



SECTION 25A REPORT

REPORT DATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY	PREPARED BY
January 2024	Wexford County Council	Forward Planning Section

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
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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
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Name and Date Made	Date Came into Effect	Direction	Judicial Review	Variations
Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 Made 13 th June 2022	22 nd July 2022	N/A	N/A	N/A

	Please outline briefly how the Core Strategy supports the guiding principles and Settlement Typology contained in the RSES
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RSES Settlement Typology	Wexford CDP 2021 - 2027 Settlement Hierarchy
Cities - Metropolitan Area	N/A
Key Towns	Level 1 Key Towns -Wexford Town and Gorey Town
Towns and Villages above 1,500	Level 2 Large Towns - Enniscorthy Town and New Ross Town. Level 3 (a) Service Settlements and Level 3(b) Strategic Settlements. This level includes towns and villages >1,500 population and villages <1,500 population.
Rural Villages less than 1,500 and the wider rural region	Level 4 Large Villages and Level 5 Small Villages Level 6 Rural Nodes Level 7 Open Countryside
Networks	Core Strategy Guiding Principle H - Connected Settlements and Networks refers e.g., settlements along the Eastern Economic Corridor.

	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
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Wexford Town Local Area Plan

The Pre-draft Consultation Report and the Social Infrastructure Audit were presented to the Members of Wexford Borough District at a meeting held on Monday, the 20th of November.

The Pre-draft Consultation Report provides an overview of the public and other stakeholder consultation undertaken and a summary of the issues raised in the 73 submissions and observations that were received.

The Social Infrastructure Audit provides the evidence-base to identify where there is a current under provision of social infrastructure. The outputs of the audit will help to determine future social infrastructure requirements and assist in the spatial planning of the town including the implementation of the 10-minute town concept.

Work on the Infrastructural Assessment Report continues. This is a significant piece of work which requires a review of all lands in the plan area to determine if the lands are currently serviced or could be serviced during the plan period. The outputs of this assessment will be an important consideration in the land use zoning in the Draft LAP.

The Local Transport Plan is progressing well with the Baseline and Context Reports almost complete. Work has commenced on the Options Report.

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is also underway. The consultants have carried out their initial review and walk over of the town.

Consultants have been appointed to carry out the Urban Design Strategy (including the Master Planning of the S.E.T.U./Ballynagee area) and the Rainwater Management Plan and Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy.

Enniscorthy Town Local Area Plan

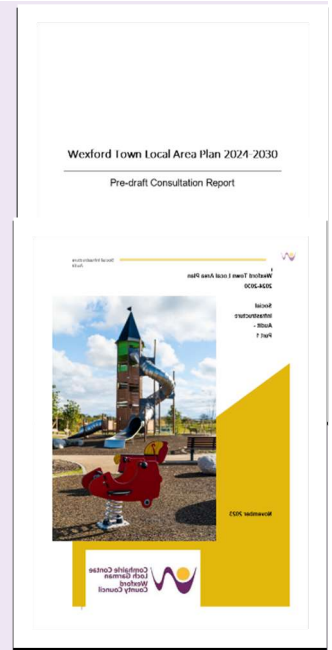
Consultants have been appointed to carry out the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Local Transport Plan for the LAP.

Gorey Local Area Plan 2017-2023

The LAP was extended by three years to 2026.

Courtown and Riverchapel Local Area Plan 2015-2021

The LAP was extended by five years to 2026.



**SUPPORTING GROWTH /
DEVELOPMENT OF KEY TOWNS**
RPO 11 Key Towns

Please outline progress made in developing Wexford and Gorey’s role as Key Towns as envisaged in RPO 11 Key Towns and RPO 16 Wexford and RPO 25 Gorey. Please identify progress on delivering some of the key development sites/projects identified in the RSES

Chapter 3 Core Strategy sets out the Development Approach for both Key Towns. The approach is framed around a set of guiding principles, which are informed by RPO 11, 16 and 25, and which will help to fulfil their Key Town roles. This approach is further supported by a set of strategic objectives in for each town (WT01-WT09 and GT01-GT07 refer). These objectives, together with the respective LAPs for the towns, will progress the development of the Key Town role. In order to achieve Centres

of Scale, both towns are also targeted for more than 30% population growth in the Core Strategy (Wexford Town is allocated 45% and Gorey Town is allocated 40% population growth to 2040).

Wexford Town Plans:

- **Local Transport Plan** – To be completed in 2024.
- **Local Area Plan 2024-2030** - Currently being prepared. The LAP will focus on identifying a sufficient quantum of industrial and commercial land to support both the Key Town designation and the development of Rosslare Europort.
- **Wexford Heritage-led Regeneration Plan** – includes a number of actions for regeneration of the town.

Wexford Town Projects:

- **Trinity Wharf** – Significant mixed used urban regeneration project and identified as a Strategic Employment Location in the County Development Plan. The Trinity Wharf site will facilitate a new sustainable urban quarter with a high-quality public realm, mix of modern office space, hotel accommodation, leisure and residential development, a landmark cultural and events building, 58 residential units and a multi-storey car park. The leisure and residential development includes the provision of a 64 berth marina, a new boardwalk linking Trinity Wharf with Paul Quay and the Crescent, new public realm spaces and an urban greenway. It will provide a location at the south end of Wexford town that can be adapted for use for outdoor events, performances and festivals. The development of Trinity Wharf will significantly enhance Wexford Town's profile as an attractive environment for international companies seeking to locate in the county, or for existing companies looking to expand, providing property solutions that will meet investors' expectations. Trinity Wharf will serve new businesses and the local community. It will create the capacity for people to live and work in a town centre area, supporting the local economy and making Wexford a viable location for FDI investment.

Status: Access road under construction with completion of access road expected in January 2024. Consultants have been appointed for the next phase of the project to include design services for site development and public infrastructure works.

Funding: Approx. €21 million received in URDF funding.

- **Crescent Quay/Oyster Lane Site** – Demolition of the Old Tesco site in town centre and erection of a temporary performance structure and public realm area.
Status: Phase 1 demolition works are completed and with regard to Phase 2 Design - the procurement process is ongoing for the provision of the temporary performance structure at the site.
- **Mechanics Institute, Wexford** – Contractors appointed to carry out essential maintenance works at the Mechanics Institute in the town centre.
Status: Completion expected in January 2024.
- **Monck Street Public Realm Enhancement Project** – Paving completed and infrastructure for street canopy is 80% completed. Fáilte Ireland funding.
- **University Campus for SETU and Education Ecosystem (Ballynagee Lands)** - WCC are currently liaising with a number of stakeholders with a view to developing this site to accommodate a number of uses including a SETU campus, sporting and recreational facilities, primary and post primary schools and residential units for social, affordable and private housing.
Status: WCC has acquired 55 acres and CPO has been confirmed for a further 50 acres. Consultants have been appointed to develop a Masterplan for the site.
- **Georgia Southern University Accommodation Campus (Adoration Convent)** - Part VIII is in place for this project to convert the old convent into accommodation for students of Georgia Southern University Wexford campus. An Architect has been appointed and

preliminary design and associated survey works are underway. It is intended to tender out these works in Q2 2024 with works expected to commence in Q4 2024.

- **Wexford Town Flood Relief Scheme** - Consultants have been appointed for engineering and environmental services. Contracts have been signed and a coastal walk-over along the quay, railway tracks, RNLI station, ferrybank, the Heritage Park and Ferrycarrig Hotel has been completed.
Funding: A preliminary cost estimate of €9.52m has been approved by the OPW for scheme, which will be fully funded.
- **Rosslare Europort (text supplied by Irish Rail via Economic Development Unit in WCC)** – 2023 saw the commencement of the largest ever investment in the history of Rosslare Europort with a projected spend of more than €200M that will deliver a world class facility supporting both the region and the country's exporters, importers, tourism and supply chain industries.

The port also commenced its digitisation journey with the appointment of Brock Solutions that will enable Rosslare to become one of Europe's smartest ports in 2024.

