



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil an Chláir
Clare Local Community Development
Committee



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

CLARE LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN 2024-2030



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<https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/local-economic-and-community-plan-24-30>



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Summary

1. This is the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for Clare covering the period 2024 to 2030. It has been jointly prepared by the Clare Local Community Development Committee and the Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee of Clare County Council.

2. The preparation of this Plan is based upon the National LECP Guidelines 2021 for the preparation of local economic and community plans. Its preparation involved extensive consultation with the many bodies and agencies responsible for public services in Clare, and the community, voluntary and business sectors of Clare.

3. A survey of the people of Clare was undertaken by the LCDC as part of the preparation of this Plan and has been published separately in its own right and is available at the following link [clare-survey-2023-53240.pdf](#) (clarecoco.ie)

4. A Community Engagement Pilot project focused on supporting LCDCs and local Stakeholders to develop strategies that meaningfully engage marginalised groups in the LECP was delivered in collaboration with Clare PPN, Clare Local Development Company, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board LCETB and Clare County Council. The Pilot has informed the development of the LECP with a Case Study on the pilot available under separate cover in the Department's gov.ie - A Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making ([www.gov.ie](#))

5. Further consultation with the wider communities of Clare, as well as key sectors in the County including older persons, youth and young people, business and agriculture sectors and the County's minority ethnic communities was undertaken as the Plan was prepared. These consultations are reflected throughout the LECP.

6. The LECP's preparation was directed by an Advisory Steering Group, which consisted of representatives of the Local Community Development Committee and the Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee.

7. The LECP is required to be consistent with the Southern Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2020-2032 and the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

8. Following extensive consultation, the LECP sets out six High-Level Goals for the County, which are further defined through targeted objectives to provide for the direction of the County's development over the years 2024 to 2030, with implementation to be achieved through individual strategic actions on a 2-year rolling basis during that period.

9. The Plan states its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It meets all 17 of the Goals following application of a UN assessment process made available to the Advisory Steering Group. The Plan has also been subjected to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Article 6 Appropriate Assessment as required under both Irish and European Union Regulations and Directives.

Introduction by Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council



JOE COONEY
JOE COONEY
CATHAOIRLEACH,
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

On behalf of the Elected Members of Clare County Council, I welcome the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2030 for County Clare, an integrated community and economic framework for our county for the next six years. This plan, which contains six high level goals, represents the commitment of the LCDC, this Council and its key partners to provide leadership towards achieving our shared vision for Clare.

The objectives and actions contained within will guide economic and community development in the County and act as a key reference document for all publicly funded bodies and groups operating in County Clare who will be working collaboratively for the benefit of County Clare. As Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, I look forward to witnessing the positive impact of our collective actions towards the sustainable growth of our economy and communities.

Overview by Chief Officer of the Local Community Development Committee



Bernadette Haugh
BERNADETTE HAUGH,
CHIEF OFFICER, CLARE LCDC

As Chief Officer supporting the LCDC, it has been encouraging to see the level of engagement from the public and local stakeholders throughout the Plan's development with a collaborative, consultative and participative bottom-up approach intrinsic to the process. I would like to acknowledge the work of the Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) under the initial lead of the LECP Advisory Steering Group which has shaped the development of the integrated Economic and Community elements of the plan. This LECP positions County Clare as an economic driver to sustain investment and create sustainable livelihoods, ensuring quality of life and an equitable diverse society, while also safeguarding our natural and built environment. I am confident that by working together we can action the delivery of this Local Economic & Community Plan and improve quality of life for Clare communities.



CLLR. GERRY FLYNN
CHAIR LOCAL COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**Foreword by the Chairperson of the
Local Community Development Committee,
Cllr. Gerry Flynn; the Chairperson of the Economic
Development Strategic Policy Committee,
Cllr. Pat McMahon; and the Chairperson of the
LECP Advisory Steering Group, Mr. Paul Patton.**

It has been a great honour for us to be in the key positions of Chair of the Clare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), Chair of the Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee and Chair of the LECP Advisory Steering Group during the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan for Clare.

The members of both the LCDC and the Economic SPC, have embraced the responsibility bestowed on them by statute in developing this strategic plan for Clare. We would like to acknowledge the work of the LECP Advisory Steering Group which has reviewed and contributed to shaping the plan's progression in meeting the needs and ambitions of all contributors to the LECP process. Additional representation on the LECP Advisory Steering Group from Clare PPN, the Climate Action Team and Clare Libraries provided welcome expertise in the development process. The LCDC and the Economic SPC were heartened by the vibrant response from members of the public, business sector, public sector, community, and voluntary sector and all who participated in the iterative process in developing this LECP. This demonstrates the desire of the people of Clare to seek the best for its community and influence our journey towards a sustainable future for all.

Clare communities have proven their resilience in responding to a world epidemic and have also supported Ukrainian refugees in the most difficult of circumstances. In the face of a climate and energy crisis, this LECP sets out a collaborative road map to deliver actions across the six identified high-level goals.

As Chair of the LCDC, Economic SPC and Advisory Steering Group we would like to sincerely thank all those who have participated in this process to date as we look forward to further working with the people, place, and potential our county offers, towards achieving our vision of County Clare, as a place to be part of and proud of.



CLLR. PAT MCMAHON
CHAIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE



PAUL PATTON
CHAIR LECP ADVISORY
STEERING GROUP



MR. PAT DOWLING,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**A Message from the Chief Executive
of Clare County Council**

The Clare Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2030 sets out a strategy and vision for the development of County Clare over the next six years. This plan, which is the culmination of extensive consultation with communities and organisations throughout the County, seeks to ensure that County Clare thrives as a vibrant, prosperous, sustainable and inclusive place in which to live, work, and invest. This plan contains six high-level goals informed by public consultation, socio-economic analysis and extensive collaboration with relevant stakeholders to identify the key needs of the County, including housing, transport, infrastructure and access to healthcare.

The socio-economic analysis leaves us under no illusions that while we have many strengths and opportunities as a county, there are also challenges and threats, some outside of our control, that will impact the implementation of this LECP. The goals and objectives in this document set out an ambitious plan and roadmap for County Clare to 2030. The strategic actions in the associated implementation plan will enable us to address any challenges and embrace every opportunity that will come our way over the lifetime of this LECP. I am optimistic that the Council, working in collaboration with its stakeholders, will continue to build on our county's development success to date by supporting the local and economic development of our communities in Clare.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the Clare Local Community Development Committee, the Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee and all the statutory and non-statutory bodies, community, and voluntary organisations, and the public who gave of their time and ideas in the preparation of the Clare Local Economic & Community Plan - Your County, Your Vision, Clare's Future.

Appropriate Assessment

The assessment of potential adverse effects of a plan or project on Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. These sites are protected by both National and European Law.

Central Statistics Office

The National Agency in Ireland for collecting socio-economic data, most notably census data, normally every five years.

County Development Plan

The main planning policy document in every Irish local Authority.

Local Authority

Local authorities are multi-purpose bodies responsible for delivering a broad range of services in relation to roads; traffic; planning; housing; economic and community development; environment, recreation and amenity services; fire services and maintaining the register of electors.

Land Development Agency

National Agency established to deliver large scale housing development on public lands.

Marine Planning

A planning process newly established in Ireland to oversee development of Ireland's marine areas especially for marine protection and development of renewable offshore energy.

Nature Based Solutions Processes

to facilitate mitigation of negative developments on the local environment.

Natural Heritage Areas

European and Irish regulations applicable to high value designated heritage areas.

Natura Impact Report

An assessment report addressing application of European and National Assessment of impacts on designated areas.

National Planning Framework

The national planning policy adopted by the Government of Ireland and applicable to local and regional planning processes.

Offshore Renewable Energy

Energy generated from marine based activities and based on renewable resources.

Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy

Regional Assembly Planning and Economic Policy which is applicable to local planning and economic development processes.

Renewed Clare Rural Development Strategy 2030

A Policy to support rural renewal in County Clare prepared by the Clare Rural Development Forum.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

A national government fund that supports rural renewal under the National Development Plan.

Sustainable

As defined by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Special Area of Conservation

European and Irish regulations applicable to high-value designated environmental areas.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

European and Irish regulations applicable to the assessment of policies and plans.

Southern Regional Assembly

The spatial and economic planning authority for the southern counties and cities of Ireland.

The Duty

The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty is a statutory obligation for public bodies including Local Authorities.

1. Introduction

Clare Local Community Development Committee, in conjunction with the Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee of Clare County Council, have prepared this Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for County Clare. This LECP sets out, for a six-year period, the high-level goals, objectives, and strategic actions that are required to identify, promote, and support the socio-economic development of the County, through the efforts of the LCDC, its partners and other key stakeholders in Clare. This LECP provides a platform for the County with a six-year roadmap that will directly impact the needs of those who live, work, and recreate in the County. It also provides a roadmap for both local and national government, together with local stakeholders, to target their own initiatives, programmes, and projects to support an improved quality of life for the people living and working in the County.

1.1 Plan Development

Preparation of this LECP has been directed by the Local Economic and Community Plan Guidelines 2021, issued by the Minister for Rural and Community Development in meeting her statutory responsibilities under the Local Government Reform Act of 2014. The development of this LECP, prescribed by Guidelines, is informed by the overall vision for Local Government as set out in Putting People First: Action Programme for Effective Local Government which calls for all Local Authorities "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities".

The LECP Guidelines (2021) state that the plan preparation process should consist of two parts including:

- a) the development of an overall LECP framework for Clare, detailing the High-Level Goals and Sustainable Community and Economic Objectives and;
- b) The development of Implementation Plans, on a two-yearly basis, to detail the inputs, actions and resources required for that implementation plan period as well as relevant specific key performance indicators to facilitate evaluation.

The LECP sits alongside the existing policy for County Clare and is consistent with the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029, the aim of which is to enhance economic and social development across the County. The LECP also seeks to forge stronger links between the various public services operating in Clare and with national policymaking across the whole of government in Ireland.

The LECP is, therefore, an important tool to support the implementation of national and regional policy on economic development and local/community development as specified in the national legislation and related Guidelines. The Plan has to comply, as relevant, with various legislation¹, policies, plans and programmes. Actions arising from the Plan will demonstrate compliance with the environmental protection measures in the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029, as varied, and the SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report that accompanies same.

1.2 Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning

Under the dormant accounts funded project to enhance Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) capacity to engage marginalised groups in Local Economic and Community planning processes, Clare was selected as one of four counties to undertake engagement pilot projects. The aim of the pilot in Clare was to achieve meaningful participation of marginalised groups in the LECP process. The diagram below incorporates the principles for community engagement which were a keystone to the work carried out by Clare Public Participation Network (PPN) which led out on the Clare Pilot in conjunction with Clare Local Development Company (CLDC), Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) and Clare County Council. Further information on this pilot is provided in Chapter 3.

¹ The applicable legislation includes the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive Article 6(3) Assessment which is an assessment of the potential effects of a land use plan or project on one or more Natura 2000 (N2K) Sites. The Habitats Directive and the requirements of Article 6(3) have been transposed in Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended). The other principle legislation includes the provisions of Annex II of the SEA Directive - which is reproduced in Schedule 2A to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as inserted by Article 12 of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004. The SEA and AA are set out in separate documents as required by the regulations.



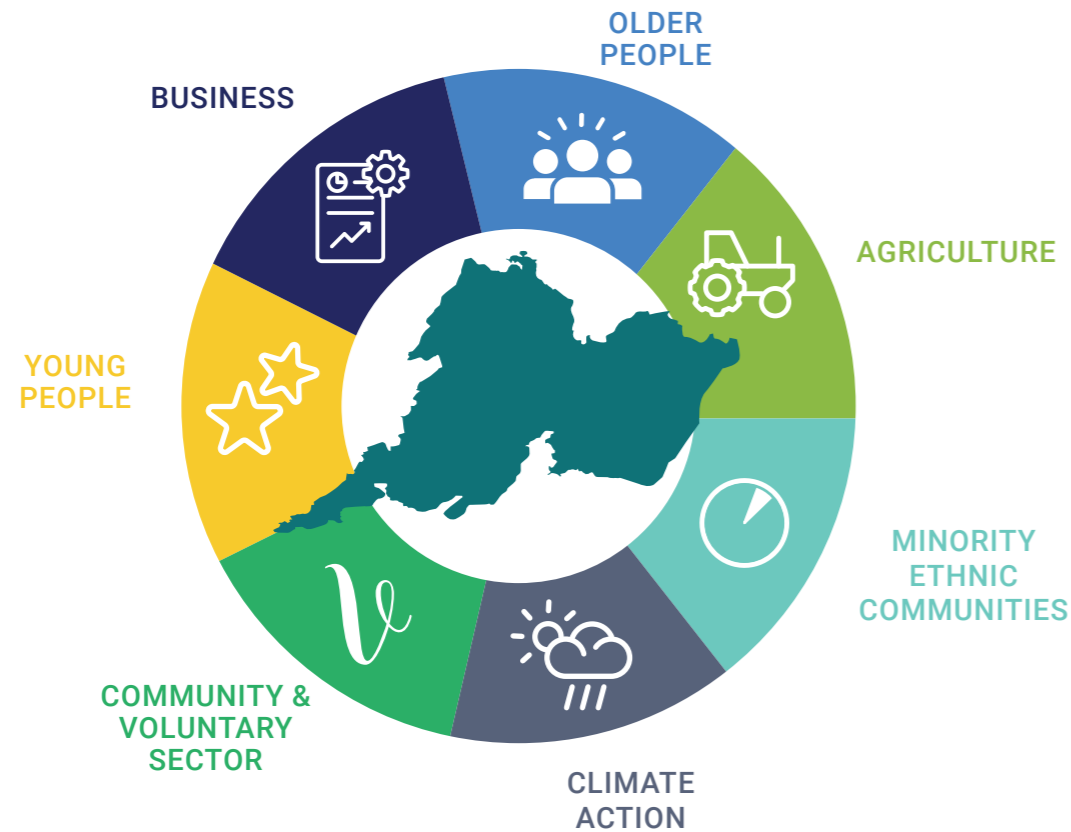
1.3 Applicable Policy Overview

1.3.1 Compliance with existing policy framework

In setting the high-level goals for the LECP, alignment with regional and local policies have been addressed with particular alignment to the statutory Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, while other non-statutory local plans have also been considered in the context of the development of the LECP.

1.3.2 Data Gaps

The preparation of the LECP is also informed by Census 2022 and the Annual Statistic Report of the Department of Social Protection.



Certain data gaps have been identified in the LECP process and consequently, the Clare Survey, first initiated in 2018, has been updated and reimagined to assist and build upon data gaps not addressed in granular detail by Census 2022. The updated Clare Survey 2023 is based on a countywide, independently prepared, public survey and is published separately to this LECP Framework. The Survey is available at the following link clare-survey-2023-53240.pdf (clarecoco.ie)

Additional direct sectoral surveying was undertaken with:

- i) The Business Sector
- ii) The Agricultural Sector
- iii) Minority Ethnic Communities
- iv) Youth and young people
- v) Older people

Preparation of the Framework Plan, the critical component of the LECP, was also informed by related policy preparation of the County's Climate Action Plan and the Clare Library Strategy.

1.4 Implementation of the LECP

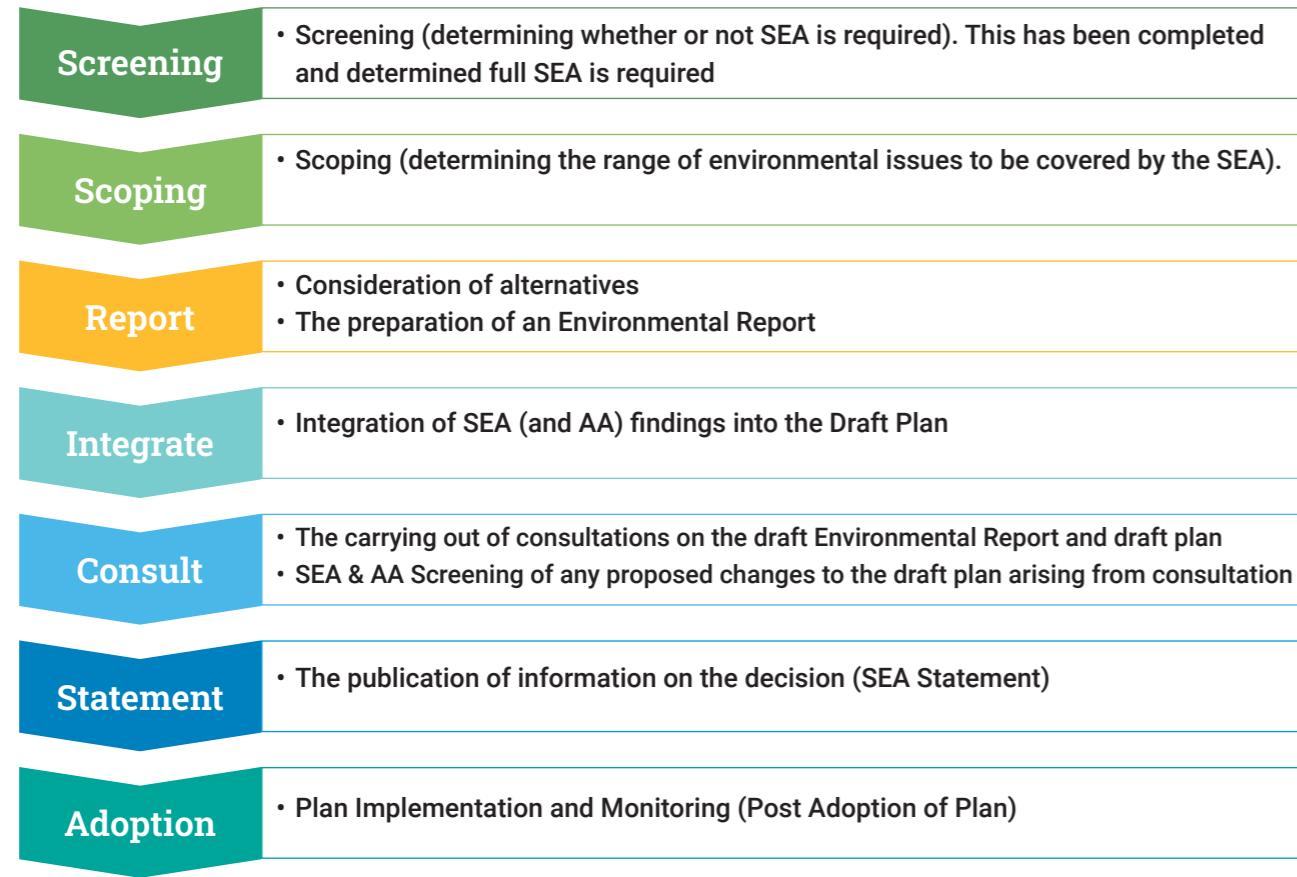
The LECP provides six high-level goals underpinned, in each case, by six detailed objectives and associated strategic actions. These actions have been identified through inter-agency workshops with a focus on providing the capacity at local level to deliver desired outcomes for the County. These actions will be at the heart of an implementation process and will cover the 6 years of the Plan. The LECP provides for an initial two-year programme for implementation of prioritised actions. The succeeding 2-year programmes will be based on the monitoring and evaluation process set out in Chapter 6 under the oversight of the Advisory Steering Group.

