



**S.15 (2)  
Two-Year Progress Report  
on the Cork County  
Development Plan 2022**

*12<sup>th</sup> April 2024*



**Comhairle Contae Chorcaí**  
**Cork County Council**





Section 15(2) Two Year Progress Report  
on the Cork County Development Plan 2022-  
2028

*Chief Executive's Report to Members*

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# 1 Introduction and Legislative Context

## 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028 was adopted by the Elected Members of Cork County Council on 25th April 2022. The Plan came into effect on the 6th of June 2022.
- 1.1.2 The County Development Plan guides future growth and development in the County and sets out an approach centred on the core quality of life principles of sustainability, climate action, social inclusion, placemaking and resilience, with a focus on creating vibrant, liveable, climate resilient communities.
- 1.1.3 Preparation of this Two-Year Progress Report is a statutory requirement in accordance with Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) which requires that 'The Chief Executive of a planning authority shall, not more than 2 years after the making of a development plan, give a report to the members of the authority on the progress achieved in securing the objectives'.
- 1.1.4 Further clarity on what the Two-Year Progress Report should contain is provided in the 'Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities' published in 2022, which include a section on monitoring. The guidelines require planning authorities to establish a frequent, reliable, and ongoing monitoring system for their Development Plan as a permanent function. The Guidelines provide for:
  - a) annual monitoring of the Core Strategy to ensure the spatial pattern of development is monitored via a range of suggested indicators for housing and commercial development.
  - b) the monitoring of all other Development Plan objectives.
  - c) Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Development Plan.
- 1.1.5 As required by Section 15 (2) of the Planning and Development Act, this report seeks to update Members on the Councils progress towards achieving the objectives which are included in the Chapters of Volume One of the County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028. This two-year report and accompanying Appendices provide summaries, updates and further information on these objectives. Progress in relation to the Core Strategy and Housing Delivery is discussed in Chapter 2 (Theme One) of this report, including key figures and trends for permitted housing developments and completions since the adoption of the CDP in April 2022. Summary updates on the remaining chapters of the Plan have been subdivided under various themes and have been informed directly by the full list of Volume 1 objectives which are contained in Appendix 2 of this report. Appendix 2, where appropriate, provides individual updates on the status, timeline and further information on each objective contained in Volume 1 of the CDP.
- 1.1.6 The objectives in the **other** Municipal District Volumes of the Plan (Volume Three South Cork, Volume Four North Cork and Volume Five West Cork) stem from the overarching objectives in Volume One, and specifically from the Core Strategy, and are not individually reported on. Progress on growth across the settlement network and rural areas is reported on under the heading of Core Strategy and Housing Delivery in the context of Volume One of the Plan. This



report has been compiled using input from each Directorate of the Council.

## 1.2 *Structure of Progress Report*

1.2.1 The Progress Report follows a number of themes, reflecting the individual Chapters of the County Development Plan as follows:

Theme	Scope / CDP Chapters
Introduction	Legislation and Guideline Updates Economic Context Census Highlights
Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery	Chapter 2, Core Strategy Chapter 3, Settlements and Placemaking Chapter 4, Housing Chapter 5, Rural Chapter 19, Implementation and Delivery Housing Strategy Policy Objectives Updates on Active Land Management (ALM)
Theme Two: Community	Chapter 6, Social and Community Chapter 14, Green Infrastructure and Recreation
Theme Three: Economy, Town Centres and Tourism	Chapter 8, Economic Development Chapter 9, Town Centres and Retail Chapter 10, Tourism
Theme Four: Infrastructure	Chapter 11, Water Management Chapter 12, Transport and Mobility
Theme Five: Energy and the Marine	Chapter 13, Energy and Telecommunications Chapter 7, Marine, Coastal and Islands
Theme Six: Biodiversity, Environment and Heritage	Chapter 15, Biodiversity and Environment Chapter 16, Built and Cultural Heritage
Theme Seven: Climate Action	Chapter 17, Climate Action
Report on Environmental Monitoring	Update on Strategic Environmental Monitoring
Progress Summary and Recommendations	Summary of key points in relation to progress on the main strategic aspects of the Plan and recommendations on some

Theme	Scope / CDP Chapters
	issues needing particular attention over the remaining term of the Plan.
Appendix 1	Some statistics on Municipal Districts and details of the Settlement Network of each Municipal District.
Appendix 2	Table Reporting on progress in relation to each objective of Volume One of the Plan based on input from each Directorate.

### 1.3 *Legislative and Policy Changes* *Legislation*

- 1.3.1 **Planning and Development Bill 2023;** This Bill was originally published in December 2022, with a revised version published in November 2023, and has progressed through a number of stages and is now expected to be enacted by end of Q2 2024. The main proposed changes from a Forward Planning point of view include the following:
- a) **Duration of Plans;** It is proposed to extend the duration of Development Plans from six years to ten years, with plan cycles to align with the cycle of Census data. In addition, it is proposed that members will review the performance of these plans after 5 years and may propose amendments to the Plan, if necessary, to ensure the Plan takes account of any wider changes.
  - b) **Area Based Plans;** The automatic need to prepare Local Area Plans (LAP's) based on population size will be replaced by provision for specific types of area-based plans to meet particular needs including Urban Area Plans for towns designated as "regional growth centres" or "key towns" in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES); Priority Area Plans for a sub-part of an urban area; Joint Area Plans for a urban area that is in the administrative area of more than one local authority.
  - c) **Provision for Urban Development Zones;** The Bill introduces Urban Development Zones (UDZs) in place of Strategic Development Zones, which were a feature of the Act of 2000. This will empower local authorities to designate areas with significant potential for development, including housing, as Candidate Urban Development Zones and for the Government to designate such areas as Urban Development Zones. These areas will be a focus of State investment in key enabling infrastructure in order, to ensure the potential for development can be realised in a timely manner.

#### *Review of the National Planning Framework*

- 1.3.2 The Government formally commenced the process to undertake the First Revision of the National Planning Framework (NPF) in June 2023, with an expected completion date of April 2024. In March 2024 the Government agreed to defer the completion of the project to September 2024.
- 1.3.3 Significant progress has been made on the project to date as follows;

- A Road Map for the First Revision of the National Planning Framework<sup>1</sup> was published in June 2023 outlining the context for the focused revision.
  - A wide-ranging stakeholder consultation process has been undertaken;
  - An Expert Group comprising three independent experts with experience of spatial planning, economic and social development and environmental protection, was established in March 2023 to provide a high-level overview of the NPF. The Expert Group Report<sup>2</sup>, with accompanying recommendations, was published in September 2023.
  - The Planning Advisory Forum, a stakeholder consultation group comprising over 50 representatives (including groups representing elected members, industry, environmental organisations, social and community bodies and others) has met four times to discuss and consider issues relating to the revised NPF and written submissions were also received.
  - A cross-departmental steering group, representing all government departments has met regularly to input to the process.
- 1.3.4 The timeline for the project has been deferred to allow time of further analysis of the detailed results of Census 2022 and building on that, to allow the Economic Social and Research Institute (ESRI) time to update population projections to 2040, based on demographic and econometric modelling, and to provide projections relating to structural housing demand. A draft of the ERSI report is due to be delivered in March 2024 and their final report is likely to be available in April 2024.
- 1.3.5 The updated timeline for completion of the review of the NPF is therefore as follows:
- publication of the draft revised NPF and accompanying technical assessments for national public consultation in June 2024.
  - Amendment Stage in August 2024 for review and consideration of the submissions received, and the application of any relevant amendments.
  - The finalised document will be published, subject to approval, in September 2024.
  - The draft revised NPF will be subject to engagement and scrutiny by the Joint Oireachtas Committee.
- 1.3.6 The Road Map document published in June 2023 indicated that the revision would be focused and targeted, looking at nationally strategic development taking into account future population, housing and employment requirements, infrastructural priorities, environmental conservation, co-ordination with marine planning and promotion of sustainable settlement and transportation regarding climate change etc. Other thematic areas were also to be considered through the work of the Expert Group.
- 1.3.7 It is likely that the revision of the NPF will result in changes to the overall population targets and estimates of housing demand. Updates on other aspects of the framework such as

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<sup>1</sup> A Road Map for the First Revision of the National Planning Framework : <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/deef6-a-road-map-for-the-first-revision-of-the-national-planning-framework/>

<sup>2</sup> Expert Group Report available here : <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/1924f-report-of-expert-group-for-the-first-revision-of-the-national-planning-framework/>

climate action, renewable energy, maritime planning, economic strategy, regional development, sustainable urban and rural development, sustainable communities etc. are also likely to reflect changes to national policy and proposed changes to planning legislation contained in the Planning and Development Bill 2023. The Revised NPF will also need to be supported with an updated National Development Plan to outline infrastructure investment projects and priorities, funding allocations, implementation structures etc.

#### **New Section 28 Guidelines**

##### **1.3.8 *Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2022)***

The new Development Plan Guidelines provide guidance to Local Authorities in relation to the preparation, process, content, implementation, monitoring, and reporting for Development Plans. Section 10.3 of the Guidelines specifically details the monitoring requirements. It should be noted that these Guidelines are based on the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and will need to be revised once the new Planning and Development Act, 2024 is passed.

##### **1.3.9 *Residential Zoned Land Tax Guidelines for Planning Authorities (June 2022)***

The Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) was announced in Budget 2022 and was introduced into Part 22A of Taxes Consolidation Act (TCA) 1997 by the Finance Act 2021. The principal purpose of the RZLT is to encourage the timely activation of zoned and serviced residential development land for housing. The RZLT Guidelines outline the criteria for the inclusion of lands within scope for the tax and the formal process which must be followed.

##### **1.3.10 *Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments July 2023***

These guidelines address issues such as the locational considerations, apartment mix within apartment schemes, internal space standards, room dimensions, floor to ceiling height, storage space, dual aspect ratios, apartment to stair/ lift ratios, amenity spaces and car parking.

##### **1.3.11 *Regulation of Commercial Institutional Investment in Housing: Guidelines for Planning Authorities July 2023***

The purpose of these guidelines is to set out planning conditions to which Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála must have regard, in granting planning permission for new residential development including houses and/or duplex units. This is intended to ensure that own-door housing units and duplex units in lower density housing developments are not bulk-purchased for market rental purposes by commercial institutional investors in a manner that causes the displacement of individual purchasers and/or social and affordable housing including cost rental housing.

##### **1.3.12 *Our Living Islands National Islands Policy (June 2023)***

Our Living Islands policy, which is accompanied by a three-year specific action plan, provides a framework for a coordinated approach across many different policy areas to facilitate people to continue to live on the islands or to return to the islands to support the sustainability of the islands population levels. To achieve this, actions required include safe and regular transport connections between the islands and mainland, improved island infrastructure, including piers, roads, community infrastructure and water/wastewater, providing for the housing needs of those wishing to live on the islands, improvements to broadband and mobile phone connectivity, and access to education.

- 1.3.13 In terms of housing, the policy recognises that issues relating to housing supply and construction are generally amplified on the islands. Delivering a mix of tenure types, whether private rental, private ownership, or social housing, while at the same time maintaining a sufficient number of short-term lets, will help secure the long-term viability of communities and attractiveness of island living. New planning guidelines for rural housing will hopefully recognise the unique challenges that island communities face. The potential role for an Island focused Approved Housing Body, or other community-led island housing structure(s) to support the provision of gateway housing on islands, is also being examined.
- 1.3.14 Other measures to support the provision of housing on the Islands include the Government's Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme *Croí Cónaithe* to turn vacant or derelict buildings into long-term homes, and the role of Vacant Home Officers in bringing homes back into use through programmes such as *Croí Cónaithe*, Repair and Leasing Scheme, Buy and Renew Scheme, and the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders where necessary.
- 1.3.15 *Sustainable & Compact Settlement Guidelines for Planning Authorities (January 2024)*  
These Guidelines set out policy and guidance in relation to the planning and development of urban settlements, with a focus on residential development and the creation of sustainable and compact settlements. The Guidelines will be supported by a non-statutory Design Manual that illustrates best practice guidance on how the policies and objectives of the Guidelines can be applied. These Guidelines replace the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines for Planning Authorities published in 2009. The guidelines will have implications for plan making and the overall policy approach in relation to issues such as the density of residential development, provision of public open space and green and blue infrastructure, carparking standards, approach to sustainability mobility plans, framework plans, site development briefs etc. The detailed provisions of the guidelines are currently being reviewed to ascertain the need, if any, to vary the County Development Plan, if material changes to the Plan are required.

#### **1.4 Planning Applications**

- 1.4.1 The trend in the number of planning applications received since 2019 is illustrated in Figure 1.1 below and shows a downward trend in applications in recent years, other than a spike in 2021 as things returned to normal following Covid lockdowns during 2020.

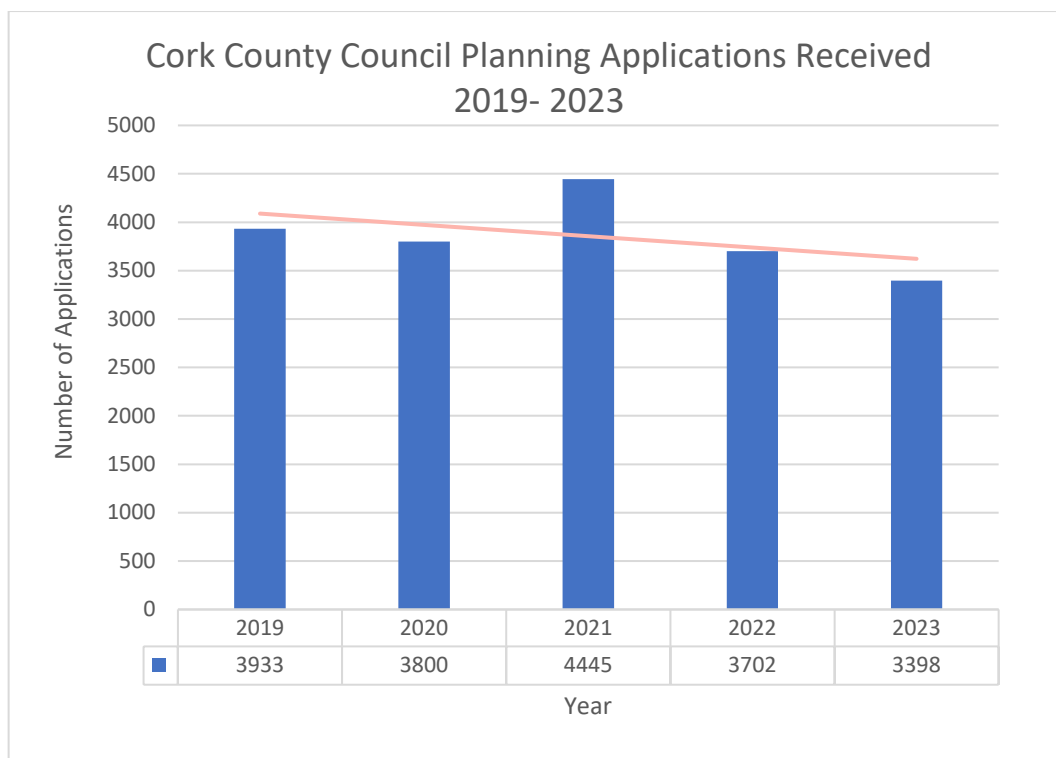


Figure 1.1. Planning Applications 2019-2023.  
Source: Cork County Council Planning Department

## 1.5 Economic Context

1.5.1 During 2022 and 2023, the Irish and global economy has experienced significantly high levels of inflation, especially in energy prices, raw materials, construction materials and general goods and services. Interest rates have also increased. This has had an impact on the cost, viability, affordability and demand for new development.

1.5.2 Constraints in the housing market have continued with the construction of new houses lagging considerably behind demand, and demand being further boosted in some areas by jobs growth and in migration. Rents and houses prices have continued on an upward trend and rising interest rates have further impacted on housing affordability.

## 1.6 Census highlights

1.6.1 Census 2022 coincided with the adoption of the County Development Plan 2022 and the detailed results of the census have been released over the last year or so. The following are some of the key findings of the census:

- The county’s population grew by 8.5% between 2016 and 2022, slightly higher than the rate for the State (8.1%);
- Growth in County Metropolitan Cork has been slightly higher than the rate for the county as a whole at 9%, while the Ring and West Cork were lower at 8% respectively and North Cork was slightly lower again at 7%.
- Population growth, over recent decades, has been most prevalent in the peri-urban zone around Cork City and in areas that are within thirty kilometres of the city boundary, reflecting the strong demographic and economic linkages between Cork City and large swathes of the county;

- At a Municipal District level, the Carrigaline MD performed the best and recorded 11% growth, followed by the Cobh and East Cork MDs at 9%; Bandon /Kinsale, Macroom and West Cork MDs at 8% and Fermoy and Kanturk / Mallow MDs at 7%.
- Of the 338 EDs across Cork County, approximately 11% or 38 EDs experienced population decline between 2016 and 2022.
- Over the 2016-2022 period, for Cork City and County combined, in-migration has been the main driver of population growth at 58.3%, as opposed to natural increase at 41.7%.
- The four largest settlements in the county are: Carrigaline (18,239); Cobh (14,148); Midleton (13,906); and Mallow (13,456);
- The age profile is youngest in the urban and peri-urban zone that is within 30km of Cork City, while more peripheral parts of the county tend to have an older age profile.
- The average age of the population increased from 37.5 years in 2016 to 39.1 years in 2022.
- The 65+ age cohort now comprises 15.6% of Cork County's resident population. This cohort has increased by close to a quarter (22.6% or +10,389) since 2016 illustrating the transition towards a much older population. Across the three divisions, values for this age cohort range from under fourteen percent in South Cork to over eighteen percent in West Cork;
- The 80+ age cohort accounted for 3.5% of the population in 2022. Across the three divisions, values for this age cohort vary from 2.8% in South Cork, to 3.9% in North Cork and 4.3% in West Cork. Nationally, the highest increase in population was seen among the over 70s and the number of people aged 85 years and over increased by 25%.
- Just over one in ten persons, in Cork County's resident population, has a nationality other than Irish, with the highest proportions being in rural West Cork. Non-Irish nationals residing in Cork have increased by 8.9% (+2,973) since 2016;
- As of February 2024, a total of 6,369 Ukrainians were living in Cork County - the third highest number of all local authorities after Kerry and Donegal (approx. 6% of the State total). Within Cork, the highest number (1,909) were residing within the Midleton Local Electoral Areas - more than double that of other Cork LEAs. The lowest number of Ukrainians were residing in the Carrigaline Local Electoral Area.
- Almost one in four of Cork County's resident population has a third-level qualification. The number of Cork residents with a third level education has increased by 32% in the five years since 2016. High levels of educational attainment correlate with proximity to Cork City, while lower levels of educational attainment are more prevalent in peripheral parts of the county;
- Almost 94% of Cork County's labour force is at work. The number of people at work has increased by over 14 % (+20,165) since 2016.
- Nearly one in five members (17.9% or 28,798) of the resident workforce is employed in manufacturing, significantly higher in Cork than for the Country as a whole (11.8%). The number of employees in manufacturing increased by almost twenty-five percent between 2016 and 2022;
- Census 2022 recorded 31,773 workers as mainly working from home, equivalent to 12% of all



resident workers. This is the fifth highest in the State;

- There has been a steady increase in the number of house completions in the county.
- Census 2022 recorded a housing vacancy rate of 7.1% in 2022 for Cork County, equivalent to 11,994 units. The rate for Cork was lower than the 2022 rate for the State at 7.7%. Various reasons are given for the property being vacant. The reasons accounting the larger share of units being vacant are the owner being deceased (17%), reason not stated / other (17%), the property being for rent (15%) or being renovated (14%).
- Access to Broadband is relatively good within Cork County – particularly in metropolitan areas and larger settlements. According to Census 2022, a total of 97,838 households (76.7%) in County Cork have access to broadband. The number of households with access to broadband has increased by 22% / 17,770 households since 2016.
- The total number of private households in the County in 2016 was estimated to be 117,743 (after the boundary change) and in 2022 was recorded at 127, 971 households.

## 2 Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery

### 2.1 Population Overview

- 2.1.1 Since the adoption of the Plan, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) has released the results of the Census of Population which was carried out in April 2022. This section provides a brief overview of the population trends nationally and regionally, followed by a short analysis of the performance of Cork County, and its' designated settlements, in terms of population growth.
- 2.1.2 Ireland's population was recorded as 5,149,139 in the 2022 Census. The Census data indicates that Ireland experienced steady population growth between 2011 and 2016, with an actual growth of 173,613 and a percentage increase of 3.78%, followed by a surge in growth of 387,274 or 8.13% in the 2016 to 2022 intercensal period. The Southern Region's population was 1,703,393 in the 2022 Census, having experienced growth of 117,487 or 7.41% since 2016.
- 2.1.3 The following graph illustrates the strong population growth in County Cork during the period 2016 – 2022:

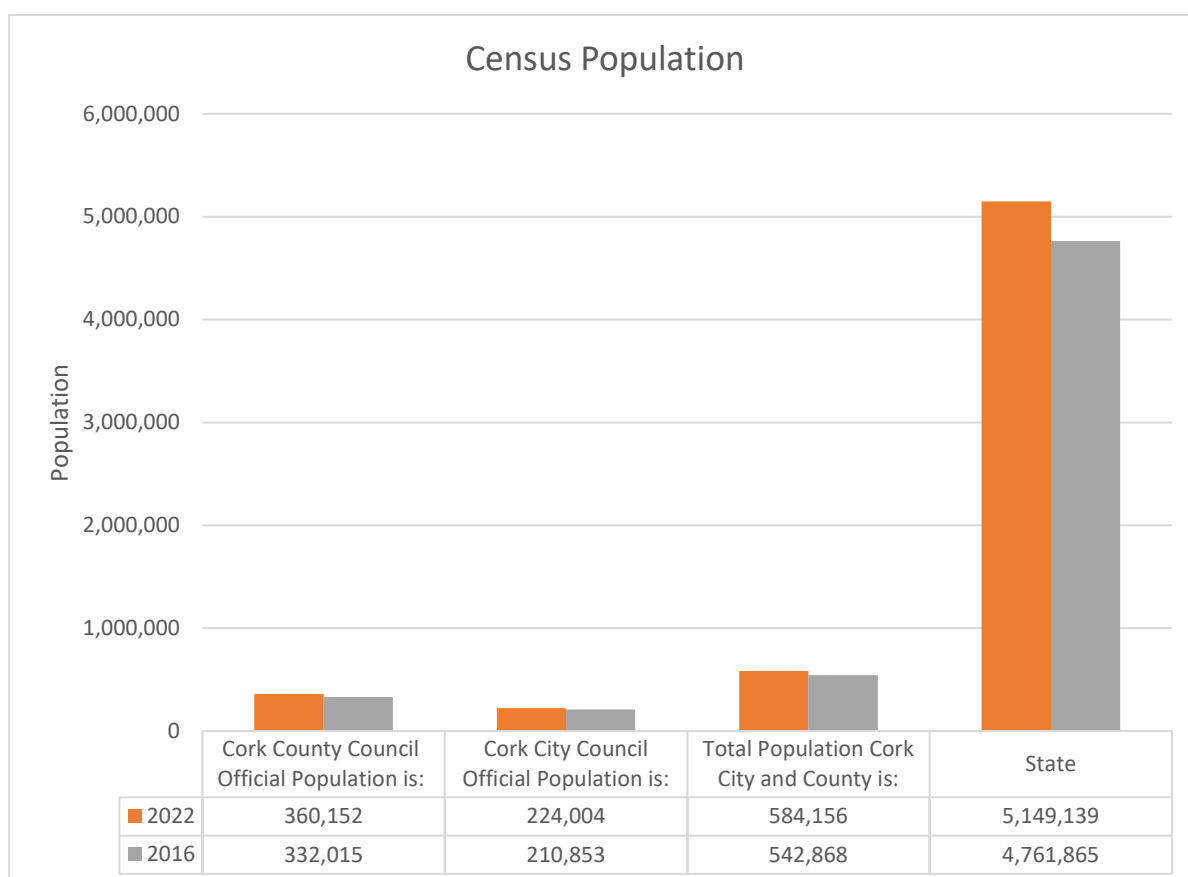


Figure 2.1: Cork County, Cork City, 'Cork' and State Census Population 2022  
<https://www.cso.ie/en/census/>

2.1.4 Nationally, the number of births registered continues to fall year on year. The number of births in 2022 is 20% lower than in 2012. The death rate has remained in a more constant pattern over this period which has resulted in an overall fall in the Natural Increase. The following graph prepared by the CSO illustrates these trends over the 10-year period from 2011 to 2022.

Figure 1 Births, deaths and natural increase, per 1,000 population, 2012 - 2022

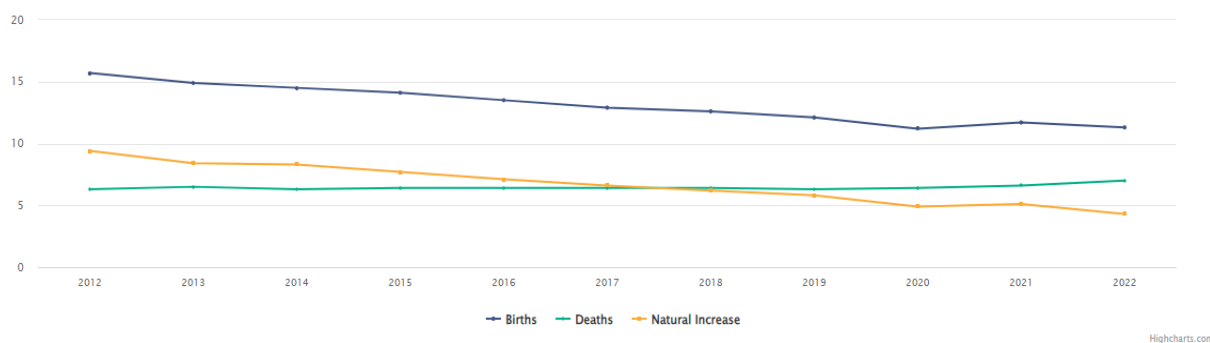


Figure 2.2 from CSO: Births, deaths and Natural increase per 1,00 population 2012-2022 <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-vsyst/vitalstatisticsyearlysummary2022/>

- 2.1.5 In terms of historical population growth for Cork City and County, the census records show that the City and County population of 584,156 recorded in Census 2022 is the largest population of the administrative areas combined since 1861 when it was recorded as 544,818 people.
- 2.1.6 Table 2.1 also sets out the population increase for 2022 as a % increase on 2016 which, for County Cork indicates an exceptional performance rate of 8.5% outpacing the State increase at 8.1%.

Table 2.1: Population and % Increase Census 2016 and 2022			
	2016 Population	2022 Population	% increase 2016-2022
State	4,761,865	5,149,139	8.1
Cork County	332,015	360,152	8.5
Cork City	210,853	224,004	6.2

Source: <https://data.cso.ie/table/FY004A> and census 2016

2.1.7 It is interesting also to note that the average number of persons per household has remained at the pre 2019 administrative area level of about 2.79 persons per household, falling very slightly from the 2016 level. It also shows its continued close alignment with the State.

Table 2.2: Average number of persons per private household

	Average Household Size 2022	Average Household Size 2016
State	2.74	2.75
Cork County	2.79	2.8 (pre 2019 administrative area)
Cork City	2.62	2.4 (pre 2019 administrative area)

Source: <https://data.cso.ie/table/FY004A> and census 2016

- 2.1.8 In terms of the age profile of settlements within the county, and particularly within the County MASP area, Watergrasshill, Rathcormac and Carrigtwohill are amongst the youngest settlements in the State (population size 1,500 to 10,000 people) by total population and average age, in 2022, with 30.9 average age in Watergrasshill, 32.1 average age in Rathcormac and 32.4 average age in Carrigtwohill. Alongside these settlements, Carrigaline also features amongst the youngest towns in the State (population size over 10,000 people) by total population and average age, in 2022 at 35.4.
- 2.1.9 In addition, County Cork also features nationally in the oldest towns in the State (population size 1,500 to 10,000 people) by total population and average age, in 2022 with Bantý featuring amongst the oldest towns where the average age population is 42.9 years.
- 2.1.10 The Core Strategy Population Target for the Plan Period to Q2 2028 is 391,185, which is an increase of 59,170 people<sup>3</sup>. The results from the most recent census indicate that Cork County is in a good position to achieve this target. See Figure 2.3.
- 2.1.11 Looking in more detail at population changes within the county as a whole, the different colours on the map in Figure 2.4 shows the range of population change experienced in the 2016-2022 period.
- 2.1.12 The cream, coral and red colours, which cover most of the county, all indicate population growth with the darker red colour showing areas where the population has grown by over 20%. The coral colour indicates growth of between 10 – 20% and the cream colour shows growth of up to 10%. The map illustrates strong rates of growth around the main settlements, coastal areas and along the national primary route corridors connecting the main commuter settlements. The map clearly shows that the vast majority of the county is experiencing population growth, and that there are numerous pockets of very strong growth in rural areas (coral colour, growth of 10-20%).
- 2.1.13 The blue areas indicate population decline. There are 338 Electoral Divisions (EDs) in the County, and in 2022, 38 EDs or 11% of the total experienced population decline between 2016 and 2022. Areas of population decline generally correlate with the more peripheral and

<sup>3</sup> The population increased by 26,883 between 2016-2022, leaving a further increase of 32,287 to be achieved by 2028 to meet the Q2 2028 population target for the County of 391,185.

upland rural parts of the county. The lighter blue colour shows population decline of between 0 to -5 %, while the darker blue shows decline of greater than 5%.

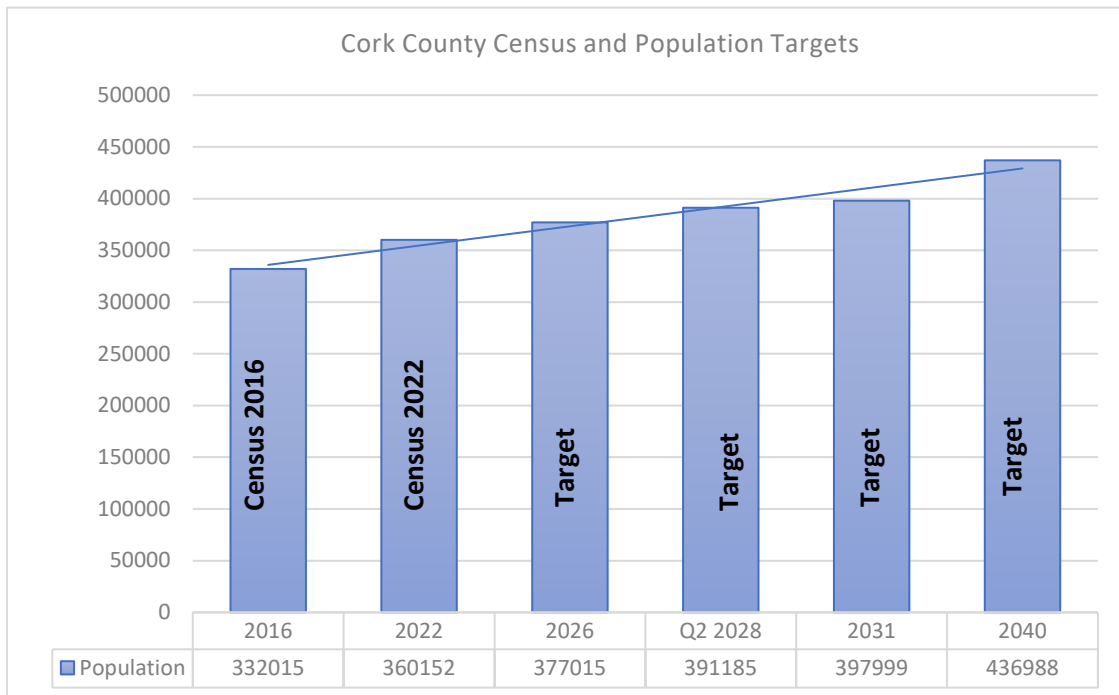


Figure 2.3: Cork County Census and Population Targets  
Source: Planning Policy Unit, RSES for Southern Region (2020)

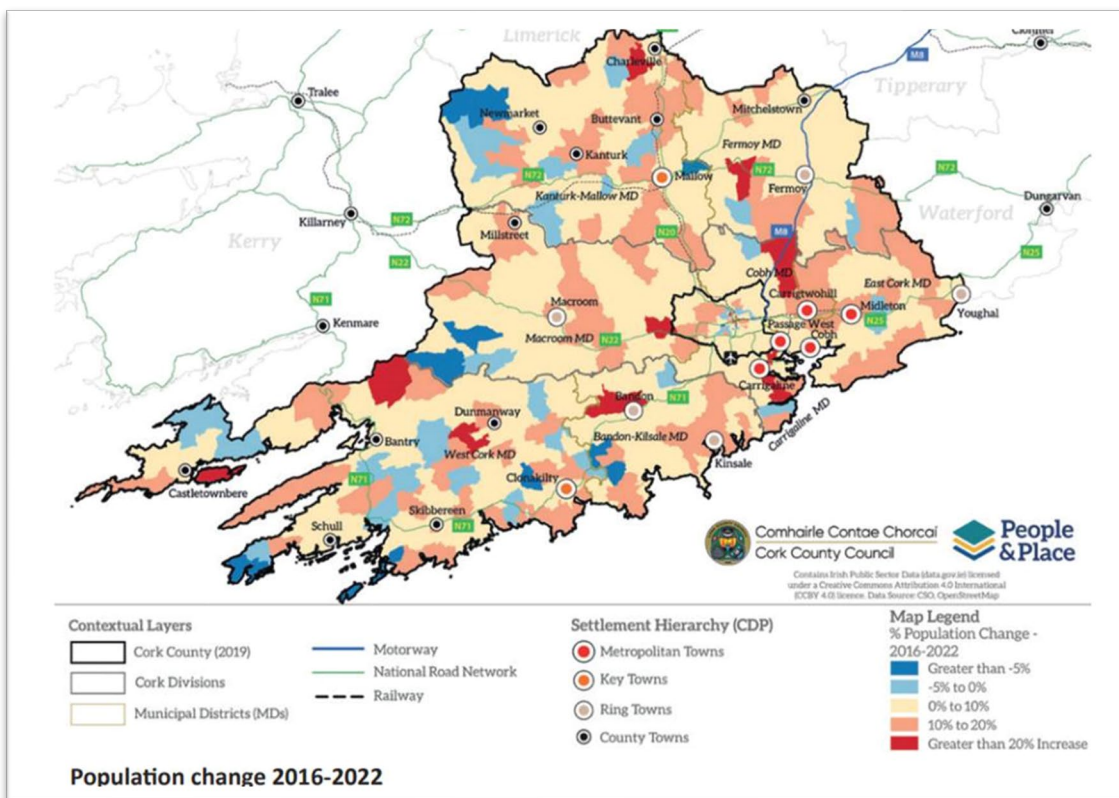


Figure 2.4: Population change 2016-2022  
Source: Draft LECP 2023-2029

2.1.14 Figure 2.5 sets out the distribution of the total population for Cork County (360,152) into the various Aggregate Town Sizes as defined by the CSO. It is interesting to note that about 30% of the population lives in Towns over 5,000 population (17% in Towns of 10,000 people or more, and 13% in Towns 5,000-9,999), while the rural parts of the county accommodate about 47% of the population.

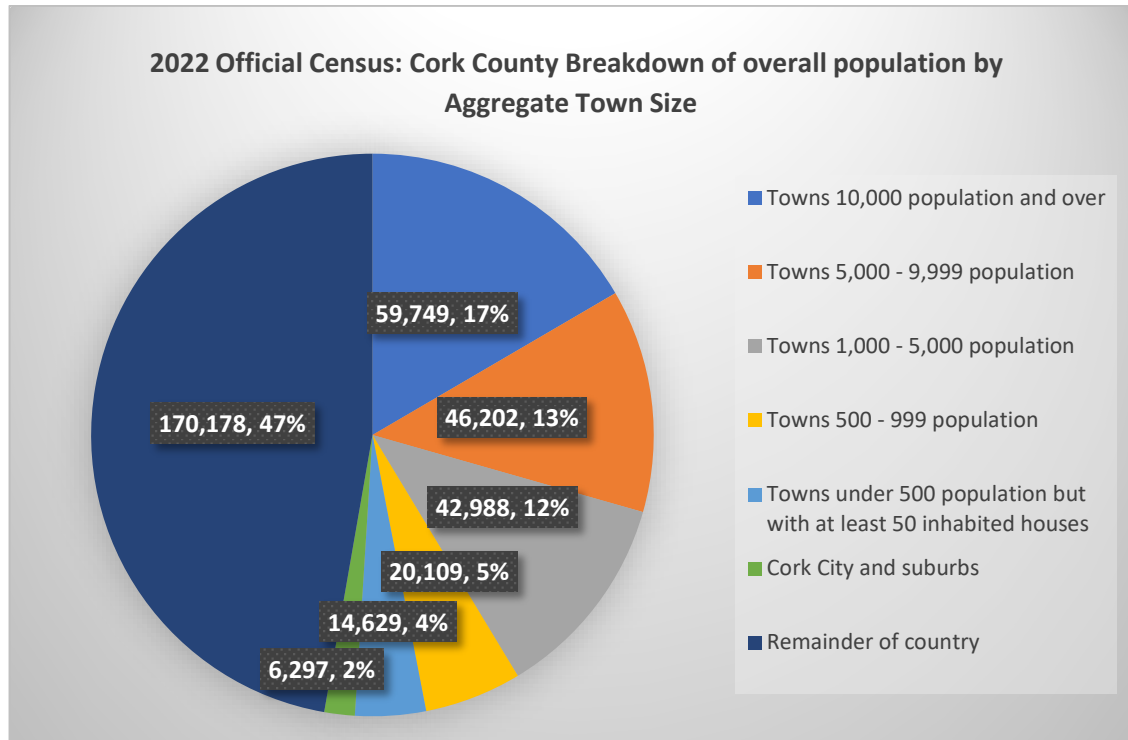


Figure 2.5: Cork County Breakdown of overall population by Aggregate Town Size  
Source: <https://data.cso.ie/table/F1010>

## 2.2 Population Change at Strategic Planning Area Level

2.2.1 This section looks at the Core Strategy population targets at Strategic Planning Area (SPA) level as set out in the CDP 2022 and compares them to the population growth trends evident from Census 2016 to Census 2022, as means of checking if growth is on track to meet 2028 targets.

2.2.2 At first glance the population targets for each Strategic Planning Area in the 2022 Plan, as set out in Table 2.3, appear similar to those of the 2014 Plan, where 45% of population growth was allocated to the County Metro Strategic Planning Area (SPA), 28% to the Greater Cork Ring SPA, 12% to the North Cork SPA and 15% to the West Cork SPA. However, under the 2014 CDP the County Metro SPA would have included areas like Ballincollig, Glanmire and the environs of the city. Now that these areas are within the extended city boundary, delivering 46% of all county population growth in the much smaller County Metro SPA is a significantly more challenging strategy, and one that depends on the delivery of significant investment in public infrastructure (water services, roads, public transport, active travel infrastructure, social and community facilities) to support the relatively rapid growth in population and the development of significant greenfield Urban Expansion areas in Middleton, Carrigtwohill and

Cobh. In addition, the County Development Plan 2022 reflects the objectives of the National Planning Framework (2018) and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2020), as well as updated national policy guidelines on a range of issues including housing supply, as well as ongoing public infrastructure investment programmes.

2.2.3 Table 2.3 below summarizes the Core Strategy population targets by Strategic Planning Area as set out in the County Development Plan 2022 and Table 2.4 looks at the proportional share of the overall county growth than has been achieved in each Strategic Planning Area in the 2016-2022 period, allowing for comparison with the Core Strategy targets.

**Table 2.3: Census and Core strategy Population Targets by Strategic Planning Area (SPA) to 2028**

Strategic Planning Area	Population 2016 Census	Population Census 2022	Population Targets to 2028	Core Strategy % share of overall county population increase to 2028	Core strategy % share of population growth to Main Towns	Core Strategy % share of Population growth to villages and rural areas
County Metro	94,553	103,645	122,067	46%	79%	21%
Greater Cork Ring	124,970	135,779	142,856	30%	53%	47%
North Cork	51,601	55,131	58,345	11%	54%	46%
West Cork	60,891	65,597	67,917	12%	57%	43%
<b>Total County</b>	<b>332,015</b>	<b>360,152</b>	<b>391,185</b>			

**Table 2.4: Growth Rate and Overall Share of Growth by Strategic Planning Area (SPA) 2016-2022**

Strategic Planning Area	Population 2016 Census	Population Census 2022	Population Targets to 2028	Population Increase 2016-2022	% share of overall population increase 2016-2022	Annual rate of Population change 2016-2022	Estimated 2028 population based on growth rate
County Metro	94,553	103,645	122,067	9,092	32%	1.54%	113,611
Greater Cork Ring	124,970	135,779	142,856	10,809	38%	1.39%	147,523
North Cork	51,601	55,131	58,345	3,530	13%	1.11%	58,902
West Cork	60,891	65,597	67,917	4,706	17%	1.25%	70,667
<b>Total County</b>	<b>332,015</b>	<b>360,152</b>	<b>391,185</b>	<b>28,137</b>		<b>1.36%</b>	<b>390,703</b>

2.2.4 The Core Strategy allocates the County Metro SPA 46% of the total growth of the county to 2028, and within the County Metro area, 79% of the population growth has been allocated to the Metropolitan towns, with the balance going to the villages and rural area. The trend between 2016 and 2022 has been that 32% of the population growth of the county took place in the County Metro SPA, which appears below target. However, given the changes in geography of this SPA post the extension of the Cork City boundary, and the ongoing time lag in the delivery of some public infrastructure, it is evident that strong levels of growth have



been achieved in the County Metropolitan area. Projection forward to 2028 of the annual growth rate experienced between 2016-2022, would suggest that the County Metropolitan Cork Strategic Planning Area might fall 7% short of its 2028 population target. However, given the number of housing developments which have been permitted in the area since the Plan has been adopted, which is discussed later in this report, and the ongoing programme for infrastructure delivery in the area, the Planning Authority is very confident that County Metropolitan Cork can achieve its 2028 population target.

- 2.2.5 The Greater Cork Ring Strategic Planning Area has been allocated 30% of the total population growth for the County to 2028, and within the Ring area 53% of the growth has been allocated to the main towns, with the balance going to the villages and rural areas. The trend between 2016 and 2022 has seen the Greater Cork Ring get 38% of the growth, which is above target. If the annual growth rate experienced between 2016-2022 is projected forward to 2028 then the Greater Cork Ring Strategic Planning Area could exceed its 2028 population target by 3%.
- 2.2.6 North Cork has been allocated 11% of the county's population growth to 2028 and 54% of this growth has been allocated to the towns. The trend between 2016 and 2022 has seen the North Cork Strategic Planning Area achieve 13% growth. If the annual growth rate experienced between 2016-2022 is projected forward to 2028 then the North Cork Strategic Planning Area could exceed its 2028 population target by 1%.
- 2.2.7 West Cork has been allocated 12% of the county's population growth, and 57% of the growth has been allocated to the main towns of West Cork, with the balance allocated to the villages and rural areas. In the 2016-2022 period, the West SPA has achieved 17% growth. If the annual growth rate experienced between 2016-2022 is projected forward to 2028 then the West Cork Strategic Planning Area could exceed its 2028 population target by 4%.
- 2.2.8 While the timeline of the Census period differs from the Plan period under review in this progress report, the data does highlight the need for continued monitoring of growth rates at SPA level to ensure consistency with the Core Strategy targets.
- 2.2.9 This is particularly important in the case of the County Metro SPA, given its wider strategic economic role in the Cork Metropolitan Area, and at a regional and national level in terms of the vision set out in the County Development Plan, National Planning Framework, Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and the Cork Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan. In this context, continued efforts are needed to secure timely investment in the broad range of infrastructure needed to facilitate development, and to ensure that permitted development can proceed to construction stage. Delivering the required growth levels is also important in terms of securing ongoing commitment to future investment in the area.

### 2.3 Population at Municipal District Level

- 2.3.1 In addition to the overall growth at a County and Strategic Planning Area level, it is also important to look at population growth at a Municipal District level. However, it is important to acknowledge that Municipal Districts vary significantly in terms of their geography and size, and in terms of the number, size and strength of the settlements within them. See Appendix 1 for details of the Municipal Districts, and their settlement structure.
- 2.3.2 All Municipal Districts in the County have had a positive average annual rate of growth in the

period since 2016. The growth rates of the Carrigaline, East Cork and Cobh MDs all exceed the growth rate for the county as a whole.

Municipal District	Census Population 2016	Census Population 2022	Average Annual Rate of Growth 2016-2022
Bandon - Kinsale	37,260	40,387	1.35%
Carrigaline	35,150	39,145	1.81%
Cobh	34,201	37,214	1.41%
East Cork	45,400	49,539	1.45%
Fermoy	36,406	38,935	1.13%
Kanturk - Mallow	54,092	58,084	1.19%
Macroom	36,801	39,847	1.33%
West Cork	52,705	57,001	1.31%
Total County	332,015	360,152	1.36%

Source: Census 2016 and 2022  
<https://www.cso.ie/en/census/>

- 2.3.3 Figure 2.6 provides further details of how the population growth within each Municipal District has been distributed across the settlement hierarchy of each MD, over the 2016-2022 period. In some MDs the majority of the growth is taking place in the main settlements but in others it is in the key villages, villages and rural areas. See Appendix 1 for further data on Figure 2.6.
- 2.3.4 While the Core Strategy of the Plan does not provide population targets at Municipal District level, and the MD boundaries do not align exactly with the Strategic Planning Area boundaries, it is clear that, across all MDs, the rate of population growth in the main settlements is well below that envisaged by the Core Strategy, while the rate of growth in the Villages and Rural areas exceeds that of the Core Strategy.
- 2.3.5 The Macroom MD for example straddles all four Strategic Planning Areas where population growth allocated to the towns varies from 53% to 79%. In the Macroom MD only 16% of the growth has taken place in the Main Settlements of Macroom and Millstreet, with the other 84% spread across the key villages /villages/ rural area. This is a significant divergence from the Core Strategy. The trend in the Fermoy MD is even more concerning with just 5% of the growth going to the main towns and 95% going to the key villages/ villages and rural areas.
- 2.3.6 The Cobh and Carrigaline MDs are entirely within the County Metropolitan Cork Strategic Planning Area, where Village and Rural growth should not exceed 21%, but was running at 33% and 38% respectively over the 2016-2022 period.

