

**Ceantar Bardais Dún na nGall**

Oifig Riarthóir na gCruinnithe,  
Aras an Chontae,  
Leifear.

6ú Deireadh Fómhair, 2015

**Fógra Cruinnithe**

Beidh Cruinniú de Ceantar Bardais Dún na nGall ar siúl **De Máirt 13ú Deireadh Fómhair 2015, ag 2.00 i.n. in Ionad Serbhísí Pobail, Bhaile Dhún na nGall.**

DO GACH BHALL DEN CEANTAR BARDAS DÚN NA nGALL

A Chara,

Iarrtar ort bheith i lathair ag an gcruinniú seo Ceantar Bardais Dún na nGall. Tá Clar an Cruinnithe le seo.

Mise, le meas

Liam Mac a'Bhaird  
p.p. Riarthóir Cruinnithe

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**Municipal District of Donegal**

Office of Meetings Administrator,  
County House,  
Lifford.

6<sup>th</sup> October, 2015

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

The next Meeting of the Municipal District of Donegal will be held on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015, at 2.00 p.m. in the Donegal Public Services Centre.**

TO EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend this meeting of the Municipal District of Donegal. The Agenda is attached.

Yours sincerely,

for Liam Ward,  
Meetings Administrator

## AGENDA

1. Consideration of Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.
2. Consideration of Minutes of Workshop of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.
3. Attendance of Deputation from Donegal Bay Rowing Club.
4. Update Reports from Council Services:
  - 4.1 Housing & Corporate Services
  - 4.2 Roads / Transportation
  - 4.3 Planning & Economic Development
  - 4.4 Update from Central Planning Unit
  - 4.5 Community, Enterprise and Cultural Services
  - 4.6 Environment Services
5. Motions
  - 5.1 Cllr Barry O'Neill  
"That this Municipal District Council abolishes Car Parking charges in the town of Ballyshannon".
  - 5.2 Cllr Niamh Kennedy  
"That this MD along with Failte Ireland reconsider, investigate and resolve the reasons why Kilcar village and the coast road at Kilcar is by-passed (Wild Atlantic Way and Signage)".
6. Correspondence
  - 6.1 Request for a Deputation from Bundoran Surf Industry.
7. Questions
  - 7.1 Cllr Niamh Kennedy  
"Can the Municipal District of Donegal consider placing speed ramps at housing estates in this MD and give reasons for and against?"
  - 7.2 "Can this MD implement a pilot scheme for the proper treatment of invasive plant species e.g. Knotweed?"
8. Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 at 2.00 p m.



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL HELD AT  
2.00 P. M. ON TUESDAY THE 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015 IN THE PETER  
KENNEDY CHAMBER, DONEGAL PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE, DONEGAL**

**MDD/137/15 MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr Barry O'Neill  
Cllr Noel Jordan  
Cllr Niamh Kennedy  
Cllr Tom Conaghan  
Cllr Sean McEniff

**MDD/138/15 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms. Bridie McBrearty, Area Manager, Municipal District of Donegal  
Mr. Mark Sweeney, A/Area Manager, Roads/Transportation  
Mr. Killian Smith, Executive Planner, Housing, Corporate and  
Planning Control  
Mr. Enda Monaghan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate  
Services  
Mr. Dearn McClintock, Waste Regulation Officer

**MDD/139/15 Apologies**

Cllr John Campbell  
Mr. Garry Martin, Director Designate Donegal MD, Cllr. Campbell

**MDD/140/15 Vote of Congratulations**

Members expressed their congratulations to Roisin Carr (Housing and Corporate Services) and her husband Barry Kennedy on the recent birth of their son, Peter Frank.

**MDD/141/15 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL HELD ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
2015**

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr O'Neill the Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015 were confirmed.

**MDD/142/15 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF WORKSHOP OF THE  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL HELD ON THE 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY  
2015**

On the proposal of Cllr Conaghan, seconded by Cllr Kennedy the Minutes of the Workshop of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015 were confirmed.

## **MDD/143/15 HOUSING AND CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT**

### **Progress reports on Grants, Loans, Casual Vacancies, and Social Housing Support Programme**

Members noted the update reports on Grants, Loans, and Casual Vacancies and Social Housing Support Programme as circulated with the Agenda and presented by Ms. B McBrearty.

Ms. B McBrearty informed Members that two dwellings had been advertised under the Choice Based Letting Scheme on both the website and in the local papers with a closing date of 21<sup>st</sup> September. All applications would be considered after that date.

In relation to the Social Housing Investment Programme, Ms. B McBrearty informed Members that with the recruitment of the Architectural Technicians now completed it is hoped the Part VIII will be ready for December for the new housing scheme at Railway Park.

Ms. McBrearty informed Members that the house purchases as referred to in the reports are now with the Solicitors to complete the purchases.

She further informed Members the two community group homes for Donegal Town have been approved by the Department under the Capital Assistance Scheme, the design of which is to be incorporated into the scheme at Railway Park.

Ms. B McBrearty also informed Members that the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme is going well in County Donegal with 121 now in receipt of same as of today.

### **Other Matters – Ireland - Calais**

Ms. B McBrearty informed Members that Donegal County Council has agreed to support an initiative to provide supplies to migrants and refugees stranded in Calais. The Collection point for Donegal Town is the Canteen in the Donegal Public Services Centre. This group will then make arrangements to collect the supplies from the PSC. She advised the type of items they require are as follows:

#### Tarpaulin

- Heavy duty rubbish bags
- Tents: 4 person +
- Blankets and sleeping bags
- Men's clothes: specifically, small to medium to sized warm clothes. Shoes, runners
- Candles, torches
- Men's toiletries, 2 options:
  - Option 1: Men's toiletry bag to include; tooth paste, tooth brush,

- soap, 2 razors, 1 can shaving foam and a pack of tissues in a medium sized durable bag
- Option 2: Any 1 of the above items boxed separately and labelled
- Tools for fixing bikes, pumps, puncture repair kits

Excess items will be distributed to Kos/Hungary and the Cork Calais Refugee Solidarity Group will work with aid agencies on the ground in those areas.

## **MDD/144/15 ROADS / TRANSPORTATION SERVICES REPORT**

### **Schedule of Road Works 2015**

Members noted the progress report on the schedule of Road Works 2015 for the Municipal District of Donegal as circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. Mark Sweeney.

Mr. M Sweeney also briefed Members in relation to a number of additional works (from the additional allocation) as discussed at the Roads Workshop on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015. On the proposal of Cllr McEniff, seconded by Cllr Kennedy Members confirmed their agreement to the additional works as discussed at the workshop.

Mr. M Sweeney also informed Members that the NRA is proceeding with 2 additional projects as follows:

- Relay surface on Roundabout at Drumlonagher
- Works at Turrishill, Mountcharles

A number of comments queries were dealt with as follows:

### **Street Cleaning in Ballyshannon**

Cllr O'Neill, noting from the previous meeting that street cleaning in Ballyshannon is to cease from the end the summer owing to budgetary constraints, requested that the Council look to continue with Street cleaning in Ballyshannon on Sunday Mornings, in particular in the Diamond Area. In response to the request Mr. M Sweeney informed Members he would review what monies are available in the Budget and revert to Members.

### **Request for Additional Bins in Ballyshannon**

In response to a request from Cllr O'Neill for additional bins to be provided in Ballyshannon e.g. at Bridgend, outside the takeaway and outside Fentons, Mr. M Sweeney informed Members he would review this with the Area Engineer as past experiences are that the provision of additional bins can cause additional littering and abuse of bins.

### **Traffic Management at new HSE Centre/Shiel Hospital**

Cllr O'Neill asked if traffic management had been looked at in Ballyshannon as he would have concerns with the opening of the New HSE Centre and also the proposed re-development of the Shiel

Hospital that traffic will be an issue if not properly addressed. He submitted that an access road will be required and that a meeting should be held between Donegal County Council and the Health Service Executive to move the matter forward. He also submitted he did not wish for lands to be taken from the school to construct an access road but rather it should be constructed on ESB lands even if this means by Compulsory Purchase Order. An access road would also encourage the use of the car park at Market Yard. In response to the matters raised, Mr. M Sweeney informed Members he would first of all review the planning file in relation to the development and revert to Members at a later date.

#### **Parking Charges in Ballyshannon**

Cllr O'Neill asked if there was any update in relation to the review of parking charges in Ballyshannon. In response to the query raised, Mr. M Sweeney informed Members he would be discussing the parking charges in Donegal Town in the Workshop immediately after today's meeting as he had started with Donegal Town and would be working on Ballyshannon and Bundoran in the coming months. Cllr O'Neill submitted it was his hope that the parking charges would be discontinued in Ballyshannon.

#### **Access to Tullan Strand, Bundoran.**

In response to a request for an update on the proposed access to Tullan Strand, from Cllr O'Neill, submitting that the matter is urgent, Mr. M Sweeney informed Members he would be discussing the matter shortly with Mr. Garry Martin, Head of Finance and Director of Information Systems and Emergency Services and would revert to Members.

#### **Pedestrian Crossing, Killybegs**

In response to a request for an update on the request for the pedestrian crossing in Killybegs from Cllr Kennedy, Mr. M Sweeney informed Members, the request had been referred to the Road Design Section in Lifford to ascertain if this may be accommodated. This will be included on their work programme for the last quarter of the year.

#### **Traffic Lights in Dunkineely**

In response to a query from Cllr Kennedy regarding traffic lights in Dunkineely, Mr. M Sweeney informed Members this matter is being worked on by the Road Design Section at present. He informed Members that some surveying works have been carried out and that traffic calming may be required in Dunkineely which would be funding dependent.

#### **Church Road Junction, Killybegs**

Cllr Kennedy referred to a number of accidents at the Church Road Junction in Killybegs and asked if some measures could be put in place to make the road safer. In response to same, Mr. M Sweeney

informed Members that this matter is being reviewed and it appears that speed is the main issue at this location. He advised he would revert to Members at a latter date.

### **Hedge Cutting at Benroe School and at the Harbour Lights Nursing Home**

In response to a query from Cllr Kennedy regarding Hedge-cutting at Benroe School and also at the Harbour Lights Nursing Home, Mr. M Sweeney informed Members that the Council would address any vision lines at the school but that the hedge issue at the road to the nursing home is a matter for the private landowner.

### **Works at Turrishill**

In response to a query from Cllr Jordan for a timeframe for the works at Turrishill, Mountcharles, Mr. M Sweeney informed Members they would be completed before the end of November 2015.

### **Port Road, Inver**

In response to a query from Cllr Jordan for a timeframe on the works to be carried out at Port Road, Inver, Mr. M Sweeney informed Members the works would be carried out in the coming weeks.

### **Crossings in Donegal Town**

Cllr Jordan referring to the new crossings in Donegal Town queried what legal status they have. In response to same Mr. M Sweeney informed Members that they are designated crossing points to focus people to cross at particular places and they do not have a legal status.

## **MDD/145/15 PLANNING CONTROL REPORT**

Members noted the update reports circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. Killian Smith, Executive Planner on the following matters:

- Statistics
- Appeals
- Significant Cases (incl. Transboundary applications)
- Other cases (Part 8's etc.)

A number of comments/queries were dealt with as follows:

### **Casual Trading**

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill regarding an update on the proposed workshop for the Plenary Council regarding Casual Trading, Mr. K Smith informed Members he understood this matter is to be dealt with at the Plenary Council meeting at the end of September and that he would check same and revert to Members.



**ESB Fence, Ballyshannon**

Cllr O'Neill asked if there was any update on the Land Search on the lands where the fence has been erected by the ESB. In response to the query raised, Mr. K Smith informed Members that the lands he had checked stretched from the Dam to the Main Street. He submitted any lands that are registered in this area are in the ownership of the ESB and that the Council has way-leaves for accessing water/sewer pipes etc in these folios.

Cllr O'Neill queried who owned the lands from the Bridge (Tobey's Tributary) to the old Heitons Site. Mr. K Smith informed Members he understood much of these lands are unregistered and therefore it is not possible to determine who owns them but that it had been the lands from the Bridge that he had checked and again confirmed that the lands in this area that are registered, are owned by the ESB.

Cllr O'Neill made a lengthy submission in relation to the fence that the ESB had erected in Ballyshannon. It is his opinion that the fence should not have been erected, that it is detrimental to the development of the river bank and it prevents access to the life rings in the event that someone falls into the river. He submitted that the ESB had used a number of groups, from Ballyshannon by bringing them into the Board Pleanala hearing, to support their application for retention of the fence, on the promise of marine development in Ballyshannon in the future but that these promises have not been followed up on since the hearing.

He further advised that the ESB is intent on selling its assets in Ballyshannon in the future and that this was the purpose of erecting the fence. He submitted he was calling for the resignation of the Head of Irish Water, Dr. David Leech regarding the life rings issue in Ballyshannon. He stated that locally the Irish Water Safety personnel were not in agreement with the approval Irish Water Safety nationally, had given the ESB to proceed with the fence from a water safety perspective and indeed were disgusted. He also submitted that Dr. Rodger Sweeney, Deputy Head of Irish Water Safety had told him that he did not agree with the approval given by Irish Water Safety nationally and re-iterated his call for Dr. David Leech to resign over the matter. Cllr O'Neill further advised despite his contacting TD's and others in relation to this matter, that no-one was taking the matter serious.

He concluded by submitting that Donegal County Council should remove the fence south of the Bridge and re-develop this area of the river.

## **MDD/146/15 UPDATE FROM CENTRAL PLANNING UNIT**

### **Update to Donegal Municipal District regarding the preparation of a Tier 2 Local Area Plan (for Ballybofey-Stranorlar, Ballyshannon, Bridgent, Carndonagh, Donegal Town, Dungloe and Killybegs)**

Members noted the update report submitted by Mr. D Kelly, Senior Executive Planner, Central Planning Unit regarding the preparation of a Tier 2 Local Area Plan (for Ballybofey-Stranorlar, Ballyshannon, Bridgent, Carndonagh, Donegal Town, Dungloe and Killybegs).

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill regarding opportunities to make submissions to the Local Area Plans, Ms. B McBrearty informed Members that this matter is dealt with in the report from the Central Planning Unit.

## **MDD/147/15 COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND PLANNING DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Members noted the Activity Report circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. B McLaughlin in relation to the following activities:

- Pride of Place
- Marine Tourism Update
- Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative 2015
- Donegal Gathering Update
- 15<sup>th</sup> Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival
- Library Update
  - Read Your Mind Project
- Heritage Office Update
  - New County Donegal Heritage Plan
  - County Donegal 'Heritage Week' Event Guide
  - 'County Donegal in 1916' Heritage Education Pack
  - 'Learning Through The Landscape' Continuing Professional Development Course for Primary Teachers
  - 'County Donegal in 1916' Heritage Education Pack
- Bundoran Tourism Update

A number of comments/queries were dealt with and in particular the following:

Cllr McEniff offered his congratulations to everybody on the good work that is ongoing in this particular area and getting the World Boat Angling Championships to come to Donegal.

### **Donegal Town**

Mr. B McLaughlin also briefed Members in relation to following; the very successful Food Festival held in Donegal Town recently, October Launch by the Donegal Town Business Focus Group, and

that an application for funding had been made by the St. John Bosco Committee to the Sports Council. He also informed Members the Council continues to work with the Community Chamber and the Business Focus groups in relation to Donegal Town.

#### **Muckross Pier**

Cllr Kennedy referred to the need to carryout restoration/improvement works to Muckross Pier, due to storm damage in recent years and also due to the strategic importance of same to the Marine Development in the County. She advised a recent request for funding of works at Muckross had been unsuccessful and requested funding again be sought for Muckross Pier. In response to the request, Mr. B McLaughlin undertook to investigate this and to revert to Members.

#### **Request for a think tank / workshop on bringing events to the south of the County**

Cllr O'Neill complimented Mr. McLaughlin on his comprehensive report and welcomed the fact that the World Rowing Championships are coming to Donegal in 2016. He queried if the south of the County is sufficiently successful in getting events e.g. Ulster Fleadhs, Tall Ships, Flax Growing events, using the Members Strategic Development Fund to assist in getting events etc. He submitted the south of the County has so much to offer e.g. Killybegs, Sliabh Liag, etc.

He proposed that a workshop be held with relevant Council Officials and Failte Ireland before the end of the year in order to seek out opportunities, for events based tourism, for the south of the County. He also requested that the Chief Executive be invited to attend. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Kennedy and agreed. Mr. B McLaughlin undertook to follow up and revert to Members at a later date.

### **MDD/148/15 ENVIRONMENT SERVICES REPORT**

Members welcomed Mr. Dearn McClintock, Waste Regulation Officer to the meeting. He presented the report circulated to Members dealing with the following updates:

- National Littering Pollution Monitoring System Report, 2014
- Introduction of New Primary Waste Management Legislation
- Bring Banks Summer 2015 Campaign
- Enforcement
- Summer Bathing Season/Water Safety
- Beach Access
- Beach Maintenance

A number of comments / queries were dealt with as follows:

**Bottle Bank Collections at Fintra, Glencolmcille and Carrick**

In response to a request from Cllr Kennedy for the Bottle Banks at Fintra, Glencolmcille and Carrick to be emptied more regularly, in particular during the summer season, Mr. D McClintock informed Members the Council would look to improve the collections for the 2016 summer season.

**Litter Collections in Mountcharles**

Cllr Jordan referred to the ongoing activities of the TUS workers in the Mountcharles Area where they are undertaking clean ups and collecting litter which is being stored in Mountcharles and collected on a fortnightly basis by the Litter Unit. He asked if it would be possible for the Litter Unit to collect the rubbish more frequently. In response, Mr. McClintock advised that he would investigate this matter to assess the possibility of doing so.

**MDD/149/15 DISCUSSION ON WORKS AT LEGHOWNEY JUNCTION**

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr McEniff the following motion was adopted;-

“That this Municipal District lobby the NRA to sanction works at Leghowney junction as it is a huge safety issue for motorists”.

Members were advised:

“Currently the Road Design Section have been asked to carry out a safety review of the following junctions:

1. The Leghowney junction off the N15
2. The Lough Eske junction off the N15

As previously reported Road Design expect to have this safety review completed in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2015.

The report will then be brought forward to the Donegal National Road Design Office for consideration.

Cllr Jordan in proposing the motion submitted that the difficulty with the Junction at Leghowney is the danger of getting ‘rear ended’. He thanked Mr. Sweeney for the response to the motion. He submitted that the Road Design Office is inundated with requests and requested that this matter be given priority due to the urgency of same.

Cllr O’Neill in seconding the motion, submitted he supported the motion, adding the matter had been raised for a number of years as a concern for motorists. He also submitted that the National Roads Authority/Donegal County Council should give consideration to designating the area from Clar Chapel to DMG Motors as a village area with a reduced speed limit as a solution if there is no progress from the NRA.

**MDD/150/15 Request for a Deputation Donegal Bay Rowing Club**

Members noted the correspondence received from the Donegal Bay Rowing Club requesting a deputation to Municipal District.

Following a discussion on the proposal of Cllr McEniff, seconded by Cllr Kennedy, Members agreed to accept the deputation to the next meeting which is on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

**MDD/151/15 Date of next meeting**

Members agreed the date of the next meeting on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015 as per the agreed standing orders.

Members also confirmed their agreement to the Budget Workshop at 4.00 p m on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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**Area Manager**  
**Municipal District of Donegal**

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**Cathaoirleach**  
**Municipal District of Donegal**

**Minutes of Municipal District of Donegal Workshop held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at  
4.00 pm in the Peter Kennedy Chamber, Donegal PSC.**

**Members present:**

Cllr Barry O Neill  
Cllr John Campbell  
Cllr Niamh Kennedy  
Cllr Tom Conaghan  
Cllr Noel Jordan  
Cllr Sean McEniff

**Officials in Attendance:**

Ms. Bridie McBrearty, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services  
Mr. Mark Sweeney, A/Area Manager, Roads/Transportation  
Mr. Enda Monaghan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing / Corporate Services

**Apologies**

Mr. Garry Martin, Director Designate, Municipal District of Donegal/Director of Finance, Emergency Services and Information Systems

**Minutes**

**Draft report on options to improve traffic flow and parking in Donegal Town**

Mr. M Sweeney presented the detailed draft report on options to improve traffic flow and parking in Donegal Town and a lengthy discussion took place in relation to same.

In conclusion the following matters were agreed:

Members welcomed the report and were supportive of same. Mr.Sweeney is now to proceed to engage in discussion with effected parties and to update Members at a later date prior to finalising the draft report.

Members also noted Disabled Parking would be included in the report. Any feedback from Members can be made directly to Mr. Sweeney. The public consultation process will take place after the draft report has been finalised.

**Campervan Parking in Bundoran**

Cllr O'Neill expressed concerns about overnight parking of campervans in Bundoran in public car parks. Mr. M Sweeney undertook to investigate this matter.

**Parking Charges – Parking Bye-laws in Ballyshannon and Bundoran**

Mr. M Sweeney informed Members he would be reviewing the parking charges in Bundoran and Ballyshannon adding that there is potential for substantial income from the charges in both Towns. This income he advised would be important as it would be earmarked to spend in the Towns in which it is collected and could be used to provide further Street Cleaning etc. He advised that he has had communications from Discover Bundoran, seeking a review of the parking bye-laws in Bundoran which would form part of the considerations during the review.

Cllr O'Neill submitted that he was not in favour of parking charges in Ballyshannon and that the potential income was very limited.

This concluded the business of the Workshop.

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**Area Manager,  
Municipal District of Donegal**

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**Cathaoirleach,  
Municipal District of Donegal**

21<sup>st</sup> September 2015

Via E-mail

**Mr. Seamus Maguire,  
Chairperson,  
Donegal Bay Rowing Club,**

**RE: Request for Deputation from Donegal Bay Rowing Club**

**Dear Mr. Maguire,**

I refer to previous correspondence on behalf of the above group in relation to your request that a deputation attend a meeting of the Municipal District of Donegal.

I wish to confirm that the Members have agreed to your request and will receive your deputation at their next meeting, **which will take place on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015** in the Peter Kennedy Chamber, Donegal Public Services Centre.

In the meanwhile I set out hereunder, for your information, an extract from the Municipal District of Donegal Standing Orders, in relation to the attendance of a Deputation,

### **Deputations**

- 55. The Municipal District members may by resolution decide to receive a deputation. Subject to the direction of the Cathaoirleach, up to a maximum of three (3) persons may speak on behalf of the deputation for not more than fifteen (15) minutes, unless permitted by the Cathaoirleach.**

**Request for a deputation to be heard by the Municipal District members shall not be considered unless the subject matter to be raised be notified, in writing, on the motion of a Municipal District member, or direct application by the body concerned, is sent to the**



**Meetings Administrator at least fourteen (14) clear days before the date of the meeting.**

**The deputation may only be questioned by Municipal District members but shall not be entitled to ask questions.**

**When the members of a deputation have addressed the meeting, they shall withdraw from the meeting.**

**The Municipal District members may, by resolution, decide to receive a deputation without notice, provided three quarters (rounded up) of the Members present vote for the resolution.**

**Please arrange to be in attendance at the Peter Kennedy Chamber, Donegal Public Services Centre, Drumlonagher, Donegal Town at 2.15 p.m. on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015.**

If you have a written submission, which you wish to circulate to Members, please let me have it as soon as possible. Please also confirm the names of those who will be attending. I look forward to seeing you on the day.

Yours sincerely,

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**Bridie McBrearty,  
Area Manager  
Municipal District of Donegal**

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# Municipal District of Donegal

Housing/Corporate Update as at 5<sup>th</sup>  
October 2015

Location of Vacancy	Area	BED	Dwelling Vacated	Repairs Completed
SI Cottage at Ballinacarrick	BALLINTRA	3	24th March, 2013 (Tenant Deceased)	Possession Order Granted 25/6/15
1 Erne Dale Heights	BALLYSHANNON	1	23rd March, 2013	Negotiations ongoing
1B Ernedale Heights	BALLYSHANNON	1	10/02/2009	Negotiations ongoing
2 Erne Dale Heights	BALLYSHANNON	1	15th July 2009	Negotiations ongoing
2B Erne Dale Heights	BALLYSHANNON	1	4th January 2011	Negotiations ongoing
60 St Benildus Avenue	BALLYSHANNON	2	Repossessed on 28/04/2010	No interest Re-tender
24 Lawne Park	BALLYSHANNON	3	2nd October, 2015	Works ongoing
30 Cluain Barron	BALLYSHANNON	3	11 October 2013	Major Refurb required
22 Bunholvil	BUNDORAN	3	25-Jul-2014	Ready for Letting
73 Slieve League Avenue	CARRICK	3	16-Jun-2015	Works ongoing
8 Clós Naomh Columba	CARRICK	3	18-Jul-2014	CBL - Offered
7 Railway Park	DONEGAL	3	20-Aug-2015	Works ongoing
16 O'Cleirigh Avenue	DONEGAL	1	18-Aug-2015	Works ongoing
21 O'Cleirigh Avenue	DONEGAL	3	21st September, 2015	Major Refurb required
425 O'Duignan Avenue	DONEGAL	1	25-Jun-2015	Works ongoing
201 Castleview	DUNKINEELY	3	27-Jun-2014	Major Refurb required
6 Drumard Park	FROSSES	3	16/02/2015	CBL - Offered
SI Cottage at Stragar North	KILLYBEGS	2	17th Aug 2012	Major Refurb required
29 Termon Villas	PETTIGO	3	30 March 2015	Requires survey

### Donegal Electoral Area

5th October 2015

**HOUSING GRANTS**

	YEAR	TOTAL RECEIVED	APPROVED	REFUSED \ CANCELLED	FURTHER INFO	PENDING
<b>HO</b>	2013	17	13	3	0	1
	2014	22	14	6	0	2
	2015	9	3	2	0	4

	YEAR	TOTAL RECEIVED	APPROVED	REFUSED \ CANCELLED	FURTHER INFO.	REFERRED TO OT	REFERRED TO ENGINEER	PENDING
<b>HD</b>	2011	33	15	18	0	0	0	0
	2012	21	7	13	0	0	0	1
	2013	25	4	21	0	0	0	0
	2014	16	8	8	0	0	0	0
	2015	28	4	11	0	0	0	12

	YEAR	TOTAL RECEIVED	APPROVED	REFUSED \ CANCELLED	FURTHER INFO.	REFERRED TO OT	REFERRED ENGINEER	PENDING	REAPPLIED UNDER HD
<b>HM</b>	2014	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

**HOUSING LOANS**

There are no housing applications to date in 2015 and no outstanding applications to be dealt with.

## SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAMME

### Position at 5th October

Scheme	2 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5 bed	Total	Status			Under Con	Comple
	apts (own door)	2 storey	2 storey	2 storey	bungalow		Design	Planning	Tender		
<b>Building Programme 2015 - 2017</b>											
Donegal Town	8	8	6	2		24	24	Sept/Oct			
<b>Purchases 2014 and 2015</b>											
Killybegs*		1	1			2	Price agreed				
Carrick*				1		1	Price agreed				
Donegal Town*			2	1		3	2 Completed and 1 price agreed				
Bundoran		1				1	Further inspection required				
<b>Extensions 2015</b>											
Ballyshannon						2					
<b>CAS 2015</b>											
2 Com Group Homes*					2	2	2	Being built in conjunction with Donegal Town and awaiting CAS approval			

### Other Supply

Proposals for provision of 25 no. units in Donegal Town and 22 no. units in Ballyshannon have been supported by Council and the AHB is currently seeking to supply these through either purchasing units or having units built in the towns

2 no. other units being made available through the HSCA in Donegal Town, contracts being finalised by 4/9/15 (1 no. 2 bed apt and 1 no. 3 bed duplex)

HAP Tenancies	
Municipal District	Number
Donegal	24
Letterkenny	69
Glenties	23
Stranorlar	31

Inishowen	25
Total	172

**Donegal Municipal District  
2015 Roadworks Programme  
Status Report - 13th October 2015**

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## Surface Dressing 2015

### Regional Road Surface Dressing

No	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Engineering Area (14)	Estimated Cost of work (EURO)	Status	Percentage Complete
1	R-262-2/3	Frosses - Glenties	Dunkineely	€22,759	Completed	100.00%
1	R-230-8	Crowlar, Crove	Killybegs	€40,312	Completed	
1	R 232 -8	Pettigoe Road	Ballyshannon	€63,071	Completed	

€126,142 Total Budget

### Local Road Surface Dressing

No	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Engineering Area (14)	Estimated Cost of work (EURO)	Status	Percentage Complete
1	LP-1425-2	St. John's Point - Ballycroy	Dunkineely	€23,694.00	Completed	100%
2	LP-1685-1	Frosses - Drumbarron	Dunkineely	€17,160.00	Completed	
3	LP-1715-1	Letterbarra - Lettertreane	Dunkineely	€12,012.00	Completed	
4	LP-1665-1	Doorin Line - Mullanboys	Dunkineely	€7,722.00	Completed	
5	LP-1675-1	Tullyvoose - Tullinlagan	Dunkineely	€15,000.00	Completed	
6	LS-6065-1	Lettertreane - Drumboarty	Dunkineely	€16,058.00	Completed	
7	LS-5555-1	Tullaghacullion - Benroe	Dunkineely	€15,000.00	Completed	

No	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Engineering Area (15)	Estimated Cost of work (EURO)	Status	Percentage Complete
1	LP-1275-2	Croaghlin - Conlin Bridge	Killybegs	€14,400.00	Completed	100%
2	LP-1115-1	Roxborough - Derrylahan	Killybegs	€19,622.00	Completed	
3	LP-1065-1	Pilgrims Path Teelin	Killybegs	€9,180.00	Completed	
4	LP-1015-4	Stranagartan	Killybegs	€16,000.00	Completed	
5	LS-5285-1	Meenychannon	Killybegs	€13,317.00	Completed	

No	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Engineering Area (16)	Estimated Cost of work (EURO)	Status	Percentage Complete
1	L2365-3	Carricknahorna	Ballyshannon	€20,400.00	Completed	100%
2	L2225-7	Belalt South	Ballyshannon	€22,313.00	Completed	
3	L8035-1	Grousehall Pettigo	Ballyshannon	€17,340.00	Completed	
4	L2375-1	Cavangarden	Ballyshannon	€21,120.00	Completed	
5	L7095-1	Foyagh	Ballyshannon	€19,200.00	Completed	
6	L7895-1	Ardfarn	Ballyshannon	€20,769.00	Completed	
7	L-2485-4	Cliff Road	Ballyshannon	€6,876.00	Completed	

No	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Engineering Area (17)	Estimated Cost of work (EURO)	Status	Percentage Complete
1	LP1965-2	Tawnyvorga(Harveys pt)	Laghey	€18,000.00	Completed	100%
2	LP2185-3	Shannagh Rd	Laghey	€25,200.00	Completed	
3	LP2585-2	Tullywee	Laghey	€13,400.00	Completed	
4	LS6545-2	Druminnin	Laghey	€20,800.00	Completed	
5	LP1845-4	Ballydevitt-Clanborrin x rds	Laghey	€28,000.00	Completed	
6	LS6615-2	Clarcam	Laghey	€14,000.00	Completed	

€426,583 Total Budget



## 2015 Regional and Local Road Improvement Works

No	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Engineering Area (14)	Own Resources / Contractor	Budget	Status	Percentage Complete
1	R-262	Sir Albert's Bridge,	Dunkineely	O/R	€29,270.00	Completed	81%
2	L-1365-4	Drimaghy - Tullinteane	Dunkineely	O/R	€47,700.00	Completed	
3	L-1375-2/3	Croagh Orbal - Meenagoland	Dunkineely	O/R	€37,700.00	Completed	
4	L-1415-1	Loughmuilt - Ballywoges	Dunkineely	O/R	€37,700.00	Completed	
5	L-1645-1/2	Raneely - Drumcoe	Dunkineely	O/R	€35,425.00	Completed	
6	L-1685	Selicas - Letterfad	Dunkineely	O/R	€38,800.00	Completed	
7	L-6085	Edenamuck - Drimaheark	Dunkineely	O/R	€35,425.00	Completed	
8	L-6035-1	Lettermore - Letterfad	Dunkineely	O/R	€22,300.00	Completed	
9	L-1565-2	Inver Port - Hillhead - Fanaghans	Dunkineely	Contractor	€28,180.00	Completed	
10	L-5895-1	R262 - Dibbin School	Dunkineely	O/R	€47,500.00	Completed	
11	L-1565-1	N56 - Inver	Dunkineely	Contractor	€25,200.00	Not Started	
12	L-1345-2	Ballyloughan - Benroe	Dunkineely	O/R	€24,200.00	Completed	
13	L-1515-5	Ardaghey Glebe	Dunkineely	O/R	€14,523.00	Not Started	
14	R-262-1	Drumbeigh	Dunkineely	O/R	€69,458.00	Not Started	

No	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Engineering Area (15)	Own Resources / Contractor	Budget	Status	Percentage Complete
1	R-263-2	Killybegs Streets	Killybegs	Contractor	€92,214.00	Started	86%
2	R-263-14	Cashel Village - (Fire Station)	Killybegs	O/R	€39,200.00	Completed	
3	L-5085-1	Dooley (Hostel Road )	Killybegs	O/R	€57,700.00	Completed	
4	L-1315-2	Faiafannan - Stragar	Killybegs	O/R	€41,200.00	Completed	
5	L-1125-1	Carrick - Meenaneary	Killybegs	O/R	€53,199.00	Completed	
6	L-1085-2	Carrick - Teelin	Killybegs	Contractor	€66,700.00	Not Started	
7	L-1315-1	Church Road Killybegs	Killybegs	Contractor	€36,700.00	Completed	
8	L-1195-1	Line Road Kilcar	Killybegs	O/R	€27,700.00	Completed	
9	L-1185-3	Ballymoon Road	Killybegs	O/R	€33,400.00	Completed	
10	L1125-1	Carrick Upper	Killybegs	O/R	€52,000.00	Completed	
11	L5055-1	Cashel & Straid	Killybegs	O/R	€20,766.00	Completed	