1.5 SEA/AA Statements

1.5.1 SEA Summary

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the process by which environmental considerations are required to be fully integrated into the preparation of plans and programmes prior to their final adoption. The objectives of SEA are to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to promote sustainable development. The Clare LECP was subject to Screening for SEA and determined that due to likely significant effects and potential effects on Natura 2000 sites under the Habitats Directive Assessment, that full SEA and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was required.

The SEA process required a number of key stages as outlined below. Following the SEA Screening, a SEA Scoping report was issued to statutory consultees seeking submissions on the scope and extent of the SEA. Responses have informed the current stage of the SEA – the preparation of the SEA Environmental Report. This is the key consultation document of the SEA process and was put on display along with the Clare LECP and the accompanying Natura Impact Statement. The steps involved in SEA are as follows:



The SEA process is iterative; initial and emerging goals and objectives were assessed, and recommendations made to improve environmental performance as relevant. The SEA ER identifies alternatives to be considered (Chapter 6 of the SEA ER), and assessment of the significant environmental effects of the LECP.

For many of the goals and objectives, positive impacts are identified as they relate primarily to capacity building, education, access, inclusion and training. A number are identified as generating potential land use effects, and in this instance mitigation in the form of existing protection measures in the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 would apply. The LECP must be consistent with the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

1.5.2 Summary Natura Impact Statement

A Natura Impact Statement is a record of the process that is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, as amended, for the examination of plans or projects that have been identified as having the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.

As a first step in the Article 6(3) process a screening exercise was completed to examine whether or not the County Clare LECP has the potential, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. Upon completion of the screening exercise, it was concluded that the LECP has the potential to result in likely significant effects. On the basis of this conclusion an Appropriate Assessment was deemed necessary.

A Natura Impact Statement was completed of the County Clare LECP in order to inform the competent authority's (in this case Clare County Council) Appropriate Assessment of the LECP. As part of the Natura Impact Statement the LECP actions that were identified as having the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites were subject to detailed examination against a suite of assessment criteria that are pertinent to the European Sites occurring within the zone of influence of the LECP. During this assessment the nature of potential adverse effects to European Sites were identified. Measures have been set out to mitigate the potential adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites as a result of the implementation of the LECP.

Following the identification of potential adverse effects and the provision of mitigation measures to safeguard against such effects arising, it has been concluded that the County Clare LECP will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site(s) of the Natura 2000 Network.

1.6 Cross Cutting Themes and Priorities

The LECP in accordance with the guidelines was informed by several cross-cutting priorities throughout all stages of its development. These are set out as follows:



1.6.1 Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty

In line with the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, the LCDC and ESPC are committed to promoting equality, preventing discrimination, and protecting the human rights of employees, customers, service users and everyone affected by their policies and plans.

The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty ('the Duty') is a statutory obligation for public bodies including Local Authorities. Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 requires public bodies, in the performance of their functions, to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality and protect the human rights of staff and people availing themselves of their services.



Graphic depicting public consultation feedback in words that best describe County Clare

Clare makes up 3,450 sq. km of land, making it Ireland’s 7th largest county by area. It is a low density county with, according to Census 2022, there are 34 residents per sq. km compared to a national average of 78 per sq. km, making Clare a largely rural county.

Note: The data presented in the following socio-economic profile is accurate at the time of adoption of the LECP. Data will change over time and may be subject to correction from time to time. The LCDC and ESPC have committed to regular monitoring and review of the information set out and will amend as appropriate. Consequently this data should be used having regard to this Statement.

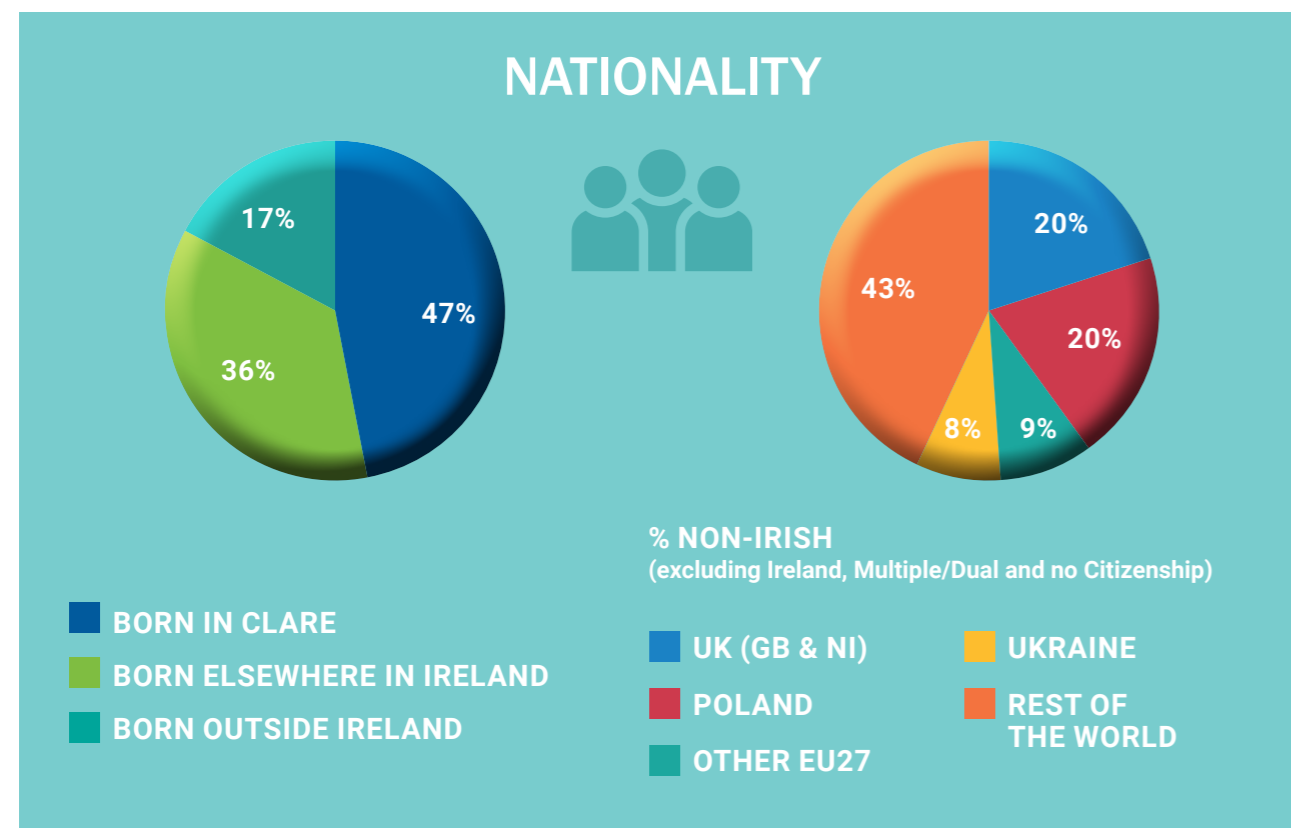
In 2022, there were 127,938 people living in Clare, making up 2.5% of Ireland's population. This is up almost 8% since the last census in 2016, a broadly similar growth rate to the national average. The population is split almost equally between males (49%) and females (51%), largely similar to Ireland.

% Change in Clare's population over recent census periods

	CLARE			IRELAND		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2006 - 11	4	7.3	5.6	7.1	9.3	8.2
2011 - 16	0.8	1.9	1.4	3.6	4	3.8
2016 - 22	7	8.3	7.7	8.1	8.2	8.1

Clare has an increasingly diverse population. What is striking is that almost two thirds (64%) of the population increase has happened through net migration and the remaining one third through natural increase.

In Clare non-Irish citizens accounted for 10% of the county's population.



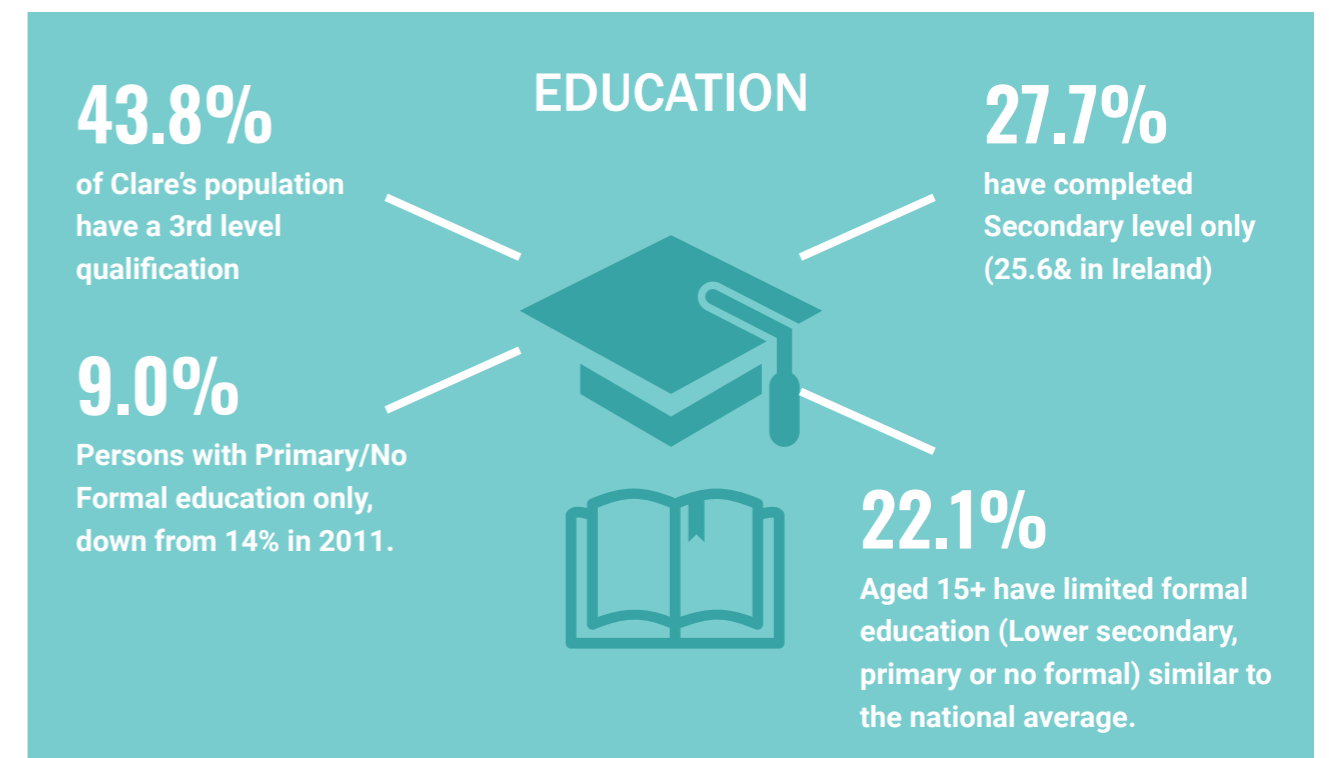
Clare's population is getting older

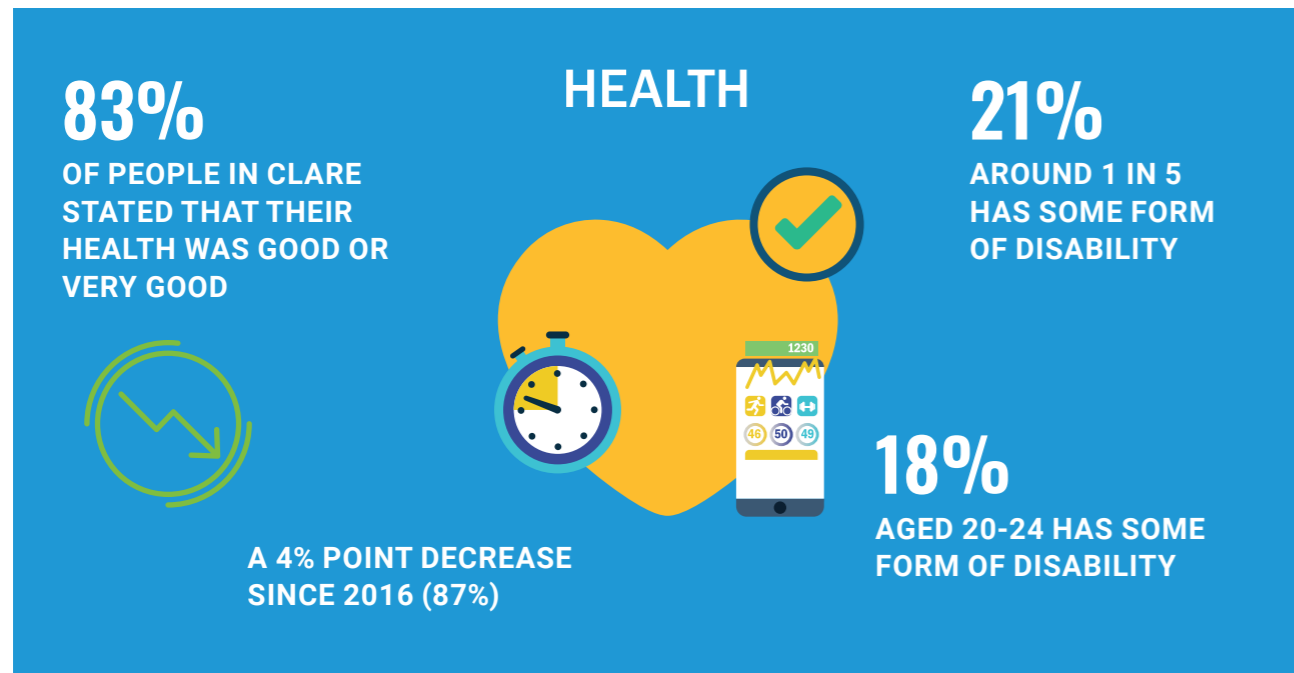
Clare has a slightly older population than the national average. The average age of a person living in Clare is 40.1 years compared to 38.8 for Ireland. Some 17% of the population are aged 65+ compared to 15% in Ireland.

Clare has fewer under 5s, under 15s and 26- to 40-year olds in 2022 compared to 2011. In 2022 Clare has almost 4,000 fewer 26- to 40-year-olds than it did in 2011. The expansion of the older population is noticeably clear with 7,138 more 65+ people living in the County over that 10-year period.

Clare has been losing its younger population

Clare has a highly educated population

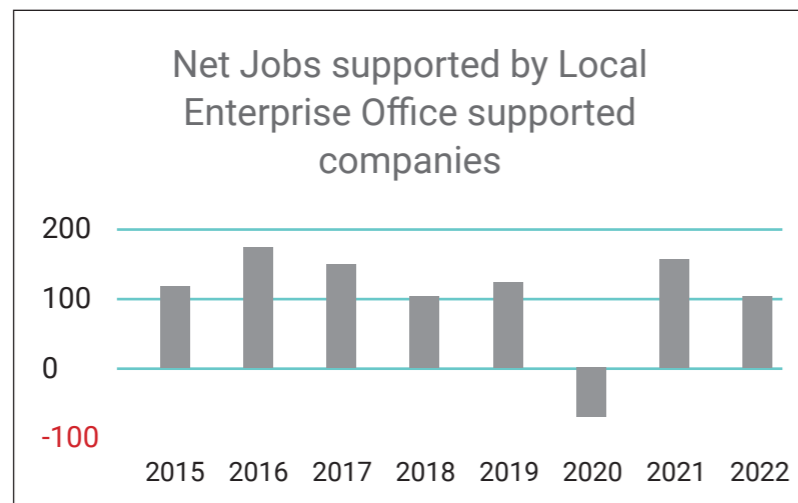




Clare's population is healthy

Employment is growing, especially for our small and medium companies.

