



Statement on the Cork City Council Draft Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024 - 2029

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

The Cork City Draft LECP was considered by the members of the Regional Assembly at their meeting of 12th April 2024 where it was agreed:

1. To commend the work of Cork City Council and LCDC in the development of the LECP and
2. In accordance with Section 44 of Local Government Reform Act 2014 (amending Section 66C of the Local Government Act 2001), the Regional Assembly are satisfied that the Cork City Council Draft LECP 2024-2029 has demonstrated consistency with:-
 - (i) the core strategy and the objectives of the Development Plan,
 - (ii) The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region, and
 - (iii) between the community and economic elements of the LECP.

Subject to the recommendations as follows:

- On pg. 22 amend the title from 'Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2020–2032' to 'Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2020–2032'. Amend references from 'Southern RSES' to 'RSES'. Change references from 'Project 2040' to 'Project Ireland 2040'.
- The policy alignment sections of chapters 7-12 should reference the **RSES** as it is a requirement of LECPs to be consistent with the RSES.



- Chapter 10
 - For objective 2 'Support innovation and enterprise' it would be appropriate to include a reference to the principle of **smart specialisation** and the role it could play in supporting the innovation ecosystem within the city.
 - Action 2 'Develop other city transport systems' under section 10.4 should include reference to supporting the implementation of **Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (CMATS)**.
 - The Actions under Support Business Development could be strengthened by referencing support for enterprise proposals at the **Strategic Employment Locations**. The MASP is a primary driver for economic development in the region and the 'Strategic Employment Locations, Mixed Use Employment & Regional Assets' in Cork City are important economic assets suitable for large scale employment locations.
- Chapter 12
 - Action '8. Placemaking' could be strengthened by referencing '**Our Green Region: A Blue Green Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions Framework for the Southern Region**'. This is a significant regional initiative which seeks to address three areas: climate change; protect biodiversity; and support high quality green and blue spaces.

