



COUNTY TIPPERARY

Local Economic & Community Plan 2024-2029

Framework Local Economic & Community Plan



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Terms & Abbreviations

Abbreviation / Term	Definition
AA	Appropriate Assessment
ACA	Architectural Conservation Area
CDP	County Development Plan
CLLD	Community-Led Local Development
Co.	County
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CYPSC	Children and Young People's Services Committee
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools
ED	Electoral Division
EI	Enterprise Ireland
ESRI	Economic and Social Research Institute
ETB	Education and Training Board
EU	European Union
EV	Electric Vehicle
GIS	Geographical Information System
HAP	Housing Assistance Payment
HLG	High-Level Goal
HP	Trutz Haase and Jonathan Pratschke
HSE	Health Service Executive
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
LAP	Local Area Plan
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LEADER	Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale Links Between Actions for the Development of the Rural Economy
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
LEO	Local Enterprise Office
MASP	Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan
MD	Municipal District
MIC	Mary Immaculate College
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
NDP	National Development Plan
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NEP	National Economic Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation

Abbreviation / Term	Definition
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NPAS	National Positive Aging Strategy
NPF	National Planning Framework
NTA	National Transport Authority
PPN	Public Participation Network
NTDP	North Tipperary Development Company
RAPID	Revitalising Areas through Planning, Investment and Development
RRDF	Rural Regeneration and Development Fund
RSES	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAP	Small Area of Population
SCO	Sustainable Community Objectives
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEDO	Sustainable Economic Development Objectives
SETU	South East Technological University
SICAP	Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPC	Strategic Policy Committee
SRSES	Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
STDC	South Tipperary Development Company
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
TCC	Tipperary County Council
TEA	Tipperary Energy Agency
TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
TUS	Technological University of the Shannon
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.
URDF	Urban Regeneration and Development Fund

Acknowledgements

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Unless otherwise stated, all statistical data is based on the CSO Census of Population 2022 and 2016.

Deprivation Index information and mapping are based on Pobal Maps 2023, and Haase, T. and Pratschke, J. (2017) The 2016 Pobal HP Deprivation Index.



Tipperary
Local Economic and
Community Plan
2024-2029



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council



01

Introduction

Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) sets out, for six years, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic and community development of the county.



Over the lifetime of the county’s first LECP (2015-2020), substantial progress was made towards implementing the plan’s High-Level Goals through a coordinated effort between the County Council and other local agencies and organisations.

The High-Level Goals that form part of the Tipperary LECP 2024-2029 build on the foundation of the first LECP and include new elements that will support the vision set out in the County Development Plan 2022-2028: -

‘Tipperary will be a vibrant place where people can live, visit and work in a competitive and resilient economy, a sustainable environment, and an inclusive, healthy, and active community’.

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is a tool for delivering actions from national and regional strategies at a local level. It is designed to integrate actions and initiatives related to economic and community development in Tipperary into a single unified strategy. The strategy conforms with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region.

The High-Level Goals set the general direction of travel for the Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). The High-Level Goals are designed to remain consistent throughout the six-year Plan period commencing in 2024. The LECP Advisory Group of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has determined that the goals should be ambitious and evidence-based, founded on the analysis of the socio-economic data and the multi-level consultation processes undertaken as part of the plan development. The goals must be achievable and realistic to make implementation practicable.


1.1 Overriding Status of the Plan

Implementing this Plan will involve Tipperary County Council helping to facilitate, promote, support, and coordinate stakeholders in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans setting out public policy for sustainable development, including that relating to the economy, communities, infrastructure, land use tourism and environmental protection and environmental management.

This Plan is situated alongside this hierarchy of statutory documents that have been subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and will not be binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent.

The Plan fully aligns with the provisions of the existing National Planning Framework, Ireland 2040, National Climate Action Plan 2023, Housing For All 2021, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031 and the current County Development Plan, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions.

In order to be realised, projects included in this Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sectors) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. It is a specific provision of this Plan to ensure that all the provisions from the County Development Plan identified in the accompanying Screening for SEA and AA reports shall be complied with throughout the implementation of this Plan.

 *this Plan will involve Tipperary County Council helping to facilitate, promote, support, and coordinate stakeholders in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans*



02

Development Structures

The LECP delivers national and regional goals at a local level. The County Tipperary LECP is a multi-agency plan, which means that actions will be delivered by a wide range of service providers. Service providers include Tipperary County Council, both by itself and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

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



2.1 Policy Context and Alignment

The figure below illustrates how national plans and strategies are referenced at regional and local levels. Tipperary LECP is informed by the goals, objectives and best practices outlined in these and other plans and strategies¹.

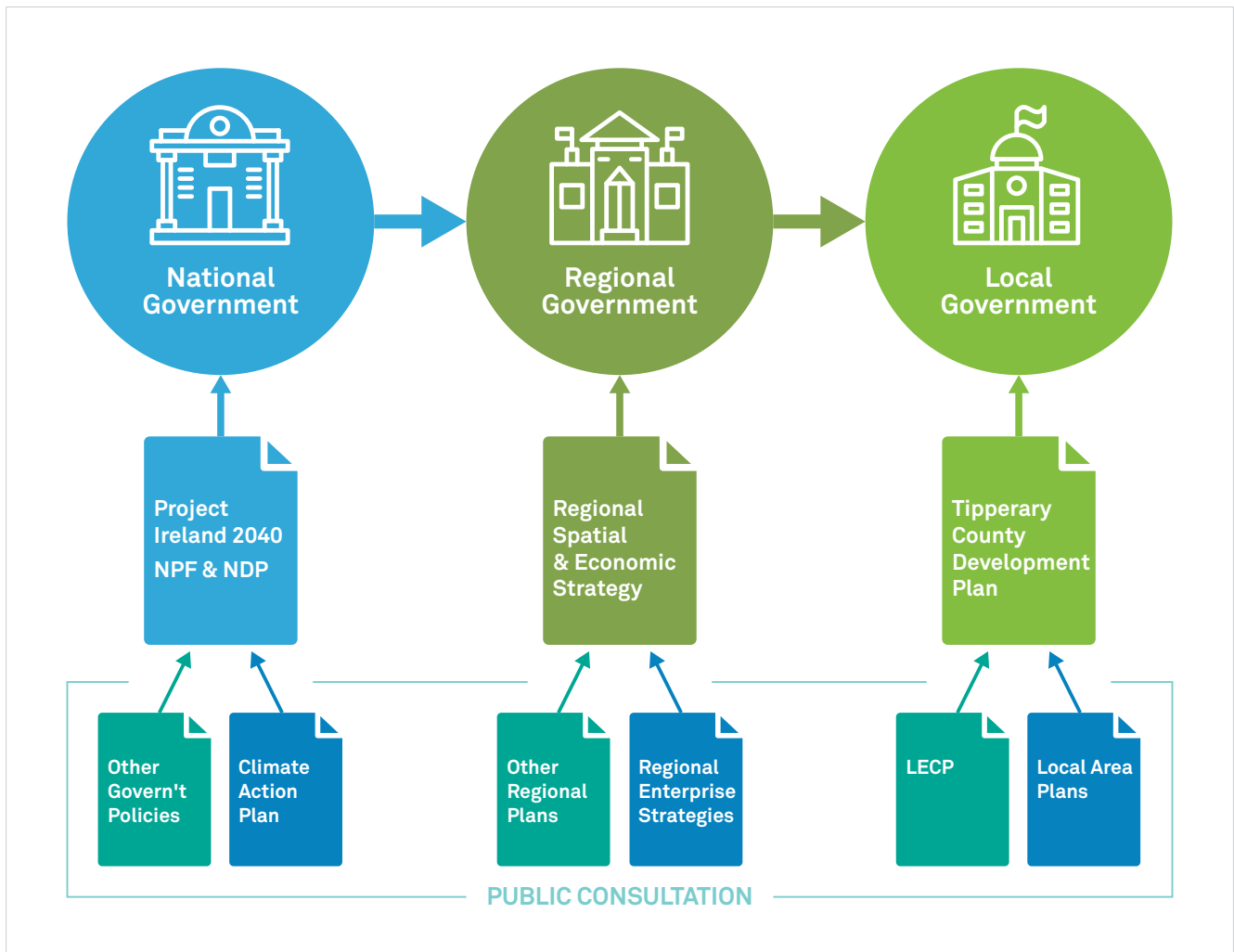


Figure 1 – Policy Context

The economic elements of the LECP have been developed by the Tipperary County Council Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), while the LCDC has developed the community elements.

The LECP has been designed to be consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region and the core strategy and objectives of the County Development Plan. In addition, the LECP has regard to various other relevant Government policy initiatives.

LECP has been developed within an evolving national, regional, and local policy context. An Implementation Plan will ultimately enable the necessary flexibility to accommodate policy evolution.

The main feature of this overall Framework LECP is a set of High-Level Goals for the integrated plan, which are supported by specific Sustainable Objectives under the respective economic and community streams. Each objective considers potential outcomes and high-level indicators for the six-year planning period.

¹ See Appendix A3 for a comprehensive list of key policy documents.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

The LECP must focus more on sustainability through alignment with the seventeen UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030, all people will enjoy peace and prosperity. The SDGs are integrated and recognise that action in one area will affect outcomes in others and that development must balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability.



Figure 2 - UN Sustainable Development Goals

The SDGs are integrated and recognise that action in one area will affect outcomes in others and that development must balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability

Conformity

The LECP must conform to relevant Regional, National and EU targets. A major requirement of the process is the creation of a shared evidence base to inform decision-making by the LCDC and the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.

Conformity across strategic policies is crucial for several reasons: -

- **Attracting Investment:** Investors often look for stable and predictable policy environments, and adherence to high-level policies can make the county more attractive to businesses.
- **Consistency:** Conformity ensures consistency and coherence in the government’s approach to various issues. When policies align with overarching goals and principles, it becomes easier to implement them effectively.
- **Efficiency:** It promotes efficiency by reducing duplication and overlaps in policies. When policies conform, resources can be allocated more efficiently, and agencies can work together more effectively.
- **Long-term Planning:** It facilitates long-term planning by providing a stable framework for everyone to operate. This stability is essential for making long-term strategic decisions and investments that benefit the county.
- **Resilience:** A well-coordinated and consistent strategic framework will help the county respond effectively to unexpected events.
- **Social Cohesion:** Strategic policies can reduce social tensions and promote unity when perceived as fair and just.
- **Sustainability:** Policies that align with sustainability objectives can help the county address environmental challenges and work towards a more sustainable future.
- **Transparency:** When policies are clear and aligned with broader objectives, it is easier for the public to understand and scrutinise the actions.



Figure 3 - Key Plans Informing the LECP

Key Spatial Planning Elements

Co. Tipperary is located within the Mid-West and South-East Strategic Planning Areas (SPAs), both sub-regional areas of the Southern Region. Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles are three of the fourteen designated Key Towns within the RSES with targeted population increases of more than thirty per cent by 2040.

The Limerick-Waterford Transport and Economic network/ axis links the cities of Limerick and Waterford and the Atlantic Economic Corridor and Eastern Corridor. Cooperation and coordination are required across all local authorities to develop potential regional synergies through enhanced collaboration between the Limerick, Shannon and Waterford Metropolitan Areas, the Key Town of Clonmel and the towns of Carrick-on-Suir, Cahir and Tipperary in Co. Tipperary. The role of existing and potential inter-urban networks are regionally significant drivers of collaboration and growth. It is aimed to strengthen multimodal connectivity with sustainable upgrades to the N24 corridor and connect port and airport assets.

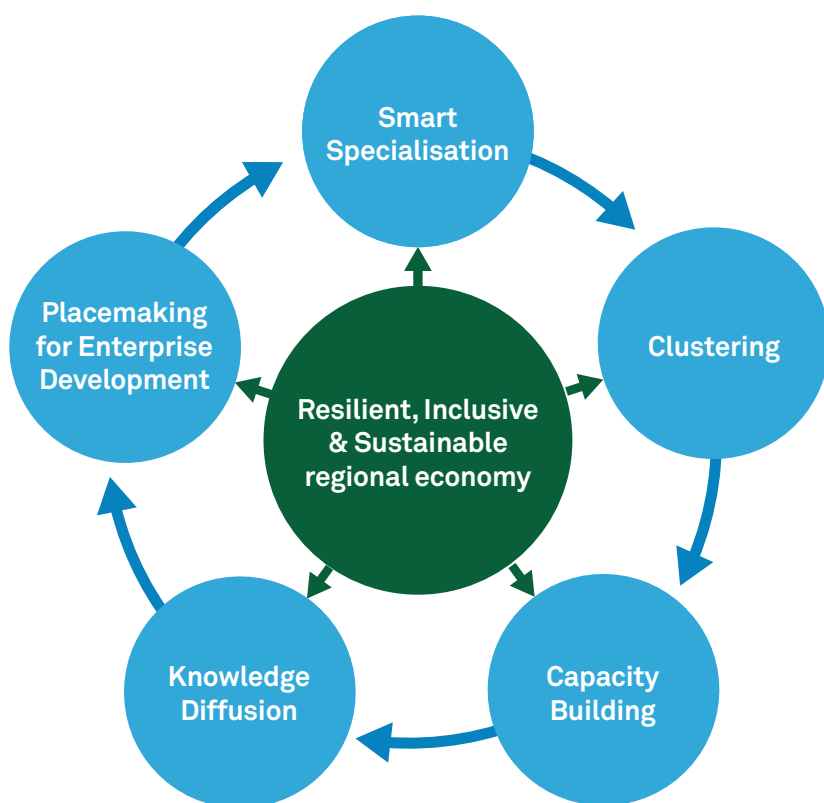
The transition to a low-carbon future provides the potential for the Region to become a global leader in the bioeconomy arena. The sustainable development of the Lisheen Bioeconomy Hub site will create an economic and employment driver with the potential to contribute towards meeting Ireland’s climate change targets as a strategic site of European significance.

The importance of the sustainable growth and development of towns, villages and rural communities is recognised. Place-making and the ten-minute Town approach to sustainable development are desirable for all settlements. This will be supported by climate action involving climate-resilient development and land use.

The sustainable development of the unique cultural, built, and natural heritage of Co. Tipperary will leverage the county’s location within Fáilte Ireland’s *Ireland’s Ancient East and Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands*. This opportunity will drive the contribution of tourism, enterprise, and industry to the broader regional economy.

The development of regional-scale amenities, including Blue Green Infrastructure and Greenways, will enhance regional connectivity and contribute to developing a Smart Region.

Key Economic Elements



- The five principles of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy Economic Strategy are: -**
1. Smart Specialisation
 2. Clustering
 3. Placemaking for enterprise development
 4. Knowledge Diffusion
 5. Capacity Building

2.2 Framework LECP Structure

This LECP framework is built upon an evidence base that is translated into high-level goals and objectives that will guide the LECP for the duration of the plan (2024-2029). Ultimately, an initial two-year Implementation Plan will detail the actions to be implemented to achieve the objectives and High-Level Goals outlined in this Framework LECP.

The approach aims to ensure that the LECP Framework will provide strong strategic direction. This, in turn, will allow the Implementation Plan to be flexible and adapted to suit emerging needs throughout its lifetime, guided by the vision, goals and remit provided by the LECP Framework.

The LECP supports the economic and community development of Co. Tipperary. These two components are interlinked and mutually dependent, resulting in some overlap between them in the HLGs, objectives, and outcomes.

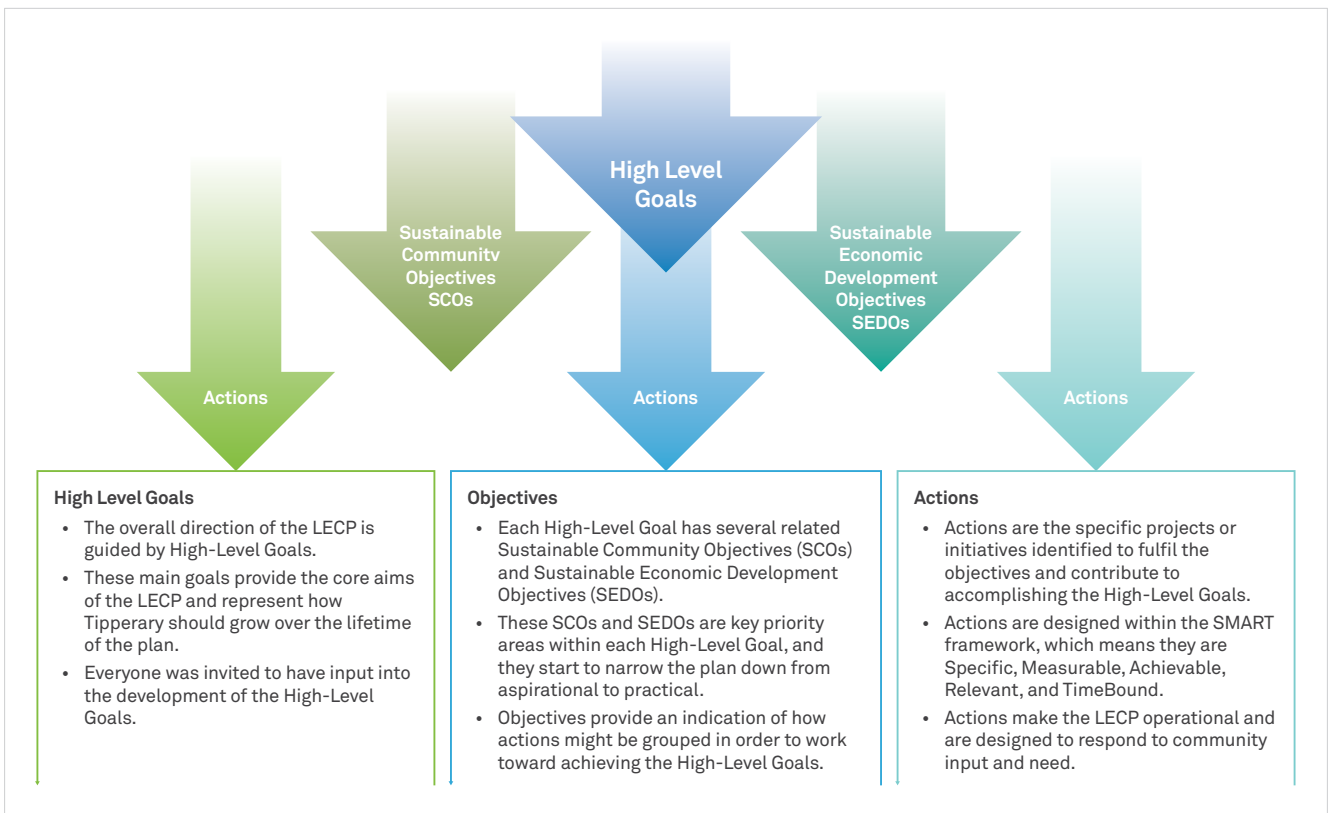


Figure 4 – HLGs, Objectives, and Actions

The development of the Framework LECP has also considered how it might impact key cross-cutting priorities.

