

APRIL 2024

County Wexford **Local Economic & Community Plan** 2024-2029



Comhairle Contae
Loch Garman
Wexford
County Council





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Foreword

by Eddie Taaffe, Chief Executive
of Wexford County Council



It is a privilege to introduce the Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 – 2029 which has been developed through an extensive consultative process involving internal staff, the Council members, key stakeholders and the public. The Plan is ambitious, evidence based, outcome focussed and will make significant progress towards meeting the community and economic needs of County Wexford over the next six years.

Through its Socio-Economic Statement, the Plan sets out the current Strengths, Constraints, Opportunities and Threats within County Wexford, and thus outlines the way forward for the County. Through the consultation process, the key needs for the

County across town and village infrastructure, education, economic strategy, climate and biodiversity, wellbeing, inclusivity, equality, diversity and tourism have been identified and enshrined within the High-Level Goals of the Plan.

These High-Level Goals are supported by a series of actions and objectives which aim to deliver an ambitious plan to transform the lives of County Wexford's residents. The initial two-year Implementation Plan details the 35 actions to be prioritised during 2024 and 2025, and the KPIs by which the progress of the Plan will be measured.

We will no doubt experience change and challenges in implementing this Plan, however I am optimistic that the Council, working with relevant stakeholders and the public, will be fully capable of meeting these challenges and make County Wexford a wonderful place to live, invest in and visit.

I would like to place on record my thanks to the Community Development and Economic Development & Enterprise Staff, the Council members, the LCDCC, the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC, the Housing & Community SPC, our partners KPMG Future Analytics, and all stakeholders and members of the public who gave their time to the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan.

Message

from Cllr. John Fleming, Cathaoirleach
of Wexford County Council 2023 - 2024



sector sensitive to County Wexford's natural environment and built heritage. The Plan will also allow us to carry on building the capacity of County Wexford's residents to enhance their contributions to their communities and improve their life experiences regardless of challenges they may face.

The approval of this Plan by the Council represents the fulfilment of an important function bestowed on local government and I wish to acknowledge the input of all those who made contributions to the making of this plan especially my colleagues in the Council chamber, the staff of Wexford County Council, key stakeholders and members of the public.

As Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, I welcome the new Local Economic and Community Plan for County Wexford. It provides us with a framework to continue supporting the sustainable growth of our local economy and communities and represents the commitment by Wexford County Council and key stakeholders to provide leadership towards the continued development of County Wexford as a wonderful place to live, invest in and visit.

The High-Level Goals, Actions and Outcomes that we set ourselves will collectively work to ensure that our County continues to have welcoming, inclusive and resilient communities, a productive and sustainable business base, and a tourism

Joint Message

from Cllr. Aidan Browne, Chairman of the Local Community Development Committee and
Cllr. Michael Whelan, Chairman of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC 2019 - 2024

It has been an honour for us both as elected members of Wexford County Council to be in the key positions of Chair of the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic Development & Enterprise and Chair of the Wexford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

The members of both the LCDC and the SPC have taken the responsibility bestowed on them by statute very seriously in developing this strategic and defining plan for County Wexford.

Under the initial lead of the Advisory Steering Group, they have reviewed and contributed to shaping the plans progression and ensuring that our consultants, KPMG Future Analytics, delivered to the highest standard in developing a plan to meet the needs and ambitions of County Wexford.

We also wish to extend our thanks to the key stakeholders and members of the public who gave over their time during the

consultation process to help develop the Plan. This is a clear indication of the desire of the people of County Wexford to seek the best for its community and influence the shaping of a sustainable future for County Wexford.

It is our hope that this LECP will give focus to the tremendous enthusiasm and momentum in the county to deliver the Implementation Plan towards securing a better future for our community and our economy.

As Chairs of the LCDC and SPC we would like to sincerely thank all those who have participated in this process to date as we look forward to further working with all in achieving our vision of a sustainable and inclusive County Wexford which will champion innovation and development.



Michael Whelan
Head of Economic &
Enterprise SPC 2019 - 2024



Cllr. Aidan Browne
Chairperson
Local Community
Development Committee

Introduction

This document represents Wexford's new Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for the period 2024- 2029. The new LECP fulfils the requirements as set-out in the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and has been developed in accordance with the guidance set out in the Local Economic and Community Plan Guidelines (2021).

The Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan (2024-2029) is an integrated plan that will guide the County's economic and community development over the next six years. In doing so, it will look to assist in creating a County that is prosperous, sustainable and inclusive, with an excellent quality of life.

Approach

Wexford's LECP has been prepared by Wexford County Council in conjunction with the Wexford Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic Development and Enterprise, and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). The overall process was managed by an Advisory Group. The Local Economic and Community Plan Guidelines (2021) provided strong direction on how the LECP was to be created.

Stakeholder engagement was at the core of this plan's formulation. Adhering to the LECP guidelines, a draft socio-economic statement was issued to prompt discussion and guide the first intense round of stakeholder engagement.

As part of this, in-person public engagement sessions took place in the five Municipal Districts. This was complemented by online workshops, stakeholder interviews, online surveys, and written submissions.

The LECP includes an initial two year Implementation Plan (see chapter 8). This was heavily informed by a second short round of consultation, comprising online workshops and written submissions.

Structure

The LECP comprises of two distinct elements. These are:

- The LECP Framework covering the 2024-2029 period which consists of the high-level goals, the objectives, actions and the outcomes. The high-level goals establish the strategic direction of the Wexford LECP in relation to both economic and community elements. The objectives identify more specific areas to address. The actions are the activities that need to be carried out to realise the objectives. Finally, the desired outcomes represent key targets for the 6-year period.
- The Implementation Plan, which is for an initial 2-years, includes the prioritised actions and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that will help to achieve the goals, objectives and outcomes for Wexford. The Implementation Plan will be reviewed and revised every 2 years.

The plan comprises the following chapters:

- An ambition for Wexford. (Chapter 2)
- A summary of key strategies and plans that the LECP supports, embodies and aligns with. (Chapter 3)
- A summary of key findings from the socio-economic analysis of the County. (Chapter 4)
- An overview of the consultation process. (Chapter 5)
- An analysis of the County's key strengths, constraints, opportunities and threats. (Chapter 6)
- High-level goals, objectives, actions and outcomes for the 6-year period (2024 – 2029). (Chapter 7)
- An initial 2-year implementation plan (Chapter 8)
- An overview of the approach to monitoring and evaluation of the new plan. (Chapter 9)

Ambition for County Wexford

All the high level goals, objectives, outcomes and actions in this plan have been designed to support the agreed ambition for County Wexford. The statement was arrived at after an extensive programme of stakeholder engagement.



That the landscape, seascape and settlements of County Wexford be sensitively and sustainably managed to improve the prosperity and quality of life of the County's residents.

High level goals, objectives, actions and outcomes

The six high level goals provide the strategic themes from which the objectives, actions and desired outcomes flow. The six goals are:

1 Wexford's towns, villages and rural communities will successfully adapt to become even more welcoming, attractive, healthy and safe places to live and work. Support will be provided in the delivery of adequate and accessible local housing, transportation, infrastructure and services that underpin a high quality of life. Innovative approaches to rejuvenation and the development of strong local leaders will be supported.

2 Climate and biodiversity action will meet the challenge of change by creating a resilient society, where the transition to a green, circular economy is fair to all. The transition efforts will involve well-defined responsibilities, practical adaptation and mitigation efforts. There will be a focus on achieving local empowerment, synergies and efficiencies. Biodiversity protection and restoration will be supported.

3 A culture of continuous, life-long learning will be fostered, one that improves prospects and provides a sense of personal achievement. It will recognise and value individuals' unique knowledge, experience and capabilities and provide accessible opportunities for connection, shared growth and development.

4 Wellbeing, inclusion, equality, and diversity will be at the heart of County Wexford's communities. Accessible spaces and amenities, and arts and cultural opportunities which support the development of community spirit and enhance the physical and mental well-being of residents will be provided. New arrivals will be embraced and integration promoted.

5 Economic strategy will support upskilling and innovation in the creation of sustainable, added-value employment in County Wexford. This will be facilitated through the provision of appropriate infrastructure to support and maximise inward investment, enterprise creation and expansion opportunities.

6 Tourism will sensitively use, promote and protect County Wexford's culture, built heritage and natural environment for the benefit of local communities. Business and community stakeholders will collaborate to grow a commercially and environmentally sustainable tourism industry.

As outlined in chapter 7, the goals, objectives, actions and outcomes cover both economic and community elements as required by the LECP guidelines. They have been designed to positively contribute to the economic and community development of

Wexford and are aligned with the overall ambition for a sustainable, prosperous County, where residents have a high quality of life. Overall, there are 20 Objectives and 88 Actions.

- High Level Goal 1
has 3 Objectives and 16 Actions.
- High Level Goal 2
has 2 Objectives and 8 Actions.
- High Level Goal 3
has 3 Objectives and 14 Actions.
- High Level Goal 4
has 4 Objectives and 15 Actions.
- High Level Goal 5
has 4 Objectives and 16 Actions.
- High Level Goal 6
has 4 Objectives and 19 Actions.

Initial Implementation Plan

A list of worthy objectives and actions is nothing without effective implementation. Accordingly, a comprehensive implementation plan has been included to cover the first two years of the six year time span of the LECP (chapter 8). The initial Implementation Plan contains 35 prioritised actions which support the 6 goals, 20 objectives and associated desired outcomes. The actions cover both economic and community elements with many of the actions interlinked and contributing to a number of objectives and goals. Key stakeholders and agencies that will lead and enable the implementation of the actions have been identified, along with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and funding sources to aid the monitoring and evaluation of progress.

The initial Implementation Plan contains 35 prioritised actions which support the 6 goals, 20 objectives and associated desired outcomes.



1

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Ambition for County Wexford

This document represents Wexford's new Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for the period 2024-2029. This new LECP fulfils the requirements as set-out in the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and has been developed in accordance with the guidance set out in the Local Economic and Community Plan Guidelines (2021).

The Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan (2024-2029) is an integrated plan that will guide the County's economic and community development over the next 6 years. In doing so, it will look to assist in creating a County that is prosperous, sustainable and inclusive, with an excellent quality of life.

The LECP has been prepared by Wexford County Council in conjunction with the Wexford Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic Development and Enterprise, and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). It has been informed by extensive consultation with communities across Wexford, the private sector, education and training providers, government agencies and other key stakeholders. Achievements and lessons learned from Wexford's previous LECP (2016-2021) have also been taken into consideration during the development of this plan.

The LECP includes high-level goals, objectives, actions and outcomes for the 6-year period (together these elements are known as the LECP Framework). Prioritised actions are now part of a detailed two-year Implementation Plan that identifies action owners and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to assist with monitoring and evaluation. A revised and updated

Implementation Plan will be developed for each subsequent two-year period up to 2029, to reflect progress made and take account of newly emerging policies and programmes.

The plan fully aligns with and supports existing strategies at the local, regional and national level. At a local level this includes the Healthy Wexford County Plan and County Arts Plan. The plan is also fully aligned with the County Development Plan, the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) and national plans such as the National Planning Framework (NPF) (2018), and the National Climate Action Plan 2023. Furthermore, given the current climate crisis, a core cross-cutting policy of the LECP will be the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs underpin the new plan to ensure that sustainability and climate action are at the centre of Wexford's development moving forward.

The high-level goals, objectives, outcomes and actions were proofed, in consultation with key stakeholders, to ensure they reflected and addressed cross-cutting priorities of sustainability, equality, poverty, rurality, age and disability, as outlined in the LECP guidelines. In doing so, it was also ensured that the LECP supports the public sector duty to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect human rights. The Public Sector Duty or Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty is a legal obligation under the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014.

1.2 Overview of content

This document (the Wexford LECP) comprises of the following chapters:

- An ambition for Wexford. This was developed from the views and feedback provided during the Consultation process, reflecting a vision for the future as put forward by Wexford's community and business interests, and various public sector organisations that operate within the County. (Chapter 2)
- A summary of key strategies and plans that the LECP supports, embodies and aligns with at a local, regional and national level. (Chapter 3)
- A summary of key findings from the socio-economic analysis of the County, in areas including demographics, the economy, housing, community and the environment. (Chapter 4)
- An overview of the Consultation process with information on the consultation conducted and key findings identified from the analysis by theme. (Chapter 5)
- An analysis of the County's key strengths, constraints, opportunities and threats (SCOT Analysis) as Wexford moves towards 2029. (Chapter 6)
- High-level goals, objectives, actions and outcomes for the 6-year period between 2024-2029 that were developed from findings of the analysis and consultation (Chapter 7)
- An initial 2-year implementation plan outlining specific prioritised actions (along with action owners and KPIs) to assist in achieving the high-level goals, objectives and outcomes (Chapter 8)
- An overview of the approach to monitoring and evaluation of the new plan. (Chapter 8)

1.3 LECP Format

The Wexford LECP has been developed in accordance with the guidance set out in the Local Economic and Community Plan Guidelines (2021) (fig. 1.1). The LECP comprises of two distinct elements. These are:

- The LECP Framework covering the 2024-2029 period which consists of the high-level goals, the objectives, actions and the outcomes. The high-level goals establish the strategic direction of the Wexford LECP in relation to both economic and community elements. The objectives identify more specific areas to address. The actions are the activities that need to be carried out to realise the objectives. Finally, the desired outcomes represent key targets for the 6-year period.
- The Implementation Plan, which is for an initial 2-years, includes the prioritised actions and KPIs that will help to achieve the goals, objectives and outcomes for Wexford. The Implementation Plan will be reviewed and revised every 2 years.

The change to the format of the LECP process is a positive development that provides additional flexibility so that the plan can adapt to address new issues and needs as they arise over the 6-year period. It also allows Wexford County Council to identify actions that may not be progressing or achieving the envisaged impact and replace them with new actions that better suit the County's needs in the subsequent implementation plans. Key to realising the benefits of this enhanced flexibility and the overall success of the plan will be clear, concise and regular monitoring and evaluation of progress on the LECP's actions.



1.4 Preparation of the plan

The plan has been developed through the following stages:

1. Preparation –

The first stage in developing Wexford's new LECP was the collation and analysis of socio-economic data from relevant sources (e.g. CSO data) and a review of existing policies and strategies in relation to the context and alignment of the plan. This information was then used in the development of the Socio-Economic Statement which included six draft high-level goals. The Socio-Economic Statement was then put forward for public consultation to generate discussion and ideas for the new LECP.

2. Consultation –

During this stage an extensive range of public and stakeholder consultation was conducted. This included: written submissions on the draft Socio-Economic Statement, two surveys (community and business sector), workshops and a number of key stakeholder interviews. Views, ideas and suggestions were received from the public, community representative groups, local government, state agencies, education providers and the private sector. Following the conclusion of the initial round of intense consultation, the draft high-level goals were revised to reflect the views provided by the community, private sector and other key stakeholders.

3. Development of the Objectives, Outcomes and Actions –

During the third stage, the objectives, actions and outcomes for the 6-year period were developed. These elements were developed from the findings of the analysis of data and the consultation process in stage 2. They were also informed by a second short period of consultation with key stakeholders to aid the creation of the Implementation Plan. During this round, actions were prioritised and refined. Proposed action owners/enabling agencies were further consulted with on the objectives, outcomes and actions to ensure buy-in and alignment of views and ambition. The goals, objectives, outcomes and actions were checked to ensure that they covered the crosscutting priorities of sustainability, equality, poverty, rurality, age, and disability outlined in the LECP guidelines, as well as for alignment with local, regional and national policy.

4. Finalise Plan –

Following approval of the Objectives, Outcomes and Actions, input from the Regional Assembly and Municipal Districts was sought and incorporated into a Draft LECP. A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening report and Appropriate Assessment Screening report were also conducted following completion of the draft plan. The plan was then revised and finalised following the receipt of feedback. Subsequently, Wexford's new LECP was formally approved by Wexford County Council on 08/04/2024.

1.5 Responsibilities in developing the LECP

While extensive consultation with the community and private sector was carried out in the development of the new LECP, in line with and even beyond the LECP Guidelines, the following responsibilities were assigned for the development of the plan:

- **Wexford County Council LECP Advisory Steering Group (ASG):** The ASG provided oversight for the overall development of the LECP.
- **Local Community Development Committee (LCDC):** The LCDC was responsible for the preparation of the community elements of the LECP.
- **Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic Development and Enterprise:** The SPC was responsible for the preparation of the economic elements of the LECP.
- **Regional Assembly:** The Southern Regional Assembly was consulted for input to ensure consistency and alignment with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES).
- **Municipal Districts:** The Municipal Districts of Wexford Borough, Rosslare, New Ross, Gorey- Kilmuckridge and Enniscorthy were consulted for input and consistency in relation to the economic and community elements of the plan and with the existing County Development Plan.

1.6 An Integrated and Collaborative Approach

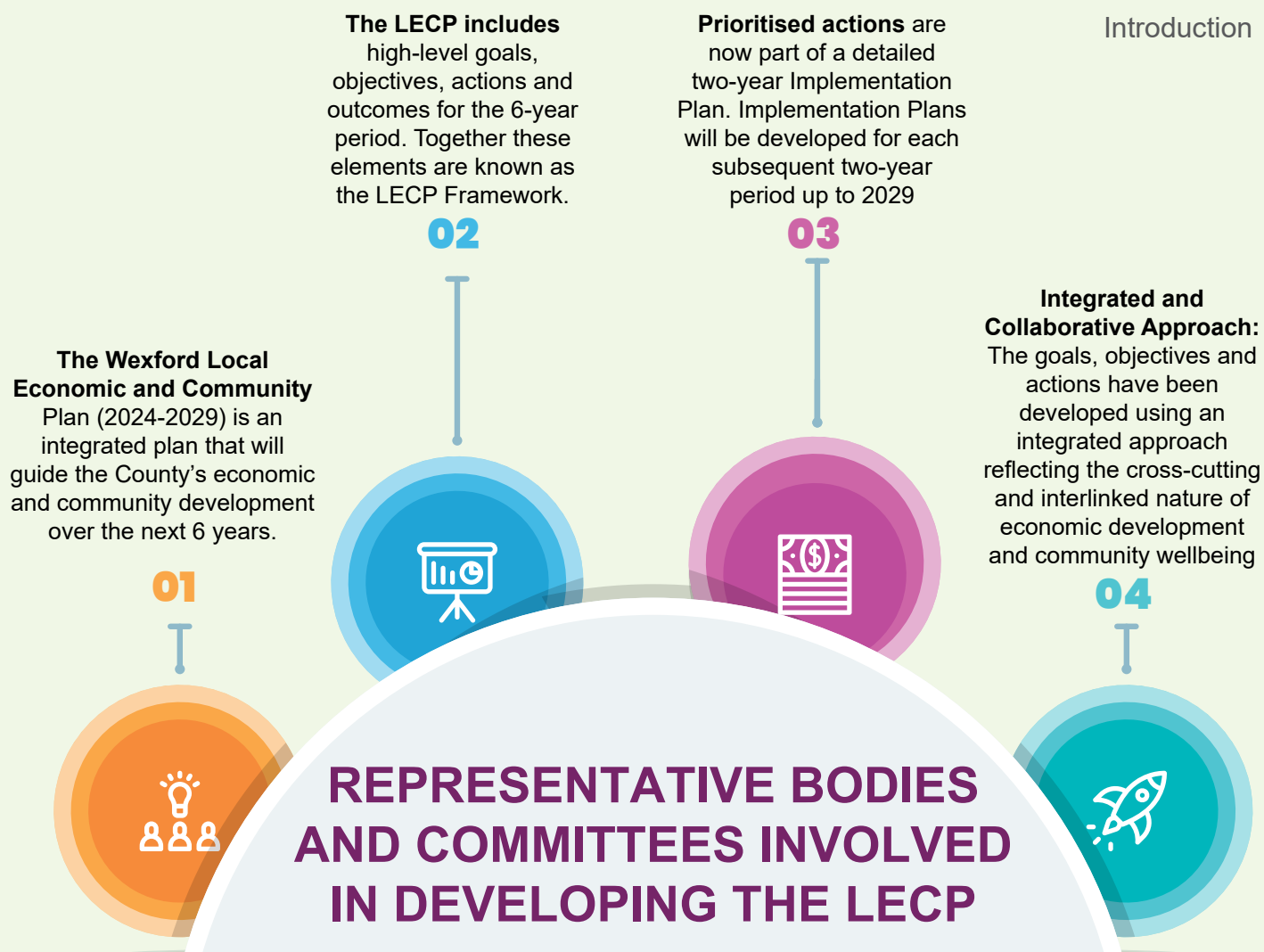
This LECP covers both community and economic development as required by the LECP guidelines. However, in contrast to the previous iteration, the community and economic elements are not separated into different sections. Instead, the goals, objectives and actions have been developed using an integrated approach reflecting the cross-cutting and interlinked nature of economic development and community wellbeing.

The community elements of the plan have been developed and approved by the Wexford LCDC. It includes goals, objectives and actions related to enhancing inclusion, public transport, wellbeing and health, education and training, the culture and creative sector, and

sustainability. The economic elements have been developed and approved by the Wexford SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise. It includes goals, objectives and actions related to improving the business environment, urban and rural regeneration, attracting investment, training and skills, supporting existing businesses and sustainable tourism development.

As outlined in the subsequent chapters, the new LECP has been developed to be a shared plan that will require collaboration between key stakeholders from across different sectors for it to be a success. This will include Wexford County Council, the public, the private sector, community and voluntary groups, education and training providers, and other key stakeholders that provide vital services in the county. It is through this collaborative effort that this plan will succeed in addressing the needs of all the community and businesses, and enhance the county as a place to live, work, visit and invest.





The LECF Advisory Steering Group. Provided oversight for the overall development of the LECF

The Local Community Development Committee.

Responsible for the preparation of community elements of the LECF

Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development and Enterprise.

Responsible for the preparation of the economic elements of the LECF

Southern Regional Assembly.

The Southern Regional Assembly was consulted for input and to ensure consistency and alignment with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region.

Municipal District Members.

The Municipal District Members were consulted for input to determine consistency between the economic and community elements of the plan and the County Development Plan

The Public

An extensive range of public consultation was conducted. This included written submissions on the draft Socio Economic Statement, two surveys and several workshops. The draft High Level Goals were revised to reflect the views of the community, private sector and other key stakeholders.

1.7 Overriding Status of the Plan

Implementing this plan will involve Wexford County Council helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans setting out public policy for sustainable development, including that relating to the economy, communities, infrastructure, land use, tourism, and environmental protection and management. This plan is situated alongside this hierarchy of statutory documents that has been subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and will not be binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent.

As previously noted, the plan fully aligns with the provisions of the existing National Planning Framework, Ireland 2040, National Climate Action Plan 2023, Housing For All 2021, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 and the current County Development Plan, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to

public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions.

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



An artistic illustration featuring a woman with long, flowing, vibrant red hair and a white horse. The woman is shown in profile, looking towards the left, wearing a dark, patterned garment. The horse is depicted in a dynamic, rearing pose, facing right. The background is a deep red, suggesting a barn wall, with a small window visible at the top. The scene is adorned with stylized, colorful foliage in shades of blue, purple, and orange. A large, glowing orange circle is positioned behind the horse's head. In the bottom left corner, there are small, circular icons resembling a 'P' and a 'T' on a signpost.

2

AMBITION FOR
COUNTY WEXFORD

AMBITION FOR
COUNTY WEXFORD

2.1 Ambition for Wexford

The wide-ranging function of the LECP means that it has the potential to positively impact all those who work and live in, and visit the county. As such, the development of the LECP has provided an opportunity to frame an ambition for the county and its development over the next number of years. The ambition, outlined below, is based around the understanding obtained from the research conducted in the development of the LECP and importantly, through views provided during the consultation process with key stakeholders, the community and the private sector. It is not outlandish. It builds on solid foundations and reflects reality.

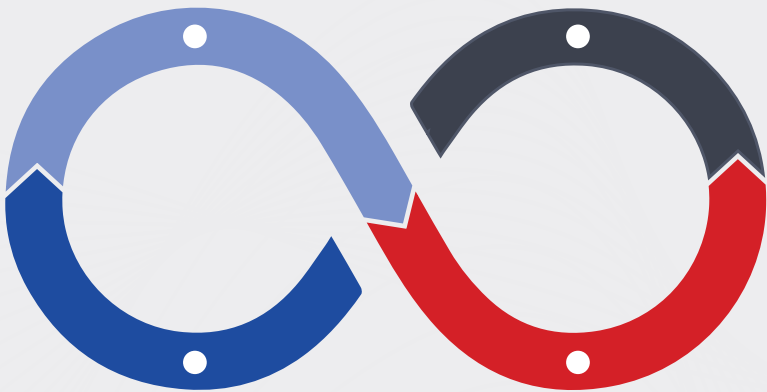
Taking the findings from the analysis and consultation into account, the following ambition has been developed:

That the landscape, seascape and settlements of County Wexford be sensitively and sustainably managed to improve the prosperity and quality of life of the County’s residents.

The ambition provides a unified path forward reflecting how many of the goals, objectives and actions are interconnected and, in some cases, interdependent, contributing both to the wellbeing of the economy and the community.

HIGH LEVEL GOALS

DESIRED OUTCOMES



OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS & KPIs

3



POLICY FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

POLICY FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

3.1 Policy Overview – Context and Understanding

This section provides a brief overview of some of the key policies at international, national, regional and local level that are influencing the development of County Wexford and to which the new LECP will be aligned. Given the importance of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to the new plan, the SDGs are expanded on in slightly more detail below. The various policy documents helped inform and guide the direction of this LECP, and its goals, objectives, desired outcomes and actions (figure 3.1). Appendix A lists the policies, strategies, and briefing notes that have been reviewed and influenced the development of this plan.

From the review of relevant policies and strategies, some of the key areas that County Wexford can draw upon and align with include:

Community

- Providing quality of life through compact and sustainable growth of settlements, associated services and amenities.
- Strengthening local communities to help reverse and address rural decline. Capitalising on County Wexford's existing quality of life, natural amenities and cultural heritage to galvanise its strengths as a place to live and work.
- Ensuring the revitalisation of town and village centres to create vibrant settlements across the county.

Economic

- Generating economic growth and diversification of local and regional economies, including through supporting SME and micro business creation.
- Advancing development of infrastructure to support emerging employment sectors and to embrace new ways of remote and flexible working.
- Advancing development of infrastructure to support the county's role as a key entry and exit point for goods and people into and out of Ireland (i.e. Rosslare Port, New Ross Port).
- Encouraging population growth in settlements of all sizes, supported by job creation and enhanced employment opportunities.

3.2 International Policy



2030 Agenda – UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries – developed and developing – in a global partnership. They recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go together with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve the natural environment and biodiversity.



Of the 17 SDGs outlined in the 2030 Agenda, several share a strong alignment with the purpose and objectives of the Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan...



SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Ensuring access to high quality services and creating positive economic, social and environmental links are key to achieving this SDG

Creating cities, towns, villages and communities which are safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable are key objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals. These objectives are closely aligned with those found throughout Irish spatial planning policy. Ensuring access to high-quality services, creating positive economic, social and environmental links are key to achieving this SDG, which is echoed throughout County Wexford's new LECP.



SDG 13: Climate Action

Erosion of Wexford's predominately soft coastline is an obvious and growing consequence of a changing climate.

The urgency and scale of climate action is ever-increasing. The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent public health restrictions has revitalised our sense of value in the natural environment and has provided a prime opportunity for us to take urgent action to combat climate change. Erosion of Wexford's predominately soft coastline is an obvious and growing consequence of a changing climate.



SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Promoting sustained, inclusive economic growth and fulfilling employment for all is strongly aligned with the objectives of the new LECP

In line with SDG 11, promoting sustained, inclusive economic growth and fulfilling employment for all is strongly aligned with the objectives of the new LECP. Creating a diverse economy, achieving full and productive employment and decent work is a central foundation of both previous, current and future iterations of planning policy for County Wexford.



3.3 National Policy

Project Ireland 2040



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

National Planning Framework

The NPF draws upon lessons learned from the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2022 and provides a framework for the sustainable development of Ireland's existing settlements.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) is a high-level strategy that aims to shape growth and development in Ireland out to the year 2040. The NPF draws upon lessons learned from the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2022 and provides a framework for the sustainable development of Ireland's existing settlements, as an alternative to an uncoordinated "business as usual" approach to development. As a framework document it sets in train a process by which more detailed planning documents must follow, including the relevant RSES and County Development Plans. The Strategy also contains a range of National Policy Objectives (NPOs), providing a wider context for targeting future growth across the country.

National Development Plan 2021 – 2030

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2030 sets out the investment priorities that underpin the implementation of the National Planning Framework as part of Project Ireland 2040

Through a total investment of €165 billion, this level of capital spending aims to ensure ongoing cross- sectoral regional development and public investment. A large proportion of this investment is directed at major national infrastructure projects relating to sustainable mobility, international and regional connectivity, transitions to a low carbon and climate-resilient economy, compact growth, enhanced amenity and heritage management, among others.



Healthy Ireland



Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025

The Healthy Ireland Framework called out the need to focus on the improvement of individuals' health and wellbeing by creating healthier environments that promote and support people to adopt healthy behaviours

In 2021, the Department of Health launched the national Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021–2025. The Framework promotes a cross-sectoral and cross-Government approach and focuses on four goals: 1. Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life. 2. Reduce health inequalities. 3. Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing. 4. Create an environment where every individual and sector can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland. The Healthy Ireland Framework called out the need to focus on the improvement of individuals' health and wellbeing by creating healthier environments that promote and support people to adopt healthy behaviours.



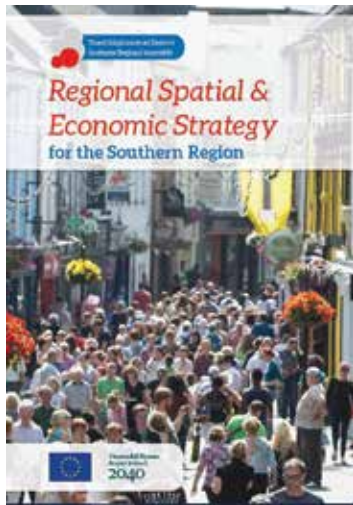
Health Services Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan 2023-2027

The Health Services Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan 2023–2027 sets out the direction for the HSE in delivering on its role for the implementation of the Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021–2025

The plan encompasses four strategic priority areas: 1. Embedding health and wellbeing in health service delivery. 2. Strengthening partnership and community working. 3. Supporting healthy behaviours from childhood through to healthy ageing. 4. Supporting staff personal health and wellbeing.



