



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil
Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Local Community
Development Committee

Galway County Local Economic and Community Plan

2016-2022





The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for Galway County 2016 - 2022 was developed by Galway County Council through the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), in line with guidelines issued by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Circular LG 1/2015 AL 1/2015).

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**Galway County Local Economic
and Community Plan**

2016-2022

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“ an inclusive County with a clear sense of identity where we work together towards achieving the full economic, social, community, linguistic and cultural potentials of County Galway and all its people through citizen engagement at a local level ”



Introduction

County Galway, with a geographic area of 6,149 km², is the second largest County in Ireland. The County has a population of 175,124 persons and extends from the Atlantic coastal regions in the west to the pasture land bordering the River Shannon in the east. At its centre, the County contains the largest lake in the State, Lough Corrib, north of Galway City.

The County is a diverse area, socially, geologically, economically and culturally. The largest Gaeltacht in Ireland is located in County Galway, as are the most populated off-shore islands. It also has a significant area comprised of EU “Natura” designated sites, reflecting the high quality natural and unique environments found throughout the County. Employment ranges from traditional areas such as farming and manufacturing to more recent and innovative sources in biomedical technology, pharmaceuticals, information technology and the creative and cultural sectors. High quality jobs are also generated from third level institutions and public services such as health, education and central and local government.



As part of the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for County Galway, a vision for the future of the County has emerged through an extensive and inclusive consultation process. This vision, while recognising the existing high quality of life and opportunity found in County Galway, recognises the challenges posed by changes in demographic patterns brought about by social and economic pressures and the risks posed by geographic peripherality to our goal to create “an inclusive County with a clear sense of identity where we work together towards achieving the full economic, social, community, linguistic and cultural potential of County Galway and all its people through citizen engagement at a local level”.

The Plan offers a road map to build on this vision and help meet both the challenges and the opportunities which face us. The sections which follow set out an overview of the socio-economic and cultural landscape of the County, an outline of the structures established to drive the Plan and the plan process itself, and the comprehensive and varied methods of citizen engagement which were used to develop a practical and realisable Action Plan.

The final section sets out the process by which the delivery of this Plan and the high level goals which underpin the vision will be turned into a reality through the implementation of practical objectives and actions. These actions have been identified through an intensive process of collaboration by communities and other stakeholders and formulated into this integrated Plan under the guidance of the Galway County Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) of Galway County Council. This six year Plan will be subject to regular review and a process of monitoring, evaluation and proofing to ensure that it lives up to its vision and shapes our County as a great County in which to live, work or visit.



SECTION

01

Our People, Our Place, Our Prosperity



Our People, Our Place, Our Prosperity



In 2015, The Whitaker Institute in NUI Galway carried out a baseline study of Galway City and County on behalf of Galway City Council and Galway County Council, using a full range of socio-economic performance indicators and data from a range of sources (CSO, GeoDirectory, POWSCAR, POBAL Deprivation Index and more). Below is a summary of the key statistics from this baseline study. Additional statistical information is available on www.galwaydashboard.ie and in the more detailed Socio-Economic Profile published as part of the plan process.

Population

The population of County Galway is 175,124 persons. The population has been steadily growing over the past decade, with a growth rate of 10% between 2006 and 2011. This exceeds the national growth rate and is 2.5 times the rate of Galway City, which the County surrounds. The greater part of this population growth is found in the small urban centres and commuter catchment areas of Galway City. The majority of the population of County Galway, 77%, live in rural areas. This compares with a national equivalent figure of 38% and a 61.9% figure for the West Region.

Age dependency

The age dependency ratio in County Galway, at 54.4%, is higher than the national rate of 49.3% and the West Region rate of 51.3%. This is explained by higher rates of both older and younger persons.

Enterprise

The number of commercial organisations in County Galway is 6,597, almost double the number in Galway City where there are 3,724. The spread of these commercial organisations by municipal district is as follows: Connemara 26%, Tuam 20%, Ballinasloe 15%, Athenry/Oranmore 18% and Loughrea 22%. There were 5,930 Enterprise Ireland supported jobs in Galway City and County in 2014, an increase of 181 on the previous year. Companies funded by the Galway Local Enterprise Office grew employment numbers in 2014, creating 22 new jobs and sustaining 772 jobs. There are 89 IDA Ireland client companies in the West Region, employing 18,712 people. Throughout the Gaeltacht areas in Ireland, there are 7,346 full-time and 4,220 part-time/seasonal jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta assisted companies.

Employment

The influence that Galway City exerts on the employment circumstances of the population of County Galway can clearly be seen from figure 1. The red zone below indicates areas in the County where 50% or more of the residents are employed in jobs based in the City. This catchment area extends out along the main transport corridors. The orange zone indicates the percentage of the population where between 30-50% of people are



employed in jobs located in Galway City. This accounts for approximately one third of the land area of the County. This area generally corresponds with the most advantaged areas of the County, with the exception of disadvantaged pockets such as the RAPID town of Tuam.

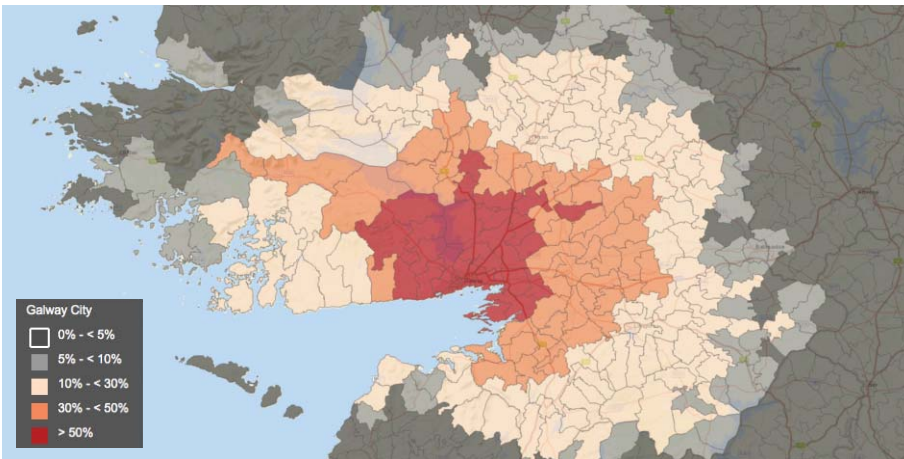


Figure 1: Percentage of population in County Galway that are employed in Galway City (CSO 2011)

County Galway proportionally has more workers than the State in the following industrial groups: agriculture, forestry and fishing, manufacturing industries, construction, education and health & social work. County Galway proportionally has fewer workers than the State in the following industrial groups: transport, storage & communications, banking & financial services, and real estate, renting and business activities. All other categories are close or similar to the state proportion.

Live Register Statistics

The total numbers signing on the Live Register in offices in County Galway in September 2015 was 7,982. This represents a decline of 3,050, or 27.6%, since September 2011. Of these, 1,020 were aged under twenty-five years. The comparative figure for the City is 8,329, down from 12,049, a reduction of 30.9%. As the Live Register contains more people signing on than those who are unemployed, to get detailed analysis of the unemployed in County Galway we must focus on the census data of 2011.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate in County Galway went from 7.7% in 2006 to 18.1% in 2011. It should be noted that while the numbers in employment decreased from 70,617 to 69,207 between 2006 and 2011 a drop of only 1,410, the numbers who were unemployed increased by 9,408. The difference of approximately 8,000 indicates that a significant amount of the increase in unemployment in County Galway between 2006 and 2011 was created by natural increase and inward migration.

 ▲ 175,124 COUNTY GALWAY POPULATION	 ▲ 54.4% AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO	 ▲ 6,597 COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS	 ▲ 18,712 IDA IRELAND CLIENT EMPLOYEES	 ▼ 7,982 LIVE REGISTER STATISTICS
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The rate of unemployment in urban areas in the County was significantly higher than the average figure throughout the County. In 2011, the highest rates of unemployment were found in the RAPID towns of Ballinasloe (27.3%) and Tuam (25.7%), followed by Portumna (24.2%), Gort (23.7%) (which the CEDRA team ranked as the most disadvantaged town in County Galway) and Loughrea (23.4%). It should be noted that the towns with the five highest rates of unemployment are all located in the east of the County.

In addition to higher levels of unemployment in some County Galway towns, peripheral areas of the County also had higher levels of unemployment, particularly in Connemara, the islands, east Galway and south Galway. In County Galway the unemployment rate for males was 21.6% whereas the unemployment rate for females was 13.7%.

Education

Education attainment levels in County Galway show an improvement when comparing levels of education between 2006 and 2011. The number of people in the population who left school with lower education levels has dropped while the numbers who left with some form of third level education has increased.

In 2011, a slightly higher percentage of the population aged 15 and over in County Galway (15.9%) than in the State (15.7%) ceased education at 'Non Degree Level'. There was a higher percentage of the population aged 15 and over in County Galway in 2011 with 'Upper Secondary Education' (17.3%), compared with the State (16.7%). The greatest difference between the national average and the County Galway figure is in the category of 'Primary Education' including 'No Formal Education' where the County figure is two percentage points higher than the national average.

The further from Galway City, at the centre of the County, that people live, the lower the average education attainment levels. In County Galway in 2011, the majority of electoral divisions which have high levels of 'Primary Level Education' as their highest qualification, tended to be found at the periphery of the County in electoral divisions such as **Island** and **Kylemore**. Electoral divisions situated closest to Galway City, such as **Bearna** and **Na Forbacha**, tended to have people with higher education attainment levels living there in 2011. This tendency is influenced by the greater level of employment opportunities in Galway City and the location of many multinational companies in and around the City itself. The location of the two third level institutions, the National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG) and Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT), also acts as a factor encouraging companies with graduate employment opportunities to locate near the City, and facilitates young people of college-going age to stay at home within commuting distance of college. GMIT also has a specialist third level Furniture College campus located in Letterfrack in Connemara, while NUIG has two outreach campuses located in the Gaeltacht regions of Connemara offering a range of courses, many relating to culture and language.

Diversity

County Galway had a lower percentage of non-Irish population in 2011 in comparison to Galway City and the State. Galway City had 25% non-Irish population in 2011, in comparison with County Galway at 14.7% and the State at 16.9%. The largest percentage of non-Irish living in County Galway in 2011 were from England & Wales (6.7%). The majority of migrants to County Galway are from the English speaking countries of the UK and USA. There are pockets of migrant communities found in smaller urban centres in County Galway such as the Brazilian community in the town of Gort.

Housing

The majority of households (78.6%) in County Galway are found in owner-occupied dwellings. Thirty six percent of households in County Galway have a mortgage. The vacancy rate for County Galway, at 19.4%, is higher than Galway City at 11.2% and the State at 14.5%. Galway County had almost ten times more vacant houses (10,317) in 2011 than Galway City (1,887). The high level of holiday homes and vacant houses contributes to this.



Language

The Irish language is a fundamental element of the identity of many communities in County Galway. This is particularly the case in the designated Gaeltacht area but there are also pockets of Irish speakers dispersed throughout the County where community organisations are fighting to preserve the Irish language. County Galway has a higher percentage of the population who indicate that they are able to speak Irish, at 51%, than Galway City (44%) and the State (40.6%).

The electoral divisions with the greatest number of Irish speakers as a percentage of the population can be found in the South Connemara area which has Gaeltacht designation. The Gaeltacht area of County Galway is a vibrant one in terms of language use. At 75.2%, a higher proportion of people living in the Gaeltacht in County Galway speak Irish than the equivalent proportion of all other Gaeltacht areas in the State combined (69.5%).

In census 2011, 63% of all households in County Galway indicated that they speak Irish. The majority of Irish speakers who never speak Irish outside the education system are located near the City and to the east of the County.

Health and Wellbeing

The County is well served by hospitals, with the headquarters of the Saolta Hospital Group and the two main hospitals in the Galway University Hospitals located in Galway City, employing approximately 4,000 people, and Portiuncula in Ballinasloe employing a further 400 staff. There are accident and emergency and maternity units in both the City and Ballinasloe, and the County is also served by a network of Primary Care Teams, of which 19 are located across the County area with a further 7 located in the City.

The percentage of the population of County Galway with a disability in 2011 was 12.1%. This was marginally lower than the national average of 13%. The percentage of the population with a disability who are female at 12.2% was slightly higher than that of males at 12%. The prevalence of persons with a disability as a percentage of the general population is generally higher in the east of the County.

Affluence and Deprivation

The relative deprivation index for County Galway indicates an arc of disadvantage around the periphery of the County. The greater the distance from Galway City or the core of the County, the greater the levels of disadvantage. Our analysis shows that rural disadvantage can be found at all corners of the County and there is a commonality of problems in this arc of disadvantage which starts on the Islands and continues through peripheral areas right around the County until one reaches the Burren Lowlands area. In the map following, the darker blue areas are the most advantaged and the darker orange areas are electoral divisions areas with greater levels of deprivation.



