



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council



Your Home  
Your Future  
Your Views



We are Cork.



Cork County Development Plan Review  
Public Consultation Document  
March 2020

## When making a submission please note:

In accordance with Section 19 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2018 **all valid submissions received by the Council shall be published on the Cork County Council website within 10 working days of its receipt by the Council.** The planning process is an open and public process and therefore your submission (in part or in total) will be available to view online at [https://www.yourcouncil.ie/service/Planning\\_Policy\\_Submissions](https://www.yourcouncil.ie/service/Planning_Policy_Submissions).

Cork County Council is subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014; the Data Protection Act, 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Please be aware that in order to process submissions that may contain certain GDPR Special Categories of Data/Sensitive Personal Data as defined by Article 9 of the GDPR, **explicit consent to the processing of the special categories of data must be provided by the person to whom the data refers.**

It is necessary for the Council to collect some personal information in order to process your submission. Legally we can process this information in the exercise of official authority vested in the Council. The protection of your personal data is a key priority for the Council and your data will be processed in line with our Privacy policy which is available at <https://www.corkcoco.ie/privacy-statement-cork-county-council> or in hardcopy from our offices at County Hall, Carrigrohane Road, Cork.

Should you have any questions about **our privacy policy** or the information we hold about you please contact us by email to [dpo@corkcoco.ie](mailto:dpo@corkcoco.ie) or write to us at Data Protection Officer, Cork County Council, County Hall, Carrigrohane Road, Cork.

Note: Data in relation to population, employment and commuting has been largely sourced from Census 2011 and Census 2016 data.





# WHAT IS A COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN?

Cork County Council is commencing the preparation of a new County Development Plan for the period 2022-2028. The purpose of the Development Plan is to guide the future development of the county. It will include policies and objectives on issues such as where population growth, new housing, jobs, schools and other services should be located to support the sustainable development of the whole county. It also identifies where new investment is needed to support growth – improved water services, roads, shops, amenities etc., and identifies key aspects of our environment and heritage that need to be safeguarded along the way. The Development Plan has to take account of national and regional level plans, government policy and statutory guidelines.

The purpose of this consultation document is to highlight some of the key issues that need to be considered and to promote and support your involvement in the process of making the Plan. The Plan needs to reflect the needs and ambitions of all communities across the county so it is important that we know how you would like to see the county develop.

## How to get involved

You can become involved by making your views known through an online submission or by writing to us.

We will also be holding eight public consultation events around the county in March and April 2020 as detailed below.

The events will be held between 5- 7 pm.

- ▶ 24<sup>th</sup> March, Castle Hotel, Macroom
- ▶ 25<sup>th</sup> March Radisson Blu Hotel, Little Island
- ▶ 26<sup>th</sup> March, Trident Hotel, Kinsale
- ▶ 31<sup>st</sup> March, Firgrove Hotel, Mitchelstown
- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> April, Carrigaline Court Hotel
- ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> April, Hibernian Hotel, Mallow
- ▶ 7<sup>th</sup> April, Former Town Council Offices, (above Library), Skibbreen
- ▶ 8<sup>th</sup> April, Walter Raleigh Hotel, Youghal

## How do I make a submission?

Submissions can be made from Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March to Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

Submissions can be lodged with the council in a number of ways as detailed below. Please make your submission by one medium only.

**1. By making an on-line submission,** just log on to website [www.corkcoco.ie/en/Cork-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028](http://www.corkcoco.ie/en/Cork-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028) and follow the instructions provided

OR

**2. By making a written submission**

and addressing it to:

Senior Planner

Planning Policy Unit

Floor 13

County Hall, Cork

**Please note that email submissions will not be accepted**



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**The deadline for receipt of all submissions is 4pm on Thursday 7th May 2020. For legal reasons we cannot accept submissions for this pre-draft stage outside these dates and times.** It is important that you include your name and address when you send us your views.

Please note that in accordance with Section 19 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2018 **all valid submissions received by the Council shall be published on the Cork County Council website within 10 working days of its receipt by the Council.** The planning process is an open and public process and therefore your submission (in part or in total) will be available to view online at [https://www.yourcouncil.ie/service/Planning\\_Policy\\_Submissions](https://www.yourcouncil.ie/service/Planning_Policy_Submissions).

This Public Consultation Document is accompanied by a series of Background Documents providing more detailed information on the main topics to be covered in the plan. The following background documents are available and can be downloaded from [www.corkcoco.ie/en/Cork-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028](http://www.corkcoco.ie/en/Cork-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028).

## Background Documents

1. Approach to County Development Plan Review
2. Population and Housing
3. Rural Housing
4. Settlements and Placemaking
5. Urban Capacity Study
6. Economy and Employment
7. Water Services
8. Transport and Mobility
9. Energy
10. Built Heritage
11. SEA Scoping Report

There will be further opportunities to make submissions when the Draft Plan is published in February 2021; and again at the Proposed Amendments stage in October 2021.



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# TIMELINE FOR CORK COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW PROCESS

## STAGE 1

**Publication of Public Consultation Document**  
March 2020

**Prepare CE Report on submissions**  
May - July 2020

**Consideration of Report by Members**  
July - Sept 2020

**Prepare Draft Plan / SEA/HDA/SFRA**  
Sept - Dec 2020

**Members Consider Draft Plan**  
Dec - Jan 2021

## STAGE 2

**Prepare CE Report on submissions**  
April-July 2021

**Publish Draft Plan for Public Consultation**  
Feb-April 2021

**Finalise Draft Plan**  
February 2021

**Consideration of Report by Members**  
July-Oct 2021

## STAGE 3

**Prepare material amendments**  
October 2021

**Publish Material amendments for Public Consultation**  
Oct - Nov 2021

**Prepare CE Report on submissions**  
Nov-Dec 2021

**Consideration of Report by Members**  
Dec 2021-Jan 2022

## STAGE 4

**Adopt Development Plan**  
January 2022



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# THE NEW PLAN WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS PLANS

The Cork County Development Plan 2022 will be different from the current County Development Plan in two key areas:

- ▶ It will relate to the new administrative boundary of the county, post the extension of the City boundary.
- ▶ The County Development Plan 2022 will include all the settlements of the County, replacing the current 8 Municipal District Local Area Plans adopted in 2017 and the Development Plans of the former Town Council Towns of Clonakilty, Cobh Fermoy, Kinsale, Macroom, Mallow, Midleton, Skibbereen and Youghal.  
**This means that the more detailed policy objectives for the settlements, including zoning, will now form part of the County Development Plan.**

The new Plan will have seven Volumes:

- ▶ Volume One: County at Large.
- ▶ Volume Two: Heritage and Amenity.
- ▶ Volume Three: North Cork (Fermoy MD and Kanturk Mallow MD).
- ▶ Volume Four: South Cork (Carrigaline MD, Cobh MD, East Cork MD and Macroom MD).
- ▶ Volume Five: West Cork (Bandon Kinsale MD and West Cork MD).
- ▶ Volume Six: Environmental Reports (SEA/HDA/SFRA)
- ▶ Volume Seven: Map browser

A key benefit of including all the settlements in the County Development Plan is that it allows for strategic issues and their local implications to be considered in the same process.

Details of the Municipal Districts to be included in the new County Development Plan are set out in Figure 1 . More details of the settlements within each Municipal District are available in **Background Document No 1. Approach to the Review of the County Development Plan.**





# A VISION FOR CORK COUNTY

*“ to provide for the development of County Cork as an attractive, competitive and sustainable place to live, visit and do business, where the quality of its economy, natural and built environment, culture and the strength and viability of its communities are to the highest standards ”*

**Do you agree with this vision? Tell us what you think.**



# KEY CHALLENGES THAT WE FACE

- Accommodating an additional 105,000 people, 63,000 jobs and 61,000 houses in the county by 2040.
- Delivering homes that are affordable to buy or rent, in high quality environments with accessible services, close to where people work.
- Learning to change our ways in the face of climate change and biodiversity loss so we can live sustainably without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same.
- Reducing our carbon footprint and achieving the national target of net zero emissions by 2050.
- Preparing for the jobs of the future by embracing innovation and technological change and enhancing our skills and productivity to build economic resilience, safeguard our economic prosperity and continuing to provide a range of opportunities for all citizens.
- Catering for the housing needs of those with a social or economic need to live in the countryside.
- Accommodating the needs of an ageing population, particularly the need for adaptive housing and community services and encourage the delivery of multi-generational housing schemes.
- Achieving greater alignment between where people live and work so we can reduce the need to travel and facilitate more sustainable travel modes – walking, cycling and public transport, and enhance peoples quality of life.
- Fostering human connectedness and supporting service provision to all communities to promote inclusion and reduce isolation.
- Promoting the delivery of a high quality built environment.
- Protecting and enhancing our natural, built and archaeological heritage assets.
- Securing more development within the existing built footprint of our towns and villages, to revitalise our settlements, addressing vacancy and dereliction while providing homes, jobs, social and cultural facilities in an attractive environment.
- Promoting increased density of development and taller buildings at appropriate locations to help achieve compact growth and optimise the use of public infrastructure.
- Supporting job creation, particularly by indigenous businesses, to revitalise our towns, villages and rural areas.

# CORE STRATEGY

In 2010, new planning legislation introduced the requirement for a Core Strategy to be included in a Development Plan. The Core Strategy is the heart of the plan. It sets out the settlement strategy for the County, based on population targets and guiding policies set out in higher level documents like the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. But more than that, it also seeks to ensure that the right amount of land is zoned, serviced and available in the right locations so homes can be built and other supporting uses and services provided. The Core Strategy considers all aspects of what is needed to deliver sustainable communities having regard also to the availability of infrastructure, the carrying capacity of the environment and the need to support economic development.

The development plan forms the blueprint for all future development in the county from which all stakeholders including Irish Water, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the National Transport Authority and the Construction Industry, to name but a few, come together to implement.

## Role of the Core Strategy in the County Development Plan





# PEOPLE AND PLACES

## Population

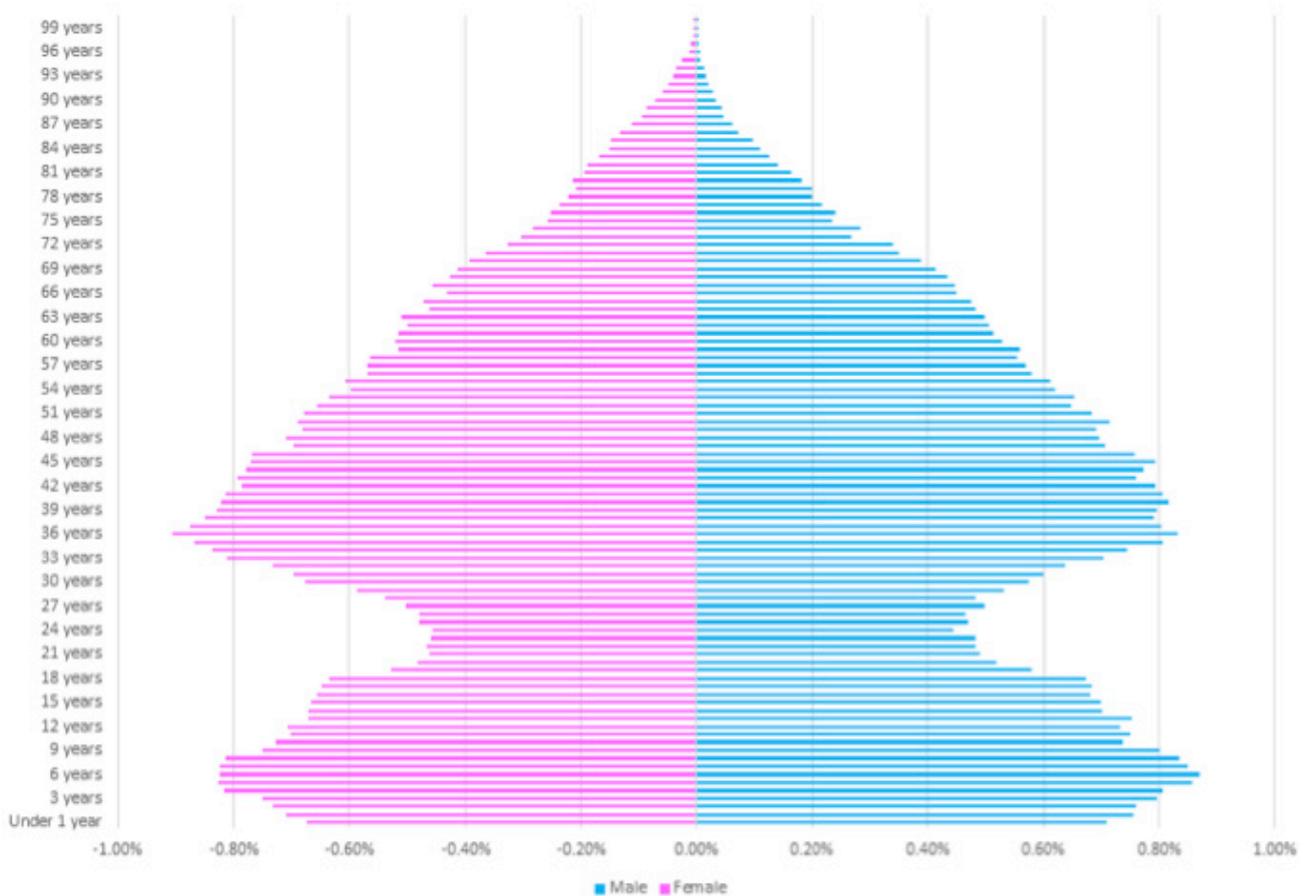


Cork County has a track record of strong population growth, recording an increase in population of **17,409 people** (from 399,802 to 417,211) between 2011 and 2016. This is a **4.3%** increase.