No	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Engineering Area (16)	Own Resources / Contractor	Budget	Status	Percentage Complete
1	LP 2425-2/4	Ballyshannon Streets	Ballyshannon	Contractor	€99,000.00	Completed	71%
2	R231	Rosstown rd	Ballyshannon	Contractor	€95,000.00	Completed	
3	LP2175-1	Ballintra Street	Ballyshannon	Contractor	€39,000.00	Not Started	
4	LP2365-2	Cashelard	Ballyshannon	Contractor	€65,500.00	Not Started	
5	LP2535-1	Ballymunterhiggins	Ballyshannon	O/R	€32,000.00	Completed	
6	LS8065-1	Tievmore-Lettercran	Ballyshannon	Contractor	€70,000.00	Completed	
7	L7475-2	County Bridge	Ballyshannon	O/R	€43,000.00	Completed	
8	LS7265-2	Ballymagroarty	Ballyshannon	O/R	€28,000.00	Completed	
9	LS7515-2	Alia	Ballyshannon	O/R	€32,000.00	Completed	
10	LS8005-1	Clyhore	Ballyshannon	Contractor	€20,000.00	Not Started	
11	R-231-1	Rosstown rd	Ballyshannon	O/R	€10,418.00	Started	
12	L-79651-0	Ardloughhill	Ballyshannon	O/R	€15,000.00	Completed	
13	LP-2335-3	Rockhill	Ballyshannon	O/R	€45,000.00	Completed	
14	LP-2225-2	Baklydermot - Pollnaranny	Ballyshannon	O/R	€50,000.00	Completed	

No	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Engineering Area (17)	Own Resources / Contractor	Budget	Status	Percentage Complete
1	LP1955-1/25-1	Donegal Streets	Laghey	Contractor	€99,000.00	Completed	92%
2	R232 1-4	Pettigoe Rd patches	Laghey & Ballyshannon	Contractor	€158,000.00	Completed	
3	LS6585-1	Ciarcam	Laghey	O/R	€20,000.00	Completed	
4	LP1945-3	Lough Eske Demensne	Laghey	O/R	€79,000.00	Completed	
5	LS6495-1	Heneys	Laghey	O/R	€49,000.00	Completed	
6	LP1815-5	Drumboarty - Drumalost	Laghey	O/R	€37,610.00	Completed	
7	LP1965-1	Friary Road	Laghey	O/R	€37,000.00	Completed	
8	LP-1865-1	Ballydevitt-Drumsteviin	Laghey	O/R	€51,000.00	Completed	
9	LS6421-1	Spierstown	Laghey	O/R	€69,000.00	Completed	
10	L-6565-1	Birchill	Laghey	O/R	€14,000.00	Completed	
11	LT19151	Mullans	Laghey	Contractor	€20,000.00	Not started	
12	LP-1815-7	Sruell	Laghey	O/R	€35,000.00	Completed	
13	LS-6581-1	Ciarcam	Laghey	O/R	€38,530.00	Completed	

€2,365,218.00 Total Budget

## Donegal Municipal District

### Capital Improvement Works 2015

#### Programme of works

<b>Footpath upgrade works</b>						
<b>Eng. Area</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Road No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Budget per Eng Area</b>
14	Dunkineely	N56	The footpath above the national school	€12,000.00	Completed	€12,000.00
15	Kilcar	R 263-8	The footpath leading to St Cartha's Church, Kilcar from Kilcar town.	€9,000.00	Not started	€18,000.00
	Killybegs	L 13152	Footpath outside the Corporation Cottages just off Church Road in Killybegs	€9,000.00	Completed	
16	Ballintra	L 2175-1	Main Street, Ballintra	€9,000.00	Started	€27,000.00
	Ballyshannon	L 2425 & L-2445-1	Erne Dale Heights & Westport	€18,000.00	Not started	
17	Donegal Town	L 1905-1	Marian Villas	€18,000.00	Started	€23,000.00
	Mountcharles	L 2615-1	School crossing point at Main Street, Mountcharles	€5,000.00	Completed	
<b>Total</b>						<b>€80,000.00</b>

# Donegal Municipal District

## LOW COST REMEDIAL WORKS

Low cost safety measures						
Engineering Area	Location	Site Location	Road No	Budget (€)	Description of works	Status
17	Donegal	Haugh Donegal Town	L-1945-1	€16,000.00	Installation of safety barrier	Not started
16	Ballyshannon	Cavangarden Junction	L-2365-1	€30,000.00	Road widening works	Not started

NRA - HD 28 Works - Management of Skid Resistance						
Engineering Area	Location	Site Location	Road No	Budget (€)	Description of works	Status
17	Donegal	Donegal PSC Roundabout	N15	€76,103.00	Surface restoration	Not started
14	Mountcharles	HD28 Turris Hill	N15	€47,997.00	Surface restoration	Not started

NRA - HD 15 Works - Network Safety Ranking						
Engineering Area	Location	Site Location	Road No	Budget (€)	Description of works	Status
17	Donegal	HD15 2015 DL_054.0 Laghey	R232 & N15	€66,000.00	Junction improvement works	Not started

<p><b>Housing Corporate &amp; Planning Control Services</b></p> <p><b>Planning Control Report</b></p>
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**Donegal Municipal District Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

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**Content:**

- 1. Summary of planning applications for each District**
- 2. Appeals (Received & Decisions Notified).**
- 3. Significant Cases (incl. Transboundary applications)**
- 4. Other case types [Part 8's etc]**

## Summary of planning applications for each Municipal District (2015)

	Period	Apps Recd	Granted	Refused	Deferred	< 2 months	Invalid
Donegal	01/01/15-31/03/15	108	60	9	11	47	12
	01/04/15-30/6/15	101	82	16	28	80	17
	01/07/15-31/08/15	43	40	4	16	25	11
<b>Total</b>		<b>252</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>40</b>
Glenties	01/01/15-31/03/15	72	50	1	16	32	8
	01/04/15-30/6/15	73	55	3	19	42	7
	01/07/15-31/08/15	51	28	5	20	23	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>196</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>24</b>
Inishowen	01/01/15-31/03/15	86	50	2	19	25	21
	01/04/15-30/6/15	104	69	8	24	56	21
	01/07/15-31/08/15	76	57	9	14	52	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>266</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>59</b>
Letterkenny	01/01/15-31/03/15	88	52	7	21	25	8
	01/04/15-30/6/15	101	68	11	33	51	12
	01/07/15-31/08/15	61	72	4	18	52	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>250</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>26</b>
Stranorlar	01/01/15-31/03/15	46	30	4	16	12	6
	01/04/15-30/6/15	74	52	5	18	42	8
	01/07/15-31/08/15	45	34	2	13	28	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>165</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>County Totals*</b>		<b>1129</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>170</b>

**Received (29/08/2015 – 01/10/2015)** – 3 in total - 1 in the Donegal Municipal District

**Decision Notified (29/08/2015 – 01/10/2015)** – 4 in total – None in the Donegal Municipal District

**Appeal's Received (28/09/2015 – 01/10/2015)**

<b>REF NO</b>	<b>APPLICANTS NAME</b>	<b>APP. TYPE</b>	<b>DECISION DATE</b>	<b>L.A. DECISION</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION</b>	<b>BORD PLEANALA RECD DATE</b>
15/50788	MICHAEL MCCLOSKEY ON BEHALF OF ALGARAN TEO	P	27/08/2015	C	PERMISSION - GRANTED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PRODUCTION FACILITY FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF COSMETIC PRODUCTS FROM SEAWEED, SEPTIC TANK & PERCOLATION AREA AND ALL ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS. RETENTION PERMISSION – GRANTED FOR CHANGE OF USE OF PART OF EXISTING DWELLING HOUSE TO A PRODUCTION FACILITY FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF COSMETIC PRODUCTS FROM SEAWEED AT KILCASEY, KILCAR	24/09/2015

**Appeal's Decision Notified (29/08/2015 – 01/10/2015) - None in Donegal Municipal District**

<b>REF NO</b>	<b>APPLICANTS NAME</b>	<b>APP. TYPE</b>	<b>DECISION DATE</b>	<b>L.A. DECISION</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION</b>	<b>BORD PLEANALA DEC. DATE</b>	<b>DECISION</b>
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Transboundary Applications

Ref.No:	N.I. Ref.No:	Date Rec'd	App./Contact	Type	Description / Location	Case Officer	Status
TB 12/03	J/2011/0082/F	08/10/2013	D.O.E. N.I.	Further Environmental Information and Revised Plans	Amendment to Windfarm at Crighshane & Crighdenis, Killeter, Castledearg.	P Kelly	Active
TB 13/04	C/2013/0248/F	08/11/2013	D.O.E. N.I.-	Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure	Windfarm at Windy Hill	P Kelly	Active
TB 14/01	J/2013/0287/F	07/01/2014	D.O.E. N.I.	Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure	Windfarm at Meenamullan near Killeter	P Kelly	Active
TB14/03	J/2014/0124/LCB	28/04/2014	D.O.E. N.I.	Consultation	Installation of Street Lighting ballards at Clady Bridge (Listed Building), Urney Road, Clady	P Kelly	Active
TB14/04	J/2011/0433/0	17/04/2014	D.O.E. N.I.	Addendum to Environmental Statement & Information	Major mixed use cross border development	P Kelly	Active
TB15/01	J/2014/0624/F	10/02/2015	D.O.E. N.I.	Initial Consultation	Wind Turbine at 290m S.W. of 30 Creevagh Road, Co. Derry	P Kelly	Active
TB15/02	A/2015/0049/F	10/202/2015	D.O.E. N.I.	Initial Consultation	Wind Turbine with a hub height on lands 108m N.W. of 18 Killea Road, Derry.	P Kelly	Active
TB15/03	LA11/2015/0066/F49/F	05/05/2015	Derry City & Strabane District Council	Initial Consultation	erection of a single wind turbine - 30m hub height with 17.3m blades, associated access and 2 no. electricity cabinets on lands 250m N.W. of 9 Elagh Road, Derry	P Kelly	



TB15/04	J/2013/0187/F Appeal Ref.No: 2014/A0180	08/09/2015	P.A.C.	Appeal Procedures	Extension to of consented Seagronan Windfarm Ltd	P Kelly	Active
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**Part 8- Donegal Municipal District - None Active at 01/10/2015**

## Update from Central Planning Unit – MD Donegal

1. Tier 2 Towns - Local Area Plan Update and request for workshop.
2. Casual Trading – Request for workshop.
3. LECP Consultation.

6<sup>th</sup> October 2015

**To Each Member of the Municipal District of Donegal**

**RE: Municipal District Meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015 - Attached Documents from the Central Planning Unit**

**Dear Councillor,**

Please see attached hard copy documents which the Central Planning Unit asked that I forward to you in advance of the Municipal District of Donegal meeting which is on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

The attached documents will be discussed at that meeting and are enclosed in hard copy due to the volume of same and for convenience of Members. They are also being loaded onto the Member's Extranet.

Mise le meas,

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**For Bridie McBrearty  
Area Manager  
Municipal District of Donegal.**

**/em**

**Encl.**

## **LOCAL AREA PLAN- TIER 2 TOWNS**

### **Update Report to Donegal Municipal District**

#### **Background**

Work on the preparation of a draft Local Area Plan for seven 'Tier 2' towns in the County, namely Ballybofey- Stranorlar, Ballyshannon, Bridgend, Carndonagh, Donegal Town, Dungloe & Killybegs commenced in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2015.

Preliminary consultation ran from the 16th July 2015, to 11th September 2015 over an 8 week period and submissions relating to the LAP process and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment were invited. An information booklet explaining the LAP process was prepared and made available on-line and at libraries and council offices throughout the county. The consultation process was advertised throughout the county via local newspapers, the council's website, blog, facebook page and twitter account.

#### **Submissions received**

A total of 653 submissions were received during the initial consultation period, 7 were generic to all the LAP towns and the remainder related to specific tier 2 towns; breakdown per tier 2 settlement is detailed in the table below:

Tier 2 settlement	Number of submissions
Ballybofey/Stranorlar	13
Ballyshannon	7
Bridgend	1
Carndonagh	4
Donegal Town	30
Dungloe	1
Killybegs	590

#### **Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment**

The LAP was screened for Appropriate Assessment and it was determined that an Appropriate Assessment is necessary in compliance with the Habitats Directive. The environmental authorities were notified and invited to make a submission or observation in relation to the scope and the level of detail to be included in the Appropriate Assessment on or before the 16th October 2015.

A Strategic Environmental Scoping report was also prepared and this has also been issued to the requisite environmental authorities for their comment by the 16th October 2015.

#### **Next steps**

Suggest scheduling a Members Workshop on the Tier 2 LAP for the Donegal Municipal District during the week beginning the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015.

A report on the public consultation and the submissions received is being prepared and shall be circulated to the members prior to a presentation of the report and its findings at the workshop.

Denis Kelly,  
Senior Executive Planner,  
Community, Culture and Development Planning Directorate,  
5<sup>th</sup> October 2015

## **Casual Trading – Request for Workshop**

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### **To: Each Member of the Donegal Municipal District**

A presentation was made, by the Central Planning Unit, to a plenary workshop of Members on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September in respect to the various Casual Trading Byelaws that exist within the county. It was agreed to initiate the review of the Byelaws with a view to securing 'General Byelaws' that could be supplemented thereafter with further byelaws that would designate Casual Trading Areas within towns where there is a demand.

This work will include consideration of the fees for a licence and whether certain types of selling be excluded from the need for casual trading licence; For example the selling of ice cream and hot food is currently excluded in specified circumstances within the county (excluding the former Town Council areas).

An outcome of the plenary workshop was that the Central Planning Unit hold workshops with Members at each of the Municipal Districts' to ascertain the views of Members and that the findings be reported back to a further plenary workshop.

In view of the foregoing I would request that Members consider holding a workshop and it is suggested that it be held on the week beginning the 2nd November so as to coincide with the workshop being sought to discuss the proposed Tier 2 Local Area Plan.

Denis Kelly,  
Senior Executive Planner,  
Community, Culture and Development Planning Directorate.  
5<sup>th</sup> October 2015

## **Municipal District consideration of Draft Donegal Local Economic & Community Plan**

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### **To: Each Member of the Municipal District**

In accordance with the Local Government Reform Act 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, a draft Donegal Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is being prepared through the Donegal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Economic Development Committee (EDC). Members have been updated on progress on the preparation of this plan through the Plenary Council Meetings.

The purpose of the LECP is to identify and implement actions to strengthen and develop the economic and community dimensions of the County over a 6 year period and it replaces An Stratéis. The plan is required to support the implementation of existing and proposed national and regional spatial, community and economic strategies. At the last meeting of the LCDC and EDC on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015, the members of both the Committees agreed the draft plan and that it be issued to the Municipal Districts and the Regional Authority for consultation, as provided under the legislation.

The purpose of the consultation is to ask the Municipal District to consider the draft plan and its consistency with—

- (i) the core strategy and the objectives of the development plan of the local authority concerned;
- (ii) the Border Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022; and
- (iii) that the community elements and economic elements are consistent with each other.

The next step will be for the Local Community Development Committee and the Economic Development Committee to consider the submissions of the Municipal Districts and the Regional Assembly before seeking endorsement by the Plenary meeting of Donegal County Council.

Denis Kelly,  
Senior Executive Planner,  
Community, Culture and Development Planning Directorate.  
5<sup>th</sup> October 2015

# **The Donegal Local Economic & Community Plan**

**Volume 1**

**Strategy, Priority Goals & High Level Objectives**

September 2015

DRAFT



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council



DRAFT

## Contents

1.0	Introduction	1
2.0	Strategic Environmental Assessment & Appropriate Assessment	2
3.0	Proofing	3
4.0	Vision of the Plan	3
5.0	The Plan Preparation Process	4
6.0	The Socio- Economic Statement	7
	6.1 The Profiling of the County	7
	6.2 The outputs of the participative process	17
	6.3 A review of the strategy and policy context	19
	6.4 Key policy and funding programmes	24
7.0	The Priority Goals	25
8.0	The High Level Objectives of Each Goal	26
9.0	The Action Areas	34
10.0	The Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Review Framework	35

### List of Figures

Figure 1: The Timeline for Participation

Figure 2: The Integrated Nature of the Donegal LECP

### List of Tables

Table 1: S.W.O.T arising from the Participation Process

Table 2: Scope of Strategies and Policy Context

### List of Maps

Map 1: The Spatial Strategy of the RPG's.

Map 2: The Spatial Context for the Development Centres

DRAFT

## 1.0 Introduction

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This is the County Donegal Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) for the period of 2015- 2021, having a 6 year life. It is a partnership plan prepared by the County Donegal Local Community Development Committee & the Economic Development Committee.

The purpose of the Plan is to identify and implement actions to strengthen and develop the economic and community dimensions of the County and to reflect and support the implementation of existing and proposed National and Regional spatial, community and economic strategies. The Plan has been prepared as a result of the provisions of section 66B of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and in line with the 'Ministerial Guidelines in relation to the Community & Economic Elements of the Local Economic & Community Plan.

The Plan demonstrates the significant work, capacity, knowledge and experience that currently exist in the County to respond to challenging and constantly changing needs and demands. Much of the activity envisaged in this Plan is long term and visionary and it is embedded within the very substantial and solid groundwork that has already commenced or been delivered by the various partners. In particular, exceptional capacity to work collaboratively has been evidenced in order to maximise resources and widen benefit to reach as many people and places as possible. This has to date, and will continue to involve internal County partnerships as well as partnerships with other counties and reaching out to our cross border neighbours and our international counterparts. The Donegal LECP 2015- 2021 aims to build upon the excellence that has already been established and to continue to exemplify real activity of benefit and change to the people of Donegal.

Therefore, working in partnership, 7 Priority Goals of the Donegal LECP have been identified:

1. To Develop Donegal as a **Connected Place**
2. To Harness Donegal's **Natural and Human Capital**
3. To Value, Sustain and Develop Our **Culture and Creative resource**
4. To Promote **Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy** Communities
5. To Develop Donegal as a **Lead Region for Learning, Research and Innovation**
6. To Develop the **'Donegal' Brand**
7. To Promote **Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise**

The Donegal LECP consists of 2 Volumes and 2 Appendices:

- Volume 1: The Donegal Local Economic & Community Plan- Strategy, Priority Goals & High Level Objectives
- Volume 2: The Action Areas of the Donegal LECP
- Appendix 1: The Profile of County Donegal
- Appendix 2: Participation; Policy Context Review; Key Funding Programmes

## 2.0 Strategic Environmental Assessment & Appropriate Assessment

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As part of the process to prepare the LECP, it is necessary to consider the potential effects that implementation of the Plan is likely to have on the environment. There are two screening exercises required in this regard to determine the extent of assessment that is to be undertaken. Firstly, a screening exercise to determine the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required which will assess the potential for significant effects on the environment across a number of areas such as water quality, climate change, biodiversity, human health, cultural heritage, material assets. Secondly, it is necessary to screen the plan for the need for an Appropriate Assessment (AA), under the Habitats Directive, which considers whether the Plan individually or in combination with other plans is likely to have a significant effect on our designated European sites. European sites are described as forming part of a Natura 2000 Network and this is made up of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) and Special Protection Areas (SPA's). These are important processes in identifying all of our rich environmental assets and ensuring that our Plan will have a positive interaction with our environment.

These processes are significantly underway such that preliminary screening reports are nearing completion. These reports are guided by the relevant legislation in terms of content but in broad terms include information regarding:

- the characteristics of the plan,
- the relevance of the plan for integrating environmental considerations and promoting sustainable development;
- the environmental problems relevant to the plan;
- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
- the cumulative nature of the effects;
- the value and vulnerability of the area due to special nature characteristics or cultural heritage, exceeded environmental quality standards or limits, intensive land use and;
- the conservation values of Natura 2000 sites.

The next step is to close off the preliminary screening exercises and to consult with the prescribed Environmental Authorities. Once consultation with the Environmental Authorities is complete and the outputs considered, a final determination of the need for SEA and AA will be made. This work will continue in tandem with advancement of the LECP to the Regional Authority and to Municipal Districts of Donegal County Council and full updates will be provided and integrated into the Plan appropriately.

### 3.0 Proofing in relation to Sustainability, Equality, Poverty, Rurality, Age & Disability

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Options are currently being explored to establish an expert group in order to undertake proofing of the plan and this work will continue in tandem with the screening for SEA and AA and in tandem with advancement of the LECP to the Regional Authority and to Municipal Districts of Donegal County Council. However, significant consideration and integration has already been given to the horizontal priorities of sustainability, equality, poverty, rurality, age & disability throughout the drafting of the LECP. This has occurred in the first instance through the engagement and participation of the sectoral organisations working within these areas and secondly through the 'Review of Strategy and Policy Context' that is detailed in Appendix 2, of the LECP. The review of the strategy and policy context includes a description of national, regional and local policy and an outline of its consistency and integration in the LECP. Full updates of the proofing of the Plan will be provided and integrated into the Plan appropriately.

### 4.0 The Vision of the LECP

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The vision of the Donegal LECP is our high level statement of what we would like to achieve through implementation of the Plan. It underpins and connects the goals, objectives and actions of the Plan.

#### **Vision:**

**To connect County Donegal through people and place in order to achieve strong, healthy, inclusive and sustainable communities together with economic opportunities and growth for all.**

A number of key values underpin the vision and represent an important reference tool to be considered in the implementation of the Plan. The underpinning values are that the Plan will;

- promote and mainstream equality;
- be built on objectives that are sustainable;
- maximise returns from available resources and reduce duplication;
- integrate and maximise health and wellbeing outcomes across all activity;
- ensure meaningful participation in the planning process, and consultation and engagement with communities generally;
- utilise community development principles of Collective Action, Empowerment, Social Justice, Equality & Anti-Discrimination, Participation;
- be grounded in collaborative and partnership approaches;

- set the local context for mainstream funding programmes;
- be consistent with the County Donegal Development Plan 2012- 2018 (as varied) and its core strategy, and with the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines;
- identify clear targeted actions with responsibility for delivery assigned.

The underpinning values are cross cutting in cumulatively establishing the environment within which all of our work to strengthen and promote the economic and community dimensions of the County will be delivered. The Donegal LECP, is an integrated plan and this is derived right through from the vision and its underpinning values, to the Goals, Objectives and Action Areas, where there are many interdependent and mutual benefits to be realised in tandem to respond to both the economic and the community needs and opportunities of the County.

## 5.0 The Plan Preparation Process

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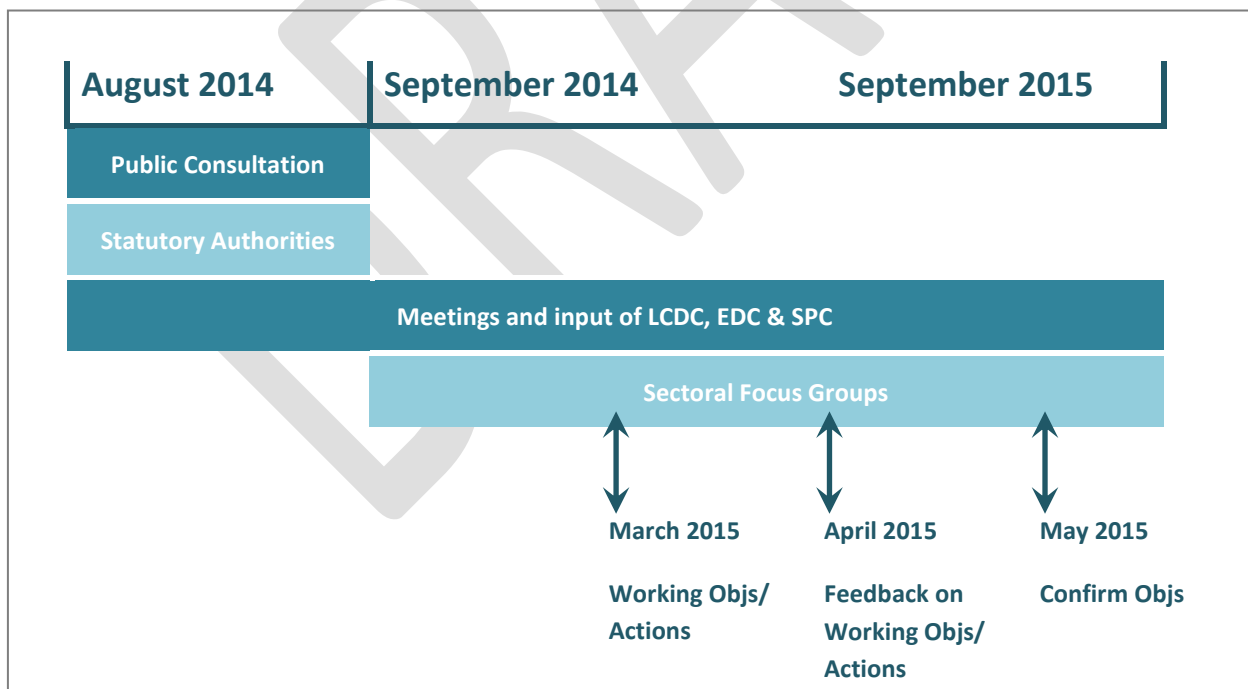
Participation in the preparation of the LECP is identified as one of the key values underpinning the vision of the plan and to this end significant resources have been engaged to ensure inclusive, widespread and meaningful participation across all elements of the Plan. Appendix 2 of the LECP, 'Participation; Policy Context Review; Key Funding Programmes' sets out a detailed record of each element of participation and records the key outputs. Figure 1 shows the timeline for the participation process which commenced in August 2014 and which has been led through the LCDC and the Economic Development Committee of Donegal County Council. The Committees, through their representation across the sectors, connected at this initial phase of participation with the grass roots groups and organisations that are critical to the economic and community dimensions of the county. In addition, the public authorities and publicly funded agencies that are carrying out functions in relation to economic and community development in County Donegal were notified of the commencement of the process to prepare the plan and their participation in the process was secured. The participation of agencies primarily occurred through the Focus Group format.

In addition and as described by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, a 'public consultation process' was initiated on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2014 by the placing of a notice in local newspapers and on the Donegal County Council website inviting the public to make observations or submissions in writing regarding the development of the Plan. In total, 100 submissions were received made up of a combination of individual written submissions as well as a number of submissions completed through an online questionnaire. A report on the public consultation process was prepared and was made available on the Donegal County Council website. Appendix 2 of the LECP examines the outputs of public consultation further to record the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats that were identified in the submissions as well as recording the key areas suggested for targeted growth and resources.

In parallel with the public consultation process, a number of targeted focus groups were identified as important groups from which sector specific participation be sought. The focus groups opened up ongoing exchange of information, consideration of the evidence base, identification of issues/ needs through SWOT analyses and collaboration and input into the plan occurring from August 2014 leading right through to the publication of the draft LECP. A full record of the outputs is set out in Appendix 2 of the LECP. The focus groups feeding into the Plan are:

- ✓ Social Inclusion Measures Group
- ✓ Community Development Alliance
- ✓ Social Inclusion Linkage Group
- ✓ Public Participation Network Secretariat
- ✓ Digital Strategy Working Group
- ✓ Tourism Forum
- ✓ Economic agencies
- ✓ Business community
- ✓ Education & Training Board
- ✓ Letterkenny Institute of Technology
- ✓ Health Service Executive
- ✓ Farming representatives
- ✓ Creative Industries

**Figure 1: The Timeline for Participation**



In parallel, Donegal County Council has prepared its Corporate Plan for the period 2015- 2019 to set out the strategic direction of the Council over the next five years. The Corporate Plan identifies the LECP as a key local policy instrument for Donegal that will underpin the Councils enhanced role in



economic and local community development. Having regard to the relationship between the Plans and to ensure complementarities, the issues raised through the consultation phase regarding the Corporate Plan have been considered for their crossover and relevance in the context of the LECP and thereby added value to the LECP. This integrated approach is documented in a separate report entitled, 'The Donegal LECP and the Donegal County Council Corporate Plan 2015- 2019' and is demonstrated through the 5 priority themes of the Corporate Plan as follows:

- **Economic Development and Job Creation:** Involving tourism development, WAW, Small Business Support, commercial rates, food, community enterprise, fishing, farming, FDI, renewable energy, green economy, broadband, cross border working, Diaspora.
- **Infrastructure:** Roads, broadband, air access, rail, signage, water, wastewater, transport, housing, footpaths, playgrounds and parks, local amenities, buildings, leisure centres, streetscapes.
- **Culture and heritage:** Involving languages, diversity, local history, conservation, monuments, structures of historical value, Gaeltacht islands, cultural facilities, museums, libraries, arts, community arts.
- **Sustainable and inclusive communities:** Involving revitalising towns and villages, local area plans/ town plans, walking/ cycling routes, amenities, physical activity, participation, PPN, Young people, older people, vulnerable people, people with disabilities, food, fuel, funding, safety, valuing volunteerism, mental health, engagement, community development, equality, interculturalism, anti- racism/ sectarianism, drugs/ alcohol misuse, road safety.
- **Collaboration and partnership working:** Co-operation, cross border working, linkages, critical mass, influence, local, regional, international, central government, funding agencies, sectoral organisations, Diaspora, intra-organisational collaboration.

## 6.0 The Socio- Economic Statement

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Appendices 1 & 2 of the Plan outline the detailed evidence base upon which the Goals, Objectives and Actions have been developed and provide a comprehensive resource that will assist all the partners in the implementation, evaluation, monitoring and review of the Plan. The collation of the evidence base involved an extensive body work and has been developed using a range of processes. The key messages coming from the detailed evidence base are set out hereunder under the following headings:

1. The profiling of the County (Appendix 1)
2. The outputs of the participatory process (Appendix 2)
3. A review of the strategy and policy context (Appendix 2)
4. The profiling of the key policy and funding programmes (Appendix 2)

### 6.1 The Profiling of the County

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A detailed profile of the County undertaken by the Research & Policy Unit of Donegal County Council is set out in Appendix 1 to the Plan. The profile provides an in- depth analysis and reporting on key statistical resources and on sectoral activity throughout the County. The principal strategic facts and the associated key messages are now derived from the detailed profile of Appendix 1 and set out hereunder.

#### 6.1.1 Donegal, a Unique & Connected Place

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Located on the Border Region, County Donegal is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest County in the State with a land mass of 4,861sq kms or 6.9% of the total area of the State. The County is magnificently bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the south west, west and north and shares its borders with Counties Derry, Tyrone, Fermanagh and Leitrim. The landscape is varied and dramatic, comprising of mountains, valleys, and fertile plains with a deeply indented coastline forming natural sea loughs, bays and peninsulas and many islands both inhabited and uninhabited.

#### Donegal, a Unique & Connected Place

Principal Strategic facts	Key message
Letterkenny- Derry Gateway - 133,099 persons 2011	Strong critical mass underpinning Linked Gateway
Population of Letterkenny- grew by 28% (2002- 2011)	Fast growing population in the County Gateway
13 inhabited Islands	Unique resource- culture, tourism, biodiversity, other niche types of development

Donegal Gaeltacht population is 24,744 in 2011	Unique resource- language, economy, culture
Donegal shares 93% of its entire land boundary with Northern Ireland	Cross border complementarities & opportunities for cooperation- education, health, emergency services, policing, work, recreation, retail
Rurally dispersed County- 33.8 persons/km sq compared to State average of 67/km sq	Alive rural areas Implications for service delivery and infrastructure investment Landscape and environmental implications Rural transportation essential
Large number of small towns - only 9 towns with a population over 1,500 persons	Implications for service delivery and infrastructure investment Limited capacity for vitality and viability Retained rural town characteristics – Rich in heritage, culture, traditional architecture and the unique Donegal character
Northeast & East of County is more populated than West & Southwest	Exemplifies strong cross border relationship Greater barriers to service delivery in less populated areas
Higher levels of under 30 years population are located in Northeast & East than in West & Southwest	Spatial implications for delivery of services to young people- requires efficient, sustainable and equitable approach
Higher levels of +65 years population are located in West & Southwest than in Northeast & East	Spatial implications for delivery of services to older people- requires efficient, sustainable and equitable approach
Dependency on road based transport system and private car	Maintain & improve key routes: N13, N14, N15, N56, A5, A6 & regional network Maintain & improve rural transport provision.
Strategic transport Gateways include City of Derry airport, Donegal Airport, Knock Airport, Killybegs Port and Greencastle & Burtonport harbours	Maintain & improve airports and marine Gateways Road based connectivity to strategic transport Gateways essential
Increase in use of private car & decrease in use of other more sustainable modes of transport	Environmental implications Develop viable initiatives to provide alternatives to car based travel e.g. Walkway provision in towns Potential barrier to social inclusion

### 6.1.2 Repowering our Towns

There are 61 settlements in County Donegal ranging in size from just over 100 inhabitants to almost 20,000 persons and these settlements are vital in sustaining economic and social vitality and growth in the County. They provide a wide range of services and employment functions which both drive and are supported by their rural hinterlands. The towns have the potential to play a crucial role in regenerating economically stagnant areas of the County and such physical regeneration will have far reaching cumulative benefits to not only the town catchments but to whole areas of the County.

#### Repowering our Towns

Principal Strategic facts	Key message
54% of the population live in open countryside and 46% live in 61 settlements	Rural population characteristic
12% of the population live in the Letterkenny Gateway and 34% live in 60 smaller geographically dispersed settlements	Small settlements are important network of service centres Develop their vitality and viability Potential network to facilitate service delivery
Top ten fastest growing towns were located close to the border with Derry and near Letterkenny	The linked Gateway is attracting people
Most towns in Glenties MD have grown in size	Further support additional growth in West Donegal towns
Half of the towns in the Donegal MD have decreased in size	Opportunities for targeted regeneration initiatives in the south west
Most towns in the Letterkenny MD grew in size	Match population growth in towns in the Gateway region with vitality and support services.
All of the towns in the Stranorlar MD grew in size	Further support additional growth in the Stranorlar MD
22 out of 26 Tier 1, 2 & 3 towns have a vacancy/ dereliction rate of 8% or more	Identify targeted regeneration initiatives to consolidate and rejuvenate town centres Reuse vacant and underutilised buildings
Average age dependency ratio in towns is 57.6%	Rejuvenate towns as attractive places to live for population of working age Implications for service delivery to young people and older people through our town networks

35% of all families living in towns are headed by a lone parent	Implications for delivery of family supports & services through our town network
51% of persons with a disability living in our towns were aged under 15 years or 65 years and over	Opportunities to coordinate delivery of services to young people and older people with services to persons with a disability through our network of towns
42% of people living in towns were not participating in the labour force.	Rejuvenate and improve towns as attractive places to live Enable sustainable local employment in towns
28.4% of the total labourforce were unemployed and living in towns	Improve vitality and viability of town centres to attract sustainable business and employment Implications for delivery of training programmes and pathways to employment through our networks of towns
44% of non residential buildings are within towns	Strong established mix of residential and non- residential activity in our towns Solid base on which to improve vitality, diversity and viability in towns

### 6.1.3 Delivering Socially Inclusive Services

Deprivation and social exclusion continue to present challenges in the Donegal context. The Haase Pratschke Relative Deprivation Score attributed to County Donegal in 2011 was -6.25 making it the second most deprived local authority area in the State. An analysis of the indicators that make up Haase Pratschke Index reveals that the key drivers of Donegal low deprivation score are low educational attainment (26.1%) and high male unemployment rates (31.4%).

