Infrastructure within c. 1.5km radius	
Type	Facilities
Arts and Cultural Facilities	Lime Tree Theatre (Mary Immaculate College), Omniplex Cinema Limerick, Limerick Arts and Culture Office (Culture House), Leamy House, Limerick City Gallery of Art, Limerick City Community Radio, Limerick Youth Theatre, Limerick School of Acting, Peter Dee Academy of Music

4.6 Religious and Burial Facilities

A range of religious organisations were also identified within the local community, such as the Our Lady of Lourdes Church to the east of the proposed development site, the Limerick

Islamic Cultural Centre and St. Paul’s Catholic Church to the south in Dooradoyle and the World Christian Outreach Centre to the north. Burial grounds within the area include Friend’s Burial Ground (Punches Cross) and Mungret Monastery Graveyard.



Our Lady of Lourdes Church



World Christian Outreach Centre

Table 4.6: Religious Infrastructure within c. 1.5km radius	
Type	Facilities
Churches and other Religious Institutions	Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Church of the Redemptionists, Elevate Community Church, Limerick Islamic Cultural Centre, St. Paul's Church, World Outreach Christian Centre, St. Joseph's Church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Daughters of Charity, UHL Chapel, St. Michael's Church (Limerick City Parish), Sacred Heart Church, Kilrush Church Ruins, Mungret Monastery Ruins
Burial Grounds	Friends' Burial Ground, Mungret Monastery Graveyard

4.7 Open Space, Sport and Recreation

The proposed development site is supported by a number of existing parks and recreational grounds within c. 1.5km, including Limerick Greyhound Stadium which adjoins the site to the north. Other playing pitches and grounds identified include the Catholic Institute Athletics Club (CIAC), Summerville Rovers FC and Ballinacurra Gaels GAA Club to the east near Portland Park. Other public park facilities were also identified at Dooradoyle Park to the south and People’s Park to the northeast in Limerick City Centre, as well as the natural areas of Westfield Wetlands and Bunlicky Lake to the north and west of the site. The playground facilities of Our Lady of Lourdes Playground and Mungret Playground are also available to local residents.



Limerick Greyhound Stadium



Catholic Institute Athletics Club (CIAC)



Summerville Rovers FC (Portland Park)



Gough Park

A range of other sports centres and gym facilities are also located within c. 1.5km of the site, including the Dooradoyle Leisure Club to the south, Crossfit and King’s Gym to the east and the Club Vitae Health and Fitness Centre (incl. swimming pool) to the east in Roxboro. We note that no recreational opportunities related to food growing such as community gardens, farms or allotments were identified within the immediate area. See Figure 4.3 overleaf for location of existing open space and recreational amenities in the vicinity of the site.

Table 4.7: Open Space and Recreational Infrastructure within c. 1.5km radius	
Type	Facilities
Parks, Playgrounds and Open Space (selected)	Portland Park, Dooradoyle Park, Gough Park, Tom Clifford Park, Sarsfield Park/Barrack’s Field, People’s Park Limerick, Ted Russell Park, Caledonian Park, Jackman Park, Hyde Road Park, Clarina Park, Mungret Park, Bunlicky Lake, Westfields Wetlands, Barrington’s Pier, Our Lady of Lourdes Playground, Mungret Playground
Sports Grounds and Golf Courses	Pearse Stadium, Limerick Greyhound Stadium, Catholic Institute Athletics Club, Summerville Rovers FC, Ballinacurra Gaels GAA Club, Old Christians GAA Club, Garrytown FC, Young Munster RFC, Old Crescent RFC, CIE Sports and Social Club, Carew Park AFC
Sports Centres and Gyms	Dooradoyle Leisure Club, Crossfit, King’s Gym, Club Vitae Health and Fitness, St. Gabriel’s Hydrotherapy Pool

4.8 Retail Centres and Services

The proposed development site is located c. 1.5km south of Limerick City Centre, which is a key economic driver and the primary commercial area for Co. Limerick. Unfortunately, this area was not performing at the top of the retail hierarchy adequately to maintain its ‘Level 1 – City Centre’ status in the previous *Retail Strategy for the Mid-West Region 2010-2016*, due to the loss of trade to other suburban locations and has been identified for improvement in the *Limerick-Shannon MASP* of the current RSES¹⁵.

