

Clare County Council

Local Economic & Community Plan

2016 - 2021

May 2016

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1. Introduction

The requirement to make a six year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is set out in section 66 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The purpose of the plan is to promote economic development and local and community development in the functional area of the Local Authority. The Local Authority, by way of its 'Economic Development and Enterprise' Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) - see Appendix 4 for membership, is responsible for preparing the economic elements of the plan, while the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) - see Appendix 3 for membership, is responsible for preparing the community elements of the plan. Both elements must be integrated and adopted by the Local Authority.

The preparation of the LECP followed the five stage process set out in the Departmental guidelines which issued in January 2015. The consultative process has been core to the development of this six-year plan. The Plan includes objectives and actions that are focused on the promotion and support of the economic, local and community development of the County. The role of local government and its partnership with key stakeholders is central to the realisation of the plan which will be delivered through existing programmes.

The achievement of EU 2020 and related national targets set the context for many of the benchmarks and targets that are developed for the various objectives in the Plan. In addition, the strategic actions, by means of which the objectives will be achieved, have their own indicators and these indicators will aid the measurement and evaluation of implementation.

The plan is structured over nine further sections. Sections two to four set out the Plan's: economic, spatial and policy context; underlying principles of Local, Community and Sustainable Development; EU and National targets.

Section five outlines the consultation process and its outcomes, while section six presents an in-depth socio-economic profile of the county covering demographics, education, employment, poverty, research and development and climate change.

Section seven sets out the Plan's Vision and the Themes to be addressed as a result of both the consultation and the socio-economic profile. The High-Level Goals to be achieved under each Theme are also set out.

Section eight contains the Action Plan where the objectives of each High Level Goal are presented in a Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timed manner. Benchmark data and targets are presented for all objectives. Strategic actions, by means of which Objectives will be achieved, have their own indicators of success and have a named Lead Partner.

Section nine examines the consistency of the Plan with the County Development Plan and the Regional Planning Guidelines and also presents the findings of the Equality and Diversity-proofing of the Plan while section ten presents a brief overview of how the Plan will be monitored, reviewed and evaluated.

2. Economic Development & Spatial Planning

The economic development role of local government is now regarded as a mainstream local authority function. The preparation and implementation of the economic elements of the LECP will require active engagement by all agencies and stakeholders that hold an economic and enterprise

remit. The promotion of economic development and appropriate policy formulation will be of critical importance in ensuring that the economy of County Clare grows to its full potential.

The Mid-West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 and the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied) and other programmes, plans, policies and strategies, as described in the following sub-section, contain several opportunities that aim to ensure the county's competitive advantage in the areas of: international connectivity (Shannon International Airport); critical mass as presented by the linked Gateway and Hub town (Limerick/Shannon/Ennis); road and rail connectivity; educational facilities; natural resources such as the Shannon Estuary; tourism; and the region's capacity for renewable energy generation.

2.1 Relevant Programmes, Plans, Policies and Strategies

The following is a brief summary of the main provisions of each of the relevant documents at national, regional and local level.

2.1.1 National Context

Ireland's National Reform Programme sets out the broad macro-economic context and provides updates on Ireland's progress under the EU 2020 Strategy. The Government's Medium Term Economic Strategy 2014-2020 outlines the policy framework to re-build the Irish economy, achieve sustainable economic growth, strong public finances and sustainable jobs.

National and Regional Action Plan for Jobs and Pathways to Work

The National Action Plan for Jobs (2016) and its derived Regional Plans in conjunction with Pathways to Work 2016-2020 are government programmes which seek to: achieve increased employment and enterprise creation; address unemployment, particularly long-term unemployment and youth unemployment.

National Spatial Strategy (NSS) 2002 - 2020

The NSS provides a planning framework for delivering a more balanced social, economic and physical development between the regions of Ireland. It proposes a more balanced pattern of spatial development throughout Ireland, with continued growth in Dublin but with significant improvement in the rate of development in nine Gateway locations and nine Hub towns. The strategy emphasises the critical role of gateways and hubs in achieving balanced regional development and designates Shannon as part of a linked Gateway with Limerick, while Ennis is designated as a Hub.

National Energy Efficiency Action Plan and Energy Efficiency Action Plan to 2020

The Third National Energy Efficiency Action Plan reaffirms the 20% energy saving target for 2020 by means of increased energy efficiency and increased production from renewable sources.

National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010-2020

The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach to deliver on Ireland's national target of 16% renewable energy under Directive 2009/28/EC.

Strategy for Renewable Energy 2012-2020

This document sets out the key actions to be pursued at national level to ensure Ireland will deliver on its commitments to reduce greenhouse gases, increase renewable energy production and improve energy efficiency. Key actions are identified for each sector.

Smartertravel 2009-2020

Smartertravel 2009-2020 aims to ensure that transport policies underpin sustainable development and highlights the need to change people’s travel behaviour in terms of choosing alternative modes of transport to the private car. The National Cycle policy framework 2009-2020 seeks to ensure that Development Plans incorporate the needs of cyclists in their policies.

River Basin Management Plans

The provisions of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) are implemented through River Basin Management Plans. On the basis of River Basin Districts, 95% of the County is located within the Shannon International River Basin (SIRB) with the remainder in the Western River Basin (WRB). The River Basin Plans propose a programme of measures to achieve the objective of high or good water quality status.

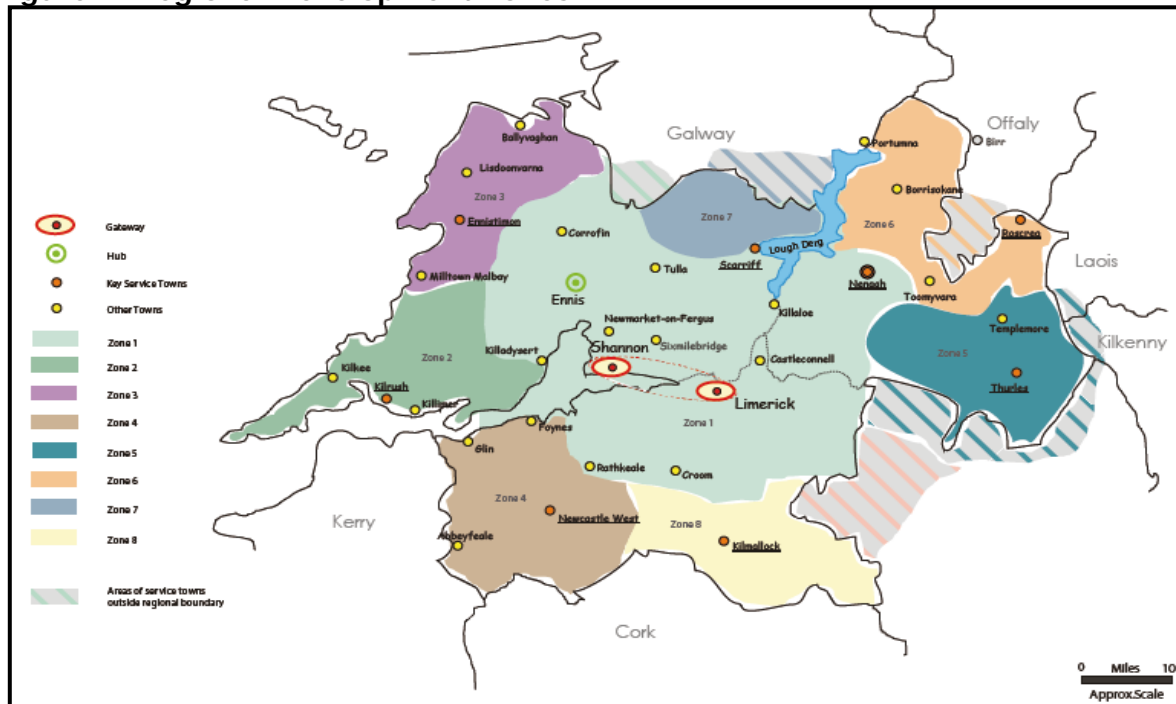
2.1.2 Mid-West Regional Context

Mid-West Regional Planning Guidelines (MWRPGs) 2010-2022

The Mid-West Regional Planning Guidelines (MWRPGs) 2010-2022 give effect, at a regional level, to the national planning framework put forward in the National Spatial Strategy and National Development Plan. The MWRPGs provide a regional framework for the formulation of policy and strategy in the County Development Plan and seek to ensure the proper balance between the settlements in the region with regard to development, population and services.

The MWRPGs 2010-2022 continue the ‘Zone’-based strategy that was provided in the 2004 Guidelines and outline the development potential and needs of each zone in turn. The zones relevant to County Clare are 1, 2, 3, and 7, as illustrated in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Regional Development Zones



Source: Mid-West Regional Authority (2010)

Mid-West Regional Retail Strategy

The Retail Strategy for the Mid-West region covers the period 2010-2016. This Retail Strategy supercedes the previous 2002-2011 Regional Retail strategy and also replaces the Retail Strategy for County Clare 2003-2011. The Regional Strategy is intended to provide a more strategic approach to achieving a balance in retail development at regional level.

Mid-West Action Plan for Jobs

The Mid-West Action Plan for Jobs (MWAPJ) covers Clare, Limerick and Tipperary. It is based on the principle that the best way to support job creation in towns and villages is to support agencies and organisations to build on the particular strengths and assets of their area and drive new job creation strategies and projects.

Joint Housing Strategy for Clare Local Authorities and Limerick City & County Councils

Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) places an onus on all Local Authorities to prepare a Housing Strategy for their areas.

Clare County Council in conjunction with Limerick County Council and Limerick City Council prepared a Joint Housing Strategy for 2010-2017. This Housing Strategy replaces the Clare County Housing Strategy 2007-2011. The Councils must ensure that sufficient and suitable land is zoned to meet the requirements of the Housing Strategy over the lifetime of the Development Plan.

Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary

In order to facilitate future economic development, and in keeping with the objectives of the Regional Planning Guidelines, a Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) has been prepared for the Shannon Estuary. The SIFP is an inter-jurisdiction land and marine based framework to guide the future development and management of the Shannon Estuary.

Limerick Clare Climate Change Strategy

The aim of this strategy is to identify the solutions to the challenge of reducing energy related emissions and to outline the actions to be taken to meet the requirements under the Kyoto Protocol.

2.1.3 Local context

Clare County Development Plan

The **Clare County Development Plan 2011 – 2017** complements and supports the implementation of planning and spatial policy expressed at local level and contains objectives that aid the economic, social and cultural development of the county. The draft Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 aims to establish an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the functional area of Clare County Council over a 6 year period and will replace the existing plan once adopted.

Local Area Plans in County Clare

The Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018 aims to proactively pursue the continued growth of Shannon as a centre of industrial and business excellence and to ensure that Shannon, as a linked Gateway with Limerick, is a driver of County and regional prosperity by harnessing its strategic location and access on the Atlantic corridor, in addition to its employment base, international airport and other competitive advantages.

The Ennis and Environs Development Plan 2008-2014 also aims to encourage and support economic growth in the Hub town. This Plan takes a holistic approach to future economic development, recognising the range of sectors that contribute to the vibrancy of the local economy in Ennis.

In addition to Local Area Plans for the Gateway and Hub town in County Clare, there are plans in place for Kilrush Town and its Environs, West Clare, East Clare, North Clare and South Clare. These Plans set out the policies and land use zoning objectives for each of the settlements in County Clare.

Clare County Council's Economic Development Strategy 2011-2014

The Clare County Council Economic Development Strategy was an Action Plan implemented by Clare County Council to improve the environment for economic development in County Clare so that the County could avoid further erosion of its economic and employment base as well as its competitiveness and position itself to take advantage of future economic growth. It aimed to harness the powers and functions of the local authority to promote economic development in County Clare.

3. Local, Community and Sustainable Development

Local government continues to play a key role in local and community development. The Local Government Reform Act 2014 further strengthens this function by setting out the role of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and by establishing the Public Participation Network (PPN). The PPN provides an opportunity to create a greater synergy between local government and local and community development and will place local and community development at the heart of local government.

The Local Authority's role in terms of community initiatives and service provision at local level is evident in the wide range of services that it delivers such as: libraries; leisure facilities and amenities; arts programmes; estate management; urban and village enhancement schemes; playgrounds; burial grounds; the provision of supports to Tidy Town groups, etc. These activities provide the Local Government context in which the underpinning principles of 'Local Development', 'Community Development' and 'Sustainable Development' are realised. These principles are deeply embedded in the process by means of which the LECF was developed and in the values that underlie its vision and objectives and are central to the manner in which its delivery will be monitored, reviewed and evaluated.

Local development is defined as the collective effort of a community to improve local social and environmental conditions and to provide opportunity for community, statutory agency and social partners to act together for the benefit of the area – ADM. (1995) *"An Integrated Local Development Handbook"*.

Community work or community development involves an analysis of social and economic situations that leads to collective action for change. It is centred on a series of principles that seek to go beyond consultation to participation and beyond capacity building to consciousness raising and empowerment. It recognises the changing and often hidden nature of the structural inequalities based on race, class, gender and disability to name a few. It seeks to transform rather than conform to empower rather than control - Community Workers Co-operative (2010) *"Towards Standards for Quality Community Work; an All-Ireland Statement of Values, Principles and Work Standards"*.

Sustainable development is defined as development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4. EU and National Targets

When considering the vision for the Plan and the themes which it would address, the LCDC and the SPC paid particular heed to the EU's growth strategy for the coming decade, known as Europe 2020. This Strategy aims to create a Europe that is smart, sustainable and inclusive, delivering high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. Five headline targets have been set at EU level focusing on the areas of employment, research and development, climate change, education and poverty.

Ireland has committed to achieving the EU 2020 targets and these are documented in the 'National Reform Programme Ireland April 2015', as follows:

1. **Employment:** that by 2020, the employment rate among the 20-64 year olds will have increased from the current 64%¹ to between 69% and 71% as measured by the **Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)**.
2. **Research and Development:** that by 2020, investment in R & D, between Public and Private expenditure, will be 2.2% of GDP or 2.5% of GNP.
3. **Climate Change and Energy:** that by 2020,
 - a. the emissions, not covered by the 'Emissions Trading System', will be reduced by 21% of 2005 levels (20% of 1990 levels).
 - b. the percentage of energy generated from renewable will be 16%.
 - c. energy efficiency, in terms of 'Primary Energy', will have increased by 20%.
4. **Education:** that, by 2020,
 - a. the percentage of those 18-24 year olds, with Lower Secondary Education or less and not in further education/training, will be 8% (currently 10.6%) as measured by the **Quarterly National Household Survey**.
 - b. the percentage of the 30-34 age group who have completed 3rd Level education will be at least 60% (currently 49.4%) as measured by the **Quarterly National Household Survey**.
5. **Poverty:** that, by 2020,
 - a. the number experiencing 'consistent poverty' (who are both 'at-risk-of' poverty and experiencing 'basic deprivation') will be 2% or less of the population (6.3% in 2010) as measured by the Annual **Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC) and Reported in Social Inclusion Monitor**
 - b. 200,000 less people will be living in 'combined' poverty (either 'consistent' poverty, 'at-risk-of' poverty or 'basic deprivation'). Currently 277,000 people experience such conditions as measured by the Annual **Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC) and Reported in Social Inclusion Monitor**

5. Participative Planning & Outcomes

The LECP was developed through a public consultation process that involved a number of workshops and written submissions - see Appendices I and II for a list of attendees and submissions. Each workshop was fully briefed of their area's social and economic assets as well as the challenges which they faced. This briefing was based on the socio-economic and environmental profile that had been developed (see section 6). The outcomes of the first round of public consultations and submissions were presented to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the 'Economic

¹ As measured by the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS). As QNHS Data is not available at County level this profile uses county level trend data derived from the various censuses and compares those trends to the QNHS.

Development and Enterprise' Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). A first draft of a Vision, Themes, High Level Goals and Objectives was formulated (see section 7). In parallel, meetings were held with agencies in order to detail and map their services and supports and in order to identify any overlap or gap that existed. This helped inform the LCDC and SPC as to which agencies may be able to deliver on actions once they were identified.

In the second and third round of public consultations, specific strategic actions, with potential Lead Agencies, were identified. These strategic actions were considered by the LCDC and the SPC. Further meetings were held with agencies to establish their agreement to Lead and, in some instances, to Partner in the delivery of strategic actions - see Section 8.

This participative planning approach was quite similar to that involved in developing the County Development Plan and the Regional Planning Guidelines.

6. Socio-Economic Evidence-Base

6.1 Introduction

This socio-economic profile of County Clare should be read in conjunction with the supporting document, containing the relevant Maps, Charts and Tables, which is available on <http://www.clarecoco.ie/community/lecp/socio-economic-evidence-base-county-clare-2015-21313.pdf>

The overall approach taken in developing the socio-economic profile was inter-generational (1981-2011), gender-based (Female/Male) and spatial (County, Municipal District and Electoral Division). While generally drawing on Census of Population Data, most recent point-in-time data (eg. Live Register) was also presented. A number of topics were examined using this approach, namely, Population, Employment/Economy, Education, and Poverty Reduction/Social Exclusion, Research/Development/ Innovation and Climate Change/Energy.

6.2 Population

6.2.1 Population Change

Over the period 1981-2011, the National and Regional populations grew by 33% and 25%, respectively. Clare's population growth out-performed both by increasing from 87,567 to 117,196 (**34%**). However, in the period 2006-2011, the National and Regional population grew by 8.2% and 6.2%, respectively, while Clare's population growth (**5.6%**) was less than both.

The largest growth in the county's population (9,271) took place in the period 1996-2002 and the next highest (7,673) in the period 2002-2006 and the third highest (6,246) in the period 2006-2011. The County's population growth trend generally matched that of the State, although it exceeded it slightly in 2002 and 2006.

Ennis Municipal District (MD) experienced the highest population growth (**66%**) of the four Municipal Districts, increasing from 19,907 (1981) to 33,010 (2011). Shannon MD (**52%**) and Killaloe

MD (39%) also experienced population growth greater than that of the County average. However, West Clare MD only achieved 2.6% population growth over same period.

The more recent three census periods have been typified on the basis of the sectors that contributed most to GDP growth. The period 1996 -2002 was typified by the major contribution of 'export-oriented' sectors leading to what was described as 'export-driven growth'. The period 2002-2006 was typified by the major contribution of the construction and home-market sectors leading to what was described as 'construction-driven growth'. The period 2006-2011 was typified as the 'recession period'.

Ennis MD and Shannon MD achieved their greatest growth rates of 21% and 12%, respectively, over the '96-'02 period, suggesting that they were best placed to avail of 'export-driven' economic growth.

West Clare MD achieved its highest population growth (6%) in the '02-'06 period -'construction driven growth', suggesting that it was best placed to avail of this form of growth. It appears that it could draw on an under-employed farm-based pool of labour.

Killaloe MD experienced its greatest population growth (11%) in the period '06-'11, suggesting that its proximity to a major Gateway (Limerick/Shannon) was the reason for its above average growth in the 'recession period'. In terms of population change, it would appear that Gateways and their environs are more resilient to economic downturns.

While the County's Population increased by 5.6% in the period 2006-2011, the population of the Towns and Villages increased by 9.3%. The strong trend of urbanisation resulted in almost 50% of the County's population living in Towns and Villages. The villages of Liscannor, Quin and Sixmilebridge experienced population growth in excess of 50% while the villages of Corofin, Kilfenora and Killaloe had population growth in excess of 25%. Clonlara, Crusheen, Kildysart, Ardskeagh, Ardnacrusha and Inagh had population growth in excess of 20%. Ballycannon, Lisdoonvarna, Feakle, Kilkee and Whitegate experienced population declines of -1%, -4%, -7%, -14% and -19%, respectively. It is worth noting that while population growth was below average in W. Clare MD, many of the Towns and Villages that experienced the highest population increases were in W. Clare MD.