#### Delivering Socially Inclusive Services

Principal Strategic facts	Key message
County deprivation score of -6.25 Majority of Donegal ED's more deprived than national average	Significant deprivation throughout the County
'Marginally above average' deprivation scores around Letterkenny, Bundoran and Lough Eske	Impact of the economic performance of the Letterkenny Gateway
72.6% of population are rural dwellers Donegal Gaeltacht makes up 24.5% of the total State Gaeltacht population 13 Inhabited islands	Hard to reach communities are made up of rural dwellers, Gaeltacht and island communities Implications for access to services and rural transport

Young people make up 23% of the population- higher than the State	Implications for number, type and level of services to young people
13.3% of the population are 65 years and over age category -people are living longer	Major future demographic and service related challenges
Higher concentrations of young people along the North East axis Higher concentrations of older people living in the West and North West & in Gaeltacht areas	Spatial implications for delivery of supports and services to young and older people
County age dependency ratio of 56.9%- 2 <sup>nd</sup> highest in the State	Support initiatives to increase working age population such as the Diaspora connections
High level network of community infrastructure	Potential to perform as digital, community & economic hubs Capital maintenance and investment implications Potential for energy efficiency measures to add to sustainability
52% of homes are constructed pre- 1992 (pre first national building standards in Ireland)	Potential target for energy efficiency and sustainability measures
34% of households had no internet connection- compared to State average of 26%.	Drive improvements in access and capacity in digital technology Impact of digital exclusion
Decreasing number of persons at work	Further develop initiatives to attract investment, support indigenous enterprise and enable employment
Growth in employment in retail, health, education, agriculture, forestry and fishing	Target supports to further develop growing sectors
Decrease in employment in construction and Hotels and Restaurants	Particular implications for male population and component of deprivation score Target reskilling and upskilling and pathways to employment
Extensive education network of primary, post- primary, Digital Schools, 3 <sup>rd</sup> level (LYIT) and FET (ETB & SOLAS)	Support continued development of the sector Support and assist collaborative approaches
Although improved, % of persons who had 'no formal or primary education' in Donegal is highest in the country	Target programmes for early school leavers, lifelong learning, FET and pathways to education Target vulnerable groups
Top 3rd level qualifications by field of study- ranked 3rd is science, mathematics & computing and also Engineering, manufacturing & constructio	Continue to encourage uptake of STEM

### 6.1.4 Protecting and Harnessing our Rural Environment

Donegal's environment offers huge opportunities for growth and development for enterprise creation and tourism product development whilst also improving recreational access. The environmental resource adds to 'Quality of Life' and contributes to the attractiveness of Donegal as a place to live. Protecting our most important habitat and promoting a pristine environment along with our green image is an integrate part of developing the 'Donegal' brand.

#### Protecting and Harnessing our Rural Environment

Principal Strategic facts	Key message
Large network of conservation sites- including 47 SAC's, 25 SPA's, 88 NHA's & pNHA's,	Implications for environmental protection of the resource Rich resource of habitats and biodiversity- potential as environmental exemplar, learning, tourism
Glenveagh National Park- one of 6 national parks in the country	Continue protection and development of the important County resource; environmental, biodiversity, habitat, built heritage, heritage, landscape, natural beauty
145 Irish Geological Heritage Sites- Geologically complex region	Potential as tourism and learning resource
Landscape and natural beauty- top reason for visiting tourists to Donegal/ Sligo followed by 'natural environment'	Implications for protection of landscape from over-development Develop opportunities arising from the resource- recreation, health, wellbeing, education, tourism
Good and improving waterbody quality -40 groundwater reserves all have 'good' water quality status	Programmes to manage development, monitor, undertake innovative environmental initiatives essential
10 public water supplies serving a population of 35,508 persons were on the EPA Remedial Action List	Continued investment and improvement in water supply and quality systems required Collaboration with Irish Water essential and potential for local initiatives for schemes outside remit of Irish Water
Unaccounted For Water (UFW) rate was 45% between 2008- 2013	Potential for the development of water conservation projects
Deficiencies in waste water treatment	Continued investment and improvement in waste water treatment required Collaboration with Irish Water essential and potential for local initiatives for schemes outside remit of Irish Water
279.65MW of power generated from 28 windfarms in Donegal – total national wind power generation is 1,803MW	Collaborate on the development of the energy network Landscape implications

Significant wave energy resource	Support for advancement of pilot projects and development of test beds to become a world leader in harnessing ocean resources.
Large areas of commercial forestry and associated biomass potential	Potential for the development of sustainable and affordable fuel resources
Offshore oil and gas exploration	Develop the role of Killybegs and Donegal airport as strategic maintenance service facilities for offshore activities

### 6.1.5 Donegal's Primary Sectors

Farming, forestry and fisheries remain three important sectors in County Donegal. The various aspects of the County's food resource offers much potential for farm diversification, creation of rural enterprises, development of rural tourism and the long term sustainability of rural communities. Forestry and woodlands present considerable opportunities for the development of sustainable rural areas, providing for increased farm viability through diversification into primary wood production and value added products whilst also helping to meet the demand for access to rural amenities, activity and adventure tourism. As an island nation, fishing has always been economically and socially important to Ireland with Killybegs one of the most important fishing ports in the country.

#### Donegal's Primary Sectors

Principal Strategic facts	Key message
Number of farms decreased by 4.9% and farms are getting bigger	Changes in management, production and output
54% of farm holders were aged 55 years or older	Develop initiatives to increase participation of younger persons in farming sector
Number of persons working on farms increased by 10% over 2000- 2010	Business training and supports essential to enable sustainable employment in the sector
8 Farmers Markets take place in the County	Marketplace for fresh farm, garden and home produce and handcrafts. Supports the development and marketing of artisan food products Contributes to tourism product
Estimated total area of forestry is 12.25% of the total land area in 2012	Potential visual impact on landscape Potential for recreational space Contributes to enhancement of health and wellbeing



Significant uptake in willow plantations- significant potential economically and environmentally	Develop further innovative initiatives for sustainable fuel products
A number of active forestry owner groups- Donegal Woodland Owners and Inishowen Forestry Owners	Support for further development of initiatives to assist forest owners to manage forests and add value to their timber
A number of Community Forests	Protect and further develop Community Forests as key asset for recreation, education, health and wellbeing
62% of fish landed in Irish ports was through Killybegs and Greencastle in 2013	National impact in the Irish sea fisheries industry Economically significant
Killybegs - strategic fishing port of national importance- 2009 total turnover in the area was around €250million with 82% attributed to fisheries sector	Potential for Innovation Hub to further develop and harness the resource Essential to maximise the use of the pier infrastructure Critical to continue to value- add Potential for sustainable jobs
13 Aquaculture Production Areas	Existing established expertise on which to further develop the sector
25 seafood producers and processors identified by BIM	Existing experience in producing high value products and on which to further develop the sector
Donegal fishing communities have a high number of people in the 0- 19 and 65 plus age brackets	Implications for survival of fishing tradition and expertise Implications for training and education
Established Research, Development & Training in the Marine sector (Offshore training college in Falcarragh, LYIT Killybegs campus).	Significant expertise established- grow and develop further as a centre of research and innovation

### 6.1.6 Unlocking Our Cultural Resource

The physical geography of the County is a unique natural environment and the interactions of human geography with this environment have shaped a very rich and distinctive identity for Donegal and its people. Historic periods and events such as the Flight of the Earls, The Plantation of Ulster, The Great Famine and the Partition of Ireland have impacted in a particular way in Donegal, on our thinking, our language, our relations, traditions and our way of life. These impacts are evident through our ever changing economic, religious, social and political landscape. What we have today is a rich cultural heritage the legacy of which includes the thousands of artefacts in our museums, our dramatic landscape, our folklore and mythology, our writings, fine art, our festivals, music, architecture and dance.

## Unlocking Our Cultural Resource

Principal Strategic facts	Key message
An extensive network of cultural infrastructure- 429 facilities	Maintain and sustain capacity and viability Widen access Promote and coordinate activity
Approximately 57,000 people engage through the Diaspora Project	Key resource for the region focussed on culture, heritage, tourism, business, education and enterprise Potential to create linkages providing skill, experience, networks and resources
Vibrant festival calendar	Valuable expression of culture and heritage- Builds and identifies communities Contributes to tourism product Promote and coordinate activity
An attractive film location	Consolidate and develop further through the Donegal Film Office
Irish language is a living language- the Gaeltacht population grew by 4% 2006- 2011	Strong upward trend to contribute to sustaining the language Opportunities for learning Contributes to tourism sector Develop a Donegal Gaeltacht Language Plan
Donegal Gaeltacht has a lower % of Irish speakers than the State aged between 10- 59 years	Implication of longer term threat to maintenance of the language- develop initiatives to promote and integrate the language further
Letterkenny as a Gaeltacht Service Town	Implications for delivery of services and other business activity in Irish language- requires coordination, training & promotion
22% of Donegal's population originate from outside the State (2011)	Strong level of cultural diversity – adding to the culture of Donegal Implications for integration into the economic, social and cultural fabric and delivery of services
429 creative businesses/ bodies in the county	Vibrant, diverse sector- potential for employment and contribution to tourism sector.
Diverse built heritage- 375 buildings on RPS, circa 3000 structures on NIAH	Evidence of cultural legacy Contribute to place- making Contribute to tourism sector

5 Heritage Towns (Ardara, Ballyshannon, Moville, Ramelton and Raphoe)

Concentration of the heritage resource

Potential for greater contribution to the tourism sector

Further develop initiatives to reuse historic buildings in Heritage Towns to contribute to regeneration and place- making

Rich archaeological resource- 3129 monuments, 252 shipwrecks as part of maritime heritage

Potential for greater contribution to the tourism sector

### 6.1.7 Capitalising on Our Rural Tourism Advantage

The number of tourists visiting Donegal is consistently on the increase driven by a number of factors including the establishment and promotion of the Wild Atlantic Way, along which there are a number of Signature Points like Slieve League, Fanad Lighthouse and Malin Head and other Discovery Points such as spell binding islands, breath taking blue flag beaches, world class golf courses, community forests and picnic areas and historical landmarks. Investment in tourism products has been targeted and this is testimony to the tourism offering however further targeted initiatives and investments to rural communities will help to harness the full potential of the Wild Atlantic Way.

#### Capitalising on Our Rural Tourism Advantage

##### Principal Strategic facts

##### Key message

Extensive network of tourism offerings along the Wild Atlantic Way and throughout the County

Strong tourism offering- focus on integration, coordination, further product development, marketing

'Beautiful scenery/ countryside' the top reason for tourists visiting Donegal/ Sligo

Protect the landscape resource and natural environment from over- development

A hub for adventure and activity tourism- 13 blue flag beaches, adventure and watersports activities, surf, golf, angling, walking trails, sporting and recreational facilities, parks and play areas

Adventure and activity tourism sector growing – continue coordination and promotion of activities

In 2013, overseas visitors spent on average €25million on food and drink in the County

Further develop the sector through the Donegal Food Strategy and The Food Coast

Opportunities for rural communities to diversify and add value beyond primary agriculture and fishing production

Diverse cultural tourism sector- includes cultural and arts practitioners, facilities and services, natural heritage designations, archaeological heritage and built heritage (RPS & NIAH)

Vibrant cultural tourism sector

Develop supports to ensure sustainability and build capacity

Predominantly road based tourist travel- 74% by private car, 15% by private coach

Investment in a range of essential facilities necessary- public conveniences, picnic and viewing areas, motor home facilities, road infrastructure

3,750 (Faillte Ireland approved) accommodation units along the 550km route of WAW clustered around key settlements

Potential to cater for the growing demand for increased accommodation through farm diversification

69% of all accommodation units are through the hotel sector

Employment opportunity for rural communities to make up deficit- e.g. small scale conversions, available land for camping and caravanning

## 6.2 The outputs of the participatory process

As indicated in Section 5.0, participation in the preparation of the plan included engagement through the number of consultations namely (detailed record of consultations set out in Appendix 2, 'Participation; Policy Context Review; Key Funding Programmes'):

- Public consultation
- Community & Voluntary sector consultation
- Economic sector consultation
- Focus groups

The Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats identified cumulatively through the participation process are set out in the table 1.

**Table 1: S.W.O.T arising from the Participation Process**

<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<b>WEAKNESSES</b>
<p><b><u>County assets</u></b> Natural resources, Landscape, Environment, Heritage, Culture, Archaeology, Language</p> <p><b><u>Economic</u></b> Strong tourism sector Strong creative sector WAW Strategy Existing economic base Diaspora resource</p> <p><b><u>Community</u></b> Healthy Ireland Strategy Quality of life Environmental quality Extent, capacity and experience of C&amp;V sector</p> <p><b><u>Spatial</u></b> Letterkenny- Derry Gateway Donegal Gaeltacht Development Centres (Ballybofey- Stranorlar,</p>	<p><b><u>Economic &amp; Community</u></b> Availability &amp; quality of Broadband Digital exclusion- the digital divide Progress on strategic infrastructure projects External determinants outside our control Inadequate water and wastewater systems Lack of appropriate physical spaces for services and activities across the sectors. Lack of quality cycle network</p> <p><b><u>Community</u></b> Access to service barriers: Primarily transport, broadband and language. Lack of training in social enterprises Lack of consistent funding stream Diminished capacity in community organisations Lack of adequate rural transport</p> <p><b><u>Economic</u></b> Matching education provision to industry needs Gaps in tourism product/ service provision/ supporting</p>

<p>Ballyshannon, Buncrana, Bundoran, Carndonagh, Donegal Town, Gaoth Dobhair and Killybegs). Strategic tourism locations</p>	<p>infrastructure Lack of adequate brand Geographical location in North West Lack of financial support to SME's Lack of marine infrastructure Lack of employment &amp; high youth unemployment</p>
<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES</b> <u><b>Economic &amp; Community</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To be an exemplar in Donegal for the natural environment.</li> <li>- Further opportunities to work in partnerships and collaborate across all the sectors Enable people through increased training and learning opportunities.</li> <li>- Create local service hubs</li> <li>- Collaboration on education</li> <li>- Locations of strategic opportunity identified as: Development Centres, strategic tourism locations, tourism hubs</li> </ul> <p><u><b>Community</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To promote to Donegal as 'Healthy Donegal.'</li> <li>- To improve health through walking and cycling.</li> <li>- To learn new heritage and culture from the County's multi- cultural population.</li> <li>- Enable people through tailored education</li> <li>- Resource communities through a development levy on windfarms</li> </ul> <p><u><b>Economic</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Smart Regional Specialisations: Marine Resources, renewable energies, food, agriculture, tourism, creative's</li> <li>- Tourism priorities: product, marketing &amp; capacity building</li> <li>- Tourism product development opportunity: Heritage, culture, walking, cycling, Irish language, angling, fishing, marine, town regeneration</li> <li>- Enable the enterprise ecosystem including business supports</li> <li>- Harness the Diaspora resource for inward investment.</li> <li>- Young people: Embed entrepreneurship, encourage STEM uptake, create industry links</li> </ul>	<p><b>THREATS</b> <u><b>Economic &amp; Community</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of alternative to drink culture undermining the objectives of the LECP e.g. Donegal Brand and Tourism.</li> <li>- That heritage is not harnessed in an appropriate manner.</li> <li>- Threat of blight and overdevelopment on the landscape and natural environment</li> <li>- Limited existing economic base/ employment base</li> <li>- Emigration- brain drain &amp; lose of young people</li> <li>- Impact of Irish water on the implementation of the County's water and waste water infrastructure and planned programmes.</li> </ul> <p><u><b>Community</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reliance on community and voluntary sector especially volunteers, to reach marginally excluded groups.</li> <li>- Sustainability of community organisations.</li> <li>- Further closure of services and facilities such as Garda Stations.</li> <li>- Vulnerability of rural transport</li> </ul> <p><u><b>Economic</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impact of charges and taxes on SME's.</li> <li>- Limitation on funding opportunities.</li> </ul>

### 6.3 A review of the strategy and policy context

A detailed review of the relevant aspects of the Strategy and Policy Context, within which the LECP is prepared and will be implemented, is set out in Appendix 2, 'Participation; Policy Context Review; Key Funding Programmes'. The detailed review describes the high level elements of the relevant strategy/ policy, provides information on how the strategy/ policy has impacted upon the LECP in terms of consistency and integration and identifies a number of particular objectives of the LECP that are most distinctly related to the strategy/ policy. The spatial strategies are particularly relevant in the context of demonstrating consistency of the LECP with the Border Regional Planning Guidelines, 2010 and County Donegal Development Plan 2012- 2018 (as varied) as these are the statutory frameworks that set the context for development in the County. Table 2 scopes the relevant strategies reviewed in Appendix 2 of the Plan, across four areas namely:

- The Spatial Planning & Development Strategies;
- The Economic Strategies
- The Community Strategies;
- The Local Sectoral Strategies and Sectoral Organisations

**Table 2: Scope of Strategies and Policy Context**

#### The Spatial Planning & Development Strategies

- National Spatial Strategy 2002- 2020
- The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Region, 2010
- The County Donegal Development Plan 2012- 2018 (as varied)
- An Stratéis – Donegal Strategy for Social, Cultural and Economic Development 2012-2018
- Town Development Plans for Letterkenny, Buncrana & Bundoran
- The Gateway and Hubs Development Index (GHDI) 2012
- Development Centres/ Hubs

#### The Economic Strategies

- Action Programme for Effective Local Government- Putting People First, DECLG, 2012
- Construction 2020
- Making it Happen- Growing Enterprise for Ireland, Forfás, 2010
- OECD LEED (Local Economic and Employment Development) Report on Delivering Local Development, 2014
- Energising Irelands Rural Economy- The report of the Commission for the economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA) 2014
- IDA Ireland, Winning Foreign Direct Investment 2015- 2019
- Driving Enterprise, Delivering Jobs, Strategy to 2016, Enterprise Ireland
- Údarás na Gaeltachta, Strategic Plan 2014- 2017
- Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), 'Harnessing Our Oceans Wealth,' July 2012
- The Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan, 2014
- Bord Iascaigh Mhara Strategy 2013- 2017
- Delivering on Green Potential – Government Policy Statement on growth and Employment in the Green Economy, 2012
- Developing a Green Enterprise, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, 2011
- EirGrid, Your Grid, Your Views, Your Tomorrow, A Discussion Paper on Irelands Grid Development Strategy, 2015
- Failte Ireland
- Border Region Action Plan for Jobs

- National Broadband Plan, Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, 2012

### The Community Strategies

- Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland , 2012
- OECD LEED (Local Economic and Employment Development) Report on Delivering Local Development
- Energising Irelands Rural Economy- The report of the Commission for the economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA) (2014)
- Corporate Social Responsibility Plan, Good for Business, Good for the Community 2014- 2016.
- 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010- 2030
- Ireland’s National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007- 2016 (NAP inclusion)
- Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2015
- Report of the High Level Group on Traveller Issues in 2006 and the National Strategy for Traveller/ Roma Integration, 2011
- Better Outcomes Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children & Young People 2014 – 2020
- Building a High Quality Health Service for a Healthier Ireland, HSE Corporate Plan 2015- 2017
- Healthy Ireland - Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 – 2025
- Further Education & Training Strategy 2014- 2019, SOLAS and Department of Education & Skills
- An Garda Síochána Strategy Statement 2013- 2018
- National Broadband Plan, Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, 2012
- National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan, 2013

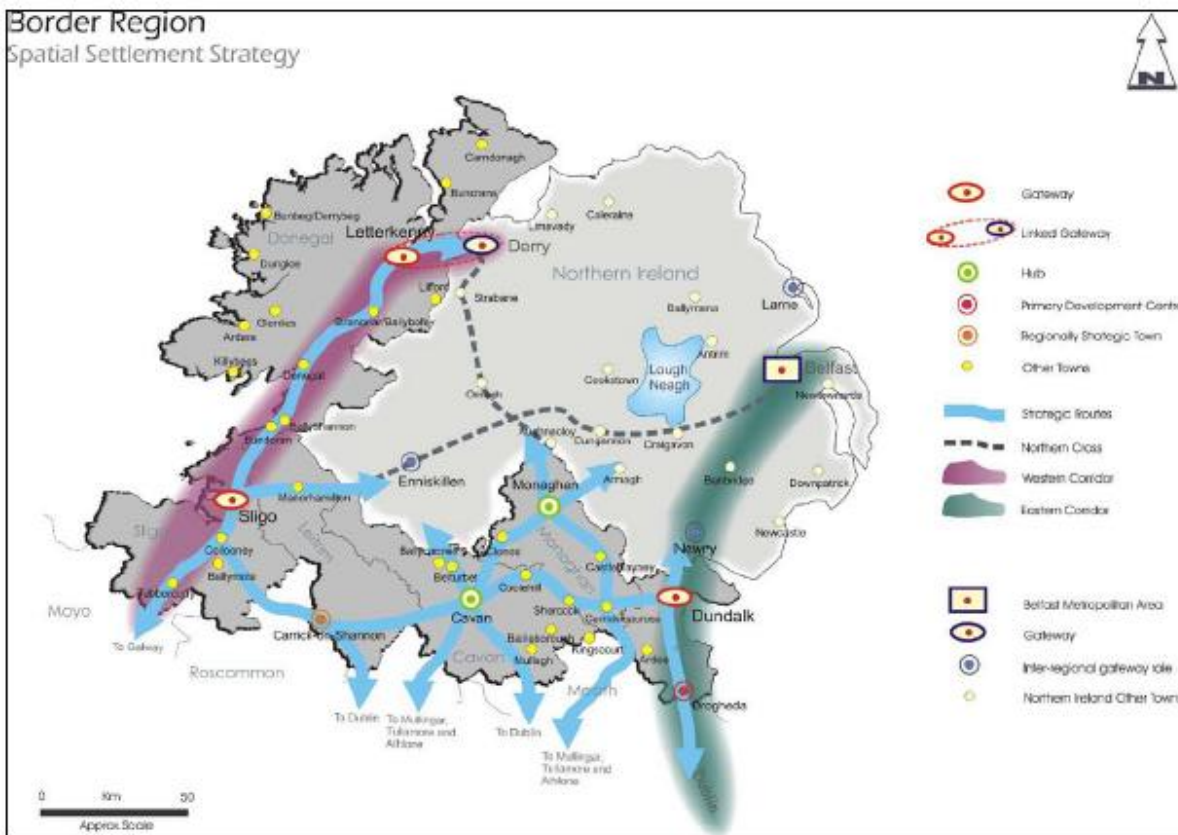
### The Local Sectoral Strategies and Sectoral Organisations

- Donegal County Council Corporate Plan 2015- 2019
- The One Plan for Derry- Londonderry
- North West Partnership Board
- North West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCBG)
- Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)
- Active Donegal - Strategic Plan 2011-2014
- Donegal Diversity Plan, 2011 – 2013
- Donegal Intercultural Platform
- Donegal Traveller Interagency Group
- Donegal Youth Service
- Donegal Women’s Network
- Connecting For Life Donegal, Preventing Suicide Together, Action Plan 2015- 2012
- North West Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force Plan 2011- 2014
- Local Development Companies
- Enterprise Development on the Gaath Dobhair Business Park, 2015, Údarás na Gaeltachta
- Coillte Northwest Business Area Unit (BAU) Strategic Plan 2011- 2015
- Donegal Road Safety Plan 2010- 2015, Donegal County Council
- The County Donegal Heritage Plan 2014- 2019, County Donegal Heritage Forum
- LYIT Strategic Plan, Our Commitment to the North West Gateway Learning Region, 2014- 2017
- Donegal ETB Education Plan 2011 – 2015
- Donegal Digital Action Plan, 2015
- Strategic Action Plan for Creative Entrepreneurship in Donegal

### 6.3.1 The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Region 2010

The Regional Planning Guidelines recognize the people as the regions most important asset and therefore emphasize the importance of making improvements to quality of life. Map 1 sourced from the RPGs demonstrates the settlement strategy for the Border region and it reflects the key strategic goals of the RPG’s that the development of Letterkenny is to be the strategic driver of growth for the County; to facilitate integrated sustainable development between urban and rural areas; to improve connectivity and mobility links; to promote innovation, economic growth and competitiveness; to facilitate emerging sectors to provide sustainable jobs and; to protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment and built heritage. The RPG’s identify a Core Strategy for the Region that establishes the population growth framework for each local authority to be incorporated into the relevant Development Plan. The LECP draws significantly from the strategy of the RPG’s, identifying the economic importance of the growth of the Gateway and the strengthening of Tier 2 towns/ Development Centres, particularly targeting areas such as research and innovation and the digital economy. In tandem and to build upon the County’s strengths and opportunities as a substantially rural economy, the LECP targets future economic growth and competitiveness in Rural Economic Development, focussing on areas including tourism, culture, heritage, natural resources and agri- food across all the Goals of the Plan.

**Map 1: The Spatial Strategy of the RPG’s.**



(Source: The RPG’s 2010- 2022 for the Border Region)



### 6.3.2 The County Donegal Development Plan 2012- 2018 (as varied)

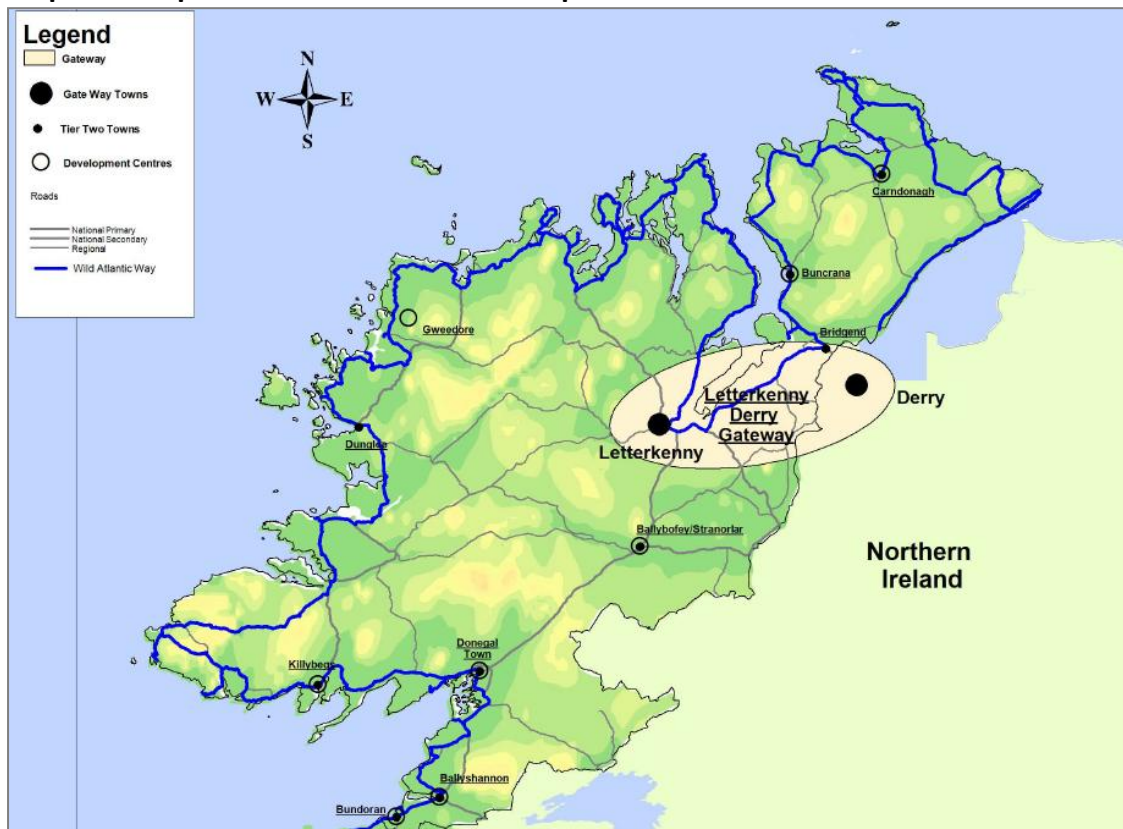
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The County Donegal Development Plan (CDDP) 2012- 2018 delivers a Core Strategy and settlement hierarchy for the County of 5 levels with a focus on the Letterkenny- Derry Gateway followed by the strategic towns (Buncrana, Carndonagh, Bridgend, Ballybofey/Stranorlar, Donegal town, Ballyshannon, Bundoran, Killybegs, and Dungloe). The Core Strategy recognises the importance of the Donegal rural area and the extent to which future growth should occur there. The CDP emphasises the need for the coordinated, planned and joined up approach to investment and new development so as to contribute to the recovery of the national and regional economy and to improve quality of life indicators such as access to services. In particular, the following areas are identified as important policy areas for development:

- Investment in research and innovation in renewable energy development, knowledge based services, agri- food sector & environmental products.
- Development of sustainable economic models.
- Strengthen cross border collaboration.
- Maximise technology and digital capabilities.
- Develop Killybegs as a Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy.
- Develop educational collaboration.
- Develop vibrant, sustainable communities ensuring social inclusion and equality.
- Facilitate a coordinated approach to the delivery of social, community and cultural infrastructure and services.
- Develop the potential of the rural economy.
- Integrate environmental considerations in decision making.
- Develop sustainable tourism opportunities.
- Ensure the development of strategic access to the County

The LECP is consistent with the spatial planning framework set out in the Core Strategy of the CDP 2012- 2018 as regards its settlement hierarchy, led through the identification of the linked Gateway and supported through Tier 2 towns/ Development Centres. Significant objectives of the LECP and their related activities support the implementation of the hierarchy. The LECP also recognises the potential of the rural areas of the County to contribute to culture, community and the economy and therefore targets rural and hard to reach areas, isolation, the power of broadband and the distinct rural resources that, if tapped appropriately, have the potential to result in significant and sustainable economic growth.

The objective of the identification of 7 Development Centres/ Hubs in the County, is to identify areas of potential to advance economic development through integrated Action Plans, one in respect of each Development Centre. The spatial context of this approach is shown on Map 2. This work requires a coordinated and integrated approach that will involve all stakeholders across the community, private, public and agency sectors. The shared ownership of this work is critical including the implementation phase of actions identified.

**Map 2: The Spatial Context for the Development Centres**

The Development Centres identified (their areas of focus listed below) largely reflects the Tier 2, 'Strategic Support Towns' identified in the CDP 2012- 2018 (as varied):

- Bundoran - Marine Tourism
- Ballyshannon - Cultural Heritage & Enterprise
- Donegal Town -Tourism Focus
- Ballybofey / Stranorlar - Sports Theme
- Buncrana / Carndonagh –Tourism
- Gweedore - Business Development

### 6.3.3 An Stratéis – Donegal Strategy for Social, Cultural and Economic Development 2012-2014

As an integrated strategy for the economic, social and cultural development of the County, An Stratéis has provided the impetus and context for a range of innovative projects and for the identification and accessing of new and additional funding for the region. The 6 Goals focussed on access to supports and services; development of the cultural resource; promotion of enterprise and skills development; the Donegal Brand; tourism and; the green economy. The strong foundations of programmes and activities that have been delivered through implementation of An Stratéis are reflected in the continuum of the County's economic and community strategy that is now contained in the Local Economic & Community Plan. The LECP builds upon the success of An Stratéis, both in relation to the very tangible and visual achievements that have been delivered and also in relation to the collaborative and partnership environment that has been strongly established in the County.

### 6.3.4 Other Strategies/ Policy context

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Other National, Regional and Local strategies reviewed as part of the context for the LECP, significantly align with many of the emerging issues and priorities in Donegal demonstrating that the Plan is in step with National, Regional and Local priorities. In particular, the policy review demonstrates a national, regional and local emphasis on:

- Education, training, skills development
- The creation of a positive enterprise and business ecosystem
- The potential for rural economic development and the role of rural towns
- Developing the Gaeltacht and protecting the Irish language
- The necessity for sustainable communities
- The continued focus on social inclusion of key groups including children, young people, older people, women, Traveller & Roma communities, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, persons who are disadvantaged/ marginalised
- Enhancement of quality of life, health and wellbeing
- The needs of key growth sectors including, agriculture and food, forestry, fishing, the green economy, tourism, research and innovation
- The underpinning principles of collaboration including in the local cross border context and the role of broadband/ digital technology as a strategic enabling infrastructure

### 6.4 Key Policy and Funding Programmes

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Overarching policy and funding frameworks at European level are given expression in Europe 2020 and in the multi-annual financial frameworks and programmes for the period 2014-2020. The ability to maximise and attract external funding to the County and wider region will be key in supporting the implementation of the LECP. A more detailed profile of key policy and funding programmes is provided in Appendix 2 to the Plan. In summary, emerging funding priorities include the areas of:

- Employment
- Innovation, research and development
- Competitiveness/ capacity
- Climate/ energy efficiency/ renewable energy
- Environment/ biodiversity/ resource efficiency
- Education
- Social inclusion & poverty reduction
- Sustainable transport
- Health
- Building communities/ building capacity
- Shared spaces and services
- Cultural and natural heritage
- Rural development

## 7.0 The Priority Goals - The Integrated Element of the Plan

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The Goals of the Plan have been developed through the consultation undertaken and analysis of the Socio- Economic Profile. The Goals are cross- cutting in nature, each relating in various ways to both economic and community needs in the County. This exemplifies the inter-relationships and inter-dependency between programmes of work and the importance of connecting programmes and work areas that may have more traditionally been identified as either solely economic or community. The Goals therefore, are identified as the integrated element of the Plan within which both the economic elements and the community elements of the plan find expression and from which they flow.