The National Planning Framework makes provision for the population of Cork County to grow by nearly **105,000 people** by **2040**. A further breakdown of this overall growth is set out in the following table:

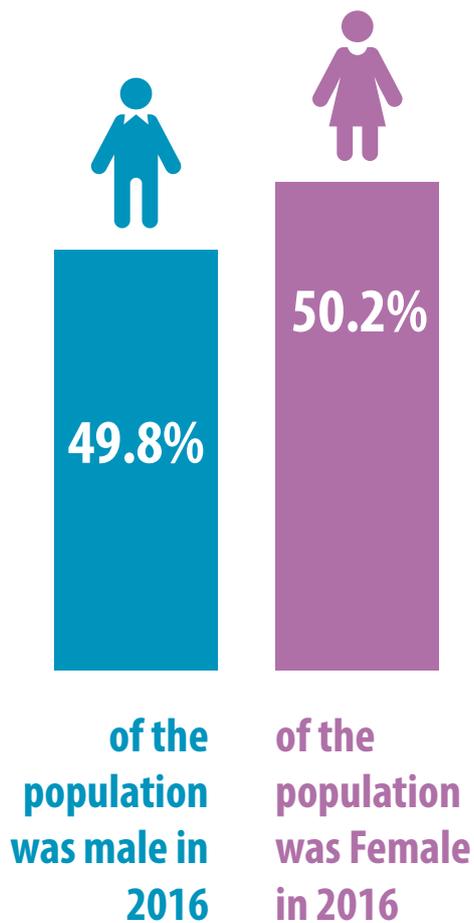
Summary of the growth planned for Cork to 2040					
	Population based on Census 2016 (new boundary)	Population Target 2026	Population Target 2031	Population Target 2040	2016- 2040 Population Increase
<b>County Metro</b>	94,553	114,553	125,785	144,026	49,473
<b>Remainder of County</b>	237,462	262,462	272,156	292,462	55,000
<b>Total New County</b>	<b>332,015</b>	<b>377,015</b>	<b>397,941</b>	<b>436,488</b>	<b>104,473</b>

Population Pyramid for County Cork (Census 2016)

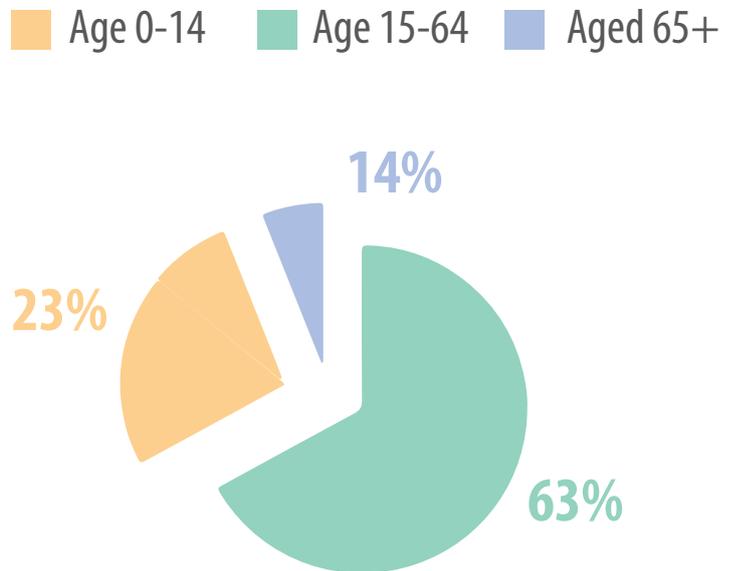


The population pyramid shows how the population is structured in terms of males and females and the proportion of younger and older people and at each age in between.





## Age Structure 2016



The Age Dependency Ratio i.e. the number of older people (65+) as a percentage of the working age population is **20.2%** up from **16.9 %** in 2011.

The Age Dependency Ratio i.e. the number of younger people (0-14) as a percentage of the working age population is **35.7%** up marginally from **34.9 %** in 2011.

## We need your views...

- How can County Cork contribute to addressing national housing issues?
- How can we best meet the housing needs of all sections of the community?
- Where in the County should population growth be directed to support sustainable growth ?
- Is there a deficit in the provision of a particular type of housing that should be addressed – e.g. apartments, sheltered housing etc.? How can this be addressed?
- How should social housing be delivered and do we have the right balance between social and private housing?
- What measures do we need to implement to deliver compact growth on infill and /or brownfield sites?



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# PEOPLE AND PLACES

## Housing



The Core Strategy of the County Development Plan will outline the amount of housing required in order to cater for the increase in population. This, coupled with guidance in the National Planning Framework regarding the promotion of compact urban growth in our towns and villages, the proposed Housing Strategy and Housing Need Demand Assessment to be prepared early in 2020, will be critical to the overall strategy of the plan.

**It is anticipated that overall about 61,620 additional housing units will be required to accommodate the population of 437,000 in Cork County by 2040.**

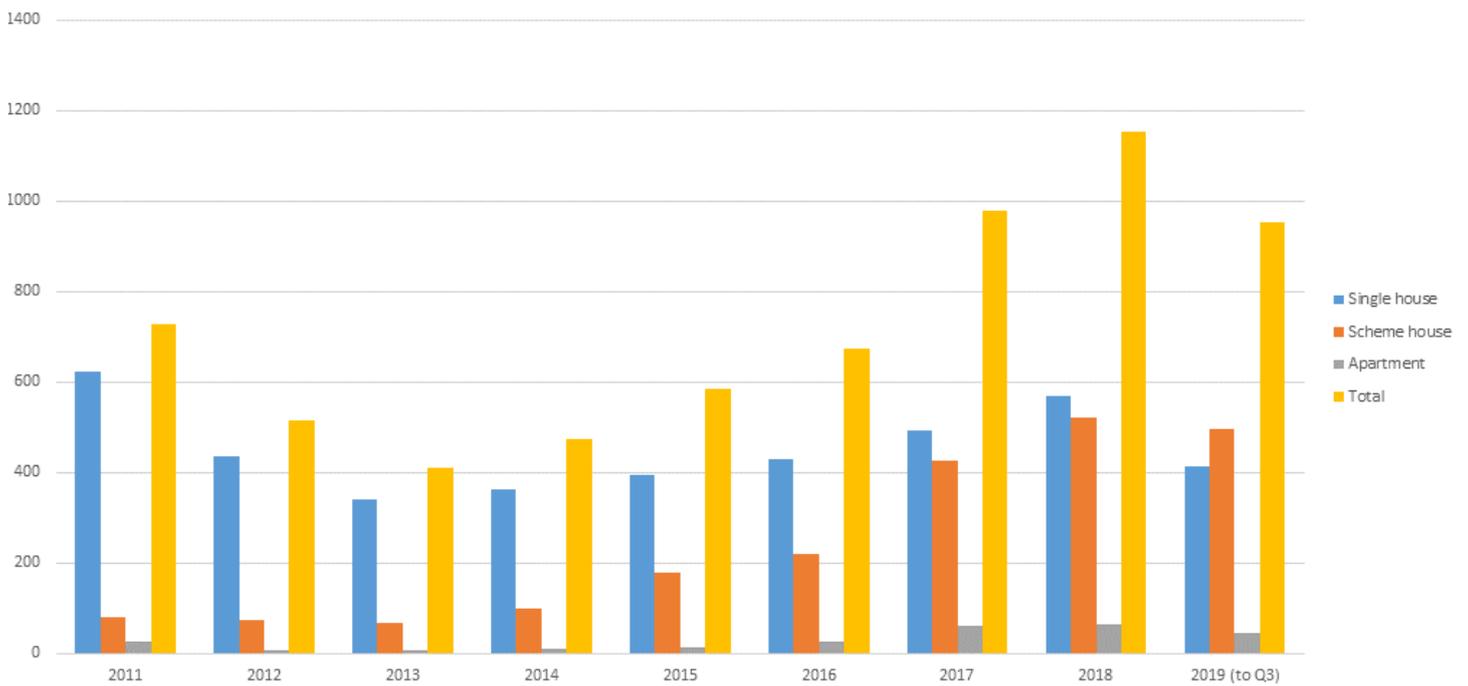
Cork County Council Overview Population and Housing Units Required in accordance with NPO 3c of the National Planning Framework				
Population 2016	Population 2040	Average Household Size	New Housing Units Required	Greenfield (70%) / Brownfield (30%)
332,000	437,000	2.5	61,620 (2,900 pa)	43,134/18,486

The Core Strategy of the Draft Development Plan will allocate these units across the county and will also include a reasonable estimate of the full cost of delivery of the infrastructure required to develop these residential units.

Housing output declined significantly during the recession but has been increasing yearly since 2014 and stood at almost 1,200 houses by the end of 2018 with further growth in output expected during 2019.

Housing Completions in Cork County 2011-Q3 2019

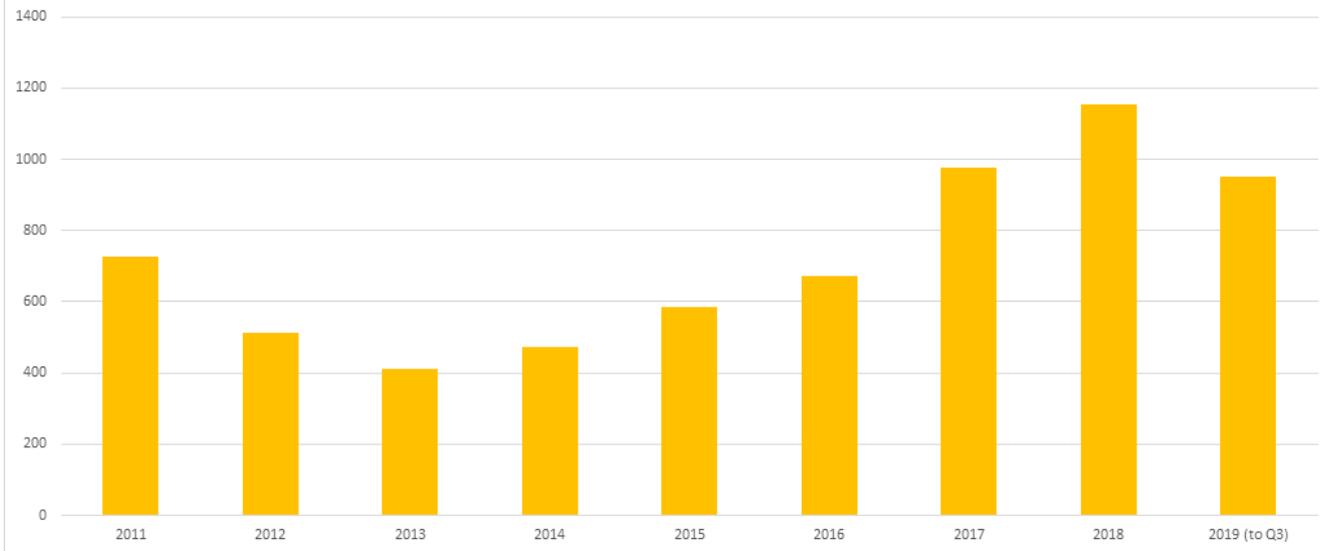
(Note all data takes account of the Cork County Boundary Change which came into effect on the 31-05-2019)



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**Housing Completions in Cork County 2011-Q3 2019**  
 (Note all data takes account of the Cork County Boundary Change which came into effect on the 31-05-2019)

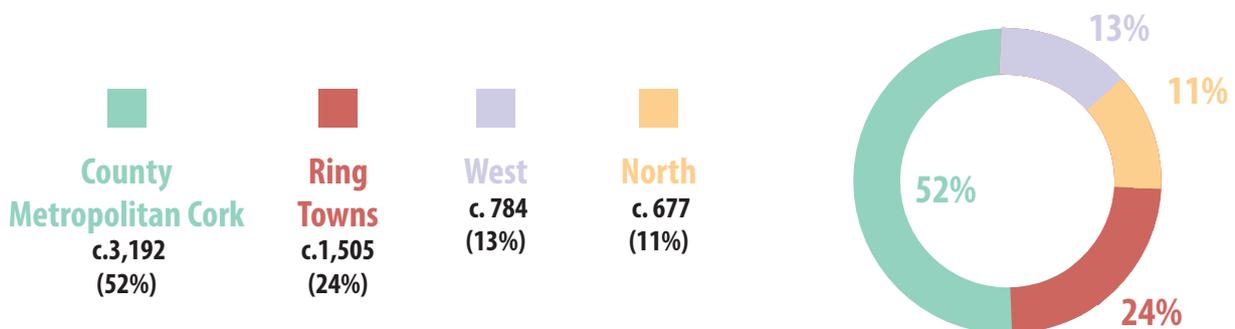


## Housing Supply

The National Planning Framework identifies a two-tier approach to land zoning. In summary, Tier 1 lands are residential zoned lands that are currently serviced and Tier 2 lands are residential zoned lands that will become serviced during the lifetime of the development. Having reviewed the current residential land supply in Cork County, a number of strategic observations are emerging as follows;

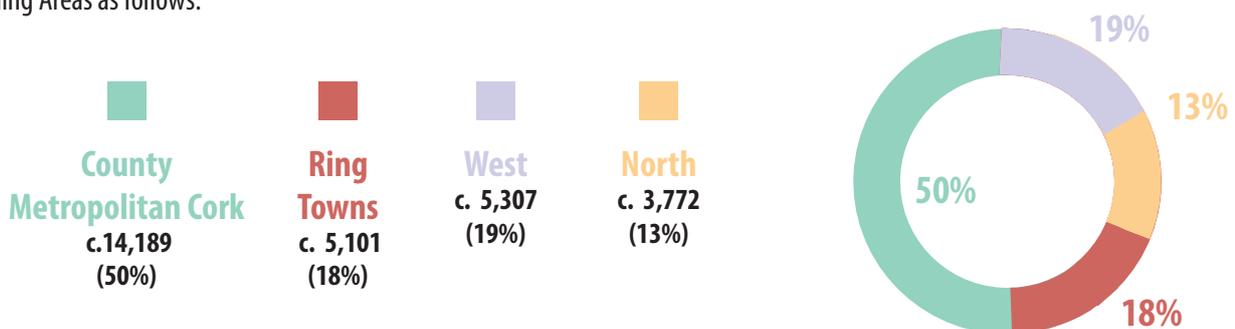
### Tier 1 Lands

For the entire County, it is estimated that residential zoned lands which are currently able to connect to existing development services can yield c.6,158 residential units – Tier 1 lands. This overall Tier 1 yield is divided between Strategic Planning Areas as follows:



### Tier 2 Lands

For the entire County, and in addition to Tier 1 lands, it is estimated that residential zoned lands that have the potential to become fully serviced within the life of the plan to yield c.28,369 residential units is available – Tier 2 lands. This overall Tier 2 yield is divided between Strategic Planning Areas as follows:



For more information see Background Document No. 2 Population and Housing.