At Electoral Division (ED) level, it is noticeable that, while the county's population grew by 34% in the period 1981 – 2011, fifty seven of Clare's 152 EDS experienced population decline over the period. Thirty six declined by more than 10%. In contrast to the growth of the settlements in W. Clare, the vast majority of the EDs in W. Clare experienced Population decline. It is interesting that some of those EDs that displayed population growth over the 30 year period, actually experienced population decline in the most recent census period.

6.2.2 Population Density

In 2011 all EDs in Ennis and Shannon MDs showed population densities of more than 22 People per Ha. However, more than half the land mass of W. Clare MD had a population density of less than 12 people per Ha.

The perception that there has been a major shift in the relative population density in the County is borne out by the shift in relative population density. In 1981, a large part of the county had a population density >16 people per Ha. However, when this threshold was increased in line with overall population increase (>22 people per Ha) in 2011 a much smaller part of the county achieved this density. Relative density decline was particularly apparent in W. Clare MD. The concentration (urbanisation) of the county's population resulted in a significant shift in the balance of the population towards Mid-Clare and South-East Clare.

6.2.3 Population Migration

An age-cohort analysis, by sex, of the 0-9 yr cohort of 1981 showed that, at county level, the 9,456 Males in the 0-9 age cohort had expanded by 222 in 1986 when they were aged 5-14 yrs. This occurred as a result of net in-migration of children in that age group. Thereafter, this Male cohort had declined by almost 2,000 by 2002 when it was aged 20-29. This decline could be partly explained by attendance at Third level after which people continued to live outside the county. A similar pattern was apparent in the Female cohort.

There was a very large net in-migration of approximately 1,200 in each sex in the 25-34 age-group of 2002 by 2006 when they were aged 30-39 and a further net in-migration (400 Males and 1,000 Females) by 2011 when they were aged 35-44. In fact, by 2011, Female net in-migration offset the earlier net-outward migration. Overall there were more females in 2011 (9,106) than in the same cohort (0-9 years) in 1981 (9,071). However, by 2011, the Male cohort of 2011 (8,717) was 8% (739) smaller than in 1981 (9,456). The County seemed to attract Females to a far greater extent than Males.

While the pattern of net out-migration in the years of 3rd Level Education (15 – 24 yrs) was common to all MDs for both sexes, the later pattern of recovery experienced at County level was not shared by all MDs. The number of Males (2,718) and Females (2,973) in Ennis MD was 22% and 45% **greater** than the same cohorts in 1981, but the number of Males (2,213) and Females (2,203) in W. Clare was, respectively, 29% and 28% **less** than in 1981. Ennis MD had the greatest drawing power of all MDs and W. Clare the least.

6.2.4 Population Dynamics – Long-term sustainability

A number of features indicate a population's potential to socially and economically sustain itself into the future. These include: the relative size and sex balance of the 15 year replacement population (0-14 Years); the migration patterns and sex balance within the working age population (15-64 years); the relative size of the 65+ age group. What may start off as a large cohort, sexually balanced, may become quite small and sexually imbalanced as the working age population grows older. As a consequence it may become less capable of sustaining the older age population (65+). These features are examined by means of population pyramids.

The Population pyramid for County Clare indicates that in 2011, Males and Females in the 0-14 year age groups (replacement age groups) constituted **22.2%** of the County's population. The older population (65+) constituted **12.4%** of the population. Females accounted for a greater share of people aged 75+.

6.2.4.1 Replacement Population – Young People

In 2011, at National and Regional level, the youngest age groups (0-14) constituted 21.4% and 20.9%, respectively, compared to **22.2%** for County Clare. A greater percentage of Clare's population was young (0-14) than was the case nationally or regionally. In fact, the 0-14 age group constituted 23.3% of the population in Ennis MD, 23% in Killaloe MD, 22.4% in Shannon MD, but **only 20.4%** in W. Clare MD. West Clare MD had the weakest replacement population of the four MDs.

In terms of the Late Secondary and Third Level age groups (15-24 years), Males and Females constituted **11.8%** of the County's population compared to **13.5%** in Killaloe MD, **12.6%** in Shannon MD, **10.9%** in W. Clare MD and **10.8%** in Ennis MD. There are two likely reasons for these results.

Firstly, it was easier for 3rd. level students in the MDs of Killaloe and Shannon to travel to their Colleges/Universities/ Institutes 3rd. than it is for their counterparts in the MDs of Ennis and W. Clare, who had to move out of their MDs. Secondly, by taking up residence proximate to their 3rd. level Universities/ Institutes, many students from the MDs of Ennis and W. Clare contributed to the population of Shannon and Killaloe MDs, thus adding to the size of this age cohort in those MDs.

6.2.4.2 Older People

In 2011, 5.0% and 5.4% of the population, nationally and regionally, were 75+ yrs, compared to **5.2%** of County Clare's population and compared to: 4.6% in Ennis MD; 3.5% in Shannon; 4.7% in Killaloe MD and **7.4%** in W. Clare MD. The percentage of the population that was 75+ yrs. in W. Clare MD was almost 50% greater than the county average.

Overall, W. Clare MD displayed a much weaker population dynamic than any of the other MDs. A smaller percentage of its population was in the replacement age bracket (0-14); a high percentage of its population was 75+; it had the highest percentage of out-migration in the age group 15-24 years; out-migration in the 15-24 age group was not replaced in later years to the same extent as other MDs.

6.2.5 Population - Key Features

The pattern of population growth (34%) of County Clare over the period 1981-2011 generally followed the National growth pattern. Population growth was greatest in the MDs of Ennis (66%), Shannon (52%) and Killaloe (39%) and least in W. Clare (2.6%).

Different MDs experienced their greatest population growth in different census periods. Ennis and Shannon MD's had their largest population increases in the 'export-driven' period of 1996-2002. W. Clare MD had its largest population increase in the 'construction-driven' period of 2002-2006. Killaloe MD had its largest population increase in the 'recession' period of 2006-2011.

There was a strong trend of urbanisation with the result that by 2011 almost 50% of the County's population lived in Towns and Villages and, over the period 2006-2011, many of the towns and villages experienced population growth that was more than twice the average county rate and many of these towns and villages were located in W. Clare MD. Only five towns and villages experienced population decline.

The relative population density of the county changed with the increasing urbanisation. All of the EDs in the MDs of Ennis and Shannon had population densities in excess of 22 people per Ha, while only 30% of EDs in W. Clare MD had such densities.

There was a pattern of significant net out-migration in the late Secondary school-going and 3rd. Level age group (15-24) at county and MD level. However, this was not as marked in Killaloe and Shannon MDs as a result of their proximity to the University City of Limerick where, the closer students were, the more likely they were to continue living at home. While net out-migration in the 15-24 age cohort was reversed in the older age groups (25-64), particularly among Females, W. Clare did not experience such a reversal. In general, Clare attracted larger number of Females than Males in the 25-64 age-group.

6.3 Employment and Economy

6.3.1 Introduction

It should be noted that the usual analysis of CSO Census of Population data in relation to Employment gives the impression that workers and jobs are co-located. It cannot be over-emphasised that there is little basis for assuming that workers find jobs where they live, particularly if they live in rural areas. Consequently, the workforce residing in any location should not be equated with the number and type of jobs in that location or even proximate to it. Workers often travel quite a distance to get to their place of work. The number, sector and location of jobs is analysed later.

6.3.2 Employment Rate

The Employment Rate is defined as the percentage of any age group who are 'At Work'.

In 2011, the National and Regional Employment Rates of working age (15-64) Males was 62.5% and 62.5%, respectively, compared to **63.7%** for county Clare. The rate varied by as little as +/- 0.25% across MDs in County Clare.

In 2011, the National and Regional Employment Rates of working age (15-64) Females was 55.2% and 54.3%, respectively, compared to **55.4%** for the county. However, the rate varied a lot across MDs (+/- 2.20%) with Killaloe MD displaying the lowest Female Employment rate (53.5%).

The National Reform Programme aims to improve the Employment Rate of those aged 20-64 from its current level of 64% (Q 4.-2014) to between 69% and 71% by 2020. Clare is quite likely to achieve such targets, although such expectations need to be tempered by the historical decline in the Mid-West's share of National Employment from 8.63% (1998) to 7.93% (2014), which impacts on Clare's performance relative to the National performance.

6.3.3 Educational Profile of the Workforce

In 2011, the percentage of the National and Regional workforce with 3rd. level qualification was 40.9% and 38.5%, respectively, compared to **38.4%** for county Clare. Both the Regional and County 3rd. level educational profile was well below the national average.

At county level, the percentage of the workforce with Lower Secondary or Less was 19%. A similar pattern was apparent across the MDs as the educational profile of the workforce rapidly increased.

While females accounted for **47%** of the overall workforce in 2011, they accounted for **57.5%** of the workforce with 3rd level qualifications. While this pattern of above-average educational profile of the Female workforce was reflected across all MDs it was particularly the case in W. Clare MD. It was apparent that the feminisation of the workforce was accompanied by greater female than male representation among those with 3rd Level qualifications and particularly so in W. Clare MD.

6.3.4 Age Profile and Gender Mix of the Workforce

Over the period 1981-2011, county Clare experienced a decline in the share of overall workforce by those 65+ (from 6.2% to **3.1%**). The slightly older Male workforce (65+) in W. Clare MD and Killaloe MD (**3.6%** and **3%** Males), respectively may be due to the relatively high participation of Males in Agriculture.

Over the period 1981-2011, County Clare experienced a decline in those aged 15-24 years from 21.8% to **5.9%**. As a result of the decline in both older (65+) and younger (15-24) participation in the workforce, by 2011, **91%** of the workforce was aged 25-64 yrs, compared to 72% in 1981. This compared to 92.0%, 91.2%, 91.2%, 89.8% of the workforce in the MDs of Ennis, Shannon, Killaloe and W. Clare MD, respectively.

Over the period 1981-2011, it was apparent that people were retiring earlier and younger people were entering the workforce later. Young people's delayed entry to the workforce may be due to: the recession affecting their employment prospects and/or stimulating their emigration; the trend to continue longer in education.

It was also noticeable that, by 2011, the percentage of the workforce in the different age groups which was accounted for by females was just 2% less than that accounted for by males. The one exception was in the 25-34 age-group where Female participation (12.5%) exceeded that of Males (11.8%).

The pattern of the County's workforce by Age and by Sex was replicated across all MDs. By 2011, young Female participation in the workforce (25-34) exceeded that of Males in all MDs, especially in Ennis MD where Females accounted for 15% of the total workforce compared to 13.3% for Males. It was also noticeable that, in Ennis MD, only 11.3% of the workforce was in the 55-64 age group compared to 17.5% in W. Clare MD, suggesting people retired much earlier in Ennis MD.

6.3.5 Employment Growth

The percentage of the County's residents who were employed grew by **58%** from 28,835 to 45,688 (1981-2011) which was far in excess of the County's population growth (**34%**).

In the same period, the Female workforce grew by **206%** and the Male workforce grew by **11%**, so that, by 2011, Females accounted for **47%** of the workforce compared to **24%** in 1981. The very rapid feminisation of the workforce was apparent.

6.3.5.1 Workforce Growth in the Municipal Districts

The workforce growth differed significantly across the Municipal Districts. Ennis MD experienced the highest workforce growth (110%), compared to Shannon MD (84%), Killaloe MD (55%) and W. Clare MD (17%). The gender composition of the growth also differed significantly between Ennis MD (Male

+54%, Female +239%), Shannon MD (Male +34%, Female +223%), Killaloe MD (Male +9%, Female 222%), W. Clare (Male -20%, Female +159%).

6.3.5.2 Male/Female Participation in the Municipal Districts

While at county level, males accounted for 6% more of the workforce, they only accounted for 4% more in Ennis MD compared to 25% more in Shannon MD and 22% more in Killaloe and W. Clare MDs. The rate of feminisation of the workforce in Ennis MD was well ahead of that in the MDs of Shannon, Killaloe and W. Clare.

6.3.6 Sectoral Employment

At county level, the number of workers engaged in the different sectors in 1981 and 2011 showed a 57% decline in the Agriculture sector and a 300% increase in the numbers involved in 'Other' Services sector. The relative importance of the different sectors also changed. While Agriculture accounted for **30%** of the workforce in 1981 it accounted for only **8%** in 2011.

Over the period 1981-2011, the importance of Manufacturing employment declined from 21% to **15%** and employment in Construction from 9% to **5%**. As a result of the strong shift to Service Sectors (Transport, Public Admin, Professional Services and Other Services), these sectors accounted for 52% of all employment in 2011 compared to 28% in 1981.

Between 2006 and 2011, employment declined by 5,000 to 45,600. This was due to declines in: Construction (-3,600); Industries not Stated (-1,250); Manufacturing (-1,050); Transport and Communications (-600). The decline was offset by increased employment in: Public and Professional Services (+1,300); Agriculture (+450). Over the same period employment in Tourism-related activities, Wholesale/Retail, Community/Social/Personal Services remained constant.

The relative significance of the different sectors in 2011 is apparent from the percentage of all workers represented by: Professional and Public Services (25%); Manufacturing (15%); Retail/Wholesale (12%); Finance/Real Estate (11%); Agriculture (8%); Transport/Communications (6%); Tourism (7%); Construction (5%) and Community/Social/Personal Services (4%). The balance is made up of 'Not Stated' category.

In Clare there are two Urban Districts (UDs - Ennis and Kilrush) and nine Rural Districts (RDs- Kilrush, Kildysart, Ennistymon, Ballyvaughan, Corofin, Meelick, Scariff, Tulla, Ennis). The first four RDs and part of Corofin RD approximate the W. Clare MD. Ennis RD extends south to Shannon and Sixmilebridge and west to the border of Inagh and Lissycasey and approximates to Ennis MD. Scariff RD and Tulla RD and part of Meelick RD approximate to Killaloe MD.

At the level of RDs and UD, the number of workers living in them, in 2011, was as follows: Ennis RD and UD (20,550), Meelick RD (6,300), Kilrush RD and UD (4,570), Ennistymon RD (3,950), Tulla RD (3,150), Scariff RD (2,660), Kildysart RD (1,900), Corofin (1,400) and Ballyvaughan (1,100). The Ennis to Limerick Suburbs reflected in the Ennis RD/UD and Meelick RD accounted for almost **60%** of all workers living in the County.

6.3.6.1 Agricultural Sector

In 1981, the Agriculture sector was the major source of employment in W. Clare MD and Killaloe MD while the Manufacturing sector was the major source of employment in Shannon MD and Ennis MD.

However, by 2011, the numbers employed in Agriculture in W. Clare MD were outstripped by the numbers employed in Professional Services, Other Services and Commerce in that order. In Killaloe MD the numbers employed in Agriculture were outstripped by those employed in Professional Services, Commerce and Manufacturing, in that order.

In the period 1981-2011, the number of Farms (by size) declined from 1,227 (< 10 Has), 2,058 (10-20 Has), 3,795 (>20 Has) to 180, 748, 2,501. Almost 60% (1,434) of all larger farms (> 20 Has) were located in W. Clare Municipal District in 2011.

The number of farmers increased during the recession period from 3,500 approx. (2006) to 3,950 approx. (2011). This reversed the historical trend on declining farming numbers. However, this may be due to the fact that during the construction period (2002-2006) many farmers reported themselves as construction workers and had to revert to farming during the recession.

In 2011, the highest numbers of farmers and as % of RD's workforce were as follows: Kilrush RD 814 (21%), Ennis RD 665 (4%), Ennistymon RD 538 (14%), Tulla RD 395 (13%), Scariff RD 369 (14%), Kildysart RD 343 (18%), Meelick RD 304 (5%), Corofin RD 251 (18%) and Ballyvaughan RD 217 (20%).

While almost 60% of all workers were living in Ennis RD/UD and Meelick RD, only 25% of Agricultural employment was located there.

6.3.6.2 Construction Sector

As noted earlier, employment in the Construction sector declined by 40% from 6,071 (2006) to 2,475 (2011), thus accounting for 3,600 of the overall 5,000 decline in employment. This percentage decline was reflected across all RDs and UD as follows: Ennis UD/RD declined from 2,476 to 974; Kilrush UD/RD from 867 to 322; Meelick RD from 674 to 327 and in other RDs from approx. 400 to 160.

In 2011, the highest percentage of a RD's workforce engaged in construction was in the RDs of Kilrush, Kildysart at 7% each and Ennistymon, Scariff and Tulla at 6% each.

While almost 60% of all workers were living in Ennis RD/UD and Meelick RD, only 50% of Construction employment was located there.

6.3.6.3 Tourism Sector

Employment in the Tourism sector remained stable over the period 2006-2011 at around 3,000 or 7% of the workforce.

In 2011, the highest percentage of a RD's workforce engaged in Tourism was in the RDs of Ballyvaughan (14%), Ennistymon (11%), Ennis RD (7%) and Kilrush RD (6%).

While almost 60% of all workers were living in Ennis RD/UD and Meelick RD, only 38% of Tourism employment was located there.

6.3.6.4 Retail and Wholesale

Employment in Retail and Wholesale remained constant at 5,600 (12% all employment) over the period 2006-2011. The slight decline in Ennis RD/UD of 60 was offset by an increase of 50 in Meelick RD.

In 2011, the highest percentage of a RD's workforce engaged in Retail and Wholesale was in the RDs of Meelick (15%), Ennis (12%), Ennistymon (12%), Kilrush, Corofin, Kildysart and Scariff each 11% with Tulla (10%) and Ballyvaughan (8%)

While almost 60% of all workers were living in Ennis RD/UD and Meelick RD, 62% (3,506) of Retail and Wholesale workers lived there thus indicating an above-average concentration of Retail and Wholesale workers living in these areas.

6.3.6.5 Changes in Sectoral Employment

By 2011, the Services Sectors (Transport Services, Public Administration Services, Professional Services and Other Services) accounted for 54%, 53%, 50% and 51% of all employment in Ennis MD, Shannon MD, Killaloe MD and W. Clare MD, respectively. The transition to the service sectors took place to almost the same extent in all the MDs. The weakness of the Manufacturing sector for the resident workforce in W. Clare was compensated for by the strength of the Agriculture sector. The workforce residing in W. Clare MD moved quickly to a services-based employment without going through a manufacturing period.

The 23% increase in the female percentage of the workforce was accounted for by the increased percentage of Females in the 'Professional Services' (10%), Commerce (7%) and 'Other Services' (5%).

At Municipal District level, the largest feminisation of Professional Services took place in Killaloe (+13%) and W. Clare (+11%) and in Other Services in W. Clare MD (+7%). By 2011, Female employment across the four Services Sectors (Transport, Public Admin, Professional Services, Other Services) accounted for 32%, 31%, 30% and 28% of the total workforce, in the MDs of Ennis, W. Clare, Killaloe and Shannon, respectively.

6.3.7 Location of Employment or Jobs

Location of jobs data is drawn from **Place Of Work/School Anonymised Records (POWSCAR)** based on the Census of Population 2011. Twenty nine of Clare's one hundred and fifty two Electoral Divisions (EDs) had more than 200 jobs and accounted for almost 80% of all jobs in the county. Twenty nine EDs had less than 35 Jobs each and were mainly located in North and North East Clare. When agricultural jobs were removed there were twenty six EDs with more than 200 Jobs, accounting for 83% of all non-agricultural jobs. There were sixty EDs with less than 35 non-agricultural jobs. The dependence of many Rural EDs on Agricultural jobs was evident.

In 2011, almost 33,000 workers in Clare travelled to work. Three main employment centres provided employment for more than 70% of Clare workers who travelled to work. One centre was that of Ennis, Doora/Quin/ Newmarket where there were 10,000 jobs approximately occupied by Clare Workers. In terms of local employment it is worth noting that more than 50% of these workers lived in the area itself. A second centre was that of Shannon/Cratloe/Sixmilebridge where 7,500 jobs approximately were occupied by Clare workers and another 3,000 approximately by workers who travelled into this centre from outside the County, particularly from Limerick City/County. Again it is worth noting that almost 45% of the Clare workers lived in the area itself. A third centre was located in Limerick City and County where approximately 6,500 jobs were occupied by Clare Workers who travelled there to work.