Cross-cutting priorities are important topics that affect or cut across most or all aspects of development. These topics were considered throughout all the stages of the LECP and informed the development of High-Level Goals, objectives, and actions.



Figure 5 – Cross-Cutting References

03

Tipperary in Perspective

The following provides a socio-economic snapshot of Co. Tipperary. It is derived from several sources, including the CSO Census of Population 2016 and 2022 data.



Summary



Map 1 – County Tipperary by Electoral Division

- Co. Tipperary has a total population of 167,895 (Census of Population 2022). It is the eleventh-most populous local authority in the state.
- The county's population grew by 5.2 per cent between 2016 and 2022, which is 2.4 percentage points lower than the rate for the state.
- The county is the 6th largest in Ireland, with a land mass of 4,303 km². The county's population density in 2022 was 39 persons per km², compared to the state's at 71.47 persons per km².
- The five Municipal Districts in the county by population in 2016 were as follows: Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel (44,532), Nenagh (40,879), Thurles (37,290), Clonmel (25,003), and Carrick-on-Suir (20,191).
- In 2022, the Key Towns by population were Clonmel (18,369), Nenagh (9,895) and Thurles (8,185). The District Towns were Carrick-on-Suir (5,752), Roscrea (5,542), Tipperary Town (5,387), Cashel (4,805), Cahir (3,679) and Templemore (2,005).
- Population growth between 2016 and 2022 has generally occurred around existing population centres. The highest rate of change (20.25 per cent) occurred in Terryglass, north of Nenagh town.
- Population decline between 2016 and 2022 was at its highest in Templederry (-20.57 per cent), between Nenagh and Thurles.
- Many parts of Co. Tipperary continue to have traditional economic bases. In 2022, the Census of Population reported 79,325 people aged 15 and over in the labour force. Public Administration accounted for 4.32 per cent of the labour force, Residential Care and Social Workers (4.67), Industry not stated (5.27), and Farming of Animals (6.29). Those who were Unemployed, having lost or given up a previous job, accounted for 6.54 per cent of people aged 15 and over.
- In 2022, Co. Tipperary lagged behind the state regarding the population that had attained an ordinary bachelor's degree, national diploma or higher level of education.
- An analysis of the CSO Travel to Work database from Census 2016 (POWSCAR) reveals that 89,603 commuter journeys were being undertaken to places of work, school, or college in Co. Tipperary. Of this total, 66 (0.07 per cent) were to locations overseas, and 58,770 (65.59 per cent) were within the county.
- IDA Ireland reports that the county has a strong profile in the life sciences sector and a developing portfolio of financial services companies, with Fiserv in Nenagh and Waystone in Cashel.
- Farming, other gainful activities, and seasonal employment are significant in many parts of rural Co. Tipperary.
- Tourism is a significant driver for the development of rural Co. Tipperary. Tipperary Transforming – the Tourism Product Development Plan 2020-2030 foresees an increase of 50 per cent of the people employed in tourism to service a 100 per cent growth in bednights and a 75 per cent growth in international visitors. Achieving these targets will require an investment of €150 million in the sector.
- Co. Tipperary has a very significant stock of national and European natural assets, and the county has an extensive network of Natura 2000 sites, including twenty-one Special Areas of Conservation, eleven Natural Heritage Areas, and four Special Protection Areas.



3.1 Population

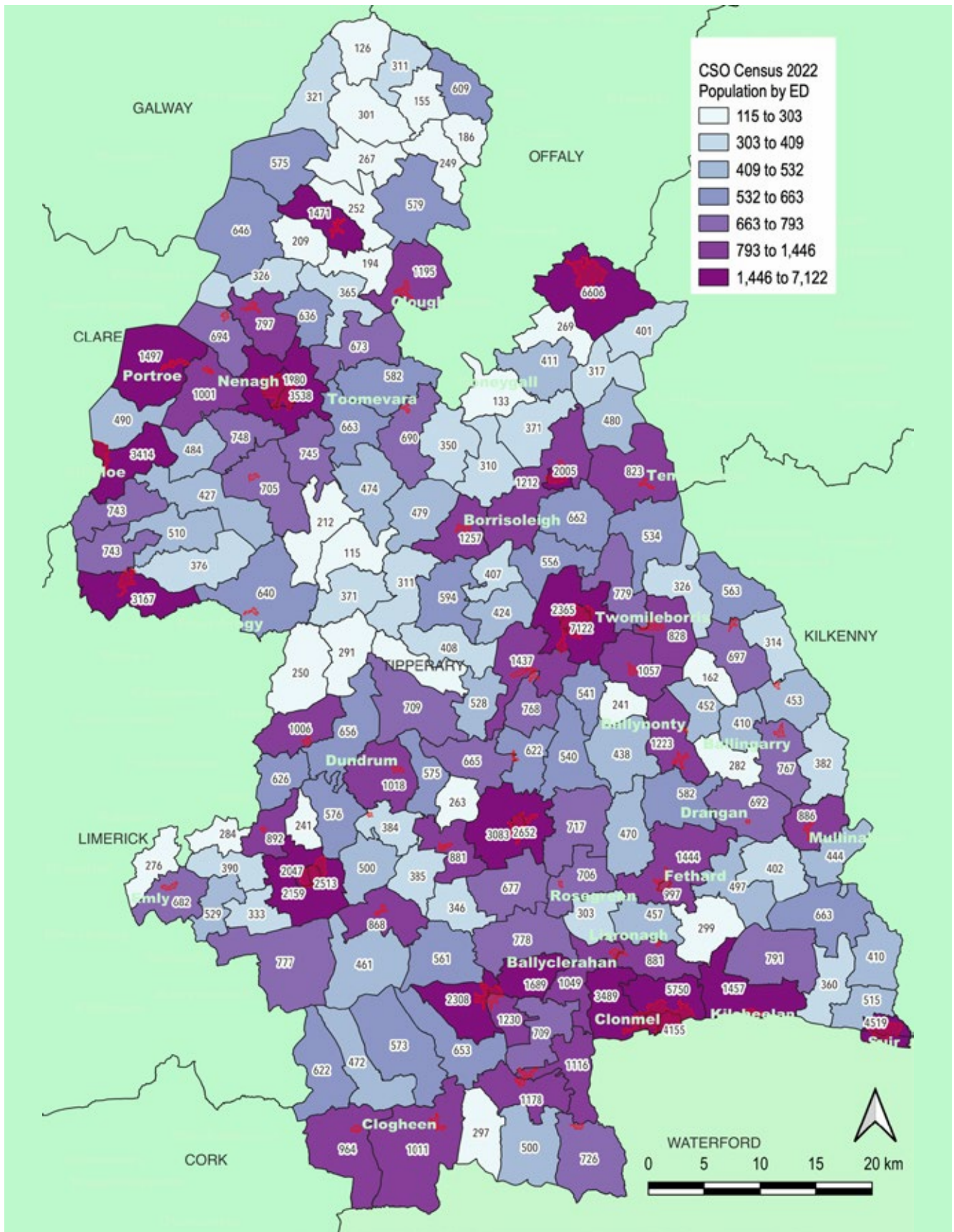
The National Planning Framework (NPF) projects that the population of the Southern Region will grow from 1.7 million in 2022 to almost 2 million by 2040. The NPF Implementation Road Map projects a strong population growth of approximately 15 per cent for the county by 2031.

Approximately 42 per cent of the county's population live in large to medium-sized towns, and 58 per cent live in the many smaller towns, villages, and rural areas.

Census 2022 shows that the population of Tipperary grew by five per cent to 167,895, which means the number of people in the county rose by 8,342 between April 2016 and April 2022. Over the same period, Ireland's population grew by eight per cent.

The population growth recorded in the county during the intercensal period related to natural increase as births outnumbered deaths; the rest was accounted for by net migration. The rate of net inward migration was low when compared to other counties.





Map 2 - Population Distribution 2022

Based on the NPF Implementation Road Map, the County Development Plan 2022-2028 projects a population target for the county of 175,866 by 2028. It is noted that these projections were calculated before recent inward migration impacts.

Settlement Structure

The Core Strategy underpinning the County Development Plan 2022-2028 addresses the requirement to prioritise and deliver compact urban growth in the twelve urban centres² and the need to grow and sustain the 114 rural settlements. It provides a settlement strategy based on the existing settlement structure, the settlement capacity analysis, development density, recent population and housing growth patterns, and individual local context.

The Core Strategy will deliver 66 per cent of new population and housing provision to the urban centres and 34 per cent to the rural settlements and the wider rural areas, thereby refocusing new growth on a sustainable settlement strategy for the county. The Key Towns of Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles are each targeted to grow their populations by 30 per cent by 2031, focusing on compact growth and appropriate density. The District Towns with over 4,000 persons are targeted to grow by 20 per cent, and District Towns and Local Towns under 4,000 are targeted to grow by 15 per cent. The county's rural areas, including rural villages, will accommodate 34 per cent of total population growth, with 40 per cent of this rural allocation to occur in the thirty Service Centres identified in the County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Gender Balance

Of Tipperary's population in 2022, 84,256 were female, and 83,639 were male, which means there were 99 males for every 100 females. In the state overall, there were 98 males for every 100 females.

Population by Age

The average age of the county's population in April 2022 was 40.3 years, compared with 38.6 years in April 2016. Nationally, the population's average age was 38.8, up from 37.4 in April 2016.

Co. Tipperary had a relatively more mature population in 2022 than the state.

In 2022, the number of people aged 65 and over grew. This age group increased by 20 per cent to 29,356 in Co. Tipperary compared to 22 per cent in the state.

The county's proportion of people over 65 is 15.29 per cent, higher than the State figure of 13.39 per cent. There are significant proportions of older people in the areas of Ballyporeen (22.01 per cent), Clogheen (24.27 per cent) and Toomevara (21.43 per cent).

The age dependency ratio is 53.9 per cent in the county, higher than the ratio recorded in the Mid-West or South-East and higher than the national figure of 49.3 per cent. This has implications for service provision for these more vulnerable groups in the county, with one in every two persons not being of working age.



² Nenagh, Clonmel, Thurles, Carrick-on-Suir, Roscrea, Tipperary, Cashel, Cahir, Templemore, Ballina, Newport, and Fethard.





3.2 Housing & Families

Housing

- Housing occupancy and vacancy rates in Co. Tipperary are similar to those across the state.
- Housing vacancy is most prevalent in rural parts of the county, and vacancy is frequently associated with a range of familial and personal and ownership variables rather than with property speculation.
- In rural areas, housing is overwhelmingly detached, generally older, and more likely to be owned outright than in urban centres.
- Residential property inflation has been evident consistently over the past eight years, and the highest property prices are generally in areas within short- and medium-commuting distances of employment centres.
- Over recent years, there has been a predominantly upward trend regarding the proportion of rental properties the Housing Assistance Payment covers.
- There were 71,033 dwellings in the county in 2022. This represented an increase of 2.8 per cent since 2016.

Social Housing

1,121 households were recorded on the county housing list in 2021, having been approved for social housing support.

In 2016, the housing waiting list stood at 1,858, which has fallen year-on-year since this date. Despite the positive change, nearly 218 households reported as homeless as of April 2022.

At the end of Q1, 2022, there were 1,784 active Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) supported tenancies in Co. Tipperary. The county had an average HAP monthly landlord payment of €509.10.



Despite the positive change (in the Housing waiting list), nearly 218 households reported as homeless as of April 2022 at the end of Q1



Housing Stock

In 2022, Co. Tipperary had a total housing stock of over 71,003 units, up from 69,106 in 2016. This represented an increase of 2.74 per cent, one of the lowest in the state.

At a State level, the Census vacancy rate has fallen to less than eight per cent in 2022, down from over nine per cent in 2016 and twelve per cent in 2011. In Co. Tipperary, it was nine per cent.

According to the CSO Census 2022, there are 6,390 vacant properties in Co. Tipperary (8.99 per cent of housing stock). The most common cause of housing vacancy in Co. Tipperary is that the vacant dwelling is a rental property (18.72 per cent). 18.15 per cent of vacancies were caused by the owner being deceased. Just under fifteen per cent (14.46) are undergoing renovation. Other reasons for housing vacancy include classification as an abandoned farmhouse (9.5), the owner being in a nursing home/hospital, or temporarily living with relatives (7.43). One in ten vacant properties is on the market, and this proportion is broadly in line with the picture across the state.

111 EDs (63 per cent) exceeded the national vacancy rate in the county in 2022. The EDs with a dwelling vacancy rate exceeding 20 per cent were Templederry (23.5), Cullen (22.0), Dolla (21.4) and Emly (20.6).

Housing Stock Age

In 2022, 68.86 per cent of the 62,056 households in Co. Tipperary lived in houses constructed before 2000, compared to 65.36 per cent in the state. 11.62 per cent of households lived in properties constructed before 1919, compared to 8.40 per cent in the state.

Housing Tenure

In 2022, 43.14 per cent of all households in the county lived in a property owned outright, compared to 37.01 per cent in the state. This indicates a relatively high proportion of mature households.

Home Heating Fuel

In 2022, 60.15 per cent of households lived in homes heated by oil-fired central heating systems in the county, compared to 38.88 per cent in the state. A further 5.00 per cent of households were heated by coal, and 4.15 per cent were heated by peat, compared to 3.45 per cent and 3.70 per cent, respectively, in the state. This indicates the maturity of the housing stock in 2022.

Housing Affordability

In Co. Tipperary, the National Residential Property Price Index reported that the median price for a residential property in March 2023 was €192,000. This price was considerably lower than in any of the surrounding counties.



3.3 Ethnicity

Most of the population of Co. Tipperary (83.24 per cent) were classified as ‘*white Irish*’ in the 2022 census. A further 7.97 per cent had another ‘white’ background. There were a small number of Irish Travellers (0.86 per cent). Most of the remainder of the population were of black or Asian ethnicity, indicating a lower ethnic mix in the county compared to the state, where 76.56 per cent of the population were ‘*white Irish*’.

The Tipperary LCDC publication ‘*Diverse Tipperary: An Integration Strategy - Embracing Cultures and Differences 2023-2025*’ (2023) notes that the migrant population is exceptionally high in some towns. Cahir has a migrant population of 29.81 per cent, and Nenagh and Cashel have over 20 per cent of the population from non-Irish communities. In contrast, Fethard, Newport and Templemore all have migrant populations of less than 10 per cent.

Traveller Community

In 2022, there were 1,434 Irish Travellers resident in the county. This was 4.35 per cent of the national population of the Irish Traveller community. The proportion of Irish Travellers in the county was 0.86 per cent of the total population, compared to 0.65 per cent in the state. The Traveller population is concentrated in specific settlements rather than dispersed across the county.

Ukrainian Community

The CSO reports that on 6th June 2023, the number of Ukrainian refugees in Co. Tipperary stood at 2,084 (2.46 per cent of those in the state). Almost twenty-four per cent of those were resident in the Cashel-Tipperary Local Electoral Area, with the following highest proportions being in the Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir Local Electoral Areas. These figures are liable to change as geopolitical events unfold.




3.4 Health & Wellbeing

Health

139,739 people (83.23 per cent) in the county stated their health was very good or good in Census 2022. This was consistent with the findings of Census 2016. By comparison, 82.89 per cent of people had good or very good health nationally.

3,269 people (1.95 per cent) reported bad or very bad health in the county in 2022, up from 2,825 in 2016.

 *People with disabilities are less than half as likely to work as in the general population (22 per cent compared to 53 per cent) and less than half as likely to have access to a car or van*

Disability

In April 2022 in Co. Tipperary, more than 38,600 people (23 per cent of the county's population) reported experiencing at least one long-lasting condition or difficulty to any extent. Of these, 15,087 people (9 per cent of the county's population) reported experiencing at least one long-lasting condition or difficulty to a great extent or a lot. A further 23,552 people (14 per cent of the county's population) reported experiencing at least one long-lasting condition or difficulty to some extent or a little.

Nationally, 1.1 million people (22 per cent) reported experiencing at least one long-lasting condition or difficulty to any extent, of whom 407,342 (8 per cent) experienced a long-lasting condition or difficulty to a great extent and 702,215 (14 per cent) to some extent.

In the state in 2022, more females (22 per cent) than males (21 per cent) experienced a long-lasting condition or difficulty to any extent. In Tipperary, this rate was 23 per cent for females and males.

People with disabilities are less than half as likely to work as in the general population (22 per cent compared to 53 per cent) and less than half as likely to have access to a car or van (eight per cent compared to twenty per cent).

Approximately fifteen per cent of people with disabilities lived in social housing compared to nine per cent of the general population.



3.5 Local Economy & Labour Force

Business Demography

According to the CSO Business Demography Survey, Co. Tipperary had approximately 7,900 enterprises in the private business economy in 2020. This was an increase from 7,620 in 2019.

Some 93 per cent of the county's businesses employed fewer than ten people, slightly exceeding the state average of 92 per cent. Only nine businesses employed more than 250 people. Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSME) significantly contribute to the county's economy.

Businesses employing more than fifty people in Co. Tipperary totalled 51 in 2020. This represented an increase of 21 per cent since 2014.

Sectoral Profile

Over a quarter of the county's businesses (26 per cent) operated in the construction sector, which is proportionately larger than the state average (22 per cent) and has grown its business base by some 18 per cent since 2014.

Over a fifth of businesses (22 per cent) are in the wholesale and retail sector, which is likewise larger than nationally (17 per cent).

Roughly one-seventh of the county's businesses (13 per cent) involve professional, scientific or technical activities, falling short of the State average (17 per cent) but notably growing by more than a sixth (16 per cent) since 2014.

Other service, accommodation and food service activities account for eight per cent of the county's businesses. No other sector accounts for more than eight per cent of the county's private business profile.



Agriculture

Recent decades have seen growth in the number of large farms, spanning more than fifty hectares, and a reduction in small farms.

15,484 people (9.3 per cent of the population) were classified as Farmers or Agricultural Workers in the 2022 Census in Co. Tipperary, compared to 4.3 per cent in the state. This indicates the continuing importance of the sector to the local economy.