A significant milestone was also reached as Rosslare Europort secured its foreshore license for the development of Ireland's National Off-shore Renewable Hub. This groundbreaking initiative, valued at €220 million, stands as the first-of-its-kind facility in the Republic of Ireland. The port is strategically positioned to support the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) industry and accommodate numerous Wind Farm projects planned for the Irish and Celtic Seas.

The port's achievements over the last few years were recognised when it was nominated for and won the European port of the year award, making it the No. 1 port in Europe. Rosslare Europort is the only port in Ireland to have received this prestigious accolade to-date.

- **Min Ryan Park** – Completed 2022
- **Wexford Arts Centre Extension** – Completed 2022. €1m funding from DTCAGSM.

Gorey Town Projects:

- **M11 Business Campus which includes the Hatch Lab** – expanded to include Hatch Lab 2 (shared office space). Wexford County Council have taken a lease on 500sqm to operate an innovation and technology hub for start-ups, companies relocating to the area and a hot-desk/co-working alternative space for commuters with additional mentoring and business support services for start-ups also available at the location.
Status: Completed.
- **Gorey District Park** – New Gorey Town Park including purpose built changing rooms and new café; new soccer pitch and perimeter walking trails; New playground; Increased parking for cars and campervans; Enhanced hard and soft landscaping & new public lighting.
Status: The park is substantially completed and is now fully open to the public. A contract has been awarded for the delivery of Changing Places facility.
- **Esmonde Street Public Realm Scheme** - enhanced streetscape with high quality surfaces and landscaping to encourage increased pedestrian footfall and pavement activity, Create a distinct "Boutique Boulevard" identity and improved cycling infrastructure.
Status: The project will now progress to detailed design and then to tendering for a works contractor with the aim of commencing works on-site in September 2024.
- **Gorey Market House** – development of a multi-functional venue.

Status: Part VIII application was approved by WCC in 2018. RRDF funding of €430,000 for the development of the project to detailed design stage was awarded in February 2019.

- **St Waleran's** - WCC led scheme to deliver social and affordable housing on a 30 hectare site of Council owned lands at Ballytegan, Gorey Town.

Status: Masterplan prepared. Part 8 approved for development of Masterplan Phase 1 lands to include the construction of 173 no. residential units which is currently at tender stage for construction. An Architect has been appointed to design the next phase to include recreational space.

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

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 table below, where available)

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.

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

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

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.

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 table below, where available)

- Core Strategy Monitoring Report for Year 1 of CDP to follow

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
6,429 units	1,035 new house completions in Year 1*	N/A**	N/A

- Year 1 covers the period from 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023 (period adjusted to coincide with Q3 and Q4 of 2022 and Q1 and Q2 of 2023 for collation of CSO data).
- Planning permission granted for 1,276 units in Year 1 of CDP.

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

See under 'Regeneration Unit' below for details on Croi Conaithe Fund and Ready to Build Funding Scheme.

CPO Programme

169 sites have been acquired in the four main towns with funding provided under Call 3 of URDF, primarily to address dereliction. It is envisaged that some of these properties will be retained for local authority housing stock (further details are available if required).

Housing Capital Projects

Summary Housing for All 2022-2026

Dwellings Complete 2022 - 48
Dwellings to Complete in 2023 - 23
Dwellings to Complete in 2024 - 54
Dwellings to Complete in 2025 - 70
Dwellings Funded to complete 2026 - 132
Dwellings to be funded in HFA - 12
Dwellings in Design 246
Affordables - 90

Examples of delivering quality high density residential development on brownfield sites:

- Wexford Town:
 - See '**Trinity Wharf**' under SUPPORTING GROWTH / DEVELOPMENT OF KEY TOWNS. Scheme includes 58 residential units on this brownfield site.
 - See '**Adoration Convent**' under SUPPORTING GROWTH / DEVELOPMENT OF KEY TOWNS.
 - '**Francis Street**' – Demolition of existing derelict property and subsequent construction of 2 no. social housing units comprising 2 no. 1 bedroom duplex type apartment units with associated and ancillary siteworks – at tender stage.

- Gorey Town:
 - See '**St. Waleran's**' under SUPPORTING GROWTH / DEVELOPMENT OF KEY TOWNS. Phase 1 includes construction of 173 dwellings following demolition of former house/school.
 - '**Wexford Street**' – 30 units under construction in town centre on the site of the former St. Joseph's School.



- Enniscorthy Town:
 - See '**Murphy Floods Site**' under SMALLER TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

- New Ross Town:
 - **The Bullawn, New Ross** - Part 8 approved for proposed demolition of an existing derelict dwelling and the proposed construction of a 2-storey duplex containing 2 no. 1 bed units and a bungalow style 3 bed special needs house with associated site works – at pre-construction stage.

There are also a number of applications at the planning stage.

There are also a number of private developments on brownfield sites and further information on these can be provided if required.

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:

The following information is provided by Uisce Éireann:

See attached:

- 10-Year Water Supply Capacity Register issued by UE in June 2022
- Wastewater Treatment Capacity issued by UE in June 2022
- Letter Re: Issue of Waste Water Treatment Capacity Registers and 10 Year Water Supply Capacity Register issued by UE in June 2022
- UE submission on Pre-draft Wexford Town LAP issued in August 2023

Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme (STVGP):

Uisce Eireann is progressing upgrades through the STVGP in **Wellington Bridge** (Stage 2 – Preliminary Business Case) and **Grahormac-Tagoat** (Stage 3 – Final Business Case). Further details on the STVGP can be found on the Uisce Eireann webpage at [Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme | National Projects | Uisce Éireann \(water.ie\)](#).

Further upgrade(s) may also be progressed under the STVGP in County Wexford, which is intended to provide growth capacity in Uisce Éireann’s treatment plants in smaller settlements which would not otherwise be provided for in the current Investment Plan. A number of investment cycles will be required to address all candidates in the STVGP, and Uisce Éireann plans to continue this Programme into the next investment period (2025-2029) and beyond to achieve this (subject to the regulatory approvals process). During the current Investment Plan period (2020-2024) we will continue to complete strategic assessments on treatment plants in the nominated settlements (focussing on the higher priority sites as identified by each local authority) to enable us to continue delivering projects under this programme during this and into the next investment period.

Drainage Area Plans:

General information: The Drainage Area Plans for each settlement identified below will identify the upgrades needed to the wastewater network to cater for growth and alleviate hydraulic and environmental constraints.

Wexford town - A Drainage Area Plan (DAP) is underway for the Wexford agglomeration and is currently in the risk assessment stage (Stage 3).

Gorey - A Drainage Area Plan (DAP) for the Gorey agglomeration is due to commence in Q3 2024.

Water Supply Capacity

Potentially Constrained capacity in a number of water resource zones – Enniscorthy, New Ross, Bunclody/Carrigduff, Ferns Regional, Sow Regional, South Regional.

WRZ	Comment
Enniscorthy	Upgrade to Vinegar Hill WTP progressing.
New Ross	Upgrade to WTP being reviewed. New GW being investigated through trial well drilling – outcome of drilling will inform potential longer term supply constraints
Bunclody/Carrigduff	Upgrade to WTP being reviewed. New GW being investigated through trial well drilling – outcome of drilling will inform potential longer term supply constraints
Ferns Regional	WTP upgrade progressing.
Sow Regional	New GW being investigated through trial well drilling – outcome of drilling will inform potential longer term supply constraints
South Regional	Project in progress for security of supply at Taylorstown New GW being investigated through trial well drilling – outcome of drilling will inform potential longer term supply constraints

Challenges faced in delivering objectives for development of compact growth, in particular the unlocking of key regeneration sites and/or development of brownfield land:

Finances, site assembly and CPO together with more complex building issues e.g. constricted sites, adjoining properties, traffic management etc.

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’

Regeneration Unit

A Regeneration Unit has been set up within the Council which consists of a Town Regeneration Officer, Vacant Homes Officer (Croi Conaithe) and an Assistant Staff Officer. This Unit is focused on progressing Town Centre First and Vacant homes objectives with a strong focus on Regeneration within the County.