▲ 51%

POPULATION ABLE
TO SPEAK IRISH



▲ 19 + 7

PRIMARY CARE
TEAMS



▲ 15.9%

AGED 15+ CEASED EDUCATION
BEFORE DEGREE LEVEL



▲ 25%

NON-IRISH
POPULATION IN 2011



▼ 78.6%

HOUSEHOLDS =
OWNER OCCUPIED

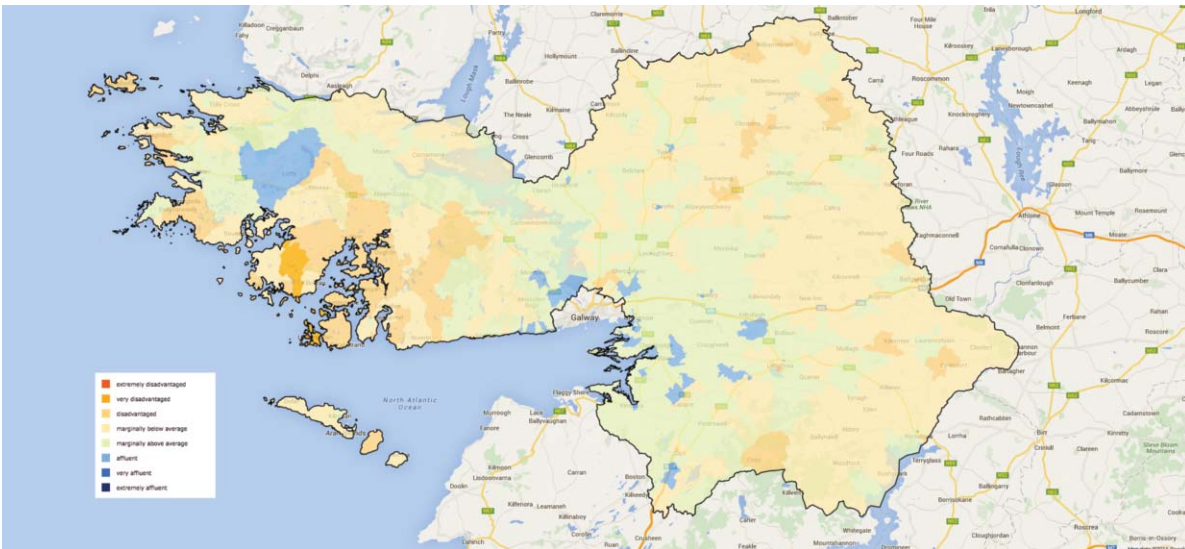


Figure 2: Analysis of Deprivation in County Galway 2011 (AIRO 2011)

Social Class

The County has a lower percentage of people 7.8% in the ‘professional worker’ social class than Galway City (10%) but marginally higher than the State figure 7.3%. County Galway has a much higher proportion of people in the ‘skilled manual’ social class 16.3% than the City 9.9%. The district electoral divisions with the higher proportion of people who fall into the ‘professional worker’ category are found closest to and surrounding Galway City, while the district electoral divisions with higher levels of ‘unskilled’ population are located in the Gaeltacht areas of South Connemara and on the periphery of the County in all directions.

Comparative Indicators for Galway County, City, Region and State

The following table gives a summary outline of headline indicators found in County Galway in comparison with Galway City, the West Region and the State as a whole.

Indicator	County Galway	Galway City	West Region	State
Population Indicators				
Population	175,124	75,529	445,356	4,588,252
% Population Change 2006-2011	+ 9.96%	+5.57%	7.5%	+8.2%
% of population living in a Rural Area	77.4%	0%	61.9%	38%
Age Vibrancy (Population aged 0-15 and 65+ as a percentage of total population)	54.4%	34.9%	51.3%	49.3%
Employment Indicators				
Total at work	69,207	31,557	174,230	1,807,360
Labour Force Participation Rate (CSO 2011)	62.4%	61.5%	60.8%	61.9%
Unemployment rate (CSO 2011)	18.1%	18.6%	18.7%	19%
Numbers on Live Register (Sept 2015)	7,982	8,329	29,766	332,801
Numbers on Live Register under 25 (Sept 2015)	1,020 (12.8%)	974 (11.7%)	3,713 (12.5%)	45,173 (13.6%)



Indicator	County Galway	Galway City	West Region	State
Social Inclusion				
% of Resident population that are from the Traveller Community	1.4%	2.3%	1.33%	0.6%
Total Persons classified as other than 'White Irish' or 'White Irish Traveller' in Census 2011 (non Irish-national population)	15,860 (9%)	16,019 (21.2%)	52,797 (11.8%)	673,791 (15%)
Proportion of Population whose education ceased aged 15+ with third level education	28.9%	45.0%	28.5%	29.1%
Deprivation Score 2006	-0.2	3	NA	NA
Deprivation Score 2011	-7.0	-1.9	NA	NA
Ranking of affluence amongst Local Authority Areas 2006	10th most affluent area	4th most affluent area	NA	NA
Ranking of affluence amongst Local Authority Areas 2011	10th most affluent area	3rd most affluent area	NA	NA
Household Indicators				
% of households with at least one motor car	88.7%	76.3%	85.3%	82.4%
% of people aged 15 and over who travel to work or school in half an hour or less	57.3%	72.5%	59.8%	55.9%
Vacancy in Housing ratio	19.4%	11.2%	20.3%	14.5%
% of households living in a house (detached/Semi-D/Terrace)	94.7%	75.9%	91.6%	86%
% of households living in a flat/apartment	3.5%	21.7%	6.6%	10.7%
% of households with a PC	70.1%	75.6%	69.3%	72.7%
% of households with a broadband connection	57.6%	72.8%	58.8%	63.8%

Indicator	County Galway	Galway City	West Region	State
Health Indicators				
% of population that considers their health 'good' or 'very good'	88.89%	87.9%	87.6%	88.3%
% of population with a disability	12.1%	11.9%	12.7%	13%
Suicide Rate (CSO 2013)	12.5 per 100,000	8.3 per 100,000	12.7 per 100,000	10.3 per 100,000
Infant mortality Rate (CSO 2013)	2.3 per 1,000	5.2 per 1,000	2.7 per 1000	3.3 per 1,000

Environment				
Blue Flag Beaches (Green Coast)	5 (6)	2 (2)		76 (54)
Air Quality Status EPA monitoring (March 2014)	Good (Mace Head)	Good (Bodkin Roundabout)	NA	NA
Renewable Energy Capacity - Existing Wind Energy MW's	71mw	NA	181.68mw	1751.mw
Renewable Energy Capacity - Total Potential Wind Farm Developments	476 mw	NA	930.1mw	2550.49 mw

Water and Waste Water Services				
Dwellings supplied by public mains	30,311 (49%)	25,389 (51.6%)	96,026 (60%)	1,247,185 (75.6%)
Local Authority Group Scheme	14,592 (24%)	1,157 (4.2%)	32,170 (20.1%)	144,428 (8.8%)
Dwellings with individual septic tank	38,262 (63%)	944 (3.4%)	76,934 (48.1%)	437,652 (26.5%)
Dwellings with individual treatment (not septic tank)	3,229 (5.3%)	101 (0.36%)	6,315 (3.95%)	50,259 (3.0%)

Table 1: Comparative indicators between County Galway, Galway City, the West Region and the State.



▲ 12.7 PER 100,000

WEST REGION SUICIDE RATE (CSO 2013)



▲ 88.89%

GALWAY COUNTY CONSIDER HEALTH GOOD OR VERY GOOD



▲ 174,230

WEST REGION POPULATION AT WORK



▲ 18.7%

WEST REGION UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (CSO 2011)



▼ 72.7%

STATE HOUSEHOLDS WITH A PC

SECTION

02

Strengths and Challenges



Strengths and Challenges



In addition to the data available for the County, the views and results of engagement with stakeholders involved in the consultation process for the preparation of this LECP have been captured and the key strengths and challenges are outlined below.

Strengths

- County Galway is recognised as an attractive location that people want to live in, work in, or visit.
- County Galway has a moderate, stable climate.
- County Galway has a clean, attractive natural environment,
- Galway has an excellent and diverse natural landscape that has major potential for growth and development in industries such as tourism and extreme & adventure sports.
- County Galway has a strategic location on the west coast of Europe that offers access to significant marine resources and is a centre for marine research and development.
- County Galway is in close proximity to Ireland West Airport and Shannon Airport.
- County Galway has a growing capacity for the production of wind-based renewable energy.
- County Galway surrounds Galway City, which is an affluent and growing marketplace of 80,000 persons.
- Galway City, at the centre of the County, is a regional centre for health care services.
- County Galway is a world class cultural destination, capable of hosting international events such as the Volvo Ocean Race, Tall Ships, European Capital of Culture, Galway International Arts Festival and the Red Bull Cliff Diving Competition.
- County Galway has an increasingly multicultural population.
- The social capital in County Galway is extremely high.
- County Galway has a well educated young labour force.
- County Galway contains outreach facilities of quality third level educational institutions with GMIT at Letterfrack and Mountbellew and NUIG at Carna.
- County Galway has existing internationally recognised clusters in Medical Devices and ICT.
- Galway has extensive land and marine based food resources produced in the County.
- There is a tradition of entrepreneurial culture within indigenous industry in County Galway.
- The County has a rich cultural heritage in arts, Irish language, sport etc.
- The importance of a sense of place, already very strong in rural areas, needs to be nurtured and created in urban areas and linked to the formation of social capital **“Mortas Ceantar”**
- County Galway has a strong local and community development sector with an extensive Public Participation Network.

Challenges

- The population of County Galway is widely dispersed over a large geographic area with significant demographic challenges in the more peripheral areas.
- Galway has infrastructural deficits in the areas of
 - Transport network
 - Communication services/networks
 - Port and marina services
 - Cultural infrastructure
 - Water & waste water infrastructure (distribution network and waste water treatment)
 - Tourism infrastructure
 - Film studio facilities to grow the film and media sector
- Internal mobility within the County and between the County and City is weak in terms of public transport.
- The amount of Public Recreational Space (in particular safe play areas for children) is limited. Access to recreational facilities for people with disabilities is even more limited.
- The international air connectivity of Galway is relatively poor.
- Traffic congestion in and around Galway City is a growing issue.
- There are shortages in childcare services in some parts of County Galway and surplus childcare places in other parts of the County.
- There is a lack of services for children with a disability, including physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, psychology services and school supports.
- There is a need for strong comprehensive youth services throughout the County that builds on the existing services.
- County Galway has been weak at converting investment in research and development in Research Centres into job creation in the local economy.
- Retaining the graduate population generated from our third level institutions is a challenge in some parts of the County.
- Maintaining the sustainability of remote rural towns/villages and islands in the face of rural depopulation is a critical challenge as the trend towards centralisation continues.
- The designation of significant areas of the County as Natura sites presents limits and/or additional costs to the development of these areas.
- There is a need to upskill the labour force to compete in the international marketplace.
- The small size of farm units in County Galway has a negative impact on the economic viability of these businesses.
- The lack of highspeed broadband services throughout the County undermines the sustainability of towns, villages, rural areas and inhabited islands.
- Climate change poses a significant threat to County Galway, with increased coastal erosion and flooding.



SECTION

03

A Local Economic and Community Plan for County Galway



A Local Economic and Community Plan for County Galway

Context

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides a stronger and clearer role for local government in economic development and community development. This is a key element in achieving the vision set out in the Action Programme for Effective Local Government: “that local government will be the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level, leading economic, social and community development”.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both in its own capacity and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. The expansion and strengthening of local authority functions in economic development and local/community development provided for in the Act is an important means to advance the overarching purpose of local government, as highlighted in the Action Programme for Effective Local Government – Putting People First, “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities”. This overarching vision needs to inform each LECP. Accordingly, the LECP should not, itself, be formulated as a high level strategy but, rather, needs to be as action-focused as possible, recognising that delivery will be through the programmes of other stakeholders as well as by the local authority.

Guiding principles of the LECP

The implementation of the County Galway LECP is guided by the following general principles:

- A participative, ‘bottom-up’ approach is a key feature of local and community development – meaningful community participation in identifying priorities and solutions, shaping local initiatives and a vision for those communities is important and, therefore, participation of the community sector is essential.
- The democratic mandate of the local authority members on the LCDC should be recognised and respected.
- The experience and contribution brought by all LCDC members should be recognised and respected, and approaches that use the strengths and expertise of all members should be developed and implemented.
- A clear focus on social inclusion should be reflected in both the LCDC membership and the mechanisms in place to ensure socially excluded persons can participate in planning and decision-making. Marginalised communities, and the marginalised within communities, should have the opportunity to participate in local decision-making and the power to influence and shape local decisions.
- The promotion of enterprise and employment development, and training and education to support this, is an essential element in supporting sustainable communities and building their capacity, and this should be reflected in planning and programme delivery.

- The strengths and experiences of all local actors, working in partnership and collaboration, and the harnessing of existing local and community development infrastructure, are key to making the best use of resources for citizens and communities – accordingly, planning and programme implementation that make the best use of local resources should be developed and supported.
- The integration of sustainable development considerations into policy development and implementation is crucial in developing, supporting and maintaining vibrant communities – plans and service delivery approaches should seek to stimulate local development and sustainability.
- Voluntary activity and active citizenship should be pursued as vital elements of flourishing communities.
- There should be a clear focus on making the best use of available resources and achieving value for money. Accordingly, there should be a focus on developing integrated, evidenced-based approaches to local service planning and delivery that seek to make the best use of public and private sources of funding.

Overview of existing strategies

The LECP must be consistent with the Regional Planning Guidelines for the West Region 2010-2022 and, subsequently, with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) to be prepared by the Regional Assemblies and a new National Planning Framework which, it is envisaged, will replace the National Spatial Strategy.

A wide body of key strategy and policy documents, ranging from international to national, regional and local strategies and plans have informed the LECP and helped to shape the objectives and actions within the Plan. These are listed in Appendix 2.





SECTION

04

Public Consultation



Public Consultation

Methodology behind consultations undertaken

The Galway County LCDC embarked on a process of community consultation and stakeholder engagement on the LECP in 2014. These consultations were carried out through a six pronged approach over an extended timeframe which has continued throughout the process. The staff of the Community, Enterprise and Economic Development (CEED) Unit of Galway County Council have acted as facilitators for this process on behalf of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC of the Council and the LCDC.

The six key elements of the consultations were as follows:

1. Key stakeholders from public bodies and other agencies were engaged on a one-to-one basis;
2. All communities and the general public were invited to attend world café style consultation workshops with communities throughout the County;
3. Sectoral or specific interest groups were consulted through focus groups;
4. An online survey through Survey Monkey;
5. Stakeholders and Community Conferences;
6. Invitations for written submissions.

One-to-one engagement with public service providers and local development organisations

Individual stakeholder organisations met on a one-to-one basis with staff of Galway County Council. These stakeholders included all members of the Galway County LCDC which comprises 19 members, representing local government, state agencies and people actively working with local development, community development, and economic, cultural and environmental organisations. Additional stakeholders who were engaged with included state organisations not already represented on the LCDC such as Teagasc, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Bord Iascaigh Mhara, and other key economic or social actors such as NUIG, GMIT, Family Resource Centres and special interest groups.