Many EDs surrounding these centres were heavily dependent on them for employment (more than 50% of their commuting workforce). There was a clear pattern that, as the distance from the main centres of employment increased, the percentage of an ED's commuting workforce declined. The Ennis, Doora/Quin/ Newmarket centre of employment had the largest catchment and the Limerick City and County centre the smallest. The first centre drew heavily on the workforce living in the EDs to its North and West.

6.3.8 Unemployment

Respectively, in 2011, the National, Regional and County unemployment rates were, respectively, 15.0%, 14.6% and 15.1% with male unemployment rates of 22.3%, 21.7% and 21.8% and female unemployment rates of 15.0%, 14.6% and 15.1%.

At County level, over the period 2006-2011, the Male Unemployment rate increased from 7% to **22%** and the Female Unemployment rate from 8% to **15%**. This pattern was reflected across all Municipal Districts with W. Clare MD experiencing the highest Male Unemployment Rate (24%).

Thirty two EDs experienced Male Unemployment rates between 26% and 46% and thirty two EDs experienced Female Unemployment rates between 18% and 34%.

High Male Unemployment rates were generally associated with Towns and Villages, except in the case of North-East Clare. High rates of Female unemployment were more closely associated with urban centres. However, there were many urban centres which did not experience either high rates of Male or Female Unemployment.

From a peak in 2011, the Male and Female Live Register unemployment numbers for the county had fallen by 28% and 16%, respectively in mid-2015. For the Social Protection Centres of Ennis, Ennistymon, Kilrush and Tulla, respectively, Male Unemployment numbers fell from their peak by 34%, 18%, 29% and 36% and Female unemployment numbers by 26%, 2%, 15% and 22%.

The 5,000 drop in the numbers at work was accounted for by a decline of 5,300 Males and an increase of 300 Females.

There is no Annual report of employment at County level. There may be an assumption that changes in the Live Register numbers reflect changes in the Employment numbers and that a decline of 100 in the 'Live Register' is matched by an increase of 100 in the number employed. However, this assumption does not take account of net migration.

Consequently, the decline of 2,000 in the number of unemployed in the Live Register by the end of 2014 cannot be associated with similar increase in the number s employed. It is more likely that emigration continued while employment increased and that this combination best accounted for the Live Register figures.

6.3.9 Employment and Economy – Key Features

Over the period 1981 – 2011, there has been a dramatic shift from a predominantly Male agricultural economy to an increasingly Feminised Services economy with Females constituting 47% of the Workforce in 2011.

In 2011, the county's employment rate was in line with the National rate. While the county-level Male Employment rate (63.7%) was consistent across MDs, the Female rate (55.4%) varied appreciably with Killaloe displaying the lowest rate (53.5%).

The educational profile of the Female workforce outstripped that of the Male workforce as **57.5%** of the workforce with 3rd level were female. In addition, the former displayed a much younger age profile. While the educational and age profile of the county was generally reflected in three MDs, the W. Clare MD lagged well behind the others in both measures.

The move to a strongly Services-based economy was apparent in the declining significance of Agriculture (30% employment to 8%) and Manufacturing and the increasing significance of Professional and Public Services (25%), Retail/Wholesale services (12%), Finance/Real Estate Services (11%) and Tourism Services (7%). However, the relative significance of the different sectors varied a lot across the Rural and Urban Districts.

6.4 Education

6.4.1 Education and Unemployment

Areas and communities that have high educational achievement also tend to have high employment and low unemployment levels and the inverse is also generally true. The unemployment rates in 1996, by the level of Education, indicate that, for the county, those with Lower Secondary or Less, experienced a 17% unemployment rate compared to 5% for those with 3rd Level education. Ennis MD experienced 21% unemployment rate among the former group compared to 3% amongst the latter group. In other words, those with Lower Secondary Education or Less, experienced unemployment rates that are threefold (County) and sevenfold (Ennis MD) those with 3rd Level education. The situation was almost the same in 2006. It is clear that the lack of education increases the likelihood of unemployment to a very significant degree.

6.4.2 Educational Achievement by Sex

At county level, 16% of Females of working age population had a **3rd Level qualification** compared to 12% of Males. In Ennis MD, 18% of Females of working age had 3rd Level qualifications compared to 15% of Males. In W. Clare MD, 13% of Females had 3rd Level qualifications compared to 8% Males.

At County level, 6% of Females of working age had **Primary Education or Less** compared to 8% of Males. In Ennis MD, 5% of Females of working age had **Primary education or Less** compared to 6% Males. In W. Clare MD 8% of Females had Primary or Less compared to 11% of Males.

The percentage of the working age population with **Secondary or Less** declined from 42% (2002) to 30% (2011). In Ennis MD it declined from 34% to 25% while in W. Clare MD it declined from 51% to 37%, leaving W. Clare MD 7% above the county average.

At County level, over the period 2002 -2011, the percentage of the working age (15-64) whose education finished with **3rd Level qualification** increased from 23% to **34%**. In Ennis MD it increased from 29% to 39%. However, in W. Clare MD it only increased to **28%** from 16% leaving it 6% below the County average.

There was a similar pattern in the decline in those with Lower Secondary or Less and an increase in those with Third level, with W. Clare MD displaying the weakest performance in each category.

The EDs, where there was a high percentage (42%-56%) of the population aged 15 -64 with **Lower Secondary education and Less**, were concentrated in W. Clare MD. The EDs with a low percentage (13%- 19%) of the population with **3rd. Level education** were also concentrated in W. Clare MD.

In order to enhance the educational profile of the working age population, the National Reform Programme aims to reduce the percentage of those with Lower Secondary Education in the young age group (18-24) to 8% from the current level of 10.6%. It also aims to increase the percentage of the 30-34 age-group with 3rd. Level qualifications from 50% to 60%.

6.4.3 Education – Key Features

The positive correlation between high educational qualifications and employment as well as the positive correlation between low educational qualifications and unemployment are apparent in Clare. The rapid increase in those with 3rd. level qualifications and the rapid decline in those with Lower Secondary or less at County level follow the National pattern. However, the performance of W. Clare MD lags well behind that of Ennis MD, Shannon MD and Killaloe MD.

6.5. Poverty Reduction

6.5.1 Introduction

Poverty and Social Exclusion is measured at both the level of the **Individual** (using the Annual Survey of Income and Living Condition – SILC) and of the **Geographic Community** (Haase Pratschke Affluence/ Deprivation Index using Census of Population Data).

The National Reform Programme aims to reduce the **Consistent Poverty** rate from 8.2% of the population to 2% or less by 2020 and to reduce the numbers in **Combined Poverty** by a minimum of 200,000. These targets are based on the annual **Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC)** where People in **Consistent Poverty** are defined as people who are:

1. at risk of Income Poverty (their Incomes are less than 60% of the Income of the middle people in the State – median Income) and are also
2. experience ‘material deprivation’ in that they are unable to purchase at least two items from a list of 11 of what are described as ‘the norm for people in society’.

People in **Combined Poverty** are defined as people who are either at ‘Risk of Poverty’ or experiencing ‘Poverty Deprivation’ or experiencing ‘Consistent Poverty’. The target of 200,000 will be achieved by the combination of the reductions in these categories.

In order to estimate 60% of the median Income, the total household income is calculated from survey data. In order to allow for the economies of scale in a household, each adult after the first is considered as 0.66 adult and each child <14 year as 0.33 adult. This provides an estimate of equalised individual income.

6.5.2 People 'At Risk of Income Poverty', 'Materially Deprived', in 'Consistent Poverty'

6.5.2.1 Unemployed

Between 2008 and 2013, people '**At Risk of Income Poverty**' rate (whose Income was less than 60% of the median Income) increased from 14.4% to 15.2% having fallen from 16.5% in 2012 thus affecting one in seven people. One in three people who were '**Unemployed**' or '**Renting below market rate**' were 'At Risk of Income Poverty'. Unemployment places people at more than twice the National average risk of Income Poverty (See section 6.3.8 for the number and location of both Males and Females who are unemployed).

Over the same period, the '**Material Deprivation**' rate (people unable to afford two or more items considered 'the norm' in society) more than doubled from 13.7% to 30.5% showing a 3% increase since 2012. Almost two in every three people who were '**Lone Parents with one or more children <18 years**', experienced 'Material Deprivation', while one in every two people who were '**Renting below Market rate**' did so.

6.5.2.2 Lone Parents

In 2011, the National and Regional Lone Parent rate (Lone parent families with at least one child < 15 yrs as a percentage of all families with at least one child < 15 yrs) was **15.9%** and **14.7%**, respectively, compared to **13.0%** at County level. In the urban centres of Ennis, Shannon, Kilrush, Ennistymon, Milltown, Killaloe, Mountshannon, Scariff, Newmarket and other villages, the Lone Parent rate was more than 20%. In Clare lone parent families were predominantly Female (80%).

6.5.2.3 People with disabilities

In 2011, the National and Regional disability rate was 13.0% and 13.5%, respectively, compared to 12.6% (14,800) for the County. The disability rate varied from 5.3% (0-14 years) to 10.6% (15- 64 years) to 36.5% (65+).

44.5% (3,600) of the 8,100 people with disabilities of working age (15-64 years) were 'unable to work'. National data indicated that the unemployment rate amongst people with a disability was 31% compared to 20% for the general population of the same age. In 2013, of those 'not at work due to illness or disability', 18.1% were 'at risk of poverty' while 53.1% experienced 'deprivation' and 10.8% experienced both and were thus in 'consistent poverty'.

By way of summary, the percentage of people experiencing 'Consistent Poverty' (both 'Income Poverty' and 'Deprivation Poverty') increased from 4.2% to **8.2%** between 2008 and 2013 and by 0.5% between 2012 and 2013. In 2013, the 'Consistent Poverty' rate was 'particularly high' for people who were: **Unemployed** (23.9%); **Lone Parents** (23%); '**Renting at or below market rates**' (22.9%); **Living in Jobless Households** (20.1%) and was 'high' for: **Students** (15.2%); **Adults < 65 living alone** (14.5%); **People with Lower Secondary or Less** (14.0%); **People living in the Border, Midlands and Western Regions** (12.7%); **People not working due to a Illness/Disability** (10.8%).

6.5.3 Income Inequality

'Income Inequality' is measured by comparing the income of the fifth of the population with the highest incomes to the income of the fifth with lowest incomes. 'Income Inequality' increased from 4.5 times to 4.8 times although falling from 5 times in 2012.

6.5.4 Community or Spatial Inequality

A measure of Community or Spatial inequality has been developed by combining a number of Census-based measures, namely, **Unemployment** - Male and Female (2), **Class** - High and Low (2), **Education** - No more than Primary Education and 3rd Level (2), Number of **Rooms** per person (1), **Lone Parents** (1), **Population change** over previous Census (1), **Younger and Older People** (1). This measure is known as the Haase Pratschke Affluence/Deprivation Index and it gives a score for each Small Area (SA). By population-weighting the SA score a score can be estimated for EDs, MDs, Counties, etc.

6.5.4.1 The components of the Haase Pratschke Affluence/Deprivation Score

6.5.4.1.1 Unemployment

The Male and Female Unemployment components of the Haase Pratschke Index have been discussed earlier and the concentration of unemployment in urban settlements was noted. The more urban location of Female unemployment was also noted. Particularly high rates of unemployment occur among those with low education qualifications and this can be exacerbated among certain social/ethnic groups such as Roma and Travellers and among people who have been born outside Ireland and who do not speak English as a first language and who may find it difficult to integrate into the labour market and/or the educational system. Members of the Traveller community are concentrated in Ennis and Environs (550), Shannon (100) and Ennistymon (100) and experience unemployment rates in excess of 80%.

6.5.4.1.2 Class

An examination of the concentration and location of High Class in the County indicates that of the 31 EDs with more than 43% of population in High Class, sixteen were located in Killaloe MD, six in Ennis MD, five in W. Clare MD and two in Shannon MD. EDs of Low Class were predominantly located in Killaloe MD and W. Clare MD.

6.5.4.1.3 Educational Qualifications

The Male and Female Educational components of the Haase Pratschke Index have been discussed earlier, particularly the location of people with Primary only and with 3rd Level. It was noted that those EDs with a high level of Primary Education or Less and with low levels of 3rd Level were located principally in W. Clare MD.

6.5.4.1.4 Rooms per person

Houses with the smallest number of rooms per person are located in rural areas and are particularly located in South West Clare and South East Clare.

6.5.4.1.5 Lone Parents

The concentration and location of Lone Parent families was discussed in 6.5.2.2

6.5.4.1.6 Population Change 2006-2011

Population decline of more than 4% occurred in thirty four EDs in Clare in the period 2006-2011. Twenty two of these were located in W. Clare MD, Five in Killaloe MD, Five in Ennis MD and two in Shannon MD.

6.5.4.1.7 Older and Younger People

At county level, one third of people 65+ live alone. One-person households where that person is 65+, account for more than one in every seven households in 35 EDs, 27 of which are located in W. Clare

MD. At County level, one third of people 65+ live in 2-person households where both are 65+ and such households account for more than one in twelve households in 29 EDs, 23 of which are located in W. Clare MD.

6.5.4.1.8 Deprived EDs

When the components discussed above are aggregated, using a modelling methodology, a score on an Affluence/Deprivation scale is derived for each Small Area (SA). By population-weighting the SA results scores can be derived for different geographies. Using 2006 as a base year with a National Absolute Affluence/Deprivation score of 0.0, the National score in 2011 was – 7.0, reflecting the impact of the recession. The score for the Mid-West Region was – 9.1 and for the County - 7.2, indicating that on average the county was less deprived than the region. The scores for the MDs were as follows: W. Clare MD (- 10.9), Shannon MD (-6.1), Ennis MD (- 5.5) and Killaloe MD (- 5.4), indicating the relative affluence of the latter two MDs. Of the fifteen most deprived EDs in Clare, thirteen were in W. Clare MD and two in Ennis MSD (Ennis Urban1 and Ennis Urban 2).

6.5.5 Poverty Reduction - Key Features

Lone Parents, People who are unemployed, People who are Renting below Market Rate, Members of social/ethnic groups (e.g. Roma, Travellers, People experiencing difficulty integrating into the labour market and/or the education system), People with Low Educational qualifications are at particular risk of Income Poverty, Material Deprivation and Consistent Poverty.

Communities that experience multiple deprivation in the form of: Low Education; Low number of Rooms per person; Low Class; High Unemployment; High Population decline; High rates of Lone Parenting; High combined percentage of Younger and Older people, are particularly deprived and people living in such communities are at much greater risk of experiencing individual deprivation.

6.6 Research, Development and Innovation

Business Expenditure on **R**esearch and **D**evelopment (BERD) in the Mid-West Region is approximately 12% of all such National Expenditure. However, it is limited to a small number of companies. Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) is essential to a thriving, export-oriented economy whose supply chain extends into indigenous and foreign enterprises located proximate to it. RDI is highly dependent on: a critical mass of leading export-oriented enterprises, particularly in the modern manufacturing and services sectors and sub-sectors; proximity to 3rd. Level institutes engaged in cutting edge research and its commercialisation; connectivity in the form of Broadband, Road/Rail infrastructure and Air transport. While Clare is very well located in terms of many of these factors the absence of an adequate Broadband infrastructure impacts negatively on the County's potential to exploit its RDI advantages.

6.7. Climate Change and Energy

Energy production and economic activity which generates greenhouse gases are major contributors to climate change, which results in more extreme weather events (storms and rainfall) as well as damage to structures and land, including coastal erosion and habitat destruction. All of these have negative impacts on economic activity (particularly farming and tourism).

Energy consumption across all sectors in Clare was 3,669 GWh/y in 2010 and most of this energy was generated from non-renewables. The transport sector accounted for almost 40% of the total

consumption. In light of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan's (NEEAP) targets there is no room for further expansion in consumption of non-renewable energy. The only way in which additional demand could be met, within target, is by either increased efficiency and/or greater use of renewable sources as set out in the National Renewable Energy Action plan (NREAP).

The small scale on renewable energy generation in 2010 is seen from the fact that, out of a total energy use of 3,669 GWh/y in the county only 108GWh/y (2.9%) was produced from renewable sources. (*Clare County Council Renewable Energy Strategy 2014 – 2020 Table 2.3*).

The county's energy production from renewable sources is targeted at 3,529 GWh/y in 2020 as the county's contribution to the national target that renewable sources will contribute 16% of final use (EU 2020 target) in 2020.

6.8 Summary of Key Socio-economic and Environmental Findings

The Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA) identified a number of areas in the county that displayed different levels of self-sufficiency in terms of offering employment opportunities for their resident workforce and offering their enterprises a resident workforce. These areas were entitled Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZs). Six such areas (North, Mid-West, South-West, North-East, Mid and South Clare) were identified in Clare with some areas overlapped county boundaries. Map 1 presents a simplified version of those six areas by a small expansion of some and a small contraction of others to ensure all fitted within the county.

Map 1 Simplified Rural Economic Development Zones in Clare



Source: Derived from CEDRA Mapping

6.8.1 Wellbeing and Quality of Life

The achievement of an inclusive society not only benefits those individuals and communities who are positively impacted but in addition, allows society at large to benefit from their contribution.

Deprived EDs were concentrated in Mid-West, South-West Clare and parts of North-East Clare and Deprived Small Areas were clustered in the towns of: Ennis and Environs; Shannon; Kilrush; Kilkee; Killaloe and individual Deprived Small Areas were located in a number of smaller towns.

A number of disadvantaged communities of shared characteristics were also identified such as: jobless households with one child (most concentrated in rural areas especially in North, South-West and North-East Clare, where they were often living in open countryside); unemployed people who generally live in towns and villages; lone parent families who generally lived in towns and villages; members of the Traveller Community who by and large lived in the towns of Ennis and Environs, Shannon and Ennistymon; older people (65+) living on their own, especially those living in the open countryside; people with disabilities who were mostly concentrated in Mid-West and South-West Clare as well as parts of North and North-East Clare; people whose competency in English was poor and who were most numerous in the towns of Ennis and environs as well as Shannon.

Community development work is inadequately supported and there is a poor involvement of younger generations in such work. There is an over-reliance on volunteers to provide essential supports in most rural areas and this is becoming a greater challenge as the population ages. Family and community support services are lacking in some major urban and rural areas. Services that are meant to specifically address the needs of deprived spatial communities and communities of interest are inadequately targeted.

Retail and Public services are moving to larger towns and urban centres and there is a lack of modern enterprise development in many rural towns and villages. There is a need to enhance the economic, social and physical infrastructure, including the provision of ICT infrastructure and broadband, in the towns and villages of North, Mid-West and South-West Clare and parts of North-East Clare. This would contribute to employment and enhanced quality of life opportunities for rural dwellers, and especially rural youth in those areas, thus reversing the negative demographic dynamic.

Town and Village enhancement, including improved maintenance, upgrading and renewal of community facilities and public spaces would not only provide quality of life opportunities for residents but would also provide attractive settings for visitors. Such enhancement would help those towns and villages to achieve their potential to act as catalysts for and/or partners in the regeneration of their more rural hinterland.

The weak demographic dynamic in parts of the county and the specific social challenges faced by particular geographic communities and communities of interest was regularly highlighted in the consultations. There was a strong sense that these poor dynamics should be addressed in a targeted and persistent manner. In order to ensure that the county's social fabric was supportive and inclusive it was seen as necessary to proceed by way of creative and innovative approaches that fostered an inter-cultural understanding of inclusion as an achievement of wellbeing and creativity.