# RURAL HOUSING

## Rural Housing

The Council's current policy on rural housing reflects the provisions of the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines published in 2005 which seeks to discourage urban generated rural housing while facilitating rural generated rural housing.

Updated rural housing guidelines are awaited to reflect the European Court of Justice Ruling in the 'Flemish decree' case, which found that land / real estate policies that required a 'sufficient connection' between the person seeking to acquire a property interest and the local area may be contrary to the free movement principles of European Law.

The National Planning Framework supports the sustainable development of rural areas by encouraging growth and arresting decline in areas that have experienced low population growth or decline in recent decades and by managing the growth of areas that are under strong urban influence to avoid over-development, while sustaining vibrant rural communities.



## The NPF promotes a revised rural housing policy as follows:

- ▶ In rural areas under urban influence, i.e. within the commuter catchment of cities and large towns and centres of employment, and elsewhere, the provision of single housing in the countryside should be based on the core consideration of demonstrable economic or social need to live in a rural area and siting and design criteria, having regard to the viability of smaller towns and rural settlements;
- ▶ In rural areas elsewhere, facilitate the provision of single housing in the countryside based on siting and design criteria for rural housing, having regard to the viability of smaller towns and rural settlements.

These policies have been reflected in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. Proposed material amendments to the RSES seek to make provision for “local” exceptional need in addition to ‘demonstrable economic or social need’ provided for by the NPF. The adoption of the final RSES is awaited to confirm what the policy will be.

In the absence of updated Rural Housing Policy Guidelines the Council will continue to implement rural housing policy in accordance with the current County Development Plan policies which are fully compliant with the current Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines.

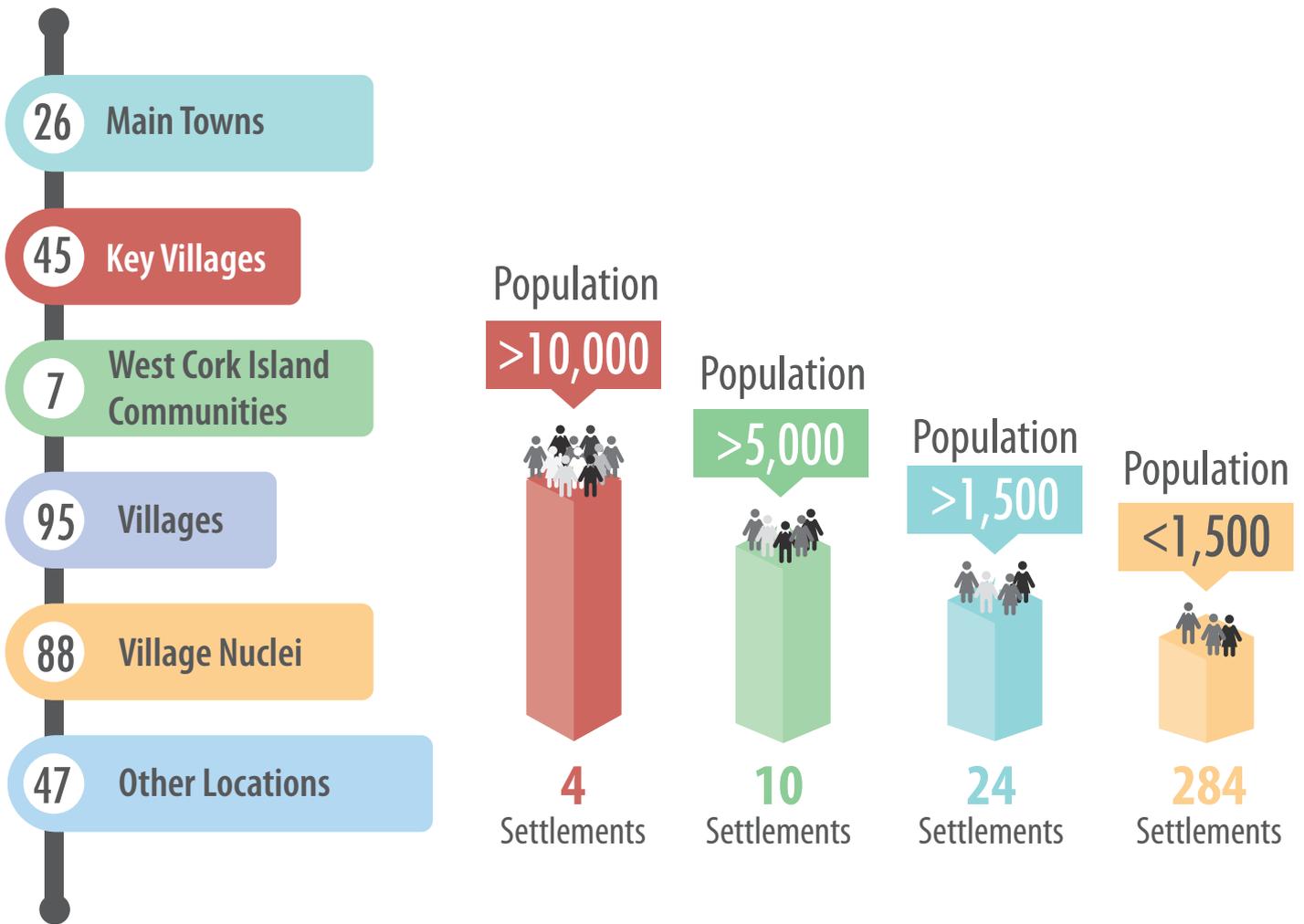
These and other rural housing matters will be considered further as part of the County Development Plan Review.

**For further information please see Background Document No.3: Rural Housing.**

## We need your views...

- How can the plan support the rural housing needs of those with a demonstrable economic or social need to live in a rural area, while protecting rural resources from urban generated rural housing?
- How can the Plan achieve a sustainable balance between allowing one off houses in the countryside and regenerating rural towns and villages?
- What services are needed to support vibrant rural communities?
- How can the Plan improve the siting and design of new development in the countryside in order to reduce its visual and environmental impact?

# SETTLEMENTS & PLACEMAKING



Drinking Water					Waste Water Treatment			
Total	Capacity	Future capacity	Limited capacity	No capacity	Capacity	Future capacity	Limited capacity	No capacity
308	95	13	85	115	45	49	16	198



**63%**  
of settlements  
have some capacity

**37%**  
have no capacity



**36%**  
of settlements have  
some capacity

**64%**  
have no capacity



## Sustainability of the settlement network

Cork is a large county and currently growth is supported across a settlement network of 308 individual locations, with large numbers of very small settlements at the lower end of the network. Many of the smaller settlements are located a considerable distance from the main centres of employment and from public services, and have no water services infrastructure to support new development, thus reducing the sustainability of further development at these locations.

See [Background Document No 4 Settlements and Placemaking](#) and [No 7 Water Services](#) for further information.

We need to consider the sustainability of this approach into the future having regard to the need to support growth that is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. The National Planning Framework requires Planning Authorities to promote compact, employment led growth, achieve greater alignment between where people live and work in order to reduce the need to travel, especially by private car, and to align growth with infrastructure capacity.

## Placemaking

We need to make our towns and villages the places where many more people chose to live, work and visit by 2040. For this to come about our towns and villages need to be more attractive, vibrant and liveable places offering social, cultural and economic opportunities and a quality of life package that more people are willing to choose in the years ahead.

Many of our towns and villages have empty buildings or empty upper floors of buildings, vacant or underutilised sites which offer opportunities for new homes and businesses, new neighbours, friends, customers and social connections. Optimising these opportunities and delivering compact growth may include considering higher density development or taller buildings in some areas and developing new public spaces and facilities to support the communities.

## Density

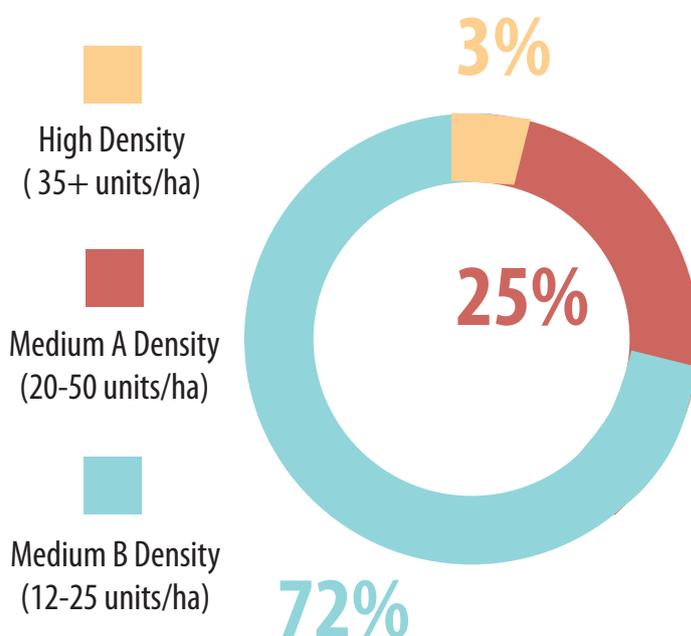
High density is not a new concept with most of our towns traditionally having high density development, typically in the two, three and sometimes four storey terraced buildings evident in the centre of all our towns.

Currently across Cork County, very little land is zoned for high density housing development, with most land zoned at quite low densities of 12-25 units /ha. The new County Development will need to promote increased densities generally in all our towns, and especially in areas that have good public transport services and can facilitate compact growth, allowing more people to live closer to employment, shops and services.

The new Plan will also need to offer more guidance on applying the principles of placemaking, designing higher density communities and recognising and working with the existing urban form.

For more information see [Background Document No. 4 Settlements and Placemaking](#)

## Residentially Zoned Sites in Cork County



## We need your views...

- Should the settlement network be revised so that development can be prioritised in areas where investment in infrastructure, amenities and placemaking will deliver the greatest social, environmental and economic benefits for the county and region as a whole?
- How can we make our settlements more attractive and welcoming for all?
- How do we reduce the high levels of reliance on the private car? How do we encourage more people to live close to where they work so they can walk, cycle or use public transport?
- How do we best make provision for a wide range of house types and sizes across our settlement network and on our residentially zoned land?
- How do we deliver higher density housing developments which are both viable and affordable?



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# TOWN CENTRES AND URBAN CAPACITY

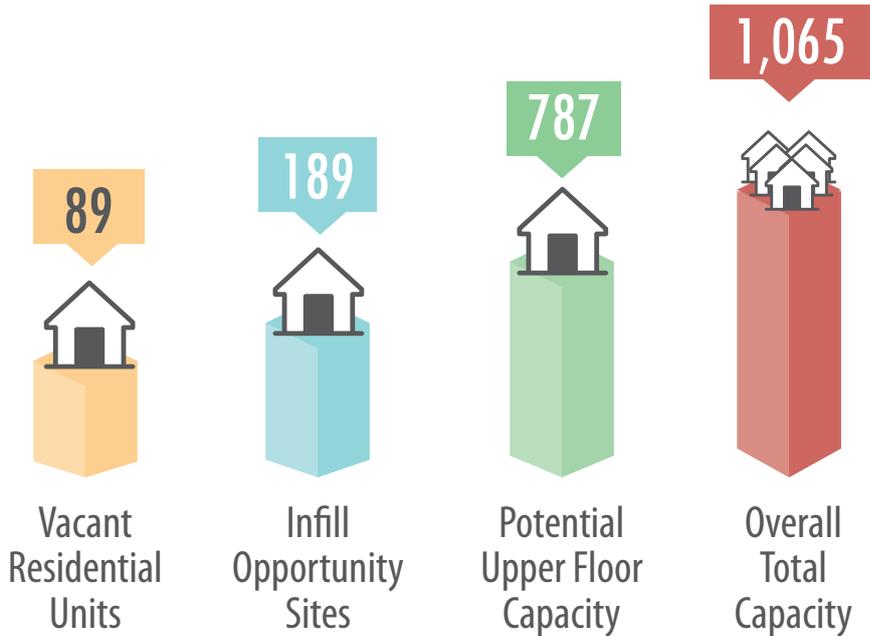
Over

1,500



living over the shop units were recorded across all ten towns surveyed.

## Estimate of Residential Capacity Potential in the 10 town centres studied



Potential for the delivery of over

3,000



residential units across the 10 towns from a combination of vacant units, infill opportunity sites, re-use of upper floors, and redevelopment of sites within the existing built up area/special policy areas and regeneration areas.

The Town Development Fund  
In 2018

**€1,000,000**

one million euro

was distributed across the Municipal Districts of the County to support town development initiatives.



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## Town Centres

Town centres are at the heart of our communities and play a vital role in developing our county to its full potential. Cork has a collection of some of the strongest, most colourful and vibrant towns in the country. All fulfil an important service, commercial and social role for their hinterlands while many are synonymous as tourist destinations of national and international renown.

Town centres are dynamic environments and it is important that they reinvent themselves in order to ensure they continue to be attractive. New expectations are being created in terms of value, service, entertainment and experience.

## Retail

The retail sector is a key element of the economy in terms of employment, economic activity and maintaining the vitality of our towns. Advances in online retailing and other new and evolving retail forms continue to change the retail landscape and challenge town centres. The County Development Plan needs to provide guidance on the pattern of retail development appropriate for the years ahead. The key aim should be to provide efficient and sustainable retail facilities. Over the coming months a retail strategy will be prepared which will inform the draft Cork County Development Plan.

## Urban Capacity Study

Cork County Council has completed detailed land use surveys of the town centre areas and parts of the Existing Built Up Area of ten towns – the nine former town councils of Clonakilty, Fermoy, Kinsale, Macroom, Cobh, Mallow, Middleton, Skibbereen and Youghal and the town of Bantry.