Community Consultation Workshops

A consultation workshop was held in each of the Municipal Districts in County Galway and two were held in Connemara, one in North Connemara and one in the Gaeltacht area of South Connemara. An additional workshop was also held in the Tuam Municipal district in a rural location on the edge of the County.

Communities were informed of these consultations through existing community networks such as the County Galway Community and Voluntary Forum (subsequently replaced by the County Galway Public Participation Network). From all the networks used it is estimated that close to 2,000 groups were emailed informing them of these consultation events. Advertisements were also put in local media informing the public of the consultation events.

Sectoral and Specific Interest Group Workshops

In addition to the evening Community Consultation workshops, a number of other specific focus groups and inputs from existing sectoral networks and committees in the County were organised in 2014.

Focus groups were arranged to cover as many as possible of the key target groups identified in the report to the previous meeting.

Online survey using Survey Monkey

An online bilingual survey of residents of County Galway was published to run concurrently with the time period for making written submissions to the Plan. This was facilitated using Survey Monkey and provided in both English and Irish.

Stakeholder and Community Engagement Conferences

Academic Conference with The Whitaker Institute

In May 2014, an initial stakeholder workshop was held in conjunction with the Whitaker Institute of NUIG. Key academics in the Whitaker Institute were invited to attend a morning workshop to discuss the economic and social development of Galway City and County. The academics represented all disciplines within the University, including social sciences, engineering, business, geography and natural and environmental sciences.

Subsequent to this conference, Galway County Council and Galway City Council worked with the Whitaker Institute to compile baseline studies of the economies of County Galway and Galway City. Sectoral studies were prepared by the Whitaker Institute for the following sectors in Galway; Agriculture, Creative, Education, Food, ICT, Marine, Medical Device, Retail and Tourism. These studies outline international, national and regional trends and demonstrated potential opportunities for growth in the different sectors for the Galway economy.



Public Consultation

Stakeholder Workshop

In March 2015, a stakeholder workshop was held in County Galway involving local and community development organisations and was attended by 80 participants. At this workshop, the Socio Economic profile being prepared for Galway County was presented. The feedback emerging from the consultation process that had been engaged in over the previous year was also outlined to those who attended. This conference was open to community groups, community co-operatives (a particular feature of the islands and Gaeltacht areas of County Galway due to the work of Údarás na Gaeltachta), Local Development Companies, State organisations involved in local or community development, sectoral representatives, political representatives and chambers of commerce.

The main purpose of this event was to prepare a vision for County Galway and set goals to achieve this. This vision and set of goals was subsequently adopted by Galway County LCDC as the vision and goals of the LECP.

Community Engagement Conference

On June 4th 2015 an additional consultation conference was held in County Galway to which a wide range of community organisations, business representatives, state agencies, rural and tourism interests and members of the public from throughout the County were invited. The conference was organised by County Galway Local Community Development Committee in conjunction with the Public Participation Network in County Galway which is now in place and has replaced the County Galway Community and Voluntary Forum. This conference was addressed by Minister Ann Phelan. This was attended by over 200 delegates.

Invitation for written submissions

In 2014, while advertising the area based community workshops outlined above, the general public and all stakeholders were invited to make written submissions to the consultations being undertaken. They were requested to format their response around the four main questions being explored in the community workshops. At this point 39 written submissions were received.

When the socio economic statement, which contained the vision for County Galway and goals subsequently used in the County Galway LCDC expression of interest for LEADER, was drafted, it was put out for public consultation in May 2015. A total of 28 written submissions were received in response to this process. These were presented to the County Galway LCDC and the socio economic statement was amended to incorporate the observations identified in these submissions.

Feedback from these consultations

Various reports have been prepared as a result of these consultations. These have been presented to the County Galway Local Community Development Committee and the public itself through the formal public consultations required as part of the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan. Appendix 2 provides a flavour of the feedback from the various consultations carried out over the past 2 years.



Strategic Environmental Assessment/Habitats Directive Assessment

Under the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004-2011, each Local Authority is required to carry out an environmental screening of any statutory plans it produces in order to demonstrate that there has been a full consideration of any potential environmental effects arising from the implementation of any Objectives and Actions contained in the Plan.

During the course of the preparation of the LECP, the Council's Planning Division undertook an environmental screening of the Plan as part of which they consulted with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the views of the Biodiversity Officer, Heritage Officer and Conservation Officer were sought in order to ensure that the Plan would be in compliance with any Directives.

An SEA Screening Determination Report has been prepared on the LECP and follows on from the preparation of the initial Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the Galway LECP2016-2022 "Draft Socio-Economic Statement Including High Level Goals", which was prepared in order to assist the Environmental Authorities in the preparation of submissions/observations on the LECP.



SECTION

05

A Vision for County Galway



A Vision for County Galway

An inclusive County with a clear sense of identity where we work together towards achieving the full economic, social, community, linguistic and cultural potential of County Galway and of its people through citizen engagement at a local level.

A series of themes and high level goals have been set within the LECP to achieve this vision.

Theme 1: Employment and Enterprise

Goal:

To enhance the quantity and quality of employment and enterprise opportunities throughout County Galway.

Theme 2: Poverty and Social Inclusion

Goal:

To reduce the levels and prevalence of poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion in County Galway.

Theme 3: Education and Training

Goal:

To improve educational attainment levels within County Galway and to ensure that access to training and lifelong learning opportunities is available to all.

Theme 4: Health and Wellbeing

Goal:

To improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities across County Galway.

Theme 5: Community Safety

Goal:

To make County Galway a safer place to live for all its citizens.

Theme 6: Towns, Villages and Islands

Goal:

To revitalise and regenerate the towns, villages and islands of County Galway and to improve the connectivity of communities, the built environment and public spaces.

Theme 7: Balanced Sustainable Development

Goal:

To ensure that rural communities in County Galway are enabled to participate fully in economic and social development in their own area.

Theme 8: Natural Environment

Goal:

To protect and sustain our natural environment for future social, cultural and economic wellbeing.

Theme 9: Culture and Language

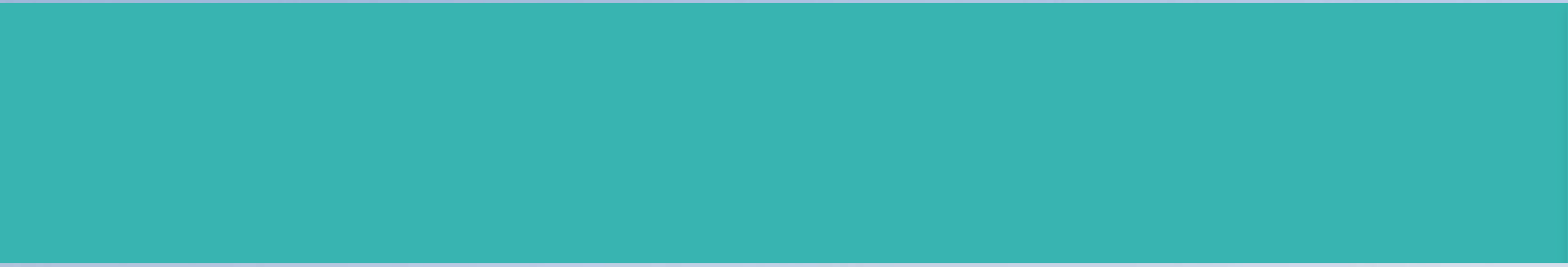
Goal:

To ensure that the culture and language of County Galway remain a vibrant and unique part of our identity and are developed to their full potential.

Theme 10: Harnessing our Natural Resources

Goal:

To harness and manage our natural resources to support our unique agriculture and marine related sectors in a balanced and sustainable manner.



SECTION

06

The Action Plan for Our People, Our Place and Our Prosperity



THEME 1

Employment and Enterprise

High Level Goal 1:

To enhance the quantity and quality of employment and enterprise opportunities throughout County Galway.

Outcomes:

- By 2020, the number of people living in County Galway in employment to be increased to 84,823 persons. (equivalent to 56.7% of population aged 15 and over, 2006 rate).
- By 2020, the number of people living in County Galway in unemployment to be decreased to 7,031 persons. (equivalent to 4.7% of population aged 15 and over, 2006 rate).

Indicators:

- Monthly numbers on Live Register.
- Annual number of jobs supported by Galway LEO, Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta, LEADER.
- Annual number of individuals supported by Local Development Companies through Labour Activation Measures.

OBJECTIVE 1 – SMALL SCALE ENTERPRISE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Seek to provide a strategic economic balance County-wide by encouraging the establishment of small scale enterprises and community services in the smaller rural villages and settlements of the County.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

Actions to address this Objective	Implementing Partners
1.1 The Galway Local Enterprise Office will develop and implement an annual Local Enterprise Development Plan, setting out targets and objectives to support start-ups and enterprises in their region.	<i>Galway County Council, Enterprise Ireland</i>
1.2 Galway County Council will publish a Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to support economic development and local community development in the County.	<i>Galway County Council, Galway County LCDC</i>
1.3 Galway County Council will develop Business Incentive Schemes (e.g. Rates Incentive Scheme, Development Levies Scheme) to support enterprise.	<i>Galway County Council</i>
1.4 An Economic Forum will be established by Galway County Council, comprising representatives from all support providers in the County connected to the support and service of start-ups and SMEs, with the purpose of maximising collaboration and cooperation across the County.	<i>Galway County Council and other relevant public bodies</i>
1.5 A Local Development Strategy for the delivery of the LEADER programme will be developed covering the period 2015-2020.	<i>Local Development Companies, Galway County LCDC</i>
1.6 The Galway LEO and Údarás na Gaeltachta will provide access to dedicated business networks at a regional, national and European level in collaboration with other bodies and agencies.	<i>Galway County Council, Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta</i>
1.7 The Galway LEO and Údarás na Gaeltachta will facilitate micro enterprises to access commercial/enterprise space.	<i>Galway County Council, Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta</i>
1.8 In addition to delivering the New Frontiers programme, GMIT will work with Enterprise Ireland and the Galway LEO to design and develop a new start-up programme targeted at entrepreneurs.	<i>GMIT, Enterprise Ireland, Galway County Council</i>
1.9 The Galway Local Enterprise Office and Údarás na Gaeltachta will maximise collaboration with the Community Enterprise Centres to assist start-ups and existing businesses to grow and develop.	<i>Galway County Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Community Enterprise Centres</i>

1.10	Galway County Council will compile a comprehensive report on incubation/co-working space across the County with a view to assessing the region's needs in this regard.	<i>Galway County Council in collaboration with relevant bodies</i>
1.11	Create a Western Innovation District (WIN) by developing linkages across the region and inter-regionally to identify suitable space and demand for local hubs which could be connected virtually to the Galway City Innovation District.	<i>Galway Chamber of Commerce, Local Chambers, Galway County Council, NUI Galway, GMIT, Industry and local communities</i>
1.12	Deliver the EU Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme-funded Craft Reach project.	<i>Teagasc, Galway County Council, Galway City Council, GMIT, Fáilte Ireland, Bord Bia, Design and Craft Council of Ireland</i>
1.13	Secure resources for initiatives within County Galway from the €25 million fund for competitive regional funds in support of the Regional Enterprise strategies.	<i>Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Galway County Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta</i>
1.14	The Galway LEO and Údarás na Gaeltachta will provide one-to-one contact with potential entrepreneurs/existing businesses, providing general advice and information regarding starting a business, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct advice and support, - Start-up guides, - Training opportunities, - Business plan and research templates, - Sources of funding and support, - Online resources, - LEO Galway online and print resources, - Mentoring supports. 	<i>Galway County Council, Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta</i>
1.15	The Galway LEO and Údarás na Gaeltachta will provide information on, access and referral to, other government services, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revenue, [Seed Capital Scheme, Employment Investment Incentive Scheme (EIS), Revenue Job Assist] - Social Protection/National Employment & Entitlements Service, (NEES) [Back to Work Enterprise Allowance] - SOLAS, [Employer Job Incentive Scheme, Training] - Companies Registration Office, - Microfinance Ireland, - Credit Review Office, - Business support agencies such as Bord Bia, Teagasc, Design and Crafts Council of Ireland, and Fáilte Ireland, - Other services, for example, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Western Development Commission, Fáilte Ireland, etc. 	<i>Galway County Council, Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta</i>
1.16	The Galway LEO and Údarás na Gaeltachta will provide Mentoring Supports to small scale enterprise.	<i>Galway County Council, Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta</i>
1.17	The Galway LEO will develop web-enabled services with a focus on trading online.	<i>Galway County Council, Enterprise Ireland</i>
1.18	Support the voluntary youth work sector in accessing the proposed new Youth Programme and the Youth Entrepreneurship Fund by facilitating links between local youth services and the Local Enterprise Offices/Microfinance Ireland.	<i>Department of Children and Youth Affairs</i>
1.19	Work with the Department of Social Protection to promote the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance, and support these start-ups with appropriate interventions e.g. mentoring, microloans.	<i>Galway County Council, Enterprise Ireland, Department of Social Protection, Údarás na Gaeltachta</i>
1.20	Increase the usage of Equity financing by SMEs.	<i>Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation, Department of Finance, Revenue Commissioners, Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Galway County Council</i>

1.21	Support Local Development Companies/organisations to make their areas the destination of choice for US colleges wishing to avail of an Irish rural-based learning or study abroad experience.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies/Organisations</i>
1.22	Target schools to participate in the LEO Student Enterprise Programme.	<i>Galway County Council, Enterprise Ireland, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board</i>
1.23	Co-ordinate the Student Enterprise programmes being delivered in schools in County Galway.	<i>Galway County LCDC</i>

OBJECTIVE 2 – RURAL ENTERPRISE AND FARM DIVERSIFICATION

Consider the establishment of small scale rural orientated enterprises in unserved rural areas outside of town or village settings which can be accommodated in existing farm buildings or can be established on a brownfield site, subject to satisfying the following criteria:

- Compatibility and general suitability to an unserved rural area (primary consideration will be given to agriculture, renewable and marine resources, forestry, tourism, recreation or food production related enterprise activities and services);
- Scale of development (assimilate appropriately into a rural setting);
- Nature of development (raw materials sourced locally);
- Consideration of social and environmental impacts (enterprise must not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or rural amenity);
- The enterprise must not constitute a road safety hazard or have a major adverse impact on the road network, road capacity and traffic levels;
- Residential amenity (enterprise must not have a significant adverse impact on residential amenity).

