



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

# Report on the Public Consultation Process



Local Economic & Community Plan  
2023-2029



Lighthouse, Fastnet Rock, County Cork



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

# REPORT ON THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS



## INTRODUCING

The LECP Guidelines state that a comprehensive public consultation process should underpin the development of the LECP. Section 66C(2)(i) and Section 66C(3)(i) of the Local Government Reform Act require public consultation on both the Economic and Community elements of the plan. In accordance with the legislation, the public consultation for the Cork County Local Economic and Community Plan was open for submissions for 6 weeks from **Monday 15th May 2023 to Monday 26th June 2023**.

This report provides a summary of the methodology of the consultation process, as well as a brief synopsis of the submissions that were made during that period. Each submission was fully considered, and the resulting proposed amendments to the SCOT analysis and objectives are included in this report. While this report includes summaries of the submissions made, the Implementation Plan phase of the LECP will seek to build on the more detailed comments provided by the public and stakeholders.



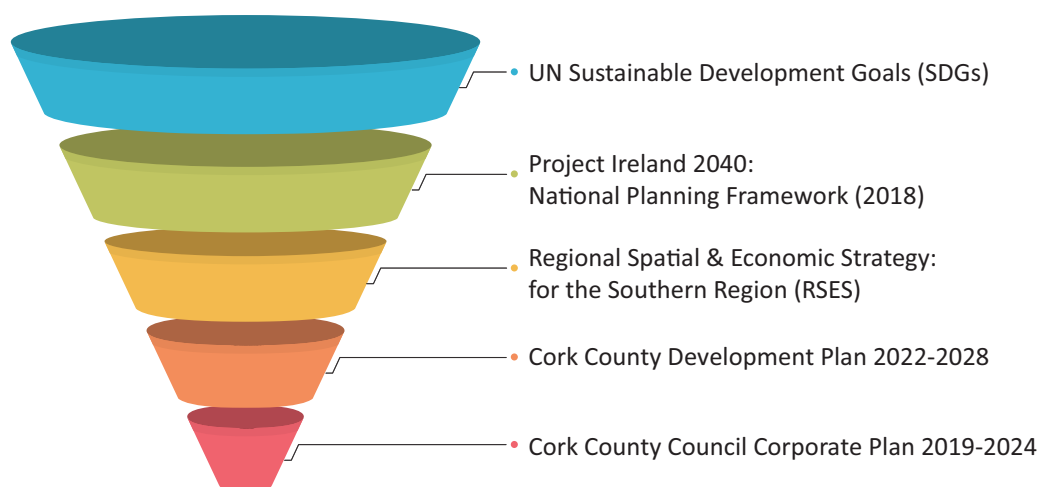




## POLICY CONTEXT OF THE LECP

### Policy Context

The Cork County Local Economic and Community Plan is an integral framework for delivering local economic and community actions from EU, national, and regional policies, and strategies. This wider policy context sets out best practices and underpins the development of our High-Level Goals to ensure prosperous growth at a local level in Cork County over the next six years.



### UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

A key component of the 2023-2029 Cork County LECP is that it must be developed within the context of the principles of sustainable development. The United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (adopted by all UN Member States in 2015) outlines a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which provide a blueprint to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. The UN SDGs critically recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations is intrinsically linked to strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and foster economic growth. They are also fundamentally positioned with strategies and policies that tackle climate change and enhance environmental protection. Ireland has made a commitment to ensure that the SDGs are fully considered in all Government policies and processes, and, as such, they are a fundamental consideration for the Cork County LECP process.





### Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework (2018)

The National Planning Framework (NPF) is Ireland's overarching policy and planning framework for the social, economic, and cultural development of our country over the next 20+ years. The NPF draws upon lessons learned from the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2022 and sets out a new vision based on a set of values that will ensure Ireland's long-term economic, environmental, and social progress for all parts of our country. The NPF also set the context for Ireland's three regional assemblies to develop their Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies. The NPF aims to create a single vision, a shared set of goals for every community across the country. These goals are expressed in the Framework as National Strategic Outcomes.

- Compact Growth
- Enhanced Regional Accessibility
- Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities
- Sustainable Mobility
- A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills
- High-Quality International Connectivity
- Enhanced Amenities and Heritage
- Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society
- Sustainable Management of Water, Waste and other Environmental Resources
- Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services



Youghal Eco Boardwalk



### Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy: for the Southern Region (RSES)

The RSES sets out the strategic regional development framework for the Southern Region, with a primary aim to implement Project Ireland 2040 - the National Planning Framework, at a regional level and to support a balanced and equitable regional growth plan. This plan identifies Cork County amongst the fastest-growing locations in the State over the next 20 years. The overall vision of the RSES for the Southern Region is to:

- Achieve economic prosperity and improved quality of life for all our citizens
- Accommodate expanded growth and development in suitable locations; and
- Make the Southern Region one of Europe's most creative, innovative, greenest and liveable regions

### Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028

The County Development Plan guides the future growth and sustainable development of our county over the plan period from 2022 to 2028. The plan sets out an approach centred on the core principle of sustainability with a focus on creating vibrant, liveable, climate-resilient communities. This plan is consistent with both the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. This Development Plan is a document which details the overall strategy of the planning authority for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Cork taking into account national and regional planning guidelines, strategies and policy documents. It is also informed by particular national and global environmental issues as set out in the key principles which underpin the document.

At a high level, the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028 aims 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 rural and urban communities are to the highest standards”.



Glanworth Bridge and Castle





### Cork County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024

This unique and reactive document contains the aims and actions which will inform and guide the Council's activities over this time. The Council's Corporate Plan outlines the core values, vision and aspirations of Cork County Council as well as defining the Council's significant role in directing policy and development.

### Other Relevant Policy Documents/Frameworks

The Cork County LECP 2023-2029 is in compliance with other relevant national and regional policy documents and frameworks. The list of relevant policy documents and frameworks has been updated to include those published since the previous draft was produced in May 2023, including:

- Building Future Skills: The Demand for Skills in Ireland's Built Environment Sector to 2030
- Clean Air Strategy
- Climate Action Roadmap 2023
- Connecting Ireland: Rural Mobility Plan
- Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy
- Dept of the Taoiseach Climate Action Roadmap 2023
- Designated Maritime Area Plan Proposal for Offshore Renewable Energy
- Digital for Good: Ireland's Digital Inclusion Roadmap
- Disability Action Plan 2024-2026
- Driving Recovery and Sustainable Growth, 2021-2024 (2021)
- Economic Recovery Plan 2021 (2021)
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025
- Enterprise 2025 Renewed: Building resilience in the face of global challenges (2018)
- Future FET: Transforming Learning The National Further Education and Training (FET) Strategy
- Get Ireland Active – The National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland (2016) Healthy Ireland – A framework for improved health and wellbeing, 2013-2025 (2013)
- Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021–2025 (2021)
- Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland (2021)
- Leading in a changing world: Strategy 2022–2024 (2022)
- Long Term Strategy on Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions
- National Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2015-2021
- National Positive Ageing Strategy (2016)
- National Smart Specialisation Strategy for Innovation 2022-2027
- National Sustainable Mobility Plan
- National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind
- OECD Skills Strategy Ireland
- Our Living Islands: National Islands Policy and Action Plan
- Our Rural Future Rural Development Policy 2021-2025 (2021)
- Public Service Apprenticeship Plan
- Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024: South-West (2022)
- Renewable Transport Fuel Policy 2023-2025
- Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025
- Social Enterprise in Ireland: A baseline data collection exercise
- Towards a Smart Southern Region - Southern Regional Assembly
- Towards a learning region – Southern Regional Assembly
- Understanding life in Ireland – The wellbeing Framework 2023
- White Paper on Enterprise Implementation Plan 2023-2024





### Overriding Status of the Plan

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

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

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

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







Gougane Barra





Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

# PUBLIC CONSULTATION METHODOLOGY



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

# Local Economic and Community Plan Public Consultation

# HAVE YOUR SAY

## 15<sup>th</sup> May to 26<sup>th</sup> June



[www.corkcoco.ie](http://www.corkcoco.ie)



Local Economic & Community Plan  
2023-2029





## PUBLIC CONSULTATION METHODOLOGY

### Introduction

Under sections 66C(2)(i) and 66C(3)(i) of the 2014 Local Government and Reform Act, local authorities are required to engage in public consultations on both the economic and community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan. This section outlines the consultation strategy and methodology deployed as part of the Cork County Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029, and also discusses the results and analysis of this process.

### Consultation Events

Public consultation is imperative to ensure enhanced decision-making and produce better policies, strengthen democracy, and build trust with local communities. Cork County Council's public consultation strategy has been informed by the recently published *Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making* and was developed in accordance with nine principles for inclusive community engagement.



Figure 1: 9 principles for inclusive community engagement.



Public consultation was focused on the draft Socio-Economic Statement and High-Level Goals document for the 2023-2029 Cork County LECP and aimed to enable and empower the public to engage meaningfully with the draft document and provide critical feedback to help inform and shape the plan. Consultation included:



- **Advisory Group Workshop (April 2023):** Over thirty key economic and community stakeholders attended a hybrid (both in-person and online) stakeholder workshop to review the draft document. The Advisory Group includes representatives from the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC, North Cork LCDC, South Cork LCDC, West Cork LCDC, South Cork Local Enterprise Office, Cork North and West Local Enterprise Office, IDA, Climate Action Regional Office, Energy Cork, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, STEM Southwest, Uisce Éireann, University College Cork, Munster Technological University, National Transport Authority, Public Participation Network, Cork Education and Training Board, HSE, Cork Chamber, Southern Regional Assembly, Údaráis na Gaeltachta, Enterprise Ireland, IBEC, Visit Cork and Cork County Council Officers. The workshop provided an overview of the document and the draft High-Level Goals and Objectives and enabled stakeholders to provide structured feedback during a series of thematic roundtable discussions. The document was subsequently revised prior to going to Public Consultation. This group meets at each stage of the process to advise on the content of the plan.



- **Public Events (May-June 2023):** Thirty-two hours of face-to-face public consultation was facilitated over eight public events including consultation events held in each of the divisional areas (North, South and West) and a consultation stand for two days at the Cork Summer Show. Public events aimed to empower citizens of Cork County with a meaningful opportunity to engage with the plan and provide tacit community-based knowledge on the unique socio-economic profiles, challenges and opportunities of the vast network of communities within Cork County. Public events included presentations on the purpose of the 2023-2029 Cork County LECP, the policy frameworks and socio-economic data underpinning it, and the High-Level Goals included within the draft document. These events also included interactive Q&A based activities and roundtable discussions.