Forestry accounts for 12 per cent of the county's useable land.

Tourism

The performance of the tourism industry nationally continues to be impacted by the fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic. It has been negatively influenced by geopolitical disturbances, including Brexit and hostilities in Ukraine, with further potential impact from conflicts in the Middle East. These have contributed to reduced international visitor numbers, particularly affecting the market outside of Dublin City.

Fáilte Ireland reported that Irish Resident Nights in Co. Tipperary in 2019 was 557,000. In 2021, this declined by 59 per cent to 226,000. This rate of decline was the third largest (behind Co. Meath and Kilkenny) in the Southern and Eastern Region. The length of stay of Irish Resident Nights in Co. Tipperary in 2021 was 2.2 nights, the second lowest in the region behind Co. Meath at 1.5 nights.

Irish Resident Trips in Co. Tipperary in 2019 were reported by Fáilte Ireland as 276,000, dropping to 104,000 in 2021. In 2021, the Irish Resident Trips generated a spend of €16 million in Co. Tipperary, identical to Co. Kilkenny. This outcome was 60 per cent less than in 2019.

In 2017, Co. Tipperary attracted 192,000 international visitors, generating €88 million.

Tipperary has a tourism industry supported by over 3,000 jobs across the county pre-Covid-19. Since 2020, the focus has been on sustaining the tourism industry and supporting tourism providers to retain staff and address the challenges of rising operational costs.

A strong pipeline of tourism product development projects is coming through, as referenced in the Tipperary Transforming - Tourism Product Development Plan 2020-2030. This will help grow tourism across the county over the next decade.

Equine Sector

Co. Tipperary is an established horse breeding, training, and racing centre. The county has numerous stud farms and equestrian facilities, housing some of the finest bloodlines and pedigrees in the world. The commitment to quality horse breeding has produced top-class racehorses, show jumpers, eventing horses, and other equine athletes.

The sector generates substantial employment opportunities and contributes significantly to the local economy. The industry supports a range of professions, including trainers, jockeys, grooms, veterinarians, farriers, and equine therapists, among others. The demand for equine-related services creates related employment, such as feed suppliers, tack shops, transport companies, and veterinary clinics. The county has renowned racetracks, including Thurles, Clonmel, and Tipperary. Beyond horse racing, the county hosts numerous Showjumping competitions, dressage championships, and equestrian festivals. Additionally, the county's extensive network of bridleways and trails attracts equestrian tourists, generating revenue for rural businesses.

The county has reputable equestrian colleges and training centres offering a wide range of equine studies, horse care, riding instruction, and stable management courses. These facilities contribute to the industry's overall development by fostering a culture of innovation, research, and best practices.



3.6 Educational Attainment


- In 2022, 31.68 per cent of Co. Tipperary's resident population aged over fifteen (112,535) had achieved a Higher Certificate or greater qualification compared to 39.24 per cent in the state.
- High levels of educational attainment correlate with proximity to established settlements, while low levels are more prevalent in peripheral parts of the county.

Low levels of educational attainment are associated with an older age profile, rurality, socio-economic deprivation, gender (males) and membership of the Traveller community. The lack of educational achievement is closely linked to the issue of poverty.

In 2022, 27.01 per cent of the population of Co. Tipperary aged 15 years or over did not progress beyond lower-secondary-level education compared to 23.00 per cent in the state. 57.14 per cent of EDs returned more than ten per cent of their population that did not progress beyond primary-level education.

The EDs with the highest percentages of people who did not progress beyond primary-level education were Oughterleague (17.16), Lorrha West (17.28), Bourney West (17.44), Redwood (17.53), Ballingarry (18.04), Graigue (19.81), and Farranrory (20.19). It should be noted that figures may be skewed due to the locations of nursing homes and other long-stay institutional facilities.

Co. Tipperary had proportionately more people with an advanced certificate and had completed an apprenticeship (6.73 per cent) in 2022 than in the state (5.62 per cent).

 *High levels of educational attainment correlate with proximity to established settlements, while low levels are more prevalent in peripheral parts of the county*



Educational Disadvantage

Of the 160 primary schools in Co. Tipperary, forty-five (28.1 per cent) have **Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS)** status. DEIS is a support programme funded by the Department of Education that offers school-based opportunities for young people in communities at risk of disadvantage and social exclusion.

Of the DEIS Primary Schools, twenty-five (55 per cent) are designated rural. Additionally, there are thirty-one Post-Primary Schools in Co. Tipperary, ten (32.2 per cent) of which have DEIS designation.

The Tipperary Education and Training Board report *‘Exploring the Needs of Young People in Co. Tipperary who are Not in Education, Employment or Training’* (May 2021) notes that young people aged 16 to 24 made up 10 per cent (16,010) of the total population. Of these, almost half (47.7 per cent) lived in just twenty-three (13.1 per cent) of the 175 EDs that make up the county. The report projects that the most significant increase in the population of 16 to 24 yr olds is indicated for the west of the county in the Ballina, Newport, and Castletown EDs, showing a potential increase of 347 (+52 per cent) young people aged 16-24yrs in that area. The report concludes that this will likely affect general youth service provision.



The report uses several data sources to estimate the scale of the NEETs population in the county based on 2019–2020 enrolments: -

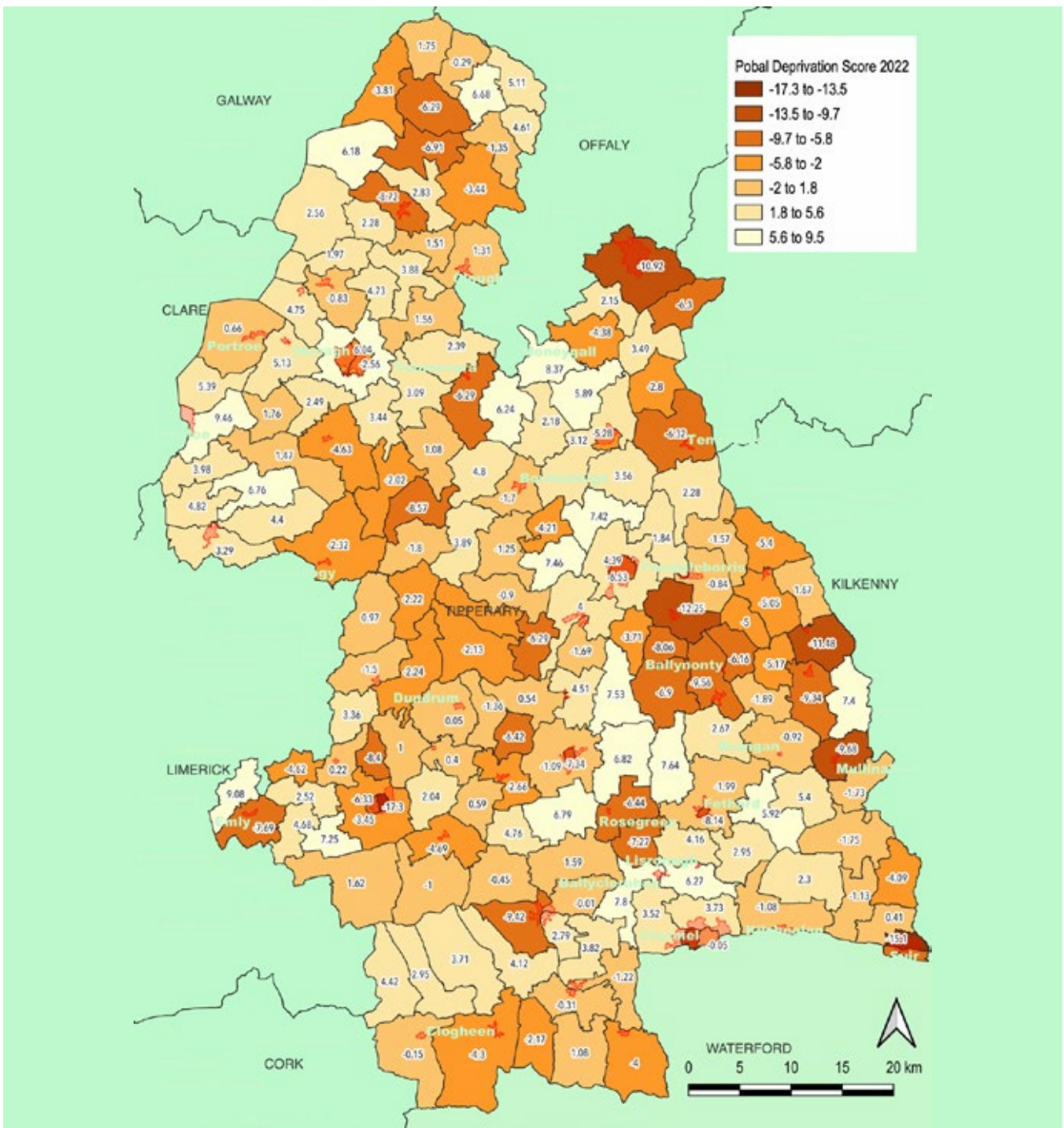
- 9.1 per cent of young people in Co. Tipperary do not complete their Leaving Certificate (1,254).
- 1.8 per cent of young people in Co. Tipperary do not complete to Junior Certificate Level (248).
- 2.3 per cent (317) of young people in Co. Tipperary enrolled in 2010/11 but did not continue at state-funded second-level education the following year. Of these, 6.6 per cent could be classified as NEETs (21).
- 8.4 per cent of all Leaving Certificate sittings in 2010/11 in Co. Tipperary progressed to being classified as NEET (170).
- 2.74 per cent of 15 to 19-year-olds achieved a level of 2016 education Junior Certificate or lower (290).
- 6.1 per cent of 20 to 24-year-olds achieved a level of education Junior Certificate or lower (763).
- Twenty per cent of students who sat the Leaving Certificate in Co. Tipperary in 2019 did not progress to 3rd Level University or Institutes of Technology (399).
- 3.2 per cent of 15 to 19-year-olds were categorised as unemployed in 2016 (358).
- 18.2 per cent of 20- to 24-year-olds were categorised as unemployed in 2016 (1,974).
- 2.8 per cent of 15 to 24-year-olds were additionally not engaged in education, training, or employment due to personal circumstances (609).
- In December 2020, approximately 5.8 per cent of all 18 to 24-year-olds (projected 14,928) were on the Live Register (868).

3.7 Deprivation, Poverty & Social Exclusion

Disadvantaged Areas

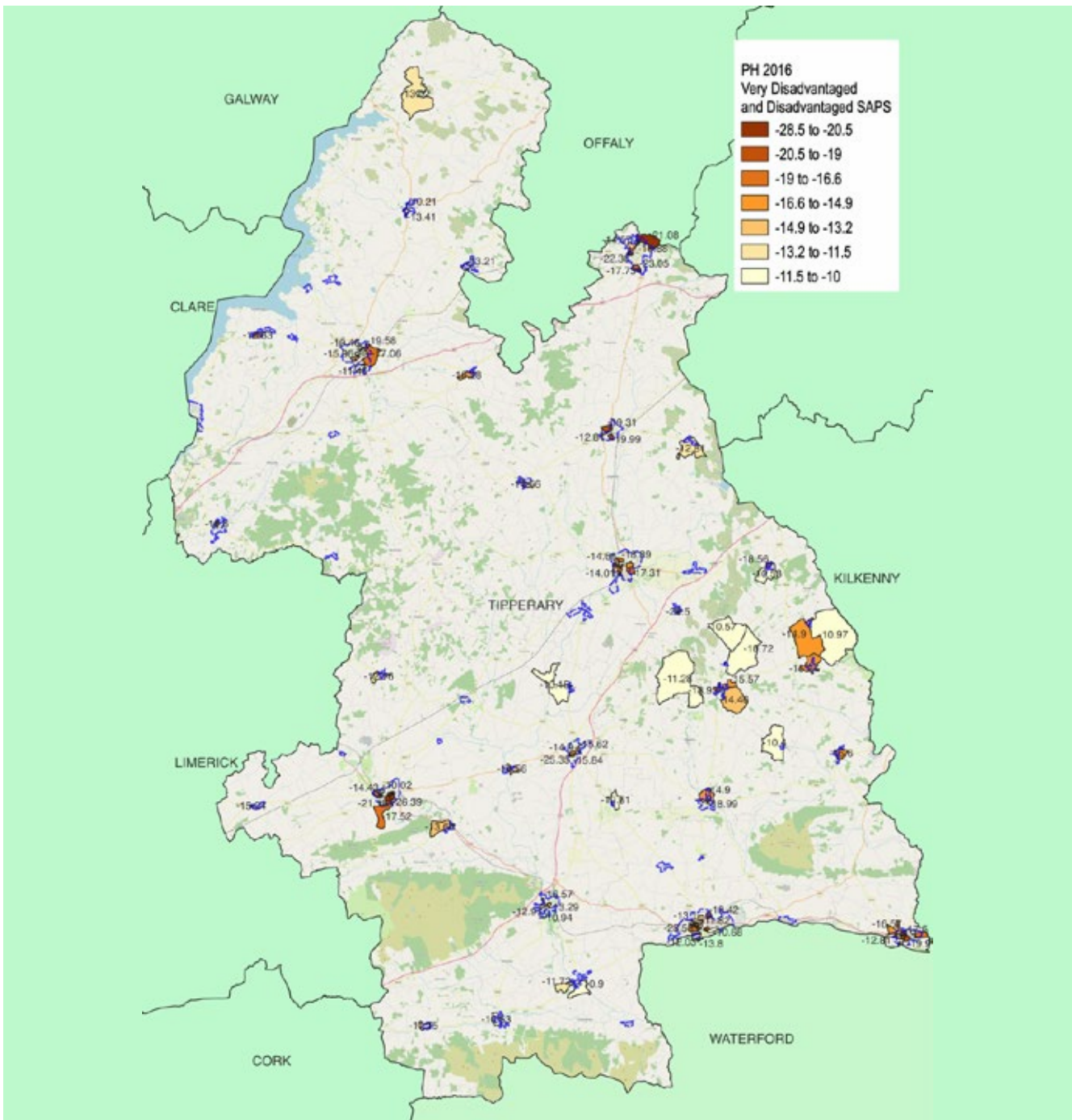
In 2022, Co. Tipperary returned an HP Deprivation Score of -1.969, with a county classification of **'Marginally Below Average'**.

Six EDs with a total population of 20,962 were classified as **'Disadvantaged'**: Roscrea (-10.92), Farranrory (-11.48), Clonmel West Urban (-11.56), Littleton (-12.25), Carrick-on-Suir Urban (-15.10), and Tipperary East Urban (-17.30).



Map 3 - HP Deprivation Score by ED 2022

Disadvantaged and Very Disadvantaged Areas



Map 4 - HP Deprivation Score by SAPS 2016

Pockets of disadvantage across Co. Tipperary are concealed at the ED level.

In 2016, twenty-one Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS) areas were categorised as *Very Disadvantaged*. These accounted for a population of 12,160 and were located within the EDs of Tipperary West Urban Clonmel West Urban, Kilcommon, Carrick-on-Suir Urban, Thurles Urban, and Roscrea.

The former RAPID (Revitalising Areas through Planning, Investment and Development) Programme designation applied to parts of Clonmel (three distinct neighbourhoods - Wilderness Grove/Carrigeen, Elm Park and Heywood Close/Cooleens Close), Carrick-on-Suir, and Tipperary Town.

3.8 Environment

Headlines

- Tipperary is a strongly rural county, with sixty per cent of the population living in rural areas and 120 settlements of small villages and towns located within five Municipal Districts. It is the sixth-largest county by area.
- The three key towns in the county are Clonmel, Nenagh, and Thurles. These Key Towns have been designated under the RSES as playing a critical role in ensuring a consolidated spread of growth beyond the cities to the sub-regional level in the Southern Region. Clonmel, in particular, is supported as a self-sustaining regional economic driver and a key location for investment and choice in the Region.
- Co. Tipperary is located at the heart of Ireland's 'Golden Vale' and the centre of the Southern Region.
- Co. Tipperary is located within both the Mid-West and South-East Strategic Planning Areas (SPAs) of the Southern Region. It is also situated along the Limerick-Waterford Transport and Economic Network Axis.
- The location offers regional synergies through enhanced collaboration between the Waterford and Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP), the Key Town of Clonmel and the towns of Carrick-on-Suir, Cahir, and Tipperary.
- The county is well connected, with strategic transport links to Limerick, Waterford, Cork, Dublin, international airports, and major ports.
- Co. Tipperary has successfully attracted funding under programmes such as the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF). Resources from the URDF and RRDF have been used to promote town centres.
- The county has access to a network of national universities and colleges, with nine leading third-level colleges and universities within a two-hour commute, and the Technological University of the Shannon campuses in Thurles and Clonmel, and Mary Immaculate College (MIC) Thurles (St. Patrick's College Campus) within the county.
- The primary closure objective at Lisheen Mine (former lead-zinc-silver mine) has been to restore the mine site, with a vision to attract replacement industry to provide replacement jobs and sustainable growth.
- It is an objective of the SRSES to support the development of the National Bio-Economy Hub at Lisheen.
- Tipperary Energy Agency operates as a social enterprise to deliver the energy transition at scale and on Ireland's Climate Action Plan.
- The natural amenities of the county include Lough Derg to the northwest, River Suir to the south, and the Rock of Cashel. Co. Tipperary offers an excellent quality of life within a natural environment of diversity and character.
- Co. Tipperary has a very significant stock of national and European natural assets, and the county has an extensive network of Natura 2000 sites, including twenty-one Special Areas of Conservation, eleven Natural Heritage Areas, and four Special Protection Areas.
- In the tourism and hospitality sector context, the county is located within the branding of Fáilte Ireland's 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands' and 'Ireland's Ancient East' marketing initiatives.



Built Environment

Co. Tipperary offers diverse structures that reflect its historical, cultural, and social evolution. The National Monuments Service Archaeological Survey of Ireland provides the Record of Monuments and Places and lists 48 monuments distributed around the county. The built environment is crucial in attracting cultural tourists and contributes to the sense of place.

The county has several ancient and prehistoric structures, including the Rock of Cashel, comprising medieval buildings on a limestone outcrop. Numerous county castles, fortifications, and monastic ruins evidence the medieval period. Cahir Castle is one of Ireland's most prominent and best-preserved castles, showcasing classic medieval architecture with its imposing towers, battlements, and massive keep. The Georgian and Victorian eras saw the construction of elegant townhouses, churches, and public buildings. Clonmel features Georgian townhouses with distinctive symmetrical facades, sash windows, and doorways adorned with fanlights. The Main Guard in Clonmel, a notable Georgian structure, served as a courthouse and military barracks during the 18th century.

The Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028, Volume 4 Built Heritage, includes a list of the county's Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) and the Record of Protected Structures.

Just Transition

The EU and the Government of Ireland have established the *Just Transition Fund to facilitate a just transition towards a low-carbon economy across the Midlands*. This will offer opportunities for funding in the area across a range of policy areas, including Economic Diversification, Local Economic Community Plan Schemes, Bioeconomy, Peatland Restoration, Carbon Capture, Networks of Trails, Electric busses, Transport and EV Charge points.

Carrick-on-Suir and Thurles Municipal Districts comprise the county's Just Transition area.



Mid-Tipperary Decarbonising Zone

The County Development Plan 2022-2028 identifies the Mid-Tipperary Decarbonising Zone based on socio-economic, physical, and environmental characteristics that refer to the Local Authority Climate Action Plan. The zone contains fourteen EDs, from Kilcooly in the east to Littleton in the west and from Templetohy in the north and Graystown in the south. The villages within the zone include Ballinure, Ballynonty, Ballysloe, Castleleiny, Glengoole (New Birmingham), Gortnahoe, Grange, Horse and Jockey, Littleton, Moyne, Templetohy, and Two-Mile-Borris.

The defining physical and environmental characteristics of the Mid-Tipperary Decarbonising Zone include: -

- Grassland and peat bogs account for approximately 84 per cent of the land area within the zone.
- Several rivers flow through the zone, including the Black River, River Goul, River Breaghagh, and the River Drish.
- The zone has a rich and diverse archaeological heritage, ranging from castle ruins and monuments to churches and abbeys. The ruins of the Derrynaflan Church are located southeast of the zone. The Slieveardagh Hills lie southeast of the zone, where the Wellington Monument can be found. The Kilcooly Estate, an 18th century country house and Cistercian Abbey, is located just west of the hills.
- The zone contains a wide-ranging natural landscape. Lough Doire Bhile is in the foothills of the Slieveardagh hills. The 28 hectares of land previously used for Bord na Mona milled peat production now consists of a lake and two wetland areas and is home to many bird species, including lapwing.

The socio-economic characteristics of the Mid-Tipperary Decarbonising Zone include: -

- The average population density of the zone was approximately 23 people per km², while the average population per Small Area is approximately 265 persons.
- There are 3,262 occupied dwellings in the zone, with an additional 377 vacant dwellings.
- There are ten primary schools located within the zone.
- Regarding deprivation, most of the zone is defined as being '*marginally below average*', with some areas to the south, north, and east noted as '*disadvantaged*'.
- The zone has had a varied industrial past. Coal was historically mined in the Slieveardagh Hills up until the mid-1980s.
- The Lisheen lead and zinc mine closed in 2015 after over fifteen years of operation, employing approximately 400 people.
- In 2017, the Bord na Mona stopped production at the Littleton briquette factory.
- The National Bioeconomy Campus is located within the Mid-Tipperary Decarbonising Zone.
- The former mining site at Lisheen was repurposed to become the National Bioeconomy Campus. The Campus is a critical piece of infrastructure that will enable the diversification of business activities in the agri-food and marine sectors of the rural economy, attracting and retaining workers and businesses in the region.
- The initial plan for the Campus (2017) included the development of a solar farm.



Tourism within the Mid-Tipperary Decarbonising Zone: -

- The tourism sector in the zone is currently underdeveloped, with the Littleton Labyrinth Greenway and the Tipperary Bushcraft Survival and Activity Park being seen as drivers of sectoral development.

Transport within the Mid-Tipperary Decarbonising Zone: -

- The M8 intersects the zone, whilst the N75 connects Two-Mile-Borris to Thurles. The remainder of the roads within the zone are rural.
- Bus stops are found at ten locations within the zone, with the expansion of the TFI Local Link network increasing the accessibility of the zone's population.
- The Iarnród Eireann stations of Templemore and Thurles border the zone to the north and east, respectively.
- Private car is the most common mode of commuting within the zone, with over sixty per cent of the total population aged five and over travelling to work, school, or college by car. Further expansion and interconnectivity of the zone's public transport network is essential to facilitate the modal shift away from private cars in the coming years.

Renewable Energy and the Mid-Tipperary Decarbonising Zone: -

- The Tipperary Renewable Energy Strategy 2016 identifies that a significant part of the zone is 'open for consideration' for wind energy development with good wind-speed resources in parts.
- There is permission for three solar farms in the area. The proposed solar energy development for Lisheen has the potential to generate 122 Mega Watts of electricity.
- The area currently has no electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. The nearest charging points are in Thurles and Urlingford.
- There is an opportunity to improve the electrical grid in the zone to support the development of green electricity and the roll-out of electric vehicle charging infrastructure to maximise the potential emission reductions in the zone.
- Agri-Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry in the Mid-Tipperary Decarbonising Zone: -
- Nearly eleven per cent of the workforce is employed in agriculture, forestry, and fishing. This is more than double the national average and illustrates the importance of this sector to the county.
- Beef and dairy farming are the most common activities.
- Livestock farming is concentrated in the northern region of the zone.
- The agricultural sectors will play a significant role in transitioning the zone from being a carbon source to a carbon sink.



3.9 Public Transport Infrastructure

The ten-minute neighbourhood concept noted in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028 promotes access to day-to-day needs and services through walking, cycling, and public transport. The county has existing and planned strategic transport links to Limerick, Waterford, Cork, Dublin, and international airports and major ports.

The SRSES acknowledges the transport linkages between national and regional cities as a strength of the county and supports the potential for improved intra-regional connectivity, jobs, and opportunities by strengthening the Limerick-Waterford Transport and Economic Network. The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and the Programme for Government have established a legally binding net-zero emissions target by 2050, aiming to more than halve carbon emissions over the decade to 2030. This target will require transformative change in planning for transport and infrastructure over the years to 2030.

The County Development Plan 2022-2028 notes that in 2016, the county had the country's second-highest vehicle ownership rate per capita. With 71 per cent of county commuters choosing to travel to work or school by car or van, the Plan concludes that there are good opportunities for a shift to more sustainable modes of transport supported by policy, infrastructure investment and behavioural change measures.



Rail Transport

The CSO Census of Population 2022 reports that only 0.51 per cent of the population aged five years and over travelled to work, school, or college by train (583 people), compared to 2.36 per cent in the state. This reflects the lack of commuting options using the rail network.

Co. Tipperary benefits from a central location on the national rail network and is served by the following rail lines: -

- Dublin to Cork and Limerick (high-frequency rail services)
- Waterford to Limerick (low-frequency rail services)
- Limerick to Ballybrophy (low-frequency rail services)

Proximity to the rail network will drive the development of Thurles, Templemore, and Limerick Junction, all located on the high-frequency Dublin to Cork and Limerick rail line. The All-Island Strategic Rail Review identifies Limerick Junction as a potential location for a rail-freight terminal.

The County Development Plan observes that the rail lines between Waterford and Limerick and Limerick and Ballybrophy are important for interregional connectivity; however, they are underutilised and do not offer an effective service.

With 71 per cent of county commuters choosing to travel to work or school by car or van, the CDP concludes that there are good opportunities for a shift to more sustainable modes of transport supported by policy, infrastructure investment and behavioural change measures

Intra-regional and Local Bus Services

The CSO Census of Population 2022 reports that 5.78 per cent of the population aged five years and over travelled to work, school, or college by bus, minibus, or coach (6,659 people), compared to 8.96 per cent in the state. This suggests a reliance on private cars for commuting journeys.

The National Transport Authority (NTA) provides rural transport services, including the 'Local Link Rural Transport Programme', which addresses rural social exclusion and the integration of rural transport services with other public transport services.

Key objectives of the NTA and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) include: -

- Integration with other public transport services, including HSE services and schools.
- Better linkage of services between towns, villages, and their rural hinterland.
- Increased patronage among children and young people.
- More significant innovation in service provision.

The County Council intends to work with the NTA through the '*Connecting Ireland*' programme to identify demand and potential demand for bus services as an alternative to private cars.



Active Transport Infrastructure

The CSO Census of Population 2022 reports that 10.12 per cent of the population aged five years and over walked to work, school, or college (11,665 people), compared to 12.63 per cent in the state. In 2022, 0.22 per cent of the population aged five years and over walked to work, school, or college (778 people), compared to 2.69 per cent in the state. The relatively low use of these modes of travel indicates the challenges of transitioning to active travel for commuting journeys.

Tipperary has a comprehensive network of walking routes, and in recent years there has been considerable investment in dedicated cycling facilities. The existing cycle network includes mainly unsegregated on-road cycle lanes, with some high-quality segregated lanes in towns, such as the cycleway on part of the Clonmel by-pass. The exemplary Suir Blueway Tipperary is an off-road route that connects the town of Clonmel with Carrick-on-Suir for both commuting and leisure.

Following the SRSES, the Draft LAPs for Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles include Local Transport Plans that contain a range of transport solutions to support the sustainable compact growth of the three Key Towns. The Roscrea LAP and future LAPs for the District Towns will also include sustainable transport interventions to promote a mode shift to sustainable transport.

Road Transport

The CSO Census of Population 2022 reports that 11.15 per cent of households did not have access to a private car compared to 13.36 per cent in the state. 45.79 per cent of households in Co. Tipperary had access to two or more private cars, compared to 41.54 per cent in the state. This is typical of the population's dependence on the private car in rural areas.

The county's motorways, national primary, and national secondary roads provide access to cities in the region and connectivity between towns. The NPF and the SRSES seek to maintain the efficiency and safety of the existing national primary and secondary road network by transport demand management and infrastructure improvements. The SRSES sets out the proposed investment priorities in the road network, including national road projects and regional and local roads.

3.10 Community & Voluntary Sector Organisations

The Co. Tipperary Public Participation Network (PPN) is a collective of the county's community, voluntary, social inclusion, and environmental groups. It was established in 2014. The PPN has 1,547 registered members, with 1,308 (84.5 per cent) of these being in the Community pillar, 189 (12.2 per cent) comprising the Social Inclusion pillar, and 49 (3.1 per cent) representing the Environmental pillar.

For every 10,000 population in Co. Tipperary in 2022, there were seventy-eight Community pillar organisations, eleven Social Inclusion pillar organisations, and three Environmental pillar organisations.





04

Consultation Process

Using the principles of Community-Led Local Development (CLLD), the initial round of public consultation for the LECP took place around the county in each Municipal District. The location of these public meetings was designed to reflect the nature of the community to be found in the county.

The centres chosen were: -

1. Clonmel (Clonmel Borough District): The largest town in the county with diverse communities and a wide hinterland.
2. Killenaule (Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District): a disadvantaged rural community.
3. Nenagh (Nenagh Municipal District): large town serving a vast hinterland in the county's north.
4. Templemore (Thurles Municipal District): small, centrally-located district.
5. Tipperary Town (Tipperary/Cashel/Cahir Municipal District): a relatively small town designated as disadvantaged.



Figure 6 - LECP Public Consultation 2023

The initial round of public consultation was undertaken in parallel with the process for the Local Development Strategy (LEADER Programme). From this consultation process, an original set of High-Level Goals was developed³. These HLGs were created from the initial round of consultation. They were informed by the outcome of the socio-economic profile, the review of the policy environment, and the experience of the LCDC in delivering the previous LECP iteration.

The original set of HLGs was subsequently amended and improved through an open process inviting the public, business sector, agencies, and organisations to offer further input. A mix of online surveys, individual meetings and written submissions was used to encourage further elaboration on the economic and community elements of the LECP. The process concluded in September 2023 with two public meetings (Borrisoleigh and Clonmel) and a County Economic and Enterprise Forum meeting, where the more fully developed draft goals and objectives were presented and discussed.

 *They (High Level Goals) were informed by the outcome of the socio-economic profile, the review of the policy environment, and the experience of the LCDC in delivering the previous LECP iteration*

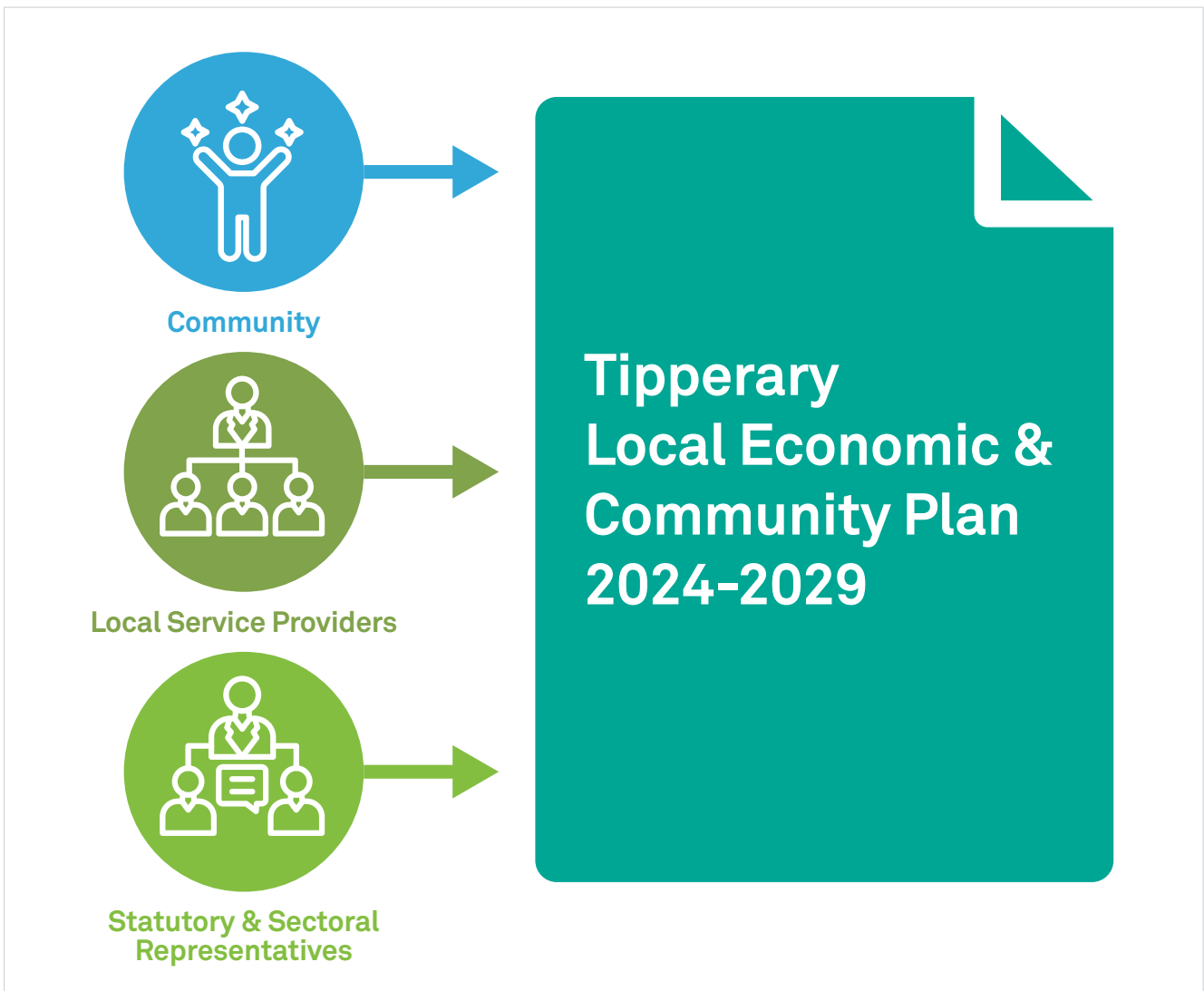


Figure 7 - Consultation Process Overview

Consultation Process Indicators

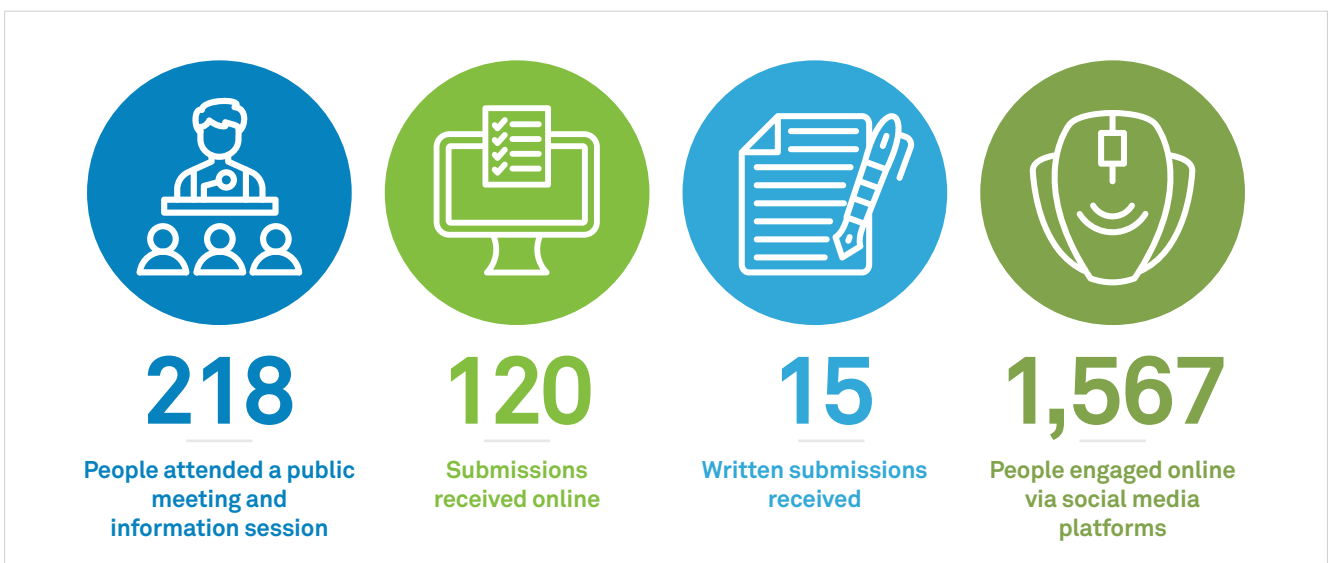


Figure 8 – Consultation Process Indicators

05

Evolution of the Goals

The economic and community elements of the LECP have been developed from the best available evidence and relevant, comprehensive statistical and other data. They are aware of appropriate targets at the Regional, National and EU levels. The approach used ‘*bottom-up*’ information, with details derived from research, data mining, and data analysis. The data derived for the initial preparation of the LECP was used throughout the planning process to ensure consistency.