Both New Ross and Enniscorthy Town Centre First Plans are now complete, and the New Ross pathfinder Town plan has been forwarded to the DRCD. Both plans have been reviewed by the National Town Centre First Office and positive feedback has been received on both. The Town Centre First teams meet monthly in Enniscorthy and New Ross to develop ideas and discuss how best to progress the interventions outlined in their respective plans.

The Regeneration Unit is planning a series of Roadshows in February/March 2024 to raise awareness about various grants and programmes tailored to address vacant and derelict properties, ultimately contributing to the reduction of Vacancy Levels in Co Wexford.

To date the Council has received 207 applications under the Croi Conaithe Fund with 92 of these having been approved (as at 18th December 2023).

The Council will also implement the Ready to Build Funding Scheme in 2024 which will see it making serviced sites available at reduced cost to support self-build home ownership.

Enniscorthy Plans:

- **Enniscorthy TCF Plan** – completed with €100,000 funding under the Town Centres First Initiative.
- **Enniscorthy Heritage-led Regeneration Plan** – draft almost complete for approval by WCC.
- **Local Transport Plan** – To be completed in 2024.
- **Local Area Plan** – Consultants appointed for SEA, AA and LTP.

Enniscorthy Projects

- **Enniscorthy Town Centre and Tourism Project**

Enniscorthy Town Centre First Plan was completed and adopted by Enniscorthy Municipal District in December 2022. The Plan identifies a number of actions and plans for public realm improvements and regeneration works to the Market Square, Enniscorthy Castle Quarter and Templeshannon, which will form part of the application for the next call for URDF.

The Part 8 process for the Market Square and Town Centre street enhancement commenced in October 2023 and further information was submitted to ABP in December 2023.

Preliminary design work on the Enniscorthy Castle project has also commenced and it is intended to submit a Part 8 application in Q1 2024.

Consultants have been appointed to undertake concept masterplanning design services for the Templeshannon Regeneration Project which is expected to be completed in time for the next call for URDF funding applications.

- **Murphy Floods Site**

WCC acquired the former Murphy Floods Hotel site and adjacent derelict properties in Enniscorthy Town Centre and now seeks to advance a proposal to redevelop the brownfield site. The Part 8 application approved by WCC in 2022 comprises the demolition of the empty buildings and the construction of a new multi storey structure of mixed-use development incorporating basement parking, two floors of commercial/office/community use space at ground and first floor levels and 3 upper floors containing 18 No apartments and shared communal space.

Status: A tender competition to appoint a works contractor for the demolition works onsite has commenced and tender assessment is underway. Phase 1 demolition works are anticipated to commence onsite in Q1 2024.

- **Enniscorthy Technology Park**

WCC acquired the lands and worked in collaboration to stimulate private investment. Planning permission was secured for two commercial office property solutions on the site. The first building is now complete and currently has 70% occupancy.

In mid-2024 WCC will open the UN Centre of Excellence for High Performance Buildings at the Technology Park together with a new (Enterprise Ireland supported) Green Hub to support SME's in the South East Region.

WCC has sites available for inward investment and has also signed an MOU in Q1 2024 to secure planning permission for an IDA Advance Factory at the Technology Park.

- **Enniscorthy North Industrial Area (Old Dublin Road)** – Active travel and public realm improvements to 5km of urban streets/roads.

Status: Phase 1 works (enhancement of footpaths, gateways and pedestrian safety) were completed in September 2022. An application for further funding was submitted to the NTA for the active travel elements of the masterplan but no funding was forthcoming for 2023.

- **Enniscorthy Flood defence Scheme**

Status: The OPW confirmed their commitment to delivering an effective scheme for the Town following the Ministers decision to refuse the scheme in March 2022. The project baseline data is currently being updated and ecology survey reports are to be completed in Q1 2024.

Phase 1 New River Slaney Bridge - It is intended to obtain planning consent for the construction of the new bridge as phase 1 of the flood defence scheme. This phase will include the construction of a new road bridge south of the town, the removal of the Seamus Rafter Bridge and the construction of a replacement pedestrian bridge. The baseline data for this phase is currently being updated. Traffic surveys are complete, ecology survey reports are to be completed in Q1 2024. The planning application is to be submitted in Q1 2025.

New Ross Plans:

New Ross TCF Plan – completed with €100,000 funding under the Town Centres First Initiative

New Ross Projects:

- **New Ross Tourism Project** - Involves a series of projects in the centre of New Ross, including the interpretive fit-out of the Dunbrody Visitor Centre and the regeneration of the old Michael Murphy Building, 20 and 21, the Quay to transform it into a Norman heritage visitor attraction.
Status: Contract awarded for the interpretive fit-out on the Dunbrody Visitor Centre with works to be completed by Q2 2024. Tenders for the Interpretive and exhibition design of the Norman Visitor Centre (Old Michael Murphy building on Quay) have been assessed and a successful tenderer has been identified. A framework for architectural services for tourism projects has been advertised and award of contract is anticipated in Q1 2024.
Funding: RRDF funding of approx. €4 million received.
- **Emigrant Park** – Project included the removal of oil tanks and the development of public realm works on the Quay.
Status: The works are now complete and the park was officially opened by Minister Heather Humphrey's on 26th October 2023.
Funding: RRDF funding of €814,393 received.
- **High Hill** - A new Norman themed garden on a strategic urban site, formerly derelict, which connects John Street and the town centre with the 12th century St Mary's Church and Cemetery.
Status: completed.
Funding: RRDF funding of €1.5 million received.
- **John Street Building Regeneration Project** - WCC acquired the old grain store in the town centre with plans to develop it into an Enterprise centre.
Status: A portion of the grain store building has been purchased by agreement and the CPO for the remaining sections is now formally complete. Architects have been appointed and preliminary design is ongoing with Part 8 planned to commence in early 2024, subject to the outcome of a screening for appropriate assessment and Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment.
Funding: Application to be made under the next call for RRDF funding in February 2024.

Kilmore Quay Enterprise Hub

The Economic Development Unit is currently in the process of appointing a consultant to assist with the preparation of an application to the Smart Regions (Enterprise Innovation) Scheme, under Stream 4 (Feasibility & Priming).

Rosslare Harbour Offshore Renewable Energy Hub

The realisation of the potential economic benefits of the proposed Offshore Renewable Energy Hub in Rosslare moved a step closer with the announcement by Minister James Browne that GDG Engineering were awarded the contract for the concept design of the Hub. The commencement of the preliminary design phase of the ORE hub represents a crucial step in Rosslare Europort's commitment to advancing offshore wind energy and supporting marine infrastructure in the southeast region.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme and Building Acquisition Measures

A number of vacant and/or derelict buildings in town and villages have been acquired by WCC under the Building Acquisition Measures Scheme including the Old Courthouse in New Ross, the Old Credit Union building in Gorey, the Old Bank building in Rosslare Harbour and the Old Post Office building in Ballyhogue. It is intended that new community uses will be accommodated in these buildings in the future utilising funds from the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

Numerous enhancements were also funded under the Town and Village Renewal Schemes in 2022 and 2023 including:

- **Duncannon** – €0.5 million allocated to restore and develop the historic Duncannon Fort which will increase footfall in the village and surrounding area.
- **Enniscorthy Wellbeing and Activity Garden (St. John's)** - €234,000 allocated
- **Rosslare** - €250,000 to develop a Community and Enterprise Resource Centre/Hub
- **Enniscorthy** - €100,000 under the Streetscape Enhancement Measure
- **Taghmon** - €50,000 allocated to prepare plans to bring castle into use as a heritage tourism asset
- **New Ross** - €500,000 allocated to renovate Brennan's Lane which is the main link from the town centre to the Library Park, and renovating the Shambles as a vibrant multi-functional space

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

Please outline progress made in supporting vibrant rural communities and sustainable economic development, such as initiatives to develop networks/shared resources between settlements.