- **Virtual Consultation Room (May-June 2023):** In order to ensure that the public consultation process was accessible to the largest extent possible, Cork County Council developed a Virtual Consultation Room. The Virtual Consultation Room was an online interactive space which provided an opportunity to engage with a substantial audience and allowed potential users to access the content within the online platform at any time during the consultation period from any computer or mobile device. The Virtual Consultation Room sought to mirror the content that was presented during the public events, and contained the draft document and its contents, as well as presentations related to 2023-2029 Cork County LECP, the policy frameworks and socio-economic data underpinning it. It also provided opportunities for users to make a formal submission to the plan.





- **Cork County Council website:** Information on the LECP and the consultation process as well as copies of the documents and public notices were available in both English and Irish on the Council's website. It also enabled the public to make submissions on the plan.
- **Public Libraries:** Hard copies of the Draft Socio-Economic Statement and High-Level Goals as well as posters with details on how to make submissions and access the virtual consultation room were made available in each of the 24 public libraries in the County.
- **Questionnaire:** As part of the public consultation process for the Draft Socio-Economic Statement and High-Level Goals document, Cork County Council developed a public submission questionnaire which had a range of questions based on several key areas of interest for the LECP. This was accessible on the Council's website, in the virtual consultation room and at the public consultation events.
- **Written Submissions:** An online public submission form was made available for use by members of the public on the Cork County Council website and the LECP virtual consultation room. In addition, written submissions could be submitted by email, post or via public submission boxes which were available at all public consultation events.
- **Public Notices:** Public notices were placed in six local papers which are in circulation in the County. These notices were also published on the Council website. In addition, there were a series of posts on the Cork County Council social media channels, as well as press releases to publicise the period of public consultation.

### Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2029





What is the best thing about your community/local area?

It's people , castle , rail station  
Supports from bodies such as LEOs, ABP  
Transport (rail) Friendly  
Services transportation The people  
The public services peaceful Central location  
Sense of community  
It a very quiet and kind community

What do you think is the biggest challenge for your local area?

Keeping younger generations in the town.  
Spaces in second level education  
Dispersion Relief Transport Lack of transportation  
Getting of traffic in Road Ageing pop  
Development road works  
Supporting seniors and new arrivals  
Lack of public transport, within the town bounds

Can you identify one thing that would significantly improve your local area and your daily life?

Facilities for younger people  
More transportation Greenway  
Schools- primary and second levels. Co work hub  
Public transport Water services Leap cards for the train  
Relief road  
Leap cards for train in the more rural areas  
Integration and coordination of supports and services available

Example of Slido Responses from Public Consultation.



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

# PUBLIC CONSULTATION SUBMISSIONS



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

SCAN OUR QR CODES BELOW  
TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE LECP



PUBLIC SUBMISSION FORM

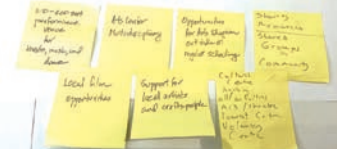


LECP QUESTIONNAIRE



Local Economic & Community Plan  
2023-2029





## PUBLIC CONSULTATION SUBMISSIONS

During the public consultation period, 42 written submissions and questionnaire responses were received. Submissions were also made by 58 people via interactive sessions at the public consultation events. The written submissions included responses from the following bodies and elected members:

### SUBMISSIONS FROM ORGANISATIONS AND ELECTED MEMBERS

- Cllr Alan O'Connor
- Comhairle na Nóg
- National Transport Authority
- Cork Airport
- Uisce Éireann
- Children Youth Services Committee
- Cork Chamber
- Youghal Family Resource Initiative
- Kingstown College Mitchelstown
- Comharchumann Forbartha Mhúscraí
- Mallow Probus

The points of each submission were individually considered in the context of the scope of the LECP and the wording of High Level Goals, Objectives and SCOT analysis. As detailed later in this report recommendations have been made for amendments to the wording within the SCOT analysis, High Level Goals and objectives in response to the issues raised in the submissions.



Toe Head



## KEY TOPICS RAISED

Within the submissions, there were five core topics which were most frequently raised by respondents. These were:







## HIGH LEVEL GOAL 1: SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES AND PLACES

The submissions made under each high-level goal have been summarised into topics and listed below.

### Summary of Submissions

- High quality of life and wellbeing
- High quality public realm
- Importance of placemaking
- More allotments and community gardens
- Environmental measures in public realm projects
- Community Groups to cater for all ages/needs
- Increased transparency of community projects
- More collaboration between community groups and clubs
- New/Improved sports facilities
- Communal sports facilities
- New/Improved community facilities
- Improved public transport
- Parking in town centres
- New/improved active travel facilities
- Promotion of Active Travel
- More rural public transport
- Renew and regenerate towns and villages
- Support sustainable development
- Improved broadband connectivity
- Promotion and development of tourism
- Slower and sustainable tourism
- Promote and Support Heritage, culture and the arts
- Positive impact of the arts
- New/Improved cultural and arts facilities
- Develop heritage potential
- Collaboration between stakeholders on projects
- Greater public consultation
- Assistance for groups in applying for funding
- Identification of Muscraí Gaeltacht in plans
- Signage in the Muscraí Gaeltacht
- Initiatives to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour



## HIGH LEVEL GOAL 2: A SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE COUNTY

### Summary of Submissions

- Improved public transport
- Need for rural and community transport
- Greenways have no purpose for those with physical disabilities
- More understanding of people with disabilities
- Use expertise of disabled people in developing schemes
- Support neurodiversity
- Access to lifelong learning and further education
- Youth not staying in rural areas
- More activities for elderly
- Pathways for lifestyle of older population
- Age Friendly Activities
- Initiatives to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour
- Improved broadband connectivity
- Mental health supports
- More childcare/afterschool services
- Early years support and education
- Listen to the voices of children and young people
- Objectives should specifically name children and young people
- Collaboration on project planning
- Create volunteering opportunities
- Inclusion of marginalised groups
- Inclusion and integration of new arrivals





## HIGH LEVEL GOAL 3: A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE COUNTY.

### Summary of Submissions

- Improved public transport
- Greater diversity of sports activities
- New/better sports facilities
- New/better community facilities
- Communal sports facilities
- Improved broadband connectivity
- Age Friendly Activities
- Health and Wellbeing Promotion



Dunkettle to Carrigwohill Interurban Route 1



## HIGH LEVEL GOAL 4: A LOW CARBON AND CLIMATE RESILIENT COUNTY.

### Summary of Submissions

- Promote and Support renewable energy
- Information on renewable energy
- Use of roof space for Solar panels
- Support use of EVs
- Decarbonisation
- Supporting Agriculture sector to decarbonise
- Transitioning to a circular bioeconomy
- Apprenticeships to help meet Climate targets
- More sustainable transport options
- Prioritise public transport
- NTA's Connecting Ireland: Rural Mobility Plan
- Safer walking and cycling facilities
- Protection of biodiversity
- Addressing climate change
- Co-existence with wildlife
- Environmental Protection and Enhancement
- Better opportunities in the Muscraí Gaeltacht in terms of sustainability
- Research centre on biology in the Muscraí Gaeltacht







## ECONOMIC HIGH LEVEL GOALS

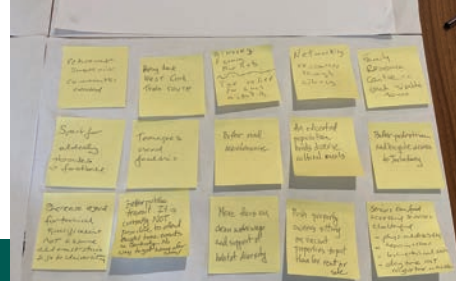
### High Level Goal 5 A County that Supports Enterprise

- Public Realm Improvements
- Regeneration of towns and villages
- Improved public transport
- Funding for retail business
- Funding/Support for start-ups and SMEs
- Maximise potential as economic hub
- Employment opportunities
- Upskilling and training opportunities
- Access to lifelong learning and further education
- Youth not staying in rural areas
- Support businesses to transition to a low carbon economy
- Support business to decarbonise
- Invest in harbour economy
- Invest in tourism offerings
- Promotion and development of tourism
- Invest in fishing ventures
- Recognition of Cork Airport as an important economic driver
- Facilities for farmer markets
- More opportunities for sustainability and research in the Múscaí Gaeltacht

### High Level Goal 6 A Smart and Innovative County

- Access to lifelong learning and further education
- Improved public transport
- Youth not staying in rural areas





## SUBMISSION ISSUES RAISED

### Other Issues

- Use of Venn diagrams/tables in the report
- Reference to Irish Water be replaced with Uisce Éireann

Below is a summary of the submissions made on issues which are not covered by the Local Economic and Community Plan but are covered by other plans or agencies.

### Issues outside of the Scope of the LECP

- Housing Development Requirements
- Election of community group officers
- Individual plans for towns
- Provision of private fitness centre
- Allocation of buildings/premises
- Zoning and use of buildings and land
- New/Upgraded Road network
- Infrastructure projects
- Greenway feasibility issues
- Provision of health services
- Provision/Supply of housing units
- Provision/Supply of utilities
- Employment land review
- Engagement/involvement in planning process
- Establishing town councils



Cobh



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

## OUTCOMES OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS





Mizen Head





## OUTCOMES OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS

Cork County Council held eight in person public consultation events across the three divisional areas of Cork County (North, South and West). These events included interactive sessions which enabled those attending to give their opinions on the strengths, challenges, and opportunities in their area. Attendees were also given the opportunity to make formal written submissions, answer questionnaires and provide shorter comments under each High-Level Goals. The key thematic areas raised within these submissions and comments have been outlined below under each divisional area. These points were fully considered and recommended amendments to SCOT analysis and objectives are detailed later in this report.

### WEST CORK CONSULTATION EVENTS

Comments and feedback received during the public consultation events in the West Cork Divisional area indicated that the key strengths, challenges and opportunities for the local area and community were:

#### Strengths of West Cork

- The natural environment (beaches, woodlands), amenities and people.
- Active community groups and business associations with a strong sense of pride in place.
- Vibrant festival culture.
- Strong tourism offering with locally owned businesses.