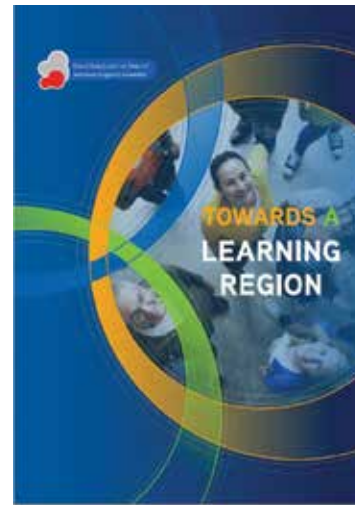
3.4 Regional Policy



Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy for the Southern Region

The RSES for the Southern Regional Assembly provides an overarching framework for the creation and enhancement of attractive places with the necessary supporting infrastructures to stimulate enterprise investment and to realise economic potential.

The RSES primarily aims to support the delivery of the programme for change set out in Project Ireland 2040 - the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan 2021-2030. As the regional tier of the national planning process, it will ensure coordination between the City and County Development Plans (CCDP) and Local Enterprise and Community Plans (LECP) of the ten local authorities in the Region in achieving the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.



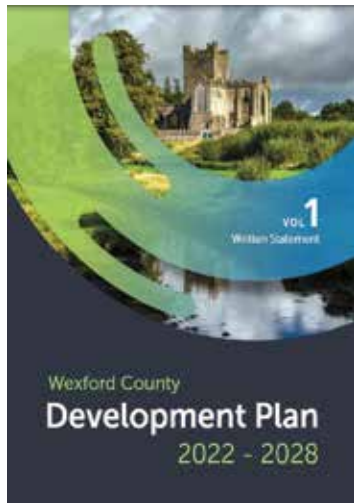
Towards A Learning Region

The Southern Region Assembly's "Towards a Learning Region" plan is designed to improve the region's Human Capital through education, upskilling, and skill attainment across all cohorts of the population

The Southern Region Assembly has also developed a "Towards a Learning Region" plan that identifies 19 action areas to support the promotion of lifelong learning within the region. By doing so, it is hoped that the region will improve its Human Capital through education, upskilling, and skill attainment across all cohorts of the population. It highlights the multi-faceted and complex relationships needed to deliver for a large and diverse Southern Region. The actions include: improving the uptake in apprenticeships; improving participation in lifelong learning; direct supports to sectors of the economy experiencing acute economic shocks; mental health support alongside education; and developing new Technical Universities to support the attainment of skills and the development of a skills-based economy.



3.5 Local Policy



Wexford County Development Plan 2022 – 2028

The Wexford County Development Plan seeks to develop and improve, in a sustainable manner, the social, economic, environmental and cultural assets of County Wexford.

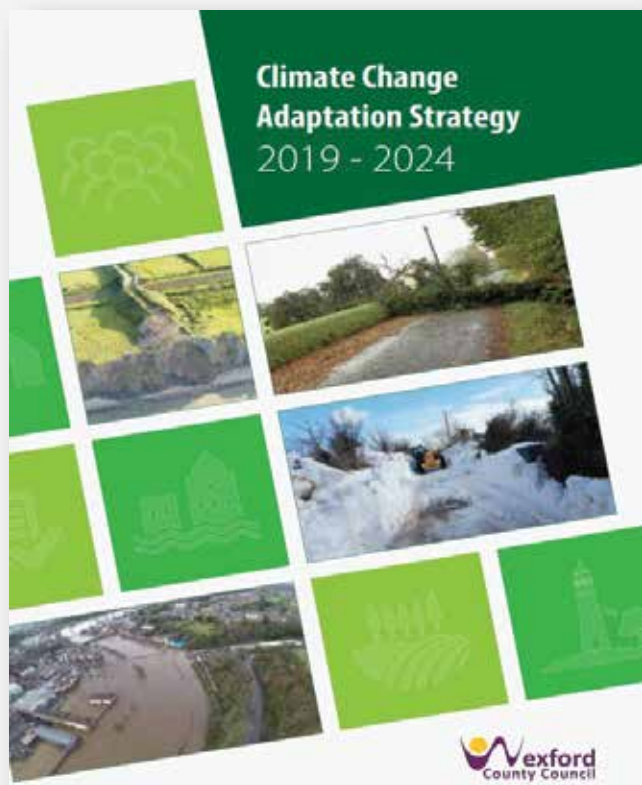
The Wexford County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 sets out the proposed policies and objectives for the development of the county over the 6-year plan period. The Development Plan seeks to develop and improve, in a sustainable manner, the social, economic, environmental and cultural assets of County Wexford. Mandatory requirements include the inclusion of objectives for the zoning of land, the provision of infrastructure, the conservation and protection of the environment, and the integration of planning and sustainable development with the social, community and cultural requirements of the County and its population. The Plan's vision is to create a version of County Wexford that is environmentally sustainable, healthy, offers high quality employment and ways of living, and values the county's natural environment and heritage.



Wexford LECP 2016 – 2021

This document is the previous iteration of the Local Economic and Community Plan for County Wexford and identifies goals, objectives and actions to promote and support the economic and community development of the county.

The Plan was focused on achieving the following vision: “that Wexford will be a county: with vibrant, diverse and resilient sustainable urban and rural communities experiencing a high quality of life. Where people will want to live, work and do business which offers its citizens quality employment opportunities which offers high quality urban and rural environments supported by excellent sustainable physical and social infrastructure and sustainable employment opportunities, and which values its natural environment and heritage.” The document set out six high level goals and associated outcomes across the county to be completed over the plan's lifespan. A high level review of the 2016-2021 LECP is provided in Appendix B.



Wexford Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 to 2024

The Wexford Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 to 2024 aims to guide the county's response to the challenge of climate change and support citizens, businesses, and visitors in conducting their lives sustainably, and in doing so mitigating the effects of climate change pre-emptively. The plan aims to demonstrate that "Wexford County Council is planning proactively to take action and will make the required adjustments to minimise or avoid the existing and anticipated impacts from climate change." A new Climate Action Plan is being launched in early 2024 which will incorporate both adaptation and mitigation measures.





4

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC
PROFILE**

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC
PROFILE**



DEMOGRAPHICS:

Co. Wexford Population
(Census 2022):

163,527



50.7%
WOMEN



49.3%
MEN



66%
Migration into
the County.



34%
Due to natural
increase.



9.2%
Population growth
2016 – 2022.



65 OR OLDER

25%



18 OR YOUNGER

27.5%



19-64

47.5%



HOUSING:



- **72,028** housing stock (Census 2022)
- **3,885** new units built since 2016 (increase of **5.7%**)
- **5,377** housing units vacant in 2022 (**7.5%**)
- **72.7%** of houses owner occupied

87,222

**FOLLOWERS
ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA
PLATFORMS
(WCC SOCIAL MEDIA
AUDIT 2023)**



ECONOMY:

- **19** Multinational companies operating within Co. Wexford
- **4,330** farms in Co. Wexford
- Approx. **886,000** tourism visits per year (Fáilte Ireland)
- **20%** of Irish Vessel Traffic handled via Rosslare Europort

LECP CONSULTATION:



- 6 in person public consultation workshops & 1 public webinar – Total attendance 192 people.
- 11 targeted stakeholder consultation workshops
- 144 survey responses and written submissions received

4.1 Introduction

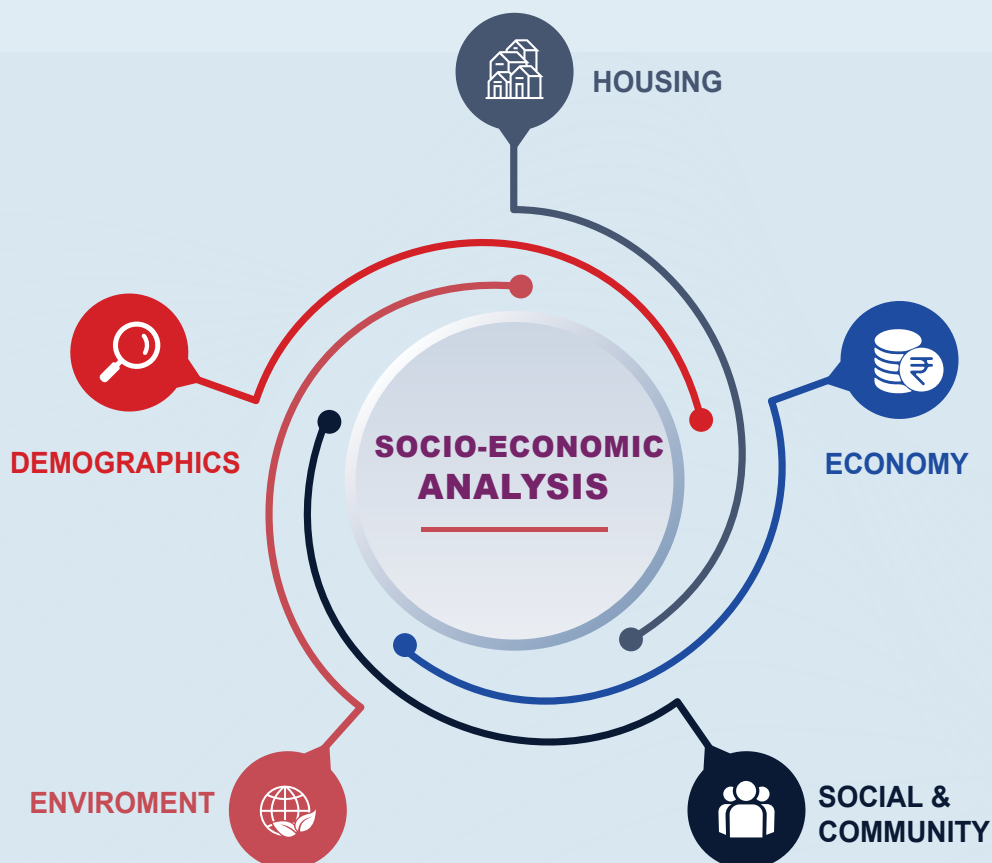
This section provides a snapshot overview of a selection of key areas including demographics (i.e. population), housing, the economy, social and community, and the environment (figure 4.1). The findings from this analysis and the policy review were used as a starting point to identify strengths, constraints, opportunities and threats for the county. The socio-economic analysis also informed the development of the initial draft High-Level Goals and were utilised to stimulate discussion during the consultation process.

The analysis outlined below is based largely on the analysis of 2016 and 2022 Census data. Further up-to-date information has also been incorporated from other departmental and agency releases, as well other sources

such as the SEAI, Pobal, and the Geodirectory.

Some of the specific needs for Wexford identified from the analysis that are addressed in this LECP include:

- Providing sufficient education and employment options in the County that will provide the youth with greater opportunity to stay or come back earlier to Wexford if they choose to leave.
- To continue to address the decline of town centres, vacancy/dereliction and the provision of adequate housing to meet the needs of its changing population structure.
- That the county makes greater use of its coast and ports to attract investment and foreign tourists.

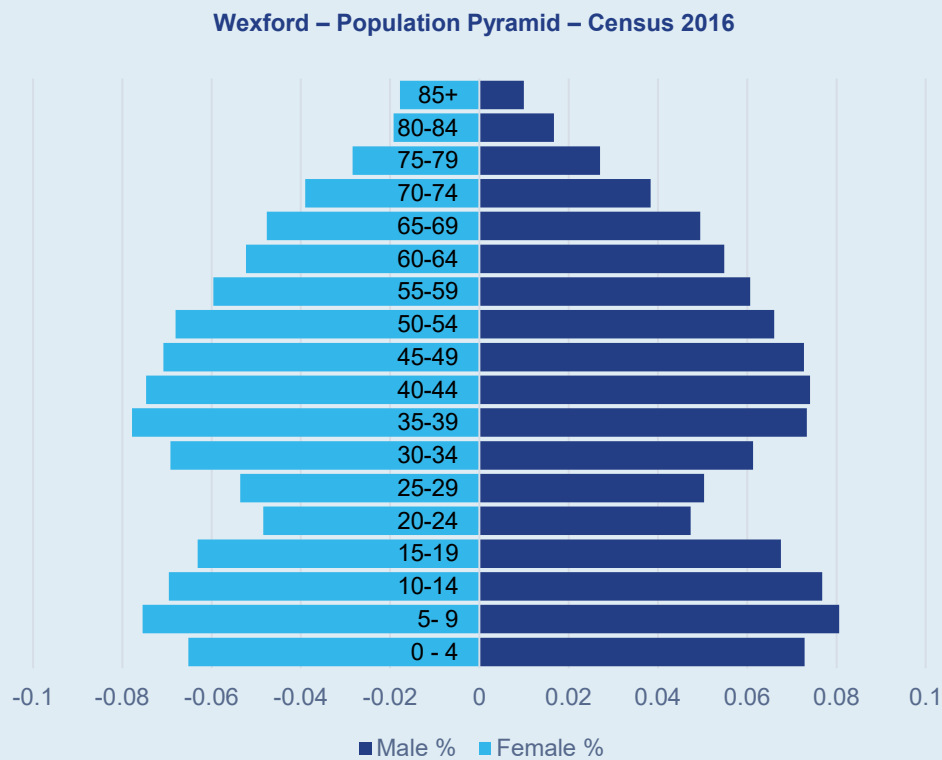
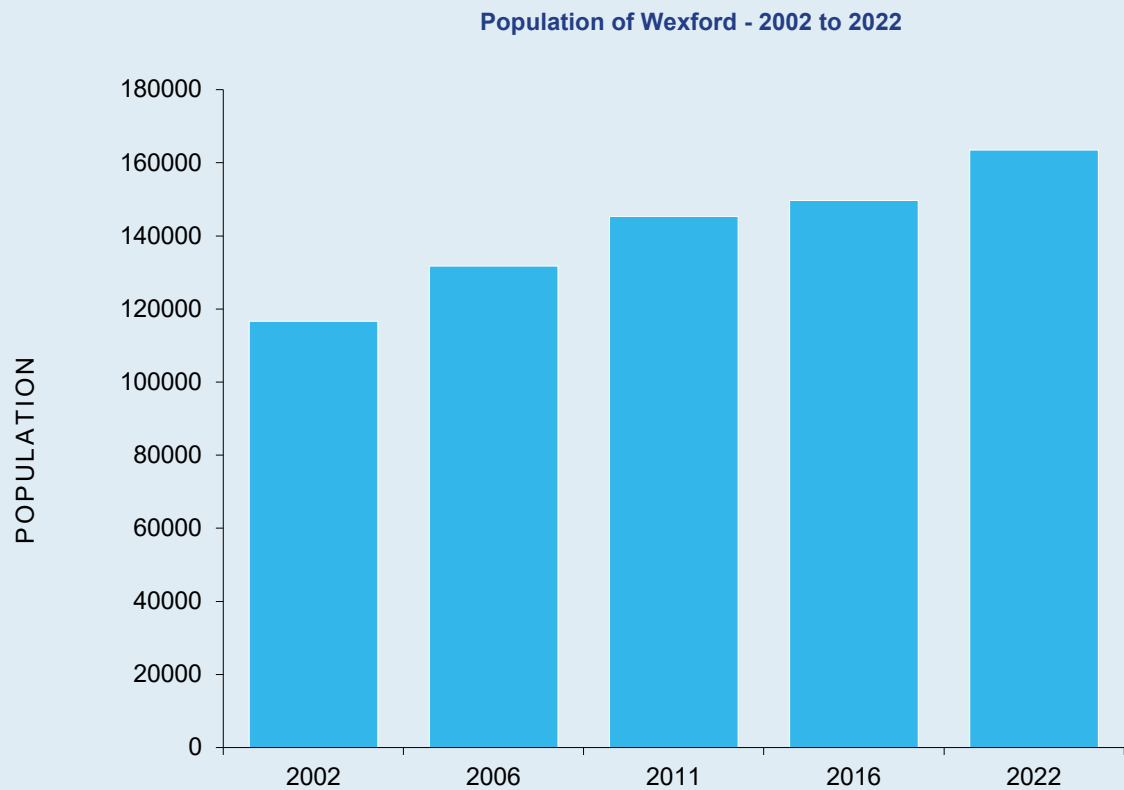


4.2 Demographics

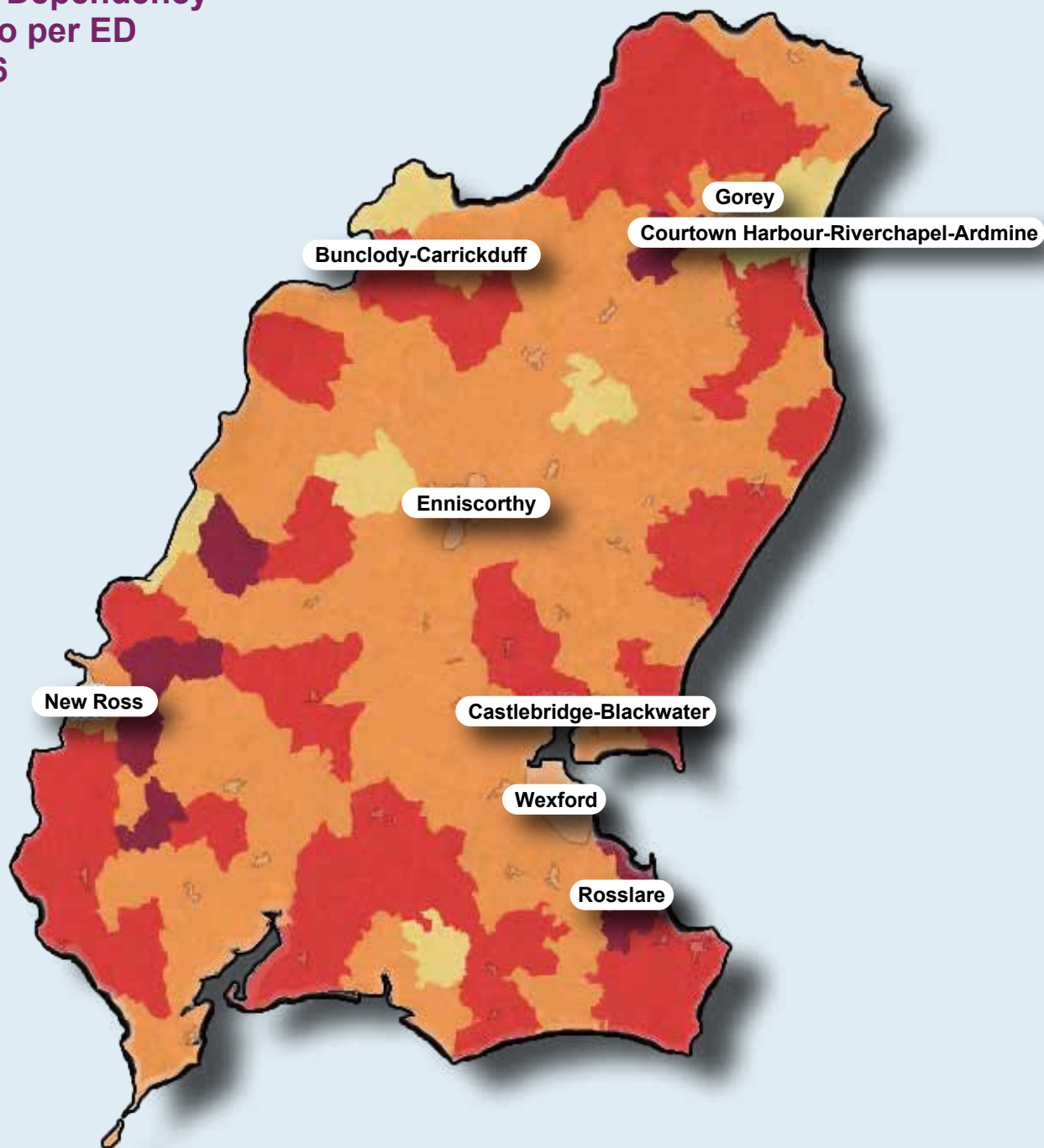
According to the Census 2022 results, Ireland's population growth trend continues, with the state experiencing a 7% increase in population since the previous census in 2016. County Wexford experienced a 9.2% increase in the same period and, in 2022, the population stood at 163,527. This makes the county the 13th most populated county in Ireland and the 5th most populated county in the Southern Region. Some key demographic characteristics and trends are examined in more detail below:

- The **population** recorded by County Wexford in Census 2022 represents a fifth consecutive increase since 1996. As per Census 2022, the population of County Wexford is 3.2% of the total state population, with the population growth rate of the county across 2016 to 2022 (9.2%) accelerating rapidly after a more modest rate of growth in the 2011 – 2016 period (3.0%).
- **Natural increase and migration** were strong drivers of population growth in County Wexford. Census 2022 figures indicate that migration into the county was twice the rate of natural increase (10 per 1000 vs. 5 per 1000) and these were the 2nd highest rate of both migration and natural increase in the Southern Region.
- As per the preliminary Census 2022 results, the **gender composition of the county's population** is in line with the rest of Ireland with marginally more women than men (50.7%)
- According to the 2016 Census, the **0-18 age cohort** accounts for 27.5% of the population in County Wexford, while the smallest **age cohort** of 80+ accounts for only 3.2% of the county's population. The largest decrease from 2011 to 2016 (i.e. 18.2%) was experienced in the 20–29 age cohort which indicates that the county may lack education and employment opportunities. This was also a period of severe economic recession.
- Furthermore, according to the 2016 Census, the **county's above-national average youth dependency** (34.8 per 100), elderly (23.2 per hundred), and age dependency rates (36.9 per hundred) indicates a higher rate of dependence than other Irish counties on the economically active population.
- In 2016, County Wexford's population was largely consistent of Irish nationals at 90.1% of the population. **The largest groupings of foreign nationals** were UK nationals at 3% and Polish nationals at 2.7%.
- In Census 2016, White Irish and White Irish Travellers made up 88% of County Wexford's population, with 8% of the population being members of other White ethnic groups, and the remaining ethnic groups making up less than 1%. According to the previous census, the non-national population are generally found in the main urban settlements such as New Ross, Enniscorthy, Wexford Town, Gorey.

4.3 Demographics contd.



Age Dependency Ratio per ED 2016



Dependency Ratio Reference Layers Per 100

 38-40(1)	 Wexford Settlements
 41-50(7)	 Wexford Settlements
 41-50(7)	
 41-50(7)	
 41-50(7)	

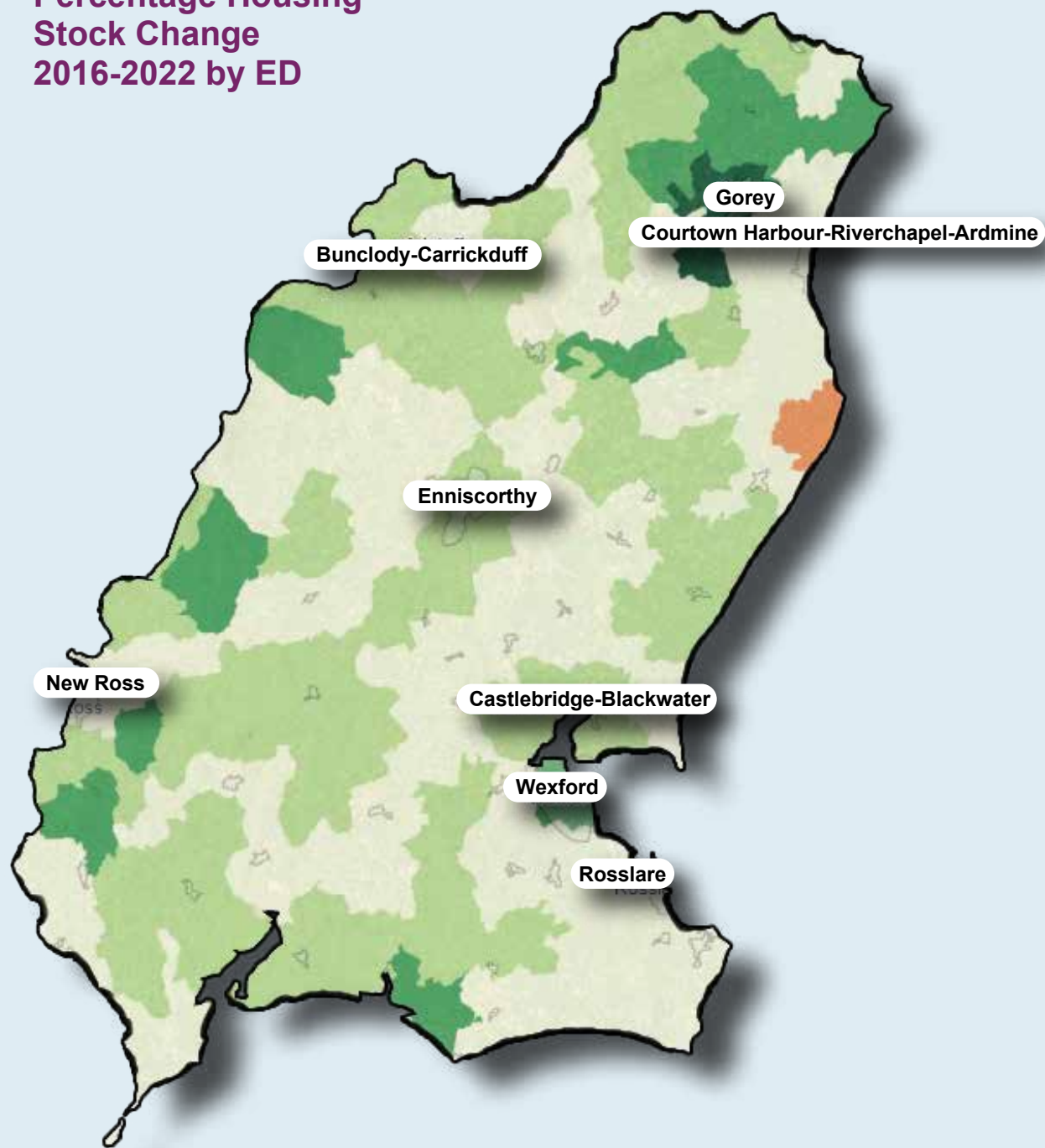
4.3 Housing

As reflected across the rest of the country, County Wexford's high population growth of 9.2% between 2016 and 2022 was not accompanied by a corresponding increase in housing stock for the same period. The current housing shortage across the county underlines the critical role which Wexford County Council will play in guiding and facilitating development. A failure to do so will exacerbate existing socio-economic issues such as migration and exclusion.

- In Census 2022, County Wexford's housing stock stood at 72,028. Since 2016, 3,885 units have been added to the housing stock - i.e. 3.2% of the new homes added in the country and 11.1% of the new homes added in the Southern Region. As an illustration of previous progress, 32.2% of the County Wexford housing stock captured by Census 2016 was built between 2001 and 2010, while the majority (55.3%) was built after 1991.
- Census 2022 reported that the electoral division with the strongest growth in new housing was around Gorey Rural (with growth in excess of 16%) while Cahore and Wexford No.2 Urban were the only electoral divisions to experience declines in the stock of housing since 2016.
- Despite the challenges in house construction, Census 2022 ranks County Wexford at the upper half of the regional and national league tables for housing completions between 2016 and 2022. The county ranks second regionally and tenth nationally.
- In 2022, County Wexford's residential property vacancy rate stood at 7.3% as captured in that year's Census. This figure was ninth highest rate in the region and the 23rd highest in the state. The 5,377 vacant units accounted for 3.22% of total vacancies nationally.
- The top 5 reasons for vacancy given during Census 2022 in County Wexford were: "Rental Property" (17.7%), "Renovation" (14.6%), "For Sale" (13.2%), "Nursing Home/Hospital" (7%), and "Farmhouse" (5.3%), and "Not Stated/Other Reason" (16.7%).
- Census 2016 classifies the county's household profile as follows: Owner occupied with no mortgage (41%), Owner occupied with mortgage (31.7%), and as Rented from a Private Landlord (15.6%), Rented from Local Authority (9%), Occupied free of rent (2%), and Rented from a voluntary body (1%).
- In terms of housing status, compared to the rest of Ireland in Census 2016, County Wexford has a slightly higher rate of Mortgage Free Ownership. Rented Property, Ownership with a Mortgage and Rent Free Occupation are generally in-line with the rest of the country.



