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| SECTION 25A REPORT |

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| REPORT DATE | LOCAL AUTHORITY | PREPARED BY |
| 21/01/2022 | Clare County Council | Candace Ingram |

The purpose of the table below is to assist the local authority in completing the Section 25A (1) report to the Regional Assembly. This report will be used by the Regional Assembly to complete the Section 25A(2) Monitoring Report to be submitted to NOAC and which will focus on progress made in securing the overall objectives of the RSES.

It is intended that the Monitoring Report will be succinct and therefore we would ask that the response to the questions are as short as possible and for example we do not need the full detail of each policy or programme outlined.

The Regional Assembly is keen to capture examples of good practice initiatives and actions undertaken by the Local Authority which relate to the objectives of RSES and would welcome the inclusion of such examples where appropriate.

For further information, please contact Dominic Walsh at dwalsh@southernassembly.ie or Alice Byrne Kelly at abyrnekelly@southernassembly.ie;

Please return the report to this office by Friday, 21st January, 2022. This can be submitted by email to twoyearreport@southernassembly.ie;

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| RSES THEME & RPO REFERENCE | RSES IMPLEMENTATION IN DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICY & SUPPORTING PROJECTS/INITIATIVES |
| SUSTAINABLE PLACE FRAMEWORK & A TAILORED APPROACHRPOS 2 TO 30 | Has the Core Strategy been prepared in accordance with the guiding principles and typology of settlement contained in the RSES? Please provide a brief summary. |
|  | Yes, holistic approach used to allocate population/housing units having regard to the Limerick- Shannon MA, the Key town of Ennis, and the strong network of towns and villages across the county. In turn, the availability of necessary services, infrastructure and the jobs to resident workers ratio was factored in. An appropriate density was considered relative to each settlement based on historical |

performance, demand, and also given the rural nature of the county the need to for attractive, alternative option to rural housing within smaller towns and villages.

Section 3.4.1 Compliance with National and Regional Population Targets In summary, the Core Strategy has taken the following into account:

* Compliance with the NPF and RSES;
* The settlement hierarchy for the County as detailed in Table 2.1(of Draft Plan) which prioritises population and economic growth to the Key Town of Ennis, the MASP, Service Towns and Small Towns and promotes their continued growth;
* Accommodating local growth at a scale appropriate to the settlement size and function in the

Service Towns, Small Towns and Large Villages;

* Facilitating residential development in serviced and unserviced settlements as an alternative to rural one-off housing;
* Management of urban generated growth in rural areas under urban influence, by ensuring single houses in the open countryside are based on the core consideration of demonstrable economic or social need to live in the rural area in addition to compliance with statutory guidelines, plans and having regard to ensuring the viability of villages and towns;
* Ensuring all lands identified for development are in accordance with the “Tiered Approach to Land

Use Zoning” as set out in the NPF and identified in Appendix 1 of the Volume 3’s of the plan;

* Climate change and sustainability; and
* Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Guidance Note on Core Strategies (2010) and in particular Section 4 in so far as it relates to an excess associated with Strategic Development Zones.

Tiering of Settlements as per the draft Plan KEY Town- Ennis

Metropolitan Area Service Towns Small Towns

Large Villages-Tier 1

Large Villages- Tier 2 (No public wastewater) Small Villages (No public wastewater) Clusters

Countryside

Chapter 4 of the draft Plan it is based on the following strategic aims

* To provide an Urban and Rural Settlement Strategy to manage population growth/targets and

associated housing needs and to achieve balanced development within the County;

* To promote an appropriate balance of development across the County by developing a hierarchy of high quality and vibrant settlements and the sustainable growth of these settlements proportionate to their scale and appropriate to their function and location within the County.
* To ensure that Ennis ‘Key Town‘ and Shannon ‘Metropolitan Town’ are drivers of growth and

development in both County Clare and the Southern Region; and

* To ensure that the specific needs of rural communities are identified and that the objectives of the Development Plan seek to sustain and renew established rural communities.

The Settlement Plans for Ennis, the Service Towns and Small towns have provided for up to 30% growth within the existing built-up footprint where possible and the achievement of a successful public realm is of significant importance to ensure that these existing settlements are attractive places in which to live and work.

Section 19.3 Land-Use Zoning

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|  | Within the functional area of County Clare, lands are zoned for particular purposes within the settlement plans contained in this development plan and in the Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan. In accordance with the overall strategy of this plan, the County’s zoning strategy is based on three important principles:1. Sufficient lands should be provided at appropriate locations throughout the County, in accordance with the population and housing supply targets as set out in the Core Strategy, to facilitate the envisaged land-use requirements during the lifetime of this plan;
2. Sustainable development and the use/redevelopment of brown field sites within established settlements which should accommodate 30% of their allocated growth;
3. Land-use zoning objectives should assist individuals in accessing the most appropriate location for new development. Not all needs can be anticipated and therefore some flexibility is required, having regard to all other principles, policies and objectives.
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| METROPOLITAN AREAs - GROWTH AMBITIONRPO 6: Collaboration between Metropolitan AreasRPO 10 Compact Growth in Metropolitan Areas | How has the designation of a Metropolitan Area & the MASP impacted on the following?* Strategic Ambition/Vision/Identity for the City/Metropolitan Area
* Cross boundary collaboration/key strategic initiatives in areas such as sustainable mobility, infrastructure delivery, urban regeneration.
* Progress in compact growth targets in the Metropolitan Area?
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| ALL MASP Policy Objectives |  |
|  | Please outline any joint initiatives between with other Metropolitan Areas –Cork , Waterford, and Galway to advance the combined proposition for effective regional growth – E.G Exchange of good practice/ examples of joint research papers on urban policy. |
|  | *Joint Retail Strategy completed between Clare Coco and Limerick Coco for the Metropolitan Area.* |
|  | *The Core strategy is based on higher densities in the MA to aid compact growth and reflect the availability of public transport services and the overall nature of the Limerick suburbs.* |
|  | The draft CDP objective 4.2 Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area |
|  | It is an objective of Clare County Council: |
|  | a) To strengthen the role of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area as an international location of scale, a complement to Dublin and a primary driver of sustainable economic and population growth in the Southern Region; |
|  | b) To promote and to seek investment to sustainably develop the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area as a cohesive metropolitan area with: i) Compact and sustainable growth and regeneration of Shannon; ii) Active land management initiatives to deliver housing and employment locations in a sustainable, infrastructure-led manner. |
|  | c) To seek co-ordinated investment and delivery of holistic infrastructure packages across State Departments and infrastructure delivery agencies as they apply to the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area and seek further investments to deliver on the Metropolitan Area Goals set out in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region and the National Development Plan; |
|  | d) To protect, manage and improve the coherence of the Natura 2000 Network through enhanced ecological connectivity; |
|  | e) To support the sustainable delivery of the Strategic Investment Priorities identified by the National Development Plan for the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area and progress co-ordination between the principal stakeholders for delivery to achieve the vision and objectives identified for the MASP; |
|  | f) To promote the sustainable implementation of innovative, collaborative projects through the Urban Regeneration and Development, Rural Regeneration and Development, Climate Action and Disruptive Technologies funds for the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area; |
|  | g) To ensure the investment in and the delivery of the Sustainable Place Framework delivering quality of place attributes as an incentive to attract people to live, work and visit; |
|  | h) To carry out a site selection process which considers all environmental issues and which identifies suitable sites for regeneration and development; i) To sustainably manage future development within the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area, taking account of its environmental, ecological, heritage and landscape values with a particular focus on building a climate resilient growth area |

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|  | The draft CDP objective 4.3 Compact Growth in the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan AreaIt is an objective of Clare County Council: To achieve compact growth in the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area through:1. Supporting the creation and role of an Active Land Management Unit with a remit to focus on the Metropolitan Area and compact growth targets;
2. Working with the Land Development Agency to progress housing and employment delivery in existing centres, and focusing on co-ordinating and developing large, strategically located publicly owned land banks, to reduce vacancy and to regenerate key sites;
3. Supporting initiatives that facilitate the regeneration of derelict buildings and vacant sites for the provision of high-quality, environmentally friendly Near Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) affordable housing;
4. The implementation of strategic land reserve initiatives;
5. The preparation of design briefs for strategic sites;
6. Seeking design competitions for key strategic sites that deliver greater density, mixed uses where appropriate, sustainable design, smart technology, green infrastructure and public gain through good design;
7. Implementing active land management within areas designated as site specific regeneration areas under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 and other locations in need of renewal, including the use of site briefs and masterplans for a design-led approach to renewal;
8. The identification of public realm and site regeneration initiatives which combine, on an area wide basis, opportunities for regeneration of privately-owned underutilised sites, publicly owned underutilised sites, private and public buildings and upgrade of parks, streetscapes and public realm areas; and
9. The creation of continually updated data bases identifying brownfield, infill sites, regeneration areas and infrastructure packages to enable progress towards achieving compact growth targets.
10. Through active land management initiatives, identifying strategic locations for residential growth responding to the growth targets and achievement of compact growth and employment growth.
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| SUPPORTING GROWTH / DEVELOPMENT OF KEY TOWNSRPO 11 Key Towns RPO 13 Ennis | KEY TOWNSPlease outline progress made in developing Ennis in its Role as a Key Town as envisaged in RPO 11 Key Towns and RPO 13 Ennis.Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme.Draft Development Plan CDP 4.1 Ennis1. To support Ennis as a self-sustaining, regional economic driver and as a key location for investment choice in the County and the Southern Region, and to support its enhanced development based on its strategic location relative to Limerick and Galway Cities, Shannon International Airport and the Atlantic Economic Corridor as well as its role as a centre of employment and economic activity;
2. To support the implementation of Ennis 2040 to set the longterm economic and spatial strategy for the County Town with an agreed focus on an economic future and spatial pattern to 2040 and beyond;
3. To prepare and implement a local area plan for the Ennis Town and Environs area incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment during the lifetime of this Development Plan;
4. To seek investment and to support the delivery of holistic infrastructure that will facilitate and accommodate sustainable growth in Ennis, subject to the outcome of the planning process and environmental assessments;
5. To prepare a Mobility Plan for Ennis;
6. To develop Ennis into a centre for lifelong learning and to support the further development of higher education facilities in the town;
7. To support initiatives which seek to strengthen and develop niche retail and mixed-use services in
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Ennis town centre;

1. To support and promote placemaking in Ennis which would include public realm regeneration and urban renewal initiatives which incorporate SuDs and public private partnership approaches for town centre regeneration;
2. To seek the sustainable development of tourism facilities that enhance diverse tourism roles for Ennis and to seek investment in services to cater for increased visitor numbers;
3. To support increased levels of town centre living and to assess the potential of the development of a modern family town centre living pilot project during the lifetime of the Plan;
4. To support climate adaptation initiatives within Ennis Town and surrounding areas to deliver on the

objective of Ennis becoming Ireland’s first Climate Adaptive Town;

1. To monitor the cumulative effect of grants of planning permission on available wastewater capacity where connection to a public wastewater treatment plant is included as part of a development proposal; and
2. To promote appropriate measures from the “Biodiversity for Low and Zero Carbon Buildings; A

Technical Guide for New builds” to all regeneration and urban renewal projects.

Examples of Progress to date

Ennis 2040 launched by the Tanaiste and an Ennis 2040 (Strategic Development) Designated Activity Company (DAC) established which is made up of both private and public sector members, with an executive team led by a newly appointed Chief Operating Officer who is working collaboratively to deliver on the objectives set out in the Ennis Strategy.

Nine strategic sites have been identified as potential opportunity sites to deliver on the ambitious targets and strategic objectives set out within the strategy. These sites, when developed, will transform Ennis enabling the town to prosper as a successful, diverse and vibrant social, civic, commercial, cultural and residential centre.

Roche Masterplan - Following the grant, in early February 2021, of a 10-year planning permission for the phased demolition and remediation of the Roche Facility in Clarecastle, work has now commenced on the preparation of background studies and consideration of the scope of a future Roche Masterplan.

Significant public realm works in Ennis Town Centre including the Laneways and Bow-ways was

among the successful projects under the Government’s Urban Regeneration and Development Fund which is intended to drive regeneration and rejuvenation of strategic and underutilised areas within Ireland’s cities and large towns. The successful projects were as follows:

* Parnell Street, the Laneways and Bow-ways which are substantially complete.
* O’Connell Square, O’Connell Street, High Street, Bank Place, Barrack Street and Old Barrack

Square:

These have an overall cost of €10.5M with 75% of the cost being grant funded under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, and the remaining 25% being financed by Clare County Council.

The projects have a purpose of regenerating the public realm, significantly improving accessibility for pedestrians, providing an enhanced streetscape, and delivering expanded, high quality civic spaces with the overall aim of making the Town Centre experience more appealing and conducive for both retail and social purposes. The key features of the project include:- •full

accessibility •shared surface treatment•widened footpaths•high quality surface materials with improved street furniture, lighting and signage, street trees, canopy structures, and an interactive pavement fountain.