#### Challenges for West Cork

- Economic challenges, including the cost-of-living crisis and access to funding for community groups and businesses.
- Insufficient public transport between West Cork and Cork City (as well as between local communities), which contributes to geographic isolation.
- Climate change and biodiversity restoration.
- Migration of the younger population to urban areas.
- Dereliction of towns and villages.

#### Opportunities for West Cork

- More connected and enhanced public transport, as well as increased active travel infrastructure (cycling and walking routes).
- Enhanced public realm works to improve towns and villages.
- Additional investment and funding for community facilities (community centres, amenities for teenagers and senior citizens).
- Capacity for enhanced investment in cultural services and facilities (film production, music and theatre performance space).



### NORTH CORK CONSULTATION EVENTS

Comments and feedback received during the public consultation events in the North Cork Divisional area indicated that the key strengths, challenges and opportunities for the local area and community were:

#### Strengths of North Cork

- Strong sense of community with active community groups and volunteers.
- Train connectivity, particularly in Mallow.
- Historical landmarks and access to natural green spaces and amenities.
- Access to public services.

#### Challenges for North Cork

- Lack of public transport in rural and isolated communities.
- Migration of the younger population to urban areas.
- Supporting an ageing population and ensuring appropriate facilities and healthcare access for older populations.
- Access to funding for community groups and businesses.

#### Opportunities for North Cork

- Development of additional school infrastructure (primary and secondary levels) in higher population towns, such as Mallow.
- More connected and enhanced public transport, as well as increased active travel infrastructure (cycling and walking routes) and investment in EV charging points.
- Development of a co-working hub in the area.
- Investment (and increased access for funding) for community facilities and age friendly initiatives.



Mallow Castle





### SOUTH CORK CONSULTATION EVENTS

Comments and feedback received during the public consultation events in the South Cork Divisional area indicated that the key strengths, challenges and opportunities for the local area and community were:

#### Strengths of South Cork

- Good location in close proximity to Cork City, with strong transport links.
- Strong tourism offering with further scope for growth.
- Active and vibrant community and sporting groups with a strong sense of community.
- Inclusive and diverse communities.

#### Challenges for South Cork

- Investment required for infrastructure and services to support population growth.
- Lack of local community services and amenities for teenagers and older adults in certain areas.
- Biodiversity loss and water pollution.

#### Opportunities for South Cork

- Development of remote working hubs in the area for public and private sector employees.
- More connected and enhanced public transport, as well as increased active travel infrastructure (cycling and walking routes).
- Increased investment in community health and development services.
- Further investment (and access to funding) for community services and facilities.







Active Travel Route, Midleton





Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION QUESTIONNAIRE



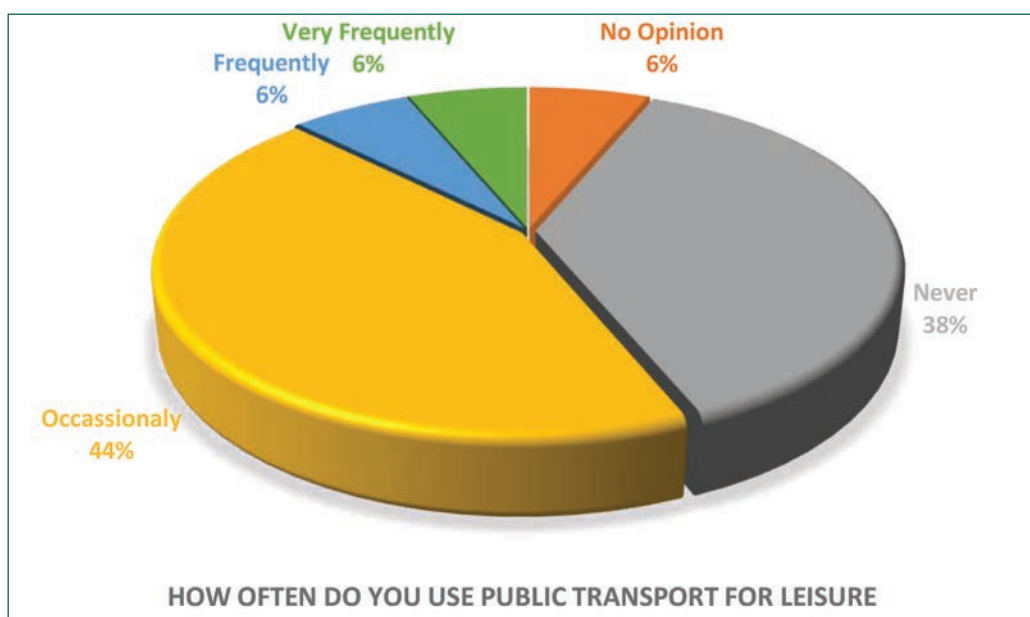
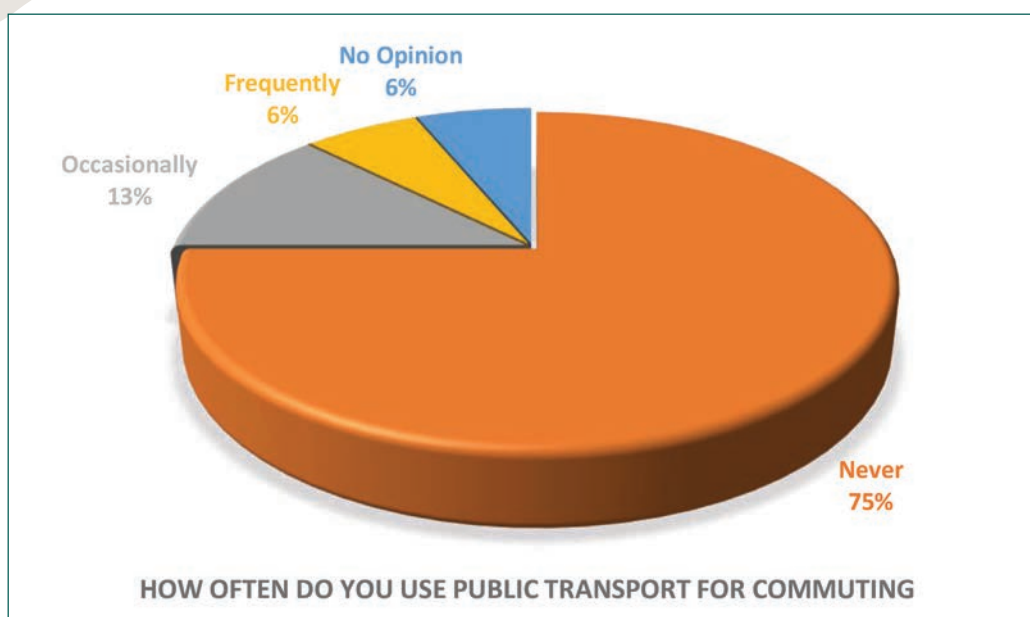


## PUBLIC SUBMISSION QUESTIONNAIRE

As part of the public consultation process for the Draft Socio-Economic Statement and High-Level Goals document, Cork County Council developed a public submission questionnaire based on several key areas of interest for the LECP. Some of the main trends from the responses are outlined below, in relation to the appropriate High-Level Goal.

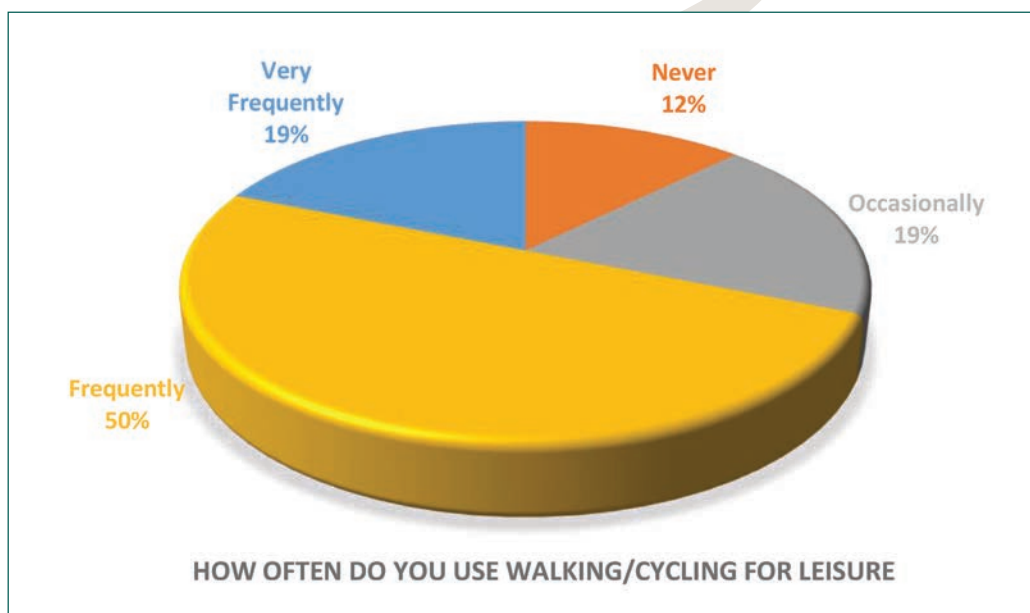
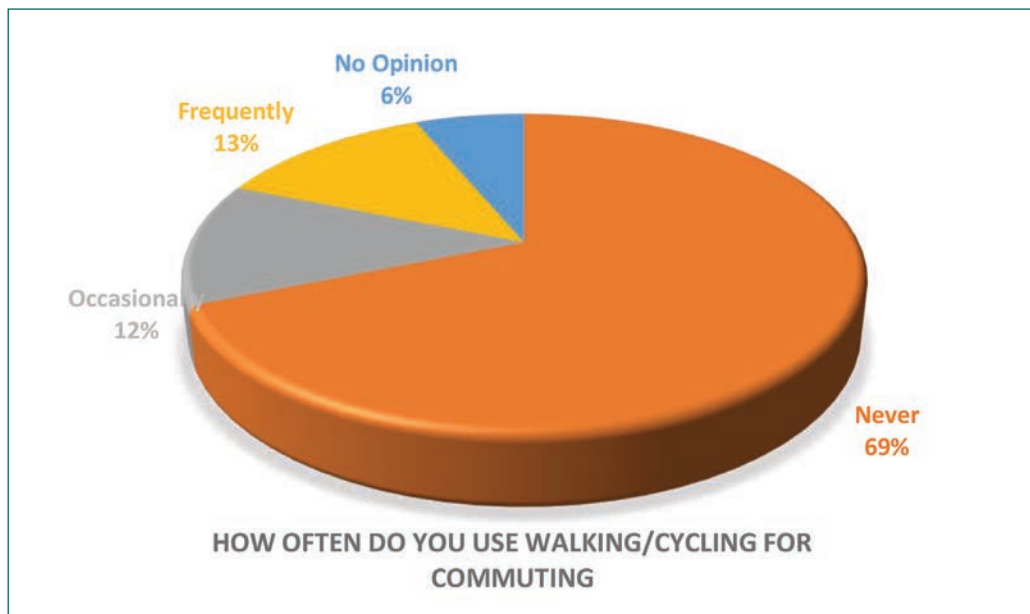
### High Level Goal 1: Sustainable, Resilient and Empowered Communities and Places

When asked how often they use public transport for commuting, only 6% of respondents stated that they frequently use it with 14% using it occasionally. The remaining 75% of respondents stated that they never use public transport for commuting. While the percentage of respondents who frequently used public transport for leisure purposes was the same as for commuting, the percentage of who occasionally used it for leisure purposes was higher at 44%.



