



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional
Assembly

SECTION 25A REPORT

| REPORT DATE | LOCAL AUTHORITY | PREPARED BY |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 26 January 2024 | Cork County Council | Padraig Moore, Senior Planner |

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, covering the 2-year period 2022-2024, 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 Brigh Ryan at bryan@southernassembly.ie or Claire Breen at cbreen@southernassembly.ie

Please return the report to this office by **Friday, 26th January 2024**.

This can be submitted by email to: cbreen@southernassembly.ie

| RSES THEME & RPO REFERENCE | RSES IMPLEMENTATION IN DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICY & SUPPORTING PROJECTS/INITIATIVES |
|--|---|
| Q1. SUSTAINABLE PLACE FRAMEWORK & A TAILORED APPROACH RPOS 2 TO 30 | Please complete the following table relating to the status of your County/City Development Plan |

| Table 1 Cork County Development Plan | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------|
| Name and Date Made | Date Came into Effect | Direction | Judicial Review | Variations |
| Cork County Development Plan 2022 | 06 th June 2022 | Yes. Issued on 03/06/22. Finalised on 28/09/22 | No | None to date |

Q2

Please outline briefly how the Core Strategy supports the guiding principles and Settlement Typology contained in the RSES

The Core Strategy of the County Development Plan provides for the sustainable growth of urban and rural communities across the county as a whole – the County Metropolitan Area, the Key Towns of Clonakilty and Mallow, and the other towns, villages and rural areas of the county. The network of settlements in County Cork has been strengthened over the years by active strategic and development plan policies which have sought to direct development and services to appropriate locations and to promote economic investment by protecting the character, amenity and environment of the towns, villages and rural areas of the county.

The settlement typology of the Cork County Development 2022 is a refinement of the previous development plan settlement typology and was prepared in accordance with the guiding principles and typology of settlement contained in the RSES.

The plan seeks to achieve compact, balanced, sustainable and achievable growth over the large geographic area that is County Cork, while building on all forms of infrastructural investment to support the delivery of housing and employment, while enhancing the liveability of places and the quality of life of residents.

Please refer to Cork County Development Plan Objective CS 2-7 Network of Settlements – Higher Order Settlements and – Lower Order Settlements which provides more detail on the strategic aims and objectives of each typology on the network, and **Table 2.9**, the Cork County Core Strategy Table, which uses the settlement typology to structure the population and housing target (units and ha) for the development plan period.

Q3

Please provide details on progress with the preparation of any Local Area Plans or other area-based plans (e.g. Masterplans) in your Local Authority

No area-based plans have been prepared since the adoption of the County Development Plan.

Q4.

METROPOLITAN AREAs - GROWTH AMBITION

RPO 6: Collaboration between Metropolitan Areas
RPO 10 Compact Growth in Metropolitan Areas
ALL MASP Policy Objectives

How has the designation of a Metropolitan Area & the MASP impacted on the following?

- a) **Any joint initiatives between Metropolitan Areas: Cork, Limerick – Shannon, 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.**
- b) **Cross-boundary collaboration/key strategic initiatives in areas such as sustainable mobility, infrastructure delivery, urban regeneration.**
- c) **Progress on delivering some of the key development sites/projects identified in the Cork MASP**

The designation of the Metropolitan Area and the MASP sets out a broad, cohesive and holistic vision for the area which straddles the City and County administrative areas, highlighting its regional, national and international role and the importance of social, community and quality of life issues, in addition to the more traditional landuse issues. The MASP has reinforced the importance of securing the timely development of the Metropolitan Area, and the need for investment in infrastructure to deliver it and has enabled closer co-operation between the stakeholders to deliver on the agreed vision for the area.

(a) Joint Initiatives

The MASP builds on the strong tradition of collaboration in Cork and has supported a joint approach to initiatives such as the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy. The County and City Councils have also worked together on projects such as the Joint Housing Needs Demand Assessment and Housing Strategy, and the Retail Strategy as part of the statutory plan making process. Work on implementing the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy is ongoing in co-operation with the National Transport Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, and Cork City Council. Both authorities are currently working on a joint submission to the review of the National Planning Framework.

The designation of the Metropolitan Area has also enabled successful urban regeneration initiatives to be developed – e.g. Carrigaline Western Relief Road, Cobh Town Centre Regeneration Project, Carrigtwohill Traffic Study etc.

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

Examples of cross boundary collaboration are evident in the area of flood risk management where Cork County Council has continued, post boundary changes and with the agreement of the City Council and the OPW, to provide project management for the Glashaboy (Glanmire) flood relief scheme in light of the Councils in-house expertise and experience in flood scheme delivery. The County Council has also been partnering with the City's new flood projects team on these and other projects, exchanging learnings and best practice.

Sharing of learnings from Limerick City and County Council to Cork County Council TRO on strategic corporate approach to tackling vacancy and dereliction as a means of activating property and land in support of compact growth in the Metropolitan area.

- (b) Cross-boundary collaboration/key strategic initiatives in areas such as sustainable mobility, infrastructure delivery, urban regeneration.

Cork to Waterford Greenway – East Cork Sustainability Corridor

This project is part of the governments National Pathfinder Programme and will provide a sustainable means of transport between the cities of Cork and Waterford, connecting several towns and settlements along the way. This project will provide a sustainable link between Cork and Waterford, whilst also providing sustainable interurban cycle and pedestrian routes for the settlements along the route.

In 2023, 5.45 km's of shared use pedestrian and cycle paths have been completed by Cork County Council connecting Dunkettle to Glounthaune. A further 1.9 km is under construction which continues the route to Carrigtwohill. Further phases are at construction, tendering and design stage. In Youghal CCC have developed proposals to create approximately 1 km of footpath and cycle way to link the terminus of the Midleton Youghal Greenway to Greenpark in Youghal Town Centre.

- (c) Progress on delivering some of the key development sites/projects identified in the Cork MASP.

Dunkettle interchange

The Dunkettle Interchange greatly enhances accessibility for the City, County and Region and is due to be completed in 2024.

M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy Route

This project has multiple advance works under way and is on track for the award of a main construction contract in late 2024 or early 2025.

Carrigtwohill and Midleton:

The Council's Housing Infrastructure Implementation Team (HIIT), established in 2016, continues to work with all key stakeholders in activating the development of the Urban Expansions Areas in Carrigtwohill and Midleton, and delivering the strategic enabling infrastructure funded under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) in 2017.

The contract for construction of LIHAF funded Infrastructure within the Water-Rock Urban Expansion Area is approaching substantial completion. The new infrastructure comprises c.1.7km of new link roads and c.1.2km of main surface water drainage. Approximately 30 acres of land has been purchased within the UEA for roads and future public parks. Planning permission has been granted for >1,400 residential units within the Water Rock Urban Expansion Area.

Midleton Non-LIHAF (Water-Rock Road Upgrade)

The detailed design has been completed and land acquisition is progressing for the construction of the Water Rock Road Upgrade in 2025/2026.

Midleton URDF (Water-Rock Linear Park)

Plans and particulars submitted in July 2023 to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval of a new ten hectare public park along the Owenacurra River to the north of Midleton town centre, including pedestrian and cycle links.

Carrigtwohill URDF Initiative

Through collaboration with the private sector and the Department of Education, the link road connecting Castle Lake to Station Road has been delivered and taken in charge. Planning was recently granted by An Bord Pleanála for c. 700 residential units to be serviced by this new road.

Carrigtwohill Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) Initiative (2 parts):

Part 1: Public Realm Infrastructure promoting regeneration, compact growth within the existing settlement. Part 8 was approved June 2022.

- > 4km of new footpaths
- > 4km of segregated cycling/shared use paths
- > 2km of road upgrades/ new roads
- 3 new public squares
- New (off-street) car parking spaces
- New biodiversity & wild planted areas
- Undergrounding of overhead services
- 6 no. key road junction upgrades
- Major upgrade of Station Road/Main Street junction
- Major upgrade Junction 3 N25 Cobh Cross
- Signalised pedestrian/cycle crossings throughout

Part 2: Urban Expansion Area Infrastructure promoting capacity for future sustainable development within Carrigtwohill North UEA (Part 8 approved September 2023)

- > 3.7km of new Services Corridor Link Road,
- >2km of existing road upgrades.
- 2 no. Pedestrian/ Cycle bridges Railway Line
- 9 no. junction upgrades
- 4 no. surface water detention ponds creating new habitats and providing pollution control measures to surface water run-off.
- 10 green open space areas along the route with potential for planting and biodiversity and to build ecological corridors within the UEA.

Opening of the Carrigaline Western Relief Road.

The €20m Relief Road extends from Ballea Road to Kilmoney Road, improves connectivity and access to Carrigaline Town Centre. The main line of the relief road is 750m running parallel with Carrigaline's Main Street. The scheme includes a double span bridge over the Owenabue River, a 1.5km dedicated cycle track, over 3kms of footpaths and finishes at Mill Road, a 700m urban road.

Carrigaline Transportation and Public Realm Enhancement Plan (TPREP)

The Carrigaline TPREP aims to create an integrated transportation framework focused on addressing the transportation infrastructure and public realm enhancement required to support the sustainable development of the town of Carrigaline. It seeks to reduce car dependency, encourage walking and cycling in the town, improve access to educational, social and employment opportunities, and create a vibrant and rejuvenated town centre. It was adopted by Members in July 2021. Procurement has commenced and it is expected a contractor will be appointed in Q1 2024.

Carrigaline - Bothár Guidel

This scheme consists of the upgrade of existing facilities along Bóthar Guidel and improving accessibility for public transport vehicles, including the 220 bus route to Ringaskiddy. The upgraded facilities increase connectivity from the town centre to Carrigaline Community School and the town park and tie in with the Crosshaven cycleway via a pedestrian and cycle bridge which is currently being designed. Construction of the upgraded facilities along Bothair Guidel and junction upgrade were completed in 2023.