5.1 Evidence Base

The evolution of the High-Level Goals has emerged following the consideration of four primary evidence bases.

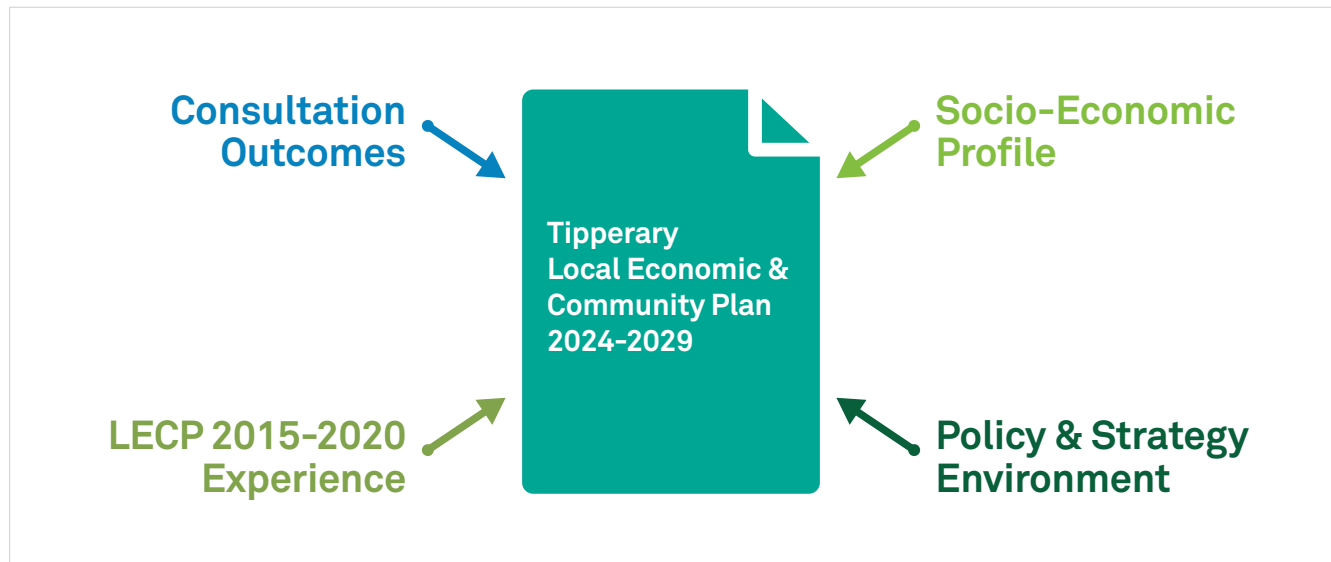


Figure 9 - HLG Evolution

The socio-economic profile was developed to determine the changes that had occurred in the community structure and entrepreneurial activity over the period since 2015.

The review of the Policy and Strategy environment was undertaken to ensure that the LECP would logically conform with the vision of the government and the key enabling agencies⁴. The references reviewed were the Southern Regional Assembly RSES Data, the county Social Inclusion (SICAP) profile, the county Health Profile, the ESRI Housing Analysis, and the National Wellbeing Framework. It is noted that the important socio-economic and population data provided by the National Census process was not available to support the LECP development process due to Covid-19-related postponement.

The experience of the Local Community Development Committee in the delivery of the outgoing LECP 2015-2020 to determine those aspects that worked well and those that were more challenging. It is noted that the impact of the Covid-19 national health emergency was to curtail some of the activity anticipated under the outgoing LECP.

5.2 Process Outcome

After the development process, a Statement of High-Level Goals was produced. The LECP Advisory Group expended considerable time and effort in proofing the scope of the HLGs against the needs of the county and the views expressed through all phases of the consultation process. The High-Level Goals reference the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats identified through the outcomes of the consultation process.

⁴ A full list of the policies and strategies that were referenced is contained in the appendices.

5.3 SWOT Analysis

COMMUNITY

STRENGTHS

- Co. Tipperary is a proudly rural county with fifty per cent rural areas and twenty per cent highly rural and remote areas.
- Co. Tipperary has a strong network of key towns and villages that serve as important employment and public service centres.
- A dedicated Healthy (Ireland) Tipperary Plan and a County Wellbeing Strategy represent a growing interest in healthy lifestyles.
- Co. Tipperary residents have relatively good access to general healthcare and a strong network of healthcare and wellbeing providers.
- Volunteer participation levels in the county remain very high, and the community and voluntary sector underpins community sustainability, particularly in rural areas.
- Co. Tipperary is a relatively safe county with positive community engagement in crime prevention.
- There is a relatively low rate of deprivation and poverty in the county.
- Co. Tipperary residents generally attest to being relatively happy and healthy.
- The provision of active lifestyle infrastructure is increasing as the county embraces its beautiful natural environment.
- A growing Public Participation Network links community, voluntary, cultural, and environmental organisations and groups and NGOs
- Emerging cross-sectoral developmental partnerships in many areas and willingness to work collaboratively on an inter-agency, cross-sectoral basis.

WEAKNESSES

- Sustained connectivity challenges between urban and rural locations outside of main commuter lines.
- Unsustainable commuter trends show the car predominating as the primary mode of transport for the working population commuting to work inside and outside the county daily.
- Limited public transport options, including bus and train lines and schedules, particularly in rural areas.
- Continuing concentration of disadvantage in some geographic regions and among particular communities.
- The lack of sufficient, stable, and sustained provision of affordable housing poses a significant challenge, particularly in relation to retaining young people in their home communities.
- Housing and childcare costs present genuine difficulties in attracting skilled workers to the county.
- The need for increased mental health services reflects national trends.
- Literacy and language barriers were cited as challenges in applying for health and housing support.
- Increasing challenges relating to inflation, housing, sustainable work, and public service provision undermine commitment to the 'public good'.

OPPORTUNITIES

- The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan proposes more routes and frequent services on existing routes.
- The continued delivery of greenways and blueways aligns with the Development Plan's objective to encourage active transport.
- Collaborative structures within the Local Authority, in particular the PPN, LCDC, and the Strategic Policy Committees, can bring together communities, businesses, and agencies to coordinate actions and initiatives that happen in the right place at the right time.

THREATS

- Ongoing issues of equal and diverse representation in decision-making roles.
- Joined-up actions depend highly on technological infrastructure, the quality of which may be unevenly distributed around the county.
- The complexity of crime and anti-social behaviour can divide communities.
- The ongoing housing situation, higher costs, and instability associated with social division and global issues threaten community and personal wellbeing.



ENTERPRISE

STRENGTHS

- Co. Tipperary is relatively well located, with good access to two motorways, mainline rail and the emerging Limerick-Waterford Transport and Economic network/axis.
- Co. Tipperary is a prosperous county with a balanced portfolio of industrial and primary assets, a skilled workforce and a cost-competitive facility offering.
- A strong base in ICT, life sciences (Med Tech/Pharma), and advanced manufacturing supports stronger clustering and expansion.
- Co. Tipperary has demonstrated success in attracting and retaining Foreign Direct Investment.
- Co. Tipperary hosts robust business services networks/organisations which actively support new business ventures and inward investing companies.
- Co. Tipperary is a leader in promoting new climate action-related opportunities and relationships through entities such as Sustainable Tipperary (an interagency body), the work of the Tipperary Energy Agency and the establishment of the National Bioeconomy Campus at Lisheen, and community energy initiatives.
- Established and new centres of industry and employment in strategic locations make Tipperary an attractive investment location.
- Co. Tipperary has a relatively high labour force participation and employment rates.
- Strong agricultural sector, agri-industries and emerging markets relating to artisan food production and niche' visitor attraction' potential.
- Vibrant craft, equine and artisan food sectors.

WEAKNESSES

- Local economies are hard to sustain in the era of online shopping and services.
- High inflation poses an immediate risk to sustainable businesses and livelihoods.
- It is difficult to attract skilled workers into several low-pay sectors (retail, food, accommodation, wholesale) because of the precarious nature of employment.
- Youth unemployment remains stubbornly high, and young people have poor access to vibrant climate action and technology-related activities despite their known interest in these areas.
- Co. Tipperary has a relatively underdeveloped 9.5 social enterprise sector (9.5 per 10,000 inhabitants, fifteenth in the county).
- Co. Tipperary's tourism industry, negatively impacted by Covid-19, lags behind other inland counties.
- Agriculture and ancillary industries are a mainstay of the rural economy but are very exposed to climate change and related market challenges to economic sustainability.
- Housing and childcare costs present very real difficulties in attracting skilled workers to the county.
- Lower levels of third-level education remain a significant issue for the county's workforce.
- High vacancy rate among commercial properties, particularly in rural areas.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Co. Tipperary has a positive track record encouraging town centre vibrancy. With increased footfall from remote working and public realm enhancement projects, there is scope for joined-up local-level action in developing sustainable communities.
- Co. Tipperary has a positive 'starting culture' regarding climate action, renewable energy, and the circular economy, and this can be instrumental in facilitating urgency in developing initiatives throughout the county.
- The strong performing sectors (e.g., manufacturing, pharma/healthcare, and life sciences) provide opportunities for spin-off activities.
- Social enterprise provides opportunities in areas of the county where public and commercial goods/service provision is under threat.
- Tipperary can benefit from being a rural county, particularly in emerging climate action-related sector development (green economy, renewable energy, and activity tourism).

THREATS

- The ongoing impacts of Brexit, Covid-19 and global political conflict and instability pose a significant challenge to the flow of goods and services.
- The emigration of skilled young people has resurfaced as a genuine threat in the face of significant challenges in securing housing.
- The retail sector remains challenged, negatively impacting the vibrancy of town and village centres.
- The skills profile of residents of the county needs to keep pace with the new skills required in emerging sectors.
- Global political and economic instability threatens global markets with potential adverse knock-on effects in sectors now considered strong, particularly related to Foreign Direct Investment.



CLIMATE ACTION

STRENGTHS

- The Tipperary Climate Action Strategy has been ratified.
- Local Biodiversity Actions have been implemented in several communities.
- Relatively high uptake of electric vehicles.
- Co. Tipperary has a positive track record in local initiatives such as Tidy Towns and other local biodiversity initiatives.
- Co. Tipperary promotes environmental networks, including Sustainable Tipperary (an interagency body) and the Tipperary PPN Environmental Network (comprising community and voluntary groups).
- Co. Tipperary has established environmental centres of excellence: These include Cabragh Wetlands Ecology Centre and the long-established Cloughjordan Eco Village.
- Co. Tipperary has already embraced the challenge of addressing climate change through mitigation and adaptation, evidenced by the work of the Tipperary Energy Agency and the establishment of the National Bioeconomy Campus at Lisheen.
- Co. Tipperary has significant natural environment assets, including twenty-one Special Areas of Conservation, eleven Natural Heritage Areas, and four Special Protection Areas

OPPORTUNITIES

- Positive relations exist to exploit the opportunity to support towns and villages in developing and implementing Local Biodiversity Action Plans modelled on existing plans across the county.
- There is scope for county-level support around networking and joined-up local-level environmental actions.
- Provision of practical advice and support for local businesses wishing to increase participation in climate action.

WEAKNESSES

- High dependence (twenty per cent above national average) on oil for domestic heating.
- High reliance on private vehicles for commuting and transport.
- Traditional commercial farming practices contribute to economic sustainability but also fosters the status quo and the disinclination to consider alternate methods.
- Only three per cent of PPN identify with environmental activism (though groups such as Tidy Towns contribute indirectly).
- The political imperative to achieve the National Climate Action Plan 2023 mandatory target of achieving a 51 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030 has increased resources dedicated to this end.
- The pace of change to modal changes in transport, adaptation in agriculture, investment in buildings, renewable energy and waste management is not in line with climate action commitments.
- High level of energy-inefficient buildings and dependence on fossil fuels in the domestic and non-domestic stock of buildings.

THREATS

- In the face of climate inaction, apathy is recognised as a significant global environmental problem.
- Effectively addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation requires cohesion between significant initiatives such as Just Transition and River Basin Management and changes in policy and practice in institutional arrangements where there is little history of cohesion.
- The way it has always been done is the enemy of the new ways it has to be done if climate action is to be successful.

EDUCATION & SKILLS

STRENGTHS

- Generally high levels of educational attainment among the county’s residents.
- Access to reliable and appropriate advice, expertise, and knowledge concerning all levels of education and skills provision.
- Primary, Secondary, Further Education, and Tertiary infrastructure is well developed, with clear progression paths available to all county residents.
- High labour force participation and employment rates.
- Relatively low rates of early school leaving and high rates of progression to third-level education.
- The presence of third-level institutions ensures a supply of graduates and research capacity.
- Highly educated and skilled workforce.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Residents experiencing education, economic and social deprivation remain a potential vibrant source of skills, abilities and positive energy as workers, entrepreneurs, and contributors to local communities.
- Increasing social diversity expands and enriches local culture and brings new knowledge, talents, skills and potential to develop the labour force and enterprise.

WEAKNESSES

- The structure of education provision is being challenged by societal pressures with sudden intakes related to conflict and increasing diversity.
- There is a significant number of adults with low education across the county.
- Early school leaving is being addressed, but a cohort of young people (NEETS) creates a significant early school leaving issue with substantial potential for deprivation.
- A critical gap in progression rates to third-level education in schools serving disadvantaged areas (DEIS schools) limits career and lifelong learning opportunities and undermines earning potential.
- Retention issues with young students graduating from third-level colleges migrating to employment opportunities in towns, cities and overseas.

THREATS

- If actions are not taken to address education disadvantage, the gap to sustainable living for residents in areas of deprivation will undoubtedly increase.
- Social and economic deprivation may become more deeply embedded in deprived areas with cyclical impacts in terms of long-term unemployment, low education, poor health, youth offending and poorer outcomes for children.



HERITAGE & CULTURE

STRENGTHS

- Tipperary people have great pride in their county, as evidenced by Pride of Place and the level of engagement with Tidy Towns initiatives.
- Record of Monuments and Places lists forty-eight monuments that are a significant county asset.
- The national Creative Ireland programme has been extended to 2027.
- Programme of public realm planning.
- Delivery of Tipperary Transforming and Tipperary Arts strategies directly promotes arts, culture and heritage for residents and visitors in the county.
- Significant innovation in developing local tourism strategies that make the best use of local culture and heritage (Munster Vales, Lough Derg).
- Highly educated and skilled workforce.
- Traditional Irish music and the Irish language have increased opportunities to thrive amongst the diverse languages and cultures evident in the county.
- Historic, heritage, recreational and cultural tourism assets throughout the county.
- Significant volunteer base with long experience in protecting the heritage assets of the county.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Increasing social diversity expands and enriches local culture and brings new knowledge, talents, skills and potential to develop the labour force and enterprise.
- Tipperary Arts Strategy provides a unifying template for the progression of arts and culture throughout the county.
- The learning from the Covid-19 pandemic shows considerable capacity for innovation in providing arts and culture facilities and performances in novel spaces and online.
- In a rural county, there is capacity for outreach facilities to areas that would not be viable in terms of facilities.

WEAKNESSES

- There are gaps in arts and culture services and facilities for younger people and, more generally, for residents in different areas of the county.
- The sector remains fragmented, a situation exacerbated by threats to sustainability and lower volunteer engagement.
- The focus of funding remains on infrastructure, and insufficient resources are directed to sustainable operations, particularly at this time of significantly rising costs.
- Increasing materials, insurance and overhead costs represent a significant challenge to the Creative Sector.
- The quality of facilities, while improving, remains very uneven throughout the county.
- The increasing scale of requirements regarding working capital, operations, and skilled practitioners is beyond the capacity of many community-based groups.

THREATS

- The volunteer profile is ageing, and there are mixed signals about the readiness of younger people to take on the increased administration and governance obligations.
- Lifestyle changes, commuter culture, and online media threaten the sector's viability.
- The sector's cost base continues to increase as its capacity continues to be eroded by various issues.
- In an environment of significant instability, rural and disadvantaged community access will fall to the bottom of the priority list.

06

Statement of High-Level Goals


HLG1		Community	That Tipperary would be a proactively socially inclusive county and that all communities in Tipperary would improve in terms of their resilience and their capacity to contribute to the health and wellbeing of their members.
HLG2		Enterprise	That Tipperary would be characterised by a diverse, innovative, and environmentally aware economy in which enriching employment opportunities are available for all its citizens and the necessary education and training opportunities are easily accessible by all.
HLG3		Climate Action	That Tipperary would be rich in biodiversity and, at a minimum, contribute its fair share to national targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, that its households, communities, and businesses would be active in adapting to climate change, and that environmental impact considerations would inform all decisions in the county. Climate adaptation and mitigation are important in underpinning quality of life, environmental health, and sustainable and positive economic development.
HLG4		Education & Skills	That the people of Tipperary would have the knowledge and skills necessary to be productive, supportive, and innovative members of society.
HLG5		Heritage & Culture	That a positive culture would develop within the county, which values and links the achievements of the past to the creativity and innovation of today.

Figure 10 - Statement of High-Level Goals

6.1 Alignment of Goals

Sustainable Development Goals

The five High-Level Goals have been developed to align with a suite of the seventeen UN Sustainable Development Goals.






HLG	Key UN SDGs	Commentary
<p>HLG1: That Tipperary would be a proactively socially inclusive county and that all communities in Tipperary would improve in terms of their resilience and their capacity to contribute to the health and wellbeing of their members.</p>		<p>The HLG focuses on community resilience and wellbeing. It recognises the role of every community member in supporting each other, particularly, helping those facing social and economic challenges.</p>
<p>HLG2: That Tipperary would be characterised by a diverse, innovative, and environmentally aware economy in which enriching employment opportunities are available for all its citizens and the necessary education and training opportunities are easily accessible by all.</p>		<p>Attracting quality enterprises and entrepreneurs to the county is essential to maintaining employment opportunities.</p> <p>The nature of work is continually evolving, and the HLG is designed to encourage the development of new skills in the workforce.</p>
<p>HLG3: That Tipperary would be rich in biodiversity and, at a minimum, contribute its fair share to national targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, that its households, communities, and businesses would be active in adapting to climate change, and that environmental impact considerations would inform all decisions in the county. Climate adaptation and mitigation are important in underpinning quality of life, environmental health, and sustainable and positive economic development.</p>		<p>The HLG will contribute to an increased awareness of the negative impacts of climate change and will encourage practical mitigation measures involving all community members.</p> <p>The HLG builds upon the county's growing reputation as a leader in addressing the challenges of climate change.</p>
<p>HLG4: That the people of Tipperary would have the knowledge and skills necessary to be productive, supportive, and innovative members of society.</p>		<p>Life-long learning will be reinforced through HLG4. Increasing the nature and diversity of skills will encourage the community to be active and informed citizens. This will contribute to increased social cohesion and vibrancy.</p>
<p>HLG5: That a positive culture would develop within the county, which values and links the achievements of the past to the creativity and innovation of today.</p>		<p>The HLG recognises that wellbeing is a composite of many influences, including engagement in sports, visual arts, performance arts (music, dance, drama), literature and food.</p> <p>Heritage and culture play a significant role in social and economic cohesion by acting as a glue that binds society together.</p>

Table 1 - HLGs and SDGs

Southern Regional Assembly: Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

Section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act (2014) requires that the LECP be consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and the core strategy and the objectives of the Tipperary County Development Plan. Under the Local Government Reform Act, the County Council must submit a draft LECP to the Regional Assembly for consideration, and the Assembly must adopt a statement on the draft LECP.

The Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (SRSES) primarily aims to implement Project Ireland 2040, the National Planning Framework, and the National Planning Framework (NPF) policy for achieving balanced regional development. The SRSES is a twelve-year strategic regional development framework for the Southern Region adopted in 2020. Three of the Key Towns identified in the SRSES are Tipperary: Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles. The SRSES notes that the county is located on the strategic Limerick-Waterford Transport and Economic Network Axis and provides support for the development of the National Bio-Economy Hub at Lisheen

The SRSES acknowledges the transformation imperatives: low carbon and digital. The SRSES vision is to: -

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

The Southern Region's strategy is to build a strong, resilient, sustainable region through eleven measures.





1 Compact Growth:

Strengthening and growing our cities and metropolitan areas; harnessing the combined strength of our three cities as a counterbalance to the Greater Dublin Area through quality development; regeneration and compact growth; building on the strong network of towns and supporting our villages and rural areas.



2 Enhanced Regional Accessibility:

Enhancing regional accessibility through upgraded transport infrastructure and digital connectivity allied to transformed settlement hierarchy.



3 Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities:

Strengthening the role of and improving quality of life in the Region's diverse rural areas and communities and valuing our rural Region as dynamic, resilient, and outward-looking.



4 Sustainable Mobility:

Transforming our transport systems towards well-functioning, sustainable integrated public transport, walking and cycling and electric vehicles.



5 A Strong Economy:

Building a competitive, innovative, and productive economy.



6 High-Quality International Connectivity:

Optimising our international connectivity through investment, increasing capacity in our ports and airports, and providing high-quality digital connectivity throughout the region.



7 Diversity, Language, Culture and Heritage Enhancement:

Strengthening and protecting our Region's diversity, language and culture, our recreational assets, and our natural and built heritage.



8 Low Carbon, Climate Resilient and Sustainable Society:

Safeguarding and enhancing our environment through sustainable development, prioritising action on climate change across the Region, driving the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society.



9 Sustainable, Planned and Infrastructure-led Development:

Providing infrastructure and services in a sustainable, planned and infrastructure-led manner to ensure the sustainable management of water waste and other environmental resources.



10 A Healthy and Learning Region:

Achieving improved education, health and public services and facilities for all citizens and communities.



11 Inclusive International Region:

Building an inclusive, outward-looking international Region on the global stage.

Table 2 - RSES Strategy

The alignment of the five HLGs with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy is illustrated in the table below.






HLG	RSES	Commentary
<p>HLG1: That Tipperary would be a proactively socially inclusive county and that all communities in Tipperary would improve in terms of their resilience and their capacity to contribute to the health and wellbeing of their members.</p>		<p>HLG1 supports the RSES by improving the quality of life in rural areas and communities. This will create a dynamic, resilient, and outward-looking region.</p> <p>By supporting the community, HLG1 will help to strengthen diversity, language, culture, and the natural and built heritage.</p>
<p>HLG2: That Tipperary would be characterised by a diverse, innovative, and environmentally aware economy in which enriching employment opportunities are available for all its citizens and the necessary education and training opportunities are easily accessible by all.</p>		<p>Building a competitive, innovative, and productive economy is a core objective of the LECP that complements the RSES.</p>
<p>HLG3: That Tipperary would be rich in biodiversity and, at a minimum, contribute its fair share to national targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, that its households, communities, and businesses would be active in adapting to climate change, and that environmental impact considerations would inform all decisions in the county. Climate adaptation and mitigation are important in underpinning quality of life, environmental health, and sustainable and positive economic development.</p>		<p>The LECP recognises the need to protect and enhance the environment through sustainable development. It enables positive action to address climate change. This will help to drive the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient society.</p> <p>The HLG also supports sustainable water waste management and other environmental resources.</p>
<p>HLG4: That the people of Tipperary would have the knowledge and skills necessary to be productive, supportive, and innovative members of society.</p>		<p>HLG4 values the importance of education and skills acquisition through life-long learning. Low educational attainment is recognised as a driver of disadvantage.</p>
<p>HLG5: That a positive culture would develop within the county, which values and links the achievements of the past to the creativity and innovation of today.</p>		<p>As with the RSES, HLG5 encourages the enhancement of diversity, language, culture, and heritage.</p> <p>Strengthening and protecting the connections between diversity, language and culture, the recreational assets of the county, and the natural and built heritage are essential for creating wellbeing. Additionally, all of these components have an economic aspect for optimisation.</p>

Table 3 - HLGs and the RSES

Tipperary County Development Plan

The Vision Statement in the County Development Plan 2022-2028 identifies the county as:
A vibrant place where people can live, visit, and work in a competitive and resilient economy, a sustainable environment, and an inclusive and active community.

The Core Strategy of the County Development Plan will deliver 66 per cent of the new population and housing provision to the urban centres and 34 per cent to the rural settlements and the wider rural areas, thereby refocusing new growth on a sustainable settlement strategy for the county.

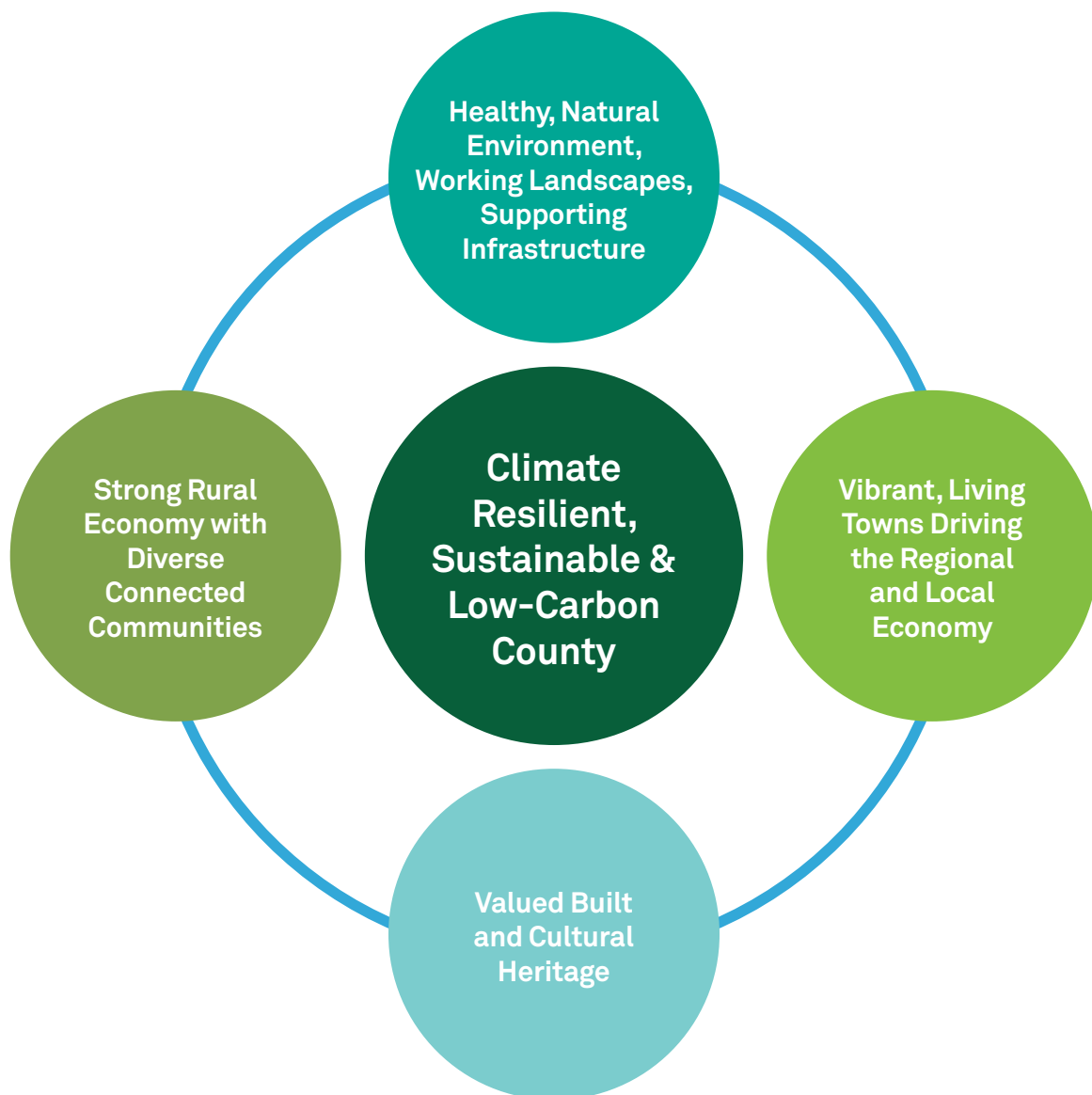


Figure 11 - Core Ambitions

The Key Towns of Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles are each targeted to grow their populations by 30 per cent by 2031, focusing on compact growth and appropriate density. The District Towns with over 4,000 persons are targeted to grow by 20 per cent, and District Towns and Local Towns under 4,000 are targeted to grow by 15 per cent.

The county's rural areas, including its rural villages, will accommodate 34 per cent of total population growth, with 40 per cent of this rural allocation to occur in the thirty Service Centres.

HLG	CDP Core Ambition	Commentary
<p>HLG1: That Tipperary would be a proactively socially inclusive county and that all communities in Tipperary would improve in terms of their resilience and their capacity to contribute to the health and wellbeing of their members.</p>		<p>HLG1 recognises that creating attractive places to live is linked to a sense of wellbeing. It is also linked to economic prosperity and the ability to attract major employers.</p>
<p>HLG2: That Tipperary would be characterised by a diverse, innovative, and environmentally aware economy in which enriching employment opportunities are available for all its citizens and the necessary education and training opportunities are easily accessible by all.</p>		<p>The LECP will underpin the objective of the County Development Plan to reverse rural decline in the core of small towns and villages through regeneration. It also embodies support for new job opportunities in the green and digital economy whilst supporting a sustainable agricultural and food sector, with forestry, energy industries, the bioeconomy and diversification into alternative on-farm and off-farm activities.</p>
<p>HLG3: That Tipperary would be rich in biodiversity and, at a minimum, contribute its fair share to national targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, that its households, communities, and businesses would be active in adapting to climate change, and that environmental impact considerations would inform all decisions in the county. Climate adaptation and mitigation are important in underpinning quality of life, environmental health, and sustainable and positive economic development.</p>		<p>HLG3 underpins valuing the county's environment, including mountains, water bodies, peat lands, and valleys. It also includes working landscapes and countryside. The environment is fragile yet provides services and is used daily, such as flood and climate regulation, recreation, culture, and quality of life.</p> <p>The natural environment is also key to an activity-based tourism economy and core amenities such as the Lough Derg Lakelands and Suir Blueway Tipperary.</p>
<p>HLG4: That the people of Tipperary would have the knowledge and skills necessary to be productive, supportive, and innovative members of society.</p>		<p>HLG4 supports the County Council's objective to reverse rural decline in the core of small towns and villages by empowering individuals to be more proactive.</p>
<p>HLG5: That a positive culture would develop within the county, which values and links the achievements of the past to the creativity and innovation of today.</p>		<p>Built and cultural heritage includes sites, monuments, landscapes, buildings, folklore, and sporting traditions.</p> <p>All these are important to the character of communities and strengthen social and economic opportunities, including tourism, recreation, town centre regeneration, and quality.</p>

Table 4 - HLGs and County Development Plan



07

Objectives

Following the identification of the five HLGs, each was underpinned by developing an agreed set of related objectives. These are described below in the context of Sustainable Community Objectives (SCO) and Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDO). It is noted that many of the objectives have overlapping implications for both SCOs and SEDOs.

The objectives related to HLG1 are carried in the SCOs, while those associated with HLG2 are carried in the SEDOs. The objectives related to HLG3, 4, and 5 have been redistributed into the respective SCO and SEDO framework.



7.1 Sustainable Community Objectives

Goal	Objectives	
HLG1: Community		<p>That Tipperary would be a proactively socially inclusive county and that all communities in Tipperary would improve in terms of their resilience and their capacity to contribute to the health and wellbeing of their members.</p>
		<p>SC01 Communities, particularly marginalised ones, will be empowered and informed through community leadership skills to become more resilient, and the unique needs of Rural Communities will be recognised and supported.</p>
		<p>SC02 The needs of all communities, including infrastructure, would be recognised and supported by equitable access to public and community services and facilities.</p>
		<p>SC03 Communities will be developed that are viable, vibrant, healthy, safe, and attractive locations for people to live and work.</p>
		<p>SC04 All cultures and ethnicities are valued, respected, and facilitated to engage fully in society.</p>
		<p>SC05 The people of Co. Tipperary will be encouraged to embrace their health and wellbeing, and the social, economic, and environmental conditions and community capacity to facilitate them to do so will be in place.</p>
		<p>SC06 Support the provision of sustainable households and neighbourhoods and all households to have adequate resources to meet members' needs as set out by the quality-of-life determinates (CDP and Project Ireland 2040).</p>
		<p>SC07 That appropriate interventions in geographic areas and/or communities with high levels of deprivation, unemployment, social exclusion, and marginalisation would significantly improve their capacity to access the various available supports. That all bodies in the county would work proactively and collaboratively to achieve an inclusive society.</p>
		<p>SC08 That communities will play a significant role in maximising life opportunities and potential for young people/children and older individuals so that all communities in the county will develop in an age-friendly way and support the recognition and wellbeing of their older and younger populations through the establishment of a life-cycle model of care.</p>





Goal	Objectives	
HLG3: Climate Action		<p>That Tipperary would be rich in biodiversity and, at a minimum, contribute its fair share to national targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, that its households, communities, and businesses would be active in adapting to climate change, and that environmental impact considerations would inform all decisions in the county. Climate adaptation and mitigation are important in underpinning quality of life, environmental health, and sustainable and positive economic development.</p>
<p>SC09 Businesses and communities will be facilitated to contribute to positive climate action and adaptation measures through (a) an increased awareness of the impacts of climate change, (b) reduction of fossil fuel use, and (c) the adoption of practical climate impact mitigation measures.</p>		
<p>SC10 Businesses and communities will be encouraged to increase local biodiversity by supporting nature-based solutions and water quality and to ensure they can adapt to a changing climate through training and funding support.</p>		
<p>SC11 Facilitate citizens to influence behavioural change concerning climate action to enable climate action and climate change adaptation.</p>		
<p>SC12 Support innovative community transport and mobility approaches to reduce dependency on fossil fuels.</p>		
HLG4: Education & Skills		<p>That the people of Tipperary would have the knowledge and skills necessary to be productive, supportive, and innovative members of society.</p>
<p>SC13 That the community and voluntary sector should be adequately supported so that volunteering will continue to contribute to the quality of life across the county. That required skills and life-long learning opportunities be accessible so that citizens can remain active and respond adequately to the changing needs of their communities.</p>		
<p>SC14 Access to life-long learning for all will be provided, barriers to participation will be addressed in areas of educational disadvantage, and the needs will be responded to flexibly.</p>		
HLG4: Education & Skills		<p>That the people of Tipperary would have the knowledge and skills necessary to be productive, supportive, and innovative members of society.</p>
<p>SC15 Focused education and skilling interventions to be supported in communities experiencing high levels of deprivation, unemployment, social exclusion, and marginalisation.</p>		
HLG5: Heritage & Culture		<p>That a positive culture would develop within the county, which values and links the achievements of the past to the creativity and innovation of today.</p>
<p>SC16 The social capital of marginalised groups is further developed through a celebration of culture and heritage.</p>		
<p>SC17 Support the preservation of built and natural environments to contribute to community wellbeing, health, and sustainability.</p>		

Table 5 - Sustainable Community Objectives

7.2 Sustainable Economic Development Objectives

Goal	Objectives	
HLG2: Enterprise		<p>That Tipperary would be characterised by a diverse, innovative, and environmentally aware economy in which enriching employment opportunities are available for all its citizens and the necessary education and training opportunities are easily accessible by all.</p>
		<p>SEDO1 Support infrastructure development and enterprise space to attract enterprises, entrepreneurs, and innovators and accommodate new and emerging work patterns, technologies, and sustainable solutions.</p>
		<p>SEDO2 Develop sustainable transport options and infrastructure, including active travel, electric vehicles, charging infrastructure and public transport to support employment access, healthy lifestyles, and emerging work patterns.</p>
		<p>SEDO3 Support a countywide collaborative programme to promote Co. Tipperary as an investment location with excellent physical and digital connectivity and the potential to be a leader in the Green Economy.</p>
		<p>SEDO4 Support enterprise clusters and networks to enable enterprises to flourish, particularly those most vulnerable to economic challenges.</p>
		<p>SEDO5 Provide joined-up support services for MSME and social enterprises, including the delivery of skills necessary to drive these economies.</p>
HLG2: Enterprise		<p>That Tipperary would be characterised by a diverse, innovative, and environmentally aware economy in which enriching employment opportunities are available for all its citizens and the necessary education and training opportunities are easily accessible by all.</p>
		<p>SEDO6 Provide for a range and diversity of economic and employment opportunities distributed equitably across the county.</p>
		<p>SEDO7 The agricultural sector will continue to be important to the county's economy and will be supported in its journey to achieve economic and environmental sustainability.</p>
		<p>SEDO8 Support the development of high-quality visitor experiences and accommodation to increase visitor revenue compatibly with environmental sustainability and climate action targets.</p>
		<p>SEDO9 Improve pathways through which enterprises can access the research and knowledge needed to innovate and thrive.</p>



Goal	Objectives	
<p>HLG3: Climate Action</p>		<p>That Tipperary would be rich in biodiversity and, at a minimum, contribute its fair share to national targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, that its households, communities, and businesses would be active in adapting to climate change, and that environmental impact considerations would inform all decisions in the county. Climate adaptation and mitigation are important in underpinning quality of life, environmental health, and sustainable and positive economic development.</p>
<p>SEDO10 Co. Tipperary will obtain international and national recognition as a leader in low-carbon development, with a focus on sustainable sectors, including the circular/ green economy, land use diversification, and the potential of the bioeconomy through the National Bio-Economy Hub at Lisheen (also refer to County Development Plan Objective 10 – D).</p>		
<p>SEDO11 Co. Tipperary will identify enterprises most vulnerable to current challenges and establish ways of mitigating the impact on those.</p>		
<p>SEDO12 Economic sustainability will be supported by harnessing renewable energy resources and developing the circular economy such that 'reduce our use' is a core lifestyle choice.</p>		
<p>HLG4: Education and Skills</p>		<p>That the people of Tipperary would have the knowledge and skills necessary to be productive, supportive, and innovative members of society.</p>
<p>SEDO13 The skills needs of enterprises in the county will be regularly identified, shared and responded to flexibly to ensure viable employment for residents of Co. Tipperary.</p>		
<p>SEDO14 Digitalisation continues apace in the county, and the population's digital skills will continue to develop in a planned and comprehensive way.</p>		
<p>SEDO15 Encourage the development of value-added goods from raw materials produced in the county.</p>		

Table 6 - Sustainable Economic Development Objectives



08

Anticipated Outcomes

8.1 SCOs Anticipated Outcomes

The purpose of the community elements of Tipperary LECP is to promote local and community development. The community elements are designed to coordinate the publicly funded local and community development actions to reduce duplication, target available resources where they are most needed and maximise the benefits for communities. To this end, the focus is on the social and economic issues that can be addressed at a community level.