Percentage Housing
Stock Change
2016-2022 by ED



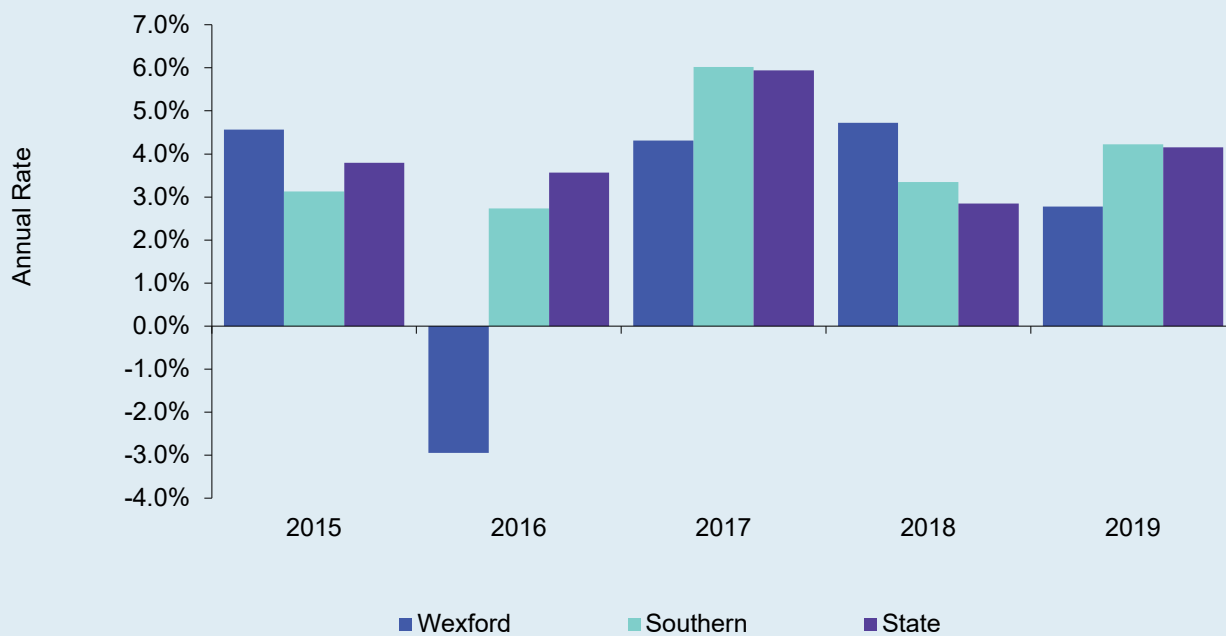
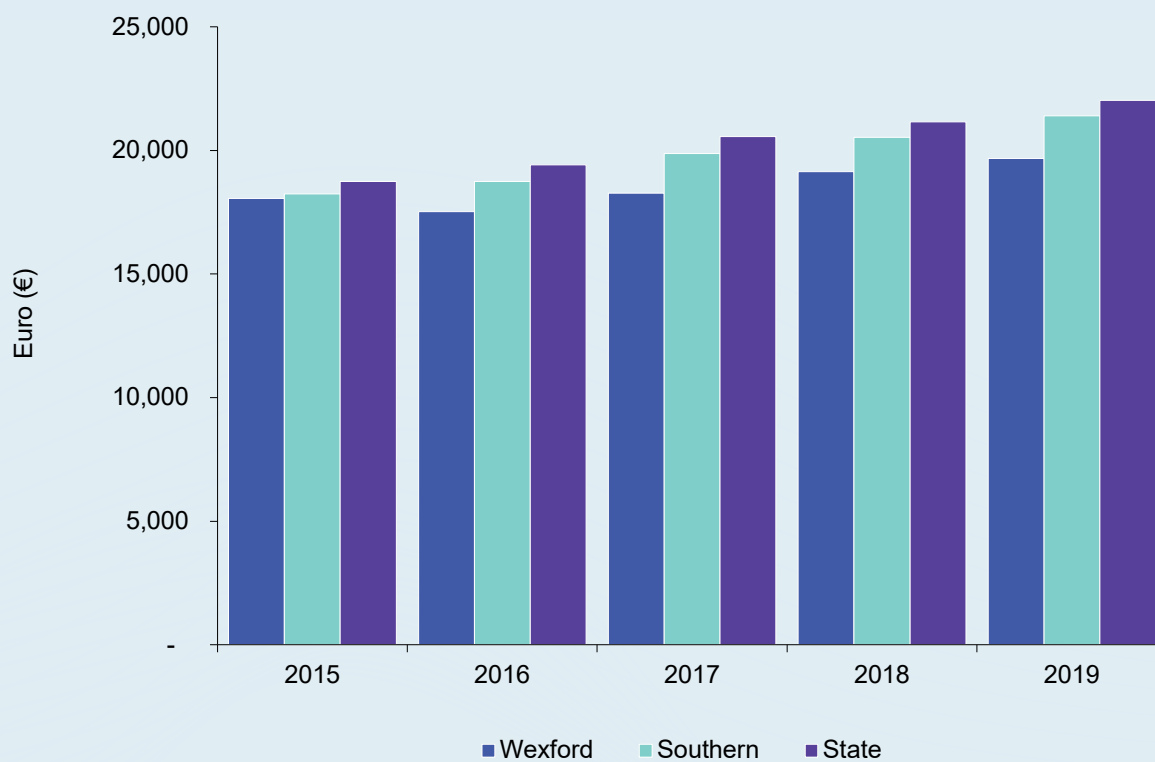
4.4 Economy

Under the County Development Plan (2022-28), Key Towns in the county include Wexford and Gorey, while Large Towns include Enniscorthy and New Ross. The county is well-served by key infrastructure such as the M11 and N25, the Rosslare Europort, New Ross Port and five Iarnród Éireann stations (including Gorey, Enniscorthy, and Wexford). There is a particularly strong correlation between the road network and employment. The economy of County Wexford possesses a wealth of indigenous and global business. Wexford is renowned for its agricultural produce – especially fruit –, food artisans and seafood.

- Over 21,000 premises in the county are included in the National Broadband Plan. Successful implementation of the plan is important to facilitate industry and remote-working in rural Wexford.
- According to the 2016 Census, 7.5% of persons were employed in the primary sector, 18.9% were employed in secondary industries, with 74.6% in tertiary employment. County Wexford's top industries in 2016 were "Commerce and Trade" (22.7%), "Professional Services" (22.2%), and "Manufacturing Industries" (12%).
- The commercial vacancy rate was 10.6% in the Geodirectory Commercial Buildings Report Q2 2022.
- Private enterprise, especially smaller businesses provide significant above national average level of employment across the county. According to 2020 CSO figures, 60% of employment in the County was from businesses with less than 50 employees.
- Invest Wexford indicates that 19 multinational companies operate from the county (e.g. BNY Mellon, Zurich, and Danone). Developing an enlarged Wexford campus for SETU will be essential to attracting and retaining FDI. Indigenous companies based in County Wexford include DoneDeal and Slaney Foods. Key public sector employers include Wexford County Council, Wexford General Hospital, and the EPA.
- In 2020, there were 4,330 farms in the county. According to the 2020 Agri-Census, the number of farms has reduced by 2.17% between 2010 and 2020 (the seventh highest rate in the country). County Wexford's farming economy is diverse with less than 30% of farms focused on specialised beef production, compared to 53% nationally. The county also has an above average level of mixed crops and livestock, mixed field crops, and specialist tillage farming, and higher than average employment in the sector.
- According to Fáilte Ireland, approximately 886k visitors visit Wexford each year, generating €207m for the county. The most popular attractions in 2021 were Johnstown Castle (250,000), the JFK Arboretum (143,707), Hook Lighthouse (121,000) and Wells House and Gardens (117,678). 2019 statistics indicate that 8% of tourists to Ireland arrive by sea. Passenger ferries from Rosslare Europort go to Spain, France and the UK.

- Rosslare Europort handles 20% of all Irish vessel traffic and is Ireland's 2nd largest passenger port. The port operates 56 UK sailings, and 30 plus to the continent per week. It has benefited from Brexit. The offshore wind industry offers strong commercial possibilities for the port and county in general.
- Despite improvements, economic divergences across genders in the 2016 Census suggest that there are structural issues that may be holding back the economy (e.g. childcare services provision, social services). This includes the higher rates of women undertaking home-making roles (18.2% for women vs 1.3% for men) and a higher rate of unemployment among men (i.e. 10.8% vs 7%).
- The disposable income per person for Wexford County in 2019 (€19,668) was lower than the regional average of €20,845 and national average of €20,055, as measured by the 2019 National Accounts.



Growth in disposable income – 2015 to 2019.**Disposable Income per person – 2015 to 2019**

4.5 Social and Community

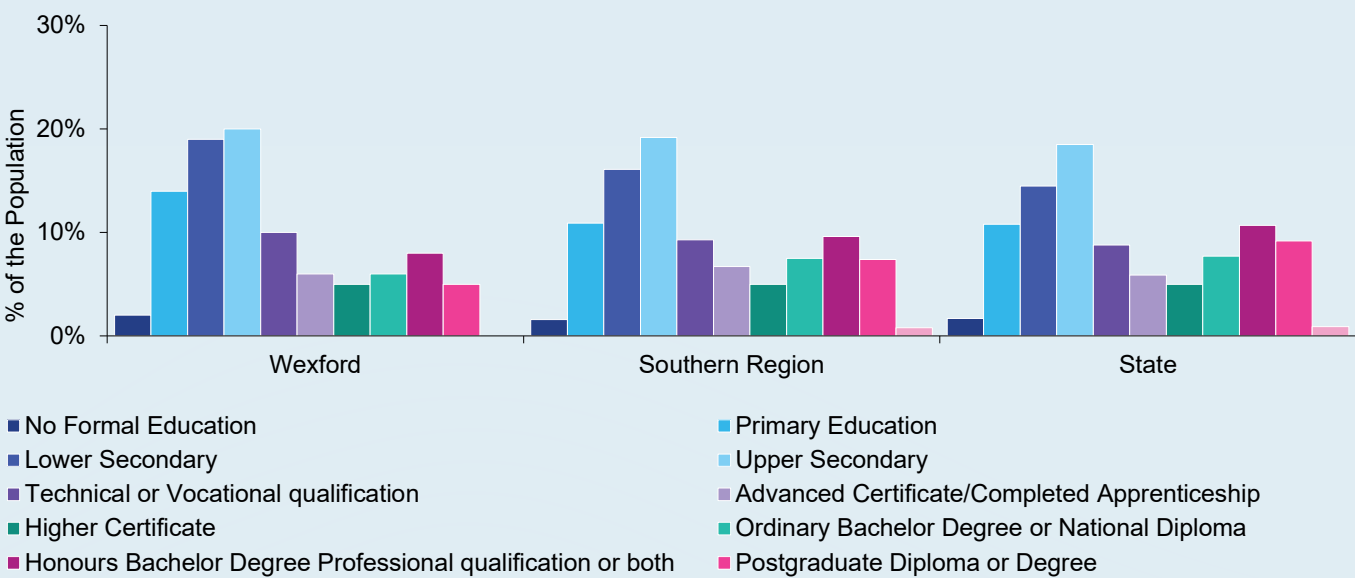
County Wexford has made progress addressing issues of social disadvantage and marginalisation in recent years through work with government, community groups, private citizens, and other key stakeholders. Despite this, pockets of social disadvantage, marginalisation and anti-social behaviour persist. In addressing these challenges, it is important to identify synergies with other socio-economic and sustainability initiatives – especially around education and employment – and to support investment in facilities and services. The following section illustrates both Wexford's social and community achievements and challenges.

- In Census 2016, 40% of County Wexford's population aged 15 and over had completed some form of tertiary education which was behind the state average of 48.1%. 18.5% of people in County Wexford who have completed education in County Wexford did so with a highest level classed as 'No Formal/Primary' and 20.7% with a highest attainment level classed as 'Lower Secondary' (vs. state averages of 15.2% and 16.6% respectively).
- Established in 2022, SETU has 18,000 students and 1,500 employees spread across a network of south-east campuses. Concerted attempts are being made to significantly grow the Wexford campus.
- In terms of household composition, Census 2016 indicated that almost 1 in 4 are single persons (24%). Couples with children make up another 35%. 12% of households are lone parents, with the ratio of 5:1 lone mothers to lone fathers.
- Although captured prior to the Covid Pandemic, in Census 2016, 59.0% of people in County Wexford in 2016 classified themselves as being in Very Good Health, while 28% of people classified themselves as being in Good Health. In the Needs Analysis Survey for 2022, Healthy Wexford identified mental health, physical activity, nutrition, and public spaces and places for health and wellbeing as the top four areas of importance to focus on.
- According to the POBAL Deprivation Index based on the 2022 Census, the county is marked by a number of pockets of disadvantage including Taghmon (-17.54), Enniscorthy Urban (-16.79), and New Ross Urban (-15.73). 18.9% of the of people in County Wexford live in an area categorised as "disadvantaged" and 63.6% live in "marginally below average" areas. 17.4% of the population in county Wexford live in Electoral Districts classified as "marginally above average".
- Council supported community initiatives include the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (2018-22), the LEADER Rural Development Programme, and Sports Active Wexford (in partnership with the Irish Sports Council). Meanwhile, Wexford Tidy Towns has achieved Gold Medal status for the 2nd consecutive year in the 2022 National Tidy Towns Competition and is involved in the Green-Schools Programme and the 'Wexford in Bloom' initiative.

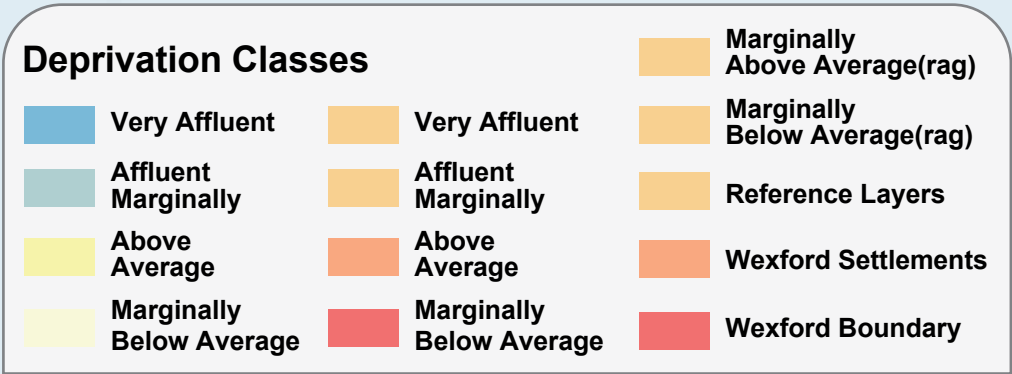
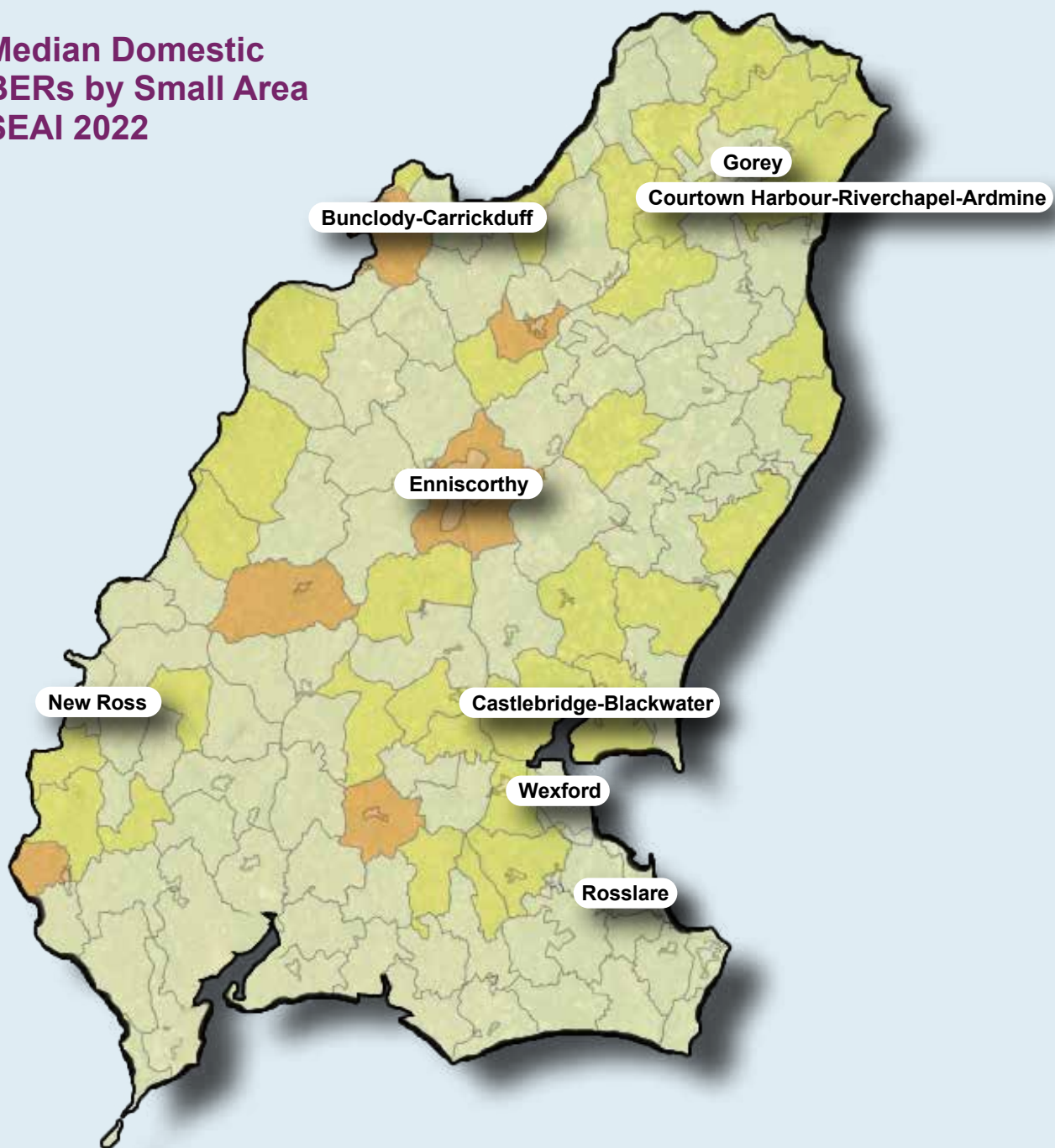
- According to the CSO, County Wexford had a higher than average crime rate in the country (including theft, fraud, or destruction of property, controlled substance abuse, violent threats, acts and dangerous acts, and public order

issues). This points to a wide range of issues, including a lack of employment opportunities and local educational choices, and a time lag in support and social initiatives.

Population aged 15 years and over by highest level of education completed - Census 2016.



Median Domestic
BERs by Small Area
SEAI 2022



4.6 Environment

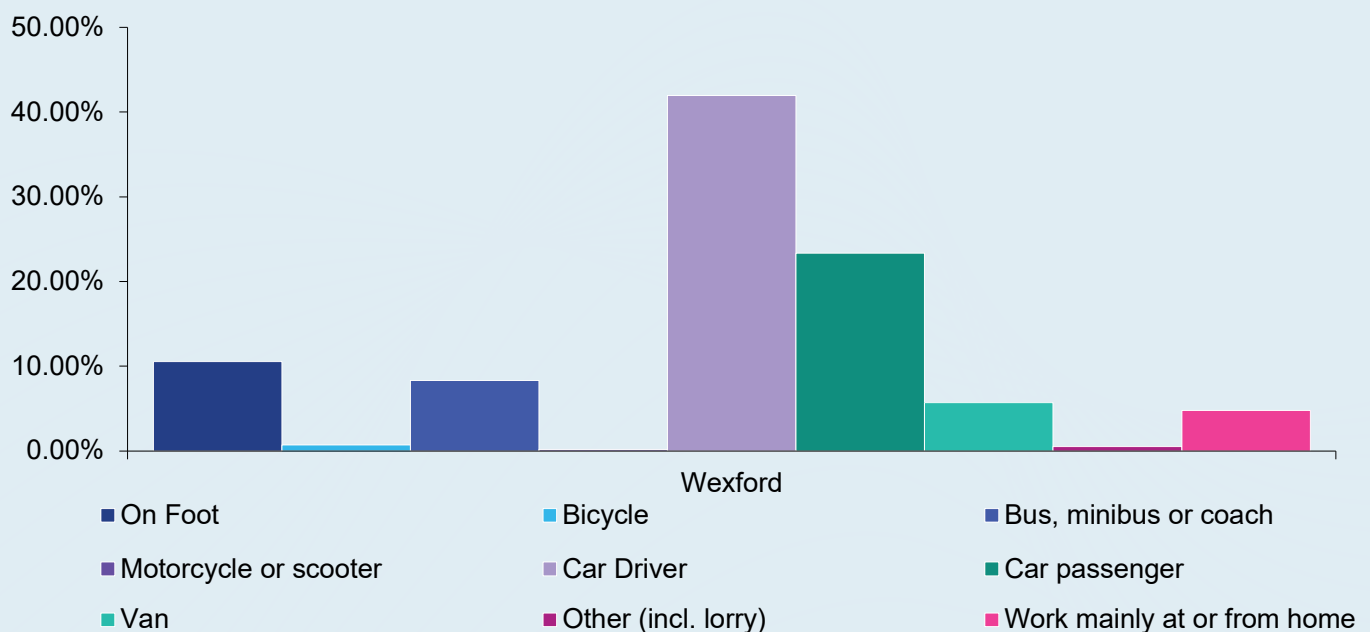
The sunniest county in Ireland, Wexford is well known for its long beach coastline, harbour and small inlets, as well as the rivers Barrow and Slaney. The county is acutely at risk from the impacts of climate change, particularly from flooding (i.e. Wexford Harbour, Enniscorthy and New Ross). The 260km coastline is also especially vulnerable to the effects of coastal erosion (211km of soft shoreline and 21 identified erosion risk zones). One of the places at risk of flooding, Enniscorthy, has been selected as being the Decarbonization Zone for County Wexford. The following section contains a range of insights relating to the county's environment and sustainability.

- According to data from the SEAI (2022), County Wexford has a varied spatial performance in terms of Domestic Building Energy Rating (BER). Enniscorthy Urban has the highest median and mean Domestic BER in the county. Nine small areas in the county have a median Non-Domestic Building Energy of A3 or higher, while 116 small areas have a median rating of D1 or lower.
- An EPA study of 87 monitored Wexford water bodies between 2016 and 2021 found that almost half were either in moderate or poor condition (i.e. 43 out of 87 water bodies).
- As a key part of Ireland's energy strategy, the SEAI measured that in 2022, the county had a total of 18 wind and hydro electricity generators with a total installed capacity of 182 MW. County Wexford contributes approximately 4.2% of the total installed capacity of wind and hydro generator connections in Ireland. Biomass CHP & Co-firing, and Solar PV account for 3.52 MW and 2.51 MW respectively.
- The electrification of transport is a cornerstone of Ireland's green modernisation ambitions. Between 2020 and 2021, the number of new electric vehicles sold in County Wexford grew by 157% from 142 to 365 EVs. As of November 2022, there are 146 EV charging points with another 594 granted permission in County Wexford. SIMI ranks the county second in the region for currently installed points and fourth for granted permissions.

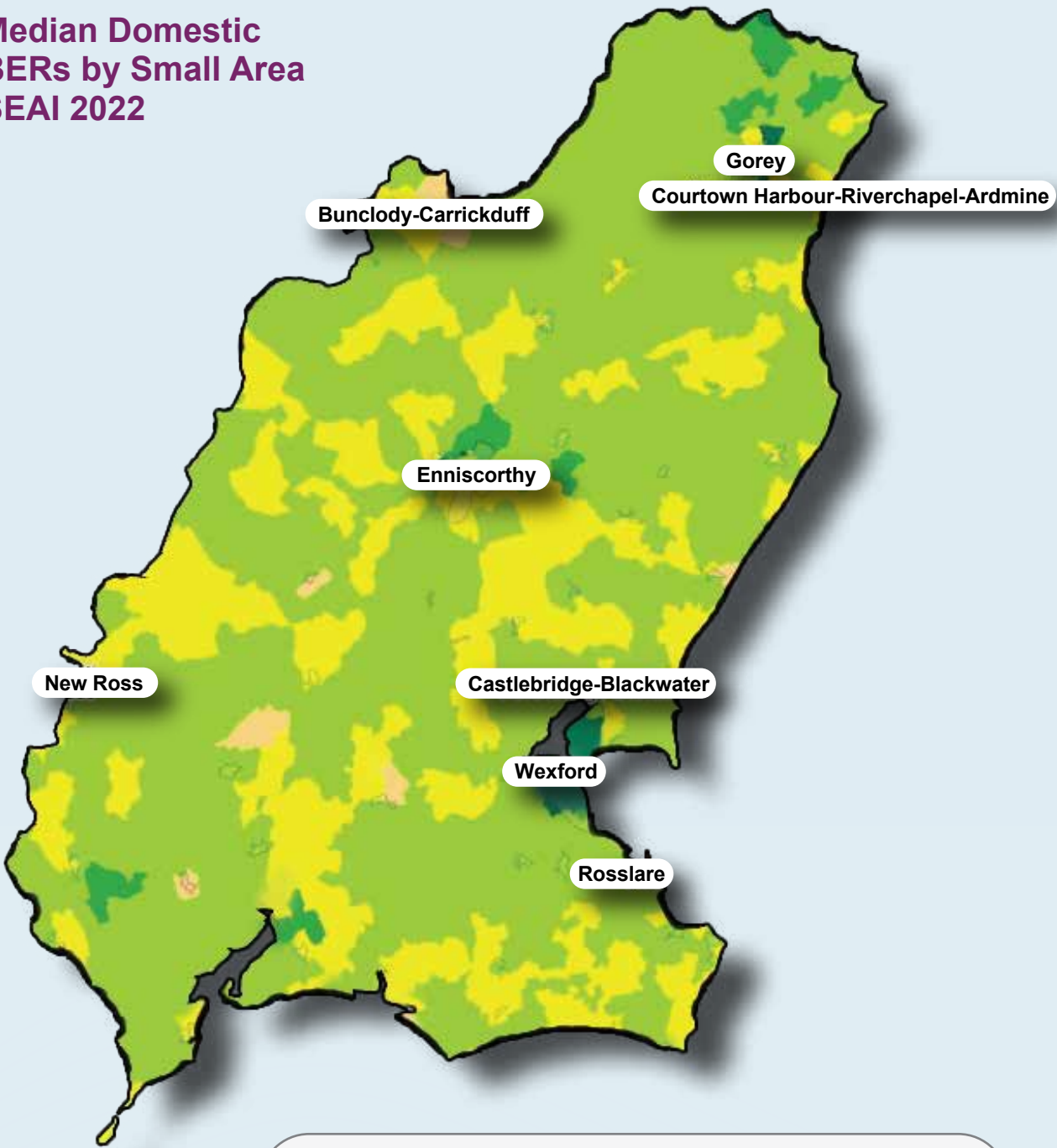

















- In terms of commuting travel modes, in Census 2016, 71% of the county's commuters were either the driver or a passenger in a car or van. Twenty percent used sustainable forms of transport to commute, and approximately 5% worked primarily from home.
- As regards European Protected Sites, there are 15 candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and one designated SAC in County Wexford, 9 designated Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and 3 Ramsar sites (incl. Bannow Bay). Meanwhile, at the national Protected Site level, there are 27 proposed Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and one fully designated NHA at Keeragh Islands, and 3 Nature Reserves in the county (incl. The Raven, and Wexford Wildfowl Reserve).
- Of County Wexford's 70 beaches there are six Blue Flag Beaches (incl. Carne, Morriscastle, Ballinesker) and nine Green Coast Award Beaches (incl. Ballyhealy, Cahore, Grange), in addition to seven Identified Bathing Waters (incl. Ballinesker, Curracloe, Rosslare Strand) according to Invest Wexford.

Population aged 5 years and over by means of travel to work, school, or college (Census 2016)



Median Domestic
BERs by Small Area
SEAI 2022



Median Energy Rating					
			C2 (119)		G(2)
			C2 (172)		Reference Layers
	A2 (10)		D1 (140)		Wexford Settlements
	A3 (5)		D2 (78)		
	B1 (2)		E1 (22)		Wexford Settlements
	B3 (9)		E2 (10)		
	C1 (36)		F (10)		



5

**CONSULTATION
FINDINGS**

**CONSULTATION
FINDINGS**

5.1 Consultations Introduction

This chapter summarises the consultation undertaken as part of the analysis to inform the development of the Wexford LECP 2024-2029. The LECP has been developed in a collaborative and cooperative manner through engagement with a wide range of key stakeholders including the general public, Public Participation Network (PPN), community representative groups, local government, state agencies, education providers and the private sector. The aim of this engagement, in conjunction with the socio-economic analysis, was to identify key priorities and needs that could be addressed through the high-level goals, objectives and actions of the plan and reflected in the desired outcomes. This includes community elements related to areas such as service provision and social inclusion and economic elements related to areas such as developing the green economy (e.g. renewable energy and retrofitting) and attracting new investment.

In addition, the extensive consultation exercise was designed to increase public participation in the development of the county, generate a sense of shared ownership for the Wexford 2029 vision and high-level goals, and secure the buy-in of key stakeholders, including the public, that will be vital to ensuring Wexford's success as it moves towards 2029.

A strong programme of in-person public meetings was carried out across the county. However, since in-person engagement was not always possible, to ensure the widest possible engagement, an innovative consultation approach was adopted. This involved: online workshops, stakeholder interviews, online surveys, and written submissions.

5.2 Community and Public Engagement

Community wide consultation was conducted through in-person community meetings, written submissions, surveys and a public webinar. These were advertised via the PPN, Wexford County Council's website, social media, and through traditional media outlets. The aim of this engagement was to gather ideas and needs from the community and encourage greater participation in the development of the county. This element of the consultation included:

- **In-Person Public Workshops (March 2023)** – 6 in-person public consultation sessions were held across the county (i.e. 2 x Wexford Town, 1 x New Ross, 1 x Gorey, 1 x Enniscorthy, 1 x Johnstown Castle). The key focus was on learning about the varying needs across the county and how these could be satisfied. Climate change, economic development and access to housing, education and other key services were frequently mentioned. The average attendance per public workshop was around 30 people.
- **Public Webinar (March 2023)** – 12 individuals attended an online public webinar that introduced the LECP, outlined the initial draft high-level goals and highlighted several ways the public could engage and provide inputs to the process. The webinar also facilitated a Q&A session where members of the public were able to ask questions to the presentation panel.
- **Written Submissions (March - April 2023)** – 14 written submissions were received including from the public, community representative groups, and a

wide range of other stakeholders including the diaspora. The submissions covered a large array of topics including cycling infrastructure, tourism, public transport, family resources, health, education, heritage, and alternative energy sources.

- **Community Survey (March – April 2023)** – 118 responses were received. The survey sought community views in relation to areas such as Wexford's greatest assets, barriers to living and working in Wexford, service provision, remote working, climate change and the use of smart technology, amongst other areas. Additional results from the Community Survey not examined in this chapter are available in Appendix C.
- **Business Survey (March – April 2023)** – 12 responses were received in relation to the survey which targeted the private sector in Wexford. The survey sought views in relation to Wexford's main strengths and barriers as a place to do business, solutions to the county's commercial vacancy rate, climate action, Brexit and COVID-19. Additional results from the Business Survey not examined in this chapter are available in Appendix D. In July 2023 an additional short round of consultation was undertaken to aid with the preparation of the Implementation Plan. It was comprised of an online workshop with key stakeholders. A second online workshop was also held for members of the public. Finally, written submissions were invited.