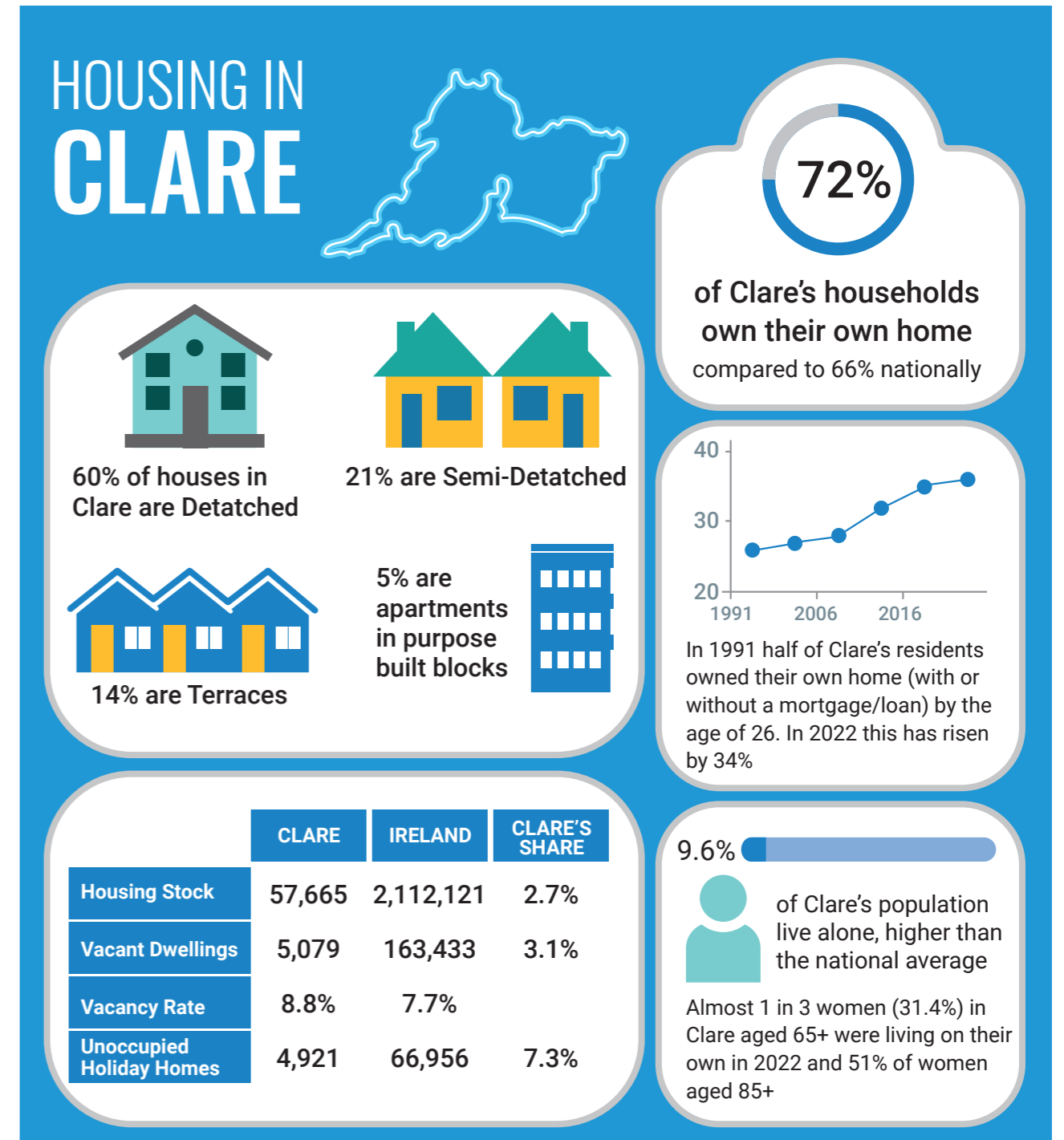
Net Jobs supported by Local Enterprise Office (2015-2022)



Employment generally has increased across the County with an increase of 6,633 people (+13%) between 2016 and 2022.

Many people work from home, about 29% of the County's workforce works from home at least one day per week. However, almost 11% of homes in the County do not have internet connections.

And while the County has seen a growth in homes, some 12,678 adults, or 13% of all those aged 18 and over in the County, were still living with their parents in April 2022. This was an increase of 2,029 (19%) since 2016.



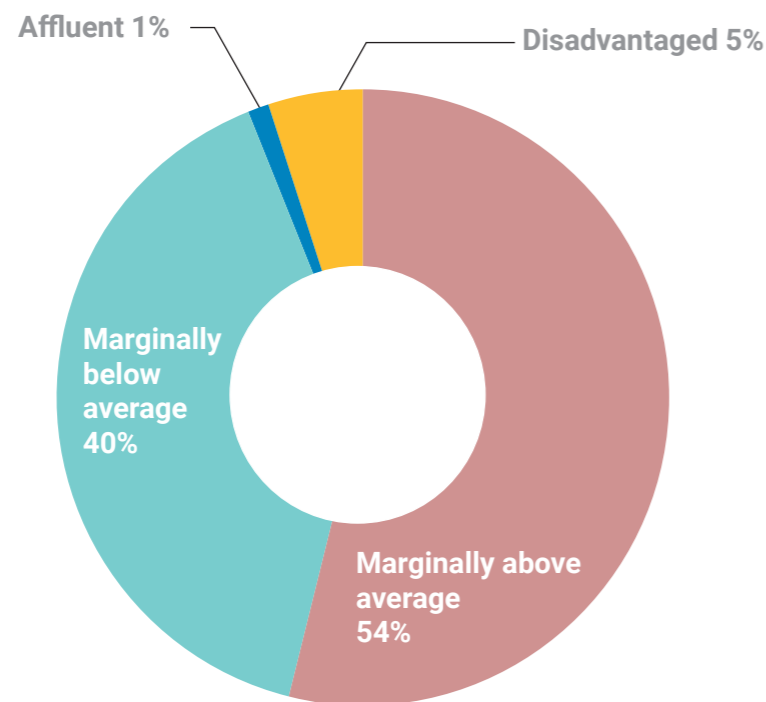
Clare is a county full of opportunity... from renewable energy to sustainable tourism, from advanced manufacturing to a pro-active public service, and from farming and marine to artisan production, there is plenty of scope for the people of Clare to live, learn and enjoy the County. It is one of Ireland's great cultural melting pots, full of artistry and world leading music-makers, sporting endeavour and community commitment.

But it has its challenges...

The Pobal HP Deprivation Index for County Clare is 0.11, which is marginally above the national average. County Donegal scored lowest on the index (-5.6), meaning it is the most disadvantaged, while County Kildare scored the highest (3.11), meaning it is the most affluent.

Out of the 151 Electoral Districts in Clare, 5% (7 EDs) are classified as Disadvantaged with a further 54% just marginally above the national deprivation average meaning around 6 in 10 EDs in Clare are more disadvantaged than the national average. There are no EDs in Clare that are assessed as extremely or very disadvantaged. Two EDs in Clare are considered 'affluent' – Carrowbaun (Killaloe LEA) and Rathborney (Ennistymon).

Clare Electoral Districts Deprivation Levels (2022)



Source: Pobal Deprivation 2022

In terms of the 7 EDs that are classified as Disadvantaged, 2 are in Ennis and 5 in Kilrush LEA. Kilrush Urban and Mullagh rank in the Top 100 most deprived EDs across Ireland.

Disadvantaged Electoral Districts in Clare (2022)

LEA (Local Electoral Area)	ED	Pobal HP Index 2022 (Relative Scores)	Rank - Most Deprived (Ireland EDs=3,417) ²
Kilrush	Kilrush Urban	-15.85	74
Kilrush	Mullagh	-15.50	83
Kilrush	Rahona	-12.78	129
Kilrush	Moyarta	-12.56	134
Ennis	Ennis No. 2 Urban	-12.39	138
Ennis	Ennis No. 1 Urban	-10.97	198
Kilrush	Kilkee	-10.51	217

Source: Pobal Deprivation 2022

Clare and its Municipal Districts

Underpinning the Pobal HP Deprivation Index the Census 2022 data for the County's Municipal Districts highlights the challenges of social disadvantage. There are four Municipal Districts in County Clare – West Clare, Killaloe, Shannon and Ennis. The CSO Census 2022 is not reporting its data at Municipal District level. Therefore, Killaloe, Shannon and Ennis Electoral areas have been used in this socio-economic profile and West Clare has been provided for by amalgamating two Local Electoral Areas – Ennistymon and Kilrush. These two electoral areas are also presented separately for ease of reference.

The themes from the Census data available to date are outlined in more detail below and include population, educational attainment, principle economic status, industry of work, general health and disability along with housing.

² There are 3,440 EDs in Ireland. The Pobal dataset provides data for 3,417

Key Municipal District Indicators

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
POPULATION							
Population (2022)	40,341	21,871	31,774	33,952	127,938	18,052	22,289
% Share of Clare's population	31%	17%	25%	27%	100%	14%	17%
Population change 2016-2022	+7.9%	+8.8%	+4.5%	+9.8%	+7.7%	+10.0%	+6.2%
% aged under 15	19%	20%	20%	20%	20%	19%	19%
% aged 75 plus	9%	7%	6%	7%	7%	8%	9%
White Irish Travellers - Number	191	16	156	626	989	142	49
% White Irish Travellers	0.5%	0.1%	0.5%	1.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.2%
% Black/Black Irish/Asian/Asian Irish	1.0%	0.8%	5.0%	4.8%	3.0%	1.2%	0.8%
% whose birthplace is outside Ireland	15%	14%	20%	20%	17%	18%	12%
% whose citizenship is outside Ireland	8%	8%	11%	12%	10%	10%	6%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT							
% No formal education	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%
% Technical /Vocational /Certificate/ Apprenticeship	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	19%	21%
% Degree or higher	27%	35%	30%	35%	31%	31%	24%
% 3rd level qualification	40%	48%	43%	47%	44%	43%	37%

Source: CSO Census 2022

Key Municipal District Indicators continued

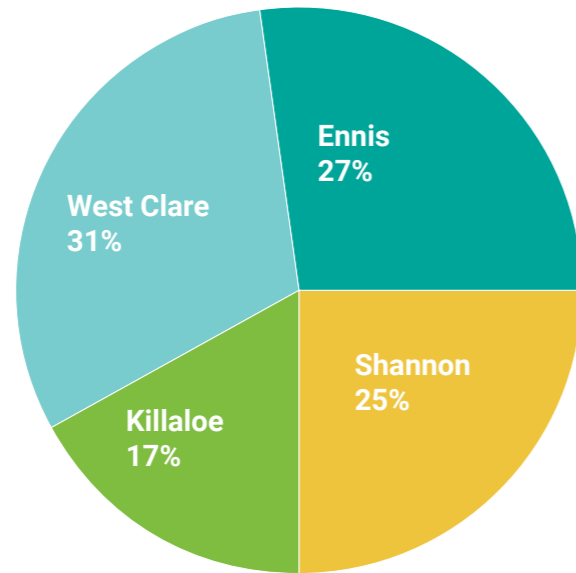
	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
PRINCIPLE ECONOMIC STATUS							
% at work	53%	57%	54%	56%	55%	54%	51%
% students	10%	12%	14%	11%	11%	10%	10%
% retired	21%	16%	16%	17%	18%	20%	21%
INDUSTRY OF WORK							
% Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	10%	7%	6%	7%	7%	9%	11%
% Manufacturing	11%	17%	24%	17%	17%	9%	12%
% Professional Services	23%	26%	22%	25%	24%	22%	24%
GENERAL HEALTH & DISABILITY							
% Rating health as good/very good	82%	82%	85%	82%	83%	81%	83%
% with a disability to a greater extent	8%	6%	8%	8%	8%	7%	9%
HOUSING							
Housing Stock	22,418	9,295	11,999	13,953	57,665	9,957	12,461
% of Clare's Housing Stock	39%	16%	21%	24%	100%	17%	22%
% Vacant (in 2016 & 2022)	4.6%	3.6%	1.4%	1.9%	3.1%	4.1%	5.1%
% Owned	76%	75%	72%	65%	72%	74%	77%
% Rented	17%	14%	24%	29%	21%	18%	17%
New Dwelling Completions 2012-22	1023	636	553	861	3073	485	538
New Dwelling Completions – 5 years from 2018-2022 per 1,000 population	40	22	32	34	128	18	22

Source: CSO Census 2022

Population of the Districts

In 2022, West Clare accounted for 31% of Clare’s population, Ennis 27%, Shannon 25% and Killaloe 17%.

Clare Municipal District Population Share (2022) Source: CSO Census 2022



Population changes over the 6-year Census period between the 2016 and 2022 ranged from growth of 9.8% in Ennis to 4.5% in Shannon. Clare’s overall county population grew by 7.7% over that time. West Clare grew at a similar rate to the County, but this reflected a much stronger population growth in Ennistymon at 10% compared to 6.2% in Kilrush.

MD Population Change 2016-2022

	2022	2016	% Change
West Clare	40,341	37,402	7.9%
Killaloe	21,871	20,108	8.8%
Shannon	31,774	30,397	4.5%
Ennis	33,952	30,910	9.8%
Clare Total	127,938	118,817	7.7%
Ennistymon	18,052	16,408	10.0%
Kilrush	22,289	20,994	6.2%

Source: CSO Census 2016 & 2022

The population distribution by age is largely similar across MDs although West Clare has the lowest share of young people (aged under 15) and the highest share of people in the older age categories (aged 55 plus).

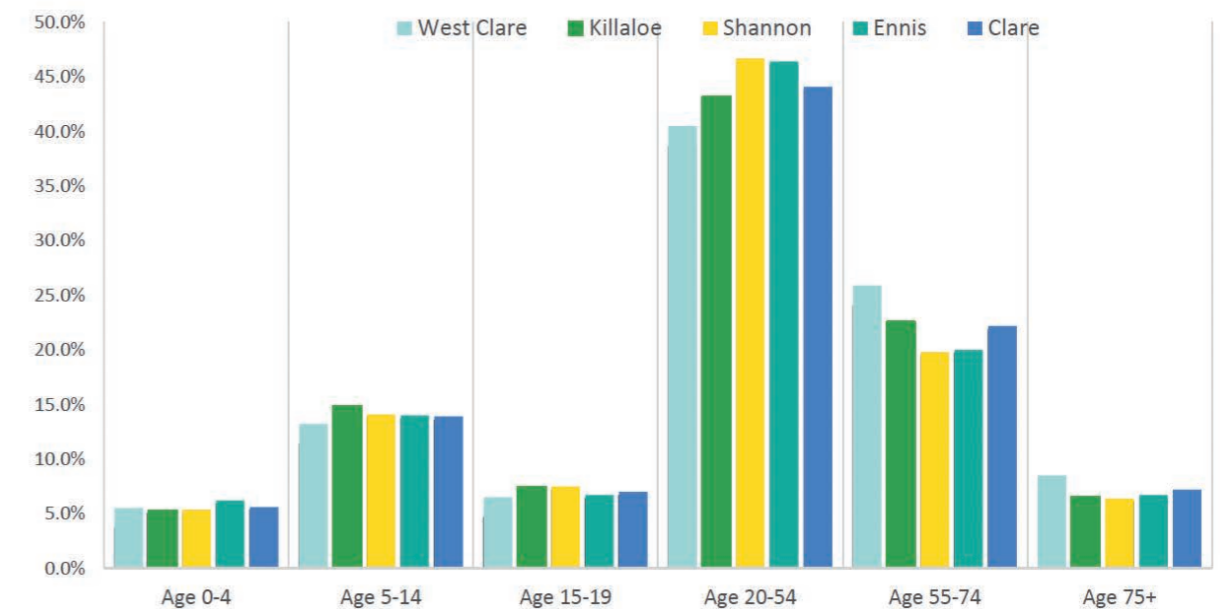
Population by Age (2022)

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
Age 0 - 4	5.5%	5.3%	5.4%	5.4%	5.6%	5.6%	5.4%
Age 5 - 14	13.2%	14.9%	14.1%	14.0%	13.9%	13.1%	13.3%
Age 15 - 19	6.5%	7.5%	7.5%	6.7%	7.0%	6.3%	6.7%
Age 20 - 54	40.5%	43.2%	46.7%	46.4%	44.1%	41.6%	39.5%
Age 55 - 74	25.9%	22.6%	19.8%	20.0%	22.2%	25.3%	26.3%
Age 75 +	8.5%	6.6%	6.4%	6.7%	7.2%	8.2%	8.8%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Under 15	18.6%	20.2%	19.5%	20.2%	19.5%	18.6%	18.7%
75 +	8.5%	6.6%	6.4%	6.7%	7.2%	8.2%	8.8%

Source: CSO Census 2022

Shannon and Ennis have the highest share of people in the 20-to-54-year age group, which reflects a higher share of the population of working age.

Age Distribution of Population 2022 Source: CSO Census 2022



Ethnicity and Cultural Background

Usually Resident Population by Ethnic or Cultural Background

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
White Irish	85.2%	82.3%	80.0%	74.3%	80.5%	80.6%	88.9%
White Irish Traveler	0.5%	10.1%	0.5%	1.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.2%
Other White	6.7%	7.4%	9.0%	10.1%	8.3%	7.8%	5.8%
Black or Black Irish	0.3%	0.2%	1.1%	2.4%	1.0%	0.5%	0.2%
Asian or Asian Irish	0.7%	0.7%	3.9%	2.4%	1.9%	0.7%	0.6%
Other	1.1%	0.8%	1.7%	2.7%	1.6%	1.3%	0.8%
Not stated	5.5%	8.6%	3.8%	6.3%	5.8%	8.3%	3.3%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
% White Irish Traveler	0.5%	0.1%	0.5%	1.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.2%
% Black/Black Irish/Asian/Asian Irish	1.0%	0.8%	5.0%	4.8%	3.0%	1.2%	0.8%

Source: CSO Census 2022

The largest share and number of the Traveller community live in the Ennis Municipal District, making up 2% of its population or 626 people. The share of population who are Black (Irish)/Asian (Irish) is highest in Shannon and Ennis at 5% of the people living there.

Place of Birth and Citizenship

The majority of residents across each Municipal District were born in Ireland. However, in Shannon and Ennistymon 1 in 5 residents (20%) were born outside Ireland compared to 15% in West Clare and 14% in Killaloe. In terms of citizenship, Ennis (12.4%) and Shannon (11.1%) have the highest shares of residents whose citizenship is outside Ireland. This compares to 8.1% in West Clare and 7.5% in Killaloe.

Usually resident population by birthplace

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
Ireland	85.3%	86.0%	80.0%	79.6%	82.6%	82.3%	87.8%
United Kingdom	6.7%	7.6%	6.0%	5.2%	6.3%	7.0%	6.5%
Poland	1.2%	0.8%	3.2%	3.3%	2.2%	1.2%	1.1%
India	0.2%	0.2%	1.3%	0.6%	0.6%	0.1%	0.3%
Other EU27/2020 (Exec Ireland & Poland)	1.8%	2.2%	2.8%	3.7%	2.6%	2.3%	1.4%
Rest of World	4.7%	3.1%	6.6%	7.7%	5.7%	7.0%	2.9%
Not stated	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
% whose birthplace is outside Ireland	14.7%	14.0%	20.0%	20.4%	17.4%	17.7%	12.2%

Source: CSO Census 2022

Educational Attainment

Just over 1 in 3 of the population aged 15 or over in Killaloe (35%) and Ennis (34.9%) have a degree or higher. This falls to 30.3% for Shannon and is lowest in West Clare at 27.4% although there is a significant contrast within West Clare with the share of the population (15+) with a degree or higher at 31.3% in Ennistymon compared to 24.3% in Kilrush.