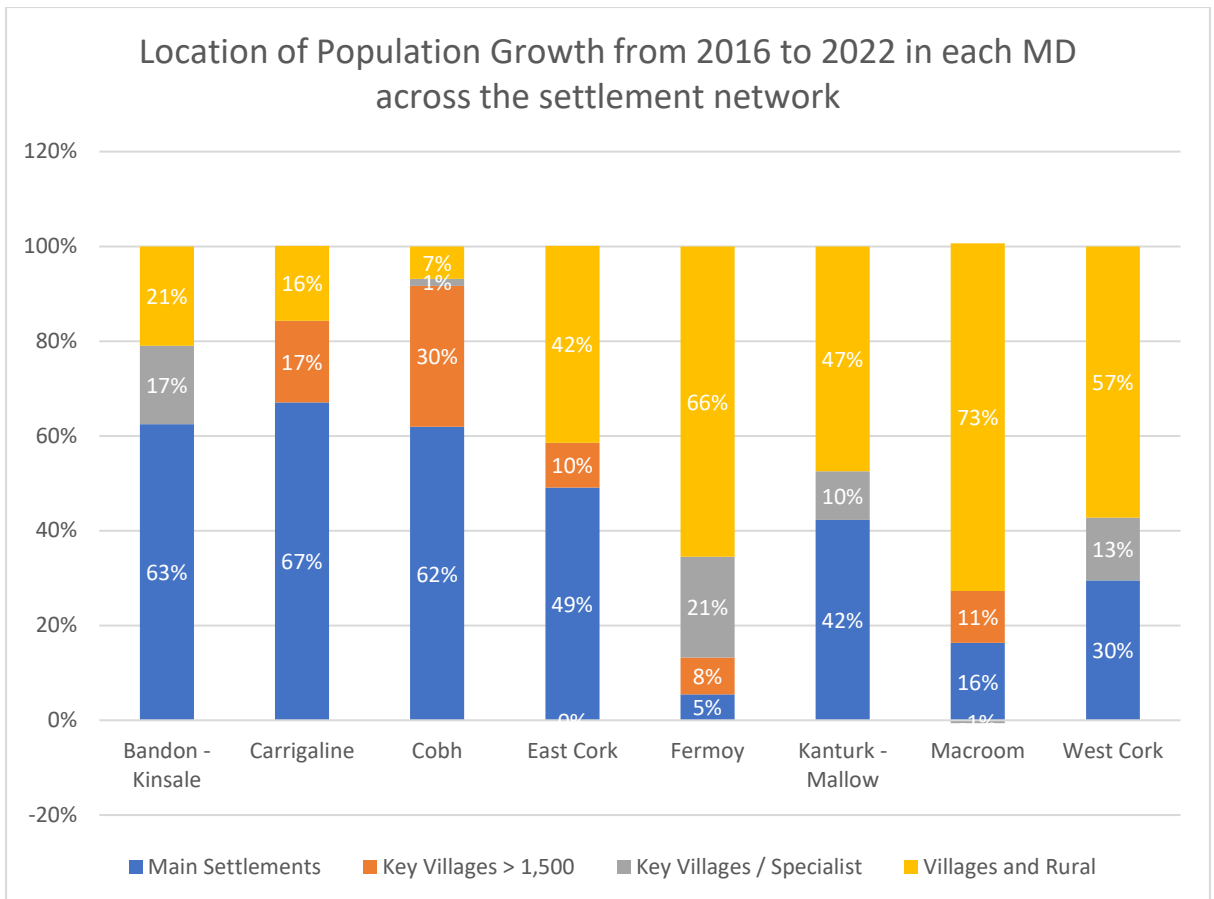


Figure 2.6: Population growth across the Settlement Hierarchy by MD 2016-2022  
 Source: Census 2016 and 2022 <https://www.cso.ie/en/census/>

## 2.4 Population change and meeting the Core Strategy Targets

- 2.4.1 Table 2.6 below looks at the population recorded at the time of Census 2022, and the amount of growth yet to be achieved in order to meet the CDP targets to 2028.
- 2.4.2 Almost two years, or one third of the way through the plan period, the Main settlements still have more than two thirds of their population target to achieve; the Key villages > 1,500 are significantly ahead of target having already delivered 59% of their target; the key villages are slightly ahead having delivered 41% of their target, and the villages and rural have already exceed their target by 4%, just one third of the way into the plan.
- 2.4.3 The graph in Figure 2.7 further illustrates the growth trend. The blue bar shows where the population was at in 2016 and the orange shows the additional growth to 2022. The red section is the additional growth that needs to happen to achieve the target by 2028. Where the red line is to the left of the central axis of the graph (Villages and Rural) it indicates that the target has already been exceeded by 2022.

Table 2.6: Settlement Network Progress in reaching Population Target 2028				
	Total Main Settlements	Total Key Villages > 1,500	Total Key Villages	Total Villages and Rural
Census 2016	123,769	14,424	18,526	175,296
Census 2022	135,861	16,917	20,579	186,795
2028 Population Target	162,576	18,673	23,583	186,352
Growth needed to meet 2028 Target	26,715	1,756	3,004	-443
% of 2028 Target yet to be achieved	69%	41%	59%	-4%

Source: Census 2016 and 2022  
<https://www.cso.ie/en/census/>

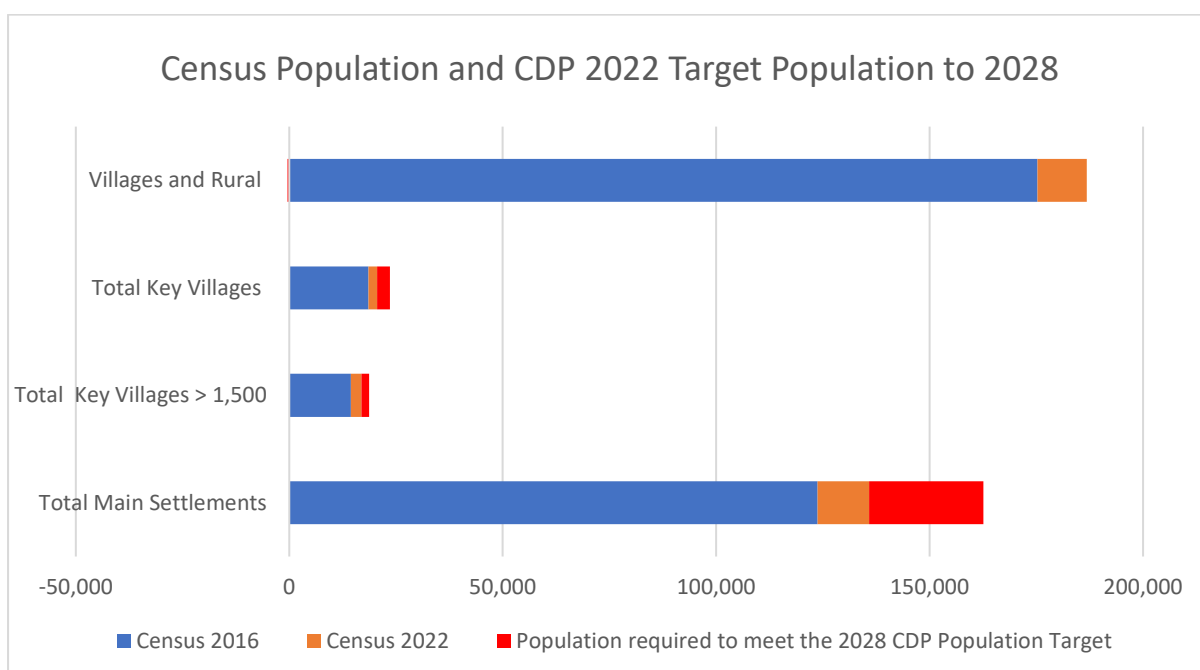


Figure 2.7: Cork County Census and Population Targets  
 Source: Census 2016 2022 and Cork County Development Plan 2022 <https://www.cso.ie/en/census/>

- 2.4.4 The accelerated pace of growth in the Key Villages >1,500, Key Villages, and the villages and rural areas, relative to the slower pace of growth in the main settlements over the first two years of the plan, is a matter of concern.
- 2.4.5 Looking in more detail, at the main settlements and projecting forward the annual average rate of population change achieved from 2016 to 2022 it gives a picture of the likely growth in population to 2028 based on past performance and this is shown in Figure 2.8.
- 2.4.6 Figure 2.8 shows that, if the population growth rate experienced in the 2016-2022 period continues, some main settlements, including Kanturk, Youghal, Kinsale, Bandon and

Carrigaline (where the bar graph on the right-hand side ends in yellow), are on track to exceed the 2028 Development Plan Population Target assigned to them. However, many of the main towns are at risk of not meeting the 2028 target population (settlements with yellow on the left-hand side of the main vertical axis of the bar graph with minus figures).

- 2.4.7 The reasons for this potential shortfall in population growth are varied, and will also differ from location to location, but are likely to include issues such as:
- General economic conditions, the strength of the local economy and the availability of employment;
  - General demographic profile of the population;
  - Constraints in the local housing market related to the lack of economic viability in the new house construction market /lack of new homes to buy/ unaffordable house prices / rents;
  - the scale and complexity of the infrastructure that needs to be provided by different stakeholders to facilitate development and the availability of funding for same and associated delays in the provision of the infrastructure.
- 2.4.8 As will be seen later in this document, in some settlements there is a lot of recent activity in terms of securing planning permission for new housing development which, when implemented, will translate into population growth over time, and allow settlements to progress toward the 2028 population target. In Carrigtwohill and Midleton for example there is significant stock of planning permissions granted for new housing developments which will impact on population levels once implemented and help these towns reach their 2028 Target. Other settlements may have planning permissions which predate the adoption of the Plan but are still valid and can be implemented, while in other settlements viability issues in new house construction are such that there is little housing activity or interest in securing planning permission at present.

## Expected Population for each Main Settlement based on 2016-2022 Growth Rates

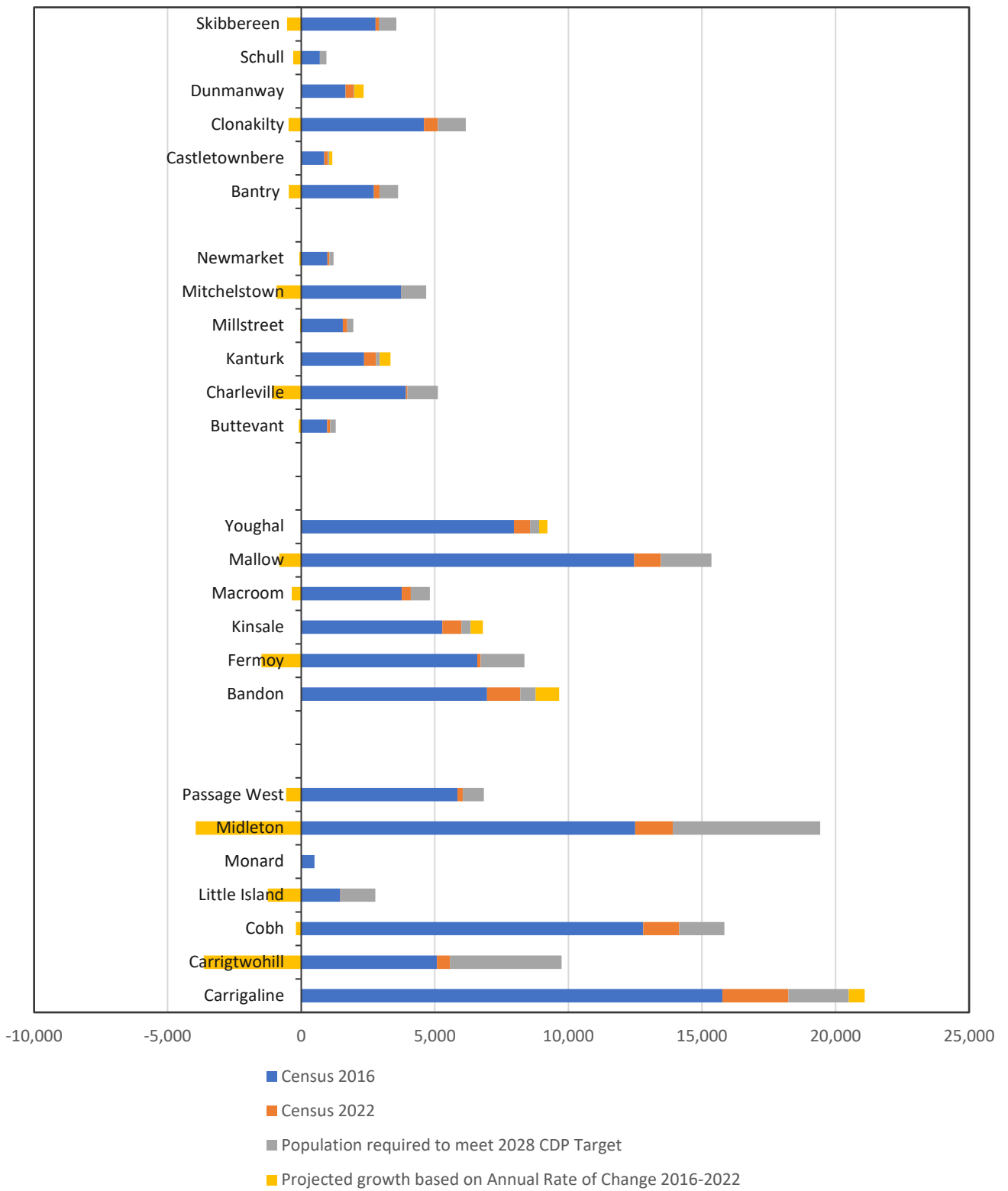


Figure 2.8: Expected Population of Main Settlements by 2028  
Source: PPU data analysis.

## 2.5 Housing Strategy and Housing Requirements

- 2.5.1 The Cork Joint Housing Strategy and Housing Needs Demand Assessment (HNDA) were adopted with the County Development Plan on the 25th of April 2022. The HNDA incorporates socio-economic and demographic data in relation to current housing demand and supply in Cork and projects future need over the lifetime of the Development Plan. The Housing Strategy and the HNDA also align with Cork County Council's own Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026 which translates the national targets into clear local targets and actions, underpinned by an evidence-based assessment of local housing need.
- 2.5.2 The housing requirement targets included in the Core Strategy of the Plan reflect the research, analysis and needs identified in the Housing Strategy and HNDA and these documents are therefore implemented via the implementation of the Core Strategy.
- 2.5.3 The Plan identifies a requirement of 22,611 no. additional housing units over the plan period<sup>4</sup>. This equates to an average requirement for 3,769 no. additional dwellings per annum, or about 942 no. additional dwellings per quarter. The following graph provides an overview of the planned distribution of these units across the settlement hierarchy.

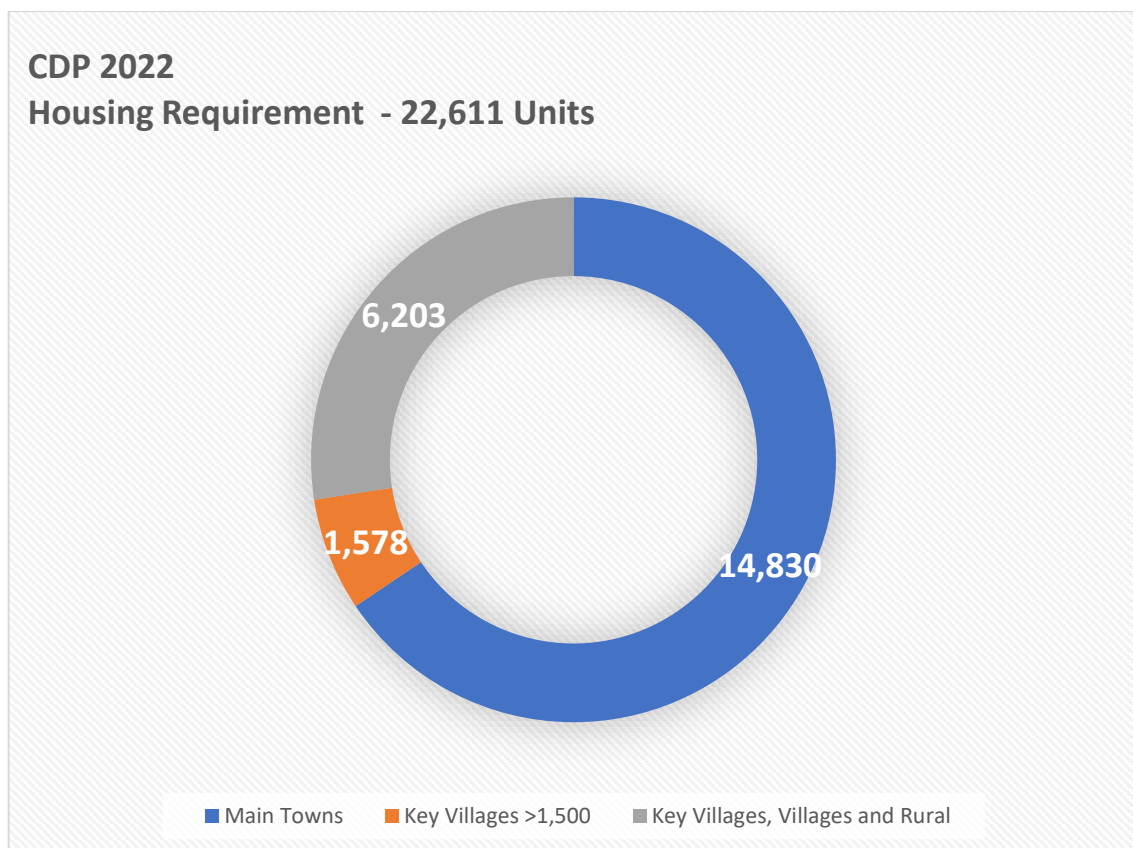


Figure 2.9: Adopted County Development Plan 2022 Overall Units  
Source: [www.corkcoco.ie](http://www.corkcoco.ie)

<sup>4</sup> Between Q2 -2022 and Q2-2028.



## 2.6 Housing Completions Cork County

2.6.1 Using information available on the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage’s Housing Delivery Tracker, and the CSO’s New Dwelling Completions Q4 2023 Report, the following series of graphs and table sets out the current position regarding the residential completions by unit type across Cork County since the adoption of the Development Plan. The data for 2022-2023, which covers the plan period relevant to this progress report, is shown in the red outline.

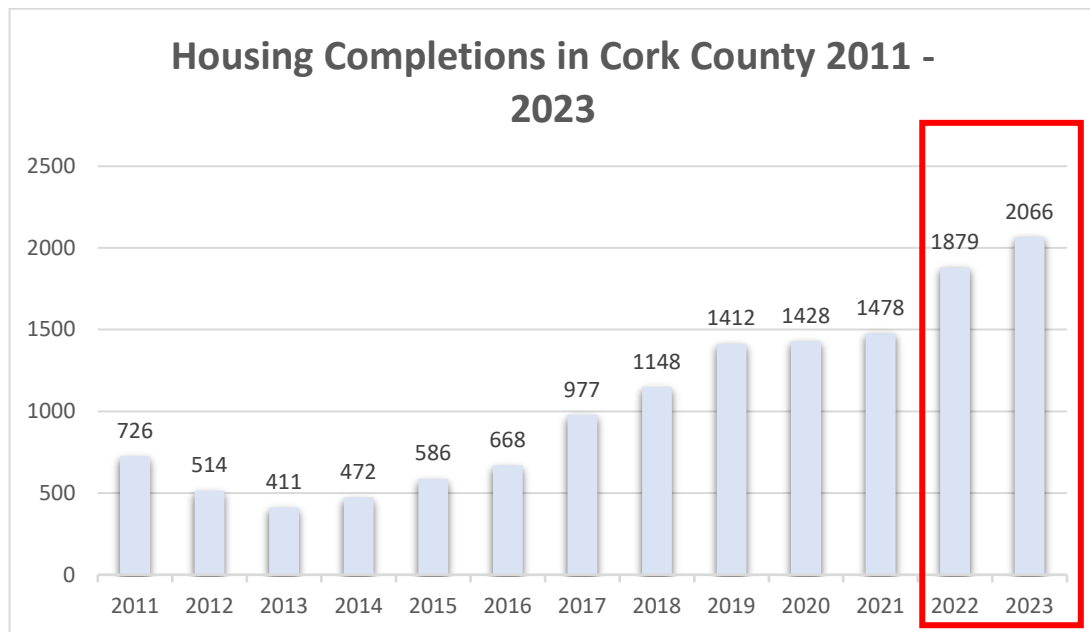


Figure 2.10: Cork County Housing Completions 2011 – 2023

Source: <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-ndc/newdwellingcompletionsq42023/>

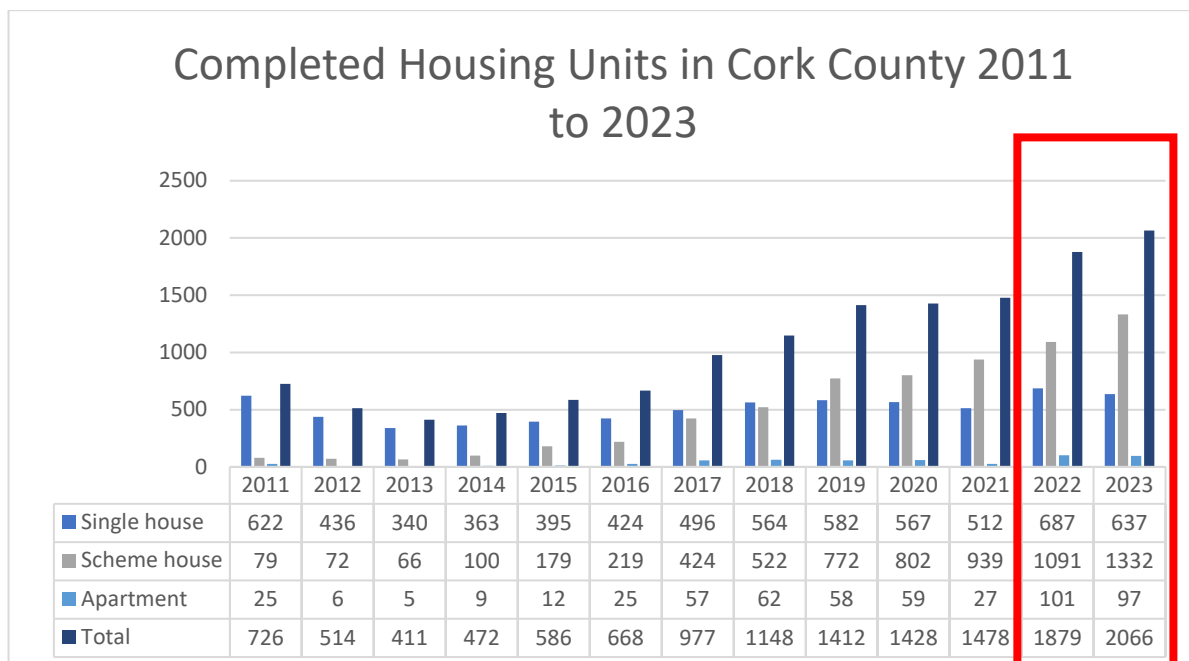


Figure 2.11: Cork County Housing Completions 2011 – 2023 by type

Source: <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-ndc/newdwellingcompletionsq42023/>

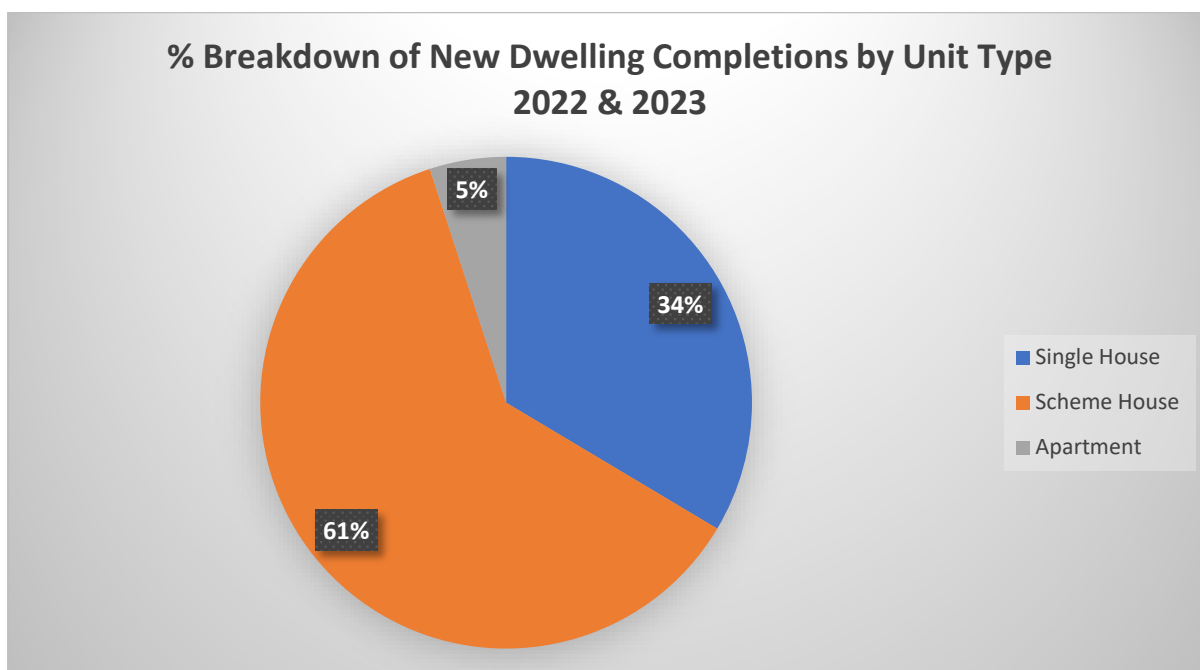


Figure 2.12: % Breakdown of Cork County Housing Completions 2022 & 2023 by Unit Type  
 Source: <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-ndc/newdwellingcompletionsq42023/>

- 2.6.2 In terms of the housing mix of the completed units, the number and proportion of single house units completed has dropped from 687 units /37% in 2022 (for Q2-Q4), to 637 units /31% in 2023. The number /proportion of scheme houses has increased from 1091 /58% in 2022 to 1,332 /64% in 2023 while the number of apartments has dropped in numbers from 101 in 2022 to 97 in 2023, while still accounting for 5% of the total units. By contrast, in Dublin in 2023 apartments accounted for 72% of all completions.
- 2.6.3 Nationally, in 2023, 47.4 % of completions were scheme dwellings, 35.6 % comprised apartments and 17% were single houses.
- 2.6.4 As detailed above in section 2.5, the Plan identified a target housing delivery requirement of 942 housing units per quarter. The Plan was adopted in April 2022, so it has been in operation for Q2, Q3 and Q4 of 2022 and all four quarters of 2023. In this context, 6,594 housing units could have been delivered in the period since the Plan was adopted. CSO data shows that 3,599 units have actually been completed in that period, equating to 55% of the target, and leaving a 45% shortfall in the delivery of the units required. The number of completed units has been increasing every year since 2014.
- 2.6.5 The deficit in units constructed that has occurred over the years since before the preparation of the previous County Development Plan in 2014 is recorded in the following graph. During that time the unit requirement was 3,500 per annum (from the NPF). In the 2022 County Development Plan the annual housing target is now 3,769 units per annum arising from the methodology set out in the Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning Guidelines (Dec 2020). The accumulated deficit from the beginning of 2011 to the end of last year 2023 is in the region of 32,200 units.

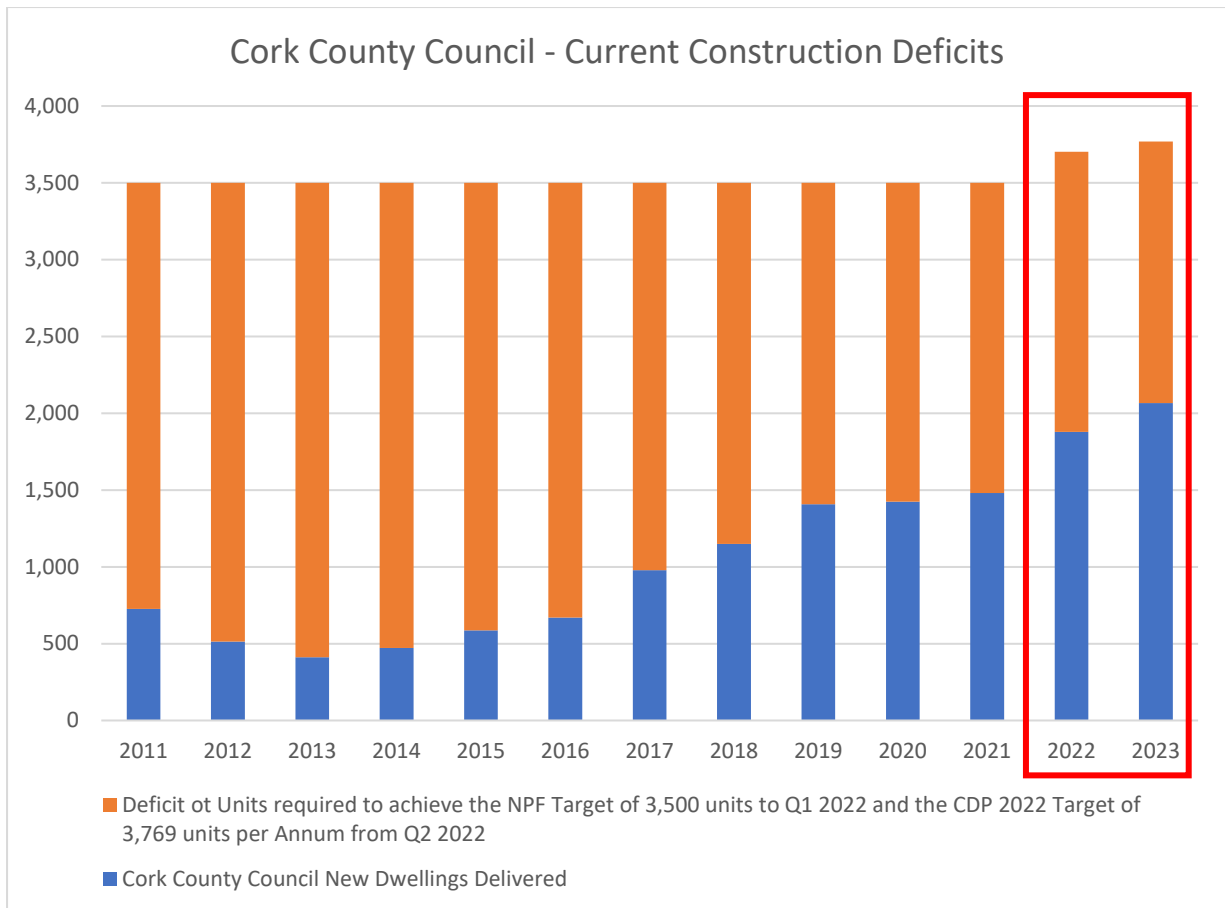


Figure 2.13: Current Construction Deficits  
 Source: <https://www.cso.ie/> and [www.corkcoco.ie](http://www.corkcoco.ie)

## 2.7 Permitted Housing Developments

2.7.1 An examination of data in relation to housing developments granted planning permission since the new Plan was adopted provides information in relation to where in the county planning permission is being sought.

2.7.2 Table 2.7 below shows that in the period since the Plan was adopted in April 2022, 429 applications have been granted permission for single and multi-unit housing developments within development boundaries. Sixty percent of the units permitted are within the County Metropolitan Cork Strategic Planning Area, and a further thirty percent are in the Greater Cork Ring. Just four percent are in North Cork and six percent are located in the West Cork Strategic Planning Area.

	Total No. of Applications	Units permitted (within development boundary)	% of Total Units permitted
Metropolitan Cork SPA	136	4,315	60%
Greater Cork Ring SPA	165	2,127	30%
North Cork SPA	41	301	4%
West Cork SPA	87	437	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>7,180</b>	<b>100%</b>

- 2.7.3 At the Municipal District level (see Figure 2.14) East Cork is the main location for housing applications within the development boundary, accounting for 37% of all units granted since the Plan was adopted, followed by the Cobh MD at 22%, Kanturk Mallow at 12%, Carrigaline at 7%, Bandon Kinsale and West Cork at 6% and Fermoy and Macroom MDs at 5%.
- 2.7.4 In East Cork there is a lot of activity in Midleton. Within the Urban Expansion Area in Midleton valid planning permissions exists for over 1,400 units. Similarly, in Carrigtwohill permission for just over 700 units was granted by An Bord Pleanála in November 2023 as part of a Strategic Housing Development application.
- 2.7.5 The Carrigaline figure seems low but there may be current permissions that predate the current County Development Plan (that is were granted before the 26th of April 2022) which can be implemented. In addition to this there is one Strategic Housing Development application yet to be decided by An Bord Pleanála.

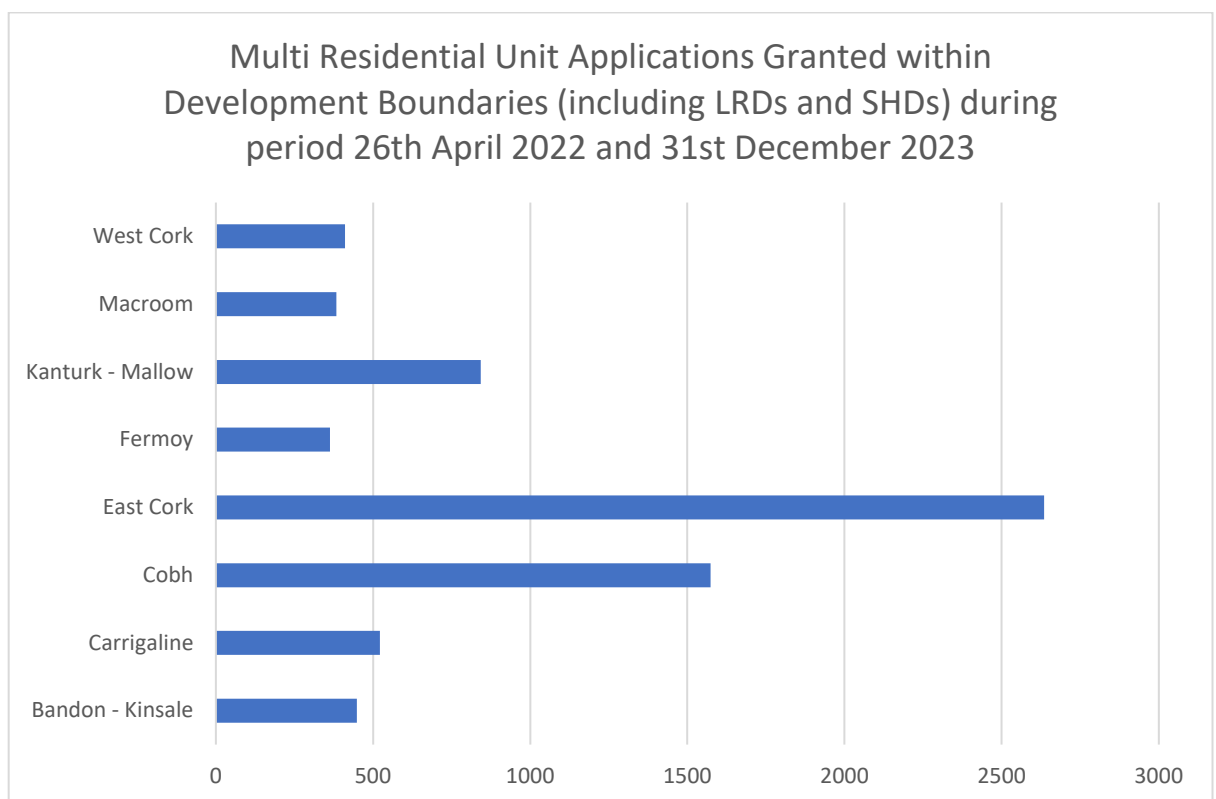


Figure 2.14: Expected Population of Main Settlements by 2028  
Source: PPU data analysis

- 2.7.6 Table 2.8 shows the Housing Unit Target for each settlement to 2028 as per the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan and number of housing units permitted within the development boundary of each settlement in the 20 months between when the Plan was adopted at the end of April 2022 and the end of December 2023. This data is also illustrated in Figure 2.15.
- 2.7.7 Overall, in terms of the housing target of 19,003 units for all settlements with development boundaries, planning permission has been granted for 6,374 units within the main towns and key villages with a population over 1,500, equivalent to 34% of the target. A further 806 units have been permitted within the other key villages / villages. Overall therefore, planning

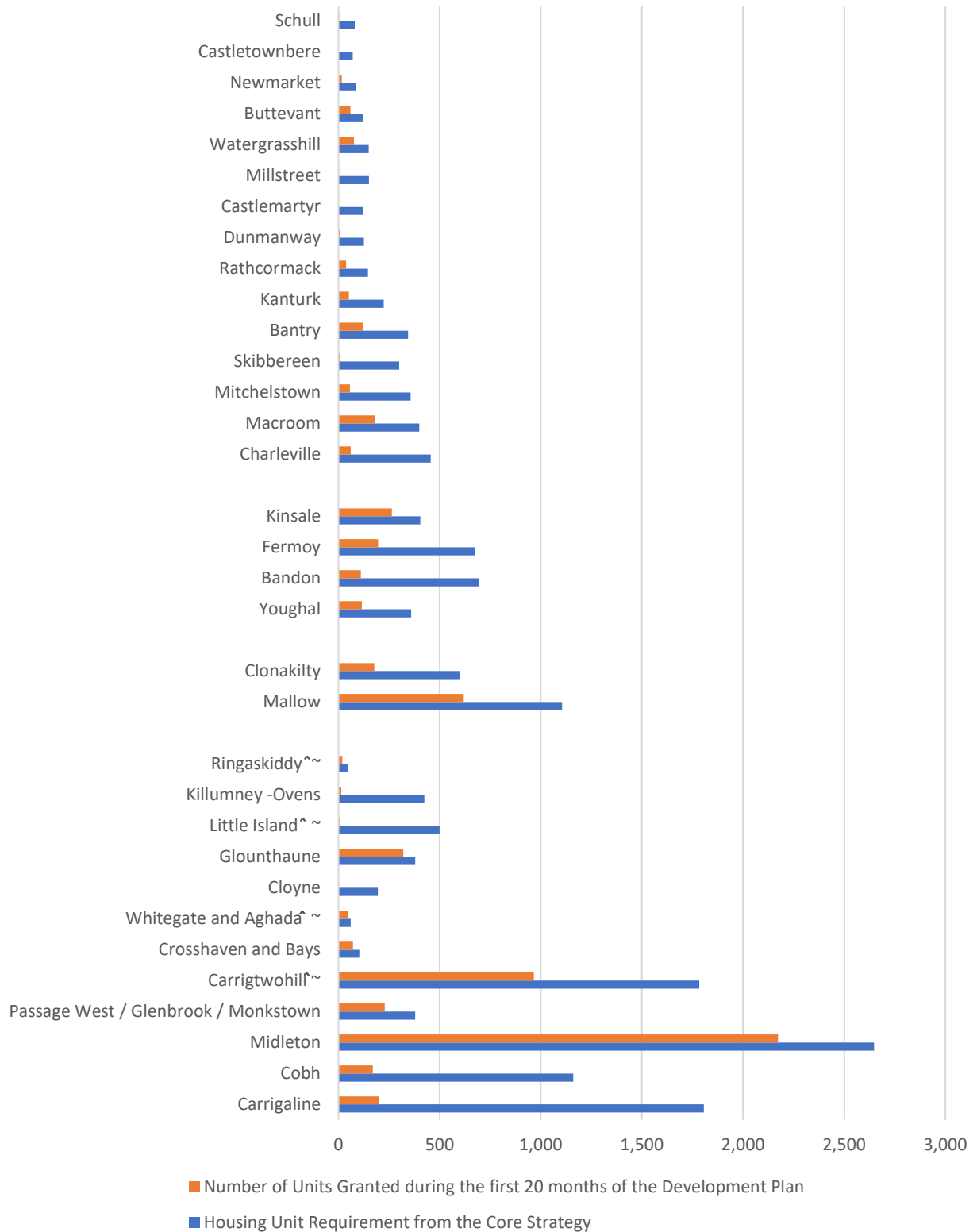
permission exists to deliver 38% of the housing target to 2028 for units within development boundaries. This is ahead of target for this stage of the Plan period.

- 2.7.8 Of the thirty-three settlements listed in the table, half of them (18) have permission for less than a third of their 2028 housing target.
- 2.7.9 The other half of the settlements have permissions for more than a third of their target. In the case of Midleton nearly 82% of the units required to be delivered over the life of the Plan have already been permitted, while in Carrigtwohill 54% of the units required have been permitted. In other towns like Castletownbere (where there is a significant water supply constraint restricting development), Schull and Millstreet, no scheme housing has been permitted since the Plan was adopted. Some individual housing units have been permitted in Schull and Millstreet.
- 2.7.10 It is important to note that, while the Planning Authority can grant planning permission, in most cases, activation of the permission is at the discretion of the applicant and will be influenced by a range of factors including cost, viability and access to finance.

Table 2.8: Housing Unit Requirement from Core Strategy and Number of Units Granted from 26th of April 2022 to 31st of December 2023				
Settlement Type	Settlement Name	Housing Target Requirement 2022-2028 (units) as per Core Strategy	Permitted Units Total within Dev Boundaries Since Adoption of CDP 2022	Permitted units as a % of Housing Target
<b>County Total</b>		<b>22,611</b>	<b>7,180</b> (Including LRD/ SHD/ Part VIII and S179(A))	31%
<b>Large Towns (8-10,000)</b>	Carrigaline	1,806	201	11%
	Cobh	1,160	169	15%
	Midleton	2,647	2,173	82%
<b>Medium Towns (4-8,000)</b>	Passage West / Glenbrook / Monkstown	379	228	60%
	Carrigtwohill <sup>~</sup>	1,784	966	54%
<b>Small Towns (1,500-4/5,000) and Strategic Employment Areas</b>	Crosshaven and Bays	103	71	69%
	Whitegate and Aghada <sup>^</sup> ~	60	48	80%
	Cloyne	195	2	1%
	Glounthaune	379	320	84%
	Little Island <sup>^</sup> ~	500	5	1%
	Killumney -Ovens	424	14	3%
	Ringaskiddy <sup>^</sup> ~	45	19	42%
	<b>Key Towns</b>	Mallow	1,105	619
Clonakilty		600	177	30%
<b>Self-Sustaining Growth: Medium Towns [&gt;5,000]</b>	Youghal	359	115	32%
	Bandon	694	111	16%
	Fermoy	675	196	29%

Table 2.8: Housing Unit Requirement from Core Strategy and Number of Units Granted from 26th of April 2022 to 31st of December 2023				
Settlement Type	Settlement Name	Housing Target Requirement 2022-2028 (units) as per Core Strategy	Permitted Units Total within Dev Boundaries Since Adoption of CDP 2022	Permitted units as a % of Housing Target
	Kinsale	404	264	65%
Self-Sustaining Small Towns, Key Villages and Villages	Charleville	456	60	13%
	Macroom	399	178	45%
	Mitchelstown	357	56	16%
	Skibbereen	300	10	3%
	Bantry	344	119	35%
	Kanturk	224	51	23%
	Rathcormack	146	37	25%
	Dunmanway	126	6	5%
	Castlemartyr	122	2	2%
	Millstreet	150	2	1%
	Watergrasshill	149	76	51%
	Buttevant	123	59	48%
	Newmarket	88	16	18%
	Castletownbere	70	0	0%
	Schull	80	4	5%
	<b>All settlements from Large Towns to Self-Sustaining Small Towns</b>	<b>16,453</b>	<b>6,374</b>	<b>34%</b>
	All Remaining Key Villages	2,550	806	32%
	All Remaining Villages			
	<b>All Units within Development Boundaries</b>	<b>19,003</b>	<b>7,180</b>	<b>38%</b>

Figure 2.15: Housing Unit Requirement from Core Strategy and Number of Units Granted from 26th of April 2022 to 31st of December 2023



## 2.8 Rural Housing

- 2.8.1 The Rural Housing policies for Cork County are outlined in Chapter Five of the Plan. These policies apply to rural areas outside the defined development boundaries of the County's settlement network. Draft Rural Housing Guidelines have not yet been published since the Plan was adopted. The current policies in the Plan are based the 2005 Rural Housing Guidelines, identifying six distinct rural area types in the County.
- 2.8.2 This section of the report provides an overview of rural housing monitoring data for each of the four strategic planning areas and the six rural housing policy area types, outlining key figures and trends for planning decisions. Details of completions for single houses, located both inside and outside development boundaries is provided in Section 2.7 of this report.
- 2.8.3 The following analysis is based on all decisions on rural housing applications between 26/04/2022 and 31/12/2023. It should be noted that, because the analysis is based on decisions, it excludes for example, planning applications in the system awaiting decision such as those on an extension of time, or applications which are deferred for further information.
- 2.8.4 Between 26/04/2022 and 31/12/2023, a total of 1,122 decisions on single rural housing applications were made. Of these, 950 houses were granted permission and 172 were refused permission. For the county as a whole, this rate of permitted one off rural housing is consistent with the Core Strategy of the Plan.

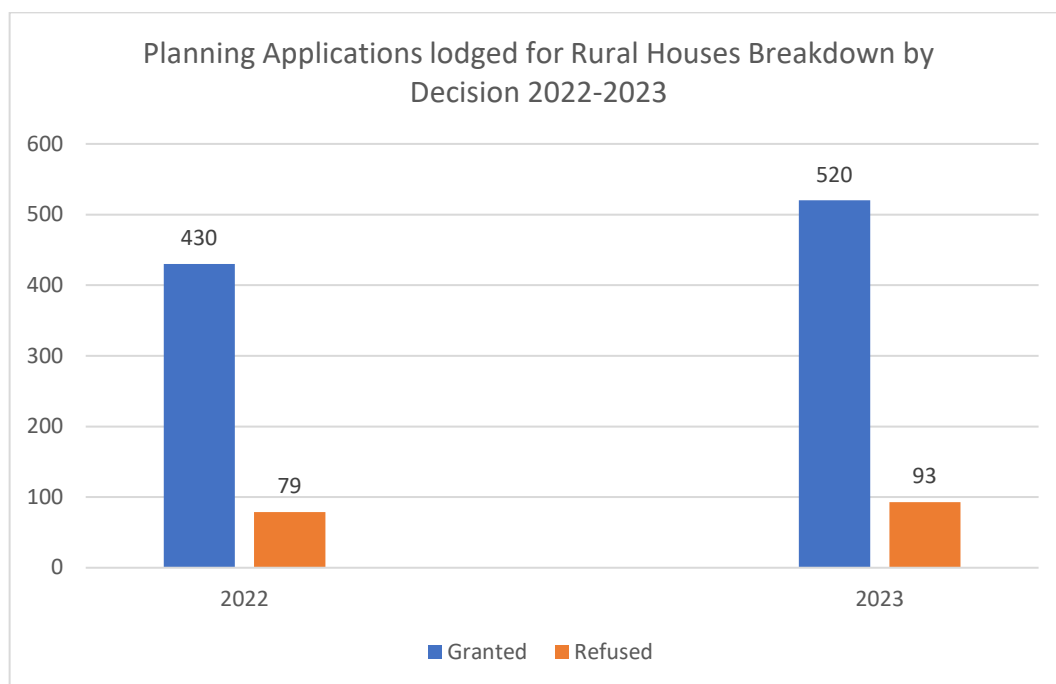


Figure 2.16: Rural Housing Planning Decisions  
Source: PPU Data Analysis

- 2.8.5 A breakdown of all decisions by Strategic Planning Area is provided below. Within the defined period, 46% of planning decisions related to planning applications in the Greater Cork Ring, followed by 25 % in the West Cork Strategic Planning Area, 17% in the County Metropolitan area and 13% in the North Cork Strategic Planning Area.



