

The Menu: Community co-op a welcome addition to Limerick's food scene

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By Joe McNamee

Community enterprise

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suppliers, within six months, membership had grown to almost 100. Next stage was a shop, open for six hours a week on Fridays and Saturdays, as product lines began to expand. Five years on, with a membership of over 1,000, the new shop carries a wide range of mostly organic produce, including fruit, vegetables, dairy and local meat, along with a range for those on special diets including gluten- and dairy-free. Sourcing directly from over 70 local suppliers and working with farmers to influence demand and trends, it is the ideal iteration of a local food enterprise, most especially as it also maintains a heavy focus on environmental awareness and zero waste living, including a large 'bulk-buy' section and several brands use fully compostable packaging. www.theurbanco-op.ie