Little Island Sustainable Transport Infrastructure

The project involves the enhancement of sustainable transport infrastructure throughout Little Island and improves connectivity as identified in CMATS, including bus corridors, segregated and enhanced walking and cycling facilities, with an approximate project cost of € 6.5 m. This project received Part 8 Planning approval in September 2021 and the detailed design of 1.5 km of new pedestrian and cycle facilities is substantially complete. This project also includes the design and construction of a new pedestrian bridge IU-1, approx. 0.5 km in length including approach ramps, over the N25 adjacent to the Little Island Railway Station. The bridge section will be 5.5 meters wide.

Passage West Link

This project involves the widening of the 2km long existing pedestrian and cycle route from 2.5m to 4m from the city boundary to Passage West. The second part of the project involves the extension of the pedestrian and cycle route from the playground in Passage West through Passage West village to the ferry terminal at Glenbrook. The schemes are at preliminary design and planning phase.

Carrigaline to Ringaskiddy Pedestrian and Cycle Route

This project will provide an east to west connection between Carrigaline and Ringaskiddy. The route will continue towards Glenbrook and will connect with the Passage West Link, ultimately connecting with the City Pedestrian and Cycle way route. The project team is liaising with the Cork National Roads Design Office who is progressing the Ringaskiddy Public Realm project and with the M28 project team and TII regarding the M28 Active Travel Strategy. It is at preliminary design phase. Part 8 planning permission was obtained in 2017, for the link between Glenbrook and Raffeen. The project is currently at preliminary design phase. CCC has commenced a part 8 Planning process for the Monkstown Active Travel Link and Public Realm Enhancement. Final date for submissions were in December 2023.

Cork Harbour and Coastline

The MASP recognises Cork Harbour as a unique and Strategic Asset for the Metropolitan Area and region. Cork County Council has also commenced (Q4 2023) a project aimed at developing a comprehensive Cork Harbour and Coastline Green Industrial and Economic Strategy.

Q5.
SUPPORTING GROWTH /
DEVELOPMENT OF KEY
TOWNS
 RPO 11 Key Towns

Please outline progress made in developing Mallow and Clonakilty's role as Key Towns as envisaged in RPO 11 Key Towns and RPO 19 Mallow and RPO 23 Clonakilty. Please identify progress on delivering some of the key development sites/projects identified in the RSES.

As outlined in the Core Strategy Statement of the plan, outside of the Cork MASP, the Key towns of Mallow and Clonakilty are large scale urban centres functioning as self-sustaining regional drivers. They are strategically located urban centres with good accessibility and significant influence in a sub-regional context.

Mallow:

The Plan Strategy for Mallow includes the following key provisions:

- sustainably strengthen the employment-led growth of the town and town centre-led regeneration, building upon its inherent strengths, in food production and tourism;
- ensure new development delivers enhanced quality of life for all, based on high quality residential, working and recreational environments,
- grow its population to 15,351 persons to 2028,
- Deliver 1,105 new housing units to 2028.
- focus on the consolidation of the existing built envelope of the town.
- New development should be sensitively designed and planned to provide for the protection of the green infrastructure, biodiversity and landscape assets of Mallow including its river corridors, mature trees, wetlands, woodlands and the River Blackwater Special Area of Conservation.
- Prepare a Local Transport Plan.
- Prioritise the development of the Mallow Relief Road and support delivery of M20.

Mallow - Key Progress indicators:

- The results of Census 2022, indicate that the population of Mallow has grown from 12,459 to 13,456 which is an increase of 8%.
- Since the adoption of the CDP, planning permission has been granted for 290 residential units.
- Mallow Sewerage Scheme – completion of upgrades.
- Mallow Town Regeneration URDF project which is now completed saw a €2.5m investment in developing a public amenity area, playground, carparking and improved accessibility within Mallow Castle.
- Projects currently in planning stage include development of the former Town Hall into a Theatre and Arts venue and Mallow Public Realm URDF which is at design stage and has a URDF grant of €3.8m. These projects significantly strengthen the tourism, recreation and amenity offerings within the town.
- As a key town Mallow has been included in Cork County Council's initial group of demonstrator towns. The particular focus on Mallow is on the identification of derelict sites and properties that could be activated to support compact growth. This initiative is supported by URDF funding under Call 3 URDF 2023.
- The Council is actively supporting the delivery of the N72-N73 Mallow Relief Road and the N/M20.
- Proposals are also in train for the upgrade of Mallow Swimming Pool.

Clonakilty:

Clonakilty has a key sub regional role in the network of strong towns, a significant employment role with potential enhanced role in combination with other West Cork settlements such as Skibbereen and Bantry as service centres for West Cork.

The Plan Strategy for Clonakilty includes the following key provisions:

- position the town as a key economic driver in the region, whilst protecting and enhancing the natural environment of Clonakilty Bay and acknowledging water services constraints currently impacting on the town.
- Promote the town as a key technology-based employment location, consolidate its important food industry and tourist function and maintaining high quality residential amenities and facilities.
- grow its population to 6,162 persons by 2028,
- Deliver 600 new housing units to 2028.

Clonakilty – Key Progress Indicators:

- The results of Census 2022, indicate that the population of Clonakilty has grown from 4,592 to 5,112 people which is an increase of 11%.
- Since the adoption of the CDP 9 dwellings have been permitted (development activity has been impacted by significant water supply constraints) .
- In 2023 works were completed on the Bandon to Clonakilty Water Augmentation Scheme, which involved the construction of a new 13 Km pipeline to boost water supply to the Clonakilty area from the Bandon Water Treatment Plant at Carhue.
- Work underway on upgrade works at Jones Bridge (Clonakilty) Water Treatment plant.
- A suite of public realm projects are being developed including the development of the Gallanes Amenity Area Phase 2 – walkway extension to connect town to Technology Park, Birdwatch Enhancement Project in Clonakilty Bay, Restoration and enhancement of Deasy’s Quay South in Clonakilty Bay, Rejuvenation of Chateaulin Orchard Town Park, Clonakilty.

**Q6
REGENERATION & SUPPORT
FOR COMPACT GROWTH**

RPO 34 Regeneration,
Brownfield and Infill
Development
RPO 35 Support for Compact
Growth
RPO 36 LDA
RPO 37 Active Land
Management
RPO 38 Retrofitting Initiative
Priorities
RPO 176 10-minute” city and
town concepts

(a) Please provide details on the implementation of your Core Strategy to date, including the achievement of compact growth targets (include details of planning permissions, housing commencement and completion figures in the tables below, where available).

Core Strategy Implementation

The Core Strategy is at the heart of the development plan with key targets in relation to population growth and housing delivery.

All the information provided in response to this questionnaire demonstrates the multifaceted nature of the investments in infrastructure, placemaking, economic activity, tourism, heritage, amenities and community development that the Council is engaged in, in support of the delivery of sustainable development and the targets outlined in the Core Strategy.

The results of Census 2022 shows that the population of Cork County grew by 8.5% in the period 2016-2022, ahead of the growth of the state (8.1%), the Southern Region (7.41%) and Cork City (6.2%).

Progress in relation to key metrics of population growth and granting of planning permission for new housing are detailed in the Table 2 for the period April 2022- August 2023.

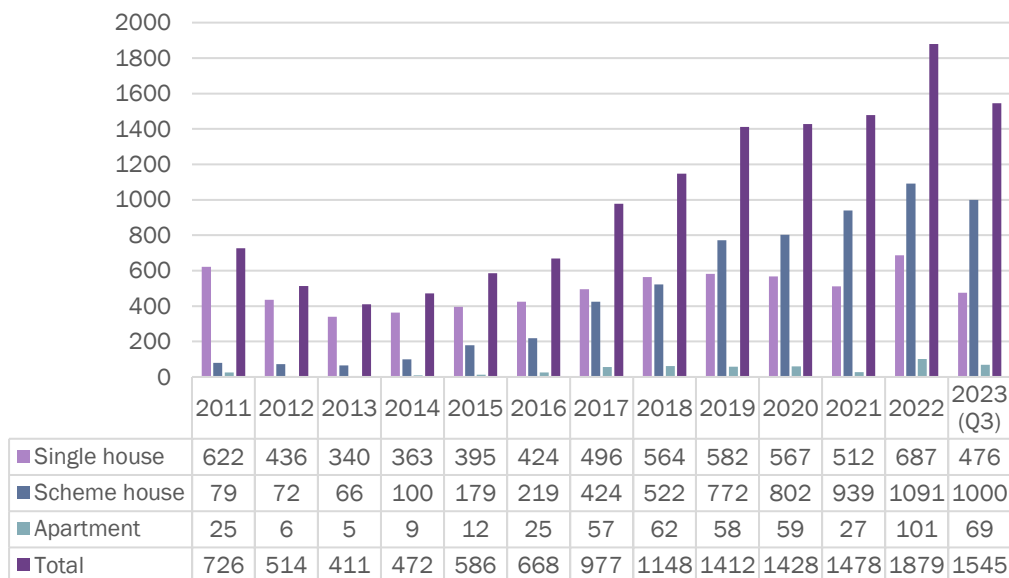
In terms of the activation of planning permissions and the completions of dwellings, CSO data indicates that 1,879 units were completed in Cork County in 2022. For the period up to the end of Q3 2023, the number was 1,545 units. The total units completed and the breakdown in the type of completed units is illustrated in Figure 1.