The share of the population (15+) with some form of post-secondary technical/vocational/certificate is largely similar across all 4 Municipal Districts. Around 1 in 5 of the population in each Municipal District is educated to this level according to Census 2022.

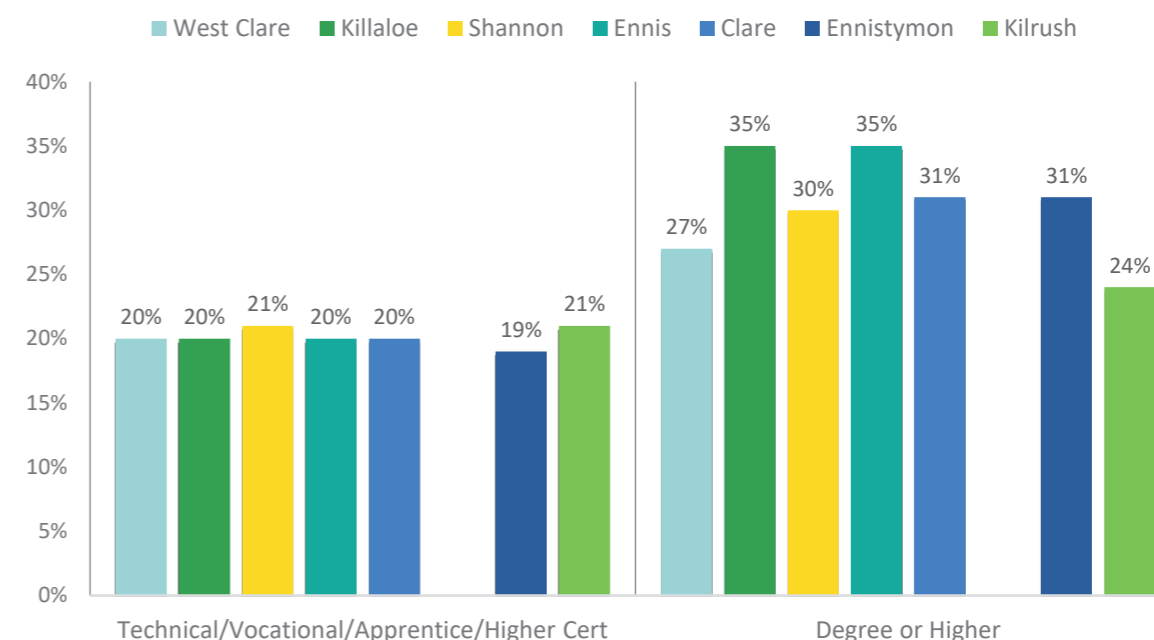
One in two (48%) people living in Killaloe have the highest share of people with a 3rd level qualification. The share is lowest in West Clare at 40% reflecting a significantly lower share of people with 3rd level qualifications in Kilrush at 37%. Relative to the other Municipal Districts, West Clare has a higher share of its population (15+) with no formal education (2.5%) and 8.8% have primary education only.

Level of Education Completed (Aged 15+) 2022

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
No formal education	2.5%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	2.0%	2.0%	2.8%
Primary education	8.8%	6.2%	6.2%	5.9%	7.0%	7.4%	10.0%
Lower secondary	15.0%	11.5%	13.0%	11.8%	13.1%	13.4%	16.4%
Upper secondary	19.8%	17.5%	21.9%	19.5%	19.8%	18.7%	20.7%
Technical or vocational qualification	7.9%	7.2%	8.3%	7.8%	7.9%	7.2%	8.5%
Advanced certificate/ Completed apprenticeship	6.6%	7.2%	6.5%	6.0%	6.5%	6.2%	7.0%
Higher certificate	5.6%	5.9%	6.4%	5.8%	5.9%	5.7%	5.4%
Ordinary bachelor's degree or national diploma	7.8%	9.3%	8.3%	8.7%	8.4%	8.2%	7.4%
Honours bachelor's degree, professional qualification or both	10.8%	13.5%	12.2%	13.9%	12.4%	11.9%	9.8%
Postgraduate diploma or degree	8.3%	10.9%	8.8%	11.4%	9.7%	10.2%	6.7%
Doctorate (Ph.D.) or higher	0.6%	1.3%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.4%
Not stated	6.3%	7.7%	5.6%	6.5%	6.4%	8.2%	4.8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: CSO Census 2022

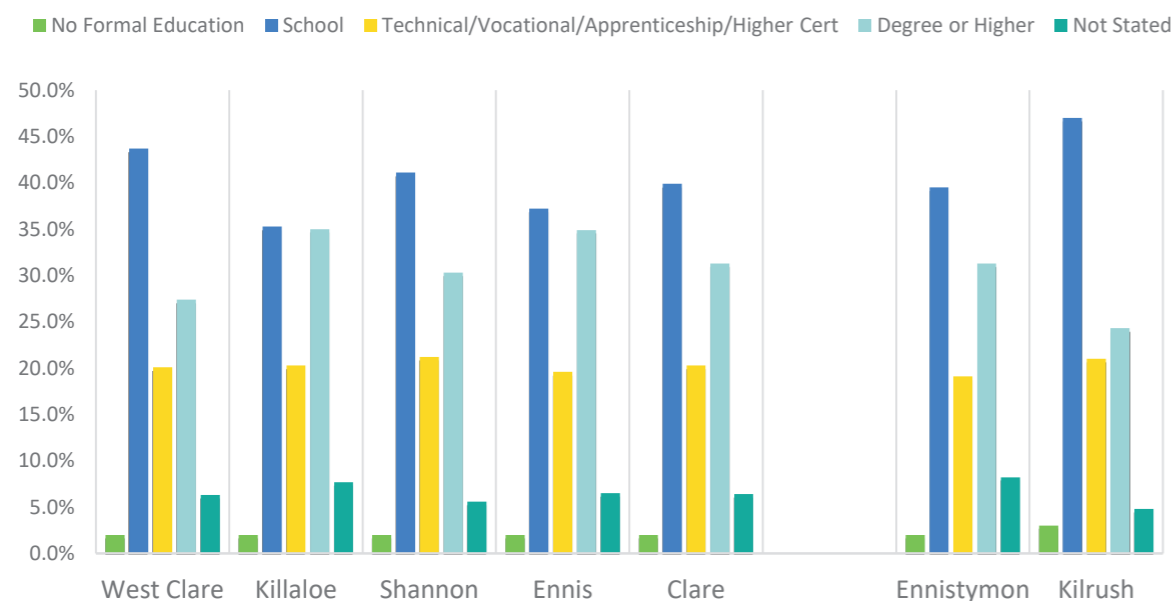
% with Post Schooling Qualifications (aged 15+) 2022 Source: CSO Census 2022



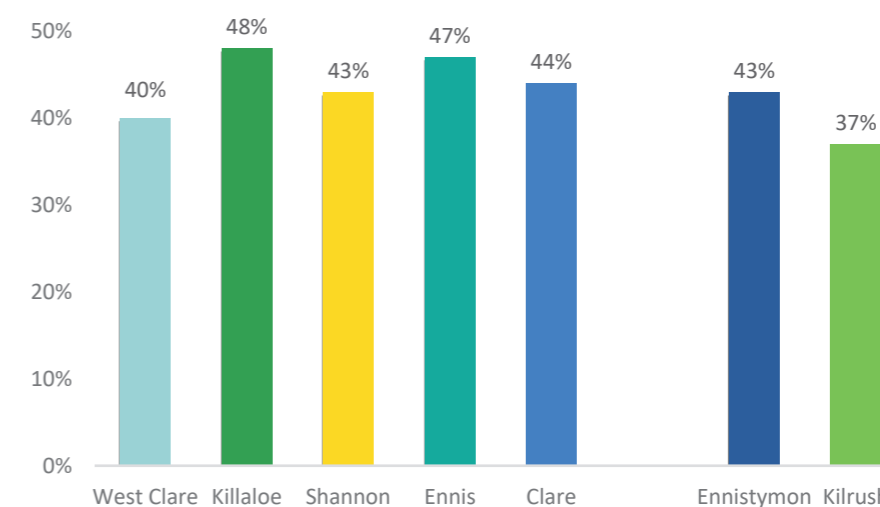
'3rd level' refers to the following qualifications, as outlined by the CSO:

- Advanced certificate/Completed apprenticeship
- Higher certificate
- Ordinary bachelor's degree or national diploma
- Honours bachelor's degree, professional qualification or both
- Postgraduate diploma or degree
- Doctorate (Ph.D.) or higher

Highest Level of Education Completed (aged 15+) 2022 Source: CSO Census 2022



% with a 3rd Level Qualifications (aged 15+) Source: CSO Census 2022



Principle Economic Status

Killaloe has the highest share of its adult population (aged 15+) at work at 57.1% falling to 52.6% in West Clare. Shannon has the largest share of students in its adult population (14.1%) while West Clare has the highest share of people who are retired (20.6%).

Principle Economic Status (15+ years)

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
At work	52.6%	57.1%	54.0%	55.8%	54.5%	54.2%	51.2%
Looking for first regular job	0.8%	0.6%	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%	0.6%	0.9%
Short term unemployed	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%	1.5%
Long term unemployed	2.5%	2.0%	2.2%	2.8%	2.4%	2.3%	2.7%
Student	9.7%	11.8%	14.1%	10.7%	11.4%	9.8%	9.5%
Looking after home/family	7.1%	6.0%	5.9%	6.1%	6.4%	6.9%	7.3%
Retired	20.6%	16.5%	16.4%	16.6%	17.8%	20.1%	21.0%
Unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability	4.4%	3.7%	4.3%	4.6%	4.3%	3.7%	5.1%
Other	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: CSO Census 2022

*The CSO Census report notes that Kilrush had one of the highest rates of unemployment (among towns with a population of at least 1,500 people), at 20%.

Industry of Work³

The industry profile of people at work across the Municipal Districts highlights that Professional Services is one of the largest employers across each area accounting for 26% of jobs in Killaloe and Ennis, 23% in West Clare and 22% in Shannon. Commerce & Trade and Manufacturing are also important employers.

There are some notable differences across Municipal Districts:

- West Clare has a greater share of workers in Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing making up 1 in 10 (10.2%) of those at work, twice the Clare county average share. It has fewer people working in Manufacturing (10.8% vs. Clare 16.7%)

³ These figures reported are based on persons in each LEA on the night of the Census (The overall figures are based on persons usually resident in the County). The data reflects broad industries.

- Killaloe's industry base is largely similar to the County average with 25.6% working in Professional Services and around 17% working in Commerce and Trade and Manufacturing
- Manufacturing is more important in Shannon, accounting for 24% of people at work (17% Clare)
- Commerce and trade is more important in Ennis accounting for 20% of people at work (18.3% Clare)

Persons at Work by Industry

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	10.2%	7.4%	1.4%	1.4%	5.2%	9.1%	11.0%
Building and construction	7.1%	5.9%	3.9%	5.5%	5.7%	6.4%	7.7%
Manufacturing industries	10.8%	16.5%	24.2%	16.8%	16.7%	9.0%	12.3%
Commerce and trade	17.3%	16.9%	18.7%	20.0%	18.3%	16.9%	17.7%
Transport and communications	5.7%	7.0%	11.7%	7.4%	7.9%	6.0%	5.5%
Public administration	6.5%	6.4%	4.5%	6.7%	6.1%	6.5%	6.5%
Professional services	23.0%	25.6%	22.3%	25.5%	24.0%	21.8%	24.1%
Other	19.3%	14.3%	13.4%	16.7%	16.2%	24.2%	15.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: CSO Census 2022

General Health and Disability

Most people, around 4 in 5, across each of the Municipal Districts rate their health as good or very good while only 1% to 2% rate it as bad.

General Health of the Population

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
Very Good	49.4%	54.1%	53.2%	51.1%	51.6%	49.0%	49.7%
Good	32.7%	28.2%	31.4%	30.4%	31.0%	31.8%	33.4%
Fair	9.7%	7.5%	8.9%	9.4%	9.0%	8.9%	10.4%
Bad	1.4%	1.1%	1.6%	1.6%	1.4%	1.2%	1.6%
Very Bad	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Not Stated	6.5%	8.8%	4.7%	7.1%	6.6%	8.8%	4.6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
% Good or Better	82%	82%	85%	82%	83%	81%	83%
% Bad/Very Bad	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%

Source: CSO Census 2022

Around 1 in 5 of the population in each Municipal District have some form of disability. For West Clare, Shannon and Ennis 8% suggest that this disability is significant and 6% in Killaloe.

% of Population with a Disability

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
% of population with any disability	22%	19%	22%	22%	21%	21%	22%
% of population with a disability to a greater extent	8%	6%	8%	8%	8%	7%	9%
% of population with a disability to some extent	14%	13%	14%	13%	13%	13%	14%

Source: CSO Census 2022

At 12%, Kilrush has one of the highest rates nationally of people unable to work because of permanent illness or disability.

Housing

At 39% or almost two-fifths of the total, West Clare accounts for the largest share of Clare's housing stock in 2022. Killaloe accounts for 16% of the County's housing stock. The share of vacant housing recorded by the Census ranges from 4.6% of houses in West Clare (5.1% in Kilrush) to 1.4% in Shannon. In West Clare and Killaloe, the largest share of vacant properties are farmhouses while in Ennis and Shannon they are rental properties.

Housing Stock & Vacant Housing

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
Housing Stock	22,418	9,295	11,999	13,953	57,665	9,957	12,461
% of Clare Housing Stock	39%	16%	21%	24%	100%	17%	22%
Vacant Houses/ Apartments in 2016 and 2022	1,040	332	173	269	1,814	409	631
% of Vacant Houses/ Apartments in 2016 and 2022	4.6%	3.6%	1.4%	1.9%	3.1%	4.1%	5.1%

Source: CSO Census 2022

Home ownership is highest in Killaloe at 75% and lowest in Ennis (65%). Just over half of homeowners in West Clare own their home outright. Ennis MD has the highest share of households who rent at 29%.

Type of Occupancy of Permanent Private Households

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
Owned with mortgage or loan	24%	31%	33%	29%	28%	24%	23%
Owned outright	52%	44%	39%	36%	43%	51%	54%
Rented from private landlord	10%	10%	16%	19%	14%	12%	10%
Rented from Local Authority	6%	4%	6%	9%	6%	6%	6%
Rented from voluntary/co-operative housing body	1%	0%	2%	2%	1%	0%	1%
Occupied free of rent	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%	3%
Not Stated	4%	9%	3%	4%	5%	5%	4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
% Owned	76%	75%	72%	65%	72%	74%	77%
% Rented	17%	14%	24%	29%	21%	18%	17%

Source: CSO Census 2022

Between 2012 and 2022 there have been 3,073 new dwelling completions in Clare. One in three of these (33%) have been built in West Clare, 28% in Ennis, 21% in Killaloe and 18% in Shannon. In 2022, 40% of new dwelling completions were in Ennis and 32% in West Clare.

New Dwelling Completions

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
2012	62	52	37	15	166	26	36
2013	63	33	14	14	124	29	34
2014	74	29	27	32	162	25	49
2015	50	51	16	29	146	18	32
2016	78	40	30	77	225	45	33
2017	89	47	47	70	253	35	54
2018	94	42	36	72	244	50	44
2019	111	89	94	91	385	64	47
2020	115	70	86	122	393	44	71
2021	107	86	103	115	411	50	57
2022	180	97	63	224	564	99	81

Source: CSO Census 2022

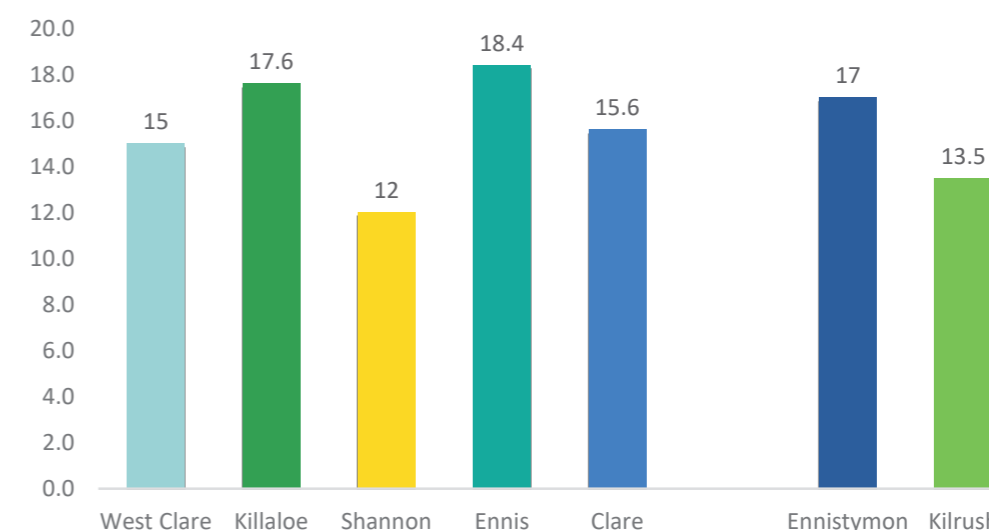
Accumulative Total of New Dwelling Completions

All New Housing Completions 2012 to 2022	1,023	636	553	861	3,073	485	538
MD % Share of Clare's New Housing Completions 2012 to 2022	33.3%	20.7%	18.0%	28.0%	100%	15.8%	17.5%

Source: CSO

During the 5 years from 2018 to 2022, the number of new housing completions per 1,000 population (2022) ranged from 18.4 new dwellings per 1,000 population in Ennis to 12 per 1,000 population in Shannon.

New Dwelling Completions - 5 years from 2018 to 2022 per 1,000 population (2022) Source: CSO



As noted in Chapter 1, Clare Public Participation Network PPN commissioned TASC to examine the application of a set of appropriate socio-economic rights and a Just transition Framework for Clare for inclusion in the LECP. This chapter charts how this has influenced the development of the LECP in Clare.