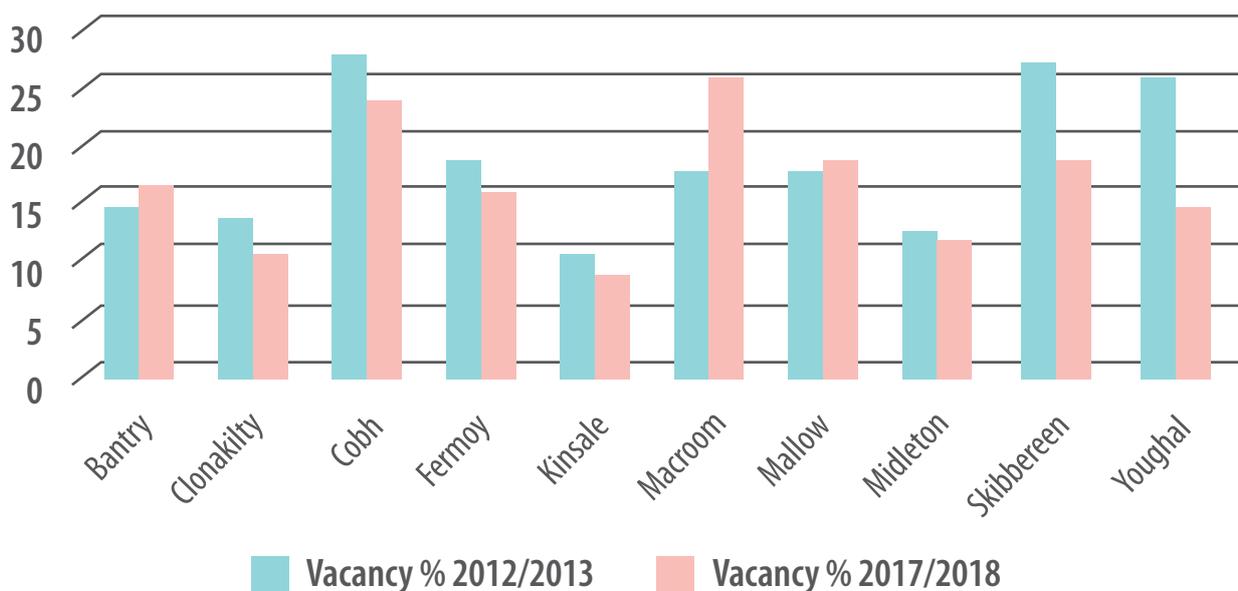
## Diversity of Uses and Vacancy

The retail comparison sector is contracting in most towns in response to the growth of on-line shopping or changes in disposable income. Towns experiencing marked losses in this sector include Bantry, Middleton, Mallow and Skibbereen. Cobh, Kinsale and Macroom are the exception to this trend.

Town centre vacancy continues to be an issue for many towns although most towns have experienced a reduction in retail core vacancy levels as the economy recovers.

**For more information see Background Document No. 5 Urban Capacity Study.**

## Vacancy changes in the Retail Core



# TOWN CENTRES AND URBAN CAPACITY

## Our Living Towns

The predominant use in almost all towns surveyed was residential, which in most cases accounted for at least one quarter to one third of the buildings surveyed. Residential use in town centres continues to be an essential ingredient in supporting town centre shops and services, achieving passive supervision, activity beyond business hours and maintaining vibrancy. In many towns it is evident that residential use is common in upper floors, usually facilitated by a separate access. Significant potential exists to bring vacant upper floors back into use. All towns surveyed offer a range of brownfield infill and regeneration opportunities.

## Public Realm Enhancement

A comfortable and thriving public realm that encourages social interaction requires detailed attention to the structure of a space and the elements it contains. It puts the “place” function at the centre of the design response and this is now supported by the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS). Policies and actions intended to achieve intentional inclusivity are key to creating a healthy, happy town that belongs to everyone. Public realm improvements are necessary in order to enhance footfall and permeability, overcome clutter and improve overall public realm and environmental amenity of towns. Public realm interventions have proven successful in improving the overall attractiveness of our towns and in encouraging other investment.

Clonakilty was named the Best Town in the UK and Ireland for 2017 by the Academy of Urbanism for the quality of its urban environment.

## Funding

Various funding streams are available including the Rural and Urban Regeneration and Development Funds (National Planning Framework) to support transformational public realm initiatives to give city and town centre areas back to citizens, encouraging greater city and town centre living, enhanced recreational spaces and attractiveness from a cultural, tourism and promotional perspective. Cork County Council were successful in securing over €3.5 million worth of Category A funding for Regeneration proposals, traffic management and public realm works. These are key projects that can activate wider town centre improvements.

## We need your views...

- What policy responses are appropriate in managing the evolving role of town centres? How can we further reduce vacancy/bring upper floors back to use?
- How can we support the existing retail sector and encourage new business looking to locate within town centres?
- How can we support and encourage more residential use at the heart of our towns and villages?
- How can we make our town centres more attractive destinations for children and more family friendly particularly as they compete with other ‘experiences’?
- What improvements are needed to your town?
- What are the best attributes of your town and how can the Council help protect/enhance/add to these?



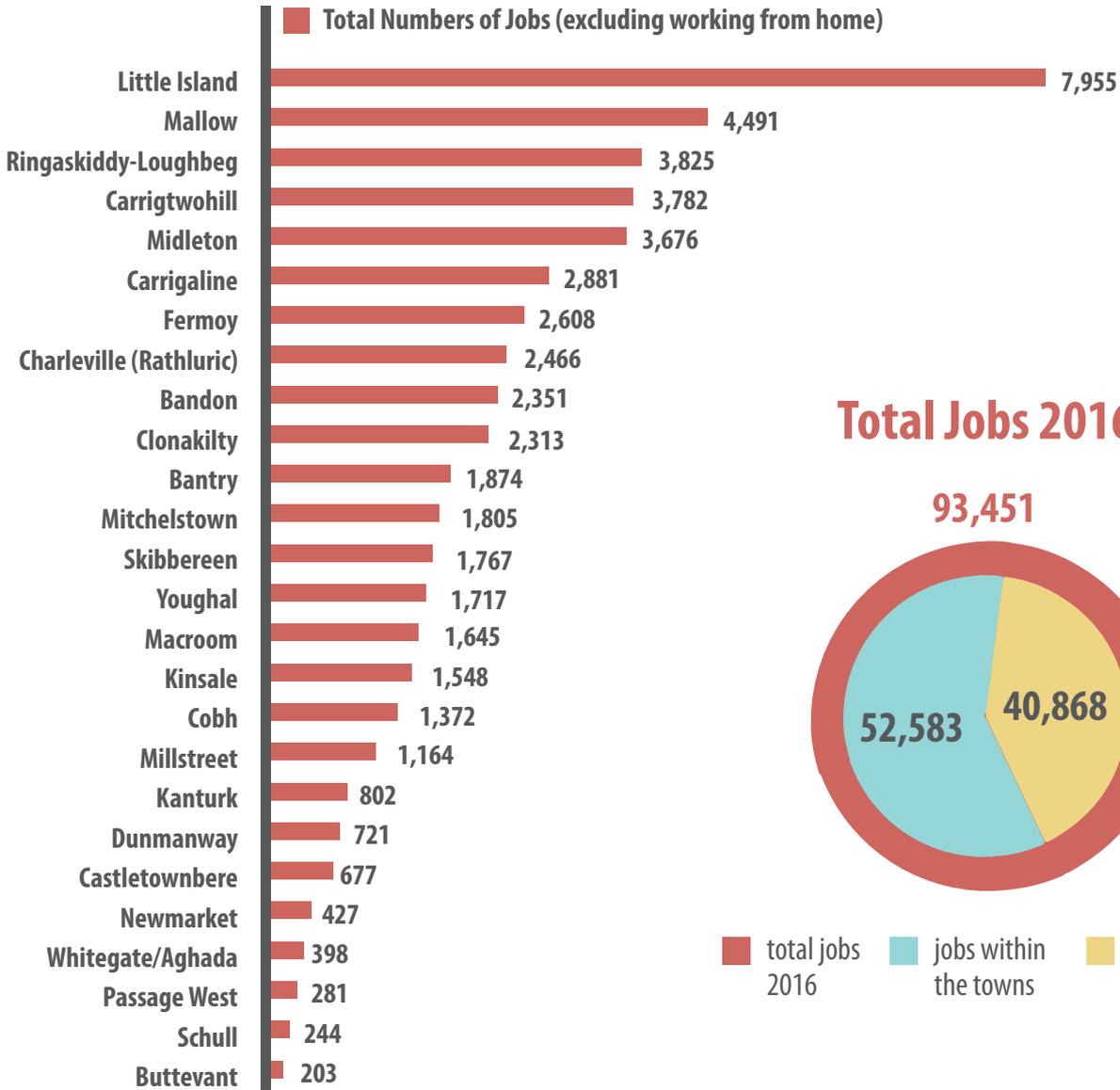
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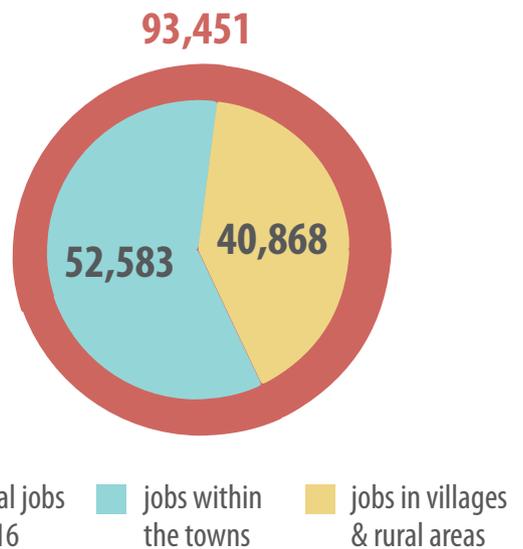


# ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

## Jobs 2016

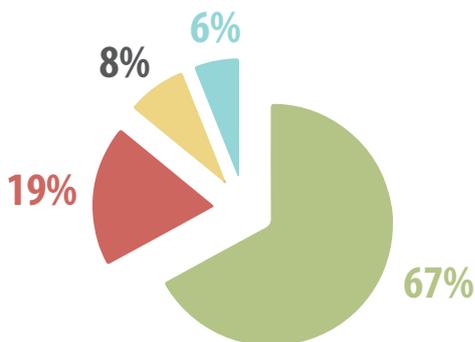


## Total Jobs 2016



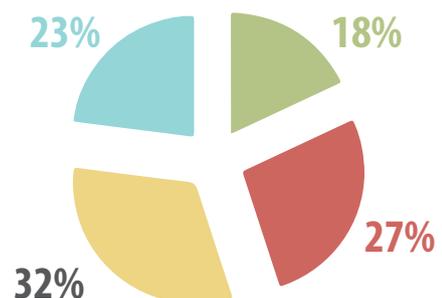
### Zoned Industrial land supply by Strategic Planning Area

■ Metro   ■ Ring   ■ North   ■ West



### Zoned Business land supply by Strategic Planning Area

■ Metro   ■ Ring   ■ North   ■ West



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▶ Cork is the second largest metropolitan area in the state after Dublin.

▶ Need to deliver at least 62,000 additional jobs across the county to 2040

▶ Cork contributes 19% to the National GDP

▶ Cork is a key driver of growth for the Southern Region.

▶ **Key job sectors include**

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Life Sciences including Pharma & Medical Devices
- ICT / Knowledge Economy
- Healthcare
- Education
- Agriculture / Agri Tech
- Tourism
- Energy

Cork is the second largest metropolitan area in the state after Dublin and plays a critical role in both the regional and local economy, contributing 19% to National GDP.

The Government’s Future Jobs Ireland initiative seeks to prepare us for the jobs of the future by building resilience, using innovation to drive growth and building on our locational distinctiveness through placemaking, to attractive job creation investment and workers. In the future, population growth needs to be jobs led, with greater alignment between where people work and live, reducing the need to travel, and enabling greater use of walking, cycling and public transport for every day journeys.

The distribution of current jobs, and potential distribution of future jobs, is set out below. Rejuvenating the economies of our towns and villages to support enterprise and job creation and using digital innovation to facilitate remote working, hub working, co working and indigenous job creation can offer many real and exciting opportunities to grow the economy of the county and support communities. Delivery of the National Broadband Plan will create many new social and economic opportunities for communities across the county.

**For more information see Background Document No. 6 Economy and Employment.**

## We need your views...

- How can we best position Cork County to retain its jobs and attract new jobs into the future?
- What parts of the county are most likely to attract new job creating investment?
- How can we make our economy more resilient to future shocks and ensure we have high quality well paid jobs?
- How can we embrace innovation and adapt to changing technology?
- How can the plan support new and evolving work patterns which reduce the need to travel long distances for work including e-business and home working?
- Do we need to change the mix and distribution of employment lands across the county?
- How can we encourage and support rural based employment opportunities?

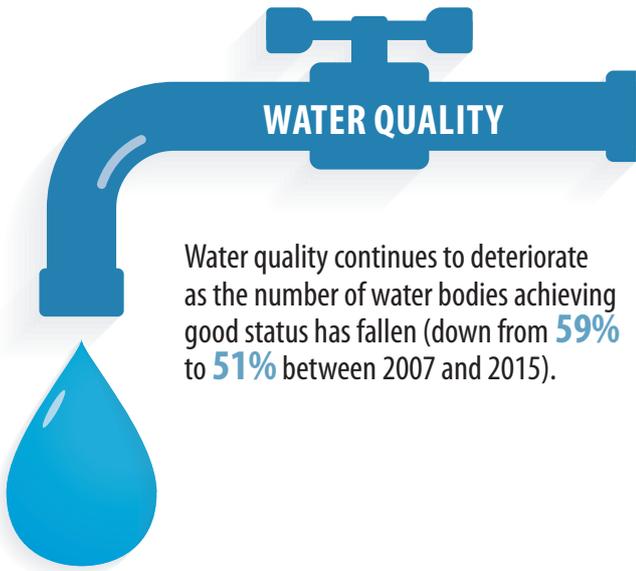
**Distribution of Jobs by Strategic Planning Area 2016**

Strategic Planning Area	No of jobs	%	Additional jobs by 2040
County Metropolitan Cork	33,674*	36	29,683
Greater Cork Ring	29,162	31	17,160
North Cork	14,105	15	7,260
West Cork	16,510	18	8,580
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,451</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>62,683</b>

\*New County boundary



# WATER SERVICES



Water quality continues to deteriorate as the number of water bodies achieving good status has fallen (down from **59%** to **51%** between 2007 and 2015).