Between the Council’s own delivery and dwellings provided by the Approved Housing Bodies 551 Social Housing units were completed in 2022 and a further 369 were completed in 2023. Progress has also been made on 3 Affordable Schemes, in partnership with private developers. An initial Phase of 38 houses at Clonmore in Mallow and 32 at The Waters Edge in Carrigaline are complete. A further 49 houses at Cluain Ard in Cobh are nearing completion and have been advertised in Q4 2023.

| Table 2 Core Strategy | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Settlement Type | Settlement Name | Census 2016 Population | Census 2022 Population | Population Target 2028 | Number of Units Granted |
| County Total | | 332,015 | 360,152 | 391,185 | 4,731 |
| County Cork MASP | | | | | |
| Large Towns (8-10,000) | Carrigaline | 15,770 | 18,239 | 20,495 | 194 |
| | Cobh | 12,800 | 14,148 | 15,836 | 157 |
| | Midleton | 12,496 | 13,906 | 19,423 | 1,314 |
| Medium Towns (4-8,000) | Passage West /Glenbrook/ Monkstown | 5,843 | 6,051 | 6,835 | 36 |
| | Carrigtwohill | 5,080 | 5,568 | 9,749 | 167 |
| Approved SDZ | Monard | 492 | 492 | 492 | 0 |

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----|
| Small Towns (1,500- 4/5,000) and Strategic Employment Areas | Crosshaven and Bays | 2,577 | 3,263 | 2,847 | 131 |
| | Whitegate and Aghada | 2,184 | 2,407 | 2,341 | 253 |
| | Cloyne | 1,803 | 1,967 | 2,313 | 15 |
| | Glounthaune* | 1,440 | 1,839 | 2,432 | 207 |
| | Little Island* | 1,461 | 1,487 | 2,769 | 2 |
| | Killumney - Ovens | 1,132 | 1,466 | 2,242 | 5 |
| | Ringaskiddy | 580 | 575 | 698 | 54 |
| County Excluding Cork MASP | | | | | |
| Key Towns | Mallow | 12,459 | 13,456 | 15,351 | 255 |
| | Clonakilty | 4,592 | 5,112 | 6,162 | 2 |
| Self-Sustaining Growth: Medium Towns >5,000 | Youghal | 7,963 | 8,564 | 8,902 | 91 |
| | Bandon | 6,957 | 8,196 | 8,773 | 104 |
| | Fermoy | 6,585 | 6,720 | 8,351 | 172 |
| | Kinsale | 5,281 | 5,991 | 6,338 | 249 |
| Self-Sustaining Small Towns, Key Villages and Villages | Charleville | 3,919 | 3,970 | 5,112 | 49 |
| | Macroom | 3,765 | 4,096 | 4,809 | 152 |
| | Mitchelstown | 3,740 | 3,744 | 4,674 | 53 |
| | Skibbereen | 2,778 | 2,903 | 3,563 | 4 |
| | Bantry | 2,722 | 2,929 | 3,622 | 93 |
| | Kanturk | 2,350 | 2,803 | 2,937 | 2 |
| | Rathcormack | 1,762 | 1,957 | 2,144 | 36 |
| | Dunmanway | 1,655 | 1,964 | 1,985 | 5 |
| | Castlemartyr | 1,600 | 1,603 | 1,920 | 2 |
| | Millstreet | 1,555 | 1,722 | 1,948 | 0 |
| | Watergrasshill | 1,346 | 1,840 | 1,736 | 74 |
| | Buttevant | 970 | 1,080 | 1,292 | 59 |
| | Newmarket | 976 | 1,052 | 1,206 | 16 |
| | Castletownbere | 860 | 999 | 1,043 | 0 |
| | Schull | 700 | 669 | 909 | 0 |
| Other Villages and Rural Areas | All Other Key Villages | 193,822 | 207,374 | 209,936 | 536 |
| | All Other Villages | | | | |
| | Rural Areas | | | | |
| * estimated | | | | | |

Figure 1. Completed Housing Units in Cork County 2011 to Q3 2023



Investment in water services is critical to support the delivery of the Core Strategy. Major schemes completed or substantially completed in 2022/23 include the Skibbereen Regional Water Supply Scheme, Glengarriff WTP Upgrade works, Mallow Sewerage Scheme, Cork Mid-West Wastewater Treatment Plants Bundle (5 No. WWTP's) and WWTP's in Bandon, Castletownbere, Whitegate, Castletownsend and Inchigeelagh.

Schemes currently in construction (2023/2024) include Whitegate Sewerage Scheme, Ballycotton Sewerage Scheme, Castlemartyr WWTP Upgrade works and upgrade works at Jones Bridge (Clonakilty) and Glashaboy Water Treatment plants, all schemes projected to be substantially completed by the end of 2024 or early 2025. In addition, approximately 68 Km (2022) and 100 Km (2023) of old watermains have been replaced under the Watermains Rehabilitation programme and 11 (in 2022) and 6 (in 2023) water treatments plants were decommissioned under the Water Rationalisation programme. In 2023 works were also completed on the Bandon to Clonakilty Water Augmentation Scheme, construction of a new 13 Km pipeline to boost water supply to the Clonakilty area from the Bandon Water treatment plant at Carhue.

Cork County Council is also benefiting from water services investment under the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme. Projects in seven locations are advanced to Stage 2 – preparation of preliminary business case. Projects are located in Ballineen / Enniskean, Ballinspittle, Belgooly, Castlemagner, Killumney Ovens, Glanworth and Lisgould.

Compact Growth and Regeneration

With regard to compact growth, the core strategy of the County Development Plan aims to deliver 6,230 of the overall 22,611 net housing requirement on brownfield/infill/existing built footprint sites combined with greenfield sites within 800m of the town centre to support the delivery of compact growth. In addition to the 6,230 units mentioned above, it is anticipated that a substantial proportion of the 1,327 units to be accommodated in Key Villages will also contribute to more consolidated settlements. No specific data is available on the number of these “compact growth” units which have been delivered to date. **Can we get some stats for this PM**

The County Development Plan adopts a multi-faceted approach to support the delivery of the Core Strategy through putting in place the appropriate planning policy framework at a local level to guide the sustainable development of key strategic growth areas; the identification of underutilised and/or vacant lands and implementation of active land management measures to support sequential development, compact growth, regeneration and the introduction of monitoring and evaluation measures.

In practical terms the Council is supporting brownfield and infill development through the repurposing of heritage buildings in Youghal, Mitchelstown, Bandon, and Fermoy. In addition, the development of pop-up shops to reduce town centre vacancy is proposed or underway in Fermoy, Passage West, Carrigaline and Bandon.

The Housing Department are working with the Property Department and Municipal Districts to progress the redevelopment of derelict brownfield sites in Mallow, Macroom and Bantry, for future high quality 'compact', housing development. An apartment development on Oliver Plunkett Hill in Fermoy completed in recent years has reinvigorated the streetscape and provided high quality accommodation within walking distance of town centre and all amenities, negating reliance on motor transport.

Table 3: Details of planning permissions, housing commencements and completions

| Housing requirement identified in Core Strategy | Units completed since beginning of Development Plan period | Units from extant planning permission – commenced | Units from extant planning permission – not yet commenced |
|---|---|---|---|
| 22,611 | 3,078 (Q2 2022 to Q3 2023 inclusive latest available CSO data) | 2450 units commenced (Q2 2022 to Q3 2023) | 4172 units extant planning permission. (note a further 880 units currently under appeal and 663 currently at FI stage in planning process) |

Table 4 : Details of planning permissions, housing commencements and completions (Metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas)

| | Housing requirement identified in Core Strategy | Units completed since beginning of Development Plan period | Units from extant planning permission – commenced | Units from extant planning permission – not yet commenced |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Metropolitan Area | 10,514 | n/a | 1141 | 1396 |
| Remainder of County | 12,097 | n/a | 1309 | 2297 |

- (b) Please outline briefly, examples of significant regeneration projects/Initiatives planned or recently delivered, or innovative examples of delivering quality high density residential development, or any projects to develop lands planned in conjunction with the LDA.

Demonstrator Towns for Regeneration

Carrigaline, Mallow and Passage West have been designated as 'demonstrator towns' in County Cork for the purpose of focusing efforts on property activation in these towns to aid compact growth. Key sites within these towns have been identified and engagements with site owners have commenced.

Macroon has also been included in Cork County Council's initial group of demonstrator towns for the purpose of piloting focused regeneration interventions and then scaling to other towns and villages across the County. Through the TRO, CCC has collaborated with Bus Eireann and the Cork Education and Training Board (ETB) on a key regeneration site within the town to support the development of a youth education hub within an old bus depot building and to deliver on associated sustainable travel objectives. This has served as a good example of the potential to build on inter-agency partnerships to support town and village renewal efforts across the County.

Progress of Bandon Town Regeneration

Major public realm works in Bandon, including new public spaces and street enhancement measures. Funding provided through RRDF. Total project value €17,500,000.

Bandon was selected in 2021 and 2022 under the National Streetscape Scheme. In 2022 Bandon received €38,911 for 14 projects involving the improvement to the façades of buildings with the works completed by the end of 2023. Total grant amount €38,911.85.

Kinsale

Kinsale Library- RRDF funding central to the development of €4.8 million state of the art library which has transformed a 200-year-old mill into a modern library serving the community with a multifunctional space for events, exhibitions and educational initiatives. Total project value €4,540,436.

Skibbereen

Skibbereen Town Regeneration Plan

Skibbereen Town Hall Theatre upgrade and extension.

Public Realm Accessibility Works at The Square, Skibbereen.

The Rock Heritage & Nature Park, Skibbereen - Ongoing works including the provision of footpaths, new amphitheatre, seating, signage, interpretation of site heritage features, picnic areas, outdoor gym units, signage on public roads, resurfacing and upgrade of footpaths and entrances to the park. Funding provided through TVR. Total grant amount €243,000.

Bantry

Bantry Peace Park - installation of an inclusive, accessible playground and carparking. Funding provided through TVR. Total grant amount €216,000.

Fermoy Town Centre Renewal Project – RRDF Cat 2 funded project including upgrade of Public Realm project value €2m – currently at design stage (pre Part 8)

Charleville

RRDF Project – RRDF Cat 1 Project value €5.2m – includes significant Public Realm improvements, reuse of vacant landmark building and refurbishment of existing community hall. Part 8 in Place, costs and business case being updated to allow funding release.

Mitchelstown Georgian Quarter – RRDF Cat 2 project complete with Part 8 in place for public realm and streetscape improvements. RRDF Cat 1 application in preparation (project value est €3m).

Other Projects

Support for numerous projects through the General Municipal Allocation, Town Development Fund and Village Enhancement Schemes.

(c) Please identify details (including amounts) of any funding sources identified to deliver such projects.