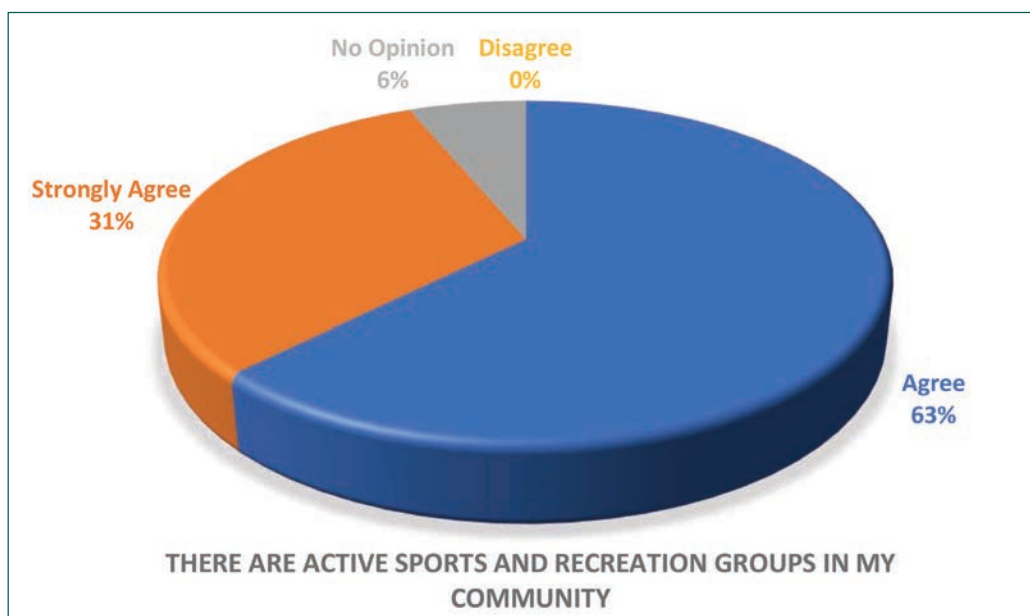
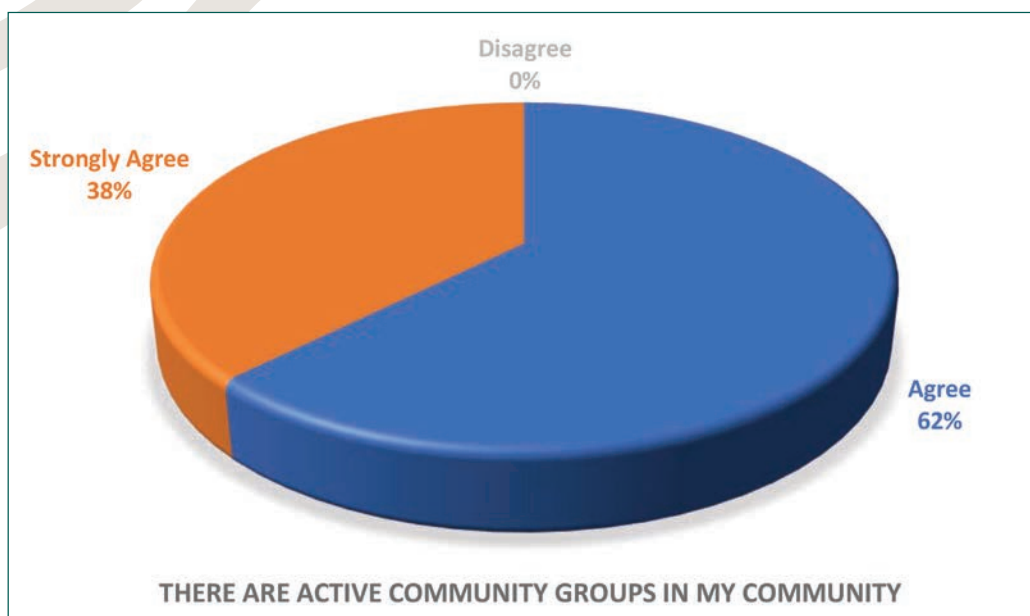
As detailed in this report, an improved public transport offer within the county was one of the key issues for respondents in the received written submissions. This would indicate that while the current levels of use are low, the availability and extent of the public transport offering is a key barrier. Supporting the delivery of sustainable and inclusive multimodal transport was included as an objective under the draft document under High Level Goal 1. To strengthen this objective, it is recommended that the wording is expanded and the following objective included: “support and promote initiatives and projects which improve access to public transport for rural and urban areas, including enhanced connectivity and public transport offering.”

A similar trend was found when respondents were asked if they used walking/cycling for commuting with 69% stating that they never walked or cycled to commute. However, 69% stated that they frequently or very frequently walked or cycled for leisure. Active travel infrastructure was an important issue for those who made written submissions, and this reflected the draft objective in High Level Goal 1 to “Facilitate the delivery and promotion of safe active and sustainable travel infrastructure.” The word safe has been included in the wording in response to the public consultation submissions.



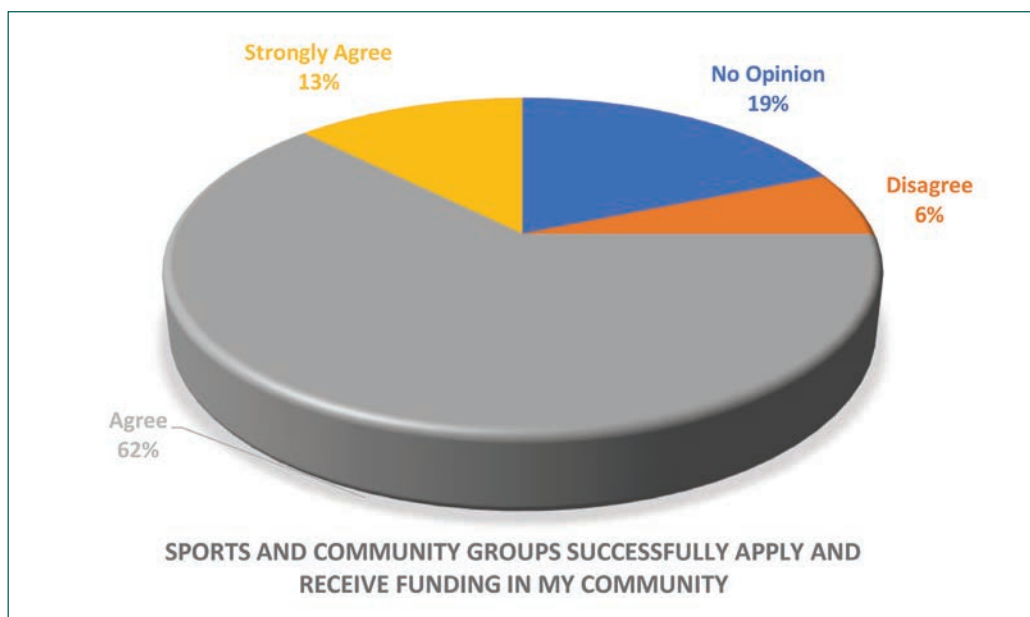


Respondents indicated a strong use of sports and community facilities with only 6% of respondents stating that they never used local sports facilities and all respondents to the question “how often do you use community facilities in your area” stating that they either occasionally (50%), frequently (25%) or very frequently used those facilities. This reflects the data in the socio-economic analysis in terms of levels of activity in the County. There was also a very positive response to the statements that there are active community, sports and recreation groups in the county.



75% of respondents stated that sports and community groups in their community successfully apply and receive funding reflecting the existing financial supports that are available.

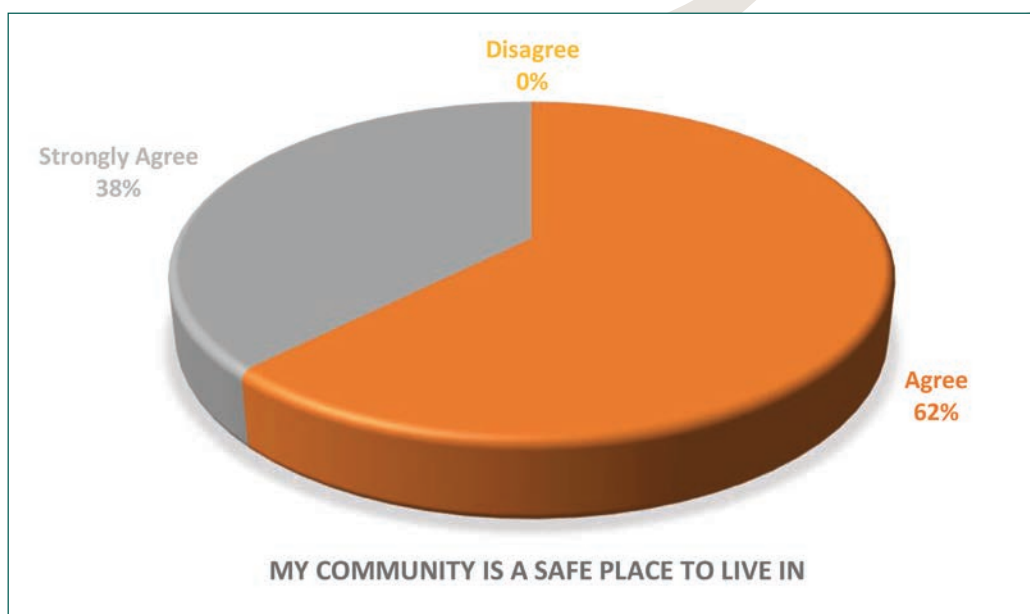




A significant number of the written submissions sought new, improved or increased availability of community and sports facilities in their communities. This is reflected in a number of the existing and proposed objectives under High Level Goal 1 including:

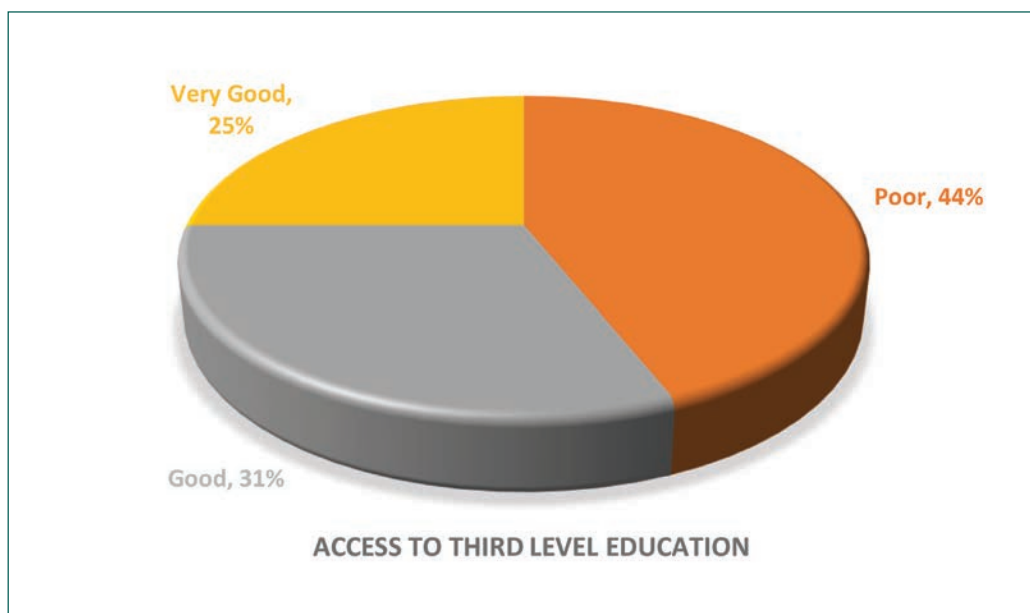
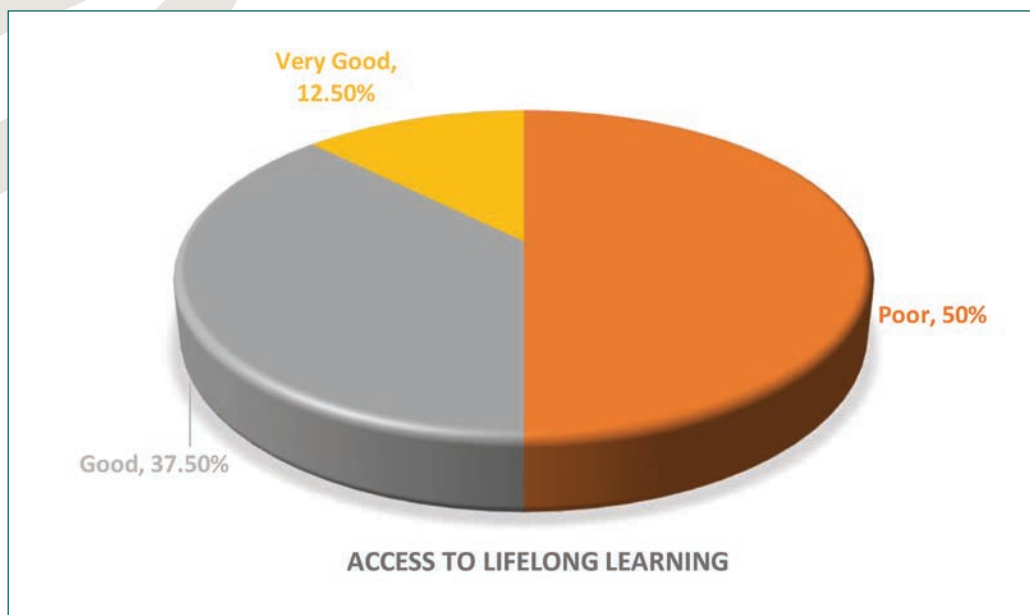
- Support initiatives and projects to provide new sports recreation and community facilities and increase availability, improve access and enhance existing facilities.
- Support and promote collaboration between community groups and sporting/recreation organisations to deliver enhanced and inclusive facilities and amenities in their community.
- Enable local groups and communities to access supports and information to help them maximise opportunities for funding through various schemes.

Reflecting data in the socio-economic analysis that affirmed that Cork County has one of the lowest crime rates in the state, all respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that "My community is a safe place to live in".



### High Level Goal 2: A Socially Inclusive County

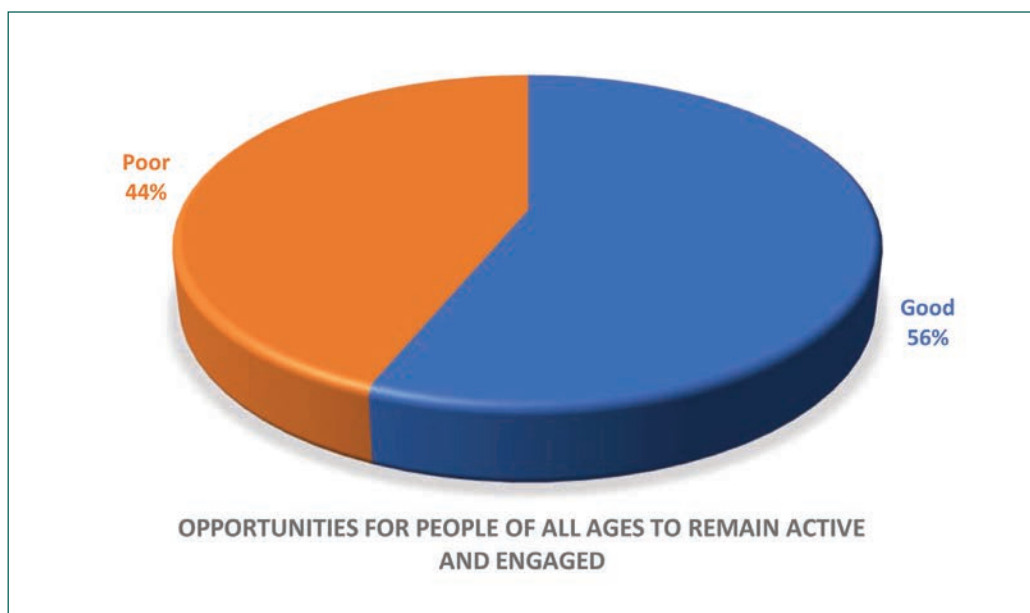
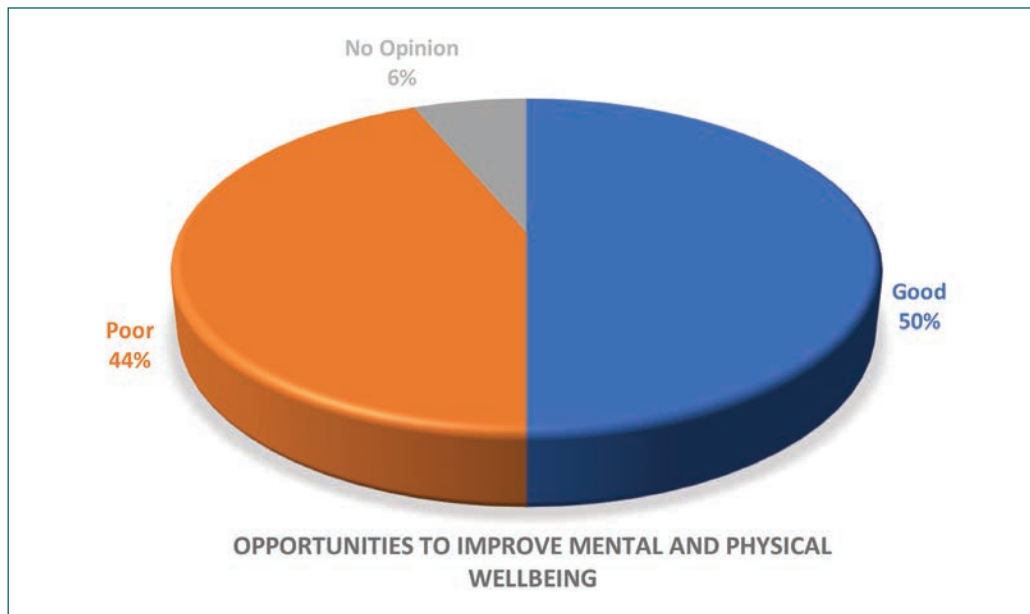
There were mixed responses in terms of access to education (pre-school, third-level, apprenticeships and further education and training), with almost a direct split between positive and negative responses. The socio-economic analysis highlighted geographical differences in progression and access to education and an objective to promote and support equitable access to education, training and lifelong learning was included in the draft document to reflect this. Submissions were also received with regards to early childhood and family education and support and a new objective to support the provision and enhancement of community-based child and family services and facilities is proposed for inclusion under High Level Goal 2.



Half of respondents indicated that services for people with disabilities in their communities is not sufficient. The draft document included an objective to facilitate initiatives which support and enable people with disabilities to fully participate in education, employment and in their communities. It is recommended that this objective is amended to include the people with disabilities and mixed abilities.