## Draft Irish Water Investment Plan 2020-2024 – Future Projects in Cork

**63**

projects listed for improvements to Wastewater

**7**

projects for improvements to Water Supply



Programmes such as **Find & Fix** and **Mains Rehabilitation** are making **significant progress** in some parts of the county in terms of providing capacity for growth.

E.g. in Charleville leakage has been reduced from **70% to 55%**



**2/3**

**of settlements** have no waste water treatment capacity.

**94%**

**of Village Nuclei** have no waste water capacity.

Only **15%**

**of settlements** currently have adequate wastewater capacity to fully facilitate planned growth.

**38%**

**of Main Settlements** currently have adequate capacity for future growth.

**53%**

**of Main Settlements** are listed on the Draft Irish Water Investment Plan which will provide for future capacity.

**64%**

**of settlements** (mainly lower order) have no existing waste water capacity.

Just over **30%** of settlements in Cork County have **adequate water supply** capacity to fully facilitate future growth; this figure includes **12** main towns.

**46%** of Main Towns have adequate water supply/future capacity

**37%** of settlements have no spare water capacity or no water supply infrastructure.

There are **4 main settlements** currently with **no spare water capacity** - Mitchelstown, Castletownbere, Clonakilty and Monard (no infrastructure).

Water is a fundamental building block of life and therefore the quality of the water we use in our daily lives is of huge significance to not only our physical wellbeing but also our economic wellbeing. The water services infrastructure on which we depend is an important component in limiting any adverse effects of human activity on the environment but also provides the clean water on which we depend.

The National River Basin Management Plan 2018 – 2021 seeks to ensure full compliance with the Water Framework Directive (WFD). This requires restoring water quality to at least good status, the prevention of deterioration in water quality, implementation of objectives for designated protected areas and an overall focus on protection of water quality.

### Investment for compliance vs. growth

Irish Water investment to date has focused heavily on compliance (UWWT directive, boil water notices etc.), however investment decisions now need to focus on delivery of the ambitions of the National Planning Framework and prioritise areas for growth.

### Emission Limit Values

While existing waste water plants meet the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) standards, a number of plants discharging to sensitive waters do not meet the higher Emission Limit Values (ELVs) limits set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through their licensing system. This situation arises in a number of locations such as Carrigrennan, Midleton, Dunmanway, Charleville and Mitchelstown. Therefore while these plants may have treatment capacity to accommodate planned growth, there is an issue in meeting the standards required for the receiving waters. The above compliance issue is a nationwide problem which needs further discussion between the EPA (the licensing authority) and Irish Water (the infrastructure provider).

For more information see [Background Document No. 7 Water Services](#)

### Climate Change Considerations

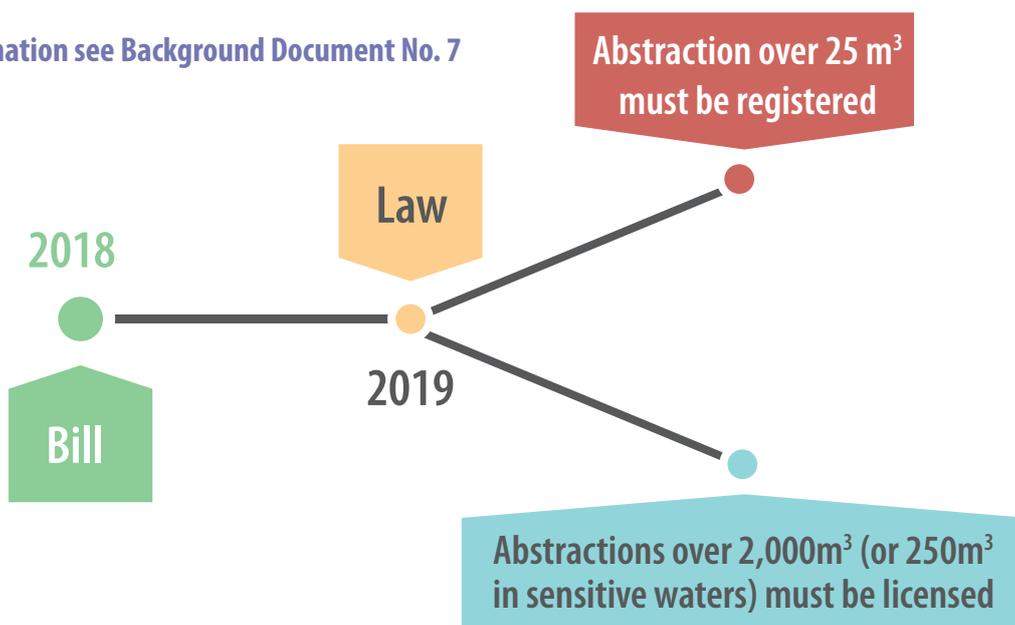
The impacts of climate change on the water cycle and the resultant impact on water services must be considered as part of the County Development Plan review and more specifically at a settlement level where issues with water supply (abstraction and aquifer recharge) and assimilative capacity may occur. Our settlements need to become more resilient to the effects of climate change. The occurrence of extreme weather events is likely to increase further in the future and therefore contingency plans will have to be put in place. Cork County Council in conjunction with Irish Water will seek to address these issues as they arise through active leakage control, demand management, pressure management and watermains rehabilitation.

### Surface Water Key issues

Surface Water Management and options to separate foul sewer from surface water systems need to be investigated to address surcharge issues. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) can play a major role in tackling this issue.

### Abstraction

The Government recently approved the General Scheme of a Water Environment (Abstractions) Bill 2018. The Bill is expected to be signed into law later this year (2019). The Act will have an effect on all future abstractions in relation to public supply.

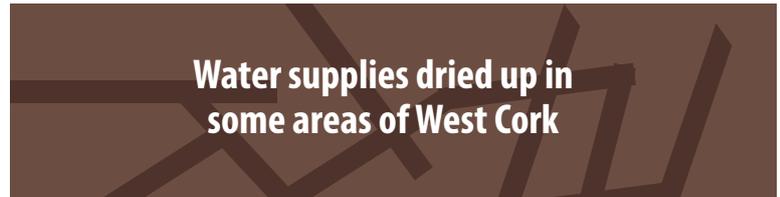


# WATER SERVICES

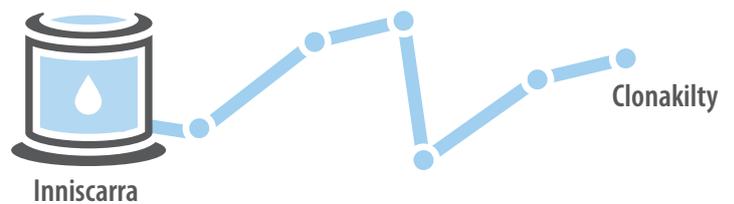


## We need your views...

- What are the main issues around water services provision/investment in the County? How does this affect your town/community?
- How can policy influence water conservation measures in domestic and commercial properties?
- How can the Council ensure better management of private waste water treatment systems and protection of private wells?
- Are there significant factors contributing to deterioration in the water quality of groundwater or rivers and how can this be addressed?



### Water tankered from Inniscarra to Clonakilty



## Water Services Capacity within the Settlement Network – September 2019

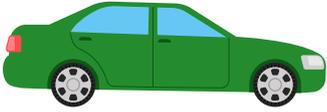
Settlement Network		Water Supply				Waste Water			
	Total	Capacity	Future capacity	Limited capacity	No capacity	Capacity	Future capacity	Limited capacity	No capacity
Main Settlements	26	9	3	10	4	10	14	2	0
Key Villages	45	15	6	17	7	11	20	6	8
Villages	96	37	2	24	33	20	13	6	57
Village Nuclei	88	21	1	23	43	3	2	0	83
Other Locations	46	12	0	8	26	1	0	2	43
Islands	7	1	1	3	2	0	0	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>198</b>

The prospect of investment in the lower order settlements (village nuclei, other locations etc.) for water supply and wastewater is unlikely given priorities in larger settlements. From an economic and environmental view point future growth should be directed to settlements where capacity is available to cater for the demand.



# TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY

82%



of commuters travelling to work in Cork County were using a private car compared to **66%** nationally.

The majority of commuters in Cork County have a commute time of



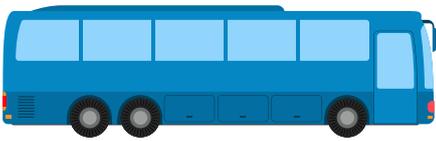
**30 minutes** or less

<1%



Of commuters travelling to work in Cork County are cycling

<3%



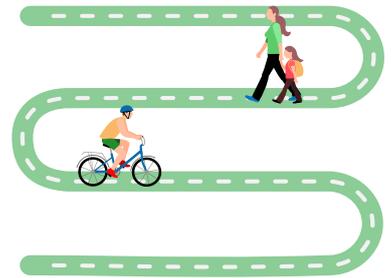
Of commuters travelling to work in Cork County are using public transport.

Between 2011 & 2016

the percentage of employees working from home decreased.



€8M



in funding has been secured for the development of the 23km Middleton to Youghal greenway.



62%

of students in County Cork travelling to school/ college went by car.

€3.5BN



of transport investment is outlined in the draft Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy.



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## A-S-I APPROACH

**AVOID**

**SHIFT**

**IMPROVE**

In order to implement the A-S-I approach Cork County Council must facilitate and promote...

Compact Growth  
Better Employment and Housing Mix  
Connectedness

Active Travel  
Public Transport Use  
Enhanced Permeability  
Better parking standards

Optimal public EV charge point provision  
Improved public transport

The Council is responsible for the maintenance of the largest road network (12,200 km) of any local authority in the country. Significant investment in our road network is planned under the National Development Plan 2018-2027.

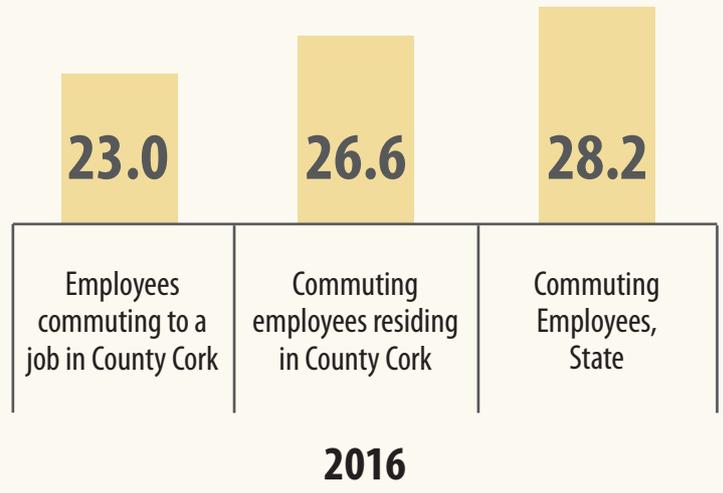
Transport impacts on most of the population on a daily basis. Transport policy seeks to improve quality of life, economic competitiveness, connectivity and accessibility, and assist our transition to a low carbon society.

Our current transport patterns have been largely shaped by our population distribution and the level of investment in infrastructure provision.

Data tells us that, at a County level, modal shift away from car use is not being achieved in Cork. Sustainable travel modes usage is falling and car usage is increasing.

The County Development Plan has a role in implementing national policies including transport policy. Such policies relate to road, public transport and active travel as well as freight, ports, etc. The publication of the National Planning Framework in particular, its compact growth objectives, and the increased urgency for action in addressing climate change, as highlighted in the Government's Climate Action Plan, create a clear path which the County Development Plan must consider.

## Average Journey Time (Minutes) of Commute to Work, Cork County and State



Our transport policy needs to facilitate efficient development of the economy, enhance quality of life and social inclusion, reduce both demand for travel and dependence on the private car for transport and support high frequency public transport services.

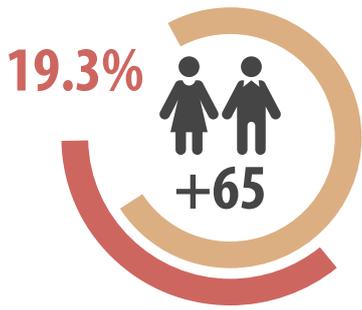
**For more information see Background Document No. 8 Transport and Mobility.**

## We need your views...

- How can we reduce the need to travel in County Cork?
- How can we promote sustainable travel in County Cork?
- Should we facilitate a better mix of employment and housing in all of our towns?
- What parking standards should we apply to new developments to encourage a greater shift away from use of the private car?
- Should we accommodate more EV charge points in our towns?
- How can we make our estates and towns more attractive and connected for pedestrians and cyclists? Where are the gaps?

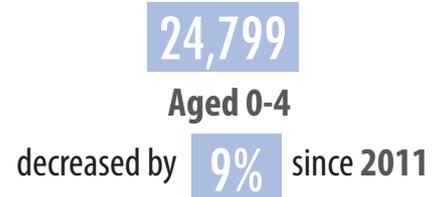
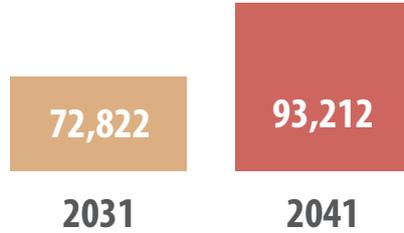


# COMMUNITY



Aged 65+ increased by 19.3% between 2011 and 2016

Based on CSO projections it is estimated that the 65+ age group for Cork County currently 45,800 could increase to



## Childcare Facilities in Cork County



62.8% Sessional

19.2% Fulltime

160 Childcare Facilities within City Area

Cork County has



Age Friendly Towns  
Kinsale Macroom  
Mitchelstown Cobh

- 9 Primary Care Centres
- 4 More Operational in 2019
- 3 Granted Planning Permission

Cork County currently has



34



In the event that their current home was no longer suitable for their needs, people aged **59-69** expressed the following preferences



**72%**  
Adapt Current Home

**7%**  
Move to a Nursing Home

**38%**  
Move to Adapted Type Housing

## Healthcare and our Ageing Population

While having one of the youngest population in Europe, the share of the population aged 65 and over in Ireland is projected to increase by 59% by 2031, while people aged 85 and over is projected to increase by 97%.