* Core Strategy – targets 11% growth for Ennis on the 2016 CSO figure for the period 2023-2029
* Tender sought for the Local Transport Plan/ Mobility Management Plan for the Town
* Upgrading of the wastewater treatment at Clarecastle
* Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme almost complete
* Upgrades completed to the Ennis Rail Station in terms of accessibility
* Overall National Winner of Tidy Towns 2021, demonstrates the huge community effort community activism and participation in the town.
* Current planning application for Data Centre

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|  | * Opening of a Digital Hub as prat of Digi Clare
* New Civil Defence Headquarters in state of the art former vacant building.
* New out-patient clinic for UL hospital
* Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest established a campus in Bindon Street Ennis.
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| SMALLER TOWNS AND VILLAGES | How Does the Development Plan support strengthening the role and viability of towns and villages? |
| RPO 26 Towns & Villages RPO 31 Sustainable Place Framework | Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives including details of housing units planned/developed through programmes such as the ‘small towns and villages growth programme 2020-2024’ and progress made in the provision of services sites. |
|  | Draft Development Plan |
|  | Chapter 17 of the draft Plan focuses on Town and Village Centres |
|  | This Chapter presents the objectives required to support the consolidation, renewal and growth of the towns and villages of County Clare throughout the lifetime of this Plan. In accordance with the overall Vision for the Plan, it is based on the following strategic aims: |
|  | * To support the renewal of towns and villages in need of economic, social and/or physical

regeneration; • To achieve the beneficial reuse of vacant, derelict or under-utilised sites, particularly the identified Opportunity Sites; |
|  | * To identify and actively engage in initiatives that will support economic growth and social and physical regeneration in the towns and villages of the County;
 |
|  | * To support local communities across the County in their work to enhance their towns and villages; and • To identify physical changes that could enhance the public realm and ‘sense of place’ in the County’s towns and villages.
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|  | Sustainable communities, town centre first, the 10 minute town concept, and public realm enhancement along with regeneration and rejuvenation are central themes not just in Chapter 17 but across the Plan itself. |
|  | Town Centre First |
|  | CDP 17.1 Town and Village Centre Vibrancy |
|  | It is an objective of the Development Plan: a) To support the development of the national “TownCentre First” principle to aid in the development and coordination of regeneration, revitalisation andgrowth in vibrancy of our towns and villages. |
|  | b) To carry out public realm enhancement works as well as retail health checks, vacant site and derelict site surveys and other essential research and analysis to inform the actions required to support town and village centre renewal and development projects across County Clare. |
|  | Sixmilebridge Town Centre Masterplan – recently secured funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development for the preparation of a masterplan for Sixmilebridge Town Centre under Phase 1 of the Town Centre Masterplan initiative which is part of the governments Town Centre First Policy. Brief and scope of works is in preparation. |
|  | Programmes |
|  | ‘Small towns and villages growth programme 2020-2024 – Doonbeg received funding for on upgrade to increase waste water treatment capacity. |
|  | Constraints |
|  | Development of our small towns and villages is greatly restrained by a lack of wastewater across County Clare. While the small towns and villages growth programme 2020-2024 is welcomed it relates only to settlements with existing facilities and the money available is insufficient to deal with the majority of existing “problems”. |

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| RURAL AREAS / RURAL DEVELOPMENT / NETWORKS & CROSS BOUNDARY INITIATIVESRPO 27 RuralRPO 28 Collaboration/Partnership RPO 29 Rural Settlement NetworksRPO 43 Rural Economy & EU Good PracticeRPO 44 Common Agricultural PolicyRPO 45 Action Plan for Rural DevelopmentRPO 46 Digital and Physical Infrastructure in Rural AreasRPO 47 Rural Partnership Models RPO 48 Innovation Hubs and Centres of ExcellenceRPO 49 Innovation in Rural areas RPO 50 Diversification | The Members of Clare County Council sought the inclusion of an objective which supported the provision of Developer Led Infrastructure in the draft plan as they felt otherwise the majority of villages had no chance for future growth. There is extensive environmental criteria which must be adhered to, as referenced in the objective below, which is included in the sub-text to the objective.CDP 11.32 (h) Where settlements have no public wastewater treatment infrastructure, to consider alternative developer led/provided shared use wastewater treatment infrastructure, including those incorporating nature-based solutions, to serve development where it can be clearly demonstrated that the system is in compliance with relevant EPA Guidelines on design standards and which will allow connection to a public system when it is provided. Any such consideration will be subject to the following criteria:1. Connection to an existing public wastewater treatment system is not currently available.
2. Environmental and planning requirements are satisfied including plan adequacy, site suitability and a suitable means of sludge and treated effluent disposal.
3. The land on which the treatment plant is located is transferred to Irish Water on their request if/when a public system is provided.
4. The management and maintenance of the shared wastewater treatment and disposal infrastructure following its completion shall be the responsibility of a legally constituted management company. This management company will be responsible for the adequate maintenance, operation and management of the shared infrastructure. It shall be a condition of sale of all elements of the permitted development that the purchaser become a shareholder in the management company and include a similar condition on any contract for subsequent disposal of the property.
5. Adherence to the environmental assessment criteria set out in section 11.4.3.1 of this plan.

InitiativesThe draft Plan introduces a “Village Growth Area” (VGA) designation for villages devoid of public wastewater infrastructure. The county has a large number of strong villages where development potential is inhibited due to the lack of critical infrastructure. Doolin, Broadford and Carrigaholt are just 3 of 50 similar unserviced settlements.VGAs identify appropriate areas within settlements for future development albeit subject to the EPA Code of Practice for Waste Water treatments Systems. The VGA seeks to guide development into suitable areas which will contribute to the compact and sustainable growth of the villages, offering guidance, a choice of development options and a positive approach to future growth in the absence zoning arising from the lack of wastewater Infrastructure.. |
| How Does Development Plan policy support vibrant rural communities and sustainable economic development?Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives including those relating to island and coastal communities, the development of networks / shared resources between settlements?Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme. E.G new walking/cycling routes developed between adjoining rural areas/villages, joint initiatives to support tourism, joint projects to develop digital and training resources. |
| Draft Development PlanRural housing policy is based on demonstrable economic or social need (CDP 4.14)CDP 4.11 supports Settlement networks and are identified in the Volume 3 Settlement Statements |

e.g. Flagmount-Caher- Killanena. CDP 8.3 Alternative Farm Enterprises

It is an objective of Clare County Council:

a) To assist the sustainable development of the rural economy through the facilitation and encouragement of:

1. Alternative farm enterprises, agri-tourism projects and farm shops, and
2. The re-use of redundant farm buildings of vernacular importance for appropriate agri-tourism enterprises, subject to compliance with appropriate planning and services requirements and the appropriate maintenance and protection of Clare's natural landscapes and built heritage which are vital to rural tourism.
3. Farm-based renewable energy technologies such as bio-energy and anaerobic digestion, in compliance with relevant environmental legislation.

The Draft CDP supports the implementation of the Clare Rural Development Strategy and its broad objective to provide for sustainable rural economies and rural communities. Review of the Strategy is being considered by the Clare Rural Development Forum early 2022.

PLACEMAKING

RPO 31 Sustainable Place Framework RPO 61 Health Place Audit (HPA) for Place-making

RPO 70 Bidding capacity

Initiatives

* Rural Development Officer on the ground (1 in each of the 4 Municipal Districts) to work with local communities and make the most of available funding and act as a link of knowledge and expertise between the Local Authority and the community
* Clare County Council has an expansive network of digital hubs allowing people work from their local village/town both in Council run properties and also in collaboration with local community groups (e.g. parish halls etc.) and reduces the need to travel. In turn this retains workers in their local towns and villages and supports cafes and shops and the vibrancy of these locations.
* Development of the Euro Velo Route
* The community development of the 12 O’Clock Hills recreational heritage project
* The council works with Burren Beo Trust connecting people and place. Also working with farmers towards sustainable management of the Burren through community-led conservation projects.
* Development of the West Clare Railway Greenway

How Does the Development Plan support Placemaking? Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives.

Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme. E.g.. Improvements to public realm, developing new streets/spaces/pocket parks

Draft Development Plan

Chapter 18 of the draft Plan is dedicated to Design and Placemaking

In accordance with the overall Vision for the Plan, Chapter 18 is based on the following strategic aims:

* To ensure that each structure or group of structures, whether in an urban or rural setting, will enhance the environment.
* To ensure that structures or groups of structures in urban areas are designed to create spaces

between buildings which are attractive places for people to occupy;

* To ensure that structures or groups of structures in rural areas are designed to protect and enhance the quality of the landscape particularly in the case of extensions to, or reuse of, vernacular buildings; and
* To ensure that each structure or group of structures is designed and sited to maximise conservation of energy, water and resources and to facilitate flexible and sustainable use.

CDP 18.1 Sustainable Place Framework It is an objective of Clare County Council:

To support the development of a Sustainable Place Framework to ensure the development of quality places through integrated planning and consistently excellent design. The role of education, learning

and health in providing inclusive, dynamic and adaptable urban environments should be included and the importance of consultation with local communities is supported and recognised

Completed and Planned Projects Completion of Ennis Pedestrian Survey Walkability audit just completed in Kilrush

Ennis Town Centre Health Check undertaken annually

Town and Village schemes carried out and planned across the County –e.g Barefield, Clooney

EU funded Shannon Town Park, this is part of the larger green infrastructure network in Shannon Town and its environs.

Shannon Town Masterplan completed - defines the focus, nature, and locations for economic, cultural, community and commercial development in Shannon Town Centre, including the public realm.

Miltown Malbay - **Miltown Malbay** Community Enhancement Group received funding of €40,000 under the Town and Village (Accelerated Measure) Scheme 2020. The funding was used to paint 34 properties in the town in addition to 4 murals. Street furniture and soft landscaping works were also carried out. Featured on RTE Nationwide [https://clarechampion.ie/mural-magic-and-a-burst-of-colour-](https://clarechampion.ie/mural-magic-and-a-burst-of-colour-lifts-miltown-spirits/) [lifts-miltown-spirits/](https://clarechampion.ie/mural-magic-and-a-burst-of-colour-lifts-miltown-spirits/)

Corofin Enhancement Strategy - Clare County Council and National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS) continue in their partnership to prepare an Enhancement strategy for the village of Corofin. The Strategy seeks to maximise the potential of the village and its proximity to the Burren through thoughtful and sensitive interventions. The strategy will look to identify a suitable location and

develop a design for a Burren National Park Visitor’s Centre and Administration Facility for NPWS, provide public realm improvements through a streetscape enhancement plan and improve the tourist experience through the development of a new signage strategy

Ennistymon Masterplan - Clare County Council, together with its partners Clare Local Development Company and Ennistymon Town Team are progressing the preparation of the masterplan which seeks to build upon existing Clare County Council proposals in place associated with the planned new bridge crossing and the upgrading works to take place along the Main Street. The study will explore the potential of the existing townscape and its built environment in order to guide its development in a positive way. It will also comprise of a new signage strategy and streetscape enhancement plan, which seeks to improve both the visitor and residents experience

Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan - Clare County Council, in conjunction with Tipperary County Council, has completed a Town Enhancement, Tourism and Mobility Plan for Killaloe- Ballina. This Plan will facilitate a coordinated approach to public realm enhancements for Killaloe and Ballina, providing a clear vision for them as linked settlements. Central to all future developments is the permitted Killaloe Bypass, Shannon Bridge Crossing and R494 Improvement Scheme, which will provide a western bypass for Killaloe town, a new bridge crossing of the River Shannon.

In terms of bidding capacity, Clare Coco, Planning section has a dedicated Strategic Projects Section which deal with all aspects of larger scale projects (e.g. of such a project is Clare Maritime Economic Zone (Clare MEZ) ) The sections pursues funding from various sources, carried out In-depth analysis of the trends and growth areas in this market, potential for competition, the types of courses which may be offered, the accreditation required. Furthermore the section actively seeks and targets potential operators. This is just one example of the current projects which is building the bidding capacity of the Council.

The Council also has a dedicated Project Management Office.