- **Local Enterprise Office -**
In 2022 Local Enterprise Office Wexford supported over 234 small businesses employing 1773, creating 330 jobs with a net job increase of 177.
In 2023 Local Enterprise Office Wexford financially supported 235 small businesses in their portfolio across the county, these companies in turn employ 1940 people – total jobs created 328 in 2023 and net job increase of 171.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hatch Lab in Gorey M11 Business Campus has been expanded to provide shared office space. WCC have taken a lease on 500sqm to operate an innovation and technology hub for start-ups, companies relocating to the area and a hot-desk/co-working alternative space for commuters with additional mentoring and business support services for start-ups also available at the location. • New Digital Hubs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Digital Hub provided at Ramsgrange. - Construction works completed at Craanford and planned to open the Digital Hub in 2024. - Tender progressing for renovation/re-purposing of the Old Bank in Rosslare Harbour to a Digital Hub (building acquired under BAM/TVS) • Remote Working Hubs – Wexford County Council secured funding through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2022 for a comprehensive marketing campaign promoting remote working hubs in County Wexford. This initiative aligns with the National Remote Work Strategy, aiming to attract professionals and businesses to utilize local hubs. Promotional efforts spanned digital media, radio campaigns, print media, and outdoor advertising. The total project spend amounted to €49,320.05, with a grant of €44,501.40 • Town & Village Renewal Scheme – €2,000,400 approved across 9 projects including €870,000 for the purchase of 4 vacant/derelict buildings to be repurposed for community use. • Women in Business – Network established to support women in business. • Celtic Routes – (EU project) A network of coastal communities was established under a Joint Initiative and in 2024 plans are in place with Wexford and Waterford to develop projects around the Hook Peninsula and Waterford Estuary in tourism and other sectors. • Ancient Connections - (EU Funded) 4-year tourism and heritage project (now completed). The Ancient Connection programme created new links between North Wexford and North Pembrokeshire for the benefit of communities, the arts, heritage, trade and tourism https://ancientconnections.org/
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PLACEMAKING
RPO 31 Sustainable Place Framework
RPO 61 Health Place Audit (HPA) for Place-making
RPO 70 Bidding capacity

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>Wexford Town</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wexford Heritage led regeneration plan – approved • Wexford LTP to be prepared in 2024 • Wexford LAP 2024-2030 – in preparation • Trinity Wharf - as above • Crescent Quay – as above • Monck Street Public Realm Enhancement Project – as above • University Campus for SETU (Ballynagee Lands) – as above • Min Ryan Park – as above • Wexford Arts Centre Extension – as above <p>Gorey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gorey Town and Environs LAP extended to 2026 • Esmonde Street - as above
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gorey Town Park – as above • St. Waleran’s – as above <p>Enniscorthy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enniscorthy TCF Plan – a above • Enniscorthy Heritage-led Regeneration Plan – as above • Local Transport Plan – To be completed in 2024. • Local Area Plan – Consultants appointed for SEA, AA and LTP. • Enniscorthy Town Centre & Tourism Project - as above • Murphy Floods Redevelopment - as above • Enniscorthy Business Park (Old Dublin Road) – as above • Bellefield GAA and Public Realm Improvements – Public realm space, including playground, under construction • Enniscorthy Wellbeing and Activity Garden (St. John’s)- as above <p>New Ross</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Ross TCF Plan – as above • New Ross Tourism Project – as above • Emigrant Park on Quay – as above • High Hill Park – as above • Brennan’s Lane and Shambles - as above
<p>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. Details on progress with the delivery of Strategic Locations for Employment Development should also be included.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Enterprise Office – see under RURAL AREAS / RURAL DEVELOPMENT / NETWORKS & CROSS BOUNDARY INITIATIVES above • Invest Wexford Brand – Initiative to attract FDI and potential employers into the County, including providing property solutions. In 2024 it is planned to develop new marketing assets for the County. • Digital Blueprints for Enniscorthy and New Ross prepared as part of the TCF Plans – mechanism to measure digital readiness of towns for business. • Trinity Wharf – Marketing campaign to attract business. Following an e-tender process amongst providers on OGP Framework, Deloitte LLP have been appointed to provide financial advisory and project management services to the Trinity Wharf project. • The Hatch Lab in Gorey Business Park - see under RURAL AREAS / RURAL DEVELOPMENT / NETWORKS & CROSS BOUNDARY INITIATIVES above. • Enniscorthy High Performance Building Alliance (HPBA) / UN Centre of Excellence – The HPBA has been established with funding provided by Wexford County Council and the Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB) to further Ireland’s obligations under the EU Directive on the energy performance of buildings.

In 2021 WWETB developed an NZEB 'train the trainer' programme to address the shortage of qualified instructors to deliver the programmes. The first cohort graduated at the National Green Skills Conference, held at Wexford County Council in 2022.

In 2021, WWETB developed a virtual reality platform, utilising technology, to enhance its delivery of retrofitting for homes. This is now incorporated in its retrofitting course.

In 2022, WWETB received national recognition when it won "product of the show" and "best services provider" at the National Sustainable Energy of Ireland event.

In 2022 HPBA received funding of €148,000 under the Enterprise Ireland REISS grant to establish a regional ecosystem for enterprise opportunities in the green economy including supply side opportunities in the construction sector. The innovation incubation centre is called the Green Hub.

In February 2023, a manager was recruited to lead on the fit out of the HPBA Green Hub, establish a Green Cluster and manage the High Performance Building Alliance.

In October 2023, the HPBA Board approved plans for the fit out of the Green Hub. The lease was signed in December 2023 and work is due to get underway in Feb 2024.

Funding of €100,000 was received from DHLGH in December 2023. A bid for further funding is currently being developed, for the Enterprise Ireland Smart Regions Scheme.

- **Enniscorthy Technological Park** - As part of Wexford County Council's economic strategy to provide high quality property solutions for investment by companies with potential for job creation, Wexford County Council has secured an MOU with the IDA to collaboratively develop a property solution for an advanced factory at Enniscorthy Technology Park. This phase will see a tender for design and planning of the advanced building solution.
- **New Ross Advance Factory** – expressions of interest sought. Wexford County Council invited 'Expressions of Interest' (EOI) from interested parties for the design and construction of commercial/industrial property solutions on council owned lands at Butlersland, New Ross, Co Wexford. Discussions ongoing with interested parties.
- **Rosslare Europort** – see under SUPPORTING GROWTH / DEVELOPMENT OF KEY TOWNS above.
- **Kilmore Quay Enterprise Hub** – see under SMALLER TOWNS AND VILLAGES above.
- **Destination Experience Development Plan for Co. Wexford** – Failte Ireland are preparing this Plan which is at an advanced stage.
- **Gorey LAP 2017 (extended to 2026)** – identifies locations for employment.
- **Courtown LAP 2015 (extended to 2026)** - identifies locations for employment.
- **Wexford Local Area Plan 2024-2030** – Currently being prepared. The LAP will focus on identifying a sufficient quantum of industrial and commercial land to support both the Key Town designation and the development of Rosslare Europort.
- **Enniscorthy LAP**– will identify locations for employment.
- **RHK and Bunclody Settlement Plans**- identifies locations for employment