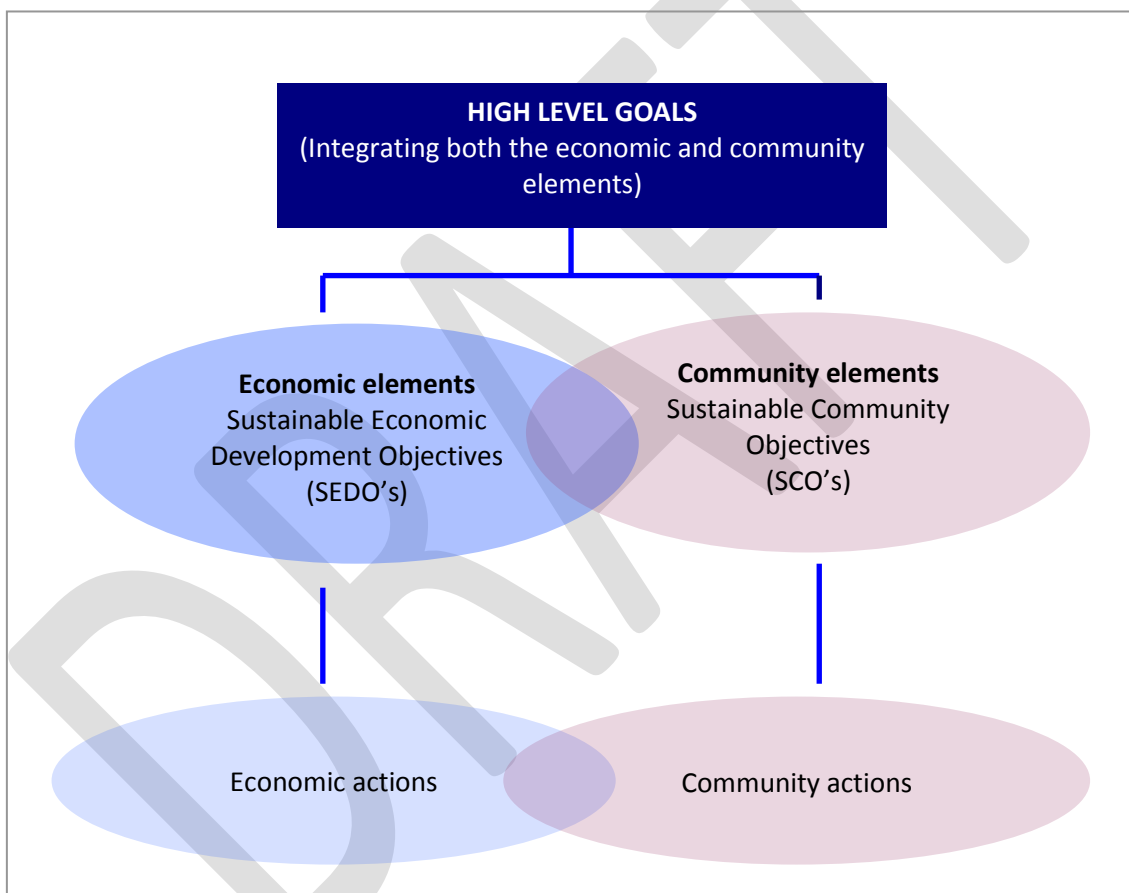
The 7 Priority Goals of the LECP are:

- 
1. To Develop Donegal as a **Connected Place**
  2. To Harness Donegal's **Natural and Human Capital**
  3. To Value, Sustain and Develop Our **Culture and Creative Resource**
  4. To Promote **Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities**
  5. To Develop Donegal as a Lead Region for **Learning, Research and Innovation**
  6. To Develop the **'Donegal' Brand**
  7. To Promote **Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise**
-

## 8.0 The High Level Objectives of each Goal

Cascading from each of the Goals, a series of high level objectives designed to deliver on each Goal and to respond to the particular areas of priority need have been identified. Consistent with the integrated nature of the Goals, a significant number of the cascading objectives will deliver actions that are dual purpose, delivering both economic and community benefit in equal measure and in tandem. Meanwhile, a number of other objectives will have a more focussed benefit that will be more evidenced on either the economic elements or on the community elements of the plan. The integrated nature of the Donegal LECP is demonstrated in Figure 2.

**Figure 2: The Integrated Nature of the Donegal LECP**



## 8.1 The high level objectives of Goal 1

Goal 1: To Develop Donegal as a Connected Place	
1.1. Digitally Connected	To fully develop and promote Donegal as a Digitally Connected County.
1.2. Digital inclusion	To improve access to digital technology in order to ensure Digital Inclusion, reduce isolation and social exclusion, improve quality of life and to ensure comprehensive connectivity for the people of Donegal.
1.3. Rural Transport	To sustain and further develop rural transport services in Donegal
1.4. Collaboration	To foster and support collaborative partnership approaches to facilitate the delivery of sustainable community and economic development in the county across all sections and sectors.
1.5. Diaspora	To connect with Donegal's global community and to promote the county on the global basis.
1.6. The Gateway	To consolidate and further develop the Letterkenny Gateway as a 'Connected' place
1.7. Development Centres	To promote a connected network of Development Centres and supporting settlements in order to promote balanced and sustainable spatial growth
1.8. Donegal Gaeltacht	To ensure that the Donegal Gaeltacht is a fully developed and connected part of the county as a whole.
1.9. Walking & Cycling	To promote connectivity and access through walking and cycling routes
1.10. Marine	To develop marine connectivity and access within and to County Donegal.
1.11. Strategic Infrastructure	To ensure the coordinated delivery of 'Connectivity' and access investment to support economic and community development in the North West region
1.12. Library Network	To contribute to improved connectivity in County Donegal through continued provision of a strategic network of public libraries and the effective delivery of library infrastructure and library services through this network and related initiatives.
1.13. Connected people	To develop and promote Donegal as a county where individuals, communities and organisations are connected.

## 8.2 The high level objectives of Goal 2

Goal 2: To Harness Donegal's Natural & Human Capital	
2.1. General	To develop and promote all aspects of Donegal's natural and human capital resources.
2.2. Natural Environment	To protect, enhance and promote the natural environment of County Donegal
2.3. Linguistic Heritage	To ensure that the Irish language, and our unique linguistic heritage, becomes more visible, audible and integrated into all activities in our County and that the Gaeltacht region is consolidated and developed.
2.4. Tourism	To realise the sustainable development of our natural asset to develop and promote Donegal's unique tourism product.
2.5. Wild Atlantic Way	To celebrate and utilise the County's natural capital through the Wild Atlantic Way.
2.6. Built Heritage	To protect and enhance the built heritage of the County as a valuable expression of natural and human interactions.
2.7. Communities & people	To build capacity in communities and people through the development of awareness and appreciation of community and place.
2.8. Diaspora	To connect with Donegal's global community and promote the County on a global basis.
2.9. Traditional skills	To strengthen human capital by promoting the development and learning of traditional skills
2.10. Training, education and learning	To build human capital through training, education and learning
2.11. Marine resource	To identify and fully harness Donegal's marine resource potential.

## 8.3 The high level objectives of Goal 3

Goal 3: To Value, Sustain and Develop Our Culture and Creative resource	
3.1. General	To maintain and develop cultural and creative resources in County Donegal and provide for its sustainability and growth as well as for economic and quality of life purposes.
3.2. Linguistic Cultural Heritage	To value, preserve, promote and increase the use of the Irish language across all areas of life in the County and to consolidate and further develop our County's Gaeltacht regions.
3.3. Community Engagement	To support local community engagement in harnessing the culture, language and creative resource of the County.
3.4. Sustainable Cultural Sector	To further develop and support a sustainable creative and cultural sector in County Donegal.
3.5. Tourism	To consolidate and further develop cultural and creative resources as integral

	parts in the development of a sustainable tourism sector
3.6. Wild Atlantic Way	To further develop and promote the cultural, creative, heritage and historic resources of County Donegal along the route of the Wild Atlantic Way.
3.7. Landscape Informing Heritage	To recognize the importance of the Donegal landscape in informing culture.
3.8. Diversity	To embrace and value cultural diversity in the Donegal community.
3.9. Built Heritage	To protect and engage with County Donegal's built heritage as an integral component of our culture.
3.10. The Donegal Islands	To nurture and harness the culture and creative resources of the Donegal Islands.
3.11. Diaspora	To engage with the cultural and creative resource that exists throughout the worldwide Donegal Diaspora.
3.12. Learning	To collaborate in the development and delivery of training and learning in the County's cultural and creative sectors
3.13. Creative	To develop the creative industries as an exemplar of local skill and knowledge recognising creative enterprise as a resource for the community.
3.14. Digital	To fully utilise the digital sector in informing and developing Donegal's cultural and creative resource and sector.
3.15. Vibrant Cultural Sector	To sustain and develop a vibrant cultural sector in the County, including both individual artists and professional arts organisations which embraces all art forms including; performance arts, visual arts, literature; traditional and contemporary; new artistic work; in Irish, in English and in the languages of Donegal's new communities.

#### 8.4 The high level objectives of Goal 4

4.1. Digital Inclusion	To promote and facilitate local community participation in the Digital Society.
4.2. Broadband	To maximise High Speed Broadband provision in the County so as to enable the growth of sustainable and inclusive communities.
4.3. Participation	To promote and foster participation of disadvantaged communities and marginalised target groups in decision making to engage with relevant local and national stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues.
4.4. Health & Wellbeing	To promote and support health and wellbeing in County Donegal
4.5. Social Inclusion	To reduce poverty, promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration
4.6. Women	To promote social justice, equality and women's human rights.
4.7. Employment	To create and support pathways to employment for persons from marginalised



	and disadvantaged communities.
4.8. Island Communities	To work for the sustainability of the Island communities.
4.9. Rural & Coastal Communities	To support rural and coastal communities under threat and in decline.
4.10. Donegal Gaeltacht Communities	To support the sustainability of Donegal Gaeltacht communities..
4.11. Irish Language	To add to the number and proportion of Irish speakers within the total population of the County and beyond, including the diaspora
4.12. Age Friendly County	To develop County Donegal as an "Age Friendly" County
4.13. Children & Young People	To work towards the 5 national outcomes for children as set out National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020.
4.14. People with Disabilities	To promote and support people with disabilities to participate fully in economic, social and cultural life.
4.15. Traveller and Roma Communities	To work in a partnership approach to identify issues, concerns and barriers to service delivery experienced by the Traveller, Roma and Ethnic Minority Communities and to develop programmes to address these barriers.
4.16. Learning	To enable individuals and communities to be sustainable by investing in education, training and Lifelong Learning.
4.17. Peace Building & Conflict Resolution	To develop opportunities for peace building and conflict resolution both within the County and on a cross border basis and develop strategies and activities which address sectarianism, racism and local conflict issues through a community development approach.
4.18. Volunteering	To develop and support voluntarism as a resource for County Donegal.
4.19. Community Organisations	To support the work of community/voluntary organisations within County Donegal as a resource for social capital in advancing economic, social and cultural opportunities.
4.20. Community Infrastructure	To optimise the use of existing community infrastructure and to seek to address any gaps identified in community infrastructure in the County.
4.21. Development Centres	To support and promote the urban strengthening of identified Development Centres and the settlements that support those centres so as to promote and facilitate sustainable and inclusive communities.

## 8.5 The high level objectives of Goal 5

<b>Goal 5: To Develop Donegal as a Lead region for Learning, Research and Innovation</b>	
5.1. Collaboration	To strengthen engagement, knowledge exchange and greater collaboration between educational providers and industry.
5.2. Marine	To realise the full potential of the marine sector through the provision of appropriate learning and promotion of research and development activity.
5.3. Digital Society	To promote engagement with the digital society in all forms of education provision.
5.4. STEM	To encourage the uptake of STEM subjects.
5.5. Health	To build on our medical heritage, enhancing human health for generations, by progressing new endeavours, innovation and collaboration in education, research and service.
5.6. Partnership R & D	To promote and advance Research and Innovation through networks, partnership and collaboration in this region and internationally including cooperation with the Donegal Diaspora.
5.7. Employment	To create and support pathways to employment
5.8. Natural Resources	To identify and harness all of the County's natural resources across all sectors.
5.9. Learning	To enable individuals to reach their full potential by investing in accessible education, training and lifelong learning.
5.10. Use of Infrastructure	To make best use of new and existing infrastructure and to identify and fill infrastructural deficits in the region.
5.11. A Connected Letterkenny	To ensure that the Letterkenny Gateway is a connected place in the context of learning, research and innovation.
5.12. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Level Linkages	To promote greater linkages between third level educational providers, with a view to advancing long-term sustainable development, research and innovation in the region.
5.13. FET	To improve access paths into further education and training.
5.14. Literacy & Numeracy	To improve literacy, numeracy and communication skills in adults and young people
5.15. CPD in Education Sector	To provide continuous professional development opportunities for those working in the education sector.
5.16. Clusters	To facilitate the development of a number of clusters in order to promote entrepreneurship, investment and enterprise in the region.
5.17. Spatial Planning	To utilise existing resources to facilitate effective spatial planning in the region.
5.18. Enterprise	To strengthen the business management and capabilities of SME owner managers.

## 8.6 The high level objectives of Goal 6

Goal 6: To Develop the 'Donegal' Brand	
6.1. 'Donegal'	To develop the 'Donegal' Brand as a resource to support economic and community development.
6.2. People & Place	To promote the people and place of Donegal as a resource for the Donegal Brand.
6.3. Donegal Diaspora	To harness the resource of the Donegal Diaspora in promoting the Donegal Brand on a Global basis.
6.4. Media	To promote Donegal through a range of media.
6.5. Business & People Friendly	To market Donegal as a great place to live, work and do business

## 8.7 The high level objectives of Goal 7

Goal 7: To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise	
7.1. The ecosystem	To develop a coordinated entrepreneurship and enterprise ecosystem.
7.2. Inward Investment	To target, pursue and enable suitable high quality knowledge and skills based inward investment to County Donegal.
7.3. The Gateway	To support the continued development of Letterkenny- Derry linked Gateway as the primary growth centre for the Region.
7.4. Rural Economic Development	To promote and support rural economic development throughout the County
7.5. Collaborative approaches	To collaboratively support existing and new entrepreneurs, investment and enterprise
7.6. Tourism	To collaboratively develop and promote the full potential of the tourism sector in County Donegal.
7.7. Wild Atlantic Way	To collaboratively develop and promote the value of the Wild Atlantic Way
7.8. Development Centres	To promote and enable economic growth and strengthening of identified development centres and their supporting settlements.
7.9. Built & Cultural Heritage	To unlock the potential of the built and cultural heritage of County Donegal.
7.10. Language	To sustain and promote the Irish language, harnessing its economic potential across the County.

7.11. Diaspora	To develop the Donegal Diaspora as a global community in marketing and promoting Donegal on a global basis
7.12. Farming	To support sustainable farming, fishing and aquaculture in County Donegal.
7.13. Research & Innovation	To promote Donegal as a world class centre for Research, Development and Innovation
7.14. Clean Technology	To develop and grow the clean technology sector in County Donegal.
7.15. Killybegs	To promote and develop Killybegs as a Marine Resources hub and as an Innovation Centre for Marine Resources including Food, Tourism and Ocean Energy
7.16. Marine Resource	To identify and harness the economic potential of Donegal's marine resource across all parts of the sector.
7.17. Creative Entrepreneurship	To create the right conditions and provide support for Creative Entrepreneurship in County Donegal.
7.18. Digital Economy	To fully develop and advance all opportunities with regard to Donegal's Digital economy
7.19. Food	To promote research, assist enterprise and create jobs in the food sector in Co. Donegal.
7.20. Social Enterprise	To develop sustainable social enterprise to tackle economic and social challenges.
7.21. Connectivity Infrastructure	To collaborate to provide connectivity within and to the County to enable economic development.
7.22. Strategic Infrastructure	To collaborate to realise the delivery of necessary strategic infrastructure investment e.g. road access, air access in the North West region to support economic growth.
7.23. Skilled Workforce	To develop and facilitate access to a skilled workforce to enable economic growth.
7.24. Business and People Friendly	To implement the Governments Corporate Responsibility Plan to ensure Donegal is a good place to visit or do business.

## 9.0 The Action Areas

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The Action Areas in relation to each high level objective are set out in Volume 2, 'The Action Areas of the Donegal LECP.' The activities identified will require the dual oversight of the LCDC and the EDC as they are cross-cutting in their nature and in many cases will contribute to the achievement of a number of goals and objectives of the Plan at the same time. The Action Areas are the primary mechanism to deliver the Goals and Objectives of the plan by bringing forward specific measures for economic and community development at a local level. Each action area is designed in order to implement a particular high level objective which in turn is directly related to the achievement of the Priority Goals of the Plan. Volume 2 outlines that there are four underpinning components to the Actions Areas- they are **robust, integrated, timebound** and **assigned**.

### **Robust Action Areas**

This is a robust programme of action areas from which, during the course of the implementation of the Plan, it may be desirable to develop alternative/ additional initiatives, projects and/ or incentives that will support the delivery of actions. This approach provides capacity for the Plan to respond to potentially rapidly changing or unforeseen circumstances such as funding programmes or organisational change as examples. Therefore, as the Plan is implemented but as a minimum, on an annual basis, the action areas identified may be amended, added to or discarded, so that the Plan remains flexible and dynamic to changing circumstances.

### **Integrated Action Areas**

Some actions areas recur as implementing actions under a number of objectives and also across a number of Goals either as direct and purposeful duplication or as a variance of the particular focus. This exemplifies the integrated nature of the Economic and Community elements of the Plan where actions will address both economic and community needs at the same time.

### **Timebound Action Areas**

In so far as practical and possible, each action area has been assigned a timebound period for implementation in the context of short, medium or long term delivery. In some cases, action areas will have elements of delivery that will require immediate, short term activity in order to reach certain milestones that will subsequently lead to the longer term delivery of a larger or more strategic element. In these cases, a combination of short, medium or long term has been identified as appropriate.

### **Assigned Action Areas**

Each Action Area has been assigned relevant implementing partners cutting across the public, private and community & voluntary sectors. In most cases, a partnership approach is advocated exemplified by the identification of 2 or more implementing partners and made up of a combination of lead implementer(s) for particular timebound elements and associated collaborative partners.

## 10.0 The Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Review Framework

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The 'Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Review Framework for the Plan' is the framework to measure the effectiveness of the implementation of the actions. Given the integrated nature of the economic and community elements of the Donegal LECP, the Implementation Framework will require the dual oversight of the Local Community Development Committee and the Economic Development Committee and appropriate reporting structures will be established within the context of the operational procedures of the relevant Committees. This is a critical component in recognising that delivery of a number of actions will be through existing and new programmes of other stakeholders as well as by the local authority.

Notwithstanding the operational procedures of the Committees, implementation will be guided in the context of the key underpinning values set out at section 4.0 of this document. In particular and to assist in working to the key values, it is envisaged that all agencies endorse a memorandum of understanding supporting dialogue around barriers or challenges that emerge over the lifetime of the Plan and which impinge on implementation of the Plan. To recap, the underpinning values on which the Donegal LECP is built are that the Plan will:

- promote and mainstream equality;
- be built on objectives that are sustainable;
- maximise returns from available resources and reduce duplication;
- integrate and maximise health and wellbeing outcomes across all activity;
- ensure meaningful participation in the planning process, and consultation and engagement with communities generally;
- utilise community development principles of Collective Action, Empowerment, Social Justice, Equality & Anti-Discrimination, Participation;
- be grounded in collaborative and partnership approaches;
- set the local context for mainstream funding programmes;
- be consistent with the County Donegal Development Plan 2012- 2018 (as varied) and its core strategy, and with the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines;
- Identify clear targeted actions with responsibility for delivery assigned.

To guide the establishment of an Implementation Framework, the DECLG Guidance Note, June 2015 and its 'Implementation Monitoring Template' will be adapted to suit local implementation arrangements of best match to the content of the Donegal LECP and our local circumstances. The Implementation Framework will progress the Action Areas set out in Volume 2, so as to identify the actions, or elements of actions, that are to be prioritised over Year 1 of the plan and this will incorporate relevant targets, performance indicators and progress milestones. This approach will complement the robust nature of the action areas and will facilitate an annual assessment to ensure the plan is flexible and dynamic to changing circumstances.

# **The Donegal Local Economic & Community Plan**

**Volume 2**

**Action Areas of the Donegal LECP**

**September 2015**



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

DRAFT



# The Action Areas

This document comprises the Action Areas that have been identified in order to achieve the high level strategy of the Plan and it represents the primary mechanism to deliver the Goals and Objectives of the plan by bringing forward specific measures for economic and community development at a local level. Each action area is designed in order to implement a particular high level objective which in turn is directly related to the achievement of the Priority Goals of the Plan. There are four underpinning components to the Actions Areas; they are:

- **Robust, integrated, timebound and assigned.**

## **Robust Action Areas**

This is a robust programme of action areas from which, during the course of the implementation of the Plan, it may be desirable to develop alternative/ additional initiatives, projects and/ or incentives that will support the delivery of actions. This approach provides capacity for the Plan to respond to potentially rapidly changing or unforeseen circumstances such as funding programmes or organisational change as examples. Therefore, as the Plan is implemented but as a minimum, on an annual basis, the action areas identified may be amended, added to or discarded, so that the Plan remains flexible and dynamic to changing circumstances.

## **Integrated Action Areas**

Some actions areas recur as implementing actions under a number of objectives and also across a number of Goals either as direct and purposeful duplication or as a variance of the particular focus. This exemplifies the integrated nature of the Economic and Community elements of the Plan where actions will address both economic and community needs at the same time.

### **Timebound Action Areas**

In so far as practical and possible, each action area has been assigned a timebound period for implementation in the context of short, medium or long term delivery. In some cases, action areas will have elements of delivery that will require immediate, short term activity in order to reach certain milestones that will subsequently lead to the longer term delivery of a larger or more strategic element. In these cases, a combination of short, medium or long term has been identified as appropriate.

### **Assigned Action Areas**

Each Action Area has been assigned relevant implementing partners cutting across the public, private and community & voluntary sectors. In most cases, a partnership approach is advocated exemplified by the identification of 2 or more implementing partners and made up of a combination of lead implementer(s) for particular timebound elements and associated collaborative partners.

### Goal 1 Objectives: To Develop Donegal as a Connected Place

Goal 1: To Develop Donegal as a Connected Place	
1.1. Digitally Connected	To fully develop and promote Donegal as a Digitally Connected County.
1.2. Digital inclusion	To improve access to digital technology in order to ensure Digital Inclusion, reduce isolation and social exclusion, improve quality of life and to ensure comprehensive connectivity for the people of Donegal.
1.3. Rural Transport	To sustain and further develop rural transport services in Donegal
1.4. Collaboration	To foster and support collaborative partnership approaches to facilitate the delivery of sustainable community and economic development in the County across all sections and sectors.
1.5. Diaspora	To connect with Donegal's global community and to promote the County on the global basis.
1.6. The Gateway	To consolidate and further develop the Letterkenny Gateway as a 'Connected' place
1.7. Development Centres	To promote a connected network of Development Centres and supporting settlements in order to promote balanced and sustainable spatial growth
1.8. Donegal Gaeltacht	To ensure that the Donegal Gaeltacht is a fully developed and connected part of the County as a whole.
1.9. Walking & Cycling	To promote connectivity and access through walking and cycling routes
1.10. Marine	To develop marine connectivity and access within and to County Donegal.
1.11. Strategic Infrastructure	To ensure the coordinated delivery of 'Connectivity' and access investment to support economic and community development in the North West region
1.12. Library Network	To contribute to improved connectivity in County Donegal through continued provision of a strategic network of public libraries and the effective delivery of library infrastructure and library services through this network and related initiatives.
1.13. Connected people	To develop and promote Donegal as a county where individuals, communities and organisations are connected.

## Goal 1: Actions

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
1.1.	To fully develop and promote Donegal as a Digitally Connected County.	1.1.1.	To support the implementation of the County Donegal Digital Action Plan	<b>ERNACT, DCC, ÚnaG, LYIT, EI, FI, IDA, DCENR, Local Development Co's, industry partners</b>	S-M-L
		1.1.2.	To establish a Digital Tech Observatory to research, monitor and assess High Speed solutions for the County and to promote ICT take up.	<b>ERNACT, DCC, DCENR, LYIT, EI, IDA</b>	S
		1.1.3.	To investigate and advance as a matter of priority, all opportunities to ensure a high speed, resilient broadband network throughout the entire County, including the islands.	<b>DCENR, DCC, ÚnaG, ERNACT, Local Development Co's</b>	S-M
		1.1.4.	To promote and maximise the potential of Project Kelvin and the MAN's.	<b>DCC, ERNACT, Hibernian Networks, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's</b>	S-M-L
		1.1.5.	To design and integrate WiFi availability in future programmes of capital investment in new and existing public buildings.	<b>DCC, ÚnaG,</b>	S-M-L
		1.1.6.	To support the Wild Atlantic Way by appropriately maintaining and investing in Wi-Fi access at discovery points along the route.	<b>DCC, FI, Donegal Tourism, Tourism Sectoral Fora</b>	S
		1.1.7.	To examine the feasibility of establishing Letterkenny - Derry Gateway as a Digital town.	<b>DCC, Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce</b>	M
		1.1.8.	To establish a collaborative ecosystem around digital technologies by developing a network of strategically located Local Digital Hubs providing a range of digital development services designed to improve the capability of local businesses, community interests and individuals to participate in the digital world.	<b>DCC, ERNACT, EI, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's,</b>	S
1.2.	To improve access to digital technology in order to ensure Digital Inclusion, reduce isolation and social exclusion, improve quality of life and to ensure comprehensive connectivity for the people of Donegal.	1.2.1.	To establish a collaborative forum that shall oversee the delivery of the best match possible between demand and supply of digital trained and educated workers, including demand from FDI, indigenous business, communities and groups of individuals.	<b>LYIT, ETB, DCC, ERNACT, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's</b>	S-M-L
		1.2.2.	To promote the use of digital technology to enable improved access to services by the most geographically hard to reach populations.	<b>Local Development Co's, ÚnaG, ETB</b>	M
		1.2.3.	To assist people to be more digitally connected through the	<b>DCC, ERNACT, EI, ÚnaG, Local</b>	S

## Goal 1- To Develop Donegal as a Connected Place

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
			development of strategically located Local Digital Hubs	Development Co's	
		1.2.4	To investigate and advance as a matter of priority, all opportunities to ensure a high speed, resilient broadband network throughout the entire County, including the islands.	<b>DCENR</b> , DCC, ÚnaG, ERNACT, Local Development Co's, Comhar na nOileán	S-M
		1.2.5	To develop the capacity of using video telecommunications as a means of widening connectivity to rural areas.	Local Development Co's	S
1.3	To sustain and further develop rural transport services in Donegal	1.3.1.	To establish a collaborative forum within which opportunities are explored to develop, resource and implement innovative solutions to rural transport needs across the county.	HSE, DCC, Local Development Co's, SITT, National Transport Authority	S
		1.3.2.	To continue to develop rural transport initiatives including Local Area Hackney License and bus operators, to service community based public transport needs in rural areas and to connect service provision with existing public transportation provision.	SITT, DCC, Local Development Co's	S
		1.3.3.	To continue to support physical access to and from the Donegal Islands	<b>Comhar na nOileán</b> , DCC, DAHG	S
		1.3.4.	To develop a comprehensive user friendly platform through which information on transport available within the County can be accessed by passengers, agencies and programmes.	SITT	M
1.4	To foster and support collaborative partnership approaches to facilitate the delivery of sustainable community and economic development in the county across all sections and sectors.	1.4.1.	To continue to develop strong cross border collaborations and partnerships in order to promote and further develop the community and economic activity of North West region.	<b>DCC</b> , DCC&SDC; NWPB, NWRCBG, LYIT, Local Development Co's	S
		1.4.2.	To promote ensure joined- up programmes and plans across the sectors through the work of the LCDC and the Economic Committee and identify areas for future collaboration.	<b>DCC</b> , LCDC, Econ Committee	M
		1.4.3.	To use digital technology platforms to facilitate effective networks across the sectors.	DCC, ERNACT, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG	M
		1.4.4.	To examine opportunities to improve access to services by developing a number of new public services in Donegal County Council using open data, and living lab or open innovation approach.	<b>DCC</b>	M
		1.4.5.	To present information about services using simple language and in a way that helps someone understand it the first time they read or hear it.	Tusla, ÚnaG	S-M-L

## Goal 1- To Develop Donegal as a Connected Place

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
1.5.	To connect with Donegal's global community and to promote the county on the global basis.	1.4.6.	To continue to build partnerships and collaborate at regional/ national/ crossborder and International level across all sectors.	DCC, NWPB, NWRCBG, LYIT, Local Development Co's	S
		1.5.1.	To support the development of a Diaspora Centre in conjunction with the development of cultural heritage resources in the county.	Diaspora Project - DCC, FI, Donegal Tourism, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S-M-L
		1.5.2.	To reach out, engage and connect with County Donegal's global community, its 'Pobal Domhanda' through the continued work of the Donegal Diaspora project.	Diaspora Project, DCC, FI, Donegal Tourism, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations	S-M-L
		1.5.3.	To continue the promotion of 'brand' Donegal and international connections through platforms such as the Donegal Diaspora Project, the Donegal Portal, the Donegal Film Office and 'Go Visit' Donegal.	DCC, Diaspora Project FI, Donegal Tourism, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations	S-M-L
1.6.	To consolidate and further develop the Letterkenny Gateway as a 'Connected' place	1.6.1.	To continue to implement the Letterkenny- Derry Linked Gateway, as the major urban centre in the north-west, through the work of the Gateway Economic Forum.	DCC, Gateway Economic Forum, Letterkenny Town Team	S-M-L
		1.6.2.	To support and lobby in respect of programmes to improve infrastructural connectivity to the Northwest region.	DCC, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, ÚnaG, Gateway Economic Forum, Letterkenny Town Team	S-M-L
		1.6.3.	To implement actions to improve transport movement and transportation infrastructure into and around Letterkenny.	DCC, NRA, Letterkenny Town Team	S-M
		1.6.4.	To examine the feasibility of establishing Letterkenny Gateway as a Digital town.	DCC, Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce LYIT-CoLab, Science Park, ETB, Letterkenny Town Team	M
1.7	To promote a connected network of Development Centres and supporting settlements in order to promote balanced and sustainable spatial growth	1.7.1.	To prepare action plans in respect of identified Development Centres so as to promote sustainable and inclusive communities, to promote strengthened connectivity to the Donegal Gaeltacht, the Donegal Islands and to rural and coastal communities and to promote and facilitate economic growth at these locations.	DCC, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, ETB, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S
		1.7.2.	To encourage and facilitate the role of community groups in the service settlements that support the Development Centres.	DCC, Local Development Co's, communities, relevant agencies	S

## Goal 1- To Develop Donegal as a Connected Place

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
1.8	To ensure that the Donegal Gaeltacht is a fully developed and connected part of the county as a whole.	1.8.1.	To explore and strengthen the social, community, economic, cultural and linguistic connectivity of the Donegal Gaeltacht as an integral component of the entire County.	Irish Language Steering Group under the LCDC, ÚnaG, Roinn na Gaeltachta, Gaeltacht community organisations, DCC	M
		1.8.2.	To collaborate in order to strengthen Gaeltacht Service Centres located outside the Donegal Gaeltacht but which are important to the socio-economic life of the Gaeltacht community and to identify opportunities to improve the linguistic connectivity within the entire County.	Irish Language Steering Group under the LCDC, ÚnaG, Roinn na Gaeltachta, Gaeltacht community organisations, DCC	M
		1.8.3.	To identify 'Gaeltacht Ambassadors' to support the connection of Irish language and culture to the wider population and to the Diaspora and to use social media in the promotion of these ambassadors.	ÚnaG, Diaspora Project, Donegal Tourism, FI, DCC	S
		1.8.4.	To prepare and implement a countywide language plan and other language plans in respect of particular groups/ organizations/ themes or geographical remit.	Irish Language Steering Group under the LCDC, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Roinn na Gaeltachta, Gaeltacht community organisations, DCC	S
1.9	To promote connectivity and access through walking and cycling routes	1.9.1.	To develop an integrated North West Greenway.	DCC, Donegal Tourism, FI, Local Development Companies, local tourism organisations, adjoining Local Authorities, IFI, Loughs Agency	S-M-L
		1.9.2.	To support projects, such as the 'Trailazers Application', that utilizes the latest in GIS and Digital media technologies to collate, map and promote all approved recreational trails and associated business services in Donegal through the development of a series of virtual tours that will captivate the imagination of the users and to allow for its promotion to the global market.	<b>DCC</b> , Donegal Tourism, FI, Local Development Companies, local tourism organisations, ÚnaG, IFI, Loughs Agency	S
		1.9.3.	To identify a programme of walkways, cycleways and greenways within towns and their hinterland, to enhance town centre connectivity, support regeneration of town centres and improve health and recreation opportunities.	DCC, Local Development Co's, local community organisations, ÚnaG, Donegal Sports Partnership, Coillte	M-L
1.10	To develop marine connectivity and access within and to County Donegal.	1.10.1.	To harness the marine corridor of strategic fishing centres, marine tourism centres/ corridors and a necklace of piers around the coast of Donegal.	Donegal Tourism, DCC, BIM, Malin Waters, FI, ÚnaG, LYIT, Donegal Heritage Forum, IFI, Loughs Agency	M -L