Persons 65+ account for 13.8% of the County's overall population in 2016 compared to 13.4% nationally and equates to the 2nd highest number in the state.

One implication of an ageing population relates to health infrastructure and how older age cohorts are the highest users of most health and social care services.

The NPF and Slaintecare (HSE) continue to focus on moving towards more primary healthcare and away from hospital based care, providing increased infrastructure capacity in the community e.g. primary care centres and community care beds (respite and short stay etc.).

## Childcare/Early Learning Centres and Education Facilities

While on the one hand ESRI projections indicate that the numbers of people aged 15 or under will decline slightly, by around 10%, by 2040, the number of people aged 15 or under will continue to increase until the early 2020's and decline only slowly thereafter.

This means that the continued provision and enhancement of facilities and amenities for children and young people, such as childcare, schools, playgrounds, parks and sports grounds, remains necessary and will need to be maintained at similar levels for the foreseeable future. On the other hand with the population projections indicating a reduction in the number of school age children over time, alternative uses could be considered at the design and development stage, possibly with facilities that would dually cater for lifetime learning, especially in post primary schools.

## We need your views...

- Are there adequate community facilities in our towns and villages throughout the County? Where are new community facilities needed?
- In planning community and healthcare facilities, including residential care and lifecycle housing, how can we best reflect the likely population profile?
- What gaps are there in the existing housing market in Cork County to cater for our growing older population and their preference to remain living in their homes?
- How can we encourage the delivery of multi-generational housing schemes?
- How will future education facilities required be accommodated throughout Cork County in view of the projected population growth with changes within the different age cohorts?
- In view of our growing population and changing population profile how best can Cork County accommodate adequate number of childcare places throughout the County?
- How can co-location of education and childcare facilities and wider community uses along with lifelong learning be best accommodated in Cork County?

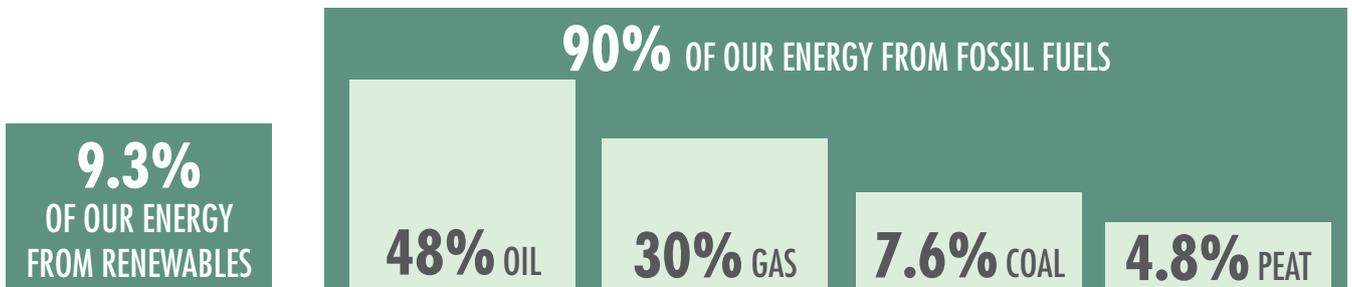


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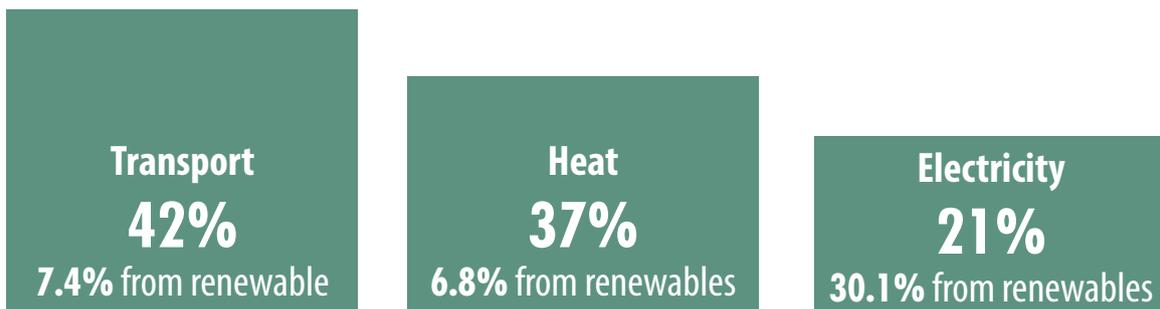


# ENERGY

## ENERGY SOURCES IRELAND 2017



## ENERGY USE IRELAND 2017



36



# ENERGY TARGETS IRELAND 2020 (RENEWABLE ENERGY DIRECTIVE)



Total Use of renewable to reach

**16%**

by 2020  
(9.3% IN 2017)



**10%**

of Energy for Transport to be sourced from renewables  
(7.4% IN 2017)



**12%**

of Energy for Heat to be sourced from renewables  
(6.8% IN 2017)



**40%**

of Energy for Electricity to be sourced from renewables  
(30.1% IN 2017)

## CORK ENERGY

Cork Whitegate Energy Hub currently supplies **over 25%** of Ireland's National energy demands (fuel and electricity)

### Solar farms in Cork

**43** permitted with capacity of 358MW

**4** proposals pending for 50MW

Wind farm capacity in County Cork has more than doubled since 2012.

**2012** 19 windfarms/  
283MW

**2019** 38 windfarms/  
603MW



# ENERGY

Ireland is heavily reliant on fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) to generate the energy we need for transport, heating and electricity production, and burning these fuels greatly increases the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, contributing to the greenhouse effect, global warming and climate change.

Various targets have been set at European and National level, and many plans and action plans developed to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels for transport, heat and electricity production, reduce our emissions of carbon dioxide across all sectors of the economy and promote and incentivise investment in renewable energy technology and infrastructure (wind, solar, wave, bio energy etc.). Significant progress has been made in using renewable energy to produce electricity but we still have a considerable way to go to meet our renewable energy targets, in particular for heat and transport, which account for 80% of final energy demand.

**For more information see [Background Document No. 9 Energy](#)**



## Cork's role in Renewable Energy

Cork has been identified as one of the best located counties in Ireland in terms of on-shore winds and there are currently 38 wind farms operating in the county producing 603 MW of electricity, equivalent to approximately 15.4% of the Republic of Ireland's overall wind energy of 3908 MW. The number of windfarms in the county and their capacity output has doubled since 2012.

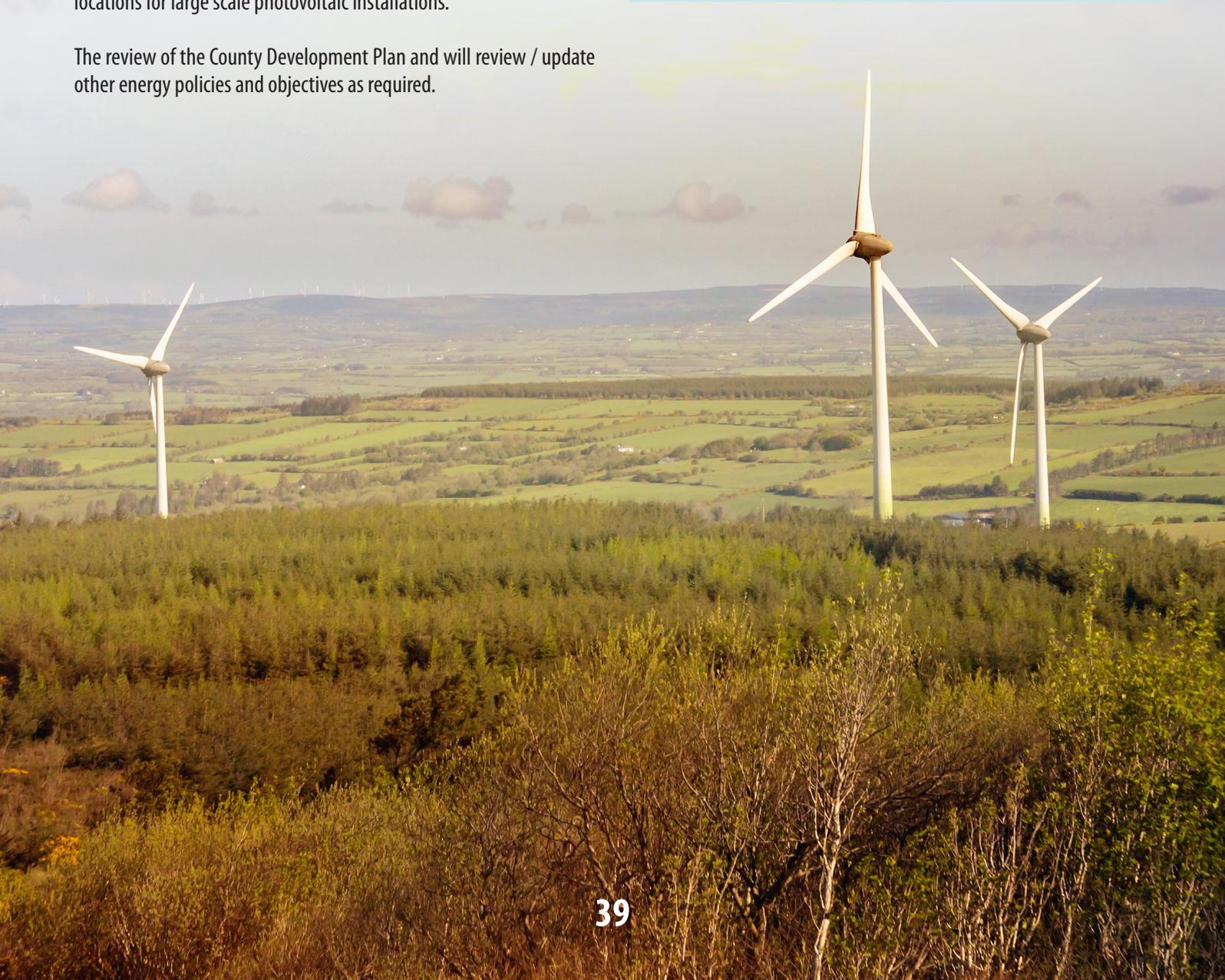
In terms of solar energy, there are currently no operational ground mounted solar Photovoltaic (PV) developments in the Republic of Ireland. The first solar farm in Cork was permitted in 2014 and to date 43 solar farms have been permitted in the county but none are operational. Permitted development has the capacity to produce approximately 358 MW. Applications for four further developments are pending with a capacity of 50MW.

It is important that the renewable energy objectives set out in the current Cork County Development Plan are updated and that the policy in relation to solar farms is expanded to include objectives in line with any national solar farm policy adopted by the government. The solar farm objectives may include factors influencing preferred locations for large scale photovoltaic installations.

The review of the County Development Plan will review / update other energy policies and objectives as required.

## We need your views...

- How can the Plan promote sustainable provision of energy and renewable energy in line with National Targets and Policies.
- How can the Plan support the sustainable reinforcement and provision of new energy infrastructure to support our future energy needs while also strengthen all-island energy infrastructure and interconnection capacity?
- How can the Plan tailor its policies on renewable energy eg. wind, solar and bioenergy to support this industry but also to protect the landscape, amenity and ecology?
- How can the Plan facilitate the transition to a low carbon society?
- How can the plan best support the development of off shore renewable energy?



# MARITIME CORK



Cork coastline extends for some

1100 KM

Which is about  $\frac{1}{5}$  of the total national coastline



Includes the largest natural harbour in Europe, Cork Harbour.

Tier 1 International Port of Cork is a premier multi-purpose deep sea port facility.

IN 2017

OVER 10.3 MILLION



tonnes of trade traffic were handled by the Port of Cork.



## Maritime Planning

Ireland is moving towards the adoption of its first National Marine Planning Framework, with the publication of a Draft Framework for public consultation in November 2019, which sets out, over a 20 year horizon, how we want to use, protect and enjoy our seas. Maritime planning will apply from the High Water Mark in Ireland's coastal waters, territorial seas, and exclusive economic zone and in designated parts of the continental shelf. It is anticipated that the National Marine Planning Framework will sit at the top of the hierarchy of plans at regional or local level for the marine area.

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is a new way of looking at how we use the marine area and planning how best to use it into the future. MSP will try to balance the different demands for using the sea including the need to protect the marine environment. It's about planning when and where human activities take place at sea and ensuring these activities are as efficient and sustainable as possible. Marine planning will contribute to the effective management of marine activities. It will enable the Government to set a clear direction for managing our seas, to clarify objectives and priorities, and to direct decision makers, users and stakeholders towards more strategic and efficient use of marine resources. It will inform decisions about the current and future development of the marine area, aiming to integrate the needs of different users of the marine environment.

## Marine Spatial Planning for Cork

Marine Spatial Planning is particularly relevant to County Cork as the coastline extends for some 1,100 km, which is approximately one fifth of the national coastline.

County Cork has an extensive marine environment and is home to many habitats and species of international importance, while also supporting coastal and island communities and the fishing and tourism sectors. Cork has many significant ports and harbours (and related infrastructure), particularly Cork Harbour, Bantry, Castletownbere, Union Hall, Schull, Ballycotton and Youghal, all of which contribute to Ireland's growing marine economy. Cork Harbour is Europe's largest natural harbour with roles relating to defence, research, port infrastructure and operation, recreation and community, environmental services, industry, and the related clusters of companies that support Cork's energy industry.

Aquaculture also offers long term potential for the county, with a thriving shellfish industry in West Cork.

These assets, embedded knowledge and infrastructure, offer significant potential for local communities to benefit from engaging with maritime related industries.

Cork County Council aims to be a first mover in terms of establishing the fundamental policies and implementing the objectives of the NMPF which will be greatest for our coastal and island communities. In this regard, Cork County Council is keen to both support the potential of the marine environment by nurturing opportunities for innovation in the Maritime economy but also to support and preserve the environmental and ecological conservation status of our natural marine resource.