Retail centres of this scale should provide a full range of retail services (comparison and convenience) and a high level of mixed uses including arts and cultural facilities. It is an objective of the *Limerick-Shannon MASP* to prepare a Joint Retail Strategy for the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines, within one year of the adoption of the RSES/MASP, which came into effect on 31 January 2020. A Draft Limerick City and Council -Retail Strategy for Limerick – Shannon Metropolitan Area and County Limerick 2022-2028 has been issued in June 2021, for which the public consultation stage has closed and submissions are under review by the Limerick City and County Council.

The *Limerick City Development Plan 2010 – 2016 (as extended)* indicates that the Crescent Shopping Centre in Dooradoyle is the only Tier 2 - Level 1 Retail Centre in the Metropolitan Area, which is located within c. 1.5km of the proposed development site to the south. The main components of the centre are the Crescent Shopping Centre, Limerick County Council buildings and a public library. The Crescent Shopping Centre functions as a major retail destination for the Mid-West region.



Crescent Shopping Centre



Racefield Centre

There are also a number of local retail centres in the Southern Environs in proximity to the proposed development site, including Racefield Centre at Father Russell Road and Dooradoyle Road Neighbourhood Centre at Sluggary as well as the Courtfields Shopping Centre and Ballycummin Neighbourhood Centre further to the south. The nearest substantial supermarket to the subject site is the Lidl on Rosbrien Road, located c. 1km (c. 5-minutes’ drive) by road to the east.

Table 4.8: Retail Services Infrastructure within c. 1.5km radius	
Type	Facilities
Shopping and Retail Centres	Crescent Shopping Centre, Racefield Centre, Dooradoyle Road Neighbourhood Centre

¹⁵ *Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031 (RSES)* for the Southern Regional Assembly (SRA)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Others within c. 2km: Courtfields Shopping Centre, Ballycummin Neighbourhood Centre
Supermarkets and Greengrocers	Tesco (x2), Lidl, Aldi, Good Foods, Gala (x2), Bobby Byrne's, Cheong Heng Hon Oriental Supermarket, Khan Supermarket, Rahee Food Stores, Sami Swol Polish Food Store
Convenience Shops (selected)	Centra (x3), Spar (x2), Costcutter, Daybreak, King's, Tricia's, Paper View, Polonez, Sean O'Brien, Topaz, Maxol
Other Retail Services (selected)	Dooradoyle Post Office, Henry Street Post Office, O'Connell Avenue Post Office, Ulster Bank, EBS, Affinity Credit Union Limited

5.0 CONCLUSION

The proposed development site comprises c. 10.5 hectares of primarily zoned residential land on the grounds of the former Greenpark Racecourse, located c. 2km to the south of Limerick City Centre. The proposed development will comprise some 371 No. units in a mix of houses, duplexes and apartments including 70 No. 1-bedroom, 167 No. 2-bedroom, 124 No. 3-bedroom and 10 No. 4-bedroom units, along with supporting residential amenities.

The demographic profile of the local area (i.e., age, education, and economic status) was largely consistent with the rest of Ireland in 2016 and appears to be growing at a similar rate as the rest of Limerick City and County Council (c. 2% increase from 2011-2016). Population projections for Limerick provided by the RSES also estimate that an additional 51,000-61,500 No. people will need to be accommodated within the local authority by 2031.

Most residents were 'Adults' between the ages of 25-64 (55%), followed by 'Older Adults' (65+ years) and 'Primary' children (5-12 years) at 11%. We note that a large proportion of the population aged 15 years or older within the study area had completed 'Third Level Education' courses in 2016 (44%), with an additional 13% in possession of 'Postgraduate' qualifications. Over half of this population (aged 15 years or older) were 'At Work' (56%) or 'Retired' (13%) at the time of the Census.

We note that the 'Older Adults' and 'Primary' school population cohorts demonstrated a significant increase from 2011-2016, c. 20% and 17% respectively, while the 'Young Adults' cohort declined by 21%. This indicates that a higher proportion of community facilities may be required for the working population and retired persons at this time than other demographic groups.

As the number of 'Primary' school children residing in the area has also increased, additional playground facilities and other recreational amenities for young children are likely to be desired. However, the current population figures do not account for the development capacity of additional zoned land within the study area and potential population growth arising from future developments.

With respect to the range of community facilities identified in the study area (comprising a c. 1.5km radius from the site), there is a sufficient provision of existing social infrastructure within c. 10-minutes' drive to support the proposed development. The subject site is served by an existing schools' network of 7 No. primary schools and 5 No. post-primary schools, as well as 17 No. existing childcare facilities within c. 1.5km of the proposed development which held an estimated 25% capacity (i.e., 166 No. childcare spaces) for new enrolments at the time of the survey.