6.8.2 Environmental Inheritance

People indicated that many of the emerging employment opportunities, particularly in the more rural areas, were tourism-related. These opportunities arose from a world class environmental resource that provided a high quality of life for its residents and an inspiring experience for its visitors. The sustainable management of these resources posed a special challenge to all engaged with them not only in terms of protecting the resources themselves but also in terms of managing the many negative impacts that threatened their future such as climate change.

The consultations identified the critical need to address the negative impact on the county's people, land, biodiversity and water resources, of climate change and modern lifestyles that generated excessive waste and greenhouse gases. While there is a growing integration of land-use and biodiversity objectives there is a broad perception that biodiversity is at odds with economic development. While there is an increased national and international awareness of the county's rich biodiversity there is a heavy reliance on volunteers for its management and protection and there is an absence of significant public funding for its sustainable development.

There is a need to reduce fossil-fuel based energy production and forms of economic production that generates excessive greenhouse gases. This could be achieved by increasing renewable energy production and increasing the efficiency of energy use.

While there is a growing awareness of the importance of the water resource, its protection and management continue to raise numerous challenges. Water harvesting and wastewater management initiatives are rare and supports inadequate. There is almost a total absence of the management of the multiple sequential use of water along the hierarchy of drinking, cooking, washing, sanitation etc. There is a lack of awareness of the costs associated with maintaining the quality and supply of water and an over-dependence on co-operative group schemes in rural areas.

Some parts of the county have the potential to develop supply/demand clusters for bio-energy crops and to convert to biomass boilers, especially accommodation providers, spas and visitor centres. There is a particular need to protect the natural resource base of the strong tourism products, activities and services that are developing in North, Mid-West, South-West and North-East Clare. Consequently, because of the inextricable connection between the environment (natural, man-made and cultural) and the quality of the visitors' and residents' experience the challenge is to protect the former while developing the latter.

6.8.3 Enterprise and Employment.

Most of the consultations and submissions noted that enterprise and its resultant employment were key drivers of population growth and increased population density. High employment levels were closely associated with high education levels and high class status. It was also noted that the county offered many unique opportunities for enterprise development as well as a highly skilled and flexible workforce who, by travelling short distances, could both enjoy a high quality of life as well as challenging and quality employment opportunities.

There was a distinct employment imbalance in the county. Jobs were heavily concentrated in Mid- and South Clare. Outside these parts of the county, local resources, both natural and built as well as locally-relevant social capital, provided potential for small-scale enterprise and employment, especially in North, Mid-West, South-West and North-East Clare, where at the moment there were only small clusters of non-agricultural employment in towns and villages. There were opportunities for: on and off-farm diversification; artisan foods; forestry-based enterprises; an emerging craft sector; a social enterprise sector that concentrated on child and elder care.

The county's tourism assets, particularly in North, Mid-West, South-West Clare and North-East Clare, included: a world-renowned culture; iconic tourist attractions (Cliffs of Moher, Loop Head Lighthouse, Bunratty Castle, Aillwee Cave, UNESCO Burren Geopark); the Wild Atlantic Way and other National tourism products; proximity to established tourism destinations (Kerry and Galway);

high-quality access infrastructure. In addition to this potential for the development of tourism products there were opportunities to develop genealogy and history-based products and services.

However, in some instances, the poor presentation of towns and villages coupled with the lack of ICT infrastructure, lack of high-quality accommodation and poor product development detracted from the realisation of the full potential of the county's tourism sector.

6.8.4 Research and Development

In Mid- and South Clare there was a strong base of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). These areas provided well-paid employment to a highly-educated section of the workforce and also offered opportunities for sub-supply. They were of sufficient scale to undertake collaborative Research and Development with 3rd. Level Universities and Institutes. The educational profile of the workforce allied with the international reach of the enterprises also indicated a strong base for research and development.

It was also noted that the County not only contained its own modern sector growth centres in Shannon and Ennis but also enjoyed close proximity to key university cities where modern industrial and service sectors thrived. Shannon and Ennis accounted for more than two thirds of the county's modern sector employment, thus actively fulfilling their roles as National Gateways and Hubs, but more importantly assured high quality opportunities for cutting edge research and development collaborations between the private and public sectors with ready access to rewarding education and training opportunities.

6.8.5 Education and Training

There has been strong population growth in the Mid and South Clare areas. However, as a result of persistent net out-migration of young people (15-34 yrs), there has been long-term population decline and this has led to an ageing population in North, Mid-West and South-West Clare and parts of North-East Clare. The increasing retention within education means that rural young people move to major urban centres and seldom return in the same numbers that leave. This net out-migration is due to poor employment opportunities and poor quality of life experiences. In addition to advancing educational standards across the county for those in second and third level, there was a specific need to extend further and higher education to the entire population in a creative and accessible manner.

7. Vision, Themes and High Level Goals

Subsequent to summarising the key social, economic and environmental findings, the LCDC and the SPC developed a vision and a number of themes and high-level goals that would inspire the people of the county and the agencies with a remit within it, to stretch themselves in an ambitious project that best assured, for future generations, the inheritance we currently enjoy, namely a Vision for Clare as:

'A county that, for all its people: nurtures an ethos of wellbeing, social inclusion and creativity; cherishes and sustains, for future generations, its environmental inheritance; fosters entrepreneurship and provides quality employment; offers cutting-edge research and development challenges,

while providing education and training opportunities that are inspirational and accessible.'

The themes and high level goals which best captured the essence of this vision are presented below and have been refined through public consultation, a series of submissions and various inputs from agencies and the LCDC and SPC. The objectives and actions which follow from these themes and high level goals are further elaborated in section eight.

Theme: Economic Development, Employment and Enterprise

High Level Goal 1: An Economic culture that is pro-enterprise/pro-entrepreneur.

High Level Goal 2: An Economic market attractive to Investors and Entrepreneurs.

High Level Goal 3: An Economy offering a world-class, highly-skilled and flexible labour force.

High Level Goal 4: An Economy whose Resource Base offers Economic/Comparative Advantage.

Theme: Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing

High Level Goal 5: A Society that is Inclusive and cherishes People's Health, Participation and Solidarity.

High Level Goal 6: A Society where People, Neighbourhoods and Communities are Safe and Secure and Active.

High Level Goal 7: A Society that is Socially and Physically Connected.

High Level Goal 8: A Society that is Culturally Rich with Strong Identities.

Theme: Education & Training

High Level Goal 9: A Learning environment that addresses educational disadvantage and achieves High Educational Participation rates.

High Level Goal 10: A Learning environment with Broad Participation in Further/Higher Education, Continual Learning and Development.

Theme: Research and Development

High Level Goal 11: Exploit the Enterprise/Social/Academic partnerships.

Theme: Climate Change and Energy

High Level Goal 12: In terms of Energy Use - Reduce Greenhouse Gasses and Increase its Efficiency.

High Level Goal 13: In terms of Energy Production – Increase the Production of Renewable Energy.

High Level Goal 14: Proactively Address Climate Change and Climate Action.

8. Action Plan

This Plan sets out: Five Themes (Economic Development, Employment and Enterprise; Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing; Training and Education; Research and Development; Climate Change and Energy); Fourteen High Level Goals; Ten Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDOs), shown in **blue** and Nine Sustainable Community Objectives (SCOs), shown in **green**. The plan also presents a number of Actions with Outcome Indicators and a number of Lead and Support Partners.

It is a requirement that the Objectives and Actions be specific, practical and time-bound. Consequently, Benchmark and Target data is presented for each Objective, where it is available. In a small number of cases, objectives are considered sufficiently important to warrant the specific collection of data over the initial period of the plan.

Where Objectives aim to achieve National 2020 targets or other Regional Targets these are **shown in Blue**.

Each Action has its own Theme-specific reference (**'e'**, **'q'**, **'t'**, **'r'**, **'c'**) denoting the Themes as listed in the order above: **E**conomic Development, **E**mployment and Enterprise; **Q**uality of Life, Health and Wellbeing; **T**rainning and Education; **R**esearch and Development; **C**limate Change and Energy.

Theme: Economic Development, Employment and Enterprise

High Level Goal 1: An Economic culture that is pro-enterprise/pro-entrepreneur.

Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDO)		<i>SEDO 1: Ensure adequate benchmarking data and ensure adequate, co-ordinated, proofed and monitored delivery of enterprise development supports.</i>			
Current Benchmark	<i>Not Applicable</i>				
6 Year Target	<i>Not Applicable</i>				
Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
e1.1	<i>Establish a structure within the LCDC and the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC to co-ordinate, monitor, review and proof the delivery of all the 'Economic Development, Employment and Enterprise', 'Research and Development' and 'Climate Change and Energy' Actions and arrange benchmarking research where necessary</i>	<i>Terms of Reference agreed Membership identified Structure established Benchmarking research undertaken</i>	<i>LCDC/SPC</i>		<i>2016</i>

Theme: Economic Development, Employment and Enterprise

High Level Goal 2: An Economic market attractive to Investors and Entrepreneurs

Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDO)		SEDO 2: Increase the number of micro- enterprises (<10 employees) and their related employment			
Current Benchmark	<p>In Q2 2014 and Q2 2015, the Mid-West Regional employment was 148K and 152K, indicating an employment increase of 2.7%. (Source: QNHS)</p> <p>In Q2 2006 and Q2 2011, the Mid-West Regional Employment was 175K and 157K and Clare Employment levels were 51K, and 46K, respectively indicating that Clare accounted for 32% of the Region's Employment (Source: Census Population). It is estimated that, at 32% of Regional employment (152K) in Q2 2015, Clare employment was 48,600, indicating an annual employment increase of 2.7%.</p> <p>The 'Action Plan for Jobs Mid West Region 2015-2017' (Dept. Jobs Enterprise and Innovation) targets 23,000 Jobs for the Region. At 32% of the Region's target this would represent 7,360 jobs for Clare or 1,230 annually which is a 2.5% annual average increase.</p> <p>In Q2 2015, the Regional Employment Rate for the 15-64 age-group was 61.4% (CSO: QNHS) and Clare Employment Rate for 20-64 age-group was 63.3% in 2011, having fallen from 72.6% (2006) (Source: CSO Census of Population Special Request).</p> <p>The number of Micro-enterprises (<10 employees) in the Business Economy in Clare fell by 11.3% over 5 years from 5,104 (2006) to 4,527 (2011) or 2.3% annually and fell by 4.2% to 4,338 in 2012. The numbers engaged fell by 21.7% from 10,908 to 8,537 over the same five years or 4.3% annually and fell by 4.1% to 8,185 in 2012. (Source: CSO Business Demography)</p> <p>In 2013, the County had 485,000 Overseas and 294,000 Domestic Visitors accounting for Expenditure of €94M and €82M, respectively. (Source: Failte Ireland)</p>				
6 Year Target	<p>> 2.5% annual average increase in overall numbers employed in micro business in the county as their contribution to the 7,360 jobs earmarked in the regional plan for jobs (32% of 23,000 which is the regional target to 2020).</p> <p>> 70% Employment Rate for the 20-64 Age-Group (EU 2020 Target)</p> <p>> 3.5% annual average increase in the number of Micro-enterprises and 3% increase in micro-enterprise employment</p> <p>> 3.0% Annual Increase in both the number of International and Domestic visitors and in the aggregate Expenditure of all Visitors</p>				
Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
e2.1	Implement the LEO Action Plan for Enterprise start-ups	No. of start-ups	LEO		2016-2018
e2.2	Implement the LDS support programme for micro-enterprise	No. of start-ups. No. of support programmes	LCDC /Leader LAG		2020 (LDS)
e2.3	Implement the LDS support programme for tourism enterprise development	No. of start-ups No. of support programmes	LCDC /Leader LAG		2020(LDS)
e2.4	Promote, support and develop specific locations for smaller scale foreign direct investment through the Connect Ireland initiative	Report prepared on potential locations No. of itineraries No. of jobs created Promotional video No. communities engaged	CCC /LEO, Connect Irl.	Ennis Chamber	2016 2021 2016-2020
e2.5	Support the development of a sustainable food sector i.e. development of a county food brand and food enterprises	No. of producers supports for export/home market	LEO, LCDC /Leader LAG		2018(MWAPJ)
e2.6	Support the development of existing enterprise centres and incubation space for micro-enterprises	Occupancy of existing enterprise space. Study of incubation space complete/implemented	LEO	Ennis Chamber	2018(MWAPJ) 2016(MWAPJ)
e2.7	Develop and implement a pro-active tourism strategy for the county that is linked to internationally focussed tourism (e.g. Wild Atlantic Way/ Lakelands/other specific themes	Destination Development & Marketing Plan developed and implemented No. of new tourism businesses developed	CCC/T & C	LCDC/ Leader LAG	2016(MWAPJ)

Theme: Economic Development, Employment and Enterprise

High Level Goal 2: An Economic market attractive to Investors and Entrepreneurs

Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDO)		SEDO 3: Increase the number of small enterprises (10-49 employees) and medium enterprises (50-249 employees) and their related employment			
Current Benchmark	<p>The number of Small enterprises (10 -49 employees) in the Business Economy in Clare fell by 26.1% from 395 (2006) to 292 (2011) over 5 years or 5.2% annually and increased by 1.4% to 296 in 2012. The numbers engaged in Small enterprises (10 -49 employees) fell by 24.4% from 7,214 to 5,451 over five years or 4.9% annually and increased by 2.1% to 5,565 in 2012. The number of Medium enterprises (50 -249 employees) fell by 19.3% from 83 (2006) to 67 (2011) over 5 years or 3.9% annually and fell by 4.5% to 64 in 2012. The numbers engaged in Medium enterprises (50 -249 employees) fell by 25.2% from 8,828 to 6,600 over 5 years or 5.0% annually and by 1.4% to 6,506 in 2012.</p> <p>(Source: CSO Business Demography).</p> <p>The 'Action Plan for Jobs Mid West Region 2015-2017' (Dept. Jobs Enterprise and Innovation) targets 23,000 Jobs for the Region. At 32% of the Region's target this would represent 7,360 jobs for Clare or 1,230 annually which is a 2.5% annual average increase.</p> <p>The number of Enterprise Ireland supported Plants declined from 168 plants (2,595 employees – average 15.5) in 2006 to 146 plants (2,789 – average 19.1) in 2014. The average employment per plant increased over the period of the recession and the recovery up to 2014. There was an annual average increase of 6.4% in employment since employment numbers began to increase in 2011.</p> <p>(Source: Enterprise Ireland)</p>				
6 Year Target	<p>>2.5% annual average increase in number of Small enterprises and 3.0% annual average increase in employment in small enterprises in the county as their contribution to the 7,360 jobs earmarked in the 'Action Plan for Jobs Mid West Region 2015-2017' (32% of 23,000 which is the regional target to 2020).</p> <p>>2.0% annual average increase in number of Medium enterprises and 2.5% annual average increase in their employment as their contribution to the 7,360 jobs earmarked in the 'Action Plan for Jobs Mid West Region 2015-2017' (32% of 23,000 which is the regional target to 2020).</p> <p>>2.0% annual average increase in number of plants supported and 5% annual average increase in employment in supported plants</p>				
Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
e3.1	Deliver mentoring, management and marketing programmes to High Potential Start-Ups and support them.	No. of programmes delivered No. of mentoring initiatives No. Clare participants in mgmt & mktg programmes	Enterprise Ireland / LEO		'16 – '21
e3.2	Support businesses operating in the domestic market and who are in the expansion phase of their businesses	No. of training programmes No. of seminar/workshops No. of domestic companies that received one-to-one mentoring Survey of multi-nationals to identify sub-supply opportunities	LEO	LCDC / Leader LAG	'16 – '21
e3.3	Support businesses that do not qualify for capital grant-aid under current programmes	Support programme prepared for businesses not qualifying for existing capital supports No. of training programmes provided No. of seminars/workshops provided No. of on-line trading vouchers approved	LEO		'16 – '21

Theme: Economic Development, Employment and Enterprise

High Level Goal 2: An Economic market attractive to Investors and Entrepreneurs

Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDO)		SEDO 4: Increase Foreign Direct Investment and employment in large enterprises (250+ employees)			
Current Benchmark	<p>Between 2010 and 2015 there was a total of \$432.7mn Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into County Clare (84% into Shannon and 16% into the Ennis area) of which manufacturing accounted for 73%. The 5-year running average investment and jobs were: 2010-\$260mn (435 jobs); 2011- \$147mn (298 jobs); 2012- \$152mn (257 jobs); 2013-\$62mn (133 jobs); 2014-\$79mn (115 jobs); 2015-\$79mn (124 jobs). (Source: fDi Markets, 2016).</p> <p>The numbers engaged in Large enterprises (250+ employees) in the Business Economy in Clare fell by 12.1% from 3,817 to 3,357 over five years between 2006 and 2011 or 2.4% annually. However, they increased by 10% to 3,691 in 2012. (Source: CSO Business Demography)</p> <p>The 'Action Plan for Jobs Mid West Region 2015-2017' (Dept. Jobs Enterprise and Innovation) targets 23,000 Jobs for the Region. This would represent 7,360 jobs for Clare (32% of the Region) or 2.5% annual average increase.</p>				
6 Year Target	<p>The 2020, 5-Year Running Average of Foreign Direct Investment and associated Employment will exceed \$ 200Mn and 275 jobs, respectively. 2.7% annual average increase in employment in Large enterprises as their contribution to the 7,360 jobs earmarked in the 'Action Plan for Jobs Mid West Region 2015-2017' (32% of 23,000- the Regional target 2020).</p> <p>IDA investment in Mid-West Region will be increased by 30% - 40% in the period 2015 – 2019 resulting in 66 investments in the Region. (Action Plan for Jobs Mid West Region 2015-2017).</p>				
Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
e4.1	Promote the economic comparative advantage of locating in County Clare	No. of promotional events/activities organised. No. of Marketing Brochures Prepared No. of National and International promotional/ marketing pitches on Clare as a location of investment/ business expansion Quantity of FDI and related employment No. of itineraries	CCC/Planning, IDA		'16 – '21
e4.2	Develop a business case for investing in County Clare	Business case developed	CCC/Planning		'16 – '21
e4.3	Attract EU funding to the County (e.g. Urban Development Fund) for major projects including the Clare County Library, remodelling town centre schemes etc	Links established with EU No. of applications Scale of funding secured	CCC/Planning/ Tourism & Community		'16 – '21
e4.4	Develop and promote Clare as a sustainable, secure, affordable and low carbon economy as a means of attracting inward investment	No. of businesses participating in energy management programmes	CCC/Planning, LCEA		'16 – '21

Theme: Economic Development, Employment and Enterprise					
High Level Goal 3: An Economy offering a World-class, Highly-skilled and Flexible labour force.					
Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDO)		SEDO 5: Increase the skills and educational qualifications of the people of the County			
Current Benchmark	<p>In 2006 the percentages of those employed by Socio-Economic group were: Professional/Managerial @ 33.3% (16,140), Non-Manual @ 23% (11,118), Manual/Semi-Skilled/Unskilled @ 27% (12,945), Own Account @ 5.7% (2,776), Farmers @ 5.6% (2,726), Not Stated @ 5.7%. and in 2011 the respective percentages were 36.0% (16,500); 24% (11,090); 21% (9,495); 6% (2,738); 7.7% (3,514), Not Stated @ 5.3%. (Source: CSO Census of Population Special Request)</p> <p>In 2006 the percentages of those employed by Education Level were: Lower Secondary or Less @ 25.1% (12,187), Upper Secondary @ 35.0% (16,767), 3rd. Level + @ 36.7% (17,803), Not Stated @ 3.6% and in 2011, the respective percentages were 19.1% (8,727); 39.6% (18,086); 37.6% (17,159); 3.7%. (Source: CSO Census of Population Special Request)</p>				
6 Year Target	<p>Professional/Managerial (38%), Non-Manual (25%), Manual/Skilled/Unskilled (18.0%), Own Account (6%), Farmers (6.5%) Not Stated (5.3%) Lower Secondary or Less (14%), Upper Secondary (42.0%), 3rd. Level (40.0%), Not Stated (3.7%)</p>				
Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
e5.1	Increase 3 rd . level participation rates particularly in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)	<p>No. of Clare participants in 'Young Scientist' Awards</p> <p>No Primary Schools in Primary Science Fair</p> <p>No Schools in 'LEGO in Education' Project</p> <p>No. of third level students in STEM Subjects</p>	Clare Education Centre Mid-West and West/North-West Regional Clusters		'16 – '21
e5.2	Increase Fourth level achievement rates	No. of fourth level students	Mid-West and West/North-West Regional Clusters		'16 – '21
e5.3	Develop apprenticeship programmes relevant to the needs of businesses and skilling the labour force	<p>Gaps in current provision identified</p> <p>Two initiatives piloted</p>	LCETB	Ennis Chamber	'16 – '21
e5.4	Deliver programmes for continual development in business, organisation mgmt	<p>No. of professional development programmes</p> <p>No. of skills development programmes</p> <p>No. of organisation management programmes</p>	EI	Ennis Chamber	'16 – '21
e5.5	Provide the county's adult population with relevant education/training to increase their qualification/skills to compete for job opportunities	<p>No. of people in further education</p> <p>No programmes that address key National and Regional skills</p> <p>No. of job-related training programmes</p> <p>No. Learner supports provided (e.g. Referrals /placements/disability supports) that address barriers to participation, retention and progression.</p> <p>No. tailored programmes that meet learners, employers and communities' needs</p> <p>No. Network meetings to identify needs/ avoid duplication/ enhance integration</p>	LCETB/ LCDC (SICAP)		'16 – '21

Theme: Economic Development, Employment and Enterprise

High Level Goal 4: An Economy, whose resource base offers economic/comparative advantage.

Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDO)		SEDO 6: Increase the population and skills profile of towns and villages with population less than 1,000 so that they can act more effectively as rural economic hubs			
Current Benchmark	<p>Between 2006 and 2011, the aggregate population of towns > 1,000 increased from 46,290 (42.3% of Co. Pop) to 50,226 (42.9% County Pop.) or an average of 0.1% of the Co. Pop per annum. The % employed in hotels/restaurants increased from 6.9% to 7.5% while employment in private services (banking/real estate) remained constant at 11.8%. Employment in public/community/personal services increased from 20.7% to 23.1%. Third Level education among those whose education had ceased increased from 28.7% to 33.8%.</p> <p>Over the same period, the number living in Towns and Villages with populations of 500- 1,000 increased from 7,491 (6.8% of Co. Pop) to 8,684 (7.4% of Co. Pop) or an average of 0.1% of the Co. Pop per annum. The % employed in hotels/restaurants decreased from 11.1% to 10.4% while employment in private services (banking/real estate) decreased from 9.8% to 9.3%. Employment in public/community/personal services increased from 21.9% to 24.7%. Third Level education among those whose education had ceased increased from 26.1% to 34.7%.</p> <p>Over the same period, the number living in Towns and Villages with populations of <500 increased from 3,517 (3.2% of Co. Pop) to 4,060 (3.5% of Co. Pop) or an average of 0.06% of the Co. Pop per annum. The % employed in hotels/restaurants was unchanged at 8.3 % while employment in private services (banking/real estate) increased from 7.6% to 10.3% and employment in public/community/personal services increased from 22.8% to 25.7%. Third Level education among those whose education had ceased increased from 24.9% to 34.2%.</p> <p>(Source: CSO Census of Population Special Request)</p>				
6 Year Target	<p>Achieve Mid-West Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) targets for the County's additional population by 2022 over that of 2006 for the Hub Town of Ennis (+8,700), service towns of Kilrush (+1,300), Ennistymon (+1,500) and Scarriff (+700) of which by 2016, population increases will be Kilrush (+853), Ennistymon (+984) Scarriff (+459).</p> <p>In towns where population is >1,000, % employment by sector will be: hotels/restaurants (8.5%), private services/banking/real estate (12.5%), public/community/personal services (27%). Third level education will be 42%.</p> <p>8.5% of the County's population will be living in Towns/Villages in the 500-1,000 category, % employment by sector will be: hotels/restaurants (12.5%), private services/banking/real estate (10%), public/ community/ personal services (27.5%). Third level education will be 43%.</p> <p>4.25% of the County's population will be living in Towns/Villages in the < 500 category, % employment by sector will be: hotels/restaurants (10%), private services/banking/real estate (12.5%), public/ community/ personal services (29%). Third level education will be 43%.</p>				
Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
e6.1	<i>Undertake a socio-economic analysis of a number of the county's towns and villages and prepare a plan to improve their quality of life and their ability to act as catalysts for the economic regeneration of their rural hinterland</i>	<i>Socio-economic analysis completed and opportunities identified Prepare plans for two towns and six villages Vacancy rates reduced</i>	CCC		2017

Theme: Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing

High Level Goal 5: A Society that is Inclusive and cherishes People’s Health, Participation and Solidarity.

Sustainable Community Objectives (SCO)	<i>SCO1: Ensure adequate benchmarking data and adequate co-ordinated, proofed, monitored delivery of social inclusion supports</i>
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Current Benchmark	<i>Not Applicable</i>
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6 Year Target	<i>Not Applicable</i>
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Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
q1.1	<i>Establish a structure within the LCDC and the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC to co-ordinate, monitor, review and proof the delivery of all the ‘Quality of Life, Health & Wellbeing’, ‘Education & Training’ Actions and arrange benchmarking research where necessary</i>	<i>Terms of Reference agreed Membership identified Structure established and, where necessary, benchmarking research undertaken.</i>	<i>LCDC /Leader LAG, SPC</i>		<i>2016</i>

Theme: Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing

High Level Goal 5: A Society that is Inclusive and cherishes People's Health, Participation and Solidarity.

Sustainable Community Objectives (SCO)	<p>SCO 2: Reduce the number of 'Deprived' and 'Very Deprived' Small Areas (Haase-Pratschke Index definition) Reduce the number of individuals experiencing 'Consistent Poverty' (both 'At risk of 'Poverty' or experiencing 'Basic Deprivation') Reduce the number of 'Jobless Households' and the number of 'Jobless Households with a Child'</p>				
Current Benchmark	<p>In 2013, 8.2% (376,653) of the National Population was in 'Consistent Poverty' (both 'At Risk of Income Poverty' and Experiencing 'Material Deprivation'). Since Clare has an Affluence/Deprivation score that is similar to the National average and since Clare has 2.56% of the National Population it is estimated that 9,500 people in the county are in 'Consistent Poverty'. The highest rates of 'Consistent Poverty' are experienced by 'Unemployed' (24%), 'Lone Parent Family with a Child' (<18 yrs) (23%), 'People Renting below Market Rate' (23%) – usually Local Authority Tenants, People in 'Households where no one works' (20%) – usually described as 'Jobless Households'. (Source: CSO Survey Income and Living Conditions – 2013 SILC).</p> <p>In 2011, the County had 8 'Very Deprived' Small Areas, 48 'Deprived' Small Areas (SAs) and 4 'Deprived' Electoral Divisions (EDs), with some of the former contained in the latter. When they are considered in a mutually exclusive manner, these Deprived areas contained 12.4% of the Co. Population, 13.1% of Co. Households, 23.4% of the Co. Unemployed and 49.1% of houses rented from either Local Authority or Voluntary Housing Associations. While the Co. Unemployment Rate was 18.8% it was 36.8% in the Deprived SAs and EDs. While 6% of the Co. Houses were rented from the Local Authority or Voluntary Housing Associations 23% were rented from such bodies in the Deprived SAs and EDs. (Source: Trutz Haase Data Request)</p> <p>In 2011, there were 32,549 'Working Age Households' (at least one Adult < 65 years) in the county and of these 6,978 (16.4%) were 'Jobless Households' and of these, 2,604 (37.3%) were 'Jobless households with at least one Child' (<18 yrs.). It needs to be borne in mind that the Adult of working age may not be in the Labourforce as they may have been: 'Unable to work'; 'Engaged in Home Duties'; 'Retired < 65 yrs'; 'Mature Students'. (Source: CSO Census Population 2011 Special Request)</p>				
6 Year Target	<p>< 2% (approx. 2,530) of the County's projected 2020 population will be in 'Consistent Poverty' (EU 2020 target) 6 Small Areas less will be 'Deprived' and 'Very Deprived' and < 10% of Co Pop living in Deprived SAs and EDs. > 9% and > 10% annual reduction in the number of 'Jobless Households' and 'Jobless Households with a Child' (<18 yrs).</p>				
Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
q2.1	<p>Implement local and community development programmes/services in the County for the benefit of those living in 'deprived communities' or who are members of disadvantaged communities or are 'at risk' of poverty and/or experiencing 'basic deprivation' having regard to Equality and Diversity e.g. LDS, SICAP, County Childcare Strategy, Sports Partnership Strategic Plan, Clare Youth Strategy, Intreo, LCETB Strategic Framework, FRCs, Clare Women's Network</p>	<p>LDS and SICAP targets achieved</p> <p>Various Strategies Developed and Implemented</p>	<p>LCDC (SICAP) LCDC/Leader LAG</p>	<p>FRCs, Clare Women's Network, Co. Childcare Committee, CSP, LCETB, DSP, CYS</p>	<p>'16 – '21</p>
q2.2	<p>Deliver RAPID type inter-agency interventions where deprived Small Areas are clustered</p>	<p>Two RAPID-type inter-agency interventions in clusters of deprived small areas</p>	<p>LCDC (SICAP)</p>		

Theme: Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing

High Level Goal 5: A Society that is Inclusive and cherishes People's Health, Participation and Solidarity.

Sustainable Community Objectives (SCO)		SCO 3: Reduce Unemployment levels in the County			
Current Benchmark	<p>Clare Live Register numbers in April 2011 (10,419) were similar to the number of unemployed in the Census of Population in April 2011 (10,542). By April 2015 the Live Register dropped by 25.1% to 7,800 6.3% annually) and by a further 6.3% to 7,309 in the half-year to Sept 2015. (Source: CSO Live Register)</p> <p>In 2011, unemployed by education achieved was: Lower Secondary or less (35.2%); Upper secondary (43.0%); 3rd level (17.1%); Not Stated (4.7%) (Source: CSO Census Population 2011 Special Request)</p> <p>In 2011 there was a 40.9% Unemployment rate among the 18-24 year olds. (Total Labourforce was 4,484, of which 1,836 were unemployed) (Source: CSO Census Population 2011 Special Request)</p>				
6 Year Target	<p>>6.3% average annual decline in the Live Register <20% (Lower Secondary or less), <40% (Upper Secondary), > 35% (3rd Level); < 4.5% (Not Stated) < 25% Unemployment rate among the 18-24 year olds</p>				
Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
q3.1	Pursue labour market activation programmes that benefit the unemployed	<p>SICAP targets achieved</p> <p>INTREO targets achieved</p> <p>Number on TUS, RSS and CE Programmes</p> <p>Number in Further Education and Labour Activation Programmes (e.g. BTWEA/Gateway/Jobpath)</p>	LCDC (SICAP), DSP, LCETB		'16 – '21
q3.2	Increase qualifications and skills of the unemployed especially the long-term unemployed (>1 Year) and unemployed young people (18-24)	<p>No. of LTU supports provided for education and skilling</p> <p>No. of supports provided to unemployed young people (18-24) for employment, enterprise education or training</p>	DSP, LCETB, LCDC (SICAP)		'16 – '21
q3.3	Support county-level Network of Men's Sheds and Network of Women's Groups Support the engagement of Long-term unemployed men and women on Labour Market Activation Programmes within structures where they are comfortable	<p>Networks Established</p> <p>No. of programmes</p> <p>No. of participants</p>	Irish Men's Sheds Association, Women's Network	LCETB	'16 – '21
q3.4	Support disadvantaged infants, children and young people to complete secondary education	Number of disadvantaged infants, disadvantaged children and disadvantaged young people completing secondary level	LCDC (SICAP)		
q3.5	Reduce intergenerational, long-term unemployment	<p>No. expectant mothers from disadvantaged communities</p> <p>No. disadvantaged infants supported</p> <p>No. of disadvantaged children < 12 yrs supported</p>	LCDC (SICAP)	FRCs	'16 – '21

Theme: Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing

High Level Goal 5: A Society that is Inclusive and cherishes People's Health, Participation and Solidarity.

Sustainable Community Objectives (SCO) *SCO4: Improve the well-being and quality of life of the people of the County, especially of those who are most vulnerable.*

Current Benchmark
 In 2011, **CSO Census Population 2011, Special Request** indicated that : 26.7% (1,295) of all Unemployed **Young People** aged 15- 34 (4,850) had education of 'lower secondary or less'; 2,604 'Jobless Households with Child' (one Adult <65yrs and one Child <18 yrs)' contained 5,178: 6,978 'Jobless Households' (one Adult <65 yrs) contained 10,443 adults, all of whom were <65yrs; 2.0% approx. (2,181) of the population experienced 'Psychological Distress' as defined in Q. 16 (f) of Census 2011; 4.4% (5,154) of the population experienced 'Social Isolation' as defined in Q. 17 (d) of Census 2011); 13.7% (1,989) of the population 65+ lived alone in the 'open countryside' (EDs with no towns or village with pop >125)
 In 2011, Tusla Clare referred 1,322 families with 1,506 children to family support services and in 2014 had a caseload of 1,750 families with 1,802 children. **Source: Tusla Clare**
 Between 2010 and 2015, there were; 369 Elder Abuse referrals to the Local Health Office (LHO), of which 115 were substantiated as Physical abuse (13), Psychological abuse (68), Financial abuse (16) and Neglect (18) and in 2014, Clare LHO provided training/ awareness of elder abuse for 301 people. **Source: HSE Elder Abuse Services, 2014**

6 Year Target
 < 20% of unemployed young people (15 – 34) with 'lower secondary or less' education.
 < 2,000 'Jobless Households with at least one Adult <65 yrs and one Child (<18 yrs)' and < 4,000 children living in them.
 < 5,500 'Jobless Households with at least one Adult <65 yrs' < 8,230 working age (18-65) adults living in them.
 < 1.5% of the population experiencing 'Psychological Distress' (Defined as Q. 16 (f) in Census 2011)
 < 4.0% of the population experiencing 'Social Isolation' (Defined as Q. 17 (d) in Census 2011).
 < **11.7%** of the population 65+ living in the 'Open Countryside'.
 In relation to 'Children at Risk' there will be a pro rata contribution to National targets of: 60% reduction in cases awaiting allocation to social worker; < 5% of High Priority cases will be awaiting allocation to social worker; 100% of children in residential care and in foster care will be allocated a social worker

Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
q4.1	Undertake a longitudinal study of the County's Health, Well-Being and Quality of Life	Survey completed Findings published	LCDC		2016-2019
q4.2	Support older people to continue living as valued members of the community, recognising their contribution and heeding their needs	Annual recognition/awards in place Actions in Age-Friendly Strategy delivered Countywide Tri-Annual consultations	Age- Friendly Alliance Board		

q4.3	Support young people (<18 yrs.) and young adults (18-25 yrs.) in the county to live as valued members of the community, recognising their contribution, heeding their particular needs and supporting their right to have a say in decisions which affect them	No. of relevant items on which young people are consulted No. of events where young people and decision makers meet formally and informally to discuss young people's concerns	CYS	Comhairle Na nÓg – Younger Voices	'16 – '21
q4.4	Support youth projects, groups and clubs to continue to offer information and educational opportunities for young people and young adults on a countywide basis	No Youth Clubs supported No of Youth Groups supported No of Youth Projects delivered	CYS		'16 – '21
q4.5	Support initiatives that foster positive mental health of the people of the County	No. of mental health initiatives No. Peer-led initiatives	Ennis Mental Health Association	Shine	'16 – '21
q4.6	Support inter-agency co-ordination and collaboration to achieve best outcomes for all Children and Young People	CYPSC established Staffing in place and Workplan developed Work plan implemented	Tusla	CCC	2016 2016 2020
q4.7	Support the improvement of the Health and Wellbeing of the population of the County	Clare 'Healthy Ireland' Working Group established Action Plan developed Action Plan Implemented	HSE – Health Promotion	CSP	'16 – '21
q4.8	Support vulnerable adults	No. of referrals and preliminary screenings to 'Safeguarding and Protection Teams' of HSE in relation to Vulnerable adults No of participants on awareness raising sessions in relation to: Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse; National Policy; Procedures 2014	HSE – Safeguarding and Protection Team		'16 – '21
q4.9	Support the provision of and access to community-based mental health and the recovery of people who experience mental health difficulties and their families	Indicators to be developed	HSE – Mental Health Services	Clare Mental Health Assocs.	'16 – '21
q4.10	Support people who experience difficulty in returning to the labourforce	No. of supports provided for those not in the labourforce	DSP		'16 – '21

q4.11	Support people whose employment is vulnerable	No. training interventions for vulnerable employees No. collaborations with employers to address skills gaps No. Awareness and Promotional activities to develop an ethos of lifelong learning in the workplace, especially among those with low educational qualifications No. Promotional events aimed at increasing the use of existing, new and emerging technologies to enhance the range of teaching and learning opportunities	LCETB		'16 – '21
q4.12	Support people who are living in remote locations/isolated circumstances	No. of social activities developed No. passenger trips generated No. of transport initiatives provided and people availing of them and locations/facilities served by each No. communities served by transport initiatives	Age-Friendly CAT CAT CAT		'16 – '21
q4.13	Develop specific supports for Children (12-18 yrs) who are 'at risk of' or have been cautioned by the Juvenile Liaison Officer (JLO)	No. of initiatives developed No. of Children participating in initiatives	CYS	Gardaí /JLO's	'16 – '21
q4.14	Support/address the collective/shared needs of people with disabilities, lone parents, travellers, Roma and new communities	No. of organisations of disadvantaged communities that are developed	LCDC (SICAP)		'16 – '17
q4.15	Address the collective disadvantage of people with Disabilities, People from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Communities, People who are Lone Parents, People from the Traveller Community, People from the Roma Community and People from the New Communities	No. of initiatives working at the collective level of the disadvantaged community No. of sustainable, self-organising, self-advocacy groups developed	LCDC (SICAP)		'16 – '21
q4.16	Provide restorative justice interventions and mentoring for young people and young adults referred by the Courts	No. of 'restorative'/mentoring partnerships developed No. Liaisons/partnerships with addiction services/homeless services/community and voluntary groups No. of Young People (< 18 years) and Young Adults (18-24 yrs) participating in community services	Young Persons' Probation Service. Adult Probation Service.	CYS/ Le Chéile	'16 – '21
q4.17	Support the educational, training and employment needs of young adults referred by the Courts	No. young adults engaged in educational/training/employment supports	Adult Probation Service.	Irish Association for Social Integration of Offenders- (IASIO).	

Theme: Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing

High Level Goal 6: A Society where People, Neighbourhoods and Communities are Safe, Secure and Active.