3.1 Socio-Economic Rights in the LECP

In a previous research project presented by Clare PPN in 2022, 'Towards an Anti-Poverty Strategy for Clare⁴, Dr Conor McCabe conducted research with communities who experience poverty and deprivation in Clare. It became clear that those communities were suffering a disproportionate lack of investment in and attention to their socio-economic rights in Clare. People were unable to access health services, essential services were not available in their communities, public transport links were insufficient and even their rights to adequate food, housing, social security, work, and ability to take part in cultural life were not realised.

Parents struggling to access mental health services for a teenager in crisis are not responsible for the lack of such services, older people lacking transport to access vital cancer care services in another county cannot be expected to solve rural transport issues, single parents revolving through homeless hubs and insecure rental accommodation can't address the national housing crisis. This unequal realisation or investment in the delivery of socio-economic rights in Clare often has its roots in national policy making and levels of investment. There can be local responses which, if delivered within a plan, could help make a difference and lead to improvement in local people's lives. Using the lens or framework of socio-economic rights will help to ensure that infrastructural problems and the lack of services that manifest locally and very personally are not diagnosed as being failures of the person experiencing the problem.

It is policy makers who must solve these issues and direct the resources necessary for the solutions. Using the lens of socio-economic rights helps to frame, within a Local Economic and Community Plan, these discussions properly and when we do that, we have a much better chance of solving them for and with the people of Clare. There is no downside to underpinning policies in Clare with a commitment to socio-economic rights. Using socio-economic rights as a lens or framework helps everyone involved in policy, the provision of services, planning, and distribution of funding to have a shared understanding of what we are aiming for. When we seek economic development in Clare, it must be aimed at improving and sustaining the lives and wellbeing of all the people living in Clare. In fact, without enshrining a commitment to socio-economic rights we can and do pursue wealth-generating policies that worsen the situation for people living in the County and for the environment on which we depend.

⁴ Clare_Anti Poverty_Report_Sept2022_web.pdf (clareppn.ie)

Provided by Clare PPN Coordinator Sarah Clancy – Project Lead on Community Engagement Pilot

In this document you will see references to sustainable livelihoods, to a living wage, to universal access public transport systems, to gender equality, literacy, mentorships, apprenticeships, to working collaboratively to resolve housing issues, to reducing poverty, to ensuring information provision in local areas. These alongside all the other actions relating to sustainable economic development are how we have sought to enshrine socio-economic rights within the LECP Framework.

3.2 Just Transition in Clare's Local Economic and Community Plan⁴

The timeline of this LECP from 2024-2030 coincides with Ireland's legally binding commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 51%. This means that the current LECP is a plan for a time of really significant social change. If such changes are to happen, they will have to be supported by our communities. Any time of change is also a time of opportunity. The transition to a low carbon society is one which will require huge investment on the part of governments. Taking a just transition approach allows us to prepare and plan to take advantage of such investment and to use the opportunity provided to change our society in Clare for the better for everyone who lives here.

Climate action should result in many positive outcomes - warmer homes, cleaner air, better transport systems, more food security, a healthier environment and restoration of our biodiversity, more local amenities, and eventually more energy security for Ireland and for Clare specifically. Using a Just Transition approach locally here in Clare will also help to transform our towns, villages, and countryside in a positive way, and towards the way we want them to be rather than waiting for the changes to be imposed on us. In this LECP you will see the just transition principles in the actions and goals in a few areas including diversification, mentorships, sustainable livelihoods, local food production, public transport, valuing care work, protecting, and restoring biodiversity, social enterprises, and community wealth building.

⁴ Clare_Anti Poverty_Report_Sept2022_web.pdf (clareppn.ie)

Provided by Clare PPN Coordinator Sarah Clancy – Project Lead on Community Engagement Pilot

4. Vision Statement

4.1 Our Vision for Clare

That County Clare would develop as a place to be part of and proud of, where urban and rural communities enjoy a high quality of life, work practice choice, inclusivity, and service access and so that the County is a dynamic, resilient, connected and internationally competitive location for innovation and investment and is a national leader in climate action, creativity, culture, heritage, tourism, & environmental management. (Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029)

4.1.1 The future for Clare

The years covered by this LECP will bring with them a variety of challenges and opportunities which are highlighted in the SCOT analysis provided in this Framework LECP. These are also clearly set out within the framework of the County Development Plan and the Renewed Clare Rural Development Strategy.

Among the challenges for the immediate future will be the transition of the County towards a carbon-free environment. In addition, the international environment suggests continued need to plan and provide for people whose lives are disrupted by international political conditions. Achieving the vision, therefore, is going to require continued levels of collaboration and cooperation across the Agencies and people of Clare.

4.1.2 Collaboration to Deliver our Local Plan

Implementation of the LECP is the responsibility of the members of the LCDC and ESPC and, through them, their constituent public bodies. LCDC and Economic SPC Members, together with member agency partners and delivering bodies will seek to develop implementation actions that are within the remit of the LCDC, Clare County Council and other partner organisations, taking account of the programmes, funding streams and resources available.

In the spirit of collaboration:

“A process in which organisations exchange information, co-operate on activities, share resources, and enhance each other’s capacity for mutual benefit and a common purpose by sharing risks, responsibilities and rewards”.

Our aligned objectives are:

1. Application of the principles of socio-economic rights and Just Transition for the people of Clare.
2. Nurture entrepreneurship, co-operative working and sustainable living, in accordance with the principles of the UNSDGs (United Nations Sustainable Development Goals).
3. Sustain our rural and urban heritage, foster our diverse identities, and celebrate our cultural creativity, in accordance with our commitment to the principles of the IHREC Public Sector Duty.
4. Attract visitors to our county and increase the opportunities available in our communities for tourism development.
5. Put in place local policies and develop programmes that underpin the way of life of the people who live in Clare and that stimulate the growth of our towns, villages, and their more rural hinterlands.
6. Create an age-friendly county where all our people can feel safe and have access, as required, to life-long supportive services and facilities,
7. Create opportunities across our rural communities to re-skill, access knowledge and develop the capacity to own our future.

HIGH LEVEL GOALS

Strengths

S

- The Growing Population across the County including an increase in younger / working age residents
- The increased diversity and skills of the workforce
- The natural landscape, heritage and topography
- The Rural, Marine, Industry & Agriculture Sector
- The County's international profile and success in attracting international investment
- Shannon Airport and Shannon Freezone
- Strong community spirit and capacity, facilitated by delivery of the Rural Development Strategy / community and voluntary organisations



Challenges

C

- Lack of sufficiently integrated countywide public transport
- Perception of spatial inequalities in quality of services/resources with West and North Clare identified as being comparatively poorer
- Insufficient affordable housing & accommodation
- Availability of staff/labour arising from the failure to retain and attract younger /working age people in our Rural Areas
- Access to third level education facilities
- Skills shortages curtailing business growth and investment
- Provision of childcare in parts of the rural areas and areas experiencing significant growth
- Lack of activities (recreation space/clubs/centres) for the youth in rural areas



Opportunities

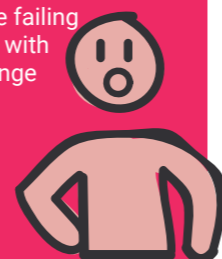
O

- The growing entrepreneurship of local business
- Deep water port - international trade linkages
- Investment in the Green Economy/Technology
- Potential for development of bio and circular economies
- Renewable energy generation - offshore wind and tide energy
- Build from strong base of social enterprises
- Recovery and growth in the diversity of tourism businesses / accommodation
- Potential to grow the local craft industry and build on expanding creativity within our communities
- Expanded number and scale of festivals and food markets
- Digital connectivity & remote working
- Revitalisation of towns and villages

Threats

T

- National economic context
- Continued depopulation of parts of our rural areas
- Community capacity lacking in some rural settlements to realise opportunities
- Social Isolation / exclusion and accessibility to services
- Availability of local job opportunities
- Influence of national policy
- High retail and accommodation vacancy rates undermining vibrancy / availability of services
- Impact of technological advances on job sustainability
- Inadequate investment in towns and villages, i.e. the development of wastewater services to allow for growth of towns and villages
- CAP 2023-2027 - implications of the burden of 'just transition' on small farmers
- Infrastructure failing to keep pace with growth / change (including education at all levels)



GOAL 1. PEOPLE

HIGH-LEVEL GOAL 1

Healthy, Equitable & Inclusive County

That Clare will be a county that prioritises the physical, mental, and social well-being of all people, where socio-economic rights are realised, making it a healthy place to live, work, grow and learn.

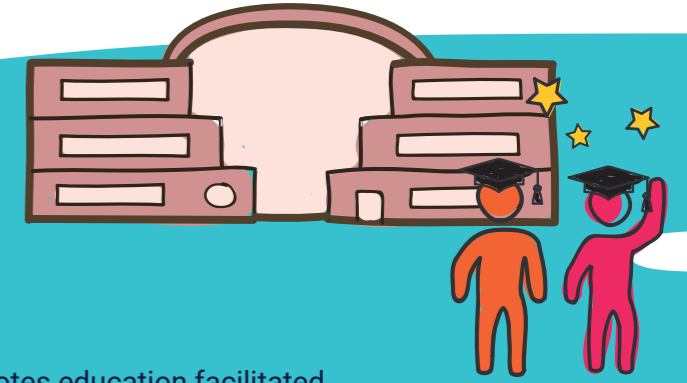


GOAL 2. PEOPLE

HIGH-LEVEL GOAL 2

Life-long learning and Training

That Clare will be a County which supports and promotes education facilitated across early years, primary, secondary, higher, and further education that provides opportunities for life-long learning, upskilling and personal development



Goal 1: Objectives:

Objective 1.1:

That all agencies in Clare and all collaborating partners will work towards ensuring that people have access to health services locally, at least at the national average levels, as demonstrated in the Socio-Economic analysis, towards improving Health and Well-Being in the County.

Objective 1.2:

On a countywide basis to remove barriers to and create opportunities for Sustainable Livelihoods where income of at least the national living wage is aimed at, for those unemployed, underemployed, those older people who wish to continue working, and those whose current livelihoods will be at risk from climate action.

Objective 1.3: *

To reduce persistent poverty, by being proactive in the delivery of supports and services that address the challenges of poverty, including access to all services and amenities across the County, with particular attention paid to ensuring the availability of affordable childcare.



*See Appendix 1

Objective 1.4:

To identify and provide resources to address the gender inequalities and inequities existing in County Clare for women and girls from the diverse communities which make up the population and to support local and community initiatives to prevent and mitigate domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in accordance with the 3rd National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Implementation Plan.

Objective 1.5:

To support integration and inclusivity of all people in the County through reciprocal collaboration and representation on decision making structures and in employment.

Objective 1.6:

To take all available actions to ensure that people in Clare have access to secure housing and accommodation suitable for their needs.



Goal 2: Objectives:

Objective: 2.1:

To promote and facilitate access to training, education, skills development, and personal development for all people in Clare. Having regard to furthering the Southern Region as a UNESCO Learning Region, in which Co. Clare can participate to develop opportunities for life-long learning and skills development.

Objective 2.2:

To enable local employees and businesses to access targeted government assistance programmes for upskilling and reskilling making use of mentorship and other resources available within the County.

Objective 2.3:

To enhance the financial, managerial and leadership competencies of micro and small business owners including those entering the domains of social or circular economies.

Objective: 2.4:

To improve literacy levels throughout the County by providing accessible and effective literacy education and support. This includes a focus on digital financial and health literacy thereby, promoting inclusivity and reducing educational inequalities, including those facing social and economic disadvantages.

Objective 2.5:

To provide the necessary tools and supports to promote the growth of sustainable employment opportunities with a focus on increasing business participation in comprehensive apprenticeship programmes.

Objective 2.6:

Offer accessible education and training opportunities with a particular emphasis on language skills development to all people in the County.



GOAL 3. POTENTIAL

HIGH-LEVEL GOAL 3

A County with sustainable retail, industry, manufacturing, agriculture, marine, tourism, aviation, culture and services sectors

That Clare will have sustainable retail, industry, manufacturing, agriculture, marine, tourism, aviation, culture and services sectors that will offer employment and recreational opportunities for the wellbeing of all and support the seeking of national funding to overcome the current wide ranging infrastructural deficits within the County.



Goal 3: Objectives:

Objective: 3.1

To support agriculture, marine workers and other sectors in Clare to play an active role in protecting and restoring the natural environment by supporting avenues for sustainable diversification and generating viable alternatives within those sectors.

Objective: 3.2

To develop and improve the integration of local business, especially artisan and craft producers, and those offering experiences such as courses, activities and retreats within the County's tourism offering, and ensuring the needs of communities are prioritised alongside the opportunity to benefit economically, socially, and culturally.

Objective: 3.3

To support viable and vibrant town and village centres which function as sustainable communities, and which are linked to rural hinterlands.

Objective: 3.4

To provide training and mentorship (including Apprenticeships) to support the development of Social Enterprises or other appropriate models of Enterprise in Clare and promote the circular economy.

Objective: 3.5

To put in place an inclusive, reliable, and improved Universal Access Public Transport System to provide connectivity and access to services across the County.

Objective: 3.6

To support greater action and engagement on Climate Change ensuring that both mitigation and adaptation methods are pursued to reduce carbon emissions and to foster the development of a sustainable carbon neutral green economy across all economic sectors.



GOAL 4. POTENTIAL

HIGH-LEVEL GOAL 4

Enhance economic, cultural & social opportunity

To enhance the economic, cultural, and social vibrancy of the County so its people can live, work, invest and learn.



Goal 4: Objectives:

Objective: 4.1

To support and diversify the arts and culture sector across the County with the cooperation of and collaboration with the County Library and Arts Office and voluntary and private arts/culture providers and ensure support for individual artists, musicians, and performers.

Objective: 4.2

To facilitate and support Sustainable Livelihoods and employment creation which enhances the economic opportunities for all those living in Clare.

Objective: 4.3

To leverage the economic, employment, cultural, and social benefits of emerging technologies whilst sustaining employment and creating new opportunities through social enterprise and community wealth building.



Objective: 4.4

To sustainably manage the economic, social, and recreational potential of the Wild Atlantic Way, Hidden Heartlands and Shannon Estuary while protecting the coastal zone and its Biodiversity and adapting to and managing the challenges and opportunities of climate change.

Objective: 4.5

To further develop our communities to provide appropriate accommodation options for residents and visitors alongside recreational and community spaces for all.

Objective: 4.6

To support Clare Libraries in the delivery of countywide universal services including information provision.



GOAL 5. PLACE

HIGH-LEVEL GOAL 5

A Sustainable and resilient County

Clare will be a county with strong, balanced urban and rural areas, where people can reach their potential, ensuring protection of the environment with the intention of building support for a Just Transition, assisting Ireland to achieve our carbon emission targets and enhancing the economic benefits to our local communities.



Goal 5: Objectives:

Objective: 5.1

To sustain the population in our urban and rural communities by ensuring that youth, working and ageing population can remain and contribute to the social, cultural, and economic development of their communities.

Objective: 5.2

To prioritise climate adaptation measures whilst supporting climate mitigation and implementation of the Climate Action Plan having regard to the reduction of carbon emissions through research, initiatives and collaboration while accessing appropriate funding supports.

Objective: 5.3

To work with all our communities, businesses, statutory and voluntary organisations to understand and harness the positive opportunities of undertaking climate action and, in recognising the negative impacts of climate change, to prioritise the development of climate resilience across the County.

Objective: 5.4

Within the limits of our carbon emissions targets to encourage and support the sustainable development of our renewable natural resources for the benefit of all.

Objective 5.5

To support the marine and farming sectors (especially small/part-time farmers) to diversify to meet climate and CAP targets, as appropriate, as a means of sustaining the viability of both sectors and our communities.

Objective 5.6

To put in place support services which make use of and enhance local volunteerism, in co-operation with statutory services, to address levels of rural isolation across the County.



GOAL 6. PLACE

HIGH-LEVEL GOAL 6

A Collaborative, Diverse, Innovative County

Clare will be a collaborative, diverse, and innovative county and will further strengthen local democracy and enhance delivery of services at local level to provide economic and community development opportunities.



Goal 6: Objectives:

Objective: 6.1

To encourage the development of social enterprises and other job creation initiatives for areas of high unemployment and social need in the County.

Objective: 6.2

To roll-out enhanced digitalisation across public services to support the development of Smart Places across the County whilst ensuring continuation of in-person and online locally available services in line with our Public Sector Duty.

Objective: 6.3

To provide an independent forum for discussing the long-term future of Clare in setting direction for the County at regional and national level as well as the resource requirements to underpin efficient local service delivery in partnership with the Southern Regional Assembly.

Objective: 6.4

To develop and implement an anti-racism and anti-discrimination plan having regard to the commitment of the LCDC and all public agencies to the Public Sector Duty and the implementation of the National Action Plan Against Racism.

Objective: 6.5

To support a bottom-up collaborative, collective and coordinated approach to local economic and community development in the County, eliminating duplication and promoting partnership in the delivery of projects and initiatives and to add value to local communities.

Objective 6.6

To support and enable the delivery of national policy initiatives and collaborate with agencies to address and seek action on local and regional concerns in the County which are of a national nature i.e., Housing/Accommodation, Childcare, Transport, Access to Health Services, etc.



6. Plan Implementation and Monitoring

The National LECP Guidelines 2021 championed a new approach to the development of Local Economic and Community Plans based on feedback and consultation on the learnings from the last LECP process with specific references to the challenges presented by recent world events such as the Covid Pandemic, the Ukrainian Crisis, and our ability to respond and react at local level. This new approach will facilitate a more agile and flexible delivery of initiatives and programmes that will support the attainment of the high-level goal themes and the achievement of the objectives outlined in this framework document. The continuous evaluation and 2-year review will ensure focus on delivery of the high-level goals and objectives through specific targeted actions based on existing and emerging programmes and policies to be embedded into each implementation plan over the six-year period. Consequently, the LECP consists of two key elements:

1. The development of an overall LECP framework detailing the high-level goals and sustainable community and economic objectives, which sets out the key strategic priorities for County Clare for the 6-year LECP period.
2. Three two-year implementation plans to deliver on the LECP Framework document covering the 6-year period. Each implementation plan will detail the inputs, actions and resources required at local level to secure the operational delivery of the strategic aims of the LECP Framework as well as relevant key performance indicators to facilitate evaluation.