There is an adequate supply of community and cultural facilities, religious institutions, health care services (incl. University Hospital Limerick) within a reasonable distance of the subject lands, as well as a range of sports and recreational facilities (incl. children's play areas) to serve the growing population. The site's proximity to Limerick City Centre to the north and Crescent Shopping Centre to the south also ensures an appropriate quantum of retail services for future residents.

On the basis of this audit, potential gaps in the existing social infrastructure serving the catchment area are limited to a broader range of cultural facilities (such as museums, music



venues and art galleries) and specialty recreation amenities such as food-growing allotments and community gardens. Additional playground facilities may also be desirable for the growing primary school population within the area. We note that the proposed development scheme includes a range of supporting residential open spaces and pedestrian links, as well as a 550 sq. m childcare facility, which will positively contribute to the amenity of the study area once completed.



Appendix A: Description of Development

Voyage Property Limited intend to apply to An Bord Pleanála (the Board) for permission for a strategic housing development with a total application site area of c.10.5 ha (with a substantive residential site development area of c.7.9 ha), on lands at the former Greenpark Racecourse, Dock Road, Limerick, principally bounded by existing undeveloped lands to the north, south and west and the adjoining Log na gCapall Housing Estate and Greenpark Avenue to the east. The application site includes the proposed access road (374m in length, including two lanes for vehicles, a roundabout, cycle lanes and pedestrian footpath) which connects to Dock Road at the north-western corner of the former Greenpark Racecourse lands and runs adjacent to the Limerick Greyhound Stadium.

The development with a total gross floor area of c. 36, 879 sq m will consist of the provision of 371 no. residential units comprising 157 no. two storey houses (consisting of 10 no. 4 bedroom units, 110 no. 3 bedroom units and 37 no. 2 bedroom units); 76 no. three storey duplex units (consisting of 14 no. 3 bedroom units, 38 no. 2 bedroom units and 24 no. 1 bedroom units) and 138 no. apartments (consisting of 92 no. 2 bedroom units and 46 no. 1 bedroom units arranged in 3 no. blocks ranging between 4 and 5 storeys together with communal amenity space) and a two storey childcare facility (550 sq m), including all private, communal and public open space provision (including balconies and terraces to be provided on to front and rear elevations, private rear gardens and related play areas); surface car parking (510 no. spaces in total, including accessible spaces); car sharing provision; electric vehicle charging points; bicycle parking (long and short stay spaces including secure stands); storage areas; internal roads and pathways; hard and soft landscaping and boundary treatments; piped infrastructural services and connections; plant; revised entrances and tie-in arrangements to adjoining roads, including emergency access via Log na gCapall and Greenpark Avenue and pedestrian and cyclist access via Log na gCapall; waste management provision; solar panels; attenuation tank and related SUDS measures; signage; public lighting; bulk earthworks; and all site development and excavation works above and below ground. Vehicular access to the site will be from Dock Road, via the proposed access road.