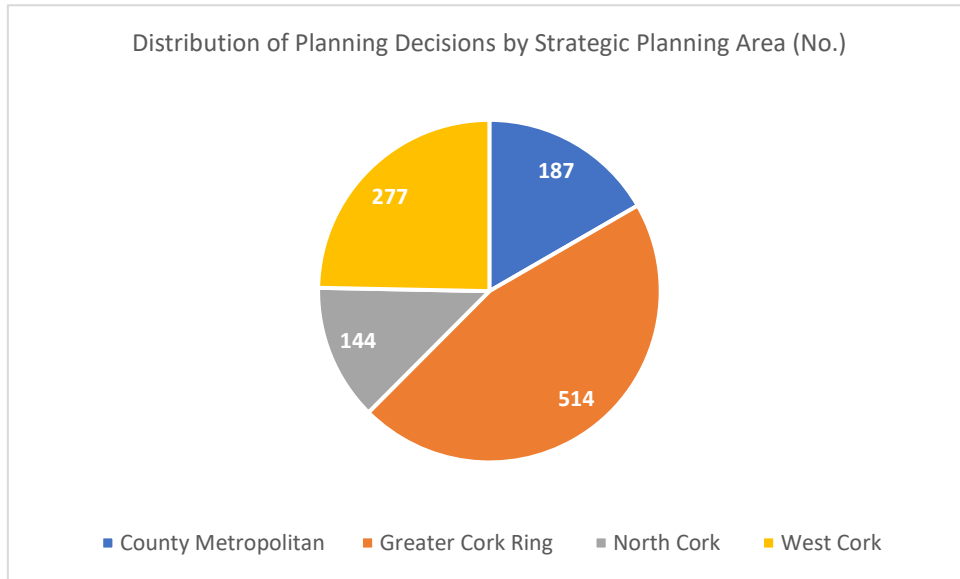


Figure 2.17: Rural Housing Decisions by Strategic Planning Area  
Source: PPU Data Analysis

2.8.6 Relative to the rural housing provisions of the Core Strategy, the number of rural houses permitted, in the first 20 months of the plan, as a % of the overall number for each SPA to 2028, is set out in Table 2.9. The number of units permitted in the West Cork SPA is ahead of expectations for this stage of the plan.

Strategic Planning Area	% of 2028 Core Strategy Rural Housing provision already delivered by 31/12/2023
County Metropolitan	21%
Greater Cork Ring	27%
North Cork	19%
West Cork	38%

2.8.7 Figure 2.18. illustrates the percentage distribution of decisions for single rural dwellings among the eight Municipal Districts. West Cork MD has the highest number of planning decisions at 232 / 21%, this is followed by Macroom with 202 or 18% of the total number. The West Cork MD is the largest of all the MDs, comprising 27% of the land area of the county, while Macroom has 16% of the land area. See Appendix 1 for further details on the Municipal Districts.

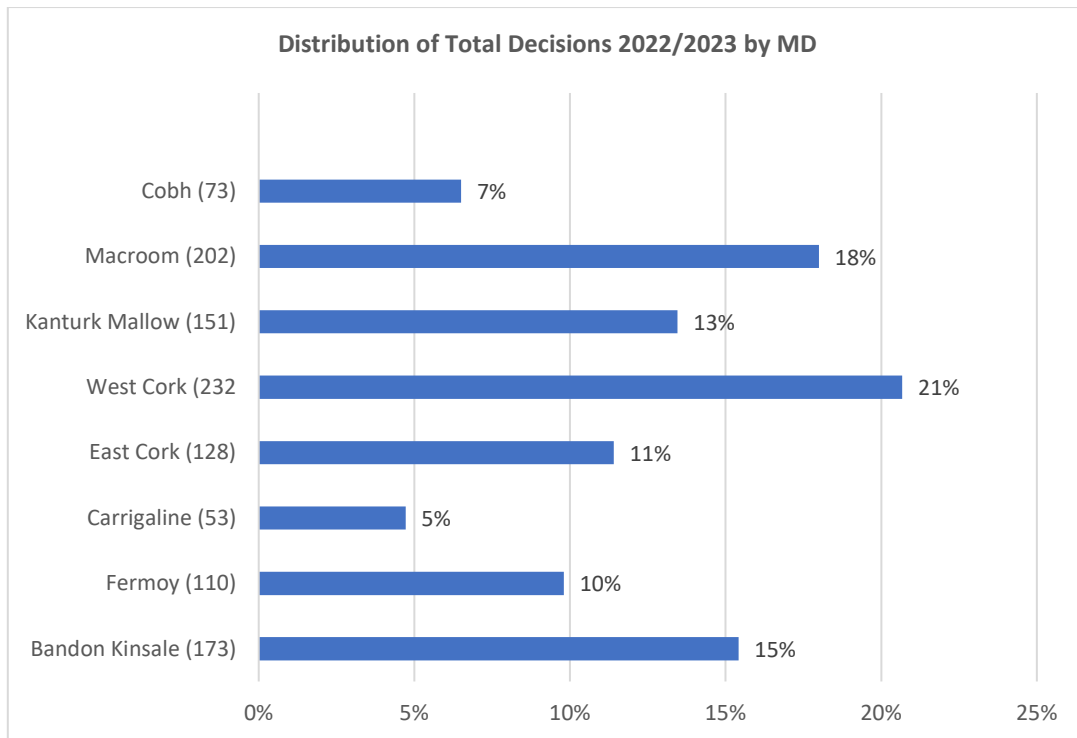


Figure 2.18: Rural Housing Decisions by Municipal District  
Source: PPU Data Analysis

2.8.8 A breakdown of these decisions by Municipal District is provided below. The West Cork MD had the highest number of grants of permission for single rural dwellings, between 26th April 2022 and 31st December 2023 at 191, this was followed by Macroom MD with 184 and Bandon Kinsale at 138 grants of permission. The refusal rate is 15%.

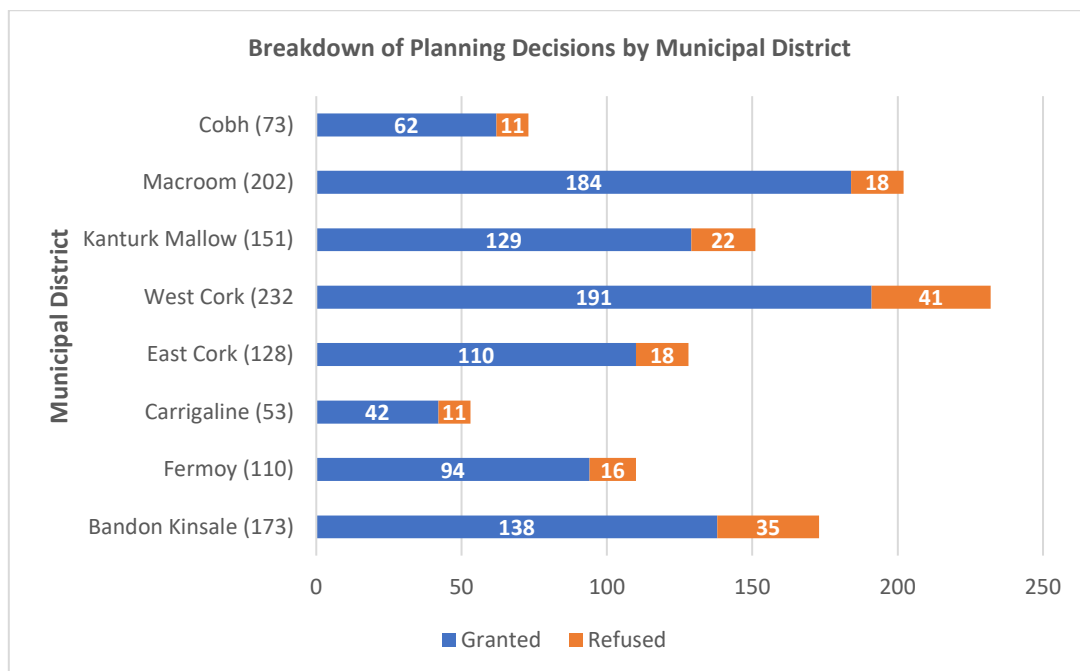


Figure 2.19: Rural Housing Decisions by Municipal District  
Source: PPU Data Analysis

- 2.8.9 A breakdown of these decisions by Rural Housing Policy Area type is shown below. The Rural Area under Strong Urban Influence was subject to the largest proportion of total decisions on single rural housing planning applications at almost 50% of the overall number, 86% of these were granted permission.
- 2.8.10 This was followed by the Tourism and Rural Diversification Area represented by 16% of the overall number, while 10% of applications were in the Metropolitan Greenbelt, followed by 9% in the Town Greenbelts. The Stronger Rural Area, Transitional Rural Area, and Structurally Weaker Rural Area were represented by a share of 7%, 4% and 4% of all applications respectively.
- 2.8.11 In overall terms, 85% of planning applications were granted permission, 15 % were refused permission. The overall rate of grants of permission is relatively uniform across the four Strategic Planning Areas.
- 2.8.12 Approximately 75% of planning applications for single rural dwellings were dependent on a private source of water supply to service the proposed dwelling. Almost all planning applications proposed to use an on-site domestic wastewater treatment system to service a proposed rural house.

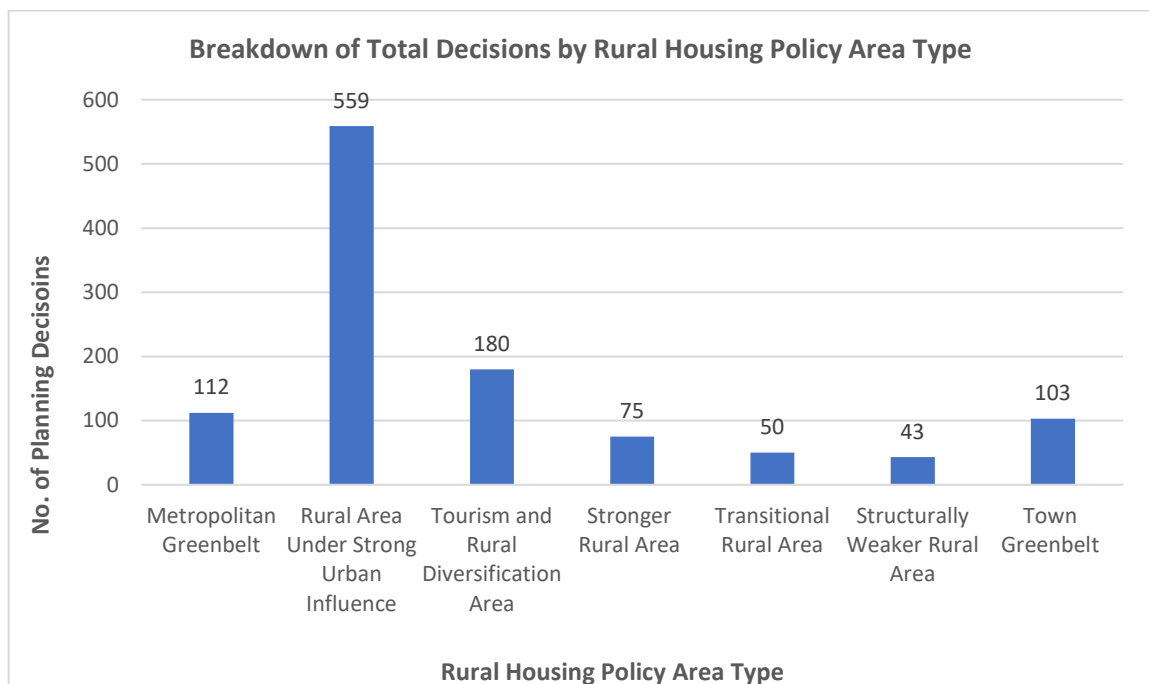


Figure 2.20: Rural Housing Decisions by Rural Housing Policy Area  
Source: PPU Data Analysis

## 2.9 Population Change on the Islands

2.9.1 The Census records population on the 84 islands around Ireland. They vary greatly in terms of their population change particularly because any change to an already low population base has a seemingly large impact, for example, an island with a population of just 1 person in 2011 rising to 5 people in 2022 has a % change of 400%. Of the 15 Islands recorded around County Cork, (Hop Island is located within the City Council boundary) and looking at the % change 2016-2022, four Islands have seen an overall increase, nine Islands have seen a decrease and two have remained unchanged (these Islands as seen from the Table 2.10 below record a 'zero' or a very small change in population).

Table 2.10 Population Change on the Islands 2016-2022			
Islands	2016	2022	% change
Bear Island, Cork	167	218	31%
Calf Island East, Cork	2	0	-100%
Cléire, Cork	147	110	-25%
Coney Island, Cork	1	0	-100%
Dursey Island, Cork	4	3	-25%
Haulbowline Island, Cork	216	149	-31%
Horse Island, Cork	1	1	0%
Inchydoney Island, Cork	183	247	35%
Inishbeg, Cork	34	23	-32%
Inishodriscol (or Hare Island), Cork	28	22	-21%
Long Island, Cork	20	17	-15%
Mannin Beg, Cork	1	1	0%
Ringarogy Island, Cork	84	88	5%
Sherkin Island, Cork	111	110	-1%
Whiddy Island, Cork	18	31	72%

Source: <https://data.cso.ie/table/F1019>

2.9.2 This mix of static, increasing and decreasing population seen in County Cork's Islands, reflects the national trend, where about 15% of the Islands overall exhibit a static population, 36% of Islands exhibit an increase in population and 49% exhibit a decrease in population.

## 2.10 Housing on the West Cork Islands

2.10.1 A review of the composition of housing stock on the West Cork Islands was carried out using the Q1 GeoDirectory dataset each year from 2020 to 2024 inclusive. Table 2.11 and Figure 2.21 provide a breakdown of the composition of housing stock on each of the Islands, including the Geodirectory estimation of the number of vacant houses and holiday homes on the Islands. The outcome of this review confirms that the composition of housing stock on the West Cork Islands has remained relatively unchanged between the years 2020 and 2024.

2.10.2 The Geodirectory provides one source of data on housing stock, vacancy, and holiday homes

in Ireland. There are a number of sources of other data on vacancy in Ireland, including the Central Statistics Office (CSO) data based on the Census, and Revenue data based on an analysis of Local Property Tax returns. Estimates in relation to vacancy and holiday homes often varies between data sources. This is due in part to different definitions of vacancy and data collection methodologies being used.

- 2.10.3 Based on an analysis of the Geodirectory data, the average vacancy rate for the West Cork Islands is 8.9%. This is more than double the Geodirectory national average vacancy rate which was 3.9%, in the twelve months to December 2023.
- 2.10.4 In comparison, the Census 2022 vacancy rate (excluding holiday homes) fell to less than 8% in 2022 from over 9% in 2016 and 12% in 2011. It should be noted, that at a national level, the CSO 2022 Census vacancy rate is more than double that of the Geodirectory. This is because the Census vacancy data includes properties that are temporarily vacant such as those for sale or rent or undergoing renovation.
- 2.10.5 Table 2.11 below illustrates the percentage of total housing stock used as holiday homes across the 7 Islands. Long Island has the highest number of holiday homes at 67 %, followed by Heir Island at 58%. Whiddy Island, Oileán Chléire, and Bere Island have the lowest. Based on a total housing stock of 617 houses, almost 40% of the overall stock falls into the category of vacant and in use as holiday homes.
- 2.10.6 Other community survey work completed on Cléire in January 2024 suggests that almost 50% of the housing stock is used as holiday homes, suggesting local knowledge on the ground may produce different results to the census / geodirectory data.

**Table 2.11: Composition of Housing Stock on West Cork Islands Q1 2024**

Island	Total No. of houses	Vacant Houses (No.)	Holiday Homes (No.)
Bere Island	254	23	58
Whiddy Island	25	1	3
Dursey Island	18	3	10
Long Island	27	1	18
Heir	53	1	31
Sherkin	114	8	45
Cléire	126	18	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>184</b>

Source: GeoDirectory

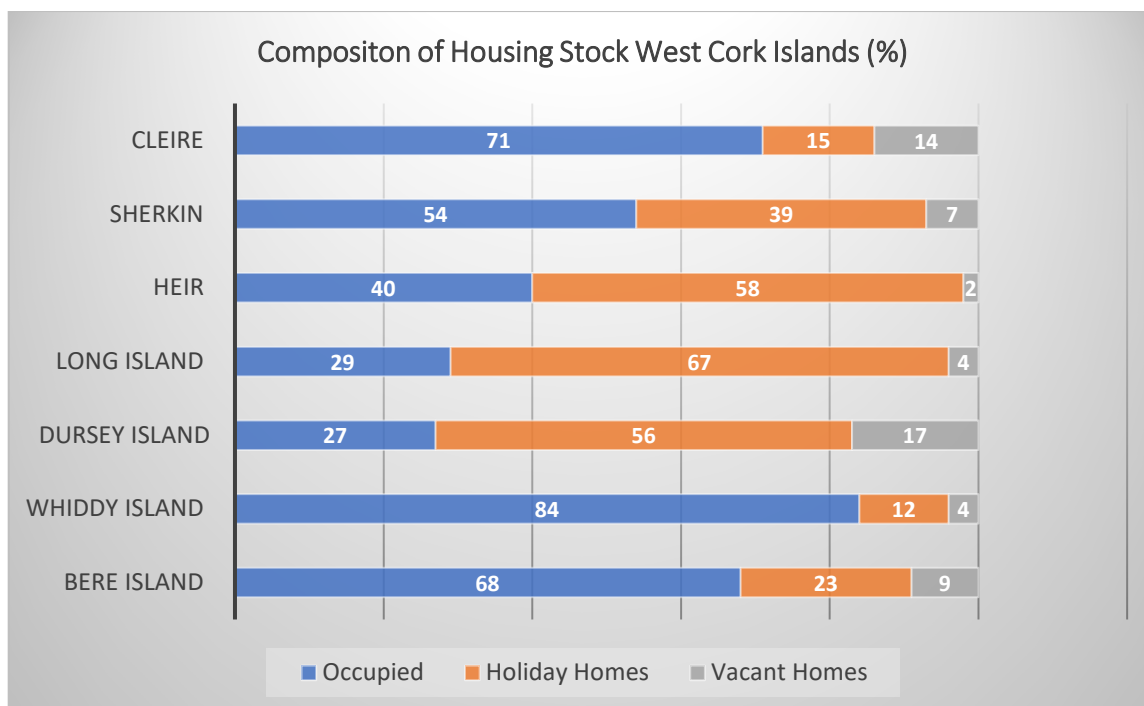


Figure 2.21. Composition of the Housing Stock of the West Cork Islands Q1 2024  
Source: GeoDirectory

## 2.11 Housing Implementation by Cork County Council

2.11.1 The County Development Plan adopts a multi-faceted approach to support the delivery of the Core Strategy housing targets by providing the appropriate planning policy framework at a local level to guide sustainable development across the settlement network. The Plan supports compact growth, sequential development, regeneration and the reuse of underutilised and/or vacant lands, in addition to the development of greenfield sites.

2.11.2 In practical terms the Council is supporting housing activation and delivery in numerous direct and indirect ways, with investments in housing, infrastructure, placemaking, economic activity, tourism, heritage, amenities, and community development. Specific supports include the following:

### (a) *Delivery of Social and Affordable Housing*

The Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan for the period 2022 to 2026 aims to deliver 3,198 social housing homes and 682 affordable homes through direct build, turnkey and Part V arrangements and includes delivery by the AHBs.

Cork County Council working with Approved Housing Bodies, continues to meet its commitments under Housing for All. Social Housing Delivery is a combination of direct construction on the Council's own land, in partnership with developers on Turnkey Schemes, through Part V acquisitions and by the Approved Housing Bodies in their delivery programmes. Delivery will be maximised under each of these headings over the remaining period of the Plan. In 2022 a total of 551 Social Housing Units were provided in the County and the projected figure for 2023 is 369 units.

Three Affordable Schemes have been advertised and houses are being sold in Mallow, Carrigaline and Cobh. A further 10 schemes, in partnership with developers

and on the Council's own land are at various stages of design, planning and development. These projects will see a minimum of 667 Affordable Houses provided, which exceeds the Housing for All target for Affordable Housing of 189.

The Housing Department are also working with the Property Department and Municipal Districts to progress the redevelopment of derelict brownfield sites in Mallow, Macroom and Bantry, for future high quality 'compact', housing development.

**(b) Work of the *Housing Infrastructure Implementation Team (HIIT)***

The Council's *Housing Infrastructure Implementation Team (HIIT)* continues to work with all key stakeholders in activating the development of the Urban Expansions Areas in Carrigtwohill and Midleton, and delivering the strategic enabling infrastructure funded under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF).

The contract for construction of LIHAF funded Infrastructure within the Water-Rock Urban Expansion Area is approaching substantial completion. Approximately 12ha of land has been purchased within the UEA for roads and future public parks. Planning permission has been granted for >1,400 residential units within the Water Rock Urban Expansion Area.

In Carrigtwohill, through collaboration with the private sector and the Department of Education, the link road connecting Castle Lake to Station Road has been delivered and taken in charge. Planning was recently granted by An Bord Pleanála for c. 700 residential units to be serviced by this new road. Significant public realm and infrastructure improvements are planned to facilitate the development of Carrigtwohill North UEA (Part 8 approved September 2023).

**(c) *Active Land Management***

**Vacant Sites Register**

Under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015, (the Act) all planning authorities are required to establish and maintain a Vacant Sites Register (the Register). This Register has been in place since January 1st, 2017. As required, the latest update of the register was published on the 13th of December 2023. It currently has three properties identified, two in Cobh and one in Carrigtwohill. This active land management mechanism is being phased out in favour of the Residential Zoned Land Tax (see next section).

**Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)**

The Residential Zoned Land Tax was introduced by the Government in Budget 2022 to encourage the timely activation of zoned and serviced residential development land for housing. The measure is intended to activate existing planning permissions and zonings where housing is permitted and where the land is connected to, or has access to services, but remains undeveloped. It is primarily intended to influence behaviour towards increased housing output. The operation of the measure will in the first instance, be through the preparation of maps which identify land which falls within

scope of the tax, by virtue of appropriate zoning and servicing. Cork County Council completed the 2024 RZLT process on 1st December 2023 with the publication of its Final Annual Map. As announced in Budget 2024 the first liability date for the RZLT has been deferred from 1st February 2024 to 1st February 2025.

2.11.3 Housing for All, the Government’s plan to increase housing availability and affordability contains a range of schemes that are being implemented successfully in Cork as detailed in Table 2.12.

Table 2.12 Housing for All Schemes to increase Housing Availability and Affordability	
Scheme	Progress during 2022 /2023
<b>Help To Buy</b> <sup>5</sup> - an incentive for first-time buyers to help with their deposit for purchasing or self-building a new home, to live in as their home. Those who meet the required conditions will receive a tax refund to current maximum of €30,000.	In 2022, the Help to Buy scheme benefited 970 buyers to a value of €101.0m. In 2023, a further 1,043 buyers benefitted to a value of €128.9m. (This data relates to all of Cork – City and County).  Nationally 74% of applications relate to the purchase of houses and 26 % to self-build houses.
<b>LA Affordable Purchase Scheme</b> makes LA provided homes available at a reduced price for first time buyers and fresh start applicants, with the LA taking an equity stake in the property which can be bought out at a later stage.	As detailed above, three Affordable Schemes have been advertised and houses are being sold in Mallow, Carrigaline and Cobh. A further 10 schemes are at various stages of design, planning, and development. These projects will see a minimum of 667 Affordable Houses provided.
<b>First Home Scheme</b> <sup>6</sup> - a shared equity scheme that supports eligible first-time buyers and fresh start applicants by bridging the gap between their deposit/ mortgage and the price of the new home. The government takes a share in the ownership of the property in return for providing a share of the property price. Launched July	Nationwide, in the first 12 months of the operation of the scheme, there were 2,333 applications received and 1,915 buyers approved, 918 contracts issued, and 456 properties bought. The average support per buyer was €68,000.  16% of all approvals were in Cork (City

<sup>5</sup> Help to Buy information sources: Sources: <https://www.revenue.ie/en/corporate/documents/statistics/tax-expenditures/help-to-buy-annual-report-2022.pdf> and <https://www.revenue.ie/en/corporate/documents/statistics/tax-expenditures/help-to-buy-stats.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> First home Scheme source: [www.firsthomescheme.ie/media/2uvd2grj/q2-update.pdf](http://www.firsthomescheme.ie/media/2uvd2grj/q2-update.pdf)



Table 2.12 Housing for All Schemes to increase Housing Availability and Affordability	
Scheme	Progress during 2022 /2023
2022.	and County.)
<b>Local Authority Home Loan Scheme</b> is a government backed mortgage for first time buyers and fresh start applicants, to build a home or buy a new or second-hand home, or the purchase and renovation of a derelict home.	In 2022 the Council received 182 home loan applications and 77 of these were approved, with an average approval of €174,000 per applicant In 2023 The Council received 143 home loan applications and 70 of these were approved, with an average loan of €171,000.
<b>Cost Rental Homes</b> are provided to rent where the rent is set to cover only the cost of financing, building, managing and maintaining the homes – generally 25% below market rates. It's a form of long-term sustainable home rental for people above social housing income limits.	No homes have been delivered to date under this scheme but there are 109 units in the pipeline for 2024 in Bandon, Bantry, Carrigtwohill, Cobh, Middleton and Youghal.
<b>Mortgage to Rent</b> <sup>7</sup> offers householders in acute unsustainable mortgage arrears the chance to surrender their property to a lender. The home is then purchased by an approved housing body and former owner becomes a social housing tenant in their former home.	At the end of 2023 Cork County Council had <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27 active applications,</li> <li>• 123 complete applications,</li> <li>• 38 ineligible applications and</li> <li>• 183 terminated cases.</li> </ul> (Total 371)
<b>Repair and Lease Scheme;</b> under this scheme if a vacant property is suitable for social housing the cost of the repairs is funded by the Council or an AHB, and the property is then leased for social housing. The owner gets an agreed rental payment with the repair cost offset against the rent over an agreed period.	Eight properties have been refurbished and leased since 2019.
<b>Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant.</b> This scheme supports the sustainable reuse of vacant or derelict properties, funded by the	The Croí Cónaithe Fund launched in July 2022 with a focus on bringing formerly vacant houses or buildings back into use.

<sup>7</sup> Mortgage to Rent Sources: Source : <https://www.housingagency.ie/housing-information/mortgage-rent-statistics> and Source : [www.housingagency.ie/sites/default/files/2024-02/Local%20Authority%20Status%20Report%20Q%204%202023.pdf](http://www.housingagency.ie/sites/default/files/2024-02/Local%20Authority%20Status%20Report%20Q%204%202023.pdf)

Table 2.12 Housing for All Schemes to increase Housing Availability and Affordability	
Scheme	Progress during 2022 /2023
Croí Cónaithe Fund.	Cork County Council are processing applications for the regeneration of 538 vacant properties across the County and approvals have issued for the refurbishment of 314 of these to the value of approximately €15million. See Section 4.11 for further details.
<b>Ready to Build Scheme</b> where local authorities make serviced sites / vacant buildings available to individual purchasers to build their own house at a discounted price	Cork County Council has identified eight sites already in Council ownership which may be suitable for the Ready to Build Scheme. Engaging with Department to clarify how the scheme works.

## 2.12 Vacancy

- 2.12.1 Addressing vacancy is one of four key pathways in Housing for All, the Government’s housing plan to 2030. There are a number of objectives in the Plan which seek to address vacancy within the existing building stock as part of the Council’s commitment to deliver compact growth and resilient places. The Vacant Homes Action Plan 2023-2026 recognises the often-complex nature for vacancy and includes a number of actions to help address vacancy in housing stock.
- 2.12.2 Vacancy in the commercial sector with the decline of traditional commercial activity is also a significant issue which needs to be addressed to ensure town centre vitality and viability and to improve overall attractiveness.
- 2.12.3 There are a number of sources of data on residential vacancy in Ireland, including the Geodirectory, Central Statistics Office (CSO) data based on the Census, and Revenue data based on an analysis of Local Property Tax returns. Estimates in relation to vacancy often varies between data sources and vacancy figures cannot be compared directly between different sources due to the different definitions or methodologies used.
- 2.12.4 The CSO definition does not include holiday homes but will class as vacant if it is unoccupied because it is up for sale, under renovation or because it is an uninhabited rental property.
- 2.12.5 According to the CSO, in Cork County the housing stock was 149,835, the number of vacant dwellings was 11,994 (8%) and the number of holiday homes was 7,252 (4.8%). The number of vacant properties decreased by 2,077 or 14.76% between 2016 and 2022.
- 2.12.6 This reflects the national trend which also saw a reduction in vacancy from 9.1% in 2016 to 7.7% in 2022. In terms of the reasons given for a property being vacant, 17% of properties were vacant because the owner was deceased. In a further 17% of cases the reason for the vacancy was not given or classed as ‘other reasons’. Rental properties accounted for 15% of vacant houses while a further 14% were undergoing renovation, and 10% were for sale.

2.12.7 A breakdown of vacancy by Strategic Planning Area and Municipal District is provided in Figure 2.22 and 2.23 below. According to Census 2022, Cork County Council has a housing stock vacancy of 8%. Both the North Cork and West Cork Strategic Planning Areas have recorded a vacancy rate in excess of 10%.

2.12.8 Carrigaline MD has the lowest vacancy rate at 4.2 %, followed by Cobh MD at 5.6% and East Cork at 6.1%. The Kanturk Mallow MD (10%) and West Cork MD (10.6%) have the highest rate which exceeds the county rate by 2%. The towns of Bantry, Castletownbere and Dunmanway have the highest vacancy rates in West Cork at 11.2%, 14.4% and 10.7% respectively. In the county overall, Buttevant has the highest vacancy rate of the settlements at 15.5%, followed by Newmarket at 14.5%.

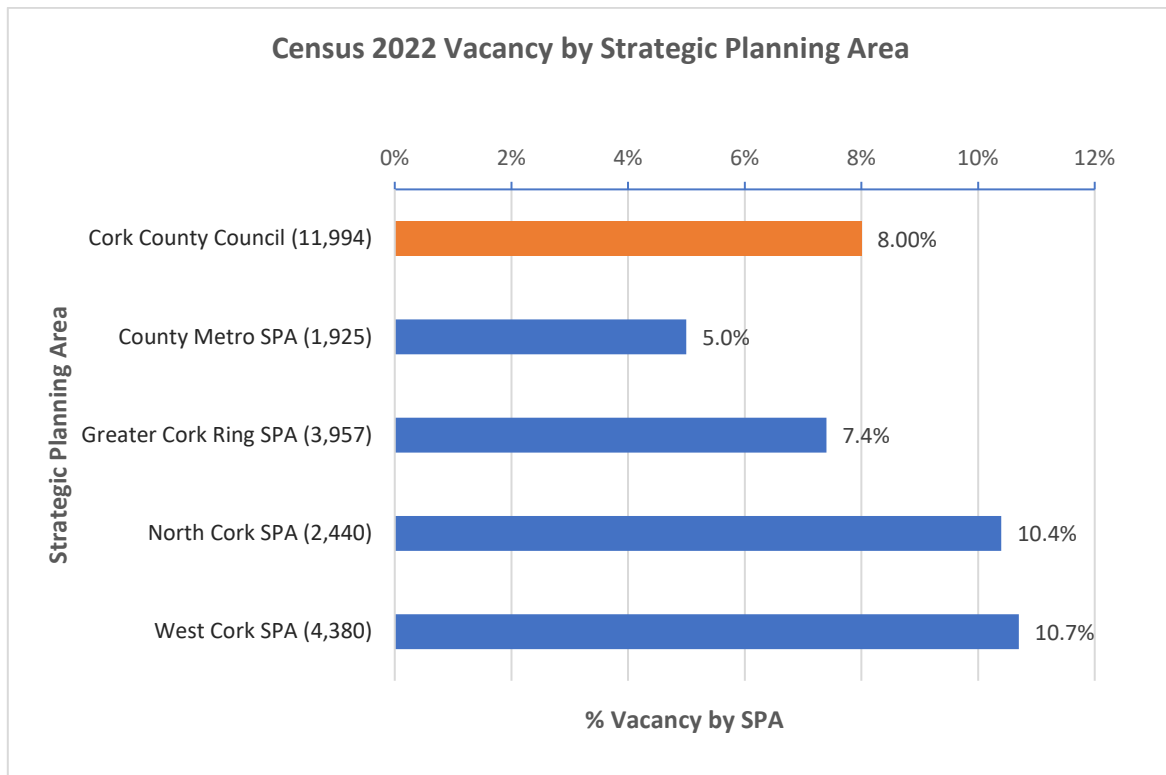


Figure 2.22: Vacancy Rates by SPA  
Source: [CSO 2022 /LECP Report](#)

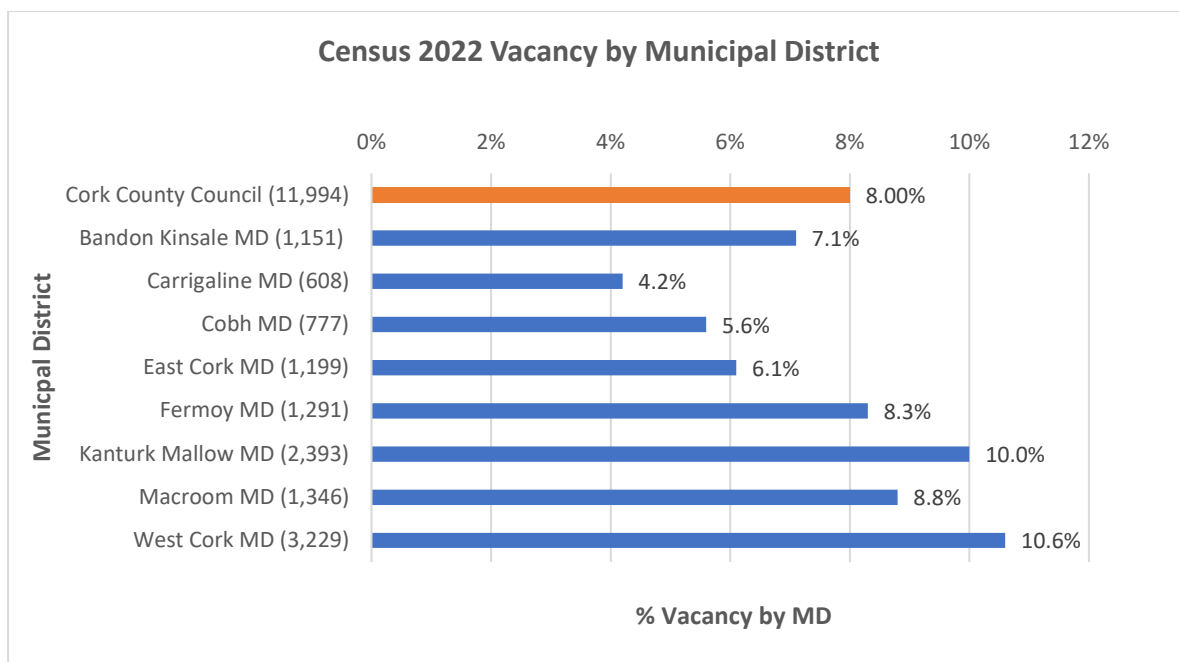


Figure 2.23: Vacancy Rates by MD  
Source: [CSO 2022 /LECP Report](#)

## 2.13 Age Friendly Housing

2.13.1 The Council continues to provide Age Friendly Housing and is also one of nine Local Authorities participating in the 'Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme'. Outside of these programmes, the Council will endeavour generally to adopt the principles of Universal Design for new builds.

2.13.2 Furthermore, Cork County Council's Local Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability has been prepared in conjunction with the Cork City and County Housing and Disability Steering Group as part of The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2022-2027. Cork County Council has a number of CAS schemes on hand where units are being provided for people with a disability and will continue to work with the AHB sector in the provision of these units.

## 2.14 Traveller Accommodation Programme

2.14.1 The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 was adopted at a meeting of the full Council held on the 23rd of September 2019 and is the Council's most recent strategy for meeting the accommodation needs of the Traveller Community in Cork. This programme outlines the existing and projected need for Traveller Accommodation and how Cork County Council will meet this need.

2.14.2 Drawing on an assessment of Traveller accommodation needs, the Traveller Accommodation Programme sets out accommodation targets for Cork County amounting to 68 units between 2019 and 2024, including 31 standard social housing units.

2.14.3 The social housing units are further broken down divisionally with 5 in South Cork; 14 in North Cork and 12 in West Cork. The location of these units within the divisions will be dependent on availability of the units over the course of the plan.

## 2.15 Settlements and Placemaking

- 2.15.1 The Settlements and Placemaking chapter of the County Development Plan sets out the policy objectives relating to making our living spaces, our towns, and villages more accessible, attractive, and safe places to live, work and recreate.
- 2.15.2 There are many placemaking projects ongoing throughout the county which are seeking to achieve better quality environments through tackling dereliction and improving the appearance of the core areas of settlements to attract investment and build confidence within our communities.
- 2.15.3 Carrigaline, Mallow and Passage West have been designated as ‘demonstrator towns’ in County Cork for the purpose of focusing efforts on property activation in these towns to aid compact growth. The particular focus is on the identification of derelict sites and properties that could be activated to support compact growth. This initiative is supported by URDF funding under Call 3 URDF 2023.
- 2.15.4 Key sites within these towns have been identified and engagements with site owners have commenced. Macroom has also been included in Cork County Council’s initial group of demonstrator towns for the purpose of piloting focused regeneration interventions and then scaling to other towns and villages across the County (see below).
- 2.15.5 The Council is also preparing a Heritage Led Regeneration Plan for Macroom, funded through The Heritage Council in conjunction with the Architects Department. Funding has also been granted to commence a Heritage Led Regeneration Plan for Passage West. The Council is also working on a Town Regeneration Plan for Skibbereen. A community display of the Draft Plan took place in December 2023.
- 2.15.6 The Southern Regional Assembly has recently announced a call for proposals under THRIVE – an exciting new ERDF grant scheme for local authorities under the Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021-2027. Targeting the key towns of Clonakilty and Mallow in the case of Cork, THRIVE will offer 100% grants to support local authorities and their citizens to re-imagine town centres and to transform publicly owned vacant or derelict heritage buildings within those town centres through renovation, renewal, and adaptive reuse. The Council will put together applications for grant funding under this programme.
- 2.15.7 In terms of placemaking, the naming of a development is a key factor regarding identity of place – the name of a place conveys much about the heritage of a locality in the first instance. Cork County Council established a new placenames procedure in September 2021 and in the intervening two years, close to 100 development names have been approved. These relate to names approved through the planning process by private developers as well as the names of new housing developments undertaken by Cork County Council.
- 2.15.8 Table 2.13 sets out some of planned, ongoing and completed projects. In addition to these larger scale projects, it is important to acknowledge the numerous projects which are being supported through the General Municipal Allocation, Town Development Fund and Village Enhancement Schemes.

Table 2.13: Public Realm and other significant Renewal Projects in Cork County			
Settlement	Type of Funding	Brief Description	Stage
<i>Carrigtwohill</i>	URDF Initiative (Part 1)	Part 1: Public Realm Infrastructure promoting regeneration, compact growth within the existing settlement.	Part 8 was approved June 2022
<i>Carrigtwohill</i>	URDF Initiative (Part 2)	Part 2: Urban Expansion Area Infrastructure promoting capacity for future sustainable development within Carrigtwohill North UEA. In addition to the service infrastructure: 4 no. surface water detention ponds creating new habitats and providing pollution control measures to surface water run-off and 10 green open space areas along the route with potential for planting and biodiversity and to build ecological corridors within the UEA.	Part 8 approved September 2023
<i>Midleton (LIHAF)</i>	Midleton LIHAF	Water-Rock Urban Expansion Area In addition to the service infrastructure, approximately 30 acres of land has been purchased within the UEA for roads and future public parks. Planning permission has been granted for >1,400 residential units within the Water Rock Urban Expansion Area	Contract underway, approaching substantial completion
<i>Midleton (Non LIHAF)</i>	Midleton URDF (Water-Rock Linear Park)	Plans and particulars submitted in July 2023 to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval of a new ten-hectare public park along the Owenacurra River to the north of Midleton town centre, including pedestrian and cycle links.	Ongoing, submitted to An Bord Pleanála in July 2023
<i>Carrigaline Transportation and Public Realm Enhancement Plan (TPREP)</i>		The Carrigaline TPREP aims to create an integrated transportation framework focused on addressing the transportation infrastructure and public realm enhancement required to support the sustainable development of the town of Carrigaline. It seeks to reduce car dependency, encourage walking and cycling in the town, improve access to educational, social and employment opportunities, and create a vibrant and rejuvenated town centre.	TPREP was adopted by Members in July 2021. Procurement has commenced and it is expected a contractor will be appointed in Q1 2024.
<i>Carrigaline to Ringaskiddy</i>		The project team is liaising with the Cork National Roads Design Office who is progressing the Ringaskiddy Public Realm project and with the M28 project team and TII regarding the M28 Active Travel Strategy. It is at preliminary design phase. Part 8 planning permission was obtained in 2017, for the link between Glenbrook and Raffeen. The project is currently at preliminary design phase. CCC has	Submissions are being reviewed and reported (Closing date was in December 2023.)

Table 2.13: Public Realm and other significant Renewal Projects in Cork County

Settlement	Type of Funding	Brief Description	Stage
		commenced a part 8 Planning process for the Monkstown Active Travel Link and Public Realm Enhancement.	
<i>Mallow</i>	URDF	<p>Mallow Town Regeneration URDF project saw a €2.5m investment in developing a public amenity area, playground, carparking and improved accessibility within Mallow Castle.</p> <p>Development of the former Town Hall into a Theatre and Arts venue and Mallow Public Realm URDF which is at design stage and has a URDF grant of €3.8m. These projects significantly strengthen the tourism, recreation and amenity offerings within the town.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Currently in planning and design stage</p>
<i>Clonakilty</i>		A suite of public realm projects are being developed including the development of the Gallanes Amenity Area Phase 2 – walkway extension to connect town to Technology Park, Birdwatch Enhancement Project in Clonakilty Bay, Restoration and enhancement of Deasy’s Quay South in Clonakilty Bay, Rejuvenation of Chateaulin Orchard Town Park, Clonakilty.	In development
<i>Macroom</i>		Through the TRO, CCC has collaborated with Bus Eireann and the Cork Education and Training Board (ETB) on a key regeneration site within the town to support the development of a youth education hub within an old bus depot building and to deliver on associated sustainable travel objectives.	In development
<i>Bandon</i>	RRDF	<p>Major public realm works in Bandon, including new public spaces and street enhancement measures. Funding provided through RRDF. Total project value €17,500,000.</p> <p>Bandon was selected in 2021 and 2022 under the National Streetscape Scheme. In 2022 Bandon received €38,911 for 14 projects involving the improvement to the façades of buildings with the works completed by the end of 2023.</p>	
<i>Kinsale</i>	RRDF	Kinsale Library- RRDF funding central to the development of €4.97 million state of the art library which has transformed a 200-year-old mill into a modern library serving	Completed

Table 2.13: Public Realm and other significant Renewal Projects in Cork County			
Settlement	Type of Funding	Brief Description	Stage
		the community with a multifunctional space for events, exhibitions and educational initiatives. Total project value €4,540,436.	
<i>Skibbereen</i>	Funding provided through TVR Total grant amount €243,000.	Skibbereen Town Regeneration Plan Skibbereen Town Hall Theatre upgrade and extension. Public Realm Accessibility Works at The Square, Skibbereen. The Rock Heritage & Nature Park, Skibbereen - Ongoing works including the provision of footpaths, new amphitheatre, seating, signage, interpretation of site heritage features, picnic areas, outdoor gym units, signage on public roads, resurfacing and upgrade of footpaths and entrances to the park.	Ongoing
<i>Bantry</i>	Funding provided through TVR. Total grant amount €216,000.	Bantry Peace Park - installation of an inclusive, accessible playground and carparking.	Ongoing Part 8 Approved
<i>Fermoy Town Centre Renewal Project</i>	RRDF Cat 2 value €2m	Upgrade of Public Realm project— currently at design stage	Design Stage (pre Part 8)
<i>Charleville</i>	RRDF Cat 1 Project value €5.2m	RRDF Project — includes significant Public Realm improvements, reuse of vacant landmark building and refurbishment of existing community hall.	Part 8 in Place, costs and business case being updated to allow funding release.
<i>Mitchelstown</i>	RRDF Cat 2 RRDF Cat 1 application in preparation (project value Est €3m).	Georgian Quarter project complete with Part 8 in place for public realm and streetscape improvements.	Partly completed Part 8 in place for public realm works
<i>Ballydesmond</i>	RRDF €975k project	Public Realm and Pocket Park	
<i>Liscarroll</i>	€290k Project	Town and Village Renewal Scheme Public Realm	

Source: Information provided by various Directorates in Cork County Council



## 3 Theme Two: Community

### 3.1 Social and Community

- 3.1.1 The objectives set out in Chapter 6 acknowledge the need for high-quality community and social infrastructure that meets both current and future population needs, accessible to people of all ages and abilities, to achieve vibrant and sustainable urban and rural communities. Whilst significant progress has been made in the delivery of new and enhanced community facilities, the Plan objectives seeking to secure new and enhanced social infrastructure will be secured on an ongoing basis throughout the lifetime of the plan.
- 3.1.2 To achieve this, the Council recognises the importance of ensuring a collaborative approach working with statutory and voluntary agencies to secure further enhancement of facilities. Furthermore, the Council has a strong track record in community engagement as evidenced by the scale and range of projects ongoing throughout the County.
- 3.1.3 The Plan places particular focus on policies and objectives to support the development of childcare, educational and healthcare facilities in the County. In addition, implementation of the Council's Age Friendly Programme and the provision of accommodation and services for Older Persons is a key objective of the Plan.
- 3.1.4 Cork County Council adopted the new Local Economic and Community Plan, 2024-2030 (LECP) on the 11th of March 2024. The LECP is a statutory plan which sets out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support both the economic and community development of the County for the next 6 years. Cork County benefits from a vibrant community network, evidenced by the 525 community groups and organisations who form part of the Public Participation Network. Supporting communities to be sustainable and vibrant places to live, work and do business is a key focus of the Cork County LECP, 2024-2030.
- 3.1.5 Both the County Development Plan and the LECP share common themes to support the growth of necessary educational, recreational, cultural and community led facilities in the County. [Local Economic and Community Plan \(LECP\) 2024-2030 | Cork County Council \(corkcoco.ie\)](#).

### 3.2 Healthcare

- 3.2.1 Since the adoption of the Plan, an extensive range of community facilities have been developed and permission granted to enhance further facilities in accordance with these objectives. Table 3.1 provides a breakdown of progress in relation to key projects in the County.

<b>Fermoy</b>	New Primary Care Centre opened in 2023
<b>Cobh</b>	New Primary Care Centre opened in 2023
<b>Youghal</b>	Planning application for a new Primary Centre, decision due in April 2024.
<b>Carrigaline</b>	111-bedroom Nursing home in Carrigaline located within the Janeville residential development on the northern side of Carrigaline, was completed in November 2023.

<b>Charleville</b>	60 bed Nursing home located at Station Road Charleville opened in 2023.
<b>Midleton</b>	50 bed Nursing Home in Midleton is expected to be completed in 2024.
<b>Boherbue</b>	9-bedroom extension to an existing Nursing Home granted permission in 2023.
<b>Midleton</b>	Permission granted for a 90 bed Nursing home within the Water Rock Urban expansion areas as part of a multi-use development including over 400 residential units in 2022.
<b>Kildorrery</b>	Permission granted for a 22-bedroom extension to an existing Nursing home.
<b>Macroom</b>	Permission granted for a 30-bedroom extension to an existing Nursing home in Macroom in 2023.