6.1 Implementation

The initial 2-year LECP Implementation Plan has been published alongside this final LECP Framework document and includes inputs from the LECP Advisory Steering Group, local agencies, service providers, LCDC Members and Economic SPC Members. The current (and future) Implementation Plan has been (and will be) developed through an iterative process, designed to identify clear actions that can directly contribute to the achievement of the 6 High-Level Goals and 36 Objectives contained in this Framework document. The collaborative process applied to the development of the implementation plan will ensure due consideration of the current and projected resources (both human and financial) available to implement the strategic actions, that are led by a range of relevant local stakeholders. Consequently, responsibility for the implementation of each strategic action has been assigned to a Lead Agency and it is expected that the Lead Agency will:



1. Coordinate the activity of other collaborators
2. Allocate sufficient and appropriate resources and
3. Report as required on delivery/progress to the LCDC or Economic SPC on the implementation of the assigned action. Agencies and organisations identified as collaborators are expected to support and assist the Lead Agency on the implementation of the action.

Target Groups/Beneficiaries have been identified against each action together with key performance indicators, designed to measure performance and the extent to which the action has been implemented.

6.2 Monitoring and Evaluation

This LECP Framework will be implemented over a six-year period 2024 to 2030 through three two-year implementation plans. The first two-year implementation has been published alongside the Framework document. While some of the strategic actions included will be completed within the first two years, others will be ongoing, with their implementation spanning the lifetime of the framework. Additional actions will be added in future iterations of implementation plans, reflecting the ability of the LECP to respond to emerging needs and an ever-changing socio-economic environment.

Lead Agencies will be required to report on action progress through the existing LCDC and Economic SPC structures based on the focused outcome (i.e. economic or community) of the strategic action. In terms of oversight and monitoring the LECP Advisory Steering Group will be retained as the reporting structure to coordinate and report on the implementation plan to the LCDC and Economic SPC. This will support the integrated approach required to drive the delivery of the LECP. Lead Agencies will, therefore, be required to report to the LECP Advisory Steering Group twice a year using the identified Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each action, with the Advisory Steering Group, tasked to provide two six-monthly progress reports to the LCDC and Economic SPC.

As specified in the LECP Guidelines 2021, there is a requirement for case study collection to be part of the monitoring of the Framework and Implementation Plans. The LECP Advisory Steering Group will, therefore, work with Lead Agency to compile a case study for two or more of the High-Level Goals each year (with all 6 Goals to be the subject of a case study during the lifetime of the plan). This qualitative data will further inform and complement the quantitative KPIs as part of the overall monitoring and evaluation of the LECP Framework.

Existing policy in Clare remains the primary responsibility of local public service bodies operating within a national, regional, or local legislative framework. Public service delivery is, therefore, set within an existing and highly-developed policy environment across the national, regional, and local policy context. The key policies are set out below as provided under the LECP National Guidelines:

Key Policies at National Level:

- i) National Planning Framework Ireland 2040 Our Plan
- ii) National Development Plan 2021-2030
- iii) Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025
- iv) Climate Action Plan 2023
- v) Housing for all
- vi) National Further Education & Training Strategy 2020-2024
- vii) Circular Economy Programme 2021-2027
- viii) Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025
- ix) Twenty Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030
- x) National Action Plan Against Racism 2023-2027
- xi) Programme Plan for Child Poverty & Well-being 2023-2025

At Regional level preparation of the plan has the provisions of:

- xii) Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032
- xiii) Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan 2024

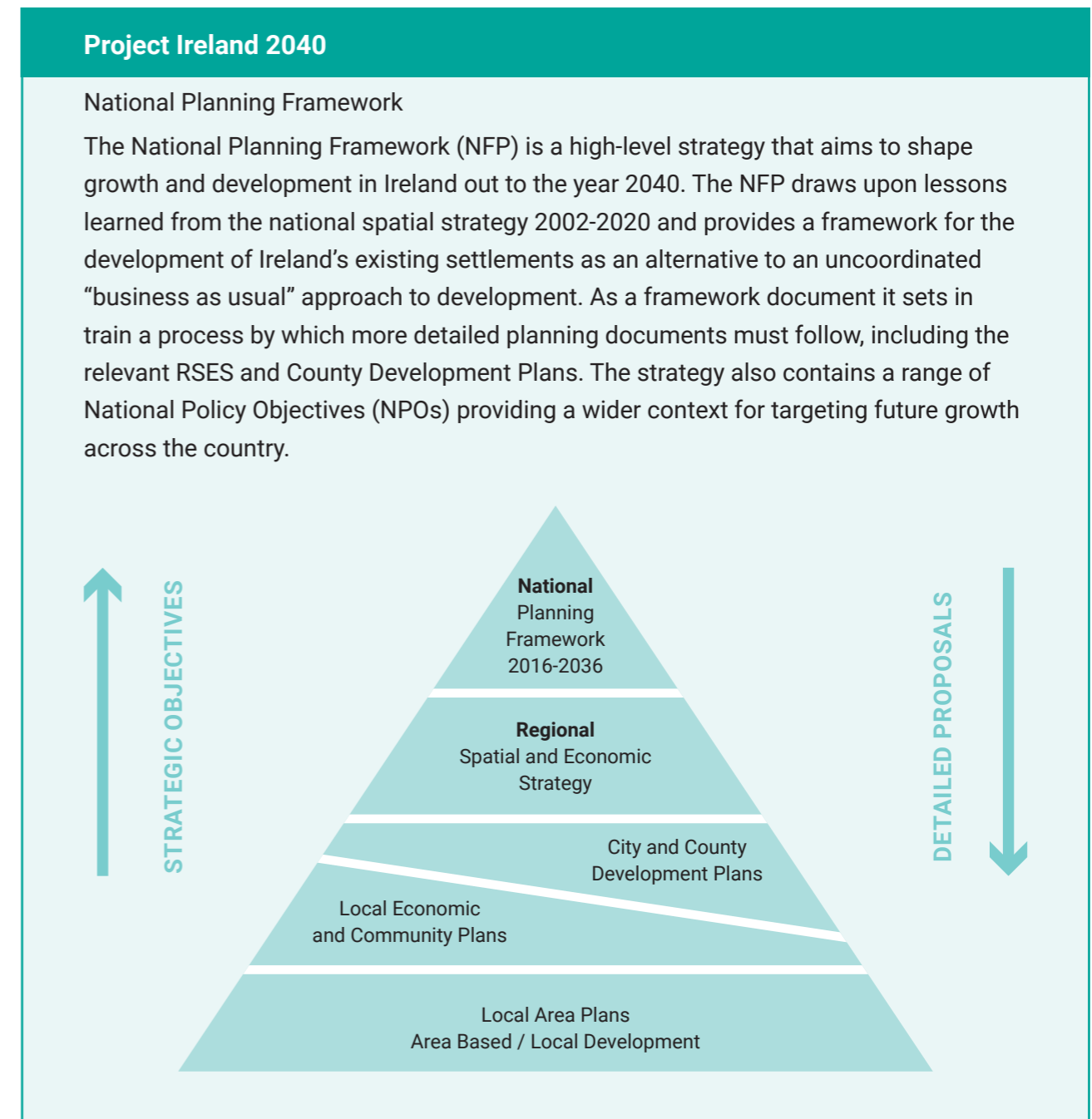
At local level Clare County Council has adopted a wide ranging policy framework covering:

- xiv) Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
- xv) Clare Climate Action Plan 2024-2029
- xvi) Clare Library Development Plan 2023-2027
- xvii) Clare Digital Strategy 2023 A Five-Year Strategy
- xviii) County Clare Tourism Strategy 2030
- xix) Clare Rural Development Strategy 2030

7.1 Overview of Applicable Policy

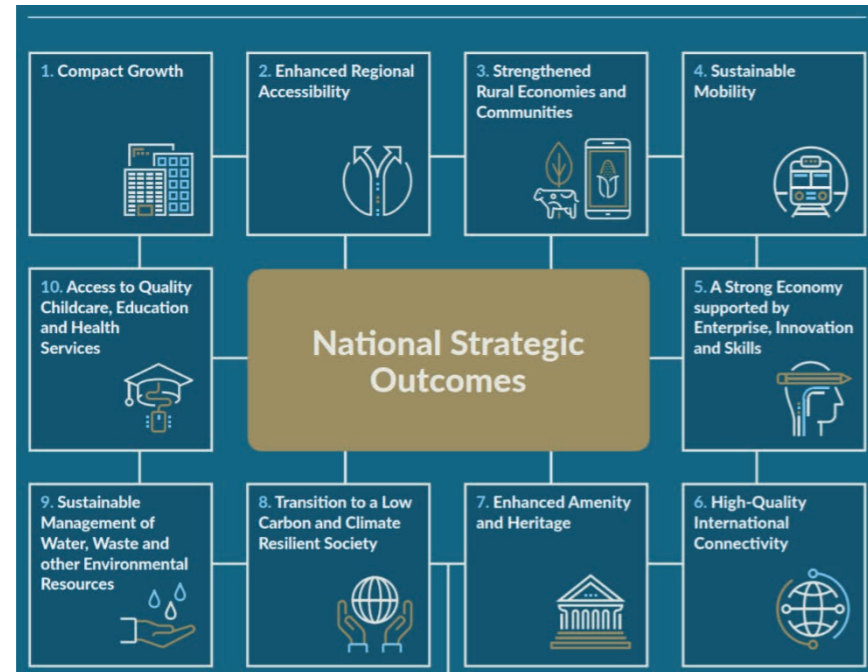
An overview of key policies is addressed hereunder in so far as they apply to the preparation and implementation of the LECP Framework.

7.1.1 National Planning Framework-Ireland 2040 Our Plan



The National Planning Framework sets the overall strategic direction for Ireland up to 2040.

There are 10 'National Strategic Outcomes'; set out in the National Planning Framework (NPF). These are used to inform national, regional, and local policy since adoption of the NPF in 2017.



The Outcomes have been embedded generally across the local policy context in the County as well as at the regional level.

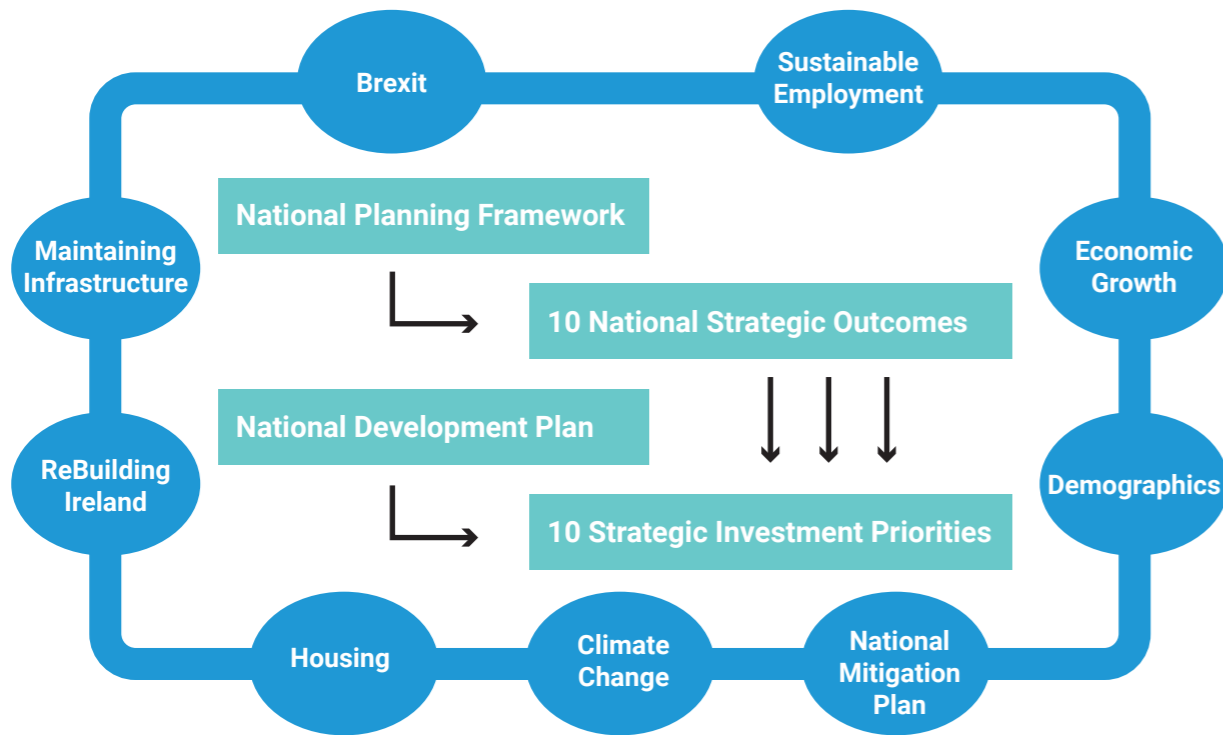
As a consequence, the 6 LECP High-Level Goals, Objectives, and Strategic Actions address the National Strategic Outcomes as follows.

HIGH-LEVEL GOALS	NATIONAL STRATEGIC OUTCOMES
HLG 1 - That Clare will be a County that prioritises the physical, mental, and social well-being of all people, where socio-economic rights are realised, making it a healthy place to live, work, grow and learn.	Outcomes 3 & 10
HLG 2 - That Clare will be a County which supports and promotes education facilitated across early years, primary, secondary, higher, and further education that provides opportunities for life-long learning, upskilling, and personal development.	Outcomes 3, 5 & 10
HLG 3 - That Clare will have sustainable retail, industry, manufacturing, agriculture, marine, tourism, aviation, culture and services sectors that will offer employment and recreational opportunities for the well-being of all and support the seeking of national funding to overcome the current wide ranging infrastructural deficits within the County.	Outcomes 1, 3, 5 & 9
HLG 4 - To enhance the economic, cultural, and social vibrancy of the County so its people can live, work, invest and learn.	Outcomes 3, 5, 7 & 8
HLG 5 - Clare will be a county with strong, balanced urban and rural areas, where people can reach their potential, ensuring protection of the environment with the intention of building support for a Just Transition, assisting Ireland to achieve our carbon emission targets and enhancing the economic benefits to our local communities.	Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 8 & 9
HLG 6 - Clare will be a collaborative, diverse, and innovative County and will further strengthen local democracy and enhance delivery of services at local level to provide economic and community development opportunities.	Outcomes 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10

7.1.2 National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2030

The National Development Plan provides the investment framework for the delivery of the National Planning Framework. Clare has benefitted from the NDP across a range of spending areas on infrastructure, most notably for the regeneration of its towns and villages, tourism and rural development, housing, education, and training to acknowledge some of the recent areas of investment.

The overall funding is being allocated on a thematic basis to each of the National Strategic Outcomes in the NPF. The Strategic Investment Priorities correlate directly to the numbers of the National Strategic Outcomes in the NPF as follows.



National Development Plan 2021-2030

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2021- 2030 sets out the investment priorities that underpin the implementation of the National Planning Framework as part of Project Ireland 2040. Through a total investment of €165 billion, this level of capital spending aims to ensure ongoing cross-sectoral regional development and public investment. A large proportion of this investment is directed at major national infrastructure projects relating to sustainable mobility, international and regional connectivity transitions to a low carbon and climate-resilient economy, compact growth, enhanced heritage.

Each of the above spending priorities relate to the 6 High-Level Goals of the LECP in the table below.

HIGH-LEVEL GOALS	NATIONAL STRATEGIC OUTCOMES
HLG 1 - That Clare will be a County that prioritises the physical, mental, and social well-being of all people, where socio-economic rights are realised, making it a healthy place to live, work, grow and learn.	Priorities 1, 3, 5, 7, 8 & 10
HLG 2 - That Clare will be a County which supports and promotes education facilitated across early years, primary, secondary, higher, and further education that provides opportunities for life-long learning, upskilling, and personal development.	Priorities 1, 7 & 10
HLG 3 - That Clare will have sustainable retail, industry, manufacturing, agriculture, marine, tourism, aviation, culture & services sectors that will offer employment and recreational opportunities for the well-being of all and support the seeking of national funding to overcome the current wide ranging infrastructural deficits within the County.	Priorities 3, 4, 5 & 10
HLG 4 - To enhance the economic, cultural, and social vibrancy of the County so its people can live, work, invest and learn.	Priorities 1 - 10
HLG 5 - Clare will be a county with strong, balanced urban and rural areas, where people can reach their potential, ensuring protection of the environment with the intention of building support for a Just Transition, assisting Ireland to achieve our carbon emission targets and enhancing the economic benefits to our local communities.	Priorities 1, 3, 4, 8 & 9
HLG 6 - Clare will be a collaborative, diverse, and innovative County and will further strengthen local democracy and enhance delivery of services at local level to provide economic and community development opportunities.	Priorities 1 to 10

7.1.3 Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025

One of the more critical national policy frameworks applicable to County Clare, the 2021-2025 national policy on Rural Development provides as follows:

Pillar 1: Supporting Sustainable Communities

- Make rural Ireland a better place in which to live and work by revitalising our town and village centres through the implementation of initiatives such as the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, the CLÁR and RAPID Programmes (Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment & Development), and measures to support people to live in town centres;
- Enhance local services in the community through the provision of support for rural GPs, through ongoing development of the primary care sector to deliver better care close to home in communities, through support for the rural post office network to adapt to a changing business environment, and through continued access to schools for children in rural Ireland;
- Empower local communities, through the development and support of the Public Participation Network and Local Community Development Committees, to ensure that a diversity of voices are heard and included in local decision-making processes and that communities continue to identify their own needs and solutions;
- Build better communities through ongoing investment in the LEADER Programme and support vulnerable rural communities through initiatives such as the Rural Social Scheme.