Appendix B: Childcare Facilities Audit – Survey Record – September 2021

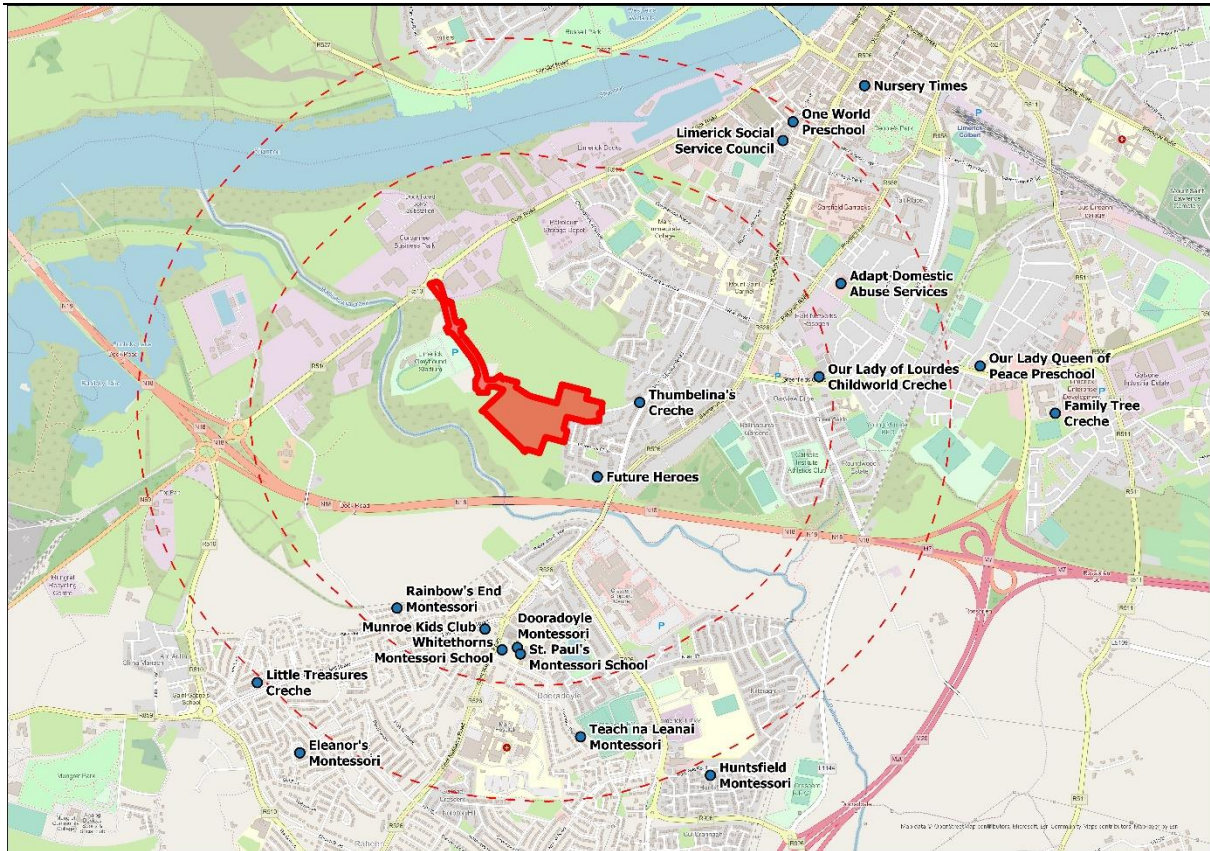


Figure A: Indicative location of existing childcare facilities (shown in blue) within study area. Indicative 1km and 1.5km radius from subject site provided in red dash. Source: TUSLA/TPA, 2021. See Table B overleaf for survey details.



Table A - Childcare Facilities Audit - c. 1.5km Study Area									
No.	Facility Name	Type	Insp. Date	Inspector's Notes ¹⁶	Inspection Enrolment ¹⁷	Maximum Capacity ¹⁸	Estimated AM Capacity ¹⁹	Estimated PM Capacity ²⁰	Estimated Full Day Capacity ²¹
1	Thumbelina's Creche TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK178	Full Day	02.09.2020	-	AM - 34 PM - 27	46	12	19	12
			13.02.2019	-	AM -49 PM -46				
2	Future Heroes Childcare ²² TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK075	Full Day	03.05.2019	-	AM - 24 PM - 16	44	20	28	20
			11.03.2019	42 children presently registered to the service. Up to 32 school aged children catered for in the afternoon.	AM - 26 PM - 19				
3	Childworld Creche TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK045	Full Day	02.12.2020	Maximum capacity for approximately 80 preschool children.	AM - 52 PM - 39	80	28	41	28
			22.02.2018	Can cater for up to 82 children	AM - 32 PM - 32				

¹⁶ Inspector's notes in relation to registration/capacity of the service, service timings, impact of COVID-19, or notice of closure were only included in this report where available from the TUSLA inspection reports available for each facility.

¹⁷ Data within this column indicates attendance recorded on the day of inspection as per the TUSLA inspection reports available at: <https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/creche-inspection-reports/>

¹⁸ Data within this column represents the maximum number of children the service can accommodate as per the TUSLA Register of Early Years Services for Limerick dated July 2021, available at: <https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/list-of-pre-school-services-by-county/>.

¹⁹ The AM capacity reflects the indicative number of childcare spaces available at each facility within the morning hours. This capacity was calculated by finding the difference between Maximum Capacity within that facility and the AM Inspection Enrolment figure recorded during the most recent available TUSLA Inspection Report.