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| REGENERATION & SUPPORT FOR COMPACT GROWTH (TheseRPOs identified as relating to Placemaking in Phase 3 analysis of RPOs)RPO 34 Regeneration, Brownfield and Infill DevelopmentRPO 35 Support for Compact Growth RPO 36 LDARPO 37 Active Land Management RPO 38 Retrofitting Initiative PrioritiesRPO 176 10-minute” city and townconcepts | How Does the Development Plan address Compact growth targets on brownfield and infill sites? Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives.Has the Development Plan identified priority locations for Regeneration, Brownfield and Infill Development?Please briefly outline any examples of Regeneration Projects/Initiatives delivered to date or innovative examples of delivering quality high density residential development, successful brownfield development or any projects to develop lands jointly with the LDA |
|  | Chapter 17 of the draft Plan focuses on Town and Village Centers Chapter 18 of the draft Plan is dedicated to Design and PlacemakingThe Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy seeks to support compact growth and realise sustainable economic, social and environmental opportunities in Ennis and Clare over the next 20 years. The purpose of the strategy is to guide the long-term development of our county town, Ennis, and highlight investment opportunities that will deliver competitive advantage over the short, medium and long term. The strategy capitalises on the strengths, addresses the challenges and puts in place an economic and spatial plan that will facilitate the delivery of the vision for Ennis:"Ennis will strengthen its role as a key regional economic driver and major tourist destination in the Mid-West through the expansion and diversification of its economic offering and by capitalising on the strength of its significant architectural, cultural and historic heritage. It's growth will be based on the '10 Minute Town' concept with the Town Centre at the heart of this highly accessible and revitalised Ennis - the focus for retail, residential, commercial, educational, leisure and cultural growth. Ennis will support, enhance and utilise its existing natural assets to lead the way as 'Ireland's First Climate Adaptive Town' and to create an accessible place of quality."Nine strategic sites have been identified as potential opportunity sites to deliver on the ambitious targets and strategic objectives set out within the strategy. These sites, when developed, will transform Ennis enabling the town to prosper as a successful, diverse and vibrant social, civic, commercial, cultural and residential centre.The Settlement Plans for Ennis, the Service Towns and Small towns have provided for up to 30% growth within the existing built-up footprint where possible and the achievement of a successful public realm is of significant importance to ensure that these existing settlements are attractive places in which to live and work.The Settlement Plans contained in Volume 3 identify Opportunity Sites The draft plan also supports (CDP 4.3) the1. Creation and role of an Active Land Management Unit with a remit to focus on the Metropolitan Area and compact growth targets;
2. Working with the Land Development Agency to progress housing and employment delivery in existing centres, and focusing on coordinating and developing large, strategically located publicly owned land banks, to reduce vacancy and to regenerate key sites;
3. Supporting initiatives that facilitate the regeneration of derelict buildings and vacant sites for the provision of high-quality, environmentally friendly Near Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) affordable housing;
4. The implementation of strategic land reserve initiatives

Sustainable communities, town centre first, the 10 minute town concept, and public realm enhancement along with regeneration and rejuvenation are central themes across the Plan itself |

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|  | having regard to active travel and climate change. |
| TOURISMRPO 53 TourismRPO 54 Tourism & the Environment | Please Outline Key Development Plan policies that will support Tourism development Please briefly outline wider Council involvement in tourism development. |
|  | Chapter 9 Tourism of the Draft Plan contains the key development plan policies and objectives that will support Tourism development in the County. The following tourism related objectives are contained elsewhere in the Draft plan:* Chapter 6 - CDP6.26 Tourism
* Chapter 11 – CDP 11.8 Bus Transport & CDP 11.22 Ports and Harbours
* Chapter 12 - CDP12.1 Shannon Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary
* CDP 12.2 Integrated Development of the Shannon Estuary; CDP 12.3 Marine-related Industry/Large scale Industry on the Estuary; CDP 12.9 Promoting Tourism, Recreation and Leisure around the Shannon Estuary; CDP 12.10 Cruise Ship Industry & CDP12.11 Estuary Settlements.

Examples of the Council’s activities in tourism development in the County:* County Clare Tourism Strategy 2030 adopted and implementation of key goals underway including the delivery of the Destination Recovery and Strategy Action Plan which will assist and inform the reopening of County Clare as a tourist destination.
* Cliffs of Moher Strategy 2040
* Clare County Council’s acquisition of Inis Cealtra (Holy Island) on Lough Derg and the preparation and implementation of the Inis Cealtra Visitor Management and Sustainable Tourism Development Plan offers a major opportunity to grow the tourism industry and encourage visitors to East Clare. Clare County Council produced the Inis Cealtra (Holy Island) Visitor Management Plan. Recognised in the RSES as a key attribute to the tourism product in the Mid West the CDP supports the development of Inis Celatra and Visitor Centre within the village of Mountshannon. In 2021 Clare County Council acquired the Old Rectory building with plans to repurpose and extend the building as a Visitor Centre for Inis Cealtra scheduled to open in the second half of 2023.

CDP9.6 Tourism Corridorsc) To develop the potential of Loop Head as a key destination on the Wild Atlantic Way and Inis Cealtra (Holy Island) as a key destination for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands;CDP9.23 Tourism in Ease Clareb) To work with relevant stakeholders to implement the Inis Cealtra (Holy Island) Visitor Management and Sustainable Tourism Development Plan including the development of an associated visitor centre in Mountshannon;CDP9.27 Tourism and the Islands1. To promote the sustainable tourism development and management of Inis Cealtra (Holy Island) as part of the overall Visitor Management and Sustainable Tourism

*Development Plan*.* + Completion of new and upgraded sanitary facilities at Lahinch and Spanish Point.
	+ Preparation of the Doolin Pier Masterplan and a visitor services centre at Doolin Pier underway.
	+ Proposed Tourism Masterplan for the River Shannon 2020 – 2030 to be delivered in tandem with Fáilte Ireland and other key stakeholders;
	+ Shannon Heritage; Bunratty Castle and Folk Park - The Council is currently engaged with Shannon Group to ensure continued investment in the enhancement and expansion of facilities and services at Bunratty Castle and Folk Park including the potential transfer of the Shannon Heritage Site to Clare County Council.
	+ In addition, as the proposed South Clare/University of Limerick Economic Strategic
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|  | Development Zone (SDZ) progresses, the Council will identify partners with a strong interest in new technologies and innovative digital solutions to improve tourism services andexperiences and will work with these partners to explore options for enhancing Clare’s profileas a smart tourism destination.* Killaloe/Ballina Masterplan launched 2021
* Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy launched 2021, establishment of the Ennis 2040 DAC and work begun on the implementation of key projects.
* Shannon Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) (included as Volume 9) a 30-year Strategy for the proper planning and sustainable growth, development and environmental management of the Shannon Estuary and the delivery of Strategic Development Locations.
* Nature-Based Tourism Opportunities on the Shannon Estuary Strategy launched in 2019 following a community led project supported by Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Clare Local Development Company, West Limerick Resources and Fáilte Ireland with the aim of making the Shannon Estuary a key tourist attraction for the Mid-West.
* Clare County Council has collaborated with Shannon Foynes Port Company and adjoining

Local Authorities to form ‘Cruise Shannon Estuary’, an initiative to sustainably grow the cruise and sustainable marine tourism industry and to establish the Shannon Estuary and County Clare as one of the top destinations for cruise liners in Europe.* Ennis Niche Destination Town Plan
* Enhancement Strategy for Corofin underway
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| RSES ECONOMIC STRATEGYRPO 40 Regional Economic Resilience RPO 64 Facilitate new business formation, growth andindustrial re-organisation RPO 72 BrexitRPO 74 Economic Risk ManagementSystem | How Does the Development Plan incorporate /support the RSES Economic Strategy? Please provide a brief summary.Does the Development Plan incorporate policies to support and develop the role of the Region’sEconomic Drivers? |
|  | Yes, Chapter 6 Economic Development and Enterprise of the Draft Plan contains the key development plan policies and objectives that supports the RSES Economic Strategy including the following objective:CDP6.1 Economic Development and Enterprise:It is an objective of Clare County Council and the Local Enterprise Office (LEO), Clare:1. To work in partnership with development agencies such as Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland, adjoining local authorities, the Southern Regional Assembly and all other relevant agencies to proactively pursue enterprise and sustainable economic development in line with the policies and objectives as set out in national, regional and local strategies.
2. To co-operate with local and national development agencies and engage with existing and future employers in order to maximise job opportunities in the County including the transition of talent from declining industries to more competitive sectors through the promotion of Labour Activation Programmes and market reactivation emergency funds;
3. To support start-up businesses and small-scale industrial enterprise at appropriate locations throughout the County, subject to the principles of proper planning and sustainable development;
4. To sustainably develop, deepen and enhance the economic resilience of County Clare by facilitating the widening of our economic sectors, boosting innovation, export diversification, productivity enhancement and access to new markets.
5. To give favourable consideration to locating appropriate employment where it would address unemployment blackspots, support sectoral and location-based strengths and synergies with existing employers, and take advantage of ‘ready to go’ property solutions and local ambition;
6. To support the development of innovation hubs and centres of excellence (with particular opportunities for innovation in areas such as agri-food, agri-tech, marine research, creative industries and the knowledge economy) as local drivers for growth;
7. To support the Southern Regional Assembly in the development of contingency plans and pilot projects to counteract the effects of industrial decline and potential external shocks in the Region
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including lifelong learning programmes, appropriate business supports and up skilling to facilitate moving to employment in alternative sectors in the locality or region; and

1. To facilitate the further development of a diverse base of smart economic specialisms within the County including innovation and diversification in agriculture (Agri-Tech, Food and Beverage), the Marine (Ports, Fisheries and the wider Blue Economy potential), Forestry, Peatlands, Renewable Energy, Tourism (leverage the opportunities from the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands corridors), Social Enterprise, Circular Economy, Knowledge Economy, Global Business Services, Fin-Tech, Specialised Engineering, Heritage, Arts and Culture and the Design and Craft Industries as dynamic divers for the rural economy.

The following objectives contained in the Draft Plan aim to support and develop the Region’s

Economic Drivers:

Clare Economic Task Force has been established - The Taskforce was convened by Clare County Council to inform and guide appropriate economic measures that will stimulate job creation in County Clare. The group comprises public and private sector leaders which will help to formulate and

communicate consistent county messaging in relation to Clare’s future economic development and

assist the Council to:

* 1. Identify the immediate priority actions required to maximise the area’s local and regional

economic potential.

* 1. Develop future resilience in the local and regional economy. The Taskforce will progress medium and long-term projects and actions.
	2. The Taskforce will examine how Clare, as part of the Mid-West region, can facilitate and enable decentralised employment opportunities.
	3. The Taskforce will examine how national, EU and international capital investment opportunities can underpin Clare’s future economic growth.
	4. The Taskforce will build economic confidence in Clare and the Mid-West region.
	5. The Taskforce will open business and political communication channels to assist all sectors of the County Clare economy.

Local Enterprise Office - Local Enterprise Office Clare Clients created 278 Jobs in 2021

LEO Clare now supporting over 230 Small Businesses and 1,330 jobs according to latest figures;

* + 278 new jobs created in 2021
	+ Net employment gain if 153 in 20021
	+ 230 total small businesses employing 1,330 people supported by Leo Clare .

Shannon Group plc

Shannon Group place has completed a new 18 million, 92,000 sq ft specialist aircraft painting hangar at Shannon Airport, adjacent to the Shannon Free Zone. The hangar is capable of

accommodating some of the world’s largest aircraft and is Ireland’s first aircraft hangar to be

developed in almost 20 years.

At the start of 2022 the Shannon Group has commenced construction work on a €4m project that will see two properties redeveloped at the airport's free zone commercial park. Work has just commenced on-site and 100 jobs are being created during the construction and fit-out phase of the project.

Included in the development is the provision of 140 upgraded car parking spaces with disabled spaces and four electric vehicle charging spaces. It also includes the upgrade of footpaths, public lighting and landscaping in the area around the buildings. The project is expected to be completed by July.

Limerick City and MASP area

The draft CDP contains the following objective:

CDP 4.2 Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area It is an objective of Clare County Council:

1. To strengthen the role of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area as an international location of scale, a complement to Dublin and a primary driver of sustainable economic and population growth in the Southern Region;
2. To promote and to seek investment to sustainably develop the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area as a cohesive metropolitan area with: i) Compact and sustainable growth and regeneration of Shannon; ii) Active land management initiatives to deliver housing and employment locations in a sustainable, infrastructure-led manner.
3. To seek co-ordinated investment and delivery of holistic infrastructure packages across State Departments and infrastructure delivery agencies as they apply to the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area and seek further investments to deliver on the Metropolitan Area Goals set out in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region and the National Development Plan;
4. To protect, manage and improve the coherence of the Natura 2000 Network through enhanced ecological connectivity;
5. To support the sustainable delivery of the Strategic Investment Priorities identified by the National Development Plan for the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area and progress co-ordination between the principal stakeholders for delivery to achieve the vision and objectives identified for the MASP;
6. To promote the sustainable implementation of innovative, collaborative projects through the Urban Regeneration and Development, Rural Regeneration and Development, Climate Action and Disruptive Technologies funds for the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area;
7. To ensure the investment in and the delivery of the Sustainable Place Framework delivering quality of place attributes as an incentive to attract people to live, work and visit;
8. To carry out a site selection process which considers all environmental issues and which identifies suitable sites for regeneration and development; i) To sustainably manage future development within the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area, taking account of its environmental, ecological, heritage and landscape values with a particular focus on building a climate resilient growth area

Atlantic Economic Corridor

The Draft Plan states that the Council will work with the relevant stakeholders in the delivery of the potential of the AEC for the County and contains the following objective:

CDP6.3 Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC); To support the development of the AEC initiative as a driver of enterprise, growth, investment and the attraction of entrepreneurial skills and talent along the Western Seaboard, and to work with key stakeholders including adjoining local authorities to optimise the combined advantages and opportunities of the AEC including delivering a high-value and low- carbon economy.