	<p>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</p>
	<p>In line with department guidelines and having completed the statutory project stages, the development of the next iteration of the LECP is nearing conclusion with the 2-year implementation plan now at the latter stages of development. Statutory agencies including the Southern Regional Assembly, have been consulted on the framework document. The full LECP framework document and 2-year implementation plan will proceed for signoff by the LECP Advisory Steering Group, Strategic Policy Committees, LCDC and Municipal Districts in January 2024, before being presented for adoption by the Council Members in Q1 2024.</p>
<p>ECONOMIC CORRIDORS RPO: 42 Eastern Corridor</p>	<p>Please provide details of progress that has been made to advance development of the Eastern Corridor</p>
	<p>The Rosslare Port Access Road has been granted by An Bord Pleanála. The project is at design stage and WCC anticipates going to tender in Q4 2024 for construction. This will enhance connectivity to the Europort from the Eastern Economic Corridor and also the Southern Region linking into the Atlantic Economic Corridor. The N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour National Road Scheme, which is currently at design stage will also enhance connectivity.</p> <p>The Economic Strategy for WCC is aligning itself with connection of the motorway and has planned property solutions to link it to Rosslare Europort.</p> <p>Economic property solutions at Gorey and Enniscorthy have utilised opportunities presented by the Eastern Economic Corridor with the location of the Gorey M11 Business Campus and Enniscorthy Technology Park, providing opportunities for clustering and the development of specialisms along the corridor.</p> <p>The location of Wexford Town and Rosslare Harbour on the Eastern Economic Corridor, together with opportunities arising post-Brexit, has resulted in the location and expansion of a number of logistics companies in particular, in Drinagh, Wexford and in Rosslare Harbour. Rosslare Harbour is also targeted as an Economic Zone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gorey LAP 2017 (extended to 2026) – identifies locations for employment • Enniscorthy LAP– will identify locations for employment. • Wexford Local Area Plan 2024-2030 – Currently being prepared. The LAP will focus on identifying a sufficient quantum of industrial and commercial land to support both the Key Town designation and the development of Rosslare Europort. • Rosslare Europort – development progressing as outlined above.
<p>TOURISM RPO 53 Tourism RPO 54 Tourism & the Environment</p>	<p>Please outline any recently completed or planned projects of significance to support tourism development, culture, heritage or the arts in your Local Authority</p>
	<p><u>Plans/Campaigns:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Wexford Marketing Campaign - The Visit Wexford marketing campaign was launched on the 6th December, 2023. The campaign is aimed at families, young and empty nester couples, solo travellers, and friends. The focus of the campaign in the new year is fresh start inspiration for cosy winter self-care stays, wellbeing breaks, outdoor adventure and unique Wexford experiences.

- **Destination Experience Plan for County Wexford** – preparation of the plan is at an advanced Stage.

Recently Completed Projects:

- **South East Greenway** – Fully funded by TII. Phase 1 New Ross to Glenmore was officially opened on the 25th of July 2023. Phase 2 work commenced on a 5.5 km section from Ferrybank to Curraghmore in November 2023. Design consultants to complete the greenway expected to be appointed in February 2024. Failte Ireland appointed Company to create an Interpretation and wayfinding plan for SEG.
- **Emigrant Park, New Ross** - Project included the removal of oil tanks and the development of public realm works on the Quay. RRDF funding of €814,393 for the project was announced in November 2022. The works are now complete and the park was officially opened by Minister Heather Humphrey's on 26th October 2023.
- **High Hill Norman Gardens, New Ross** – Completed with approx. €1.5 million in URDF funding.
- **Wexford Arts Centre, Wexford**
- **Monck Street, Wexford** - Public Realm Enhancement Works

Planned Projects:

- **WEXFORDIA – includes Irish National Heritage Park (INHP), Hook Lighthouse and New Ross Tourism Projects**
WCC secured RRDF Category 2 and Category 1 funding for the development of a cluster of tourism projects within the county.

Irish National Heritage Park: The tourism and environmental design teams for the INHP have commenced work on a preliminary design and the environmental assessments. The preliminary design has been extended to include a design for a new Visitor Centre in order to support service requirements at the INHP and to mitigate against future flood events. It is planned to submit a planning application for the entire project to An Bord Pleanála in Q3 2024.

Hook Lighthouse: Tandem Design have been appointed to provide Interpretive Design services on a new tourism development at the Hook Lighthouse. A Preliminary Research report has been compiled. It is expected that the preliminary design will be completed in 2024 and submitted to ABP in Q2 2025. Approx. €1.1m Category 2 funding received.

New Ross Tourism Project: Involves a series of projects in the centre of New Ross, including the interpretive fit-out of the Dunbrody Visitor Centre and the regeneration of the old Michael Murphy Building, 20 and 21, the Quay to transform it into a stunning Norman heritage visitor attraction. Discussed further under SMALLER TOWNS AND VILLAGES above.

- **Enniscorthy Town Centre and Tourism Project** - discussed under SMALLER TOWNS AND VILLAGES above.
- **Greenways, Blueways and Walking Trails** - discussed elsewhere in this report.

Completed Heritage and Conservation Projects

- **New Ross Town Walls Project (William Street)** - €35,891 grant received from Heritage Council) (works total €40,000)
- **Wexford Town Walls Project (Bride Street and Rope Walk Carpark)** - €80,000 grant received from Heritage Council (works total €94,600)
- **Barrystown Mine Engine House** - €7,014 (100% grant) received under the Community Monuments Fund to carry out a Conservation Management Plan. A further €118,221 (100% grant) was received in 2022 for substantial works.

- **Fethard Castle Phase 2** - €100,000 grant received under the Community Monuments Fund (works total €147,367)
- **Mountgarrett Castle Phase 2** - €100,000 grant received under the Community Monuments Fund (works total €147,367)
- **Mountgarrett Castle Phase 3** - €100,000 grant received under the Community Monuments Fund (works total €126,233)
- **Tellarought Castle Phase 3** - €100,000 grant received under the Community Monuments Fund (works total €131,600)
- **Ishartmon Church and Graveyard** - €25,851 grant received under the Community Monuments Fund (100% grant)
- **NMS Funds received for Bicentennial Works** to 1798 Centre, Enniscorthy €100,000 and Boolavogue Fr. Murphy Centre €40,000
- **Heritage-led Regeneration Plan for Wexford Town** – €30,000 received under the Historic Towns Initiative (total cost €38,000)
- **Heritage-led Regeneration Plan for Enniscorthy** – €31,842 received under the Historic Towns Initiative (total cost €39,803)
- Allocation of Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structures Fund
- World War II defence heritage audit 2022
- Phase 1 Audit of WCC historic church and graveyard sites 2023

Biodiversity Projects (funded under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund)

- Wetlands Survey Phase 1 and Phase 2
- Tree and Hedgerow Policy
- Barnowl Survey and Booklet
- Dune Restoration Works
- Graveyard St. Johns Enniscorthy
- County tree/hedge cover digital survey by BlueSky
- County Hedgerow Survey 2023

Arts Projects and Initiatives:

- **SCREEN Wexford** – An initiative of Wexford County Council’s Arts & Economic Development Departments focusing on the development of the Film, TV & Animation industry in the county. <https://screenwexford.com/>
- **Wexford County Council Arts Plan 2023 – 2027**
- **Reimagining Enniscorthy** - public art & community decarbonisation project, which took place in 2022-23 throughout Enniscorthy town. It was collaborative, place-based response to the climate crisis, and a creative exploration of Enniscorthy as Wexford’s pilot Decarbonisation Zone <https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/arts-and-culture/current-programmes-plans-and-events/re-imagining-enniscorthy>
- **Festivals** - WCC county-wide support, collaboration and funding for cultural events including festivals of national and international acclaim e.g. Opera Festival, Piano Festival, Kennedy Summer School.

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

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

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

- Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme**
 RPS Ltd was appointed to undertake the Preliminary Design and Statutory Consents Phase of the Courtown coastal protection and beach nourishment scheme. Priority Geotechnical Ltd. is appointed to carry out the marine and land-based surveys and boreholes at Courtown. They commenced work on the May 2022 and the site investigation work is complete. Marine profiling surveys will also be carried out in parallel at this time and this work is being carried out by Hydrographic Survey Limited. An application to the Marine Foreshore Dept. was submitted in December 2022, for permission to carry out benthic grab samples. This work will commence once approval is granted. It is planned to submit an application to An Bord Pleanála for development consent in Q2 2024.
- Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme:** Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd Consulting Engineers is appointed to progress the scheme. Key design parameters for the scheme are being finalised. The project website and project email are now live and can be accessed at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/rosclarefrs/>
- Seaview, Kilmore:** Further correspondence was issued to OPW to progress the funding of the scheme. A Part 8 application has been submitted.
- Lady's Island Water Level Management Structure** – An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for this development in Sept 2021. Foreshore licence application has been lodged and is under consideration by the Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).
- Fethard Harbour** – New Slipway and Beach Access. This is the one project under the BALAMI scheme that did not proceed due to planning and foreshore consent outstanding. If the BALAMI scheme is not extended beyond 2023, WCC will apply to progress this project under a separate funding stream once the statutory consents are in place. Planning application has been submitted to ABP.
- Rosslare Europort** – as above
- Rosslare Harbour Offshore Renewable Energy Hub** – as above
- Curraclloe Water Sports Activity Facility** – see under 'RECREATION' below.
- Marinas** planned at Trinity Wharf, Wexford Town and Courtown Harbour.