Pillar 2: Supporting Enterprise and Employment

- Grow and attract enterprises and jobs through the roll-out of the eight regional Action Plans for Jobs and the development of an Atlantic Economic Corridor to promote balanced regional development;
- Support sectoral growth and the continued development of the agri-food sector through the implementation of Food Wise 2025 and roll-out initiatives to develop the renewable energy sector and International Financial Services in rural Ireland;
- Ensure rural communities have the necessary skills to meet the needs of the labour market and to encourage innovation and maximise assets;
- Support rural jobseekers through the Intreo offices and initiatives such as the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme, Tús and Community Employment;
- Support farm and fishing incomes through CAP payments, the Rural Development Programme and other Government supports.

Pillar 3: Maximising our Rural Tourism and Recreation Potential

- Support sustainable jobs through targeted rural tourism initiatives, including through the support of key marketing initiatives such as Wild Atlantic Way Ireland’s Ancient East, Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands, as well as developing the potential of Ireland’s Lakelands;
- Develop and promote Activity Tourism in rural areas through the development of blueways, greenways and other recreational opportunities;
- Develop and promote our natural and built heritage through investment and development of our Gaeltacht areas, enhanced promotion of our National Parks and Nature Reserves and other natural and built resources.

Pillar 4: Fostering Culture and Creativity in Rural Communities

- Increase access to the arts and enhance cultural facilities in rural communities;
- Further develop and enhance culture and creativity in rural Ireland through the establishment of culture teams and creativity hubs as part of the Creative Ireland Programme;
- Promote the Irish language as a key resource in Gaeltacht and other rural communities.

Pillar 5: Improving Rural Infrastructure and Connectivity

- Bring high speed broadband to every premises in Ireland through the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan and improve mobile phone access in rural areas;
- Improve rural transport links through a review of services, support for our regional airports and investment in rural infrastructure;
- Implement flood relief measures and other land management measures to protect our rural infrastructure.

7.1.4 National Climate Action Plan 2023

The National Climate Action Plan 2023 is one of a series of annual action plans adopted by the Government of Ireland to advance towards net zero emissions by 2050. A detailed set of actions underpins the strategic objectives of the Programme for Government and the national legislation now in place. At county level, the national action plan will be transposed into local delivery through the Clare Climate Action Plan.

National objectives under the 2023 Plan include:

- Application of just transition principles across the County;
- Provision of consistent, local guidance to the public and local businesses;
- Embedding of climate-neutral provisions into the design and delivery of local public services and infrastructure;
- Alignment of public service policies with the National Climate Action Plans;
- Implementation of sectoral plans to underpin climate transition, most notably for transport, agriculture and land use;
- Best practice engagement with local communities and the people living, working and recreating in the County.

These factors are embedded into the LECP, most notably under High-Level Goal 5.

7.1.5 Housing for All

“*Housing for All – a New Housing Plan for Ireland*”, was published by the Government on 2nd September 2021. It sets out 213 underpinning actions which the Government has committed itself to delivering, much through the local government sector and approved housing bodies.

Clare County Council plays a central role in the delivery of the policy at the local level. ‘*Housing for All*’ sets out 4 pathways towards implementation. These include:

- Supporting Homeownership and Increasing Affordability;
- Eradicating Homelessness, Increasing Social Housing Delivery and Supporting Social Inclusion;
- Increasing New Housing Supply; and
- Addressing Vacancy and Efficient Use of Existing Stock.

The LCDC and ESPC acknowledge that the policy arena for housing is principally set out in "Housing for All" and that Clare County Council are the primary policy leader with the local mandate to deliver social housing, as well as planning for the delivery of wider housing provision. That acknowledged the LCDC and ESPC have determined that given the importance of housing to the general underpinning of socio-economic developments across the County that its high-level goals should provide for cross-agency and community collaboration to secure delivery of housing that meets the needs of the diverse community.

7.1.6 National Further Education and Training Strategy 2020-2024

The above strategy, which has been embedded at local level through the planning of the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, provides national strategic direction for the further education and training sector. Strategic Priorities to develop skills and competencies are at the heart of the Strategy. A key set of pillars for delivery focuses on building apprenticeship opportunities, building local and business partnerships, collaboration with other public bodies at local level, in order to advance the skills base of the local level. The fostering of inclusion by, for example, addressing levels of literacy and numeracy, is another key priority in the Strategy with delivery being rooted in local communities across the State through the work of the Education and Training Boards.

This focus is embedded into this LECP through High-Level Goals 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.

7.1.7 Circular Economy Programme 2021-2027

A draft national policy on development of the circular economy is being prepared under the auspices of the local government sector. The development of a circular economy is based upon a transition programme to enable a whole of country approach to implementation. The circularity gap is to be reduced so that by 2030 it is lower than average in the European Union. This will require:

- An increased awareness on the role of the circular economy;
- Increased investment in the local circular economy;
- Addressing any local, regional and national barriers to enable transition to a circular economy.

The LECP acknowledges that preparation of a circular economy plan for County Clare will be required over the course of the LECP and that the provisions of the LECP may require amendment as the circular economy plan is prepared.

7.1.8 Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025

The Healthy Ireland Framework is based on four key goals, each of which is embedded into the High-Level Goals of the LECP.

- To increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life;
- To reduce health inequalities;
- To protect the public from threats to health and well-being;
- To create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland.

The LECP provides for such strategic integration through High-Level Goals 1, 5 and 6.

7.1.9 National Action Plan Against Racism 2023-2027

Given the diversity of the population of Clare, both the LCDC and the Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee (EDSPC) have committed to implementation of local initiatives against racism. The LECP has, therefore, been prepared with a clear embedding of the key actions highlighted in the National Action Plan against Racism. Particular note is taken of the key objectives of the Action Plan as follows:

- Objective One: Being Safe and Being Heard – Supporting people who experience racism and protecting people from racist incidents and crimes;
- Objective Two: Being Equal – Addressing ethnic inequalities;
- Objective Three: Being Seen and Taking Part – Enabling minority participation;
- Objective Four: Being Counted – Measuring the impacts of racism;
- Objective Five: Being Together – A shared journey to racial equality.

7.1.10 From Poverty to Potential: A Programme Plan for Child Poverty and Well-Being 2023-2025

The first national programme targeting the question of child poverty focuses on six strategic areas for delivering early action to mitigate the impacts of child poverty. It is intended that these will directly inform budgetary planning at national level from 2024 onwards. The focus will be to ensure that every child in Ireland, and their families, will have access to:

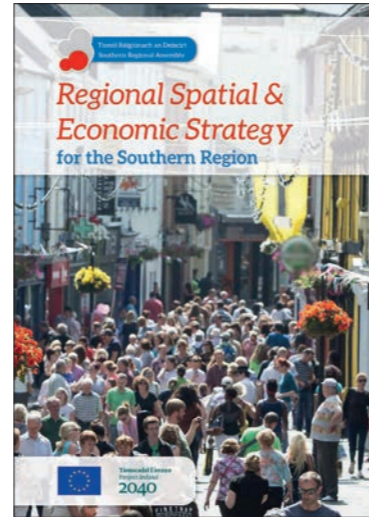
- The income they need;
- Early learning and care;

- Reduced costs of their education;
- Prevention and mitigation of family homelessness;
- Have pathways to access services they require;
- Access to arts, culture, and sports opportunities.

Both the LCDC and ESPC considered the above strategic areas and have ensured they are embedded into the LECP.

Regional Policy

Regional Spatial and Economic Planning are married together for the first time in Ireland in the shape of an implementing strategy for the National Planning Framework (NPF). The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2020- 2032 for the Southern Region marks this new departure. The RSES provides the framework through which the NPF’s disruptive vision and the related government policies and objectives will be delivered for the Region.



In line with international best practice, the RSES adopts a territorially differentiated and place-based approach to regional planning and economic development. We live in an interdependent, highly connected, modern society, where successful strategy formulation and plan making needs to respond to the needs of citizens, society, and the global challenges we face. Planning deliberately to safeguard our environment and our futures, while keeping to the fore the principle of equality ensures greater success for us all.

7.1.11 Southern Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Plan 2020-2032

Clare is within the Southern Regional Assembly Functional Area. Ennis has been designated as a Key Town under the RSES. Therefore, the County is addressed in regional spatial and economic terms under the RSES, a critical pillar of the National Planning Framework. The Regional Strategy was prepared prior to the publication of Census 2022 so the LCDC and ESPC expect a review of the RSES which, in turn, may require a review of both the County Development Plan for the County as well as this LECP.

That noted, the overall strategic intent of the Strategy reflects the direction of both the NPF and the NDP addressed above. As a result, this strategic direction has been critical to the overall preparation of this LECP.

The strategic vision of the RSES is to:

- Nurture all places to realise their full potential;
- Protect, and enhance the Region’s environment;
- Successfully combat climate change;
- Achieve economic prosperity and improved quality of life;
- Accommodate expanded growth and development in suitable locations;
- Make the Southern Region one of Europe’s most creative, innovative, greenest, and livable regions.

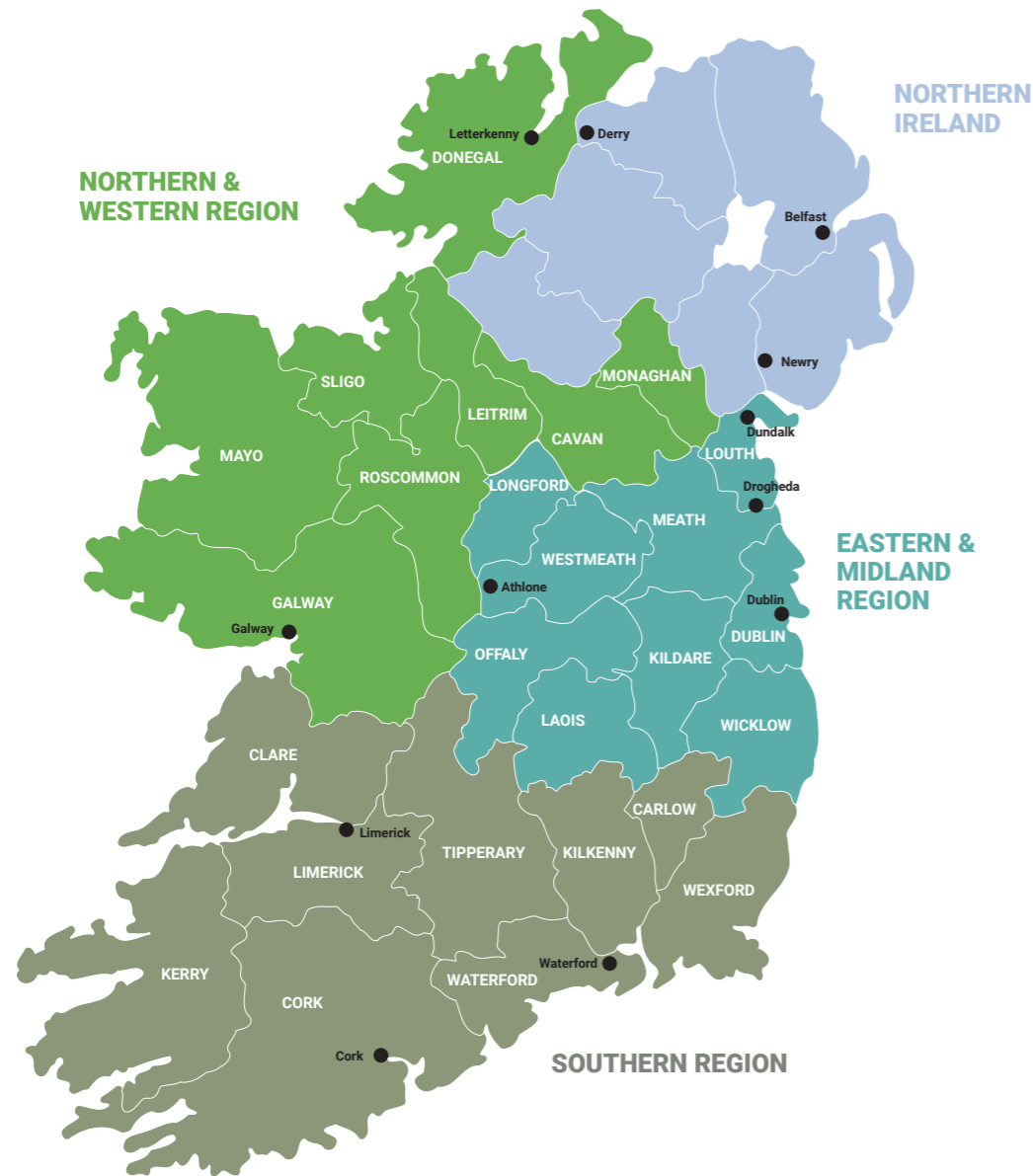
Parts of Clare are also included in the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP), a critical aspect of the RSES. This includes the town of Shannon, and other Clare settlements including Sixmilebridge, Ardnacrusha, Clonlara, Cratloe, Ballycannon, Bunratty and O’Briensbridge. MASP Objective 1 aims to strengthen the role of the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area as an international location of scale, a complement to Dublin and a primary driver of economic and population growth in the Southern Region. Compact growth and regeneration of Shannon Town is a critical objective and is highlighted as a town of significant strength and employment centre.

Ennis, which is one of the largest towns in Ireland, plays a strategic role between the cities of Limerick and Galway forming part of the economic triangle between it and Limerick and Shannon. The RSES has as an objective that Ennis will be a self-sustaining economic driver with a role in higher education growth and as a centre for lifelong learning. The presence of the Technical University of the Shannon (TUS) Ennis Campus within the County, in addition to the University of Limerick Clare Campus, will assist as drivers in the educational and economic strategic development of the County.

The County is a central pillar in the Atlantic Economic Corridor, a nationally supported initiative to deliver sustainable economic growth along the western seaboard with Shannon International Airport playing a critical role as a counterbalance asset to Dublin. The RSES also highlights the importance of the University of Limerick Clare Campus and the potential first established in the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan which provides a strategic direction for the Shannon Estuary which is now being addressed through the Shannon Estuary Taskforce Report.

The above vision is aligned to the National Planning Framework and UN Sustainable Development Goals which, in turn, are embedded at the local level with the County Development Plan 2023-2029 with which the LECP is fully aligned.

These designations are noted and endorsed by the LCDC and ESPC having regard to the whole of county application of the LECP.



The RSES has eleven strategic actions. These are embedded into the LECP High-level Goals.

HIGH-LEVEL GOALS	LECP HIGH-LEVEL GOAL
1. Compact Growth	HLG 1, 3, & 5
2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility	HLG 5
3. Strengthened Rural Economies & Communities	HLG 1 & 5
4. Sustainable Mobility	HLG 5 & 6
5. A Strong Economy	HLG 3
6. High-Quality International Connectivity	HLG 5
7. Diversity, Language, Culture & Heritage Enhancement	HLG 2, 4 & 6
8. Low Carbon, Climate Resilient & Sustainable Society	HLG 5 & 6
9. Sustainable Planning & Infrastructure Development	HLG 3 & 5
10. Healthy & Learning Region	HLG 1, 2 & 4
11. Inclusive International Region	HLG 3, 4, 5 & 6

7.1.12 Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan 2024

The Mid-West Enterprise Plan sets out five strategic objectives that are central to delivery of all of the High-Level Goals of the LECP. These are outlined in the following Table:

MW REP OBJECTIVE	LECP HIGH-LEVEL GOAL
1. Digitisation & Innovation	HLG 6
2. Sustainability	HLG 5
3. Enterprise in Regional Towns & Rural Areas	HLG 1 & 3
4. Supporting SMEs, Startups & Microbusiness	HLG 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6
5. Social Enterprise & Tackling Areas of High Unemployment	HLG 1, 3, 5 & 6

Local Policy

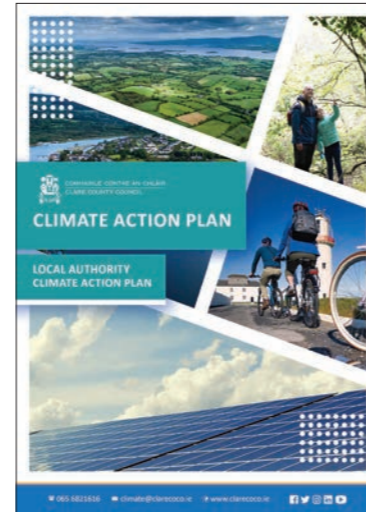
7.1.13 Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

The Clare County Development Plan is an agreed strategy to achieve the shared vision for the County, with the aim of enhancing the quality of life for all people who live, work, and visit County Clare. The Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 establishes a framework to maximise the County's potential. In addition, the Development Plan sets out 20 Goals. The LECP Framework is fully aligned to the Vision, principles and Strategic Goals of the Development Plan as set out in the tables on pages 63 and 64.



7.1.14 Clare Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

The plan sets out key actions that will support County Clare in its transition to becoming a climate-resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally-sustainable and climate-neutral economy by 2050. The actions of the plan not only look at how Clare County Council can transform its own operations and services, but also address what other organisations the Council can partner with and what supports it can give to local communities and individuals.



7.1.15 Clare Library Development Plan 2023-2027

The Clare Libraries Development Plan 2023-2027 will shape the development of Clare Libraries' services and facilities over the next five years. The plan has been prepared within the guidelines outlined in the National Library Strategy 2023-2027 and against the backdrop of other policies such as the Clare County Council Development Plan 2023-2029 and the Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2030.



7.1.16 Clare Digital Strategy 2023 A Five-Year Strategy

The overarching theme of this strategy is a whole of county focus on rural development. While a strategy in its own right, this blueprint is a critical facilitator which will enable Clare County Council to further the objectives of the Clare Rural Development Strategy. The Council will develop partnerships with other external stakeholders in order for this Digital Strategy to contribute to the building of sustainable rural communities across the County.



7.1.17 County Clare Tourism Strategy 2030

Clare is a globally-renowned sustainable and vibrant destination, recognised for its compelling array of adventure activities and its remarkable experiences portraying our rich culture-scape of age-old spirituality, power and influence; our contemporary vitality arising from our deep-rooted traditions in music, sport and innovation; our dynamic rural towns and villages where our hospitality excels – all set within our stunning backdrop of unique and varied living landscapes.