3.2.2 Existing community hospitals play a vital role in providing health care services to local communities. Funding was recently allocated to enhance healthcare infrastructure in the existing community hospitals in Castletownbere, Clonakilty, Kanturk, Macroom, Millstreet, Fermoy and Skibbereen, through the HSE 2022 Capital Plan under Project Ireland 2040.

### **3.3 Childcare and Education**

3.3.1 The Plan also supports the provision of childcare facilities in appropriate locations and in accordance with the Childcare guidelines. Since the adoption of the Plan, twenty three childcare facilities were granted permission throughout the county. Eleven of these will be delivered in tandem with new residential developments.

3.3.2 Support for the ongoing provision of new educational facilities is also a key objective of the Plan. In line with this objective, 14 primary schools in the county received permission for classroom extensions. In addition, four secondary schools in the County have also received permission for classroom extensions.

3.3.3 It is noted that there are settlements in the County where pressures can exist in the capacity of the existing school network to provide additional school spaces within a given school year, such as Clonakilty, Fermoy and Midleton/Carrigtwohill. Table 3.2 provides an update on permissions granted for school developments. Table 3.3 and Table 3.4 provides an update on recently completed major school projects and the status of projects on the Department of Education’s current capital works programme for major school projects. There are projects for both Clonakilty and Fermoy listed in Table 3.4. Carrigtwohill Community School opened in February 2024. The issue of school places is kept under review by the Department and Cork County Council will continue to work with relevant stakeholders to support the provision of school facilities in a timely manner where a need has been identified.

Table 3.2: Permitted School Developments 2022/2023	
Drinagh NS	Two classroom extension, an assisted users WC, a resource room permitted in 2022.
St. Mary's Primary School, Rosscarbery	2 no. S.E.T rooms and additional facilities granted permission in 2022.
Scoil Íosagáin Infant School, Mallow	Three classroom extension, two storey extension for the delivery of Special Needs Education, new play area, sensory garden permitted in 2022.
Bishop Galvin Central School Newcestown	New S.E.N extension, 1 no. mainstream classrooms, 2 no. classroom safe bases, 2 no. small safe places and ancillary facilities permitted in 2022.
Vicarstown NS	New SEN unit with 3 no. SEN classrooms and 2 no. ensuite mainstream classrooms, ancillary spaces and other upgrades permitted in 2022.
St. Brendans NS Rathcoole	2-classroom special needs unit and associated facilities permitted in 2022.
Scoil Naomh Eltin, Kinsale	Classroom Extension granted in 2022.
Scoil Mhuire Kiskeam	Classroom extension and other works granted in 2022.
St. Josephs Convent NS, Charleville	3 no. single storey modular classroom buildings granted in 2022.
Midleton CBS Primary School	2 no. classrooms, central activities space, new main entrance, office, 2 no. SET classrooms and single storey connection. Renovation of existing SEN building to provide 2 no. classrooms, 4 no. set classrooms, a multi-sensory room and ancillary spaces. Permitted in 2022.
Scoil Aonghusa CNS	Extension to existing school incorporating a special educational needs base and associated facilities granted in 2023.
Scoil Eoin Innishannon	2 no. classrooms and 1 no. multi-purpose room permitted in 2023.
Scoil Náisiúnta na Scairte Léithe, Saleen	2 classrooms, including a special needs classroom, 2 set rooms, permitted in 2023.
Midleton Educate Together	SEN unit classroom base and associated rooms granted in 2023.

St Patricks Boys NS Skibbereen	New ASD classroom, resource room, and other ancillary works granted in 2023.
Beara Community School Castletownbere	Special educational needs base extension with associated ancillary works granted permission in 2022.
Pobalscoil na Tríonóide, Youghal	6 classroom block with ancillary teaching rooms and a new Special Needs Unit permitted in 2022.
Midleton College	Classroom and WC block permitted in 2023.
Coachford College	Demolition of existing school buildings, and the construction of a new 1,000 pupil secondary school including a four-classroom special education unit, a single storey multipurpose hall, general purpose room, general classrooms, specialist classrooms, social areas, library permitted in 2023.
Loreto Secondary School, Fermoy	Permission granted for the refurbishment and extension of the school permitted in February 2024.

Source: Cork County Council

- 3.3.4 The status of other large-scale school building projects completed in Cork County since the adoption of the Plan is provided below:

<b>School</b>	<b>Status</b>
Kanturk BNS & SN an Chlochair, Kanturk (Primary)	Completed in 2022
Scoil Mhuire Naofa, Carrigtwohill (Primary)	Completed in 2023
Scoil Chliodhna CNS, Carrigtwohill (Primary)	Completed in 2023
Scoil an Athar Tadhg Carrignavar (Primary)	Completed in 2023
Carrigtwohill Community College (Post Primary)	Completed in 2023
Patrician Secondary Boy's School, Mallow (Post Primary)	Completed in 2024

Source: gov - Major projects ([www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie)) (March, 2024)

- 3.3.5 A breakdown of other large-scale building projects being provided under the School Building Programme (November 2023) is provided below.

Table 3.4: Current Status of Dept of Education and Skills Large-Scale School Projects Cork	
County	
School	Status
Ballinspittle NS, Ballinspittle	Stage 3 (Tender Stage)
Dromahane NS, Mallow	On site
Shanbally NS, Shanbally	Project Brief
Kilbrittan NS, Kilbrittain	Stage 2a (Developed Sketch Scheme)
Scoil Chlochair Mhuire, Carrigtwohill	Pre-Stage 1
Summercove NS, Summercove, Kinsale	Pre-Stage 1
Gaelscoil Droichead Na Bandan	Stage 1 (Preliminary Design)
Ringaskiddy Lower Harbour NS, Ringaskiddy	Site Acquisition Process
Gael Scoil Cionn Tsáile, Cionn Tsáile	Stage 2a (Developed Sketch Scheme)
Owenabue ETNS, Church Road, Carrigaline	Pre-Stage 1
Holy Well National School, Carrigaline	Pre-Stage 1
Coláiste na Toirbhitre, Bandon	Stage 1 (Preliminary Design)
St. Aloysius College, Carrigtwohill	Stage 2a (Developed Sketch Scheme)
Sacred Heart School, Clonakilty	Stage 1 (Preliminary Design)
De La Salle (Boys) Secondary school, Macroom	Stage 2a (Developed Sketch Scheme)
St Mary's (Girls) Secondary school, Macroom	Project Brief
Coláiste Ghobnatan, Baile Mhic Ire	Stage 2b (Detailed Design)
Coachford CC, Coachford	Stage 2b (Detailed Design)
Cobh Community College, Carrignafooy	Stage 2a (Developed Sketch Scheme)
St Peters Community School, Passage West	Stage 1 (Preliminary Design)
St Colman's Boys Secondary School, Fermoy	Stage 2a (Developed Sketch Scheme)
Loreto Secondary Girl's School, Fermoy	Stage 2b (Detailed Design)

Source: gov - Major projects ([www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie)) (March, 2024)

### 3.4 Delivering Enhanced Social and Community Facilities

3.4.1 A key strength of the local government sector is an ability to respond to the unique needs of communities in the delivery of services, ensuring efficiencies and decisions that have regard to issues which are of greatest importance to its citizens. Cork County Council has a proven track record of delivering services in each Municipal District to enhance local services and amenities for communities.

3.4.2 The Council has been successful in securing funding for libraries, cultural venues and multifunctional spaces serving communities across the County, including:

- Redevelopment of Kinsale Library
- Skibbereen Town Hall theatre Upgrade and extension

- In 2022, funding secured for the refurbishment of Ringaskiddy Community Centre
  - Mallow Town Hall Theatre and Arts Spaces is currently at detailed design stage.
  - Macroom Library and Briary Gap Theatre will open in 2024.
  - Library upgrades: significant investment is ongoing in the library service with projects in Carrigaline, Mallow, Passage West, Bantry, Youghal, Macroom and Cape Clear. A feasibility study for the development of a library in Carrigtwohill is also underway. The aim is to deliver library spaces capable of supporting cultural, arts, heritage, library and social inclusion services at the heart of each community.
- 3.4.3 Whiddy Island – Development of new Community Hall – Rural Development Programme in partnership with Comhar na nOileán.
- 3.4.4 Many communities across the county have benefited from the Community Recognition Fund administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Funding has been granted for a number of projects to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. Engagement with communities also took place under the Council’s Ukraine Response Support Programme involving collaboration across statutory, community and voluntary organisations across the county.
- 3.4.5 Other projects received support through the General Municipal Allocation, Town Development Fund and Village Enhancement Fund and Arts Program. A number of projects aimed at improving public realm and town and village renewal for the benefit of many communities in the county are detailed in Table 2.12 of this report. Some of these projects are also supported through URDF and RRDF funding schemes.
- 3.4.6 Cork County Council launched the Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) in December 2023, which will provide targeted funding to eligible community organisations to deliver local climate action.
- 3.4.7 Community development is also supported through the Council’s North, South and West Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs), through the administration of a no. of grant schemes including, for example, the Community Supports Fund and the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme. Support for the community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental groups is also achieved through the Council’s Public Participation Network. (PPN) and through the Comhairle na nÓg.
- 3.4.8 The Council supports Health and Wellbeing initiatives through the work of the Council’s Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator.
- 3.4.9 Further details of investment in recreational and amenity projects at various stages of design and delivery are outlined in Section 3.5.4 below.

### *3.5 Green Infrastructure and Recreation*

- 3.5.1 In Chapter 14, the Plan sets out policies and objectives to strengthen and enhance green and

blue infrastructure assets in the County, and to ensure that an adequate level of quality green and recreational infrastructure (active and passive) exists at settlement level, and physically integrated with new residential development.

- 3.5.2 The Council is committed to the careful management of our green infrastructure assets and enhancing the benefits that they provide to communities. This is evidenced by the range of projects currently being implemented to enhance existing recreational areas across the County. Implementation of many of the objectives in relation to green infrastructure, landscape and recreation will be secured on an ongoing basis throughout the lifetime of the plan.
- 3.5.3 The Plan recognises that recreation and amenity facilities make a very important contribution to the quality of life of the communities they serve. Accordingly, in line with policy outlined in the plan, Cork County Council has commenced a review of the Recreation and Amenity Policy. This review will consider the recreational and amenity needs of diverse communities across the County and examine appropriate mechanisms through which amenities can be most effectively provided. This policy will be informed by the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlement Guidelines 2024 and the final policy will be published in 2024. This will be implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
- 3.5.4 In line with objectives GI 4-4 and GI 4-5 a range of recreation and green infrastructure projects have commenced, and some have been completed since the adoption of the plan. A number of these projects have been completed under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

**Table 3.5: Recreational Amenity Projects ongoing in Cork County**

<b>Bantry</b>	Bantry Peace Park – installation of an inclusive accessible playground and car parking
<b>Skibbereen</b>	Ongoing works to enhance The Rock Heritage and nature park; including the provision of new footpaths, new Amphitheatre, seating, signage, interpretation of site heritage features, picnic areas, outdoor gym units, and improvements to park entrance points.
<b>Bandon</b>	Provision of a new state of the Art playground and carpark as part of a larger multi use facility along the Graham Norton Walk opened in 2023
<b>Glengarriff</b>	Construction of a new Multi Use Games Area
<b>Schull</b>	Upgrade works to the Multi Use Games Area
<b>Ballydesmond</b>	Development of a new pocket park through the RRDF
<b>Mallow</b>	Development of a €1.8 million Carhookeel Running Track facility to be shared across sports clubs and schools in North Cork. This project is currently at detailed design stage.

Table 3.5: Recreational Amenity Projects ongoing in Cork County	
Mallow	Upgrade of Mallow Town Park, and Tip O Neill Park, Mallow. Provision of Mallow Skate Park and upgrade of Mallow Pool. Redevelopment of Mallow Castle Grounds and Playground
Charleville	Upgrade of Charleville Town Park
Clonakilty Gallanes Amenity phase 2	Main Walkway Extension to connect to Technology Park
Glengarriff	Upgrading of approx. 1600m of existing walking tracks within the Bluepool area of Glengarriff
County Wide	Continued enhancement of Beach amenities and accessibility in the County, including Beach Feasibility Study on West Cork Beaches, Whitebay car park and pathway completed in 2023, new access steps and toilet facilities to Youghal Beach.

- 3.5.5 The preparation of the Landscape and Seascape Strategy commenced in Q4 2023 and is due to be completed by Q4 2024. This Strategy will include a review of the current Landscape Character Assessment 2003 and the Draft Landscape Strategy 2007. The Landscape and Seascape Strategy will inform future policy development including an updated renewable energy strategy and any future review of the rural housing policy etc.
- 3.5.6 The provision of a strong network of greenways and active travel routes is a key commitment of the Plan. The Council has been very proactive in the provision of these amenities throughout the County. In February 2024, Cork County Council was awarded over €21 million by the National Transport Authority to invest in walking and cycling infrastructure in 2024. €7.5 million euro will be invested outside of the Metropolitan area.

### 3.6 Conclusion

- 3.6.1 Significant progress has been made in the delivery of new social and community facilities and provision of outdoor recreation amenities throughout the county since the adoption of the plan. Cork County Council will strive to continue implementing the Plan’s objectives, to support the provision of additional amenities and enhanced services throughout the lifetime of the plan.
- 3.6.2 A targeted and coordinated approach is required to support communities and the adoption of the Local Economic and Community Plan will assist in achieving this, through the work of the local authority directly and in partnership with other stakeholders.
- 3.6.3 The Council will continue to liaise with the Department of Education and Skills to ensure that the requisite school facilities are provided in a timely manner to meet the needs of growing populations and address issues as they emerge across the County.



## 4 Theme Three: Economy, Town Centres and Tourism

### Economy

#### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The Cork County Development Plan 2022 sets out a detailed framework for the development of the County as a whole over the life of the Plan to 2028 and beyond. It provides for the development of Cork as an attractive, competitive place to do business, and lays the foundations for continued economic development.
- 4.1.2 The CDP includes a detailed land use zoning framework and investment strategy to support investment for jobs throughout the County, identifying the potential for an additional 35,500 jobs in the period to 2028. The economic development objectives outlined in Chapter 8 of the CDP will be secured through various Council Directorates throughout the lifetime of the plan. A list of CDP objectives is included in Appendix 2 of this report.

#### 4.2 Employment and Jobs Growth

- 4.2.1 Since the adoption of the Plan, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) has released the results of the Census of Population which was carried out in 2022. The 2022 Census identified 171,626 persons in the Labour Force in Cork County or 60.5% of the population aged 15+ in 2022. Since 2016, the labour force in Cork has increased by +10% (+15,610). 93.9% of Cork County's labour force is at work (161,174). These updated census figures show that the number of people at work in the County has increased by +14.3% since 2016.
- 4.2.2 The highest labour force participation rates in Cork County (>66%) are generally to the east and northeast of the city – including Rathcormac, Watergrasshill, Carrigtwohill, Midleton and Cobh. Carrigtwohill (70.8%) records the highest labour force participation rate of any settlement in the county – almost ten percentage points above the county value. Rates are generally higher in MASP towns than in county towns. The lowest labour force participation rates (<57%) are predominantly in rural areas close to Bantry and Schull.
- 4.2.3 In Cork County, the Census unemployment rate for 2022 was recorded at 6.1% (10,452). This rate, the lowest in the State, is well below the State (8.3%) and Cork City (8%) averages. The unemployment figure for the county in 2022 is approximately 30% lower than the figure in 2016 (15,011 or 9.6%).
- 4.2.4 Table 4.1 provides details of the changes in Labour Force numbers, Persons at Work and Jobs in Cork County from 2016 to 2022.

	<b>Census 2016</b>	<b>Census 2022</b>	<b>% Change 2016-2022</b>
<b>Population</b>	332,015	360,152	+8.5
<b>Labour Force</b>	156,016	171,626	+10
<b>Persons at Work</b>	141,009	161,174	+14.3
<b>Jobs*</b>	93,451	110,053	+17.7
<b>Unemployed</b>	15,001	10,452	-30

**Source: CSO**

\*Jobs Figures include home workers

- 4.2.5 An analysis of the CSO Travel to Work database from Census 2022 (POWSCAR) shows that there are approximately 110,053 jobs within Cork County (excluding mobile workers). Of this total the County Metropolitan Area accounts for 37.4 % of all local jobs with the remainder divided between the Ring, North and West Strategic Planning Areas.
- 4.2.6 Changes in jobs at a Strategic Planning Area level from the 2016 Census to the 2022 Census are detailed in Table 4.2 below. The County Metropolitan Strategic Planning Area has seen the biggest growth in jobs with an additional 7,529 jobs in the period 2016 to 2022. The growth in jobs in the Metropolitan area is 45% of the overall growth in jobs in the County area over the same period. The total jobs growth recorded for the County in 2022 has reached approximately 50% of the overall indicative jobs growth target set for the County up to 2028, which is very positive on the jobs front and suggests there is potential for the 2028 jobs target to be exceeded.

<b>Table 4.2: Jobs* Figures by Strategic Planning Area</b>					
	<b>Census Jobs 2016*</b>	<b>Census Jobs 2022*</b>	<b>Growth</b>	<b>% Change 2016-2022</b>	<b>Indicative Jobs Growth Targets to 2028</b>
<b>County Metro</b>	33,674	41,203	7,529	+22.3	16,509
<b>Greater Cork Ring</b>	29,162	35,726	6,564	+22.5	10,732
<b>North Cork</b>	14,105	14,990	885	+6.2	4,046
<b>West Cork</b>	16,510	18,134	1,624	+9.8	4,216
<b>Total County</b>	<b>93,451</b>	<b>110,053</b>	<b>16,602</b>	<b>+17.7</b>	<b>35,502</b>
<b>Note: results are based on analysis of strictly controlled Research Microdata Files provided by the Central Statistics Office (CSO). The CSO does not take any responsibility for the views expressed or the outputs generated from this research.</b>					
<b>*Jobs figures includes people working from home.</b>					

- 4.2.7 Table 4.3 shows the jobs figures for 2022 at Municipal District level throughout the County. Census 2022 (POWSCAR) shows that the Cobh MD had the highest % of jobs in the County (19.5%) when compared to other MDs. Cobh MD contains the two strategic employment areas of Carrigtwohill and Little Island and the Specialist Employment Centre of Marino Point, these areas support a significant number of jobs. The settlements of Carrigtwohill and Little Island also benefit from being on the Cork-Midleton Suburban Rail Line which significantly enhances the potential attractiveness of these towns as sustainable employment locations.
- 4.2.8 Kanturk-Mallow and West Cork MD's each had 15% of the County total of 110,053 in 2022. Mallow is a designated key town in the RSES and plays a substantial role in providing employment not just for Mallow town but for its wider catchment.

Table 4.3: Jobs* Figures by Municipal District		
Municipal District	Census Jobs 2022*	% of Cork County Jobs 2022
Cobh	21,427	19.5%
Kanturk-Mallow	16,546	15%
West Cork	16,484	15%
Carrigaline	12,602	11.5%
Bandon/Kinsale	11,679	10.6%
East Cork	11,297	10.3%
Macroom	10,065	9.1%
Fermoy	9,935	9%
Total County	110,035	100%

Source: CSO

\*Jobs Figures include home workers

### 4.3 Economic Development

4.3.1 One of the key functions of the Council is to support the economic development of the county and in the period since the adoption of the County Development Plan in 2022 significant progress has been made in support of the economic and employment strategy of the CDP through the work of the Council's Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate. The Directorate are actively engaged in a range of projects to support networking, cluster development, smart specialisation, training, mentoring and business supports. The Directorate manage Council owned employment land and sites and have sold a number of sites to facilitate the construction of new business premises and the expansion of existing enterprises, and also rent business units, develop digital hubs and office space for rent.

4.3.2 The Economic Directorate also support the work of the Local Enterprise Offices, who engage with the business community and provide support both financially and through mentoring and training. The LEOs serve as a first stop shop to providing support and services to start, grow and develop micro businesses in the County. The supports offered include:

- Business Information and Advice
- Brexit Supports
- Mentoring, Training Programmes and Events, and
- Feasibility, Priming, and Business Expansion Grants.

4.3.3 Since the adoption of the CDP, the Local Enterprise Offices continue to have a focus on maximising opportunities for job creation and retention. Key achievements include:

- Supporting over 450 micro-enterprises and 2,169 jobs in the County, representing recurring revenue to the local economy of an estimated €100 million euro annually.
- Engaging with over 800 secondary school students who are enrolled in the LEO school's enterprise programme.
- Training over 5,000 participants in the past 2 years in the area of business advice, direction and signposting, mentoring etc.

- Supporting the establishment of the Animation Cluster in Munster in partnership with other local authorities and local enterprise offices in Cork, Clare, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford.
- Approving grant aid in the region of €1.5 m to new and existing client enterprise.
- Supporting over 800 client enterprises on BREXIT specific training and mentoring.
- Providing export opportunities and grant support to client enterprises engaging in export. Over €100,000 in specific export grant aid in the past 2 years.
- Providing stability by maintaining over 2,000 jobs in the County, which helps to provide for continued investment, skills retention and provide for a stable workforce to support local businesses in the County.
- In addition, the LEOs supported over 3,000 businesses, including larger SMEs, in relation to other soft supports such as business advice, mentoring training, management development & business networking.
- The provision of services on the Islands by the LEO Cork North and West. A free Business Advice clinic was provided on Sherkin Island in 2022.

4.3.4 However, it must be noted the Council's investment in the economic development of the County is not solely confined to direct investment and supports for enterprises. The Council invests across all its services to make the region an attractive proposition for economic growth, to benefit communities and fortify the rates base. This investment includes maintenance and development of the transportation network, providing recreation and amenity facilities, developing communities in both towns and rural areas, and investing in the culture and heritage of the area. Through this investment Cork County Council provides improved quality of life for potential workers, new remote workers and new citizens. In addition, the development of economic growth connected hubs across towns is key to the resilience of our towns and villages and the balanced growth of the County.

#### *4.4 Review of Employment Land*

4.4.1 In support of the sustainable economic development of the county and the region, the Cork County Development Plan 2022 included a commitment to review of all zoned employment land in the county within two years of the Plan being adopted. The commitment arose in response to the requirement, in the National Planning Framework, for Planning Authorities to identify and quantify locations for strategic employment development and to adopt a tiered approach to zoning which reflects whether land is serviced or not.

4.4.2 The review commenced in 2023 and is due to be completed in 2024. The review will examine how much of the land zoned for new employment uses across the county is serviced and will make recommendations on what changes, if any, could be considered to the future employment strategy of the County (policy, objectives, employment hierarchy, land supply, zoning categories, implementation strategy etc.) to ensure the county is well positioned from an employment land supply perspective, to meet the changing needs of the economy and support sustainable employment growth into the future.

#### *4.5 Cork Harbour and the Coastline*

4.5.1 Cork Harbour is a critical entity within Cork and the Southern Region, an economic asset of national scale with global linkages via its network of international companies. The CDP recognises the strategically important role of Cork Harbour for both population and jobs

growth and its future potential as an engine of growth for Metropolitan Cork, the Southern Region, nationally and internationally as a major attractor of investment.

- 4.5.2 Cork County Council are a partner with Fáilte Ireland in the development of the Cork Harbour Tourism Plan (Camden Ft. Meagher - Roches Point). Following the appointment of consultants, the initial stakeholder meeting in relation to this project took place in February. It is estimated that the Plan will take approximately 18 months.
- 4.5.3 The provisions of the Southwest Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 also supports the development of Cork Harbour and the establishment of an industry led cluster to develop a policy on exploiting the potential of offshore renewable energy in Cork Harbour. A new subgroup is being established for the Southwest region in 2024 which will focus on examining the enterprise opportunities arising from the development of offshore wind in the region. Cork Harbour is well placed to benefit from and exploit these opportunities.
- 4.5.4 The Climate Action Plan 2023, has placed renewed emphasis on the need to halve Ireland's emissions by 50% and reach net zero no later than 2050. In this context there is increased focus on the potential to deliver offshore renewable energy projects off the Irish Coast. In response to this the Council has engaged consultants to look at what a Renewable Energy Plan for the Cork coastline, including Cork Harbour should consider and how best to position Cork to support the development of the offshore renewable energy / green industry/ marine services sector. The Project is due for completion by mid-2024. (See also Section 6.9 under Marine / Offshore Renewable Energy).

#### **4.6 *Local Economic and Community Plan 2023 – 2030 (LECP)***

- 4.6.1 Cork County Council adopted the new Local Economic and Community Plan, 2024-2030 (LECP) on the 11th of March 2024. The LECP is a statutory plan which sets out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support both the economic and community development of the County for the next 6 years; this Plan forms the local element of the national development framework among other national and regional policies.
- 4.6.2 The LECP is consistent with the Cork County Development Plan and the vision for Cork to be 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. [Local Economic and Community Plan \(LECP\) 2024-2030 | Cork County Council \(corkcoco.ie\)](#).

#### **4.7 *Remote Working and Digital Hubs***

- 4.7.1 The growth of digital hubs and smart working is making a significant contribution to the renaissance of regional towns and is helping to alleviate urban migration and slower regional economic recovery. Since the adoption of the County Development Plan Bantry and Fermoy E-Centre Remote Working Hubs have been expanded and refurbished with grant funding received from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Connected Hubs grant scheme. The upgrading of these hubs reflects Cork County Council's commitment to supporting an evolving workforce in the County.
- 4.7.2 There are a number of Digital Hubs at various stages of progress in the County which are being developed under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Funding was granted in 2022 for the development of enterprise hubs in Mitchelstown and Cobh libraries. There is also a

test hub in design and tender at Newmarket, and in the village of Kiskeam the Council is working in conjunction with An Post to revitalise a currently vacant property adjoining the post office into a hot desking facility for remote workers. All of these hubs utilise existing buildings.

- 4.7.3 Cork County Council is providing Údarás na Gaeltachta with an allocation of €50,000 to redevelop an existing strategic regional facility in Baile Bhúirne in the Muskerry Gaeltacht for the provision of a regional Digital Hub offering the full range of business training and development supports. Assistance is also being provided to Udarás na Gaeltachta in the development of Coláiste Ghobnatan, Baile Bhuirne to a new use which will include a Digital Hub.
- 4.7.4 In Cork City and County, a total of 31,773 resident workers were recorded as mainly working from home in Census 2022. The rate in Cork accounts for just over 12% of all resident workers and is the fifth highest in the State.

#### **4.8 *Placemaking and Employment***

- 4.8.1 The CDP supports place-making initiatives including public realm improvements and urban renewal projects throughout the County in recognition of the importance of placemaking in attracting enterprise development and in optimising the economic potential of an area. This also ties in with Action 1.10 of the Southwest Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 which supports placemaking in settlements to enhance the enterprise eco-system across the region through the regeneration of city, town and village centres creating an environment that is attractive for investment in enterprise, residential and community development.
- 4.8.2 A list of placemaking projects across the County are detailed in Table 4.6 under Town Centres and Retail.

#### **4.9 *Monitoring Planning Permissions***

- 4.9.1 Since the adoption of the County Development Plan in April 2022 the Council has been monitoring planning permissions as required by Section 10.3 of the new Development Plan Guidelines 2022. Table 4.5 provides details of floorspace (sqm) granted for Business and General Employment and Industry from the 26th of April 2022 to the 31st of December 2023.
- 4.9.2 Cobh MD had the largest area of employment floorspace permitted under these land use categories at 123,738 sqm which is 59% of the County total while the Bandon/Kinsale MD had the smallest area of employment floor space permitted at 4,162 sqm which is 2% of the County total. The amount of permitted space was also very low in the Fermoy MD, at just 2.5% of the total. It should be noted that the figures in Table 4.5 below includes development permitted inside and outside settlement boundaries. Of the total area of floorspace permitted countywide, 6% (approx. 11,500sqm) was permitted in rural areas outside settlement boundaries, while 94% (approx. 197,357sqm) was permitted inside settlement boundaries across the settlement network.
- 4.9.3 The variance in planning permissions sought across the different MD's may reflect market conditions in an area (supply, demand, viability etc.) and / or the availability of infrastructure to support development and will be further explored as part of the Employment Land Review work currently being undertaken by the Planning Policy Unit.

<b>Table 4.5: Employment Floor Space (sqm) Permitted by Municipal District 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – 31st December 2023</b>				
<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Business and General Employment (sqm)</b>	<b>Industry (sqm)</b>	<b>Total (sqm)</b>	<b>% Total</b>
<b>Bandon/Kinsale</b>	1,330	2,832	4,162	2%
<b>Carrigaline</b>	761	20,770	21,531	10%
<b>Cobh</b>	7,276	116,462	123,738	59%
<b>East Cork</b>	3,855	3,548	7,403	3.5%
<b>Fermoy</b>	1,292	3,993	5,285	2.5%
<b>Kanturk/Mallow</b>	864	25,991	26,855	13%
<b>Macroom</b>	3,325	6,825	10,150	5%
<b>West Cork</b>	5,517	4,216	9,733	5%
<b>County Total</b>	<b>24,220</b>	<b>184,637</b>	<b>208,857</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### **4.10 Conclusion**

- 4.10.1 Significant progress has been made in supporting existing enterprise throughout the County and attracting new enterprises into the County since 2022. Continued investment, particularly in the provision of infrastructure and the development of the transport network, are essential in making Cork County an attractive proposition for economic growth.
- 4.10.2 The Planning and the Economic Development Sections of Cork County Council will continue to work together to implement the economic and employment strategy of the CDP and to implement the recently adopted Local Economic and Community Plan (2024-2030) in order to accommodate, where appropriate, new and expanding businesses throughout the County.
- 4.10.3 The Council will also continue to actively engage with Enterprise Ireland, the IDA and the private sector in promoting Cork County as a location of choice for economic development and in supporting enterprise and job creation in appropriate locations across the County.
- 4.10.4 A review of the County’s zoned employment land will be completed in 2024 and will include recommendations, if necessary, as to what changes should be considered in relation to the current employment strategy in the County Development Plan to ensure the county is well positioned from an employment land perspective to meet the changing needs of the economy and to support sustainable employment growth into the future.

## Town Centres and Retail

### 4.11 Introduction

4.11.1 Town centre activity and development is key to the future economic development of the County. Cork County Council continues to be committed to the enhancement of town and village centres across the County and has undertaken and continues to undertake a range of placemaking, public realm, infrastructure, amenity, biodiversity and active travel projects to enhance the sustainable growth and regeneration of these urban areas.

### 4.12 Town and Village Centre Regeneration

4.12.1 The Councils commitment to town centre and village centre renewal involves the preparation and implementation of Town Centre First Plans and Public Realm Plans which are financially supported through funds such as the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF). The Town Centre Regeneration Fund recognises the levels of vacancy and dereliction in towns and villages and the need to innovate to solve these problems as well as the renewed national and local focus on town centre regeneration.

4.12.2 The following table outlines the numerous projects in place and progress made in relation to these projects through various types of funding since the adoption of the County Development Plan in 2022. Cork County Council also provides architectural support for many of these projects.

Table 4.6 Town/Village Public Realm and Regeneration Projects in Cork County			
Settlement	Type of Funding	Brief Description	Stage
<b>Towns</b>			
<b>Bandon</b>	RRDF Total project value €17,500,000.	Bandon Town Regeneration. Major public realm works in Bandon, including new public spaces and street enhancement measures.	Ongoing
<b>Bandon</b>	National Streetscape Scheme. Total grant amount €38,911.85.	14 projects involving the improvement to façades.	Completed end of 2023.
<b>Bantry</b>	TVR Funding Total grant amount €216,000.	Bantry Peace Park. Installation of an inclusive, accessible playground and carparking.	Part 8 in place – approved end of 2023.
	Creative Start Up Scheme - Supported the establishment or improvement of six	This Scheme will continue in 2024. Proposal by West Cork Music for a new Music centre for Bantry adjacent to Library refers to	Ongoing



**Table 4.6**  
**Town/Village Public Realm and Regeneration Projects in Cork County**

	creative spaces in 2023.	development of a Cultural Quarter.	
<b>Carrigaline</b>		<i>Transportation and Public Realm Enhancement Plan (TPREP)</i> . The Carrigaline TPREP aims to create an integrated transportation framework focused on addressing the transportation infrastructure and public realm enhancement required to support the sustainable development of the town of Carrigaline. It seeks to reduce car dependency, encourage walking and cycling in the town, improve access to educational, social and employment opportunities, and create a vibrant and rejuvenated town centre.	TPREP was adopted by Members in July 2021. Procurement has commenced and it is expected a contractor will be appointed in Q1 2024.
<b>Carrigtwohill</b>	URDF Initiative (Part 1) Potential investment of €20m.	Public Realm Infrastructure promoting regeneration, compact growth within the existing settlement to include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● &gt; 4km of new footpaths</li> <li>● &gt; 4km of segregated cycling/shared use paths</li> <li>● &gt; 2km of road upgrades/ new roads</li> <li>● 3 new public squares</li> <li>● New (off-street) car parking spaces</li> <li>● New biodiversity &amp; wild planted areas</li> <li>● Undergrounding of overhead services</li> <li>● 6 no. key road junction upgrades</li> <li>● Major upgrade of Station Road/Main Street junction</li> <li>● Signalised pedestrian/cycle crossings throughout.</li> </ul>	Part 8 Planning approval June 2022.
<b>Carrigtwohill</b>	URDF Initiative (Part 2)	Urban Expansion Area Infrastructure promoting capacity for future sustainable development within Carrigtwohill North UEA. In addition to the	Part 8 approved September 2023

**Table 4.6**  
**Town/Village Public Realm and Regeneration Projects in Cork County**

		service infrastructure: 4 no. surface water retention ponds creating new habitats and providing pollution control measures to surface water run-off and 10 green open space areas along the route with potential for planting and biodiversity and to build ecological corridors within the UEA.	
<b>Charleville</b>	RRDF Cat 1 funded project. Project value €5.2m	Public Realm improvements, reuse of vacant landmark building and refurbishment of existing community hall.	Part 8 in Place, costs and business case being updated to allow funding release.
<b>Clonakilty</b>		A number of public realm projects are being developed including the development of the Gallanes Amenity Area Phase 2 – walkway extension to connect town to Technology Park, Birdwatch Enhancement Project in Clonakilty Bay, Restoration and enhancement of Deasy’s Quay South in Clonakilty Bay, Rejuvenation of Chateaulin Orchard Town Park, Clonakilty.	In development
<b>Fermoy</b>	RRDF Cat 2 funded project. Project value €2m.	Fermoy Town Centre Renewal Project. Upgrade of Public Realm.	Currently at design stage (pre-Part 8).
<b>Kinsale</b>	RRDF Total project value €4,540,436.	Kinsale Library – state of the art library which has transformed a 200-year-old mill into a modern library serving the community with a multifunctional space for events, exhibitions, and educational initiatives.	Complete. August 2023.
<b>Macroom</b>	URDF	Macroom has been included in Cork County Council’s initial group of demonstrator towns for the purpose of piloting focused regeneration interventions and then scaling to other towns and villages across the County. Through the TRO, CCC has collaborated with Bus Eireann and the Cork Education and Training	In development

**Table 4.6**  
**Town/Village Public Realm and Regeneration Projects in Cork County**

		Board (ETB) on a key site within the town to support the development of a youth education hub within an old bus depot building and to deliver on associated sustainable travel objectives. This has served as a good example of the potential to build on inter-agency partnerships to support town and village renewal efforts across the County.	
<b>Mallow</b>	URDF €2.5m investment.  URDF grant of €3.8m.	Mallow Town Regeneration URDF project developing a public amenity area, playground, carparking and improved accessibility within Mallow Castle.  Development of the former Town Hall into a Theatre and Arts venue and Mallow Public Realm URDF which is at design stage. These projects significantly strengthen the tourism, recreation and amenity offerings within the town.	Complete  Ongoing
<b>Mitchelstown</b>	RRDF Cat 2 project. RRDF Cat 1 application in preparation. (Project Value estimated €3m).	Mitchelstown Georgian Quarter. Public realm and streetscape improvements.	Partly completed Part 8 in place for public realm works.
<b>Skibbereen</b>	Funding provided through TVR.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skibbereen has been identified as the Town Centre First 'Cork Su' town for County Cork.</li> <li>• Skibbereen Town Centre First Regeneration Plan – Part of the national Town Centre First initiative 37 key interventions have been identified.</li> <li>• Skibbereen Town Hall Theatre upgrade and extension.</li> <li>• Public Realm Accessibility Works at The Square, Skibbereen.</li> <li>• The Rock Heritage &amp; Nature Park, Skibbereen (Total grant amount €243,000).</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<b>Carrigaline, Mallow, Passage West,</b>	URDF	Demonstrator Towns for Regeneration for the purpose of focusing efforts on property	Key sites within these towns have been identified and

Table 4.6 Town/Village Public Realm and Regeneration Projects in Cork County			
		activation in these towns to aid compact growth.	engagements with site owners have commenced.
Villages			
<b>Ballydesmond</b>	RRDF (€975k project).	Public Realm and Pocket Park	Complete - 2023
<b>Liscarroll</b>	€290k Project	Town and Village Renewal Scheme Public Realm	Ongoing
<b>Glanworth, Killavullen and Glenville.</b>	Village Enhancement Scheme (approximately 67k per village).	Village Plans	Ongoing

#### 4.13 Vacant Properties/Derelict Sites

- 4.13.1 The dedicated Property Activation and Regeneration Unit (PARU) is supported by the Economic Development Fund and continues to support the work of Directorates engaged in town centre regeneration initiatives. A vacancy survey of all towns and villages across County Cork has been conducted by the Town Regeneration Office for the purpose of systematically targeting the activation of vacant properties.
- 4.13.2 In 2023, over 2,700 properties were assessed as part of a countywide vacancy and dereliction survey to facilitate a strategic and systematic approach to addressing vacancy and dereliction in County Cork. Work is now underway through the TRO to identify and engage with owners of 1,356 of these properties, of which approximately 953 are vacant, to promote activation and support the broader regeneration efforts in our towns and villages. To date there has been engagement with approximately 200 property owners. URDF Funding in the order of €5million has been secured to acquire and activate 28 properties approved by the DHLGH URDF Team. If acquired, there is potential for these 28 individual properties to yield approximately 270 residential units.
- 4.13.3 The Town Centre Regeneration Office manages the Croí Cónaithe/Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant including the processing of applications for the regeneration of 538 vacant properties across the County and approvals issued for the refurbishment of 419 of these vacant properties to the value of approximately €25 million. This represents a collaborative approach to easing overall residential vacancy levels. Table 4.7 shows how these properties are distributed throughout the County at MD level.
- 4.13.4 The general progression of Town Regeneration Office objectives around vacancy and dereliction also serve to support delivery on compact growth targets by identifying and activating key vacant and derelict sites through owner engagement and/or use of relevant legislation such as the Derelict Sites Act 1990.

<b>Bandon Kinsale</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Carrigaline</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Cobh</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>East Cork</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Fermoy</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Kanturk Mallow</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Macroom</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>West Cork</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Total Number</b>	<b>419</b>

4.13.5 The Town Regeneration Office is also working in partnership with the 8 Municipal District Offices and with the Housing Directorate to identify and activate vacant properties that can be compulsorily acquired under the Derelict Sites Act. In 2023, 2 properties were successfully CPO'd under the Derelict Sites Act and a further 3 properties are awaiting a decision by An Bord Pleanála for consent to acquire compulsorily. An additional 60 properties entered the Property Activation and Regeneration Programme (PARU) in 2023 and are the subject of ongoing liaison with the Town Regeneration Office and other arms of the Council to focus activation/regeneration efforts.

4.13.6 The Town Regeneration Office has commenced work on the digitisation of the Derelict Sites Register, the mapping of strategic regeneration projects (URDF&RRDF). The Town Regeneration Office has also started work on a Town Centre First information 'brochure' for the owners of town centre properties, including the owners of retail businesses.

#### **4.14 Monitoring Planning Permissions**

4.14.1 Since the adoption of the CDP in April 2022, the Council have been monitoring planning permissions for Retail Development as required by Section 10.3 of the new Development Plan Guidelines 2022. Table 4.8 provides details of floorspace (sqm) granted for Retail development for 2022 and 2023. West Cork Municipal District had the highest area of retail floor space permitted at 8,983 sqm in the period from the 26th of April 2022 to the 31st of December 2023 while Macroom and Cobh Municipal Districts had the lowest at 182 sqm and 148 sqm respectively.

<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Retail sqm</b>	<b>% Total</b>
<b>Bandon/Kinsale</b>	<b>7,292</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Carrigaline</b>	<b>1,971</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Cobh</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>.5%</b>
<b>East Cork</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
<b>Fermoy</b>	<b>5,002</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Kanturk/Mallow</b>	<b>2,443</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Macroom</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>West Cork</b>	<b>8,983</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>County Total</b>	<b>27,824</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### *4.15 Conclusion*

- 4.15.1 Significant progress has been made throughout the County in the area of town and village centre regeneration which is key to the future economic development of the County. Town and village renewal is vital in attracting people, commercial and retail activity back into our towns and villages.
- 4.15.2 The Council will continue to be committed to town and village centre renewal through the further implementation of town and village public realm and regeneration projects and by continuing to engage with property owners in order to facilitate a systematic approach to addressing vacancy and dereliction and breathing new life into these centres.

## Tourism

### 4.16 Introduction

4.16.1 Cork County Council continuously promotes the development of the tourism sector and has a strong track record in investing in tourism, cultural, heritage, and arts projects across the County. The Council has a dedicated tourism section within the Council's Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate promoting tourism across the county.

### 4.17 Tourism Projects

4.17.1 The 'Explore Cork' app/ browser was launched in 2021 as a further promotional tool of the wider tourism sector. The App is a one stop shop tourism app, featuring over 850 places to see and things to do in Cork. It has identified on a map all the walking and cycling around the county. The routes have been categorised into three difficulty levels (Easy, Moderate and Strenuous) and the app also includes the length of time it takes to complete each route. The app won the 2023 LAMA All Ireland Community and Council Award for best tourism initiative and was recognised by NOAC as a 2023 best practice initiative. In 2024, the Council endeavours to continue to develop the app further.

4.17.2 Cork County Council continues to engage with Fáilte Ireland on Regional Branding. The Wild Atlantic Way and Irelands Ancient East are both very successful initiatives to promote and attract tourism in Cork. The Council continues to encourage and promote the development of these tourism branding products to create enjoyable experiences.

4.17.3 The following list outlines the numerous Tourism Projects in place and progress made in relation to these projects since the adoption of the County Development Plan in 2022.

- *Bantry Weatherproofing and Outdoor infrastructure scheme:* Outdoor dining at the Quays for circa. 100 persons, 100% funded by Fáilte Ireland was completed in mid-2023.
- *Failte Ireland Bantry Tourism Destination Towns project:* A total fund: €670,000, with €500,000 provided by Fáilte Ireland. It is anticipated to go to Tender in January 2024, with the completed project including the erection of gateway signage, wayfinding signage, and the replacement and updating of existing interpretive panels. All works will be coordinated with the other major construction works planned in Bantry.
- *Claycastle Water Facility Activity Centre:* The Project involves the provision of welfare facilities, changing facilities, lockers/storage & meeting spaces etc for persons involved in water activities and is one of circa. 20 No. similar developments at coastal locations countrywide. The aim is for the project to be fully completed by Q1/Q2 2025.
- *Old Steam Mill Building, Skibbereen:* A Future Usage Report is currently being finalised prepared by consultants the Report will provide a Conservation Management Plan for the building and a complementary Visitor Attraction/Experience Report, themed on the Great Famine.
- *The Islands:* Bere Island - Wild Atlantic Glamping, first camping and glamping site – Grant Amount €151,255. Heir Island – Extension of old Schoolhouse for short term lets –

Grant Amount €27,666. These grants are supported by the West Cork LCDC with funding from the Leader Rural Dev Programme 2014-2023 in partnership with Comhar na nOileán.

Other Projects/ Initiatives in the County include:

- *Four Points of the Island Initiative:* Funding of €100,000 was awarded under the Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund in October 2022 to progress a feasibility study for the 'Four Points of the Island' project. Cork County Council collaborated with Kerry County Council, the lead Local Authority Partner together with Donegal County Council and Ards and North Down Borough Council. The project examined potential for connections as a tourism initiative between the four extreme geographic points on the island of Ireland - Brow Head, County Cork (most southerly), Banba's Crown, Malin Head, County Donegal (most northerly), Burr Point, Ards Peninsula, County Down (most easterly), and Dunmore Head, County Kerry (most westerly). Following a Tender Campaign led by Kerry County Council, the contract to deliver the Feasibility study was awarded to ORNI (Outdoor Recreation NI) in March 2023, with the study concluded in Q3, 2023.
- *Camden Fort Meagher Developments DAC:* This company, wholly owned by Cork County Council, with a long lease for the Fort and operating a tourism, cultural and enterprise business there has just completed a €445,000 project over rooms F12 – F14 in Block F - The Casemated Building to repair of the waterproof tanking system separating the upstands, end walls and ceilings from the earthen roof to render the structure waterproof again. This work also included the repair of the drainage system, stonework, brickwork and pointing, as necessary. These works should also significantly reduce dampness in rooms F15 to F20 allowing for them to be used to enhance the visitor experience.
- *Roycroft Building, Skibbereen-* A Future Usage Report is currently being finalised and prepared by consultants. The first draft of the report was received in September 2023 and consultations are currently taking place to inform the final draft. The report will provide a Conservation Management Plan for the building and a complementary visitor attraction/ experience report, themed on the great famine.
- *Trade Shows:* Facilitating collaboration of tourism attractions by offering opportunity to promote at Trade Shows including Holiday World Show, Bloom, Cork Summer Show in conjunction with Visit Cork.
- *Marketing Support:* the Council provides marketing support of initiatives including Munster Vales, Visit Cork and Cork Convention Bureau, Gaeltacht Mhúscraí, Living Youghal, Bantry Development and Tourism Association etc.
- *Motorhome Policy:* A review of the 2018 Cork County Council Motorhome Policy is currently ongoing.



- The Council completed a €1.6m remediation project on Dursey Island Cable Car in 2023. The cable car is used by residents of the island and tourists.

#### 4.18 *Heritage Initiatives*

4.18.1 Other heritage initiatives include the Heritage of County Cork publication series and the County Cork Heritage Grant Scheme:

- *The Heritage of County Cork publication series*: each year sees a publication that examines a particular aspect of heritage and its prevalence throughout the county. The series has sold over 8,000 copies to date and encourages tourists and locals alike to visit heritage sites around the county. The Heritage Unit has received significant feedback from people at home and abroad, noting that the book encouraged them to visit a particular site(s). Copies of the books have been sold in many locations worldwide including Australia, Canada, England, Hong Kong, USA and Wales.
- *The County Cork Heritage Grant Scheme*, first established in 2021, supports a range of heritage tourism projects by local communities and groups. From festivals and Heritage Week events to conferences and local heritage initiatives, the supported projects add to the tourism product offering of Cork County. Since 2021, over 80 projects have been supported.

4.18.2 The Council continues to invest in Harpers Island Wetlands, located in the north channel of Cork Harbour, near Glounthaune. The wetlands are being managed to enhance the nature conservation value of the site, while also developing nature based educational and recreational activities consistent with the conservation objectives for Harpers Island.