## Goal 1- To Develop Donegal as a Connected Place

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		1.10.2.	To continue to promote and support Killybegs, Greencastle and Burtonport as strategic centres of marine activity and to develop an Innovation Hub in Killybegs.	DCC, BIM, LYIT ÚnaG, fishing communities, IFI, Loughs Agency	S
		1.10.3.	To identify and develop appropriate harbour improvement/ enhancement, such as access for people with disabilities, marine tourism facilities, renovation of disused buildings etc.	DCC, BIM, Fishing communities and community groups, LYIT, FI, Donegal Tourism, local tourism organisations, ÚnaG, IFI, Loughs Agency	S-M-L
		1.10.4.	To harness the potential of inland waterways and the networks of rivers and lakes in County Donegal as a resource for environmental, tourism and recreation opportunities including river walkways.	Donegal Tourism, DCC, Malin Waters, Community Organisations, FI, local tourism organisations, Coillte, IFI, Loughs Agency	M-L
		1.10.5.	To establish a sustainable integrated network of ferry nautical services to and within the North West region including links to other European coastal destinations.	Donegal Tourism, DCC, Malin Waters, IFI, Loughs Agency	M-L
1.11	To ensure the coordinated delivery of 'Connectivity' and access investment to support economic and community development in the North West region	1.11.1.	To plan for, implement and pursue the investment necessary to improve connectivity to and within the North West region by air, sea, road, rail, and foot and by digital means.	DCC, DCENR, all other relevant agencies/ groups, cross border partners	S-M-L
		1.11.2.	To promote and support the delivery of strategic roads infrastructure to the North West region including the A5 and A6 routes.	DCC, DCENR, all other relevant agencies/ groups, cross border partners	S-M
		1.11.3.	To promote and support the delivery of strategic roads infrastructure within the County including the N13, N14, N15, N56 and the Letterkenny outer relief road.	DCC, NRA, all other relevant agencies/ groups	S-M
		1.11.4.	To support air access to the North West region through Donegal Airport and City of Derry Airport and to improve strategic transportation links to and from these international transport hubs.	DCC, Ú na G, all other relevant agencies/ groups, cross border partners	S
		1.11.5.	To collaboratively support rail connectivity to County Donegal in the context of the North West region.	DCC, Ú na G, FI, all other relevant agencies/ groups, cross border partners	L
		1.11.6.	To support the Wild Atlantic Way by appropriately maintaining and investing in the route to facilitate access, including access to the islands.	Donegal Tourism, DCC, FI, Local tourism organisations, community organisations, Comhar na nOileán, Letterkenny Town Team	S



## Goal 1- To Develop Donegal as a Connected Place

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		1.11.7.	To promote investment in high speed broadband provision in the County.	DCC, ERNACT, ÚnaG, LYIT, EI, FI, DCENR, Local Development Co's, industry partners, Letterkenny Town Team	S
		1.11.8.	To support investment and improve local connectivity in urban and rural areas by developing and marketing walkways and/or cycleways.	DCC, Local Development Co's, local community organisations, local tourism organisations, ÚnaG, Donegal Sports Partnership, Coillte, Letterkenny Town Team	S-M
		1.11.9.	To explore a potential pilot SMART transport initiative between places of work and residents.	Letterkenny Town Team, private companies	S-M
		1.11.10	To continually improve safety of roads infrastructure and awareness of road safety through the implementation of actions identified in the Road Safety on education, engineering and enforcement.	DCC, Road Safety Authority, schools, community groups, Letterkenny Town Team	S
		1.11.11	To continue to support physical access to and from the Donegal Islands.	Comhar na nOileán, DCC, DAHG	S
		1.11.12	To work collaboratively to ensure a resilient and high quality energy supply in the region.	ESB Networks, Eirgrid, DCENR, DCC, ÚnaG	S-M
1.12	To contribute to improved connectivity in County Donegal through continued provision of a strategic network of public libraries and the effective delivery of library infrastructure and library services through this network and related initiatives.	1.12.1.	To continue to provide access to Broadband connectivity through the availability and development of digital media services in the existing library network.	DCC, ERNACT	S
		1.12.2.	To increase the capacity of the existing library network so as to provide digital media services in order to contribute to economic and community activity.	DCC, ERNACT, Local Development Co's	S
		1.12.3.	To connect training and learning opportunities through the use of the library network.	Local Development Co's, DCC	M
		1.12.4.	To further promote and sustain rural and isolated communities through the Taobh Tíre Initiative.	DCC, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG	S
		1.12.5.	To work towards a digital library and the expansion of online cultural heritage, developing local digital collections and optimising their accessibility.	DCC	M

## Goal 1- To Develop Donegal as a Connected Place

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		1.12.6.	To provide public access to WIFI across the library network on a phased basis.	DCC	S
		1.12.7.	To encourage community engagement in the development of public policies and plans through the strategic network of public libraries by facilitating access to public consultation documents and systems and the means to input into and/or respond to them.	Local Development Co's, DCC	S
		1.12.8.	To encourage active EU citizenship amongst adults, young people, and children through the Europe Direct Information Centre in Letterkenny and its programme of events.	Local Development Co's, DCC, community groups	S
		1.12.9.	To provide access to trusted sources of online and static community information through the Library Service to meet the changing needs of the local population.	Local Development Co's, DCC, community groups	S
1.13	To develop and promote Donegal as a county where individuals, communities and organisations are connected.	1.13.1.	Work in partnership to implement Connect Donegal Suicide Prevention Action Plan.	HSE, Educational bodies, DCC, community & voluntary sector	S-M

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## Goal 2 Objectives: To Harness Donegal's Natural & Human Capital

Goal 2: To Harness Donegal's Natural & Human Capital	
2.1. General	To develop and promote all aspects of Donegal's natural and human capital resources.
2.2. Natural Environment	To protect, enhance and promote the natural environment of County Donegal
2.3. Linguistic Heritage	To ensure that the Irish language, and our unique linguistic heritage, becomes more visible, audible and integrated into all activities in our County and that the Gaeltacht region is consolidated and developed.
2.4. Tourism	To realise the sustainable development of our natural asset to develop and promote Donegal's unique tourism product.
2.5. Wild Atlantic Way	To celebrate and utilise the County's natural capital through the Wild Atlantic Way.
2.6. Built Heritage	To protect and enhance the built heritage of the County as a valuable expression of natural and human interactions.
2.7. Communities & people	To build capacity in communities and people through the development of awareness and appreciation of community and place.
2.8. Diaspora	To connect with Donegal's global community and promote the County on a global basis.
2.9. Traditional skills	To strengthen human capital by promoting the development and learning of traditional skills
2.10. Training, education and learning	To build human capital through training, education and learning
2.11. Marine resource	To identify and fully harness Donegal's marine resource potential.

## Goal 2 Actions

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
2.1.	To develop and promote all aspects of Donegal's natural and human capital resources.	2.1.1	To research, record, exhibit and promote the effect of the diversity of County Donegal, including the landscape, extensive coastline, rural environment, remoteness, the built environment, the Donegal Islands, the Gaeltacht and the border, in informing and shaping the people of Donegal and their interactions with climate and place.	DCC, community organisations, DAHG, UnaG, Diaspora Project DCC, Comhar na nOileán, arts & cultural organisations, local tourism organisations	M
		2.1.2	To identify and protect the built heritage of County Donegal and identify the synergies between the natural assets and people that has informed the architecture of County Donegal.	DCC, DAHG, Local Development Co's, community organisations	M
		2.1.3	To examine the value and importance of the seascape to the psyche of our people in its contribution to an overall sense of identity wellbeing and belonging.	DCC, local community organisations, Heritage Forum, educational bodies, Local Development Co's.	M
		2.1.4	To explore the effect of human interactions and practices on the landscape.	DCC, local community organisations, Heritage Forum, educational bodies, Local Development Co's	M
		2.1.5	To engage with landowners in exploring, managing and sharing the value of our historic building stock.	DCC, communities, individual property owners, community organisations	M
		2.1.6	To establish a network of community gardens in County Donegal	Community groups, HSE, DCC, Local Development Co's, Comhar na nOileán, ÚnaG	S-M
		2.1.7	To explore natural and human capital synergies within and across the region particularly in the area of cultural and heritage linkages such as evolution of place names and shared history including the legacy of the Ulster Plantation and the Northern Ireland conflict, language, literature and music	ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Local Development Co's, cross border partners	M
		2.1.8	To identify and develop opportunities to harness the natural capital of County Donegal to improve and enhance opportunities for wellness, wellbeing and retreat.	DCC, Local Development Co's, C & V sector, Donegal Sports Partnership, HSE	M

## Goal 2- To Harness Donegal's Natural and Human Capital

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		2.1.9	To prepare action plans for the County's Heritage Towns and Historic Towns to identify, design and develop recreational and public realm infrastructure using the natural assets and the built heritage resulting in positive impacts on health and wellbeing.	DCC, Heritage Forum, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's.	S
2.2.	To protect, enhance and promote the natural environment of County Donegal	2.2.1	To promote, maintain and increase the County's network of Blue Flag beaches & Green Coast Waters in the county including the development of a Water Safety/ Beach Management Plan to ensure access and essential facilities.	DCC, EPA, An Taisce, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M
		2.2.2	To continue the conservation and promotion of Glenveagh National Park as a strategic and iconic environmental and built heritage asset in the County.	Glenveagh National Park, OPW, Donegal Tourism, DCC, FI	S
		2.2.3	To continue the skilled craftsmanship and horticultural practices to record, explore and promote the 'Historic Flower Gardens' of Glenveagh National Park as a micro- climate providing a unique example of the long-term ecologically sustainable relationship between human culture and natural biodiversity.	Glenveagh National Park, OPW, IFI, Loughs Agency	S
		2.2.4	To protect and safeguard water quality through the continued development of River Basin Management Plans and through the development of implementation strategies and initiatives	DCC, EPA, Irish Water, NPWS, local communities, farming sector, Coillte, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M
		2.2.5	To develop management strategies in respect of Natura 2000 sites and Networks providing for conservation and protection together with integration of sustainable opportunities for outreach education, conservation demonstration, recreation and eco-tourism.	NPWS, DCC, community organisations, local tourism organisations, IFI, Loughs Agency	S-M
		2.2.6	To promote a greater appreciation of our natural habitats with an emphasis on socially responsible travel and environmental sustainability.	DCC, IFI, Loughs Agency	M-L
		2.2.7	To encourage and promote recycling, water conservation and energy efficiency while creating economic opportunities for local communities.	DCC, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, Ren Net	M
		2.2.8	To harness opportunities presented by the natural environment to provide health and recreation facilities through the development of sustainable walks, trails and associated interpretative signage.	DCC, Local Development Co's, local community organisations, ÚnaG, Donegal Sports Partnership, Coillte, HSE, IFI, Loughs Agency	M

## Goal 2- To Harness Donegal's Natural and Human Capital

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		2.2.9	To protect the natural environment of County Donegal through low carbon programmes across all sectors.	ÚnaG, DCC, Local Development Co's, SEAI, Ren Net	M
		2.2.10	To provide information and awareness of low carbon measures to households, communities and businesses.	ÚnaG, DCC, Local Development Co's, SEAI, Ren Net	M
		2.2.11	To establish a Centre for Energy Efficiency in County Donegal prioritising measures to change attitude in relation to energy use, to assist in realising energy efficiency measures to homes and to ensure adequate training and up-skilling to supply an appropriate workforce to implement energy efficiency works.	LYIT, Ren Net, QualiBuild, SEAI, CIF, IGBC, ÚnaG	M-L
		2.2.12	To identify and promote further opportunities to develop 'energy positive' buildings in County Donegal and promote the development of energy- positive towns through developments such as community heating.	DCC, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, Ren Net, SEAI	M
		2.2.13	To protect the natural environment by promoting the use of clean technology through the development of the Killybegs Innovation Hub	LYIT, DCC, BIM, local community	M
		2.2.14	To develop a pilot programme promoting the use of green technology in community centres and social enterprises.	Community organisations ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, EI, DCC	M
		2.2.15	To safeguard and protect water quality and capacity through a coordinated and collaborative programme of appropriate measures to improve, secure, manage and take-over water and waste water infrastructure.	DCC, Irish Water, private sector, IFI, Loughs Agency	S-M
		2.2.16	To protect and safeguard the environment through the further development of waste management programmes and initiatives, including on a cross border basis, and through participation in the development of the Regional Waste Management Plan.	Mayo Co Co, Donegal Co. Co, Galway Co Co, Galway City Co, Roscommon Co Co, Sligo Co Co, Leitrim Co Co, Cavan Co Co, Monaghan Co Co	S
		2.2.17	To safeguard and protect the natural environment through the further development of innovative, low carbon and environmentally sustainable solutions for dealing with organic waste.	DCC, EPA	M
		2.2.18	To continue the implementation of a collaborative approach to the resolution of unfinished estates to ensure protection of the County's natural environment including water quality and	DCC, private sector	S- M

## Goal 2- To Harness Donegal's Natural and Human Capital

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
			landscape blight.		
		2.2.19	To harness the potential of rivers in County Donegal as a resource for environmental, tourism and recreation opportunities including river walkways.	DCC, local tourism organisations, community groups, Donegal Sports Partnership, Coillte Letterkenny Town Team, Loughs Agency, IFI	M
2.3.	To ensure that the Irish language, and our unique linguistic heritage, becomes more visible, audible and integrated into all activities in our County and that the Gaeltacht region is consolidated and developed.	2.3.1	To further value and facilitate the use of our linguistic heritage through the use of Irish through service and delivery as Gaeilge, through signage (either Irish only, or in Irish and English) by public bodies/ agencies in activities and service delivery occurring throughout the County.	Public bodies, ÚnaG, Local tourism organisations	S
		2.3.2	To further value and facilitate the expression of our linguistic heritage by identifying opportunities across social, community and economic sectors to integrate the use of Irish language as a standard component of day- to- day activities and in project/programme design and delivery including for example service delivery through the use of spoken Irish/in Irish, Irish only signage, or Irish and English signage.	Irish Language Steering Group, LCDC, ÚnaG, local community organisations	S
		2.3.3	To collaborate in order to strengthen Gaeltacht Service Centres located outside the Donegal Gaeltacht but which are important to the socio-economic life of the Gaeltacht community and to identify opportunities to improve the integration of our linguistic heritage across all activities.	Irish Language Steering Group, ÚnaG, Letterkenny Town Team	S
2.4.	To realise the sustainable development of our natural asset to develop and promote Donegal's unique tourism product.	2.4.1	To work cooperatively to promote Donegal's natural landscape and its range of world class Iconic and Strategic Tourism products, including Sliabh Liag, Fanad Lighthouse, Malin Head and Glenveagh National Park, Inch Levels, Errigal Mountain.	Donegal Tourism, DCC, FI, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations, LYIT, ÚnaG, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M
		2.4.2	To continue to promote and protect Glenveagh National Park and its visitor experience as a centrepiece of County Donegal's environmental quality and natural biodiversity.	Glenveagh National Park, OPW, Donegal Tourism LYIT, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta	S
		2.4.3	To develop and implement action plans to realise the tourism potential of the County's Heritage Towns (Ardara, Moville, Ramelton, Ballyshannon, Raphoe) and Historic Towns and the	DCC, LYIT, Heritage Forum, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, ÚnaG, Local	S

## Goal 2- To Harness Donegal's Natural and Human Capital

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
			Development Centres of Ballyshannon, Ballybofey-Stranorlar, Buncrana, Bundoran, Carndonagh, Donegal Town, Killybegs and Gaoth Dobhair.	Development Co's	
		2.4.4	To develop programmes to unlock the potential of our built heritage through the regeneration and reuse of historic buildings to house and host tourism attractions and experiences.	LYIT, ÚnaG, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's, DCC, Heritage Forum	M
		2.4.5	To develop an integrated Northwest Greenway (Walking, Trails, Cycling) as a key tourism project on a cross-border basis.	DCC, Donegal Tourism, ÚnaG, FI, Local Development Companies, local tourism organisations, adjoining Local Authorities, IFI, Loughs Agency	M
		2.4.6	To facilitate the improvement and extension of existing cycle and walkways and the development of new cycle and walk ways across the county in association with relevant associations and community groups.	Donegal Tourism, ÚnaG, Comhar na nOileán, DCC, Local Development Co's, local community organisations, local tourism organisations, Donegal Sports Partnership, Coillte,	S-M
		2.4.7	To support projects such as the 'Trailazers Application' that utilises the latest in GIS and Digital media technologies to collate, map and promote all approved recreational trails and associated business services in Donegal through the development of a series of virtual tours that will captivate the imagination of the users and to allow for its promotion to the global market.	DCC, Donegal Tourism, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, IFI, Loughs Agency	S
		2.4.8	To explore the possibility of developing equine trails in the County as a tourism and community resource.	DCC, Coillte, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations	M
		2.4.9	To explore the possibility of developing trails in the County for the purposes of mountain biking, motor cycling and rally in order to add to the tourism and community resource.	DCC, Coillte, FI, Local tourism organisations, Donegal Sports Partnership	M
		2.4.10	To develop tourism destinations by harnessing the natural asset through environmentally sustainable projects.	ÚnaG, DCC, Comhar na nOileán, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations, IFI, Loughs Agency	S
		2.4.11	To develop a strong tourism product on the offshore islands to further improve the economic capacity of the island communities through tourism.	LYIT, ÚnaG, Comhar na nOileán, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations, IFI, Loughs Agency	M
		2.4.12	To utilize the natural asset in the development of environmental and sustainable tourism destinations such as Ards Sculpture Park	ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Coillte, Donegal Tourism, Local Development	M



## Goal 2- To Harness Donegal's Natural and Human Capital

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
			integrating culture, heritage and the arts to inform tourism product development.	Co's, IFI, Loughs Agency	
		2.4.13	To support the establishment and growth of adventure tourism providing the immersive visiting experience within the natural environment and landscape of the County.	Donegal Tourism, LYIT, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations, FI, IFI, Loughs Agency	S
		2.4.14	To utilise the findings of the Landscape Character Assessment in developing, protecting and promoting the county for both resident and visitor.	DCC, Donegal Tourism, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, IFI, Loughs Agency	S
		2.4.15	To support coastal and fishing communities to harness the potential of the natural marine resource for marine tourism including opportunities for maritime and fishing heritage.	LYIT, ÚnaG, BIM, Comhar na nOileán, Local Development Co's, Loughs Agency, IFI	M
		2.4.16	To develop the coastal landscape along the journey of the Wild Atlantic Way including the County's network of Blue Flag beaches and Green Coasts.	DCC, Donegal Tourism, FI, ÚnaG, An Taisce, Local Development Co's	S
		2.4.17	To explore the opportunities to identify and develop-marine tourism hubs along the Wild Atlantic Way in Donegal.	DCC, Donegal Tourism, FI, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, Loughs Agency, Inland Fisheries Ireland	M
		2.4.18	To consolidate and further develop the inter-regional and transnational networks and projects to enhance, further develop and promote Donegal's tourism product.	DCC, Donegal Tourism, Diaspora Project- DCC, ÚnaG	S
2.5.	To celebrate and utilise the County's natural capital through the Wild Atlantic Way.	2.5.1	To explore and support the full economic potential of the Wild Atlantic Way by informing the journey and identifying connections with heritage, culture, the arts, language, literature and music in order to enhance the value of this tourism network.	DCC, FI, Donegal Tourism, tourism trade, local tourism organisations, LYIT, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, Ealaín na Gaeltachta	S
		2.5.2	To promote the connectiveness of the Wild Atlantic Way with the wider network of natural environmental tourism assets within County Donegal and the North west region including Glenveagh National Park so as to share knowledge, grow diversity and capacity in tourism offer and maximise opportunities to coordinate promotional and marketing strategies.	DCC, FI, Donegal Tourism, tourism trade, local tourism organisations, LYIT, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, IFI, Loughs Agency	S
		2.5.3	To protect and enhance historic signage, water pumps, letterboxes, milestones, phone boxes, other roadside features informing the journey along the WAW.	DCC, local communities, local tourism organisations	S

## Goal 2- To Harness Donegal's Natural and Human Capital

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		2.5.4	To identify and positively promote our historic landmarks, historical figures and culture along the Wild Atlantic Way.	ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, DCC, local tourism organisations	S
		2.5.5	To engage with local communities in developing tourism strategies to maximise and broaden the potential of the Wild Atlantic Way.	ÚnaG, LYIT, DCC, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M
		2.5.6	To protect historic bridges, paths and roadways on the Wild Atlantic Way while facilitating and supporting suitable access along the route and to points along the Wild Atlantic Way.	DCC, FI, LYIT, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S
2.6.	To protect and enhance the built heritage of the County as a valuable expression of natural and human interactions.	2.6.1	To formulate evidence based guidance to promote and support the appropriate economic, social and cultural development of the Heritage Towns, Historic Towns and Development Centres in Donegal	<b>DCC</b> , communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, ETB, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, Chamber of Commerce	S
		2.6.2	To protect and secure the ongoing use of the historic building types in Donegal.	DCC, individual property owners, DAHG, local tourism organisations, community groups, Heritage Forum	S- M
		2.6.3	To protect diversity of the built heritage in the County through the implementation of a Record of Protected Structures and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.	DCC, individual property owners, DAHG	S
		2.6.4	To explore the diversity of built heritage in the region and its evolution in the context of place and people and identify opportunities for the sustainable reuse and rehabilitation of historic buildings including in particular the built heritage of the Donegal Islands and the marine architecture such as lighthouses, defence buildings, Martello towers, fishermen's cottages and coastguard stations.	DCC, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, Heritage Forum	S- M
		2.6.5	To collate and record our heritage assets to inform the visiting experience using Digital Media Technology as an open and accessible platform of information.	DCC, FI, ERNACT, Local Development Co's	S
		2.6.6	To rationalise signage and street furniture to enhance the specific characteristics of towns and villages in the County.	DCC, Local Development Co's, community organisations	M
		2.6.7	To sustain and develop the rich diversity of skills across the county in building conservation.	DCC, LYIT, ETB, ÚnaG	M

## Goal 2- To Harness Donegal's Natural and Human Capital

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		2.6.8	To prepare actions plans for identified Development Centres in order to research and promote the value of the architectural heritage and identifying measures to improve public realm and enhance the visitor experience.	DCC, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, ETB, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, Chamber of Commerce	S
		2.6.9	To support the sustainable harnessing of built heritage through the continued promotion of a festival and events calendar in the county distinctly connected to place and built form.	DCC, Donegal Tourism, local tourism organisations, local communities	S
		2.6.10	To prepare Action Plans to promote, safeguard and develop the unique value of the Heritage Towns and Historic Towns across the county for both the resident and visitor.	DCC, Heritage Forum, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations	S
		2.6.11	To engage with landowners in exploring, managing and sharing the value of our historic building stock.	DCC, communities, individual property owners, community organisations	S- M
		2.6.12	To carry out town and village renewal programmes to enhance towns and villages in County Donegal.	DCC, community groups, Local Development Co's, Comhar nOileán, ÚnaG,	S- M
2.7.	To build capacity in communities and people through the development of awareness and appreciation of community and place.	2.7.1	To build capacity for community- based projects to conserve, enhance and promote cultural and built heritage of rural areas, towns and villages.	ÚnaG, DCC, community groups, Local Development Co's	M
		2.7.2	To engage with relevant agencies in order to informing the development of towns and villages to encourage community involvement and economic prosperity.	ÚnaG, DCC, other relevant agencies, community groups, Local Development Co's	M
		2.7.3	To facilitate community engagement in the development of our towns and villages.	ÚnaG, DCC, other relevant agencies, community groups, Local Development Co's	M
		2.7.4	To support community initiatives in protecting and celebrating the cultural and linguistic wealth in the county for the good of the community.	Community organisations, ÚnaG, DCC, Local Development Co's	M
		2.7.5	To engage communities in building awareness and promotion of ethical consumerism and to develop towns in Donegal as Fair Trade Communities.	Community organisations, Local Development Co's	M
		2.7.6	To strengthen communities through the implementation of town and village renewal programmes.	DCC, Community groups	S- M

## Goal 2- To Harness Donegal's Natural and Human Capital

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
2.8.	To connect with Donegal's global community and promote the county on a global basis.	2.8.1	To reach out to the broad Irish Diaspora in all parts of the world, in order to establish collaborations that will be of mutual benefit economically, politically, culturally and in the field of education.	<b>Diaspora Project- DCC</b> , DCC, FI, Donegal Tourism, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations	S- M- L
		2.8.2	To utilise the Donegal Diaspora website and the Library, Museum, Heritage and Archive Services to preserve and promote the history and heritage of our Diaspora.	DCC, Diaspora Project- DCC	S
		2.8.3	To encourage local-led initiatives in reaching out to our global family including the promotion of sporting achievements, family gatherings and storytelling/ sharing.	Local Development Co's, Diaspora project- DCC, community organisations, local tourism organisations	S- M
		2.8.4	To establish a network of contacts in providing local knowledge to the visiting or returning Diaspora.	Diaspora project- DCC	S
		2.8.5	To support the development of a Diaspora centre in conjunction with the development of cultural heritage resources in the county.	<b>Diaspora Project - DCC</b> , FI, Donegal Tourism, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	M
		2.8.6	To continue to provide access to genealogy resources though the Library and Archives Services and to further enhance the capacity and resources available	DCC	S
2.9.	To strengthen human capital by promoting the development and learning of traditional skills	2.9.1	To develop and sustain traditional skills in arts and crafts such as weaving, traditional boat building, wood turning, ceramics, jewellery making, in order to expand skills and knowledge base and lead to opportunities for employment and enterprise particularly in the tourism sector.	DCC, Creative sector, ETB, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	M
		2.9.2	To partner with relevant industry bodies in the development of training programmes to up- skill and re-skill in building conservation	Industry partners, DCC, ETB, LYIT, Local Development Co's The Heritage Council	M
		2.9.3	Establish a North West Regional Centre of Excellence in Building Conservation Best Practice.	LYIT, CIF, RIAI, Engineers Ireland	M
		2.9.4	To promote the quality of local traditional skills and crafts in the County at home and abroad.	DCC, Diaspora Project- DCC, Donegal Tourism, FI, ÚnaG	S
2.10.	To build human capital through training, education and learning	2.10.1	To establish educational partnerships made up of industry and educational bodies so as to design and deliver further training directly linked to industry needs and to opportunities to be	LYIT, ETB, ÚnaG, DCC , industry partners, Local Development Co's	S

## Goal 2- To Harness Donegal's Natural and Human Capital

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
			realised in key growth sectors.		
		2.10.2	To provide a range of opportunities for the delivery of up-skilling and re-skilling and the development of strong, skilled human capital in County Donegal.	LYIT, ETB, ÚnaG,	S- M
		2.10.3	To build human capital and employability through integration of new technologies, innovation and enterprise within primary, secondary, adult & further education & third level education.	LYIT, ETB, ÚnaG, DCC, school bodies, ERNACT	S- M
		2.10.4	To promote the uptake, development and extension of capacity in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) subjects.	LYIT, ETB, ÚnaG, DCC, school bodies,	S
		2.10.5	To increase capacity in the existing library network in order to improve work readiness of persons seeking employment, entrepreneurs and business start ups through a programme of Digital Library Service for Business and Skills Development.	DCC, ERNACT, Local Development Co's, LYIT	S
		2.10.6	To develop a school digital media programme and build the digital capacity of schools.	LYIT, ETB, school bodies	S- M
		2.10.7	To streamline Further Education & Training provision to ensure a coherent, co-ordinated high quality service for a diverse range of adults, including unemployed people and employees	LYIT, ETB, ÚnaG	S
		2.10.8	To provide effective pathways from Further Education and Training into higher education.	LYIT, ETB, ÚnaG	S
		2.10.9	To establish a county-wide Community Education Forum in order to co-ordinate the delivery of community-based education opportunities so that they better address barriers to learning.	ETB, LYIT, Solas, Local Development Co's, HSE, Tusla, C & V sector, Youth sector, DSP	S
		2.10.10	To improve literacy, numeracy and ICT skills in adults and young people through service wide initiatives, programmed activities and guidance services	Project lead: DCC Library Service. Partners: ETB, LYIT, HSE, Partnership Companies	S- M
		2.10.11	To provide ease of access to education and training programmes and Lifelong learning through locally based delivery models using local community infrastructure, the Library Service network and a network of strategically located community hubs	LYIT, ETB, DCC, ERNACT, community organisations, Local Development Co's	S

## Goal 2- To Harness Donegal's Natural and Human Capital

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		2.10.12	To build human capital in declining sectors through the development of targeted programmes to foster knowledge transfer and innovation particularly in agriculture, forestry, fishing and also in rural areas.	LYIT, ETB, Teagasc, BIM, IFA, Coillte, Macra na Feirme, ICMSA Local Development Co's, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M
2.11.	To identify and fully harness Donegal's marine resource potential.	2.11.1	To protect and promote the natural asset of the marine resource and further develop the blue economy engaging with local communities and landowners to ensure the sustainable management of the coastal region	LYIT, ÚnaG, DCC, BIM, Local Development Co's, coastal communities, marine and fishing sector, IFI, Loughs Agency	M
		2.11.2	To harness the potential of inland waterways and the networks of rivers and lakes in County Donegal as a resource for environmental, tourism and recreation opportunities including river walkways.	DCC, local tourism organisations, community groups, Donegal Sports Partnership, Coillte Letterkenny Town Team, IFI, Loughs Agency	M
		2.11.3	To continue to protect and enhance the County's network of Blue Flag beaches and Green Coasts as a valuable environmental, heritage, cultural, recreational and tourism resource.	DCC, EPA, An Taisce, FI, Donegal Tourism, IFI, Loughs Agency	S
		2.11.4	To further research and explore the opportunities to add value to natural Donegal seaweed in a variety of sectors such as food and beauty	ÚnaG, LYIT, BIM, DCC, Local Development Co's, IFI, Loughs Agency	M- L
		2.11.5	To improve accessibility and connectivity of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment to enable the full potential of the marine resource to be harnessed.	ÚnaG, BIM, DCC, Local Development Co's, Malin Waters, DCENR, IFI, Loughs Agency	M
		2.11.6	To harness the marine corridor of strategic fishing centres, marine tourism centres/ corridors and a necklace of piers around the coast of Donegal.	Donegal Tourism, DCC, BIM, Malin Waters, FI, ÚnaG, LYIT, Donegal Heritage Forum, Local Development Co's, IFI, Loughs Agency	M
		2.11.7	To identify and develop appropriate harbour improvement/ enhancement such as access for people with disabilities, marine tourism facilities, renovation of disused buildings etc.	DCC, BIM, Fishing communities and community groups ÚnaG, LYIT, FI, Donegal Tourism, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's, IFI, Loughs Agency	S-M
		2.11.8	To support new business development in the area of marine tourism and heritage such as Seaweed Safari, Coast Watch and Marine Eco Tourism.	ÚnaG, DCC, tourism trade, Local Development Co's, IFI, Loughs Agency	S

## Goal 2- To Harness Donegal's Natural and Human Capital

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		2.11.9	To market networks of marine heritage attractions and harness economic opportunities arising from traditional boat building and traditional boating activities in particular.	BIM, ÚnaG, Donegal Tourism, FI, local tourism organisations, Food Coast, IFI, Loughs Agency	S
		2.11.10	To explore the value, diversity and wealth of the County's maritime architectural heritage, on and off shore and promote its reuse and rehabilitation with particular potential for its contribution to cultural heritage tourism product development along the Wild Atlantic Way.	DCC, FI, Heritage Forum, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's, IFI, Loughs Agency	M
		2.11.11	To ensure the sustainable development of the marine and fishing resource so as to achieve the full potential of the sector.	ÚnaG, BIM, fishing communities, IFI, Loughs Agency	M
		2.11.12	To support the development and test new markets of fish and shellfish innovation and artisan processing through seafood cookery schools/ festival type events.	DCC, ÚnaG, LYIT, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M
		2.11.13	To carry out research and development in relation to the aquaculture industry including development of a satellite centre for marine aquaculture.	Teagasc, BIM, LYIT, ÚnaG, IFI, Loughs Agency	M- L

## Goal 3 Objectives: To Value, Sustain and Develop Our Culture and Creative resource

Goal 3: To Value, Sustain and Develop Our Culture and Creative resource	
3.1. General	To maintain and develop cultural and creative resources in County Donegal and provide for its sustainability and growth as well as for economic and quality of life purposes.
3.2. Linguistic Cultural Heritage	To value, preserve, promote and increase the use of the Irish language across all areas of life in the County and to consolidate and further develop our County's Gaeltacht regions.
3.3. Community Engagement	To support local community engagement in harnessing the culture, language and creative resource of the County.
3.4. Sustainable Cultural Sector	To further develop and support a sustainable creative and cultural sector in County Donegal.
3.5. Tourism	To consolidate and further develop cultural and creative resources as integral parts in the development of a sustainable tourism sector
3.6. Wild Atlantic Way	To further develop and promote the cultural, creative, heritage and historic resources of County Donegal along the route of the Wild Atlantic Way.
3.7. Landscape Informing Heritage	To recognize the importance of the Donegal landscape in informing culture.
3.8. Diversity	To embrace and value cultural diversity in the Donegal community.
3.9. Built Heritage	To protect and engage with County Donegal's built heritage as an integral component of our culture.
3.10. The Donegal Islands	To nurture and harness the culture and creative resources of the Donegal Islands.
3.11. Diaspora	To engage with the cultural and creative resource that exists throughout the worldwide Donegal Diaspora.
3.12. Learning	To collaborate in the development and delivery of training and learning in the County's cultural and creative sectors
3.13. Creative	To develop the creative industries as an exemplar of local skill and knowledge recognising creative enterprise as a resource for the community.
3.14. Digital	To fully utilise the digital sector in informing and developing Donegal's cultural and creative resource and sector.
3.15. Vibrant Cultural Sector	To sustain and develop a vibrant cultural sector in the County, including both individual artists and professional arts organisations which embraces all art forms including; performance arts, visual arts, literature; traditional and contemporary; new artistic work; in Irish, in English and in the languages of Donegal's new communities.