- **Midleton LIHAF (Water-Rock) c. €8.58m total funding from DHLGH.**
- **Water-Rock Development Contribution Scheme 2021 to 2041.**
- **Carrigtwohill URDF Initiative €750k Grant Amount (75% DHLGH and 25% CCC).**
- **Midleton URDF Initiative €250k Grant Amount (75% DHLGH and 25% CCC).**

(d) Please provide details on progress in the delivery of enabling infrastructure and identification of any capacity issues or challenges faced in progressing such projects, including details of programmed delivery of Uisce Éireann’s Investment Plan and prioritisation programme

Midleton LIHAF (Water-Rock), delivery by UÉ of networks extensions infrastructure needed for development within the UEA currently ongoing.

Carrigtwohill URDF Initiative; it is UÉ intention not to fund/deliver the required water services infrastructure associated with Carrigtwohill North Urban Expansion Area.

(e) Please identify any challenges faced in delivering objectives for development of compact growth, in particular the unlocking of key regeneration sites and/or development of brownfield land.

- Acquisition of land from multiple landowners for the required infrastructure,
- Funding of infrastructure delivery/construction and land purchase,
- Delivery of other necessary infrastructure (by TII, UÉ and Irish Rail).
- Funding additional unforeseen costs during design and construction.
- Increased construction costs associated with materials and regulatory compliance and viability issues (especially for brownfield / regeneration projects).
- Ownership and title issues.

**Q7.
SMALLER TOWNS AND
VILLAGES**

RPO 26 Towns & Villages
RPO 31 Sustainable Place
Framework

Please outline progress made in strengthening the role and viability of towns and villages identified in the Development Plan, including details of housing units planned/developed through programmes such as the RRDF funding and ‘Town Centre First’.

All the policies and objectives of the Cork County Development Plan 2022 combine to support the strengthening of the role and viability of towns and villages in planning for the sustainable growth of the population and economy of each area, protecting the environmental, natural and built heritage features of the area that make them attractive places to live and work, and in terms of delivering the infrastructure needed to support growth and quality of life.

Please see answer to Question 6 above re the delivery of the Core Strategy.

Numerous projects have been undertaken to support the smaller towns and villages of the county, and to enhance services for communities, including, for example, the following:

- Library upgrades: significant investment is ongoing in the library service with projects in Carrigaline, Mallow, Passage West, Bantry, Youghal, Macroom and Cape Clear. A feasibility study for the development of a library in Carrigtwohill is also underway. The aim is to deliver library spaces capable of supporting cultural, arts, heritage, library and social inclusion services at the heart of each community.
- Blue Pool Amenity, Glengarriff - upgrading of approximately 1600m of existing walking tracks.
- Creation of Crossbarry Ambush Memorial Park at existing ambush monument – Funding provided through TVR.
- A vacancy survey of all towns and villages across County Cork has been conducted by the TRO for the purposing of systematically targeting the activation of vacant properties. Over 2000 properties have been identified as being vacant and work is now underway through the TRO to identify and engage with owners to promote activation and support the broader regeneration efforts in our towns and villages.
- Skibbereen in West Cork was identified as the Town Centre First ‘pathfinder’ town for County Cork. A draft Town Centre First regeneration plan for Skibbereen has been developed and 37 key interventions identified to promote the sustainable development of the town. Four specific interventions as outlined below are viewed as key enablers for the provision of housing and the promotion of commercial activity within the town centre:
 - Addressing Vacancy and Dereliction within the town centre
 - Examining the potential for living above the shop in the town centre
 - Re-activating / animating riverside properties to capitalise on dual aspect.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting river-front commercial development (cafés, tourism-related accommodation, etc.) • Ballydesmond RRDF Public Realm and Pocket Park - €975k project funded by RRDF. • Liscarroll Town and Village Renewal Scheme Public Realm Project €290k • Small scale projects across Towns and Villages funded through Clár. • Provision of Cork County Council Architectural support for many of the above projects. • Community Recognition Fund – projects in a number of towns and villages to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. Total figure of €2.3m across all MDs • Support for numerous projects through the General Municipal Allocation, Town Development Fund and Village Enhancement Schemes. • Investments in Water Services infrastructure in smaller towns and villages are detailed in the response to Question 6 above. |
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| <p>Q8. RURAL AREAS / RURAL DEVELOPMENT / NETWORKS & CROSS BOUNDARY INITIATIVES RPO 27 Rural RPO 28 Collaboration/ Partnership RPO 29 Rural Settlement Networks RPO 43 Rural Economy & EU Good Practice RPO 44 Common Agricultural Policy RPO 45 Action Plan for Rural Development RPO 46 Digital and Physical Infrastructure in Rural Areas RPO 47 Rural Partnership Models RPO 48 Innovation Hubs and Centres of Excellence RPO 49 Innovation in Rural areas RPO 50 Diversification</p> | <p>Please outline progress made in supporting vibrant rural communities and sustainable economic development, such as initiatives to develop networks/shared resources between settlements.</p> <p>Please see answer to Question 6 above re progress with the delivery of the Core Strategy in Rural Areas and for details of the investments in water services infrastructure throughout the county, some of which benefits rural areas.</p> <p>Extensive projects and initiatives have been undertaken in support of, and in collaboration with, rural communities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenway development projects are advanced in collaboration with rural communities. The Midleton to Youghal Greenway (23km route) will be completed in 2024 while work on finding a route for the Dungarvan to Mallow Greenway is ongoing: The West Cork Greenways Project - Skibbereen to Drimoleague, Skibbereen to Schull and Skibbereen to Baltimore is at its first phase of development, while the Cork to Kinsale Greenway project is at design stage. • The Town Centre First Plan for Skibbereen in West Cork has been developed following extensive public consultation and represents the shared objectives of the community, the local authority and other stakeholders and is intended to serve as a road map for development as well as a support for funding bids to demonstrate evidence-based development and consultation. • Community Recognition Fund – projects in a number of towns and villages to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. • The International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) has embarked on a study (2023), the aim of which is to examine the impacts of pre- and post-COVID commuting patterns on the spatial relationships between people and place. The project is being undertaken in collaboration with the Office of Planning Regulator, the LGMA and selected local authorities including Cork County Council. The settlements of Kanturk and Banteer are the chosen locations for Cork County. The study will look at demographics, community dynamics and spatial patterns of development in the case study locations and assess the impacts of pre- and post-COVID commuting, through engagement with key stakeholders. The research will provide policy and practice recommendations to support local government, among others, in place-shaping, place-making and promoting resilient places in a post-COVID world. The project is due to be completed in Q1 2024. • In 2023, Cork County joined the Irish Community Archive Network, coordinated in the county of Cork by the Heritage Office of Cork County Council. The Archive Network constitutes an important digital repository for archival information, with a number of community groups feeding directly into same. Areas included to date include Bere Island, Kilmirry, Kilshanning Parish and Youghal, and there are plans to grow the number of groups in late 2024 / early 2025. • A number of other projects have been delivered in rural areas, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bandon Walkway - project to clear the pathway of the old West Cork Railway to the west of Bandon along the N71 as an amenity. Funding provided through ORIS. |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bandon Small Craft Way - project to develop the Bandon River upstream from Kinsale Harbour toward Kilmacsimon as an amenity for small craft. - Support for numerous projects through the General Municipal Allocation, Town Development Fund and Village Enhancement Schemes. - Beach Access Feasibility Study on West Cork Beaches - report completed on access to 5 No. blue flag beaches in West Cork to establish the level of disabled access and services that may be provided or improved upon. - Dursey Cable Car - extensive €1.6m remediation project completed in 2023. - See answer to Question 10 for details of economic supports to rural communities via the Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate and the LEOs. |
| <p>Q9. PLACEMAKING RPO 31 Sustainable Place Framework RPO 61 Health Place Audit (HPA) for Place-making RPO 70 Bidding capacity</p> | <p>Please provide a brief summary of progress on major projects and initiatives identified through the Development Plan to support Placemaking such as improvements to the public realm, developing new streets/spaces/pocket parks. Details of funding sources (including amounts) to deliver such projects should also be included.</p> |
| | <p>As outlined above in response to previous questions, Cork County Council, with the support of the URDF, RRDF and other funding streams, has undertaken and continues to undertake, a range of placemaking, public realm, infrastructure, amenity, biodiversity and active travel projects to enhance urban and rural communities, economies and the environment. See answers given elsewhere in this questionnaire.</p> <p>In terms of placemaking, the naming of a development is a key factor regarding identity of place – the name of a place conveys much about the heritage of a locality in the first instance. Cork County Council established a new placenames procedure in Sept. 2021 and in the intervening two years, close to 100 development names have been approved. These relate to names approved through the planning process by private developers as well as the names of new housing developments undertaken by Cork County Council.</p> |
| <p>Q10. RSES ECONOMIC STRATEGY RPO 40 Regional Economic Resilience RPO 64 Facilitate new business formation, growth and industrial re-organisation RPO 72 Brexit RPO 74 Economic Risk Management System RPO 62 Locations for Employment Development</p> | <p>Please provide details of progress in supporting the RSES Economic Strategy and the role of the Region’s Economic Drivers.</p> <p>Details on progress with the delivery of Strategic Locations for Employment Development should also be included;</p> <p>In keeping with the economic strategy of the RSES, the economic strategy of the County Development Plan supports the settlement strategy of the Plan. The progress outlined above in response to previous questions, and in relation to investment in infrastructure, placemaking, communities, amenities, active travel etc, also supports delivery of the economic strategy of the RSES.</p> <p>In support of the sustainable economic development of the county and the region, the Cork County Development Plan 2022 included a commitment to review of all zoned employment land in the county within two years of the Plan being adopted. The commitment arose in response to the requirement, in the National Planning Framework, for Planning Authorities to identify and quantify locations for strategic employment development and to adopt a tiered approach to zoning which reflects whether land is serviced or not. The review commenced in 2023 and is due to be completed in 2024. The review will examine how much of the land zoned for new employment uses across the county is serviced and will make recommendations on what changes, if any, could be considered to the employment strategy of the current County Development Plan (policy, objectives, employment hierarchy, land supply, zoning categories, implementation strategy etc.) to ensure the county is well positioned from an employment land supply perspective, to meet the changing needs of the economy and support sustainable employment growth into the future.</p> <p>Cork County Council has also commenced (Q4 2023) a project aimed at developing a comprehensive Cork Harbour and Coastline Green Industrial and Economic Strategy. This work is due to be completed by mid-2024 and recognises the strategic opportunities available in Cork for supporting the offshore renewable energy sector.</p> |

The Council's Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate support the work of the Local Enterprise Offices, who are actively engaged in a range of projects to support networking, cluster development, smart specialisation, training, mentoring and business supports. The Directorate manage Council owned employment land and sites and have sold a number of sites to facilitate the construction of new business premises and the expansion of existing enterprises, and also rent business units, develop digital hubs and office space for rent.