#### 4.19 *Greenways*

4.19.1 Greenways are an excellent resource for providing long distance walks and cycle routes around the county and as part of the active travel infrastructure. There are a number of projects progressing around the county through funding by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII):

- Middleton Youghal Greenway (Middleton to Mogeely section opened in March 2024)
- Dungarvan to Mallow Greenway
- Cork to Kinsale Greenway
- West Cork Greenway – Skibbereen Sections
- West Cork Greenway – Crossbarry /Bandon

#### 4.20 *Conclusion*

4.20.1 The Council recognises that tourism plays an important role in boosting our economy in communities across the county. There has been significant progress made in the development of the tourism sector since the adoption of the County Development Plan in April 2022 with the various projects and initiatives outlined above. Cork County Council will continue to promote the tourism sector across the county.

## 5 Theme Four: Infrastructure

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Cork County Council recognises that investment in key infrastructure is critical for the delivery of the County's population and employment led growth strategy. Many of the objectives in the Plan are underpinned by a need for new and enhanced infrastructure provision. Many towns and villages are in need of investment in water services infrastructure as discussed in Chapter 11 of the Plan, while others need investment in the national, regional and local road network and on active travel measures to support and enable sustainable development, as detailed in Chapter 12. The infrastructural assessment for residential lands included in Appendix D3 of the Plan demonstrates the scale of infrastructure needed across the main settlements to support the development of zoned land.
- 5.1.2 A coordinated approach amongst infrastructure providers is needed to ensure alignment with this growth strategy. The Council has a strong track record of working closely with all the infrastructure agencies to ensure support for required enabling infrastructure is reflected in their respective plans and programmes. Since the adoption of the plan, significant progress has been made in the delivery of measures to improve connectivity and sustainable mobility, and to ensure support for enhanced water services infrastructure, benefitting numerous urban and rural communities across the County, while also considering environmental requirements.
- 5.1.3 This section sets out progress in relation to the delivery of Water and Transport Infrastructure.

## Water

### 5.2 Water Services

- 5.2.1 Uisce Éireann is responsible for the delivery of water services infrastructure in the County. This is achieved through the implementation of a number of plans and programmes which are currently ongoing throughout the County. Cork County Council will continue to work in partnership with Uisce Éireann to ensure the timely delivery of required water services in tandem with new development. Investment in water services infrastructure is delivered through the 2021-2024 Investment Plan. Preparation of the next Investment Plan (2025-2029) is currently underway. The National Water Resources Plan (MWRP) was adopted in 2021. Uisce Éireann is continually progressing leakage reduction activities, mains rehabilitation activities and lead replacement activities in various Cork settlements.
- 5.2.2 Cork County Council will continue to liaise with Uisce Éireann to implement the Master Co-Operation Agreement providing for the transition of services, responsibility and accountability for water services functions to Uisce Éireann in 2023 which remains in place until the end of 2026. The Council will continue to support the delivery of some services under the Rural Water Programme.

5.2.3 The following table provides an update of the water and wastewater infrastructure projects in the county since the Plan was adopted.

<b>Table 5.1 Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure Update</b>	
<b>Wastewater Capital Projects</b>	
<b>Completed</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
Mallow WWTP – 22,000 PE 3P WWTP completed in 2023	Midleton WWTP Optimisation Project- scheduled for completion in 2026
Castletownbere WWTP (new WWTP)- completed in 2022 (UTAS project)	Boherbue WWTP – upgrade works ongoing and scheduled to be completed early 2024
Castletownshend WWTP (new WWTP)- completed in 2023 the capacity and level of treatment is 531 PE Primary Treatment. (UTAS project)	Whitegate – Aghada WWTP (new WWTP) – construction commenced Summer 2022 and due for completion in early 2024.
Inchigeelagh WWTP (new WWTP) – 290 PE Secondary Treatment WWTP completed in 2023(UTAS project)	
Mitchelstown WWTP upgrade- capital maintenance works to 4th trickling filter to restore original design capacity completed in 2023.	
Ballymakeera WWTP upgrade	
Coachford WWTP upgrade	
Dripsey WWTP Upgrade	
Innishannon WWTP Upgrade	
<b>Wastewater Network Upgrades Update</b>	
<b>Completed</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
Mallow wastewater network upgrade – removal of CSO’s & associated network upgrades – completed in 2023.	Midleton Waterrock pumping station and network extensions project- Waterrock PS is due for completion in Q1 24, Midleton North PS which is also part of Midleton Waterrock project is still progressing with an anticipated completion date of Q4 2025
	Midleton Load Diversion project – construction of new pumping station in Midleton to divert future wastewater flows to Carrigtwohill- currently scheduled for completion in Q2 2026.

**Table 5.1 Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure Update**

	Dunmanway wastewater network project – which includes sewer upgrading plus pump station upgrades (Quarry Road and Long Bridge PS) – currently at pre planning stage, due to submit a planning application shortly with anticipated construction commencing in 2025 and completion in 2026.
	Mallow wastewater network upgrade (upgrades to facilitate growth)- Detailed Design ongoing, at pre-planning stage, due to submit a planning application shortly with anticipated construction commencing in 2025.
	Carrigtwohill wastewater network upgrade (upgrades to facilitate growth) – currently at concept design stage.

Source: Information provided by Uisce Éireann

5.2.4 The following table provides an update water infrastructure in the county since the Plan was adopted. It should be noted that all project timelines are subject to statutory approvals and regulatory processes.

**Table 5.2: Drinking Water Infrastructure Update**

<b>Ongoing Capital Projects</b>	
<b>Clonakilty</b>	Jones Bridge WTP upgrade – to be complete before next investment cycle.
<b>Youghal</b>	Glendine WTP upgrade – scheduled for the next capital investment cycle 2025-2029. In addition, in advance of this, groundwater investigations are scheduled for the Youghal area.
<b>Kanturk/ Newmarket</b>	Ballinatona WTP upgrade- scheduled for the next capital investment cycle 2025-2029. In addition, in advance of this, groundwater investigations are scheduled for the Ballinatona area with trial well drilling to commence in Q2 2024.
<b>Mitchelstown</b>	Groundwater investigations are scheduled for the area in advance of the Capital Investment Plan cycle 2025-2029, if these investigations are successful, development of permanent production wells will be scheduled for the next capital investment cycle.
<b>Castletownbere</b>	A project to address issues at the Castletownbere WTP is scheduled for completion within the next investment cycle. No other upgrades are scheduled for the WTP.

Table 5.2: Drinking Water Infrastructure Update	
Drinking Water Network Upgrades Update	
Completed	Ongoing
Trunk main from Bandon to Clonakilty – delivering additional capacity to Clonakilty – completed in 2023	Trunk main from Cork city to Bandon – to deliver additional capacity to the Clonakilty/Bandon area- going through optioneering stage – scheduled for construction during the next capital investment cycle (2025-2029)
Kanturk – Approx. 7.4 km of mains replacement have been completed in 2023 in Kanturk water supply scheme	
Newmarket- approx. 2.7 km of mains replacement have been completed in Newmarket water supply scheme, with a further 2.9km in progress.	

Source: Information provided by Uisce Éireann

### 5.3 Small Town and Villages Growth Programme (STVGP)

5.3.1 There have been 7 projects confirmed in Cork County under the Small Towns and Villages Programme. Projects as follows:

Table 5.3: Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme	
Killumney	Stage 2 – Preliminary Business Case
Ballineen/Enniskeane	Stage 2 – Preliminary Business Case
Belgooly	Stage 2 – Preliminary Business Case
Castlemagner	Stage 2 – Preliminary Business Case
Ballinspittle	Stage 2 – Preliminary Business Case
Glanworth	Stage 2 – Preliminary Business Case
Lisgoold	Phase 1) – Stage 2 – Prelim Business Case (Note: This project will amalgamate and consolidate existing wastewater treatment infrastructure in the Lisgoold area with capacity to cater for both existing development and projected growth. The proposed upgrade is seen as a Phase 1 expansion of wastewater treatment capacity in the Ballincurrig-Lisgoold settlements, with a further phase(s) to complete all of the capacity upgrades required.)

Source: Information provided by Uisce Éireann

- 5.3.2 Further upgrade(s) may also be progressed under the STVGP in County Cork, which is intended to provide growth capacity in Uisce Éireann’s treatment plants in smaller settlements which would not otherwise be provided for in the current Investment Plan. A number of investment cycles will be required to address all candidates in the STVGP, and Uisce Éireann plans to continue this Programme into the next investment period (2025-2029) and beyond to achieve this (subject to the regulatory approvals process).

#### *5.4 Sensitive Water Catchment Update*

- 5.4.1 As noted in Section 11.5 of the adopted County Development Plan significant challenges were noted as regards the capacity to accommodate planned growth in Castletownbere and Dunmanway.
- 5.4.2 In Castletownbere and the wider Beara Peninsula including settlements of Eyeries and Ardgroom, the sustainability of the drinking water supply is an issue as the current level of water abstraction from Glenbeg Lough is having a negative impact of the freshwater habitats and on the Freshwater Pearl Mussel. The Plan requires that a new drinking water source is required to be developed for Castletownbere, Eyeries and Ardgroom, and in the absence of same, new development will not be permitted where it requires a connection to the public water supply and would result in an increase in the volume of water required to be abstracted from Glenbeg Lough.
- 5.4.3 In Dunmanway, the issue of concern relates to the treatment and disposal of wastewater from the Dunmanway wastewater treatment plant which discharges to a portion of the Bandon River which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation. The qualifying interests of this SAC include the Freshwater Pearl Mussel, whose main habitat is directly downstream of the primary discharge point from the WWTP. The Bandon population of Freshwater Pearl Mussel is in “unfavourable-bad” conservation condition according to the NPWS. The WWTP is routinely failing to meet its discharge licence conditions, and that the treated effluent from the plant is identified as a “significant” pressure on water quality in the Bandon River. The outfall from the plant therefore needs to be relocated.
- 5.4.4 Cork County Council is actively seeking the support of Uisce Éireann and other stakeholders to explore solutions to the issues so they can be resolved in the short term to facilitate development.

#### *5.5 Other Settlements with water services capacity Issues*

- 5.5.1 Since the Plan has been adopted deficiencies in the water services infrastructure of other settlements has also become more of an issue and is curtailing development. In these areas the Council is also seeking the support of Uisce Éireann to expediate progress of delivering solutions for these settlements so that development can proceed. Many of these locations are included in the schedule of the Cork County Council agglomerations on the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme but are still at the preliminary business case stage and need to be further advanced. These other settlements are as follows:
- Killumney/Ovens :(Priority 1 on the STVGP): Capacity issues with wastewater treatment plant.
  - Ballineen/Enniskean: WWTP at capacity and discharges to Bandon River which is a

‘Drinking Water Protected Area’, ‘Nutrient Sensitive Area’ and ‘Designated Freshwater Pearl Mussel Area’.

- Ballinspittle: New WWTP required. Two pNHAs downstream.
- Belgooly: New WWTP required. Some direct discharges of untreated wastewater to estuary.
- Castlemagner: WWTP not working. Receiving stream, a tributary of the Blackwater SAC.
- Glanworth - WWTP at capacity. Receiving stream, a tributary of the Blackwater SAC.
- Lisgoold - Receiving stream upstream of Great Island Channel Cork Harbour SAC and Cork Harbour SPA.
- Carrignavar.: WWTP at capacity and not meeting the emission limit standards of its discharge licence.

## 5.6 *Surface Water Management*

- 5.6.1 Cork County Council are currently advancing a number of projects to optimise and maximise the application of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) to mitigate flood risk, enhance biodiversity, protect and enhance visual and recreational amenity in the County.
- 5.6.2 Carrigtwohill URDF Initiative (UEA Infrastructure Bundle which has Part 8 Planning permission from September 2023) proposes nature-based solutions utilising road verges and 4no. large surface water retention ponds. It incorporates 5.5 Hectares of open space along the road corridor to promote biodiversity and enhance existing ecological corridors/networks.
- 5.6.3 A number of projects are underway to support the protection of water resources and water quality and to improve awareness of issues around the management of water resources, in support of the Water Framework Directive and other plans and programmes, including the following:
- *Surface Water Management Advice Note No. 1* - This advice note has been prepared Cork County Council to give additional practical guidance to applicant’s when lodging planning applications. This is to ensure that the Surface Water Management requirements in the Cork County Development Plan 2022 are met and a request for further information relating to surface water is avoided as far as practicable. Every application for development must submit a Drainage Impact Assessment (DIA) demonstrating how the development successfully uses Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and nature-based solutions to manage surface water within and adjacent to the site. The suggested contents of a Drainage Impact Assessment for development of differing scales are provided in Tables 1 and 2 of the advice note.
  - *Carrigtwohill Rainwater Management Plan*- In line with commitments made in the CDP, work commenced on the preparation of the Carrigtwohill Rainwater Management Plan. There are three elements to the project; a stage 3 flood risk assessment for Carrigtwohill, a settlement level Rainwater Management Plan and the development of a Rainwater Management Plan template document. Development of the Carrigtwohill Rainwater Management Plan is advancing with the preparation of

draft pluvial mapping, currently being reviewed. The Stage 3 flood risk assessment is advancing with the model development. The template document is advocating a planned approach to facilitate development of nature-based solutions at a settlement level. Drafting of the template document is being done in parallel with the work on the Carrigtwohill Rainwater Management Plan so as to capture learnings from that exercise. An external stakeholder group comprising a number of local authorities, LAWPRO, and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has been established to ensure the diversity of context and experiences can be captured and result in a practical and useable document to inform a consistent national approach.

- *Cobh Rain Garden Demonstrator* was unveiled in September 2023. The ‘Nature Based Solution’ National Pilot Project will help manage rainwater run-off using urban trees and rain gardens with plants and soil specially chosen to act as natural filters, cleaning dirty water before it's released into waterways or the sea. This innovative approach to surface water management will be crucial to implementing climate resilience in Cobh. This is a temporary demonstrator rain garden at East Beach to test and monitor the quality of rainwater run-off and bio-retention soils used for water filtration. Over the next 12 months, water, soil, and plant quality will be tested and recorded ahead of designing permanent raingardens at Westbourne Place and Five- Foot way in the historic town centre of Cobh, creating beautiful and sustainable public spaces to promote leisure and wellbeing.

## 5.7 *Monitoring of Water Quality*

5.7.1 Cork County Council has a number of responsibilities in relation to the protection, maintenance and improvement of water quality in the County. This is achieved by the implementation of a series of measures and initiatives in compliance with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). Restoring and protecting good water quality in rivers, lakes, estuaries, groundwater, and coastal waters is a key priority of the new River Basin Management Plan 2022- 2027. The following are the key elements under the Water Quality Programme being implemented on an ongoing basis by the Environment Directorate:

- Drinking Water: Monitoring of public, group and private supplies
- Beaches: Monitoring of Bathing Waters
- Monitoring of Municipal and Trade effluent discharges
- Delivery of the National Inspection Plan and related Grant Scheme for Domestic Wastewater and Treatment Systems
- Agriculture: Delivery of farm/agriculture inspection programme: The Environment Dept carried out approximately 900 inspections of farms in Co. Cork under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme (NAIP). The purpose of these inspections is to ensure compliance with the Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters Regulations (GAP), also known as the Nitrate Regulations.
- Supporting implementation of the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027

5.7.2 The Council is strongly committed to the implementation of these programs. The following include some ongoing initiatives by the Environment Directorate in support of improving water quality across the county and in support of the implementation of the water



management objectives of the County Development Plan;

- Collaboration with LAWPRO on learning and training exercises to enhance assessment and investigative techniques of waterbodies identified in the RBMP to support achievement and maintenance of status.
- Participation in the SW Regional Workshop Forum quarterly with LAWPRO to identify land management and water quality issues of concern across the LAs that would benefit from development of policy and best practice at regional and national level.
- CCC part funded a dedicated Blue Dot publication for the Coomhola River (Bantry, County Cork). This publication is a template for subsequent 'Blue Dot' publications for Catchments around the State. The Coomhola Blue Dot Catchment booklet launch won the Water Heritage Day Award at the 2022 National Heritage Week Awards.
- Assisting with the provision of a national training day for all LA Farm Inspectors on 2/11/2023 and also contributed to the domestic wastewater treatment systems National Inspection Plan Inspectors' network.
- Lead agency for 14 of the Proposed Areas for Action under the soon to be published 3rd River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027. Maintenance/ improvement of water quality will be prioritised in these areas for action.
- Cork County Council Environment Dept. carried out investigative assessments on 29 waterbodies between 2021 and 2023 to assist with determining their status. Further assessment and investigation are ongoing in 17 of these waterbodies where water quality status was determined to be less than Good.
- Participation and contribution to the National Agricultural Inspection Programme, (NAIP), working group which is led by the EPA and which was set up to focus Local Authorities agriculture inspections on the correct issues in the appropriate geographic areas to deliver on better water quality.
- Increased resources will be deployed in recognition of Agriculture as one of the major pressures on water quality in the country to ensure compliance with the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations. Work has commenced to focus farm inspection on selected waterbodies where agriculture is deemed a significant pressure in order to maintain/improve water quality in accordance with the objectives of the WFD.

## **5.8** *Flooding*

5.8.1 The County Development Plan 2022 is based on an updated Strategic Flood Risk assessment using the best available data and mapping. New and better information on flood risk is becoming available all the time and as set out in Section 1.8 of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment completed for the Plan, any future SFRA's will integrate new and emerging data. In the interim, a protocol will be developed to ensure that where information in relation to flood risk is altered, including on foot of flood events or for example the roll out of further flood relief schemes, the availability of this information is brought to the attention of those involved in the flood risk assessment process in a timely manner. The Council will continue to assess all development proposals on the best available data at the time of

- preparing the assessment. The Plan includes updated policies, objectives and guidance on flood risk assessment and management.
- 5.8.2 The Plan acknowledges the often-devastating effects of flood events on local communities and the need to minimise and mitigate the impact of flood risk in the County. Recent significant flood events in the County demonstrates the impacts of climate change in the County and impact on local communities, homes, businesses, and infrastructure such as roads and bridges. Widespread flood damage to residential properties, businesses, roads and coastal infrastructure across Cork County was experienced during and in the aftermath of Storm Babet on October 17th-18th, 2023.
- 5.8.3 The flooding primarily resulted from an unprecedented level of rainfall that fell on lands already saturated, and swollen rivers following a prolonged wet period. Cork County Council has recorded 916 private properties across the county as suffering flood damages, consisting of 580 residential properties and 336 commercial/business properties. The area most significantly impacted was East Cork, which accounted for 88% of the property flooding experienced across the county. Midleton town alone had a phenomenal 674 properties flooded.
- 5.8.4 Following the significant flooding experienced in East Cork during Storm Babet, Cork County Council is continuing to identify, assess and prioritise potential minor works flood mitigation measures for which funding can be acquired and works implemented as soon as possible.
- 5.8.5 OPW funding is being sought for further flood mitigation schemes, including additional river cleaning and the provision of Individual Property Protection (typically flood gates/barriers to individual properties)
- 5.8.6 Cork County Council's operations team in the Roads Department is continuing the extensive clear up including repairs to damaged public roads, walls and fence lines.
- 5.8.7 The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the lead organisation for flood risk management in Ireland. Cork County Council continues to work in close partnership with the OPW on the delivery of key flood relief schemes in the County. The following table provides a breakdown of the main schemes ongoing under the OPW Flood Relief Capital Works programme. The OPW identifies that typical flood relief scheme projects are developed in the following stages, and it is noted that all the projects at are Pre Stage One /Stage One only;
- (Pre Stage 1) Progress a Flood Relief Scheme - this is where OPW and the Local Authority are preparing a tender brief in order to appoint a Consultant.
  - Stage I - Scheme Development and Preliminary Design
  - Stage II – Planning Process or Public Exhibition / Confirmation
  - Stage III – Detailed Design
  - Stage IV – Implementation/Construction
  - Stage V – Handover of Works

**Table 5.4: Update on OPW Capital Flood Relief Capital Projects**

Ongoing Schemes	
Status /Stage	Scheme
Pre Stage 1: Progress a Flood Relief Scheme	Carrigaline Flood Relief Scheme, Macroom Flood Relief Scheme
Stage I: Scheme Development and Preliminary Design	Midleton Flood Relief Scheme, Ballinhassig Flood Relief Scheme, Scéim um Fhaoiseamh Tuile Baile Mhic Íre agus Baile Bhuirne (Ballymakeery/Ballyvourney Flood Relief Scheme), Bantry Flood Relief Scheme
Future Schemes	
Status/Stage	Scheme
Pre Stage 1: Progression of the Flood Relief Scheme	Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh Flood Relief Scheme, Castlemartyr Flood Relief Scheme, Castletown Bearhaven Flood Relief Scheme, Inchigeelagh Flood Relief Scheme, Inishannon Flood Relief Scheme, Kanturk Flood Relief Scheme, Rathcormack Flood Relief Scheme, Schull Flood Relief Scheme, Youghal Flood Relief Scheme

Source: OPW Website [Scheme Information - Floodinfo.ie](https://www.opw.ie/Scheme-Information-Floodinfo)

5.8.8 Cork County Council, acting as Agent of the OPW, is currently advancing a number of projects as follows:

- Midleton Flood Relief Scheme - Preferred scheme option was presented to the public in July 2022. Stage 1 progressed. Stage 2 Public Exhibition of Scheme / Planning Process will progress in 2024.
- Skibbereen Flood Relief Scheme– Main Contract Works completed and follow on contracts progressing for management and maintenance.
- Bantry Flood Relief Scheme– Stage 1: Scheme Development and Design will be ongoing in 2023/2024. Further public consultation to be held in 2024.
- Crookstown Flood Relief Scheme – This scheme will be progressed in 2024, using a combination of OPW, SSIP and Roads Directorate funding.
- Baile Mhic Íre Flood Relief Scheme - Scheme Design Consultant tender scheduled for 2024.

## 5.9 UCC Erosion Vulnerability Study

5.9.1 Cork County Council’s Coastal and Flood Projects’ team is collaborating with UCC to complete a countywide vulnerability study which will provide information on the rate of erosion of the coastline. The project is due to be completed in Q1 2027. The project includes UCC researchers undertaking a detailed review of the 1,199km Cork coastline. The study will identify the erosion rates and highlight the most vulnerable areas. This will be a helpful tool when planning future infrastructure and coastal management along the Cork coastline.

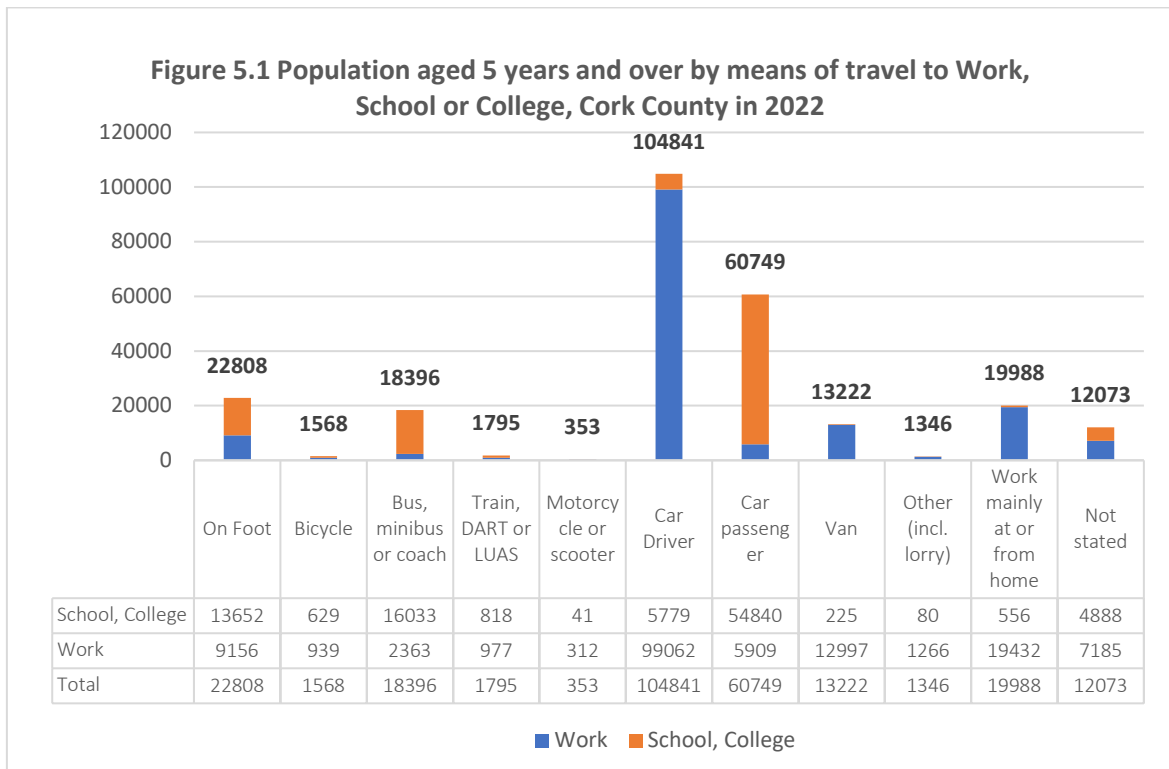
## Transport and Mobility

### 5.10 Introduction

5.10.1 The Development Plan recognises that the integration of land use and transportation, and delivery of an efficient transport system is a key enabler of all economic and social activities, supporting connectivity, competitiveness, and compact growth. The promotion of sustainable modes of transportation such as active travel, rail and bus and supporting the transition to a low carbon society is a key ambition of the Plan. Whilst this ambition is achieved through objectives, the implementation of which is ongoing throughout the lifetime of the Plan, significant progress has been made since the adoption of the Plan, to achieve these aims. Cork County Council is currently progressing a number of projects to support the delivery of transport programmes and policies that have been committed to in Project Ireland 2040 and the Cork Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP).

### 5.11 Census 2022

5.11.1 Census 2022, provides data on the means of travel to work, school or college of the population of the County, aged 5 years and over. In 2022, the total number of commuters travelling to work, school or college was 257,139 persons or 71% of the population. In 2016, this figure was 277,210 or 66% of the population but this data relates to the old county boundary and is not comparable to the 2022 data.



Source: CSO

5.11.2 In 2022, the modal share of commuters who mainly use car transport for work, school or college, is 165,590 or 64%, comprising 41% car drivers and 24% car passengers. In 2016, this figure was overall figure 69%, but that relates to the old county boundary.

- 5.11.3 In 2022, travel to work, school or college by foot and bicycle represents 9.5% of the total modal share, followed by Bus and Rail which represents 7.9 % of the modal share. The figures for 2016, were 9.4% and 8.1% respectively.
- 5.11.4 In 2022, approximately 66% of travel to work was by car, followed by 6 % by foot/bicycle. Only 2% of modal share of travel to work is by Bus and Train in the County. This compares to the national figures which are 63%, 12%, and 9% respectively in 2022.
- 5.11.5 In 2016, 73% travelled to work by car, 6 % by foot/bicycle, and similar to the 2022 figure, only 2% travelled by Bus and Train.

## 5.12 Sustainable Mobility

### Active Travel

- 5.12.1 Cork County Council has a dedicated Sustainable Travel Unit facilitating the planning, design and delivery of Active Travel Projects throughout the County, including the Bus Shelter and Accessible Bus Programme, and Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS). Annual funding allocations by the National Transport Authority (NTA) has enabled the delivery of several high-quality sustainable travel projects. Whilst a significant proportion of this funding is allocated to the Metropolitan Area, funding has been extended countywide to include towns and villages. In February 2024, Cork County Council was awarded over €21 million by the NTA to invest in ongoing walking and cycling infrastructure projects under the Active Travel Investment Programme 2024. €7.5 million euro of this will be invested outside of the Metropolitan area.
- 5.12.2 A breakdown of the key projects in the County is set out below.

**Table 5.5: Sustainable Travel Projects Cork County**

Project	Brief Description	Status
Cork to Waterford Greenway – East Cork Sustainability Corridor	This project is part of the governments National Pathfinder Programme and will provide a sustainable means of transport between the cities of Cork and Waterford, connecting several towns and settlements along the way. This project will provide a sustainable link between Cork and Waterford, whilst also providing sustainable interurban cycle and pedestrian routes for the settlements along the route.	Ongoing: In 2023, 5.45 km’s of shared use pedestrian and cycle paths have been completed by Cork County Council connecting Dunkettle to Glounthaune. A further 1.9 km is under construction which continues the route to Carrigtwohill. Further phases are at construction, tendering and design stage. In Youghal the Council have developed proposals to create approximately 1 km of footpath and cycle way to link the terminus of the Midleton Youghal Greenway to Greenpark in Youghal Town Centre. The Midleton to Mogeely Phase of this project opened to the public in March 2024.

**Table 5.5: Sustainable Travel Projects Cork County**

Project	Brief Description	Status
Carrigaline Transportation and Public Realm Enhancement Plan (TPREP)	The Carrigaline TPREP aims to create an integrated transportation framework focused on addressing the transportation infrastructure and public realm enhancement required to support the sustainable development of the town of Carrigaline. It seeks to reduce car dependency, encourage walking and cycling in the town, improve access to educational, social and employment opportunities, and create a vibrant and rejuvenated town centre. It was adopted by Members in July 2021.	Ongoing- Procurement has commenced and it is expected a contractor will be appointed in Q1 2024.
Carrigaline-Bothár Guidel	This scheme consists of the upgrade of existing facilities along Bóthar Guidel and improving accessibility for public transport vehicles. The 220 bus route to Ringaskiddy is accommodated within the revised layout. The upgraded facilities increase connectivity from the town centre to Carrigaline Community School and the town park and tie in with the Crosshaven cycleway via a pedestrian and cycle bridge which is currently being designed.	Ongoing- Construction of the upgraded facilities along Bothair Guidel and junction upgrade completed in 2023.
Little Island Sustainable Transport Infrastructure	The project involves the enhancement of sustainable transport infrastructure throughout Little Island and improves connectivity as identified in CMATS, including bus corridors, segregated and enhanced walking and cycling facilities, with an approximate project cost of €6.5 m. This project also includes the design and construction of a new pedestrian bridge IU-1, approx. 0.5 km in length including approach ramps, over the N25 adjacent to the Little Island Railway Station. The bridge section will be 5.5 meters wide.	Ongoing- This project received Part 8 Planning approval in September 2021 and the detailed design of 1.5 km of new pedestrian and cycle facilities is substantially complete.
Passage West Link	This project involves the widening of the 2km long existing pedestrian and cycle route from 2.5m to 4m from the city boundary to Passage West. The second part of the project involves the extension of the pedestrian and cycle route from the playground in Passage West through Passage West village to the ferry terminal at Glenbrook.	Ongoing- The schemes are at preliminary design and planning phase.
Carrigaline to Ringaskiddy Pedestrian	This project will provide an east to west connection between Carrigaline and Ringaskiddy. The route will continue towards Glenbrook and will connect with the Passage West Link, ultimately connecting with the City	Ongoing- Preliminary design phase. Part 8 planning permission was obtained in 2017, for the link between Glenbrook and Raffeen. CCC has

**Table 5.5: Sustainable Travel Projects Cork County**

Project	Brief Description	Status
and Cycle Route	Pedestrian and Cycle way route. The project team is liaising with the Cork National Roads Design Office who is progressing the Ringaskiddy Public Realm project and with the M28 project team and TII regarding the M28 Active Travel Strategy.	commenced a part 8 Planning process for the Monkstown Active Travel Link and Public Realm Enhancement.
Ballinacurra to Midleton Cycleway	Active Travel Corridor linking Ballinacurra to Midleton town.	Phase 1 of the Ballinacurra to Midleton Cycleway extends over 1.1km and is substantially complete. Later phases are at design stage. This will result in the delivery of part of the Midleton Cycle Network Plan.
Cobh Ferry to Town centre	This scheme involves the route options assessment and preliminary design of a Cycle route from the Cobh / Passage West ferry terminal to the train station at Kilgarvan, Cobh.	Preliminary design of the project is ongoing which includes the design and construction of approximately 3 km of new pedestrian and cycle infrastructure.
Towns and Villages Active Travel Fund	Projects targeted at increasing active travel in county towns and villages across Cork County Council's eight Municipal Districts. The interventions being developed under this funding stream include footpath upgrades, public lighting upgrades, pedestrian crossings, junction tightening, cycle parking, traffic calming, and feasibility studies all aimed at enhancing permeability and safety for vulnerable road users.	Ongoing
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)	Four "School Zones", with associated infrastructural improvements and enhanced facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and those who scoot to school have been completed since 2022 at Scoil Phádraig Noafa, Convent Hill, Bandon, at Bunscoil Rinn an Chabhlaigh, Rushbrooke, at Gaelscoil Dhroichead na Banndan and Bandon Grammar. Further improvements at Scoil Mhuire na nGrást (Belgooly) and three schools at Bishop Street in Cobh (Colaiste Muire, Scoil Iosaef Naofa, and St. Mary's National) will be completed this year. Design and planning is underway at two further schools. Early Design is commencing at 6 further schools in 2024.	Ongoing

**Table 5.5: Sustainable Travel Projects Cork County**

Project	Brief Description	Status
Bus Shelter and Accessible Bus Programme	Bus shelters across the county have been upgraded through the Bus Shelter and Accessible Bus Programme. Improvements undertaken are aimed at improving facilities for wheelchair users, mobility impaired and visually impaired.	Ongoing
Midleton Youghal Greenway Link to Greenpark / South Abbey, Youghal	Project to link the terminus of the Midleton Youghal Greenway to Greenpark in Youghal Town Centre. The proposals will involve approximately 1 km of footpath and cycle facilities. Proposals will include a controlled crossing close to Clancy's Railway Bar. Further proposals for Knockaverry Strand include additional crossing points controlled & uncontrolled.	Ongoing
Carrigtwohill & Midleton Urban Expansion Area Connectivity Initiatives	CCC is actively involved in the progression of a number of projects in Carrigtwohill URDF and Water-Rock LIHAF to support pedestrian and cycle connectivity between urban areas, the Railway Station, interurban cycleways which have Part 8 approval including a new Rail Stop at Water rock UEA. The Midleton URDF initiative provide the crucial link between Water-Rock UEA and the Interurban Cycleway and cycleway to Midleton town centre (Ballinacurra Cycleway) providing enhanced connectivity in the area.	Ongoing

### 5.13 Bus and Rail Transportation

- 5.13.1 Investment in Bus and Rail public transport is critical to the implementation of an effective integrated land use and transportation strategy. To achieve significant modal shift to public transport usage, the CDP seeks the expansion and enhancement of bus and rail services so that they are convenient and attractive, and of higher frequency, thereby offering a realistic alternative to the use of the private car.
- 5.13.2 Between 2019 and 2023, daily trips on the Cork/Midleton and Cork/Mallow Rail line increased by almost 50%. The existing Cork Area Commuter Rail Network was enhanced in 2022, with a new 30-minute timetable launched on the Kent to Cobh and Kent to Midleton lines. Iarnród Éireann has doubled the number of weekday trains operating during daytime off-peak on both lines from every 60 minutes each way currently, to the current peak frequency of every 30 minutes, to/from both Cobh and Midleton.
- 5.13.3 This has significantly enhanced services to Glounthaune and Little Island with a train frequency of 15 minutes each way. Other measures employed to improve services include Government reduced rail fares, inclusion of Mallow in the Leap Card Zone. In January 2024, IÉ introduced an extension of the Young Card from 23-year-olds to 25-year-olds, providing a 50% reduction in fares.



- 5.13.4 These measures are underpinned by the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (CMATS), which aims to support compact urban growth by facilitating modal shift out of private car and into public transport, reducing road congestion and support Ireland's transition to a low emissions transport system helping us achieve emission reduction targets.
- 5.13.5 Cork County Council will continue to work in partnership with IÉ, to achieve its objectives under the Cork Area Commuter Rail Programme (CACR). This ambitious programme is being delivered under seven separate but interrelated projects to deliver its heavy rail vision. Three elements of this project are at an advance delivery stage. Construction of a new platform at Kent Station to facilitate through running services from Mallow to Cobh/Midleton commenced in October 2023. The Signalling and Communications Upgrade to facilitate the capacity and service upgrades commenced in 2023. These works are expected to be completed by the end of 2026. The Railway Order (RO) for the upgrading of the Glounthaune to Midleton line to twin track was granted by An Bord Pleanála in 2023, with works due to commence in Q2 2024. These works are also expected to be completed by the end of 2026.
- 5.13.6 The overall projects will see significant investment in the Mallow through Cork to Cobh and Midleton rail network, including the construction of 8 new stations including at Dunkettle, Carrigtwohill West, Water-Rock and Ballynoe, delivery of a new electric fleet, delivery of a transformative 10-minute service frequency, a multi-modal integrated transport hub at Kent Station and other infrastructural enhancements. These projects are at an early design stage.
- 5.13.7 This investment represents the largest ever investment in the Cork Rail Network, aligning with the County Development Plans future population and economic growth strategy along this strategic corridor.
- 5.13.8 Water-Rock LIHAF project secured Part 8 planning approval for the new Water Rock Rail Stop by agreement with Iarnród Éireann.
- 5.13.9 Passenger journeys continue to grow across both Expressway and PSO services and Bus Éireann is one of the fastest growing public transport providers on passenger journeys. Expressway passenger journeys are back to pre-COVID levels at an overall network level. Improvements in services, new schemes, changes to ticket options, to meet growing demand are underway.

#### **5.14 Road Infrastructure**

- 5.14.1 Road infrastructure in the County facilitates the movement of goods, services and people and it is an objective of the Plan to maintain, improve and protect its strategic function. In February 2024, Cork County Council was allocated €83 million by the Department of Transport in respect of the maintenance and improvement of regional and local roads in Cork County. This includes a severe weather grant allocation of €13 million to carry out essential repairs and road restoration in the aftermath of Storm Babet. However, this falls short of the €50 million estimated cost of restoration works sought to address this.
- 5.14.2 Objective TM 12-13 sets out the objectives for the County's National Regional and Local Road Network. Many of the projects listed under this objective will be delivered over the course of this and future county development plan cycles. Since the adoption of the current plan, significant progress has been made in the delivery of a number of key roads projects as set out in the following table:

Table 5.6: Key Roads Infrastructure Project Status		
Project	Brief Description	Status
Dunkettle Interchange Upgrade Scheme	Significant Interchange upgrade at the intersection of key national roads, involving new direct links roads, and improved pedestrian and cycle facilities improving capacity and reducing congestion	Completed in 2024
N22 Baile Bhuirne to Macroom Road Development	Construction of a 22km Type 2 Dual Carriageway Road improvement scheme from the Cork side of Macroom, bypassing the Town of Macroom and the villages of, Baile Mhic Íre and Baile Bhuirne	Completed in 2023
M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy Route	Upgrade of approximately 12.5km of the N28 National Primary Route from the N40 South Ring Road at Bloomfield, to Ringaskiddy Cork.	Multiple advance works under way and is on track for the award of a main construction contract in 2024, construction commencement in Q4 2024, subject to approval.
N/M20 Cork to Limerick Motorway Scheme	Cork County Council working in partnership with Cork City Council and Limerick City and County Council, together with the TII and Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTas) are developing the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Improvement Scheme, with bypasses for the towns of Mallow, Buttevant and Charleville.	Limerick City and County Council, act as lead authority. Project is at Design and Planning Stage, for the refined route selected.
N72/N73 Mallow Relief Road	Relief road to the north of Mallow town between the N72/N73 and the N20.	Preferred Route Option Survey works ongoing in 2022, at design and planning stage.
N25 Carrigtwohill – Midleton Upgrade Major Scheme	N25 Road improvement scheme	Work progress on the early Planning and Design Stages in 2021 and 2022
N25 Carrigtwohill-Midleton Minor Scheme	N25 Road Improvement	Ongoing- Project focusing on the potential safety improvement measures and associated low-cost minor works interventions
N73 Clogher Cross to Waterdyke Realignment Scheme	Located along the N73 between Mallow and Mitchelstown, this project provided 3km of carriageway and 0.5 km of local road improvements	Completed in 2023

Table 5.6: Key Roads Infrastructure Project Status		
N72/R579 Ballymaquirk Junction Improvement Scheme	Replacement of existing four crossroads with a new on-line roundabout. Realignment works to the existing approach roads.	Completed in 2023
Carrigaline Western Relief Road.	The €20m Relief Road extends from Ballea Road to Kilmoney Road, improves connectivity and access to Carrigaline Town Centre. The main line of the relief road is 750m running parallel with Carrigaline's Main Street. The scheme includes a double span bridge over the Owenabue River, a 1.5km dedicated cycle track, over 3kms of footpaths and finishes at Mill Road, a 700m urban road.	Completed
N71 Bandon Bypass Extension		Ongoing- Public Consultation took place in 2022 regarding potential route options for both projects. Subject to TII approval.
N71 Newmills to Owenahincha Scheme		
N20 Charleville	Project to improve pedestrian safety on Main Street including improvements to pedestrian crossing facilities and enhance streetscape proposals together with assessment of options for a potential Relief Road.	Ongoing

- 5.14.3 In addition, a number of Pavement Improvement Schemes are also at various stages of delivery in the County. N72 Annabella to Lackanamona Pavement Improvement Scheme, enhancing the urban environment and connectivity in Mallow town was completed in 2023. Significant upgrades were also carried out to sections of the N71 Glasslinn in Bandon, the N71 Glengarriff, N71 Ballydehob.
- 5.14.4 A number of projects to upgrade and improve regional and local roads in the County were also progressed in 2022 and 2023 under the Restoration Improvement Programme and local improvement schemes.
- 5.14.5 A number of projects seeking the upgrade of strategic Regional and Local Roads have been advanced since the adoption of the Plan. These include the Great Island Transportation Study, Middleton Northern Connectivity Corridor, R595 Realignment in Skibbereen and the R586 Realignment at Ilen Bridge Drimoleague. Progression of a number of projects are dependent on funding including the Bantry Relief Road, Mill culvert Upgrade Bantry, and Ballinrea Cross Upgrade Carrigaline. Other measures being progressed to improve connectivity include works to Tullagreine Roundabout/Cobh Cross.

5.14.6 Options assessments for further Greenway and Active Travel Projects were also advanced in 2023, including a potential South Cork Greenway, (Cork to Kinsale), West Cork Greenway (Cork to Schull), an M28 Active Travel Scheme and N22 Active Travel Scheme (Baile Buirne, Macroom). The potential for a Mallow to Dungarvan Greenway also progressed in 2023.

### *5.15 Port of Cork*

5.15.1 The Development Plan acknowledges the critical role of the Cork Harbour area as a key driver in economic growth in the southwest region. The Council continues to work closely with the Port of Cork, and other state agencies to support this role, whilst at the same time ensuring that the ecological, heritage and ecological values of the harbour area are safeguarded.

5.15.2 Significant progress has been made in securing improved accessibility and transport connections to the Port. The Department of Transport have announced funding in February 2024 to enable the M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy Route progress further in 2024. The recent opening of the Dunkettle Interchange will further enhance accessibility to the Port. The Port's ability to relocate successfully is dependent on delivery of improved access to new port locations, requiring the delivery of road access upgrades such the M28 and the R624 Cobh/Belvelly Road. The Council is working on proposals for the improvement of the R624 Cobh/Belvelly Road and has recently submitted a Project Outline Document to the Department of Transport for approval, setting out the investment rationale for the scheme. If approved, it can then progress to Stage 1. Strategic Assessment and Preliminary Business Case.

5.15.3 The Department of Transport have commenced a review of National Port Policy. A new draft policy will be finalised in 2025 following consultation with various stakeholders in a two-part consultation process. In 2023, the Irish Ports Capacity Study was completed. This study evaluates the capacity of the port system to address both current and future demands up to 2040. The Port of Cork forms part of this study, Cork County Council prepared a submission to this review in January 2024, there will be an opportunity for further consultation later this year. Cork County Council will continue to seek support for further transport connectivity for ports and other harbours in the county as outlined in the Plan.

### *5.16 Conclusions*

5.16.1 Many of the objectives in the Plan are underpinned by a need for new and enhanced infrastructure provision. A number of water services capital projects have been delivered and are ongoing since the adoption of the plan. Cork County Council will continue to work in partnership with Uisce Éireann to seek the timely delivery of further water services projects particularly to secure the growth of smaller settlements which have a key role to play in housing provision in rural communities, and those such as Castletownbere and Dunmanway which are required to protect sensitive water catchments.

5.16.2 The development of active travel projects will continue to be a strong focus of work programmes, in recognition of their cross-cutting community benefits providing sustainable travel, enhanced recreational amenities, and tourism potential.

5.16.3 Cork County Council will continue to work closely with transport infrastructure providers to

ensure the delivery of CMATS and other transport plans in the County.

- 5.16.4 Climate Change adaptation is a significant focal issue. Weather events such as that associated with Storm Babet have demonstrated the scale of impact that can cause significant damage to homes, business and communities in the County. Cork County Council is continuing to identify, assess and prioritise potential minor works flood mitigation measures, working closely with the OPW in the delivery of Major Flood Relief Projects.
- 5.16.5 Funding and allocation of other resources to prioritise measures to mitigate flood risk, to respond to the challenges associated with climate change to protect communities and increase their resilience will be required.

## 6 Theme Five: Energy and Marine

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The County Development Plan 2022-2028 includes strong policy support of the development of the renewable energy sector and places great emphasis on the need to increase our renewable energy capacity. The Plan acknowledges the need to transition to a carbon neutral economy, the need to set ambitious targets to meet national and regional energy targets and to move away from non-finite resources.
- 6.1.2 The Plan includes a commitment to prepare a renewable energy strategy during the lifetime of the Plan and this is likely to include energy targets for the county. It is intended that work will commence on the Draft Renewable Energy Strategy for the County in Q4 2024. Consultants have been commissioned to prepare a Landscape and Seascape Strategy for the county. This work is scheduled to be completed in Q4 2024 and it will inform the development of the renewable energy strategy for the county.

### 6.2 Wind Energy

- 6.2.1 In terms of wind energy, there are currently 41 operating wind developments in the county with a capacity of approximately 719MW. A further 16 projects (143 MW approx.) have been permitted but have yet to be developed and a further 2 applications are currently going through the planning process.
- 6.2.2 Cork County Council developed a wind energy strategy for the County Development Plan in 2014 and this strategy was carried forward to the 2022 plan. The strategy was prepared based on guidance from the “Planning for Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006” and the SEAI Manual ‘A Methodology for Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategies’ April 2013. In 2019, the Department published the Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines, these guidelines are yet to be finalised. The Wind Energy Strategy will be reviewed as part of the preparation of the Draft Renewable Energy Strategy for the County commencing in Q4 2024.