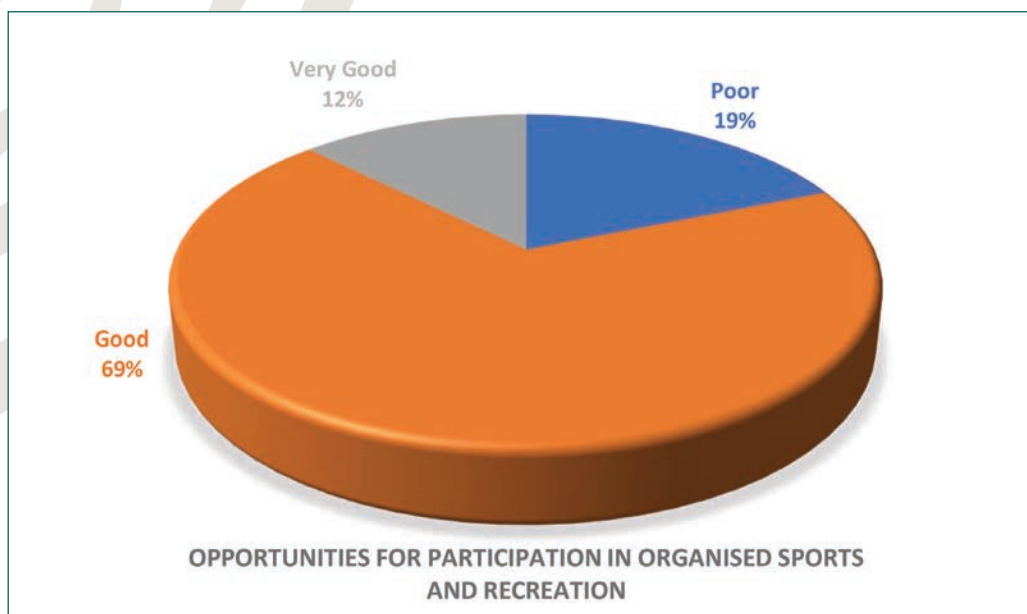
### High Level Goal 3: A Healthy and Active County

Respondents were divided when asked their opinion on the opportunities to improve mental and physical wellbeing in the county with 50% stating that there were good opportunities while 44% stating they were poor. A similar split in opinion was seen in the responses to the question relating to opportunities for people of all ages to remain active and engaged, with 56% stating there were good opportunities and 44% stating that opportunities were poor.



However, 81% of respondents stated that there were either good or very good opportunities for participation in organised sports and recreation.

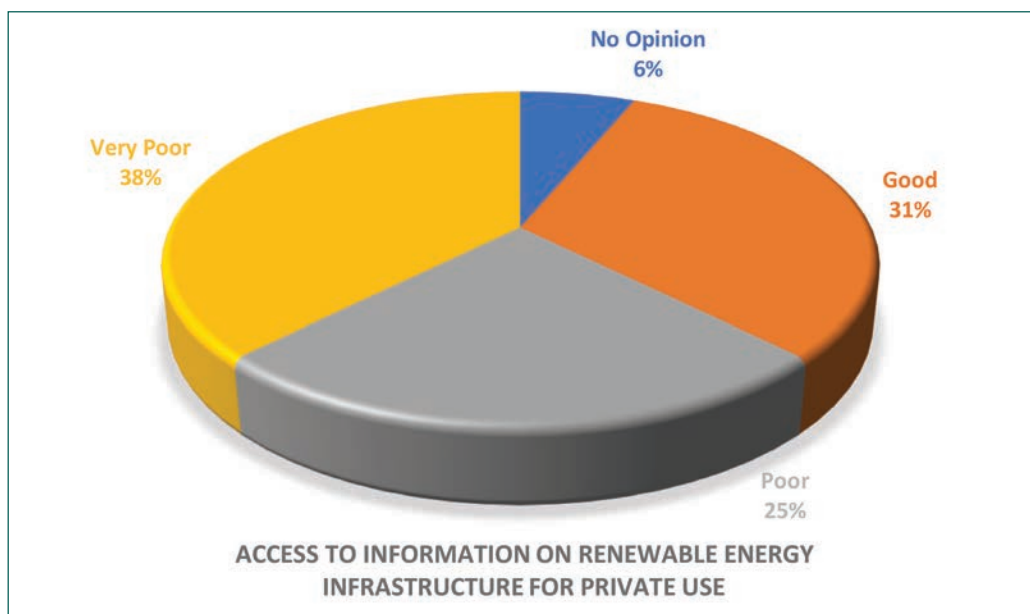
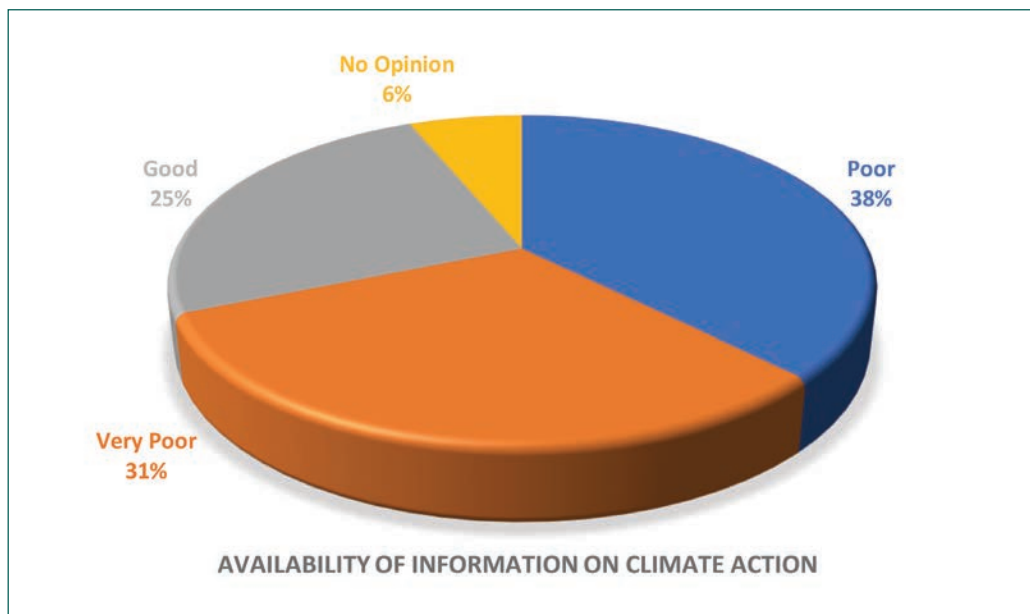




Supporting and promoting actions which improve the health and wellbeing of the residents of Cork County is a key focus of the objectives which were included in the draft document under High Level Goal 3. To further support these objectives, it is recommended that the wording of the objective “support public and community transport initiatives which enhance connectivity for older and disabled people to enable them to live vibrant and healthy lives” is amended to include the wording “connectivity for all citizens (including older and disabled people)”.

#### High Level Goal 4: A Low Carbon and Climate Resilient County

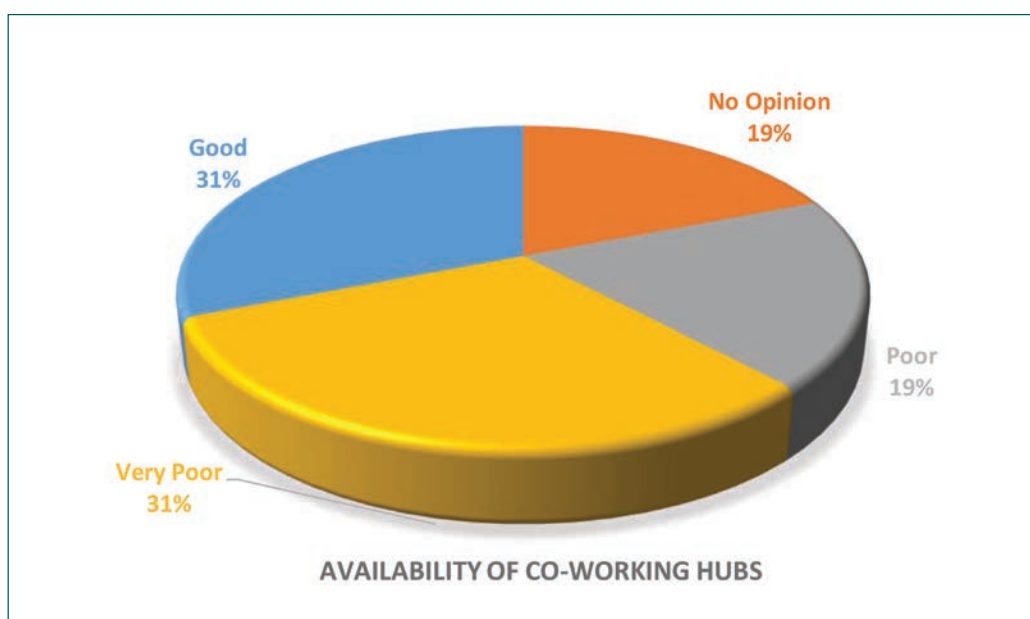
This high level goal seeks to provide a framework through which climate action interventions can be delivered at a local level. When asked about the availability of information on climate action, 69% of respondents stated that it was poor or very poor. Similarly, 68% of respondents stated that the information available on renewable energy infrastructure for private use was poor or very poor. The responses to the questions in this section of the questionnaire, showed that there are significant opportunities to progress the objectives of this high level goal through improved availability of education and training on both climate change and climate action interventions and maximising opportunities for funding. It is recommended that the existing objective “Raise awareness on climate change and facilitate education and training is amended to include the wording climate change and climate action interventions.



When asked about access to climate action funding for community groups, 75% of respondents stated that it was poor or very poor. It is recognised that increasingly climate action interventions will occur at a local level and it is important that Cork County Council maximise funding opportunities for this purpose. It is therefore recommended that the wording of the first objective under High Level Goal 4 is amended to reflect this with the inclusion of the words “and maximise funding opportunities”. It would therefore read: “Promote and support community initiatives and maximise funding opportunities to address climate change, become climate resilient, transition to a low carbon economy and work towards achieving net zero carbon.”