The Local Enterprise Offices continue to have a focus on maximising opportunities for job creation and retention. Key achievements include:

- there are currently over 450 micro-enterprises in the County using the services of the LEO, supporting 2,169 jobs in the County., representing recurring revenue to the local economy of an estimated €100 million euro annually.
- There are over 800 secondary school students enrolled in the LEO school's enterprise programme in the County.
- The LEOs have trained over 5,000 participants in the past 2 years in the County in the area of business advice, direction and signposting, mentoring etc.
- The Animation Cluster has been established in Munster.
- In the past year the LEO's have approved grant aid in the region of €1.5 m to new and existing client enterprise.
- The LEO's have supported over 800 client enterprise on BREXIT specific training and mentoring.
- Continuing to provide export opportunities and grant support to client enterprise engaging in export. Over €100,000 in specific export grant aid in the past 2 years.
- Providing stability by maintaining over 2,000 jobs in the County, which helps to provide for continued investment, skills retention and provide for a stable workforce to support local businesses in the County.

Q11.

Please provide details of progress that has been made with respect to the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for your Local Authority

The Draft Cork County LECP Framework Plan and the Draft Initial Implementation Plan have been approved by the LECP Advisory Group, the North, South and West Cork LCDCs and the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC. Both documents have now been submitted for consideration by the Southern Regional Assembly with regards to their consistency with (i) the core strategy and the objectives of the Cork County Development Plan, (ii) the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and (iii) between the economic and community elements of the Plan.

The Draft Framework Plan and the Draft Initial Implementation Plan will also be considered for input and approval at all eight Municipal Districts at their January meetings. The Plan will then be revised following the input of the Regional Assembly and the Municipal Districts before presentation for approval to the LECP Advisory Group, the North, South and West LCDCs and the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC in February. The plan will then be presented to Full Council in March for adoption.

Q12.

TOURISM

RPO 53 Tourism

RPO 54 Tourism & the Environment

Please outline any recently completed or planned projects of significance to support tourism development, culture, heritage or the arts in your Local Authority

Cork County Council has a strong track record in investing in tourism developments, culture, heritage and the arts across the county. Examples of recent projects include:

Tourism Capital Projects

Bantry Weatherproofing and Outdoor infrastructure scheme – Outdoor dining at the Quays for circa. 100 persons, 100% funded by Fáilte Ireland was completed in mid-2023.

Failte Ireland Bantry Tourism Destination Towns project - Total fund: €670,000, with €500,000 provided by Failte Ireland. It is anticipated to go to Tender in January 2024, with the completed

project including the erection of gateway signage, wayfinding signage, and the replacement and updating of existing interpretive panels. All works will be coordinated with the other major construction works planned in Bantry.

Claycastle Water Facility Activity Centre -The Project involves the provision of welfare facilities, changing facilities, lockers/storage & meeting spaces etc for persons involved in water activities and is one of circa. 20 No. similar developments at coastal locations countrywide. The objective remains that the project will be fully completed by Q1/Q2 2025.

Old Steam Mill Building, Skibbereen - A Future Usage Report is currently being finalised prepared by consultants The Report will provide a Conservation Management Plan for the building and a complementary Visitor Attraction/Experience Report, themed on the Great Famine.

Other Projects/ Initiatives

Four Points of the Island initiative - Funding of €100,000 was awarded under the Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund in Oct, 2022 to progress a feasibility study for the 'Four Points of the Island' project. Cork County Council collaborated with Kerry County Council, the lead Local Authority Partner together with Donegal County Council and Ards and North Down Borough Council. The project examined potential for connections as a tourism initiative between the four extreme geographic points on the island of Ireland - Brow Head, County Cork (most southerly), Banba's Crown, Malin Head, County Donegal (most northerly), Burr Point, Ards Peninsula, County Down (most easterly), and Dunmore Head, County Kerry (most westerly). Following a Tender Campaign led by Kerry County Council, the contract to deliver the Feasibility study was awarded to ORNI (Outdoor Recreation NI) in March 2023, with the study concluded in Q3, 2023.

Ongoing financial support of festivals that attract domestic visitors via the Local Festival Fund and international visitors via the Economic Development Fund.

Explore Cork App - following the launch of the app in 2021, continuous enhancements and marketing of the app has taken place. The app won the 2023 LAMA All Ireland Community & Council award for best tourism initiative and was recognized by NOAC as a 2023 best practice initiative.

Camden Fort Meagher Developments DAC, (A company, wholly owned by Cork County Council, with a long lease for the Fort and operating a tourism, cultural and enterprise business there.) has just completed a €445,000 projects over rooms F12 – F14 in Block F - The Casemated Building to repair of the waterproof tanking system separating the upstands, end walls and ceilings from the earthen roof to render the structure waterproof again. This work also included the repair of the drainage system, stonework, brickwork and pointing, as necessary. These works should also significantly reduce dampness in rooms F15 to F20 allowing for them to be used to enhance the visitor experience.

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

The Heritage of County Cork publication series - each year sees a publication that examines a particular aspect of heritage and its prevalence throughout the county. The series has sold over 8,000 copies to date and encourages tourists and locals alike to visit heritage sites around the county. The Heritage Unit has received significant feedback from people at home and abroad, noting that the book encouraged them to visit a particular site(s). Copies of the books have been sold in many locations worldwide including Australia, Canada, England, Hong Kong, USA and Wales.

The County Cork Heritage Grant Scheme, first established in 2021, supports a range of heritage tourism projects by local communities and groups. From festivals and Heritage Week events to conferences and local heritage initiatives, the supported projects add to the tourism product offering of Cork County. Since 2021, over 80 projects have been supported.

The Council continues to invest in Harpers Island Wetlands.

The Council completed a €1.6m remediation project on Dursey Island Cable Car in 2023.

Ongoing promotion of several Council Owned attractions see <https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/visitor/cork-county-council-owned-and-supported-attractions>

The Council recently published the 'Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027'

Other Projects of benefit to Tourism include:

- Beach Access Feasibility Study on West Cork Beaches - report completed on access to 5 No. blue flag beaches in West Cork to establish the level of disabled access and services that may be provided or improved upon.
- The Midleton to Youghal Greenway is nearing completion with the 1st section due to open in Q1 2024. The Greenway will be a game changer for tourism in East Cork and the wider region.
- Mallow Town Regeneration URDF project which is now completed saw a €2.5m investment in developing a public amenity area, playground, carparking and improved accessibility within Mallow Castle.
- Mallow Castle Granary Buildings URDF subproject – At design and feasibility stage. Seeks to develop Granary buildings within Mallow Castle for tourism/cultural use.
- Mallow Town Hall Theatre project – at design stage. Approx €10m project to develop Theatre and Arts Centre in Mallow.

Q13.
MARINE ECONOMY

RPO 76 Marine Economy
RPO 77 Maritime Spatial planning - Consistency and Alignment
RPO 78 First Mover under the National Marine Planning Framework
RPO 79 Shannon Estuary and Other Harbour Plans
RPO 81 Fishery Harbour Centres and Local Authority Harbours
RPO 82 Seafood Sector
RPO 83 Island and Coastal Communities
RPO 84 Fishing Local Area Group (FLAG) Development Strategies
RPO 85 Renewable offshore energy effects on European Sites and potential for adverse effects on the RPO 86 Marine Cluster

Please provide a brief summary of relevant recent initiatives, planned or completed projects that support development of our marine and coastal assets.

Cork County Council has also commenced a project in Q4 2023 aimed at developing a comprehensive Cork Harbour and Coastline Green Industrial and Economic Strategy for the Cork Harbour Area.

The Council is also actively engaging with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications regarding the preparation of Ireland's first Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) for the South Coast. The next stage of this process will involve the publication of a 'Draft DMAP', which will identify several individual ORE (Offshore Renewable Energy) development areas. It is anticipated that this will be published in Spring 2024 which would enable the final DMAP to be approved by the Oireachtas in Q2 2024.

The Council is also engaged in a number of other projects of relevance to the Marine:

- Coastal vulnerability study in conjunction with UCC
- Dredging projects
- BALAMI projects (post BREXIT support of fishing industry through infrastructure improvements)
- Coastal erosion projects
- Oil spill contingency planning
- Shipwreck management

Coastal infrastructure

The Council's Coastal & Flood Projects Section manages capital coastal infrastructure projects. The Council receives the bulk of its coastal infrastructure funding from Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine, (DAFM), under the Fishery Harbour & Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme, which covers Harbour Development, Marine Leisure & Storm Damage. In January 2022, the Department also announced 'Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme 2022-2023 (BALAMI 2022-2023). This scheme was aimed at rejuvenation of Ireland's coastal and marine infrastructure specifically to address the economic consequences of Brexit arising from the implications to the Irish fishing industry. Under the BALAMI 2022-2023 scheme 21No. projects were approved for funding to the value of €6.57million. 20No. projects were delivered to a value of €4.7million, with substantial completion of the majority of the schemes in 2023. 1No. projects is outstanding and awaiting extension of funding.

Seascape Assessment

Consultants have been commissioned on behalf of Cork County Council to review the current Landscape Character Assessment and Draft Landscape Strategy 2007 and prepare a Landscape and Seascape Strategy to inform policies and objectives to be included in future Cork County Development Plans. To date there has been no Seascape Character Assessment completed for Cork County while the Regional Seascape Character Assessment for Ireland 2020 prepared by the Marine Institute will provide an important baseline for the Landscape and Seascape Strategy of Cork County. This work is due to be completed in Q4 2024.