5.3 Targeted Stakeholder Engagement

The targeted stakeholder engagement

brought together key stakeholders from government agencies, the private sector, community and voluntary groups, the environment, health, education, creative sector, heritage, tourism, as well as younger and older groups. It included representatives from the PPN, Fáilte Ireland, HSE, SETU Wexford, Chamber of Commerce, IDA, Comhairle na nÓg, NZEB Centre Enniscorthy, Wexford Healthy County, Sports Active Wexford, and others. The aim of this engagement was both to identify opportunities and needs, as well as securing buy-in from key stakeholders who would be the drivers and champions of specific actions in the Implementation Plan.

This element of the consultation involved 11 workshops which were held in March 2023. These were in addition to the seven public workshops. The focused workshops were designed through a thematic approach based around the high-level goals with representatives attending workshops relevant to their areas of expertise.

Furthermore, finalised actions and targets were agreed with various departments within Wexford County Council (e.g. Planning, Community & Economic Development, Arts & Culture), the LCDC, the SPC, the Municipal Districts, Wexford Economic Forum and with other key stakeholders and supporting agencies to ensure buy-in and agree ownership of the specific actions of the plan.

5.4 Key Themes from the Consultation

All written submissions and survey responses were collated and reviewed as part of the consultation analysis, as well as the key points raised during the workshops. The combined analysis of the different strands of the consultation identified several key themes aligned to economic and community needs. A

sample ‘snapshot’ of points under these themes are outlined below. The findings of the consultation have been used to assist in the identification of what the county needs, and its key strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats. Similarly, ideas and suggestions put forward by the community and other key stakeholders have been incorporated, both directly and indirectly, into the goals, objectives, key desired outcomes, and actions.

5.4.1 Economy, Employment, and Housing

- Accommodation was a key theme mentioned in the various consultations – particularly the need for more affordable rental and purchase housing. The issue was highlighted as undermining the county’s ability to attract investment, grow its population and adequately sustain its communities.
- The housing issue was seen to be further complicated by an oversaturation of holiday homes in some place around the county (especially on the coast), the shortage of hotel beds and self-catering options, as well as alternative short stay options (e.g. glamping sites).
- A related issue identified during the consultations was the ability of Wexford to both retain and attract its workforce, including its younger talent. Participants emphasised that employment opportunities needed to be meaningful, accessible and sustainable.
- Participants highlighted the important role which SETU, WWETB and the NZEB Training Centre play in creating the talent base to meet employer needs and upskill the community for jobs of the future.
- Lack of capacity of the electricity transmission network was identified as a key hindrance to the rollout of small-scale renewable energy projects across the county. According to participants, this prevents the county from developing high-quality, sustainable employment and from fulfilling its climate ambitions.
- Areas of interest for economic development which were mentioned during the consultation included fintech, pharmaceuticals, engineering, agri-food, as well as opportunities in the green economy (e.g. renewable energy and retrofitting). The emerging film industry (including synergies with the county’s strong creative community) was also mentioned as a key opportunity. For remote and hybrid workers, the importance of developing the rural work hub network was also highlighted.



Q: What are Wexford's main constraints as a place to do business? Rank the top three reasons, with "1" as the greatest constraint.

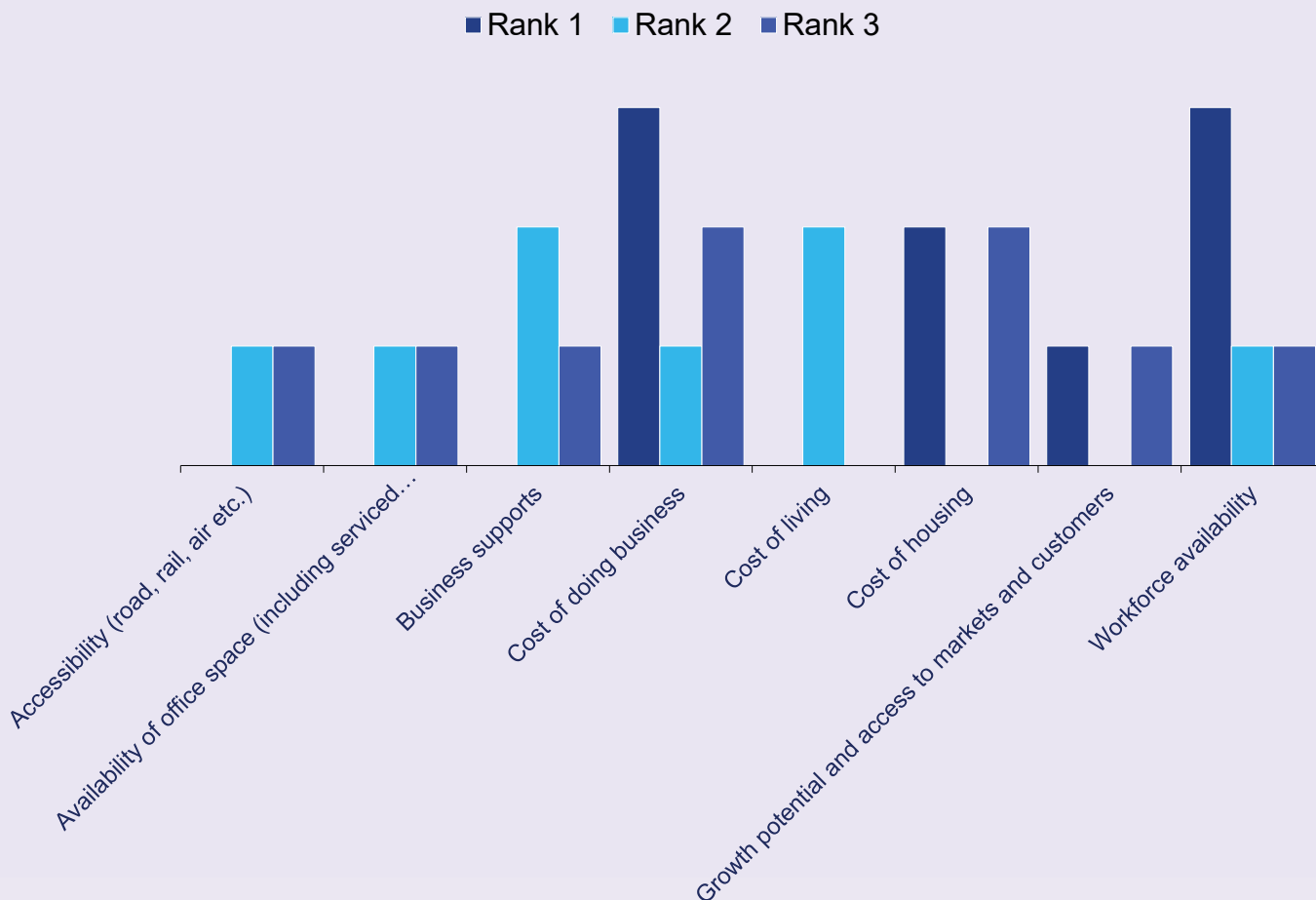


Figure 5.1: Wexford's Business Constraints, taken from business survey

5.4.2 Infrastructure and Accessibility

- Wexford's location on the South-East coast, including its rail connection to Dublin, its port linkages to the UK and mainland Europe and its proximity to major cities such as Dublin and Cork were mentioned as being a strategic advantage for the county. Paradoxically, the high level of accessibility was considered as a potential disadvantage for the tourism industry, whereby ferry passengers often leave the county immediately upon arrival.
- The shortage of public transport options (including rail connections) and frequency was highlighted as an area that needs significant improvement throughout the county, particularly in relation to rural areas (including the Local Link Bus service).
- The consultation also identified a key desire and need for safe, sustainable and active transport options and

associated infrastructure throughout the county. Participants mentioned the need for more well-segregated cycleways, greenways, and pedestrian paths.

5.4.3 Environment and Sustainability

Over the course of the consultation process, participants highlighted the importance of protecting the natural environment and the threat posed from climate change. Key threats mentioned included flooding, coastal erosion, the degradation of marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

- The importance of protecting the county's biodiversity was also highlighted. Suggestions included rewilding and restoration of ecosystems, the development of community gardens, as well as the preparation of a comprehensive Biodiversity Plan for the county.
- Shared and active mobility options (e.g. public bikes, TFI Local Link Wexford) were identified as mechanisms for reducing the county's over-reliance on private car ownership, while at the same time reducing rural isolation and improving community development and employment opportunities.
- Opportunities to develop Wexford's green economy were also suggested. This included in relation to the offshore wind energy, the Europort energy hub, as well as the promotion of retrofitting apprenticeships and linkages with education providers such as SETU and WWETB. Other innovative suggestions included the development of the eco-tourism and agri-tourism industry, as well as improved support for a range of community initiatives.

Q: What is your view about the impact of climate change on Wexford?

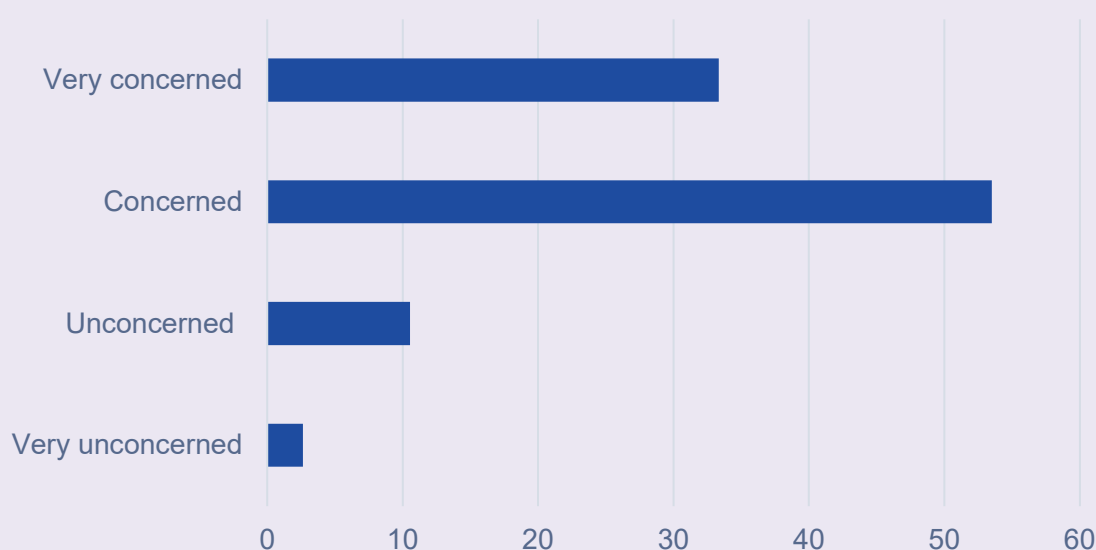


Figure 5.2: Views on the impact of climate change on County Wexford from the community survey

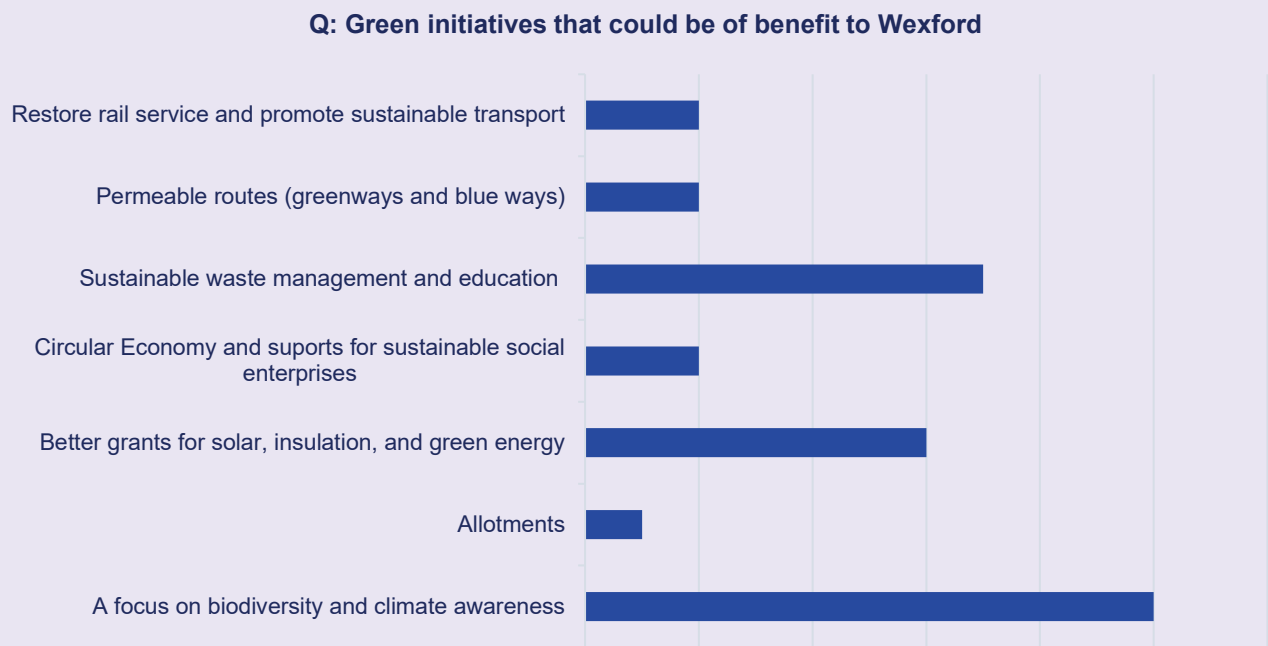


Figure 53: Green Initiative Suggestions from the community survey

5.4.4 Quality of Life, Community Health and Wellbeing

- Wexford’s active heritage, culture and arts sector was mentioned as the county’s key strength – particularly its contribution to community well-being and inclusion. This includes Wexford Opera House, the 2024 Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, as well as amateur drama and musicals, and the growing film industry.
- The participants highlighted the county’s natural assets such as its beaches, rivers, and upland areas as being integral to Wexford’s high quality of life.
- Participants believed that creating inclusive and healthy communities should be a key ambition for the LECP. This involves providing a better socio-economic environment for vulnerable groups such as younger and older people, people living with disability, minority groups (Travellers, Roma, and migrants), as well as isolated individuals

and groups, and those on low incomes. It was felt that there was a strong culture of volunteerism which was to the benefit of the entire community, and should be nurtured and supported in the new LECP.

- It was also acknowledged that areas of disadvantage continue to be present to different degrees across the county and that multi-dimensional efforts should be used to address and reduce poverty (including education, sports, culture and arts). Additionally, recent analysis has revealed new areas of disadvantage across the county since the previous 2016 Census.
- Service requirements identified include the need for improved public transport options, more affordable childcare (necessary to improve education and employment options of women), an increase in recreational spaces and amenities for children and young people, and guaranteed access to healthcare and counselling services for those who require them.

Q: What are Wexford's Greatest Assets?



Figure 5.4: Wexford's Greatest Assets according to the community survey



Housing

The housing issue was seen to be further complicated by an oversaturation of holiday homes in some place around the county (especially on the coast), the shortage of hotel beds and self-catering options, as well as alternative short stay options (e.g. glamping sites)



Employment

A related issue identified during the consultations was the ability of Wexford to both retain and attract its workforce, including its younger talent. Participants emphasised that employment opportunities needed to be meaningful, accessible and sustainable.



Education

Participants highlighted the important role which SETU, WWETB and the NZEB Training Centre play in creating the talent base to meet employer needs and upskill the community for jobs of the future.



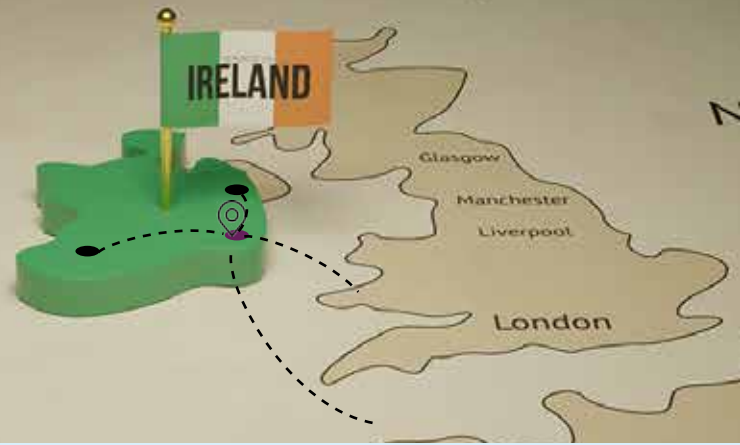
Public Transport

The shortage of public transport options (including rail connections) and frequency was highlighted as an area that needs significant improvement throughout the county, particularly in relation to rural areas (including the Local Link Bus service).



Location

Wexford's location on the South-East coast, including its rail connection to Dublin, its port linkages to the UK and mainland Europe and its proximity to major cities such as Dublin and Cork were mentioned as being a strategic advantage for the county.



Environment

Need for safe, sustainable and active transport options and associated infrastructure throughout the county. Participants mentioned the need for more well-segregated cycleways, greenways, and pedestrian paths.



Scenery

The participants highlighted the county's natural assets such as its beaches, rivers, and upland areas as being integral to Wexford's high quality of life.

Culture

Wexford's active heritage, culture and arts sector was mentioned as the county's key strength. This includes Wexford Opera House, the 2024 Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, as well as amateur drama and musicals, and the growing film industry.



A photograph of a wind farm on a rolling hill. In the foreground, a large white wind turbine stands prominently. Behind it, another turbine is visible. The landscape is a mix of brown and green fields. In the background, there are more hills under a sky filled with grey and white clouds. A purple vertical bar is on the left side of the image.

6

SCOT ANALYSIS

SCOT ANALYSIS

6.1 Initial SCOT Analysis

A high level study into County Wexford's Strengths, Constraints, Opportunities, and Threats (SCOT) was conducted and several major points across each category were identified.

Strengths – can be understood as the advantages of County Wexford in the present day.

Constraints – can be understood as the challenges facing the county at present.

Opportunities – can be understood as the future strengths of a place or county.

Threats – can be understood as the future constraints of a place or county.

STRENGTHS

- The county has a growing population.
- Presence of an expanding SETU. Presence of Georgia Southern University's European study abroad centre.
- Strong local business economy with a majority of employment provided by SMEs.
- Presence of life science companies and financial services. These are high value sectors.
- Good road connections to Dublin and Waterford.
- There is a high level of home ownership with over seventy percent of households owner-occupied.
- 77% of people in the county reported their health as being Good or Very Good.
- Presence of Rosslare Europort and New Ross Port.

- Picturesque Wexford is Ireland's sunniest county. This provides advantages in tourism, agriculture and film making.

OPPORTUNITIES

- The county is well placed to benefit from the shift to renewable energy – especially solar – with a high number of generation grants issued. The facilitation of offshore wind also provides strong commercial opportunities.
- Additional investment in developing the skills of the county would attract investment and help County Wexford capture a larger share of wider economic growth.
- Further investment in climate mitigation and adaptation in the county will create quality employment, improve quality of life, and reduce the cost of living.
- Building on existing strengths in attracting migration can mitigate against the high level of dependency in the county by attracting new residents without dependants.
- The county can build upon solid performance in housing provision to mitigate the existing housing deficit and prepare the county for the future.

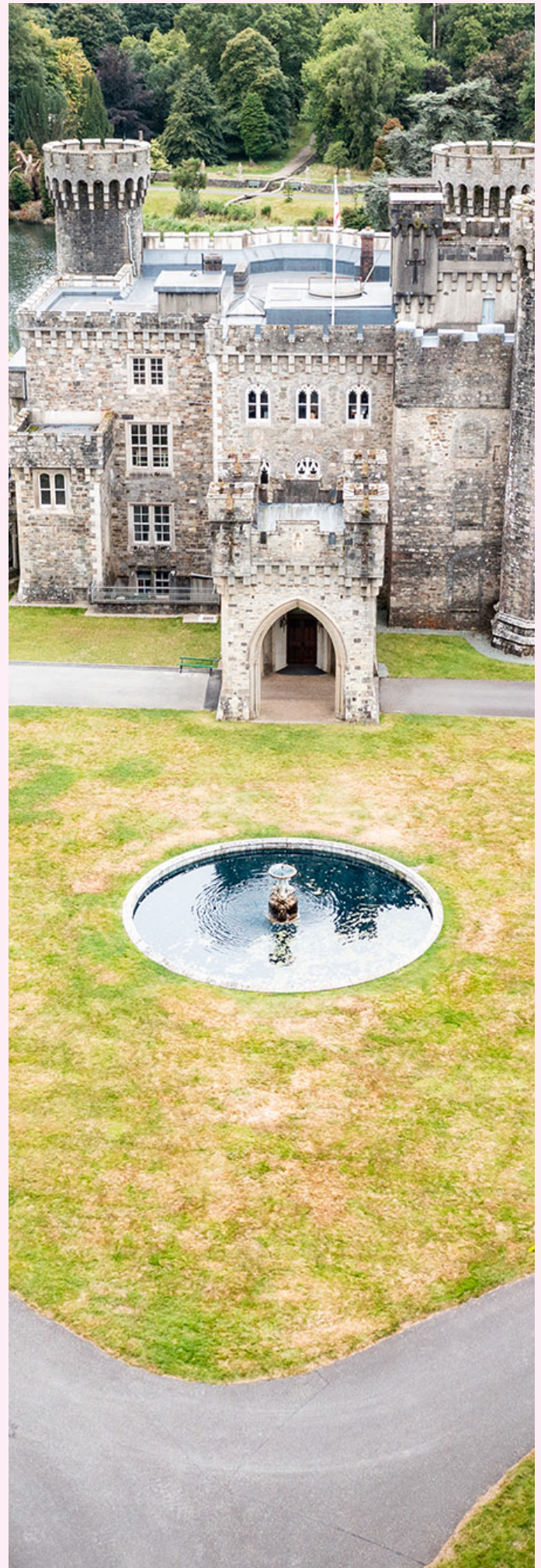
CONSTRAINTS

- The county's housing stock growth is not keeping pace with population growth which over time will further erode affordability.
- The importance of private forms of transport given the rural character of the county hinder efforts to encourage more sustainable forms of transportation.

- The county has a high rate of youth, elderly, and age dependency necessitating supports.
- Social disadvantage is a challenge in the county.
- The people of Wexford have less disposable income than their regional or national peers.
- The commercial vacancy rate in the county was the 18th highest in the country and had grown in the most recent data.

THREATS

- A higher-than-average proportion of small businesses across the county indicates that there is a bigger potential impact from the shift to online retail (incl. the wider impacts on town centres/high street).
- Given the importance of international trade to the county, a global recession, or a more localised recession in the EU or UK, could have detrimental spill over effects. Brexit also complicates matters, providing both threats and opportunities.
- A decline in local disposable income would pose a severe challenge to the micro, small, and medium enterprises who make up the majority of employers in Wexford.
- Continued erosion of housing affordability would limit the growth potential of the county economy, and would encourage emigration, especially by younger people.
- An increasing dependency ratio will place downward pressure on economic growth and require concerted action by government to support.
- The county as a coastal territory is particularly vulnerable to marine related climate change which may displace existing economic activity.





7

**HIGH LEVEL GOALS,
OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS
& OUTCOMES**

**HIGH LEVEL GOALS,
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& OUTCOMES**

High Level Goals

Wexford County Council together with the LCDC, SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise and other key stakeholders have developed six high-level goals with associated objectives, actions and desired

outcomes to assist in guiding the direction of the County over the 2024-2029 period (figure 7.1). Their development has been informed from the findings of the socio-economic analysis, stakeholder and public consultation, and the review of existing policies at local, regional and national level.

1 Wexford's towns, villages and rural communities

will successfully adapt to become even more welcoming, attractive, healthy and safe places to live and work. Support will be provided in the delivery of adequate and accessible local housing, transportation, infrastructure and services that underpin a high quality of life. Innovative approaches to rejuvenation and the development of strong local leaders will be supported.

4 Climate and biodiversity

action will meet the challenge of change by creating a resilient society, where the transition to a green, circular economy is fair to all. The transition efforts will involve well-defined responsibilities, practical adaptation and mitigation efforts. There will be a focus on achieving local empowerment, synergies and efficiencies. Biodiversity protection and restoration will be supported.

2 A culture of continuous, life-long learning

will be fostered, one that improves prospects and provides a sense of personal achievement. It will recognise and value individuals' unique knowledge, experience and capabilities and provide accessible opportunities for connection, shared growth and development.

5 Wellbeing, inclusion, equality

, and diversity will be at the heart of County Wexford's communities. Accessible spaces and amenities, and arts and cultural opportunities which support the development of community spirit and enhance the physical and mental well-being of residents will be provided. New arrivals will be embraced and integration promoted.

3 Economic strategy

will support upskilling and innovation in the creation of sustainable, added-value employment in County Wexford. This will be facilitated through the provision of appropriate infrastructure to support and maximise inward investment, enterprise creation and expansion opportunities.

6 Tourism

will sensitively use, promote and protect County Wexford's culture, built heritage and natural environment for the benefit of local communities. Business and community stakeholders will collaborate to grow a commercially and environmentally sustainable tourism industry.

Figure 7.1: High Level Goals

The six High Level Goals (HLG's) align with the suggested Themes in the LECP Guidelines:

- Health and Well Being (HLG's 5)
- Economic Development (HLG's 1, 2, 3 & 6)
- Community and Local Development (HLG's 1, 5 & 6)
- Climate Action (HLG's 4 & 6)

As outlined in the following chapter, the goals, objectives, actions and outcomes cover both economic and community elements as required by the LECP guidelines. They have been designed to positively contribute to the economic and community development of Wexford and are aligned with the overall ambition for a sustainable, prosperous County, where residents have a high quality of life. The sections that follow outline each high-level goal, along with the associated objectives, actions and desired outcomes (related to the goals and objectives) in more detail. The alignment of each action with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

is indicated. Finally, a rationale or 'need' analysis for each objective is provided.

There are 20 Objectives & 88 Actions.

- **HLG 1** has 3 Objectives and 16 Actions.
- **HLG 2** has 2 Objectives and 8 Actions.
- **HLG 3** has 3 Objectives and 14 Actions.
- **HLG 4** has 4 Objectives and 15 Actions.
- **HLG 5** has 4 Objectives and 16 Actions.
- **HLG 6** has 4 Objectives and 19 Actions.

The initial prioritised actions related to the six goals are included in the 2-year Implementation Plan in Chapter 8. All of these measures are in line with the provisions of the existing County Development Plan and the wider planning framework (refer to "Overriding Status of the Plan" text at section 1.7).

Goal 1:

Wexford's towns, villages and rural communities will successfully adapt to become even more welcoming, attractive, healthy and safe places to live and work. Support will be provided in the delivery of adequate and accessible local housing, transportation, infrastructure and services that underpin a high quality of life. Innovative approaches to rejuvenation and the development of strong local leaders will be supported.

Objective 1.1:

Help ensure an adequate supply of local housing is available where residential developments contribute to and represent sustainable neighbourhoods which are inclusive and responsive to the physical or cultural needs of those who use them. They are also to be well-located relative to the social, community, commercial and administrative services, have high quality public realms and are to be well integrated with the community within which they will be located.

Need:

Although County Wexford's 2022 residential property vacancy rate stood at a relatively high 7.3%, there is still a need to build new housing units. The reuse of existing structures is not sufficient to satisfy the demand of a population that increased 9.2% between 2016 and 2022. Adding complexity to the provision of housing is the growing diversity of requirements Wexford's population has. The population is aging. Families are getting smaller. Society is more conscious of those with additional needs. There is also the pressure to house students who wish to attend an expanding SETU campus. Increasing supply should eventually reduce cost pressure for those who wish to buy and rent.

Action 1.1.1.

Having regard to the Wexford County Development Plan and The Housing Strategy, lead the alignment of various strategy and policy objectives so that service and infrastructure issues do not restrict future development opportunities, especially for housing.



Action 1.1.2.

Support the development of water, sewage and wastewater infrastructure and work with Uisce Éireann to meet the housing needs of urban and rural communities.



Action 1.1.3.

Support efforts which work towards the provision of adequate, suitable and affordable housing in line with the principles of the government's Town Centre First policy and Housing for All plan.



Action 1.1.4.

Identify and target – where appropriate – there use of vacant and derelict buildings in both urban and rural areas for use as housing



Key desired outcomes

**An improved pipeline, conducive to housing construction. More homes.
Reduction in vacancy and dereliction.**

Objective 1.2:

Help ensure that towns and villages (including their services and amenities) are easily accessible.

Need:

According to the CSO, in 2022 Wexford's population stood at 163,527. The character of the county is rural. With the exception of an area of low population density around the Blackstairs Mountains, the population is dispersed broadly across the county. The largest town – Wexford Town – had a 2022 population of 21,524 (i.e. 13.16% of the county total). The fifth largest town – Bunclody – had a 2022 population of just

2,053. The dispersed nature of settlement in the county means that strong transport connections are essential to ensuring people can access the services they need. The dispersed settlement pattern also means that – where feasible – services should be distributed across Wexford. Within Wexford's towns and villages the density of housing is low. The result is that people may have to walk or cycle several kilometres to access services. Finally, consideration must be given towards Wexford's aging population and others with additional needs.

Action 1.2.1.

Support the rollout of active travel infrastructure (e.g. cycleways, footpaths, street lighting).



Action 1.2.2.

Support the rollout of electric charger access, especially for those electric car owners living on town and village streets.



Action 1.2.3.

In coordination with relevant stakeholders (especially vulnerable road users), work towards making – where appropriate – the county's roads safer for use by all people (e.g. people with physical or learning disabilities, older people, schoolchildren, pedestrians, cyclists).



Action 1.2.4.

Support effective cooperation between relevant authorities and local transport providers to enhance the provision of dependable public transport options – especially bus services with bus shelters – to/from services, further education providers, towns and amenities. This will help reduce the overdependence on private transport (especially amongst younger people, isolated and disadvantaged groups).



Action 1.2.5.

Support improvements in the frequency and speed of rail services in the county.



Action 1.2.6.

Support the adequate provision of car parking for older people and people with disabilities.



Action 1.2.7.

Work to increase the universal accessibility of all public and community buildings across the county. Support businesses to enhance the physical accessibility of their premises where appropriate.



Key desired outcomes

Significantly improved provision of public transport with more routes and higher frequencies. More liveable town and village centres. Safer roads and settlements. More physically accessible services and businesses.

Objective 1.3

Facilitate an innovative, stakeholder-based approach to the health promoting, climate-resilient regeneration of towns, villages and rural communities.