**Table 6.1: Onshore Wind Development Capacity (MW)**

Operating	719 MW
Granted	143 MW
Pending	68 MW
<b>Total</b>	<b>930 MW</b>

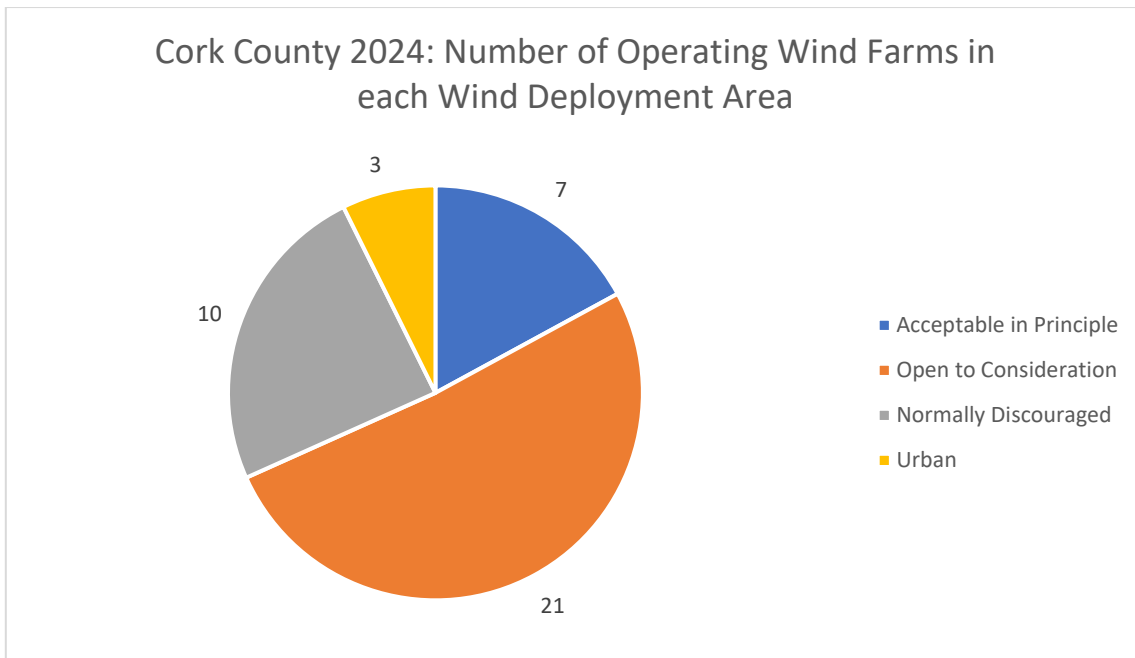


Figure 6.1: Operating Wind Farms by Wind Deployment Area 2024  
Source: Cork County Council

6.2.3 Wind farms have an operational life of approximately 20 to 30 years. Many of the wind farms that were constructed in the early 2000's are now coming to the end of their operational life and will require planning permission to remain or must be decommissioned during the lifetime of this plan. This will be a new challenge facing Cork County Council as some of the operating wind farms predate the Wind Energy Strategy and are located in areas where the current Wind Energy Strategy indicates they would normally be discouraged.

### 6.3 Solar Energy

6.3.1 The Council is very supportive of energy projects through its development management function.

6.3.2 Since the adoption of the County Development Plan 2022, four large scale solar farms have been granted in County Cork. These, in addition to those permitted under the 2014 CDP, mean that there are currently 56 solar energy projects permitted across the county. A further five solar farm applications are currently going through the planning application process. As older permissions come close to expiring the Council is getting applications for an extension of the duration of the permission or for a modification to the previously granted permission.

6.3.3 The size of solar farms has significantly increased in recent years. In 2015/2016, solar farms averaged 10 hectares in size while in more recent years solar farm applications can be seen from 50ha to 100ha+. Solar farm applications granted permission in 2015/16 were given an operational period of 25 years. However, in recent years this lifespan has been slowly increasing to 30 and 35-year permissions due to the modernising of solar farm technology.

6.3.4 In the absence of national solar guidelines, Cork County Council has been assessing solar farm applications having regard to all other statutory requirements and guidelines, environmental sensitivity factors (if any) of the application-site, development guidance from other

jurisdictions, and the overall proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Since the adoption of the plan, Cork County Council contributed two submissions to the Best Practice Guidance Report on Solar Energy Development prepared by Fehily Timoney and the Irish Solar Energy Association (ISEA). These finalised guidelines were published in November 2023.

<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Number of solar farms</b>
<b>Bandon - Kinsale</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Carrigaline</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Cobh</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>East Cork</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Fermoy</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Kanturk - Mallow</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Macroom</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>West Cork</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>

#### **6.4 Offshore Renewable Energy**

- 6.4.1 The Development Plan acknowledges the importance of the development of the offshore renewable energy sector to ensure energy security and reduce our reliance on finite fossil fuel energy sources. The Council is also cognisant of the national targets in the Climate Action Plan 2024 to develop at least 5GW of offshore wind energy by 2030. County Cork has a wide range of infrastructural and industry supports available to support the development of the offshore renewable energy sector including port facilities and strong grid connections.
- 6.4.2 Cork County Council is actively engaging with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications regarding the preparation of Ireland’s first Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) for the South Coast. The next stage of this process will involve the publication of a ‘Draft DMAP’, which will identify several individual ORE (Offshore Renewable Energy) development areas. It is anticipated that this will be published in Spring 2024 which would enable the final DMAP to be approved by the Oireachtas in Q2 2024.

#### **6.5 Telecommunications**

- 6.5.1 High quality telecommunications infrastructure is crucial for the social and economic development of communities and settlements across the county. Cork County Council continues to support the roll out the National Broadband Plan. In February 2023, National Broadband Ireland (NBI), the company delivering the new future-proofed, high-speed Fibre-to-the-Home network under the National Broadband Plan (NBP) on behalf of the Government, gave an update on the progress and notes that up to 81,000 premises in County Cork are included in the State’s Intervention Area.
- 6.5.2 In June 2023, Cork County Council announced the completion of the expansion to the E-Centre Remote Working Hubs in Bantry and Fermoy, supported by funding provided under the Connected Hubs grant scheme by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Both facilities now provide high speed broadband.



6.5.3 The Council continues to support the development of the Celtic Interconnector. The project is being developed by EirGrid, the Irish electricity transmission system operator and the French equivalent, Réseau de Transport d'Électricité. The project will have landfall connections near Youghal, East Cork and the north-west coast of Brittany. EirGrid have estimated the completion of the project in 2026. Once developed, the project will allow for the movement of electricity between Ireland and mainland Europe, strengthen our security of electricity supply and to support the development of a more sustainable energy supply.

## Marine

### 6.6 Introduction

- 6.6.1 Following the publication of the National Marine Planning Framework in 2021 and the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, the County Development Plan 2022-2028 is the first County Development Plan for Cork to include a Chapter on Marine Planning.
- 6.6.2 The Cork coastline extends for some 1,100kms, which is approximately one fifth of the national coastline, and contains many important resources. The Plan acknowledges the need for an integrated approach to the protection and management of our coastal areas including our island communities.
- 6.6.3 The Council is also actively engaged in a number of projects of relevance to the Marine area including:
- A Coastal vulnerability study in conjunction with UCC
  - Dredging projects
  - BALAMI projects (post BREXIT support of fishing industry through infrastructure improvements)
  - Coastal erosion projects
  - Oil spill contingency planning
  - Shipwreck management

### 6.7 Coastal infrastructure

- 6.7.1 The Council's Coastal and Flood Projects Section manages capital coastal infrastructure projects. The Council receives the bulk of its coastal infrastructure funding from Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, (DAFM), under the Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme, which covers Harbour Development, Marine Leisure and Storm Damage.
- 6.7.2 In January 2022, the Department also announced 'Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme 2022-2023 (BALAMI 2022-2023). This scheme was aimed at rejuvenation of Ireland's coastal and marine infrastructure specifically to address the economic consequences of Brexit arising from the implications on the Irish fishing industry. Under the BALAMI 2022-2023 scheme twenty-one projects were approved for funding to the value of €6.57million. Twenty projects were delivered to a value of €4.7million, with substantial completion of the majority of the schemes in 2023. One project is outstanding and awaiting extension of funding. The projects funded include dredging, provision of pontoons, construction / repair of sea walls, piers, quays and slipways etc.

### 6.8 Coastal Recreation

- 6.8.1 Cork County Council monitors the water quality at Cork beaches for the Blue Flag and Green Coast initiatives. Of the beaches currently monitored by Cork County Council's Environment Department, 11 identified bathing waters have achieved Blue Flag Status for the 2023 season. These beaches must also be compliant with An Taisce's 32 criteria, before awards can be confirmed. The list of 11 Blue Flags awarded to Cork for the 2023 bathing season are as follows: Barleycove, Fountainstown, Garretstown, Garrylucas, Inchydoney West, Inchydoney East, Ownahincha, Redbarn, Tragumna, Youghal Claycastle and Youghal Front Strand.

6.8.2 There are 14 further beaches that attained ‘Excellent’ status making them eligible to apply for Green Coast Flag status. These beaches must also be compliant with a series of additional environmental criteria before awards can be confirmed. The beaches in this category were as follows: Ballyrisode, Ballynamona, Cadogans, Dooneen, Fountainstown, Galleycove, Garnish, Inch, Inchydoney East, Oysterhaven, Redstrand, Ring, Rockybay, Ardnahinch/Shannagarry, and Sherkin Island.

### *6.9 Offshore Renewable Energy*

6.9.1 Developments in Offshore Renewable Energy are discussed at section 6.4 of this report.

6.9.2 In addition, as noted in Section 4.5 of this report, the Climate Action 2023 has placed renewed emphasis on the potential role of the offshore renewable energy sector in helping to reduce Ireland’s emissions.

6.9.3 In response to this, the Council has engaged consultants to prepare ‘A Renewable Energy Vision for the Cork Coastline’, looking at what a Renewable Energy Plan for the Cork coastline, including Cork Harbour should consider and how best to position Cork as Ireland’s leading offshore wind energy and green industry location.

6.9.4 The Vision illustrates that Cork is well-positioned to be a leader in Ireland’s transition to a net zero energy system. Cork is Ireland’s second largest economic area and hosts key components of Ireland’s energy landscape. The county is among the most profitable on a per person basis with a rapidly growing workforce, highly esteemed research institutions, large presence of multinational industries and is well-connected in terms of transport, fibre networks, and the electrical grid. It is considered that Cork is well positioned to expand its thriving renewable energy sector through deployment of offshore wind generation, carbon-free demand, large scale energy storage, future fuels, and a strong pipeline of additional onshore renewables.

6.9.5 The Cork Coastline has a unique collection of strategic national assets that make it the ideal location to be among the early movers of Ireland’s offshore wind industry including:

- Cork Harbour itself and its existing infrastructure;
- the availability of electrical interconnection infrastructure, gas storage and fuel processing assets;
- Cork is a leading economic region with significant FDI and high value industry ready to switch to carbon free demand;
- The existence of a unique renewable ecosystem with multiple renewable companies and research bodies headquartered in the region; and,
- An abundant offshore wind resource combined with the availability of a plan lead approach to development makes the region attractive for early movers.

### *6.10 European Projects:*

6.10.1 The Council’s Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate are engaged in a number of European Projects of relevance to the marine environment and coastal areas

including:

- **The A-AAGORA project** which addresses the effects that climate change has on our coasts and the subsequent issues faced by coastal managers, local authorities and coastal communities. The Cork proposal focuses on demonstration activities for the restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems through nature-based solutions that improve coastal resilience.
- **EU Clean Energy Islands:** Cork County Council is a stakeholder in this EU Energy Islands Initiative. Cork County Council will assist where appropriate on this project with the West Cork Islands and specifically Oileán Chléire. This EU funded initiative will provide technical assistance and knowledge transfer to assist island communities with their energy transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources (RES). The “100% RES island by 2030” is a vision of an island where all energy locally produced (electricity, heat or fuel) comes from renewable energy sources and all energy consumed (electricity, heating/cooling or fuel for transport) on the island also originates from renewable energy sources. To achieve such ambitious goals, switching to renewables must be combined with measures to produce, transport and use energy in an efficient manner. It will also be crucial to involve island stakeholders to make sure that local priorities, challenges and needs are addressed. The main aim of this project is to assist with this transition.
- - **ProtoAtlantic** : this project looks at prototyping and the exploitation of innovative ideas in the maritime sector, helping entrepreneurs bring their ideas through the various phases of prototype development, fundraising, market validation and business modelling.
- - **DELTA LADY.** This project is under the INTERREG Europe programme looked at the potential of river deltas to develop innovative activities aimed at utilising local natural and cultural heritage to strengthen economic development. In Cork the study area is Youghal and the River Blackwater. The project finished in 2023.

## **6.11 Conclusion**

- 6.11.1 Energy generation is evolving significantly as we move towards a low carbon economy by reducing our reliance on non-finite resources and produce more energy from renewable energy sources. As technology and infrastructure advances over the lifetime of the plan, other forms of renewable energy developments will help contribute to meeting our renewable energy targets.
- 6.11.2 Cork County Council will continue to support the development of the Renewable Energy Sector in suitable locations across the county during the lifetime of the plan.
- 6.11.3 The Council intends to commence preparation of a Draft Renewable Energy Strategy in Q4 2024. The Strategy will include further support for and guidance around the development of Renewable Energy projects.
- 6.11.4 The Council will continue to monitor energy applications and monitor the progress of the renewable energy sector throughout the lifetime of the plan. Additionally, the Council

recognises that infrastructure plays a key role in developing our energy sector. Cork County Council will continue to work with infrastructure providers to support the improvement and development of strategic infrastructure needed to facilitate the development of renewable energy projects.

- 6.11.5 Cork County Council acknowledges the importance of our extensive coastline along the south of the country. The Council will continue to support the European projects of relevance to the marine environment and coastal areas. The Council awaits the publishing of the Draft Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) for the South Coast due in Spring 2024 which will set out the overall vision for the marine spatial planning for the area. Additionally, it will determine the broad area best suited for renewable energy projects to be developed along the south coast.

## 7 Theme Six: Biodiversity, Environment and Heritage

### Biodiversity and Environment

#### 7.1 *Introduction*

7.1.1 The Cork County Development Plan acknowledges the importance of ensuring the protection of the natural environment, biodiversity and ecosystems. The Plan notes that healthy functioning ecosystems clean our water, purify our air, maintain our soils, provide us with food, medicines and fuel and helps to regulate our climate. The CDP 2022 includes various policy objectives for protection and enhancement of our biodiversity and environment.

#### 7.2 *Environmental Monitoring*

7.2.1 The Environment Directorate monitors, analyses and reports on, air, noise, water, wastewater and waste management services in County Cork, in accordance with EU and national legislation. It also provides information on environmental matters to the public and to other County Council directorates.

7.2.2 Details of bathing water monitoring is given in Section 6.8. of this report.

7.2.3 Ongoing annual Air and Noise work programmes in Cork County Council are listed below. An increase is provided in the air quality monitoring budget for 2024 to cover maintenance contracts for expanded air quality monitoring activities. The work programme includes the following:

- Monitoring of industries licensed under the Air Pollution Act.
- Regulation and monitoring of businesses using Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) e.g. Spray.
- Painters, Dry Cleaners, Filling Stations.
- Air/Noise pollution complaint response.
- Solid Fuel regulation and inspection programmes.

#### 7.3 *Biodiversity Projects and Plans*

7.3.1 Cork County Council has implemented the following projects in support of the objectives of the Development Plan during 2022 and 2023, with Local Biodiversity Action Plan funding:

##### 7.3.2 **2022 projects:**

- Bride Valley Invasive Alien Species Management Project Phase I Year 3 of 3
- Bride Valley Invasive Alien Species Management Project Phase II Year 1 of 2
- Garrylucas Coastal Area Conservation Management Plan
- Harpers Island Wetlands, Wetlands Enhancement Project

##### 7.3.3 **2023 projects:**

- Bride Valley Invasive Alien Species Management Project Phase II Year 2 of 2

- County Barn Owl Survey and Monitoring Project
- Harpers Island Wetlands, Wetlands Enhancement Project
- Cléire Invasive Alien Species Survey and Biodiversity Workshops

7.3.4 Cork County Council’s Ecology Unit supports the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, encouraging groups around the county to get involved in implementing actions in their local areas. For the past number of years Cork County Council has been contributing to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Award – a special award in the annual Tidy Towns Competition. The 2022 Regional Awards were held in Clonakilty in 2023, with Cobh having won the overall national award.

## 7.4 Ecology

7.4.1 The Cork County Council Ecology office supports the objectives set out in the biodiversity chapter in the Plan and provides input into the development management process. Additionally, the Ecology Office provides advice and support to MD's and to officers in other Directorates in relation to matters relating to protection of biodiversity as requested. Examples of inputs and supports provided in 2022 and 2023 include:

- Provision of support for development and implementation of local area pollinator plans and biodiversity action plans,
- Provision of advice on a draft roadside maintenance/hedgerow management policy,
- Provision of advice on a draft tree policy.

7.4.2 Since January 2022, the Ecology Office has also provided 3 training sessions for in-house staff on Ecological Impact Assessment and AA Reporting requirements. The Ecology Office is also deeply involved in the management of Harpers Island Wetlands on an ongoing basis. It is intended to commence the process of reviewing and updating the County Biodiversity Action Plan in 2024 subject to resourcing. The Council plans to continue to implement biodiversity projects with support funding provided through the Local Biodiversity Action Plan fund. The Council promoted a wide range of events for National Biodiversity Week in 2023 and the Council intends to continue the same in 2024.

## 7.5 Conclusion

7.5.1 The Council will continue to implement its programme of environmental monitoring and protection, and public awareness and environmental educational activities over the remaining term of the Plan.

7.5.2 The Council is committing further resources to the ecology section to strengthen staffing levels and recruit a County Biodiversity Officer. The unit will continue to engage with and support communities in biodiversity enhancement and protection and implement biodiversity projects as funding allows.

## Built and Cultural Heritage

### 7.6 Introduction

- 7.6.1 Cork County is rich in Built and Cultural Heritage and the Development Plan recognises the importance of identifying, valuing and safeguarding our archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage for future generations through appropriate protection, management and enhancement measures or via the sensitive development of this resource. There is ongoing investment in the county's heritage, and this is continuing into 2024.

### 7.7 Built and Cultural Heritage

- 7.7.1 The Architect's Department provides an ongoing dedicated architectural service to the housing directorate and the rest of the organisation through the design and procurement of social and affordable housing projects and the design, construction and conservation of significant capital projects as required.
- 7.7.2 Cork County Council (Planning Policy Unit and Architects Section) has engaged with Cork Centre for Architectural Education (UCC/MTU) on a yearly basis where architecture students are given a selected site in a settlement to design a housing scheme which must include an element of age friendly housing as part of a cohousing design competition. This initiative is in conjunction with The Cork County Age Friendly Programme with the emphasis on educating future architects on the need for housing for older people and raising their awareness of this need for housing for older people as the County's older person age cohorts increases in population and proportion of the overall population.
- 7.7.3 Cork County Council has a strong dedicated Heritage Unit and was allocated a combined total of €556,653 for 22 different projects under the 2023 Built Heritage Investment and Historic Structures Fund Schemes as noted in the Council Budget for 2024.
- 7.7.4 The Council is actively working to implement the objectives outlined in the County Development Plan. In support of the CDP strategic policies, the Council continues to progress the following:
- Commenced a process of writing ACA statements for the existing ACAs, this could feed into a future proposal for specific areas of special planning control. A pilot scheme is to commence in Q1 2024 to develop a methodology on the approach to setting out objectives for the Architectural Conservation Areas including a description of the area and details pertaining to the area. The pilot scheme is to be carried out on a main town, Kinsale and a smaller settlement Timoleague with the view to rolling it out to other ACAs on a phased basis.
  - Preparation of Village Plans for Glanworth, Killavullen and Glenville is ongoing. Since 2017 one village is chosen per year to be the recipient of the Village Enhancement Scheme. The chosen village put together a plan which is approved by the MD. Generally, it includes upgrades to flower beds, walkways and amenities in the village. The Council regularly engage with local community groups to enable them to develop their communities. To listen to their feedback on priority issues and help provide solutions where possible.



- Consideration is being given to prepare a scoping document on an approach of how best to review the overall Record of Protected Structures in conjunction with the Conservation Officer ahead of the next review of the CDP.
- Council continues to support the promotion and encourages the use of the Irish Language. New signage and advertising material is to be dual language. Macroom MD provide dual language responses to MD Motions. Macroom is to be designated a Gaeltacht Service Town for the Múscraí Gaeltacht and will work with Comharcumann and local groups on this. The Council also facilitates the submission of forms through Irish.
- Annual marketing support of the Gaeltacht Mhúscraí region to the value of €12,500 in 2022 and 2023. Funding supported actions are contained in Tourism Development Plan for the region.
- CCC Heritage Unit have compiled an extensive series of Historic Town Maps which provide tourists with Heritage Guides of various towns in County Cork.
- In 2023, the County Archaeologist, along with the Heritage Unit produced 2 leaflets documenting the Archaeological Heritage of North and East Cork and the Archaeological Heritage of West Cork.
- A key role of the Heritage Unit is advising at many different stages the impact development proposals will have on the County's built heritage.

## **7.8** *Conclusion*

**7.8.1** Cork County Council recognises the importance of the built and cultural heritage of the county. There is ongoing investment into the protection of these important assets and the Council will continue to support initiatives to protect our built and cultural heritage into the future.

## 8 Theme Seven: Climate Action

### 8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 Climate Change has become one of the biggest challenges facing society today. It will take a collective effort from all communities, businesses, and organisations to address Climate Change.
- 8.1.2 The County Development Plan has a pivotal role to play in enabling and delivering positive climate action measures and climate change considerations permeate all chapters of the plan. The policies and objectives of the Plan ensure that all development considers climate change mitigation and adaptation. Cork County Council seeks to provide for development of County Cork in a way which minimises the negative impacts of climate change and enhances our climate resilience.
- 8.1.3 Mitigation measures included in the Plan which are implemented on an ongoing basis include delivering compact growth, ensuring development is located to optimise use of active travel opportunities, promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, enhancing and protecting biodiversity, facilitating smart/remote working, promoting climate change awareness and behavioural change etc.
- 8.1.4 Climate adaptation measures in this Plan which are implemented on an ongoing basis include flood risk management, promotion of nature-based systems for water management services, enhancement and protection of green infrastructure and biodiversity and promotion of climate action through high quality design, including in placemaking and the public realm.
- 8.1.5 Cork County Council is the lead authority in the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) which aims to drive climate action and build capacity and expertise within the local government sector. The Council has recently appointed a Climate Action Co-ordinator, Climate Action Officer and Community Climate Action Officer to implement climate change initiatives and programmes for the county.

### 8.2 Climate Action Plan

- 8.2.1 Cork County Council adopted its Climate Action Plan (LACAP) 2024-2029 on the 12th of February 2024. The Plan sets out the actions and objectives that Cork County Council will carry out across its own services to meet national emissions targets and to increase the resilience of its human and infrastructural assets against climate change impacts. This Plan also specifies how the local authority will work with its communities to advocate for change and with national government and state agencies to deliver climate action. The Plan was adopted in February 2024 and will facilitate the development of annual implementation programmes with targets to be met, supported by funding from local, national and private sector sources. The recently appointed climate action staff referenced above will drive the implementation programme to ensure progress is being achieved on the ground.
- 8.2.2 Cork County Council will use its Climate Action Plan (CAP) in planning how it will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from across its own assets and infrastructure, whilst also taking on a broader role to influence, facilitate and co-ordinate the climate actions of communities and other stakeholders and advocate for climate action in County Cork. [cork-county-council-climate-action-plan-2024-2029.pdf \(corkcoco.ie\)](https://www.corkcoco.ie/cork-county-council-climate-action-plan-2024-2029.pdf)

### 8.3 *Climate Action Initiatives*

- 8.3.1 The Local Authority has identified Macroom as the first decarbonising zone (DZ) in the County. Macroom will lead the way on all Cork County Council decarbonising schemes by engaging stakeholders and champion pilot projects to help reduce emissions and promote biodiversity in the area.
- 8.3.2 Cork County Council is committed to supporting and implementing the Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications to address climate change at a local level. The programme was launched in December 2023 and will provide targeted funding to eligible community organisations to deliver local climate action.
- 8.3.3 In addition to its statutorily defined obligations, Cork County Council will continue to act as an agent for central government in areas of activity such as the development of flood protection measures, retrofitting of social housing stock and adaption of roads and drainage infrastructure to combat the impacts of climate change.
- 8.3.4 Other initiatives and actions Cork County Council have taken to adapt our practices and service delivery to help address Climate Change include:
- Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) – South-West Region
  - Fleet Management Unit
  - Sustainable Transport
  - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Protection
  - Public Awareness and Community engagement
  - Coastal/ Flood Defence Schemes and work with UCC: Engaging with UCC re 3-year research project to aid Council in developing an overall strategy for managing coastal erosion.
  - Reserve for Coastal Management of €150,000 has been maintained to provide foundation for future works.
  - The Council with the Department and CARO has developed a works prioritisation methodology for roads adaptation/ resilience works.
  - Active Travel Programme
  - The Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme (EERP) include the provision of external wall insulation, new windows and doors, attic insulation and Heat Pumps. These programmes will continue in 2024 under funding from the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage.
- 8.3.5 The Council's commitment to Climate Adaptation is also reflected in our Capital programme through investment in rural work hubs, improving living conditions in urban and rural areas, flood and coastal protection works for vulnerable communities, energy efficiency projects in Council owned facilities, protection of waterways and sustainable travel projects.

### 8.4 *Conclusion*

- 8.4.1 Since the adoption of the Plan, significant progress has been made in advancing awareness and understanding of climate issues in the County with the recruitment of a Climate Action

Team, adoption of the Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 (LACAP) and the implementation of the climate actions measures in the County Development Plan. The development of annual implementation programmes with annual targets under the Climate Action Plan will help delivery further change in this area. The Climate Action Team will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

- 8.4.2 Cork County Council will continue to provide for development around the county in a way that minimises the negative impacts of climate change. The Council will continue to support the Community Climate Action Programme and other initiatives to address climate change at local level. Additionally, the Local Authority will seek to continue to adapt our service delivery where required to help address climate change.

## 9 Report on Environmental Monitoring

### 9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 While this section focuses on the indicators as outlined in the SEA Monitoring Framework, it should not be read in isolation from the comprehensive progress reported in preceding chapters in this document which address all Environmental topics.

### 9.2 SEA Monitoring

- 9.2.1 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was prepared as part of the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028 process. Article 10 of the SEA Directive requires monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the County Development Plan in order to identify, at an early stage, unforeseen adverse effects and to enable appropriate remedial action to be undertaken. While the monitoring framework set out in Appendix G of the County Development Plan 2022-2028 incorporates some monitoring of environment related objectives, the full and comprehensive monitoring framework is set out in the SEA Statement that accompanies the County Development Plan. Regard has been had to Chapter 8 'Monitoring the Significant Environmental Effects of the Implementation of Plans' of the Section 28 Guidelines titled 'Strategic Environmental Assessment – Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities', 2022 in this SEA section of the Progress Report.
- 9.2.2 Cork County Council is responsible for monitoring progress and requires information from several other state bodies with monitoring responsibilities, such as the EPA, CSO, UÉ etc. The Environment Report set out Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEO's) which will be used as part of the monitoring framework. The monitoring framework builds on the SEOs and identified several targets and indicators to use to assess the environmental impact of implementing the plan, and the remedial action if required. The use of indicators allows for quantitative measuring of trends and progress over time, relating to the SEO's used in the evaluation. These objectives relate to several environmental parameters, including population and human health, biodiversity, flora and fauna, soil, water, air and climate, cultural heritage, landscape and material assets. Table 1.8 of the SEA Environmental Statement sets out the details relating to the monitoring of each of the environmental components.
- 9.2.3 The Development Plan is two years into the six-year plan cycle. A complete and comprehensive monitoring assessment of the significant environmental effects of implementing will be undertaken in parallel with the review of the Development Plan and the making of the next development plan. The Council will continue to collect the required environmental data as a matter of course, and to work closely with the relevant state bodies on an ongoing basis, to monitor the significant environmental effects arising from the implementation of the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028. Monitoring will also be used to analyse whether the Cork County Development Plan is achieving its environmental protection objectives and targets, whether such objectives need to be re-examined and whether the proposed mitigation measures are being implemented. Some Indicators have been amended or adjusted to better reflect availability of information, including new programmes or information streams, whilst still reflecting the need to report progress on Targets and it is anticipated that the Monitoring Framework will continue to evolve as new and better information becomes available. The Planning and Development Directorate are in

the process of implementing a new file/ data management system that will allow for the enhanced interrogation of planning application data. The Planning Policy Unit has also commenced the roll-out of GIS software to enable more sophisticated analysis and visualisation of data. Both of these projects are advancing in 2024 and will inform the continued improvement of the Monitoring framework of the CDP.

**Table 1.8: SEA Monitoring Framework**

Environmental Topic	SEO Code	Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators	Remedial Action if not being Achieved
Population and Human Health	PHH	<p>To create an environment where society can play their part in achieving a more sustainable and healthier Ireland, including access to active travel especially walking and cycling.</p> <p>Consolidate growth and limit urban sprawl. Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population.</p> <p>Support and facilitate health and well-being initiatives in the County.</p>	<p>Promote compact growth including a minimum of 30% of new homes within their existing built-up footprint.</p> <p>Facilitate attractive environments within our urban settlements, utilise brownfield over greenfield sites and resist where possible urban generated rural housing unless genuine need exists.</p> <p>Increase in the number of green spaces and amenities available to the public.</p> <p>Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 8 "Economy and Employment".</p> <p>No significant deterioration in human health as a result of</p>	<p>Number of new homes located inside settlement boundaries.</p> <p>Population within settlement boundaries.</p> <p>Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to work/school above 2016 CSO figures</p> <p>Map the 10 min town concept in main towns.</p> <p>Number of buildings listed on 2020 vacant and derelict site registers now in use.</p> <p>Monitor vacancy levels in town centres.</p> <p>Number of new houses/ employment development built within 1km of the Cork Suburban rail line or within 400m of a high-quality bus route.</p> <p>Amount of (Km) new cycleways provided.</p> <p>Quantum of accommodation delivered for the Travelling Community.</p> <p>Quantum of housing delivered for special needs groups such as</p>	<p>Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will consider what additional measures are required including consultation as appropriate with other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will consider what additional measures are required including consultation as appropriate with other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Review internal systems.</p> <p>The rate of rural housing delivery will be carefully</p>

Environmental Topic	SEO Code	Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators	Remedial Action if not being Achieved
			<p>environmental factors.</p> <p>Increase the number of active travel routes available to the population.</p> <p>Avoid developing land which is not likely to be serviced within the lifetime of the Development Plan.</p>	<p>older people or disabled.</p> <p>Footfall within both the town centre and the retail core/core shopping area.</p> <p>Number of regeneration sites progressed.</p> <p>Number of public realm strategies/town centre health checks carried out over the lifetime of the plan.</p> <p>Number and usage of digital working hubs.</p>	<p>monitored, and outcomes presented in the 2-Progress Report and the Council will consider what additional measures, if any, are required.</p>
<b>Biodiversity, Flora &amp; Fauna</b>	<b>BFF</b>	<p>To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly ensuring no adverse effects on the integrity of any EU designated sites and protected species.</p> <p>Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites, other non-designated sites, and supporting features which function as stepping-stones for migration, dispersal and genetic</p>	<p>That biodiversity, ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions are integrated into all decision making across the Plan and within lower level plans, Council internal guidance documents, planning application considerations, and Council-led projects.</p> <p>Establishment of a frequent and ongoing monitoring system for the Plan and planning applications as a permanent function that includes monitoring of the implementation of biodiversity</p>	<p>The findings from SEA and AA (as relevant) for policies, plans, programmes etc.</p> <p>The % of planning applications processed each year that had ecological input from the Council's ecology unit.</p> <p>% of Council projects (Part VIIIs) with ecological input from the Council's ecology unit.</p> <p>Number of Council plans, guidance notes and policy documents with ecological input per year.</p> <p>The establishment of a frequent and ongoing monitoring and reporting system for the Plan and planning applications.</p>	<p>Review internal systems.</p>

Environmental Topic	SEO Code	Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators	Remedial Action if not being Achieved
		exchange of wild species.	<p>policies, and planning conditions where appropriate.</p> <p>Seek to protect Margaritifera Sensitive Areas located within and outside of designated SACs from inappropriate development.</p> <p>Support features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal, and genetic exchange of wild species.</p> <p>Identify invasive species in the County and develop appropriate management techniques for their control.</p> <p>Implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the County including the protection of green and blue ecological corridors and linkages.</p> <p>To review and update the Council's 'Biodiversity and the Planning Process' Guidelines.</p> <p>To support the National</p>	<p>Number of planning applications and projects where a biodiversity net gain was accounted for.</p> <p>Review and update the Cork County Biodiversity Action Plan (current Plan is 2009- 2014).</p> <p>Number of actions achieved in the Cork County Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>An updated version of the Council's 'Biodiversity and the Planning Process' Guidelines.</p> <p>Compile a detailed SEA environmental baseline database and update twice yearly.</p>	



Environmental Topic	SEO Code	Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators	Remedial Action if not being Achieved
			<p>Biodiversity Action Plan and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and to implement the actions of the Cork County Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>That net gain in biodiversity is accounted for and achieved.</p> <p>Address baseline data gaps by identifying knowledge gaps and collecting new data over time.</p>		
Soil	S	<p>Protect soils against pollution and prevent degradation of the soil resource.</p> <p>Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County. Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites.</p>	<p>Minimise the use of greenfield land and ensure 30% of new homes are located within existing built-up footprints.</p> <p>Reduce the rate of land use change on greenfield lands arising from urban sprawl and urban generated rural housing.</p> <p>Ensure sustainable extraction of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits and the reuse and recycling of construction and demolition waste.</p>	<p>% landcover in comparison with 2018 Corine figures.</p> <p>Number of planning applications granted on brownfield and/or infill sites.</p> <p>Volume of construction and demolition waste recycled.</p> <p>Volume of contaminated material generated in comparison with previous years' figures.</p> <p>Number of designated geological sites and their value.</p> <p>Number of planning permissions granted, and area of land permitted for</p>	<p>Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will consider what additional measures are required including consultation as appropriate with other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Review internal systems.</p>

Environmental Topic	SEO Code	Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators	Remedial Action if not being Achieved
			<p>Ensure sustainable importation of soil.</p> <p>Identify and map geological sites.</p> <p>Identify and map contaminated land.</p>	<p>excavation and extraction of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits.</p> <p>Number of planning permissions granted and area of land granted for soil importation.</p>	
<b>Water</b>	<b>W</b>	<p>Ensure that water bodies are protected, maintained, and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.</p> <p>Ensure that growth is managed to protect water quantity and quality and is located to avoid areas at risk of flooding or erosion.</p>	<p>All waters within the Plan area to achieve the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the relevant River Basin Management Plan by 2027.</p> <p>Achieve compliance with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC (protection of groundwater).</p> <p>Not to permit development where it would result in a WWTP exceeding the terms of its discharge license.</p> <p>Promote population growth in areas served by urban</p>	<p>The status of water quality in the County's water bodies and the proportion of good and high-status water bodies above 2020 baseline.</p> <p>Number of households served by urban waste-water treatment plants/ septic tanks/ individual WWTP or other systems.</p> <p>Number of existing septic tanks inspected, and remediation works undertaken located within designated WFD Priority Areas for Action and/ or Blue Dot/high status catchments.</p> <p>Number of households served by public water supplies.</p> <p>Number of plants exceeding the Emission Limit Values (ELVs) for Wastewater Treatment Discharge licence set by the EPA.</p>	<p>Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status the Council will continue to work with other relevant stakeholders such as Irish Water and the EPA to arrive at solutions to address this matter.</p> <p>Where marine water bodies are failing to meet good ecological status, the Council will continue to work with other relevant stakeholders to arrive at solutions to address this matter.</p> <p>Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the</p>

Environmental Topic	SEO Code	Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators	Remedial Action if not being Achieved
			<p>wastewater treatment plants and public water supplies in accordance with the National Planning Framework.</p> <p>Prioritise the inspection of individual septic tanks located within designated WFD Priority Areas for Action and Blue Dot/ high status catchments. Support septic tank inspections in accordance with the Domestic Waste- water Treatment Systems National Inspection Plan. Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into all development proposals.</p>	The number of planning permissions granted in areas at risk of flooding.	Wastewater treatment Plant (WWTP) or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will continue to work with the EPA and Irish Water to address issues arising.
Air and Climate	ACL	Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with relevant targets.	<p>Provide for increased use of public transport.</p> <p>Increase number of cycle lanes and pedestrian routes in the</p>	% compliance with EPA emission limits for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia, and fine particulate matter.	Where targets are not achieved, the Council will work with the relevant stakeholders to improve matters.

Environmental Topic	SEO Code	Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators	Remedial Action if not being Achieved
		<p>Meet relevant air and noise standards and support initiatives to reduce air and noise pollution.</p> <p>Integrate climate resilience and sustainable design solutions into existing and proposed development in the County.</p>	<p>Plan area.</p> <p>Reduction of private vehicle usage compared to 2016 Census levels.</p> <p>An increase in the percentage of the population travelling to work or school by public transport or non-mechanical means.</p> <p>Implement Cork County Council's Noise Action Plans.</p> <p>Achieve transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.</p> <p>Contribute towards EU GHG emission targets and aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions of at least 80% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050 across the electricity generation, built environment</p>	<p>% decrease in the number of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 figures.</p> <p>% increase in the number of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures.</p> <p>Number of applications granted permission for development in areas at risk of flooding.</p> <p>Number of electric vehicle charging points installed in the County.</p> <p>Number of Electric Vehicles registered in the county.</p> <p>Number of new rural bus services or routes.</p> <p>Number of buildings with a BER rating of B or more as a % of overall building stock.</p> <p>Number of new air monitoring stations in the County.</p> <p>Establishment of a decarbonising zone.</p>	<p>Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will consider what additional measures are required including consultation as appropriate with other relevant stakeholders.</p>

Environmental Topic	SEO Code	Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators	Remedial Action if not being Achieved
			<p>and transport sectors.</p> <p>To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable retrofitting of buildings (including heating systems).</p> <p>Increase the number of air monitoring stations in the County.</p>		
Cultural Heritage	CH	Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of architectural, archaeological, and cultural heritage and their setting (including places, features, buildings, landscapes and Gaeltachtaí) in County Cork.	<p>No permitted development which involves loss of cultural heritage, including protected structures, archaeological sites, Architectural Conservations Areas and landscape features.</p> <p>To increase the number of uninhabited and derelict structures that are re- stored.</p> <p>Implement the Cork County Heritage Plan.</p>	<p>Loss of or adverse impact on monuments on the Record of Monuments (RMP).</p> <p>Loss of or adverse impact on protected structures included on the RPS.</p>	Review internal systems.

Environmental Topic	SEO Code	Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators	Remedial Action if not being Achieved
Landscape	L	To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention.	Ensure no significant disruption of significant natural or historic/cultural landscapes and features through objectives of the County Development Plan.	<p>Number of planning permissions granted in areas of high value landscape.</p> <p>Number of permissions granted within 500m of a scenic route.</p> <p>Number of houses/permissions on approach roads into towns and villages or within a certain radius of same.</p>	Review internal systems.
Material Assets	MA	Make best use of the material assets of the county and promote the sustainable development of new infrastructure to provide for the current and future needs of the population.	<p>Promote the retention and reuse of existing building stock as a first preference.</p> <p>Reduce waste sent to landfill and increase waste sent for recycling and energy generation.</p> <p>Improvements to existing water and wastewater infrastructure.</p> <p>An increase in provision of public transport, cycle lanes and pedestrian routes.</p> <p>Implement the roll out of the National Broadband Plan in County Cork</p>	<p>Number of buildings listed on 2020 vacant and derelict site registers activated.</p> <p>% of waste going to landfill and recycling when compared with 2020 figures.</p> <p>% of waste used for energy production when compared with 2020 figures.</p> <p>Number of critical infrastructural projects identified in the CDP completed.</p> <p>Amount of (Km) new greenways, cycleways and footpaths provided.</p> <p>km of long distant walks available in the County.</p> <p>Progress of bus shelter upgrade</p>	<p>Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the Wastewater treatment Plant (WWTP) or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will continue to work with other relevant stakeholders such as Irish Water and the EPA to arrive at solutions to address this matter.</p> <p>Where targets or projects are not achieved, the Council will consider what additional measures are required including consultation as appropriate with other</p>

Environmental Topic	SEO Code	Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators	Remedial Action if not being Achieved
				<p>programme.</p> <p>Number of households serviced under the National Broadband plan.</p> <p>% of households with the minimum broadband speed of 30Mbps and % of households with the target broadband speed of 100Mbps.</p> <p>Amount of funding achieved towards Green and Blue Infrastructure projects.</p>	<p>relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Review internal systems.</p>

9.2.4 The following table sets out the results of the SEA monitoring to date.

SEO CODE	SEO Monitoring Results
PHH	<p>Since the Plan was adopted in April 2022, a total of 7,180 units have been permitted within development boundaries. Table 2.7 of this report details that sixty percent of the units (4,315) permitted are within the County Metropolitan Cork Strategic Planning Area, thirty percent (2,127) are in the Greater Cork Ring, four percent are in North Cork (301) and six percent (437) are located in the West Cork Strategic Planning Area. The number of permitted units that are completed will be monitored over the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>The 2022 Census set out a population for Cork County of 360,152. The Census figures on the Breakdown of Overall Population by aggregate Town Sizes shows that there was a population of 59,749 (17%) in Towns with a population of 10,000 population and over, 46,602 (13%) in Towns 5,000-9,999 population and 42,988 (12 %) in Towns 1,000-5,000 population and 20,109 (5%) in Towns with between 500-999 population. In relation to the Core Strategy targets, the Main settlements still have more than two thirds of their population target to achieve; the Key villages &gt; 1,500 are significantly ahead of target having already delivered 59% of their target; the Key Villages are slightly ahead having delivered 41% of their target, and the villages and rural have already exceed their target by 4%. It is clear that, across all MDs, the rate of population growth in the main settlements is well below that envisaged by the Core Strategy, while the rate of growth in the Villages and Rural areas exceeds that of the Core Strategy.</p>

Census 2022 provides data on the means of travel to work, school or college of the population of the County, for ages 5 years and over. In 2022, the total number of commuters travelling to work, school or college was 257,139 persons or 71% of the population. Travel to work, school or college by foot and bicycle represents 9.5% of the total modal share, followed by Bus and Rail which represents 7.9 % of the modal share. In 2022, approximately 66% of travel to work was by car, followed by 6 % by foot/bicycle. Only 2% of modal share of travel to work is by Bus and Train in the County. This compares to the national figures which are 63%, 12%, and 9% respectively in 2022. Assessing the trend over time and in particular since the 2016 Census is problematic for a number of reasons; the 2016 data relates to the old county boundary and Census 2022 took place during Covid which is likely to distort data relating to public transport usage, in addition to increased remote working.

More recent data from the NTA Walking and Cycling Index for the Cork Metropolitan Area (March 2024) indicates positive trends:

- 52% adult residents walk 5 or more days a week while 18% of adults cycle at least once a week.
- Every day those who walk and cycle takes nearly 69,000 cars off the road in the Cork Metropolitan Area.

In addition, a significant increase in usage of public transport has been reported for both the bus and rail networks in Cork Metropolitan Area by Transport providers.

The mapping of the 10 minutes town concept for main towns is expected to be commenced in Q3 of 2024.

#### **Vacant and Derelict Sites**

The Vacant Sites Register as of 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 has 3 properties on it. This active land management mechanism is being phased out in favour of the Residential Zoned Land Tax.

The Croí Cónaithe Fund launched in July 2022 with a focus on bringing formerly vacant houses or buildings back into use. Cork County Council are processing applications for the regeneration of 538 vacant properties across the County and approvals have issued for the refurbishment of 419 of these vacant properties to the value of approximately €25million. (See Section 4.11 of this report for further details).

In 2023 over 2,700 properties were assessed as part of a countywide vacancy and dereliction survey to facilitate a strategic and systematic approach to addressing vacancy and dereliction in County Cork.

Additional URDF funding of €5million has been awarded to Cork County Council for the acquisition of derelict and vacant properties in the Metropolitan Area. A total of 28 properties/sites have been identified for acquisition and activation by the TRO and URDF funding approved for this purpose. **If successfully acquired and activated, there is potential for the development of 270 residential units.**



### Monitor Vacancy Levels in Town Centres.

Work is also underway through the Town Regeneration Officer to identify and engage with owners to promote activation and support the broader regeneration efforts in our towns and villages.

Skibbereen in West Cork was identified as the Town Centre First 'pathfinder' town for County Cork. A Town Centre First Regeneration Plan for Skibbereen has been developed and 37 key interventions identified to promote the sustainable development of the town. Four specific interventions as outlined below are viewed as key enablers for the provision of housing and the promotion of commercial activity within the town centre:

- Addressing Vacancy and Dereliction within the town centre
- Examining the potential for living above the shop in the town centre
- Re-activating / animating riverside properties to capitalise on dual aspect.
- Supporting river-front commercial development (cafés, tourism-related accommodation, etc.)

It is anticipated that information on the number of new houses/ employment development built within 1km of the Cork Suburban rail line or within 400m of a high-quality bus route will become available upon implementation of the Planning Department's new data management system.

### Amount of (Km) New Cycleways Provided

- In 2023, **5.45 km** of shared use pedestrian and cycle paths were completed by Cork County Council connecting Dunkettle to Glounthaune. A further 1.9 km is under construction which continues the route to Carrigtwohill.
- Active Travel Corridor linking Ballinacurra to Midleton town. Phase 1 of the Ballinacurra to Midleton Cycleway extends over **1.1km** and is substantially complete. Later phases are at design stage. This will result in the delivery of part of the Midleton Cycle Network Plan.
- Little Island Sustainable Transport Infrastructure- The project involves the enhancement of sustainable transport infrastructure throughout Little Island and improves connectivity as identified in CMATS, including bus corridors, segregated and enhanced walking and cycling facilities, with an approximate project cost of € 6.5 m. This project received Part 8 Planning approval in September 2021 and the detailed design of **1.5 km** of new pedestrian and cycle facilities is substantially complete. This project also includes the design and construction of a new pedestrian bridge IU-1, approx. 0.5 km in length including approach ramps, over the N25 adjacent to the Little Island Railway Station.
- Phase 1 of the Midleton to Youghal Greenway, an **8 km** stretch from Midleton Train Station to Mogeely was opened in March 2024.

There are also several projects currently underway which will provide additional new cycleways. These are outlined in Table 5.5: Sustainable Travel Projects in the Progress Report.