Consider proposals for the integration of a retail/services use onto a farm where it can be demonstrated that the scale and extent of retailing proposed is ancillary and compatible with the ongoing agricultural use of the farm and will not compromise the vitality and viability of retail facilities in any nearby settlement or detract from the rural setting in which it is to operate.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

2.1	Harness the LEADER sub programme of Enterprise Development to invest in the region.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies</i>
2.2	Establish a working group to assess vacant buildings and assets and identify constraints on their use.	<i>Galway County Council</i>
2.3	Promote and develop a Value Proposition for the West region as an attractive location for Home Working/EWorking.	<i>IDA Ireland, Galway County Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta</i>
2.4	Galway County Council will expand its role in developing the craft and creative sector through initiatives such as Made in Galway.	<i>Galway County Council</i>

OBJECTIVE 3 – INFRASTRUCTURAL INVESTMENT

Assist in obtaining the maximum efficiency of zoned lands in the County through continued support for the installation, maintenance, upgrade and extension of key water, wastewater, communications, energy and transport infrastructural networks.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

3.1	Galway County Council will work with IDA Ireland to promote Galway as a location for Bio-Pharma development and investment, leveraging off the existing Life Sciences cluster, including the Monksland area of County Roscommon and the existing utility-intensive Strategic Sites in Oranmore and Athenry in County Galway.	IDA Ireland, Galway County Council
3.2	Implement the Priority Transportation Infrastructure Projects for County Galway 2015-2021 and Regional/Local Projects Proposed 2015-2021 subject to relevant Irish planning and European environmental legislation including Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and/or other environmental assessment, where appropriate.	Galway County Council
3.3	Work with IDA Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta to continue to market its property solutions throughout the County for FDI investment.	Galway County Council, IDA Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta
3.4	Support the development of international accessibility to the airports of Ireland West and Shannon.	Galway County Council, Northern and Western Regional Airport, Ireland West Knock Airport, Shannon Airport

OBJECTIVE 4 – FORMER GALWAY AIRPORT SITE

Support the development of the former Galway Airport site at An Carn Mór for the purposes of an economic hub/strategic development site or other strategic use.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

4.1	Develop the economic zone at Carnmore to bring about regional economic growth.	Galway County Council, Galway City Council
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OBJECTIVE 5 – GENERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Promoting economic development through general local authority powers and functions to make County Galway an attractive place to do business.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

5.1	Enterprise Ireland ran a "Project Assessment & Development Day" in 2015 for start-ups in the West Region in conjunction with WestBIC, Galway LEO and Údarás na Gaeltachta to assess early stage start-up projects with high potential for growth. Two further such events are scheduled for 2016.	Enterprise Ireland, Galway County Council, West BIC, Údarás na Gaeltachta
5.2	Support Connect Ireland to develop a Regional Connect Ireland Plan that is integrated with the local authorities' enterprise development and job-creation activities and seek a nominated officer from each County in the region for the roll-out of the plan.	Galway County Council, Connect Ireland

5.3	Deliver the annual Meet West business networking event.	<i>Galway County Council, Galway City Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Western Development Commission, Enterprise Ireland</i>
5.4	Galway County Council will examine the scope for conducting a business needs survey across the region, building on the insights gained from the 2014 Mayo '4 minute survey', which contacted over 4,000 businesses to help benchmark businesses in Mayo and assess their support needs.	<i>Galway County Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta and other relevant bodies</i>
5.5	The Galway LEO and Údarás na Gaeltachta will provide advice and information for local businesses on accessing public procurement processes.	<i>Galway County Council, Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta</i>
5.6	Develop and implement an Action Plan to support the film industry in Galway and the West Region and explore the potential for a Regional Film Fund.	<i>Galway County Council, Irish Film Board, other public bodies and industry</i>
5.7	The Galway LEO and Údarás na Gaeltachta will support and participate in sectoral networks to promote the development of clusters, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green Energy - Food sector - Craft sector - ICT 	<i>Galway County Council, Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta</i>
5.8	Support the Northern and Western Regional Assembly in the process of establishing Regional Economic Fora for the West Region.	<i>Northern and Western Regional Assembly, Galway County Council and other relevant bodies</i>
5.9	While maintaining a whole-of-region approach to enterprise support and job creation, Galway County Council will continue to develop branding initiatives that promote their unique selling points, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Galway.ie - Made in Galway 	<i>Galway County Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Chambers of Commerce</i>
5.10	The Galway LEO will run a boot camp for Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur entrants from the region.	<i>Galway County Council, Enterprise Ireland</i>
5.11	Harness the LEADER sub programme of Enterprise Development to invest in Social Enterprise in the region.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies</i>
5.12	Facilitate the provision of risk capital to micro, small and medium sized and social enterprises in their start-up and expansion phases through the WDC Investment Fund.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Western Development Commission</i>

OBJECTIVE 6 – LABOUR MARKET ACTIVATION

Local Implementation of the Regional Action Plan for Jobs & Labour Market Activation to create more employment in County Galway.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

6.1	The Local Development Companies will provide an area-based response to long-term unemployment and deliver a range of programmes to support entrepreneurship and social enterprise. The development companies will work with the Galway LEO and Údarás na Gaeltachta with a view to progressing clients to the Galway LEO or Údarás na Gaeltachta services.	<i>Local Development Companies, Galway County Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board</i>
6.2	Participate actively in the Department of Social Protection's Work Placement Programme and the National Internship Scheme.	<i>Galway County Council, Department of Social Protection</i>
6.3	Establishment of "Future proofing for New Labour Markets" group to research/analyse labour market data and link with key employers, third level institutes and enterprise support agencies to action appropriate education and training skills needs in the County.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board</i>
6.4	Provision of essential training for specific sectoral businesses operating on islands (taking account of additional costs of accessing training/compliance with regulations) e.g. HACCP, Health & Safety, Manual Handling etc.	<i>Comhar na nOileán, Galway County LCDC, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board</i>
6.5	Harness the LEADER sub programme of Rural Youth to provide soft supports, mentoring and employment mediation services to young people not in education, training or employment with a view to their entering the labour force and progressing within it.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies</i>
6.6	Ensure that young unemployed islanders have access to training, education and mentoring supports to access employment and self employment.	<i>Comhar na nOileán, Galway County LCDC, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board</i>
6.7	Attract diaspora talent by creating awareness among the diaspora of opportunities in the region.	<i>Galway County Council, Connect Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta</i>
6.8	Deliver the labour market activation strand of the SICAP/LCDP programme to ensure the skills needs of the long term unemployed and those not in education or training are developed in line with the skills needs in the region.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board</i>
6.9	Harness labour market activation schemes such as Community Employment, Rural Social Scheme and TUS to deliver community services.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Department of Social Protection, Local Development Companies, Community groups</i>

THEME 2

Poverty and Social Inclusion

High Level Goal 2:

To reduce the levels and prevalence of poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion in County Galway.

Outcomes:

- To reduce the numbers living in consistent poverty in the County to between 2% and 4% by 2020.
- To reduce the numbers of jobless households within the County by 10% by 2020.
- To increase the number of children availing of the government supported free pre-school year initiative by 10% of the age cohort across the County.
- Secure European Youth Capital 2019 status for Galway.

Indicators:

- Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in Comhairle na nÓg activities.
- Number progressing to full time/part time employment or self-employment within 6 months of receipt of a Goal 3 employment support (Local Community Development programme). This will be a SICAP indicator for 2015.
- Percentage of the population living in consistent poverty as measured by the CSO and by Living in Ireland Survey – carried out biannually.
- Total numbers of children in the 2.5 years to 4.5 years of age availing of free school year funding in the County – based on annual returns provided to Pobal.

OBJECTIVE 7 – SOCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMMES/INTERVENTIONS

Support the implementation of the requirements and provisions as set out in the Disability Act 2005, the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016 (including any updated or superseding document), the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme, RAPID and CLÁR which support locally-based social inclusion interventions with emphasis on supporting people and communities suffering disadvantage and exclusion through a wide spectrum of locally promoted actions.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

7.1	Establish a Poverty and Social Inclusion sub group of the Galway County LCDC to oversee targeted programmes, monitor achievements and propose new actions.	<i>Galway County LCDC</i>
7.2	Develop and implement a Social Inclusion Strategy for Galway County Council.	<i>Galway County Council, Social Inclusion sub group members</i>
7.3	Re-establish a Youth Interagency Group to share information regarding youth provision and gaps in the County and to provide spaces for direct youth representation.	<i>Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Galway County Council, Túsla, youth work organisations and community and voluntary groups working with young people</i>
7.4	Implement a family support service for all regions of the County and develop links between family support teams and other statutory, community and voluntary groups in local areas.	<i>Túsla, Children & Young People's Services Committee, Galway County LCDC</i>
7.5	Encourage all agencies/departments developing or managing programmes affecting young people to include Comhairle na nÓg in consultations.	<i>Galway County Council, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Children and Young People's Services Committee</i>
7.6	Support Comhairle na nÓg local area and County-wide committees.	<i>Galway County Council, Youth Work Ireland, Comhairle Steering Committee members</i>

7.7	Support and promote Galway's bid for European Youth Capital 2019.	<i>Youth Work Ireland, community and youth organisations, Galway County Council, Galway City Council, PPNs</i>
7.8	Production of multilingual packs of information on services for children including pre-school, after school and out of school provision.	<i>Galway City and County Childcare Committee, Galway County LCDC, Galway County Intercultural Forum</i>
7.9	Provide training and other supports, such as facilities and technical back-up to older people to access technology and make use of social media and ICT based communications and systems such as online banking and bill payments.	<i>Older Persons Council, Galway County LCDC, Age Action, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board</i>
7.10	Revitalise and restructure Galway County Traveller Interagency Group and develop shared strategy for the future building on previous Traveller Interagency Group Plan.	<i>Galway County Council, Traveller organisations (WTID & GTM) and other previous members of Galway TIG</i>
7.11	Implement the Homeless Action Plan 2015 – 2017 through the establishment of a Homeless Steering Committee & Action Team.	<i>Health Service Executive, Galway County Council, Galway City Council, Túsla, Department of Social Protection, Galway Simon, Cope Galway, Approved Housing Bodies and relevant voluntary bodies</i>
7.12	Implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018 including a review of the plan in 2016. Quarterly meetings of the Local Traveller Consultative Committee.	<i>Galway County Council, Western Traveller and Intercultural Development, Galway Traveller Movement</i>
7.13	Implement the National Housing Strategy for people with a disability via inter-agency cooperation and with an initial focus on congregated settings.	<i>Galway County Council, disability services including Brothers of Charity and East Galway Mental Health, HSE and Approved Housing Bodies</i>
7.14	Monitor and review priority actions under the Galway County Integration and Diversity Strategy 2013-2017 and support implementation of shared actions.	<i>Interagency Group on Integration and Diversity, Galway County LCDC, Galway County Intercultural Forum</i>
7.15	Support the work of the Galway LGBT Diversity Group and the 'Celebrating Diversity' Plan for the Development of LGBT Services and Supports in Galway City and County 2012 – 2015, including support for the development of a Resource Centre for LGBT people in Galway City and County.	<i>Galway LGBT Diversity Group</i>
7.16	Carry out training needs analysis of LCDC members and other stakeholders in relation to Equality/Social Inclusion competencies and service delivery.	<i>Galway County Council, Galway County LCDC, The Equality Authority</i>
7.17	Agree a shared programme of equality/social inclusion training for staff across LCDC members utilising shared resources and shared values.	<i>Galway County Council, Galway County LCDC, Equality Authority</i>
7.18	Establish a proofing mechanism to audit actions for specific equality outcomes - and to assess for sustainability/rural proofing and to equality-proof against the nine statutory grounds.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Members of Social Inclusion sub-group</i>
7.19	Harness the LEADER sub programme of Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities to invest in community facilities to promote inclusive communities.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies</i>
7.20	Harness the LEADER sub programme of Enterprise Development to invest in social enterprises in the County.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies</i>
7.21	Harness the LEADER sub programme of Rural Youth to invest in young people services in the County.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies</i>

OBJECTIVE 8 – UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY, UNIVERSAL DESIGN AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Promote and support, where possible, the concept of universal accessibility, universal design and facilitate social inclusion through high standards of design in projects and plans.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

8.1	Improve accessibility to transport for disadvantaged groups.	<i>Bealach na Gaillimhe (Galway TCU), Galway County Council, Bus Éireann, Iarnród Éireann, Age Friendly Initiative, Comhairle na nÓg, Public Participation Network, youth organisations</i>
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OBJECTIVE 9 – HOUSING STRATEGY

Secure the implementation of the Housing Strategy 2015-2021, including the implementation of its policies and objectives and requirement to reserve a minimum of 10% of residential development for social and specialist housing.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

9.1	Development of mixed tenure housing projects in areas of recognised demand in the County.	<i>Galway County Council, HSE, Túsla, Family Resource Centres, SICAP Programme Implementers</i>
9.2	Rollout of active Estate Management Initiative to improve quality of life for residents of local authority estates.	<i>Galway County Council, HSE, Túsla, Family Resource Centres, SICAP Programme Implementers</i>
9.3	Support for active resident and tenant engagement with landlords through support for residents' associations.	<i>Galway County Council, HSE, Túsla, Family Resource Centres, SICAP Programme Implementers Traveller Organisations</i>
9.4	Pilot initiatives to break the cycle of disadvantage in socially disadvantaged families living in local authority estates.	<i>Galway County Council, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Túsla, Family Resource Centres/ SICAP Programme Implementers, Traveller Organisations</i>
9.5	Rollout of Strengthening Families Programme in key local authority estates and disadvantaged areas - 2 programmes per year.	<i>Strengthening Families Steering Group, Galway County LCDC, SICAP Programme Implementers, Túsla, Health Service Executive, West Regional Drugs Task Force, Local Community bodies</i>
9.6	Support for family learning and parent support targeting local authority estates throughout the County.	<i>Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Túsla, Galway County Council, SICAP implementers, Family Resource Centres</i>
9.7	Work with SICAP implementers to ensure that council housing tenants are supported to meet their full personal, social potential as citizens, family and community members.	<i>Galway County Council, Health Service Executive, Túsla, Family Resource Centres, SICAP Programme Implementers</i>
9.8	Work with SICAP Implementers to pilot initiatives for tenant community support in selected disadvantaged areas or estates.	<i>Galway County Council, Health Service Executive, Túsla, Family Resource Centres, SICAP Programme Implementers, Traveller Interagency Group, Intercultural Forum).</i>

THEME 3

Education and Training

High Level Goal 3:

To improve educational attainment levels within County Galway and to ensure that access to training and lifelong learning opportunities is available to all.