Need:

A town or village is more than the collection of houses. A strong community with a vibrant core where people can meet, shop and socialise, is not just economically beneficial, it also enhances residents' quality of life. When people can positively interact with each other

loneliness and anxiety decreases, while physical and mental health improves. To facilitate this, it is not merely sufficient to embrace community planning concepts such as town-centre first or the 15-minute settlement. Strong, effective community leaders and groups are also required. Within Ireland, the most successful towns and villages are those where the Local Authority cooperates closely with an engaged civic society

Action 1.3.1.

In line with Town-Centre First compact growth principles, support the plan-based and community-led development of towns. The objective is to make Wexford's towns more attractive and creative places in which to live and work. Efforts should focus on placemaking, developing a high quality of life and environmental sustainability. Town plan actions could include supporting a range of arts, cultural and sporting offerings. Finally, managing anti-social behaviour is to be a consideration



Action 1.3.2.

Support the adoption of smart village/town principles, SMART community development principles and the 15-minute settlement concept by communities.



Action 1.3.3.

Help build the capacity and abilities of community leaders (e.g. training and mentoring provided on strategic thinking, SMART community development, governance, obtaining funding, project management and working in cooperation

with neighbouring settlements)



Action 1.3.4.

Support the roll out of blue and green infrastructure and other supports which will help reduce the impact of heavy rains and heat on County Wexford's communities. This includes water retention features, natural greenery for shading and biodiversity parks.



Action 1.3.5.

Improve the co-ordination of the agencies and stakeholders involved in community development work in Wexford's towns and villages.



Key desired outcomes



More socially and economically dynamic towns, villages and rural communities. More skilled and numerous local leaders. Greater resilience to extreme weather events.

Goal 2:

A culture of continuous, life-long learning will be fostered, one that improves prospects and provides a sense of personal achievement. It will recognise and value individuals' unique knowledge, experience and capabilities and provide accessible opportunities for connection, shared growth and development.

Objective 2.1

Assist in ensuring that County Wexford's residents have ample access to learning opportunities, unaffected by factors such as age, ability, socio-economic background, geographic location and membership of a minority community.

Need:

Wexford's population pyramid illustrates a long-standing issue, that of a brain drain from the county as people leave for further education opportunities. Many people do come back to raise families but a large

proportion of those who leave Wexford for education do not return. Due to Wexford's population, it would not be feasible to provide the full spectrum of desired training/courses at the quality levels expected by employers. Nonetheless, the provision can be improved to more closely match the needs of key employment sectors – both existing (e.g. agrifood) and growing (e.g. renewable energy) – within the county. Key to this will be supporting the expansion of SETU, WWETB, and the other further education providers in the county.

Action 2.1.1.

Support the expansion of SETU Campus, the Wexford College of Further Education and Training and other further education providers to meet the educational needs of County Wexford's residents. To enable the successful expansion of SETU in Wexford, the provision of adequate student housing is required.



Action 2.1.2.

Help establish/improve linkages between relevant stakeholders (e.g. SETU, Wexford College of Further Education and Training, Georgia Southern University) to expand and develop the range and depth of post-secondary education options available in the county. There is particular need for level QQ6 and above courses in the county.



Action 2.1.3.

Support and help promote initiatives and programmes which provide language supports for migrants and refugees.



Action 2.1.4.

Support literacy at all life stages, including digital and IT literacy, to ensure a high level of accessibility to online training and education.



Action 2.1.5.

Support efforts by education providers to develop training programmes that are accessible digitally and/or in-person to people of all ages, backgrounds and capabilities.



Action 2.1.6.

Facilitate health and wellbeing skills and knowledge through the provision of health promotion initiatives and delivery of outdoor amenities and educational opportunities in the public realm.



Key desired outcomes

A more skilled and educated population. Higher proportion of residents obtaining a level QQI6+ qualification. More opportunities for people to upskill and retrain in the county. Improved levels of health and wellbeing.

Objective 2.2:

Use education as a key tool to break the cycle of disadvantage experienced by some in County Wexford.

Need:

Education is fundamental to prosperity. In Census 2016, 40% of County Wexford's population aged 15 and over had completed some form of tertiary education. This was behind the state average of 48.1%. Unsurprisingly, the people of Wexford have less disposable income than their regional or national peers. In some of Wexford's poorest electoral districts, the level of third level attainment was under 10%. Conversely, third level education attainment tended to be high in the county's more affluent electoral districts. Educational disadvantage is a complex and multi-faceted issue.

A key reason some children from disadvantaged backgrounds perform more poorly in school is that they often do not receive the same level of support from parents due to their own poor literacy and numeracy skills. Inadequate nutrition is another reason. Children need a balanced diet to concentrate. In the more affluent electoral districts, children tend to have a more balanced diet. Educational disadvantage is a complex and multi-faceted issue. A key reason some children from disadvantaged backgrounds perform more poorly in school is that they often do not receive the same level of support from parents due to their own poor literacy and numeracy skills. Inadequate nutrition is another reason. Children need a balanced diet to concentrate.

Action 2.2.1.

Support the development of literacy, numeracy, household finance and nutrition education programmes for people living in disadvantaged communities, the Traveller community and the Roma community.



Action 2.2.2.

With a particular focus on concentrations of disadvantage, the Traveller community and Roma community, support the important work of educational representatives to address high early school leaver rates and increase the retention of students in education to complete second level.



Key desired outcomes

Greater economic opportunities. Parents better positioned to support the educational needs of their children. More people from a disadvantaged background finishing secondary school and entering further education.



Goal 3:

Economic strategy will support upskilling and innovation in the creation of sustainable, added-value employment in County Wexford. This will be facilitated through the provision of appropriate infrastructure to support and maximise inward investment, enterprise creation and expansion opportunities.

Objective 3.1:

Help align skills development across the county with industry needs and priorities.

Need:

In a survey carried out for this LECP, workforce availability was the joint top constraint given by employers to doing business in Wexford. This is an issue across the country. In August 2023, a survey carried out by Chambers Ireland found that 90% of businesses were struggling to fill vacancies with qualified staff. The ability of further education and training providers within Wexford to address the situation is

limited. Accordingly, focus should be placed on satisfying the workforce needs of existing key sectors (e.g. tourism, agribusiness) and high potential sectors (e.g. renewable energy, film industry). It is worth noting that the Southern Region is being developed by the Regional Assembly as a UNESCO Learning Region. Another element that holds back labour market participation is the provision of adequate childcare. This is especially important for the level of labour force participation by women. According to the CSO, in the third quarter of 2023, the participation rate for males nationally was 71.1%, compared to 60.8% for females.

Action 3.1.1.

Through zoning, strategic planning mechanisms and training, guide the distribution of economic opportunities according to the strengths of each area. Support the RSES Regional Policy objectives for the development of Wexford and Gorey as key towns, and New Ross in relation to the Waterford Metropolitan Area.



Action 3.1.2.

Work with relevant stakeholders to address the local levels of disadvantage through skills development, training and careers advice, as well as the provision of adequate childcare.



Action 3.1.3.

Develop a knowledge-based economy by supporting progression pathways between education partners that align education, industry and research priorities. Through advancement of the Masterplan for the new university campus and the adjacent school education campus in Wexford and through WWETB College of the Future explore the opportunity for cutting edge R&D facilities to support skills development and innovation. This will include high potential economic subsectors (e.g. renewable energy, building retrofitting, the film industry, food production, and the marine sector).



Action 3.1.4.

Support and promote vocational employment opportunities (incl. apprenticeships and trades) across the county – especially those which focus on the green economy, decarbonisation and modern construction methods, as well as the screen and film industry.



Action 3.1.5.

Help enhance links with relevant climate action stakeholders to realise potential training and employment opportunities (e.g. nature restoration and site management of natural landscapes).



Key desired outcomes

Improved county skills and education profile. More people prepared to take advantage of high potential employment sectors. More tradespeople.



Objective 3.2:

Help provide the necessary infrastructure and supports which will attract inward investment.

Need:

Attracting investment to an area involves the creation of a business-friendly ecosystem that goes beyond having a skilled workforce, serviced land, suitable premises, and good transport connections. It also means having sufficient housing for workers and a high quality of life that will keep workers and

managers/executives in place. Indeed, the IDA promote Ireland's quality of life as one of the four key reasons for foreign companies to invest in Ireland. Research connections with third level institutes can also be important. Primarily through its natural amenities (e.g. beaches), Wexford has a competitive advantage in its high quality of life. Carefully considered catalyst projects can function to stimulate wider investment from the private sector.

Action 3.2.1.

Collaborate with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to develop a business ecosystem which helps attract domestic and foreign investment (e.g. adequate housing, an expanded SETU, sufficiently trained workforce, attractive towns and villages, good amenities).



Action 3.2.2.

In alignment with the rollout objectives of the National Broadband Plan, work with local business and community groups to further promote and develop the Connected Hubs Network and Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) in public and rural spaces.



Action 3.2.3.

Work with relevant stakeholders to promote and advance strategically important 'catalyst' developments (e.g. Rosslare Europort and associated rail freight infrastructure, SETU, Trinity Wharf, Tara Studios), commercial property solutions (e.g. Enniscorthy Technology Park, New Ross Advance Factory and enterprise facility, Kilmore Quay Enterprise Hub, M11 Business Campus and Hatch Lab) and the Eastern Corridor, which are identified by the wider planning framework.



Action 3.2.4.

Reenergise the Invest Wexford brand / marketing to promote Wexford as an investment destination and a great place to do business.



Action 3.2.5.

Develop the strategic partnership with Georgia, USA. This is to include increasing students and facilities for Georgia Southern University at their international learning Wexford campus and strengthening the export opportunities through the TradeBridge programme with Savannah Economic Development Authority and World Trade Centre with trade missions.



Key desired outcomes

Wexford becomes a more attractive investment proposition. More high paying jobs. More economic opportunities for residents. Higher quality of life.

Objective 3.3:

Help ensure successful coordination between parties to proactively support indigenous business and local entrepreneurship (including niche, high-potential yet less-developed industries such as aquaculture and regenerative tourism).

Need:

Just as with foreign companies, indigenous firms need a business-friendly ecosystem to succeed. From the business survey undertaken for this LECP, the two biggest areas that are constraining growth amongst local businesses are workforce availability

and costs in general. The vast majority of local employers are Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Unlike larger international firms, these SMEs often need additional support to finance growth (e.g. grants, low interest loans). They also often need training support and the provision of data to make informed decisions. Start-ups in particular are also likely to need suitable, low-cost premises. As the majority of businesses fail due to the lack of cash, it is vital that Wexford's indigenous businesses and entrepreneurs are assisted in minimising their cost and commercial risk. This will create a more robust and resilient local economy.

Action 3.3.1.

In collaboration with LEO, LEADER, Chambers of Commerce and other stakeholders, assist members of the local business community in accessing relevant mentoring, training, financial and business supports. A key area is ensuring there are sufficient supports to assist businesses create new services/products and expand into new markets.



Action 3.3.2.

Encourage the application of data analytics which result in tangible, evidence-based decisions, particularly from Census 2022 data.



Action 3.3.3.

Assist efforts to provide local, small businesses with access to suitable and affordable enterprise premises, incubation spaces and local producer market spaces.



Action 3.3.4.

Work with relevant stakeholders to develop commercial property solutions such as high-quality office space and advanced factory units at



Key desired outcomes

A stronger indigenous business sector. A county that is more attractive to invest in. More higher paying employment. A greater variety of employment that retains and attracts back highly educated people from the county.



Goal 4:

Climate and biodiversity action will meet the challenge of change by creating a resilient society, where the transition to a green, circular economy is fair to all. The transition efforts will involve well-defined responsibilities, practical adaptation and mitigation efforts. There will be a focus on achieving local empowerment, synergies and efficiencies. Biodiversity protection and restoration will be supported.

Objective 4.1:

Support the development of a green, circular, low-carbon economy for residents and businesses which helps the county meet its Climate Action Plan objectives and makes County Wexford a national leader in renewable energy.

Need:

The county is acutely at risk from the impacts of climate change, particularly from flooding (i.e. Wexford Harbour, Enniscorthy, Rosslare and New Ross). The 260km coastline is also especially vulnerable to the effects of coastal erosion (211km of soft

shoreline and 21 identified erosion risk zones). Finally, the projected increased periods of drought are also expected to negatively impact the farming sector. In the community survey carried out for this report, the vast majority of respondents said they were either concerned or very concerned about the impact of climate change. Although there are significant threats to Wexford from climate change, the county has key strengths that will help address the challenge (e.g. NZEB National Training Centre, a high potential for solar panels and off-shore wind turbines, an engaged community).

Action 4.1.1.

Support the implementation of the County's Energy Strategy as contained in the Wexford County Development Plan (2021-2027). This is to be done in collaboration with WWETB's NZEB National Training Centre and the High Performance Building Alliance.



Action 4.1.2.

Considering fast-moving innovation and national policy in the green energy sector, a review is required on how to best extend the development of renewable energy production and how to maximise the benefits to the communities and economy of County Wexford. Associated infrastructure and the benefits that may accrue will also have to be assessed. Finally, subject to standard ecological screening, the feasibility study should evaluate broader impacts on visual amenity value, recreation, farming and fishing.



Action 4.1.3.

Encourage and support the creation of an ecosystem conducive to the creation of a vibrant renewable energy industry in County Wexford maximising job creation opportunities. This is likely to involve improvements to port facilities, research connections between SETU and industry, and adequate training being provided to meet the needs of industry. The possibility of involving the Wexford campus of the Southern Georgia University in research and training could be explored.



Action 4.1.4

Work with relevant community, industry and government bodies to empower communities, businesses and farmers to consider green energy projects.



Action 4.1.3.

Encourage and support the creation of an ecosystem conducive to the creation of a vibrant renewable energy industry in County Wexford maximising job creation opportunities. This is likely to involve improvements to port facilities, research connections between SETU and industry, and adequate training being provided to meet the needs of industry. The possibility of involving the Wexford campus of the Southern Georgia University in research and training could be explored.



Action 4.1.4.

Work with relevant community, industry and government bodies to empower communities, businesses and farmers to consider green energy projects.



Key desired outcomes

A stronger indigenous business sector. A county that is more attractive to invest in. More higher paying employment. A greater variety of employment that retain and attract back highly educated people from the County. Significantly more renewable energy production. Significantly more employment associated with renewable energy. Reduced landfill waste.



Objective 4.2:

Help empower rural and urban communities to meet the challenge of climate change and biodiversity loss in a way that works better for them.

Need:

During the public meetings it was obvious that attendees wanted to be part of the solution to the challenge of climate change and biodiversity loss. The willingness to engage with these issues is also illustrated by the presence of 30 Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) in the county

(registered with the SEAI as of Dec 4th, 2023). The concentration of SECs per capita in Wexford is significantly better than the national average. When it comes to strategy implementation, giving people autonomy is critical to innovation, performance, and motivation. Consequently, by empowering residents, communities, businesses and farmers with knowledge, guidance and funding, significantly more is likely to be done to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss than would otherwise be the case.

Action 4.2.1.

Work to ensure that communities, businesses and farmers are adequately informed as to how they can help combat climate change and biodiversity loss. Part of this is broader awareness building within the community of what can be done. Such awareness building may include seminars, sustainability family events, workshops, and arts and cultural activities.



Action 4.2.2.

Support community-based climate solutions and the work of Sustainable Energy Communities, businesses and farmers to reduce emissions, adopt circular economy practices and generally embrace more sustainable behaviours. Many of these behaviours will also have health benefits.



Action 4.2.3.

Support initiatives which facilitate local communities to become involved in growing and supplying vegetables and fruit, including proposals for community gardens and allotments.



Key desired outcomes

More empowered communities & businesses. Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Reduced landfill waste. Increase in area of land managed for biodiversity. Healthier environment to live in. More local food production and reduction in associated food miles.

Objective 4.3:

Help ensure that County Wexford's precious natural assets are protected and enhanced.

Need:

In the community survey for this LECP, two attributes were noted as being by far Wexford's greatest assets. First was its 'people and communities'. However, not far behind was the 'natural environment and landscape'. During the public consultation meetings, the love of Wexford's natural landscape and appreciation of the services it provided were obvious. There was also a good level of awareness of the stresses Wexford's environment was under. An EPA study of 87 monitored Wexford water bodies

between 2016 and 2021 found that almost half were either in moderate or poor condition (i.e. 43 out of 87 water bodies). The EU's Water Framework Directive requires that that all coastal and inland water bodies reach good status by 2027. The evidence for biodiversity loss in Ireland is stark. According to the National Biodiversity Data Centre, one in every five monitored species is at risk of extinction in Ireland. Given the intensive character of farming in the county and the low level of forest cover, the national picture is likely to be replicated in Wexford. Biodiversity levels are linked to public health and water quality. Lower biodiversity levels negatively impact both.

Action 4.3.1.

Work with various stakeholders, including community, public, agriculture, housing, transport and industry to promote the protection of the environment and biodiversity.



Action 4.3.2.

Actively engage in the process of land and river habitat restoration in a well-informed manner, while being sensitive to the needs and concerns of existing landowners.



Action 4.3.3.

Support efforts to map, protect and enhance the county's high value biodiverse 'Blue Carbon' resources, including saltmarshes and seagrass beds. This is likely to not only lead to environmental benefits but also the further sensitive development of the aquaculture sector.



Key desired outcomes

More land managed for biodiversity. More awareness and ensuing protection of blue carbon resources. More sensitive development of an aquaculture sector.

Objective 4.4:

Enhance the resilience of County Wexford to the impacts of climate change.

Need:

Regardless of the efforts made globally and locally to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, a certain level of global warming is now locked in. The county is acutely at risk from the impacts of climate increased risk of both flooding and coastal erosion will necessitate carefully designed flood and coastal defence measures. It is important to note that in the long term it will not be economically viable to save every piece of land that is likely to be

impacted. The changing climate will also be a challenge to farmers. This will manifest itself in the direct impact a changing climate has on farm practices (e.g. droughts, flooding, shifts in soil temperature). As directed by government policy, there is also the need for the farm sector to significantly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. This in turn will mean necessary changes to farm practices. Given the economic pressures farmers are under, strong assistance will need to be provided to ensure the transition to more sustainable practices is fair and that the financial viability of farms is supported.

Action 4.4.1.

Support the implementation of the Wexford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (CCAS) 2019-2024 and the Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 which will replace the CCAS when adopted by the elected members.



Action 4.4.2.

Support and empower communities to become more resilient in relation to flood risks and vulnerabilities.



Action 4.4.3.

Raise awareness amongst communities and businesses of the climate hazards and risks for County Wexford (e.g. river flooding, coastal flooding, coastal erosion, heavy rainfall and drought). Possible adaptation strategies, mitigation actions and funding options should also be well publicised.



Key desired outcomes

More knowledgeable communities in climate resilience and what is needed to live with the challenge of climate change.

Goal 5:

Wellbeing, inclusion, equality, and diversity will be at the heart of County Wexford's communities. Accessible spaces and amenities, and arts and cultural opportunities which support the development of community spirit and enhance the physical and mental well-being of residents will be provided. New arrivals will be embraced and integration promoted.

Objective 5.1:

Help ensure that there are a range of safe, inclusive, accessible, diverse spaces and facilities available for recreation, sports, arts and cultural purposes.

Need:

Being physically active can improve mental health, help manage weight, reduce the risk of disease, strengthen bones and muscles, and improve the ability to carry out daily activities. Team sports and broader community activities bring people together

and aid social cohesion. This in turns improves community mental health. Similarly, participating in the arts and even visiting an art gallery have mental health benefits. In the Needs Analysis Survey for 2022, Healthy Wexford identified Mental Health, Physical Activity, Nutrition, and Public Spaces and Places for Health and Wellbeing as the top four areas of importance to focus on.

Action 5.1.1.

Support the development of accessible and inclusive arts and cultural spaces and programmes across the county (incl. library and community centre spaces) which enhance the health and wellbeing of all, and strengthen the role of arts and creativity in the promotion of mental wellbeing in communities.



Action 5.1.2.

Support the development of accessible sports amenities and facilities (including outdoor recreation) for a range of physical activities for all ages and abilities across the county.



Action 5.1.3.

Enable the ongoing development of quality sport and physical activity opportunities throughout the county in an environment that promotes healthy lifestyles, maximum participation and is inclusive and welcoming for all. This is to be done through Sports Active Wexford initiatives, the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme and Healthy Wexford.



Action 5.1.4.

Support the development of well-planned, safe, attractive, inclusive and free to use outdoor amenities (e.g. parks, playgrounds,

walks, swimming areas, access to water bodies, playing fields, walking routes/trails). This is also to include the revitalisation of main streets and the public realm in a way that facilitates accessibility, active modes of travel and socialisation. Public realm spaces should be designed to be promote play and wellbeing. Creative placemaking is to be encouraged.



Action 5.1.5.

Support the provision of youthwork and youth spaces across the county.



Action 5.1.6.

Promote tobacco and vape free spaces for children and young people, and de-normalise smoking for the next generation, through the development of tobacco and vape free outdoor spaces, including sport and recreation facilities, playgrounds, parks, beaches, etc., and promotion of smoke and vape free events where children and young people will be attending.



Key desired outcomes



More spaces and places for people to play and meet. A healthier population both mentally and physically. Improved quality of life.

Objective 5.2:

Support the improved provision of adequate health related services and the ability to access those services.

Need:

Like Ireland in general, Wexford's population is becoming older. Indeed, according to the CSO, the county has a higher proportion of older people at 14.7%, than the state average of 13.4% (CSO, 2016). Wexford also has a age dependency ratio higher than the national average. Another issue is the dispersed nature of settlement in Wexford.

This means that people are typically located some distance away from health- related services that are under pressure due to the higher than average age dependency ratio. In the community survey for this LECP, availability of services – including healthcare – ranked as the second lowest category in the question about Wexford's greatest assets

Action 5.2.1.

Support efforts to provide necessary public health and family services (e.g. hospitals, GPs, counsellors, family resource centres, childcare, palliative care) so that they are both available and easily accessible – either by proximity or availability of public transport – to all members of the public, regardless of location, ability, and social and financial circumstances.



Action 5.2.2.

Support the rollout of enhanced mental health services across the county and engage with relevant experts, educators and parents/guardians – particularly regarding vulnerable groups (e.g. minority, geographically isolated and disadvantaged groups).



Action 5.2.3.

Support the improvement of libraries and community centres which are available and accessible to all members of the public, regardless of location, ability, and social and financial circumstances.



Action 5.2.4.

Help ensure positive ageing in the county's communities through the support of various programs and initiatives such as Wexford Age Friendly Initiative, Healthy Wexford, Sláintecare Age Friendly Healthy Homes and supporting Wexford's Dementia Alliance campaigns.



Action 5.2.5.

Help ensure children and young people in Wexford get the best start in life through the provision of Healthy Childhood parenting programmes and supports (e.g. creating breastfeeding friendly environments and supports for child health promotion initiatives).



Action 5.2.6.

Support promotion of healthy lifestyles, including across the priority areas of physical activity, healthy weight, tobacco free, sexual health, alcohol and drug related harm, and mental health.



Key desired outcomes

More spaces and places for people to play and meet. A healthier population both mentally and physically. Improved quality of life.

Objective 5.3:

Help facilitate successful coordination between health and wellbeing service providers and stakeholders by improving public awareness of health and wellbeing supports.

Need:

Ireland spends significantly more per capita on health than the OECD average. Despite this, the Irish system is costly and inefficient when measured against some of the best healthcare systems in Europe. According to Eurostat, Ireland has the second highest obesity level in Europe. In 2019, 25.9% of the state's population were obese versus an EU average of 16.5%. Obesity increases the risk of a person suffering many health conditions including Type 2 Diabetes, Coronary Heart Disease, Stroke, and some types of Cancer. Research from Maynooth

University in 2022 indicated that 42% of Irish adults have a mental health disorder and more than one in ten had attempted suicide. These wider national patterns are likely to be present in Wexford. Although captured prior to the Covid Pandemic, in Census 2016, 87% of people in County Wexford in 2016 classified themselves as being in Good or Very Good Health. This matched the national figure.

It can be frustrating for those typically most in need of health care and wellbeing supports to learn about and access the appropriate services. For instance, digital literacy amongst older people reduces their accessibility to online material and booking systems. Recent migrants to Ireland may not be able to speak or read English well. Finally, those from disadvantaged backgrounds may have literacy issues.

Action 5.3.1.

Through facilitating greater cooperation amongst service providers, help deliver more impactful outcomes from key national and local health strategies and plans (e.g. Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025, Healthy Wexford County Plan 2020-2022 and Healthy Wexford campaigns, National Sports Plan 2018-2027, National Physical Activity Plan, Sports Active Wexford Strategic Plan).



Action 5.3.2.

Through relevant communication channels (in-person, digital, etc.), strengthen participation in decision-making for health and well-being at community level, particularly amongst underrepresented groups. Prioritise the use of plain, understandable language in all

engagements.



Action 5.3.3.

Support efforts which encourage high participation levels in social, sporting, arts and cultural activity for people of all abilities to encourage a healthy lifestyle, positive aging, and active and sustainable living, including through the use of outdoor recreation schemes.



Key desired outcomes

More people saying their health is very good or good. Easier access to healthcare services by vulnerable or more disadvantaged members of society. More people engaging in sporting and social/cultural activities.

Objective 5.4:

Support community groups and social enterprises.

Action 5.4.1.

Continue to build capacity amongst volunteer-led community organisations and social enterprises, and to support the important work of these groups. Key areas to address include volunteer burnout, community resilience and development, economic sustainability, funding and governance.



Key desired outcomes

More resilient and impactful community organisations and social enterprises. More social enterprises. Improved governance.



Goal 6:

Tourism will sensitively use, promote and protect County Wexford's culture, built heritage and natural environment for the benefit of local communities. Business and community stakeholders will collaborate to grow a commercially and environmentally sustainable tourism industry.

Objective 6.1:

Deepen collaboration and unify efforts where possible to create a compelling tourist offering, attractive to both domestic and international markets.

Need:

Tourism is one of Wexford's most important indigenous economic sectors. It provides valuable employment and amenities for locals to use. Wexford is consistently one of the most popular counties for domestic tourists. According to Fáilte Ireland, in 2022 Wexford ranked as the fifth most popular

county for Irish residents to visit. The 926,000 domestic visitors stayed on average 3.3 nights and spent an estimated €254m. By contrast, Wexford attracts fewer foreign tourists than neighbouring counties Waterford and Kilkenny. It is with foreign tourists where the greatest opportunity for growth lies. Nonetheless, there is still the need to maintain a strong proposition for domestic tourists. Other counties are pursuing the Irish market. Wexford has competitive advantages over other counties (i.e. some of the best beaches in the country and Rosslare Europort). It also has a strong cultural and heritage offering.

Action 6.1.1.

Support efforts to deepen research and knowledge of County Wexford's tourism sector. This includes: visitor numbers, distribution, possible areas of over-tourism, visitor profiles (domestic and international), economic impact, environmental impact.



Action 6.1.2.

Continue to support the work of Visit Wexford. Develop and implement a tourism marketing strategy that aligns with the Ireland's Ancient East proposition and supports the So Old, So New brand.



Action 6.1.3.

Continue to collaborate with relevant arts, culture, heritage, sports, business and community groups (large and small) to create a vibrant day and night-time offering with a year-round schedule of experiences, festivals and events for visitors. Particular focus should be placed on developing the night-time economy of Wexford's towns.



Action 6.1.4.

Deliver a successful Fleadh and work to create a long term legacy by supporting traditional music from the grassroots up. Investigate the feasibility of holding an annual/biannual international Celtic music and dance festival leveraging Wexford's

ferry connections with Wales, Brittany and Northern Spain



Action 6.1.5.

Work with partners to improve visitor dwell time in the county (including by addressing on-going issues around accommodation).



Action 6.1.6.

Beyond Ireland, continue to collaborate with partners across Europe and America – especially in Georgia – to encourage visits, the development of mutually beneficial projects (e.g. arts and culture events/exchanges, promotion) and exchange of learnings. Work also to enhance relationships with other locations serviced by passenger ferries from Rosslare Europort (e.g. Wales, Brittany, Normandy, Northern Spain) and twinned towns (e.g. Dunkirk).



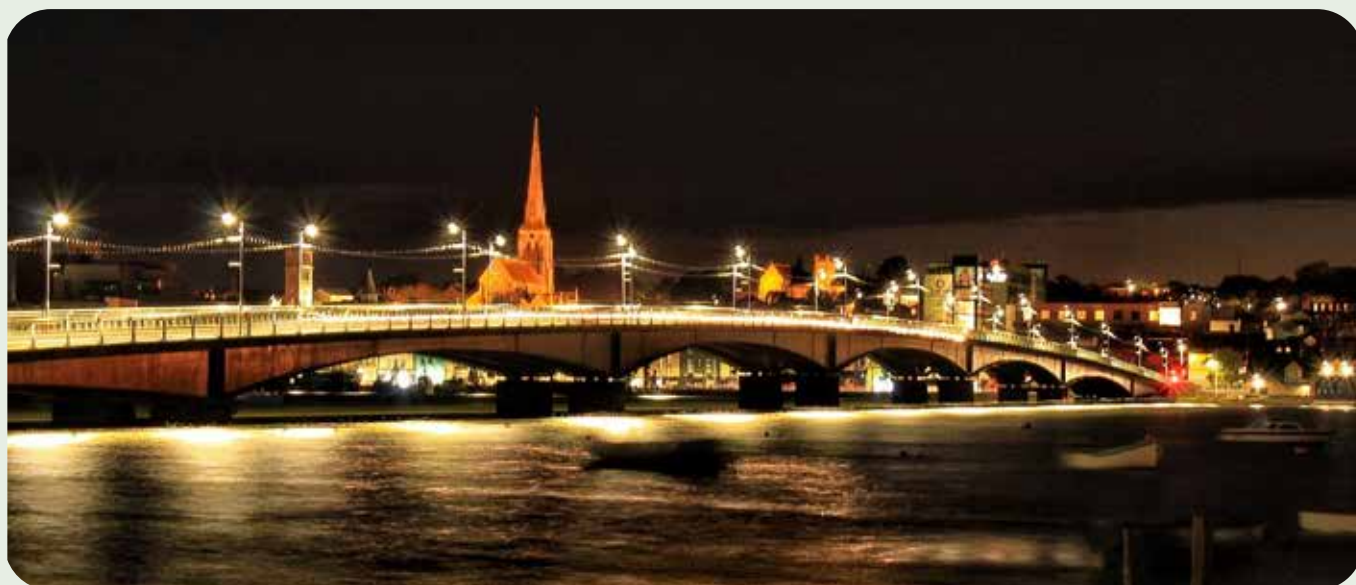
Action 6.1.7.