Galway-Ennis-Shannon-Limerick (GESL) Economic Network

CDP11.9 Transport Assets and Multi-Modal Travel Integration: a) To support accessibility to transport services and the integration of transport services throughout the County, with the wider Region, along the Atlantic Economic Corridor and Galway – Ennis – Shannon - Limerick (GESL) Economic Network, and between the Metropolitan Areas in order to create a more efficient transport network that meets the needs of a wide range of users and which supports the use of sustainable travel choices;

Key Town of Ennis

The draft CDP contains the following objective:

CDP 4.1 Ennis

1. To support Ennis as a self-sustaining, regional economic driver and as a key location for investment choice in the County and the Southern Region, and to support its enhanced development based on its strategic location relative to Limerick and Galway Cities, Shannon International Airport and the Atlantic Economic Corridor as well as its role as a centre of employment and economic activity;
2. To support the implementation of Ennis 2040 to set the long term economic and spatial strategy for the County Town with an agreed focus on an economic future and spatial pattern to 2040 and beyond;
3. To prepare and implement a local area plan for the Ennis Town and Environs area incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment during the lifetime of this Development Plan;
4. To seek investment and to support the delivery of holistic infrastructure that will facilitate and accommodate sustainable growth in Ennis, subject to the outcome of the planning process and environmental assessments;
5. To prepare a Mobility Plan for Ennis;
6. To develop Ennis into a centre for lifelong learning and to support the further development of higher education facilities in the town;
7. To support initiatives which seek to strengthen and develop niche retail and mixed-use services in Ennis town centre;
8. To support and promote placemaking in Ennis which would include public realm regeneration and urban renewal initiatives which incorporate SuDs and public private partnership approaches for town centre regeneration;
9. To seek the sustainable development of tourism facilities that enhance diverse tourism roles for Ennis and to seek investment in services to cater for increased visitor numbers;
10. To support increased levels of town centre living and to assess the potential of the development of a modern family town centre living pilot project during the lifetime of the Plan;
11. To support climate adaptation initiatives within Ennis Town and surrounding areas to deliver on the

objective of Ennis becoming Ireland’s first Climate Adaptive Town;

1. To monitor the cumulative effect of grants of planning permission on available wastewater capacity where connection to a public wastewater treatment plant is included as part of a development proposal; and
2. To promote appropriate measures from the “Biodiversity for Low and Zero Carbon Buildings; A Technical Guide for New builds” to all regeneration and urban renewal projects.

The RSES identifies the development of a data centre in Ennis as an economic driver for the county and the wider Southern Region. Having regard to the Government Statement on The Role of Data Centres in Ireland’s Enterprise Strategy (June 2018), which in particular recommends having a plan-

led approach to data centres, a 55-hectare site has been identified for Data Centre development. This site is identified as Transformational Site 9 in Ennis 2040 Spatial and Economic Strategy and the Draft Plan contains the following objective:

CDP 6.27 Data Centres: To facilitate and support the development of a data centre on the Enterprise zoned lands (ENT 3) at Toureen Ennis subject to normal planning considerations and the implementation of the findings of the SEA and AA associated with this Plan

Shannon International Airport

The RSES states that Shannon International Airport and the Shannon Free Zone industrial park are critical not only to the Metropolitan Area but to the country. The following objective which supports the continued development of Shannon International Airport is contained in the Draft Plan.

CDP 6.6 Shannon International Airport:

1. To facilitate the future development and expansion of Shannon International Airport and its continued role as a driver of economic, social and tourism growth in the Region whilst recognising the need to support actions to transition to a low carbon future;
2. To facilitate the development of enhanced freight cargo facilities at Shannon International Airport;
3. To facilitate the improvement/upgrade (as necessary) of key infrastructural resources within the Airport, to the airport lands, and to the N19 providing access to the area as well as improved sustainable transport links between Shannon International Airport, Limerick City Centre, the Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest, the South Clare/UL Economic SDZ and the National Technology Park at Limerick;
4. To support the development of initiatives that harness the potential of the Airport including, but not limited to, a residential flight school, unmanned aerospace systems (UAS) and a centre for space collaboration and research cooperation; and
5. To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation as outlined in Objective CDP3.1

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|  | Towns and VillagesThe settlement plans contained in Volume 3 of the draft Plan ensure that lands are appropriately zoned in accordance with the objectives of the NPF and the RSES, meeting the needs of different users and encouraging a diversity of employment-generating development throughout the County. The following objective is contained in Volume 1 of the Draft Plan:CDP 6.14 Availability of Land and Infrastructure:d) To ensure that lands are zoned for industry and enterprise development in towns and villages across the County at a scale appropriate to the size and role of the settlement as per the Settlement Hierarchy. |
| ECONOMIC CORRIDORSRPO 41 Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) | Briefly Outline Development Plan policies that will advance development of the Atlantic Economic Corridor |
|  | Section 3.4.6 Economic Strategy of the Draft Plan (Chapter 3, Volume 1) indicates that the Council will proactively foster and develop relationships recognising the County’s clear strategic position on the Atlantic Economic Corridor and proximity to Galway City, Limerick City and Shannon International Airport whilst also building on the connection between towns and the surrounding rural areas within the County.Furthermore, Section 6.5 Atlantic Economic Corridor, Chapter 6 states the Council will work with the relevant stakeholders in the delivery of the potential of the AEC for the County and the following objective has been included in Volume 1 of the Draft Plan:CDP6.3 Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC);To support the development of the AEC initiative as a driver of enterprise, growth, investment and the attraction of entrepreneurial skills and talent along the Western Seaboard, and to work with key stakeholders including adjoining local authorities to optimise the combined advantages and opportunities of the AEC including delivering a high-value and low-carbon economy.AEC Hubs Outreach Scheme – funding for Covid 19 measures to help re-open smaller digital hubs – 7 availed of it within the County.Enterprise Space Audits – identified vacant enterprise, office and industrial units within Shannon (Metropolitan town), Ennis (Key town) and Kilrush (Service Town). |
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| DECARBONISATIONRPO 90 Regional Decarbonisation. RPO 91 Decarbonisation in the Transport SectorRPO 94 Decarbonisation in theAgricultural Sector | Does the Development Plan include objectives that support Decarbonisation? Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives including progress in identification of a Decarbonisation Zone |
|  | Yes, the Draft Plan states that the Council will work with the Climate Action Regional Offices to implement and monitor the actions in the forthcoming Regional Decarbonisation Plan across all sectors and is committed to researching and mapping area(s) considered beneficial for use as local carbon offsets through carbon sequestration in line with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Circular LGSM01-2021 (Section 2.7.4, Volume 1). In addition, the Draft Plan contains the following goal and objectives relating to decarbonisation:Goal II: A county that is resilient to climate change, plans for and adapts to climate change and flood risk, is the national leader in renewable energy generation, facilitates a low carbon future, supports energy efficiency and conservation and enables the decarbonisation of our lifestyles and economy. |

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|  | CDP2.5 Decarbonisation Zone: It is an objective of Clare County Council:1. To support and facilitate the sustainable development of a decarbonisation zone in County Clare in accordance with the Climate Action Plan 2021; and
2. To prepare an implementation plan for the decarbonisation zone.

An application has been made to designate the Loop Head Peninsula as a Decarbonisation – decision pending,CDP2.15: Renewable TransportIt is an objective of Clare County Council:1. To seek initiatives that will achieve the decarbonisation of the transport sector, moving to the use of clean generated electricity bio-gas hydrogen and other non-fossil fuels for private and public transportation and the provision of clean energy and low carbon fuelling stations by 2030;
2. To reduce reliance on private cars and achieve modal shift to sustainable transportation in conjunction with policies to achieve compact growth and reduce congestion;
3. To seek the development of clean energy and lower carbon fuelling and electric vehicle charging stations and infrastructure at appropriate locations in the County which take into consideration electric, hydrogen, CNG/biogas inter-alia; and
4. To support actions to transition the movement of freight, ports and airports to a low carbon future.

CDP6.8 University of Limerick - Clare Campus: Proposed Strategic Development Zone:g) To implement innovative decarbonisation and green infrastructure measures in the SDZ in accordance with the European Green Deal and national policy and legislation. |
| EMPLOYMENT LOCATIONSRPO 62 Locations for Employment Development | Does the Development Plan identify future Locations for Employment Development? Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives. |
|  | Yes, the Draft Plan identifies various future Locations for Employment Development, in particular within chapters 4, 6 and 12 of volume 1. Key objectives include:CDP4.1 Ennis a) To support Ennis as a self-sustaining, regional economic driver and as a key location for investment choice in the County and the Southern Region, and to support its enhanced development based on its strategic location relative to Limerick and Galway Cities, Shannon International Airport and the Atlantic Economic Corridor as well as its role as a centre of employment and economic activity;CDP4.2 Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area a) To strengthen the role of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area as an international location of scale, a complement to Dublin and a primary driver of sustainable economic and population growth in the Southern Region;CDP4.4 Shannon a) To ensure that Shannon, in its critical role as a metropolitan town within the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area is a driver of prosperity for the Metropolitan Area, County and Region by harnessing its strategic location on the Atlantic Economic Corridor, its high qualityconnectivity and it’s employment base, international airport, and other competitive advantages CDP4.5 Service Towns a) To ensure that the Service Towns are each drivers of growth and prosperity for their respective catchments, by consolidating their administrative, retail and service bases, protecting and enhancing their distinctive town centre characteristics and natural landscape settings, and maximising their role for sub-regional growth;CDP6.1 Economic Development and Enterprise: e) To give favourable consideration to locating appropriate employment where it would address unemployment blackspots, support sectoral and location-based strengths and synergies with existing employers, and take advantage of ‘ready to go’ property solutions and local ambition;CDP6.8 University of Limerick - Clare Campus: Proposed Strategic Development Zone CDP 6.9 BurlingtonCDP 6.14 Availability of Land and Infrastructure: a) To ensure that an adequate supply of land is zoned in appropriate locations throughout the County to support economic development and |

employment-generating activities;

CDP6.15 Re-Use of Brownfield Site: a) To favourably consider the redevelopment of brownfield sites and disused agricultural or commercial buildings in urban and rural areas for industrial, enterprise or cultural uses subject to normal planning considerations, ensuring that no such developments will adversely affect protected habitats and species; and b) To establish a database of strategic brownfield and infill sites so that brownfield land re-use can be managed and co-ordinated across multiple stakeholders, as part of an active land management process.

CDP 12.4 Strategic Development Locations

CDP 12.5 Strategic Development Location A – Inishmurry/Cahiracon CDP 12.6 Strategic Development Location B – Moneypoint

CDP 13.5 Off-shore Renewable Energy b) To support the redevelopment of the Moneypoint power generation station site as a green energy hub and the development of the Shannon Estuary as a focal point for the offshore wind industry in Europe.

Key locations identified:

Shannon – SFZ, Smithstown, Westpark Business Campus and Shannon International Airport CDP6.5 and CDP 6.6

Shannon Group have been working on the redevelopment and upgrade of the Shannon Free Zone, which is based around a masterplan to grow the Shannon Free Zone.

Continued development of the International Aviation Services Centre cluster and on-going expansion of Shannon as a globally recognised centre of excellence for software engineering/aviation/logistics,

Development of Shannon as a centre for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) or drones building on the

establishment of Ireland’s first air taxi service in the town.

Development of Shannon as a centre for research and development in Autonomous Connected Electric Shared Vehicles (ACES), including Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAV).

The Shannon aviation cluster spans the industry value chain, encompassing everything from aircraft leasing, maintenance and recycling to component manufacture, parts repair and business aviation. The International Aviation Services Centre is essential to the further industrial and economic growth of Shannon.

University of Limerick - Clare Campus: Proposed Strategic Development Zone (SDZ)

Agreement between Clare County Council and University of Limerick on forming a Designated Activity Company (DAC) to seek SDZ designation and an application is to the Department is imminent.

- The RSES recognises the spatial and economic suitability of the site as an SDZ, identifying the site as a ‘Strategic Employment Location’ and including an objective “to support an application for the designation and subsequent development as an Economic Strategic Development Zone (SDZ),

subject to the provisions of the Planning Act and all environmental considerations”. Moreover, the designation of the lands as an SDZ is identified as a ‘National Enabler’ in the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP). The SDZ will also give effect to IDA Ireland’s strategy, Driving Recovery and Sustainable Growth 2021-2024 which is based on five pillars - Growth, Transformation, Regions, Sustainability, and Impact.