Sustainable Community Objectives (SCO) *SCO 5: Create a Quality Community and Social environment where people are safe, secure and active both physically and socially.*

Current Benchmark
 In 2015 there were: 1,055 'Theft/related offences'; 620 'Public order and other social code offences'; 355 'Controlled drug offences'; 429 'Damage to property/environment'; 385 'Burglary/related offences'; 356 'Attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harassments';
(Source: AGS)
 In 2015, the County's Participation rate in Sport was 41.5% (Nationally 46%), Sedentary Rate 12.5% (Nationally 13.2%), Participation by Social Class AB (44.1%); C¹ (52.3%); C² (35.6%); DE (33.7%) and F (20.4%)
(Source: Clare Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2016 -2018)

6 Year Target
 5% overall reduction by 2020 in the number of 'theft/related offences' and 'burglary/related offences' .
 By 2020, Participation rate in Sport (46%), Sedentary rate (10%), Social inclusion as measured by Class DE participation rate (37%)

Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
q5.1	Support the work of the Joint Policing Committee in preventing crime, protecting vulnerable members of the community and addressing anti-social behaviour	No. of crime prevention initiatives Crime statistics Regional Drug and Alcohol Strategy implemented	AGS HSE – Drug and Alcohol Service		'16 – '21
q5.2	Support community initiatives to prevent crime and to achieve a sense of social security and personal safety	No. of community initiatives (Community Alert/Text Alert etc.) aimed at preventing crime in the county No. of communities engaged	AGS	Age-Friendly Alliance	'16 – '21
q5.3	Support the provision of recreational/health/sporting/social inclusion activities	No. of physical/recreational/ health programmes and activities No Persons participating in Sport No sedentary people No. Social Inclusion target groups No. 'Active' Social Inclusion Participants as defined by Class DE.	Clare Sports Partnership	HSE-Health Promotion	'16 – '21
q5.4	Support volunteering, volunteers and their infrastructural needs.	No. of community groups who avail of volunteer management training and supports No. of volunteers registered and referred	Clare Volunteer Centre		'16 – '21

Theme: Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing

High Level Goal 7: A Society that is Socially and Physically Connected

Sustainable Community Objectives (SCO) | **SCO 6: Increase ICT, Transport and Social Infrastructural Provision**

Current Benchmark | **6.1** In 2011, **27.3%** (11,605) and **28.9%** (12,313), respectively, of All households (42,534) inclusive of 'Not Stated', had '**No Computer**' and '**No Broadband**'.
6.2 Research the County's Transport Infrastructure (Physical infrastructure, Routes , Vehicles, Timetable, Shelters, etc)

6 Year Target | **6.1** < **20%** of all Households will be without a Computer or without a Broadband connection.
6.2 Targets will be developed on completion of Research

Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
q6.1	<i>Pilot group broadband schemes in black-spots</i>	<i>Number Leader Initiatives</i>	<i>LCDC /Leader LAG</i>		<i>'16 – '21</i>
q6.2	<i>Support plans to enhance the County's physical connectivity e.g. Limerick Northern Distributor Road, River Crossing at Ballina/Killaloe</i>	<i>Strategic Route Development within and in association with neighbouring Road Authorities to facilitate achievement of Area, County and Regional Development Plan objectives</i>	<i>CCC/ Roads</i>	<i>Neighbouring Road Authorities where projects are cross boundary.</i>	<i>2021</i>
q6.3	<i>Support sustainable transport initiatives complementing existing public/ private transport services and the provision of associated infrastructure including stops, shelters, services and timetables</i>	<i>No. of transport initiatives provided and people availing of these. No. of locations/facilities served No. of communities served and passenger trips generated No. transferring between services at connecting points No and location of bus stops/shelters installed with timetable and service information</i>	<i>CAT</i>		<i>'16 – '21</i>
q6.4	<i>Support the enhancements of community facilities and extend the range of usage</i>	<i>The no. and quality of community facilities The quality and range of activities in community facilities</i>	<i>LCDC /Leader LAG</i>		<i>'16 – '21</i>

Theme: Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing

High Level Goal 8: A Society that is Culturally Rich with Strong Identities

Sustainable Community Objectives (SCO) *SCO 7: Strengthen the County's Culture and its Communities' Cultures and related Infrastructure and the County's and its Communities' Built Heritage*

Current Benchmark Research the cultural identities and creative/cultural activities of the County and its Communities.
Clare has: c.6,500 Recorded Archaeological Monuments 848 Protected Structures and 34 ACAs (Architectural Conservation Areas).
In 2008, 33 structures were conserved by means of Central Government (Dept. Arts Heritage and Gaeltacht) Grant-aid of €293,400. The grant scheme was discontinued until 2012. In 2016 the grant scheme reached €50,000.

6 Year Target Targets to be set when Research Completed

Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
q7.1	Support the work of the library service by; developing a single central facility for its work; developing a service to support enterprise and the knowledge economy; managing, preserving and making available the local and national culture of the county; enhancing access and social inclusion	Central cultural facility developed. Enterprise support initiatives Knowledge Economy initiatives Local and national cultural artefacts. Participation in cultural activities e.g. Ennis Book Club Festival Access to facilities Inclusion principles embedded in service delivery	CCC/ Library		'16 – '21
q7.2	Support the growth of the arts in our communities and the work of artists including cultural infrastructure	No. projects annually underway No. grants allocated and average amount	CCC/ Arts Office		'16 – '21
q7.3	Support place-making initiatives that enhance our towns, villages and rural communities e.g. Ennis 2020 Plan	Place-making initiatives	CCC/ Planning, LCDC		'16 – '21
q7.4	Develop and protect the county's sites of built heritage and historic importance to the benefit of communities and visitors to the county (e.g. Scattery Island, Holy Island) and provide a matched Conservation Grant Scheme between Central Government and Clare County Council	Level of funding No. of historic structures repaired	CCC/ Planning,	LCDC / Leader LAG	'16 – '21

Theme: Training and Education

High Level Goal 9: A Learning environment that addresses educational disadvantage and achieves High Educational Participation rates.

Sustainable Community Objectives (SCO)		SCO 8: Increase participation and achievement rates at second and third level			
Current Benchmark		<p>In 2006, 1,178 (12.1%) of the people aged 18-24 (9,729) had 'Lower Secondary and Less' education. In 2011, 1,461 (15.9%) of the people aged 18-24 (9,183) had 'Lower Secondary and Less' education, 5,316 (57.9%) had Upper Secondary, 1,958 (21.3%) had 3rd. Level + and 448 (4.9%) were not Stated. (Source: CSO Census Population 2011 Special Request).</p> <p>In 2006, 3,473 (40.3%) of the people aged 30-34 (8,614) had completed 3rd. level +. In 2011, 3,644 (41.9%) of the people aged 30-34 (8,699) had completed 3rd. level +, compared to 49.7% Nationally (National Reform Programme 2015), Primary or Less 347 (4.0%), Lower Sec 826 (9.5%), Upper Secondary 3,571 (41.1%) and Not Stated 311 (3.6%). (Source: CSO Census Population 2011 Special Request)</p>			
6 Year Target		<p><8% of 18-24 year olds will have Lower Secondary or Less (EU 2020 Target). >50% of 30-34 year olds will have 3rd. Level+ while 60% is the EU 2020 Target.</p>			
Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
t1.1	Implement a range of post secondary and third level access programmes	Working group formed % Non-traditional entrants No. in Higher Education Access Routes (HEAR) and in Disability Access Routes to Education (DARE) % of first year drop outs	Mid-West and West/North-West Regional Clusters	Secondary School Principals, LCETB	'16 – '21
t1.2	Support the mental wellbeing (healthier life) of the county's young people (12 to 18) which, in addition, will help them to remain in and progress through the education system	Number of young people participating in clubs, groups and projects Number of mental wellbeing specific programmes delivered	CYS	LCDC (SICAP), Ennis Mental Health Assoc	'16 – '21
t1.3	Provide in-school supports to primary and secondary students, teachers and staff in need of developmental and educational supports.	No of Teacher Supports (eg. Incredible Years) No Teachers and pre-school staff availing of CPD No. of developmental and educational interventions and support programmes	Clare Education Centre	LCDC (SICAP)	'16 – '21

Theme: Education & Training

High Level Goal 10: A Learning environment with Broad Participation in Further/Higher Education, Continual learning and Development.

Sustainable Community Objectives (SCO) **SCO 9: Increase participation levels in Further/Higher Education, Continual learning and Development**

Current Benchmark In 2011, there were 5,344 people in Further Education Awards (Levels 1 to 6). This dropped to 5,025 (2012), 3,988 (2013), 3,865 (2014), and 3,002 (2015) and as a percentage of all National Awards (Levels 1 to 6) fell from 1.60% (2011) to 1.21% (2015).

6 Year Target Work towards a 12% increase over 6 years to achieve 3,362 people in Clare Further Education working towards awards at Level 1 to 6 (representing 1.35% of National Awards (Level 1 to 6) in 2021.

Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
t2.1	Support innovative developmental initiatives that encourage, empower and incentivise individuals to consider, engage with and participate in learning opportunities, regardless of their age	No. of innovative initiatives developed. No of individuals engaged	LCDC (SICAP), LCDC/Leader LAG		'16 – '21
t2.2	Deliver programmes of Further Education to people who are employed, unemployed or who are outside the labour force, regardless of their age	No of Further Education programmes delivered. No of participants by employed, unemployed, outside the labourforce	LCETB		'16 – '21
t2.3	Deliver programmes of Continual learning and Development to people, regardless of their age	No of continual learning and development programmes delivered	LCETB		'16 – '21

Theme: Research and Development

High Level Goal 11: Exploit the Enterprise/Social/Academic partnerships.

Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDO) *SEDO 7: Increase Academic/Sectoral Collaborative Research and Development in the Enterprise and Social sectors and its respective commercialisation and application.*

Current Benchmark: Current Benchmark to be established.

6 Year Target Targets will be set when benchmarking completed

Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
r1.1	Support the development of collaborations between third level institutions and key industries	No. joint R&D collaborations in the enterprise sector	Enterprise Ireland, Mid-West and West/ North-West Regional Clusters		'16 – '21
r1.2	Support the commercialisation of R & D activity by converting the results into viable enterprises	Level of commercialisation achieved	Enterprise Ireland – Commercialisation Division		'16 – '21
r1.3	Support the expansion of supply-chain activity by encouraging smaller enterprises to service larger ones	No. of supply chain activities developed	Enterprise Ireland – Global Sourcing Team	Ennis Chamber	'16 – '21
r1.4	Support the development of collaborations between third level institutions and social sectors/organisations	No. of collaborations in the social sector	Mid-West and West/ North-West Regional Clusters		'16 – '21
r1.5	Examine root causes of poverty and social exclusion and identify best practice in addressing and monitoring interventions	Report prepared including case studies of best practice	LCDC	Mid-West and West/ North-West Regional Clusters, PPN, FRCs, Tusla, LCETB, Clare Women's Network, CYS	'16 – '21

Theme: Climate Change and Energy

High Level Goal 12: In Terms of Energy Use – Reduce Greenhouse Gases and Increase its Efficiency.

Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDO) *SEDO 8: Reduce Energy use and reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Increase the efficiency of energy use.*

Current Benchmark: In 2010, there were **3,669 GWh/y** of energy used in the County.
Source: County Clare Energy & Emissions Balance, 2012, LCEA
 At the end of 2015, there were 26 e-charging points in the county. **Source: ESB, 2016**

6 Year Target **It is estimated that County Clare energy use will be 3,638 GWh/y** in line with the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan and the National Renewable Energy Action Plan 4 and as set out in Clare Renewable Energy Strategy 2014 – 2020.
 There is a target **reduction of 20%** in Greenhouse Gas emissions arising from economic and social activity in all sectors. Monitoring and reporting on GHG reductions is administered by EPA (**EU 2020 Target**)
 There will be an increase in energy use **efficiency of 20%**, administered by SEAI (**EU 2020 Target**)
 50 public e-charging points in the county.

Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
c1.1	<i>As a means of de-carbonising the economic and social sectors, thus reducing Greenhouse Gases, we will support the increased use of renewable energy in the Transport, Residential, Commercial and Agricultural sectors</i>	<i>The County’s contribution to the National target of Renewables constituting 16% of final energy consumption as established by the County’s Energy and Emissions Balance Number of electric vehicles</i>	EPA, LCEA	LCDC/ Leader LAG, SEAI, Teagasc, Chambers Commerce	2021
c1.2	<i>Support energy efficiency in industry and communal programmes at town and village level and in households</i>	<i>Demonstrable progress towards 20% increase in energy efficiency Number of large industries in ‘Large Industries Energy Network’ (LIEN)</i>	LCEA SEAI	LCDC/ Leader LAG, SEAI, Chambers of Commerce	2021
c1.3	<i>Support public sector bodies to achieve energy efficiency targets in their use of energy and support them in adopting energy management systems (e.g. ISO 50001)</i>	<i>Demonstrable progress towards 33% increase in energy efficiency in public bodies as set out in National targets</i>	LCEA, CCC/ Environment	SEAI	2021

Theme: Climate Change and Energy

High Level Goal 13: In Terms of Energy Production – Increase the Production of Renewable Energy

Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDO)

SEDO 9: Expand renewable energy production in the County

Current Benchmark:

There was 108 GWh/y (**2.9% of final use**) of renewable energy produced in the County in 2010.

Source: Clare Renewable Energy Strategy 2014-2020

6 Year Target

The Clare Renewable Energy Strategy has identified a target of 3,529 GWh/y (**97% of final use**) for renewable energy produced in the County as the county's contribution to the National Target of renewables contributing **16% of final use. (EU 2020 Target)**

Strategic Actions

Indicators

Lead

Partners

Timeline

c2.1

Support on-land and off-shore renewable energy production by a range of appropriate technologies

*The County's contribution to National target of Renewables constituting 16% of final energy use (Co's Energy/Emissions Balance)
Number of permissions granted for renewable energy development*

CCC/ Planning,
LCEA

LCDC/ Leader
LAG

2021

Theme: Climate Change and Energy

High Level Goal 14: Proactively address Climate Change and Climate Action

Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDO) *SEDO 10: Create a county that is responsive to climate change and acts as a custodian of our natural heritage and biodiversity.*

Current Benchmark: **No Climate Change Adaptation Plan in place**
No Climate Change Mitigation Plan in place.
 In 2015, there were 45 Geological Heritage Sites (8,327ha.); 10 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (2,319ha.); 37 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) (85,354ha.); 14 Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) (3,046ha.); 61 proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs)(63,960ha.); 150 Ancient and Long Established Woodlands (817ha.); 114 Native Woodlands (1,185 ha.); 290 Wetland Areas many of which are not protected under National or European designation; 584km of Walking Routes; 213km Cycling Routes.
 2 Green Infrastructural Plans Developed.

6 Year Target
 Climate Change Adaptation Plan
 Climate Change Mitigation Plan

Strategic Actions		Indicators	Lead	Partners	Timeline
c3.1	Support awareness of and responses to Climate Change and to environmental quality (Air and Water Quality)	No. of Environmental Awareness Programmes No. Climate Change Awareness Programmes. No. Climate Change Responses Air and Water Quality	CCC/ Environment	LCDC, LCEA	2021
c3.2	Develop and deliver a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the County	Plan developed and actions being delivered	CCC/ Environment	EPA	2016
c3.3	Develop and deliver a Climate Change Mitigation Plan for the County	Plan developed and actions being delivered	CCC/ Environment	LCEA, EPA	2016
c3.4	Support awareness of and protect/enhance and, where appropriate, contribute to the substantial recovery of the county's Natural Heritage and Biodiversity	No. Natural Heritage and Biodiversity awareness programmes No. Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Enhancement Programmes	CCC/ Planning	NPWS	'16 – '21
c3.5	Support the development of the County's environmental and green infrastructure e.g. the Shannon Green Infrastructure Plan	No. Environmental and Green Infrastructure Projects completed	CCC/ Planning	NPWS, LCDC/Leader LAG	2021

9. Consistency of LECP and Equality/Diversity Proofing

It is a statutory requirement in accordance with section 66 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, that the LECP be consistent with the Mid-West Regional Planning Guidelines (MWRPGs) and the core strategy of the County Development Plan (CDP) and that both the community and economic elements of the plan are aligned (see 9.1 below). Reference is also made to the Mid West Action Plan for Jobs (MWAPJ)

The LECP is equality and diversity-proofed in order to establish whether any of the actions contained within it contravene any of the grounds of discrimination. Circular letter LG 1/2015 AL 1/2015 advises that regard should be had to the need to promote and mainstream equality and to consider a level of equality proofing of the plan. Section 9.2 provides a statement which examines the impacts of the LECP actions in terms of the nine grounds of discrimination.

9.1. Consistency of LECP with Core Strategy of the CDP and RPG

The following tables indicate how the LECP High-Level Goals, Objectives and Actions are aligned with corresponding Actions from the;

- Mid West regional Planning Guidelines (MWRPGs)2010 -2022
- Draft Clare County Development Plan (CDP)2017 – 2023 (January 2016)
- Mid West Action Plan for Jobs (MWAPJ) 2015 - 2017

Theme: Economic Development, Employment and Enterprise				
High Level Goal: An Economic culture that is pro-enterprise/pro-entrepreneur.				
SEDO 1: Ensure adequate benchmarking data and ensure adequate, co-ordinated, proofed and monitored delivery of enterprise development supports.				
LECP Strategic Actions		MWRPGs '10 – '22	CDP '17 – '23	MWAPJ 2015 - 2017
e1.1	<i>Establish a structure within the LCDC and the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC to co-ordinate, monitor, review and proof the delivery of all the 'Economic Development, Employment and Enterprise', 'Research and Development' and 'Climate Change and Energy' Actions and arrange benchmarking research where necessary</i>		<i>Section 2.3 (Pg 15) Relevant Plans, Policies and Strategies. CDP 5.2 (Pg 67) CDP Section 20 (Pgs 288-292)</i>	<i>Actions 10,11,12</i>

High Level Goal: An Economic market attractive to Investors and Entrepreneurs				
SEDO 2: Increase the number of micro- enterprises (<10 employees) and their related employment				
LECP Strategic Actions		MWRPGs '10 – '22	CDP '17 – '23	MWAPI 2015 – 2017
e2.1	Implement the LEO Action Plan for Enterprise start-ups	Sections 4.1.3 (Pg 61), 4.1.6 (Pg 61) , 4.1.7(Pg 61), 4.2 (Pg 62) Development Plan Implications for Industry and Enterprise (Pgs 62-64)	CDP 6.1 & 6.2 (Pg 85) CDP 6.12 (Pg 92) CDP 6.19-23 (Pgs 95-97) CDP 6.25 & 6.26 (Pg 98) CDP 7.10 (Pg 106) CDP 9.1-9.5 (Pgs 149-152) CDP 9.9-9.11 (Pgs 154, 155) CDP 9.15-9.19 (Pgs 157,158) CDP 10.2-10.3 (Pg 167, 168) CDP 10.8, 10.9 Pgs 172, 173) CDP 11.9, 11.10 (Pg 185) CDP 12.7, 12.8 (Pg 194) CDP 12.10, 12.11 (Pgs 196)	Actions 3,4,8,11,12, 14,15,16 (Pgs 46,-49) Action 18 (Pg 49) Action 20 (Pg 50) Actions 24,32 (Pgs 52,53) Action 43,45 (Pg60) Actions 74,75, 76,79,80,81,82 (Pg 69) Action 84 (Pg 71) Action 122 (Pg 82) Actions 132, 134 (Pg 88) Action 149 (Pg 93)
e2.2	Implement the LDS support programme for micro-enterprise			
e2.3	Implement the LDS support programme for tourism enterprise development			
e2.4	Promote, support and develop specific locations for smaller scale foreign direct investment through the Connect Ireland initiative			
e2.5	Support the development of the food sector i.e. development of a county food brand and food enterprises			
e2.6	Support the development of existing enterprise centres and incubation space for micro-enterprises			
e2.7	Develop and implement a pro-active tourism strategy for the county that is linked to internationally focussed tourism (e.g. Wild Atlantic Way/ Lakelands/other specific themes			
High Level Goal: An Economic market attractive to Investors and Entrepreneurs				
SEDO 3: Increase the number of small enterprises (10-49 employees) and medium enterprises (50-249 employees) and their related employment				
LECP Strategic Actions		MWRPGs '10 – '22	CDP '17 – '23	MWAPI 2015 – 2017
e3.1	Deliver mentoring, management and marketing programmes to High Potential Start-Ups and support them	Sections 4.2 (Pg 62), 4.3.1 (Pg 64) 7.1 (Pg 92)Landscape - Development Plan Implications	CDP 6.1 & 6.2 (Pg 85) CDP 6.4 (Pg 86) CDP 6.12 (Pg 92) CDP 6.19-22 (Pgs 95-97) CDP 6.24-6.26 (Pg 98) CDP 9.1-9.8 (Pgs 149-153) CDP 9.15-9.19 (Pgs 157,158) CDP 10.2-10.3 (Pg 167, 168) CDP 11.9, 11.10 (Pg 185) CDP 11.13 (Pg 187)	Actions 3, 4, 11,12,14, 15,16 (Pgs 46-49) Action 18 (Pg 49) Action 18 (Pg 49) Action 20 (Pg 50) Actions 24,29,32 (Pgs 5,53) Actions 33,34 (Pg 53) Action 43,45 (Pg60) Actions 74,75,76, (Pg 69) Action 93 (Pg 71) Action 119,122 (Pg 82) Actions 132,134 (Pg 88) Action 146 (Pgs 92 & 93) Action 149 (Pg 93)
e3.2	Support businesses operating in the domestic market and who are in the expansion phase of their businesses			
e3.3	Support businesses that do not qualify for capital grant aid under current programmes			