### High Level Goal 5: A County that Supports Enterprise

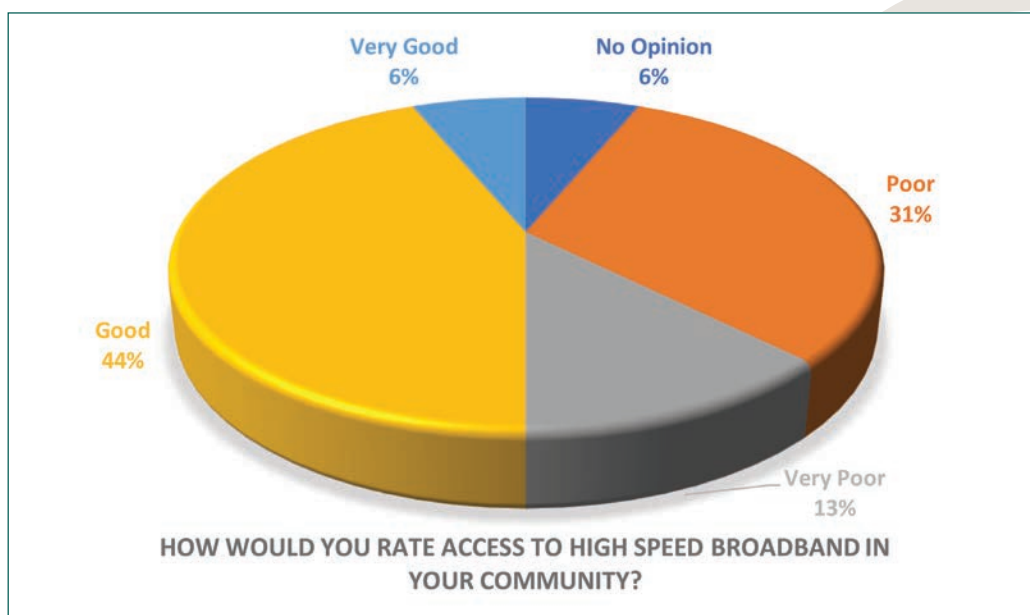
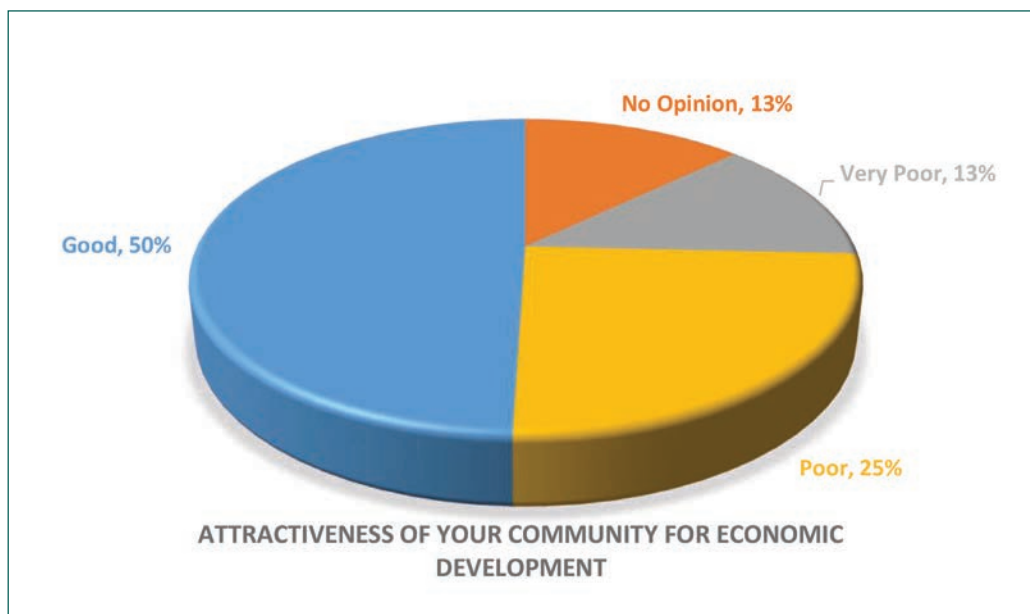
This high-level goal included a significant number of objectives in the draft document which sought to further develop the supportive landscape for enterprise and economic development in the County, particularly our indigenous and SME sectors. It is noted that the questionnaire responses relating to High Level Goals 5 and 6 included a higher level of respondents stating they had no opinion than in the sections relating to community. This is due to a number of the questions being targeted at employers and businesses. The responses to the questionnaire indicated that further supports for entrepreneurship and indigenous companies/SMEs are required to ensure continued economic development. Responses also affirmed that additional funding is required for start-ups, while there is also scope for further expansion of co-working hubs in Cork County. In addition to the existing objectives which aim to address the above issues, it is recommended that an additional objective be added which seeks to support and promote trading opportunities for locally produced goods and services.





### High Level Goal 6: A Smart and Innovative County

This high level goal seeks to build on the existing innovative landscape within the county to increase capacity within our economy and aid in the creation of vibrant, sustainable and liveable communities. In terms of access to high speed broadband, there was almost a direct split between positive and negative responses. This reflects the need to support the continued rollout of the national broadband plan throughout the whole county, which is included in a number of the High Level Goals. Digital connectivity is a key factor in the future economic development of the County and the following additional objective is recommended “Support the delivery of enhanced digital connectivity to attract inward investment and enable economic growth.” Respondents also indicating that communities in Cork County are attractive for economic development and investment.





Youghal





Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

# UPDATED SCOT ANALYSIS



## UPDATED SCOT ANALYSIS

In response to the public consultation submissions, the SCOT analysis has been revised as detailed below. Amendments to the wording are highlighted in dark green/bold.

### STRENGTHS

- Strong demographic performance – especially in South Cork;
- Connectivity with the metropolitan zone;
- High levels of household income – especially in South Cork;
- High levels of labour force participation – throughout the county;
- Consistent growth in employment in state-assisted companies;
- Relatively resilient industrial (sectoral) profile;
- Economic spill-overs from Cork City and its role as a regional centre;
- Significant natural resources and habitats – including marine and coastal sites, many of which are integrated into local economic development and tourism services;
- Heritage, Culture and the Arts;
- Within three of Fáilte Ireland's tourism experience brands, the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands;
- Strong community engagement and **active community groups**;
- **Cork Harbour's role as an economic driver for the South of Ireland;**
- **Strength of the tourism offer and popularity of Cork County as a tourist destination;**
- **Inclusive and diverse communities.**



### CHALLENGES

- Persistent peripherality and structural weaknesses in North and West Cork, particularly in respect of demographic vitality, household income and economic opportunities;
- Inter-generational socio-economic disadvantages in both Local Authority Housing Estates and in peripheral rural communities;
- Poor health and social outcomes in disadvantaged communities;
- Meeting the housing, educational and medical needs of the refugee population;
- Relatively low proportion of schools with access to DEIS resources;
- Relatively low levels of progression from second-level to third-level education among young people in West Cork;
- High proportion of holiday homes in West Cork;
- **Cost of living crisis;**
- **Public transport connectivity especially in rural areas;**
- **Climate change and biodiversity loss;**
- **Car dependency.**

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Relatively high proportions of persons with technical, apprenticeship, certificate and third-level qualifications;
- Declining unemployment – opportunities to attract returning migrants and newcomers;
- Furthering upstream and downstream opportunities associated with the expansion of international and indigenous firms;
- Harnessing ecological resources, retro-fitting homes and deriving benefits from Natura 2000 sites (especially in North and West Cork), as part of the Just Transition to a post-carbon society;
- Further decreasing the amount of household waste going to landfill and further increasing the proportion of electric and hybrid vehicles;
- **Opportunities for revitalisation of areas.**





### THREATS

- Demographic imbalances – strong growth in peri-urban zones and main commuter settlements, but stagnation and decline in peripheral rural areas, mainly in West and North West Cork;
- Reliance on traditional industries in some parts of North Cork;
- Projected ageing of the population;
- Increasing rents and property prices – putting pressure on disposable income;
- Recent (since 2019) slowdown in the rate of increase in new home-building;
- Strong demand for energy – particularly from industry;
- Ageing of the agricultural workforce;
- Decrease in the diversity of farm output and an increase in intensification, especially in dairying and cereal areas.



Mallow Castle Playground



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

## HIGH LEVEL GOALS





Bridgetown Priory





## HIGH LEVEL GOALS

A High-Level Goal can be viewed as the setting of the general direction of travel for the LECP. The LECP Guidelines state that the high-level goals should be ambitious with their foundations in the analysis of the socio-economic data as well as the consultation processes undertaken as part of the plan development. However, goals should also be achievable and realistic.

The six High Level Goals detailed below were subject to public consultation. Having considered the points made within the submissions, it is considered that the wording of High Level Goal 1 should be amended to add the words “and places”. The remaining five high level goals are broad enough to reflect the range of issues raised during the public consultation process whilst also providing a foundation for actions which will be determined as part of the Implementation Plan process.

### COMMUNITY

- HIGH LEVEL GOAL 1**  SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES AND **PLACES**
- HIGH LEVEL GOAL 2**  A SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE COUNTY
- HIGH LEVEL GOAL 3**  A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE COUNTY

### COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC

- HIGH LEVEL GOAL 4**  A LOW CARBON AND CLIMATE RESILIENT COUNTY

### ECONOMIC

- HIGH LEVEL GOAL 5**  A COUNTY THAT SUPPORTS ENTERPRISE
- HIGH LEVEL GOAL 6**  A SMART AND INNOVATIVE COUNTY

## OBJECTIVES

Objectives were included under each High level Goal in the draft Socio-Economic Statement and High Level Goals document. Following the consultation process amendments and additions are recommended to the draft objectives. Amendments to the wording are highlighted in **green**.