The designation of the combined site and the formal adoption of a planning scheme will greatly enhance the development opportunities for the site and facilitate orderly and planned development, as envisaged in the legislation. The designation of the lands as an Economic SDZ will enable the site to generate 3,500 jobs with additional employment being generated in the construction phase and subsequent spin-off developments. Foreign and indigenous industry will have the opportunity to partner with the University in investment, expansion, staff and student placement, research and career development through the development of Academies of Learning.

Burlington Lands: The former Burlington Plant in Gillogue, which comprise approximately 29,000m2 of floorspace, has significant potential for redevelopment and to contribute to economic growth in the

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|  | South Clare area.Strategic Development Location A – Inishmurry/Cahiracon - Clare County Council considers that the SDL has potential for development of marine-related industry including for the exploitation of the tidal energy resource in the Shannon Estuary.Testing of tidal renewable energy device within the SDL is at final consultation stage with the Foreshore Unit.Clare County Council is actively promoting this SDL with the off-shore renewable energy sector. This SDL could provide the route to market and supply needs for this sector in developing off-shore in particular off the Clare coast.Kilrush Maritime Training Centre – The Council secured a further €1.78 million through Enterprise Ireland’s Regional Enterprise Development Fund to establish a Maritime Training Centre in Kilrush. The project will include the establishment of a specialist commercial training facility providing mandatory maritime training courses and value-added training for non-seafaring personnel taking up positions at sea, as well as a third level and NGO research facility.Strategic Development Location B – Moneypoint – Potential for the development of a Green Energy Hub including offshore windfarm, wind turbine construction hub and hydrogen energy production and storage.Volume 3 – Settlement Plans: The settlement plans contained in Volume 3 of this Plan ensure that lands are appropriately zoned in accordance with the objectives of the NPF and the RSES, meeting the needs of different users and encouraging a diversity of employment-generating development throughout the County. |
| MARINE ECONOMY (RELATINGTO Instructive RPOs)RPO 76 Marine EconomyRPO 77 Maritime Spatial planning - Consistency and AlignmentRPO 78 First Mover under the National Marine Planning FrameworkRPO 79 Shannon Estuary and Other Harbour PlansRPO 81 Fishery Harbour Centres and Local Authority HarboursRPO 82 Seafood SectorRPO 83 Island and Coastal CommunitiesRPO 84 Fishing Local Area Group (FLAG) Development StrategiesRPO 85 Renewable offshore energy effects on European Sites and potential for adverse effects on theRPO 86 Marine Cluster | Does the Development Plan include objectives that support development of our marine and coastal assets? Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives.Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme |
|  | CDP13.3 Martime Spatial Planning1. To ensure consistency and alignment between land based spatial planning and marine planning which supports the protection of the marine environment and the growth of the marine economy;
2. To support appropriate land-based infrastructure which facilitates marine activity (and vice versa).
3. To support proposals for appropriate infrastructure that facilitates the diversification or regeneration of marine industries.
4. To ensure all new activities/developments are consistent with the policies of the National Marine Planning Framework.
5. To promote the development of a research driven marine cluster in the County to support development of Marine ICT and Biotechnology.
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|  | The Shannon Estuary and the SIFP – Shannon Estuary is a key economic driver for the Southern Region of national and international importance and the SIFP aims to support the multifunctional nature of the Shannon Estuary and seeks to transform the estuary into an international economic hub. The SIFP is cited in the RSES as a best practice example and promoted as such in RPO 79.CDP strategic aim for the Shannon Estuary is to implement the SIFP to provide clarity of purpose and direction for the future development of, and investment in, the Shannon Estuary and its environs.Objective CDP12.1 Shannon Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary provides strong policy support for the implementation of the SIFP1. To support and implement the inter-jurisdictional *Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary* in conjunction with the other relevant local authorities and agencies. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the *SEA Directive*, *Birds and Habitats Directive*, *Water Framework Directive* and *Shellfish Waters Directive*, *Floods Directive* and *EIA Directive*. All proposed developments shall incorporate the Mitigation Measures as contained in the *SIFP* (Volume 9 of this Plan) for ensuring the integrity of the Natura 2000 Network.
2. To proactively market the Strategic Development Locations in County Clare at Inishmurry/Cahiracon and Moneypoint as potential locations for future economic development.

Offshore Renewable Energy Specifically in relation to our marine and coastal assets Clare County Council recognises the importance of our Offshore Renewable Energy resource as is identified in the CAP 2021. Harnessing this potential and providing the infrastructure needed to realise the route to market was a key consideration in the CDP.CDP Objective 12.3 addresses this through the prioritisation of Marine Related Industry/Large-Scale Industry in the Shannon Estuary at key natural deep-water sites. It looks to capitalise on the natural deep-water potential and existing port and maritime infrastructure, by facilitating and proactively encouraging the environmentally sustainable development of maritime industries at appropriate locations within the Shannon Estuary. Aligning the drat CDP with the recently published National Marine Planning Framework was critical with a number of objectives now reflecting the ethos of the Framework.Maritime Spatial Planning CDP 13.3 reflects the support for the Offshore Renewable Energy sector through the identification of objective which will;1. ensure consistency and alignment between land based spatial planning and marine planning which supports the protection of the marine environment and the growth of the marine economy;
2. support appropriate land-based infrastructure which facilitates marine activity (and vice versa).
3. support proposals for appropriate infrastructure that facilitates the diversification or regeneration of marine industries.

Importance of the emerging blue economy in CDP Objective 13.1 where opportunities for innovation in the maritime economy and for Clare to become a first mover under the National Marine Planning Framework is supported.A key example of this innovation and initiative being taken by Clare County Council is the establishment of a Maritime Training Centre in Kilrush where basic maritime safety training will be provided to the Renewable Energy sector together with all first responders working in the maritime sector creating local jobs in a coastal community which will result in future development and expansion of this sector of the marine economy. Clare County Council recognizes the vast potential the marine economy has to offer in terms of sustainable jobs in rural coastal communities and will endeavor to realize this potential through the implementation of the Plan objectives over the course of its lifespan. |
| CLIMATE ACTION:TRANSITION TO A LOW CARBON ECONOMY & SOCIETYRPO 56 Low Carbon EconomyRPO 57 National Policy Statement on Bio-economy | Does the Development Plan give priority to addressing Climate Action.Please provide a brief summary of how the Development Plan addresses Climate Action. |

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| RPO 85 Renewable offshore energyRPO 88 National Mitigation Plan and National Adaptation FrameworkRPO 89 Building Resilience to Climate Change |  |
|  | Following the publication of the Climate Action Charter in 2019 it was apparent that Local Government have a lead role to play in providing robust leadership in advancing Irelands commitment to achieving a net zero carbon energy system objective for Irish society and in the process, create a climate resilient, vibrant, and sustainable country at the local and regional level. Clare County Council recognises this role and as such have developed a County Development Plan which provides for rural protection while allowing an appropriate level of growth within lower tier settlements. This approach works with existing and planned delivery of services infrastructure and presents the best option towards sustainable growth. It provides for an extremely high level of protection and resilience to climate change and flooding through the extensive inclusion of buffer spaces along rivers, streams and ecologically significant hedgerows and wildlife corridors.The draft CDP reflects a balanced sustainable approach to planned development for the county. It recognises and fully integrates the requirements of the NPF and RSES and the key objectives, targets and approach to Climate Change, Adaptation and Mitigation.One of the headline targets of the Climate Action Plan 2021 is an increase from 70% Renewable Energy to 80% Renewable Energy by 2021. In addressing this target, the Clare RES (Vol. 5) needed to identify realistic and implementable options which would be achievable within 6 years. The SEA/AA needed to assess the Environmental Impact- what will the environmental impact on other factors be i.e., for example by achieving maximum ambition how will it impact the landscape, tourism, water quality, land use and air quality. It also needed to consider how the plan will pave the way for the next 2 cycles of the RES and how will the RES facilitate RE in the short, medium, and long term. The additional capacity needed to address the transition to a Low Carbon Economy and Society will be delivered mainly by:* Offshore Wind: the Clare RES includes policies to prepare for offshore wind
* Solar Onshore – Clare CoCo have ambitious targets for Clare (300MW in total)
* Given there was no increase in onshore wind capacity in the CAP 2021, coupled with the fact that the existing Clare WES remains in place (awaiting final Wind Energy Guidelines) as part of the new Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 no new targets were set for this sector.
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| DECARBONISATIONRPO 90 Regional Decarbonisation. RPO 91 Decarbonisation in the Transport SectorRPO 94 Decarbonisation in theAgricultural Sector | Does the Development Plan include objectives that support Decarbonisation? Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives including progress in identification of a Decarbonisation Zone |
|  | Duplication – see previous response |
| RESOURCE EFFICIENCY INCL. RENEWABLE ENERGYRPO 98 Regional Renewable Energy StrategyRPO 109 Bio-Energy Implementation Plan | Does the Development Plan support the development of renewable energy in accordance with national/regional policy/targets?Please provide a brief summary of how the Development Plan addresses renewable energy |
|  | A new Renewable Energy has been prepared and included as Volume 5 of the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029.CDP Objective on the Renewable Energy Strategy also supports RPO 98 - CDP 11.48 Renewable Energy Strategy b) To support the implementation of the *Clare Renewable Energy Strategy 2023-**2030* in Volume 5 of this plan*;* and |

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|  | c) To support the development of a Regional Renewable Energy Strategy with relevant stakeholders.Bio-energyCDP 2.19 To facilitate and support the development of bio-energy opportunities, facilities, and associated enterprises throughout the County including on brownfield sites subject to normal planning considerations.CDP Volume 5 Clare Renewable Energy Strategy has a dedicated Chapter on Bio-energy and includes a full suite of objectives which support RPO 109. |
| BLUE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURERPO 110 Ecosystem ServicesRPO 122 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)RPO 124 Green InfrastructureRPO 125 Green Infrastructure CorridorsRPO 126 BiodiversityRPO 127 Invasive SpeciesRPO 128 All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015 – 2020 | Does the development plan support the development of Blue Green Infrastructure, ecosystem services and biodiversity. Please provide a brief summary of how the Development Plan addresses these areasPlease identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme. |
|  | Ecosystem servicesCDP 15.13 Urban Ecology a) To encourage and, where appropriate, enhance the provision of biodiversity features in urban areas through the preparation of local area plans/settlement plans, green infrastructure strategies, ecosystem services, andthrough the development management process;SUDsThe management of storm water is inherently linked to the wider issues of climate change adaptation and flood risk management. All new development throughout the County will be required to minimise surface water discharge through on-site systems such as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs).Development proposals are required to demonstrate the use of SuDs mechanisms and must be accompanied by a comprehensive SuDs assessment to demonstrate run off quantity, quality, and anassessment on the potential impacts on habitats and water quality. See Section 2.8.1 ‘Storm Water Management’, Chapter 2, CDP2.11objective promoting the use of SUDs.(ANY GOOD EXAMPLES OF APPLICATION?)Green Infrastructure – intertwined throughout all chapters of the development planFlood management – protection of wetland and natural storage areas – Post Office Field OP site GI and Residential develoments 5.16 b) To facilitate and encourage community stakeholders torepurpose underutilised pockets within existing residential areas for the enhancement of biodiversity and green infrastructure.CDP 6.8 SDZg) To implement innovative decarbonisation and green infrastructure measures in the SDZ in accordance with the European Green Deal and national policy and legislation.Strategic aim • To promote the creation of an integrated and coherent green infrastructure network throughout County Clare in order to enhance connectivity, social inclusion, sense of place and the creation of wildlife corridors.CDP15.13 Urban Ecologyb) To support investment in the on-going maintenance and enhancement of facilities in existing green infrastructure and to support the provision of new public, parks, green space corridors and otherpublic open spaces in tandem with projected population growth to create green, healthy settlements |

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|  | throughout the County e.g. Shannon Town Park central to the Shannon Green Infrastructure Network’ Ballhyallia Amenity Enhancement Plan – part of the green infrastructure network for EnnisCDP 15.14 To ensure that development proposals support and enhance the connectivity and integrity of habitats in the Plan area by incorporating natural features into the design of development proposals.CDP15.30 GI and Climate Action Biodiversity ManualClare County Council has prepared a Biodiversity Manual to guide the application of best practiceregarding biodiversity and habitat protection by the Council and will also implement the County Clare Heritage Plan 2017-2023 and the County Clare Biodiversity Plan 2017-2023.CDP 15.1 a) To implement the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025, the County Clare Heritage Plan 2017-2023 and the County Clare Biodiversity Plan 2017-2023, or any subsequent plans, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders;Biodiversity Officer appointment is being investigatedEnnis is for the third year running winner of the South West and Mid West region All Ireland Pollinator Plan Award in 2021Invasive Species objective – 15.24 Invasive Species1. To raise awareness of the threat of alien invasive species and how they can spread, and take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of non-native invasive species and noxious weeds in the Plan area, including requiring landowners, developers and boat operators to adhere to best practice

guidance in relation to their control;1. To require all development proposals to address the presence of invasive alien species on the proposed development site and to require an Invasive Species Management Plan where such species are present;
2. To carry out surveys of invasive species across the County.