To achieve the requirements identified above, the SCOs have been broadly framed to encourage: -

- Community capacity building to support sustainable communities.
- Enhanced education and training infrastructure and services.
- Improved quality and availability of community-based services to promote social inclusion and tackle poverty and disadvantage.
- Physical, social, economic, and environmental regeneration of deprived urban and rural communities.
- The promotion of mainstream equality.
- The creation of new jobs, especially in the emerging low-carbon and green economy.

The LECP recognises that achieving specific SCOs will require enhanced levels of meaningful communication between agencies, local delivery bodies and the community. It infers the need for increased clarity of responsibility within some areas of activity, with a willingness by agencies and delivery bodies to coordinate funding and other interventions in a more collaborative way to contribute towards outcomes which may not be theirs alone or may not have previously been a priority of that particular agency.



Objectives	Outcomes
<p>SC01 Communities, particularly marginalised ones, will be empowered and informed through community leadership skills to become more resilient, and the unique needs of Rural Communities will be recognised and supported.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of communities participating in consultative processes. • Increase in the number of those participating in the leadership of community organisations. • Increase in the number of those from marginalised communities participating in the leadership of community organisations. • Rural proofing is carried out for significant policies and programmes. • Integrated Rural Development Strategy in place for Co. Tipperary.
<p>SC02 The needs of all communities, including infrastructure, would be recognised and supported by equitable access to public and community services and facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents in all parts of the county will have access to flexible and innovative community and public spaces that support health, wellbeing, safety, social, economic, and cultural development. • The most appropriate mechanism for service delivery would be in place for each community throughout the county – digital, mobile, social enterprise, transport to a central location. • Increased in level and access of community facilities (audit).
<p>SC03 Communities will be developed that are viable, vibrant, healthy, safe, and attractive locations for people to live and work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the rate of serious property and violent crime in the county. • Indicators of Health and Wellbeing (health determinants) show a positive upward trend.
<p>SC04 All cultures and ethnicities are valued, respected, and facilitated to engage fully in society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of organisations considering the needs of all in their communities, providing specific resources and events for those who are new to Ireland or of a non-Irish culture and actively encouraging their participation in community activities. • All migrants in Tipperary will be made welcome and supported to contribute to the county's economic, social, cultural, and political life so that they reference social cohesion and inclusiveness as outcomes of support.
<p>SC05 The people of Co. Tipperary will be encouraged to embrace their health and wellbeing and that the social, economic, and environmental conditions and community capacity to facilitate them to do so, will be in place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents in all parts of the county will have access to flexible and innovative public spaces that support health, wellbeing, safety, social and cultural development. • Increase in the number of community organisations promoting healthy living and community-led programmes and projects supporting this.
<p>SC06 Support the adequate provision of sustainable households and neighbourhoods and support all households to have adequate resources to meet members' needs as set out by the quality-of-life determinates (CDP and Project Ireland 2040).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tipperary will facilitate the creation and fostering of social networks and connections in all communities. It will use innovation and best thinking to ensure fair access to resources and opportunities for all residents. • All households and individuals will maximise access to the state and community supports to which they are entitled. • All relevant resources and providers of housing, including the Local Authority, developers and AHBs working together to deliver an overall housing strategy which considers the provision of appropriate accommodation for all over their life course and following the requirements of the CDP.

Objectives	Outcomes
<p>SC07 That appropriate interventions in geographic areas and/or communities with high levels of deprivation, unemployment, social exclusion, and marginalisation would significantly improve their capacity to access the various available supports. That all bodies in the county would work proactively and collaboratively to achieve an inclusive society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased numbers of applications to competitive funding programmes from marginalised areas. • Increased levels of competitive programme expenditure in marginalised areas. • All organisations will work in a proactive and coordinated way to minimise the experience of social exclusion both as a lived experience and a social metric.
<p>SC08 That communities will play a significant role in maximising life opportunities and potential for young people/children and older individuals so that all communities in the county will develop in an age-friendly way and support the recognition and wellbeing of their older and younger populations through the establishment of a life-cycle model of care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community organisations throughout the county increase their participation in programmes that improve young people's quality of life and opportunities. • In communities where the community infrastructure is weak, specific interventions are implemented to address this. • Increase the level of activity of organisations devoted to caring for older people. • Increase in activities directed at older people by organisations for which that is not their principal purpose. • Increased consideration by all community organisations of the needs of older people in the course of their work development to enjoy more active and healthy lifestyles. • Older people feel safe out and about in their local community and confident to engage and participate more. • Retention and continued access to essential services, particularly in rural areas.
<p>SC09 Businesses and communities will be facilitated to contribute to positive climate action and adaptation measures through (a) an increased awareness of the impacts of climate change, (b) reduction of fossil fuel use, and (c) the adoption of practical climate impact mitigation measures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased and improved joint planning and delivery between education providers and climate bodies to ensure positive, progressive climate action information, mentoring and support are provided to individuals, households, and community organisations throughout the county.
<p>SC010 Businesses and communities will be encouraged to increase local biodiversity by supporting nature-based solutions and water quality to ensure they can adapt to a changing climate through training and funding support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of community-owned and managed protected habitats. • Improving water quality in the county's surface and underground water systems. • Fewer species in decline, and some threatened species are in recovery.
<p>SC011 Facilitate citizens to influence behavioural change concerning climate action to enable climate action and climate change adaptation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of people pursuing careers and undertaking education programmes with a climate focus. • Increase the number of people participating in projects and programmes addressing climate issues.
<p>SC012 Support innovative community transport and mobility approaches to reduce dependency on fossil fuels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing number of fully electric vehicles in the county. • Increase in the percentage of journeys being taken by public transport. • Increase the number of children getting to school other than by private car.

Objectives	Outcomes
<p>SCO13 That the community and voluntary sector should be adequately supported so that volunteering will continue to contribute to the quality of life across the county. That required skills and life-long learning opportunities be accessible so that citizens can remain active and respond adequately to the changing needs of their communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More organisations engaging and complying with governance obligations on a regular and consistent basis. • Increase in those with governance skills willing to serve on the Boards and Committees of voluntary organisations. • Increase in volunteers, volunteer opportunities and support for organisations, groups and businesses engaging with volunteers. • Volunteers are well-informed of the Social Enterprise model of service provision.
<p>SCO14 Access to life-long learning for all will be provided, and barriers to participation will be addressed in areas of educational disadvantage and needs responded to flexibly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the barriers to those parts of the community less represented in life-long learning, including literacy-related issues. • Development of a collaborative programme of life-long learning which responds to these issues. • Increasing numbers from previously under-represented parts of the community participating in these programmes. • Increase in the number of volunteers assisting with life-long learning where required. • Support the development of the Southern Region as a UNESCO Learning Region. • Support for the South East Regional Skills Fora to help employers connect with the range of education and training services and supports.
<p>SCO15 Focused education and skilling interventions to be supported in communities experiencing high levels of deprivation, unemployment, social exclusion, and marginalisation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance and volunteer management training and mentoring needs periodically reviewed. • Development of a coordinated training, education, and mentoring programme to address these needs cyclically, recognising the shifting leadership of the community and voluntary sector. • Agreed mechanism for incorporating innovation and innovative thinking in all education and training programmes identified and widely disseminated, and applied.
<p>SCO16 The social capital of marginalised groups is further developed through a celebration of culture and heritage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction among all communities will enhance people's ability to get along well with others. • Reduce stereotyping and increase fostering of the promise of diversity to facilitate lifelong learning and cultural and civic engagement. • Development of a collaborative approach for the provision of such support. • Increase in the amount of support available for associated events and activities. • Increasing number of such events and activities supported. • Numbers participating in such events and activities. • Numbers of different cultures represented at such events.
<p>SCO17 Support the preservation of built and natural environments to contribute to community wellbeing, health, and sustainability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All county residents will be supported to feel connected to their area through opportunities to explore their sense of 'place identity' and pride in their unique local culture. • Increasing the number of community projects addressing this objective. • Increase in the number of communities participating in a variety of place-related competitions, both national and local.

Table 7 - SCOs Summary of Anticipated Outcomes⁵

⁵ To be read in combination with the wider planning framework.

8.2 SEDOs Anticipated Outcomes

In line with the Guidelines, the LECP focuses on promoting and supporting economic development using the following approach, which is echoed in the anticipated outcomes of each of the objectives: -

- Economic Action Area 1: Basing the economic development plan and the economic components of the community elements of the LECP on the knowledge of a wide range of economic development stakeholders, including business leaders, development agencies, sectoral bodies, higher education institutions and other key influencers of economic development. The engagement with the Southern Regional Assembly is referenced to ensure that the LECP fully considers regional considerations.
- Economic Action Area 2: Promoting economic development through general Local Authority powers and functions. The approach recognises that the impact of Tipperary County Council functions on local and regional competitiveness is significant, particularly in relation to local housing markets and in terms of investment in and management of key infrastructure, including roads, and direct impact on the cost of doing business in an area.
- Economic Action Area 3: Tipperary LEO is a core instrument of local enterprise support and development for SMEs and micro-enterprises with a focus on providing financial support, mentoring, networking support, business and entrepreneurial advice, business training and information, and advice on County Council supports or activities that affect enterprise including, rates, procurement, or planning.
- Economic Action Area 4: In addition to Tipperary LEO, which is working closely with other national and local players to provide a customer-driven service to develop entrepreneurial and job creation ideas without displacing existing businesses or jobs, other local assets are of importance, including Community Enterprise Centres, educational opportunities, local community activation measures, and place-making activities. The LECP supports enhanced coordination between community development and economic development from a closer alignment of local and community development programmes with Local Authority functions.
- Economic Action Area 5: Jobs and Labour Market Activation focuses on helping people get back into employment, training, and education, thereby minimising the long-term effects of the pandemic on the labour force for those whose jobs have been permanently lost.
- Economic Action Area 6: The LECP provides for proactive measures specifically designed to promote economic activity beyond the mainstream Local Authority functions referred to in Economic Action Area 2.



Objectives	Outcomes
<p>SED01 Support infrastructure development and enterprise space to attract enterprises, entrepreneurs, and innovators and accommodate new and emerging work patterns, technologies, and sustainable solutions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of appropriate enterprise spaces in line with demand and CDP policies. • Development of turnkey enterprise spaces at critical locations to attract enterprises of scale to the county. • Increase in understanding of the need and proactive provision of increased scale and distribution of remote and hot-desk spaces.
<p>SED02 Develop sustainable transport options and infrastructure, including active travel, electric vehicles, charging infrastructure and public transport to support employment access, healthy lifestyles, and emerging work patterns.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall reduction in the carbon output from transport in the county. • Reduction in the number of people getting to work and recreation by private vehicle. • Increase in the percentage of journeys being taken by public transport. • Increasing number of fully electric vehicles in the county.
<p>SED03 Support a countywide collaborative programme to promote Co. Tipperary as an investment location with excellent physical and digital connectivity and the potential to be a leader in the Green Economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through collective action and a range of innovative initiatives, Tipperary will see growth spread out into all areas of the county and that by agencies and enterprises working together, Tipperary will achieve significant investment and job creation. • Inter-organisational group in place to develop and disseminate consistent message to potential investors in the county addressing issues of sustainability, skills and infrastructure availability.
<p>SED04 Support enterprise clusters and networks to enable enterprises to flourish, particularly those most vulnerable to economic challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate enterprise clusters identified for the county and engagement with national and regional structures to have the county identified as a location for such clusters. • Infrastructure in place to support such clusters. • Business networks are in place and operational to support all enterprises.
<p>SED05 Provide joined-up support services for MSME and social enterprises, including the delivery of skills necessary to drive these economies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a coordination group to create a shared service for MSME and social enterprises. • Increase the number of enterprises availing of this support.
<p>SED06 Provide for a range and diversity of economic and employment opportunities distributed equitably across the county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of enterprise development and employment reflecting the demographic structure of the county. • Establish a plan for the sustainable use of the county's assets. • Increasing balance in types of employment as reflected in CSO figures without over-reliance on a small number of sectors.
<p>SED07 The agricultural sector will continue to be important to the county's economy and will be supported in its journey to achieve economic and environmental sustainability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the value of agriculture in the county relative to the sector nationally. • Stabilise the numbers employed in the sector. • Increase the level of sectoral diversification. • Reduce sectoral emissions in accordance with targets.
<p>SED08 Support the development of high-quality visitor experiences and accommodation to increase visitor revenue compatibly with environmental sustainability and climate action targets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the capacity of visitor attractions in the county. • Agreed list of priority developments in place. • Increasing number of bednights in the county. • Increasing the number of day and overnight visitors within the capacity of visitor locations to accommodate them sustainably.

Objectives	Outcomes
SED09 Improve pathways through which enterprises can access the research and knowledge needed to innovate and thrive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and understandable processes are in place and widely disseminated. • Increased number of enterprises availing of research and development supports. • Increased value of the research and development supports. • Increased value of the product arising from such engagement.
SED010 Co. Tipperary will obtain international and national recognition as a leader in low-carbon development, with a focus on sustainable sectors, including the circular/green economy, land use diversification, and the potential of the bioeconomy through the National Bio-Economy Hub at Lisheen (also refer to County Development Plan Objective 10 – D).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership plan put in place to facilitate the development of the critical sectors. • Increased number of enterprises in the key sectors. • Increased number of employees in the key sectors. • Increased value of the key sectors.
SED011 Co. Tipperary will identify enterprises most vulnerable to current challenges and establish ways of mitigating the impact on those.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of vulnerable enterprises assisted and preserved. • Inter-organisational response is in place to assist.
SED012 Economic sustainability will be supported by harnessing renewable energy resources and developing the circular economy such that 'reduce our use' is a core lifestyle choice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steady increase in the percentage of the county's renewable energy resources being harnessed. • Increasing value of recycled goods within the county. • Increasing number of appliances being repaired. • Reduction in waste of all types and increase in good quality recycled waste.
SED013 The skills needs of enterprises in the county will be regularly identified, shared and responded to flexibly to ensure viable employment for residents of Co. Tipperary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employers, regional bodies and education, training, and upskilling providers have identified current and emerging skill needs for enterprises and other organisations in this area. • Training, education, and upskilling providers will have an integrated programme in place to meet these needs. • Growing number of enterprises and other organisations are participating. • Growing number of individuals upskilled.
SED014 Digitalisation continues apace in the county, and the population's digital skills will continue to develop in a planned and comprehensive way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the percentage of the population able to conduct business through digital platforms. • Training, education, and mentoring programmes in place to support those with poorer digital skills to develop them in a supportive way. • Increasing number of employees able to incorporate digital processes into their work.
SED015 Encourage the development of value-added goods from raw materials produced in the county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural assets of the county identified, and a plan is in place as to how value can be added to these. • Increase in number of new enterprises in this area. • Increase in employment in this area. • Increase in the value of production in this area.

Table 8 - SEDOs Summary of Anticipated Outcomes⁶

⁶ To be read in combination with the wider planning framework.

09

Monitoring & Evaluation

The LECP will be delivered through a series of Implementation Plans agreed upon biannually. Monitoring of these Implementation Plans will be undertaken on an ongoing basis and reported to Tipperary LCDC.

At the conclusion of each of the biannual plans, a review will be undertaken to monitor progress and align relevant objectives and actions to evolving needs. These interim reviews will take place in 2025 and 2027.



9.1 Evaluation Tools

The LECP includes High-Level Goals, each with related objectives and actions. Each objective contains one or more success indicators to measure progress toward achieving the High-Level Goal. These will undergo ongoing monitoring based on prioritising activities and determining outputs and indicators for each Implementation Plan.

To support the comprehensive evaluation of LECP interventions, the development of case studies will also form part of the monitoring process for the LECP. To support a consistent approach to these case studies, the case study template used for the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) programme will be used as a template for LECP case studies.

A final review and support for the development of the subsequent round of the LECP will be informed by the quantitative and qualitative data collected as part of the Implementation Plan and ongoing monitoring process.



9.2 Public Access

The implementation reports will be published biannually.



10

Glossary of Selected Terms



Accessible: Accessible information means that people with disabilities can readily access and understand it. An accessible service is geared to serve people with disabilities alongside other service users. This LECIP and Implementation Plan has sought to ensure its accessibility and reflect the principles of accessible services.

Appropriate Assessment (AA): AA is the formal process by which any plan or project proposal examines its potentially significant effects on sites designated as being of European-level importance and protected by National and European Law. These sites constitute Special Areas of Conservation (currently candidate SACs or cSACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The obligation to undertake appropriate assessment derives from Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, and both involve several steps and tests that need to be applied.