- The remainder of the Midleton to Youghal Greenway (an additional **15km**) will be completed in 2024.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further phases are at construction, tendering and design stage. In Youghal, CCC have developed proposals to create approximately 1 km of footpath and cycle way to link the terminus of the Midleton Youghal Greenway to Greenpark in Youghal Town Centre.</li> <li>• Passage West Link-This project involves the widening of the 2km long existing pedestrian and cycle route from 2.5m to 4m from the city boundary to Passage West. The second part of the project involves the extension of the pedestrian and cycle route from the playground in Passage West through Passage West village to the ferry terminal at Glenbrook. The schemes are at preliminary design and planning phase.</li> <li>• The West Cork Greenways Project - Skibbereen to Drimoleague, Skibbereen to Schull and Skibbereen to Baltimore is at consultation stage.</li> <li>• Cork to Kinsale Greenway project is at design stage.</li> <li>• Dungarvan to Mallow Greenway: Work on finding a route for this project is ongoing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Traveller Accommodation Programme</b> The Traveller Accommodation Programme sets out accommodation targets for Cork County amounting to 68 units between 2019 and 2024, including 31 standard social housing units. The Council's commitments in relation to the accommodation of Travellers, contained in the Traveller Accommodation Programme for County Cork 2019-2024, are being met. The programme is now due to be reviewed and a new programme will be adopted in 2025.</p> <p>The mechanism for assessing the quantum of housing delivered for special needs groups such as older people or disabled is being considered.</p> <p>Footfall within both the town centre and the retail core/core shopping area has not been specifically monitored since the Plan adoption. It is anticipated this will be considered as part of the work of the Town Regeneration Officer, town centre health checks and the roll out of Town Centre First policy.</p> <p><b>Number of public realm strategies/town centre health checks carried out over the lifetime of the plan.</b> Table 2.13: Public Realm and other Significant Renewal Projects in Cork County outlines these projects and included details of settlement, types of funding and current stage of project.</p> <p><b>Number and usage of digital working hubs.</b> The Councils Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate has four new Digital hubs in development at various stages in Mitchelstown, Cobh, Kiskeam and Newmarket. Upgrades to existing hubs have also been completed in Bantry, Fermoy and Macroom, Upgrade and expansion is planned at the hub in Youghal.</p>
BFF	<p>In recognition of the importance of protecting county biodiversity, Cork County Council has established an Ecology Team within the organisation and has continued to expand the staffing and resources of the team in recent years. The team provides ecological advice, services and supports to inhouse staff and to members of the public in the areas of land use policy, development management, local authority developments and projects, and biodiversity projects. The Ecology Team is also responsible for rolling out</p>

projects and implementing the policies and objectives of Cork County Council's Biodiversity Action Plan.

Biodiversity and Ecological Resources: The Cork County Development Plan includes objectives which are intended to provide protection, enhancement of existing biodiversity/ecological resources and for the enhancement of ecological linkages and connectivity in the wider countryside. In this regard CCC implements a programme of Biodiversity related projects on an annual basis under the auspices of the County Biodiversity Action Plan.

Here is a list of Biodiversity Action Plan funded projects that we have supported or implemented since 2022:

**2022 Projects:**

- Bride Valley IASP Phase I - Year 3 of 3
- Bride Valley IASP Phase II Year 2 of 3
- Preparation of Garrylucas Beach Conservation Management Plan
- Harpers Island Wetlands - Wetland Habitats Improvements Works

**2023 Projects:**

- Bride Valley Invasive Alien Species Management Project Phase II Year 3 of 3
- Barn Owl Survey and Conservation Project
- Harpers Island Wetlands Enhancement
- Cape Clear Invasive Alien Species Survey and Biodiversity Workshops

The actions from the Cork County Biodiversity Action Plan that have been implemented since April 2022 includes:

- actions under Objectives 4 and 6- supporting the ongoing management and maintenance of Harpers Island;
- action under Objective 6- facilitated the running of Bat Walks for Heritage Week in both 2022 and 2023 for awareness raising.
- action under Objective 3 -delivered training and guidance for staff on EclA/AA in both 2022 and 2023; and
- action under Objective 3 working on the development of our own inhouse ecological dataset.

€158,473 worth of funding from the Department has been awarded and €52,035 of co-funding from CCC has also been allocated to these biodiversity related projects in County Cork since April 25, 2022 through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund. Funding awards for 2024 are currently awaited.

An updated version of the Council's Biodiversity and Planning Note is currently in the process of being prepared. An updated version of the Council's 'Biodiversity and the Planning Process' Guidelines is also due to be completed shortly.

All planning applications are assessed against GIS layers for referral to prescribed bodies (NWPS, etc). All planning applications, part VIII applications and exemption certificates are screened for AA and EIAR which captures biodiversity. All new developments are required to incorporate SuDs. In relation to Local Authority development a series of training and guidance has been provided to in-house staff in

relation to requirements in relation to EclA and AA. Also, CDP Objectives BE 15 – 4 and BE 15 – 3 of the CDP are being implemented which is resulting in increased Ecological input on LA development projects.

All Part VIII applications required input from the Ecology Unit since the adoption of the CDP 2022-2028.

- From April 25, 2022- December 31, 2022, there were a total of 362 New planning applications including 1 no. LRD application and 31 retention applications that had ecological input, representing 15% of 2022 planning applications. There were an additional 4 SID, 4 enforcement cases, 50 compliances dealt with, 158 further information responses and 22 NIS dealt with by the ecological section during this period. Separately there were 7 no. LRD pre-planning meetings/advices and 45 no. Pre-plannings dealt with in the same period. There were 11 no. Appropriate Assessment Screening determinations completed- 12 no. pre-planning advices on Local Authority projects (separate to above), 1 no. advices in relation to Foreshore licencing and 29 Section 5 applications.
- In 2023, there were a total of 334 applications, including 5 no. LRD planning applications that had ecological input, representing 11% of 2023 planning applications. There were an additional 13 enforcement cases, 103 compliances dealt with and 230 further information responses dealt with during this period. Of the applications dealt with, these included 55 NIS, 11 EIARs, 55 ECIAAs, 75 AA Screenings and 35 species reports. Separately there were 9 no. LRD pre-planning meetings/advices and 38 no. pre-plannings dealt with in the same period. There was also 7 no. advices in relation to foreshore licencing, 18 no. Appropriate Assessment Screening determinations completed & 9 no. Pre-planning Advices (separate to above) for Local Authority Development and 15 Section 5 applications.
- So far in 2024, there have been a total of 69 new applications, including 1 no LRD application that had ecological input, representing 22 % of 2024 planning applications. There have been 8 compliances dealt with by the ecology section and 4 further information responses dealt with so far in 2024. There have been 2 SID applications, 3 enforcements, 4 no. Appropriate Assessment Screening determinations completed and 3 no. pre-planning advices for LA development. There has also been 11 no. pre-plannings and 1 separate LRD pre-planning meeting attended and advices issues.

The number of planning applications and projects where a biodiversity net gain was accounted for is not yet being monitored. It is anticipated that a system for measuring biodiversity net gain will be introduced when further ecology resources are in place.

A robust monitoring system will be developed in the lifetime of the Plan to compile a detailed SEA environmental baseline database which can be updated regularly. The manner in which Ecology related reporting is managed and monitored will also be updated

	throughout the Development Plan process in order to better reflect the CDP SEA Monitoring programme.																																				
<b>S</b>	<p>All planning applications are screened for AA and EIA whether the land is on infill or brownfield sites. Reuse of brownfield lands are encouraged to ensure the protection and conservation of the soils by encouraging sustainable management practices (BE 15-10). This objective is implemented through the DM process. All planning applications for brownfield sites are referred to the environmental directorate and reported on accordingly.</p> <p>In the case of development which requires the removal of soil, stones and invasive species, any removal requires the appropriate permits and disposal to authorised sites, and contaminated sites require a contaminated land risk assessment. The Council will explore further indicators for considering land use change based on available data as part of the review and updating of the wider monitoring framework.</p>																																				
<b>W</b>	<p>Water Quality data for the latest period 2016-2021 indicates that overall water quality continues to decline for surface waters in the County. While there has been a slight increase in High status water bodies (3%), there has been a 7% decrease in good status waterbodies and an equivalent 7% increase in moderate status water bodies.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Period</th> <th>High</th> <th>Good</th> <th>Moderate</th> <th>Poor</th> <th>Bad</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SW 2007-2009</td> <td>22%</td> <td>59%</td> <td>14%</td> <td>5%</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SW 2010-2012</td> <td>23%</td> <td>54%</td> <td>16%</td> <td>6%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SW 2010-2015</td> <td>22%</td> <td>51%</td> <td>17%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SW 2013-2018</td> <td>16%</td> <td>56%</td> <td>19%</td> <td>7%</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SW 2016-2021</td> <td>19%</td> <td>49%</td> <td>26%</td> <td>5%</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Against this backdrop, Cork County Council in conjunction with the EPA and LAWPRO are continuously working to improve the status of water bodies in the county.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC Environment Department is the lead agency for 14 of the Proposed Areas for Action under the soon to be published 3rd River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027. The proposed areas were selected through a collaborative workshop process at each Regional Operational Committee. Maintenance/improvement of water quality will be prioritised in these areas for action.</li> <li>• CCC Environment Department have carried out investigative assessments on 29 waterbodies between 2021 &amp; 2023 to assist with determining their status.</li> </ul>	Period	High	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad	SW 2007-2009	22%	59%	14%	5%	1%	SW 2010-2012	23%	54%	16%	6%	0%	SW 2010-2015	22%	51%	17%	10%	0%	SW 2013-2018	16%	56%	19%	7%	1%	SW 2016-2021	19%	49%	26%	5%	1%
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	<p>The results of these assessments have been uploaded to the WFD App. Further assessment &amp; investigation is ongoing in 17 of these waterbodies where water quality status was determined to be less than Good.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of the beaches currently monitored by Cork County Council Environment department, 11 identified bathing waters have achieved Blue Flag Status for 2023 season. (Referenced in the Section 7.2 Environmental Monitoring of this report.)</li> </ul> <p>Several projects are underway to support the protection of water resources and water quality and to improve awareness of issues around the management of water resources, in support of the Water Framework Directive and other plans and programmes, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface Water Management Practice Note No. 2</li> <li>• Carrigtwohill Rainwater Management Plan</li> <li>• Cobh Rain Garden Demonstrator</li> </ul> <p>These projects are outlined in greater detail in Section 5.5 Surface Water Management of this report.</p> <p>An external advice notes was issued to advise the public on how to address surface water management and drainage impact assessment as part of planning applications. Two internal practice notes issued to staff relating to Flooding and Surface Water Management, to ensure that the assessment of planning applications follow the latest and most up to date practices with applications and these practice notes are updated as necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 9 recently completed projects for new WWTP and upgrades. These include Mallow, Castletownbere, Castletownsend, Inchigeelagh, Mitchelstown, Ballymakeera, Coachford, Dripsey and Inishannon.</li> <li>• Schemes currently in construction (2023/2024) include Whitegate -Aghada WWTP, Boherbue WWTP, Ballycotton WWTP, Castlemartyr WWTP.</li> </ul> <p>The Council undertake septic tank inspections in line with the requirements of the Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems National Inspection Plan (NIP). The Council are active participants in the Southwest WFD Regional Operational Committee. The Environment Department carried out approx 272 inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems, (DWWTS or septic tanks), in Co. Cork in 2022- 2023 under the DWWTS National Inspection Plan, (NIP).</p> <p>In 2022 there were 783 farm inspections undertaken and 900 undertaken in 2023 as part of the Agricultural Inspection Programme.</p> <p>Information on Blue Dot waterbodies is provided on the Council internal GIS Viewers.</p> <p>CCC part funded a dedicated Blue Dot publication for the Coomhola River (Bantry, County Cork). This publication is a template for subsequent 'Blue Dot' publications for Catchments around the State. The Coomhola Blue Dot Catchment booklet launch won the Water Heritage Day Award at the 2022 National Heritage Week Awards. CCC is currently working with LAWPRO to develop appropriate public awareness signage for selected Blue Dot catchments.</p> <p>Full functional management of public water transferred to Uisce Éireann (UÉ) in September 2023. Monitoring information on individual water supplies can be found at <a href="https://www.water.ie/water-supply/water-quality/">https://www.water.ie/water-supply/water-quality/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment in water services is critical to support the delivery of the Core Strategy. Major schemes completed or substantially completed in 2022/23</li> </ul>
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	<p>include the Skibbereen Regional Water Supply Scheme, Bandon to Clonakilty Water Augmentation Scheme, construction of a new 13 Km pipeline to boost water supply to the Clonakilty area from the Bandon Water treatment plant at Carhue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition, approximately 168 Km of old watermains have been replaced under the Watermains Rehabilitation programme since 2022 and 17 water treatments plants were decommissioned under the Water Rationalisation programme.</li> <li>• Upgrade works at Jones Bridge (Clonakilty) and Glashaboy Water Treatment plants are projected to be substantially completed by the end of 2024 or early 2025.</li> <li>• The Council continue to engage with Uisce Éireann on prioritising delivery of water services infrastructure including through initiatives such as the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme, Find and Fix, Mains Rehabilitation but also through strategic plans such as the National Water Resource Plan, UÉ Investment Plan 2025-2029 and Drainage Area Plans amongst others. Projects in seven locations are advanced to Stage 2 – preparation of preliminary business case. Projects are located in Ballineen / Enniskean, Ballinspittle, Belgooly, Castlemagner, Killumney Ovens, Glanworth and Lisgould.</li> </ul> <p>There are currently a number of plants exceeding the Emission Limit Values (ELVs) for Wastewater Treatment Discharge licence set by the EPA as identified in the annual Uisce Éireann capacity register.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fermoy, Midleton and Ringaskiddy-Crosshaven-Carrigaline collecting systems have been identified as upgrades required to protect the environment and address the findings the 2019 judgement from the Court of Justice of the EU. Mallow upgrade was recently completed.</li> <li>• Representatives from the Councils Environment Department participate &amp; contribute to the National Agricultural Inspection Programme, (NAIP), working group which is led by the EPA &amp; which was set up to focus Local Authorities agriculture inspections on the correct issues in the appropriate geographic areas to deliver on better water quality.</li> <li>• The DHLGH has provided funding to CCC, up to 31/12/2027, to employ 3 additional Assistant Scientists to carry out farm inspections. Work has commenced to focus farm inspections in selected waterbodies where agriculture is deemed a significant pressure in order to maintain/improve water quality in accordance with the objectives of the WFD.</li> </ul> <p>Flood risk is a consideration in all planning applications to date and a detailed review is undertaken at the pre-planning and application stages.</p>
<b>ACL</b>	<p>Increased provision for public transport will contribute greatly to meeting our climate and air quality targets over the lifetime of the development plan. The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) scheme, which began in 2021, has delivered school zones and enhanced connectivity for walking, cycling, and scooting for 6 Schools (Scoil Phádraig Naofa, Presentation Primary School, Bandon Grammar, and Gaelscoil Dhroichead na Banndan (Bandon); Bunscoil Rinn an Chabhlaigh (Cobh), and Scoil Mhuire na nGrást (Belgooly).</p> <p>The following school projects are substantially complete with students, parents, staff and the wider community benefiting from the projects (Scoil Iosaef Naofa, Colaiste Muire and St. Mary's National School (Cobh). 2024 will see 2 further school projects move through design and planning phase to delivery phase (Scoil Bhríde Crosshaven</p>

and Midleton CBS Primary School). Finally, CCC will start the design process for 7 round 2 schools with An Taisce. These projects seek to contribute towards sustainable mobility and compact growth through enhancing connecting to and from the school, creating safer front of school environments all of which seeks to encourage walking, cycling and scooting.

There are 6 rural bus services or routes operating in County Cork, including a new service Route 522 Charleville to Mallow delivered as part of the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan.

Improvements have also been made to facilitate enhanced bus services, for example:

- *Carrigaline - Bothár Guidel* - This scheme consists of the upgrade of existing facilities along Bóthar Guidel and improving accessibility for public transport vehicles, including the 220 bus route to Ringaskiddy. The upgraded facilities increase connectivity from the town centre to Carrigaline Community School and the town park and tie in with the Crosshaven cycleway via a pedestrian and cycle bridge which is currently being designed.

There are a total of 38 public electric charging points installed in the County. The Department of Transport issued the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025 in 2023. The strategy presents a pathway for the delivery of a national EV charging network and the Cork County Climate Action Plan (CCCAP) recognises and supports the importance of relevant National and Local EV infrastructure targets and related policies in achieving transport emission targets. Cork County Council will assist the development of the EV charging network in County Cork. It will accomplish this both through planning requirements placed on new developments and in working with other organisations to develop the county's EV charging network. Objective 4.7.1.4 of the CCCAP (2024-2029) includes for objectives to promote the use of EVs and assessing these opportunities will form part of the Annual Implementation Plan (4.3.1.3.2).

The Council supports the EPA in its role as the agency responsible for management of the National Air Quality Network. The Council has provided sites to facilitate the installation by EPA of 4 monitoring stations in Cork County and provides a first response in relation to same. The Environment Directorate is looking to develop its own monitoring sites in Carrigaline and Clonakilty and has progressed the installation of monitoring equipment at Ringaskiddy as part of the Port of Cork development works.

Air Emissions associated with new developments are considered when assessing planning applications for new developments.

The process of the development of the **Cork County Council Climate Action Plan** CCCAP commenced with the development of the Cork County Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI), the identification of Macroom Town as the County's DZ and preparation of a Baseline Emissions Inventory for the DZ. A climate Change Risk Assessment was also prepared. This Plan was adopted on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 and will require annual implementation plans.

- There are active travel measures under consideration for Macroom post bypass. All RRDF, CLÁR, VEF, TDF & Comm Fund Projects have climate objectives as part of their applications in so far as is possible.
- Pollinator Plan in place for Macroom Town. Energy efficient measures being carried out in Macroom Town Hall (upgrade to LED lighting, new energy



	<p>efficient heaters + new boiler in place). All planting in the MD endeavours to have native plants.</p> <p><b>Renewable Energy</b>  There are currently 56 solar energy projects permitted across the county and a further 5 proposals going through the planning application process.</p> <p>In terms of wind energy, there are currently 41 operating wind developments in the county with a capacity of approximately 719MW. A further 16 projects (143 MW approx.) have been permitted but have yet to be developed and a further 2 applications are currently going through the planning process.</p>
CH	<p>CCC Conservation officers engage with owners of protected structures on a daily basis offering advice on works/information of best practice, and work with the enforcement officer to ensure the protection of RPS sites. Sites are also protected through the issuing of grant supports. (16-14: RPS) This helps to avoid the loss or adverse impact on monuments or protected structures.</p>
MA	<p>See PHH section above in relation to monitoring of vacancy and dereliction.</p> <p>The availability of data in relation to construction waste recycling and waste to energy have been identified as data gaps to be addressed in advance of the next CDP progress report.</p> <p>Bus shelters across the county have been upgraded through the Bus Shelter and Accessible Bus Programme. Improvements undertaken are aimed at improving facilities for wheelchair users, mobility impaired and visually impaired. Cork County Council secured €700,000 for bus stop improvement works from the NTA in 2023.</p> <p>According to Census 2022, a total of 97,838 households (76.7%) in County Cork have access to broadband. The number of households with access to broadband has increased by 22% / 17,770 households since 2016. Approx. 81,000 premises across Cork County will ultimately benefit from access to high-speed broadband constructed under the National Broadband Contract and it is estimated 76,000 of these premises are in Cork County (<i>from Nov 2023 Env Divisional Report</i>)</p> <p>The National Transport Authority (NTA) allocated funds to spending on walking and cycling infrastructure in 2024 of €21.39m. The Council is fully supportive of the need to enhance green and blue infrastructure throughout the county. A Draft Recreation and Amenity Policy is currently being prepared.</p> <p><i>Cork Harbour and Coastline</i>  The MASP recognises Cork Harbour as a unique and Strategic Asset for the Metropolitan Area and region. Cork County Council has also commenced (Q4 2023) a project aimed at developing a comprehensive Cork Harbour and Coastline Green Industrial and Economic Strategy.</p>

### **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**

- 9.2.5 Flood risk policy and the approach to zoning of settlement areas to avoid flood risk in the Development Plan is fully informed by the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning

Authorities (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works, 2009) and Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL 2/2014.

- 9.2.6 The SFRA considered all relevant and up to date flood risk information and used the best available data at the time of preparation to inform the approach to the zoning of all settlement areas and flood risk management provision. This included proposing new water compatible zonings such as Green Infrastructure for lands at risk of flooding, suggesting new text to better reflect the approach to flooding, proposing the sequential approach be applied where the zoning had limited encroachment and in existing built-up area, proposing minor development only. Where it was considered necessary to retain zonings in Town Centres, Justification Tests were carried out. In instances where the Justification Test failed, then water compatible uses were proposed. It is envisaged that monitoring and reporting of environmental impacts, both positive and negative, resulting from implementation of the Development Plan will continue over the course of the lifetime of the plan.

### *SEA Conclusions*

- 9.2.7 While the targets and associated indicators were developed in the recent past, advances in data availability and visualisation both within the Council but also in the wider national context merit a continuous review and update of these and to revisit the SEA monitoring framework to ensure it remains robust.
- 9.2.8 In a limited number of indicators, the trend observed would suggest outcomes are not moving in line with the adopted Core Strategy/ objectives of the Plan, however this initial SEA assessment is based on a limited sample of data over a short duration, and it would therefore be premature to initiate any significant remedial action at this point. Should these trends persist, the Council will need to consider what additional measures, if any, need to be taken to correct course on these matters, in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

## 10 Progress Summary and Recommendations

### 10.1 Overview

- 10.1.1 The proceeding sections of this document, and response to the individual objectives contained in Appendix 2 of this report, have given detailed updates on very significant progress the Council has made in implementing the Cork County Development Plan in the 2-year period since its adoption in April 2022.
- 10.1.2 The timing of the release of the results from Census 2022 and the results of the monitoring of planning applications initiated by the Active Land Management Team of the Planning Policy Unit in 2022 has ensured an unprecedented level of up-to-date data, at sub county level, has been available to inform the preparation of this progress report. In addition, input has been provided by each Directorate on the actions and investments they have undertaken since the Plan was adopted.
- 10.1.3 This section provides a summary of the most significant issues arising from the progress review and includes a number of recommendations on issues needing particular attention over the remaining term of the plan.

### 10.2 Theme One – Core Strategy and Housing Delivery Policy and Legislative Context

- 10.2.1 On a policy and legislative front, publication of the revised National Planning Framework and updated National Development Plan is awaited and may have implications for the implementation of the Plan over its remaining term, or more significantly for the next review of the County Development Plan in terms of the population, housing and jobs targets envisaged for Cork and the investment programme to support it. The Council will continue to prepare background data for making a formal submission once the Draft NPF is published in June 2024. In its submission to the NPF process the Council will advocate for greater funding for Cork to ensure the investment strategy of the next NDP, is clearly aligned to the NPF/ RSES /MASP and CDP strategies to deliver the scale of growth required in Cork. To date NDP investment has favoured Dublin and the Eastern Region, resulting in delays to plan implementation in Cork.
- 10.2.2 The Enactment of the Planning and Development Bill 2023 is expected before the end of Q2 2024 and may have implications in the short term in terms of development management function, and further implications for the format and content of the next County Development Plan. The Council will continue to monitor the Planning and Development Bill as it proceeds through the legislative process.
- 10.2.3 The Sustainable and Compact Settlement Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2024 advocate an amended approach to density, open space, car parking etc., and have the potential to require some changes to the current Development Plan strategy. For now, the Council will continue to assess the implications of these Guidelines and will await the outcome of the NPF Review and the progression of the Planning and Development Bill, before coming to a final position on what the guidelines may mean for Cork County.

## Population

- 10.2.4 Census 2022 show that, overall, the population of the County has increased 8.5% since Census 2016. Eighty nine percent of the County's 338 Electoral Divisions have recorded population growth, and the county as a whole is on track to reach its 2028 population target at county level.
- 10.2.5 The dispersed nature of population growth across the county is evident from the map in Figure 2.4. The map shows very strong growth in some rural areas. The growth trends evident in the results of Census 2016-2022 are, in some cases, out of line with those sought by the Core Strategy of the Plan (Tables 2.3 and Tables 2.4).
- 10.2.6 While overall, the County Metropolitan Area is performing well relative to its ambitious growth targets, and the levels of permitted residential development suggest it is well on track to achieve its 2028 target, it is crucial that the pace of infrastructure delivery improves to facilitate development in a timely manner, and to enable development to proceed across the settlement network.
- 10.2.7 Census growth trends 2016-2022 for three other Strategic Planning Areas of the Greater Cork Ring, North Cork and West Cork suggest they are absorbing more growth than provided for in the strategy (Tables 2.3 and Tables 2.4) and this needs to be monitored over the remaining term of the plan.
- 10.2.8 In terms of the settlement hierarchy, the data in Figure 2.6 and Table 2.6 shows that the rate of population growth in most of the main settlements is well below that envisaged by the Core Strategy, while the rate of growth across the village network and rural areas exceeds that provided for in the Core Strategy. Examples of this include Fermoy MD where just 5% of the population growth in the 2016-2022 period has taken place in the main settlements of Fermoy and Mitchelstown, while the other 95% has been across the Key Villages > 1,500 population (8%), the Key Villages (21%), and the Villages and Rural Area (66%). Similarly, in the Macroom MD, just 16% of the growth has been in the main settlements of Macroom and Millstreet, and the other 84% has been across all the Key Villages > 1,500 population (11%), the Key Villages ( -1%) and the Villages and Rural Area (73%).
- 10.2.9 Overall, across the County, twenty months or 27% into the Plan period, the main settlements have delivered 31% of their target population to 2028; the key Villages >1,500 population have delivered 59% of their target population to 2028; the Key Villages have delivered 41% of their target, and the Villages and Rural Area segment of the hierarchy is already 4% over the target for 2028.
- 10.2.10 When the population growth rates for 2016-2022 are projected forward for the main towns (Figure 2.8), 70% of them are currently not on track to reach their 2028 population target. The other 30% are on track to exceed the 2028 Target. In some settlements the stock of permitted housing development suggests that targets can be achieved once permissions are activated. However, in other areas there is currently little activity in terms of developers seeking permission.

### **Recommendation 1: Population Growth and Development Management and Monitoring**

- 10.2.11 The Development Management process is the key tool the Planning Authority has to

influence population growth. There is a need to closely monitor and actively manage spatial development patterns and trends across the county over the remaining Plan period to ensure that spatial development trends support population growth in line with the strategy of the Plan.

10.2.12 The Annual Core Strategy Monitoring required by Development Plan Guidelines 2022 provides a methodology to assist with this task and emphasises the importance of monitoring and mapping spatial development trends at a settlement level to ensure consistency with the Core Strategy. Monitoring development trends will help indicate where population growth is likely to occur.

10.2.13 The annual monitoring of development activity commenced in 2022 as part of the Active Land Management work programme but is very resource intensive in its current format. The availability of a new IT system for processing planning files and the availability of GIS packages should help streamline this work in the future, support more detailed spatial analysis across the settlement hierarchy and provide up to date information of what is happening on the ground. The data should be reviewed on a quarterly basis to ensure that the necessary shift in the pattern of development is taking place.

### **Recommendation 2: Growth in Main Settlements**

10.2.14 Successive development plans have sought to develop and strengthen the towns of the county. The National Planning Framework and the various funding streams associated with the National Development Plan, Housing for All, and the Urban/ Rural Regeneration and Development Funds etc. seek to support the growth and rejuvenation of towns as locations of choice for new development and investment. Many Cork towns are still struggling to attract investment and new population of a scale envisaged by the County Development Plan. Over the remaining term of the Plan the Council will:

- a) Review work programmes and investment plans across all areas of Council activity to ensure appropriate priority is being given to investment in the towns.
- b) Identify landowners of the key development sites (housing, employment etc.) in the towns and undertake a sustained, proactive and co-ordinated process of engagement with them to identify the main barriers to development and possible steps to addressing them. (ALM / MDs/ PARU / UE).
- c) Support promotional campaigns to promote the towns of the county as a location of choice for housing and investment, sell the benefits of town living and highlight the opportunities available under Croí Cónaithe and similar schemes, for affordable housing and employment uses within settlements. Increase awareness of the pre planning advice and support available from the Planning Authority – hold workshops etc.
- d) In advance of the next review of the County Development Plan conduct a review of the settlement hierarchy of the county to reassess the role of each of the 172 designated settlements in the county and how the settlement hierarchy can best support the realignment of spatial trends in the future.

### *House Completions*

- 10.2.15 Data shows that there has been a deficit in housing units supplied relative to units required every year since 2011, reflecting the prevailing economic climate of the time, viability and financing issues in the house construction industry and the lack of construction personnel to work in the industry, as well as infrastructural constraints to development in many areas and affordability issues for potential house buyers. It is acknowledged that these are complex issues which are not easily addressed, and care is needed to ensure that action on one issue does not have negative knock-on impacts on other issues.
- 10.2.16 In terms of annual house completions, the trends are now going in the right direction with the number of completions on a constant upward trajectory (Figures 2.10 and 2.11.). However, the supply of new houses continues to lag significantly behind projected need. In the 20-month period since the Plan was adopted (equivalent to 27% of the way through the Plan period), just 16% (3,599 units) of the overall 2028 housing target of 22,611 units has been completed.
- 10.2.17 The reality is that the growth of the county is being impacted by the annual under delivery of housing and the issues causing this are largely outside the control of the planning authority.

#### **Recommendation 3: House Completions**

- 10.2.18 The Council will continue to work with all stakeholders and infrastructure providers to deliver housing units across the County in line with the Core Strategy and will actively seek a more co-ordinated government / stakeholder response to addressing the wide range of issues impacting on housing delivery.

### *Housing Consents*

- 10.2.19 Data on planning permissions granted shows that the Planning Authority is playing its part in permitting development in accordance with the provisions of the Development Plan and by and large, obtaining planning permission is not an obstacle to the delivery of housing.
- 10.2.20 In terms of planning permissions granted for all new residential units across the county, data for the period since the adoption of the Development Plan (26th April 2022 – 31st December 2023) shows that planning permission has been granted for 8,130 units (including one off rural houses), equivalent to 36% of the overall housing requirement for 2028 (22,611 units) and this rate of consents is ahead of overall Core Strategy targets.
- 10.2.21 In terms of units within development boundaries of towns and key villages with over 1,500 population, 6,374 units have been permitted, equivalent to 34% of the target for 2028. It should also be noted that this data does not include permissions for refurbishment/redevelopment of existing structures which may also be delivering units /bringing units back into use. These figures are ahead of target.
- 10.2.22 The planning permission data does however show significant contrasts in activity levels across the county. The Metropolitan Cork Strategic Planning Area accounts for 60% of all units permitted, followed by the Greater Cork Ring at 30%, North Cork at 4% and West Cork at 6%.
- 10.2.23 At an MD level the Cobh and East Cork MDs, together account of almost 60% of applications. There is significantly less activity in the Municipal Districts of Fermoy (5%) and West Cork (6%)

or Bandon Kinsale (6%). These areas may have a stock of valid permissions that predate the Plan but can still be implemented.

10.2.24 Across the network of main settlements and key villages with a population over 1,500, approximately half of the settlements have permissions that will deliver over a third of the housing target requirement, approximately one third of the way through the plan, while the other half of the settlements have permission for less than a third of their housing target. Some settlements have had no grants of planning permission for scheme housing since the Plan was adopted. In some settlements a substantial portion of the housing target to 2028 has already been permitted e.g. Midleton (82%), Mallow (56%).

10.2.25 It is important to note that, while the Planning Authority can grant planning permission, in most cases, activation of the permission is at the discretion of the applicant and will be influenced by a range of factors including cost, viability and access to finance.

**Recommendation 4: Increasing the spatial spread of Planning Consents:**

10.2.26 As part of Recommendations 2 and 3 above, engage with stakeholders to ascertain the reasons why planning applications are not coming forward in some areas and the opportunities for cross stakeholder actions to address these, either for new build or refurbishment / renovation schemes as part of compact growth initiatives.

***Rural Housing***

10.2.27 Overall planning consents for rural housing are in line with the Core Strategy of the Plan. Data for the first twenty months of the Plan shows consents in the West Cork SPA are ahead of expectations at this stage of the Plan cycle. Updated guidelines on rural housing are still awaited.

**Recommendation 5: Rural Housing:**

10.2.28 Continue to monitor rural housing spatial trends.

***Housing implementation***

10.2.29 The Council continues to work locally on housing delivery in terms of social and affordable housing, enabling works at Water Rock, Active Land Management, and various Housing for All initiatives including Help to Buy, First home Scheme, Cost Rental etc. (Table 2.12).

**Recommendation 6: Local Housing Implementation:**

10.2.30 The Council will continue to seek funding for new schemes and initiatives to maximise the delivery of new housing units.

***Settlements and Placemaking***

10.2.31 The Council has initiated an ambitious programme of investments in public realm, infrastructure, transport, amenity, arts and community projects etc. (Table 2.13.) across the county and will continue to seek funding opportunities to implement additional projects.

**Recommendation 7: Placemaking**

10.2.32 Continue to develop project proposals to support the regeneration and rejuvenation of town and villages across the county and seek funding for same.

### *10.3 Theme Two Community*

10.3.1 Significant progress has been made in the delivery of new educational, social and community facilities and provision of outdoor recreation amenities throughout the county since the adoption of the Plan. The Council has recently adopted a new Local Economic and Community Plan.

#### **Recommendation 8: Recreation and Amenity:**

10.3.2 Finalise the review of the Recreation and Amenity Policy.

#### **Recommendation 9: Education:**

10.3.3 Continue to liaise with the Department of Education and Skills to ensure that the requisite school facilities are provided in a timely manner to meet the needs of growing populations and address issues as they emerge across the County.

### *10.4 Theme Three Economy and Jobs*

10.4.1 Census 2022 shows a continued increase in the number of jobs in Cork County and an increase in the number of people at work, demonstrating the positive impact of the economic development policies of the Council and the actions of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate, and the Local Enterprise Offices in supporting enterprise and training etc. Council investment across other service areas including housing, roads, transportation, tourism, arts, recreation and amenity also supports economic investment and job creation.

10.4.2 Planning Permission data for new Business and General Employment and Industrial floor space granted since the plan was adopted (Table 4.5) shows that 59% of the permitted space is in the Cobh MD, with very little new space being sought in some MDs. The reasons for this, and the need for more targeted intervention in some areas, can be explored further as part of the Employment Land Review.

10.4.3 The LECP Implementation Plan 2024-2030 will support economic and community development across the County.

#### **Recommendation 10: Economic Development:**

10.4.4 The Council will continue to engage with all stakeholders and the private sector in promoting Cork County as a location of choice for economic development and in supporting enterprise and job creation in appropriate locations across the County.

10.4.5 The Council will complete the Employment Land Review later this year.

10.4.6 The Council will continue to explore opportunities to position Cork as Ireland's leading offshore wind energy and green industry location.

10.4.7 The Council, in conjunction with other agencies, will support the achievement of the Actions outlined in the LECP Implementation Plan.



## *10.5 Theme Four Infrastructure (Water and Transport)*

- 10.5.1 Theme Four has provided a detailed update on the full range of infrastructure projects delivered or in progress since the adoption of the plan. While numerous infrastructural projects have been successfully delivered across the county, many others are still waiting for design, consent and funding to progress. These delays are significantly impeding development in many areas across the county.
- 10.5.2 Theme Four also reports on the significant initiatives under way and progress made in relation to Sensitive Water Catchments, Surface Water Management, Management of Water Quality and Flooding. The Report on Environmental Monitoring also addresses the issues of Water quality in some detail and notes that overall water quality continues to decline for surface waters.

### **Recommendation 11 : Infrastructure Delivery**

- 10.5.3 Cork County Council will continue to work in a proactive partnership with Uisce Éireann to seek the timely delivery of further water services projects across the county and to seek closer alignment of the investment strategy of Uisce Éireann with the Core Strategy of the Cork County Development Plan.
- 10.5.4 Now that the service level agreement between Uisce Éireann and Local Authorities has come to an end, clear structures need to be put in place to facilitate meaningful collaboration and information sharing going forward with respect to available infrastructural capacity to facilitate development, and future investment needs and timelines for delivery.
- 10.5.5 Cork County Council will continue to work in proactive partnership with other infrastructure providers – TII, NTA, ESB, Bord Gáis, EirGrid etc. to ensure they are fully aligned with the development strategy of the County Development Plan and can provide infrastructure in a timely manner to facilitate development.
- 10.5.6 Cork County Council will continue to work closely with transport infrastructure providers to ensure the delivery of CMATS, public transport services, and other roads and transport plans in the County.
- 10.5.7 Cork County Council is continuing to identify, assess and prioritise potential minor works flood mitigation measures, working closely with the OPW in the delivery of Major Flood Relief Projects.
- 10.5.8 The Council will ensure resources are available to prioritise measures to mitigate flood risk, to respond to the challenges associated with climate change to protect communities and to enhance resilience.
- 10.5.9 The Council, in conjunction with the EPA and LAWPRO, will continue to work to protect and improve water quality and improve awareness of issues around the management of water resources.

## *10.6 Theme Five Energy and Marine*

- 10.6.1 The Council awaits the publication of the Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) for the

South Coast due to be published in Spring 2024 which will set out the overall vision for the marine spatial planning for the area.

- 10.6.2 Cork County Council will continue to support the development of the Renewable Energy Sector and the improvement and development of the strategic infrastructure needed to support the development of the sector. The Council will continue to monitor energy applications throughout the lifetime of the plan.

**Recommendation 12: Renewable Energy Strategy**

- 10.6.3 The Council will commence the preparation of a Renewable Energy Strategy in Q4 2024.

**10.7 Theme Six Biodiversity, Environment and Heritage**

**Recommendation 13 Biodiversity, Environment and Heritage**

- 10.7.1 The Council will continue to implement its programme of environmental monitoring and protection, and public awareness and environmental educational activities over the remaining term of the Plan.
- 10.7.2 The Council is committing further resources to the ecology section to strengthen staffing levels and recruit a County Biodiversity Officer. The unit will continue to engage with and support communities in biodiversity enhancement and protection and implement biodiversity projects as funding allows.
- 10.7.3 Cork County Council will continue to support initiatives to protect our built and cultural heritage.

**10.8 Theme Seven Climate Action**

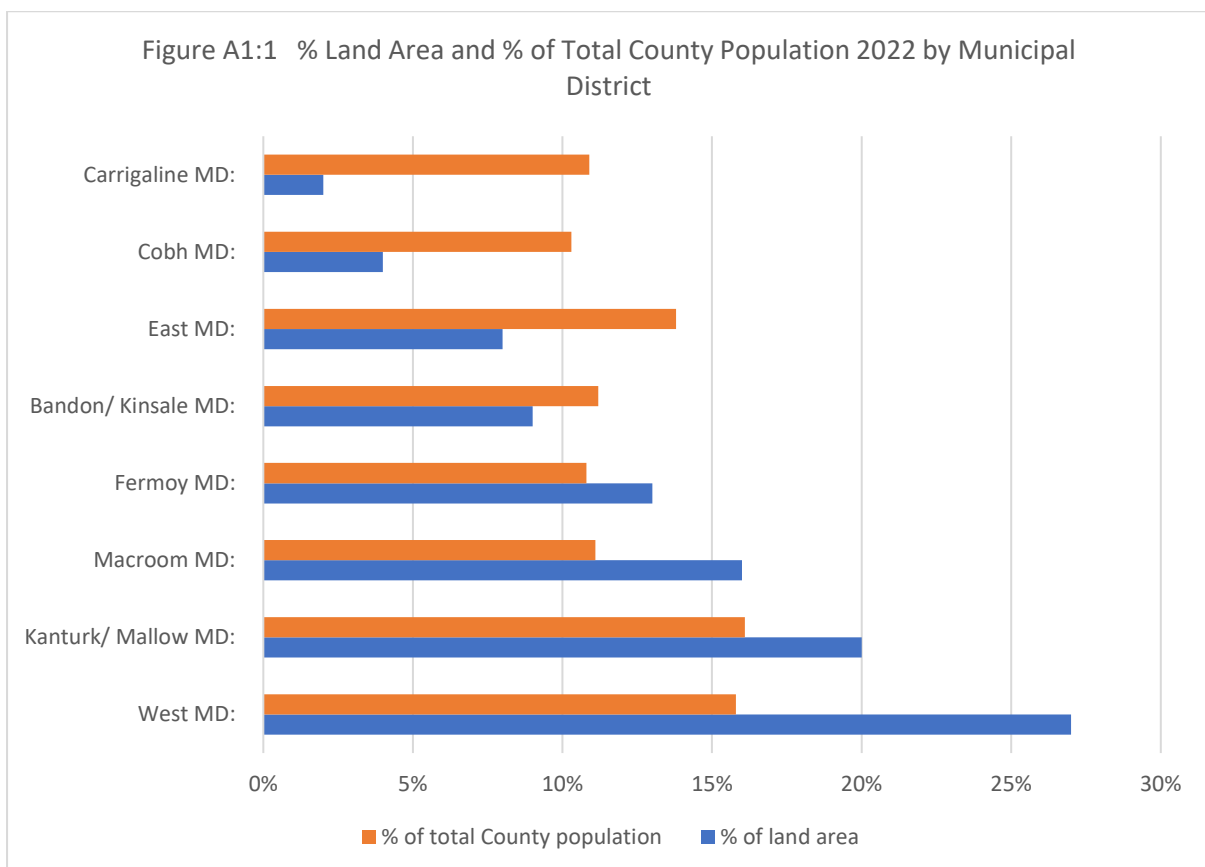
**Recommendation 14: Climate Action**

- 10.8.1 Cork County Council will continue to provide for development around the county in a way that minimises the negative impacts of climate change.
- 10.8.2 The Council will continue to support the Community Climate Action Programme and other initiatives to address climate change at local level. Additionally, the Local Authority will seek to continue to adapt our service delivery where required to help address climate change.

# Appendix One:

## Municipal Districts

Table A1:1 Land Area of County and Population 2022 by Municipal District (MD).				
Municipal District	Land Area Ha.	% of land area	Population 2022	% of Total County Population 2022
Carrigaline MD:	18,209	2%	39145	10.90%
Cobh MD:	29,675	4%	37214	10.30%
East MD:	55,290	8%	49539	13.80%
Bandon/Kinsale MD:	64,654	9%	40387	11.20%
Fermoy MD:	94,648	13%	38935	10.80%
Macroom MD:	119,623	16%	39847	11.10%
Kanturk/Mallow MD:	149,643	20%	58084	16.10%
West MD:	199,953	27%	57001	15.80%
Total County	731,695	99%	360152	



**Table A1:2 Distribution of population growth 2016-2022 in the Municipal Districts**

Municipal District	Main Settlements	Key Villages >1500 pop	Key Villages	Villages and Rural
<b>Bandon/Kinsale MD:</b>	63%	0%	17%	21%
<b>Carrigaline MD:</b>	67%	17%	0%	16%
<b>Cobh MD:</b>	62%	30%	1%	7%
<b>East MD:</b>	49%	10%	0%	42%
<b>Fermoy MD:</b>	5%	8%	21%	66%
<b>Kanturk/Mallow MD:</b>	42%	0%	10%	47%
<b>Macroom MD:</b>	16%	11%	-1%	73%
<b>West MD:</b>	30%	0%	13%	57%

Table A1:3 Composition of Municipal Districts								
Municipal District	Bandon Kinsale	Carrigaline	Cobh	East Cork	Fermoy	Kanturk- Mallow	Macroom	West Cork
Main Settlements	Bandon	Carrigaline	Carrigtwohill	Midleton	Fermoy	Buttevant	Macroom	Bantry
	Kinsale	Passage West/ Glenbrook/ Monkstown	Cobh	Youghal	Mitchelstown	Charleville	Millstreet	Castletownbere
			Little Island			Kanturk		Clonakilty
			Monard			Mallow		Dunmanway
						Newmarket		Schull
								Skibbereen
Key Villages > 1,500		Crosshaven & Bays	Glounthaune	Castlemartyr	Rathcormack		Killumney/ Ovens	
			Watergrasshill	Cloyne Whitegate & Aghada				
Key Villages/ Specialist	Ballinspittle	Ringaskiddy	Carrignavar	Killeagh	Ballyhooly	Ballydesmond	Baile Bhuirne / Baile Mhíc Íre	Balineen/ Enniskeane
	Belgooly		Marino Point		Castlelyons/ Bridebridge	Banteer	Beal Atha an Ghorthaidh	Ballydehob
	Courtmacsherry				Castletownroche	Boherbue	Coachford	Baltimore
	Innishannon				Conna			Drimoleague
	Riverstick				Doneraile	Churchtown		Durrus
	Timoleague				Glanworth	Dromahane		Glengarriff

Table A1:3 Composition of Municipal Districts

Municipal District	Bandon Kinsale	Carrigaline	Cobh	East Cork	Fermoy	Kanturk- Mallow	Macroom	West Cork
					Glenville	Dromina		Leap
					Kildorrery	Grenagh		Rosscarbery
					Kilworth	Knocknagree		Union Hall
						Milford		
						Newtownshandrum		
<b>Villages</b>	Ballinadee	Ballinhassig	Knockraha	Ballincurrig	Ballynoe	Ballyclough	Aghabullogue	Ahakista
	Ballinhassig	Ballygarvan	Whitechurch	Ballycotton	Bartlemy	Ballyhea	Aherla	Allihies
	Butlerstown	Halfway		Ballymacoda	Clondulane	Bweeng	Ballynora	Ardfield
	Crossbarry	Minane Bridge		Dungourney	Killavullen	Castlemagner	Cloghduv	Ardgroom
	Dundurrow	Waterfall		Ladysbridge	Shanballymore	Cecilstown	Clondrohid	Ballinascarthy
	Kilbrittain			Lisgoold	Coolagown	Cullen	Courtbrack	Ballylickey
	Newcestown			Mogeely		Freemount	Crookstown	Castletownsend
	Old Chapel			Saleen		Glantane	Inchigeelagh	Crookhaven
				Shanagarry/ Garryvoe		Kilbrin	Kilmurry	Drinagh
						Kiskeam	Cill na Martra	Eyeries
						Liscarroll	Model Village Dripsey	Glandore
						Lismire	Rylane / Seiscne	Goleen
						Lombardstown	Stuake/ Donoughmore	Kealkill
						Lyre	Upper Dripsey	Kilcrohane
						New Twopothouse		Shannonvale
						Rathcoole		



Table A1:3 Composition of Municipal Districts

Municipal District	Bandon Kinsale	Carrigaline	Cobh	East Cork	Fermoy	Kanturk- Mallow	Macroom	West Cork
						Rockchapel		
						Tullylease		
<b>Other Locations</b>	Garrettstown/ Garrylucas		Fota Island	Barnabrow/ Ballymalloe		Dromalour	Guagán Barra	Barley Cove
	Oysterhaven		Haulbowline Island	Redbarn			Inniscarra	Inchydoney
			Spike Island	Trabolgan				Ownahinchy Tragumna
<b>Islands</b>								Bere Island
								Cléire
								Dursey Island
								Heir Island
								Long Island
								Sherkin Island
								Whiddy Island



## Appendix Two:

*Details on the progress made in relation to each objective of Volume One of the cork County Development Plan 2022*

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
<b>Chapter 1 Introduction</b>					
1.	I1-1: National Planning Framework	Supportive	Planning and Development (PPU).	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the day-to-day implementation of the County Development Plan as it is fully consistent with the Project Ireland 2040 NPF.
2.	I1-2: Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy	Supportive	Planning and Development (PPU).	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the day-to-day implementation of the County Development Plan as it is fully consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (2020).
3.	I1-3: Cork Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan	Supportive	Planning and Development (PPU).	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the day-to-day implementation of the County Development Plan as it is fully consistent with the Cork Metropolitan Strategic Plan for the Cork County area.
<b>Chapter 2 Core Strategy</b>					
4.	CS 2-1 Core Strategy	Strategic Action	ALL	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>
5.	CS 2-2 Supply of Zoned Land	Strategic Action	ALL	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>
6.	CS 2-3: County Metropolitan Cork Strategic Planning Area	Strategic Action	ALL	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery, Theme Two: Community, Theme Three: Economy and Jobs, Theme</b>



Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
					<b>Four: Infrastructure, Theme Five: Energy and the Marine, Theme Six: Heritage, Theme Seven: Climate Action</b>
7.	CS 2-4: Greater Cork Ring Strategic Planning Area	Strategic Action	All	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery, Theme Two: Community, Theme Three: Economy and Jobs, Theme Four: Infrastructure, Theme Five: Energy and the Marine, Theme Six: Heritage, Theme Seven: Climate Action.</b>
8.	CS 2-5: North Cork Strategic Planning Area	Strategic Action	ALL	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery, Theme Two: Community, Theme Three: Economy and Jobs, Theme Four: Infrastructure, Theme Five: Energy and the Marine, Theme Six: Heritage, Theme Seven: Climate Action.</b>
9.	CS 2-6: West Cork Strategic Planning Area	Strategic Action	ALL	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery, Theme Two: Community, Theme Three: Economy and Jobs, Theme Four: Infrastructure, Theme Five: Energy and the Marine, Theme Six: Heritage, Theme Seven: Climate Action.</b>
10.	CS 2-7: Network of Settlements	Strategic Action	ALL	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery, Theme Two: Community, Theme Three: Economy and Jobs, Theme Four: Infrastructure, Theme Five: Energy and the Marine, Theme Six: Heritage, Theme Seven: Climate Action.</b>
11.	CS 2-8: Climate Change	Strategic Action	ALL	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme Seven: Climate Action</b>

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
	<b>Chapter 3 Settlements and Placemaking</b>				
12.	PL 3-1: Building Design, Movement and Quality of the Public Realm	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, MD, Capital Infrastructure and Delivery Office	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery, Theme Two: Community, Theme Six: Heritage, Theme Seven: Climate Action.</b>
13.	PL 3-2: Encouraging Sustainable and Resilient Places	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Housing, Municipal District, Town Regeneration Officer	Ongoing	This commitment is reflected in the Council's own Housing delivery programme. Vacant town centre properties are assessed for their suitability to provide social housing. They may be progressed by the Council or referred to the Approved Housing Bodies who are actively seeking opportunities of this nature. The development of brownfield sites forms part of the delivery strategy, and a number are various stages of planning and design. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery, Theme Two: Community, Theme Six: Heritage, Theme Seven: Climate Action.</b>
14.	PL 3-3: Delivering Quality and Inclusive Places	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Housing, Capital Infrastructure Delivery Office, Traffic and Transport.	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery, Theme Two: Community, Theme Six: Heritage, Theme Seven: Climate Action.</b>
15.	PL 3-4: Placemaking and The Arts	Operational	Planning and Development, Municipal Districts, Arts	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process.