Refer to initiatives previously set out in section on Water Framework Directive below. |
| ENHANCED REGIONAL CONNECTIVITYRPO 169 Strategic Road Network Improvement Priorities | Briefly outline Development plan policies to improve enhanced regional connectivity – by road/rail and public transport services. |
|  | See duplicate section completed below |
| WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVERPO 110 Ecosystem Services RPO 111 Water Resources RPO 112 Water QualityRPO 121 Effective Collaboration to Implement River Basin Management Plans and Water Framework DirectiveRPO 122 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)RPO 123 River Basin Management Plan and Spatial PlanningRPO 124 Green Infrastructure RPO 126 BiodiversityRPO 127 Invasive Species | How does the development plan support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Please provide a brief summary of how the Development Plan addresses these areas with particular focus on the strategy taken take to protect and enhance Blue Dot Catchments.Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme. This should include internal structures established to improve the interaction between planning and water quality issues. |
|  | The Draft Clare County Development Plan fully integrates the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and reflects the current status of the waterbodies across the county with particular attention on the Blue Dot catchments. Both the SEA and AA contained in Volume 10 of the Plan both identify |

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|  | and map the location and status of all waterbodies (Surface, Ground, Transitional and Coastal) and have ensured a fully integrated approach to the zoning of settlements and the formulation of objectives. Where the status is identified as good or less or where a Blue Dot Catchment is identified the environmental assessments directed the Plan in terms of mitigation required at this strategic level or provided scientific evidence to justify the avoidance of zoning in some areas due to lack of wastewater treatment for example which would prevent the waterbody from achieving its WFD Objective.Cross cutting theme addressing RPO 110, 111, 112,121, 123 & 126Given we are currently in a Climate and Biodiversity crisis the importance of protecting riparian buffer spaces or zones is critical for this planning cycle. Clare County Council needed to ensure sufficient space was set aside for nature to combat the effects of climate change and to provide space for biodiversity. The space needs to be left clear of any type of development including the type which is perhaps permitted in “Open Space” zoning such as play facilities.Through a coordinated effort between the SEA/AA Environmental team together with the Forward Planning team a total of 511.1 hectares has been zoned as Buffer space which will provide for Climate Change and Biodiversity in line with the Climate Change Action Plan and the National Biodiversity Action Plan. The identification of these buffer areas centered largely around the riparian zones of our many surface waters in line with the updated IFI guidance Planning for watercourses in the urban environment – a guide to the protection of watercourses using Buffer Zones, Sustainable Drainage Systems, Instream Rehabilitation, Climate/Flood risk and Recreational Planning. The Draft 2023 County Development Plan has truly integrated the protection of these invaluable riparian zones in line with the guidance with specific buffer zones added to the settlement maps in Volume 3.RPO 127Clare County Council are tackling invasive species throughout the county, with action been taken by all the Municipal District Offices. Ennis, Killaloe, Shannon, and West Clare MD each have a programme of invasive species eradication underway with funding from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (Dept. Housing, Local Government & Heritage) and National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding 2021. Follow up work will involve further mapping of the problem species, Knotweed and Giant Hogweed and proposed long term management and control measures.Specific projects* Alien Invasive Species training and AIS plans for communities to identify and treat AIS, work with Clare Local Development Company
* Alien Invasive Species eradication equipment purchase for communities to enable them to eradicate AIS in their local area, work with Clare Local Development Company
* Alien Invasive Species eradication of Knotweed with Municipal District Offices in Ennis, Killaloe, and West Clare MD.
* Alien Invasive Species eradication of Giant Hogweed in Municipal District Office in Shannon MD
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| DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY/SMART REGION/SMART CITIESRPO 133 Smart CitiesRPO 134: Smart Cities and Smart Region: | How Does the Development Plan support development of a Smart Region/Smart City/Smart Towns. Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives.In rural areas, please outline progress made in the development of Remote Working & Digital Hubs and other relevant initiatives for the optimisation of digital connectivity. |
|  | The Draft Plan contains the following objectives relating to digital connectivity and the development of |

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| INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIVITY/ PORTS/AIRPORTS, FREIGHT &LOGISTICSRPO 139 Low Carbon International ConnectivityRPO 145: Ports and Harbour Strategy for the Southern RegionRPO:149: Airport Strategy for the Southern RegionRPO 141: Regional Freight Strategy RPO 143 Ports and Airports | smart communities:CDP6.12 Clare Digital Hub Network:It is an objective of Clare County Council:To support the continued development of the network of digital hubs in order to facilitate remote working/co-working at appropriate locations, to attract new businesses to locate in County Clare, and to support the further growth and development of the digital and media industries in the county.CDP6.23 Home Based Economic Activity and Remote Working:b) To facilitate home-working and innovative forms of working which reduce the need to travel where, by virtue of their nature and scale, they can be accommodated without detriment to the amenities of residential areas; d) To engage with all relevant stakeholders and broadband infrastructure providers to ensure the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan as well as to support improvements to existing broadband networks.CDP8.7 Rural Broadband:It is an objective of Clare County Council:To support and facilitate the expedited delivery of the National Broadband Plan as a means of developing further opportunities for enterprise, employment, education, innovation and skills development for those who live and work in rural areas in accordance with the findings of the Intervention Strategy SEA, NIR and associated Best Practice Guidance.Clare County Council DigiClare Initiative:Clare County Council, on foot of their Rural Development Strategy, established the DigiClare initiative to support local communities by providing flexible, affordable and local office facilities and high-speed broadband connectivity across the county. This network of digital hubs facilitates e-working, small- scale training and conferencing facilities and is supported and managed by Clare County Council staff. The hubs aim to attract individuals/enterprises working in the digital and media industries to locate in County Clare including local start-up businesses, start-ups currently based in higher education institutes and existing small to medium national/international businesses. The network also promotes the development of new technologies, interfaces, and methods to address the challenges faced by the aging population. It will prioritise technological solutions that address these challenges including those that allow for greater access to facilities and services for all citizens regardless of age and technological competency. In addition to the roll out of digital hubs, open Wi-Fi broadband connection points will also be provided at key locations across the county.There are digital hubs currently located in Ennis, Cross, Carron, Corofin, Ennistymon, Feakle, Kilfenora, Kilkee, Kilrush and Miltown Malbay with additional locations planned across the county including Loughgraney, Scarriff and Sixmilebridge.How Does the Development Plan support the Region’s International Connectivity, development ofports, airports and policies in relation to freight and logistics. Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives. |
|  | The Draft Plan identifies Climate Action and transition to a low Carbon Society as one of its main goals and a Strategic County Outcome. Chapter 2 Climate Action (Volume 1) contains key policies and |

objectives and identifies Renewable Energy Resource Targets for County Clare to 2030 (Table 2.2) including the Transport Sector.

Goal II: A county that is resilient to climate change, plans for and adapts to climate change and flood risk, is the national leader in renewable energy generation, facilitates a low carbon future, supports energy efficiency and conservation and enables the decarbonisation of our lifestyles and economy.

CDP2.15 Renewable Transport

It is an objective of Clare County Council:

d) To support actions to transition the movement of freight, ports and airports to a low carbon future.

CDP 6.6 Shannon International Airport

It is an objective of Clare County Council:

1. To facilitate the future development and expansion of Shannon International Airport and its continued role as a driver of economic, social and tourism growth in the Region whilst recognising the need to support actions to transition to a low carbon future;
2. To facilitate the development of enhanced freight cargo facilities at Shannon International Airport;
3. To facilitate the improvement/upgrade (as necessary) of key infrastructural resources within the Airport, to the airport lands, and to the N19 providing access to the area as well as improved sustainable transport links between Shannon International Airport, Limerick City Centre, the Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest, the South Clare/UL Economic SDZ and the National Technology Park at Limerick;

Chapter 11 Infrastructure of the Draft Plan contains the key development plan policies and objectives to support the Region’s International Connectivity, development of ports, airports, freight and logistics as follows:

CDP 11.19 Shannon International Airport It is an objective of Clare County Council:

1. To support the development of an Airport Strategy for the Southern Region to be prepared by the relevant stakeholders through consultation with the Department of Transport, Local Authorities, Airport Authorities, TII, the NTA and other relevant stakeholders in the Southern Region;
2. To facilitate and support the development and enhancement of the strategic role of Shannon International Airport, to advocate for a regional distribution of air traffic and strategic route development, and for a greater regional focus by national agencies;
3. To support actions which will progress the transition of Shannon International Airport to a low carbon future;
4. To facilitate and support the further development of the International Aviation Services Centre (IASC) cluster at Shannon as recognised in National Aviation Policy and to work to ensure that cross agency cooperation will continue to develop the IASC to meet industry demand;
5. To support and facilitate multi-modal inter-regional and intra-regional transport linkages to and from the airport by both public and private service providers;
6. To safeguard current and future operational, safety, technical and development requirements of Shannon International Airport;
7. To support and facilitate the upgrade of the Shannon Flood Relief Embankments to protect

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|  | Shannon Town, Shannon Free Zone and Industrial Estate, and Shannon International Airport;1. To have regard to, and implement, the national land use policies and guidance in relation to the Red Zones and Public Safety Zones for Shannon International Airport, the Irish Aviation Authority (Obstacles to aircraft in flight) Order, 2005 (S.I. No. 215/2005) and EASA Regulation (EU) No 139/2014;
2. To have regard to the advice of the Irish Aviation Authority with regard to the effects of any development proposals in the vicinity of Shannon International Airport on the safety of aircraft or the safe and efficient navigation thereof;
3. To have regard to the Irish Aviation Authority Policy Land Use Planning and Offshore Development (2015) in the assessment of relevant development proposals; and
4. To ensure that all proposals are in compliance with Objective CDP3.1 of this plan.

CDP11.22 Ports and HarboursIt is an objective of Clare County Council:1. To support and facilitate the sustainable implementation of the National Ports Policy and the National Marine Planning Framework in County Clare;
2. To support and facilitate the development and economic role of strategic international, national, regional and local harbours, ports and jetties across the county;
3. To support the export, fisheries, marine tourism and marine economy potential of port and harbour assets at Cahiracon, Kilrush and Moneypoint subject to the implementation of mitigation measures outlined in the SEA and AA undertaken on the SIFP;
4. To improve land-based transport links to ports and harbours;
5. To support the development of a RSES Regional Ports and Harbour Strategy for the Southern Region; and
6. To ensure that all proposals will be in compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive where appropriate.

CDP11.23 Shannon Foynes PortIt is an objective of Clare County Council:1. To support the continued expansion of Shannon Foynes Port in compliance with the environmental requirements of Objective CDP3.1 as it applies to Co. Clare; and
2. To support the capital infrastructure projects in the Shannon-Foynes Port Company Infrastructure Development Programme.

CDP11.24 FreightIt is an objective of Clare County Council:1. To support the development of a RSES Regional Freight Strategy;
2. To create an efficient freight network that operates in harmony with other transport users and land uses in the County;
3. To encourage developments which are heavily dependent on road freight to locate where freight vehicles can access the national road network without the requirement to traverse urban areas;
4. To support the use of the existing rail system and marine areas for the transport of appropriate materials where feasible; and
5. To promote the use of low emission vehicles in the freight sector.
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| ENHANCED REGIONAL CONNECTIVITYRPO 169 Strategic Road Network Improvement Priorities | Briefly outline Development plan policies to improve enhanced regional connectivity – by road/rail and public transport services. |
|  | Chapter 11 Infrastructure of the Draft Plan (Volume 1) contains the key development plan policies to support the Enhanced Regional Connectivity. The Draft Plan supports the maintenance and upgrade of the existing road network and, where necessary, the provision of new road networks or realignments are essential to maximise connectivity into the future.CDP 11.1 Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy |

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|  | It is an objective of Clare County Council:1. To facilitate, support, seek funding for and invest in the infrastructure projects identified in the RSES throughout the lifetime of this Plan; and
2. To prioritise investment in and delivery of comprehensive infrastructure packages that address infrastructure deficits and meet growth targets that prioritise the delivery of compact growth and sustainable mobility as per the NPF and RSES objectives.