7.1.18 Renewed Clare Rural Development Strategy 2030

The renewed strategy, highlighted in the Southern Regional Assembly RSES and unique in Ireland, contains ten strategic objectives. The table on page 65 shows the alignment between the LECP and this strategy.



DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOALS	LECP HIGH-LEVEL GOAL
Goal 1: A county that is resilient to climate change, plans for and adapts to climate change and flood risk, is the national leader in renewable energy generation, facilitates a low carbon future, supports energy efficiency and conservation and enables the decarbonisation of our lifestyles.	HLG 5
Goal 2: A county that drives local and regional sustainable growth by harnessing the potential of its unique location, quality of life, natural resources and other competitive advantages.	HLG 3 & 4
Goal 3: A county with strong and balanced urban and rural areas providing key services and a good quality of life and where people with social or economic requirements to live in the countryside are accommodated.	HLG 1 & 3
Goal 4: A county with high quality housing at appropriate locations throughout the County, ensuring the development of a range of house types, sizes and tenures to accommodate differing household needs, promoting sustainable communities, social integration and inclusion, while facilitating a sense of place.	HLG 1, 3, 4
Goal 5: A county that affords protection and conservation to buildings, areas, structures, sites and features of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest and recognises them as a social, cultural and economic asset to the County.	HLG 3 & 4
Goal 6: A county with viable and vibrant town and village centres, that have shopping areas and markets at appropriate scales and locations and which function to serve their communities and rural hinterlands.	HLG 1, 3 & 4
Goal 7: A county with diverse and strong rural communities & economy, where its natural resources are sustainably managed in a manner that is compatible with the fragility of rural areas and the existing quality of life.	HLG 1, 3 & 4
Goal 8: A county in which tourism growth continues to play a major role in the future development of the County; a county which is the gateway to the West, delivering tourism experiences which reflect its strong commitment to sustainability, connectivity, innovation and new approaches to doing business; and a place that is globally recognised as a sustainable destination and where the benefits of tourism are spread across the County throughout the seasons.	HLG 1, 3 & 4
Goal 9: A county where healthy and sustainable communities are developed and integrated with the timely delivery of a wide range of community, educational and cultural facilities and where, through a commitment to equality, participation, accessibility and social inclusion, the County develops as a unique location with an enhanced quality of life for its citizens and visitors.	HLG 1, 2, 3 & 4
Goal 10: A county that supports strong economic growth & a high quality of life for all residents through the provision of efficient and robust physical infrastructure whilst having regard to environmental responsibilities and complying with European and national legislation.	HLG 1, 3 & 4

DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOALS	LECP HIGH-LEVEL GOAL
Goal 11: A county that builds on the strategic location & natural resources of the Shannon Estuary by facilitating & maximising its potential for various forms of development while managing the estuarine & natural environment in full compliance with all relevant EU Directives.	HLG 3 & 4
Goal 12: A county that maximises and manages the economic, social and recreational potential of the Atlantic Coastline and Shannon Estuary while protecting the coastal zone and its resources and adapting to and managing the challenges of climate change including flooding and sea-level rise.	HLG 3 & 4
Goal 13: A county of 'living landscapes' where people live, work, recreate and visit while respecting, managing and taking pride in the unique landscape of the County.	HLG 3, 4, 5 & 6
Goal 14: A county that protects and enhances its unique natural heritage and biodiversity and recognises the potential for sustainable green infrastructure development, while promoting and developing its cultural, educational and eco-tourism potential in a sustainable manner.	HLG 3, 4, 5 & 6
Goal 15: A county that affords protection and conservation to buildings, areas, structures, sites and features of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest and recognises them as a social, cultural and economic asset to the County.	HLG 3, 4, 5 & 6
Goal 16: A county with a strong and vibrant network of towns and villages that provide a wide range of services and a high quality of life for residents of the County.	HLG 3, 5, & 6
Goal 17: A county that promotes buildings, urban spaces & public realm of the highest quality & ensures all development adheres to the principles of good design & contributes to the establishment of distinctive buildings & areas with a 'sense of place'.	HLG 3, 5, & 6
Goal 18: A county where the overall strategic objectives of the County Development Plan are translated into settlement plans and local area plans containing detailed land-use zonings and master-planning of neighbourhoods in an evidence-based, plan-led approach with a focus on ensuring a high quality of life.	HLG 3, 5, & 6
Goal 19: A county that manages and monitors the County level implementation of the National Planning Framework, Regional Spatial Economic Strategy, national plans and guidelines to ensure that quality of life, sustainability, climate action, resilience and inclusivity are the fundamental principles of the future sustainable development of the County.	HLG 3, 5, & 6
Goal 20: A county that plays a fundamental role in the transition from a linear to a circular economy, through being responsible for key policies in public services that affect citizens' wellbeing, economic growth and environmental quality, and by fostering the linkages to transition from linear model to a circular model which keeps resources in use for as long as possible.	HLG 3, 5, & 6

RURAL DEV STRATEGY OBJECTIVES	LECP HIGH-LEVEL GOAL
1. Building Social Enterprise	HLG 4
2. Multi-Service Centres	HLG 6
3. Co-operating Communities	HLG 5
4. Managing the Environment	HLG 3, 5
5. Age Friendly Initiatives	HLG 1, 2
6. Sustain Our Rural Way of Life	HLG 1, 3, 5
7. Enhancement of Services	HLG 1, 3, 4
8. Education, Child, and Youth Services	HLG 2
9. Building Tourism	HLG 3, 4, 5
10. Population Growth and Meeting the Needs of Incoming Communities	HLG 1, 2, 4, 6

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: High Level Goal 1 – Objective 1.3 Definition

The use of equitable and inclusive above refers to the necessity of reflecting within policy, resource allocation and action, the needs, views and potential of the following: the population of women and girls in Clare, those who experience any form of discrimination prohibited under the equal status acts in particular the Traveller community and people with disabilities, migrants to Ireland including displaced people and international protection applicants; Black Irish and people of colour born in Ireland, people from ethnic minority backgrounds within migrant communities, those who experience socio-economic or 'class-based' discrimination, transgender people, those members of our communities who are reintegrating from prison, those who are experiencing or recovering from substance abuse and other forms of addiction.



Appendix 2: Consultation

2.1 Introduction

An extensive consultation process has informed the preparation of this Framework Plan. The LCDC and ESPC agreed that active participation would be a central aspect of the process. The "Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision-making", launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development, provided the consultation template that supported the consultation process. This Guide provides a best practice template for undertaking public engagement to ensure active participation by communities generally, and disadvantaged and hard to reach communities in particular. In light of the publication, both the LCDC and ESPC committed to a clear focus on such communities and determined that such communities would include, among others;

- i) Minority Ethnic Communities
- ii) Youth and young people
- iii) Economic disadvantaged communities, and
- iv) Older people



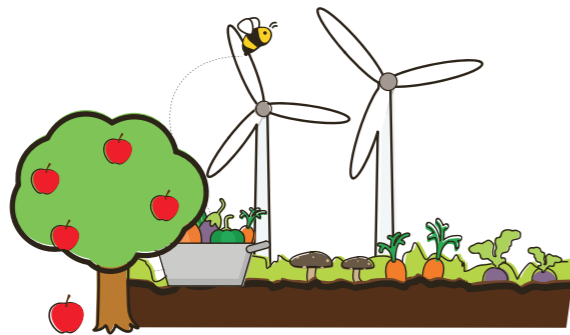
A Consultation Plan was prepared to enable a clear input from the above in addition to sectoral interest groups and the wider population of the County. In addition, extensive use of multi-media platforms were used over the course of preparation of this LECP process.

2.2 The Consultation Process

A.2.2.1 Initial Process

The initial public consultation process for the Local Economic Community Plan 2023 – 2029 commenced on the 15th of May 2023 and continued until the 23rd of June 2023. The consultation was delivered across several separate but aligned processes including production of a “Public Consultation Document” containing draft High-Level Goals and an associated Socio-Economic Statement. These were published online on Clare County Council’s website under “Have Your Say”. The document provided details on what was involved in preparing the LECP, how it was planned and delivered, draft High-Level Goals and how they would impact on the people of Clare, through a series of draft objectives. Alongside the online Public Consultation Document, engagement platforms and surveys were published and hosted on the Council’s webpage. The surveys provided members of the public the opportunity to give feedback during the consultation period with further submissions made through a dedicated email address (lecp23@clarecoco.ie)

Over 70 submissions were received from the public through this public consultation.



A print advertisement was launched on the 18th of May 2023 with a press release issued to local papers, The Clare Champion and The Clare Echo. Adverts were displayed in The Clare Champion on the 18th of May and the 8th and 15th of June 2023.

Finally, to complement the above processes, face-to-face public consultations were facilitated throughout the County in each Municipal District facilitated by LCDC Support Staff, commencing the week of the 12th of June 2023. These in-person events, which were well-attended, were hosted in the following locations: -

Monday 12th June 2023 - Shannon Municipal District

Tuesday 13th June 2023 - Ennis Municipal District

Wednesday 14th June 2023 - Killaloe Municipal District

Thursday 15th June 2023 - West Clare Municipal District

Targeted engagements also took place with the business communities in Clare to hear their views on the economic aspects of the Plan. Breakfast briefings took place on the 12th of June 2023 at the Inn in Dromoland and on the 16th of June 2023 at The Ennistymon Hub. A wide cross-section of business interests attended these sessions and inputted into the drafting of the economic aspects of the framework plan.

Following the above public consultation engagement, the LCDC and ESPC prepared the full draft Clare Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029. Interested parties were invited to make submissions or observations on this full draft from the 13th November to the 22nd December.


Online Engagement with LECP Consultation Documents

Survey Responses
08 May 2023-31 December 2023

Draft Clare Local Economic and Community Plan

Clare County Council Community Engagement

Project: Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029




VISITORS 19	
CONTRIBUTORS 3	RESPONSES 3

Survey Responses
08 May 2023-31 December 2023

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) - Business Survey

Clare County Council Community Engagement

Project: Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029



VISITORS 25	
CONTRIBUTORS 3	RESPONSES 3

Survey Responses
08 May 2023-31 December 2023

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) - Community Survey

Clare County Council Community Engagement

Project: Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029




VISITORS 156	
CONTRIBUTORS 67	RESPONSES 68

Survey Responses
08 May 2023-31 December 2023

Submissions & Observations June 2023

Clare County Council Community Engagement

Project: Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029

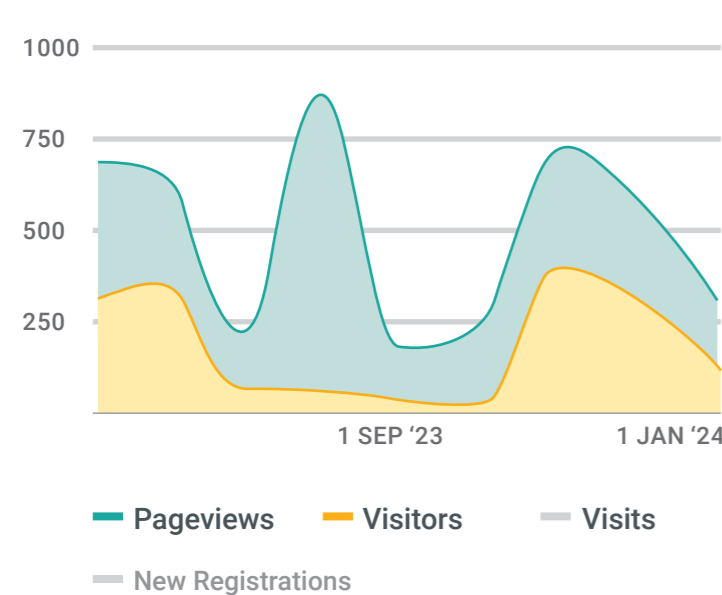


VISITORS 25	
CONTRIBUTORS 4	RESPONSES 4

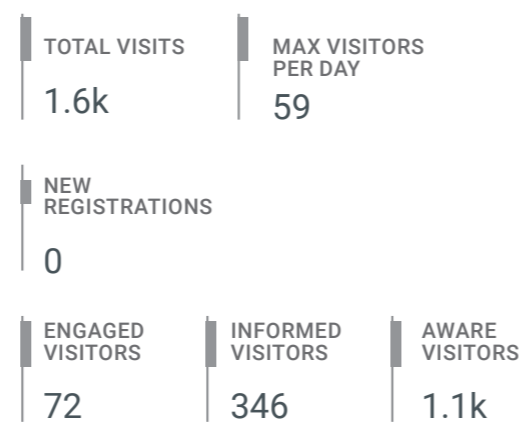
Survey Report
08 May 2023-31 December 2023

Clare County Council Community Engagement

Visitors Summary



Highlights



A.2.2.2 Consultation with Sectoral and Thematic Groups in the County

In addition to the completion of the Clare Survey, a series of targeted questionnaires were issued to key sectors and groups in the County. These included:

- Business Sector
- Agricultural Sector
- Minority Ethnic Communities
- Young People

In addition, as preparation of the County Clare Age Friendly Strategy was in train concurrently with the preparation of the LECP, completed questionnaires issued to Older People were made available to the Advisory Group for consideration in the context of the drafting of the LECP.

Each Sector/Grouping is set out in broad terms below. More detailed information on each sector/group is available on the LECP Website. A separate report detailing the results of these questionnaires will be published separately in 2024.

Business

The findings from the Sector indicate a marked similarity to those set out by the wider public in the Clare Survey with key concerns around the provision of housing, addressing transport requirements with a very high dependency on private car provision, and greater childcare provision. Broadly, the respondents were satisfied with business support services and with services provided by the Council and other public bodies. General satisfaction with security and training/education delivery were positive but clear concern with local healthcare provision was also highlighted. Investment priorities for the sector, consequently, reflect the views expressed.

Agriculture

The survey was organised with the support of the representative organisations for farming in Clare. In several respects the agricultural sector is similar to business but there are notably different views on the levels and quality of council services as well as the supports available to those in agriculture generally. Housing and public transport also feature generally. Issues around the care of older people are also indicated with investment required directly in agriculture but also local roads and public transport and in facilities for older people. Local health care also features as needing additional investment.

Minority Ethnic Communities

Questionnaires in the relevant languages of the minority ethnic communities in Clare were made available through the support of the Clare Refugee Support Centre to those communities. Generally, members of the Minority Ethnic Communities indicate that while they appreciate the positive aspects of living in a place like Clare there are concerns about transport, personal safety along with worries over long-term accommodation and access to the wider community in which they live. Concerns about the cost of living and access to employment opportunities were highlighted along with the need for training and education.

Young People

The survey was organised with the support of Clare Youth Service and Comhairle Na nÓg. Young people see Clare as a great place to live with a clear understanding of the importance of their community in shaping the conditions in which they grow up. Those noted, clear concerns are expressed about access to better work opportunities in the County, housing and, critically, public transport suggesting clear and identifiable priorities for the LECP.

In addition, the need for appropriate and timely communication/engagement with younger people is highlighted while issues concerning the use of drugs and access to leisure opportunities and facilities also are noteworthy. Continued investment in education, training, and leisure facilities and in particular in public transport would be among the priorities of younger people.

Older people

Perhaps unsurprisingly, issues around loneliness, access to healthcare via public transport, security and safety are raised regularly in the completed questionnaires from older people. The need to engage more frequently at the local level with older people is also raised along with continued use of media with which older people are more familiar. Associated with this engagement is the provision of regular opportunities to engage within the local community itself as a means to address some of the concerns raised.

A.2.2.3 Consultation Process for the draft Plan and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment

The draft Plan was issued for public consultation on the 10th of November 2023, with an invitation for submissions up to the 22nd of December 2023. Details of the various submissions received are set out in a separate consultation paper, as required under the Guidelines. Amendments arising were adopted by the LECP Advisory Steering Group and have been included in the Plan.

The Plan was submitted to the Southern Regional Assembly in compliance with the National Guidelines and has received approval from the Assembly.

Submissions arising from the requirements of the SEA/AA process are addressed separately within the statutory framework of the Statutory Statement and have been included in the final Plan as required.



Appendix 3: LCDC Membership 2024*

Cllr. Gerry Flynn	Chair - Elected Member
Paul Patton	Vice Chair (LCETB)
Anne Haugh	Director of Services
Cllr. Rita McInerney	Elected Member
Cllr. Cillian Murphy	Elected Member
Cllr. Johnny Flynn	Elected Member
Doírin Graham	CEO CLDC
Dermot Hayes	Clare PPN
Sheila Lynch	Business
Maurice Harvey	Age Friendly
Brian McManus	Clare Youth Service
Thomas Lane	Irish Farmers' Association
Padraic McElwee	Head of Enterprise
Bedelia Collins	Health Service Executive
Sergent Catriona Holohan	An Garda Síochána
Teresa O'Donohoe	T/PPN Environment
Eddie O'Gorman	PPN Community & Vol
Bridgie Casey	PPN Social Inclusion
Bernadette Haugh	Chief Officer

Economic SPC Members 2024*

Cllr. Pat McMahon	Chair - Elected Member
Carmel Kirby	Director of Services
Cllr. P.J Ryan	Elected Member
Cllr. P. J Kelly	Elected Member
Cllr. Pat Daly	Elected Member
Cllr. Gabriel Keating	Elected Member
Cllr. Johnny Flynn	Elected Member
Cllr. Michael Begley	Elected Member
Rosaleen O'Reilly	Agriculture and Farming
Emma Karran	Environment/Conservation
Elaine D'Alton	Social Inclusion
Pat Keogh	Development/Construction
Pat Morris	Business/Commercial
Seamus Ryan	Trade Unions

*Acknowledging the contribution of all current and past members in the development of the LECP in 2023/2024

Appendix 4: UN Sustainable Development Assessment

Using the UN SDG Assessment Tool the LECP addresses all 17 of the overall goals and 128 of the SDG targets.



Acknowledgements:

The Chief Officer and staff of Clare LCDC wishes to acknowledge and thank all contributors to the development of this Local Economic and Community Plan for County Clare including our member partners on the LCDC and Economic SPC, our Clare County Council colleagues, community and voluntary partners and the general public.

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much”

(Helen Keller)

