Public Housing in Limerick:
A Profile of Tenants and Estates

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Background to the Research

Housing Tenure and Poverty
- Nationally, strong association between renting from the local authority and both income poverty and material deprivation
- Locally, areas with high levels of renting from City Council display high levels of disadvantage e.g., high levels of early school leaving and unemployment

Limerick City Tenants Profile
- Objective: "a comprehensive, socio-demographic, income and spatial profile of the tenants of Limerick City Council"
- Particular focus on income poverty

Main Elements of the Research
- An analysis of the socio-economic characteristics of tenants / tenant households
- Interviews with key informants on housing and poverty in Limerick

Rent Assessment Records
- Available for households renting under the differential rents scheme
- In total 2,460 households are included (88 per cent of the total renting), containing 6,439 residents
At-Risk by Labour Market Status
(60% threshold, persons aged 15 years and over)

At-Risk by Income Source
(60% threshold, all income recipients)

Issues on the Estates

Anti-Social Behaviour
- Major issue in local authority estates
- Associated problem of intimidation
- Concomitant decline in community spirit, neighbourliness and involvement

Other Issues
- Environmental degradation
- Access to services and amenities
- Housing policy:
  - Concentration of social groups
  - Impact of the Rent Supplement Scheme
Conclusions

• Income poverty is both pervasive and profound among LCC tenant households
• Certain groups and areas show a particularly high risk of poverty
• Spatial concentration of the poor is exacerbated by estate-specific problems
• Need for a multi-agency response