CDP11.9 Transport Assets and Multi-Modal Travel Integration:a) To support accessibility to transport services and the integration of transport services throughout the County, with the wider Region, along the Atlantic Economic Corridor and Galway – Ennis – Shannon - Limerick (GESL) Economic Network, and between the Metropolitan Areas in order to create a more efficient transport network that meets the needs of a wide range of users and which supports the use of sustainable travel choices;CDP11.11 Motorways, National Roads and Strategic Inter-Urban Roads It is an objective of Clare County Council:1. To safeguard the motorway, national roads and strategic regional inter-urban road connections

between cities, settlements, ports and airports, and their associated road junctions, in line with national policy;1. To support the upgrade and improvement of motorways, national roads and strategic regional inter- urban road connections and their associated junctions, subject to compliance with requirements of the Habitats Directive and in compliance with the environmental requirements of Objectives CDP11.17 and CDP3.1;
2. To advocate for and support improved road connectivity and, in particular, to advocate for
	* The Limerick Northern Distributor Route (LNDR) connecting the N18 to M7;
	* A new interchange on the M18 at Quin Road Ennis;
	* An upgrade of the Ennis to Kilrush N68 National Secondary Route;
	* An upgrade/extension of the N19 to Shannon International Airport;
	* Provision of a new bridge crossing at N67/N85 Blakes Corner Ennistymon; and
	* The N85 Kilnamona Road Improvement Scheme.
3. To sustainably maintain, support and enhance Clare's connectivity on the Trans European

Transport Network. |
| SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY / LOCAL TRANSPORT PLANS (AND OBJECTIVES/INITIATIVESRPO 151 Integration of Land Use and TransportRPO 152 Local Planning Objectives RPO 154 Land Use PlansRPO 157 Local Transport Plans (LTP) RPO 163 Sustainable Mobility Targets RPO 165 Higher Densities | How does the Development plan support sustainable mobility – including walking cycling, the 10 minute city/ town, sustainable mobility targets.Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives.Are there plans to undertake Local Transport Plans in respect of relevant settlements in your Local Authority.Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight. |
|  | The Draft Plan supports sustainable mobility through the inclusion of relevant policies, objectives and development management standards throughout.CDP 11.1 Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy It is an objective of Clare County Council:1. To facilitate, support, seek funding for and invest in the infrastructure projects identified in the RSES throughout the lifetime of this Plan; and
2. To prioritise investment in and delivery of comprehensive infrastructure packages that address infrastructure deficits and meet growth targets that prioritise the delivery of compact growth and sustainable mobility as per the NPF and RSES objectives.
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CDP11.5 Walking and Cycling

It is an objective of Clare County Council:

1. To require walkability and accessibility to be a central consideration in the planning and design of all new developments, transport infrastructure and public transport services;
2. To facilitate and support the delivery of a safe, accessible and convenient cycle network and environment across the County and in the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area as set out in the Cycle Network Plans;
3. To support the development and enhancement of long-distance cycling routes in County Clare, in accordance with the Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways;
4. To safeguard, where feasible, the route of the old West Clare Railway which has not been affected by existing development and to encourage its use for recreational purposes and/or as part of a tourist attraction. Exceptions to this include short sections within the curtilage of residential or commercial property;
5. To support the development of cycle-lanes in urban areas linking residential areas to town centres, employment centres and school locations;
6. To support the development of new accessible walking routes and trails throughout the County;
7. To support the enhancement of permeability, footpaths and the provision of safe crossing points in the towns and villages of the County;
8. To support the creation of a safer environment for cyclists and signposted 'quiet routes' off the arterial roads which include speed limit reviews and junction redesigns where appropriate;
9. To require significant walking and cycling route proposals to provide a Quality Audit, as referred to in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets; and
10. To ensure the development, enhancement, safeguarding of all walking and cycling routes are in compliance with the environmental requirements of Objective CDP3.1.

A1.4.2 Urban Residential Development

Transport and Mobility Statement required with development proposals for housing (10+)

CDP18.3 Ten Minute Towns

It is an objective of Clare County Council:

1. To facilitate sustainable compact settlements with the “10-minute” town concept, whereby, a range of community facilities and services are accessible in short walking and cycle timeframes from homes or are accessible by high quality public transport services by connecting people to larger scaled settlements delivering these services;
2. To ensure that decision making in relation to new infrastructure to provide improved connectivity is informed by an appropriate level of environmental assessment and in accordance with CDP Objective 3.1; and
3. To support the delivery of the Strategic Objectives of Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy in establishing Ennis as Ireland’s first ‘10-minute’ town.

Clare County Council will undertake Local Transport Plans in respect of relevant settlements, identified in Chapter 11 (Volume 1) of the Draft Plan, within the lifetime of the plan:

CDP11.3 Draft Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy and Local Transport Planning It is an objective of Clare County Council:

1. To implement the Draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy during the lifetime of this Development Plan;
2. To implement a Local Transport Plan for Ennis, Shannon, Sixmilebridge, Kilkee, Kilrush, Lahinch,

Corofin and Tulla during the lifetime of this Development Plan; and

1. To work in close co-operation with Technical University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest and the Endurance European network.

CDP4.3 Compact Growth in the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area

f) Seeking design competitions for key strategic sites that deliver greater density, mixed uses where appropriate, sustainable design, smart technology, green infrastructure and public gain through good design;

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|  | Clare County Council Initiatives:Ennis 2040 –Ten Minute Town concept with the Town Centre at the heart of a highly accessible and revitalized Ennis – the focus for retail, residential, commercial, educational, leisure and cultural growthEnnis Mobility Plan preparation Ennis Local Bus route and servicePreparation and delivery of the Local Transport Plans for Shannon, Sixmilebridge, Kilkee, Kilrush, Lahinch, Corofin and TullaKillaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement Tourism and Mobility Plan completed in co-ordination with Tipperary County CouncilActive Travel Towns Programme 2021 – €5,986,000 across the county for 28 projects; to date 24 of 28 projects have been approved.Connecting Ireland – Local Link from Kildysart to Kilrush has been rolled out as part of this project (NTA led public transport project)Safe Routes to School ProgrammeWorks underway arising from the Kilrush Walkability Study 2021 to improve ‘walkability’ in the town Ennistymon Streetscape Enhancement project, Main Street rejuvenation works underway (Failte Ireland)Electronomous: Future Mobility Campus Ireland Showcase (held 3rd November 2021) online and in person event to learn, share, collaborate and discover cutting edge solutions making waves in the connected and autonomous space globally. |
| INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES & PLACES -IMPROVING WELLBEING AND QUALITY OF LIFERPO 181 Equal Access RPO 182 Ageing Population | Does the Development Plan include policies that will support and develop Inclusive Communities and Places? Please provide a brief summary of plan objectives & other initiatives that will improve Social Inclusion and Quality of Life. |
|  | Yes, the Draft Plan supports the development of inclusive communities through the inclusion of relevant policies, objectives and development management standards throughout the draft plan.CDP5.11 Lifelong HousingIt is an objective of Clare County Council:1. To ensure that new housing developments are attractive, safe and provide a range of house types and that accessibility and lifetime adaptability that can accommodate the changing needs of a household over time are key elements in house design;
2. To provide and facilitate the provision of accommodation to meet the needs of older people and to encourage the provision of a range of housing options for older people in appropriate, convenient and easily accessible locations;
3. To promote ‘aging in place’ opportunities for ‘downsizing’ or ‘right sizing’ within their community;
4. To support the development of new nursing home and day care facilities in towns and villages in the County;
5. To support nursing home and day care facilities on brownfield sites outside of settlements, subject to normal site suitability criteria; and
6. To proactively support the implementation of the Smart Ageing and National Positive Ageing policies, the An Garda Siochána Older People Strategy and the Clare Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2022.

CDP5.11 Accommodation for People with Disabilities It is an objective of the Development Plan:1. To provide and facilitate the provision of accommodation to meet the needs of those with disabilities through the provision and/or adaptation of appropriate accommodation and through the promotion of lifetime adaptable homes;
2. To require all new residential buildings to provide a ground floor, low-level-access shower and toilet to ensure adaptability to future needs; and
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c) To support housing options for older people and persons with disabilities in line with current and future national policies and plans including Rebuilding Ireland: An Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness.

CDP7.12 Town Centre Accessibility and Mobiliity It is an objective of Clare County Council

1. To ensure that all new town centre developments, including developments relating to the enhancement of civic spaces and streetscapes, are based on the principles of universal access; and
2. To work to ensure that town and village centres are pedestrian-friendly, cycle-friendly and generally promote the safe use of sustainable modes of transport.

CDP9.19 Accessible Tourism

It is an objective of Clare County Council:

1. To facilitate and support the provision of improved accessibility at visitor accommodation, venues and activities including access to water-based activities, and to ensure that the principles of universal design are integrated into proposals for future tourism developments in the County; and
2. To collaborate and work with relevant agencies and the hospitality sector to ensure that Ennis and County Clare are age-friendly tourist destinations.

CDP10.5 Inclusivity and Equal Access

It is an objective of Clare County Council:

1. To promote social inclusion by implementing best practice in universal accessibility and design;
2. In conjunction with representative organisations to promote disability awareness and improve equal access for all through universal design for public transport access, housing, social, cultural and recreational facilities and the public realm so as to improve quality of life equally for all;
3. To work with representative organisations to ensure that investment in infrastructure and facilities is appropriately informed with regard to accessibility issues;
4. To take all required steps to ensure compliance with the Disability Act 2005; and
5. To support the upgrade and extension of existing pedestrian provision and public lighting facilities in existing urban areas to further promote walking, cycling and active travel.

10.6 Age Friendly County

It is an objective of Clare County Council:

1. To proactively support the implementation of the Smart Ageing and National Positive Ageing policies, the An Garda Siochána Older People Strategy and the Clare Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2022, (and any subsequent strategy and action plan);
2. To work with developers, communities, and relevant stakeholders to achieve accessible and age- friendly built environments across the County including housing, transport infrastructure and leisure amenities and facilities; and
3. To have regard to the Age Friendly Principles and Guidelines for the Planning Authority in the assessment of proposed developments.

Clare County Council Initiatives/Strategies:

* + Clare Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2022
	+ Clare Age-Friendly County Programme
	+ Clare Age Friendly Town Initiative – 14 local businesses in Ennis acknowledged as Age Friendly in Nov 2021
	+ Ennis Age Friendly Town Plan 2021
	+ Clare Older People’s Volunteer for the Year Award 2021
	+ Housing Aid for Older People Scheme
	+ Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme
	+ Housing Adaptation Grant for New Houses
	+ Clare County Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disabilities (2018)
	+ The Ennis Public Realm Works Project in Parnell Street and adjoining Laneways and Bow-ways is being delivered with full accessibility, shared surfaces, tabletop crossing points, dropped kerbs and seating areas. The design development for the project has been informed through a process of public consultation, stakeholder engagement and technical design studies. The planned works

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|  | are pre-assessed by an established group of “Age-Friendly” representatives, whose individual and unique perspectives are taken into consideration before design stage of any project. This public realm project has benefited from the Age-Friendly audit carried out at design stage. The feedback on completed works in Parnell Street has been very positive. The results from a follow up Age- Friendly audit is being used to inform future public realm enhancement works. The result of this investment will be a safer and more attractive pedestrian environment which is universally accessible. |
| LEARNING REGIONRPO 186: Lifelong Learning & RPOs 39, 63,Also RPO 187 Education & Training, RPO 190 Lifelong Learning & Healthy Cities Initiative | Does the Development Plan include policies that support lifelong learning and development of a Learning Region?Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiativesDoes the Development Plan include policies that support the development of UNESCO Learning Cities?Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives |
|  | Yes, the Draft Plan supports Lifelong learning and includes the following objectives:CDP6.1 Economic Development and Enterprise:1. To co-operate with local and national development agencies and engage with existing and future employers in order to maximise job opportunities in the County including the transition of talent from declining industries to more competitive sectors through the promotion of Labour Activation Programmes and market reactivation emergency funds; g) To support the Southern Regional Assembly in the development of contingency plans and pilot projects to counteract the effects of industrial decline and potential external shocks in the Region including lifelong learning programmes, appropriate business supports and up skilling to facilitate moving to employment in alternative sectors in the locality or region;

CDP6.7 Higher Education Institutes and the Knowledge Economy:1. To support the continued development of third level provision in County Clare including the expansion of existing facilities such as the NUIG Shannon College of Hotel Management at Shannon, the University of Limerick, and the Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest campus' in Ennis as well as the development of new third level facilities. d) To support the higher education growth potential of Ennis town and its vision of becoming a centre for lifelong learning; and

CDP6.8 University of Limerick - Clare Campus: Proposed Strategic Development Zone:b) To support, promote and encourage the further expansion of the University of Limerick campus on the north side of the River Shannon, including hinterland development within the University Zone;CDP6.11 Research and Innovation; c) To work with relevant stakeholders to secure funding to implement innovative and collaborative projects through funding mechanisms such as the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, the Climate Action Fund, Horizon Europe, and the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund amongst others.CDP10.18 Further Education and Lifelong Learning1. To facilitate a collaborative approach to regional skills development aligned to the needs and opportunities of regional economies and to encourage the consolidation and expansion of all tiers of educational services and associated educational and skills training programmes subject to compliance with Objective CDP3.1; and
2. To collaborate with other agencies including the Limerick Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) in the delivery of lifelong learning, skills training and post-secondary school education especially in areas of higher education and further education and training where skills gaps are identified.
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|  | Clare County Council InitiativesDesignation of the proposed University of Limerick - Clare Campus: Proposed Strategic Development Zone (SDZ)Delivery of the Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest Bindon Street Campus, Ennis |
| CULTURE, HERITAGE & THE ARTS | Does the Development Plan include policies that support culture, heritage & the arts? Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives |
|  | Yes, Chapter 16 Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage of the Draft Plan supports culture, heritage & the arts including relevant development plan objectives. The following tourism related objectives are contained elsewhere in the Draft plan:CDP 6.24 The Film Industry:a) To work with all relevant stakeholders to promote County Clare as a film location; and b) To support new and existing businesses involved in the film industry in County Clare and to support their future expansion.CDP10.9 Arts and Cultural Development It is an objective of Clare County Council:1. To develop programmes that support the arts and people’s experience of the arts both as

participants and audience members;1. To support and to seek investment for the development of a network of workspaces/hubs and display facilities for visual arts works throughout the County for artists, artistic organisations and community groups;
2. To support cultural and entertainment activities in the County by operating within the national cultural policy framework 'Culture 2025' and by co-operating with the Arts Council of Ireland, community groups and other bodies; and
3. To support events and activities that allow people from different cultures to meet and learn about their different traditions, music, food, religions etc. in order to support the development of an open, inclusive and multi-cultural society in County Clare.

