



Tionól Réigiúnach  
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional  
Assembly

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Teach an Tionóil,  
Sráid Uí Chonaill,  
Pórt Láirge,  
X91 F8PC  
Éire.

Southern Regional Assembly

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

## Statement on the Cork County Council Draft Framework Plan Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 - 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 County LECP was considered by the members of the Regional Assembly at their meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024 where it was agreed:

1. To commend the work of Cork County 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 County Council Draft Framework Plan Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029 has demonstrated consistency with:-

- (i) the core strategy and the objectives of the Development Plan,
- (ii) The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region, and
- (iii) between the community and economic elements of the LECP.

Subject to the recommendations as follows:

- In the Socio-Economic Profile of Cork County section:
  - Include the Monard SDZ **Metropolitan Town** on diagrams within the section, this is a designation in the County Development Plan.
  - Include the **MASP boundary** on the Urban/Rural Classification Diagram and the Labour Force 2022 diagram.



- Include the **Strategic Employment Locations** of: Carrigtwohill, Little Island, Ringaskiddy and Whitegate on the Labour Force 2022 diagram.
- HLG 1 should be strengthened by:
  - referencing in the Policy Section that it is an **ambition of the RSES** to be one of the Europe's most Creative and Innovative, Greenest and Liveable Regions,
  - include support for the growth of the **Metropolitan Area, designated Key Towns** and settlements in accordance with the RSES and County Development Plan in the Objectives Section, and
  - reference support for the implementation of **CMATS** under the Actions section for the Objective to, "*Support and promote initiatives and projects which improve access to public transport for rural and urban areas, including enhanced connectivity and public transport offering.*", in the Draft Initial Implementation Plan.
    - The Assembly Members recommended that the LECP should include further objectives to support better public transport connections, particularly to Carrigaline the largest town in the County.
- The reference to the Learning Region under HLG 2 should be strengthened by referencing support for the development of the Southern Region as a **UNESCO Learning Region**, in which Co. Cork can participate to develop opportunities for life-long learning and skills development.
- The **Regional Skills Fora** referenced under HLG 6 can also play a role in supporting skills development and should be referenced under HLG 2 also.
- HLG 5 should be strengthened by referencing support for enterprise proposals in the **MASP** and at the four **Strategic Employment Locations**.