Outcomes:

By 2020, 60% of population aged 15 and over who have ceased education to have a qualification higher than 2nd level (2011 figure 43%).

Indicators:

Numbers supported in training courses by Enterprise Ireland, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Galway LEO, LEADER, LDCs, Údarás na Gaeltachta, EQUAL Ireland.

OBJECTIVE 10 – EDUCATION PROVISION AND FACILITIES

Work closely with the Department of Education and Skills and the Office of Public Works to identify and protect suitable sites for new educational facilities. Site reservations for primary and post primary schools shall be considered when developing Local Area Plans and this may include campus arrangements.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

10.1	Facilitate national investment in educational, health, justice, recreational and other social infrastructure, as part of the €3.619 billion Public Capital Programme in 2015 to make Galway a great place to live and work.	<i>Galway County Council, Department of Education and Science, Department of Health, Department of Justice and Equality, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Department of Arts Heritage and Gaeltacht</i>
10.2	Sharing of educational and vocational training resources - development of protocols for sharing/pooling resources between educational providers to increase access to educational provision on an outreach basis across the County.	<i>Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Department of Social Protection, Family Resource Centres, Galway County Council, SICAP Programme Implementers, EQUAL Ireland, LDS Programme Implementers</i>
10.3	Co-ordination and mapping of services in the County with a view to identifying gaps and specific unmet needs, such as those of minority groups, migrants, Gaeltacht and island communities.	<i>Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Department of Social Protection, Family Resource Centres, Galway County Council, Traveller Interagency Group, Age Friendly Initiative, Intercultural Forum, Public Participation Network, EQUAL Ireland, SICAP Programme Implementers, LDS Programme Implementers</i>

OBJECTIVE 11 – RESEARCH, INNOVATION, INCUBATION AND TRAINING

Support exploratory research, pioneering projects, new start up businesses/industries and retraining programmes in conjunction with the development agencies and educational/research institutions.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

11.1	Undertake skill needs assessments for specific sectors and areas within County Galway to provide tailored courses for key unemployed target groups and age groups.	<i>Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Department of Social Protection, Family Resource Centres, Galway County Council, Traveller Interagency Group, EQUAL Ireland, SICAP Programme Implementers, LDS Programme Implementers</i>
11.2	Support for employer links programmes and events throughout the County.	<i>Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Employers, Galway County Council, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, National University of Ireland, Galway, EQUAL Ireland, Department of Social Protection, Local Development Companies, SICAP Programme Implementers</i>
11.3	Ensuring education is available to people at all stages of the life-cycle, from cradle to grave. Proofing of mainstream Lifelong Learning courses for age profiling and ensuring that targeted programmes are put in place to meet specific needs of older unemployed adults.	<i>Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Department of Social Protection, Family Resource Centres, Galway County Council, EQUAL Ireland, Local Development Companies, SICAP Programme Implementers, LDS Programme Implementers</i>
11.4	Supporting community-based initiatives to offer training, education and work experience to people with disabilities and special needs.	<i>Employability Galway, Galway County Council, Health Service Executive, Local Development Companies, SICAP Programme Implementers, PPN</i>
11.5	Increasing access to education and training programmes for people with disabilities of all ages: from primary school through further education and higher education level.	<i>Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Galway County Council, HSE, SICAP Programme Implementers, PPN</i>
11.6	Provision of a Level 4 NQF or equivalent course in ESOL to give ethnic minority learners sufficient English to enter the labour market.	<i>Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Galway County Council, SICAP Programme Implementers, Galway County Intercultural Forum</i>
11.7	Development of quality standards and accreditation framework for a Community Interpreters Programme to be piloted in County Galway.	<i>Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Galway County Council, Local Development Companies, National Qualifications Authority, SICAP Programme Implementers, Galway County Intercultural Forum</i>
11.8	Leadership courses for young people in the Gaeltacht.	<i>(Muintearas-Óige na Gaeltachta, Gaeltacht Learning Network, Galway County Council, Cooperatives and Community Committees)</i>

OBJECTIVE 12 – IMPLEMENTING THE RIGHT TO READ CAMPAIGN AT A LOCAL LEVEL**Actions to address this Objective****Implementing Partners**

12.1	Develop a literacy action plan for the County Library Service in conjunction with the Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board Literacy service.	<i>Galway County Council, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Galway County Intercultural Forum, Traveller Interagency Group, Age Friendly Initiative, Schools Completion Programmes</i>
12.2	Establish a literacy committee for Galway with Right to Read championed by the County Librarian.	<i>Galway County Council, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Galway County Intercultural Forum, Traveller Interagency Group, Age Friendly Initiative, Schools Completion Programme, Galway City and County Childcare Committee</i>

OBJECTIVE 13 – SUPPORTING TRAVELLERS TO STAY IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM FOR LONGER AND TO ACCESS EDUCATION ACROSS THE LIFECYCLE**Actions to address this Objective****Implementing Partners**

13.1	Provide a range of measures to support Traveller retention rates in schools.	<i>Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Galway County LCDC, School Completion Programmes, School Completion Programmes, Western Traveller and Intercultural Development, Galway Traveller Movement</i>
13.2	Provide targeted educational opportunities for progression for Traveller men and women to encourage return to learning.	<i>Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Intreo, Western Traveller and Intercultural Development, Galway Traveller Movement, Túsla, Galway County Council</i>
13.3	Develop a system to encourage Traveller parents of pre-school children to avail of pre-school services ranging from ECCE to CETS.	<i>Galway City and County Childcare Committee, Galway County Council, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Western Traveller and Intercultural Development, Túsla, Galway Traveller Movement, Intreo, Health Service Executive, Interagency Group on Integration and Diversity, Citizens Information Centre, Youth Work Organisations</i>
13.4	Support the rollout of the Yellow Flag initiative in Galway schools.	<i>Irish Traveller Movement, Traveller Interagency Group, SICAP Programme Implementer</i>

THEME 4

Health and Wellbeing

High Level Goal 4:

To improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities across County Galway.

Outcomes:

- By 2020, 90% of population of Galway indicating a health status of 'Good' or 'Very Good' (2011 CSO figure 89%).
- Retain infant mortality rate of 2.1 per 1,000 by 2020.
- Reduce rate of suicide in Galway to the national average by 2020 (national target is for a reduction of 10% by 2020).
- Increase satisfaction of adults and young people with life in Galway by 2020.
- By 2020 decrease the level of overweight and obesity in adults by 2.5% (averaging 0.5% per annum) as measured by the Healthy Ireland (HI) Survey.
- By 2020 decrease the level of overweight and obesity among children by more than 2.5% (averaging greater than 0.5% per annum as measured by the WHO Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative Ireland (COSI)).
- By 2020 reduce Health Inequality by 10% as measured by the HI Survey.

Indicators:

- Annual infant mortality rate.
- Annual suicide rate.
- Life perceptions of adults.
- Life perceptions of children and young people.

OBJECTIVE 14 – HEALTH SERVICES

Promote the continued improvement and expansion of health and medical care facilities within the County in a planned and co-ordinated way, by accommodating projects that assist in providing such medical care facilities, including mental health services together with their necessary support services and developments, as well as their infrastructural requirements.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

14.1	Facilitate national investment in educational, health, justice, recreational and other social infrastructure, as part of the €3.619 billion Public Capital Programme in 2015 to make Galway a great place to live and work.	<i>Galway County Council, Department of Education and Science, Department of Health, Department of Justice and Equality, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Department of Arts Heritage and Gaeltacht</i>
14.2	Create a Health and Wellbeing working group for County Galway.	<i>Health Service Executive, Galway County Council, Family Resource Centres, Local Development Companies, SICAP Programme Implementers, Public Participation Network, Túsla, Galway County Interagency Group on Integration and Diversity, Galway County Intercultural Forum, Traveller Interagency Group, Youth work organisations, Age Friendly Initiative</i>

14.3	Support the creation of an Interagency Suicide Action Team in developing a local action plan to implement "Connecting for Life" and provide Suicide Prevention Training across the County.	<i>Health Service Executive, Túsla, Galway County Council, Traveller Interagency Group, Family Resource Centres, PPN, Community based mental health organisations</i>
14.4	Implement Health Promoting Schools Programme in Galway Schools.	<i>Health Service Executive, Schools Completion Programmes, Education Centres, Túsla, Galway County Council, NUIG Department of Education</i>
14.5	Piloting of "Smart Start" training programme for pre-school children.	<i>Galway City and County Childcare Committee, Túsla, Children and Youth Services Committee, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board and other education providers</i>

OBJECTIVE 15 – WALKING AND CYCLE ROUTES

Support and promote programmes to develop walking and cycle routes, including the Irish Trails Strategy, the Galway County Council Walking and Cycling Strategy (2013) and The National Cycle Network Scoping Study (2010).

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

15.1	Implementation of walking and cycling strategy for all age groups in County Galway.	<i>Galway County Council, Galway Sports Partnership, Health Service Executive, Older Persons Council, Galway City and County Childcare Committee, Comhairle na nÓg</i>
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OBJECTIVE 16 – PLAY FACILITIES

Support the development of play facilities at suitable locations in the County in accordance with the National Play Strategy Ready Steady Play!

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

16.1	Develop a "Smoke Free" playgrounds policy and implementation plan.	<i>Galway County Council, Health Service Executive, Comhairle na nÓg, youth organisations, Túsla, Children and Young People's Services Committee, Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents</i>
16.2	Reintroduce Buntús Start programme into County pre-schools and crèches.	<i>Galway Sports Partnership, Galway City and County Childcare Committee, Children and Young People's Services Committee, Health Service Executive, Túsla</i>

OBJECTIVE 17 – SPORT, AMENITY AND RECREATION

Support and facilitate local communities and sporting organisations in the development of sport and recreational facilities. Support the modest expansion of existing and authorised sporting facilities throughout the County. Seek to develop open spaces throughout the County which will support a range of recreational and amenity activities that provides for active and passive needs.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

17.1	Prepare a Play and Recreation Strategy for County Galway to identify gaps in service provision and map a future framework for recreational development across the County.	<i>Galway County Council, Health Service Executive, Children and Youth Services Committee, Galway Sports Partnership, Intercultural Forum, Family Resource Centres, LDS programme implementers</i>
17.2	Develop a programme for active use of Play and Recreation Facilities in County Galway.	<i>Galway County Council, Galway Sports Partnership, Health Service Executive, Public Participation Network, Age Friendly Initiative, City and County Childcare Committee, Children and Youth Services Committee, Comhairle na nÓg, Family Resource Centres</i>
17.3	Support for community gyms (indoor and outdoor), green gyms and walking trails.	<i>Galway County Council, Health Service Executive, Galway Sports Partnership, Irish Public Bodies, Public Participation Network, Trails Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Coillte, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Walking Groups, Institute of Public Health, School Completion Programmes, Fisheries Local Action Group, SICAP programme implementers, LDS programme implementers</i>
17.4	Develop a programme for promotion of disability friendly playgrounds and recreation facilities across the County.	<i>Galway County Council, Disability Federation of Ireland, Health Service Executive, Community and Voluntary Organisations, Sports Partnership, Brothers of Charity, Coillte, sports clubs, sporting umbrella bodies</i>
17.5	Develop a programme for promotion of inclusion of ethnic minorities in sport.	<i>Galway Sports Partnership, Intercultural Forum, Galway County Council, Health Service Executive, NUIG, GMIT, sporting organisations, An Garda Síochána</i>
17.6	Promote the sharing of existing facilities with other sports and community groups.	<i>Galway Sport Partnership, Galway County Council, Health Service Executive, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Public Participation Network, Sporting bodies, Community and Voluntary groups</i>

OBJECTIVE 18 –ALLOTMENTS

It is an objective of the Council to consider positively the provision of, or permission for, the development of allotments within rural and agricultural areas accessible from built-up area of the County, to be available to the community.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

18.1	Support for community food and local planting initiatives such as community gardens, allotments and community nutrition.	<i>Galway County Council, Teagasc, farming organisations, Public Participation Network, Family Resource Centres, Local Development Companies, SICAP programme implementers, LDS programme implementers</i>
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OBJECTIVE 19 – WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AND AGE FRIENDLY CITIES

Consider the World Health Organisation (WHO) Checklist of Essential Features of Age Friendly Cities when implementing the County Development Plan.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

19.1	Support the implementation of the Galway Age Friendly Programme.	<i>Age Friendly Initiative, Galway County Council, Health Service Executive, Older Person's Council, National University of Ireland, Galway, Public Participation Network, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, An Garda Síochána</i>
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OBJECTIVE 20 –TO PREVENT AND REDUCE ALCOHOL RELATED HARM IN GALWAY COUNTY

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

20.1	Support the implementation of the National Substance Misuse Plan to prevent and reduce alcohol related harm.	<i>Western Region Drugs Taskforce, An Garda Síochána, RAPID Area Implementation Teams, Comhairle na nÓg, Health Service Executive, Galway County Council, Jigsaw Galway</i>
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THEME 5

Community Safety

High Level Goal 5:

To make County Galway a safer place to live for all its citizens.

Outcomes:

- Reduction in offences recorded in County Galway.
- By 2020 the average number of road fatalities per annum is 10 (2009-2013 average was 14.6).