Clare County Council Initiatives:Dedicated Arts Officer in place in the Council.Newly appointed Conservation Officer in the CouncilA Film Co-ordinator was appointed in collaboration with Limerick and Tipperary Councils to promote film in the county and wider region.Redevelopment of the Terret Lodge in Kilrush |
| GAELTACHTAÍ, GAELTACHT SERVICE TOWNS(GSTs) & IRISH LANGUAGE NETWORKS | Does the Development Plan policies that support Gaeltachtaí, Gaeltacht Service Towns (GSTs) & Irish Language Networks? Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives |
|  | *Insert answer here*Gaeltacht area but supports the Irish Language through CDP 16.17 Oidhreacht/Linguistic Heritage including)- To support the implementation of the Language Plan for the Irish Language NetworkYes, while there are no Gaeltacht areas in the County the following objectives is included in the Draft Plan.CDP16.17 Oidreacht Theanga/Linguistic Heritage It is an objective of Clare County Council: |

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| RECREATION & SPORTING FACILITIES INCL. BLUEWAYS & GREENWAYS | 1. To provide for the linguistic and cultural heritage of the County through the provision of support for organisations involved in the continued promotion and preservation of the Irish language and culture and the normalising of the use of Irish;
2. To work in a positive and encouraging way to create and maintain a bilingual environment in the County, and to ensure the availability of opportunities for the use of spoken and written Irish.

(c) To support the implementation of the Language Plan for the Irish Language Network in Ennis.In addition, the following objective is contained in the Carrigaholt Settlement Statement in Volume 3d of the plan:General Objective:To support services and facilities that are complementary to the use of Coláiste Eoghain Uí Chomhraidhe;Clare County Council Initiatives:Irish Language Officer in place in the CouncilCouncil Staff with Irish Language Skills have been identified to provide Irish language servicesDoes the Development Plan include policies that support recreation & sporting facilities incl. blueways & greenways?Please provide a summary/overview of all recreation/ greenway/blueway projects planned /under way |
|  | Yes, the following recreation and sports objectives related objectives are contained e in the Draft plan:CDP6.8 University of Limerick - Clare Campus: Proposed Strategic Development Zone:e) To support and promote the future reopening of the Errina Canal as a piece of functioning waterway infrastructure facilitating water-borne access to the Clare Campus, and to support any development proposals the University may have to maximise its strategic position adjacent to the River Shannon, River Blackwater and Errina Canal, including the reinstatement of the riverside walkway;CDP9.8 Activity & Adventure Tourism:d) To sustainably develop greenways, blueways and peatways and walking and cycling trails including the West Clare Railway Greenway to achieve greater accessibility to the countryside and the marine environment by sustainable modes and to achieve maximum benefit and connectivity at the local, regional and national levels;CDP9.23 Tourism in East Clare:k) To support the development of a footpath/walking route around Lough Derg, linking Killaloe to Tuamgraney and Mountshannon;CDP10.8 Community Gardens and Allotments CDP10.10 Physical Recreation and Active Living CDP10.11 Recreational Routes1. To support the maintenance of existing off-road walking and cycling trails and support investment in the sustainable development of walking and cycling facilities, greenway and blueway corridors within the County and region extending into and between our County's settlements;
2. To support and facilitate the development of the West Clare Railway Greenway and necessary supporting infrastructure
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|  | CDP10.12 Countryside Recreation CDP10.13 Public Rights of Way CDP10.14 Play facilitiesObjectives/initiatives:West Clare Railway Greenway –Section 1: KIlrush to Kilkee section first consultation phase has been held and the Design Team have prepared a number of possible routes and the emerging preferred route and will be subject of a second publication in January.Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon – Tender assessment underway and subject to TII approval and the availability of funding, hoped to appoint successful consultant imminently.Ballyallia Amenity Enhancement Plan prepared in partnership with CLDC and Barefield Tidy Towns Group. Funding for the feasibility study to be progressed to planning stage secured through the Outdoor Recreation Funding Scheme. Ennis Objective Vol 3a – a unique natural amenity serving Ennis and its hinterland as well as tourists to the area. Currently underutilised due to amenities no longer fit for purpose.University of Limerick/SDZ – Errina Canal: The Planning Scheme will also facilitate the redevelopment and integration of the Errina Canal and its associated water-based developments into the SDZ by means of canal/riverside water-related uses.CDP 6.8 e) To support and promote the future reopening of the Errina Canal as a piece of functioning waterway infrastructure facilitating water-borne access to the Clare Campus, and to support any development proposals the University may have to maximise its strategic position adjacent to the River Shannon, River Blackwater and Errina Canal, including the reinstatement of the riverside walkway |
| REGIONAL VISIONRPO: 73: International Branding of the Region and reputation. | How does the Development Plan Vision incorporate the RSES vision for the Region as *‘one of Europe’s most Creative, Innovative, Greenest and Liveable Regions’?* |
|  | A VISION FOR COUNTY CLARE*That County Clare would develop as a place to be part of and proud of, where urban and rural communities enjoy a high quality of life, work practice choice, inclusivity and service access and so that the county is a dynamic, resilient, connected and internationally competitive location for innovation and investment and is a national leader in climate action, creativity, culture, heritage, tourism and environmental management*The vision encapsulates all the elements of the RSES vision in a manner that relates to the unique and diverse qualities of the county. |

PLEASE ALSO INDICATE THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE WITH RESPECT TO THE LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP) FOR YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY.

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| THIS COULD INCLUDE DETAIL ON:THE EXPECTED REVIEW DATE AND PREPARATION OF A NEW LECP, AND ANY PREPARATORY WORK THAT HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT TO DATE OR IS CURRENTLY BEING PLANNED FOR. PLEASE INDICATE TIMEFRAMES ASSOCIATED WITH SAME. |
| The LECP Guidelines were officially launched on the 11th November 2021.Both the LCDC & Economic SPC have received an initial briefing on the guidelines.The next step is to prepare a brief to engage a consultant to oversee the process which will include a desk top review of the current LECP. It is hoped to commence this process in March 2022 with a view to is completion in early 2023. |
| Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Local Authority and |

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| implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process. |
| Core Strategy and population allocationThe development of the Core Strategy for County Clare was and continues to be a serious challenge. The NPF and the RESES are quite prescriptive in terms of the location of population allocation, specifically to the MASPS area and the Key town of Ennis. Clare is a predominately rural county and the greatly reduced population allocation under the NPF for this Plan cycle has created serious hurdles to the maintenance of population growth outside of the larger urban areas and threatens the viability of our rural towns and villages which are the life blood of the wider county.The Planning Authority would appreciate a greater advocacy and advisory role in dealing with the reality of implementing an urban focused strategy in a predominately rural county, and a sharing of ideas and solutions to ensure a fair and equitable outcome for all parts of the County and indeed the region. In relation to the Metropolitan population allocation and in dealing with cross boundary compliance, it is considered that the Assembly have a role here to help advise and mediate as to the appropriate redistribution or sharing of the allocation where such a need arises.Critical infrastructureRural counties like Co. Clare have a larger number of settlements which are not fully served by critical infrastructure, primarily in terms of public wastewater infrastructure, of which Co. Clare has 50. This is a major disadvantage in planning for their growth and supporting the services they provide for the communities that they serve. The CDP includes objectives to provide for their growth in accordance with the RSES objectives and part of RPO 026 Towns and Villages is to seek investment in and delivery of the provision of serviced sites. The draft Clare CDP includes an objective in this regard which in practical terms cannot be realised in the absence of investment in this critical service infrastructure. Poor ground conditions in much of the western parts of the county dictate against individual wastewater systems in many cases from an environmental perspective. Suggest that in order to be able to implement this objective that it is critical for the Regional Assembly to assist and support local authorities in tackling this issue, particularly the more rural counties, in delivering this objective. Research and development has a large part to play in this area where novel systems are needed to address the infrastructure shortage in areas where it will simple not be feasible for Irish Water to invest. Without this, rural areas on the west coast will never achieve the growth they need.Implementation and MonitoringThe implementation mechanisms for the RSES and MASPs as set out in RPO 226 appear to have made no apparent progress to date and are considered essential in achieving RSES, MASP and Local Authority development plan objectives. Through the RSES objectives there is an onus placed on the Regional Authority to establish implementation groups and local authority steering groups which are representative of cross-sectoral and cross-boundary interests to assist in the implementation of RSES objectives. These could provide a valuable support for local authorities particularly when dealing with challenging policy issues, the associated objectives and their implementation.Developing plan objectives require a strong evidence base and measuring the effectiveness of plan objectives in their implementation through monitoring, which is essential for effective plan making, requires a strong baseline data resource, including environmental data for AA and SEA monitoring, as well as a series of targets and indicators to measure against. These requirements can be seriously challenging to local authorities and the actions set out in RSO 229 offer an essential support by providing a comprehensive framework for monitoring which will then facilitate a consistency of approach across all local authorities to be developed.As monitoring is an integral requirement and an on-going process throughout the life cycle of development plans it is considered essential that progress in delivering these two objectives, which would establish a significant support to local authorities in working towards achieving the RSES objectives and is recommended as a priority moving forward.Environmental Monitoring – for SEA and AAA key area of concern for the Local Authority is the lack of on-going monitoring in terms of the effectiveness of measures, the implementation of objectives and the impact of developments on the ground. The Region lacks a central repository for environmental data to be housed in an easily accessible and interoperable manner such as a Geodatabase. The RSES has a role to play in supporting such a data warehouse and acting as a conduit to provide this data to not only inform the future preparation of objectives at the regional and county level but also to assist in assessing planning applications at a county level. Equally, post consent monitoring, research, studies, field investigations all provide a wealth of environmental information which presently is stored in silos within each individual Local Authority. This information is an extremely valuable resource which can greatly assist with environmental monitoring reports at the CDP level. |

Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Character Assessment is a key element used in both the preparation and assessment of planning applications across County Clare. Both the NPF and the RSES include objectives which seek to facilitate landscape protection, management and change through the preparation of National Landscape Character Maps, Regional Landscape Strategies and guidance on the preparation of local landscape character assessments. The impact of a development on the landscape can be extremely subjective and various depending on the scale and nature of the proposal e.g. a One-off house in the countryside as opposed to a Wind Farm located on the side of a hill. The RSES needs to ensure the preparation of the NLCM, Regional Strategies and guidance are expediated to allow Local Authorities to update their Landscape Character Assessments in a timely manner. The nature and type of developments which are now being submitted to a Local Authority are very different to what was submitted 10 or more years ago when the original Landscape Character Assessments were prepared. We now have applications for Data Centres, Solar Farms and soon Offshore Wind Farms with the accompanying enabling infrastructure. The Local Authorities need to be able to provide a robust analysis and assessment of the impacts of these developments on the Landscape.

Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary– The Shannon Estuary is a key economic driver for the Southern Region of national and international importance which aims to support the multifunctional nature of the Shannon Estuary and seeks to transform the estuary into an international economic hub. The SIFP is cited in the RSES as a best practice example and promoted as such in RPO

79. Its importance in terms of providing the link between traditional land use planning and the inter face between the land and marine elements is critical in ensuring the Local Authorities surrounding the Shannon Estuary capitalize, on the potential resource which exists in the Offshore Wind Renewable Energy sector. To capture this economic potential, the SIFP should be utilized as a key driver for economic growth. It is recommended that the RSES has a role in ensuring the SIFP is in line with the National Marine Spatial Planning Framework together with the Climate Action Plan amongst others and that the baseline data identified as a key gap in the SIFP through the SEA process is progressed in order to avoid delays at planning stage for this sector in particular.

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| PLEASE PROVIDE A CONTACT POINT IN THE EVENT THAT WE NEED TO CONTACT YOU ABOUT THIS FORM. |
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