



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional
Assembly

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Teach an Tionóil,
Sráid Uí Chonaill,
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Éire.

Southern Regional Assembly

Assembly House,
O'Connell Street,
Waterford,
X91 F8PC
Ireland.

Statement on the Waterford Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 - 2029

The Regional Assemblies' role in the LECP process is set out under Section 44 of Local Government Reform Act 2014 (amending Section 66C of the Local Government Act 2001), in particular section 66C 2(c) and 3(c), which states that the consideration of an LECP by the Regional Assembly shall relate to its consistency with (i) the core strategy and the objectives of the development plan of the local authority concerned, (ii) any Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) or, as appropriate, Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) that may apply, and (iii) between the economic and community elements of the Plan.

The Waterford LECP was considered by the members of the Regional Assembly at their meeting of 10 November 2023 where it was agreed:

1. To commend the work of Waterford City and County Council in the development of the LECP and
2. In accordance with Section 44 of Local Government Reform Act 2014 (amending Section 66C of the Local Government Act 2001), the Regional Assembly are satisfied that the Waterford Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029 has demonstrated consistency with:-
 - (i) the core strategy and the objectives of the Development Plan
 - (ii) The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region;
 - (iii) between the community and economic elements of the LECP

Subject to the content reflecting the statutory role of the RSES and Regional Assembly and recommendations as follows:

The strengthening of the High-Level Goals and Objectives with reference and strengthening of the following:

- Greater recognition of **Waterford City and Metropolitan Area** as a **Regional Growth Centre and a primary driver of economic and population growth in the Region** is encouraged, particularly where reference to the status of Waterford could strengthen High Level Goals 2 and 3 and support development of a **Balanced Concentric City**.



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- Additional Reference to aspiration for Waterford to become a **UNESCO Learning City** in the Community Element / High Level Goals.
- Acknowledgement of the role of **University Hospital Waterford** as a **regional health hub** (see Waterford MASP Policy Objective 22).
- Inclusion of a reference to Waterford as a **Major Tourist Destination** in **Ireland's Ancient East**.