CLIMATE ACTION AND DECARBONISATION: TRANSITION TO A LOW CARBON ECONOMY & SOCIETY

RPO 56 Low Carbon Economy
 RPO 57 National Policy Statement on Bio-economy
 RPO 85 Renewable offshore energy
 RPO 88 National Mitigation Plan and National Adaptation Framework

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 89 Building Resilience to Climate Change
RPO 90 Regional Decarbonisation.
RPO 91 Decarbonisation in the Transport Sector
RPO 94 Decarbonisation in the Agricultural Sector

Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

The Draft Plan is nearing finalisation and is due to be adopted by WCC in Feb 2024. The plan incorporates both mitigation and adaptation measures and includes the development of a Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) in Enniscorthy. The DZ will be the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity measures.

The Plan builds on WCC's current Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 and ongoing work by the Council's Climate Action Steering Group in conjunction with the South East Energy Agency. During this time, Wexford County Council has achieved ISO 50001 Energy Management Standard.

WCC has:

- delivered improvements in energy efficiency across the organisation (40% efficiency achieved over the 2009 baseline).
- developed an active monitoring and assessment programme of the County coastline and commenced the decarbonisation of the Local Authority owned fleet, with 5% of vehicles now replaced with EVs.
- A significant public lighting efficiency programme is also approaching completion by the Council, which has resulted in an estimated 60 % increase in energy efficiency.
- In addition, the Council has supported the establishment of twenty-five Sustainable Energy Communities across the County, who are taking a lead on climate action at community level.

The Plan will set an ambitious target of an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 51% and 50% energy efficiency by 2030. Wexford County Council will be responsible for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from across its own assets and infrastructure, whilst also taking on a broader role of influencing, facilitating and advocating others to meet their own targets.

There are 133 actions in total contained in the plan across five action areas.

There are 95 actions countywide and 38 actions specific to Enniscorthy DZ.

Completed projects:

CASE STUDY 1: Marram Grass and Dune Restoration

Several County Wexford beach communities have come together to restore the natural ecology of the coastline. The importance of dunes and the grasses that support them in protecting our coastline from flooding, storm damage and erosion has become ever more evident in recent years. Marram grass, a familiar native plant that grows in Irish sands, has rhizomes that grow metres long and knit together with roots and other Marram rhizomes to form a strong matrix that holds together the loose light sands of our dunes. This is a sustainable, cost effective, landscape preserving and long term solution to coastal erosion.

With the help of the County Council, Clean Coasts Ireland and other organisations, there have been various restoration and planting projects along the County Wexford Coast including at Tacumshane, Morriscastle, Curraclloe and Rosslare Strand.

CASE STUDY 2: BioGas Heating System for Wexford Fire Station

Project Brief: 120kw BioGas boiler installed and commissioned at Wexford fire station with 60% grant aid from the EU RegEnergy Fund. Based on the data submitted to SEAI (at application stage), there has been a 17% decrease in energy and 58% decrease in CO₂ emissions.

Case Study 3 SUDS in Wexford Town

Grogans Road, Wexford. Helps manage rainwater run-off, allow for recharging of the natural aquifer, help prevent flooding and provide habitat for wildlife. This kind of drainage can potentially have numerous benefits for urban spaces.

Case Study 4 Street Light Replacement Programme

Since 2017, Wexford County Council has been undertaking a programme of replacement of the old public lighting with energy efficient lighting. This programme will have paid for itself within 6 -7 years following on from the very large savings made in CO₂ emissions, energy consumption and maintenance. There is now an asset replacement programme in place for public lighting.

CASE STUDY 5: Enniscorthy Community Allotments

The space is used by individuals and organisations like Wexford Mental Health Association?, Cottage Autism Network, who come together to create a welcoming, nurturing, and inclusive environment. It is set on 1.5 acres of land in Enniscorthy urban Area, provided by Wexford County Council, and has received funding from Enniscorthy Municipal District, Wexford County Council and LEADER and the local credit union. This mix of funding partners, combined with their inclusive ethos, means that many aspects of this project represent best practice for community action. There is currently, individual plots, raised bed plots, polytunnels and recreation areas, with plans for growth - providing opportunities for training and further development within the community. It is hoped that the allotments in Enniscorthy can be used as a model for potential action in other communities in County Wexford.

CASE STUDY 6: Wexford Harbour Linten a Farraiige

Inspired by the light installations of two Finnish artists Timo Aho and Pekka Niittyvirta, the Linte na Farraiige project team worked with scientists from Trinity College Dublin and Maynooth University, the Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) and Local Authorities, as well as designers from Algorithm and Native Events. Wexford County Council participated in this project with the installation located at Wexford Harbour. The lines of light represent future sea level rise based on predictions from the 2021 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report and historical storm surge data. This line of light marks the worst-case scenario. The light installation was powered by solar panels. The work was funded by the inaugural Creative Climate Action fund, an initiative from the Creative Ireland Programme in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. Projects for the second fund have now been announced and further supporting climate action and cooperation between the arts and sciences to educate, inform, and inspire action.

Case Study 7: eBike Sharing Scheme – Bolt Bikes

The eBike sharing scheme was launched on the 17th of May 2023. With a fleet of 50 e-bikes being made available to the public in Wexford Town. This is a public, private partnership, with the council providing an initial 28 parking locations for Bolt Bikes (this will increase to about 45 total in Wexford Town). There has been terrific uptake on the ebike scheme in Wexford Town. From May to December 2023, there were 3,165 unique users of the bikes, with a total of 64,134km travelled. In addition to CO₂ savings, the ebikes also contribute to making Wexford Town more accessible to people. The ongoing success of this scheme is apparent in the expressions of interest from the larger communities in County Wexford for the introduction of an ebike sharing scheme in their towns.

Community Climate Action Programme - WCC has been allocated €669,000 under this fund to assist communities to take direct climate action and support the transition to a low carbon economy. The application stage is opened to 6th March for community-led climate action projects which will be 100% funded.

	See also ‘ Research Project on Understanding sustainable transport needs in Enniscorthy ’ under SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY / LOCAL TRANSPORT PLANS (AND OBJECTIVES/INITIATIVES below.
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 renewal energy
	<p>Volume 10 of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 sets out the Energy Strategy for the county. Section 3 of the Energy Strategy sets a target of 100% of electricity consumption in the county to be from renewable sources by 2027. This will assist in achieving the national renewable energy targets, with County Wexford providing well in excess of its population share towards the 70% national renewable energy target by 2030. This target will be met through a combination of renewable energy sources.</p> <p>County Wexford has been to the forefront of renewable energy development having a wind energy strategy in place since 2007 and already has made a significant contribution to the State’s installed renewable energy (182.5MW). Over 45 solar farms have been granted in the County to date and a number of these have grid offers/are currently under construction (further details on site area/estimated output can be provided if required).</p> <p>Offshore Renewable Energy Hub in Rosslare - see above.</p>
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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See CASE STUDY 1: Marram Grass and Dune Restoration above • See Case Study 3: SUDS in Wexford Town above • A Nature Based Solutions/Rain Water Management Plan/Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy is currently being prepared for Wexford Town as part of the preparation of the Wexford Town LAP. <p>Biodiversity Projects (funded under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands Survey Phase 1 and Phase 2 • Tree and Hedgerow Policy • Barnowl Survey and Booklet • Dune Restoration Works • Graveyard St. Johns Enniscorthy • County tree/hedge cover digital survey by BlueSky • County Hedgerow Survey 2023

RECREATION & SPORTING FACILITIES INCL. BLUEWAYS & GREENWAYS

Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support support recreation and sporting facilities including blueways and greenways

South East Greenway

- Phase 1 New Ross to Glenmore was officially opened on the 25th of July 2023.
- Phase 2 work commenced on a 5.5 km section from Ferrybank to Curraghmore in November 2023.
- Design consultants to complete the greenway expected to be appointed in February 2024.
- Failte Ireland appointed The Paul Hogarth Company to create an Interpretation and wayfinding plan for SEG.

Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway

Fully funded by TII. Consultants have been appointed to carry out a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments for the development of this project. It is expected to confirm a preferred route in Q2 2024 with submission to An Bord Pleanala likely in Q3 2025. Consultants have also been appointed to review the route options for the proposed Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand greenway in light of the significant coastal protection works that have been carried out over the past two years by Irish Rail. It is planned to confirm a preferred route in Q2 2024, with a Part 8 application (subject to screening) to follow.

Forth Mountain Activity Park

Outdoor Activity Centre and Forest Walking Trails located at Forth Mountain, 3km southwest of Wexford Town Centre. Joint venture between Wexford County Council and Wexford and Waterford ETC and party funded through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. Phase 1 Trails and Carpark is complete. Phase 2 - Activity Centre Building is currently on hold. Part VIII for the proposed boathouse and external toilet facility on-site was approved by WCC in February 2023. Contract award is subject to confirmation of funding.

Gorey District Park

The park is substantially completed and is now fully open to the public. A contract has been awarded for the delivery of a Changing Places facility.

Enniscorthy Sports Hub - Development of a Hub building at running track. Previous tenders exceeded the available budget however further funding of €150,000 has been awarded under the LSSIF scheme and it is intended to retender the project in January 2024.

Ferndale Gymnasium and MUGAs, Wexford

Sports Capital funding of €300,000 has been secured for this project, supporting a donation of €500,000 from William Neville and Sons for this project. Part VIII approval was received in 2022 and a design team has been appointed to prepare detailed designs and tender documents for the works. The works were tendered in August and the tenders received in September. Tenders exceeded the available budget, so a design review for the building is currently being undertaken by the Design Team. Sole Sports and Leisure Ltd. have been awarded the contract, following public tender, for the construction of two MUGAs at an adjacent site and funding has been confirmed for €100,000 through the 2023 Community Recognition Fund. Works commenced on site in August 2023. Completion is expected in January 2024.

Curraclloe Water Sports Activity Facility - WCC received Stage 2 compliance approval from Fáilte Ireland for the development of facilities to support water sports activities at Whitegap, Curraclloe. The project will include showers, toilets, changing facilities and lockers. An architect was appointed and surveying works and detailed design commenced in January 2023. The tender for the enabling works package was published to e-tenders in December 2023, these works are expected to commence on-site in March 2024. The tender for the main building is awaiting Failte Ireland approval and is expected to be published to e-tenders in January 2024, with works commencing on-site in April 2024.

Blueway Projects:

- **The Corack River Blueway (Bannow)** –ORIS funding has been received to develop this blueway centred around Wellingtonbridge. An application is expected to be submitted to ABP in Q2 2024.
- **The Barrow Blueway** - ORIS funding has been received for project development for this blueway which will be centred around New Ross.
- **The Cot Watersports Hub (Southend)** – ORIS funding has been received for project development to improve kayak and sailing facilities at Southend, Wexford.

Trails/Coastal Walkway

Numerous projects completed or in progress under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) including:

- Ferns Heritage Trail Waymarking Project (under construction)
- Cahore Step Improvements and Cahore Point Trail - Resurface Link (at tender stage)
- Up-grade River Slaney Banks Trail (design)
- Extend the Enniscorthy Riverside Walk -Project Development Grant (design)
- Re-route Section of Curragh Trail (construction)
- Re-route Section of Forge Trail, Carrigbyrne (design)
- Ballyhack to Duncannon -Phase 1 complete and Phase 2 (Planning)
- Our Lady's Island - Phase 1 (complete) and Phase 2 (under construction)
- Kellywood Link (tender)
- Forth Mt. Equestrian Trail (complete)
- Ballybrittas Tomb Trail, Bree (complete)
- Kilmore Quay Recreation Trail (design)
- Other works around carparks, signage and accessibility including seating.

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

- **Nature Based Solutions/Rain Water Management Plan/Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy** currently being prepared for Wexford Town as part of the preparation of the Wexford Town LAP.
- **Duncannon Blue Flag Farming and Communities Scheme** – European Innovation project <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/duncannon-blue-flag-farming-communities-scheme.html>
- **Marine Invasive Species Plan** – published by WCC and in 2024 WCC will install signs at harbours, piers and ports throughout the county targeting visiting yachts and boats.
- **Blue Dot Programme** – Led by LAWPRO. There are six blue dot watercourses in County Wexford.

<p>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>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See ‘New Digital Hubs’ and ‘Remote Working Hubs’ under RURAL AREAS / RURAL DEVELOPMENT / NETWORKS & CROSS BOUNDARY INITIATIVES above. • See Rosslare Europort to become one of Europe’s smartest ports in 2024 under SUPPORTING GROWTH / DEVELOPMENT OF KEY TOWNS above. • See ‘Kilmore Quay Enterprise Hub’ under SMALLER TOWNS AND VILLAGES above. • Digital Blueprints for Enniscorthy and New Ross – see under RSES ECONOMIC STRATEGY above. • Enniscorthy Town is a designated Smart Town in the RSES with supporting objectives in CDP. This designation will be explored in further detail in the preparation of the local transport plan and local area plan for Enniscorthy.
<p>INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIVITY/ PORTS/AIRPORTS, FREIGHT & LOGISTICS RPO 139 Low Carbon International Connectivity RPO 145: Ports and Harbour Strategy for the Southern Region RPO:149: Airport Strategy for the Southern Region RPO 141: Regional Freight Strategy RPO 143 Ports and Airports</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>
	<p>Development of Rosslare Europort – as outlined above.</p>
<p>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>N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour – At design stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The design of the development is being updated considering the revised TII Service Area Policy 2023 and Climate Action Plan 2023. • Preparation of Environmental, Planning, Design and other reports are ongoing. • Slaney Bridge Options Report is near completion. <p>N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road Planning permission was granted by An Bord Pleanála. The project is at design stage and WCC anticipates going to tender in Q4 2024 for construction.</p> <p>National Road Pavement Schemes on N25, N30, N80 and former national roads R772 and R723</p> <p>Rail – Improved line and frequency of passenger services from Dublin to Rosslare Europort, reinstatement/new station to south of Wexford Hanrahan station and reinstating the Rosslare Europort to Waterford line all considered as part of the All Ireland Strategic Rail Review, as well as further development of freight services to and from Rosslare Europort.</p>

**SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY /
LOCAL TRANSPORT PLANS
(AND OBJECTIVES/INITIATIVES)**

RPO 151 Integration of Land Use and Transport
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

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.

- **LTPs** - Work has commenced on the Wexford LTP and Enniscorthy LTP. The LTPs will be used to inform the Local Area Plans for those settlements, including the development of the 10-minute town concept.
- **Safe Routes to School Scheme** – Three routes completed at Rosslare, Adamstown and St. Aidan’s Enniscorthy (completed) and three more planned for 2024.
- **Wexford Pathfinder Project** -
 - **Newtown Road, Wexford** (Part of Pathfinder Project) – Phase 1 currently under construction. Together with two later phases this project will result in the delivery of protected cycle paths and footpath upgrades on both sides of the road from the Ring Road (Maldron Hotel) to town centre.
 - **Roxborough Cycle Scheme, Wexford** (Part of Pathfinder Project) – cycle lane upgrade
 - **From hospital junction across Beechlawn to Roxborough** – next planned phase

Research Project on “Understanding sustainable transport needs in Enniscorthy”

TASC (Think-tank for Action on Social Change) and UCC are carrying out a research project on “Understanding sustainable transport needs in Enniscorthy. Funded by Science Foundation Ireland, the aim of the research is to empower communities to adopt more sustainable modes of mobility by demonstrating how shared low-carbon transportation can plug the gap when high-frequency public transport might not be available. The project also aims to explore new solutions to the problem of transport carbon emissions and in particular to investigate potential opportunities for shared sustainable mobility initiatives in smaller towns.