European Projects :

The Councils Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate are engaged in a number of European Projects including:

- The **A-AAGORA project is supported by the** HORIZON Europe - EU Mission Oceans and Waters programme with a theme of Climate Adaptation: Coastal Zone Management and Citizen Engagement/Science. The project addresses the effects that climate change has on our coasts and the subsequent issues faced by coastal managers, local authorities and coastal communities. The Cork proposal focuses on demonstration activities for the restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems through nature-based solutions that improve coastal resilience. The project involves coastal communities particularly vulnerable to the risks of extreme weather events and sea level rise that urgently need restoration measures to adapt to climate change. The project involves local actors and communities who are active in marine ecosystem restoration and protection including Cork County Council, DHLGH, UCC (MaREI) and coastal communities such as Clean Coast (citizens science) and Harpers Island Steering Group.
- **EU Clean Energy Islands** : Cork County Council is a stakeholder in this EU Energy Islands Initiative. CCC will assist where appropriate on this project with the West Cork Islands and specifically Cape Clear. This EU funded initiative will provide technical assistance and knowledge transfer to assist island communities with their energy transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources (RES). The “100% RES island by 2030” is a vision of an island where all energy locally produced (electricity, heat or fuel) comes from renewable energy sources and all energy consumed (electricity, heating/cooling or fuel for transport) on the island also originates from renewable energy sources. To achieve such ambitious goals, switching to renewables must be combined with measures to produce, transport and use energy in an efficient manner. It will also be crucial to involve island stakeholders to make sure that local priorities, challenges and needs are addressed. The main aim of this project is to assist with this transition.
- **ProtoAtlantic** : this project is under the INTERREG Vb - Atlantic Areas programme and has a Business / Enterprise theme. The project will develop a whole model for the prototyping and exploitation of innovative ideas in the maritime sector. After the identification of start-ups and SMEs with product innovation capacity in the maritime sector, an acceleration program with a normed and structured process will be implemented, creating a unique ecosystem in the Atlantic, willing to address emerging markets in a co-creation paradigm with the local European start-ups communities. The project proposal indicates the need to create a methodology to validate entrepreneurial ideas related to blue growth, citing the gap between research and projects that emerge. This project would develop a methodology that helps bring entrepreneurs from an idea right through the various phases of prototype development, fundraising, market validation and business modelling. Though the project is focused on maritime start-ups, it is expected that the methodology can be translated to other sectors. Involvement in a project such as this may be beneficial as the County Council builds capacity in start-up support.
- **DELTA LADY**. This project is under the INTERREG Europe programme looked at the potential of river deltas to develop innovative activities aimed at utilising local natural and cultural heritage to strengthen economic development. In Cork the study area is Youghal and the River Blackwater. The project finished in 2023.

Q14.
CLIMATE ACTION AND DECARBONISATION:
TRANSITION TO A LOW CARBON ECONOMY & SOCIETY
 RPO 56 Low Carbon Economy

Please provide a brief summary of relevant recent initiatives, planned or completed projects to address Climate Action, including progress with the preparation of your Local Authority’s Climate Action Plan and Decarbonisation Zone

RPO 57 National Policy Statement on Bio-economy
 RPO 85 Renewable offshore energy
 RPO 88 National Mitigation Plan and National Adaptation Framework
 RPO 89 Building Resilience to Climate Change
 RPO 90 Regional Decarbonisation.
 RPO 91 Decarbonisation in the Transport Sector
 RPO 94 Decarbonisation in the Agricultural Sector

Cork County Council has prepared a Draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) 2024-2029, which outlines actions and objectives to deliver the Regional Planning Objectives (RPOs) relevant to supporting the transition to a low carbon economy and society.

Cork County Council has also launched the Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) in December 2023, which will provide targeted funding to eligible community organisations to deliver local climate action (Action 4.2.1.3.2 of the LACAP). Also see objective 4.4.1.7 & Action 4.6.1.1.3.

The LACAP aligns with the RSES RPOs as follows:

- RPO 57 National Policy Statement on Bio-economy: Objective 4.9.1.1 and associated actions and Actions 4.4.1.9.2 & 4.6.1.3.4.
- RPO 85 Renewable offshore energy: Objective 4.8.1.1 and Actions 4.3.1.1.3 & 4.8.1.1.1 .
- RPO 88 National Mitigation Plan and National Adaptation Framework: Cork County Council has developed a Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024, which is currently being implemented across the local authority. This is a key policy in the delivery of this objective.
- RPO 89 Building Resilience to Climate Change: Objective 4.8.5.2 and associated action and Action 4.5.5.1.1.
- RPO 90 Regional Decarbonisation: Within the LACAP, Cork County Council has identified Macroom Town as the initial Decarbonising Zone (DZ) for the local authority. Pilot projects will be implemented in the DZ to help reduce emissions and promote biodiversity in the area (such as Action 4.4.1.1.2 of the LACAP).
- RPO 91 Decarbonisation in the Transport Sector: See Action 4.7.1.1.1 to Action 4.7.1.5.2 inclusive.
- RPO 94 Decarbonisation in the Agricultural Sector: See Action 4.6.1.5.1 to Action 4.6.1.8.2 inclusive.

RPO 56 Low Carbon Economy

With regard to RPO 56 Low Carbon Economy, LACAP was prepared with actions and objectives that meet the requirements of supporting the Low Carbon economy. The Council has also committed to encouraging the development of enterprises that create and employ green technologies to help reduce emissions caused by industrial processes. In addition, the Council will liaise with local communities and businesses about the green industries or technologies that will be set up in the county and will encourage the use of such technologies to help reduce emissions in Cork County.

The LACAP has included targets to promote and encourage the sustainable use of land and the efficient use of energy in both commercial and residential settings.

The BER B target for public buildings was not achieved by Cork County Council by the end of 2020, however this is no longer a requirement under the 2030/2050 public sector targets. At the end of 2020 CCC had achieved a 26.19% energy efficiency improvement from the 2009 baseline year. CCC was unable to reach the target due to the delay to the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) which had been programmed to commence prior to 2020. It is anticipated that this project will position CCC close to the 2030 energy efficiency target of 50%. Current planned projects that will contribute to the 2030 GHG reduction and energy efficiency

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| | targets include: Leisure Centre upgrades, building LED lighting upgrades, and transport fuel substitution with low carbon fuels. |
| RPO 90 Regional Decarbonisation. | As part of its LACAP Cork County Council has nominated Macroom Town as the Decarbonising Zone(DZ) where new schemes will be targeted and piloted first before a roll out throughout Cork County. Macroom will lead the way on all Cork County Council decarbonising schemes by engaging stakeholders and champion pilot projects to help reduce emissions and promote biodiversity in the area. |
| | See also details of the A-AAGORA, HYBES and EU Clean Energy Islands and DELTA LADY projects in response to Question 13 above |
| | Public lighting upgrades will be taking place throughout the county under the National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project 2022-2026. |
| Q15. RESOURCE EFFICIENCY INCL. RENEWABLE ENERGY RPO 98 Regional Renewable Energy Strategy RPO 109 Bio-Energy Implementation Plan | Please provide details of renewable energy targets, projects or initiatives to support renewable energy. |
| | <p>The County Development Plan 2022 includes strong policy support of the development of renewable energy and hybrid energy systems in Volume One Chapter 13 Energy and Telecommunications but does not include targets.</p> <p>The Plan includes a commitment to do a full renewable energy strategy during the lifetime of the plan and this is likely to include energy targets for the county. It is intended that work will commence on the renewable energy strategy for the county in Q4 2024.</p> <p>The Council is very supportive of energy projects through its development management function. There are currently 56 solar energy projects permitted across the county and a further 5 proposals going through the planning application process.</p> <p>In terms of wind energy, there are currently 41 permitted wind developments in the county with a capacity of approximately 719MW. A further 15 projects (143 MW approx.) have been permitted but have yet to be developed and a further 3 applications are currently going through the planning process.</p> |
| Q16. BLUE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE RPO 110 Ecosystem Services RPO 122 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) RPO 124 Green Infrastructure RPO 125 Green Infrastructure Corridors RPO 126 Biodiversity RPO 127 Invasive Species RPO 128 All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015 – 2020 | Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support the development of Blue Green Infrastructure, ecosystem services and biodiversity |
| | <p>A number of projects are in train to support the development of Blue Green Infrastructure, ecosystem services and biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of pollinator plans and projects for the main West Cork Towns. • Biodiversity project on Oileán Chléire under the West Cork Islands Grant Scheme 2023. • The Council has implemented a Nature Based Solutions (NBS) pilot project in Cobh to address rainwater runoff. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Midleton to Youghal Greenway will be completed in 2024. The route of the 23km Greenway will be a biodiversity corridor for the region. • Muintir na Tíre, supported by Cork County Council's Heritage and Environment Awareness Offices, implement an annual Cork School Gardens Competition. This has reached over 100 schools around the county, promoting natural heritage and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan from classroom to classroom. • Cork County Council's Heritage Office also supports training in the area of biodiversity/natural heritage and in 2023, supported a workshop on Dragonflies, which was run by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. • The Heritage Office also supports a number of biodiversity undertakings through the County Cork Heritage Grant Scheme and has supported many biodiversity active groups such as Cork Nature Network, Birdwatch Ireland, etc • In relation to natural heritage, the Heritage Office also coordinates the annual National Tree Week in the County of Cork and in 2023 distributed 1,200 native trees to over 40 groups and organisations around the county. • See also details of the A-AAGORA and DELTA LADY projects in response to Question 13 above. |
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| <p>Q17. RECREATION & SPORTING FACILITIES INCL. BLUEWAYS & GREENWAYS</p> | <p>Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support recreation and sporting facilities including blueways and greenways</p> |
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| | <p>A number of projects are in train to support recreation and sporting facilities including blueways and greenways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Midleton to Youghal Greenway (23km route) will be completed in 2024. • Dungarvan to Mallow Greenway: Work on finding a route for this project is ongoing. The project liaison team met with approximately 260 landowners both directly on and adjacent to, the Emerging Preferred Route. Feedback from landowners, the IFA and the independent agronomist was fed back to the project team and where feasible, refinements have been made to the Emerging Referred Route in approximately 20 locations. It is intended to publish the refined Emerging Preferred Route in March 2024 in conjunction with a series of public consultation events. Submissions from the public consultation will be reviewed, and a final version of the Preferred Route will be published in mid-2024. • Carhokeel Running Track Mallow – At detailed design Stage, Part 8 in place, project to develop running track and sportsground in Mallow town to serve North Cork Region. Project value approx. €1.8m. • Fermoy Swimming Pool Upgrade - Project almost complete. Approx €800k Project to upgrade roof and improve energy efficiency of Fermoy Swimming Pool. • Mallow Swimming Pool Upgrade - €5m project currently at tender stage to upgrade and ensure the future viability of Mallow Swimming Pool. • West Cork Greenways Project Skibbereen to Drimoleague, Skibbereen to Schull and Skibbereen to Baltimore – first phase of the development • Cork to Kinsale Greenway – this project is at design stage. <p><u>Policy Development:</u> Cork County Council is currently reviewing its Recreation and Amenity Policy for Cork County in relation to the planning and provision of public open space/amenity space and outdoor type recreation facilities in County Cork. A new draft policy has been prepared looking at the provision of green space and amenities (facilitating both active and passive recreation) at the local level and more broadly at the provision of more strategic green and blue infrastructure. The draft policy considers the advancement of and makes recommendations in relation to the strategic approach within the County (and at settlement level) and sets out a development level approach and standards for recreation and amenity provision. The main focus of the policy is publicly owned and/or maintained land, or land which is capable of being taken in charge, the primary use of which is for outdoor recreation and amenity (both active and passive) but it also provides broader guidance and applicable standards for those seeking to carry out development. The Recreation and Amenity Policy is due to be finalised in Q4 2024.</p> |
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Q18.
WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE
 RPO 110 Ecosystem Services
 RPO 111 Water Resources
 RPO 112 Water Quality
 RPO 121 Effective Collaboration to Implement River Basin Management Plans and Water Framework Directive
 RPO 122 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)
 RPO 123 River Basin Management Plan and Spatial Planning
 RPO 124 Green Infrastructure
 RPO 126 Biodiversity
 RPO 127 Invasive Species

Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive including ecosystem services, SuDS and biodiversity

A number of projects are underway to support the protection of water resources and water quality and to improve awareness of issues around the management of water resources, in support of the Water Framework Directive and other plans and programmes, including the following:

- **Surface Water Management Advice Note No. 1** - This advice note has been prepared Cork County Council to give additional practical guidance to applicant's when lodging planning applications. This is to ensure that the Surface Water Management requirements in the Cork County Development Plan 2022 are met and a request for further information relating to surface water is avoided as far as practicable. Every application for development must submit a Drainage Impact Assessment (DIA) demonstrating how the development successfully uses Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and nature-based solutions to manage surface water within and adjacent to the site. The suggested contents of a Drainage Impact Assessment for development of differing scales are provided in Tables 1 and 2 of the advice note.
- **Carrigtwohill Rainwater Management Plan** . In line with commitments made in the CDP, work commenced on the preparation of the Carrigtwohill Rainwater Management Plan. There are three elements to the project; a stage 3 flood risk assessment for Carrigtwohill, a settlement level Rainwater Management Plan and the development of a rainwater management plan template document. Development of the Carrigtwohill Rainwater Management Plan is advancing with the preparation of draft pluvial mapping, currently being reviewed. The Stage 3 flood risk assessment is advancing with the model development. The template document is advocating a plan led approach to facilitate development of nature-based solutions at a settlement level. Drafting of the template document is being done in parallel with the work on the Carrigtwohill Rainwater Management Plan so as to capture learnings from that exercise. An external stakeholder group comprising a number of local authorities, LAWPRO, and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has been established to ensure the diversity of context and experiences can be captured and result in a practical and useable document to inform a consistent national approach.
- **Cobh Rain Garden Demonstrator** was unveiled in September 2023. The 'Nature Based Solution' National Pilot Project will help manage rainwater run-off using urban trees and rain gardens with plants and soil specially chosen to act as natural filters, cleaning dirty water before it's released into waterways or the sea. This innovative approach to surface water management will be crucial to implementing climate resilience in Cobh. This is a temporary demonstrator rain garden at East Beach to test and monitor the quality of rainwater run-off and bio-retention soils used for water filtration. Over the next 12 months, water, soil, and plant quality will be tested and recorded ahead of designing permanent raingardens at Westbourne Place and Five-Foot way in the historic town centre of Cobh, creating beautiful and sustainable public spaces to promote leisure and wellbeing.
- **Biodiversity and Ecological Resources**. The Cork County Development Plan includes objectives which are intended to provide protection, enhancement of existing biodiversity/ecological resources and for the enhancement of ecological linkages and connectivity in the wider countryside. In this regard CCC implements a programme of

Biodiversity related projects on an annual basis under the auspices of the County Biodiversity Action Plan. Examples from 2022 and 2023 include the following:

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

2023 projects:

- Bride Valley Invasive Alien Species Management Project Phase II Year 2 of 2
 - County Barn Owl Survey and Monitoring Project
 - Harpers Island Wetlands, Wetlands Enhancement Project
 - Cape Clear Invasive Alien Species Survey and Biodiversity Workshops
- In recognition of the importance of protecting county biodiversity, Cork County Council has established an Ecology Team within the organisation and has continued to expand the staffing and resources of the team in recent years. The team provides advice, services and supports to inhouse staff and to members of the public in the areas of land use policy, development management, local authority developments and projects, and biodiversity projects and the Biodiversity Action Plan.
 - The Councils Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate are engaged in a number of European Projects of relevance to the area of water resources and water management. See details of the DELATA LADY projects in response to Question 13 above. In addition, the Directorate is involved in the BIOSENSEI EU project as part of the HORIZON Europe programme. The project theme is 'Clean Environment Zero Pollution'. The project looks at bioelectronics – the intersection of electronics and biology. The project will use biosensors and user-friendly diagnostic tools for environmental services and will allow cellular biosensors to be deployed outside laboratory settings for the first time and has the potential to considerably contribute to fulfil EU vision on zero-pollution. BIOSENSEI is a dedicated interdisciplinary and intersectoral consortium of nine partners from five European countries.
 - Investment in Water Services infrastructure across the county is detailed in the response to Question 6 above.

The Councils Environment Directorate is involved in a number of relevant initiatives as follows:

RPO 112 Water Quality & RPO 121 Effective Collaboration to implement RBMPs and WFD

- Representatives from CCC Environment Department regularly collaborate with LAWPRO on learning & training exercises to enhance assessment & investigative techniques of waterbodies identified in the RBMP to support achievement & maintenance of status.
- Representatives from the Planning and Environment Directorates are active participants in the South-West Regional WFD Operational Committee and Environment and also participate in a SW Regional Workshop Forum quarterly with LAWPRO to identify land management & water quality issues of concern across the LAs that would benefit from development of policy & best practice at regional and national level.

RPO 112 Water Quality & RPO 126 Biodiversity

- CCC part funded a dedicated Blue Dot publication for the Coomhola River (Bantry, County Cork). This publication is a template for subsequent 'Blue Dot' publications for Catchments around the State. The Coomhola Blue Dot Catchment booklet launch won the Water Heritage Day Award at the 2022 National Heritage Week Awards.
- CCC Environment Department are working with LAWPro to develop appropriate public awareness signage for selected Blue Dot catchments.

RPO 112 Water Quality

- All agricultural, industrial & commercial planning applications are referred to the Environment Directorate for comment/report. This report includes an assessment of potential water quality impacts from the development.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from the Councils Environment Department utilised their expertise to assist with the provision of a national training day for all LA Farm Inspectors on 2/11/2023 and also contributed to the domestic wastewater treatment systems National Inspection Plan Inspectors' network. • CCC Environment Department is the lead agency for 14 of the Proposed Areas For Action under the soon to be published 3rd River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027. The proposed areas were selected through a collaborative workshop process at each Regional Operational Committee. Maintenance/improvement of water quality will be prioritised in these areas for action. • CCC Environment Department have carried out investigative assessments on 29 waterbodies between 2021 & 2023 to assist with determining their status. The results of these assessments have been uploaded to the WFD App. Further assessment & investigation is ongoing in 17 of these waterbodies where water quality status was determined to be less than Good. • Representatives from the Councils Environment Department participate & contribute to the National Agricultural Inspection Programme, (NAIP), working group which is led by the EPA & which was set up to focus Local Authorities agriculture inspections on the correct issues in the appropriate geographic areas to deliver on better water quality. • The DHLGH has provided funding to CCC, up to 31/12/2027, to employ 3 additional Assistant Scientists to carry out farm inspections. Agriculture is recognized as one of the major pressures on water quality in the country & the role of these scientists will be to improve farmers compliance with the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations. Work has commenced to focus farm inspection in selected waterbodies where agriculture is deemed a significant pressure in order to maintain/improve water quality in accordance with the objectives of the WFD. |
| <p>Q19. DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY/SMART REGION/SMART CITIES RPO 133 Smart Cities RPO 134: Smart Cities and Smart Region:</p> | <p>Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support the development of a Smart Region/Smart City/Smart Towns. 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.</p> |
| | <p>The Councils Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate has four new Digital hubs in development at various stages in Mitchelstown, Cobh, Kiskeam and Newmarket. Upgrades to existing hubs have also been completed in Bantry, Fermoy and Macroom, Upgrade and expansion is planned at the hub in Youghal.</p> <p>The Council's Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate is also involved in the EU Project CDREUROPE on Corporate Digital Responsibility, under the INTERREG EUROPE Programme. The theme of the project is Corporate Digitalisation for Public Authorities, SME's and Micro Businesses. The project acknowledges that the uptake of CDR among enterprises, particularly Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), is not automatic. It requires awareness, skills and opportunities and public policy should be positioned to support this. This project will consider how public policy can be improved to support enterprises to become more digitally responsible. It will promote interregional learning and capacity building on the types of support schemes that can help to make CDR a reality, including, for example: public communication campaigns on aspects of CDR; training schemes; consultancy schemes to design, develop and implement CDR policies in enterprises; funding schemes to support digital technologies and networking and cooperation support in aspects related to CDR.</p> |
| <p>Q20. INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIVITY/ PORTS/AIRPORTS, FREIGHT & LOGISTICS RPO 139 Low Carbon International Connectivity RPO 145: Ports and Harbour Strategy for the Southern Region</p> | <p>Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support development of the Region's International Connectivity, development of ports, airports, freight and logistics.</p> |