Bind the county together by creating a network of high quality and well-maintained greenways, blueways and walking trails. Adequate mooring/marina facilities, water sports hubs and associated infrastructure are also needed along Wexford's coast and navigable waterways.



Key desired outcomes

More people saying their health is very good or good. Easier access to healthcare services by vulnerable or more disadvantaged members of society. More people engaging in sporting and social/cultural activities.



Objective 6.2:

Continue to develop a high-quality hospitality sector that meets the expectations of visitors and provides strong, local, economic benefits.

Need:

Beyond the creation of employment, the great benefit a vibrant tourism sector brings to a place is the provision of additional amenities for locals. Without the visitors these amenities would not be commercially viable. It is worth recognising that much of the employment created in the tourist sector

is in rural areas. The greatest commercial yield to a place from tourism is through accommodation. If people stay local, they are also more likely to visit local restaurants, pubs, cafes, gift shops and tourist attractions. Research from Loop Head Tourism in Co.

Clare discovered that the average spend from bus tour visitors that did not stay locally was minimal. This illustrates the importance of having people stay in local accommodation. In a 2019 survey by Fáilte Ireland, Wexford was the ranked the 9th highest county in the number of hotel beds available (i.e. 3,968 beds in 25 premises).

Action 6.2.1.

Work with relevant stakeholders on securing investment to increase the provision of tourist accommodation across all budget ranges and target markets, subject to the locational requirements of the County Development Plan.



Action 6.2.2.

Continue to work with relevant industry stakeholders to understand and help overcome the current staff shortages within the hospitality sector, as well as to address any hospitality training requirements amongst existing and potential staff.



Key desired outcomes

More tourist accommodation. Strong provision of qualified staff in the hospitality sector. More local employment.



Objective 6.3:

Help develop a suite of high quality and well managed visitor attractions that meet the expectations of County Wexford's target domestic and foreign markets.

Need:

For Wexford to reach its tourism potential – especially with foreign audiences – it requires a critical mass of significant visitor attractions that are compelling to target markets. Supporting these are more modest attractions, activities and the infrastructure allowing people to explore and stay locally. Aside from issues around safety and interacting with Irish people, the key reasons

visitors come to Ireland revolve around the scenery, history and heritage.

In 2019, according to Fáilte Ireland, almost 9 in 10 foreign tourists stated that visits to cultural and historical was their top thing to see or do. By far, the most popular activity engaged in by domestic tourists nationally is walking/hiking. Walking is also a popular activity amongst foreign tourists. Johnstown Castle is Wexford's most popular visitor attraction. It was only opened to the public in late 2021. According to Fáilte Ireland, 152,547 people visited the site in 2022

Action 6.3.1.

Work with relevant stakeholders to renew and maintain tourism assets to a high international standard that are compelling to Wexford's target foreign and domestic audiences (e.g. Hook Head Lighthouse, Enniscorthy Castle, National 1798 Rebellion Centre and Vinegar Hill, Dunbrody Famine Ship and Irish Emigrant Experience, New Ross Norman Experience Centre, National Heritage Park, Johnstown Castle, Forth Mountain, Wells House).



Action 6.3.2.

Regularly assess what visitor activity/attraction gaps exist in County Wexford's offering and collaborate with key stakeholders to ensure these are filled by international quality amenities/attractions (e.g. Duncannon Fort)



Action 6.3.3.

Work to continually enhance visitor management and infrastructure at key sites to improve overall visitor experience and the protection of the built and natural heritage, as relevant..



Action 6.3.4.

Improve the accessibility of key visitor attractions and locations via sustainable travel options (e.g. improved bus connections, cycling paths, walking trails, marina/moorings). Within the constraints of natural and built heritage legislation, work to increase the accessibility of key visitor attractions for those with special access needs.



Action 6.3.5.

Assist communities in the provision and promotion of experiences and associated infrastructure that meet the expectations of key county tourist markets (e.g. accessible heritage sites with interpretive signage, looped walks, local folklore or traditional music festival, arts and cultural events – especially in developing a night-time economy and during the tourism season shoulder months, lifeguarded swimming locations and general access to water, cycling stands and maintenance stations, moorings for boats).



Key desired outcomes



A collection of high-quality visitor attractions that meet the changing needs of target markets. Additional amenities for residents. More local employment. Greater provision and use of active and sustainable travel options. Increase in accessibility of tourist amenities and heritage sites. Greater spread of the economic impact from tourism across the county.



Objective 6.4:

Protect and enhance the county's natural and built heritage assets whilst developing a sustainable, modern tourism industry.

Need:

The natural and built heritage of Wexford – including its historic towns and villages – are its key tourism assets. These assets also play a central part in overall quality of life and making the county attractive for both foreign and domestic investment. Accordingly, the long-term development of Wexford's tourism sector is fundamentally linked on the

county's natural and built heritage resources being appropriately cared for and sustainably utilised. Additional visitors will put a strain on water treatment systems, especially during the peak summer months. Similarly, traffic bottlenecks could be created during the summer, delicate natural landscapes put under pressure, and archaeology sites damaged. Finally, there is also the carbon and waste cost of tourism. To avoid this, appropriate management practices and investment will be needed.

Action 6.4.1.

Support the development of eco/regenerative tourism experiences and opportunities.



Action 6.4.2.

Work to ensure that adequate wastewater treatment facilities are in place to process tourism related effluent.



Action 6.4.3.

Support the adoption of circular economy practices by the hospitality sector.



Action 6.4.4.

Support educational initiatives and awareness campaigns on issues relating to biodiversity protection and landscape management (e.g. litter management and recycling, responsible pet ownership, stopping the spread of invasive species).



Action 6.4.5.

Support the adoption – where appropriate – of renewable energy generation (e.g. solar power) and energy reduction measures (e.g. improved building insulation) by the hospitality sector.



Key desired outcomes

More tourist accommodation. Strong provision of qualified staff in the hospitality sector. More local employment.



8

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Two-Year Implementation Plan

8.1 Approach

This chapter outlines the initial implementation plan for the LECP. It includes specific actions that will contribute to the achievement of the goals, objectives and outcomes highlighted in the previous chapter. However, there has been an important change in comparison to the previous iteration of the county's LECP with added flexibility built into its design. While this LECP itself covers a 6-year timeframe out to 2029, the Implementation Plan will be reviewed and revised every 2 years as the plan progresses. As such, consideration has been given in the development of the initial Implementation Plan to actions which can be progressed within that timeframe.

This new, more flexible approach provides the Council with an opportunity to identify actions that may not be achieving the desired impact and revise or replace them in subsequent Implementation Plans with initiatives that may be more suited to achieving the goals, objectives and outcomes of the LECP. Similarly, an opportunity now exists to update the Implementation Plan to address issues that emerge over the timeframe of the LECP, meaning that it can remain relevant and aligned to changing circumstances in the county. Finally, actions that are deemed to be the most impactful but also onerous to implement may be built upon and carried over into successor Implementation Plans. Key to realising the benefit of this more flexible approach, will be the monitoring and evaluation of progress in relation to the actions of the Implementation Plan.

The initial Implementation Plan contains 35 prioritised actions which support the 6 goals, 20 objectives and associated desired outcomes. The actions cover both economic and community elements with many of the actions interlinked and contributing to a number of objectives and goals. Key stakeholders and agencies that will lead and enable the implementation of the actions have been identified along with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and funding sources to aid the monitoring and evaluation of progress. All 88 actions can be found in chapter 7.

As mentioned earlier, the prioritisation of the eventual 35 actions was heavily informed by a short round of consultation in July 2023. It was comprised of one online workshop with key stakeholders. A second online workshop was also held for members of the public. Finally, written submissions were invited.

8.2 Policy Alignment

Like the goals and objectives, the actions are aligned with a number of existing strategies and policies including the County Development Plan, the RSES and the NPF. Furthermore, as noted in Chapter 1 of this document, the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been central to the development of the LEC

and have underpinned the formulation of the actions in the initial Implementation Plan (figure 8.1). Combined, the goals, objectives, outcomes and actions will work to enhance Wexford as a more connected, inclusive, prosperous and sustainable County as it moves towards 2029.



Figure 8.1: UN Sustainable Development Goals

8.3 Funding

Each of the 35 prioritised actions within this two-year Implementation Plan have been ascribed likely funding sources. These will assist the LCDC and other relevant stakeholders in completing the prioritised actions and realising the associated objectives.

Please note: details of funding programmes and amounts of funding available, set out in this section are correct as of September 2023. These programmes are renewed and revised on a regular basis, with new funding streams also introduced.



8.4 Prioritised Actions

Objective 1.1

Policy/Planning Framework: Community

SDG: 11, 13

NDP NSO: 1

RSES RPO: 10, 16.F, 26.B, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 63, 151.a

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Help ensure an adequate supply of local housing is available where residential developments contribute to and represent sustainable neighbourhoods which are inclusive and responsive to the physical or cultural needs of those who use them. They are also to be well-located relative to the social, community, commercial and administrative services, have high quality public realms and are to be well integrated with the community within which they will be located.

Prioritised Actions (1.1.3)

(note: two actions from four listed under Objective 1.1 in Section 7 prioritised)

Support efforts which work towards the provision of adequate, suitable and affordable housing in line with the principles of the government's Town Centre First policy and Housing for All plan.

Lead: WCC

Partners: Approved Housing Bodies, Local developers, Uisce Éireann.

High Level Goal 1:

Wexford's towns, villages, and rural communities will successfully adapt to become even more welcoming, attractive, and safe places to live and work. Support will be provided in the delivery of adequate local housing, transportation, infrastructure, and services that underpins a high quality of life. Innovative approaches to rejuvenation and the development of strong local leaders will be supported.

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 No. of total housing units under construction (i.e. by Private Sector / Local Authority / Approved Housing Bodies).
- 2 No. of housing units given planning permission.
- 3 No. of brown field sites given planning for housing.
- 4 Wastewater and drinking water pressure points addressed with Uisce Éireann.
- 5 Progress made on developing the Adoration Conventin Wexford Town and repurposing it as student accommodation for Georgia Southern University's Wexford campus.

Prioritised Actions (1.1.4)

(note: two actions from four listed under Objective 1.1 in Section 7 prioritised)

Identify and target – where appropriate – the reuse of vacant and derelict buildings in both urban and rural areas for use as housing.

Lead: WCC

Partners: Property owners,
community groups/ town teams



Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Available supports to owners promoted by directly contacting property owners, using social media, seminars, holding building reuse roadshows with planners, architects and builders in Wexford's towns.
- 2 Increase in the number of buildings in Croí Cónaithe scheme.
- 3 No. of Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) for high profile structures where other reuse options with property owners have been exhausted

Potential Funding Sources (example)

Dept. of Housing,
Local Government & Heritage,
Croí Cónaithe,
URDF,
RRDF



Objective 1.2

Policy/Planning Framework: Community

SDG: 3, 9, 10, 11, 13

NDP NSO: 2, 3, 4

RSES RPO: 2, 11.b, 16.h, 29, 30, 38.d, 91, 130, 151.b, 152, 158, 159, 160, 163, 172, 174, 177, 181

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Help ensure that towns and villages (including their services and amenities) are easily accessible.

Prioritised Actions (1.2.1)

(note: two actions from seven listed under Objective 1.2 in Section 7 prioritised)

Support the rollout of active travel infrastructure (e.g. cycleways, footpaths, street lighting).

Lead: WCC

Partners: Healthy Wexford, Communities, Businesses

High Level Goal 1:

Wexford's towns, villages, and rural communities will successfully adapt to become even more welcoming, attractive, and safe places to live and work. Support will be provided in the delivery of adequate local housing, transportation, infrastructure, and services that underpins a high quality of life. Innovative approaches to rejuvenation and the development of strong local leaders will be supported.

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 No. of kilometres of segregated cycleways created.
- 2 No. of kilometres of footpath (new and repaired /upgraded) linking residential developments at the edges of towns/villages to the town/village core, with additional energy efficient street lighting installed.
- 3 The following will be completed: 3.05km of protected cycle paths and improved footpaths for the Newtown Road Cycle Scheme; 2.85km of cycle paths and improved footpaths for the Roxborough Cycle Scheme; 1.75km of cycle paths and improved footpaths for the Beechlawn/Clonard Cycle Scheme.
- 4 Three schools to have front of schools and routes to the school enhanced to encourage more active travel (Ramsgrange Secondary School, Gorey Central School, Crossabeg National School).
- 5 Transport plans created for Wexford Town and Enniscorthy.

Prioritised Actions (1.2.4)

(note: two actions from seven listed under Objective 1.2 in Section 7 prioritised)

Support effective cooperation between relevant authorities and local transport providers to enhance the provision of dependable public transport options – especially bus services with bus shelters – to/from services, further education providers, towns and amenities. This will help reduce the overdependence on private transport (especially amongst younger people, isolated and disadvantaged groups).

Lead: WCC

Partners: TFI Local Link Wexford,
Wexford Bus,
CIE,
Bus Éireann

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Identify and map all public transport routes. Any gaps in provision identified.
- 2 No. of additional bus routes.
- 3 No. of routes with higher frequency.
- 4 No. of bus shelters in towns and villages with real time displays of expected times of arrival.
- 5 Feasibility study for community car scheme

Potential Funding Sources (example)

NTA Active Travel Grants Programme,
NTA/TFI,
Dept. of Transport,
LEADER



Objective 1.3

Policy/Planning Framework: Community

SDG: 3, 8, 9, 11, 13, 17

NDP NSO: 1, 5, 7, 8

RSES RPO: 2, 10, 11.d, 11.e, 16.g, 34, 35, 39, 63, 175, 177, 181, 192, 194

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Facilitate an innovative, stakeholder-based approach to health promoting, climate-resilient regeneration of towns, villages and rural communities.

Prioritised Actions (1.3.1)

(note: two actions from five listed under Objective 1.3 in Section 7 prioritised)

In line with Town-Centre First compact growth principles, support the plan-based and community-led development of towns. The objective is to make Wexford's towns more attractive and creative places in which to live and work. Efforts should focus on placemaking, developing a high quality of life and environmental sustainability. Town plan actions could include supporting a range of arts, cultural and sporting offerings. Finally, managing anti-social behaviour is to be a consideration.

Lead: PPN
Wexford Volunteer Centre

Partners: Communities,
WLP,
Sláintecare
Healthy Communities,
Creative Places Enniscorthy

High Level Goal 1:

Wexford's towns, villages, and rural communities will successfully adapt to become even more welcoming, attractive, and safe places to live and work. Support will be provided in the delivery of adequate local housing, transportation, infrastructure, and services that underpins a high quality of life. Innovative approaches to rejuvenation and the development of strong local leaders will be supported.

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Town centre first policy adhered to in Council decision making.
- 2 One additional town centre first plan created.
- 3 Two additional town teams created and supported.
- 4 No. of actions being implemented from additional Town Centre First Plan and existing Enniscorthy Town Centre First Plan.

Prioritised Actions (1.3.3)

(note: two actions from five listed under Objective 1.3 in Section 7 prioritised)

Help build the capacity and abilities of community leaders (e.g. training and mentoring provided on strategic thinking, SMART community development, governance, obtaining funding, project management and working in cooperation with neighbouring settlements).

Lead: PPN & WCC

Partners: WCC,
WLD (SICAP),
Sláintecare
Healthy Communities,
Community groups

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 No. of training events held.
- 2 No. of people who attend the training events.
- 3 No. of local leaders that have taken part in mentoring programmes.
- 4 Training and mentoring evaluated by attendees to be overwhelmingly positive and useful.

Potential Funding Sources (example)

Croí Cónaithe,
Built Heritage Investment Scheme,
Historic Towns Initiative,
RRDF,
URDF,
NTA Active Travel Grants Programme,
NTA/TFI,
Dept. of Transport,
AIB Community Fund,
LEADER,
Sláintecare Healthy Communities,
Creative Places Enniscorthy,
Arts Council,
Creative Ireland



Objective 2.1

Policy/Planning Framework: Community

SDG: 1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11

NDP NSO: 10

RSES RPO: 2, 10, 16.e, 39, 63, 138, 177, 179, 181, 183, 187, 189, 190

High Level Goal 2:

A culture of continuous, life-long learning will be fostered, one that improves prospects and provides a sense of personal achievement. It will recognise and value individuals' unique knowledge, experience and capabilities and provide accessible opportunities for connection, shared growth and development.

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Assist in guaranteeing that County Wexford's residents have ample access to learning opportunities, unaffected by factors such as age, ability, socio-economic background, geographic location and membership of a minority community.

Prioritised Actions (2.1.1)

(note: two actions from six listed under Objective 2.1 in Section 7 prioritised)

Support the expansion of SETU Campus, the Wexford College of Further Education and Training and other further education providers to meet the educational needs of County Wexford's residents. To enable the successful expansion of SETU in Wexford, the provision of adequate student housing is required.

Lead: WWETB and SETU

Partners: WCC, PPN, County Wexford Chamber, Screen Wexford

Prioritised Actions (2.1.4)

(note: two actions from six listed under Objective 2.1 in Section 7 prioritised)

Support literacy at all life stages, including digital and IT literacy, to ensure a high level of accessibility to online training and education.

Lead: WWETB and SETU

Partners: WCC, Wexford Library Service, PPN, Wexford Bus, TFI Local Link Wexford, WLD (SICAP)

Potential Funding Sources (example)

SOLAS, Dept. of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, NTA/TFI, Screen Wexford, Screen Ireland, Creative Ireland

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Skills needs assessed.
- 2 Additional courses created/being created to meet needs of residents.
- 3 In line with the SETU Connecting for Impact strategic plan, support provided in delivery of a 10,000m2 academic building and ancillary facilities (i.e. design stage, planning stage, funding).

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Increase in number of courses available online.
- 2 Improved bus connections to key education providers (i.e. no. of routes, increase in frequency).
- 3 To support online and blended learning delivery assess the provision of adequate broadband services within towns and villages.

Objective 2.2

Policy/Planning Framework: Community

SDG: 1, 4, 8, 10

NDP NSO: 1,3,10

RSES RPO: 2, 10, 38.d, 177, 179, 181, 187, 189, 190

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Use education as a key tool to break the cycle of disadvantage experienced by some in County Wexford.

Prioritised Actions (2.2.1)

(note: two actions from two listed under Objective 2.2 in Section 7 prioritised)

Support the development of literacy, numeracy, household finance and nutrition education programmes for people living in disadvantaged communities, the Traveller community and the Roma community.

Lead: WWETB

Partners: WCC, Healthy Wexford, Wexford Library Service, PPN, CYPSC, WLD, Sláintecare Healthy Communities, Wexford Traveller Interagency Group,

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 No. of training programmes developed and implemented.
- 2 No. of people who participate in training programmes.
- 3 Training and mentoring evaluated by attendees to be overwhelmingly positive and useful.

Prioritised Actions (2.2.2)

(note: two actions from two listed under Objective 2.2 in Section 7 prioritised)

With a particular focus on concentrations of disadvantage, the Traveller community and Roma community, support the important work of educational representatives to address high early school leaver rates and increase the retention of students in education to complete second level.

Lead: WWETB

Partners: WCC, Wexford Library Service, PPN, CYPSC, WLD, Wexford Traveller Interagency Group

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Mentoring programme created for children at risk of leaving school.
- 2 Increased number of secondary school pupils completing secondary school.
- 3 Increased number of secondary school pupils progressing to third level education and further education.

Potential Funding Sources (example)

Dept. of Education,
SOLAS,
Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Objective 3.1

Policy/Planning Framework: Economic

SDG: 4, 8, 9, 10

NDP NSO: 3, 5, 9, 10

RSES RPO: 2, 4, 10, 16, 39, 40, 56, 63, 64, 67, 85, 177

High Level Goal 3:

Economic strategy will support upskilling and innovation in the creation of sustainable, added-value employment in County Wexford. This will be facilitated through the provision of appropriate infrastructure to support and maximise inward investment, enterprise creation and expansion opportunities

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Help align skills development across the county with industry needs and priorities.

Prioritised Actions (3.1.3)

(note: two actions from five listed under Objective 3.1 in Section 7 prioritised)

Develop a knowledge-based economy by supporting progression pathways between education partners that align education, industry and research priorities. Through advancement of the Masterplan for the new university campus and the adjacent school education campus in Wexford and through WWETB College of the Future explore the opportunity for cutting edge R&D facilities to support skills development and innovation. This will include high potential economic subsectors (e.g. renewable energy, building retrofitting, the film industry, food production, and the marine sector).

Lead: SETU and WWETB

Partners: WCC,
County Wexford Chamber,
Businesses,
Screen Wexford,
Screen Ireland

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 SETU in collaboration with WCC to advance Masterplan for new university campus.
- 2 Review of courses to ensure they align with key needs of industry, especially those identified as high growth potential industries.
- 3 Where gaps exist in provision, a number of courses being designed to satisfy industry needs.



Prioritised Actions (3.1.4)

(note: two actions from five listed under Objective 3.1 in Section 7 prioritised)

Support and promote vocational employment opportunities (incl. apprenticeships and trades) across the county – especially those which focus on the green economy, decarbonisation, modern construction methods, as well as the screen and film industry.

Lead: SETU and WWETB

Partners: WCC,
County Wexford Chamber,
Businesses,
Screen Wexford,
Screen Ireland

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Industry needs evaluated.
- 2 Increased no. of education and training programmes to meet industry needs.
- 3 Secondary schools surveyed about how to facilitate an increase in the number of apprentices.
- 4 Public information event held for students, parents/guardians and companies on apprenticeship opportunities.
- 5 No. of new vocational training places created.

Potential Funding Sources (example)

SOLAS,
Dept. of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science,
Screen Ireland,
Screen Wexford



Objective 3.2

Policy/Planning Framework: Economic

SDG: 3, 8, 9, 11

NDP NSO: 3, 5,

RSES RPO: 2, 4, 10, 16, 39, 40, 56, 63, 64, 67, 85, 177

High Level Goal 3:

Economic strategy will support upskilling and innovation in the creation of sustainable, added-value employment in County Wexford. This will be facilitated through the provision of appropriate infrastructure to support and maximise inward investment, enterprise creation and expansion opportunities

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Help provide the necessary infrastructure and supports which will attract inward investment.

Prioritised Actions (3.2.1)

(note: two actions from five listed under Objective 3.2 in Section 7 prioritised)

Collaborate with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to develop a business ecosystem which helps attract domestic and foreign investment (e.g. adequate housing, an expanded SETU, sufficiently trained workforce, attractive towns and villages, good amenities).

Lead: WCC

Partners: IDA,
EI,
SETU,
ETB,
County Wexford Chamber,
Communities

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Good pipeline of housing provision (e.g. no. of housing units granted planning permission, no. of housing units under construction).
- 2 Expanded SETU with student housing in progress. Additional courses to match industry needs.
- 3 Regeneration plans being put in place and implemented.



Prioritised Actions (3.2.3)

(note: two actions from five listed under Objective 3.2 in Section 7 prioritised)

Work with relevant stakeholders to promote and advance strategically important 'catalyst' developments (e.g. Rosslare Europort and associated rail freight infrastructure, SETU, Trinity Wharf, Tara Studios), commercial property solutions (e.g. Enniscorthy Technology Park, New Ross Advance Factory and enterprise facility, Kilmore Quay Enterprise Hub, M11 Business Campus and Hatch Lab) and the Eastern Corridor, which are identified by the wider planning framework.

Lead: Wexford County Council

Partners: IDA,
EI,
CIE,
SETU,
Tara Studios,
Screen Wexford,
County Wexford Chamber,
WWETB,
Communities,
Industry/businesses

Potential Funding Sources (example)

RRDF,
URDF,
LEADER,
Enterprise Ireland,
Connected Hubs Fund

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Significant progress made on delivering Phase 1 of Trinity Wharf, including identifying investors and potential client companies.
- 2 Assistance provided to CIE in the development of Rosslare Europort and reopening of Waterford rail line for freight.
- 3 Opportunity investigated for the development of an economic zone centered on Rosslare Europort and its opportunities as an export hub for logistics, suppliers and digitization.
- 4 Through Screen Wexford, support Tara Studios in the identification and development of crew hubs, talent and job creation opportunities.
- 5 In line with the SETU Connecting for Impact strategic plan, support provided in the delivery of a 10,000m2 academic building and ancillary facilities (i.e. design stage, planning stage, funding).
- 6 Progress implementation of memorandum of understanding with IDA for advanced factory at Enniscorthy Technology Park.
- 7 Opening of Green innovation hub to support SMEs to pursue opportunities in the green economy.
- 8 New Ross Advanced Factory partner company sourced. Factory and enterprise facility designed and planning application lodged.
- 9 Economic research report completed on skills and employment opportunities for Kilmore.
- 10 Kilmore Quay Enterprise Hub design progressed, reacting to research.
- 11 Further development progressed of M11 Business Campus and Hatch Lab.

Objective 3.3

Policy/Planning Framework: Community

SDG: 8, 9, 11

NDP NSO: 3, 5,

RSES RPO: 2, 16.f, 29, 40, 49, 64, 67

High Level Goal 3:

Economic strategy will support upskilling and innovation in the creation of sustainable, added-value employment in County Wexford. This will be facilitated through the provision of appropriate infrastructure to support and maximise inward investment, enterprise creation and expansion opportunities

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Help ensure successful coordination between parties to pro- actively support indigenous business and local entrepreneurship (including niche, high-potential yet less-developed industries such as aquaculture and regenerative tourism).

Prioritised Action (3.3.3)

(note: one action from four listed under Objective 3.3 in Section 7 prioritised)

Assist efforts to provide local, small businesses with access to suitable and affordable enterprise premises, incubation spaces and local producer market spaces.

Lead: WCC

Partners: County Wexford Chamber,
EI,
Businesses

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Establishment of a county wide network of enterprise/working hubs facilitating business to business opportunities among centres and enterprises in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Office/Enterprise Ireland.
- 2 Examine the potential for new local producer market spaces in Wexford's towns/districts

Potential Funding Sources (example)

URDF,
RRDF



Objective 4.1

Policy/Planning Framework:
Community / Economic

SDG: 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 17

NDP NSO: 8, 9

RSES RPO: 2, 16.f, 29, 40, 49, 64, 67

High Level Goal 4:

Climate and biodiversity action will meet the challenge of change by creating a resilient society, where the transition to a green, circular economy is fair to all. The transition efforts will involve well-defined responsibilities, practical adaptation, and mitigation efforts. There will be a focus on achieving local empowerment, synergies and efficiencies. Biodiversity protection and restoration will be supported.

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Support the development of a green, circular, low-carbon economy for residents and businesses which helps the county meet its Climate Action Plan Objectives and makes County Wexford a national leader in renewable energy.

Prioritised Actions (4.1.2)

(note: two actions from six listed under Objective 4.1 in Section 7 prioritised)

Considering fast-moving innovation and national policy in the green energy sector, a review is required on how to best extend the development of renewable energy production and how to maximise the benefits to the communities and economy of County Wexford. Associated infrastructure and the benefits that may accrue will also have to be assessed. Finally, subject to standard ecological screening, the feasibility study should evaluate broader impacts on visual amenity value, recreation, farming and fishing.

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Review completed.
- 2 Review informs decision making

Lead: WCC

Partners: SECs,
Communities,
ESB Networks,
Eirgrid,
Renewable energy developers



Prioritised Actions (4.1.3)

(note: two actions from six listed under Objective 4.1 in Section 7 prioritised)

Encourage and support the creation of an ecosystem conducive to the creation of a vibrant renewable energy industry in County Wexford maximising job creation opportunities. This is likely to involve improvements to port facilities, research connections between SETU and industry, and adequate training being provided to meet the needs of industry. The possibility of involving the Wexford campus of the Southern Georgia University in research and training could be explored.

Lead: WCC

Partners: CIE,
WWETB,
SETU,
Southern Georgia University,
EI,
IDA,
Industry

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Support provided for Rosslare Europort to become an Offshore Renewable Energy Hub.
- 2 No. of courses created/expanded to meet the needs of the renewable energy sector.
- 3 Economic research report delivered on supporting Rosslare's strategic position to become a green economy hub leveraging Rosslare Europort and the plans for it to become a Offshore Renewable Energy Hub.

Potential Funding Sources (example)

Dept. of Further and Higher Education,
Research,
Innovation and Science



Objective 4.2

Policy/Planning Framework: Community

SDG: 3, 11, 12, 13, 17

NDP NSO: 8

RSES RPO: 38, 56, 58, 60, 85, 87, 90, 94

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Help empower rural and urban communities to meet the challenge of climate change and biodiversity loss in a way that works better for them.

Prioritised Action (4.2.2)

(note: one action from three listed under Objective 4.2 in Section 7 prioritised)

Support community-based climate solutions and the work of Sustainable Energy Communities, businesses and farmers to reduce emissions, adopt circular economy practices and generally embrace more sustainable behaviours. Many of these behaviours will also have health benefits.

Lead: WCC

Partners: SEAI, SECs, WLD, Alliance, Teagasc, County Wexford Chamber, High Performance Building, Farming organisations, Communities, Businesses.

High Level Goal 4:

Climate and biodiversity action will meet the challenge of change by creating a resilient society, where the transition to a green, circular economy is fair to all. The transition efforts will involve well-defined responsibilities, practical adaptation, and mitigation efforts. There will be a focus on achieving local empowerment, synergies and efficiencies. Biodiversity protection and restoration will be supported.

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 No. of training events held.
- 2 Delivery of a programme of international events by the High Performance Building Alliance as a designated centre of excellence.
- 3 No. of community groups assisted in accessing Climate Action funding, such as the Community Climate Action Programme.
- 4 Green for business programme supported and no. of events held.
- 5 No. of actions from Enniscorthy Decarbonization Zone Plan implemented.
- 6 Green Hub at Enniscorthy Technology Park launched by High Performance Building Alliance.
- 7 South East Green Cluster established.
- 8 Lessons learnt from Decarbonization Zone Plan implemented across County as resources allow.
- 9 Total funding allocated to community groups under the Community Climate Action Programme.
- 10 No. of Sustainable Energy Communities registered in County Wexford.