²⁰ The PM capacity reflects the indicative number of childcare spaces available at each facility within the morning hours. This capacity was calculated by finding the difference between Maximum Capacity within that facility and the PM Inspection Enrolment figure recorded during the most recent available TUSLA Inspection Report.

²¹ The Full Day Capacity estimation represents the lower capacity calculated among facilities offering Full Day services. The services offering sessional services have been excluded from this calculation.

²² This facility might have lesser spaces on offer than calculated due to 42 No. children being registered to the service out of a total capacity of 44 No. childcare spaces at any one time. See column on inspector's notes taken from TUSLA reports.



4	Munroe Kids Club TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK127	Full Day	09.09.2020	Caters for a maximum of 44 children.	AM - 21 PM - 17	44	23	27	23
			14.06.2018	Caters for a maximum of 44 children.	AM - 38 PM - 24				
5	Limerick Social Service Council Early Years' Service TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK106	Full Day	04.02.2021	-	AM - 10 PM - 10	50	40	40	40
			01.11.2018	Can cater for up to 50 children.	AM - 42 PM - 23				
6	Family Tree Creche (Limerick Enterprise Dev. Partnership) TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK069	Full Day	05.05.2021	-	AM - 40 PM - 33	66	26	33	26
			12.11.2019	-	AM - 43 PM - 34				
7	Nursery Times TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK135	Full Day	07.09.2020	Maximum capacity for approximately 50 preschool children.	AM - 35 PM - 0	52	17	52	17
			11.05.2018	Maximum capacity for approximately 50 preschool children.	AM - 41 PM - 43				
8	Little Treasures Creche TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK115	Full Day	09.05.2019	Caters for a maximum of 95 preschool children 60 after school children.	AM - 95 PM - 76	95	0	19	0
9	Huntsfield Montessori TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK086	Sessional	18.05.2021	Caters for a maximum of 6 children. Operates from 8.45am to 11:45am and 12.15pm to 15.15pm.	AM - 6 PM - 6	6	0	0	0
			29.01.2018	Caters for a maximum of 6 children.	AM - 6 PM - 5				



10	Teach Na Leanai Montessori TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK173	Sessional	03.03.2020	Can cater for up to 16 children. Operates from 9am to 12pm.	AM - 7	11	4	0	0
			07.01.2019	Can cater for up to 16 children.	AM - 9				
11	Whitethorns Montessori TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK193	Sessional	18.11.2020	Caters for a maximum of 22 children. Operates from 9am to 12pm.	AM - 18 PM - 0	22	4	0	0
			10.01.2018	Caters for a maximum of 44 children.	AM - 18 PM - 13				
12	Rainbows End Montessori TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK146	Sessional	29.04.2021	Operates 9:30am to 12:30pm.	AM - 9 PM - 0	9	0	0	0
			20.09.2018	-	AM - 11 PM - 0				
13	Dooradoyle Montessori School TUSLA Ref. TU2016LK004	Sessional	16.11.2018	Operates 9am to 12pm.	AM - 17 PM - 0	22	5	0	0
			13.05.2021	Not published yet.					
14	St. Paul's Montessori School TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK160	Sessional	10.01.2020	Operates 9am to 12pm.	AM - 20	22	2	0	0
			08.02.2018	-	AM - 5				
15	Our Lady Queen of Peace Pre School²³ TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK138	Sessional	10.02.2020	20 registered in the morning session and 19 registered to the afternoon session.	AM - 14 PM - 13	40	26	27	0

²³ This facility might have lesser spaces on offer than calculated due to 20 No. children being registered to the service during the morning hours and 19 No. children being registered in the afternoon hours out of a total capacity of 40 No. childcare spaces at any one time. See column on inspector's notes taken from TUSLA reports.



			11.05.2018	40 preschool children registered.	AM - 16 PM - 15				
16	One World Pre School TUSLA Ref. TU2018LK506	Sessional	22.09.2020	Caters for a maximum of 22 children.	AM - 20 PM - 20	22	2	2	0
17	Eleanor's Montessori TUSLA Ref. TU2015LK065	Sessional	21.10.2020	Operates 9am to 12pm.	AM - 24	30	6	0	0
			10.02.2020	Childminding service for 5 children who remain in the service until 5 pm.	AM - 39 PM - 9				
			24.05.2018	Caters for a maximum of 5 preschool children.	AM - 5 PM - 5				
-	Loyola Montessori	Sessional	11.09.2018	Closed Permanently					
Indicative Childcare Provision						661	215	288	166