SEDO 4: Increase Foreign Direct Investment and employment in large enterprises (250+ employees)				
	LECP Strategic Actions	MWRPGs '10 – '22	CDP '17 – '23	MWAPJ 2015 - 2017
e4.1	<i>Promote the economic comparative advantage of locating in County Clare</i>	Sections 4.1.3,(Pg 61,) Life Sciences, Biotech & Medical Technologies Section 4.2 (Pg 62)Planning & Economic Development Section 6.3 (Pg 86, 87) Water Services	CDP 3.2 (Pg 39)	Actions 53, 60 (Pgs 62,63) Action 102 (Pg 75) Action 104 (Pg76) Action 119,122 (Pg 82) Action 154 (Pg 96) Actions 158, 159 (Pg 97)
e4.2	<i>Develop a business case for investing in County Clare</i>		CDP 6.1 - 6.3 (Pg 85)	
e4.3	<i>Attract EU funding to the County (e.g. Urban Development Fund) for major projects including the Clare County Library, remodelling of town centre schemes etc.</i>		CDP 6.13 (Pg 92)	
e4.4	<i>Develop and promote Clare as a sustainable, secure, affordable and low carbon economy as a means of attracting inward investment</i>		CDP 6.16 (Pg 94)	
			CDP 6.18 (Pg 95)	
			CDP 8.1 (Pg115)	
			CDP 11.3 (Pg 179)	
			CDP 18.3 (Pg 272)	
			CDP 19.1, 19.2 (Pg 281)	

High Level Goal: An Economy offering a world-class, highly-skilled and flexible labour force.				
SEDO 5: Increase the skills and educational qualifications of the people of the county				
	LECP Strategic Actions	MWRPGs '10 – '22	CDP '17 – '23	MWAPJ 2015 - 2017
e5.1	<i>Increase 3rd. level participation rates particularly in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)</i>		CDP 6.6 & 6.7 (Pgs 88, 89)	Actions 123,129 (Pg 87 & 88)
e5.2	<i>Increase fourth level achievement rates</i>			
e5.3	<i>Develop apprenticeship programmes relevant to the needs of businesses and skilling of the labour force</i>			
e5.4	<i>Deliver programmes for continual development in business, organisation management</i>			
e5.5	<i>Provide the county's adult population with the relevant education/training to increase their qualification/skills to compete for job opportunities</i>			
High Level Goal: An Economy whose resource base offers economic/comparative advantage.				
SEDO 6: Increase the population and skills profile of towns and villages with population < 1,000 so that they can act more effectively as rural economic hubs				
	LECP Strategic Actions	MWRPGs '10 – '22	CDP '17 – '23	MWAPJ 2015 - 2017
e6.1	<i>Undertake a socio-economic analysis of a number of the county's towns and villages and prepare a plan to improve their quality of life and their ability to act as catalysts for the economic regeneration of their rural hinterland</i>	Section 4.3 (Pg 66) – Development Plan Implications (Retailing) Section 5.1 (Pg 68) – Settlement Strategy	CDP 3.1 - 3.7 (Pgs 39-42) CDP 3.9 (Pg43), CDP 4.3 (Pg 56) CDP 6.14 (Pg 93) CDP 7.1- 7.16 (Pgs 101-109) CDP 7.6 – 7.9 (Pgs104-106) CDP 9.13, 9.14 (Pg 156) CDP 10.1 (Pg 167), CDP 10.4 (Pg 169)	Actions 123, 129 (Pg 87 & 88)

Theme: Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing

High Level Goal: A Society that is Inclusive and cherishes People's Health, Participation and Solidarity.

SCO1: Ensure adequate benchmarking data and adequate co-ordinated, proofed, monitored delivery of social inclusion supports

LECP Strategic Actions		MWRPGs '10 – '22	CDP '17 – '23	MWAPJ 2015 - 2017
q1.1	Establish a structure within the LCDC and the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC to co-ordinate, monitor and proof the delivery of all the 'Quality of Life, Health & Wellbeing', 'Education & Training' Actions and arrange benchmarking research where necessary		CDP Section 20 (Pgs 288-292)	

SCO 2: Reduce the number of 'Deprived' and 'Very Deprived' Small Areas (Haase-Pratschke Index definition)

Reduce the number of individuals experiencing 'Consistent Poverty' (both 'At risk of 'Poverty' or experiencing 'Basic Deprivation')

Reduce the number of 'Jobless Households' and the number of 'Jobless Households with a Child'

q2.1	Implement local and community development programmes/services in the County for the benefit of those living in 'deprived communities' or who are members of disadvantaged communities or are 'at risk' of poverty and/or experiencing 'basic deprivation' having regard to Equality and Diversity e.g. LDS, SICAP, County Childcare Strategy, Sports Partnership Strategic Plan, Clare Youth Strategy, Intreo, LCETB Strategic Framework, FRCs, Clare Womens Network'	Section 7.6.5 (Pg 101) Development Plans and Social Inclusion	CDP 4.8 (Pg 59) CDP 5.16 (Pg 76)	Action 11(Pg 48)
q2.2	Develop RAPID type inter-agency Interventions where deprived Small Areas are clustered			

SCO 3: Reduce Unemployment levels in the County

q3.1	Pursue labour market activation programmes that benefit the unemployed	Section 7.6.5 (Pg 101)	CDP 10.1 (Pg 167)	Action 11(Pg 48)
q3.2	Increase qualifications and skills of the unemployed especially the long-term unemployed (> 1 year) and unemployed young people (18-24)	Development Plans and Social Inclusion	CDP 11.1 (Pg 177)	Actions 123, 129 (Pg 87 & 88)
q3.3	Support county-level Network of Men's Sheds and Network of Women's Groups Support the engagement of Long-term unemployed men and women on Labour Market Activation Programmes within structures where they are comfortable			
q3.4	Support disadvantaged infants, children and young people to complete secondary education			
q3.5	Reduce intergenerational, long-term unemployment			

SCO4: Improve the well-being and quality of life of the people of the County especially of those who are most vulnerable

LECP Strategic Actions		MWRPGs '10 – '22	CDP '17 – '23	MWAPJ 2015 - 2017
q4.1	<i>Undertake a longitudinal study of the County's Health, Well-Being and Quality of Life</i>	Section 7.6.1 (Pg 100) Health Section 7.6.5 (Pg 101) Development Plans and Social Inclusion	CDP 4.9 (Pg 60) CDP 4.10 (Pg 61) CDP 5.1 (Pg67) CDP 5.4 – 5.9 (Pgs 69-71) CDP 5.11-5.15 (Pgs 73 – 75) CDP 5.20 – 5.22 (Pg 79)	
q4.2	<i>Support older people to continue living as valued members of the community, recognising their contribution and heeding their needs</i>			
q4.3	<i>Support young people (<18 yrs.) and young adults (18-25 yrs.) in the county to live as valued members of the community, recognising their contribution, heeding their particular needs and supporting their right to have a say in decisions which affect them</i>			
q4.4	<i>Support youth projects, groups and clubs to continue to offer information and educational opportunities for young people and young adults on a countywide basis</i>			
q4.5	<i>Support initiatives that foster positive mental health and physical health of the people of the County</i>			
q4.6	<i>Support inter-agency co-ordination and collaboration to achieve best outcomes for all Children and Young People</i>			
q4.7	<i>Support the improvement of the Health and Wellbeing of the population of the County</i>			
q4.8	<i>Support Vulnerable Adults</i>			
q4.9	<i>Support the provision of and access to community-based mental and the recovery of people who experience mental health difficulties and their families</i>			
q4.10	<i>Support people who experience difficulty in returning to the labourforce.</i>			
q4.11	<i>Support people whose employment is vulnerable</i>			
q4.12	<i>Support people who are living in remote locations/isolated circumstances</i>			
q4.13	<i>Develop specific supports for Children (12-18yrs) who are 'at risk of' or have been cautioned by the Juvenile Liaison Officer (JLO)</i>			
q4.14	<i>Support/address the collective/shared needs of people with disabilities, lone parents, travellers, Roma and new communities</i>			
q4.15	<i>Address the collective disadvantage of people with Disabilities, People from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Communities, People who are Lone Parents, People from the Traveller Community, People from the Roma Community and People from the New Communities</i>			
q4.16	<i>Provide restorative justice interventions and mentoring for young people and young adults referred by the Courts</i>			
q4.17	<i>Support the educational, training and employment needs of young adults referred by the courts</i>			

High Level Goal: A Society where People, Neighbourhoods and Communities are Safe, Secure and Active.

SCO 5: Create a quality community and social environment where people are safe, secure and active both physically and socially.

LECP Strategic Actions		MWRPGs '10 – '22	CDP '17 – '23	MWAPJ 2015 - 2017
q5.1	<i>Support the work of the Joint Policing Committee in preventing crime, protecting vulnerable members of the community and addressing anti-social behaviour</i>	Section 7.4 (Pg. 95,96) Section 7.6 (Pg.100) Social, Community and Cultural Infrastructure.	CDP 5.3(Pg. 68) CDP 5.11 (Pg73)	
q5.2	<i>Support community initiatives to prevent crime and to achieve a sense of social security and personal safety.</i>			
q5.3	<i>Support the provision of recreational/health/ sporting/social inclusion activities</i>			
q5.4	<i>Support volunteering, volunteers and their infrastructural needs</i>			

High Level Goal: A Society that is Socially and Physically Connected				
SCO 6: Increase ICT, Transport and Social Infrastructural Provision				
LECP Strategic Actions		Mid West Regional Plan Guidelines 2010 - 2022	Draft County Dev. Plan 2017 – 2023	Mid-West Action Plan for Jobs 2015 - 2017
q6.1	<i>Pilot group broadband schemes in black-spots</i>	Section 5.3 (Pgs 73/74) – Core Settlement Strategy for the Region. Section 6.1.1 (Pg 81) – Transport & Infrastructure, Regional Priorities. Section 6.2 (Pgs 82-85) Public Transport. Sections 6.7 (Pg 89) Telecommunications 7.4 (Pg 95) Open Spaces and Recreation	CDP 3.10 (Pg 43) CDP 5.3 (Pg 68) CDP 5.11 -5.15 (Pgs 73-75) CDP 7.12 (Pg 107) CDP 8.2 (Pg 115) CDP 8.4-8.6 (Pg 118-120) CDP 8.9 -8.19 (Pg 122 - 128) CDP 8.42 (Pg 145) CDP 9.18, 9.19 (Pg 158) CDP 10.1 (Pg 167) CDP 10.5 (Pg 169) CDP 10.6 (Pg 170)	Action 146 (Pgs 92 & 93)
q6.2	<i>Support plans to enhance the County’s physical connectivity e.g. Limerick Northern Distributor Road, River Crossing at Ballina/Killaloe</i>			
q6.3	<i>Support sustainable transport initiatives complementing existing public/private transport services and the provision of associated infrastructure including stops, shelters, service and timetables</i>			
q6.4	<i>Support the enhancements of community facilities and extend the range of usage</i>			
High Level Goal: A Society that is Culturally Rich with Strong Identities				
SCO 7: Strengthen the County’s Culture and its Communities’ Cultures and related Infrastructure and the County’s and its Communities’ Built Heritage				
LECP Strategic Actions		Mid West Regional Plan Guidelines 2010 - 2022	Draft County Dev. Plan 2017 - 2023	Mid-West Action Plan for Jobs 2015 - 2017
q7.1	<i>Support the work of the library service by; developing a single central facility for its work; developing a service to support enterprise and the knowledge economy; managing, preserving and making available the local and national culture of the county; enhancing access and social inclusion</i>		CDP 4.3 (Pg 56) CDP 4.13 (Pg 62) CDP 5.10 (Pg 72) CDP 5.23 (Pg 80) CDP 9.15 (Pg157) CDP 9.26 (Pg 163) CDP 12.16 (Pg 200) CDP 13.1 (Pg 205) CDP 15.1 -15.18 Pgs (237 -246)	Action78 (Pg69)
q7.2	<i>Support the growth of arts in our communities and the work of artists including cultural infrastructure</i>			
q7.3	<i>Support place-making initiatives that enhance our towns , villages and rural communities e.g. Ennis 2020 Plan</i>			
q7.4	<i>Develop and protect the county’s sites of built heritage and historic importance to the benefit of communities and visitors to the county (e.g. Scattery Island, Holy Island) and provide a matched Conservation Grant Scheme between Central Government and Clare County Council</i>			

Theme: Training & Education

High Level Goal: A Learning environment that addresses educational disadvantage and achieves High Educational Participation rates.

SCO 8: Increase participation and achievement rates at second and third level

LECP Strategic Actions		MWRPGs '10 – '22	CDP '17 – '23	MWAPJ 2015 - 2017
t1.1	Implement a range of post secondary and third level access programmes.		CDP 5.17 – 5.19 (Pgs 77 - 78)	
t1.2	Support the mental wellbeing (healthier life) of the county's young people (12 – 18) which, in addition, will help them to remain in and progress through the education system			
t1.3	Provide in-school supports to primary and secondary students, teachers and staff in need of developmental and education supports			

High Level Goal: A Learning environment with Broad Participation in Further / Higher Education, Continual Learning and Development.

SCO 9: Increase participation levels in further / higher education, continual learning and development

LECP Strategic Actions		MWRPGs '10 – '22	CDP '17 – '23	MWAPJ 2015 - 2017
t2.1	Support innovative developmental initiatives that encourage, empower and incentivise individuals to consider, engage with and participate in learning opportunities, regardless of their age		CDP 4.11 (Pg 61) CDP 5.10 (Pg 78)	
t2.2	Deliver programmes of further education to people who are employed, unemployed or who are outside the labour force, regardless of their age			
t2.3	Deliver programmes of Continual Learning and Development to people, regardless of their age			

Theme: Research and Development

High Level Goal: Exploit the Enterprise/Social/Academic partnerships.

SEDO 7: Increase Academic/Sectoral Collaborative Research and Development in the Enterprise and Social Sectors and its respective commercialisation and application

LECP Strategic Actions		MWRPGs '10 – '22	CDP '17 – '23	MWAPJ 2015 - 2017
r1.1	Support the development of collaborations between third level institutions and key industries.	Section 4.1.5 (Pg 61)	CDP 6.6 & 6.7 (Pgs 88, 89) CDP 6.11 (Pg 91) CDP 6.16 (Pg 94)	Action 43, 44, 45 (Pg60) Action 102 (Pg 75) Section 14 (Pgs 98-100)
r1.2	Support the commercialisation of R & D activity by converting the results into viable enterprises.			
r1.3	Support expansion of supply-chain activity by encouraging smaller enterprises to service larger ones.			
r1.4	Support the development of collaborations between third level institutions and social sectors/organisations.			
r1.5	Examine root causes of poverty and social exclusion and identify best practice in addressing and monitoring interventions.			

Theme: Climate Change and Energy			
High Level Goal: In terms of Energy Use – Reduce Greenhouse Gases and Increase its Efficiency			
<i>SEDO 8: Reduce Energy Use and reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Increase the efficiency of energy use</i>			
LECP Strategic Actions	MWRPGs '10 – '22	CDP '17 – '23	MWAPJ 2015 - 2017
c1.1	As a means of de-carbonising the economic and social sectors, thus reducing Greenhouse Gases, we will support the increased use of renewable energy in the Transport, Residential, Commercial and Agricultural sectors	CDP 8.39 (Pg 143) CDP 8.41 (Pg 144) CDP 17.3, 17.4 (Pg 265)	Action 113,114 (Pg 81)
c1.2	Support energy efficiency in industry and communal programmes at town and village level and in households		
c1.3	Support public sector bodies to achieve energy efficiency targets in their use of energy and support them in adopting energy management systems (e.g. ISO 50001)		

High Level Goal: In terms of Energy Production – Increase the Production of Renewable Energy			
<i>SEDO 9: Expand renewable energy production in the County</i>			
LECP Strategic Actions	MWRPGs '10 – '22	CDP '17 – '23	MWAPJ 2015 - 2017
c2.1	Support on land and off-shore renewable energy production by a range of appropriate technologies	Section 4.1.8 (Pg 61) Renewable & Sustainable Energy. Section 6.6.1 (Pg 88) – Renewable Energy	CDP 6.9 (Pg 90) CDP 6.17 (Pg 94) CDP 8.36, 8.37 (Pg 142) CDP 8.39, 8.40 (Pg 143) CDP 10.7 (Pg 171) CDP 10.10, 10.11 (Pg 173)

			CDP 11.8 (Pg 183) CDP 12.6 (Pg 193)	
High Level Goal: Proactively address Climate Change and Climate Action				
<i>SEDO 10: Create a county that is responsive to climate change and acts as a custodian of our natural heritage and biodiversity</i>				
LECP Strategic Actions		MWRPGs '10 – '22	CDP '17 – '23	MWAPJ 2015 - 2017
c3.1	<i>Support awareness of and responses to climate change and to environment quality (Air and Water Quality)</i>		CDP 4.14 (Pg 63) CDP 10.7 (Pg 171)	
c3.2	<i>Develop and deliver a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the county.</i>		CDP 11.14 (Pg 187)	
c3.3	<i>Develop and deliver a Climate Change Mitigation Plan for the county.</i>		CDP 12.4 (Pg 192)	
c3.4	<i>Support awareness of and protect/enhance and where appropriate, contribute to the substantial recovery of the county's Natural Heritage and Biodiversity</i>		CDP 12.12-12.1 (Pgs 197-200) CDP 14.1-14.9 (Pgs 217-222)	
c3.5	<i>Support the development of the County's environmental and green infrastructure e.g. the Shannon Green Infrastructure Plan</i>		CDP 14.11-14.27 (Pgs 223-234) CDP 18.1-18.10(Pg 270-277)	

9.2. Equality and Diversity Proofing

The following statement examines the impacts of the actions within the LECP in terms of the nine grounds of discrimination namely, gender, marital status, family status, age, disability, race, sexual orientation, religion and traveller community.

The following symbol √ indicates that an action has a positive impact on the equality area in question while the symbol ▢ indicates a neutral impact on the equality area in question.