Indicator:

- Annual road fatalities figures.

OBJECTIVE 21 – SUPPORT LOCAL POLICING

Provide support to An Garda Síochána as they provide policing in local communities.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

21.1	Support the Joint Policing Committee.	Galway County Council
21.2	Maintain Public Area CCTV Systems operated by Galway County Council in towns, villages and recreational areas.	Galway County Council
21.3	Promotion of the Community Alert programme to additional communities.	Galway County Council, Public Participation Network
21.4	Piloting initiatives to befriend and support older and other vulnerable people in their communities by local groups.	Age Friendly Initiative, Older Persons Council, Galway County Council, Public Participation Network, Family Resource Centres, Age Action, Community and Voluntary Organisations, Active Retirement Associations, An Garda Síochána, Social Partners

OBJECTIVE 22 – ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES

Provide a safe road system throughout the County through Road Safety Schemes, which will include the continuation of the low cost safety measure programme, signage and delineation, traffic calming, and liaison with the school authorities to ensure that schools provide safety features as required.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

22.1	Implement the Annual Road Safety Programme.	Galway County Council, Public Participation Network, Comhairle na nÓg
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THEME 6

Towns, Villages and Islands

High Level Goal 6:

To revitalise and regenerate the towns, villages and islands of County Galway and to improve the connectivity of communities, the built environment and public spaces.

Outcomes:

- Increase the percentage of the County population living in towns and villages.
- Increased footfall on the streets of towns and villages in County Galway.
- To sustain the population of inhabited islands at 3,728 persons (2011 CSO).

Indicators:

- Annual number of projects supported through LEADER.
- Annual number of projects supported through REDZ.
- Annual number of projects supported through FLAG.

OBJECTIVE 23 – INFRASTRUCTURAL INVESTMENT

Assist in obtaining the maximum efficiency of zoned lands in the County through continued support for the installation, maintenance, upgrade and extension of key water, wastewater, communications, energy and transport infrastructural networks.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

23.1 To have the following town bypasses completed by facilitating national investment in educational, health, justice, recreational and other social infrastructure, as part of the €3.619 billion Public Capital Programme in 2015 to make Galway a great place to live and work.

- N59 Maigh Cuilinn

Galway County Council, Department of Education and Science, Department of Health, Department of Justice and Equality, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Department of Arts Heritage and Gaeltacht

Galway County Council, DTTAS

OBJECTIVE 24 – THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WESTERN RAIL CORRIDOR

Provide a safe road system throughout the County through Road Safety Schemes, which will include the continuation of the low cost safety measure programme, signage and delineation, traffic calming, and liaison with the school authorities to ensure that schools provide safety features as required.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

24.1 Implement the Annual Road Safety Programme.

Galway County Council, Public Participation Network, Comhairle na nÓg

OBJECTIVE 25 – DEVELOPMENT OF KEY TOWNS

Support the development of the key towns of the County as outlined in the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy in order to sustain strong, vibrant urban centres which act as important drivers for local economies, reduce travel demand and support a large rural hinterland, while providing a complementary role to the hub town of Tuam and the smaller towns and villages in the County.

Actions to address this Objective	Implementing Partners
<p>25.1 Facilitate national investment in educational, health, justice, recreational and other social infrastructure, as part of the €3.619 billion Public Capital Programme in 2015 to make Galway a great place to live and work.</p>	<p><i>Galway County Council, Department of Education and Science, Department of Health, Department of Justice and Equality, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Department of Arts Heritage and Gaeltacht</i></p>
<p>25.2 Secure resources through LEADER/REDZ/FLAG/Public Enhancement Schemes to invest in towns and villages to make them attractive retail and commercial destinations.</p>	<p><i>Galway County Council, Department of Environment Community and Local Government, programme management bodies</i></p>
<p>25.3 Seek to expand the Innovation District through initiatives such as attracting an anchor tenant of scale to new commercial space in the District.</p>	<p><i>Galway Chamber, Galway City Council, Galway County Council, NUI, Galway, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology</i></p>
<p>25.4 Galway County Council will promote investment in key towns across the region, working with IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta and other agencies as appropriate.</p>	<p><i>Galway County Council, IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta and other relevant agencies</i></p>
<p>25.5 Support community projects and initiatives in towns and villages through the annual Community Support Programme.</p>	<p><i>Galway County Council</i></p>
<p>25.6 Harness the LEADER sub programme on Rural Towns to invest in the County.</p>	<p><i>Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies</i></p>
<p>25.7 Support initiatives by local development groups and chambers of commerce to enhance the experience within towns and villages.</p>	<p><i>Galway County LCDC</i></p>
<p>25.8 Continue to review and progress recommendations of the CEDRA report to promote rural development, including through the piloting of Rural Economic Development Zones.</p>	<p><i>Galway County LCDC, Department of Environment Community and Local Government</i></p>
<p>25.9 Support the development of local markets in County Galway.</p>	<p><i>Galway County Council.</i></p>
<p>25.10 Investment in replacement and upgrading of play facilities, to include provision of play equipment for children with disabilities and to meet gaps in service provision.</p>	<p><i>Galway County Council, LDS Programme Implementers</i></p>
<p>25.11 Provision of supports for community led initiatives in the towns of Tuam and Ballinasloe to meet priorities of inter-agency groups established under RAPID Programme.</p>	<p><i>Galway County LCDC</i></p>

OBJECTIVE 26 – DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS ON THE ISLANDS

- a) Support sustainable development proposals that contribute to the long term economic and social development of the islands.
- b) Priority shall be given to development that contributes to the retention of the year-round population on the islands, that has a clear and identifiable economic and social benefit and that is compatible with the capacity of the local community to accommodate it.
- c) Ensure that new development of any kind is sympathetic to the individual form and character of the island landscapes and traditional building patterns.

Actions to address this Objective**Implementing Partners**

26.1	Harness the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 to ensure investment in the Islands.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies</i>
26.2	Implement the FLAG Programme for the West FLAG region.	<i>Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Fisheries Local Action Group West, Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann</i>
26.3	Complete the transport infrastructure programme for the islands, including the Inis Oírr pier enhancement.	<i>Islands Division, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Island development bodies, Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann, Galway County Council, Ferry and public transport operators</i>

THEME 7

Balanced Sustainable Development

High Level Goal 7:

To ensure that rural communities in County Galway are enabled to participate fully in economic and social development in their own area.

Outcomes:

- Have a well resourced Public Participation Network (PPN) with a membership of 750+ groups in 2020.
- To have minimum broadband speeds of 30mbs to every household by 2020.
- Tourism visitor numbers to County Galway increased by 20%.

Indicator:

- Annual tourism visitor numbers.
- Number of groups registered with the PPN.
- Minimum broadband speed available in County Galway.

OBJECTIVE 27 – DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL COMMUNITIES

Galway County Council shall recognise the important role of rural communities to the sustainable development of County Galway and shall ensure the careful management of development in these areas, having due regard to the relevant policies and objectives set out elsewhere in the Plan.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

Actions to address this Objective	Implementing Partners
27.1 Support and resource the activities of the Public Participation Network (PPN) in County Galway.	<i>Galway County LCDC</i>
27.2 Development of a Community Leadership Programme - to be delivered on a pilot basis initially - to support REDZ management groups and other Rural Community Planning Groups.	<i>Teagasc, Galway County Council, SCCUL Enterprises, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Local Development Companies, SICAP programme implementers, LDS programme implementers</i>
27.3 Harness the LEADER sub programme on Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities to address the needs of Rural Communities.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies, Social Inclusion sub group</i>
27.4 Conserve Connemara's marine heritage and foster interest in it by giving tourists/visitors the opportunity to gain an insight into Connemara's ocean heritage.	<i>Muintearas, Cumann Húicéirí na Gaillimhe, Local Boatmen, Fáilte Ireland, Local Currach Clubs, Cooperatives and Community Committees, Galway County Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta</i>
27.5 Organise a series of lectures, workshops and daytrips with local experts to spread knowledge and raise awareness of our archaeological heritage.	<i>Muintearas, Local Committees, OPW, Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, Schools, Fáilte Ireland</i>

OBJECTIVE 28 – FACILITATE THE DELIVERY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, BROADBAND AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Support and facilitate the delivery of high capacity ICT infrastructure, broadband networks and digital broadcasting in the County, having regard to the Government Guidelines Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures - Guidelines for Planning Authorities 1996 (DoEHLG) and Circular Letter PL 07/12 (including any updated/superseding documents) and where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

Actions to address this Objective	Implementing Partners
28.1 Facilitate the rollout of National Broadband Schemes in County Galway.	<i>Galway County LCDC</i>
28.2 Harness the LEADER sub programme on Broadband to invest in Wi-Fi Hot Spots at rural community facilities.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies, North West Region Authority, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Public Participation Network</i>
28.3 Údarás na Gaeltachta will support investment in broadband infrastructure in business parks in the Gaeltacht from National Broadband Investment Programmes.	<i>Údarás na Gaeltachta, Galway County Council</i>

OBJECTIVE 29 – TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Provide where feasible, and support the provision of tourism infrastructure and services, including greenway amenity and water based tourism infrastructure throughout the County in appropriate locations.

Actions to address this Objective	Implementing Partners
29.1 Run the Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative to provide support to local and community event organisers and activities/projects that will harness diaspora links for the benefit of local and community tourism.	<i>Galway County LCDC</i>
29.2 Prepare a Tourism Strategy for County Galway.	<i>Galway County Council, Fáilte Ireland and other relevant bodies</i>
29.3 Provide funding and non financial supports to community led tourism projects in County Galway.	<i>Galway County Council</i>
29.4 Harness the LEADER programme to invest in Rural Tourism products throughout the region.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies</i>
29.5 Market County Galway as a tourism destination.	<i>Galway County Council, Fáilte Ireland</i>
29.6 Secure funding and agreement to progress construction of the Clifden to Oughterard section of the Connemara Greenway.	<i>Galway County Council</i>
29.7 Secure the necessary planning consent for the Oughterard to Galway section of the Connemara Greenway.	<i>Galway County Council</i>
29.8 Galway County Council will assist Westmeath County Council in progressing the Dublin to Galway Greenway route selection and planning consent for the project.	<i>Westmeath County Council, Galway County Council</i>
29.9 Develop and promote the Shannon Blueway in Galway, Roscommon, Westmeath, and Offaly.	<i>Waterways Ireland, Galway County Council and other relevant bodies</i>
29.10 Implement the actions in the Study of Outdoor Recreation in the West 2014, prepared by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly for the local authorities in the West Region.	<i>Galway County Council and other relevant bodies</i>

29.11	Develop marina facilities at Portumna to cater for recreational vehicles and increase the attractiveness of Lough Derg as a destination.	<i>Waterways Ireland, Galway County Council, Fáilte Ireland</i>
29.12	Develop a Kayak Trail on Lough Derg.	<i>Waterways Ireland, Galway County Council, Local Development Companies</i>
29.13	Prepare a roadmap for the development of an ECO Park at Portumna, as proposed in the Lough Derg Roadmap for Experience Development and Destination Marketing 2014-2017.	<i>Galway County Council, Coillte, ESB, Fáilte Ireland, OPW</i>
29.14	Develop proposals to apply for GEOPARK designation for the Joyce Country area of Galway and Mayo.	<i>Galway County Council, Mayo County Council, Local Development Companies, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Fáilte Ireland, Coillte</i>
29.15	Facilitate support linkages between groups managing/developing Geo Parks in County Galway.	<i>Galway LCDC</i>
29.16	Support Roscommon County Council to work with neighbouring county councils and other relevant agencies and stakeholders to explore the development and promotion of Shannon Corridor tourism based around outdoor activities, culture, accommodation and hospitality.	<i>Roscommon County Council, Galway County Council and other relevant bodies</i>
29.17	Develop a marine activities programme as part of a coastal and islands network in the South Connemara Gaeltacht based on a South Connemara Coastal "Blueway" through a Coastal and Islands network.	<i>Comhar na nOileán, Gaeltacht Comharchumann, and other relevant bodies</i>
29.18	Develop Pearse's Cottage interpretation facilities in Connemara.	<i>Údarás na Gaeltachta, Galway County Council, Gaeltacht Comharchumann, Irish language development bodies, Galway County Heritage Network</i>
29.19	Build on the development of Pearse's Cottage to generate spin-off jobs and economic activity through local and social enterprise developments, particularly in the area of Irish language and cultural tourism.	<i>Údarás na Gaeltachta, Galway County Council, Gaeltacht Comharchumann, and other relevant public bodies</i>
29.20	Implement the initiatives/activities of the Decade of Commemorations as outlined in the 1916 Centenary Programme for the County of Galway.	<i>Galway County Council</i>
29.21	Maintain and develop tourism infrastructure in County Galway, including piers/cycle and walking routes/amenity areas/beaches/lakes and rivers.	<i>Galway County LCDC</i>
29.22	Support the development of other key initiatives/projects including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marconi site, (Clifden) - Aughrim Heritage Centre, - Burren Geo Park, - Wild Atlantic Way, - Carna Emigrant Centre, - Ionad Árann, - Leitir Mealláin Heritage Centre, - Tully Traditional Arts Centre. 	<i>Galway County LCDC, Fáilte Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta</i>

OBJECTIVE 30 – SERVICES AND RURAL TRANSPORT NETWORKS

The Council will support the development of new rural transport networks where gaps in services are identified.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

30.1	Map and audit existing services and review unmet needs and demand for additional services to submit to the National Transport Agency.	<i>Bealach na Gaillimhe, National Transport Agency, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Intreo, Health Service Executive, Túsla, Bus Éireann, Age Friendly Initiative, Public Participation Network</i>
30.2	Create opportunities for shared transport services between the Transport Co-ordination Unit and statutory service providers to meet rural and urban community needs.	<i>Bealach na Gaillimhe, National Transport Agency, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Department of Education, SAOLTA Hospital Group, Ambulance Service West, Intreo, Health Service Executive, Túsla, Bus Éireann</i>
30.3	Promote a new structure of rural transport service in the community and target awareness that it is for all in the community.	<i>Bealach na Gaillimhe, National Transport Agency, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Intreo, Health Service Executive, Túsla, Comhairle na nÓg, Bus Éireann, SICAP programme implementers, LDS programme implementers</i>

THEME 8

Natural Environment

High Level Goal 8:

To protect and sustain our natural environment for future social, cultural and economic wellbeing.