## HIGH LEVEL GOAL 1: SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES AND PLACES

A sustainable community is one that meets the needs of everyone in the community while protecting and limiting the damage to the environment. The first high level goal seeks to support the communities in Cork County to be sustainable, resilient and empowered communities. This reflects the vision of Cork County Development Plan which is to provide for the development of Cork County 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 rural and urban communities are to the highest standards.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives to support this High Level Goal are:

- Facilitate the building of sustainable communities to encourage sustainable housing development.
- Promote and support placemaking to ensure the creation of liveable, **inclusive**, well designed, and high-quality sustainable places, communities **and public realm**.
- **Support initiatives and maximise potential opportunities for funding from various schemes to renew and regenerate our towns and villages.**
- Support the delivery of sustainable and inclusive digital **and multi-modal transport** connectivity.
- Support and promote initiatives and projects which improve access to public transport for rural and urban areas, including enhanced connectivity and public transport offering.
- Support initiatives and projects to provide new sports, recreation and community facilities and increase availability, improve access and enhance existing facilities.
- Facilitate the delivery and promotion of **safe** active and sustainable travel infrastructure.
- Promote and support community safety and security initiatives.
- Encourage initiatives to enhance community integration, diversity and engagement.
- Promote and further develop Cork County as a vibrant tourism destination.
- Support community led groups who work to improve and enhance the towns, villages and communities in the county.
- Promote and support **initiatives and projects to increase availability, improve access and enhance facilities** for the Heritage, Culture and the Arts of the County.
- Support sustainable job creation within our communities.
- **Enable local groups and communities to access supports and information to help them maximise opportunities for funding through various schemes.**
- **Support and promote collaboration between community groups and sporting/recreation organisations to deliver enhanced and inclusive facilities and amenities in their community.**
- **Support and promote a diverse range of community festivals and events across the County.**
- **Continue to support and promote opportunities for public consultation and involvement for all members of the community.**
- **Support communities and places to develop and promote their unique identities.**



## HIGH LEVEL GOAL 2: A SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE COUNTY

The Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025 includes a new definition of social inclusion to clearly identify what is to be achieved:

“Social Inclusion is achieved when people have access to sufficient income, resources and services to enable them to play an active part in their communities and participate in activities that are considered the norm for people in society generally.” The County-level data of the Pobal HP Index of Affluence and Deprivation reveals that Cork County is more affluent than the State as a whole. The electoral level data shows that there are however areas which are marginally below average on the index with a small number of areas being classified as disadvantaged. This high level goal seeks to address this and work towards the achievement of social inclusion as defined above.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives to support this High Level Goal are:

- Promote and support equitable access to education, training, and lifelong learning.
- Enable the provision of supports to help reduce barriers to employment and increase opportunities for the existing and recently arrived populations.
- Facilitate the delivery of focused programmes and supports to enhance inclusion and diversity and reduce isolation across our communities.
- Support citizens in accessing information on available supports.
- Promote actions that improve the quality of life for all citizens in Cork County to improve their mental, physical, and social well-being.
- Support the provision and enhancement of community-based services to address poverty and social exclusion.
- Support the provision of improved digital connectivity and multi-modal transport connectivity to aid social inclusion.
- Facilitate initiatives which support and enable people **of all abilities** to fully participate in education, employment and in their communities.
- Promote the embedding of accessibility and the principles of universal design into practice.
- Support the Council’s Age Friendly Strategy.
- Support initiatives which seek to aid independent living for older people.
- **Support the promotion of the Irish language and culture.**
- **Support the provision and enhancement of community-based child and family services and facilities.**





## HIGH LEVEL GOAL 3: A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE COUNTY

Improving health and wellbeing throughout the country is a core focus of the National Planning Framework and is intrinsically linked to the UN sustainable development goals and objectives. County Cork is an active county with lower than average levels of residents who have self declared bad or very bad health. The Cork County LCDC Healthy Ireland Strategy 2021-2024 seeks to harness a culture of health and wellbeing in our community. This high level goal seeks to build on this and support the implementation of that strategy to aid the residents of County Cork to be healthy, well and active.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives to support this High Level Goal are:

- Foster cross-agency collaboration and partnerships to continue to improve health and wellbeing and maximise funding opportunities.
- Support and promote increased participation in physical activity and sports for all ages and abilities.
- Support the implementation of health-based initiatives at a local level to improve health and wellbeing.
- Support and promote participation in recreational activities to increase wellbeing and reduce isolation for all ages and abilities.
- Support initiatives that facilitate healthy and positive ageing in association with the Council's age friendly strategy and policies.
- Support and promote increased awareness of, and engagement with, health and wellbeing initiatives.
- Support initiatives which seek to address health inequalities within the county.
- Support public and community transport initiatives which enhance connectivity for **all citizens** to enable them to live vibrant and healthy lives.



## HIGH LEVEL GOAL 4: A LOW CARBON AND CLIMATE RESILIENT COUNTY

The need to address the current climate crisis is one of the defining contexts to be addressed at all levels of government in Ireland. Project Ireland 2040 seeks to enable a national transition to a competitive low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. This High Level Goal seeks to provide a framework through which climate action interventions can be delivered at a local level.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives to support this High Level Goal are:

- Promote and support community initiatives **and maximise funding opportunities** to address climate change, become climate resilient, transition to a low carbon economy and work towards achieving net zero carbon.
- Work towards the just transition through supporting opportunities for public and private investment in economic development that is both sustainable and inclusive.
- Facilitate key stakeholders to identify opportunities for decarbonisation and improved sustainable practices.
- Support and facilitate the continued development of opportunities for renewable energy generation and business growth in Cork County.
- Support initiatives to aid all sectors in transitioning to low carbon and sustainable practices.
- Implement and support projects and initiatives which protect biodiversity and support the principle of biodiversity net gain.
- Enable key stakeholders to identify opportunities to support the retrofitting of the existing housing, business, community and municipal buildings.
- Raise awareness of climate change **and climate action interventions** and facilitate education and training.
- Support the continued development of sustainable communities in the County.
- Support the implementation of the Climate Action Plan.
- Collaborate strategically to maximise County Cork's potential for the development of renewable energy **support projects and initiatives which seek to implement the policies and objectives of the outcome of the National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind and the South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan.**
- **Support projects and initiatives which advance environmental protection.**
- **Support projects and initiatives which support and develop blue green infrastructure and nature based solutions.**



## HIGH LEVEL GOAL 5: A COUNTY THAT SUPPORTS ENTERPRISE

Over the past 10 years, the number of active enterprises in Cork County has remained constant between 27,000 and 30,000 with the county being home to almost 11% of enterprises in Ireland. This high level goal seeks to build on the existing success in Cork and further develop the supportive landscape for enterprise and economic development in the County, particularly our indigenous and SME sector.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives to support this High Level Goal are:

- Support the development and enhancement of entrepreneurship, business start-ups and SMEs to embed further resilience in our enterprise landscape and encourage diversification.
- Enhance opportunities for indigenous companies to expand, grow and diversify their workforce.
- Promote and support innovative and sustainable economic growth and the transition to a low carbon economy.
- Support SME's to exploit the supply chains of MNEs to facilitate growth in the indigenous sector.
- Collaborate with key stakeholders and employers to support and promote increased opportunities for apprenticeships and further education training courses for both existing employees and those seeking to enter the workforce.
- Facilitate an increased awareness of the available supports and resources for job seekers and employers.
- Promote placemaking and develop projects in key employment centres that ensure the creation of attractive, enterprise development friendly, liveable, well designed, high quality places that are home to a diverse enterprise base mix and integrated communities that enjoy a high quality of life and wellbeing.
- Facilitate further opportunities for FDI investment and balanced economic development.
- Support the development of enterprises in high-growth potential sectors, including the Marine, Circular Bioeconomy, Tourism and Energy sectors.
- Support the growth of co-working hubs, smart working and facilitate 2nd site locations for FDI.
- Ensure the sustainable growth of the rural economy by promoting and supporting jobs in the farming, agri-food and fishing industries and exploit our competitive edge in this sector.
- Work with international, national, regional and local partners to promote Cork and facilitate exports, trade and sharing best practice.
- Support the development of the industrial and commercial infrastructure of County Cork.
- Facilitate the building of capacity to enable effective responses to emerging challenges and risks to the economy.
- Build Strategic Partnerships to ensure Cork is an easy place to do business in.
- **Support the sustainable development of Tourism as a key economic driver in the County.**
- **Support and promote trading opportunities for locally produced goods and services.**
- **Harness the wider tourism, transport and economic opportunities presented by Cork Harbour and Cork International Airport as important strategic assets in attracting economic investment to the County.**
- **Support the development and promotion of underrepresented entrepreneur groups.**
- **Support and promote projects and initiatives which seek to aid talent acquisition and retention.**





## HIGH LEVEL GOAL 6: A SMART AND INNOVATIVE COUNTY

SMART specialisation is an enterprise innovation policy concept which was developed by the European Commission that aims to boost regional innovation, contributing to growth and prosperity by helping and enabling regions to focus on their strengths. This high level goal seeks to build on the existing innovative landscape within the county to increase capacity within our economy and aid in the creation of vibrant, sustainable and liveable communities.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives to support this High Level Goal are:

- Collaborate with key stakeholders to identify the competitive advantages of Cork County to develop new economic opportunities.
- Support the development of economic opportunities identified through smart specialisation.
- Strengthen existing research, innovation and industry clusters, innovation ecosystems and support the development of new clusters to enhance innovation and competitiveness.
- Support, promote and continue to invest in our Harbour Economy.
- Aid the digital transformation of enterprises and facilitate investment and development of the required supporting infrastructure.
- Engage proactively with third-level institutions, education and training providers, the South West Regional Skills forum, research centres and employers to address identified skills shortages in existing and future economic growth sectors, to address climate change and develop the County's human capital.
- Support, promote and continue to invest in the lifelong learning of Cork County's highly educated population to attract further investment and enhance economic growth.
- **Support the delivery of enhanced digital connectivity to attract inward investment and enable economic growth.**
- **Support projects and initiatives that will enable Cork County to be a place for lifelong ambition, innovation and support for the silver economy.**



### NEXT STEPS

The LECP is a six-stage process which includes the plan's development, implementation and subsequent monitoring and evaluation, as is outlined in the table below. The public consultation period and the publication of this report will represent the completion of Stage 2 of the initial 4-stage process of developing the Framework LECP. The next stage of the process will involve further developing specific, measurable sustainable Objectives and an outline of the desired outcomes over the six-year period. These desired outcomes will be detailed in a High-Level Draft Implementation Plan which will also set out Cork County Council's approach to monitoring and evaluation. The delivery of these objectives and ultimate realisation of the outcomes will, in turn, be supported by practical, time-bound Actions as part of the Implementation Plan process in Stages 5 and 6.

<b>Stage 1:</b> Preparation	Socio-economic Analysis	Socio-economic Statement and High-Level Goals based on Socio-economic Analysis	Preparation by Advisory Group. Sign off by SPC and LCDC
<b>Stage 2:</b> Public Consultation	Public Consultation on High-Level Goals	Revision of Statement based on consultation	Preparation by Advisory Group. Sign off by SPC and LCDC
<b>Stage 3:</b> Develop Objectives and Outcomes	Develop detailed objectives and outcomes	Preparation by Advisory Group. Sign off by SPC and LCDC	Final Draft to MDs and RAs for input
<b>Stage 4:</b> Finalise Plan	SPC and LCDC to adopt final draft reflecting MD and RA input	LA to approve final draft	Submission to Minister and Published by LA
<b>Stage 5:</b> Implementation	Implementation Plans	Consideration of available Resources	Ongoing flexible implementation
<b>Stage 6:</b> Monitoring and Evaluation	KPIs to address proposed outcomes	Ongoing data collection including case studies	Implementation report







Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council