Enniscorthy was selected as the sole town for the research project due its challenging topography. The first meeting was held on 20th November 2023 in GreenTech HQ, attended by 20 invited community representatives. Break-out groups discussed the problems and potential solutions and one-on-one interviews were held by UCC over a period after the initial meeting. The research report is expected to be issued within the next 12 months.

This research project coincides with the imminent launch of Enniscorthy Sustainable Energy Community’s Energy Master Plan (EMP), which contains numerous proposed actions and solutions around sustainable transport and carbon emission reduction. With Enniscorthy also being proposed as a Decarbonisation Zone under the draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan, the focus on sustainable mobility will reinforce and promote the climate action goals within the town.

See Case Study 7: **eBike Sharing Scheme** – Bolt Bikes under CLIMATE ACTION AND DECARBONISATION

**INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES &
PLACES -IMPROVING
WELLBEING AND QUALITY OF
LIFE**

RPO 181 Equal Access
RPO 182 Ageing Population

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

LECP – to be adopted by WCC in February 2024

Social Infrastructure Audits – being carried out as part of the preparation of the Wexford Town and Enniscorthy Town LAPs. The SIAs will identify where deficiencies exist relative to the existing and planned population and will inform the preparation of the Draft LAPs (including 10 minute town) and other social and community programmes.

Completed Access Projects 2022 & 2023

- **Advanced Digital Access Participation Project (ADAPP)** - Developing access to public spaces through a digital experience, total amount €20,000. ADAPP was funded through the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund (DPAF) to provide virtual tours of our main public offices and a number of heritage sites. Narration for these tours includes Irish Sign Language to ensure they are fully accessible for all. The heritage sites selected were St. Patrick's Church and Graveyard in Wexford Town, Fethard Castle in New Ross Municipal District, Enniscorthy Castle in the Enniscorthy Municipal District, Tulach a' tSolais at Oulart Hill in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District and St. Mary's Church in Bannow from the Rosslare Municipal District. This project has now been completed with the virtual tours available on our [website](#)
- **Interactive Community Engagement (ICE)** - total amount €60,000 funded through the DPAF. Ten local community groups representing all five Borough and Municipal Districts in County Wexford were funded to carry out projects to increase the accessibility of their services. The project led to increased and improved footpath access linking services in rural areas, sensory gardens, accessible parking spaces, wheelchair friendly picnic and chess tables, improved playground equipment, musical equipment and improved signage installed to support ten local community organisations and make their services significantly more accessible for all. The Access Office Wexford County Council were shortlisted for the NCBI Vision Awards 2022 in the category "Accessibility in the Built Environment". The Accessibility in the Built Environment Award recognises individuals and companies who are proactive in planning, building, or changing the built environment, transportation network or shared spaces to ensure they are fully accessible to people who are blind or vision impaired. The Awards Ceremony took place on the 9th of November 2022 in Dublin.
- **Beach wheelchair facilities** at designated beaches in the county and pool-pods.
- **Accessible playgrounds.**

Wexford Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme (SHCP)

In 2021, Sláintecare Healthy Ireland in the Department of Health, working with the HSE and local authorities and community agencies, launched the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme (SHCP) to provide increased health and wellbeing services in 19 community areas across Ireland. In Co. Wexford SHCP operates in the following areas: Wexford Town, Enniscorthy Town, Edermine ED and Taghmon. The programme is delivered by Wexford County Council through a Local Development Officer.

With a once off capital budget of €250,000 in 2021 the following projects were delivered with a particular focus on accessibility:

- Oilgate new accessible playground
- Taghmon playground resurfacing & accessible equipment
- St. Marys Callinestics
- Learn to Cycle Park Enniscorthy
- Fairgreen Enniscorthy playground accessible equipment and access works to primary school
- Ferndale playground access works to entrance and disability carousel

Other projects delivered:

- FAB in Coolcotts Wexford - Childcare Parenting Programme on Hidden Disabilities (Autism/ADHD, etc)

- Tunstall & Acorn project Technology Project for Older People with HSE
- Enniscorthy Allotments Sensory Garden. See also CASE STUDY 5: Enniscorthy Community Allotments under CLIMATE ACTION AND DECARBONISATION above
- Loreto - Horticulture, Climate Action & Wellness project
- Taghmon FRC - Food Poverty Project
- Parable Gardens - Green Therapy Research Project
- Edermine Rowing Club – boat building project and funding for accessible indoor rowing equipment, safety equipment and training
- Taghmon Camross Community Car
- Southend Wexford Retrofitting Pilot Project
- Strong & Steady Exercise programme with Sports Active & Wexford General Hospital Physiotherapy Department
- Music Moves Me with St. Bridgets Day Care Centre & National Opera House – a movement and dance project for older people
- FDYS Coolcotts Halloween Festival
- Enniscorthy Community College - After Scholls initiative for potential early school leavers including horticulture, boxercise and cookery classes

Enniscorthy Interagency Group has also been set up and includes Council representatives as well as agencies including An Garda Síochana, HSE, WWETB, Wexford Local Development, FDYS, Schools, Tusla and Approved Housing Bodies. Place standard audits focusing on two housing estates in Enniscorthy, Forgelands and Gimont Ave, are being carried out and representatives from the group as well as members of these local communities will be involved with targeted community development work.

Healthy Wexford Initiatives – Seeds to Success and ‘Happy to Chat’ Benches

<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/community/healthy-wexford/healthy-wexford-initiatives>

Healthy Wexford County Plan 2020-2022 -

<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/sites/default/files/content/Community/Healthy-Wexford-Summary.pdf>

Wexford Libraries - My Open Library, Digital help hub, Services to Ukrainian Nationals amongst other initiatives.

Age Friendly Initiatives:

- Wexford County Council and Age Friendly Wexford has an Age Friendly Strategy in place to run from 2022-2026.
- There are Age Friendly Ambassadors in each of the five Wexford Libraries and New Ross Library has Age Friendly Status.
- Age friendly car parking - Enniscorthy has six Age Friendly parking spaces and WCC Headquarters has six Age Friendly Car Parking spaces.
- Wexford has an Older Person Council which meet six times year and bring items they would like to see actioned to the Wexford Age Friendly Alliance meeting which has representatives from all Departments in the Council and is chaired by the Chief Executive of the Council. The Chair of the Older Person Council will bring issues arising to the attention of National Age Friendly Council and liaise with Age Friendly Ireland on behalf of the Older Persons Council.
- The Age Friendly Programme Manager liaises with Age Friendly Ireland at the request of the Older Person Council.
- The Age Friendly Programme Manager run events to encourage Social Interaction with the older generation, especially since Covid as some were hesitant to go back out to social events e.g., Social Dancing lesson with Dancing with Declan, followed by tea and a chat.
- Liaising with Garda Síochana to carry out talks to Active Retirement Groups in relation to Safety to in the home and Cyber Security.
- Working with Sport Active in the Council to have exercise activity for the older generation in the community.

LEARNING REGION RPO 186: Lifelong Learning & RPOs 39, 63, Also RPO 187 Education & Training, RPO 190 Lifelong Learning & Healthy Cities Initiative	Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support lifelong learning and development of a Learning Region
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCC is supporting SETU and WWETB in identifying industry and training needs. • University Campus for SETU and Education Ecosystem (Ballynagee Lands) – see above. • Georgia Southern University Accommodation Campus (Adoration Convent) – see above. • Enniscorthy High Performance Building Alliance (HPBA) / UN Centre of Excellence for nZEB – see above. • Wexford College of Further Education and Training in Wexford launched its new College of Further Education and Training which opened in Clonard, Wexford town in September.
GAELTACHTAÍ, GAELTACHT SERVICE TOWNS(GSTs) & IRISH LANGUAGE NETWORKS	Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support Gaeltachtaí, Gaeltacht Service Towns (GSTs) & Irish Language Networks
	N/A

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.

We have not experienced any issues do date with implementing the RSES.

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

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