Outcomes:

- Retain Air Quality Status of 'Good' EPA monitoring (March 2014).
- To make the inhabited offshore islands carbon neutral by 2020.
- The ground and surface waters within the two River Basin Districts of the Plan area (Western and Shannon) achieve good water status by 2021.

Indicator:

- Air Quality Status.
- Water quality Status.

OBJECTIVE 31 – SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL MEASURES

In order to help meet the agreed national targets set for the transport sector under the EU Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), Galway County Council shall:

- Facilitate improvements to existing public transport infrastructure and services through commuter rail and park and ride facilities;
- Collaborate with service providers in the improvement of fuel efficiency of motorised transport;
- Encourage the use of electric vehicles and bicycles, in line with Council and national policy;
- The Council shall continue to promote/implement the "Cycle to Work Scheme" for all employees;
- Support the provision of suitable infrastructure to encourage an increase in the use of electric vehicles including the piloting of charging points on-street at key areas subject to the availability of resources and the provision of charging points in non-residential developments.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

31.1 Support initiatives to encourage the take up of electric vehicles.

Galway County LCDC, Sustainable Energy Agency Ireland, island co-operatives

OBJECTIVE 32 – ENERGY EFFICIENCY TECHNOLOGY IN BUILDINGS

The Planning Authority will have regard to the DoEHLG Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities, (2009) and the accompanying guidance document Urban Design Manual in the assessment of any proposals for residential development, including inter alia those in respect of energy efficiency, passive solar design and renewable energy sources.

The Council shall:

- Encourage and actively promote innovative housing design, energy efficient technologies and layout solutions that address concerns of environmental sustainability with regard to matters such as energy efficiency and the use of materials;
- Actively encourage the integration of micro renewable energy sources into the design and construction of single and multiple housing developments throughout the County;
- Work with local and relevant departments to identify where there is poor energy infrastructure and low penetration of renewable energy;
- Promote the use of district heating/cooling and combined heat and power in new single and multiple housing developments, within schools, commercial and public buildings throughout the County;
- Require the provision of energy efficient street lighting in all private developments.

Actions to address this Objective	Implementing Partners
32.1 Support initiatives to encourage households to transfer to renewable energy based heating systems.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Sustainable Energy Agency Ireland</i>
32.2 Harness the LEADER sub programme on Development of Renewable Energy to increase use of renewable energy sources among community organisations.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies</i>

OBJECTIVE 33 – PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSETS OF THE COUNTY

Protect and manage the assets that contribute to the unique visual and environmental character and sense of identity of County Galway, and which underpin tourism, heritage, biodiversity and quality of life.

Protect the natural waters, rivers and lakes, coastlines and estuaries and groundwater sources, by restoring water bodies to a “good” status.

OBJECTIVE 34 – NATURAL HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

It is the policy of Galway County Council to support the protection, conservation and enhancement of natural heritage and biodiversity, including the protection of the integrity of European sites, that form part of the Natura 2000 network, the protection of Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Ramsar Sites, Nature Reserves, Wild Fowl Sanctuaries and Connemara National Park (and other designated sites, including any future designations) and the promotion of the development of a green/ecological network within the Plan area, in order to support ecological functioning and connectivity, create opportunities in suitable locations for active and passive recreation and to structure and provide visual relief from the built environment.

OBJECTIVE 35 – BIODIVERSITY AND ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS

Support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the Plan area, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, semi-natural grasslands, rivers, streams, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

Actions to address this Objective	Implementing Partners
35.1 Harness the LEADER sub programme on Protection & Sustainable Use of Water Resources.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies</i>
35.2 Harness the LEADER sub programme on Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies</i>
35.3 Support community initiatives to learn more about local water sources and the ecological and other resources available for the development of local actions and strategies to implement necessary action(s).	<i>Galway County Council, National WFD Office, Inland Fisheries relevant social partners, Public Participation Network, LDS programme implementers, Tidy Towns Groups, Heritage Groups, Office of Public Works, Coillte, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Heritage Council</i>

THEME 9

Culture and Language

High Level Goal 9:

To ensure that the culture and language of County Galway remain a vibrant and unique part of our identity and are developed to their full potential.

Outcomes:

- Galway Capital of Culture 2020
- In 2020 the following cultural facilities will be vibrant locations: Áras Éanna, ARC Clifden, Athenry Castle, Aughrim Heritage Centre, Ballinasloe Town Hall, Claregalway Castle, Coole Park, Kylemore Abbey, Loughrea Town Hall, Marconi Site, Oughterard Courthouse, Pearse's Cottage, Portumna Castle, Portumna Workhouse, The Mall Cinema Tuam and Thoor Ballylee.
- The public library network in County Galway is maintained at 26 branches.
- Indicators of usage of public libraries and their facilities show an increase of 5% by 2020 in terms of some of membership/usage/attendance at library run events.
- Increase activity in relation to arts festivals and events in County Galway (annual arts plan reporting/listing of arts activities and events/increases in funding sourced for arts festivals and events in the County).
- Maintain the activity level of Áras Éanna – the official Arts Centre in the County.
- Maintain the ratio of Irish speakers to non Irish speakers in the County (2011 ratio 1.06:1).
- Maintain the percentage of Irish speakers in the Gaeltacht areas of County Galway (2011 ratio 75.2%).

Indicators:

- Annual number of cultural events supported.
- Quality/duration/income generation from cultural events supported.
- Number of events run at Áras Éanna.
- Participation in Galway County Library Services – membership/usage/attendance at public events/satisfaction with library services.
- Number of language plans adopted in County Galway.
- Evidence of progress in implementing actions in adopted language plans in County Galway.
- Evidence of number of Irish language speakers in Gaeltacht areas according to Census data.

OBJECTIVE 36 –SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNIQUE CULTURE OF THE COUNTY

Facilitate the development of cultural infrastructure within communities throughout the County, further enhancing the cultural vibrancy of the County.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

Actions to address this Objective	Implementing Partners
36.1 Galway City and County will bid to become the European Capital of Culture in 2020, supported by Mayo and Roscommon Local Authorities.	<i>Galway City Council, Galway County Councils and other West Local Authorities</i>
36.2 Maintain and implement the Annual Arts Programme.	<i>Galway County Council, The Arts Council, Ealaín na Gaeltachta</i>
36.3 Maintain and Implement the Annual Heritage Programme.	<i>Galway County Council</i>
36.4 Continue to implement the County Library Programme.	<i>Galway County Council</i>
36.5 Support the sharing of public and private space for use by artists and arts and cultural projects.	<i>Galway County Council, Arts Council, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Chambers of Commerce, business community, Local Development Companies, SICAP programme implementers, LDS programme implementers</i>

Actions to address this Objective		Implementing Partners
36.6	Support for individual artists through training, networking and bursaries supports.	Galway County Council, The Arts Council, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Chambers of Commerce, business community

OBJECTIVE 37 – THE IRISH LANGUAGE AS AN ASSET

Recognise the economic, social and cultural importance of Irish in the Gaeltacht and throughout the County.

Actions to address this Objective		Implementing Partners
37.1	Progressively deliver an Irish language service based on implementation of the County Galway Local Authorities Language Scheme 2014 – 2017.	Galway County Council
37.2	Further develop the potential for Irish language tourism to generate employment in the region.	Galway County Council and other relevant public bodies, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Greásán Gaeltachta
37.3	Run a number of Irish language and culture classes in Further Education and Training Centres around the County.	Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Local Committees, Greásán Gaeltachta
37.4	Support initiatives that promote the use of the Irish Language in County Galway.	Galway County LCDC, Foras na Gaeilge, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, National University of Ireland Galway, Údarás na Gaeltachta
37.5	Support initiatives that increase the percentage of Irish speakers in the Gaeltacht areas of County Galway.	Údarás na Gaeltachta, Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, Galway County LCDC, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board
37.6	Harness the LEADER sub programme of Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities to invest in the language.	Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies
37.7	Support for use of Irish language amongst Gaeltacht youth and youth groups.	Muintearas-Óige na Gaeltachta, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Galway County LCDC, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board
37.8	Recognise the Irish language as a living heritage resource.	Community organisations in the Gaeltacht, Údarás na Gaeltachta, The Heritage Council, Galway County Council, Galway County LCDC
37.9	Facilitate a cultural festival in Irish.	Community organisations in the Gaeltacht, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, The Heritage Council, Galway County Council, Galway County LCDC
37.10	Develop language plans with Údarás na Gaeltachta and hold appropriate events as part of the LECP.	Community organisations in the Gaeltacht, Údarás na Gaeltachta, The Heritage Council
37.11	Organise a week of events in Irish (Summer School) for adults.	Leading (Cultural) organisations in the Gaeltacht, Community organisations in the Gaeltacht, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Áras Éanna, The Arts Council, Galway County Council, LEADER Programme Implementer, Department of the Gaeltacht
37.12	Organise a series of events for the Connemara community in a social club in Leitir Mealláin, providing training in the strongest aspects of culture and language, such as storytelling, singing, poetry, “agallamh beirte”.	Muintearas, Cooperatives, Community Committees, Gaeltacht PPN Network

THEME 10

Harnessing our Natural Resources

High Level Goal 10:

To harness and manage our Natural Resources to support our unique agriculture and marine related sectors in a balanced and sustainable manner.

Outcomes:

- Achieve wind energy generation capacity of 476 mw by 2020.
- Secure the title of European Region of Gastronomy 2018 for Galway.
- Increase added value to agricultural production in County Galway.
- Increase added value to mariculture production in County Galway.

Indicators:

- Wind energy generation capacity.
- Number of food festivals
- Numbers from County Galway participating in Food Academy programme.
- Numbers from County Galway participating in Foodworks programme.
- Numbers of projects in County Galway supported by FLAG.

OBJECTIVE 38 – ELECTRICITY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Support the development and expansion of infrastructure for the generation, storage, transmission and distribution of electricity, renewable energy and other renewable energy proposals in suitable locations in County Galway.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

Actions to address this Objective	Implementing Partners
38.1 Support the development of energy generation through Renewal Energy initiatives in designated areas within the County Wind Energy Strategy.	<i>Galway County Council</i>
38.2 Galway County Council will adopt the principles of the guidelines for Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategies (LARES) when reviewing their County Development Plans and collectively examine the potential for Regional Renewable Energy strategies.	<i>Galway County Council, Sustainable Energy Agency Ireland</i>
38.3 Galway County Council will promote and assist the delivery of cost savings through energy efficiency programmes and training for businesses, public sector organisations and community and voluntary groups in the region.	<i>Sustainable Energy Agency Ireland, Galway County Council, Public Participation Network, Local Development Companies, LDS programme implementers</i>
38.4 Support participation of communities in the SEAI Better Energy Communities scheme.	<i>Galway County Council, Sustainable Energy Agency Ireland, Public Participation Network</i>
38.5 Develop and promote the Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) model in the region and identify willing early adopter communities to act as exemplars and Regional SEC Champions.	<i>Sustainable Energy Agency Ireland, Galway County Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Western Development Commission</i>
38.6 Support the development of flagship projects in the green business sector aimed at fast-tracking the development of this growth sector in the region.	<i>Galway County Council and relevant bodies</i>

OBJECTIVE 39 – SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The Council shall support the sustainable development of agriculture, with an emphasis on high quality, traceable primary production methods, the promotion of local food supply and agriculture diversification.

Actions to address this Objective	Implementing Partners
39.1 Work with Bord Bia and BIM on their co-operation programmes which aim to reduce costs for small business through shared facilities, overheads and management services.	<i>Galway County Council, Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Bord Bia, Bord Iascaigh Mhara</i>
39.2 Showcase regional food producers, from artisan to large companies, through various food festivals such as Galway Food Festival, Connemara Mussel Festival, Galway Oyster Festival and Clarinbridge Oyster Festival, Bia Lover, Food on the Edge and Bia Bofinne.	<i>Bord Bia, Galway County Council, Teagasc, Bord Iascaigh Mhara</i>
39.3 Target an increase in the number of participants on the Food Academy Programme.	<i>Galway County Council, Bord Bia, SuperValu</i>
39.4 Work with retailers to increase shelf space for local produce.	<i>Bord Bia, Galway County Council</i>
39.5 Bord Bia will work with the Galway LEO to assist food and drink companies in the County to be included in the Tesco Taste Buds programme.	<i>Bord Bia, Galway County Council</i>
39.6 Support the Made in Galway initiative, which supports micro food and craft businesses to access online marketing platforms and other new retail opportunities both in Ireland and overseas.	<i>Galway County Council, Galway City Council</i>
39.7 Develop a dedicated Rural and Food Innovation Hub in the Teagasc Centre in Athenry and explore other locations in the County, including Loughrea, for further enterprise incubators.	<i>Galway County Council, Teagasc, Galway Rural Development and other relevant bodies</i>
39.8 Údarás na Gaeltachta will provide capital to develop units to food standard in the Galway Gaeltacht to provide accommodation for start-ups and scaling projects in the food sector.	<i>Údarás na Gaeltachta, Galway County Council</i>
39.9 Harness the LEADER sub programme of Enterprise Development to invest in the food sector.	<i>Galway County LCDC, Local Development Companies</i>
39.10 Lead partner in Galway's bid to become the European Region of Gastronomy 2018.	<i>Galway County Council</i>
39.11 Support communities to make applications for national schemes or funding such as the Neighbourhood Scheme.	<i>Public Participation Network, Coillte, LDS Programme Implementers</i>
39.12 Increase participation from County Galway in the Foodworks Programme.	<i>Teagasc, Galway County Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta</i>
39.13 Establish a Foodwise 2025 Strategy working group in County Galway to maximise the potential for the County from the implementation of this national strategy.	<i>Teagasc, Galway LCDC</i>

OBJECTIVE 40 – COMMERCIAL SEA FISHING

Galway County Council shall encourage and facilitate the sustainable development and expansion of the fishing industry while providing for the management and conservation of coastal habitats and ecosystems.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

40.1	Provide supports for the seafood sector, including financial and technical training and mentoring programmes for companies. This will involve collaboration between relevant State agencies to deliver scale in the key seafood sectors, including food ingredients, and up-skilling personnel across the sector in the key areas.	<i>Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Teagasc, Galway County Council, Enterprise Ireland</i>
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OBJECTIVE 41 – AQUACULTURE

The Council shall support and promote the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector in order to maximise its contribution to employment creation and growth in coastal communities whilst balancing environmental considerations. Special consideration should be given to the gradual enforcement of a policy that would encourage onshore fish farming practices, and special consideration would be given when granting planning for on-shore farms to areas that are already involved in the fish farming industry.