## Goal 3 Actions

Ref	Objective	Action ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
3.1.	To maintain and develop cultural and creative resources in County Donegal and provide for its sustainability and growth as well as for economic and quality of life purposes.	3.1.1.	To conserve, promote and ensure the sustainable development of County Donegal's heritage, culture and creative resources for present and future generations and for its Diaspora.	DCC, Local Development Co's, the Heritage Council, UnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, cultural sector, creative sector, communities, DAHG	S-M
		3.1.2.	To explore, research, record and document the culture, heritage and creative resource of County Donegal.	DCC, educational institutions, Local Development Co's, The Heritage Council, DAHG, UnaG, cultural sector, creative sector, communities,	S- M- L
		3.1.3.	To support the implementation of the County Donegal Heritage Plan.	DCC, County Heritage Forum, The Heritage Council, DAHG	S- M
		3.1.4.	To encourage awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of the County's heritage and cultural resources	The Heritage Forum, DCC, UnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta	M
		3.1.5.	To collaborate on a cross border, national and international basis in order to identify and celebrate cultural linkages and to create and sustain new linkages.	DCC, UnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta cross border councils, Local Development Co's, cultural sector	M
		3.1.6.	To enhance of the contribution of culture to health, wellbeing and sense of belonging and to integrate the principles and approach of the World Health Organisation Healthy Settings Programme to support the implementation of local initiatives such as 'Healthy Letterkenny'.	CHF's, HSE Letterkenny Town Team, Alcohol Forum, Local Development Co's	M
		3.1.7.	To continue to develop programmes to provide opportunities for all members of the community to access and participate in culture.	DCC, Cultural sector, Heritage Forum, Local Development Co's, UnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltacht, DAHG, HSE, Music Education Partnership, ETB, The Arts Council, DAHG	M
		3.1.8.	To develop a program of socially engaged Public Art Projects based on models of good local development practice placing culture and the creative resource at the centre.	DCC, Cultural sector, UnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltacht	M
		3.1.9.	To promote and develop the Library Service as a resource for culture and the imagination and to promote pride in local and	DCC, Cultural sector	S- M

## Goal 3- To Value, Sustain and Develop Our Culture and Creative Resource

Ref	Objective	Action ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
			national culture and heritage.		
		3.1.10.	To develop and support the delivery of cultural programmes in the contexts of health, disability, older people, cultural diversity, schools, children and young people.	Individual Artists and Arts Organizations, DCC, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, UnaG, HSE, Donegal Music Education Partnership, ETB, Local Development Co's, The Arts Council, DAHG.	S- M
		3.1.11.	To develop and support facilitated cultural and educational programmes as a means of advancing social inclusion in communities, throughout the county.	Individual Artists and Arts Organizations, DCC, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, UnaG, HSE, Donegal Music Education Partnership, ETB, Local Development Co's, The Arts Council, DAHG.	S- M
3.2.	To value, preserve, promote and increase the use of the Irish language across all areas of life in the County and to consolidate and further develop our county's Gaeltacht regions.	3.2.1.	To explore methods to nurture and protect the unique culture, heritage and language of the Donegal Gaeltacht and the linguistic heritage of the County as a whole.	UnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Letterkenny Town Team, Irish language steering group, DCC	S- M
		3.2.2.	To develop cultural infrastructure in the county in order to sustain and further develop the County's Gaeltacht resource.	UnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta	S- M
		3.2.3.	To draw up a County Donegal Irish Language Plan, informed by the Governments 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030.	Irish Language Steering Group under LCDC, UnaG	S
		3.2.4.	To further value and facilitate the expression of our linguistic heritage by identifying opportunities across social, community and economic sectors to integrate the use of Irish language as a standard component of day- to- day activities and in project/ programme design and delivery.	UnaG, DAHG, DCC, other Public Services, Irish language voluntary groups, groups involved in Gaeltacht Language Planning	S- M
		3.2.5.	To establish a campaign to promote the wearing of the Fáinne (and/or other promotional symbols) in businesses, hospitality services, public services, and community services across the county so as to promote the visibility of services in Irish to customers, visitors, tourists, users of the language, and the public in general.	Irish Language Steering Group under LCDC, UnaG, Gael Linn, all public services, DCC, business community	S

## Goal 3- To Value, Sustain and Develop Our Culture and Creative Resource

Ref	Objective	Action ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		3.2.6.	To support and promote the growth of the annual Seachtain na Gaeilge festival in March each year	Irish Language Steering Group under LCDC, DCC, ÚnaG, Gaeltacht Community Organisations, GAA, Schools, Irish language groups, business community	S
		3.2.7.	To develop the role of the business sector in the promotion and maintenance of Irish in the Gaeltacht and in Gaeltacht Service Centres located outside the Gaeltacht through the implementation of suitable language action plans.	Letterkenny Town Team, ÚnaG, business community	M
		3.2.8.	To explore the potential for the development of local language plans in conjunction with community development organisations and other key stakeholders in the region.	ÚnaG, Community Organisations, Letterkenny Town Team	M
		3.2.9.	To raise the profile of the Gaeltacht as a cultural tourism location and as a unique holiday destination as an area to learn, use, hear and speak An Ghaeilge.	ÚnaG, Donegal Tourism	S- M
		3.2.10.	To ensure the development of the Irish Language by investing in workshops and classes in creative writing at local level.	UnaG, Irish Language Groups	S-M
3.3.	To support local community engagement in harnessing the culture, language and creative resource of the County.	3.3.1.	To continue to build communities through the GAA as a vehicle to foster, celebrate and document community cultural heritage and living Irish and Gaelic culture.	GAA, local communities	S
		3.3.2.	To encourage greater community involvement in the appropriate care of caring for places, objects, people and landscapes.	ÚnaG, DCC, Local Development Co's, community organisations	M
		3.3.3.	To encourage community-led heritage initiatives to reinforce the community's sense of place and identity.	ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Local Development Co's, community organisations	M
		3.3.4.	To support communities to identify and demonstrate their cultural and creative resource through community led festivals and events.	Local Development Co's, community organisations, local tourism organisations, DCC, UnaG	M
		3.3.5.	To support local communities and individuals in the collection of the folklore and oral history in relation to the North west region.	Local Development Co's, community organisations, DCC, UnaG, Heritage Forum	M

### Goal 3- To Value, Sustain and Develop Our Culture and Creative Resource

Ref	Objective	Action ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		3.3.6.	To support the appropriate engagement of communities in-Citizen Science and Community Archaeology initiatives.	Environmental organisations, Birdwatch Ireland, school bodies, Local Development Co's	M
		3.3.7.	Maintain and develop existing heritage awards and events such as the Tidy Towns programme and Heritage Week and explore the potential for a County Donegal Heritage Awards Scheme.	DCC, Local Development Co's, Heritage Council	M
3.4.	To further develop and support a sustainable creative and cultural sector in County Donegal.	3.4.1.	To increase the capacity of existing cultural organisations in the development of business skills, facilities management skills and training and other skills as need is identified.	ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Local Development Co's	M
		3.4.2.	To ensure the sustainable development of the cultural sector through the maintenance and appropriate upgrade of existing venues and facilities including equipment and through the development of new infrastructure where appropriate.	ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta	S- M
		3.4.3.	To provide capacity building supports to cultural organisations and practitioners to help them grow and develop.	ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Local Development Co's, DCC, The Arts Council, DAHG, cultural organisations and practitioners	M
		3.4.4.	To increase the capacity of the existing Library Network in providing digital media services to both those seeking employment, those starting and those expanding their business.	DCC, Local Development Co's	M
		3.4.5.	To support and promote the existing festivals and cultural events which take place in the County and facilitate the establishment of new events where opportunities exist and encourage the development of a seasonally coordinated programme across the county to provide a year-long calendar of events.	DCC, local tourism organisations, community groups, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta	M
		3.4.6.	To explore the potential to identify and develop a Cultural Quarter in Letterkenny's traditional town centre.	Letterkenny Town Team	S- M
3.5.	To consolidate and further develop cultural and creative resources as integral parts in the development of a sustainable tourism sector	3.5.1.	To encourage new economic opportunities in the tourism sector based on best practice and sustainable use of the cultural and heritage resource.	Local Development Co's, cultural organisations, DCC	M
		3.5.2.	To establish a unique cultural tourism project in County Donegal, appealing to local, national and international audiences.	DCC, Local Development Co's, Cultural Organisations, local tourism organisations, ÚnaG, Ealaín na	M

### Goal 3- To Value, Sustain and Develop Our Culture and Creative Resource

Ref	Objective	Action ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
				Gaeltachta, DAHG, The Arts Council	
		3.5.3.	To develop cultural infrastructure throughout the county for tourism purposes, with special reference to the Wild Atlantic Way.	DCC, Cultural organisations, Ealaín na Gaeltacht, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG	S- M
		3.5.4.	To enhance and provide for on- site and off- site cultural heritage interpretation.	DCC, FI, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG	S- M
		3.5.5.	To develop and promote maritime heritage as resource for the County.	Donegal Tourism, DCC, FI, ÚnaG, Local development Co's, local tourism organisations, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M
		3.5.6.	To raise the profile of the Gaeltacht and the Donegal Islands as cultural tourism location and as a unique holiday destination as an areas to learn, use and speak An Ghaeilge.	ÚnaG, Comhar na nOileán, Irish language organisations, Donegal Tourism, local tourism organisations	S-M
		3.5.7.	To develop the County heritage tourism resource in the designated Heritage Towns and Historic towns.	DCC, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, community organisations, local tourism organisations	S- M
		3.5.8.	To develop and implement action plans to realize the tourism potential of the Development Centres of Ballyshannon, Bunrana, Bundoran, Carndonagh and Donegal Town with particular reference to their heritage, culture and creative resources.	DCC, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, ETB, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S
		3.5.9.	To develop programmes to unlock the potential of our built heritage to demonstrate culture and identity through the regeneration and reuse of historic buildings to house and host tourism attractions.	LYIT, ÚnaG, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's, DCC, Heritage Forum	M
		3.5.10.	To collate and record our heritage assets to inform the visiting experience using Digital Media Technology as an open and accessible platform of information.	DCC, FI, ERNACT, Local Development Co's	S- M- L
3.6.	To further develop and promote the cultural, creative, heritage and historic resources of County Donegal along the route of the Wild Atlantic Way.	3.6.1.	To develop cultural and service infrastructure throughout the county for tourism purposes, with special reference to the Wild Atlantic Way.	DCC, cultural organisations, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta	S- M
		3.6.2.	To develop a major countywide annual cultural tourism project in association with the Wild Atlantic Way.	DCC, FI, Donegal Tourism, cultural organisations, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's,	S- M

## Goal 3- To Value, Sustain and Develop Our Culture and Creative Resource

Ref	Objective	Action ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
				DAHG, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta	
		3.6.3.	To work with local communities to develop integrated cultural tourism projects along the Wild Atlantic Way.	DCC, Donegal Tourism, cultural organisations, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta	S- M
		3.6.4.	To enrich the experience of the Wild Atlantic Way by supporting and promoting host communities' cultural expression, in the traditional and the contemporary arts, both in English and in Irish.	DCC, FI, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, UnaG, Local Development Co's, The Arts Council, DAHG	S- M
3.7.	To recognize the importance of the Donegal landscape in informing culture.	3.7.1.	To develop and support best-practice guidelines informing regeneration in towns, villages and rural areas and with particular reference to the County Heritage Towns, Letterkenny and the Development Centres.	DCC, Heritage Forum, community organisations, Letterkenny Town Team	M
		3.7.2.	To explore the effect of human interactions and practices on the landscape such as historical events, agriculture, economic activity, development of shelter, recreation and subsequently to publish and promote the findings.	DCC, Heritage Forum, cultural organisations, Letterkenny Town Team	M
		3.7.3.	To examine the value and importance of the seascape to the psyche of our people and its contribution to sense of identity and wellbeing.	DCC, local community organisations, Heritage Forum, educational bodies, Local Development Co's	M
		3.7.4.	To promote opportunities to recognise and embrace the rich and diverse culture of new communities and to support new communities in maintaining and promoting their culture.	Local Development Co's, DCC, Intercultural Platform and other Community Sector Organisations	M
		3.7.5.	To support collective discussion in formulating actions to deal with the culture, needs and issues of ethnic and minority groups in County Donegal and promote the outputs to a wider audience.	Local Development Co's, DCC, Intercultural Platform and other Community Sector Organisations	M
		3.7.6.	To facilitate connectivity between non- national residents and their homeland in encouraging inclusivity in communities and in strengthening the diversity of the cultural resource in the County.	Local Development Co's, DCC, Intercultural Platform and other Community Sector Organisations	M
		3.7.7.	To promote the cultural diversity of Letterkenny and develop programmes to embrace and harness diversity as valuable community and economic resource.	Letterkenny Town Team, Local Development Co's, DCC, Intercultural Platform and other Community Sector Organisations	M

### Goal 3- To Value, Sustain and Develop Our Culture and Creative Resource

Ref	Objective	Action ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		3.7.8.	To continue to support the work of the Donegal Diversity Plan to enhance equality, inter-culturalism, anti-racism, anti- sectarianism in our county and to promote and enhance inclusion of everyone in Donegal.	Local Development Co's, DCC, Intercultural Platform and other Community Sector Organisations	M
3.8.	To embrace and value cultural diversity in the Donegal community.	3.8.1.	To promote opportunities to recognise and embrace the rich and diverse culture of new communities and to support new communities in maintaining and promoting their culture.	Local Development Co's, DCC, Intercultural Platform and other Community Sector Organisations	M
		3.8.2.	To support collective discussion in formulating actions to deal with the culture, needs and issues of ethnic and minority groups in County Donegal and promote the outputs to a wider audience.	Local Development Co's, DCC, Intercultural Platform and other Community Sector Organisations	M
		3.8.3.	To facilitate connectivity between non- national residents and their homeland in encouraging inclusivity in communities and in strengthening the diversity of the cultural resource in the County.	Local Development Co's, DCC, Intercultural Platform and other Community Sector Organisations	M
		3.8.4.	To promote the cultural diversity of Letterkenny and develop programmes to embrace and harness diversity as valuable community and economic resource.	Letterkenny Town Team, Local Development Co's, DCC, Intercultural Platform and other Community Sector Organisations	M
		3.8.5.	To continue to support the work of the Donegal Diversity Plan to enhance equality, inter-culturalism, anti-racism, anti- sectarianism in our county and to promote and enhance inclusion of everyone in Donegal.	Local Development Co's, DCC, Intercultural Platform and other Community Sector Organisations	M
3.9.	To protect and engage with County Donegal's built heritage as an integral component of our culture.	3.9.1.	To develop the County heritage tourism resource in the designated Heritage Towns and Historic Towns.	DCC, LYIT, Heritage Forum, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S- M
		3.9.2.	To develop and implement action plans to realise the potential of the built heritage of the Gateway town Letterkenny and the Development Centres of Ballyshannon, Bunrana, Bundoran, Carndonagh and Donegal Town.	<b>DCC</b> , communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, ETB, LYIT, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, Chamber of Commerce, Letterkenny Town Team	M
		3.9.3.	To improve the visual appearance of towns and villages, protecting their character and maximising their potential through a continuation of environmental and public realm programmes,	DCC, community organisations	M

## Goal 3- To Value, Sustain and Develop Our Culture and Creative Resource

Ref	Objective	Action ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
			development and implantation of design guidance and the enhancement and improvement of dereliction.		
		3.9.4.	To identify opportunities for community based projects to conserve, enhance and promote the cultural and built heritage of rural areas, towns and villages.	Local Development Companies, DCC, The Heritage Council, ÚnaG, community organisations, local tourism organisations.	M
		3.9.5.	To engage with landowners in exploring, managing and sharing the value of our historic building stock.	DCC, communities, individual property owners, community organisations, The Heritage Council, DAHG	M
		3.9.6.	To promote and further develop the County's Record of Protected Structures and National Inventory of Architectural heritage utilizing the latest in GIS and digital media technologies to promote the County's built heritage.	DCC, communities, individual property owners, community organisations, The Heritage Council, DAHG	S
		3.9.7.	To identify opportunities such as in the Development Centres to promote contemporary architecture and the creative arts while enhancing the backdrop of our natural landscape.	DCC, Community organisations, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta,	M
3.10.	To nurture and harness the culture and creative resources of the Donegal Islands.	3.10.1.	To explore and nurture methods to protect the unique culture, heritage and language and dialect of the Donegal Islands.	ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Comhar nOileán, Irish language organisations	S- M
		3.10.2.	To explore the potential for developing a centre for Irish Cultural Studies on the Islands and identify the infrastructure requirements necessary to support such a venture.	ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Comhar nOileán, Irish language organisations	M- L
		3.10.3.	To appropriately improve the infrastructural capacity necessary to accommodate increased visitor numbers to the Donegal Islands that are to be realised as a result of actions to tap into the cultural and creative tourism resource and therein facilitate longer stay visitors to the Islands.	ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Comhar nOileán, DCC, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations, Donegal Tourism	S- M
		3.10.4.	To identify, service and promote Island Hopping tourism packages.	ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Comhar nOileán, DCC, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations, Donegal Tourism	S- M



## Goal 3- To Value, Sustain and Develop Our Culture and Creative Resource

Ref	Objective	Action ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
3.11.	To engage with the cultural and creative resource that exists throughout the worldwide Donegal Diaspora.	3.10.1.	To reach out to the broad Irish Diaspora in all parts of the world, in order to establish collaborations that will be of mutual benefit economically, politically, culturally and in the field of education.	<b>Diaspora Project</b> , DCC, FI, Donegal Tourism, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations	S- M- L
		3.10.2.	To support the development of a Diaspora Centre in conjunction with the development of cultural heritage resources in the County.	<b>Diaspora Project - DCC</b> , FI, Donegal Tourism, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, Letterkenny Town Team	M
		3.10.3.	To utilise the Donegal Diaspora website and the Library Museum, Heritage and Archive Services to preserve and promote the history and heritage of our Diaspora	DCC, Diaspora Project- DCC	S
		3.10.4.	To establish an integrated collaborative resource from which to research and explore those who have left and those living in Donegal and their cultural connections.	DCC, Diaspora Project- DCC	S- M
		3.10.5.	To identify connections through the Diaspora network which have the potential to develop into cultural and/ or creative partnerships of mutual benefit.	DCC, Diaspora Project- DCC community organisations, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta	S- M
		3.10.6.	To support high quality heritage projects, both strategic and local to communicate with Irish Diaspora.	ÚnaG , Local Development Co's, DCC, Diaspora Project- DCC, FI, Donegal Tourism, local tourism organisations, community organisations	M
		3.10.7.	To encourage local-led cultural initiatives in reaching out to our global family including the promotion of sporting achievements, family gatherings and storytelling/ sharing.	<b>Diaspora Project</b> , DCC, FI, Donegal Tourism, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations	M
3.12.	To collaborate in the development and delivery of training and learning in the county's cultural and creative sectors	3.12.1.	To utilize libraries to promote opportunities for lifelong learning and build skills through literacy and creative expression programmes.	DCC, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG	M
		3.12.2.	To provide teachers with continuing professional development opportunities that will familiarize them with the strategies, approaches, methodologies and interventions that may be used to teach literacy and numeracy as discrete areas and across the curriculum in order to enable cultural and creative expression.	LYIT, ETB, Local Development Co's	M
		3.12.3.	To enable cultural and creative expression through continued support for enhanced literacy and numeracy provision for students from socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged	LYIT, ETB, Local Development Co's, C & V sector	M

## Goal 3- To Value, Sustain and Develop Our Culture and Creative Resource

Ref	Objective	Action ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
			backgrounds		
		3.12.4.	To facilitate education and training initiatives in relation to County Donegal heritage and culture to encourage awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of the resource.	LYIT, ETB, Local Development Co's, C & V sector, Heritage Forum	M
3.13.	To develop the creative industries as an exemplar of local skill and knowledge recognising creative enterprise as a resource for the community.	3.13.1.	To establish a dedicated delivery mechanism to implement the Strategic Action Plan for Creative Entrepreneurship in County Donegal.	DCC, Creative sector, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, LYIT	M
		3.13.2.	To develop niche clusters of excellence distinctive to Donegal to catalyze a critical mass of enterprises in creative sectors to include music, textiles and language.	DCC, ÚnaG, Creative sector, LYIT, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, , Local Development Co's	M
		3.13.3.	To explore the possibility of developing a flagship multi-disciplinary space that provides labs and workspaces, a public interface and a central hub for Donegal's creative sector.	DCC, ÚnaG, Creative sector, LYIT, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Local Development Co's	M
		3.13.4.	To examine all opportunities to provide space for artists and arts organisations to work and continue to develop their professional practice so that they can move towards creating long- lasting, sustainable jobs and add value to the creative entrepreneurial sector as a whole.	DCC, ÚnaG, Creative sector, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Local Development Co's	M
		3.13.5.	To increase the profile and business skills of creative entrepreneurs through the provision of support at local level.	DCC, ÚnaG, Creative sector, LYIT, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Local Development Co's	M
		3.13.6.	To inspire new creative ideas and enterprise through cross-sectoral collaboration.	DCC, ÚnaG, Creative sector, LYIT, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Local Development Co's	S
		3.13.7.	To contribute to the sustainability of Donegal's cultural heritage and identity as a creative, resilient place.	DCC, ÚnaG, Creative sector, LYIT, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Local Development Co's	M
		3.13.8.	To establish a Creative Advisory Group and Creative Network of all stakeholders in the creative sectors	DCC, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Creative sector, LYIT, Local Development Co's	M

## Goal 3- To Value, Sustain and Develop Our Culture and Creative Resource

Ref	Objective	Action ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		3.13.9.	To pilot the establishment of a cross-sector innovation voucher to focus on stimulating collaborations between (a) digital and heritage and (b) textiles and technology	DCC, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, EI, Creative sector, LYIT	S
		3.13.10.	To continue to support the Irish Film Board working collaboratively with key stakeholders in the role of the Donegal Film Office.	DCC, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, EI, Creative sector, LYIT, Irish Film Board	S
		3.13.11.	To utilise SpacelAL and the Donegal Cultural Portal to support the development of a creative industries plan	DCC, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Creative sector, LYIT	S
		3.13.12.	To audit and map the creative sectors already operating in the county.	DCC, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Creative sector, LYIT	S
		3.13.13.	To test niche supports to nurture, mentor and accelerate creative entrepreneurship.	DCC, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Creative sector, Local Development Co's, EI	S- M
		3.13.14.	To establish platforms for knowledge exchange and promote creative enterprise development at local area based levels.	DCC, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Creative sector, LYIT	S
		3.13.15.	To explore the establishment of a creative hub for the creative sector and creative entrepreneurs in the enterprise. Industrial estate in Gaoth Dobhair, including the Aislann Ghaoth Dobhair.	DCC, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Creative sector, LYIT	M
		3.13.16.	To seek the redevelopment of Amharchlann Gaoth Dobhair as a strategic arts facility/ hub for the North west of the county, and nationally as a strategic piece of cultural infrastructure for the Gaeltacht	DCC, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Creative sector	M
3.14.	To fully utilise the digital sector in informing and developing Donegal's cultural and creative resource and sector.	3.14.1.	To support and promote activities to harness digital technology as a tool for the expression of culture including heritage, art, literature, music and language.	ÚnaG , Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Cultural organisations, ERNACT, library network	M
		3.14.2.	To provide learning and training programmes and supports to children and young people through expansion of the digital media programme for schools and to pilot a Moving Image Arts Programme in Donegal Secondary Schools.	LYIT, Local Development Co's, school bodies, Youth organisations	M

### Goal 3- To Value, Sustain and Develop Our Culture and Creative Resource

Ref	Objective	Action ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		3.14.3.	To engage young people in opportunities to experience and learn Digital Creativity and to collaborate with champions of Digital culture.	LYIT, Local Development Co's, school bodies, Youth organisations	M
		3.14.4.	To enable digital culture and creativity through the promotion of training programmes such as Bridge21 to enable educators and mentors to gain new technical skills to plan activities involving digital media production, programming and computational thinking.	LYIT, Local Development Co's, school bodies, ETB	M
		3.14.5.	To enable all students to have access to digital learning opportunities, systems and tools.	LYIT, Local Development Co's, school bodies, ETB	M
		3.14.6.	To continue to support and promote an active film industry in County Donegal and the North west region through the role of the Donegal Film Office.	DCC, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, EI, Creative sector, LYIT, Irish Film Board, Local Development Co's	M
3.15.	To sustain and develop a vibrant cultural sector in the county, including both individual artists and professional arts organisations which embraces all art forms including; performance arts, visual arts, literature; traditional and contemporary; new artistic work; in Irish, in English and in the languages of Donegal's new communities.	3.15.1.	To support organizations and individual practitioners delivering in the fields of performance arts, visual arts and literature including traditional and contemporary, and in Irish, in English and in the languages of Donegal's new communities.	ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Local Development Co's, DCC, The Arts Council, DAHG, cultural organisations and practitioners	M
		3.15.2.	To target the development of specific art forms in order to ensure the continued vibrancy and diversity of the sector such as playwriting and film script-writing in Irish and English, film-making, music composition, contemporary dance, youth arts and arts and digital technology.	ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Local Development Co's, DCC, The Arts Council, DAHG, cultural organisations and practitioners	M
		3.15.3.	To support and promote the integrated provision of music education services in County Donegal.	Individual Artists and Arts Organizations, DCC, ETB, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, UnaG, Local Development Co's, The Arts Council, DAHG, Music Generation, DES, Donegal Music Education Partnership .	M
		3.15.4.	To encourage, facilitate and support the creation of new artistic work in the County.	Individual Artists and Arts Organizations, DCC, ETB, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, UnaG, Local Development Co's, The Arts Council, DAHG	M

### Goal 3- To Value, Sustain and Develop Our Culture and Creative Resource

Ref	Objective	Action ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		3.15.5.	To continue to develop and implement the county's programme of public art commissions.	Individual Artists and Arts Organizations, DCC , Ealaín na Gaeltachta, UnaG, The Arts Council, DAHG	S

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### Goal 4 Objectives: To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Goal 4: To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities	
4.1. Digital Inclusion	To promote and facilitate local community participation in the Digital Society.
4.2. Broadband	To maximise High Speed Broadband provision in the County so as to enable the growth of sustainable and inclusive communities.
4.3. Participation	To promote and foster participation of disadvantaged communities and marginalised target groups in decision making to engage with relevant local and national stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues.
4.4. Health & Wellbeing	To promote and support health and wellbeing in County Donegal
4.5. Social Inclusion	To reduce poverty, promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration
4.6. Women	To promote social justice, equality and women's human rights.
4.7. Employment	To create and support pathways to employment for persons from marginalised and disadvantaged communities.
4.8. Island Communities	To work for the sustainability of the Island communities.
4.9. Rural & Coastal Communities	To support rural and coastal communities under threat and in decline.
4.10. Donegal Gaeltacht Communities	To support the sustainability of Donegal Gaeltacht communities.
4.11. Irish Language	To add to the number and proportion of Irish speakers within the total population of the County and beyond, including the diaspora
4.12. Age Friendly County	To develop County Donegal as an "Age Friendly" County
4.13. Children & Young People	To work towards the 5 national outcomes for children as set out National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020.
4.14. People with Disabilities	To promote and support people with disabilities to participate fully in economic, social and cultural life.
4.15. Traveller and Roma Communities	To work in a partnership approach to identify issues, concerns and barriers to service delivery experienced by the Traveller, Roma and Ethnic Minority Communities and to develop programmes to address these barriers.
4.16. Learning	To enable individuals and communities to be sustainable by investing in education, training and Lifelong Learning.
4.17. Peace Building & Conflict Resolution	To develop opportunities for peace building and conflict resolution both within the County and on a cross border basis and develop strategies and activities which address sectarianism, racism and local conflict issues through a

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

	community development approach.
4.18. Volunteering	To develop and support voluntarism as a resource for County Donegal.
4.19. Community Organisations	To support the work of community/voluntary organisations within County Donegal as a resource for social capital in advancing economic, social and cultural opportunities.
4.20. Community Infrastructure	To optimise the use of existing community infrastructure and to seek to address any gaps identified in community infrastructure in the County.
4.21. Development Centres	To support and promote the urban strengthening of identified Development Centres and the settlements that support those centres so as to promote and facilitate sustainable and inclusive communities.

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## Goal 4 Actions

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
4.1.	To promote and facilitate local community participation in the Digital Society.	4.1.1.	To collaborate to implement the County Donegal Digital Action Plan	<b>ERNACT, DCC, ÚnaG, LYIT, EI, FI, IDA, DCENR, Local Development Co's, industry partners</b>	S- M
		4.1.2.	To investigate and advance as a matter of priority, all opportunities to ensure a high speed, resilient broadband network throughout the entire county, including the islands.	<b>DCENR, DCC, ÚnaG, ERNACT, Local Development Co's</b>	S- M
		4.1.3.	To establish a Digital Tech Observatory to research, monitor and assess High Speed solutions for County Donegal and to promote ICT take up.	<b>ERNACT, DCC, DCENR, LYIT, EI, IDA</b>	S- M
		4.1.4.	To develop a training programme of 'Digital Skills for All' through a network of strategically located digital hubs.	<b>DCC, ERNACT, EI, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's,</b>	S- M
		4.1.5.	To examine opportunities to improve access to services by developing a number of new public services in Donegal County Council using open data, and living lab or open innovation approach	DCC	S
		4.1.6.	To develop the capacity of using video conferencing as a means of widening educational opportunity to rural areas.	Local Development Co's,-ÚnaG	S
		4.1.7.	To develop the capacity for crossborder links and initiatives using digital technology between social enterprises located on the North West corridor	Local Development Co's, C&V groups	S- M
		4.1.8.	To promote and further develop the marketing and promotion of community tourism projects using digital technology.	Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations, C&V groups, Donegal Tourism	M
		4.1.9.	To develop a schools digital media programme and build the digital capacity of schools.	LYIT, Local Development Co's, school bodies	M
4.2.	To maximise High Speed Broadband provision in the County so as to enable the growth of sustainable and inclusive	4.2.1.	To investigate and advance as a matter of priority, all opportunities to ensure a high speed, resilient broadband network throughout the entire county, including the islands.	DCENR, DCC, ÚnaG, ERNACT, Local Development Co's	S- M



## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
	communities.	4.2.2.	To establish a Digital Tech Observatory to research, monitor and assess High Speed solutions for County Donegal and to promote ICT take up.	ERNACT, DCC, DCENR, LYIT, EI, IDA	S- M
4.3.	To promote and foster participation of disadvantaged communities and marginalised target groups in decision making to engage with relevant local and national stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues.	4.3.1.	To develop a Public Participation Network (PPN) that will facilitate the participation and representation of communities in a fair, equitable and transparent manner.	DCC, Donegal PPN, ÚnaG, C&V groups, Local Development Co's	M
		4.3.2.	To strengthen the capacity of communities and of the environmental, social inclusion and community & voluntary sectors to contribute positively to the community in which they reside/participate and influence change.	DCC, Donegal PPN, ÚnaG, C&V groups, Local Development Co's	S- M
		4.3.3.	To engage the most marginalized and disadvantaged sectors of the population and target need through the work of the Local Community Development Committee and the Public Participation Network.	LCDC, Local Development Co's, TUSLA, ÚnaG, DTP, C & V groups, key youth organisations	S- M
		4.3.4.	To enable members of disadvantaged communities and target groups to take part in decision making structures on matters which affect their lives.	DWN, ÚnaG, Foróige, Local Development Co's, C & V groups	S- M
		4.3.5.	To map existing delivery of social and community services and collaborate on opportunities to be realised through interagency coordination of services in order to provide for ease of access.	Tusla, DWN, C & V groups, Local Development Co's	M
		4.3.6.	To continue and further develop the 'RESIDENTS' section on the Donegal Portal to increase awareness and knowledge of services available.	DCC, C & V groups, DWN	S- M
		4.3.7.	To encourage engagement in community activities and promote community and political activism.	Local Development Co's, C & V groups, ÚnaG, Donegal Women's Network	M
		4.3.8.	To provide capacity building training to enable marginalised groups to participate in and influence public policy.	C & V groups, Local Development Co's, DWN	S- M
		4.3.9.	To engage with key frontline providers such as community centres, the library service, Citizens Information, and MABS to identify best practice in improving access to services for 'hard-to-reach' groups, individuals and advocacy groups and in providing facilities as outreach bases for the engagement of target groups and marginalised communities.	Local Development Co's, DWN, DCC, C & V groups	S- M

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		4.3.10.	To develop and sustain, through multi stakeholder collaboration, a socially inclusive county	DWN, Local Development Co's, DCC, HSE, C & V groups	S- M
		4.3.11.	To increase participation in social, cultural and civic activities for people who experience social exclusion and isolation within disadvantaged communities.	Local Development Co's, C & V groups,	M
		4.3.12.	To undertake a demographic profile in respect of ethnic minority groups in Donegal and make the outputs available.	DCC	S
		4.3.13.	To embrace the cultural wealth of the wide range of minority languages in County Donegal by the recognition and provision of services and materials in the mother tongue and to promote their use particularly through the publication of relevant material relating to public sector services.	DCC, HSE	S- M
		4.3.14.	To support and develop equality based initiatives for LGBT community.	DYS, Local Development Co's	S- M
		4.3.15.	To develop an innovative and participative Social Inclusion week which places communities, experiences and exclusion at the centre and to ensure that the service users are involved in the service development and management to ensure that services/organisations meet their needs.	C&V groups, ethnic minority organisations and the Social Inclusion Linkage Group of the PPN, DWN, Local Development Co's	S- M
		4.3.16.	To provide capacity building to local statutory organisations on engaging with marginalised groups.	DCC, HSE, C & V groups	S
4.4.	To promote and support health and wellbeing in County Donegal	4.4.1.	To support and strengthen existing structures of clusters of health service provision such as Primary Health Care Teams, Community Health Forums, Mental Health Teams, Community Healthcare Organisations, Primary Care Network areas that are easy to access, are of high quality and which meet the needs of the local community.	HSE, DWN, Tusla, DYS, C & V groups	S- M
		4.4.2.	To support the implementation of projects to meet local priorities within the National Framework for 'Healthy Ireland.'	HSE, TUSLA, DCC, DWN, Foróige, C & V groups	S- M
		4.4.3.	To implement the Donegal Age Friendly Strategy.	Donegal Age Friendly Alliance	S- M
		4.4.4.	To develop family support initiatives and promote interagency collaboration.	TUSLA, key youth organisations, HSE, C & V groups, DES, DWN	S- M

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		4.4.5.	To develop and implement programmes to improve health and well-being through the Community Health Forums, Donegal Community Health Network and other Community & Voluntary and Sporting Organisations.	HSE, DESSA Disability Agency, DWN, ETB, DYS, C&V groups	S- M
		4.4.6.	To support and improve community responses to addressing issues including alcohol addiction, mental well-being through increased participation in sport and physical activity.	RDTF, Alcohol Forum, DSP, C & V groups, key youth organisations, DWN	S- M
		4.4.7.	To continue to work in partnership to support schools participating in the Health Promoting School and to link with the Green Schools and the Active School initiatives.	HSE, TUSLA, C & V groups, DES, DYS, DWN, ETB	S- M
		4.4.8.	To develop programmes to improve and support health and wellbeing in children and young people in the areas of nutrition, physical activity, sport, anti- bullying and transition from national to secondary school.	Youth organisations, DWN, C&V groups	S- M
		4.4.9.	To ensure that schools are facilitated in linking with organisations from both the Statutory and voluntary sectors to deliver on the Health Ireland and the Better Outcomes Brighter Futures policies.	HSE, DWN, DYS, C7V groups	S- M
		4.4.10.	To continue to work in partnership to support a whole schools/centre approach to promoting health and well-being and specific programmes such as the 'Health Promoting School': Green Schools and Active Schools; Yellow Flag.	HSE, DES, School bodies, TUSLA, SCP, Donegal Sports Partnership, Local Development Co's, FRC's, Youth organisations	S- M
		4.4.11.	To promote community wellbeing through engagement with existing programmes such as Screening events, Carers' Programmes, Donegal Pride of Place, Social Inclusion Week, Feel Good Fortnight, Fairtrade Fortnight, Letterkenny wellness week- Letterkenny community Health Forum which includes all local groups.	HSE, DCC, Local Development Co's, C&V groups	S
		4.4.12.	To establish a partnership approach in tackling alcohol and drug related harm within our local communities to include promotion of community mobilization and programmes to develop community capacity building in order to respond to alcohol misuse and related harm.	Alcohol Forum, youth organisations, RDTF, HSE	S- M