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| <p>RPO:149: Airport Strategy for the Southern Region RPO 141: Regional Freight Strategy RPO 143 Ports and Airports</p> | |
| | <p>With the upgrade to the Dunkettle Interchange Scheme almost complete, the M28 Project is the last section of the TEN-T route from Dublin Port to the Port of Cork to be upgraded. Cork County Council is currently undertaking Advance Works contracts to de-risk the overall site ahead of the main construction contract. These advance works include fencing, site clearance, utility diversions, archaeology and site investigations. The Council hopes to appoint a main contractor in Q4 2024 subject to funding and approvals by Government.</p> <p>Cork County Council is progressing the upgrading of the R624 as the Great Island Connectivity Scheme. The Project Outline Document (POD) has been developed as a draft with the intention of producing the Preliminary Business Case (PBC) in 2024. (SL)</p> |
| <p>Q21. ENHANCED REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY RPO 169 Strategic Road Network Improvement Priorities RPO 170 Rail RPO 171 Bus</p> | <p>Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support enhanced regional connectivity – by road, rail and public transport.</p> |
| | <p>Recently completed Projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N22 Baile Bhuirne to Macroom bypass • N72 Ballymacquirke Roundabout (junction improvement & safety enhancement near Kanturk/Banteer) • Carrigaline Western Relief Road • N73 Road between Clogher Cross and Waterdyke, located approximately midway along the N73 between Mallow and Mitchelstown. <p>Projects underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dunkettle Interchange • M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy Road (site clearance, fencing, archaeology well advanced) • Middleton to Youghal Greenway – staged opening during 2024 • N73 Annakisha Road Improvement Scheme. <p>Planned Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NM20 Cork to Limerick Motorway – emerging preferred route identified – public information sessions convened by Project Office • Mallow Relief Road – request made to TII to consider this as a priority project to advance to planning stage during 2024 (subject to funding) • R624 Great Island – Project Outline Document prepared – funding requested from DoT under Strategic Improvement Programme to enable a Preliminary Business Case to be prepared for the upgrade of this strategic regional route (subject to funding and usual statutory consents) • N22 Castlemore Junction upgrade – a feasibility and options report has been prepared and submitted to TII for consideration – proposed safety upgrade of this junction to include provision of a roundabout. • Phase 1 of the Bantry Relief Road - detailed design work underway. |
| <p>Q22. SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY / LOCAL TRANSPORT PLANS (AND OBJECTIVES/INITIATIVES) RPO 151 Integration of Land Use and Transport</p> | <p>Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support sustainable mobility e.g., public transport, walking cycling, the 10-minute city/town concept, sustainable mobility targets. Please also provide details of any Local Transport Plans in respect of relevant settlements in your Local Authority.</p> |

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| <p>RPO 152 Local Planning Objectives RPO 154 Land Use Plans RPO 157 Local Transport Plans (LTP) RPO 163 Sustainable Mobility Targets RPO 165 Higher Densities</p> | |
| | <p>Projects include:</p> <p>Cork to Waterford Greenway – East Cork Sustainability Corridor, see answer to Q4 above. Little Island Sustainable Transport Infrastructure - see answer to Q4 above. Carrigaline TPREP - see answer to Q4 above. Passage West Link - see answer to Q4 above. Carrigaline to Ringaskiddy Pedestrian and Cycle Route - see answer to Q4 above.</p> <p><u>Safe Routes to School (SRTS)</u></p> <p>Since the scheme began in 2021, CCC has delivered school zones and enhanced connectivity for walking, cycling, and scooting for 6 Schools (Scoil Phádraig Naofa, Presentation Primary School, Bandon Grammar, and Gaelscoil Dhroichead na Banndan (Bandon); Bunscoil Rinn an Chabhlaigh (Cobh), and Scoil Mhuire na nGrást (Belgooly).</p> <p>The following schools projects are substantially complete with students, parents, staff and the wider community benefiting from the projects (Scoil Iosaef Naofa, Colaiste Muire and St. Mary's National School (Cobh). 2024 will see 2 further school projects move through design and planning phase to delivery phase (Scoile Bhríde Crosshaven and Midleton CBS Primary School). Finally, CCC will start the design process for 7 round 2 schools with An Taisce. These projects seek to contribute towards sustainable mobility and compact growth through enhancing connecting to and from the school, creating safer front of school environments all of which seeks to encourage walking, cycling and scooting.</p> <p><u>Bandon TPREP</u></p> <p>The implementation of the Bandon TPREP is ongoing providing connectivity between residential areas, local amenities, retail development, town centre, schools and employment hubs. The following projects were completed and/or substantially complete in 2023: Macroom Road, Dunmanway Road, North Main Street, O'Mahony Avenue, and Ballymoden Place.</p> <p><u>Active Travel Towns and Villages</u></p> <p>Through this fund CCC have delivered new and upgraded existing footpaths and cycleways around the county's towns and villages. During 2023, 5.66 kms was delivered for walking and 3.08 kms was delivered for cycling across the county's towns and villages.</p> |
| <p>Q23. INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES & PLACES -IMPROVING WELLBEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE RPO 181 Equal Access RPO 182 Ageing Population</p> | <p>Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support and develop Inclusive Communities and Places and Improved Quality of Life</p> |
| | <p>Cork County Council (Planning Policy Unit and Architects Section) has engaged with CCAE on a yearly basis where architecture students are given a selected site in a settlement to design a housing scheme which must include an element of age friendly housing as part of a cohousing design competition. This initiative is in conjunction with The Cork County Age Friendly Programme with the emphasis on educating future architects on the need for housing for older people and raising their awareness of this need for housing for older people as the County's older persons age cohorts increases in population and proportion of the overall population.</p> <p>Cork County Council, together with Cork City Council, Muintir na Tíre and the HSE has established Cork Cultural Companions, which aims to provide cultural/heritage experiences for an ageing population. It is growing from strength to strength and the steering committee has staff from the Council's Arts Office and Heritage Office on same. Support of the undertaking was made possible through the Creative Ireland Programme.</p> |

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| <p>Q24. LEARNING REGION RPO 186: Lifelong Learning & RPOs 39, 63, Also RPO 187 Education & Training, RPO 190 Lifelong Learning & Healthy Cities Initiative</p> | <p>Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support lifelong learning and development of a Learning Region</p> |
| | <p><i>Library upgrades:</i> significant investment is ongoing in the library service with projects in Carrigaline, Mallow, Passage West, Bantry, Youghal, Macroom and Cape Clear. A feasibility study for the development of a library in Carrigtwohill is also underway. The aim is to deliver library spaces capable of supporting cultural, arts, heritage, library and social inclusion services at the heart of each community.</p> <p>The South-West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 follows on from the SW Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020. The new Plan was launched in April 2022. The delivery of the actions in the Plan is driven by six working groups chaired by the three Directors of Economic Development in Cork County, Cork City and Kerry County Councils. The South-West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 includes an action (6.4) to Establish an agreed and coordinated approach to life-long learning, skills and talent development and retention across regional stakeholders – this action is due to be completed by Q4 2024. Cork County Council will continue to work closely with the South-West Regional Enterprise Plan on educational and skill development across the County.</p> |
| <p>Q25 GAELTACHTAÍ, GAELTACHT SERVICE TOWNS(GSTs) & IRISH LANGUAGE NETWORKS</p> | <p>Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support Gaeltachtaí, Gaeltacht Service Towns (GSTs) & Irish Language Networks</p> |
| | <p>Cork County Council's Heritage Unit produced a Historic Town Map for the Gaeltacht Service town of Macroom (being made available in English agus trí mheán na Gaeilge).</p> <p>The County Cork Heritage Grant Scheme as well as the County Cork Commemorations Grant Scheme has supported many Irish groups and initiatives and the Arts Grants, operated through the Council's Arts Office, also has a bespoke Irish strand.</p> <p>In regard to the Múscraí Gaeltacht, supported by the Heritage Council and working with local group Acadamh Fódhla, Cork County Council produced a Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan for the Múscraí Gaeltacht, which won an Irish Planning Institute Award.</p> |

Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Local Authority and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process, reduce barriers to implementation or ways to improve implementation.

As set out above in response to the various questions, Cork County Council has made significant progress in delivering projects and initiatives in support of the implementation of the RSES and its own County Development Plan. It is considered that implementation of the RSES could be strengthened by the following:

- Closer alignment of the investment strategy of Uisce Éireann with the Core Strategy of the Cork County Development Plan. Now that the service level agreement between Uisce Éireann and Local Authorities has come to an end, clear structures need to be put in place to facilitate meaningful collaboration and information sharing going forward with respect to available infrastructural capacity to facilitate development, and future investment needs and timelines for delivery.
- Closer alignment between the investment and delivery strategies of other infrastructure providers – TII, NTA, ESB, Bord Gáis etc and the growth strategy of the County Development Plan.
- Ensuring the investment strategy of the NDP, and other government spending programmes, is clearly aligned to the NPF/ RSES /MASP and CDP strategies to deliver the pattern of growth envisaged. To date investment is favouring Dublin and the Eastern Region, resulting in delays to progress in Cork.
- Addressing the wider constraints facing the housing market. Many permitted housing developments cannot proceed due to delays in the delivery of planned infrastructure, viability issues for developers or affordability issues for potential house purchasers. A more co-ordinated response to these issues is needed to facilitate the delivery of sustainable communities and economic growth on the ground.

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

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