## Island Communities

The current County Development Plan includes policies for the Islands of the county, including the seven inhabited islands off the coast of west Cork and other islands including Haulbowline, Fota, Spike and Great Island (which includes the town of Cobh). The Government has recently announced proposals to develop a new national policy for the development of the islands around Ireland. This and other issues relevant to the islands will be considered as part of the review of the County Development Plan.

The West Cork Island communities form an important part of the overall network of settlements in County Cork, and the Council supports their continued sustainable economic, social and cultural development.

## We need your views...

- How can we effectively manage our marine resources in Cork, achieving a balance between social, economic and environmental issues?
- How can Cork County positively contribute to the development of Ireland's first National Marine Planning Framework?
- Are there any further policies for Coastal Communities including our Islands that can be included in the new County Development Plan?



# GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

## Green Infrastructure in Cork

County Cork has a remarkable range of natural and cultural assets, many of which are important green infrastructure assets for the County.

The coastline of County Cork extends for

1100 KM

which is 20% of that of the country. The diverse coastline forms an important ecological corridor, where the isolation can offer protection to wildlife.

The county with

7,593 KM

of river length, accounts for

10%

of the total river length of the state.



27 beaches are managed by the Council in line with the Bathing Water Quality Regulations (2000).



7 beaches have attained the Green Flag status for 2018



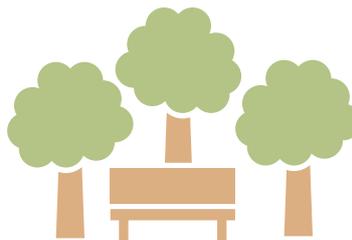
13 attained the Green Coast award for 2018.

Cork County Council currently supports 4 significant walking routes:



The Council owns and manages approximately

30



30 public parks/ larger open spaces across the main towns of the County.

There are approximately

100



100 publicly funded playgrounds in the county.



42



Our environment is an asset that if planned for in the same way as for other forms of infrastructure, can provide long term benefits.

## What is Green Infrastructure?

Green Infrastructure is a relatively recent concept in planning and involves the identification, protection, management and development of green corridors and spaces which can serve a number of functions and provide a range of benefits including the protection of water quality, protection against flood risk, protection against rising sea levels, provision of recreational spaces and protection of biodiversity. Green infrastructure resources can include nature conservation areas, farmland, urban parks, green belts and linkages such as greenways which could include paths, trails and cycleways. These assets can be both public and private, with or without public accessibility, in urban or rural areas. Green Infrastructure is about 'joined up' thinking; it is an integrated approach to planning and links land-use, landscape, services, ecology, heritage and transportation. It also leads to the effective integration of biodiversity and spatial planning.

## Benefits Associated with Green Infrastructure



Both the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy require the integration of planning for Green Infrastructure and ecosystem services to be incorporated into the preparation of statutory land use plans.

## Opportunities

Many of the green infrastructure assets in our towns are already protected by existing open space zonings. Other areas, such as areas of biodiversity/habitat value, river corridors and some areas at risk of flooding, which have the potential to form part of a green infrastructure network in the future, are not currently reserved for that purpose. In 2018, Cork County Council completed a habitat mapping exercise for all main towns in the County which identified local biodiversity areas within each town many of which represent key green infrastructure.

## Surface Water Management and Green Infrastructure

Best practice advocates that the management of storm water drainage should emphasise retention and infiltration at source. In practice, at the development level, this appears to have a very narrow focus being heavily reliant on the provision of underground attenuation tanks within individual sites.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) can play a role in reducing and managing run-off to surface water drainage systems as well as improving water quality and contributing to local amenity.

Ponds, artificial wetlands and water features can make a positive contribution to the provision of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and to the amenity of an area. Properly designed and located SuDS features can be incorporated within and can complement the amenity and aesthetic value of open spaces.

## We need your views...

- What are the key green infrastructure resources of the County and how can they best be enhanced/protected?
- What opportunities are there to develop new green infrastructure as our population expands particularly with the requirement to strengthen our urban settlements in line with national policy? What opportunities exist?
- How can development be best managed to incorporate existing green infrastructure and develop new green infrastructure?
- Is the green infrastructure within our towns adequate? How can it be improved?
- What opportunities does green infrastructure planning present in reducing the impacts of climate change?
- What role can Sustainable Drainage Solutions (SuDS) play in the delivery of green infrastructure at both site specific/strategic level?



# HERITAGE

## Built and Natural Heritage

County Cork has a rich and diverse heritage that includes our countryside, rivers, lakes, woodlands, seas and offshore islands, our ancient sites, villages and townscapes and the buildings within them. Heritage is our history, language, folklore, customs and traditions. It is those special elements of our landscape that make us feel connected to our home place and County. Protection of our heritage not only has environmental benefits and benefits for the quality of life of the people of Cork, but it also brings economic benefits to the County by providing attractive towns, villages and countryside for visitors to enjoy.

Key aspects of this heritage are protected by legislation, and by policies and objectives in the County Development Plan, the Cork County Heritage Plan (2005) and the Cork County Biodiversity Action Plan 2009.

The County Development Plan includes the Record of Protected Structures, Architectural Conservation Areas, sites designated for nature conservation (including Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Area, Nature Reserves, Ramsar sites, Wetlands, Trees and Woodlands), details of protected plant and animal species, policies for the protection of biodiversity generally and geological sites. The plan also protects our archaeological and architectural sites, cultural, Gaeltacht and linguistic heritage.

As part of this review of the County Development Plan the Record of Protected Structures and Designated Architectural Conservation Areas from the nine Town Council Development Plans will be included in the new County Development Plan and the wider policies for the protection of our natural and built heritage will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

The Heritage Unit of Cork County Council has produced a large range of heritage publications to raise awareness of the heritage of the county and design guides to advise people on how to manage heritage properties / sites. Copies of these and other publications are available on <https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/arts-heritage/publications-documents-links>

**For more information see Background Document No. 10 Built Heritage**

## We need your views...

- Are you satisfied with the level of protection afforded to our natural and built heritage? Are there policies we need to improve or new policies we need to introduce?
- How can we balance the protection of our heritage while providing for the regeneration of our towns and villages and the development needs of the county as a whole?
- How can we support the appropriate renewal and reuse of protected structures?
- Are there any buildings or groups of buildings that you consider to be of merit and should be added to the Record of Protected Structures or designated Architectural Conservation Areas in urban or rural areas?
- What policies and/or incentives do you think can be used to ensure that Protected Structures are properly maintained and do not fall into disrepair?
- What policies can we put in place to protect and increase awareness of our vernacular built heritage buildings which are a valuable part of the historic landscape, both urban and rural and add to our understanding of the past?
- How can we protect and better manage buildings on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)?
- What policies could be put in place to protect extensive archaeological landscapes?





# TOURISM

TOURISM IS OUR LARGEST  
INDIGENOUS INDUSTRY



Contributes

4%

to GDP

325,000

employees



11.2M

Average Spend

€524

7.4 NIGHTS



overseas visitors in 2018

Average Stay

42%

16%

110



of visitors from Great Britain

visitors from USA

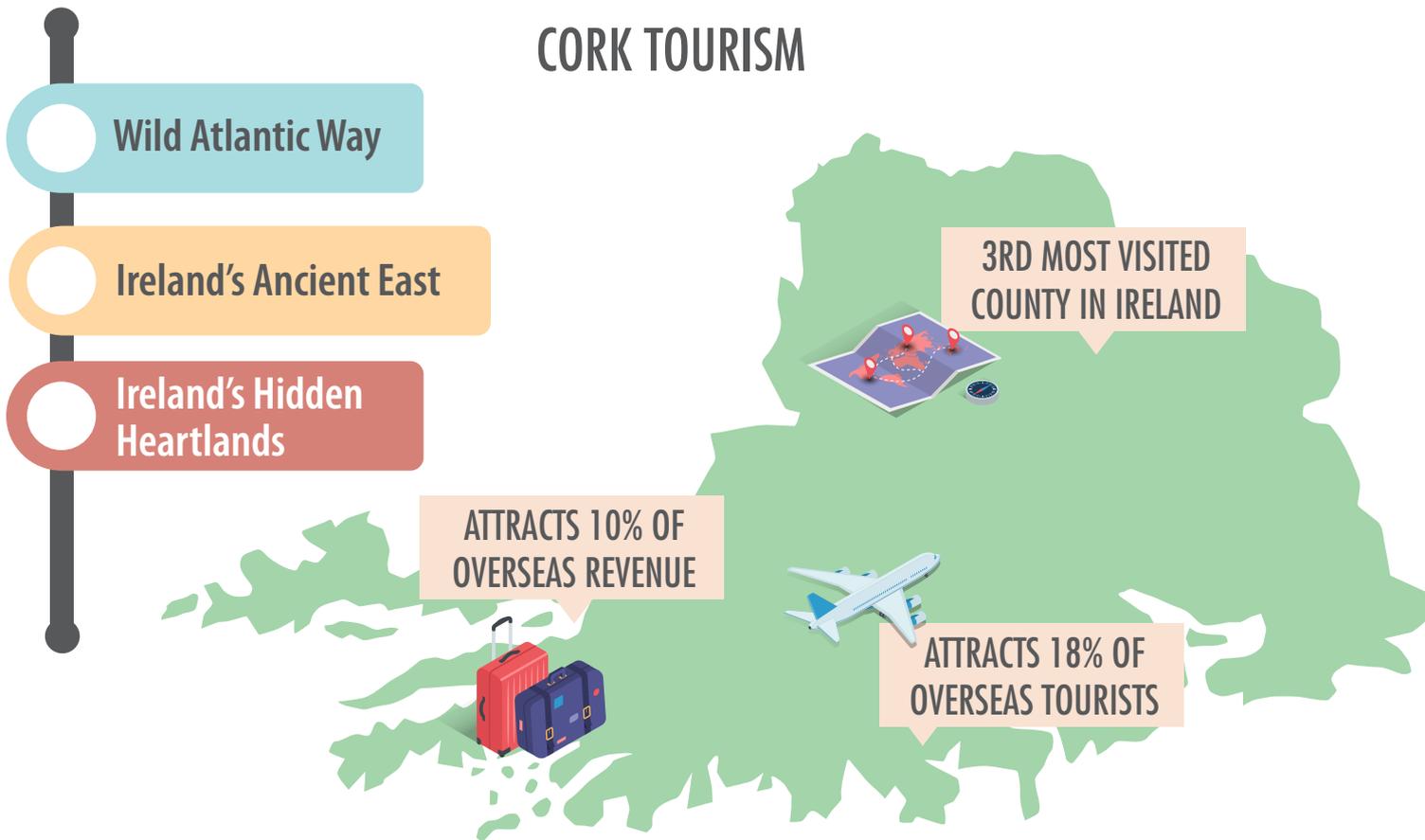
cruise calls in 2019 Cobh / Bantry



46



# CORK TOURISM



Tourism is a significant part of the economy of Cork in terms of jobs supported, revenue generated and the brand recognition it creates, which in turn supports markets abroad for Cork / Irish goods and services. There is, for example, a growing worldwide trend for food tourism. Cork is home to more than 50% of Ireland's Artisan food producers and is therefore well placed to serve this tourism market, and in turn grow markets at home and abroad for our food produce.

Cork has a wide range of tourism assets including distinctive heritage and cultural experiences in urban and rural settings, an attractive landscape which offers varied scenery of mountains, valleys, coastline and countryside, recreational and leisure activities (including walking, cycling, water based activity, golf etc) and a full calendar of festivals, music and sporting events.

The Council, Fáilte Ireland and the government continue to invest in infrastructure to support tourism and benefit local communities. Significant recent investments include Spike Island, Camden Fort Meagher, Fota House and Gardens, Doneraile House and Gardens, Old Head of Kinsale Signal Towers, Youghal Clock Tower, Garnish Island, Youghal Boardwalk, Dursey Cable Car etc. Significant Investment in the Middleton to Youghal Greenway is to commence in 2020.

The review of the County Development Plan needs to consider how it can best support the sustainable development of tourism across the county.

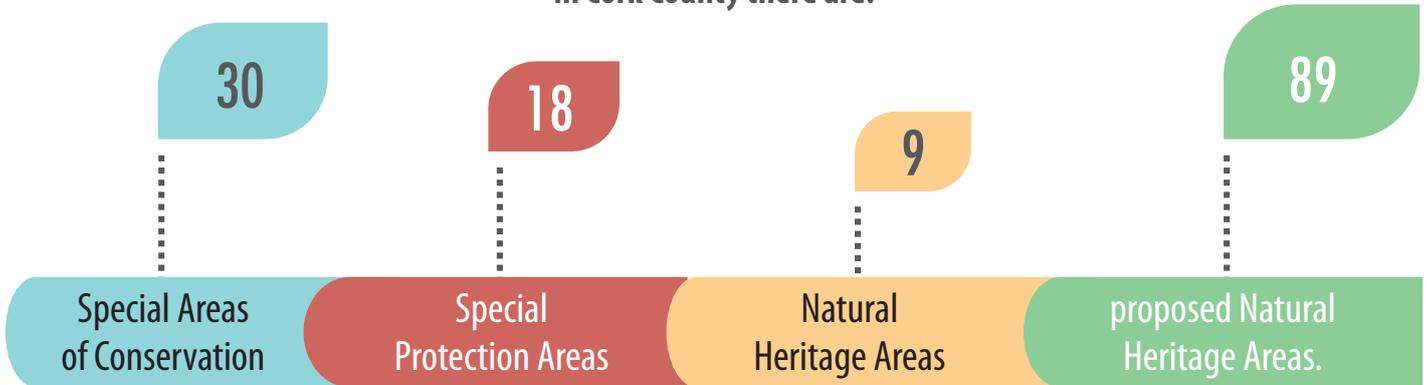
## We need your views...

- How can the Plan support tourism across the county and what are the constraints to the development of tourism?
- How can the Plan support the development of Countywide cultural and arts facilities?
- Are there potential tourist attractions including experiential tourism which remain to be developed in Cork?
- How can we manage tourism while protecting our sensitive environment and landscape?
- How can we better link key tourism attractions with our towns and villages, so that greater economic benefit can be obtained from tourism?
- How can we enhance the public realm of our towns and villages and make them more appealing to visitors and encourage visitors to stay longer?



# BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity is an indicator of the health of our surroundings and is inextricably linked to the welfare of human beings. In Cork County there are:

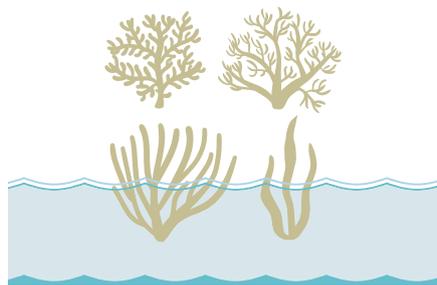


A report on The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland published by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in

2019  
found  
46%

of habitats demonstrating ongoing declining trends.

Lough Hyne in West Cork was designated as Europe's first Marine Nature Reserve in 1981



Its flora and fauna have been the subject of scientific research by a range of institutions for

OVER 100 YEARS

The freshwater pearl mussel is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, and is



ONE OF THE 365

most endangered species in the world. The Owenagappul River on the Beara Peninsula is one of the most important Freshwater Pearl Mussel rivers in the country.

## Existing water quality in County Cork for the period



shows that the majority of our river and coastal water bodies have achieved **good or high status**

2010-2015



while our lakes and transitional waters have significantly higher percentages of **poor status** water bodies.



48



Grass cutting on

27 ACRES



Bogaigh Oileán an Harpúraigh  
Harper's Island Wetlands

Harper's Island is a 9ha site owned and managed by the Council for nature conservation and as a nature education facility in partnership with the Glounthaune Community Association and the Cork Branch of Birdwatch Ireland.

of coastal habitat in East Cork is being managed to enhance habitats for pollinators as part of the **East Cork Biodiversity Programme** partly funded by the Council.

Biodiversity, or biological diversity, is a term used to describe the variability among living organisms. The term includes diversity within species, between species and diversity of ecosystems. It reflects the interdependence of all living things and its protection is recognised by the Convention on Biological Diversity as a common concern for humankind.

The biodiversity of Cork includes our native plant and animal species, and the places (habitats and ecosystems) where they live. Our landscape has been shaped by our geographical position on the southern coast of the country, our geology dominated by sandstone ridges and limestone valley floors, and the influence of the people who have settled here. These elements determine the range of native plants, animals, habitats and ecosystems that make up the unique biodiversity of the county. There are over 100 sites across the County protected by European and Irish legislation because they support rare, threatened or nationally important species.

The protection of our biodiversity matters for ethical, environmental and economic reasons. Healthy functioning ecosystems clean our water, purify our air, maintain our soils, provide us with food, medicines and fuel, and they help to regulate our climate. A healthy environment provides places for recreational and spiritual enjoyment for the inhabitants of the county, and for those who visit here. It also provides attractive spaces for people to live and to do business.

Biodiversity is threatened globally and locally by the ever increasing demands of people for space, fuel, food and other resources, and increasingly by climate change. Loss or damage to sites and places of biodiversity value caused by changes in land use practises and pressure for development, disturbance of places used by wild animals and birds for sheltering, feeding or breeding, and pollution of watercourses all affect the extent and quality of our natural environment.

The National Biodiversity Action Plan, 2017-2021, sets the detailed policy context for biodiversity with which the County Development

Plan must align. Protection of biodiversity must be mainstreamed into decision making across all sectors and the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity must be strengthened. We must conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside and in the marine environment. We must improve the management of protected areas and species. Cork County Council also needs to build awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services.

The Cork County Biodiversity Action Plan was published in 2009 and sets out a series of objectives and associated actions relating to collecting data, providing protection and raising awareness of the importance of our biodiversity. Projects which have been funded through the plan include habitat mapping, invasive alien species mapping, the production of good practice guidelines, the provision of training around biodiversity protection for Local Authority Staff and the development of the Harper's Island Wetland Centre.

## We need your views...

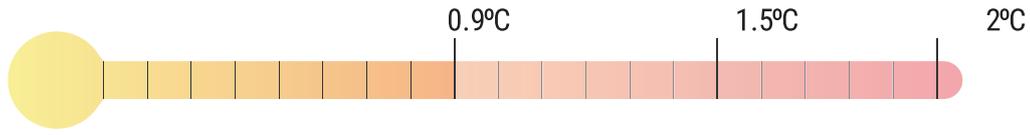
- How can we create greater awareness of biodiversity and its value?
- How can we achieve a balance between enhanced biodiversity and development in County Cork?
- How can we facilitate strengthening of the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity?
- How can we reverse the decline in our water quality?
- How can we promote the opportunity to integrate biodiversity with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems requirements?



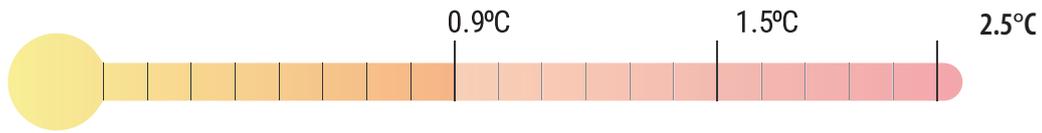
49



# CLIMATE CHANGE



Global average temperatures have now increased by **MORE THAN 1°C** since pre-industrial times.



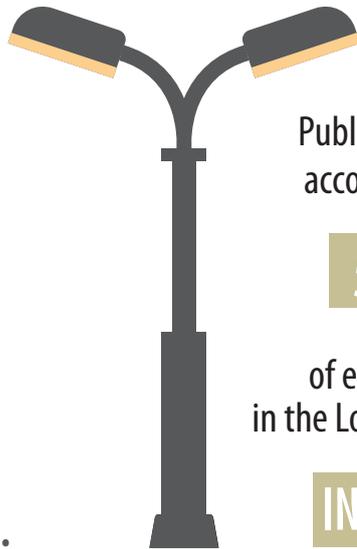
According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, global warming is likely to reach **1.5°C BETWEEN 2030 AND 2052** if it continues to increase at the current rate.

**IN MAY 2016**

Cork County Council became the **first Local Authority** to become

**ISO50001**

certified for its **Energy Management System.**



Public lighting accounted for

**54%**

of energy use in the Local Authority

**IN 2018**

The county has experienced **significant flood events** in the past



such as when the **River Bandon (in 2015)** and the **River Blackwater (in 2008)** exceeded capacity and the **flooding in 2009** which effected many towns in the County including Skibbereen, Clonakilty and Middleton.

## Recent extreme weather events in Cork

 <b>14cm of snow at Cork Airport</b> <i>March 2018</i>	 <b>High temperatures and drought conditions</b> <i>Summer 2018</i>	 <b>Hurricane Ophelia</b> <i>October 2017</i>	 <b>Storm Emma; minus 7 degrees recorded</b> <i>March 2018</i>
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## Examples of Climate Change Impacts

<b>Subsidence of a bridge structure at Barleycove causeway after a flood/rainfall event</b> <i>September 2015.</i>	<b>Clonakilty required tankering of water</b> <i>Summer 2018</i>	<b>62% of critically damaged bridges in Cork showed failure due to bridge scour, which leads to exposure of bridge foundations, as a consequence of increased rainfall intensity and larger flows</b> <i>Survey 2012-2014</i>	<b>Spread of alien invasive species.</b>
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50



The Earth's climate is changing and the impact of these changes is becoming increasingly more evident. These changes are creating significant global economic, environmental and social impacts. Our Government's Climate Action Plan highlights that these changes will cause extensive direct and indirect harm to Ireland and its people, as well as to other countries more exposed and less able than we are to withstand the associated impacts.

Mitigation and adaptation are important strategies in responding to climate change. **Mitigation** deals with the causes of climate change and works to reduce man-made effects on the climate system. Climate **adaptation** refers to actions taken to reduce the negative effects of climate change or to take advantage of emerging opportunities.

Cork County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was adopted in September 2019 and sets out the Local Authority's strategic priorities, measures and responses for climate adaptation in the county over the next 5 years with the aim of building resilience and preventing the worst of risks. A key action set out in the strategy is the requirement to mainstream climate change adaptation into all of the Council's plans and policies including the County Development Plan.

The government's Climate Action Plan published in 2019 initiates a set of policy actions to achieve a net zero carbon energy systems objective for Irish society. It highlights the requirement for a transformational shift of our economies and societies towards climate resilient and sustainable development and a profound change in the systems and practices which support our lifestyle. Many of the changes that are required will have positive economic and societal co-benefits, including cleaner air, warmer homes, and a more sustainable economy for the long term.

In alignment with the National Planning Framework the County Development Plan must deliver compact, connected, sustainable growth. In meeting these aims we also need to make much greater changes in the way we meet our needs for power, heat, travel, land use, and use of other resources.

## Relationship between Climate Change and Biodiversity

The concepts of climate change and biodiversity are strongly interconnected. Biodiversity is affected by climate change and it also contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation through the role of ecosystems in the global carbon cycle.

Increasing demands of people for space, fuel, food and other resources threatens biodiversity locally and globally. Climate change is a significant and increasing threat to biodiversity – the earth is currently losing biodiversity at a rate seen only during mass extinctions. Irish biodiversity is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and has a low adaptive capacity compared to other vulnerable sectors. Conserving biodiversity is a critical supporting component of addressing climate change.

The National Planning Framework sets out strategic outcomes of Enhanced Amenities and Heritage, Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society, and Sustainable Management of Water, Waste and Other Environmental Resources. These, combined with the increased urgency for action in addressing climate change, underpin the Climate Change and Biodiversity obligations which the County Development Plan will address.

## We need your views...

- How can the plan support our transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy?
- What approach do we need to take to density of development and to our settlement hierarchy in order to achieve compact growth and emission reduction?
- How can the policies of the County Development Plan best address flood risk, maximise biodiversity and protect green infrastructure?
- How can the policies of the County Development Plan best promote resilience building in our communities?



# ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

There are **147** protected species occurring within Cork County including

**38**



protected animal species

**80**



protected bird species

**29**



protected plant species

**63%**



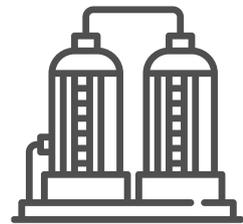
of the population of the county live in rural areas (including settlements <1500)

**37%**



live in urban areas.

There are **49,258**



permanent private households serviced by individual septic tanks in County Cork equivalent to 42% of all private households.

## Main challenges for water quality management

To eliminate serious pollution associated with point sources (waste water treatment plants)

To tackle diffuse pollution (pollution from agricultural/forestry activities and septic tanks)

To use the full range of legislative measures in an integrated way to achieve better water quality



**52**



There are

103



sites of geological interest in County Cork which are protected in the current County Development Plan.

County Cork has the greatest number of rivers of any county in Ireland including

Argideen

Bandon

Blackwater

Bride

Glashaboy

Ilven

Lee



Water abstraction and impacts on water quality are two of the main threats to future Fresh Water Pearl Mussel populations.

Most major rivers in the County run from west to east.



The biggest threat now facing air quality is **emissions from road traffic.**



The impacts of climate change are being felt in County Cork including increases in storm events, higher incidences of **flooding, sea surges and periods of prolonged drought.**



Cork County Councils Climate Adaptation Strategy was adopted in **September 2019.**



In Cork there are approximately

18,977

monuments listed on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the largest number for any county in Ireland.



There are currently

2818

buildings or structures on our Record of Protected Structures.



There are currently

77

Architectural Conservation Areas in the county.



53



# ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

The impact of the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan must be assessed in terms of the potential environmental impacts as part of the plan review process. The assessments include a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Habitats Directive Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). These assessments and the documents produced as a result give the public and other interested parties an opportunity to comment and to be kept informed of decisions and how they were made.

## Strategic Environmental Assessment

SEA is the process by which environmental considerations are required to be fully integrated into the preparation and adoption of the County Development Plan. In order to assess the likely significant impacts of the Plan, baseline data on the current state of the environment in Cork County has been collected as part of the SEA process the full details of which are available to view in the SEA Background Document known as the Scoping report. This report forms the first stage of the statutory process for the SEA of the County Development Plan.

## Outline of Alternatives

An assessment of reasonable alternatives is required as part of the SEA process. Alternatives can be described as a range of options available to the strategy-makers for delivering the objectives of the County Development Plan. The strategic alternatives to be considered must be realistic, reasonable and relevant. Alternatives are required to take into account and operate within the strategic objectives of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy (RSES). Appropriate alternative scenarios are currently being formulated and input from the public is sought at this early stage.

## Habitats Directive Assessment

In accordance with requirements under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and Section 177 of Part XAB of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, the impacts of the policies and objectives of all statutory land use plans on designated sites must be assessed as an integral part of the process of making a land use plan. This is to determine whether or not policies contained in the plan could have negative consequences for the habitats or plant and animal species for which any of these sites are designated. This assessment process is called a Habitat Directive Assessment and must be carried out for all stages of the process of making a land use plan.

## Flood Risk Assessment

Flood Risk Management aims to minimise the risks arising from flooding to people, property and the environment. Natural floodplains merit protection to maintain their flood risk management function as well as for reasons of amenity and biodiversity. In accordance with 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management' Guidelines (2009), Cork County Council intend to carry out a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) of the County Development Plan which will provide an assessment of flood risk within the county and will inform land-use planning decisions for this and other plans. Updated Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) mapping is expected to be made available by the Office of Public Works (OPW) later this year and this will inform the SFRA of the Draft County Development Plan.

**For more information see Background Document No. 11 SEA Scoping Report.**

## We need your views...

- What are the key environmental considerations we should be aware of?
- How can the built environment, in the urban or rural context, be designed to have the least impact on our natural heritage and biodiversity?
- How can our natural heritage and biodiversity be enhanced?
- How can greater access to the natural, built and archaeological heritage be facilitated, while having regard to the sensitive nature of many sites?
- Can you identify areas of the county that are particularly sensitive to development and why?
- How can environmental policies address climate change?
- What do you see as the main threats to biodiversity in the county?
- What do you see as the alternative options for environmentally sustainable growth in the County?







# Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

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# Cork County Council

## **For enquiries, contact**

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**Tel: 021 4285900**

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