Objective 4.3

Policy/Planning Framework:
Community / Economic

SDG: 11, 13, 14, 15, 17

NDP NSO: 3, 8, 9

RSES RPO: 112, 123, 124, 125, 126,
127, 128

High Level Goal 4:

Climate and biodiversity action will meet the challenge of change by creating a resilient society, where the transition to a green, circular economy is fair to all. The transition efforts will involve well-defined responsibilities, practical adaptation, and mitigation efforts. There will be a focus on achieving local empowerment, synergies and efficiencies. Biodiversity protection and restoration will be supported.

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Help ensure that County Wexford's precious natural assets are protected and enhanced.

Prioritised Action (4.3.1)

(note: one action from three listed under Objective 4.3 in Section 7 prioritised)

Work with various stakeholders including community, public, agriculture, housing, transport and industry to promote the protection of the environment and biodiversity.

Lead: WCC

Partners: SEAI,
Dept. of Environment, Climate
and Communications,
WLD,
PPN,
County Wexford Chamber,
Teagasc,
Farming organisations,
Communities,
TFI Local Link Wexford,
Wexford Bus,
CIE,
Bus Éireann

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Education and communication programme devised.
- 2 No. training events, information roadshows, case study site visits, publications, social media posts.
- 3 No. of climate related arts and culture events and programmes.

Potential Funding Sources (example)

Climate Action Fund,
Climate and Nature Fund,
LEADER,
Creative Climate Action Fund,
Arts Council

Objective 4.4

Policy/Planning Framework:
Community / Economic

SDG: 11, 13, 14, 17

NDP NSO: 3, 8

RSES RPO: 2, 28, 56, 87, 90, 120, 175, 179, 181, 182

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Enhance the resilience of County Wexford to the impacts of climate change.

Prioritised Action (4.4.1)

(note: one action from three listed under Objective 4.4 in Section 7 prioritised)

Support the implementation of the Wexford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (CCAS) 2019-2024 and the Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 which will replace the CCAS when adopted by the elected members.

Lead: WCC

Partners: SEAI, WLD
Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications

Prioritised Action (4.4.2)

(note: one action from three listed under Objective 4.4 in Section 7 prioritised)

Support and empower communities to become more resilient in relation to flood risks and vulnerabilities.

Lead: WCC

Partners: OPW, Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications, PPN, County Wexford Chamber, WLD, Teagasc, Farming organisations, Communities

Potential Funding Sources (example)

Climate Action Fund, Climate and Nature Fund, LEADER

High Level Goal 4:

Climate and biodiversity action will meet the challenge of change by creating a resilient society, where the transition to a green, circular economy is fair to all. The transition efforts will involve well-defined responsibilities, practical adaptation, and mitigation efforts. There will be a focus on achieving local empowerment, synergies and efficiencies. Biodiversity protection and restoration will be supported.

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 No. of Climate Action Plan actions fully implemented.
- 2 No. of Climate Action Plan actions partially implemented.
- 3 Climate Action Plan monitoring and implementation reports published.

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Coastal erosion management plan created in collaboration with the OPW.
- 2 No. of flood management actions/defences in the process of being carried out.
- 3 All those at risk of flooding and coastal notified and provided information on risk, supports and mitigations.



Objective 5.1

Policy/Planning Framework: Community

SDG: 3, 10, 11, 17

NDP NSO: 1, 3, 7

RSES RPO: 2, 4, 10, 34, 177, 178, 182,
192, 194, 198

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Help ensure that there are a range of inclusive, diverse spaces and facilities available for recreation, sports, arts and cultural purposes.

Prioritised Action (5.1.1)

(note: two actions from six listed under Objective 5.1 in Section 7 prioritised)

Support the development of accessible and inclusive arts and cultural spaces and programmes across the county (incl. library and community centre spaces) which enhance the health and wellbeing of all, and strengthen the role of arts and creativity in the promotion of mental wellbeing in communities.

Lead: WCC

Partners: Healthy Wexford,
Cultural venues,
Community centre committees,
PPN,
WLD,
Sláintecare Healthy
Communities,
Wexford Age
Friendly,
Creative Ireland,
Arts Council

High Level Goal 5:

Wellbeing, inclusion, equality, and diversity will be at the heart of County Wexford's communities. Accessible spaces and amenities, and arts and cultural opportunities which support the development of community spirit and enhance the physical and mental well-being of residents will be provided. New arrivals will be embraced and successfully integrated.

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 No. of venues modified with respect to universal access principles to ensure accessibility for all abilities and consideration for all lifespan stages.
- 2 No. of events and programmes designed to accommodate a range of abilities and lifespan needs.
- 3 Increase in percentage of adults and children with additional needs meeting physical activity guidelines.



Prioritised Action (5.1.2)

(note: two actions from six listed under Objective 5.1 in Section 7 prioritised)

Support the development of accessible sports amenities and facilities (including outdoor recreation) for a range of physical activities for all ages and abilities across the county.

Lead: WCC

Partners: Healthy Wexford,
Sports Active Wexford,
Relevant clubs,
Community groups and NGOs,
PPN,
WLD,
Sláintecare
Healthy Communities,
Wexford Age Friendly,
HSE

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 No. of existing venues re-designed with respect to universal access principles ensuring accessibility for all abilities and consideration for all lifespan stages.
- 2 No. of new venues designed with respect to universal access principles ensuring accessibility for all abilities and consideration for all lifespan stages.
- 3 No. of events and programmes designed to accommodate a range of abilities and lifespan needs.
- 4 Increase in percentage of adults and children with additional needs meeting physical activity guidelines.

Potential Funding Sources (example)

Arts Council, Creative Ireland,
The Heritage Council,
Sports Ireland,
LEADER,
Sláintecare Healthy Communities,
Wexford Age Friendly,
Dept. of Health



Objective 5.2

Policy/Planning Framework: Community

SDG: 2, 3, 10, 11, 17
NDP NSO: 3, 10
RSES RPO: 2, 10, 177, 178, 179

High Level Goal 5:

Wellbeing, inclusion, equality, and diversity will be at the heart of County Wexford's communities. Accessible spaces and amenities, and arts and cultural opportunities which support the development of community spirit and enhance the physical and mental well-being of residents will be provided. New arrivals will be embraced and successfully integrated.

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Support the improved provision of adequate health related services and the ability to access those services.

Prioritised Actions (5.2.4)

(note: three actions from six listed under Objective 5.2 in Section 7 prioritised)

Help ensure positive ageing in the county's communities through the support of various programs and initiatives such as Wexford Age Friendly Initiative, Healthy Wexford, Sláintecare Age Friendly Healthy Homes and supporting Wexford's Dementia Alliance campaigns.

Lead: HSE and WCC

Partners: Sláintecare Healthy Communities, HSE, Older People's Council, An Garda Síochána, WWETB, SETU, Church of Ireland, Diocese of Ferns, Wexford Chamber, Wexford Dementia Alliance, Other relevant voluntary organisations, NGOs and charities.

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 No. of actions implemented from Wexford Age Friendly Strategy (2022-2026).
- 2 No. of Sláintecare Age Friendly Healthy Homes in pipeline (i.e. design, planning, construction, completed).
- 3 No. of Wexford's Dementia Alliance campaigns supported.



Prioritised Action (5.2.5)

(note: three actions from six listed under Objective 5.2 in Section 7 prioritised)

Help ensure children and young people in Wexford get the best start in life through the provision of Healthy Childhood parenting programmes and supports (e.g. creating breastfeeding friendly environments and supports for child health promotion initiatives).

Lead: HSE and WCC

Partners: HSE, Sláintecare Healthy Communities, Healthy Wexford, Sports Active Wexford, WLD, CYPSC, Tusla, PPN, Family resources centres, Barnardos, Dept. of Health, Other relevant NGOs and charities

Prioritised Action (5.2.6)

(note: three actions from six listed under Objective 5.2 in Section 7 prioritised)

Support promotion of healthy lifestyles, including across the priority areas of physical activity, healthy weight, tobacco free, sexual health, alcohol and drug related harm, and mental health.

Lead: HSE and WCC

Partners: Sláintecare Healthy Communities, Healthy Wexford, Sports Active Wexford, WLD, CYPSC, Other relevant NGOs and charities

Potential Funding Sources (example)

WCC, HSE, Dept. of Health, Sláintecare Healthy Communities, Mental Health Ireland, Healthy Ireland Fund, Dept. of Rural and Community Development, NTA Active Travel Grants Programme, Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 No. of child health promotion actions being implemented.
- 2 Conduct a feasibility study to ascertain how a pilot programme may be created to allow a number of DEIS primary and secondary schools that have afterschool clubs to provide hot dinners.
- 3 No. of breastfeeding support actions completed.
- 4 No. of primary and secondary school teachers engaging in health promotion training and implementing health promotion strategies.

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 No. of programmes being implemented that address physical activity, healthy weight, tobacco free, sexual health, alcohol and drug related harm, and mental health.
- 2 No. of targeted partnership based programmes designed to maximise the use of available resources in order to promote healthy behaviours, chronic disease prevention and self-management of existing chronic disease.
- 3 No. of partnership programmes that specifically target reducing isolation in the community and promote community integration and community safety.
- 4 Increased awareness level and likelihood to consider changed behaviour (survey undertaken).
- 5 Increased awareness of mental health supports and social connection opportunities (survey undertaken).

Objective 5.3

Policy/Planning Framework: Community

SDG: 3, 10, 11, 17
NDP NSO: 10
RSES RPO: 177, 178

High Level Goal 5:

Wellbeing, inclusion, equality, and diversity will be at the heart of County Wexford's communities. Accessible spaces and amenities, and arts and cultural opportunities which support the development of community spirit and enhance the physical and mental well-being of residents will be provided. New arrivals will be embraced and successfully integrated.

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Help facilitate successful coordination between health and wellbeing service providers and stakeholders by improving public awareness of health and wellbeing supports

Prioritised Action (5.3.1)

(note: one action from three listed under Objective 5.3 in Section 7 prioritised)

Through facilitating greater cooperation amongst service providers, help deliver more impactful outcomes from key national and local health strategies and plans (e.g. Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025, Healthy Wexford County Plan 2020-2022 and Healthy Wexford campaigns, National Sports Plan 2018-2027, National Physical Activity Plan, Sports Active Wexford Strategic Plan).

Lead: Wexford County Council

Partners: HSE,
Healthy Wexford,
Sports Active Wexford,
PPN,
CYPSC,
Tusla,
Wexford Library Service,
Other relevant NGOs and
charities.

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 No. of regular meetings held.
- 2 Increased number of impactful programmes delivered.
- 3 Healthy Wexford vision on its way to being met.
Feasibility study completed for a Family Resource Centre in New Ross



Objective 5.4

Policy/Planning Framework: Community

SDG: 10, 11, 17

NDP NSO: 3, 5

RSES RPO: 2, 11.d, 60, 180

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Support community groups and social enterprises.

Prioritised Action (5.4.1)

(note: one action from three listed under Objective 5.3 in Section 7 prioritised)

Continue to build capacity amongst volunteer-led community organisations and social enterprises, and to support the important work of these groups. Key areas to address include volunteer burnout, community resilience and development, economic sustainability, funding and governance.

Lead: PPN and
Wexford Volunteer Centre

Partners: WCC,
WLD,
Community groups,
NGOs

Potential Funding Sources (example)

AIB Community Fund, LEADER

High Level Goal 5:

Wellbeing, inclusion, equality, and diversity will be at the heart of County Wexford's communities. Accessible spaces and amenities, and arts and cultural opportunities which support the development of community spirit and enhance the physical and mental well-being of residents will be provided. New arrivals will be embraced and successfully integrated.

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Creation of a WCC database of community groups with associated GIS mapping.
- 2 Interagency team to work with WCC housing liaison officers on creating residents associations and other community supports in social housing estates.
- 3 No. of resident's associations or community development groups set up.
- 4 Training, resourcing and mentoring provided on relevant areas such as governance, fundraising and project management.
- 5 Creation of an annual networking event for community groups to gain information, peer support and ideas.
- 6 Assistance provided to groups that wish to merge in order to rationalise governance.
- 7 Improved governance, management and impact of various groups. This is to be measured by relevant surveys.
- 8 Number of volunteers registered and trained.
- 9 Community competition/event to showcase successful groups each year. Champions

Objective 6.1

Policy/Planning Framework:
Community / Economic

SDG: 3, 8, 9, 11, 17

NDP NSO: 1, 3, 6, 7, 9

RSES RPO: 11.f, 46, 53.a, 53.e, 65, 68, 80, 83, 124, 139, 140, 141, 145, 174, 198, 199, 201

High Level Goal 6:

Tourism will sensitively use, promote and protect County Wexford's culture, built heritage and natural environment for the benefit of local communities. Business and community stakeholders will collaborate to grow a commercially and environmentally sustainable tourism industry

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Deepen collaboration and unify efforts where possible to create a compelling tourist offering, attractive to both domestic and international markets.

Prioritised Actions (6.1.6)

(note: two actions from seven listed under Objective 6.1 in Section 7 prioritised)

Beyond Ireland, continue to collaborate with partners across Europe and America – especially in Georgia – to encourage visits, the development of mutually beneficial projects (e.g. arts and culture events/exchanges, promotion) and exchange of learnings. Work also to enhance relationships with other locations serviced by passenger ferries from Rosslare Europort (e.g. Wales, Brittany, Normandy, northern Spain) and twinned towns (e.g. Dunkirk).

Lead: WCC

Partners: Fáilte Ireland,
Tourism Ireland,
Local Authorities in passenger ferry ports connected to Rosslare,
US partners (especially in Georgia),
WLD,
Visit Wexford CLG,
EU Funds,
Festival organisers

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 To review potential EU funding opportunities and if appropriate engage in a feasibility study to progress same.
- 2 Tourism marketing plans created for each destination.
- 3 Marketing campaigns launched.



Prioritised Action (6.1.7)

(note: two actions from seven listed under Objective 6.1 in Section 7 prioritised)

Bind the county together by creating a network of high quality and well-maintained greenways, blueways and walking trails. Adequate mooring/marina facilities, water sports hubs and associated infrastructure are also needed along Wexford's coast and navigable waterways.

Lead: WCC

Partners: Fáilte Ireland,
Waterways Ireland,
WLD,
Wexford Tourist Attractions,
Wexford Trails,
Coillte,
Healthy Wexford

Potential Funding Sources (example)

EU INTERREG and other EU funding sources (e.g. Creative Europe),
TII,
LEADER,
Outdoor Recreation Investment Scheme,
Walks Scheme,
Dept. of Rural and Community Development,
Arts Council

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Progress made on developing the Rosslare to Wexford Town Greenway and Wexford Town to Curracloe Greenway (i.e. route selection, design and planning stages).
- 2 Progress made on delivering Slaney Blueway (i.e. feasibility studies completed, design stage, planning stage).
- 3 No. of moorings installed.
- 4 Development/expansion of no. of marinas and water sports hubs progressed. No. at design or planning stage.
- 7 Increase in percentage of adults and children meeting physical activity guidelines.
- 8 Longer average dwell time by visitors to the county.
- 9 Increased no. of visitors staying overnight in the county.
- 10 Higher economic yield/consumer spend per visitor.



Objective 6.2

Policy/Planning Framework:
Community / Economic

SDG: 8, 9, 11, 17

NDP NSO: 3, 5

RSES RPO: 10, 53.a

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Continue to develop a high-quality hospitality sector that meets the expectations of visitors and provides strong, local, economic benefits.

Prioritised Action (6.2.1)

(note: one action from two listed under Objective 6.2 in Section 7 prioritised)

Work with relevant stakeholders on securing investment to increase the provision of tourist accommodation across all budget ranges and target markets, subject to the locational requirements of the County Development Plan.

Lead: WCC

Partners: Fáilte Ireland,
Tourist accommodation
businesses,
Hotel Developers,
WLD

Potential Funding Sources (example)

LEADER & Fáilte Ireland

High Level Goal 6:

Tourism will sensitively use, promote and protect County Wexford's culture, built heritage and natural environment for the benefit of local communities. Business and community stakeholders will collaborate to grow a commercially and environmentally sustainable tourism industry.

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Investigate how to incentivise new accommodation (e.g. hotels, B&Bs, campsites, self-catering, farm stays) and the expansion of existing accommodation providers.
- 2 No. of new bedrooms that have received planning permission.
- 3 Inspired by the Cobh example, investigate possibility of creating campervan spaces in areas across the county not serviced by campsites, having regard to county Development Plan Policies.
- 4 Increased no. of visitors staying overnight in the county.
- 5 Higher economic yield/consumer spend per visitor.
- 6 Increase in Wexford's national position in the provision of hotel bed nights.



Objective 6.3

Policy/Planning Framework:
Community / Economic

SDG: 8, 9, 11, 17

NDP NSO: 3, 5, 7

RSES RPO: 2, 11.f, 16, 28, 34, 53, 54, 191, 192, 194, 203, 205

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Help develop a suite of high quality and well managed visitor attractions that meet the expectations of County Wexford's target domestic and foreign markets.

Prioritised Actions (6.3.1)

(note: three actions from five listed under Objective 6.3 in Section 7 prioritised)

Work with relevant stakeholders to renew and maintain tourism assets to a high international standard that are compelling to Wexford's target foreign and domestic audiences (e.g. Hook Head Lighthouse, Enniscorthy Castle, National 1798 Rebellion Centre and Vinegar Hill, Dunbrody Famine Ship and Irish Emigrant Experience, New Ross Norman Experience Centre, National Heritage Park, Johnstown Castle, Forth Mountain, Wells House).

Lead: WCC

Partners: Fáilte Ireland, WLD, OPW, Waterways Ireland, Coillte, Irish Heritage Trust, Hook Heritage CLG, Irish National Heritage Park, Enniscorthy Castle, National 1798 Rebellion Centre and Vinegar Hill, Dunbrody Famine Ship and Irish Emigrant Experience, other attraction managers/owners

High Level Goal 6:

Tourism will sensitively use, promote and protect County Wexford's culture, built heritage and natural environment for the benefit of local communities. Business and community stakeholders will collaborate to grow a commercially and environmentally sustainable tourism industry.

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Progress no. of major works programmes (i.e. min. value of €200k) to existing significant tourist attractions/amenities.
- 2 Progress made on delivering additional facilities at Forth Mountain.
- 3 Progress made on delivering additional facilities at Curracloe Beach.
- 4 Increased overall no. of visitors to the county.
- 5 Increased average dwell time by visitors to the county.

Potential Funding Sources (example)

Fáilte Ireland Small and Large Grants Schemes, LEADER, Outdoor Recreation Investment Scheme, Walks Scheme, Dept. of Rural and Community Development, The Heritage Council Community Grants, NTA Active Travel Investment Grants, Arts Council, Creative Ireland

Prioritised Action (6.3.2)

(note: three actions from five listed under Objective 6.3 in Section 7 prioritised)

Regularly assess what visitor activity/attraction gaps exist in County Wexford's offering and collaborate with key stakeholders to ensure these are filled by international quality amenities/attractions (e.g. Duncannon Fort).

Lead: WCC

Partners: Fáilte Ireland,
WLD,
Wexford Tourist Attractions,
Wexford Walking Trails,
Coillte

Prioritised Action (6.3.5)

(note: three actions from five listed under Objective 6.3 in Section 7 prioritised)

Assist communities in the provision and promotion of experiences and associated infrastructure that meet the expectations of key county tourist markets (e.g. accessible heritage sites with interpretive signage, looped walks, local folklore or traditional music festival, arts and cultural events – especially in developing a night-time economy and during the tourism season shoulder months, lifeguarded swimming locations and general access to water, cycling stands and maintenance stations, moorings for boats).

Lead: WCC

Partners: Communities,
Fáilte Ireland,
WLD,
Waterways Ireland,
Coillte,
Healthy Wexford

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Assess if target market expectations match the provision of visitor attractions in County Wexford. Improvements and gaps identified.
- 2 No. of actions from Duncannon Fort masterplan being successfully implemented.
- 3 Increased overall no. of visitors to the county.
- 4 Increased average dwell time by visitors to the county.

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 No. of training events provided to communities about the tourism market, product development, developing heritage sites, heritage protections, developing a night-time economy, etc.
- 2 No. of communities assisted in enhancing provision and marketing of local attractions.
- 3 Enhanced night-time economy provision in communities.
- 4 Higher number of beds available in rural areas, small towns and villages.
- 5 More local job creation associated with tourism sector (e.g. B&Bs, farm stays, craft makers, gift shops, cafes).

Objective 6.4

Policy/Planning Framework:

Community / Economic

SDG: 11, 12, 13

NDP NSO: 9

RSES RPO: 50, 56, 57, 60, 107, 108

High Level Goal 6:

Tourism will sensitively use, promote and protect County Wexford's culture, built heritage and natural environment for the benefit of local communities. Business and community stakeholders will collaborate to grow a commercially and environmentally sustainable tourism industry.

Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)

Protect and enhance the county's natural and built heritage assets whilst developing a sustainable, modern tourism industry.

Prioritised Action (6.4.3)

(note: one action from five listed under Objective 6.4 in Section 7 prioritised)

Support the adoption of circular economy practices by the hospitality sector.

Lead: WCC

Partners: Fáilte Ireland,
Visit Wexford,
County Wexford Chamber of Commerce,
Wexford Tourist Attractions,
Wexford Local Development,
WWETB,
Businesses,
Community Groups

Potential Funding Sources (example)

WCC,
Circular Economy Innovation Grant Scheme,
EPA Green Enterprise:
Innovation for a Circular Economy

Key Performance Indicators

- 1 Training needs of hospitality sector assessed on their ability to adopt circular economy practices.
- 2 WCC is assess how they can assist the hospitality sector in embracing circular economy practices (i.e. make it easier) (e.g. viability of an anaerobic digester for food waste).
- 3 Training provided to hospitality sector and festival/event organisers on adopting circular economy practices.
- 4 All applications to WCC for festival funding to include details of circular economy/sustainability plan surrounding the event.
- 5 Circular economy/sustainability to be allocated at least 20% of evaluation scoring for all WCC festival grant schemes.

8.5 Monitoring and Evaluation

The following sections outline the Council's high-level approach to the monitoring of the 2024-2029 Local Economic and Community Plan. The monitoring and evaluation of the LECP will be vital to ensure the successful implementation of the plan. As previously highlighted, the evaluation of progress will also be key to realising the benefits of the flexible Implementation Plan which will be reviewed and revised every 2 years.

Wexford County Council, as the overarching implementing agency, is committed to the regular and accurate monitoring of the performance and progress of the new plan.

However, as the LECP is a shared plan, accurate monitoring and evaluation can only be achieved through a coordinated effort with key stakeholders who are involved in the delivery and implementation of the plan's actions.

The monitoring of progress on the goals, objectives and actions will assist the Council and its partners in adopting a data led and evidence-based approach to decision making whilst increasing collaboration across the county (figure 8.2). This in turn will contribute to the appropriate allocation of resources to address the specific needs of the county and assist in ensuring value for money is achieved over the timeframe of the LECP.

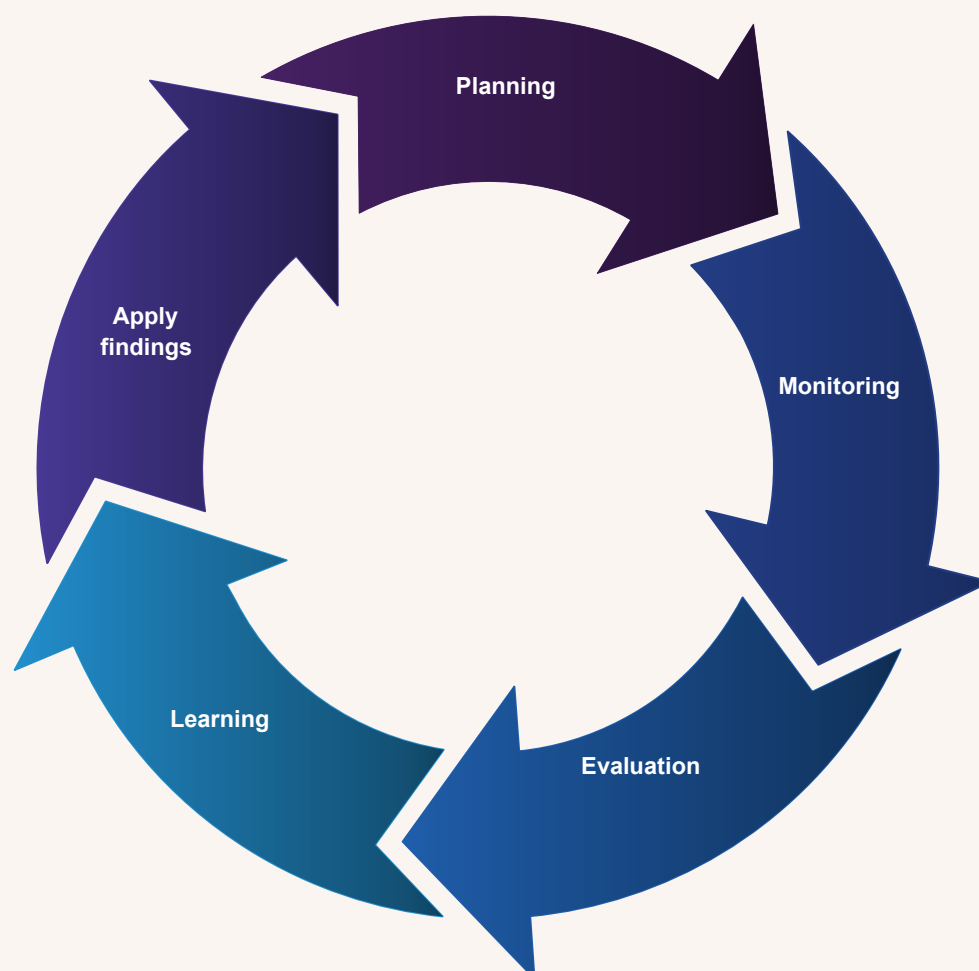


Figure 8.2: Monitoring and Evaluation Wheel

8.6 Wexford LECP Monitoring and Evaluation Approach

The approach to monitoring is designed to be uncomplicated, concise and accurate. It is acknowledged that reporting requirements need to be as time efficient as possible given the various agencies and stakeholders involved in the delivery of the LECP's actions. The foundation of the approach is based around a needs-based approach to monitoring and evaluation (i.e. the opportunity to revise the actions), open and clear communication, collaboration, and a culture of ownership within the Council to ensure the LECP's success.

As outlined in the previous chapters, the goals, objectives, outcomes and actions have been developed and enabling agencies and KPIs identified. Data sources, outlined below, have also been identified to assist in the monitoring of the plan. Wexford County Council will be responsible for the overall monitoring and evaluation of the plan and will liaise regularly with the various stakeholders and agencies involved in its implementation (the enabling agencies). Where relevant for specific actions and in coordination with the Council, nominated points of contact will be identified in the enabling agencies to provide updates on progress by agreed dates.

8.7 Management Structure

Grit is fundamental to success. For the actions in this plan to become reality dogged implementation is required. Although Wexford County Council will be responsible for the overall monitoring and evaluation of the plan,

its implementation is to be led by the LCDC and SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise. This will ensure that the burden is shared and more can be accomplished.

A report on progress being made should be compiled and published annually through the LCDC and SPC. The report should include emerging matters / lessons learnt. The progress report should be made available online and publicised on the Council's social media channels.

At an early state, the LCDC, SPC and Wexford County Council should contact every agency identified as being a key stakeholder and agree a route to accomplishing each of the 35 prioritised actions. The various actions should become the LCDC's and SPC's work programme with a master GANTT chart created to track progress. The chart should be updated each quarter.

To enable implementation, the creation of themed sub-committees within the LCDC and SPC should be considered. These could focus on particular groups of actions (e.g. health, economy, tourism). Where deemed appropriate, membership to these sub-committees could be expanded to include key stakeholders in the completion of the LECP that do not sit on the LCDC or SPC. Each sub-committee would then report back to at the regular LCDC and SPC meetings. To permit all this, sufficient support from Wexford County Council is required.

Towards the end of this two-year Implementation Plan, its success is to be evaluated and lessons learnt for the successor document.

8.8 What is being Monitored

The overall actions and KPIs of the implementation plan will be monitored and evaluated for progress with updates sought from the relevant enabling agencies on a quarterly basis. The KPIs vary by nature with some relating to enrolment and participation numbers for courses and training, while others are implementation dependent e.g., in relation to progressing feasibility studies or campaigns. Regardless of the nature of the KPIs, the actions of the initial Implementation Plan should result in clear updates and reports on progress; be it the number of participants enrolled on a course or on what initiative has or has not progressed.

These updates will contribute to the overall evaluation of progress towards the higher-level goals, objectives and outcomes for the entire LECP period. The outcomes also vary in nature with regards to reporting and can be monitored in many instances through statistical data (updated at varying intervals outlined further below) provided by the CSO and other agencies such as GeoDirectory. In other instances, specific data will be held by the Council as well as other key stakeholders involved in the delivery of the LECP such as the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, service providers (e.g. TFI) and community groups (e.g. Wexford Volunteer Centre). Due to the higher-level and longer-term nature of the goals, objectives and outcomes, Wexford County Council will hold the overall responsibility in relation to monitoring their progress.

8.9 What will be Reported

Through their nominated points of contact, relevant enabling/Lead agencies will provide short progress related updates on relevant actions and KPIs. Where information or data related to KPIs is not yet available (e.g. annual enrolment figures for courses or similar), this should be noted along with the envisaged date for when such data will be released. Any issues relating to the implementation of the action or reporting on the KPIs should be highlighted in the updates provided. Wexford County Council will review any such issues and where appropriate, solutions will be identified and implemented.

The goals, objectives and actions have been coded for ease of reference. For reporting purposes when referring to actions, the action number and where applicable action KPI should be referenced. For each action a record should be kept on whether it has commenced, is in progress or has been completed. In instances where actions have not commenced, detail should be provided in the update as to why this is the case and the action's envisaged start date if applicable. Where actions have not been progressed, this should also be recorded and a reason provided. Similarly, where feasibility studies have resulted in ideas or pilots not being progressed, this should be clearly noted and recorded for future planning purposes.