Biodiversity: The government declared a Biodiversity Emergency alongside a Climate Emergency. This acknowledged that Irish biodiversity is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, recognising associated risks of habitat fragmentation and loss, over-exploitation, air pollution, water and soil pollution, and the spread of invasive species.

Circular Economy: A model of production and consumption that involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible, thus extending the life cycle of products.

Climate Action: The government acknowledges that climate change is already devastatingly impacting our economy, society and environment and will continue to do so in the future. It, therefore, recognises that taking ambitious climate action is necessary to ensure a sustainable future both nationally and globally. The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021 provides for supporting Ireland's transition to Net Zero and achieving a carbon-neutral economy by no later than 2050.

Climate Change: Includes both the global warming driven by human emissions of greenhouse gases and the resulting large-scale shifts in weather patterns.

Climate Justice: Climate justice is a term used for framing global warming as an ethical and political issue rather than purely environmental or physical. This is done by relating the effects of climate change to concepts of justice, particularly environmental justice and social justice, and by examining issues such as equality, human rights, collective rights, and the historical responsibilities for the situation.

Clusters: A cluster is a geographic concentration of interconnected businesses, suppliers, and associated institutions in a particular field. Clusters are considered to increase the productivity with which companies can compete locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

Compact Growth: The NDP establishes an objective to deliver Compact Growth. This aims to secure the sustainable growth of more compact urban and rural settlements supported by jobs, housing, community services and amenities. The intention is to achieve effective density and consolidation as opposed to more sprawl of urban development.

Disability: The CSO classifies a disabled person as someone who responded 'yes' in the Census of Population to having any of the seven identified long-lasting conditions or any of the four 'difficulties' categories.

Fintech: Fintech is technology-enabled financial innovation changing how financial institutions provide – and consumers and businesses use – financial services. Innovation and changes are creating new business opportunities and firms.

Green Tech: Short for green technology is a term that describes the use of technology and science to create products and services that are environmentally friendly.

Greenways: Greenways are trails built to be used exclusively by cyclists, pedestrians and other non-motorised transport and are generally traffic-free routes. In 2018, the government launched the 'Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways.'

Health Service Executive (HSE): The HSE provides the county with a wide range of health and personal social services.

Household: The Census defines a private household as one comprised of either one person living alone or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with common housekeeping arrangements – that is, sharing at least one meal a day or sharing a living room or sitting room.

Implementation Plan: A document that entails the steps required to facilitate the execution and implementation of a plan, idea, model, or policy by presenting clear implementation steps that must be followed. A two-year initial implementation plan has been prepared and published separately for this LECP.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO): The LEO is the first-stop-shop for business support services and provides advice, information and support to existing businesses and people interested in starting up a new business, including entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters, start-ups, and small businesses looking to expand.

Medtech: Short for Medical Technology and captures all technologies used for medical purposes. The development of technologies and innovation in the healthcare sector have led to growing numbers of businesses involved in developing, producing and delivering Medtech.

National Development Plan: As part of Project Ireland 2040, the NDP sets out the government's overarching investment strategy and budget for 2021-2030. It is an ambitious plan that balances the significant demand for public investment across all sectors and regions of Ireland with a major focus on improving the delivery of infrastructure projects to ensure speed of delivery and value-for-money.

National Planning Framework (NPF): The NPF is the government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of the country out to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment.

Networks: A network is a form of cooperation that allows companies in different regions or countries to collaborate based on shared development objectives expressed in a cooperation agreement. The aim is to create synergies to become more innovative and competitive in domestic and international markets while keeping individual autonomy.

Public Participation Network (PPN): The PPN is the public engagement and participation framework. The PPN will be the main link through which the local authority connects with the community, social inclusion, and environmental sectors. The PPN aims to facilitate and enable public organisations operating within the wider community to articulate and give voice to a diverse range of views, issues, and interests within the local government system.

Relative Deprivation: Deprivation has been described as 'observable and demonstrable disadvantage relative to the local community to which an individual belongs.'

Smarter Travel: Short for the Department of Transport's Sustainable Transport Policy document 'Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future 2009 - 2020'. This aims to get people to think about how and why they make travel choices for all trips. It is supported by the Active Travel Programme, which aims to facilitate investment in active travel options, including walking and cycling.

Social Entrepreneurship: An approach by individuals, groups, start-up companies or entrepreneurs in which they develop, fund, and implement solutions to social, cultural, or environmental issues. This concept may be applied to a wide range of organisations, which vary in size, aims, and beliefs.

Social Exclusion: Social exclusion refers to the inability to participate in society because of a lack of resources ordinarily available to the general population.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP): Multi-annual programme to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality. A central objective is to support disadvantaged individuals to improve the quality of their lives through the provision of lifelong learning and labour market supports. The Implementation Plan acknowledges SICAP actions.

Social Inclusion: The process of improving the terms on which individuals and groups take part in society – improving the ability, opportunity, and dignity of those disadvantaged based on their identity. The government published the '*Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025 Ambition, Goals and Commitments*' in 2020 to reduce the number of people in consistent poverty and increase social inclusion for those who are most disadvantaged.

South East Technological University (SETU): SETU is the first technological university in southeast Ireland. It is a multicampus university.

Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES): The RSES came into effect on 31st January 2020 and provides a long-term, strategic development framework for the future physical, economic, and social development of the Southern Region and includes Metropolitan Area Strategic Plans (MASPs) to guide the future development of the Region's three main cities and metropolitan areas – Cork, Limerick-Shannon, and Waterford. It seeks to achieve balanced regional development and full implementation of Project Ireland 2040 – the National Planning Framework.

Stakeholder: A person such as an employee, customer, or citizen who is involved with an organisation, society, etc. and therefore has responsibilities towards it and an interest in its success.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): A systematic decision support process to ensure that environmental and possibly other sustainability aspects are considered effectively in policy, plan and programme making.

Sustainable Development: Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The UN's 2030 Agenda sets out seventeen Sustainable Development Goals within a plan of action adopted in 2015 by all UN Member States. The plan envisages a world in which nations can enjoy inclusive and sustainable economic growth, with decent work for all, and where consumption and production patterns and the use of all natural resources are sustainable.

Sustainable Economy: The Environmental Protection Agency identifies that Ireland's economic resilience is linked to environmental quality and the supporting role of Ireland's ecosystems and natural resources. The 'circular economy' concept described above acknowledges the principle of sustainable economic growth whereby growth is maintained over the longer term without creating economic problems or complications.

Teagasc: The Agriculture and Food Development Authority is the national body providing integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural communities.

Tipperary Education and Training Board (ETB): The ETB is the statutory education authority and the vehicle for the delivery of coordinated education and training programmes across the county.

Town Centre First: The Government published 'Town Centre First: A Policy Approach for Irish Towns' in 2022. It aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant, and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit while functioning as the local community's service, social, cultural, and recreational hub. It supports 'Our Rural Future' and builds from the objective of Compact Growth and is recognised within the actions set out within the Implementation Plan.

TUSLA Child and Family Agency: The dedicated State agency responsible for improving the wellbeing and outcomes for children.



Appendices





A1 Original High-Level Goals

Original High-Level Goal	Original Objective	Original Priorities
HLG1 Community Resilience and Wellbeing	That all communities in Tipperary would move forward in terms of their resilience and their capacity to contribute to the wellbeing of their members.	<p>Enhancing the participation, leadership, and resilience of rural communities.</p> <hr/> <p>Make Tipperary a safer and more secure place to live.</p> <hr/> <p>Improving Access to Services within the community and supporting community infrastructural development.</p> <hr/> <p>Prioritise geographical areas and Communities with high levels of deprivation employment or social exclusions and marginalisation.</p> <hr/> <p>To assist communities in improving the health and wellbeing of all citizens in Co. Tipperary.</p> <hr/> <p>To assist communities in their role in maximising life opportunities and potential for young people and children.</p> <hr/> <p>To support communities to develop in an age-friendly way and promote the wellbeing of their older populations.</p> <hr/> <p>Support marginalised groups, including new communities, those with disabilities and travellers.</p>
HLG 2 Economic Development	That Co. Tipperary would contain a diverse, innovative, and environmentally aware economy in which enriching employment opportunities are available for all its citizens and the necessary education and training opportunities are easily accessible by all.	<p>Grow our economy by developing infrastructure that will attract and enable industry, entrepreneurs, and innovators.</p> <hr/> <p>Collaborate with agencies and partners to promote Co. Tipperary as an investment location with excellent physical and digital connectivity.</p> <hr/> <p>Further develop Co. Tipperary's reputation as having a high-quality, sustainable, and climate-resilient environment.</p> <hr/> <p>Facilitate the development of a diverse and skilled workforce to sustain climate-friendly enterprise in the county.</p> <hr/> <p>Support future Economic growth by offering integrated support services for the micro and small business sectors.</p> <hr/> <p>Facilitate the collaborative marketing of Co. Tipperary as an attractive place to invest and establish a successful enterprise.</p> <hr/> <p>Improve the visitor experience: increase visitor revenue, visitor numbers, capacity, dwell time and bed nights in a way compatible with environmental sustainability and climate targets.</p> <hr/> <p>Identify the economic sectors and areas within the county most vulnerable to current challenges and identify ways of mitigating the impact.</p>
HLG 3 Climate Action	That Co. Tipperary would, at a minimum, contribute its fair share to national targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, that its households, communities, and businesses would be active in adapting to climate change, and that environmental impact considerations would inform all decisions in the county.	<p>Increase the awareness and understanding of the impacts and opportunities associated with climate change and the urgency of action being taken without delay.</p> <hr/> <p>Promote and support the growth of renewable energy and the circular economy.</p> <hr/> <p>Protect biodiversity, seek to reverse habitat and species loss where possible, protect natural habitats and safeguard water quality.</p> <hr/> <p>Further develop Co. Tipperary's reputation as an environmentally aware area by helping our businesses and communities to be energy efficient, mitigate their climate impact and be ready to adapt to the impacts of climate change.</p> <hr/> <p>Protect and restore water quality in 'At Risk' waterbodies and help to ensure Co. Tipperary's compliance with the Water Framework Directive.</p>

A2 Second Round Public Consultation

Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029



Consultation Workshops

What is it?...

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) sets out the way that all organisations will work together to achieve community and economic development that improves the quality of life of all residents of County Tipperary. It is the county element of a six-year national development framework for a six-year period.

The overall approach is to draw up a plan to identify the most important areas to work on and to plan how agencies and organisations can work together to best achieve address objectives and implement actions associated with those priorities.

Why is it important?...

When the LECP process started in 2014, it was felt that coordination was needed in situations where different groups were working in the same space, without much communication or coordination with each other. Also, while a lot of work was being achieved, it was harder to spot the service gaps.

Who is doing it?...

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) represents the County Council's strengthened role in community and economic development.

The LCDC and the Economic Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) have important roles in preparing the LECP. Ultimately, the LECP will be adopted by Tipperary County Council.

What stage are we at?

We have been working on this plan for a while. We have looked at many types of information and have also talked the organisations involved in delivering services in Tipperary. We have consulted the people of the county, both online and at meetings. From this, the proposed High-Level Goals and Objectives have been drafted.

These Draft High-Level Goals and Objectives form the basis for the next stage of consultation.

What is expected from me/my group?...

The LCDC and the Economic Strategic Policy Committee of Tipperary County Council cordially invite you and your group to contribute to the next stage of the LECP by ensuring your work or the topics in which you are interested is reflected in the High-Level Goals and Objectives.

At the forthcoming consultation workshops we invite you to consider actions and objectives that will positively impact your area over the next six years. If there are important areas not covered, we would like you to identify them for us. If we have included areas that you don't think are that important, you might let us know that, as well.

We will also spend some time at the meeting agreeing how we should measure progress on achieving the objectives.

Finally, if you have ideas on strategic actions that you think should be implemented, we would be glad to hear those as well.

We know that most people will be particularly interested in certain types of goals and objectives and will be happy for you to concentrate on those.

How do I register?...

We invite you to register for the two-hour consultation workshop by following the steps below: -

1. Sign up for the event on [Eventbrite](#).
2. We will send you an email so that you can choose the most relevant of the five High-Level Goals and Objectives to work on in the workshop.

This information is crucial so that you can be assigned a workshop to develop actions and outcomes that you expect to result from the work.

Have your say!...

Please come along to either Consultation Workshop:

Wednesday 13th September 2023, 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm - Borrisoleigh Community Centre, E41 FF84

Wednesday 13th September 2023, 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm - Clonmel Rugby Club, E91 CX93

A3 Reference Policies and Strategies

1. 01082023 Tipperary Roma Health Project Report 1
2. 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010–2030
3. 2017 Annual Report - LECP Economic Action Plan
4. 2017 LECP Community Action Annual Report
5. 2018 Annual Report - Economic Action Plan
6. 20230824 Department of Transport Response
7. A Strategy for a Healthy Tipperary 2018-2020
8. All-Island Strategic Rail Review, July 2023
9. Annual Report 2019 Economic Action Plan
10. Annual Report Community Action Plan 2020
11. Annual Report Economic Action Plan 2020
12. Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014-2020
13. Building Future Skills: The Demand for Skills in Ireland's Built Environment Sector to 2030
14. Child and Youth Participation Strategy 2019-2023
15. Civil Defence - Towards 2030
16. Clare LHO, Limerick LHO and North Tipperary/East Limerick LHO Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) Area 3
17. Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan
18. Community Action Plan Progress Report 2018
19. Community Three-Year LECP Review
20. Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan: Enhancing Public Transport Across Rural Ireland
21. County Development Plan Core Strategy Information
22. County Development Plan Volume 1 Written Statement
23. County Tipperary Local Economic Plan 2015-2020
24. Delivering Agencies LECP from CE
25. Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets
26. Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets Interim Advice Note
27. Diverse Tipperary: An Integration Strategy, 2023-2025
28. Economic Plan LECP
29. Enterprise 2025 Renewed - Building Resilience in the Face of Global Challenges
30. First 5: A Whole-of-Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children, and their Families 2019-2028
31. Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025
32. Housing for All: A New Housing Plan for Ireland
33. Housing Options for Our Aging Population Policy Statement 2020
34. IDA Ireland: Driving Recovery and Sustainable Growth 2021 – 2024
35. International Financial Services Strategy
36. Ireland's Diaspora Strategy 2020-2025
37. LEADER Local Development Strategy 2023-2027: County Tipperary
38. LECP Briefing Paper
39. LECP Community Annual Report 2019
40. LECP High-Level Goals and Objectives - CYPSC
41. LECP Presentation to Local Authorities
42. LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy 2019-2021
43. Making Remote Work: National Remote Work Strategy
44. Making Remote Work: National Remote Work Strategy
45. May 2023: ETB commitments
46. Munster Vales Strategic Development Plan
47. National Action Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2015-2021
48. National Broadband Plan
49. National Carers Strategy
50. National Dementia Strategy
51. National Development Plan 2018 2027
52. National Disability Inclusion Strategy (2017-2021)
53. National Economic Plan (NEP)
54. National Further Education and Training Strategy 2020-2024
55. National Migrant Integration Strategy
56. National Plan Against Racism

57. National Planning Framework
58. National Policy Statement the Bioeconomy CAP Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027
59. National Positive Aging Strategy (NPAS)
60. National Recovery and Resilience Plan
61. National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022
62. National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making 2015-2020
63. National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017 - 2021
64. Old Socio-Economic Baseline Report (LECP)
65. OPC Age-Friendly
66. Pathways to Work Strategy 2021-2025
67. People, Place and Policy - Growing Tourism to 2025
68. Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028
69. Programme for Effective Local Government
70. Programme for Government: Our Shared Future
71. Project Ireland 2040
72. Putting People First: Action
73. Putting People First: Action Programme for Effective Local Government
74. Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024: Mid-West
75. Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024: South East
76. Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) (Southern Region)
77. Report - Economic Community Action Plan 2016
78. Report of the SME Taskforce: National SME and Entrepreneurship Growth Plan
79. Review Summary - High-Level Economic Priorities
80. Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 2025
81. Rural Development Policy 2021-2025 - Our Rural Future
82. SETU Contribution to Tipperary CC LECP August 2023
83. Sláintecare Implementation Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2023
84. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme 2024-2028: County Tipperary
85. South Tipperary LHO, Carlow/Kilkenny LHO, Waterford LHO and Wexford LHO Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) Area 5
86. Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018-2020
87. Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A Five-Year Strategy to Support the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland 2019-2024
88. Teagasc Regional Review 21 - Tipperary Advisory Region
89. Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence
90. Thoroughbred Country Destination Development Action Plan - LECP
91. Tipperary Arts Strategy 2023-27
92. Tipperary Baseline Emissions Report 2023
93. Tipperary Children and Young People's Services Committee Children and Young People's Plan 2022 - 2025
94. Tipperary Co Council Climate Change Risk Assessment 2023
95. Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028
96. Tipperary Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027
97. Tipperary Festivals and Events Strategy 2022-2024
98. Tipperary Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan 2015-21
99. Tipperary Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029
100. Tipperary PPN Community Wellbeing Vision
101. Tipperary Roma Project Progress Report, June 2023
102. Tipperary Rural Travellers Project
103. Tipperary Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2016-2022
104. Towards a Learning Region (Southern Regional Assembly)
105. Town Centre First Policy
106. Transport Infrastructure Ireland
107. Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy
108. Water Quality Report 2016-2021 South East ROC 6th December 2022

A4 Screening for SEA & AA

This Plan has been subject to Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) and is accompanied by the following related documents: -

- Screening for SEA Report.
- Screening for SEA Determination.
- Screening for AA Report.
- Screening for AA Determination.

Screening for SEA is the process of deciding whether a particular plan or programme, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would likely have significant environmental effects and would thus warrant SEA. Screening determines whether the Plan would or would not be likely to have significant environmental effects, taking into account relevant criteria set out under the SEA Directive (*Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment*) and transposing Regulations (*European Communities [Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes] Regulations 2004 [SI No. 435 of 2004]*) amended by the European Communities (*Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes [Amendment] Regulations 2011 [SI No. 200 of 2011]*), and therefore would, or would not, necessitate the undertaking of SEA.

Screening for AA is the process that identifies any likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. It considers whether these impacts, if any, are likely to be significant. Identifying such impacts would necessitate further Stage 2 AA (including preparing a *Natura Impact Statement*). Screening or AA for this Plan is required under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) and the European Communities (*Birds and Natural Habitats*) Regulations 2011 (as amended).









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