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		4.4.13.	To improve road safety through the development of driver rehabilitation programmes to address high instances of anti-social driving in County Donegal and implement actions identified in the Road Safety Plan on education, engineering and enforcement to improve health and safety and promote health and wellbeing.	DCC, Road Safety Authority, An Garda Síochána	S- M
		4.4.14.	To increase accessibility to mental health supports for people living in rural areas as well as providing information and transport etc.	HSE, Local Development Co's, C&V groups	S- M
		4.4.15.	To promote and support Donegal as an Active County which embraces and promotes sport and physical activity to all abilities and ages, getting more people more active more often and to continually build capacity in communities in order to promote and provide physical activity and sport for communities especially the hard to reach groups	Donegal Sports Partnership	S
		4.4.16.	To maximise health and wellbeing outcomes for communities in the proposed development of the-North West Greenway and other initiatives involving outdoor spaces.	DCC, DCC, Donegal Tourism, FI, Local Development Companies, local tourism organisations, adjoining Local Authorities, HSE, Local Development Co's	M
		4.4.17.	To work in partnership to implement Connecting for Life Donegal – suicide prevention.	HSE, Connecting for Life Steering group.	S
		4.4.18.	To use the principles and approach of the World Health Organisation Healthy Settings Programme to support the implementation of local initiatives such as Healthy communities/ green gyms, playgrounds.	CHF's, HSE, Alcohol Forum, C&V groups	M
		4.4.19.	To enhance and improve existing playgrounds and develop new playgrounds to serve areas of identified need and to support health and wellbeing in children.	DCC, C&V groups, education bodies, Donegal Women's Centre	M
		4.4.20.	To develop library, arts and cultural programmes relating to social, health and mental health and suicide prevention.	DCC, Youth Organisations, Alcohol Forum, HSE	M
		4.4.21.	To identify and support young people whose lives are affected by the care needs of a family member who is a young carer and promote local initiatives that contribute to positive health and	Key youth organisations	S

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
			well-being. E.g. Walk & Talk, Men on the move. Etc.		
4.5.	To reduce poverty, promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration	4.5.1.	To develop a Public Participation Network (PPN) which will facilitate the participation and representation of communities in a fair, equitable and transparent manner and will strengthen the capacity of communities and of the environmental, social inclusion and community & voluntary sectors to contribute positively to the community in which they reside/participate.	DCC, Donegal PPN	S- M
		4.5.2.	To combat fuel poverty by raising awareness of mechanisms available to ensure homes are more energy efficient through energy upgrades to homes and to establish a collaborative approach to implementation and facilitation of projects.	DSP/ Community Welfare Officers, Citizens Information, MAB's, DWN, Donegal Women's Network	S- M
		4.5.3.	To establish initiatives to assist homeless people, people seeking independent living, including people with disabilities, and to help people preparing for independent living, including young people transitioning from Care into independent living.	DCC, DCIL, DTP, Simon, young people leaving care, DYS, Foróige, HSE, TUSLA	S- M
		4.5.4.	To support area based representative community groups and organisations to identify and target local needs through collaborative approaches with local, national and regional agencies which address social exclusion and poverty such as area fora and network.	Local Development Co's, U na G, DCC, TUSLA, ETB, other relevant agencies	S
		4.5.5.	To ensure that local community development, ethnic minority and social inclusion organisations play a central and active role in collaborative structures that combat poverty, reduce social exclusion and promote equality.	C&V groups, DCC, Local Development Co's	M
		4.5.6.	To reduce isolation and social exclusion, particularly in respect of geographically hard to reach populations through the continued development of sustainable rural transportation initiatives.	HSE, DCC, Local Development Co's, SITT, National Transport Authority	S- M
		4.5.7.	To actively engage with and support the participation of people who identify as LGBT in service development	DCC, DYS, Youth organisations, DTP, Local Development Co's, TUSLA, HSE, An Garda Síochána,	S- M
		4.5.8.	To promote a positive attitude towards the LGBT community, address stereotypes and combat homophobia	DCC, DYS, Youth organisations, DTP, Local Development Co's, TUSLA, HSE, An Garda Síochána,	S

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		4.5.9.	To build capacity of community organisations to actively participate in a range of committees/ forums/working groups.	DCC, C&V groups, other relevant agencies, Local Development Co's	S
		4.5.10.	To continue the work of the Social Inclusion Measures Coordination Group in sharing knowledge, information and learning within the sector, in identifying needs and designing and implementing actions to address need.		S
4.6.	To promote social justice, equality and women's human rights.	4.6.1.	To ensure all policies and practices within organisations have equal beneficial effects on men and women by gender proofing all policies and practices.	DWN, DCC, relevant stakeholders.	S- M- L
		4.6.2.	To develop sustainable supports, services and education that upholds women's participation in leadership roles –family, community, business and public life and draw on models of best practice.	DWN, Local Development Co's	S- M
		4.6.3.	To work towards addressing the social, cultural, economic and political disadvantage experienced by women in Donegal by engaging and advocating for women who experience disadvantage, discrimination and social exclusion.	DWN, Local Development Co's	S- M
		4.6.4.	To promote the development and consolidation of the women's sector by supporting and seek to resource the existing women's sector to be sustained and further developed and to develop linkages and partnerships between women and appropriate sectors e.g. health, education, housing, culture, and enterprise, recognising that women are not a homogeneous group.	DCC, Key women's organisations	S- M
		4.6.5.	To facilitate the participation of women in their local communities and support their inclusion in all sectors of society.	DWN	S- M
		4.6.6.	To develop community based gender equality initiatives to engage men in supporting equality initiatives that target inequalities experienced by women including domestic violence.	DCC, Local Development Co's, Women's organisations	M
		4.6.7.	To Develop an Equality and Human Rights statement within the LECP.	DCC	S
		4.6.8.	To ensure that all LCDC members participate in Gender Training (Pobal) with other relevant stakeholders within an agreed period.	DCC, LCDC	S

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		4.6.9.	To engage, inform and support the mobilisation and participation of women particularly those most marginalised.	DWN	S- M
4.7.	To create and support pathways to employment for persons from marginalised and disadvantaged communities.	4.7.1.	To establish an Enterprise Development Forum with representatives across the sector to ensure a collaborative approach to tackling labour market barriers and addressing unemployment using best practice locally and nationally, support and develop further labour activation programmes	DCC, Local Development Co's, LYIT, ÚnaG, C&V groups, ETB	S
		4.7.2.	To provide advice, guidance and support for people who are unemployed and seeking self-employment opportunities by reinstating information officers in Social Welfare offices and signposting people to other relevant support agencies.	DCC, DSP, Local Development Co's, Centre for the unemployed	S- M
		4.7.3.	To support people who were unemployed in sustaining their business enterprises.	DCC, Local Development Co's, Centre for the Unemployed	S- M
		4.7.4.	To support people who are unemployed through a combination of one-to-one personal development and training supports which provide opportunities for labour market progression	Local Development Co's, Centre for the Unemployed	S- M
4.8.	To work for the sustainability of the Island communities.	4.8.1.	To investigate and advance as a matter of priority, all opportunities to ensure a high speed, resilient broadband network throughout the entire county, including exploring the Aranmore Island Chinese Broadband Project.	ÚnaG, IFA, RoinnnaCear, Island RDP, ETB, Island Co-ops, Council Islands Committee, C&V groups	M
		4.8.2.	Promote 4G connectivity (i.e. Facetime and Skype) as a means of widening connectivity to the Islands.	ÚnaG, Comhar na nOileán, Island Co-ops, IFA, C&V groups	M
		4.8.3.	To support and sustain the Irish language and dialect characteristics of the Island communities with a focus on heritage including but not exclusively a music/song archive.	ÚnaG, Comhar na nOileán, Island Co-ops, IFA, C&V groups	M
		4.8.4.	To work with Islanders to harness the economic potential of the Wild Atlantic Way including action on archaeology in collaboration with islands and mainland as well as craft and general tourism promotion.	Tourism Bodies, IFA, Roinn na Cear, Island RDP, ETB, Island Co-ops, Council Islands Committee, Gael Saoire, Ferry Companies, Airport, DCC, C & V groups	M
		4.8.5.	To protect the heritage, culture, traditions and language of the Donegal Islands and harness these resources appropriately for economic activity and employment.	Islands Committee, Island Co-ops, local tourism organisations, DCC	M

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		4.8.6.	To undertake community and economic programmes that will contribute to population stabilisation	Islands Committee, Island Co-ops, local tourism organisations, DCC	M
		4.8.7.	To work collaboratively to safeguard the essential services of the Islands	Islands Committee, Island Co-ops, local tourism organisations, DCC	M
4.9.	To support rural and coastal communities under threat and in decline.	4.9.1.	To continue providing support for new start-ups, for enabling entrepreneurship and to grow existing businesses	DCC, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG	S- M –L
		4.9.2.	To support and enable farming and fishing communities to create new and sustainable sources of income to replace diminished employment opportunities, to enhance employment and income and to improve quality of life in local communities.	IFA, UFA, Irish Rural Links, LYIT, ETB, DSP, DES, Teagasc, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, BIM, IFI, Loughs Agency	M
		4.9.3.	To encourage and facilitate the establishment of new food opportunities in County Donegal, in particular the production of distinctive quality food produce and products and added-value food manufacturing businesses, which will add to the food culture with the County and to demonstrate these in local festivals.	LYIT, Local Development Co's, DCC, ÚnaG, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M
		4.9.4.	To develop sustainable farming, fishing and rural coastal communities by maximising the benefits of renewable energy.	IFA, ÚnaG, SEAI, Local Development Co's, IFI, Loughs Agency	M- L
		4.9.5.	To increase the capability of existing food enterprises and food promoters within Donegal so that they can become more competitive and sustainable, develop new market opportunities and add value to locally produced foods	DCC, LYIT, ÚnaG, Teagasc, Local Development Co's, Community Market Body	S- M
		4.9.6.	To offer training supports and exchange programmes for farm and fishing families.	Teagasc, ÚnaG, BIM; IFA, Farming org, Co-ops, Local Development Co's	S
		4.9.7.	To add to sustainability of farming and fishing communities by building capacity in the use of digital technology to enable efficiency and sustainability in management and practices.	ÚnaG, Teagasc, BIM; IFA, farming organisations, Co-ops, Local Development Co's, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M
4.10.	To support the sustainability of Donegal Gaeltacht communities.	4.10.1.	To promote employment opportunities in order to support, maintain and sustain Irish speaking communities in the Gaeltacht.	ÚnaG, Roinn na Gaeltachta, ETB, C&V groups, DSP	M
		4.10.2.	To enable Gaeltacht communities to develop and improve their resources including tourism development beyond Northern Ireland.	ÚnaG, Roinn na Gaeltachta, ETB	M



## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		4.10.3.	To develop skills and employability in the Gaeltacht including tourism, walking, heritage and language.	Roinn na Gaeltachta, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG, ETB	M
		4.10.4.	To promote the arts and to increase employment and development opportunities in the arts, heritage, language and culture- based sectors.	ÚnaG, DCC, Cultural organisations, Creative sector, Local Development Co's	S- M
		4.10.5.	To support sustainable Gaeltacht Communities by promoting and encouraging the use of Irish language as a right in the Gaeltacht Service Centres located outside the Donegal Gaeltacht and which are important centres of service provision to a wider catchment which includes the residents of the Donegal Gaeltacht as well as to plan for language development and provision of basic language skills development.	ÚnaG, Acadamh GMIT, Irish Language Steering Group, ÚnaG, Letterkenny Town Team	S- M
		4.10.6.	To support more inclusive and sustainable Gaeltacht communities through the delivery of locally led programmes to build leadership and engagement, and mobilising countywide support, actions and volunteers.	Irish Language Steering Group, LCDC, ÚnaG, local community organisations, Volunteer Centre	M
		4.10.7.	To provide opportunities to access and deliver pathways to employment; education, training and lifelong learning; literacy, numeracy and communications skills; and CPD in the education sector through Irish where appropriate.	DSP, ETB, Acadamh GMIT, Muinteras, Local Development Co's, LYIT	M
		4.11.	To add to the number and proportion of Irish speakers within the total population of the county and beyond, including the diaspora	4.11.1.	To provide a network of Irish language learning opportunities for adults across the county, for parents, and for visitors and tourists interested in learning the language and promote the programmes available to local groups.
4.11.2.	To provide supports to networks providing opportunities for Irish language use.			Irish language organisations, C&V groups	M
4.11.3.	To support and promote the Gaeltacht Summer Colleges for the youth of the county and beyond (e.g. Scholarships, Marketing etc)			ÚnaG, Irish language organisations, C&V groups , Irish Colleges, Irish Language Steering Group under LCDC	S
4.11.4.	To maintain, support and promote the development of the Irish-medium educational sector in the county, including preschools, Gaelscoileanna, Gaeltacht schools, secondary level Gaelcholáistí, and Third Level institutions			Irish Language Steering Group under LCDC , DES, Gaeltacht-based and Irish-medium schools and institutions, ÚnaG, Irish language organisations	S- M

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
				DAHG, COGG	
		4.11.5.	To seek to establish more Irish language local voluntary groups across areas of the county where none currently exist, to support those that do exist, and to engage with community and sporting groups who wish to promote the language within their current programme of activities by means of adopting a language plan.	Local Development Co's, Irish language organisations, Irish Language Steering Group under LCDC, ÚnaG, C&V groups	M
		4.11.6.	To maintain and increase the number, range and depth of public services that are offered in the Irish language, first and foremost to the Gaeltacht community, and also to the Irish-speaking community in other parts of the county.	Local Development Co's, C & V groups, public bodies, ÚnaG, Gaeltacht community groups, Irish language organisations	M
		4.11.7.	To support, sustain and increase the number of families throughout the county who use Irish as the daily language of communication, both within the Gaeltacht and outside it, by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Providing advice and support and encouragement to young families to use the Irish language at home</li> <li>b. Providing Gaeltacht-based and/or Irish language-based holidays and activities for families</li> </ul>	Irish Language Steering Group under LCDC, Irish language groups, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG, DAHG, Gaeltacht Community Groups engaged in language plans	M
		4.11.8.	To support and promote existing and new Irish language youth organisations, and to support the promotion of the Irish language activities within existing youth clubs and groups that are currently operating primarily in the English language.	Irish Language Steering Group under LCDC, GAA, Afterschool clubs, Youth organisations, Irish language organisations, ÚnaG	M
		4.11.9.	To support and promote the use of Irish language in decision making forums.	DCC, other relevant agencies	S- M
4.12.	To develop County Donegal as an "Age Friendly" County	4.12.1.	To implement the Donegal Age Friendly Strategy aiming to make Donegal one of the greatest Counties in Ireland to grow old in, have easily accessible public buildings, shops and services and incorporate older people's views into significant decisions being made around the County	Age Friendly Alliance	S- M
		4.12.2.	To promote a positive attitude to ageing and address stereotypes about older people	Age Friendly Alliance	S- M
		4.12.3.	To create an environment where people will continue to live independently in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.	Age Friendly Alliance	S- M

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		4.12.4.	To support, link with and further improve existing partnerships and initiatives that support older people to maintain, improve or manage their physical health and mental wellbeing.	Age Friendly Alliance	S- M
		4.12.5.	To support older persons groups within the county in providing social, recreational opportunities which target the social isolation experienced by older people within the county.	Age Friendly Alliance	S- M
4.13.	To work towards the 5 national outcomes for children as set out National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020.	4.13.1.	To increase resources and opportunities for children and young people to participate in sport and physical activity as a resource to improve health and wellbeing, encourage community participation and to contribute to Personal Development.	Donegal Sports Partnership, DYS	S- M
		4.13.2.	To promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people through the implementation of Road Safety Authority educational resources as well as Farm and Water Safety in all educational settings.	Road Safety Authority, DCC, Donegal Youth Council, DYS, ETB	S
		4.13.3.	To identify, prioritise and implement engineering improvement measures to improve the safety of the school journey.	Road Safety Authority, DCC, Donegal Youth Council, DYS, ETB, Donegal Education Centre	S- M
		4.13.4.	To proof relevant policies in the context of child poverty, disadvantage and equity	Children and Young Peoples Services Committee, DYS	S- M –L
		4.13.5.	To support community based activities for children and families living in poverty or experiencing social exclusion.	Foróige, Local Development Co's, C&V group	S- M
		4.13.6.	To provide life-long learning opportunities for children and young people throughout the county.	Foróige, Local Development Co's, school bodies, C&V groups	S- M
		4.13.7.	To support and seek resources for the provision of personal development, learning programmes and social initiatives for people living within disadvantaged communities and target groups.	Foróige, Local Development Co's, C&V groups	S- M
		4.13.8.	To ensure all children have access to recreational and social activity	Foróige, Donegal Sports Partnership, youth organisations, C &V groups	S- M
		4.13.9.	To support and strengthen assistance to community efforts to develop services for young Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender young people and young adults throughout the county.	Break Out, DYS	S- M

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		4.13.10.	To support the development of 'Child and Family Support Networks' across County Donegal which aim to connect families with sources of support in their networks	TUSLA, Foróige	S
		4.13.11.	To support the development of safe spaces for young people and Children	DYS, All Relevant agencies and organisations, Foróige	S- M
		4.13.12.	To support and promote youth work to ensure young people feel connected to their communities and remain a sustainable asset in the community	DYS, Foróige, C&V groups	S- M
		4.13.13.	All agencies, statutory bodies and community organisations to collaborate to maximise and direct resources available for the welfare and protection of children and young people in greatest need.	Children and Young Peoples Services Committee, Tusla, C& V groups, statutory agencies	S
		4.13.14.	To seek resources for and further improve existing partnerships and initiatives aiming to improve the capacity of parents, carers and families to support healthier choices for their children and themselves.	Foróige, C& V groups, HSE	S- M
		4.13.15.	To develop and promote the library service as a resource for children and young people and to work in collaboration with children and young people and with related organisations to ensure children and young people achieve their full potential in learning and development.	DCC	S
		4.13.16.	To improve the lives of young people in Donegal and enable young people to identify issues, develop projects and participate in decision making	Donegal Youth Council, DCC, HSE, CYPSC, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, DYS, CYPSC, Foróige	S- M
		4.13.17.	To work in partnership to ensure the continued development of early intervention mental health services for young people in Donegal.	Jigsaw, HSE	S – M
4.14.	To promote and support people with disabilities to participate fully in economic, social and cultural life.	4.14.1.	To develop a programme to re- engage persons with disabilities at community level so as to provide opportunities to work with other stakeholders in framing better outcomes for disabled persons.	IWA, Donegal Sports Partnership, DCIL, HSE-Phys. & Sensory, C&V groups, DWN, Local Development Co's, DLDC,	M
		4.14.2.	To support-and strengthen the provision of appropriate independent living supports to enable persons with disabilities to live, be educated, work and engage in leisure activities, in their local communities.	DCC, HSE, ETB, C&V groups, DWN, IWA, Donegal Sports Partnership, DCIL, HSE-Phys. & Sensory, C&V groups, Local Development Co's	M

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action		
		4.14.3.	To support and resource community and voluntary sector approaches to targeting the needs of people with disabilities working collaboratively with organisations that advocate for or address the needs of people with disabilities.	Local Development Co's	M		
		4.14.4.	To support organisations to address social isolation experienced by people with disabilities.	Local Development Co's	M		
		4.14.5.	To develop clear pathways for persons with disabilities to advance their involvement in the development, implementation and reviewing of mainstream plans which affect their lives in the local community including support access/ public transport or other infrastructural/ logistical requirements to ensure participation of persons with disabilities at consultations and in implementation of programmes/ activities.	Local Development Co's, DESSA Disability Agency	M		
		4.14.6.	To develop programmes which will assist employers who wish to initiate more inclusive recruitment and workplace practices.	HSE, Solas, ETB	M		
		4.14.7.	To continue to provide training amongst all stakeholders to raise awareness of supported employment.	HSE, Solas, ETB	M		
		4.14.8.	To seek resources for and establish a personal advocacy service for People with Disabilities in conjunction with key agencies such as the Citizen's Information Service	Local Development Co's, DESSA Disability Agency	M		
		4.14.9.	To seek resources for and support the expansion of rural transport initiatives for vulnerable groups	SITT, DCC, Local Development Co's	M		
		4.14.10.	To ensure that all people with a disability have access to sport, cultural and mainstream recreational activities including facilities.	Donegal Sports Partnership, NGB's, C&V groups, Disability organisations	M		
		4.14.11.	To identify an appropriate location and develop a pilot project "A Disability Friendly Town" that would mobilise the local commercial, community, social inclusion and tourism interests to design and deliver a social inclusion and disability model for Donegal.	C&V groups, DESSA Disability Agency, DCC,	M		
		4.14.12.	To consider the options to re-employ an equality officer as part of Donegal County Council.	DCC	M		
		4.15.	To work in a partnership approach to identify issues, concerns and barriers	4.15.1.	To improve the co-ordination of local, Traveller and Roma specific programmes to bring about equal outcomes for those	DCC , DTP, DTIG	S- M

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
	to service delivery experienced by the Traveller, Roma and ethnic minorities Communities and to develop programmes to address these barriers		communities.		
		4.15.2.	To provide cultural competencies and awareness (including intercultural training), as well as non-discriminatory practice for statutory bodies, community organisations and Local Development Companies as part of the plan.	DCC , DTP, DTIG	M
		4.15.3.	To put in place mechanisms for meaningful consultation, participation in decision making and policy development in partnership with Traveller, Roma and ethnic minority communities.	DCC , DTP, DTIG	S- M
		4.15.4.	To ensure local and national policies and practice are non-discriminatory towards Traveller and Roma communities	DCC , DTP, DTIG	M
		4.15.5.	To promote the participation of Travellers, Roma and Ethnic Minorities on the relevant development boards/committees (i.e. Local Development Companies, Youth Services, Municipal Area Committees, Donegal County Council and any relevant others.	DCC , DTP, DTIG	S
		4.15.6.	To implement the Interagency Framework Strategy as a collective response to crisis situations and to include Travellers and Roma in future PEACE Programmes with the cross cutting themes with other Ethnic Minorities.	DCC , DTP, DTIG	S- M
		4.15.7.	To implement the new National Traveller and Roma Framework which is being developed by the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Steering Group.	DCC , DTP, DTIG	S- M
		4.15.8.	To work with Donegal Travellers Project and other relevant Community Organisations to develop and promote a system for the introduction of an ethnic identifier field in all data collection in the County.	DCC , DTP, DTIG	S
		4.15.9.	To explore opportunities, seek resources for and Pilot to implement the Yellow Flag Programme in primary and/ or secondary schools in County Donegal in order to promote inclusion and celebrate diversity.	DTP, DTP, Intercultural Platform, other relevant agencies, ETB	M

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		4.15.10.	To develop a Traveller, Roma and Ethnic Minority Forum to develop an Intercultural Strategy for the County.	DCC, DTP, Intercultural Platform and other Community Organisations	S- M
		4.15.11.	To re-establish a Traveller Interagency group for the County with members from relevant agencies. This group will develop a strategy which is able to be resourced, actioned and implemented.	DCC, DTP and other relevant agencies	S- M
		4.15.12.	Donegal Travellers Project will Traveller Proof local policies and action plans to ensure inclusion of Travellers and Roma Communities and non-discriminatory service delivery.	DTP	S- M
4.16.	To enable individuals and communities to be sustainable by investing in education, training and Lifelong Learning.	4.16.1.	To use available evidence of employment uptake consequent to training and education programmes in the review and further development of these programmes.	ÚnaG, all County Education and Training organisations, DWN, Local Development Co's	M
		4.16.2.	To promote and guide more specific sectoral development with the establishment of training programmes aligned to the Development Centres for example in marine, tourism, renewable energy, food, sports and heritage.	ÚnaG, Local; Development Co's, DCC, ETB, LYIT, DWN	M
		4.16.3.	To support individuals and marginalised groups experiencing educational disadvantage to access, engage with and participate in Life Long Learning opportunities	Local Development Co's, ETB, HSE, Tusla, C&V groups, Youth organisations, LYIT, UU, DSP, Solas, DWN	M
		4.16.4.	To support children and young people at risk of early school leaving and/ or not in education and training through a coordinated interagency approach in consultation with learners, a range of supports needs to include capacity building and personal development programmes as well as accredited programmes.	Local Development Co's, ETB, HSE, Tusla, C&V groups, Youth organisations, LYIT, UU, DSP, Solas, DYS, SCP	M
		4.16.5.	To further promote the Junior Achievers Programme and the secondary school Business Programme.	DCC , ÚnaG	S- M
		4.16.6.	To co-ordinate the delivery of community-based education opportunities so that they better address barriers to learning e.g. through the establishment of a county-wide Community Education and Learners Forum.	Local Development Co's, ETB, HSE, Tusla, C&V groups, Youth organisations, LYIT, UU, DSP, Solas, Foróige, DYS, DWN CDP na Rosann, Pobail le Chéile, Peace Partnership	M

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		4.16.7.	To develop a training programme of 'Digital Skills For All' through a network of strategically located digital hubs.	DCC, ERNACT, EI, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, DWN	S
		4.16.8.	To develop and promote the library service as a resource for information and learning and to provide high quality collections to foster reading as a basic skill for life.	DCC	S
		4.16.9.	To continue to foster a learning culture in Donegal by supporting and seeking resources for the adult and continuing education sector in the County.	CYPSC, ETB Adult Education	M
4.17.	To develop opportunities for peace building and conflict resolution both within the County and on a cross border basis and develop strategies and activities which address sectarianism, racism and local conflict issues through a community development approach.	4.17.1.	To support the full implementation of a Racist Incident Reporting Scheme.	DCC, C&V groups	M
		4.17.2.	To actively engage with Travellers and other ethnic minorities in identifying mechanisms which allow them to participate in mainstream society in a more meaningful way.	DCC, DYS, Donegal Intercultural Platform, DTP and other relevant Community Organisations	S- M
		4.17.3.	To increase the level of direct, sustained and curriculum-based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds to promote shared education.	School bodies, DYS, Donegal Intercultural Platform, DTP	M
		4.17.4.	To identify and remove barriers to accessing education and training opportunities for Black and Ethnic Minority groups.	ETB, Solas, DTP, Intercultural Platform< DWN	S- M
		4.17.5.	To help young people, in particular those not in education, employment and/or training to develop a greater understanding and respect for diversity; access new opportunities and become active citizens	ETB, Solas, DYS, C&V groups	M
		4.17.6.	To develop existing and create new shared spaces and services where people from different communities and backgrounds can come together to learn from and respect each other.	DCC, DYS, Donegal Youth Service, ÚnaG, HSE, C&V groups,	M
		4.17.7.	To develop and promote positive intercultural relations at a local level, creating a society characterised by good relations and respect, where cultural identity and diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.	DYS, ÚnaG, DTP, Intercultural Platform and other C&V groups	M
		4.17.8.	To build the capacity in the County in relation to inter-cultural activity to engage new members and advocate for rights and entitlements of minority groups.	DYS and other relevant Community Organisations	M



## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		4.17.9.	To explore the potential to pilot an 'Intercultural Quality Mark in one urban centre in the County in order to target racism and discrimination, resource quality intercultural awareness training for staff including employment rights and set standards for conduct and compliance for both commercial and community organisations.	DTP, Intercultural Platform, ETB, Solas, C& V groups	M
		4.17.10.	To establish a programme for participation of LCDC members in intercultural training to develop a fuller understanding of ethnicity and apply this to better inform policy development.	DTP, Donegal Intercultural Platform.	S- M
		4.17.11.	To actively engage with youth groups to enable young people to access strategies that address sectarianism, racism and conflict	DYS and other Community Organisations	M
		4.17.12.	To address local conflict issues as a result of anti-social driving through the development of driver rehabilitation programmes resulting in improvements to road safety, changed attitudes to driving and reduction in reoffending.	DCC, Road Safety Authority, An Garda Síochána	M
4.18.	To develop and support voluntarism as a resource for County Donegal.	4.18.1.	To recognise and support the volunteering in County Donegal.	Donegal Volunteer Centre, Local Development Co's, C&V groups, Sporting and cultural organisations	M
		4.18.2.	To undertake programmes to recognise, support and promote the work and contribution of volunteers in sustaining community activities in the county. (i.e. 'Me for You Awards).	Donegal Volunteer Centre, Local Development Co's, Community and Voluntary Groups	M
		4.18.3.	To provide ongoing development supports for community based organisations and their management committees in coordinating, guiding and developing their volunteers.	Donegal Volunteer Centre, Local Development Co's, C&V groups	M
		4.18.4.	Develop a range of quality volunteering opportunities	Donegal Volunteer Centre, Local Development Co's,	S- M
		4.18.5.	Develop quality training around volunteer management and Policy Development.	Donegal Volunteer Centre, Local Development Co's,	S- M
4.19.	To support the work of community /voluntary organisations within County Donegal as a resource for social capital in advancing economic, social and cultural opportunities.	4.19.1.	To develop a Public Participation Network (PPN) which will facilitate the participation and representation of communities in a fair, equitable and transparent manner and will strengthen the capacity of communities and of the environmental, social inclusion and community & voluntary sectors to contribute positively to the	DCC, LCDC, Local Development Companies, existing Fora Networks and CDP's, ÚnaG	S- M

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
			community in which they reside/participate.		
		4.19.2.	To establish a research/info bank in Donegal County Council to disseminate relevant data from partner organisations.	DCC, all agencies and organisations, SpaceIAL NW	S
		4.19.3.	To work jointly to sustain the viability and capacity of local community groups and organisations to directly target poverty, exclusion and isolation and to further develop existing models of best practice that are operating in rural Donegal including business model planning, management training and mentoring.	C&V groups, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, DCC	M
		4.19.4.	To promote crossborder engagement on an ongoing basis through the facilitation of networking events.	ÚnaG, , ICBAN, NWRCB, CAWT, DCC, Donegal Airport, Tourism organisations, , HSE, cross border local authorities, Local Development Co's, Donegal Tyrone Partnership LEADER, INTERREG	S
		4.19.5.	To promote partnerships with key stakeholders around developing social infrastructure which meets community and voluntary sector interests	ÚnaG, ICBAN, NWRCB, CAWT, DCC, Donegal Airport, Tourism organisations, LEADER, INTERREG, HSE, sporting organisations, cultural organisations, Alcohol Forum, Festival Care Programme, cross border local authorities,	S
		4.19.6.	To strengthen communities and develop ongoing supports for Community Social Economy in order to tackle social, economic and environmental issues by supporting opportunities to grow social capital and establish social enterprise.	ÚnaG, community networks, C& V groups, Local Development Co's, DCC	M
		4.19.7.	To explore options to support communities equally throughout the County through the provision of area based Community Development Workers responsible for delivery of capacity building and support to existing and new community groups in the area and therefore to increase community participation and engagement.	C&V groups, LCDC, statutory agencies	M
		4.19.8.	To support and sustain a network of locally-led community development organisations to provide essential grassroots	LCDC, Local Development Co's, C&V groups, Alcohol Forum, HSE/Mental	S

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
			programmes.	Health, Youth organisations, DYS	
4.20.	To optimise the use of existing community infrastructure and to seek to address any gaps identified in community infrastructure in the County.	4.20.1.	To continually review the SpacelAL NW database in relation to the location, purpose, usage and management of existing community infrastructure.	DCC	S
		4.20.2.	To maximise the viability of existing community infrastructure.	Local Development Co's, C& V groups, DCC	S- M
		4.20.3.	To examine the potential of existing community infrastructure and capital assets in providing venues for Community Digital hubs and as hubs of community development activity.	DCC, ERNACT, EI, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S
		4.20.4.	To develop a pilot programme promoting the use of green technology in community centres and social enterprises so as to assist in ensuring their long term sustainability.	Local Development Co's, ÚnaG, C&V groups, Ren Net, SEAI, DCC	M
		4.20.5.	To support the development of social economy projects to benefit community centres and staff utilising existing resources and projects underpinned by the values and principles of community development	DCC, Community Enterprise Centres, C&V groups	M
		4.20.6.	To explore all potential funding avenues where need for new community infrastructure is shown.	ÚnaG, DCC, C&V groups	M
		4.20.7.	To enhance and improve existing playgrounds and develop new playgrounds to serve areas of identified need.	DCC	M
4.21.	To support and promote the urban strengthening of identified Development Centres and the settlements that support those centres so as to promote and facilitate sustainable and inclusive communities.	4.21.1.	To prepare action plans in respect of identified Development Centres and the service settlements that support these centres so as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To promote and support collaborative community activity and build capacity.</li> <li>- To engender deepened sense of place, citizenship and pride of place.</li> <li>- To enable economic activity and job creation and reduce deprivation.</li> <li>- To establish effective coordination of the work of the community, business, voluntary and public sectors.</li> <li>- To identify and implement priorities and actions for economic</li> </ul>	DCC, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, ETB, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, HSE	S

## Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
			<p>and community growth of each centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To ensure that actions throughout the plan would incorporate a healthy settings approach in conjunction with other activities identified in the action plan for the Development Centres.</li> <li>- To ensure that any funds available by the partners be used strategically to fund the agreed programme of work within the designated development centres/hubs.</li> </ul>		

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## Goal 5- To Develop Donegal as a Lead Region for Learning, Research and Innovation

### Goal 5 Objectives: To Develop Donegal as a Lead region for Learning, Research and Innovation

Goal 5: To Develop Donegal as a Lead region for Learning, Research and Innovation	
5.1. Collaboration	To strengthen engagement, knowledge exchange and greater collaboration between educational providers and industry.
5.2. Marine	To realise the full potential of the marine sector through the provision of appropriate learning and promotion of research and development activity.
5.3. Digital Society	To promote engagement with the digital society in all forms of education provision.
5.4. STEM	To encourage the uptake of STEM subjects.
5.5. Health	To build on our medical heritage, enhancing human health for generations, by progressing new endeavours, innovation and collaboration in education, research and service.
5.6. Partnership R & D	To promote and advance Research and Innovation through networks, partnership and collaboration in this region and internationally including cooperation with the Donegal Diaspora.
5.7. Employment	To create and support pathways to employment
5.8. Natural Resources	To identify and harness all of the County's natural resources across all sectors.
5.9. Learning	To enable individuals to reach their full potential by investing in accessible education, training and lifelong learning.
5.10. Use of Infrastructure	To make best use of new and existing infrastructure and to identify and fill infrastructural deficits in the region.
5.11. A Connected Letterkenny	To ensure that the Letterkenny Gateway is a connected place in the context of learning, research and innovation.
5.12. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Level Linkages	To promote greater linkages between third level educational providers, with a view to advancing long-term sustainable development, research and innovation in the region.
5.13. FET	To improve access paths into further education and training.
5.14. Literacy & Numeracy	To improve literacy, numeracy and communication skills in adults and young people
5.15. CPD in Education Sector	To provide continuous professional development opportunities for those working in the education sector.
5.16. Clusters	To facilitate the development of a number of clusters in order to promote entrepreneurship, investment and enterprise in the region.
5.17. Spatial Planning	To utilise existing resources to facilitate effective spatial planning in the region.
5.18. Enterprise	To strengthen the business management and capabilities of SME owner managers.