8.10 Data Sources

The below highlights a number of data sources that have been utilised in the development of the LECP and can also be used to support the monitoring of its progress:

Business Demography

The business demography, updated annually, provides information on numbers of enterprises, enterprise births and deaths and survival rates as well as related employment figures. It can be used to update information on employment growth by enterprise category.

Census Information

Statistics and datasets from Census 2022 and future censuses will contribute greatly to monitoring progress in relation to a number of elements, particularly in relation to the goals, objectives and outcomes. This includes population information, level of employment, principal economic status, means of travel (e.g. walking, cycling or by vehicle), general health assessment, educational attainment and more.

CSO New Dwelling Completion

The CSO's New Dwelling Completions data is based on the number of domestic dwellings connected by the ESB Network to the electricity supply. Updated quarterly, it can assist in monitoring the housing supply in the county and whether it remains adequate to support the County's growth and development.

GeoDirectory

The GeoDirectory provides information on a quarterly basis on commercial and residential vacancy at county and selected town level. It can be used to track changes in the commercial and residential vacancy rates in Wexford. This can be supplemented with findings from town centre health checks should they be undertaken in the county over the course of LECP timeframe.

HEA Enrolments by HEI Region/Home County

The Higher Education Authority provides information, updated annually, on enrolments by county. This includes data on institution, course level and mode of study amongst other areas.

Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The Labour Force Survey replaced the Quarterly Household Survey and provides labour force estimates in relation to measure of employment and unemployment in the country including by region. It is updated quarterly.

Live Register

The Live Register provides information on a monthly basis in relation to those seeking jobseekers benefit and jobseekers allowance and includes county level information. Notably, it is not designed to measure unemployment as it includes part-time, seasonal and casual workers that may be entitled to jobseekers benefit and allowance.

Pobal HP Deprivation Index

The Pobal HP Deprivation Index shows the level of overall affluence and deprivation by Electoral District and Small Area along with associated deprivation scores. The latest version of the index is based on the 2022 Census.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme Reports (SICAP)

Pobal release annual reports related to the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme by county which includes indicators and identified trends around specific target groups including those from minority groups, the unemployed and older people.



9

APPENDICES

APPENDICES

Appendix A

Policy Review List

Below is a list of policies, strategies, and briefing notes that have been reviewed and influenced the development of this plan. The list is provided in alphabetical order.

1. Advancing the Arts - County Wexford Arts Plan 2018 - 2022
2. Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014-2020
3. Building a Culture of Sports and Physical Activity in Wexford – 2018-2023.
4. Circular Economy, Waste Management and Minerals Development Bill 2022,
5. Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill 2021
6. Climate Action Plan 2019
7. Climate Action Plan 2021
8. Climate Ready Wexford: Wexford County Council Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024
9. Wexford County Council Tourism Strategy 2018-2023
10. County Wexford Diaspora Strategy 2019-2024
11. County Wexford Heritage Plan 2016-2020
12. Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030
13. Draft Wexford Local Enterprise Office Development Plan Framework 2021-2024
14. Europe 2020 and post-2020 Cohesion Policy for Europe
15. European Green Deal (2019)
16. Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies (2020)
17. Healthy Ireland Framework 2013-2025 / Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025
18. Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland 2021
19. Investing in Our Transport Future: A Strategic Investment Framework for Land Transport (2014)
20. Ireland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021
21. Local Link Rural Transport Programme Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022
22. Migrant Integration Strategy – A Blueprint for the Future (2017)
23. National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022
24. National Sports Policy 2018 – 2027
25. National Transport Authority Statement of Strategy 2018-2022
26. National Volunteering Strategy 2021-2025
27. South-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024

Appendix A

Policy Review List

28. Our Rural Future - Rural Development Policy 2021-2025

29. Project Ireland 2040: National Development Plan 2021 – 2030

30. Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework (2018)

31. Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025: Ambition, Goals, Commitments

32. Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A Five-Year Strategy to Support the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland 2019 – 2024

33. Sports Active Strategic Plan 2017-2021

34. Towards A Learning Region

35. Town Centre First: A Policy Approach for Irish Towns (2022)

36. Wexford Age Friendly Strategy 2022-2026

37. Wexford Children & Young People's Plan - Autumn 2020 – 2023

38. Wexford Corporate Plan 2020-2024

39. Wexford Disability Inclusion Strategy for Services 2019 - 2022

40. Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028

41. Wexford LECP 2016 – 2021

42. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



Appendix B

Review of the Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 Wexford County Council

Introduction

KPMG has reviewed the Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021. This review evaluates the overall organisation and presentation of the LECP, the structure of the LECP's themes, goals, objectives and actions.

It refers to updated guidance and requirements as set out in the Local Economic and Community Plan Guidelines 2021, published by the Dept. of Rural and Community Development and the Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. In doing so this review aims to identify actions to carry forward to the next LECP and the area's improvement in respect of accessibility, legibility and monitoring progress.

The structure of this review provides a high level summary of the LECP and provides recommendations to streamline the LECP, to improve accessibility, support monitoring and implementation and bring the LECP in line with the provisions of the LECP Guidelines.

The LECP Plan frequently used tables to present information which resulted in a harder to read document. Use of headings and paragraphs is recommended to improve accessibility for the public when possible.

High Level Goals

The six High Level Goals in the Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021 were reviewed to evaluate their effectiveness and relevance. The HLGs were as follows:

1. Foster the culture of educational attainment and lifelong learning in County Wexford and provide opportunities to develop educational and workforce skills, to improve work readiness and access to employment
2. Support and promote the development of socially inclusive, sustainable communities in County Wexford and ensure that all citizens enjoy optimal health and well-being
3. Continue to develop and promote County Wexford as a great place to live, work and visit
4. Develop and market County Wexford as an outstanding business environment for starting, growing and attracting business
5. Continue to protect and enhance our infrastructure and promote resource efficiency in order to create the right conditions for long-term sustainable economic growth
6. Protect and sensitively utilise our natural, built and cultural heritage and together with the Arts, realise their economic potential

The High Level Goals

Key Findings

The vision statement and the Six High Level Goals (HLG) were concise, easy to understand, and are still relevant today. With minor adjustments they could be reused in the new plan. Each HLG consisted of 3-7 'Sustainable Community Objectives' (SCO) which helped to identify the target of each goal.

The SCOs were broken down into 'Priorities'. This was an unnecessary extra step that reduced the clarity of the plan and made it tricky to manage.

Each 'Priority' was further broken down into 'Specific Objectives' which is a further unnecessary step as this leaves the specific actions to be performed four steps down on the hierarchy and results in too many actions and complexity to manage. The new plans structure for objectives should be aligned with the new guidelines for the drafting of LECPs published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The LECP was partially reviewed once early in the process and a lack of available resources was identified. With this issue in mind, a smaller number of actions and greater monitoring would improve the effectiveness of each objective.

We recommend the following:

- a considerably smaller list of actions
- greater prioritization for implementation
- and the promotion of a more systematic approach to management of the associated actions.

Relevance of the goals

HLG one was focused on the educational attainment and employability of the population. HLG two was seeking to improve the social progress and inclusion of all people in the county. Quality education and reduced inequalities are UN SDGs, therefore both goals are still important to the future development of Wexford.

HLG three was targeting tourism development and the quality of life of Wexford. HLG four was seeking to develop businesses and the economy of the county. Both of these goals are still important to promote inward investment into Wexford and to create job opportunities for the population enabling an increase in the standard of living. Decent work and economic growth is one of the UN SDGs which will be important to include.

Relevance of the goals

HLG five was focused on infrastructure and supporting economic growth such as high quality broadband and transport infrastructure. HLG six targeted the economic potential of the arts, the built and natural heritage of the county. Industry, innovation and infrastructure is another UN SDG and is still very relevant to the sustainable development of the county.

Opportunities for conciseness

HLG one and HLG six mention arts training and community involvement. These topics are still relevant today and could be covered under one goal to improve clarity.

HLG two and HLG three both mention health and well being. These are similar concepts which are still relevant today and could be combined into one HLG to improve the clarity and conciseness of the plan.

HLG three is focused on tourism and the attractiveness of the living environment. HLG six details the economic potential of the county's built heritage. These should be combined to improve the targeting of resources and the clarity of the overall plan.

HLG five and HLG six both target progress on the environment and natural heritage of the county. These are similar and worthy goals to include and therefore should be streamlined into a single goal.

Priorities and Specific Objectives

The structure of the Plan

The Plan started with a vision statement. This was followed by six High Level Goals (HLG) which broke down into 26 Sustainable Community Objectives (SOC). Unfortunately each SOC was detailed with numerous Priorities (Priority), and lastly, Specific Objectives resulting in too many objectives to resource and manage.

The vision statement was well put together, being clear and concise.

The Plan contained Six High Level Goals (HLG) which was a small number. This was good for establishing what was of strategic importance to the Plan.

Each of the six HLGs were broken down into several 'Sustainable Community Objectives' (SCO). This was a good structured approach to specifying actions for each HLG, resulting in a total of 26 SCOs.

The structure became too complex to manage after each SCO was broken down into a number of 'Priority' measures. The Priorities require a ranking mechanism to effectively monitor and manage.

Each 'Priority' was broken down further into 'Specific Objectives'. This put a further layer in the

process and is not required under the Local Economic and Community Plans Guidelines 2021.

The LECP guidelines state an LECP Framework should contain High Level Goals which should be broken down into Sustainable Community Objectives.

The Specific Objectives

The Specific Objectives are the most detailed component of the Plan and therefore arguably the most important. There were too many objectives in the previous plan and many of the objectives were very ambitious.

Fewer objectives would ensure a more effective management and delivery of actions considering the resource constrained environment the Council are operating within.

Each 'Specific Objective' consists of a 'measurable indicator'. This is a good idea but most do not include metrics. This makes it difficult to measure progress.

Many of the 'specific, time bound, measurable actions' are not well defined. These should include prescribed timelines to provide a clearer vision for when they will be delivered.

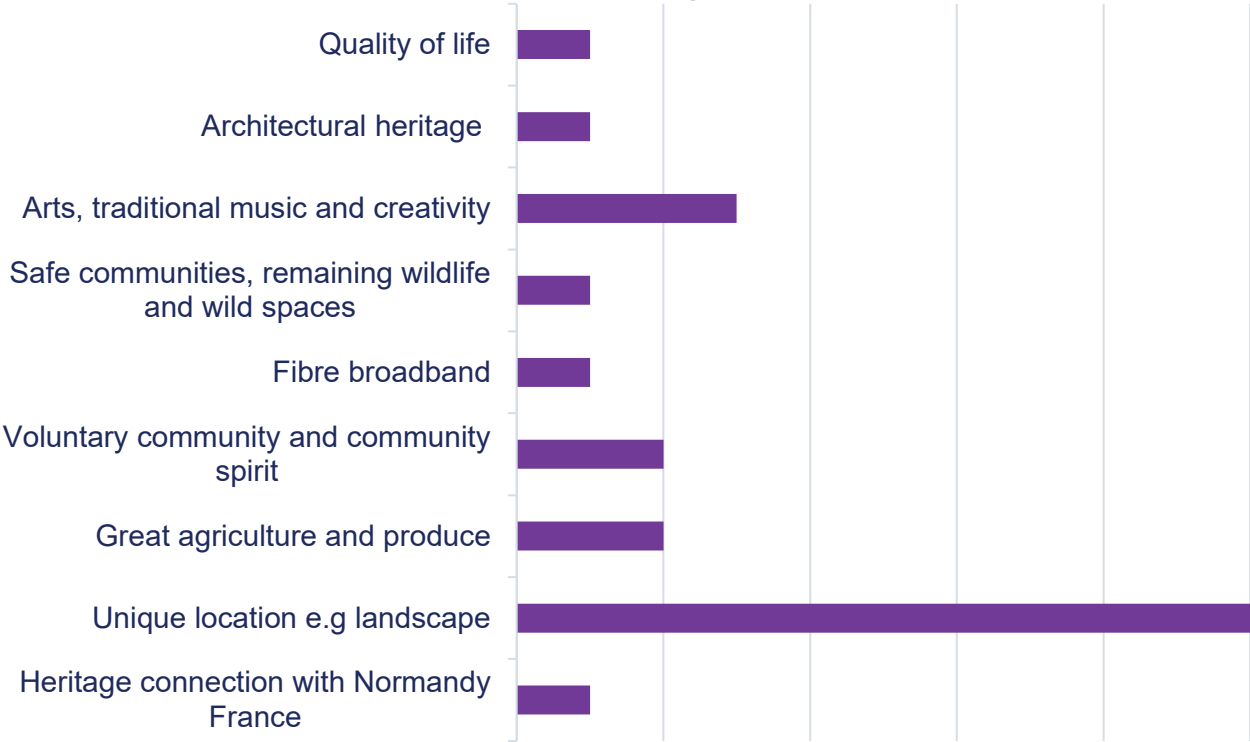
Similarities existed across many of the objectives. In the new Plan, these should be replaced with a smaller number of more precise and measurable objectives.



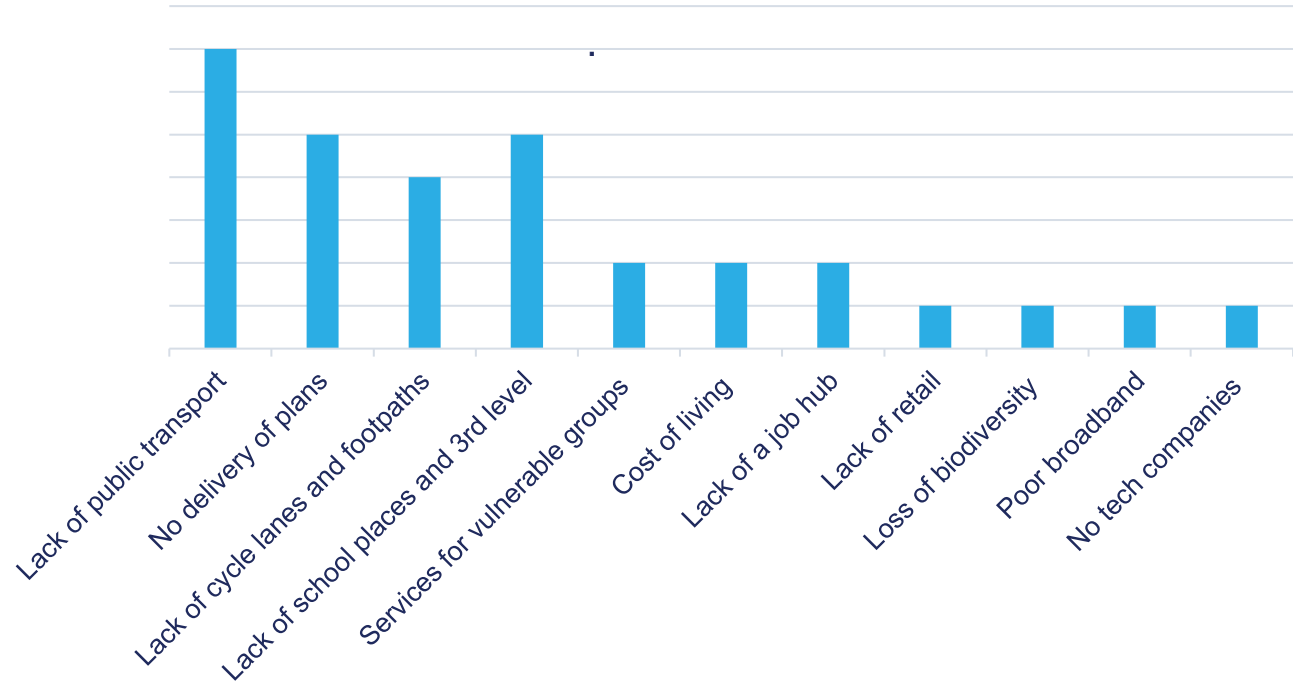
Appendix C

Additional Community Survey Results

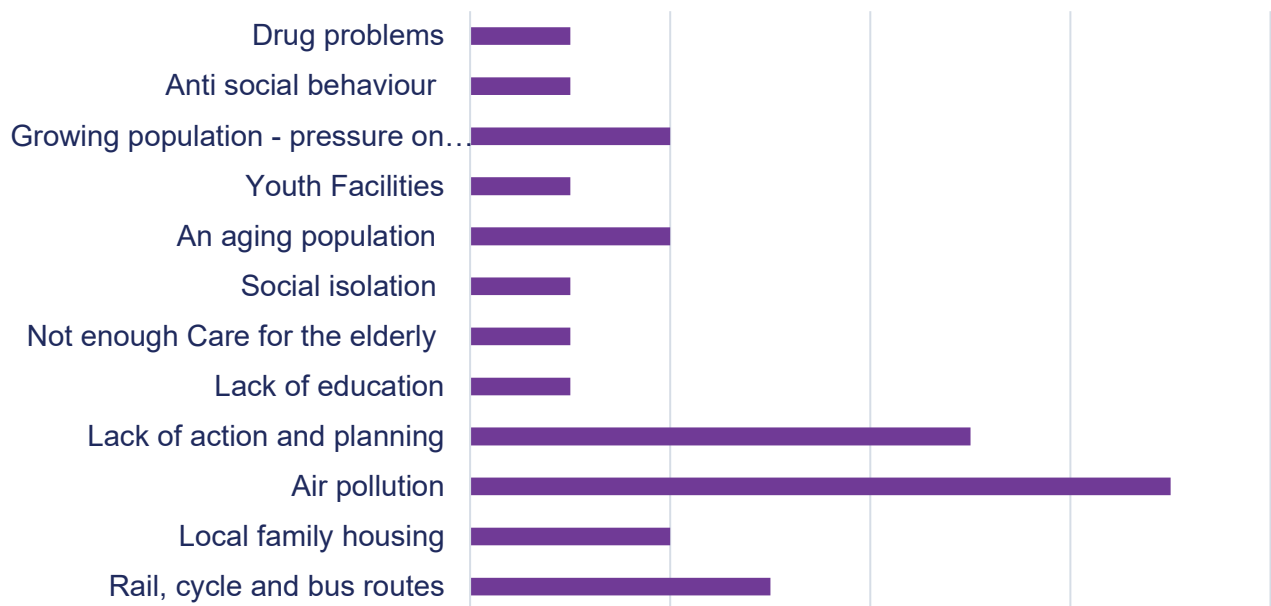
Q: Please specify what you believe are amongst Wexford's greatest strengths



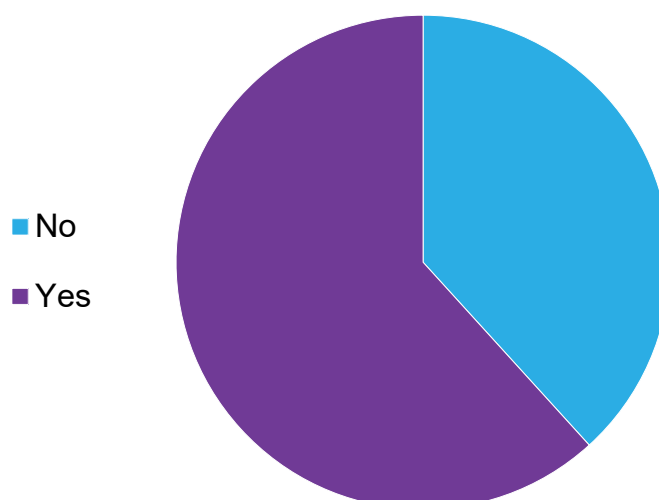
Q: Please specify what you believe are amongst Wexford's largest constraints



**Q: Specify any threats, issues, or concerns for the future
Development of Wexford**

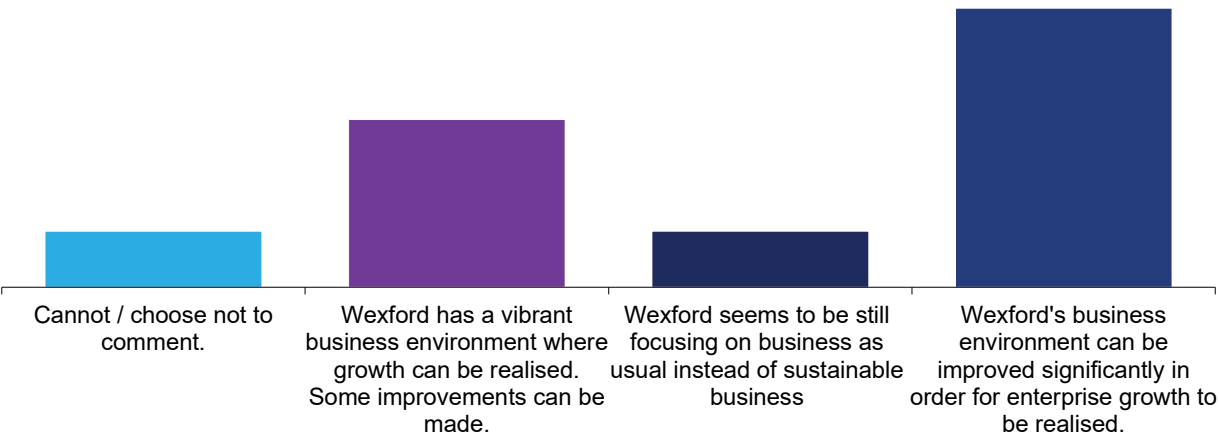


**Q: Do you have access to a
community facility/services in your area?**

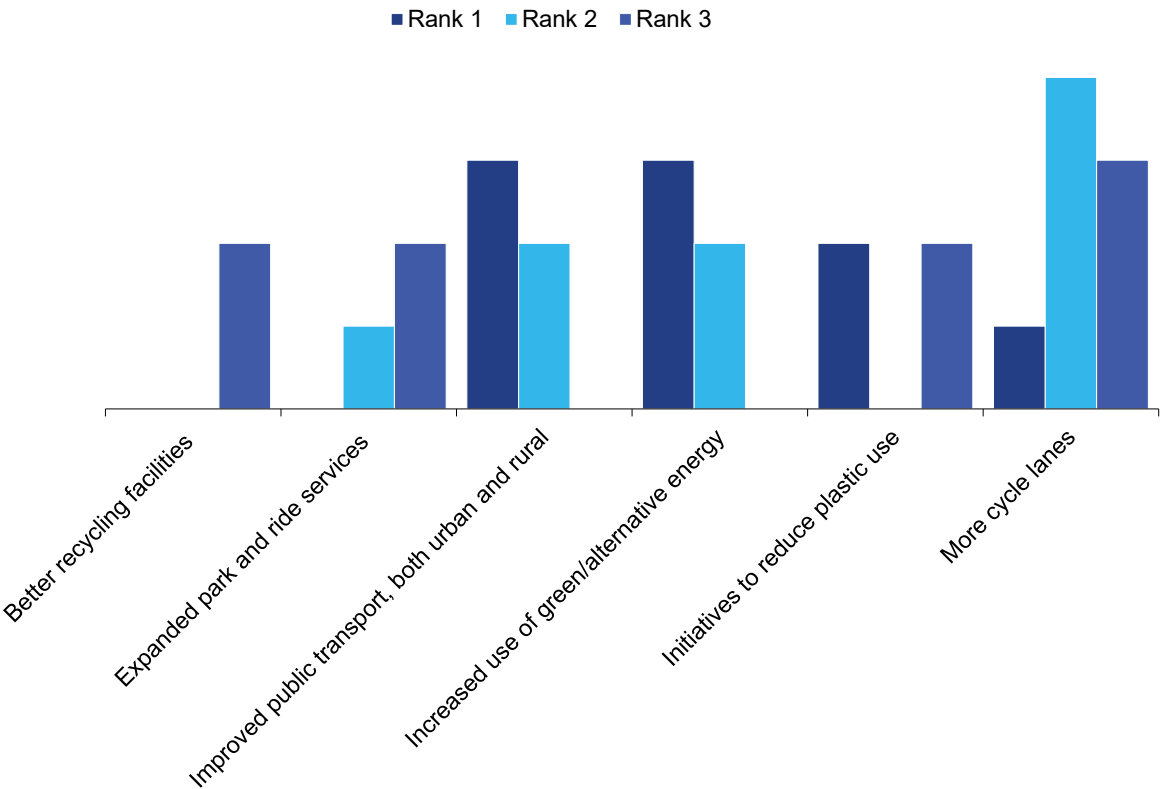


Appendix D

Q: Which of the following do you think best describes Wexford as a place to do business?



Q: Which of these green initiatives would you see benefitting Wexford the most? Please rank the top three that you see as being most beneficial.



Appendix E

List of Acronyms

AA	Appropriate Assessment	ESB	Electricity Supply Board
AIM	Advancing Innovation in Manufacturing & Supply Chain	ESRI	Economic and Social Research Institute
ASG	Advisory Steering Group	ETB	Education and Training Board
BER	Building Energy Rating	EU	European Union
CARO	Climate Action Regional Office	FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
CDP	City/County Development Plan	FRC	Family Resource Centre
CERIS	Centre for Environmental Research Innovation and Sustainability	GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
CSO	Central Statistics Office	GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
CTCHC	Collaborative Town Centre Health Check	GHG	Greenhouse Gas
CYPSC	Children and Young People's Services Committee	Green economy	e.g., renewable energy and retrofitting.
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	HEA	Higher Education Authority
DEASP	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	HEAL	Health and Biomedical Research Centre
DECC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications	HI	Healthy Ireland
DETE	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	HNDA	Housing Needs Demand Assessment
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	HSE	Health Service Executive
DOE	Department of Education	IBEC	Irish Business and Employers Confederation
DOJ	Department of Justice	ICT	Information and communications technology
DRCD	Department of Rural and Community Development	IDA	Industrial Development Agency
DSP	Department of Social Protection	IFA	Irish Farmers' Association
EC	European Commission	Industry 4.0	e.g., smart and autonomous manufacturing.
ED	Electoral Division	INTERREG	European Territorial Co-operation European Territorial Cooperation
EI	Enterprise Ireland	IoT	Internet of Things
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	KPI	Key Performance Indicator
EIB	European Investment Bank	LA	Local Authority
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	LAG	Local Action Group
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	NGBs	National Governing Bodies of Sport
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund	LAP	Local Area Plan
		LCDC	Local Community Development Committee

Appendix E

LDC	Local Development Company	R&D	Research and Development RA -
LDS	Local Development Strategy		Regional Assembly
LEADER	Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale – meaning Links between actions for the development of the rural economy.	REP	Regional Enterprise Plan
		RRDF	Rural Regeneration and Development Fund
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan	RSES	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
LEO	Local Enterprise Office	SAC	Special Area of Conservation
LFS	Labour Force Survey	SCC	Wexford County Council
LT	Long term actions to be completed by 2030 or ongoing.	SCO	Sustainable Community Objective
MD	Municipal District	SCOT	Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities, and Threats
MISHE	Mathematical Modelling and Intelligent Systems for Health and Environment	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
		SDZ	Strategic Development Zone
MT	Medium term actions to be completed within 5 years.	SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
NDP	National Development Plan	SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
NECP	National Energy and Climate Plan	SEC	Sustainable Energy Community
NERP	National Economic Recovery Plan	SFI	Science Foundation Ireland
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation	SICAP	Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
NHA	Natural Heritage Area	SIPTU -	Services Industrial Professional and Technical Union
NPF	National Planning Framework	Wexford BID	Wexford Business Improvement District
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service	SMART	Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely
NQF	National Framework of Qualifications	SME	Small-to-Medium Enterprise
NRRP	National Recovery and Resilience Plan	SPA	Special Protection Area
NSO	National Strategic Outcomes	SPC	Strategic Policy Committee
NTA	National Transport Authority	SAW	Sports Active Wexford
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics	ST	Short term actions to be completed within 2 years.
NYCI	National Youth Council of Ireland	SVC	Wexford Volunteer Centre
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
OPW	Office of Public Works	UN	United Nations
PEM -	Precision Engineering Materials and Manufacturing Centre	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
POWSCAR	Place of Work, School or College - Census of Anonymised Records.	URDF	Urban Regeneration and Development Fund
PPN	Public Participation Network	WERLA	Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority
		WHU	World Heritage Site Unit

Appendix F

Local Community Development Committee Members:

Member	Pillar
Cllr. Aidan Browne	Chair. WCC Elected Members (Public Sector)
Cllr. Lisa McDonald	WCC Elected Members (Public Sector)
Cllr. Anthony Donoghue	WCC Elected Members (Public Sector)
Cllr. Mary Farrell	WCC Elected Members (Public Sector)
Tom Enright	WCC Chief Executive (Public Sector)
Breege Cosgrave	Local Enterprise Office (Public Sector)
Patricia Delaney	Department of Social Protection (Public Sector)
Michael O'Brien	Waterford & Wexford ETB (Public Sector)
Derval Howley	Health Service Executive (Public Sector)
Brian Kehoe	Wexford Local Development (Private Sector)
John Carr	PPN - Community & Voluntary (Private Sector)
Aislinn Dunne	PPN - Community & Voluntary (Private Sector)
Brian Toomey	PPN - Community & Voluntary (Private Sector)
Sharon Kennedy	PPN - Social Inclusion (Private Sector)
Jonathan King	Jonathan King PPN - Social Inclusion (Private Sector)
Karin Dubsky	Karin Dubsky PPN - Environmental (Private Sector)
Jer O'Mahony	Jer O'Mahony Irish Farmer's Association (Private Sector)
Mary Browne	Mary Browne Business Pillar (Private Sector)
Seán Joyce	Seán Joyce Wexford Council of Trade Unions (Private Sector)

Economic Development And Enterprise Spc Members:

Cllr. Michael Whelan	Chair. WCC Elected Members
Cllr. Aidan Browne	WCC Elected Members
Cllr. John Fleming	WCC Elected Members
Cllr. Barbara-Anne Murphy	WCC Elected Members
Cllr. George Lawlor	WCC Elected Members
Cllr. Ger Carthy	WCC Elected Members
Cllr. Michael Sheehan	WCC Elected Members
Cllr. Kathleen Codd-Nolan	WCC Elected Members
Cllr. Cathal Byrne	WCC Elected Members
Seamus Murphy	PPN - Community & Voluntary
Senan O'Reilly	PPN - Environmental
John Doyle	Construction Industry Federation
Dave Morris	Wexford Council of Trade Unions
Ernest Levingstone	Business / Commercial
Niall Slattery	Business / Commercial
Joe Breen	Agriculture / Farming