Sustainable Economic Development Objective (SEDO) and related Actions	Gender	Marital Status	Family Status	Age	Disability	Race	Sexual Orientation	Religion	Traveller Community	Overall Comment
SEDO 1: Ensure adequate benchmarking data and ensure adequate, co-ordinated, proofed and monitored delivery of enterprise development supports										
e1.1 Establish a structure within the LCDC and the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC to co-ordinate, monitor, review and proof the delivery of all the 'Economic Development, Employment and Enterprise', 'Research and Development' and 'Climate Change and Energy' Actions and arrange benchmarking research where necessary	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
SEDO 2: Increase the number of micro- enterprises (<10 employees) and their related employment										
e2.1 Implement the LEO Action Plan for Enterprise start-ups	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
e2.2 Implement the LDS support programme for micro-enterprise	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
e2.3 Implement the LDS support programme for tourism enterprise development	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
e2.4 Promote, support and develop specific locations for smaller scale foreign direct investment through the Connect Ireland initiative	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
e2.5 Support the development of a sustainable food sector i.e. development of a county food brand and food enterprises	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
e2.6 Support the development of existing enterprise centres and incubation space for micro-enterprises	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
e2.7 Develop and implement a pro-active tourism strategy for the county that is linked to internationally focused tourism (e.g. Wild Atlantic Way/other specific themes	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	

Sustainable Economic Development Objective (SEDO) and related Actions	Gender	Marital Status	Family Status	Age	Disability	Race	Sexual Orientation	Religion	Traveller Community	Overall Comment
SEDO 3: Increase the number of small enterprises (10-49 employees) and medium enterprises (50-249 employees) and their related employment										
e3.1 Deliver mentoring, management and marketing programmes to High Potential Start-Ups and support them	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
e3.2 Support businesses operating in the domestic market and who are in the expansion phase of their businesses	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
e3.3 Support businesses that do not qualify for capital grant aid under current programmes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
SEDO 4: Increase Foreign Direct Investment and employment in large enterprises (250+ employees)										
e4.1 Promote the economic comparative advantage of locating in County Clare	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
e4.2 Develop a business case for investing in County Clare	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
e4.3 Attract EU investment to the County (e.g. Urban Development Fund) for major projects including the Clare County Library, remodeling of town centre schemes etc.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
e4.4 Develop and promote Clare as a sustainable, secure, affordable and low carbon economy as a means of attracting inward investment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
SEDO 5: Increase the skills and educational qualifications of the people of the county										
e5.1 Increase third level participation rates particularly in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
e5.2 Increase fourth level achievement rates	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
e5.3 Develop apprenticeship programmes relevant to the needs of businesses and skilling the labour force	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
e5.4 Deliver programmes for continual development in business, organisation management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
e5.5 Provide the county's adult population with relevant education/training to increase their qualifications/skills to compete for job opportunities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
SEDO 6: Increase the population and skills profile of the County's towns and villages with populations less than 1,000 so that they can act more effectively as rural economic hubs										
e6.1 Undertake a socio-economic analysis of a number of the county's towns and villages and prepare a plan to improve their quality of life and their ability to act as catalysts for the economic regeneration of their rural hinterland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Sustainable Economic Development Objective (SEDO) and related Actions	Gender	Marital Status	Family Status	Age	Disability	Race	Sexual Orientation	Religion	Traveller Community	Overall Comment
SEDO 7: Increase Academic/Sectoral Collaborative Research and Development in the Enterprise sectors and Social Sectors and its respective commercialisation and application										
r1.1 Support the development of collaborations of sufficient scale between third level institutions and key industries	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
r1.2 Support the commercialisation of R & D activity by converting the results into viable enterprises.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
r1.3 Support the expansion of supply chain activity by encouraging smaller enterprises to service larger ones.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
r1.4 Support the Development of collaborations between third level institutions and social sectors/organisations	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	This Action will impact positively on inclusion
r 1.5 Examine root causes of poverty and social inclusion and identify best practice in addressing and monitoring interventions	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	This Action will impact positively on inclusion
SEDO 8: Reduce Energy Use and reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Increase the Efficiency of Energy Use										
c1.1 As a means of de-carbonising the economic and social sectors, thus reducing Greenhouse Gases, we will support the increased use of renewable energy in the Transport, Residential, Commercial and Agricultural sectors	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
c1.2 Support energy efficiency in industry and communal programmes at town and village level and in households	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
c1.3 Support public sector bodies to achieve energy efficiency targets in their use of energy and support them in adopting energy management systems (e.g. ISO 50001)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
SEDO 9: Expand renewable energy production in the County										
c2.1 Support on-land and off-shore renewable energy production by a range of appropriate technologies	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
SEDO 10: Create a county that is responsive to climate change and acts as a custodian of our natural heritage and biodiversity										
c3.1 Support awareness of and responses to climate change and to environmental quality (Air and Water Quality)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
c3.2 Develop and deliver a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the county	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
c3.3 Develop and deliver a Climate Change Mitigation Plan for the county	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
c3.4 Support awareness of and protect/enhance and, where appropriate, contribute to the substantial recover of the county's natural heritage and biodiversity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
c3.5 Support the development of the County's environmental and green infrastructure e.g. the Shannon Green Infrastructure Plan.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	

Sustainable Community Objective (SCO) and related Actions	Gender	Marital Status	Family Status	Age	Disability	Race	Sexual Orientation	Religion	Traveller Community	Overall Comment
SCO1: Ensure adequate benchmarking data and adequate co-ordinated, proofed, monitored delivery of social inclusion supports										
q1.1 Establish a structure within the LCDC and the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC to co-ordinate, monitor, review and proof the delivery of all the 'Quality of Life, Health & Wellbeing', 'Education & Training' Actions and arrange benchmarking research where necessary	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
SCO 2: Reduce the number of 'Deprived' and 'Very Deprived' Small Areas (Haase-Pratschke Index definition). Reduce the number of individuals experiencing 'Consistent Poverty' (both 'At risk of 'Poverty' or experiencing 'Basic Deprivation') and reduce the number of 'Jobless Households' and the number of 'Jobless Households with a Child'										
q2.1 Implement all local and community development programmes/services in the County for the benefit of those living in 'deprived communities' or who are members of disadvantaged communities or are 'at risk' of poverty and/or experiencing 'basic deprivation' having regard to Equality and Diversity (e.g. LDS, SICAP, County Childcare Strategy, Sports Partnership Strategic Plan, Clare Youth Strategy, Intreo, LCETB Strategic Framework, FRC's, Clare Women's Network)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	This Action will impact positively on inclusion
q2.2 Develop Rapid-type inter-agency Interventions where deprived Small Areas are clustered	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	This Action Will impact positively on inclusion
SCO 3: Reduce Unemployment levels in the County										
q3.1 Pursue labour market activation programmes that benefit the unemployed	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
q3.2 Increase qualifications and skills of the unemployed especially the long-term unemployed (> 1 year) and unemployed young people (18-24)	√	√	√	-	√	√	√	√	√	Reference to 'unemployed (18-24)' is not exclusive.
q3.3 Support county-level Network of Men's Sheds and Networks of Women's Groups Support the engagement of Long-term unemployed men and women on Labour Market Activation Programmes within structures where they are comfortable.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
q3.4 Support disadvantaged infants, children and young people to complete secondary education	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
q3.5 Reduce intergenerational, long-term unemployment	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
SCO4: Improve the well-being and quality of life of the people of the County especially of those who are most vulnerable										
q4.1 Undertake a longitudinal study of the County's Health, Well-Being and Quality of Life	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
q4.2 Support older people to continue living as valued members of the community, recognising their contribution and heeding their particular needs	√	√	√	-	√	√	√	√	√	This action focuses particularly on 'Older people'. Other Actions in the Plan address 'Young

Sustainable Community Objective (SCO) and related Actions	Gender	Marital Status	Family Status	Age	Disability	Race	Sexual Orientation	Religion	Traveller	Overall Comment
q4.3 Support young people (<18yrs.) and young adults (18-25 yrs) in the county to live as valued members of the community , recognising their contribution, heeding their particular needs and supporting their right to have a say in decisions which affect them	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	This action focuses on < 25yrs. Others address 'Older and middle generation
q 4.4 Support youth projects, groups and clubs to continue to offer information and educational opportunities for young people and young adults on a countywide basis	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	See q 4.3 above
q4.5 Support initiatives that foster positive mental health of the people of the County	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	This Action will impact positively on inclusion
q4.6 Support inter-agency co-ordination and collaboration to achieve best outcomes for all Children and Young People	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	See q 4.3 above
q 4.7 Support the improvement of the Health and Wellbeing of the population of the County	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	This Action will impact positively on inclusion
q4.8 Support Vulnerable Adults	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	This Action will impact positively on inclusion
Q 4.9 Support the provision of and access to community-based mental health and the recovery of people who experience mental health difficulties and their families	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	This Action will impact positively on inclusion
q4.10 Support people who experience difficulty in returning to the labourforce	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	This Action will impact positively on inclusion
q 4.11 Support people whose employment is vulnerable	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	This Action will impact positively on inclusion
q4.12 Support people who are living in remote locations/isolated circumstances	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	This Action will impact positively on inclusion
q4.13 Develop specific supports for Children (12-18 yrs) who are 'at risk of' or have 'been cautioned' by the Juvenile Liaison Officer (JLO)	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	See q 4.3 above
q 4.14 Support/address the collective/shared needs of people with disabilities, lone parents, travellers, Roma and new communities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	This Action will impact positively on inclusion
q 4.15 Address the collective disadvantage of people with disabilities, people from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Communities, people who are lone parents, people from the Traveller Community, people from the Roma Community and people from the New Communities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	This Action will impact positively on inclusion
q 4.16 Provide restorative justice interventions and mentoring for young people and young adults referred by the Courts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	This Action will impact positively on inclusion

q 4.17 Support the educational, training and employment needs of young adults referred by the Courts	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	This Action will impact positively on inclusion
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Sustainable Community Objective (SCO) and related Actions	Gender	Marital	Family Status	Age	Disability	Race	Sexual Orientation	Religion	Traveller Community	Overall Comment
SCO 5: Create a Quality Community and Social environment where people are safe, secure and active both physically and socially										
q5.1 Support the work of the Joint Policing Committee in preventing crime, protecting vulnerable members of the community and addressing anti-social behaviour	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
q5.2 Support community initiatives to prevent crime and to achieve a sense of social security and personal safety	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
q5.3 Support the provision of recreational/health/sporting/social inclusion activities	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	This Action will impact positively on inclusion
q 5.4 Support volunteering , volunteers and their infrastructural needs	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
SCO 6: Increase ICT, Transport and Social Infrastructural Provision										
q6.1 Pilot Broadband Schemes in blackspots	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	In addressing infrastructural deficits this Action will impact positively on inclusion
q6.2 Support plans to enhance the County's physical connectivity e.g. Limerick Northern Distributor Road, River Crossing at Ballina/Killaloe	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	See q6.1
q6.3 Support sustainable transport initiatives complementing existing public/ private transport services and the provision of associated infrastructure including stops, shelters, service and timetables	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	See q6.1
q6.4 Support the enhancement of community facilities and extend the range of usage	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	See q6.1
SCO 7: Strengthen the County's Culture and its Communities' Cultures and related Infrastructure and the County's and its Communities' Built Heritage										
q7.1 Support the work of the library service by: developing a single central facility for its work; developing a service to support enterprise and the knowledge economy; managing, preserving and making available the local and national culture of the county; enhancing access and social inclusion	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
q7.2 Support the growth of the arts in our communities and the work of artists including cultural infrastructure	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	See q6.1
q7.3 Support place-making initiatives that enhance our towns, villages and rural communities e.g. Ennis 2020 Plan	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	See q6.1

q 7.4 Develop and protect the County's sites of built heritage and historic importance to the benefit of communities and visitors to the county (e.g. Scattery Island, Holy Island) and provide a matched Conservation Grant Scheme between Central Government and Clare County Council	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
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SCO 8: Increase participation and achievement rates at second and third level										
t1.1 Implement a range of post secondary and third level access programmes	√	√	√	-	√	√	√	√	√	See q 4.3 above
t1.2 Support the mental wellbeing (healthier life) of the county's young people (12-18), which, in addition, will help them to remain in and progress through the education system	√	√	√	-	√	√	√	√	√	See q 4.3 above
t1.3 Provide in-school supports to primary and secondary students, teachers and staff in need of developmental and educational supports	√	√	√	-	√	√	√	√	√	See q 4.3 above
SCO 9: Increase participation in Further / Higher education, Continual learning and Development										
t2.1 Support innovative developmental initiatives that encourage, empower and incentivise individuals to consider, engage with and participate in learning opportunities, regardless of their age.	√	√	√	-	√	√	√	√	√	
t2.2 Deliver programmes of Further Education to people who are employed, unemployed or who are outside the labourforce, regardless of age	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	This Action will impact positively on inclusion
t2. Deliver programmes of Continual learning and Development to people, regardless of age	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	This Action will impact positively on inclusion

10. Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

The LECP will be systematically monitored and reviewed on a regular basis in order to ensure that the actions and objectives are appropriate to changing contexts. Evaluation will be carried out at mid-term and end of programme in order to ensure that the high level goals, objectives and actions are still relevant and appropriate in terms of the changing context.

The monitoring and review of the community elements of the plan including data collection will be undertaken by the LCDC on a six-monthly and annual basis. Objectives and actions will be examined to see if they are still relevant and indicators will be quantified and reviewed if necessary. The same process will be applied to the economic elements of the plan and will be undertaken by the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.

The triennial and final evaluation of the plan will be undertaken by an external evaluator and will address the following objectives

- To profile and track the progress of actions and their contribution to the achievement of objectives
- To profile and document the experiences of beneficiaries in dealing with the lead agency and their partners
- To examine the process of monitoring and review that has been undertaken by the LCDC and the SPC
- To establish and highlight actions and processes that worked well and made significant contributions both quantitatively and qualitatively
- To identify the capacity of the LCDC and the SPC to address difficulties and challenges as they arose
- To quantify in economic and community terms the principal achievements of the actions

Appendix I: List of Written Submissions

Name
Ireland's Age Friendly County Programme
Mrs Anny Wise
Clare Accessible Transport
Clare Age Friendly Alliance
Clare Sports Partnership
Clare Women's Network
Councillor Christy Curtin, Chairman, CEDRA Working Group
Eugene Crimmins, PPN Secretariat
Gerry Kennedy, Chairman, Corofin Development Association
Heather Rosen
Killaloe Ballina Family Resource Centre
Limerick City & County Council
Patricia McCarthy
Pavee Point
Rita McInerney
Tiarnan O'Ruairc, Parents Council, Gaelscoil Mhíchíl Cíosóg
TUSLA
West Clare Resource Centre
Cillian Murphy, Chairperson, Loop Head Tourism
Mental Health, Mid West
Heather Rosen
Comhairle na nÓg
Mary O'Donoghue
An Garda Síochána
Congella McGuire
Community Worker's Co-operative
Bunratty Local Development Association
Clare Local Development Company
Ennis Chamber of Commerce
Intercultural & Diversity Education Centre

Appendix II: Public Consultation Workshop Attendees

8th July 2015, Falls Hotel, Ennistymon

Name	Organisation
Aoife Farrell	Mental Health Ireland
Raymond Foudy	Inagh Housing for the Elderly
Cllr. Richard Nagle	Clare County Council
Cllr Gabriel Keating	Clare County Council
Gloria Callinan	Carron
Beatrice O'Riordan	Quilty Action Group/Tidy Villages
Geraldine O'Boyle	Quilty Action Group/Tidy Villages
Frank Gunter	Inagh Housing for the Elderly
Sean O'Connor	Doolin Heritage
Eugene Garrihy	Doolin Tourism
Eddie Crowe	Ennistymon Soccer/GAA
Mary Gleeson	North Clare Family Resource Centre
Deirdre Scanlon	An Garda Siochana
Bill Glynn	Ballyvaughan Community Development Association
Kieran Lenihan	CLDC – RSS Supervisor
Paul King	Kilmihil Peoples Park
Geraldine Hetherton	Kilmihil Peoples Park
John Carmody	Kilmihil Peoples Park
Cllr PJ Kelly	Clare County Council
Cllr Christy Curtin	Clare County Council

9th July, Temple Gate Hotel, Ennis

Name	Organisation
John Lyons	Local Resident
Dermot Hayes	Disabled People of Clare
Padraig Cleary	Ballyvaughan Development Association
Marie Therese Carroll	Clarecastle Playground Committee
Mike Foley	Clare Community Development Company
Christy Leyden	Clarecastle Tidy Towns/Heritage/Wildlife
Gerry Kelly	LCDC / Age Friendly Alliance Chairperson
Marian Molloy	Chair Ennis Mental Health
Samantha McCarthy	CLDC
Anny Wise	Environmental Pillar / SPC
Peter Wise	Shannon Archaeological and Historical Society
Heather Rosen	Traveller Welfare Advocate
Stella O'Gorman	Clare Older People's Council
Sarah Ferrigan	Clare Womens' Network
Cillian Griffey	Ballyalla Lake Working Group
Kathleen Griffey	Drumquin, Barefield
Elizabeth Brady	Kilkishen Tidy Town
Frances Dillon	Kilkishen Tidy Town
Cllr. Johnny Flynn	Promote Ennis / Clare County Council
Michael O'Gorman	Forum-Clare Age Friendly Co,

20th July, Oakwood Arms Hotel, Shannon

Name	Organisation
Justin Gleeson	Maynooth University
Ann Magoufis	Duclas na Sionnaine
Áine Brady	CLDC
Anne Loftus	Clare Care
Helen McQuillan	Employability Clare
Cllr. Gerry Flynn	Clare County Council
Tomás de Buitléir	Employability Clare
Philip Carney	Shannon Family Resource Centre
Olive Carey	Dúchas na Sionna and Shannon Archaeological & Historical Society
Damon Matthew Wise Âû	Disability Groups Representation - NCPD/CNPD/TFT
Michael Kearney	Kearney's SMB.
Denise Dunne	Clare Haven Services
Bryan McMahan	Clare Youth Service / Younger Voices
Kevin O'Connor	Bunratty LDA
Margaret Slattery	Clare Youth Service
Kevin Toomey	Clare Youth Service / Younger Voices
Cllr. PJ Ryan	Clare County Council

22nd July, Lakeside Hotel, Killaloe

Name	Organisation
Brendan Kelly	
Susanne McAllister	Killaloe Resident
Denis Finnegan	Clarisford
Christy Collins	Shannon Men's Shed
James O'Meara	Shannon Tidy Towns
Theresa Hogan	Shannon Tidy Towns
Andrew Dundas	IFA
John Higgins	Fracking Free Clare
Cllr. Michael Begley	Clare County Council / Clonlara
Joss Lowry	KBDC
Una Kierse	KBDC
Mary Cassidy	Tuamgraney Development Association
Damien C. Heaney	Tuamgraney Development Association
Stephen Walsh	CLDC
Pat Bradley	Killaloe Tennis Club
Mary Bourke	Broadford development Company Ltd.
Evelyn Henry	Clare Older People's Council
Joseph Connolly	
Graham Lightfoot	Clare Accessible Transport / Clare Bus
Ger O'Brien	Ogonneloe Parish Council
Michael McNamara	Ogonneloe Development Company

Appendix III: Members of the Clare Local Community Development Committee

Interest	Name
Elected Members (4)	Cllr. J Flynn Cllr. B Chambers Cllr. M McKee Cllr. R. Nagle
Chief Executive (1)	Tom Coughlan
Head of Enterprise (1)	Padraic McElwee
Stage Agencies:	
Health Service Executive (1)	Esther Connellan
Department of Social Protection (1)	Jim Lynch
Education & Training Board (1)	Aobhan Haverty
Community and voluntary interests (2)	Cillian Murphy Christy Leyden
Social inclusion interests (2)	Dermot Hayes Mary O'Donoghue
Environment interests (1)	Martin McKeown
Clare Local Development Company (1)	Doirin Graham
Agricultural sector (1)	Andrew Dundas
Youth sector (1)	Margaret Slattery
Employers/Business (1)	Helen Downes
Age Friendly Alliance Board (1)	Gerry Kelly

Appendix IV: Members of the Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee – Clare County Council

Interest	Name
Elected Members (7)	Cllr. Richard Nagle
	Cllr. P J Ryan
	Cllr. Gabriel Keating
	Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy
	Cllr. Ian Lynch
	Cllr. Pat McMahon
	Cllr. Johnny Flynn
Development/Construction (1)	Mr. Pat Morris
Agriculture/Farming (1)	Mr. William Hanrahan
Business/Commercial Sector (1)	Ms. Dympna O’Callaghan
Environment/Conservation (1)	Ms. Theresa O’Donohoe