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
			Office, Capital Infrastructure Delivery Office.		<b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery, Theme Two: Community, Theme Six: Heritage, Theme Seven: Climate Action.</b>
16.	PL 3-5: Rural Placemaking	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery, Theme Two: Community, Theme Three: Economy and Jobs, Theme Four: Infrastructure, Theme Five: Energy and the Marine, Theme Six: Heritage, Theme Seven: Climate Action.</b>
<b>Chapter 4 Housing</b>					
17.	HOU 4-1: Joint Housing Needs Demand Assessment and Housing Strategy	Operational	Planning and Development, Housing	Complete.	Following publication of the HNDA guidelines, it was not considered necessary to update the Joint Housing Strategy/HNDA. Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>
18.	HOU 4-2: Reserved Land for Social and Affordable Housing	Operational	Planning and Development, Housing	Ongoing	This objective reflects the obligations of developers under Part V of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 - 2020, as amended by the Affordable Housing Act 2021. It is the Council's objective to maximise what is available for Affordable Purchase and Cost Rental purposes. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>
19.	HOU 4-3: Housing for Older People	Operational	Planning and Development, Housing	Ongoing	As part of the Social Housing programme suitable sites are being identified and there are a number of proposals for housing for older people. Elderly/special needs units can increase density, improve the tenant mix of an estate and facilitate downsizing. This can also strengthen the demand for local services and public transport. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
20.	HOU 4-4: Accommodation for Travellers	Operational	Planning and Development, Housing	Ongoing.	The Council's commitments in relation to the accommodation of Travellers, contained in the Traveller Accommodation Programme for County Cork 2019-2024, are being met. The programme is now due to be reviewed and a new programme will be adopted in 2025. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>
21.	Hou 4-5: Student Accommodation	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>
22.	Hou 4-6: Housing Mix	Operational	Planning and Development, Housing	Ongoing.	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>
23.	Hou 4-7: Housing Density on Residentially Zoned Land	Operational	Planning and Development, Housing	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>
24.	Hou 4-8: Building Height and Amenity	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Housing	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>
	<b>Chapter 5 Rural</b>				
25.	RP 5-1: Urban Generated Housing	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process
26.	RP 5-2: Rural Generated Housing	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process
27.	RP 5-3: County Metropolitan Cork Strategic Planning Area	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>
28.	RP 5-4: Rural Area under Strong Urban Influence and Town Greenbelts (GB 1-1)	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery.</b>

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
29.	RP 5-5: Tourism and Rural Diversification Area	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery.</b>
30.	RP 5-6: Stronger Rural Area	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>
31.	RP 5-7: Transitional Rural Area	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>
32.	RP 5-8: Structurally Weaker Rural Area	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery.</b>
33.	RP 5-9: Full-Time Home-Based Business in a Rural Area	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process
34.	RP 5-10: Exceptional Health Circumstances	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process
35.	RP 5-11: County Metropolitan Cork Greenbelt	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process
36.	RP 5-12: Purpose of Greenbelt	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process
37.	RP 5-13: Land Uses Within County Metropolitan Greenbelt	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process
38.	RP 5-14: Sustainability of Exceptions to Greenbelt Policies	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>
39.	RP 5-15: Active Uses of Greenbelt Lands	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process.

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40.	RP 5-16: Long Established Uses	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process
41.	RP 5-17: Strategic and Exceptional Development	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process
42.	RP 5-18: Relocating uses	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process
43.	RP 5-19: Greenbelts around Settlements	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>
44.	RP 5-20: Greenbelts around Main Towns GB 1-1	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>
45.	RP 5-21: Greenbelts around Main Towns GB 1-2	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>
46.	RP 5-22: Design and Landscaping of New Dwelling Houses and Replacement Dwellings in Rural Areas	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process
47.	RP 5-23: Servicing Single Houses (and ancillary development) in Rural Areas	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process
48.	RP 5-24: Ribbon Development	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process
49.	RP 5-25: Occupancy Conditions	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process
50.	RP 5-26: Demand for Holiday and Second Home Development	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
51.	RP 5-27: Holiday Home Accommodation	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process
52.	RP 5-28: Small Scale Agri-Tourism Accommodation	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process
53.	RP 5-29: Replacement Rural Dwellings	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process.
54.	RP 5-30: Redevelopment or replacement of an Uninhabitable or Ruinous dwelling	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process.
55.	RP 5- 31: New uses for disused or derelict farm buildings.	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process.
<b>Chapter 6 Social and Community</b>					
56.	SC 6-1: Social and Community Infrastructure Provision	Operational	Planning and Development, Municipal Districts, Traffic and Transportation	Ongoing	Support for the provision of social and community facilities to meet current and future needs is an ongoing objective of the Plan, being delivered through the Development Management process and also through the ongoing development of new community facilities by the Municipal Districts, subject to the availability of funding. Lands have been zoned for community uses in the Plan, and further uses are being delivered in mixed use developments through the county. <b>See Theme Two: Community</b>
57.	SC 6-2: Social and Community Engagement	Operational	Planning and Development, Town Regeneration Officer,	Ongoing	Recognition of the diverse needs of all citizens in the County is an ongoing objective of the Plan and is evidenced by the broad spectrum of new and upgraded social infrastructure since the adoption of the Plan. Engagement with the 524 community groups as part of the PPN will ensure the needs of all groups will be met as much as possible.

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
			Municipal Districts		<b>See Theme Two: Community</b>
58.	SC 6-3: Multi - Use Community Facilities	Operational	Planning and Development, Municipal Districts	Ongoing	The provision of multi-use community facilities is an ongoing objective of the Plan. The Council has been successful in delivering multi use spaces suitable for future sharing. <b>See Theme Two: Community</b>
59.	SC 6-4: Childcare Facilities	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Permission has been granted for twenty childcare facilities since the adoption of the plan. This includes creches, day care and pre-school facilities. A number of these will also be delivered in tandem with new residential developments in accordance with the Childcare guidelines. <b>See Theme Two: Community</b>
60.	SC 6-5: Educational Facilities	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	The provision of educational services in the community such as schools, creches and other educational and childcare facilitating is an ongoing objective being implemented through the lifetime of the Plan through the development management process. <b>See Theme Two: Community</b>
61.	SC 6-6: Provision of Educational Facilities in Large Residential Developments	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	The provision of Educational Facilities in Large Residential Developments is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan as part of the Development Management Process. The Council will work with relevant stakeholders to ensure that the necessary capacity exists to meet demand from growing populations. <b>See Theme Two: Community</b>
62.	SC 6-7 Healthcare Facilities	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Support for the delivery of health care facilities to all sections of the community in appropriate locations is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan. Since the adoption of the Plan, a number of new Primary Care Centres, have opened, further proposals are in the



Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
					planning process, a number of Nursing home developments have also been granted permission. <b>See Theme Two: Community</b>
63.	SC 6-8: Provision of Primary Care Centres	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective seeks the provision of primary care facilities, subject to the proper planning and sustainable development. Two new Primary care centres in Fermoy and Cobh have been opened since the adoption of the plan. A proposed Primary Care centre in Youghal is currently in the plan process. This objective will continue to be implemented throughout the lifetime of the plan. <b>See Theme Two: Community</b>
64.	SC 6-9 Cork an Age friendly county	Operational	Planning and Development, Municipal Districts	Ongoing	This objective supports the implementation of the Cork Age Friendly County Programme and recognises the demographic challenges that face the county. This objective will continue to be implemented throughout the lifetime of the plan. Significant progress has been made in the implementation of Cork County Age Friendly policies to date.
65.	SC 6-10 Services and Infrastructure for Older Persons	Operational	Planning and Development, Municipal Districts	Ongoing	This objective supports the implementation of the Services and Infrastructure for Older Persons Strategy 2014. The Council will continue to support the implementation of Age Friendly Strategies throughout the lifetime of the plan.
66.	SC 6-11: Accommodation for Older Persons	Operational	Planning and Development, Housing	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing as part of the Development Management Process. <b>See Theme One: Core Strategy and Housing Delivery</b>
67.	SC 6-12: Age Friendly Policies	Operational	Housing, Municipal Districts	Ongoing	This objective will continue to be implemented throughout the lifetime of the plan. Significant progress has been made in the implementation of this objective to date: Cork County Age Friendly Strategy: Strategy completed in Q4 of 2023, will be launched in Q2 2024. New Cork County Older

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
					People Council (OPC) in place. Cork County Age Friendly Alliance regularly holds meetings to progress relevant programmes. Cork County Council was shortlisted for the Age Friendly Recognition & Achievement Awards in 2023. The Healthy Age Friendly Homes programme was rolled out nationally in November 2023. Cork County Council Age Friendly Housing Competition implemented in 2023, supported by Cork County Council and the Cork Centre of Architectural Education (comprising UCC and MTU).
	<b>Chapter 7 Marine, coastal and Islands</b>				
68.	MCI 7-1: National and Regional Marine Planning Policy	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Economic Development.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation.
69.	MCI 7-2: Development in Coastal Areas	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Economic Development, County Engineer.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the development management process. <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>
70.	MCI 7-3: Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Operational	Planning and Development and County Engineer.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the development management process. <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>
71.	MCI 7-4: Coastal Protection	Operational	Planning and Development and County Engineer.	Ongoing	The Council Coastal Flood Protection (CFP) team in their role in delivery of infrastructure projects, ensure that this objective is considered and acted where relevant in all coastal and relevant flood protections. <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>

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72.	MCI 7-5: Marine Leisure	Operational	Planning and Development, County Engineer.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the development management process. <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>
73.	MCI 7-6: Coastal Amenities	Operational	Planning and Development, Municipal Districts, Economic Development, County Engineer	Ongoing	The Council continues to work to improve facilities at beaches including lifeguard stations, access to beaches, and toilet facilities, e.g. new toilet facilities at Youghal will be provided in 2024. CFP Team in their role in delivery of coastal infrastructure projects, referred to them by MD Operations, ensure that this objective is considered and acted on in all relevant projects.
74.	MCI 7-7: Designated Bathing Areas	Operational	Environment, County Engineers, Municipal Districts.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>
75.	MCI 7-8 Supporting the Islands	Operational	Economic Development, Planning and Development, Municipal Districts.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation.
76.	MCI 7-9: Economic Development on the Islands	Operational	Economic Development, Planning and Development, Municipal Districts.	Ongoing	There are Quarterly West Cork Islands Interagency Meetings. The Council is engaging with DRCD for Islands Capital Grant. Cork County Council continues to fund, administer and allocate the West Cork Islands Community Grants Scheme.
77.	MCI 7-10: Development Proposals on the Islands	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the development management process.

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
78.	MCI 7-11: Uninhabited Islands	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the development management process.
<b>Chapter 8 Economic Development</b>					
79.	EC 8-1: Cork Harbour	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Economic Development, County Engineer.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the responsible directorates. Cork County Council recognises Cork Harbour as a unique and strategic asset and will continue to promote the development of the harbour and invest further in projects that will strengthen its role as a driver within the region. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs.</b>
80.	EC-8-2: Employment Strategy	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Economic Development.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the responsible directorates. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs.</b>
81.	EC-8-3: Strategic Employment Locations	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Economic Development.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the responsible directorates. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs.</b>
82.	EC 8-4: Place-making	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Economic Development, Municipal Districts, Capital Infrastructure and Delivery	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the responsible directorates. Projects are being progressed countywide. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs and Theme One: Core Strategy.</b>

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
			Office, Traffic and Transport.		
83.	EC 8-5: Connectivity	Strategic Action	Traffic and Transport, Roads, Planning and Development and Economic Development.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the responsible directorates. Projects being progressed countywide. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs and Theme Four: Infrastructure</b>
84.	EC 8-6 Economic Resilience	Operational	Planning and Development, Economic Development		This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the responsible directorates. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
85.	EC 8-7: Smart Working/Remote Working	Strategic Action	Economic Development enterprise and Tourism, Municipal Districts.	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis. Projects are being progressed countywide. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
86.	EC 8-8: Seveso III Directive	Operational	Planning and Development.	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.
87.	EC 8-9: Control of Major Accident Hazards	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective relates to Seveso sites and is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.
88.	EC 8-10: Proposals for New Establishments	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective relates to Seveso sites and is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
89.	EC 8-11: Proposed Development Adjacent to Existing Establishments	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective relates to Seveso sites and is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.
90.	EC 8-12: Land Use Policy	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.
91.	EC 8-13: Rural Economy	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Economic Development.	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan. Cork County Council continues to support rural economic development and rural connectivity through an integrated approach and by supporting the completion of infrastructure projects in rural locations throughout the county. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs and Theme Four: Infrastructure</b>
92.	EC 8-14: Business Development in Rural Areas	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Economic Development.	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
93.	EC 8-15: Agriculture and Farm Diversification	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.
94.	EC 8-16: Safeguarding Mineral Reserves	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.
95.	EC 8-17: Forestry	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.

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96.	EC 8-18: Fishing and Aquaculture	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.
	<b>Chapter 9 Town Centres and Retail</b>				
97.	TCR 9-1: Town Centres	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Municipal District, Economic Development, Town Regeneration Officer.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process and the Town Centre First policies which are being implemented through the Town Regeneration Office. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
98.	TCR 9-2: Vacancy and Regeneration	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Town Regeneration Officer, Municipal Districts, County Engineers.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process and the Town Centre First policies which are being implemented through the Town Regeneration Office. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs and Theme One: Core Strategy</b>
99.	TCR 9-3: Retail Hierarchy	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
100.	TCR 9-4: Town Centre Focus for Retail Development	Operational	Planning and Development, Town Regeneration Officer	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process and the Town Centre First policies which are being implemented through the Town Regeneration Office. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
101.	TCR 9-5: Support and develop the role of Mallow and Clonakilty as important retail centres in the North and West of the County	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
102.	TCR 9-6: Support the vitality and viability of the metropolitan towns	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process and the Town Centre First policies which are being implemented through the Town Regeneration Office. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
103.	TCR 9-7: Support the vitality and viability of District Centres	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
104.	TCR 9-8: Support the vitality and viability of the Ring and Larger towns	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
105.	TCR 9-9: Strengthen and consolidate the retail role and function of the smaller metropolitan towns	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process and the Town Centre First policies which are being implemented through the Town Regeneration Office. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
106.	TCR 9-10: To support the vitality and viability of the Smaller County Towns	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process and the Town Centre First policies which are being implemented through the Town Regeneration Office. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
107.	TCR 9-11: To support, promote and protect neighbourhood centres and large village centres	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>



Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
108.	TCR 9-12: To support, promote and protect villages, local centres, and corner shops	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
109.	TCR 9-13: Town Centre Focus for Retail Development	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process and the Town Centre First policies which are being implemented through the Town Regeneration Office. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
110.	TCR 9-14: Convenience Approach – Non-metropolitan	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
111.	TCR 9-15: Comparison Approach – Non-metropolitan	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
112.	TCR 9-16: Retail Warehousing	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
113.	TCR 9-17 Retail Outlet Centre	Operational	Planning and Development		This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
114.	TCR 9-18: Aligning Retail Development and Transport	Operational	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. Projects are being progressed countywide under active travel. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs and Theme 5: Infrastructure</b>
115.	TCR 9-19: Design and Innovation in Retail	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
116.	TCR 9-20: Shopfronts and Signage	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
	<b>Chapter 10 Tourism</b>				

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
117.	TO 10-1 Promotion of Sustainable Tourism in County Cork	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Economic Development.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
118.	TO 10-2 Wild Atlantic Way and Irelands Ancient East	Operational	Planning and Development, Economic Development.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis. Cork County Council continues to promote the development of Failte Ireland Regional brands. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
119.	TO 10-3: Tourism Opportunities	Operational	Planning and Development, Economic Development, Municipal Districts.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the development management process. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
120.	TO 10-4: Developing the Marine Leisure Sector	Operational	Planning and Development, Economic Development.	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs and Theme 5:Energy and Marine</b>
121.	TO 10-5 Protection of Natural, Built and Cultural Features	Operational	Planning and Development, Economic Development.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the development management process. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
122.	TO 10-6 Cultural Tourism	Operational	Planning and Development, Economic Development.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the development management process. The Tourism Unit continued to provide significant financial support to festivals/events under the Local Festival Fund, Economic Development Fund and Marketing Grant scheme in 2023 with 35 festivals and events supported.

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
					Cork County Council recently published a 'Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027'. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
123.	TO 10-7 Long Distance Walks			Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan. The development of active travel routes is ongoing. There are currently several greenway projects progressing at different stages around the county which will provide additional long distance walking routes once constructed. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs and Theme Four Infrastructure</b>
124.	TO 10-8 Walking/Cycling and Greenways	Operational	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport, Economic Development, Roads.	Ongoing	Cork County Council is involved in a number of projects to improve walking and cycling across the county. A review of Cork County Council 'Trails for Tourism' policy is intended to be conducted in 2024. The Explore Cork app will be enhanced to include new cycle trails in 2024. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs and Theme Four Infrastructure</b>
125.	TO 10-9: Greenways	Operational	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport, Economic Development, Roads.	Not Commenced	The development of a county-wide greenway strategy in Cork has not yet commenced. There are currently several greenway projects progressing at different stages around the county. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs and Theme Four Infrastructure</b>
126.	TO 10-10 Tourism Facilities	Operational	Planning and Development, Municipal Districts, Traffic	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan. The Cork County Motorhome policy is currently under review.

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
			and Transport, Economic Development.		<b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
127.	TO 10-11: Tourist Accommodation	Operational	Planning and Development, Economic Development, Municipal Districts.	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan. Code of Conduct for Motorhome users developed and signage to be erected in 2024. A GIS map highlighting motorhome parking sites available across the county is now available on the Explore Cork App. <b>See Theme Three: Economy and Jobs</b>
	<b>Chapter 11 Water Management</b>				
128.	WM 11-1: EU Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Environment.	Ongoing	The protection and improvement of the County's water resources is secured on an ongoing basis and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan. Farm inspections are carried out to ensure compliance with the Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters Regulations (GAP), also known as the Nitrate Regulations. The Environment Department investigates and resolves all water pollution incidents and complaints which are reported to the Council to minimise impacts on water quality. All agricultural, industrial and commercial planning applications are referred to the Environment Directorate for comment/report. This report includes an assessment of potential water quality impacts from the development, which assist in ensuring that development permitted meets the requirements of the River Basin Management Plan and does not contravene the objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive.

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
					<p>A number of measures have been undertaken to ensure the protection of Blue Dot catchments including the preparation of an advice note has also been prepared and issued to guide applicants on how to consider surface water management and what should be included in a drainage impact assessment. In addition, information on Blue dot catchments Blue Dot waterbodies has been provided on the Council's GIS databases.</p> <p><b>See Theme Four: Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The Council continue to engage with Uisce Éireann on prioritising delivery of water services infrastructure including through initiatives such as the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme.</p> <p><b>See Theme Four:: Infrastructure</b></p>
129.	WM 11-2: Surface Water Protection	Operational	Planning and Development, Environment.	Ongoing	<p>Protection and improvement of the status and quality of all surface waters throughout the County, including transitional and coastal waters, is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and through water quality monitoring and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan. All agricultural, industrial &amp; commercial planning applications are referred to the Environment Directorate for comment/report. The Council's Environment Department have carried out investigative assessments on 29 waterbodies between 2021 and 2023 to assist with determining their status. Further assessment and investigation is ongoing in 17 of these waterbodies where water quality status was determined to be less than Good.</p> <p><b>See Theme Four: Infrastructure</b></p>
130.	Table 11.2: Borehole Requirements	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	<p>This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.</p>

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
131.	WM 11-3: Groundwater Protection	Operational	Planning and Development, Environment.	Ongoing	<p>This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan. A particular focus is the prioritisation of farm inspections in water bodies that need agricultural measures to improve water quality because agriculture is deemed a significant pressure. Priority is given to water bodies that need measures to improve water quality, impacted by agriculture due to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) losses of phosphorus/sediment;</li> <li>(b) nitrate and/or</li> <li>(c) farmyard issues e.g. ammonium.</li> </ul> <p>The Environment Department carried out approx. 900 inspections of farms in Co. Cork in 2023 under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme, (NAIP). The purpose of these inspections is to ensure compliance with the Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters Regulations (GAP), also known as the Nitrate Regulations. These Regulations give effect to Ireland’s Nitrates Action Programme which is one of the key measures under the RBMP for mitigating the impact of agricultural pressures on water quality. Additional resources have been deployed to assist with the farm inspection programme through funding secured up to 2027, as agriculture is recognised as one of the major pressures on water quality. Three additional scientists will assist in the programme implementation to improve farmers compliance with the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations. Work has commenced to focus farm inspections on selected waterbodies where agriculture is deemed a significant pressure in order to maintain/improve water quality in accordance with the objectives of the WFD.</p>

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
132.	WM 11-4: Groundwater Protection Schemes and Zones	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan
133.	WM 11-5: Discharges in Unsewered Areas	Operational	Planning and Development, Environment.	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan. The Council will continue to support the subsequent National Inspection Plan 2022-2026 for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. b) The Environment Department carried out approx 272 inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems, (DWWTS or septic tanks), in Co. Cork in 2022- 2023 under the DWWTS National Inspection Plan, (NIP). The purpose of these inspections is to ensure that these systems do not negatively impact on human health or the environment. Implementation of the DWWTS NIP is a key measure under the RBMP. C) The Environment Department investigates & resolves all water pollution incidents and complaints regarding wastewater discharges which are reported to the Council to minimise impacts on water quality.
134.	WM 11-6: Protection from Agricultural Pollution	Operational	Planning and Development, Environment.	Ongoing	This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan. The Council continue to carry out inspections in line with the Agricultural Inspection Programme. The Environment Department carried out approx. 900 inspections of farms in Co. Cork in 2023 under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme, (NAIP). The purpose of these inspections is to ensure compliance with the Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters Regulations (GAP), also known as the Nitrate Regulations. These Regulations give effect to Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme which is one of the key measures under the RBMP for

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					mitigating the impact of agricultural pressures on water quality. The Environment Department investigate & resolve all water pollution incidents & complaints which are reported to the Council to minimise impacts on water quality. All agricultural applications are referred to the Environment Directorate for comment/report. This report includes an assessment of potential water quality impacts from the development. See response to WM 11-3 above also.
135.	WM 11-7: Climate Change	Operational	All	Ongoing	The need to ensure that water services infrastructure is designed to fully consider the potential impacts of climate change is an ongoing objective of the Plan and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.
136.	WM 11-8: Water Supply	Operational	Planning and Development, County Engineer.	Ongoing	The Council continue to engage with Uisce Éireann on prioritising delivery of water services infrastructure including through initiatives such as the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme, Find and Fix, Mains Rehabilitation but also through strategic plans such as the National Water Resource Plan, UÉ Investment Plan 2025-2029 and Drainage Area Plans amongst others. <b>See Theme Four: Infrastructure</b>
137.	WM 11-9: Wastewater Disposal	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan. The Council continue to engage with Uisce Éireann on prioritising delivery of water services infrastructure including through initiatives such as the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme.
138.	WM 11-10: Surface Water, SuDS and Water Sensitive Urban Design	Operational	Planning and Development, Roads.	Ongoing	This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan. Internal Practice Notes were developed for flooding and surface water management. An external advice note was also issued to advise the public on how to address surface water management and drainage



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					impact assessment as part of a proposal. SuDS incorporated into all UEA Infrastructure Design.
139.	WM 11-11: River Channel Protection	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective seeking the protection of River Channels is being secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan. The Council will continue to consult with Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to proposals impacting on water courses.
140.	WM 11-12: Surface Water Management	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan
141.	WM 11-13: Flood plains and Wetlands	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan
142.	WM 11-14: Strategic Flood Risk Management	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan
143.	WM 11-15: Flood Risk Assessments	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan. The Council has developed Internal Practice Notes to guide proposals in relation to flooding and surface water management. An external advice note was also issued to advise the public on how to address surface water management and drainage impact assessment as part of a proposal. The Council will also continue to engage with the OPW.
144.	WM 11-16: Flood Risks – Overall Approach	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.

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145.	WM 11-17: Development in Flood Risk Areas	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.
146.	WM 11-18: Arterial Drainage Schemes and Flood Relief Schemes	Operational	Planning and Development, Engineers.	Ongoing	The Council through their role in the delivery of flood relief schemes and other flood mitigation projects ensure that the consents required under the Arterial Drainage Acts are adhered to. Proposals for development are advised of the OPW requirements under the ADA (section 50, 9 & 47).
	<b>Chapter 12 Transport and Mobility</b>				
147.	TM 12-1: Integration of Land Use and Transport	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan. The Council are currently implementing active travel measures across the County. In addition, the Council will continue to support the delivery of transport programmes in the County particularly the programme of measures set out in the Cork Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan. Ongoing engagement with transport service providers will continue throughout the lifetime of the plan. Major new developments are informed by detailed traffic and transportation studies. Promotion of walking/cycling incorporated in proposals. <b>See Theme Four: Infrastructure</b>
148.	TM 12-2-1 : Active Travel	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.	Ongoing	This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan. <b>See Theme Four: Infrastructure</b>
149.	TM 12-2-2 : Active Travel	Operational	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.	Ongoing	This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan. <b>See Theme Four: Infrastructure</b>

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150.	TM 12-2-3 : Active Travel	Operational	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.		This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan. Water-Rock LIHAF project secured Part 8 planning approval for the new Water Rock Rail Stop. <b>See Theme Four: Infrastructure</b>
151.	TM 12-2-4 : Active Travel	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.	Ongoing	This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan. <b>See Theme Four: Infrastructure</b>
152.	TM 12-2-5 : Active Travel	Operational	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.	Ongoing	This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan. <b>See Theme Four: Infrastructure</b>
153.	TM 12-2-6: Active Travel	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.		This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan. <b>See Theme Four: Infrastructure</b>
154.	TM12-3: Rail Transport	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.	Ongoing	This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan. The Council will continue to support the improvements to the Cork Area Commuter Network currently being implemented by Iarnrod Eireann. <b>See Theme Four: Infrastructure</b>
155.	TM 12-4: Protecting Existing Disused Rail Infrastructure	Operational	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.		This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan.
156.	TM 12-5-1: Bus Transport	Operational	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.

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157.	TM 12-5-2: Bus Transport	Operational	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.
158.	TM 12-5-3: Bus Transport	Operational	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.
159.	TM12-6: Local Link	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.	Ongoing	This objective seeking support for investment in sustainable transport strengthening connections between urban and rural areas is an ongoing objective of the Plan that will continue to be implemented throughout the lifetime of the plan.
160.	TM12-7: CMATS	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.	Ongoing	Support for the delivery of CMATS will be secured on an ongoing basis throughout the life of the Plan.
161.	TM 12-8: Traffic/Mobility Management and Road Safety	Operational	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.
162.	TM 12-9: Parking	Operational	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.
163.	TM 12-10: Park and Ride	Operational	Traffic and Transport	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan
164.	TM 12-11: Smart Mobility	Operational	Traffic and Transport	Ongoing	This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan.

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165.	TM 12-12: EV Charging	Operational	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport.	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan
166.	TM 12-13: National, Regional and Local Road Network	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transportation, Roads.	Ongoing	Cork County Council will continue to support the delivery of Key Roads Infrastructure Projects throughout the lifetime of the Plan. <b>See Theme Four: Infrastructure</b>
167.	TM 12-14: Freight	Operational	Planning and Development, Roads.	Ongoing	This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan.
168.	TM 12-15: Port of Cork and Other Ports	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, County Engineers, Roads, Economic Development.	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan. <b>See Theme Four: Infrastructure</b>
169.	TM 12-16: Water Based Transport	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Roads, Traffic and Transport.	Ongoing	This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan.
170.	TM 12-17: Airport Public Safety Zones and Noise Zones	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is secured on an ongoing basis through the development management process and will continue to be implemented throughout the life of the Plan.
	<b>Chapter 13 Energy</b>				
171.	ET 13-1 Energy	Strategic Action	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation. The Council is fully supportive in meeting our renewable energy targets. Preparation of the County Renewable Energy Strategy is to commence in Q4 2024.

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					<b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>
172.	ET 13-2 Renewable Energy	Strategic Action	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. Cork county Council is fully supportive of Irelands renewable energy commitments and the emerging new renewable energy technologies.
173.	ET 13-3 Hybrid Energy Systems	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. the Council seeks to promote hybrid energy systems at appropriate locations across the county.
174.	ET 13-4: Wind Energy	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>
175.	ET 13-5: Wind Energy Projects	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>
176.	ET 13-6: Acceptable in Principle	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>
177.	ET 13-7: Open to Consideration	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>
178.	ET 13-8: Normally Discouraged	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>
179.	ET 13-9: National Wind Energy Guidelines	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>
180.	ET 13-10: Development in line with Best Practice	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>

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181.	ET 13-11: Public Consultation and Community Support	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>
182.	ET 13-12: Small Scale Wind Energy Development	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>
183.	ET 13-13 Other Wind Energy Development	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>
184.	ET 13-14: Solar Farm Development	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>
185.	ET 13- 15 Hydro Electricity	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
186.	ET 13-16: Ocean and Off-shore Wind Energy	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process and the Council will continue to support the development of ocean and offshore wind energy. <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>
187.	ET 13-17: Bioenergy	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. In Q1 2024 the Department published the Draft Biomethane Strategy. Cork County Council supports the development of the bioenergy sector in suitable locations.
188.	ET 13-18: Hydrogen Energy	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
189.	ET 13-19: Gas Storage	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.

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190.	ET 13-20: Building Energy Efficiency and Conservation	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
191.	ET 13-21: Electricity Network	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
192.	ET 13-22: Transmission Network	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
193.	ET 13-23: Celtic Interconnector	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. The Council is fully supportive of the delivery of the Celtic Interconnector. The project is ongoing and EirGrid have estimated the completion of the project in 2026.
194.	ET 13-24: Gas Network Infrastructure	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
195.	ET 13-25: National Energy Hub- Whitegate	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
196.	ET 13-26 Whiddy Island	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
197.	ET 13-27: Carbon Emissions reduction	Operational	Planning and Development, Environment.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
198.	ET 13-28: Information and Communications Technology	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. <b>See Theme Five: Energy and Marine</b>
199.	ET 13-29: Data Centres	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
	<b>Chapter 14 Green Infrastructure &amp; Recreation</b>				



Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
200.	GI 14-1: Countywide Green and Blue Infrastructure Objectives	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport, Roads, Municipal Districts.	Ongoing	This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan. The Council is fully supportive of the need to enhance green infrastructure throughout the county. A Draft Recreation and Amenity Policy is currently being prepared. <b>See Theme Two: Community</b>
201.	GI 14-2: Green Infrastructure Objectives for Main Towns and Settlements	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Traffic and Transport, Roads, Municipal Districts.	Ongoing	This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan. The Council is fully supportive of the need to enhance green infrastructure throughout the settlement network and have implemented a number of measures since the adoption of the plan. <b>See Theme Two: Community</b>
202.	GI 14-3: Green Infrastructure and Development	Strategic Action	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
203.	GI 14-4 – Recreation and Amenity	Strategic Action	Planning and Development, Municipal Districts.	Ongoing	This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan. Cork County Council has commenced a Review of the Recreation and Amenity Policy, this will consider the recreational and amenity needs of diverse communities across the County and examine appropriate mechanisms through which amenities can be most effectively provided. This policy will be informed by the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlement Guidelines 2023 and a final draft of the policy is expected in 2024.
204.	GI 14-5: Replacement/Redevelopment of Leisure and Recreational Facilities	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
205.	GI 14-6 – Public/Private Open Space Provision	Operational	Planning and Development,	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process having regard to the relevant national guidelines.

Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
			Municipal Districts.		
206.	GI 14-7 – Countryside Recreation	Operational	Planning and Development, Municipal Districts.	Ongoing	This is an ongoing objective being implemented throughout the lifetime of the Plan.
207.	GI 14-8 – Rights of Way	Operational	Planning and Development	Not yet Progressed	Work on the feasibility of mapping Public Rights of Way across the county in the context of emerging national guidance has not yet commenced.
208.	GI 14-9: Landscape	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
209.	GI 14-10: Draft Landscape Strategy	Strategic Action	Planning and Development	Ongoing	The Preparation of the Landscape and Seascapes Strategy commenced in Q4 2023 and to be completed by Q4 2024. This Strategy will include a review of the current Landscape Character Assessment 2003 and the Draft Landscape Strategy 2007.
210.	GI 14-11: Draft Landscape Strategy, Land Use Plans and Policy Guidance	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing.	The Preparation of the Landscape and Seascapes Strategy commenced in Q4 2023 and to be completed by Q4 2024. This Strategy will include a review of the current Landscape Character Assessment 2003 and the Draft Landscape Strategy 2007.
211.	GI 14-12: General Views and Prospects	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
212.	GI 14-13: Scenic Routes	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
213.	GI 14-14: Development on Scenic Routes	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
214.	GI 14-15: Development on the Approaches to Towns and Villages	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.

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215.	GI 14-16: Prominent and Strategic Metropolitan Greenbelt Map	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
	<b>Chapter 15 Biodiversity and Environment</b>				
216.	BE-15-1 Support and comply with national biodiversity protection policies	Strategic Action	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation. <b>See Theme Six: Biodiversity, Environment and Heritage</b>
217.	BE 15-2 Protect sites, habitats and species	Strategic Action	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the development management process. <b>See Theme Six: Biodiversity, Environment and Heritage</b>
218.	BE-15-3 Local Authority plan making	Operational	Planning and Development	Complete?	<b>2022:</b> • Completion of AA Reporting for 2022 CDP. <b>2023:</b> • Provision of advice to Climate Team on procurement of ecological services and AA reporting requirements. • Provision of advice on AA reporting requirements to LECPC Team.
219.	BE-15-4 Local Authority development and projects	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Cork County Council Ecology Office supports the implementation of this objective by providing pre planning advice and AA reporting services for Part 8 and other LA projects. Ecology Office also peer reviews NIS's, EclAs and EIARs prepared on behalf of Cork County Council.
220.	BE-15-5 Biodiversity on Council owned and managed land and property	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	CCC Ecology Office provides advice and support to MD's and to officers in other Directorates in relation to matters relating to protection of biodiversity as requested. Since Jan 2022, the Ecology Office has also provided 3 training sessions for in-house staff on Ecological Impact Assessment and AA Reporting requirements.

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					The Ecology Office is also deeply involved in the management of Harpers Island Wetlands on an ongoing basis.
221.	BE-15-6 Biodiversity and New Development	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Implementation ongoing. The updating of in house guidance on Biodiversity and the Planning Process is ongoing. The Ecology Office routinely provides pre planning advice in relation to the integration and protection of biodiversity within new development for prospective developers. The office completes assessments and reporting in relation to a significant portion of planning applications. This includes review of proposed landscaping plans including species mixes proposed for new planting to ensure that such plans follow the principles of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and that they involve the use of primarily native species of local origin.
222.	BE-15-7 Control of Invasive Alien Species	Operational	Planning and Development, Environment, Municipal Districts and Roads.	Ongoing	2022 and 2023: Management of programme for eradication of Giant Hogweed from Bride Valley. 2023: Commissioning of IAS survey at Cléire. Ongoing: provision of support and advice in relation to IAS issues for LA projects. Ongoing: management of IAS issues within development management process. The Council continues to work with communities to minimise the spread and risks associated with invasive alien species.
223.	BE-15-8 Trees and Woodlands	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	The Ecology Office routinely provides for the protection of existing trees and integration of new trees as part of DM process.
224.	BE-15-9 Support for Communities and Other Stakeholders	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Where possible and when requested, the Cork County Council Ecology Office provides support to community organisations and other stakeholders in relation to the implementation of projects relating to protection of biodiversity. There are limited events and no programmes relating to biodiversity awareness raising or active community engagement being implemented under this objective.

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225.	BE-15-10: Soils	Operational	Planning and Development, Environment.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation.
226.	BE-15-11: Contaminated Land	Operational	Planning and Development, Environment.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.
227.	BE-15-12: Air Quality	Operational	Planning and Development, Environment.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation.
228.	BE-15-13: Noise and Light Emissions	Operational	Planning and Development, Environment.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the development management process. Noise emissions and noise pollution risks continue to be considered as part of Environment directorate into the planning assessment process. Reports of noise pollution are investigated in accordance with EPA guidance.
229.	BE 15-14 Waste Prevention and Management	Operational	Planning and Development, Environment.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation.
230.	BE-15-15: Waste Prevention and Management of Waste Facilities	Operational	Planning and Development, Environment.	Ongoing	Ongoing compliance with the Southern Region Waste Management Plan. The future of the Bottlehill facility is under constant review.
231.	BE-15-16: Waste Prevention and Management: Drinking Water Treatment and/or Wastewater Treatment	Operational	Planning and Development, Environment	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process and is now monitored by Uisce Eireann.
232.	BE-15-17: Waste Prevention and Management	Operational	Planning and Development, Environment.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation. The publication of end of waste criteria for C&D waste should help to reduce the demand for recovery of such waste as part of land improvement projects.

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	<b>Chapter 16 Built and Cultural Heritage</b>				
233.	HE 16-1: County Heritage Plan	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation.
234.	HE 16-2: Protection of Archaeological Sites and Monuments	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
235.	HE 16-3: Underwater Archaeology	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
236.	HE 16-4: Zones of Archaeological Potential in Historic Towns and Settlements	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
237.	HE 16-5: Zones of Archaeological Potential	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
238.	HE 16-6: Industrial and Post Medieval Archaeology	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
239.	HE 16-7: Battlefield, Ambush and Siege Sites and Defensive Archaeology	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
240.	HE 16-8: Burial Places	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process. Also implemented through the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee (HMAC) of CCC which seeks to protect and preserve Churches and Graveyards and other monuments in Council Ownership. Historic Monuments Advisory Committee (HMAC) produced a series of Leaflets on the Care and Conservation of Graveyards, Cleaning of Headstones, Stone walls. HMAC have commissioned church condition surveys the aim of which is to protect burial places into the future.

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241.	HE 16-9: Archaeology and Infrastructure Schemes	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
242.	HE16-10: Management of Monuments within Development Sites	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
243.	HE16-11: Archaeological Landscapes	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
244.	HE 16-12: Raising Archaeological Awareness	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation. County Archaeologist and Conservation Officer presented the results of extensive archaeological findings in Bandon to the Public for Heritage Week. Heritage Unit have compiled an extensive series of Historic Town Maps which provide tourists with Heritage Guides of various towns in County Cork. This is ongoing. Heritage Unit through the HMAc have commissioned and procured Information Signage at archaeological sites (ongoing).
245.	HE 16-13: Undiscovered Archaeological Sites	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
246.	HE 16-14: Record of Protected Structures	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation <b>See Theme Six: Biodiversity, Environment and Heritage</b>
247.	HE 16-15: Protection of Structures on the NIAH	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Consideration is being given to prepare a scoping document on an approach of how best to review the overall Record of Protected Structures in conjunction with the Conservation Officer ahead of the next review of the CDP.
248.	HE 16-16: Protection of Non-Structural Elements of Built Heritage	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This is achieved through development management. This objective is frequently used in combination with other policy in planning such as policy on NIAH, vernacular, landscape or RPS.
249.	HE 16-17: Areas of Special Planning Control	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	A pilot scheme is to commence in Q1 2024 to develop a methodology on the approach to setting out objectives for the conservation areas including a description of the area and details pertaining to the area. The pilot scheme is to be carried

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					out on a main town, Kinsale and a small settlement Timoleague with the view to rolling it out to other ACAs on a phased basis. <b>See Theme Six: Biodiversity, Environment and Heritage</b>
250.	HE 16-18: Architectural Conservation Areas	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation <b>See Theme Six: Biodiversity, Environment and Heritage</b>
251.	HE 16-19: Vernacular Heritage	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation.
252.	HE 16-20: Historic Landscapes	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation. The Preparation of the Landscape and Seascape Strategy commenced in Q4 2023 and to be completed by Q4 2024 includes elements of historic landscape character and historic mapping as part of the overall characterisation of the landscape and seascapes across the county. The Ambush sites across the county are being mapped and will be available in a digital format.
253.	HE 16-21: Design and Landscaping of New Buildings	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process. Continued support and advice to through on-going research, technical recording and Liaison with the RIAI / RIBA.
254.	HE 16-22: Village Design Statements	Operational	Planning and Development, Municipal Districts	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation <b>See Theme Six: Biodiversity, Environment and Heritage</b>
255.	HE 16-23: Cultural Heritage	Operational	Planning and Development, Economic Development.	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
256.	HE 16-24: Naming of New Developments	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
257.	HE 16-25: Gaeltacht Areas	Operational	Planning and Development,	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation <b>See Theme Six: Biodiversity, Environment and Heritage</b>



Item no.	Objective number	Type of Objective	Directorate(s) Responsible	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to Date / Comments
			Roads, Municipal Districts, Irish Language Officer, The Arts Officer, Economic Development.		
258.	HE 16-26: The Arts	Operational	Planning and Development, The Arts Officer, Economic Development, Municipal Districts.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation.
<b>259.</b>	<b>Chapter 17 Climate Action</b>				
260.	CA 17-1: Support national and local climate change objectives	Operational	All	Ongoing	The Council supports the implementation of national and local climate change objectives on an ongoing basis. Energy section co-ordinates data from the directorates and makes report to national bodies. <b>See Theme Seven: Climate Action</b>
261.	CA 17-2: Support the transition to a low carbon, competitive, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050	Operational	All	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation. LACAP provides for the preparation and implementation of annual Climate Action Programmes that will cover both the Councils direct emissions and the role of the Council in supporting actions of others across the county. Electric vehicles being integrated into CCC fleet. A strategy for the rollout of Electric Vehicle Charging points for the county will be developed in 2024/2025. <b>See Theme Seven: Climate Action</b>
262.	CA 17-3: Enhance awareness of climate action issues	Operational	Planning and Development,	Ongoing	The process of the development of the LA Climate Action Plan commenced in 2022 with the development of the Cork County

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			Environment and Municipal Districts.		<p>Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI), the identification of Macroom Town as the County's Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) and preparation of a Baseline Emissions Inventory for the DZ. A Climate Change Risk Assessment was also prepared. These documents were published for public consultation between 24th April 2023 to 11th June 2023.</p> <p>Following this consultation, the draft Climate Action Plan was prepared and published for public consultation for six weeks between 13th October 2023 and 27th November 2023. As well as an extensive media campaign, a public information webinar was held on 17th November. The Climate Action Plan was adopted in February 2024. The Plan contains an extensive list of actions, including actions for the Macroom Decarbonisation Zone and it is intended that annual Implementation Plans will be prepared. Both the consultation process and the adoption of the Plan will assist in enhancing awareness of climate action issues.</p> <p><b>See Theme Seven: Climate Action</b></p>
263.	CA 17-4: Cooperate with the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)	Operational	All	Ongoing	<p>On-going consultation taking place and represented on all groups. It is noted that the DECC has committed to funding CARO up to 2029.</p> <p><b>See Theme Seven: Climate Action</b></p>
264.	CA 17-5: Support the Council's identification and development of decarbonising zones	Operational	Environment.	Ongoing	<p>Cork Country Council has identified Macroom as the first decarbonising zone (DZ) in the County where new schemes will be targeted and piloted first before a roll out throughout Cork County.</p> <p><b>See Theme Seven: Climate Action</b></p>
265.	CA 17-6: Climate Action Plan if required	Operational	Environment.	Commenced. To be	<p>Cork County Council Climate Action Plan was adopted in February 2024 as required by legislation.</p> <p><b>See Theme Seven: Climate Action</b></p>

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				completed Q1 2024	
	<b>Chapter 18 Zoning and Landuse</b>				
266.	ZU 18-1: Implementation of Zoning Objectives	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
267.	ZU 18-2: Development and Land Use Zoning	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
268.	ZU 18-3: Development Boundaries	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
269.	ZU 18-4: Land Use Zoning of Other Lands	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
270.	ZU 18-5: Transitional Zones	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
271.	ZU 18-6: Non-Conforming Uses	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
272.	ZU 18-7: Ancillary Uses	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
273.	ZU 18-8: Vacant Site Levy- Residential Regeneration Areas	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
274.	ZU 18-9: Existing Residential/Mixed Residential and Other Uses	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
275.	ZU 18-10: Existing Mixed/General Business/Industrial Uses	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
276.	ZU 18-11: Residential Areas (including Residential Additional Provision, /	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.

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	Residential Further Additional Provision ( Long Term Strategic and Sustainable Development Sites) and Residential Reserve)				
277.	ZU 18-12: Residential Reserve	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
278.	ZU 18-13: Green Infrastructure	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
279.	ZU 18-14: High Technology Campus Development	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
280.	ZU 18-15: Business and General Employment Areas	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
281.	ZU 18-16: Industrial Areas	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
282.	ZU 18-17: Town Centres/ Neighbourhood Centres	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
283.	ZU 18-18: Utilities and Infrastructure Areas	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
284.	ZU 18-19: Agricultural Areas	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
285.	ZU 18-20: Special Policy Areas	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.
286.	ZU 18-21: Community	Operational	Planning and Development	Ongoing	This objective is implemented through the development management process.