Actions to address this Objective

Implementing Partners

41.1	Explore the potential for tourism and marine businesses including aquaculture, fisheries, seaweed and other speciality producers, to collaborate to support further job creation.	<i>Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Fáilte Ireland, Galway County Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta</i>
41.2	Support the implementation of the FLAG West Action Plan 2016-2020.	<i>Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Galway County LCDC</i>
41.3	Support the development of the infrastructure required (freshwater provision) to facilitate the growth of the aquacultural sector.	<i>Údarás na Gaeltachta, Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Galway County Council</i>
41.4	Explore the development of an enterprise and research centre of excellence in aquaculture at Cill Chiarán (Páirc na Mara, Cill Chiarán).	<i>Údarás na Gaeltachta, Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Galway County Council, and other stakeholders</i>

SECTION

07

Implementation, Monitoring and Review of the LECP



IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW OF THE LECP

The time period for the LECP covers six years and therefore the legislation makes provision for there to be reviews of the Plan during the period of its implementation.

Implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review of the LECP in relation to the objectives and actions for each high-level goal is critical. Measurement will be against a range of national, regional and local indicators and a monitoring framework is being developed.

An action plan will be devised for each year of the LECP, commencing in 2016. These action plans will contain clear and measurable actions based on the goals and objectives in this document and will take into account the detailed submissions received through the public consultation process and up-to-date policy developments. The annual action plans will be approved by the LCDC and the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC. Impact assessment will be carried out on all goals and objectives.

Responsibility for driving implementation, monitoring and reviewing the LECP rests with a number of structures including the LCDC, the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC and Galway County Council.

Table 3 Monitoring and Implementation

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Devise and adopt annual action plans. |
| 2 | Develop a mapping and monitoring tool, including an equality proofing process. |
| 3 | Examine and recommend governance structure required to oversee/implement the LECP through the membership of the LCDC. |
| 4 | Ensure that projects developed and funded through LCDC initiatives are in line with good corporate and audit practices. |

The actions identified in the LECP are challenging but they are realistic and have a genuine prospect of being achieved through active leadership and participation and a constant focus on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Appendices 1 & 2



Appendix 1

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND TERMS

AA	Age Action
AFP	Age Friendly Programme
AHB	Approved Housing Body
AIT	Area Implementation Team
Arts Council	An Comhairle Ealaíona – The National State Agency for the Arts
ASG	Advisory Steering Group
Bealach na Gaillimhe	Galway County Transport Co-ordinating Unit
BIM	Bord Iascaigh Mhara – Marine Fisheries Board
Bord Bia	Food Development Authority
Bus Éireann	National Bus Company
BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India & China
CCS	Clár Críochnú Scoile – Gaeltacht based School Completion Programme
CDO	Community Development Objective
CDP	County Development Plan
CE	Community Employment – part time employment scheme
CEDRA	Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas
CHO	Community Healthcare Organisation
COÉ	Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann – representative body for Irish Islands
Coillte	State Agency for Forestry Development
Comhairle na nÓg	Child and Youth Councils
Comhar na nÓileán	Irish Islands & Gaeltacht Local Development Company
Comharchumann	Co-operative Organisation – mainly Gaeltacht based
Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann	The Irish Islands Federation
CPMR	Committee for Peripheral and Maritime Regions (of the EU)
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CSP	Community Services Programme
CYPSC	Children and Young Persons Services Committee
DAFM	Department of Agriculture Food and Marine
DAHG	Department of Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht
DCENR	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.
DCYA	Department of Children and Youth Affairs
DECLG	Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools
DES	Department of Education and Skills
DFI	Disability Federation of Ireland
DJE	Department of Justice and Equality
DSP	Department of Social Protection
DTTAS	Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport
EI	Enterprise Ireland
EIIS	Employment Investment Incentive Scheme
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
Equal Ireland	Educational Charity offering Third Level Courses

ESB	Electricity Supply Board
ESIN	European Small Islands Network
ETB	Education and Training Board
EU	European Union
EWO	Education Welfare Officer
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FI	Fáilte Ireland
FLAG West	Fisheries Local Action Group for Counties Galway and Clare
Foras na Gaeilge	Cross border agency for promotion of Irish language
Foroige	Youth Organisation
Forum	Forum Connemara Ltd – Local Development Company
FRC	Family Resource Centre
GCCC	Galway City and County Childcare Committee
GCIF	Galway County Intercultural Forum
GCYPSC	Galway Children and Young People's Services Committee
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMIT	Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology
GNP	Gross National Product
GRD	Galway Rural Development Ltd – Local Development Company
GRETB	Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board
GSP	Galway Sports Partnership
GTM	Galway Traveller Movement
HEA	Higher Education Authority
HSE	Health Service Executive
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDA	Industrial Development Agency
IÉ	Iarnród Éireann – National Trains Authority
IFA	Irish Farmers Association
INTREO	Department of Social Protection contact point for job seekers
IPH	Institute of Public Health
IW	Irish Water
JI	Job Initiative
JPC	Joint Policing Committee
LA	Local Authority
LAG	Local Action Group
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LCDP	Local Community Development Programme
LDC	Local Development Company
LDS	Local Development Strategy
LEADER	EU Rural Development Programme
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
LEO	Local Enterprise Office
LGBT	Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender
LLN	Local Learning Networks
LTCC	Local Traveller Consultative Committee

MD	Municipal District
Meitheal	Túsla Family Support system for “One Child, One Plan”
MNC	Multi National Corporation
Muintearas	Gaeltacht based education project
NEES	National Employment and Entitlements Service
NEETS	Not in Education, Employment or Training Services
NRA	National Roads Authority
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NSS	National Spatial Strategy
NTA	National Transport Authority
NUIG	National University of Ireland, Galway
NWRA	Northern and Western Regional Assembly
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ÓnaG	Óige na Gaeltachta – Gaeltacht Youth co-ordination body
OPW	Office of Public Works
PCT	Primary Care Team
PI	Programme Implementers
PLC	Post Leaving Certificate
Pobal	Intermediary body managing funding programmes
PPN	Public Participation Network
RAPID	Revitalising Areas through Planning and Investment
RDP	Rural Development Programme
REDZ	Rural Economic Development Zones
RPG	Regional Planning Guidelines
RSES	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies
RSS	Rural Social Scheme – rural employment scheme
SAOLTA	Hospital Group for the North and West Region
SCOT	Strengths Challenges Opportunities and Threats
SCP	School Completion Programme
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
SICAP	Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
SME	Small and Medium Size Enterprise
SPC	Strategic Policy Committee
TCU	Transport Co-ordination Unit
Teagasc	State Agency supporting Agriculture and Rural Development
TIG	Traveller Interagency Group
Tús	Community work placement scheme
Túsla	Child and Family Agency
ÚnaG	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Waterways Ireland	Cross border agency for waterways
WRDTF	Western Region Drugs Task Force
WTID	Western Traveller and Intercultural Development
YWI	Youth Work Ireland

Appendix 2

OVERVIEW OF EXISTING STRATEGIES

Action Plan for Jobs 2015

Action Plan for Jobs West Region 2015

Action Programme for Effective Local Government: Putting People First

Agri Food Strategy 2025

An Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge 2010-2030

A Strategy for Public Libraries 2013-2017: Opportunities for All: The Public Library as a Catalyst for Social, Economic and Cultural Development

“A Vision for Change” - report of the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy.

Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures – The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020

Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2013

CEDRA Report

Celebrating Diversity – Plan for the Development of LGBT Services and Supports for Galway City and County 2012-2015

Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development National Policy Position Ireland

Connecting for Life: Ireland’s National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2020

Construction 2020 – A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector

Costs of Doing Business in Ireland 2015

County Galway Age Friendly Strategy

Commemorative Strategy for the County of Galway 2013-2023

Delivering our Green Potential – Government Policy Statement on Growth and Employment in the Green Economy

Developing the Arts: Arts Council Strategic Statement 2013

Driving Enterprise, Delivering Jobs: Strategy to 2016

Europe 2020

Further Education and Training Strategy 2014 -2019

Foodwise 2025

Galway Children and Young Peoples Services Plan 2015-2018

Galway County and City Childcare Committee Strategic Plan 2015

Galway County Heritage Plan 2009-2014

Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021

Galway County Integration and Diversity Strategy 2013-2017

Galway Sports Partnership Strategic Plan

Green Paper on Energy Policy in Ireland

Harnessing our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012

Health Behavior in School Age Children 2010/2012/2014

Healthy Ireland – the National Health and Wellbeing Framework 2013-2025

Homeless Strategy National Implementation Plan 2009

Horizon 2020

Ireland’s Competitiveness Challenge 2014

Local Government Reform Act 2014

Local Government Sectoral Strategy to Promote Employment and Support Local Enterprise

Supporting Economic Recovery and Jobs – Locally

Making it Happen – Growing Enterprise for Ireland

Medium Term Economic Strategy 2014-2020

National Action Plan Against Racism 2005-2008

National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016

National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan 2013-2015

National Early Years Strategy

National Policy Statement on Enterprise in Ireland (2014)

National Reform Programme for Ireland

National Spatial Strategy

National Strategy for Traveller/Roma Integration

OECD Report on Local Development

Our Communities: A Framework Policy for Local and Community Development in Ireland (DRAFT)

Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland (2012)

Pathways to Work 2015

Policy Statement on Foreign Direct Investment in Ireland

People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025

Regional Planning Guidelines for the West Region 2010-2022

Report of the High Level Group on Traveller Issues 2006

Final River Basin Management Plan for the Western River Basin District in Ireland (2009-2015)

Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 Ireland

Social Housing Strategy 2020

Supporting Enterprise, Local Development and Economic Growth 2012

Study of Outdoor Recreation in the West

Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Fishery Dependent Communities Galway and Clare

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014

National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan 2013-2015

The National Positive Ageing Strategy

The National Strategy on Children's and Young People's Participation in Decision Making 2015-2020

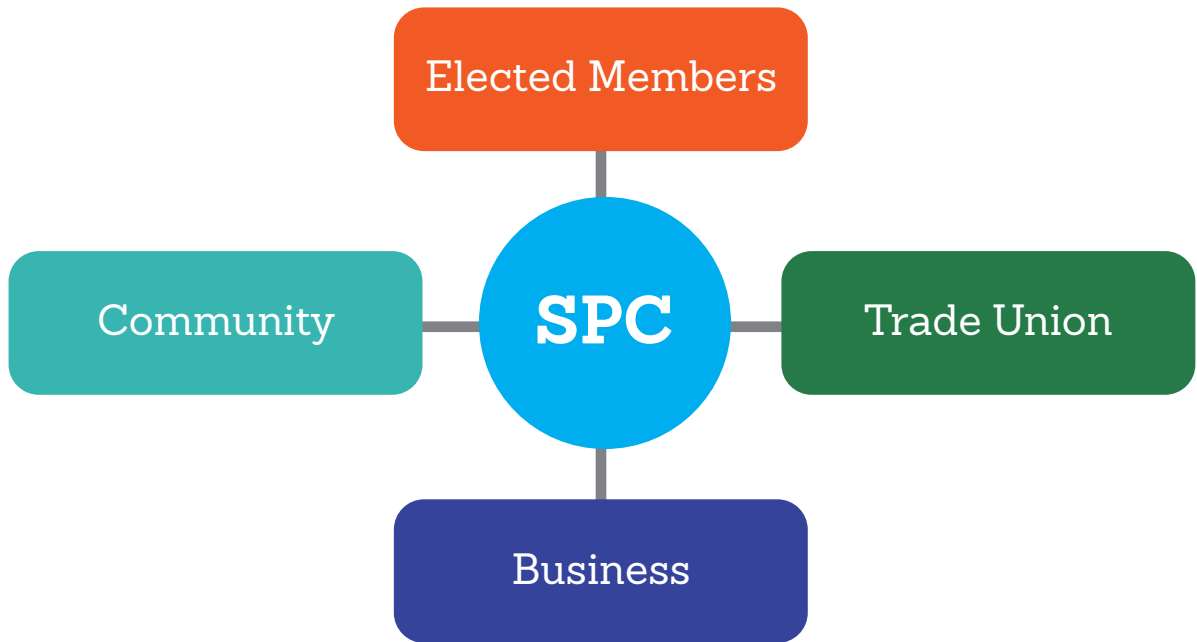
Towards 2016

Údarás na Gaeltachta Strategic Plan

West Homelessness Action Plan 2010

1916 Centenary Programme for the County of Galway

Sectors represented on Economic Development & Enterprise SPC



Galway County LCDC Membership

 **Galway CHAMBER**
I MBUN GNÓ AR SON GNÓ

 **IFA**
An tAontas Náisiúnta na nAifirí / The Irish Farmers' Association

 **Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**
Galway County Council

 **GALWAY RURAL DEVELOPMENT CO. LTD**

 **LCDC**
Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil
Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Local Community Development Committee

 **gretb**
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin
Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board

 **Dific Fiontair Áitiúil**
Local Enterprise Office
Gaillimh · Galway

 **FORUM Connemara Ltd.**

 **Údarás na Gaeltachta**

 **Comhar na nOileán Teo**

 **Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte**
Health Service Executive

 **An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí**
Department of Social Protection
Helping you build a better life