## Goal 5- To Develop Donegal as a Lead Region for Learning, Research and Innovation

### Goal 5 Actions

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
5.1.	To strengthen engagement, knowledge exchange and greater collaboration between educational providers and industry.	5.1.1.	To develop the North West Regional Science Park (NWRSP), through the 20,000 sq ft extension to the LYIT CoLab, and to maximise the impact of this third generation science park as a world class brand with programme supports that drives research and innovation in the region.	LYIT, DCC, SFI, Cross Border Partners	S-M-L
		5.1.2.	To implement the M2D2 project and C-TRIC to create an environment where research innovation and commercialization of new ideas can take shape, in order to drive economic growth and knowledge exchange and to advance the life sciences sector in the region.	LYIT, DCC, SFI, EI, IDA	M
		5.1.3.	To explore linkages with industry to ensure training matches needs.	LYIT, ETB, ÚnaG, DCC, industry partners	S-M-L
		5.1.4.	To explore further commercialisation of research findings through partnerships with industry.	LYIT, ÚnaG, industry partners	M-L
		5.1.5.	To explore opportunities to integrate training in relation to entrepreneurship in secondary level education.	LYIT, ETB, School bodies, industry partners	M
		5.1.6.	Carry out research and skills audits of domestic and overseas companies in association with enterprise development agencies and educational providers.	LYIT, ETB, Solas, DCC, ÚnaG, industry partners	M
		5.1.7.	Extend the rollout of labour activation programmes and places on programmes such as Springboard	LYIT, ETB, DSP	S-M
5.2.	To realise the full potential of the marine sector through the provision of appropriate learning and promotion of research and development activity.	5.2.1.	Provide supports to SMEs to carry out research that will increase production capacity, improve processing capability, enhance new product development and promote the Donegal Brand.	LYIT, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, BIM, DCC	M
		5.2.2.	To establish a new National Research Centre in Marine/Seafood Development and Renewable Energies.	LYIT, ÚnaG, BIM IDP, IFI, Loughs Agency	M-L
		5.2.3.	To provide workshops and training courses to facilitate companies in acquiring new skills and capabilities, in processing and business.	LYIT, ÚnaG, BIM, Local Development Co's	M

## Goal 5- To Develop Donegal as a Lead Region for Learning, Research and Innovation

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		5.2.4.	To foster collaboration between LYIT and relevant agencies and industry with a view to spear heading technical developments in the manufacture of high quality extracts for food, pharmaceutical, cosmetic and biotechnology applications.	LYIT, ÚnaG, BIM, Local Development Co's	M
		5.2.5.	To explore opportunities to add value to the seaweed industry in Donegal.	LYIT, ÚnaG, BIM, DCC, Local Development Co's, IFI, Loughs Agency	M
		5.2.6.	To build linkages with relevant cross border, national and international innovative partners and industry to collaborate in the areas of product development, contract manufacturing, nutritional analyses, marketing and business development skills.	LYIT, ÚnaG, BIM, DCC, Local Development Co's	M
		5.2.7.	To provide training and mentoring in the areas of food hygiene and food processing; product and packaging innovation; marketing; communication and I.T. and business management.	DCC, LYIT, BIM, Local Development Co's	S-M
		5.2.8.	To carry out research and development in relation to the aquaculture industry including development of a satellite centre for marine aquaculture.	LYIT, BIM, IFI, Loughs Agency	M-L
5.3.	To promote engagement with the digital society in all forms of education provision.	5.3.1.	Ensure the provision of specific digital skills by different groups of recipients that range from : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• advanced high-spec IT training for graduates,</li> <li>• programming skills for young people,</li> <li>• digital market training for traditional business,</li> <li>• basic eSkills for seniors .</li> </ul>	LYIT, ETB, DCC, ERNACT, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's IDP DLDC	M
		5.3.2.	Expand the schools digital media programme.	LYIT, Local Development Co's, school bodies	M
		5.3.3.	Promote the uptake of training programmes such as Bridge21 to enable educators and mentors to gain new technical skills and be confident planning activities involving digital media production, programming and computational thinking.	LYIT, Local Development Co's, school bodies	M
		5.3.4.	To enable all students to have access to digital learning opportunities, systems and tools.	LYIT, ETB, Local Development Co's, school bodies	M
		5.3.5.	To increase usage of information and communication technologies by staff.	LYIT, ETB, Local Development Co's, school bodies	M

## Goal 5- To Develop Donegal as a Lead Region for Learning, Research and Innovation

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
5.4.	To encourage the uptake of STEM subjects.	5.3.6.	To use new and emerging technologies to support developments in teaching and learning, management of information and communication and collaboration.	LYIT ETB, Local Development Co's, school bodies IDP	M
		5.4.1.	To implement the objectives of the STEM education review groups which aim to map existing initiatives in STEM education in Ireland and review aspects of teacher training, approaches to learning and assessment, the use of technology and encouraging wider engagement with STEM, mainly at primary and secondary level.	LYIT, ETB, School bodies	S-M
		5.4.2.	To promote lifelong learning in STEM subjects in order to help underpin skills development in relation to high value employment in the region.	LYIT, ETB	S-M
5.5.	To build on our medical heritage, enhancing human health for generations, by progressing new endeavours, innovation and collaboration in education, research and service.	5.5.1.	To develop the Donegal Clinical Research Academy as a key resource for the medical sector in the region.	DCRA, The Trust, HSE, DCC, LYIT, ÚnaG	M-L
5.6.	To promote & advance Research and Innovation through networks, partnership and collaboration in this region and internationally including cooperation with the Donegal Diaspora.	5.6.1.	To develop and maximise the impact of the North West Regional Science Park to drive research and innovation in the county and in the NW region.	LYIT, DCC, SFI, Cross Border Partners	M-L
		5.6.2.	To promote and develop Killybegs as an Innovation centre for Marine Resources, Food and Tourism.	DCC, LYIT, BIM	M-L
		5.6.3.	To develop a knowledge based economy in the North West, adding to the quality businesses already in situ and attracting foreign direct investment particularly in the areas of knowledge services, digital, creative and new media, health and well-being.	LYIT, ÚnaG, DCC	M-L
		5.6.4.	To explore further commercialisation of research findings through partnerships with industry.	LYIT, ÚnaG, DCC	L
		5.6.5.	To support IT cluster growth, start ups creation and research transferability.	LYIT, ÚnaG, DCC	M
		5.6.6.	To develop a Life Sciences network in the county so as to consolidate and advance the sector	LYIT, DCC	M
		5.6.7.	To promote the North West as a hub for medical device innovation.	LYIT, DCC, ÚnaG, SFI, EI, IDA	M



## Goal 5- To Develop Donegal as a Lead Region for Learning, Research and Innovation

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
5.7.	To create and support pathways to employment	5.6.8.	To raise awareness about the e-Infrastructures available in the region to assist the Foreign Direct Investment proposition and stimulate the development of higher levels of research in areas such as healthcare, ocean tech etc.	LYIT, ÚnaG, DCC	M
		5.7.1.	To provide guidance, advice and support including one- to one personal development and training supports to assist persons to obtain employment or to seek self employment or to sustain business enterprises.	LYIT, ÚnaG, ETB, Local Development Co's, school bodies	S-M
5.8.	To identify and harness all of the county's natural resources across all sectors.	5.8.1.	To assess the potential to better utilise the sensor and robotics capability, in LYIT /WISAR and UU Magee, respectively, as part of the solution for real world challenges that Donegal is addressing or developing in areas such as smart energy, environmental monitoring robotics, ocean energy plans etc.	LYIT, University of Ulster	S-M
		5.8.2.	To promote the development and use of technology that establishes Donegal as a low carbon County.	LYIT, ÚnaG, DCC, Ren Net, SEAI, DCENR	S-M-L
		5.8.3.	To pilot a community led approach to the deployment of smart energy initiatives in the Killybegs area.	Communities, public sector, 3rd level and private companies, LYIT	M-L
		5.8.4.	To establish a Centre for Energy Efficiency in County Donegal prioritising measures to change attitude in relation to energy use, to assist in realising energy efficiency measures to homes and to ensure adequate training and up-skilling to supply an appropriate workforce to implement energy efficiency works.	LYIT, Ren Net, QualiBuild, SEAI, CIF, IGBC, ÚnaG	M-L
5.9.	To enable individuals to reach their full potential by investing in accessible education, training and lifelong learning.	5.9.1.	To provide educational and training programmes on an outreach basis to include young people 16+ in rural areas in the County	LYIT, ÚnaG, ETB DYS, Local Development Co's, community organisations	M
		5.9.2.	To continue to promote entrepreneurship through a range of proactive programmes and events.	DCC, LYIT, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG, ETB, school bodies	S-M
		5.9.3.	To explore alternative upskilling and other opportunities for the high supply of qualified trades-people throughout the county whose skills can be applied to a number of other sectors.	LYIT, Local Development Co's, ETB, ÚnaG	M
		5.9.4.	To continue to develop and support programmes to assist in business start up and enterprise development in order to increase opportunities for indigenous research and innovation and employment opportunities.	DCC, LYIT ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	M

## Goal 5- To Develop Donegal as a Lead Region for Learning, Research and Innovation

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		5.9.5.	To continue to develop an increasing number of work based and flexible learning programmes.	LYIT, ETB, Local Development Co's	M
		5.9.6.	To stimulate and facilitate training in the incorporation of digital technologies by traditional companies in order to open new market opportunities and adopt more efficient and sustainable business models.	LYIT, DCC, ERNACT	M
		5.9.7.	To integrate generic skill development within all education programmes to ensure students are equipped with transferable life skills.	LYIT, ETB, Local Development Co's, school bodies	M
		5.9.8.	To encourage more flexible approaches to teaching and assessment, development of teaching materials, use of technology and further support for teachers and lecturers.	LYIT, ETB, Local Development Co's	M
		5.9.9.	To continuously improve programme provision in light of learner feedback.	LYIT, ETB, Local Development Co's	M
		5.9.10.	To proactively promote the option of accreditation as part of programmes.	LYIT, ETB, ÚnaG G Local Development Co's	M
5.10.	To make best use of new and existing infrastructure and to identify and fill infrastructural deficits in the region.	5.10.1.	To establish a Digital Tech Observatory to research, monitor and assess High Speed solutions for the County and to promote ICT take up.	ERNACT, DCC, DCENR, LYIT, EI, IDA	S
		5.10.2.	To promote and maximise the potential of Project Kelvin and the MAN's.	DCC, ERNACT, Hibernian Networks, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S-M-L
5.11.	To ensure that the Letterkenny Gateway is a connected place in the context of learning, research and innovation.	5.11.1.	To further develop the IT sector in Letterkenny through a collaborative approach to deliver a range of supports such as enterprise start up support and access to high quality and high speed broadband.	DCC, ERNACT, Local Development Co's	M
5.12.	To promote greater linkages between third level educational providers, with a view to advancing long-term sustainable development, research and innovation in the region.	5.12.1.	To develop regional learning pathways with partner institutes and further education institutions to provide clearly articulated progression opportunities to HEIs in the region.	LYIT, ETB	M
5.13.	To improve access paths into further education and training.	5.13.1.	To increase participant numbers from outside of the traditional leaving certificate cohort through the take up of lifelong learning programmes, and the provision of greater access opportunities to mature and disadvantaged learners.	ETB, Local Development Co's,	M

## Goal 5- To Develop Donegal as a Lead Region for Learning, Research and Innovation

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
		5.13.2.	To continue to promote educational opportunities on an outreach basis in local communities	Local Development Co's	M
		5.13.3.	To consolidate the provision of guidance services to students to enable them to make appropriate and informed vocational choices.	ETB, Local Development Co's	M
		5.13.4.	To enhance, where possible, the quality of the learner experience through the provision of improved learner supports.	ETB, Local Development Co's	M
		5.13.5.	To use learner feedback to identify gaps in service provision.	LYIT , ETB, Local Development Co's	M
		5.13.6.	To strengthen partnerships, between education providers and other stakeholders, providing more focussed approaches to learning opportunities.	ETB, LYIT, Local Development Co's	M
		5.14.	To improve literacy, numeracy and communication skills in adults and young people	5.14.1.	Improve the quality of literacy and numeracy provision in Youthreach, and community training centres (CTCs)
5.14.2.	To continue to provide teachers with initial and continuing professional development opportunities that will enable them to be familiar with the various strategies, approaches, methodologies and interventions that can be used to teach literacy and numeracy as discrete areas and across the curriculum			ETB, Local Development Co's	M
5.14.3.	To continue to support enhanced literacy and numeracy provision for students from socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds			ETB, Local Development Co's	M
5.14.4.	To utilise libraries to promote opportunities for lifelong learning and build skills through the delivery of literacy and creative expression programmes.			DCC, Local Development Co's	M
5.15.	To provide continuous professional development opportunities for those working in the education sector.	5.15.1.	To provide a range of staff learning opportunities to support staff and build organisational capacity to enhance the quality of educational provision.	ETB, Local Development Co's	M
5.16.	To facilitate the development of a number of clusters in order to promote entrepreneurship, investment and enterprise in the region.	5.16.1.	To establish a regional including cross border cluster of Higher Education Institutions in the region.	LYIT, ITSligo, University of Ulster, GMIT, NWRC	M

## Goal 5- To Develop Donegal as a Lead Region for Learning, Research and Innovation

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short, Medium or Long Term Action
5.17.	To utilise existing resources to facilitate effective spatial planning in the region.	5.17.1.	To use a more evidence based approach to spatial planning and policy making in the North West Region/Crossborder Area.	SpaceIAL NW Project, DCC, IFI, Loughs Agency	M
		5.17.2.	To create a systematic mechanism for the exchange of expertise, information and best practice between local authorities, public bodies and other relevant stakeholders in planning service delivery in the NW Region Cross Border area.	ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, IFI, Loughs Agency	M
		5.17.3.	To create a more coordinated approach to funding that will address gaps or pockets of deprivation within the area and thereby drive the long term sustainability of rural communities	ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	M
5.18.	To strengthen the business management and capabilities of SME owner managers.	5.18.1.	To continue to develop and deliver a suite of training and management programmes to assist owner managers and entrepreneurs to strengthen their business management skills, capabilities and networks.	DCC, EI, ÚnaG, BIM, ETB, LYIT	S
		5.18.2.	To develop appropriate tools and programmes to assist small and micro businesses adopt innovative processes and practices in their business and to use innovation as a means to enhanced competitiveness and sustainability.	DCC, EI, ÚnaG, BIM, ETB, LYIT	S
		5.18.3.	To continue to provide mentoring to existing businesses as a means of enhancing learning and management skills.	DCC, EI, ÚnaG, BIM, ETB, LYIT	S
		5.18.4.	To facilitate learning networks within and between businesses as a means of increasing knowledge and learning	DCC	S-M

## Goal 6 Objectives: To Develop the 'Donegal' Brand

Goal 6: To Develop the 'Donegal' Brand	
6.1. 'Donegal'	To develop the 'Donegal' Brand as a resource to support economic and community development.
6.2. People & Place	To promote the people and place of Donegal as a resource for the Donegal Brand.
6.3. Donegal Diaspora	To harness the resource of the Donegal Diaspora in promoting the Donegal Brand on a Global basis.
6.4. Media	To promote Donegal through a range of media.
6.5. Business & People Friendly	To market Donegal as a great place to live, work and do business

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## Goal 6 Actions

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
6.1	To develop the 'Donegal' Brand as a resource to support economic and community development.	6.1.1.	To explore the brand identity of County Donegal and establish the need and potential extent, scale and resource requirements of developing a County Branding Strategy.	DCC, Donegal Tourism, FI, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG	S-M
		6.1.2.	To explore the potential benefits of developing sectoral branding strategies.	DCC, Donegal Tourism, FI, Local Development Co's, Food Coast, Creative Enterprises, other sectors as appropriate, LYIT, ÚnaG, IFI, Loughs Agency	M-L
		6.1.3.	To continue to promote the Food Coast.	DCC, Donegal Tourism, LYIT, ÚnaG, Food Coast	S
		6.1.4.	To pursue the development of a brand identity in respect of a Network of Creative Entrepreneurship in County Donegal.	DCC, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Creative Sector, LYIT	M
		6.1.5.	To explore the potential to develop a brand identity in respect of Letterkenny as a 'Gateway Town' in the North West region and critical component of the Letterkenny - Derry Linked Gateway.	DCC, Letterkenny Town Team, Gateway Economic Forum, Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce, LYIT, Industry Partners, local community organizations, Local Development Co's	M
		6.1.6.	To develop a prospectus and promotional DVD of the County to promote the economic and community resources of the County	DCC	S
6.2	To promote the people and place of Donegal as a resource for the Donegal Brand.	6.2.1.	To develop marketing strategies by integrating recognition of the spirit of the Donegal people and the richness of the place of Donegal in demonstration of the 'Donegal welcome' and in the context of events, festivals, markets, walks and projects as example.	Donegal Tourism, DCC, local community organizations, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG,	S-M
		6.2.2.	To ensure that the Irish language and Gaeltacht element are included in all discussions and developments in relation to the promotion and marketing of Donegal.	Irish Language Steering Group under the LCDC, ÚnaG,	S-M
		6.2.3.	To identify County Donegal Champions and tell their story.	ÚnaG, Donegal Tourism, Diaspora Project	S

## Goal 6- To Develop the 'Donegal' Brand

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		6.2.4.	To identify locations of marketing potential through the outputs of the Landscape Character Assessment to inform the promotion of landscape of Donegal in conjunction with history, architecture, archaeology, landscape, geology and culture.	DCC, Donegal Tourism, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta	S
		6.2.5.	To promote genealogy as a tourism product to the Diaspora.	Diaspora Project, DCC	S
6.3	To harness the resource of the Donegal Diaspora in promoting the Donegal Brand on a Global basis.	6.3.1.	To reach out, engage and connect with County Donegal's global community, its 'Pobal Domhanda' through continued work of the Donegal Diaspora project.	Diaspora Project, DCC , Local Development Co's, ÚnaG,	S-M
		6.3.2.	To identify connections through the Diaspora network for the further targeted nurturing of partnerships and opportunity.	Diaspora Project, DCC , ÚnaG	S-M
6.4	To promote Donegal through a range of media.	6.4.1.	To continue to use existing platforms such as Donegal Diaspora, Go Visit Donegal, Donegal Portal website, Facebook and Twitter to exemplify the Donegal welcome and explore other opportunities.	DCC, Tourism Trade, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S-M
6.5	To market Donegal as a great place to live, work and do business	6.5.1.	To encourage engagement in the ethos of the Governments Corporate Responsibility Plan to ensure Donegal is a good place to visit or do business.	ÚnaG, Tourism Trade	S
		6.5.2.	To develop training programmes in Corporate Social Responsibility and excellence in customer service delivered through existing and planned sectoral networks and tailor training to sectoral needs.	ÚnaG, DCC Tourism Trade	S

## Goal 7 Objectives: To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

Goal 7: To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise		
7.1.	The ecosystem	To develop a coordinated entrepreneurship and enterprise ecosystem.
7.2.	Inward Investment	To target, pursue and enable suitable high quality knowledge and skills based inward investment to County Donegal.
7.3.	The Gateway	To support the continued development of Letterkenny- Derry linked Gateway as the primary growth centre for the Region.
7.4.	Rural Economic Development	To promote and support rural economic development throughout the County
7.5.	Collaborative approaches	To collaboratively support existing and new entrepreneurs, investment and enterprise
7.6.	Tourism	To collaboratively develop and promote the full potential of the tourism sector in County Donegal.
7.7.	Wild Atlantic Way	To collaboratively develop and promote the value of the Wild Atlantic Way
7.8.	Development Centres	To promote and enable economic growth and strengthening of identified development centres and their supporting settlements.
7.9.	Built & Cultural Heritage	To unlock the potential of the built and cultural heritage of County Donegal.
7.10.	Language	To sustain and promote the Irish language, harnessing its economic potential across the County.
7.11.	Diaspora	To develop the Donegal Diaspora as a global community in marketing and promoting Donegal on a global basis
7.12.	Farming	To support sustainable farming, fishing and aquaculture in County Donegal.
7.13.	Research & Innovation	To promote Donegal as a world class centre for Research, Development and Innovation
7.14.	Clean Technology	To develop and grow the clean technology sector in County Donegal.
7.15.	Killybegs	To promote and develop Killybegs as a Marine Resources hub and as an Innovation Centre for Marine Resources including Food, Tourism and Ocean Energy
7.16.	Marine Resource	To identify and harness the economic potential of Donegal's marine resource across all parts of the sector.
7.17.	Creative Entrepreneurship	To create the right conditions and provide support for Creative Entrepreneurship in County Donegal.



## Goal 7- To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

7.18. Digital Economy	To fully develop and advance all opportunities with regard to Donegal's Digital economy
7.19. Food	To promote research, assist enterprise and create jobs in the food sector in Co. Donegal.
7.20. Social Enterprise	To develop sustainable social enterprise to tackle economic and social challenges.
7.21. Connectivity Infrastructure	To collaborate to provide connectivity within and to the County to enable economic development.
7.22. Strategic Infrastructure	To collaborate to realise the delivery of necessary strategic infrastructure investment e.g. road access, air access in the North West region to support economic growth.
7.23. Skilled Workforce	To develop and facilitate access to a skilled workforce to enable economic growth.
7.24. Business and People Friendly	To implement the Governments Corporate Responsibility Plan to ensure Donegal is a good place to visit or do business.

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## Goal 7 Actions

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
7.1.	To develop a coordinated entrepreneurship and enterprise ecosystem.	7.1.1.	To support the development and implementation of a Regional Enterprise Strategy	IDA, DCC, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG, LYIT, EI, Chambers of Commerce, WDC	S
		7.1.2.	To continue to support and develop new and existing business networks in the county	DCC, LYIT, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's,	S- M
		7.1.3.	To implement the structures of the Economic Committee to enable and collaborate on investment opportunities.	DCC	S- M
7.2.	To target, pursue and enable suitable high quality knowledge and skills based inward investment to County Donegal.	7.2.1.	To promote County Donegal and target inward investment through Diaspora linkages.	DCC, Diaspora Project- DCC, LYIT, ÚnaG	S- M –L
		7.2.2.	To build upon effective cross border collaboration between SME's and relevant research institutions in the region with a particular emphasis on strengthening the Letterkenny- Derry Gateway.	LYIT, Letterkenny Town Team, ÚnaG, DCC	M
		7.2.3.	To develop a prospectus and promotional DVD of the County and promote it internationally	DCC, LYIT, IDA, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	M
		7.2.4.	To continue to liaise and engage with Massachusetts Medical Device Development Centre (M2D2) to promote inward investment in the Life Sciences sector in the region	DCC, LYIT	M
7.3.	To support the continued development of Letterkenny- Derry linked Gateway as the primary growth centre for the Region.	7.3.1.	To support and facilitate the work of the Gateway Economic Forum to continue to work on the advancement of the goals and objectives of the economic development of the Gateway.	DCC, Gateway Economic Forum, Letterkenny Town Team	M
		7.3.2.	To seek the reintroduction of the National Gateway Innovation Fund or establishment of a new innovation fund for Gateway Towns.	Gateway Economic Forum, Letterkenny Town team	M
		7.3.3.	To continue to explore enterprise initiatives on a cross border basis	DCC, ÚnaG	S
		7.3.4.	To audit and prepare a prospectus of town centre accommodation in the traditional town centre of Letterkenny to attract uptake and investment and to maximise the best use of space available.	Letterkenny Town Team, Gateway Economic Forum	S- M
		7.3.5.	To implement a Place Management Scheme in Letterkenny Town Centre in order to enhance, improve and promote the vitality and viability of the Gateway town centre.	Letterkenny Town Team, DCC, Letterkenny Tidy Town Committee	M

## Goal 7- To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		7.3.6.	To improve and enhance the evening and night time economy of the Letterkenny town centre including potential achievement of Purple Flag Status.	Letterkenny Town Team, DCC	M
		7.3.7.	To explore the potential to identify and develop a Cultural Quarter in Letterkenny's traditional town centre.	Letterkenny Town Team, DCC,	S- M
7.4.	To promote and support rural economic development throughout the County	7.4.1.	To explore the opportunities to identify and pilot the establishment of Rural Economic Development Zones within County Donegal to enhance the capacity for local communities to contribute to and take ownership of local economic development.	DCC, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG, rural communities	S- M
7.5.	To collaboratively support existing and new entrepreneurs, investment and enterprise	7.5.1.	To continue to implement and develop a First Stop Shop service for all business to provide information and signpost business to relevant support agencies.	DCC , ÚnaG, EI, FLAG, Local Development Co's, ETB, LYIT	S
		7.5.2.	To continue to provide and implement a suite of services and supports appropriate to the specific needs of local small and micro businesses in Donegal	DCC, EI, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S
		7.5.3.	To collaborate on opportunities to implement strategic actions in support of business growth and sustainability across the identified Development Centres and their supporting service settlements.	DCC, ÚnaG, Chamber of Commerce, local business communities	M
		7.5.4.	To explore opportunities to promote retention of skilled people by establishing collaborations between industry and educational bodies in the areas of graduate support, applied courses, placement structures and continued engagement when in employment.	LYIT, ETB, ÚnaG, DCC , industry partners	M
		7.5.5.	To identify, harness and develop opportunities presented by the network of Community Enterprise Centres in the county to achieve their optimum potential to act as engines for local enterprise development	DCC, EI, UnaG	S- M
		7.5.6.	To identify opportunities to enable maximum benefit of digital technology to business through a network of strategically located Local Digital Hubs.	DCC, ERNACT, EI, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's,	M
		7.5.7.	To actively engage with and support the roll out of a collaborative community partnership programme to create jobs through connections with Irelands Global Diaspora.	Diaspora Project- DCC, Connect Ireland, all agencies, business and community organisations	M

## Goal 7- To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		7.5.8.	To increase the capacity of the Local Enterprise Office to provide digital media services in order to contribute to economic activity.	DCC	S
7.6.	To collaboratively develop and promote the full potential of the tourism sector in County Donegal.	7.6.1.	To work cooperatively to further develop and promote Donegal's range of world class Iconic and Strategic Tourism products, including Sliabh Liag, Fanad Lighthouse, Malin Head and Glenveagh National Park, Inch Levels, Errigal Mountain.	Donegal Tourism, DCC, FI, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations, LYIT, ÚnaG, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M- L
		7.6.2.	To further develop and promote the County's high quality tourism facilities, products and experiences.	Donegal Tourism, FI, DCC, Tourism Trade, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG, LYIT, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M- L
		7.6.3.	To continue to promote and protect Glenveagh National Park and its visitor experience as a centrepiece of County Donegal's environmental quality and natural biodiversity and therefore as a critical tourism product and resource for the northwest region.	Glenveagh National Park, OPW, Donegal Tourism LYIT, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta	S- M –L
		7.6.4.	To explore the potential and feasibility for a flagship tourism project in Letterkenny.	Letterkenny Town Team	M
		7.6.5.	To support further development of the Greenbox Initiative, eco-tourism projects and rural recreation promoting the region as an eco- tourism destination	Local Tourism organisations, Tourism Trade, Donegal Tourism, Local Development Co's, LYIT, ÚnaG	S- M- L
		7.6.6.	To develop cross border collaboration networks that will deliver the integrated promotion of the North West as a tourism destination including joined up promotion of the network of tourism destinations and products in the region.	Donegal Tourism, Tourism Ireland, FI, DCC, adjoining local authorities, LYIT, ÚnaG, local tourism organisations, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M- L
		7.6.7.	To undertake programmes to market and promote Donegal as a world class tourism destination including through the Diaspora Project, 'Go Visit Donegal' website and the Donegal Tourism brochure.	Donegal Tourism, Tourism Ireland, FI, DCC, LYIT, local tourism organisations, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta	S- M- L
		7.6.8.	To support the use of digital technology in the promotion of Donegal and the Wild Atlantic Way.	FI, Donegal Tourism, DCC, LYIT, ÚnaG, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's,	S- M- L
		7.6.9.	To identify tourist hotspots and explore potential mechanisms to provide open access to Wifi to enhance live promotion of these locations.	FI, Donegal Tourism, DCC LYIT, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG	S- M- L

## Goal 7- To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		7.6.10.	To facilitate a connected, collaborative and more sustainable tourism sector ecosystem through bundling of activities and services and through the ongoing work of the Tourism Forum.	Tourism Forum, Tourism Trade, local tourism organisations, Donegal Tourism, DCC, FI, LYIT ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M- L
		7.6.11.	To examine the need and opportunities for cultural, arts, heritage and craft networks within the tourism sector.	LYIT, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations, Donegal Tourism, DCC, FI, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Creative Entrepreneurs	S- M- L
		7.6.12.	To explore opportunities to improve and enhance the evening and night time economy of towns in the County, (such as Letterkenny and the identified Development Centres), including the potential achievement of Purple Flag Status.	<b>DCC</b> , communities, local business communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, ETB, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	M
		7.6.13.	To explore with local communities, the potential of Donegal's historic railway lines in providing a unique tourism experience facilitating a range of activities including walking and cycling, or reinstatement of sections of the historic line together with interpretation of the railway heritage resource.	DCC, LYIT, Local Development Co's, local community organisations, ÚnaG, Donegal Sports Partnership, IFI, Loughs Agency	M
		7.6.14.	To develop and implement action plans focusing on tourism in respect of the Development Centres of Ballyshannon, Buncrana, Bundoran, Carndonagh and Donegal Town.	DCC, LYIT, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, ETB, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S- M- L
		7.6.15.	To develop and implement action plans to realise the tourism potential of the County's Heritage towns and Historic Towns.	DCC, LYIT, Heritage Forum, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S- M- L
		7.6.16.	To develop programmes to unlock the potential of our built heritage through the regeneration and reuse of historic buildings to house and host tourism attractions and experiences.	LYIT, ÚnaG, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's, DCC, Heritage Forum	S- M- L
		7.6.17.	To enhance sense of place and character in towns so as to enhance townscape quality for both the resident and visitor.	DCC, LYIT, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's, communities	S- M- L
		7.6.18.	To continue to implement the Food Coast- Donegal's Good Food Initiative to promote Donegal as an exceptional destination for food.	DCC, Food Coast, LYIT, ÚnaG, local tourism organisations, BIM, FI	S- M

## Goal 7- To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		7.6.19.	To continue to integrate food and tourism programmes and projects so as to market and promote the range, quality and hospitality of food providers in County Donegal.	DCC, LYIT ÚnaG, FI, EI, BIM, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations	S-M
		7.6.20.	To continue to support and promote the ongoing Festival Calendar in County Donegal.	Donegal Tourism, DCC, LYIT LYIT, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations	S- M- L
		7.6.21.	To consolidate and further develop Donegal Tourism as the coordinating and marketing body of Donegal's Tourism product	Donegal Tourism, DCC, ÚnaG, FI, tourism trade, local tourism organisations	S
		7.6.22.	To support the establishment and growth of adventure tourism providing the immersive visiting experience.	Donegal Tourism, LYIT, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations	S- M- L
		7.6.23.	To optimise potential of cultural and linguistic heritage as a unique visitor experience	ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Donegal Tourism, DCC	S- M- L
		7.6.24.	To support coastal and fishing communities to develop the tourism opportunities of our maritime economy to include fishing tradition and marine tourism.	LYIT, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations, BIM, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M- L
		7.6.25.	To collaborate with tourism providers to identify training needs and develop an appropriate training delivery programme in order to build capacity and enable enhanced capability within the tourism sector with particular reference to the use of digital technology.	LYIT, FI, Donegal Tourism, DCC, ERNACT, ETB, BIM, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M
7.7.	To collaboratively develop and promote the value of the Wild Atlantic Way	7.7.1.	To continue to support the implementation and promotion of the Wild Atlantic Way and to generate and sustain economic opportunity and economic development through the WAW in Donegal.	DCC, FI, Donegal Tourism, tourism trade, local tourism organisations, LYIT, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S- M- L
		7.7.2.	To support the implementation of the service infrastructure required to develop the Wild Atlantic Way without compromising this valuable asset.	DCC, FI, LYIT, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S- M
		7.7.3.	To support the Wild Atlantic Way by appropriately maintaining and investing in wifi access at discovery points along route.	DCC, FI	S- M
		7.7.4.	To support the use of digital technology in the promotion of	FI, DCC, Donegal Tourism, LYIT	S

## Goal 7- To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
			Donegal and the Wild Atlantic Way.		
		7.7.5.	To work cooperatively to enhance and promote Donegal's coastal landscape along the journey of the Wild Atlantic Way including the County's Blue Flag Beaches and Green Coasts and its range of world class Iconic and Strategic Tourism products, such as Sliabh Liag, Fanad Lighthouse, Malin Head and Glenveagh National Park, Inch Levels, Errigal Mountain.	DCC, FI, Donegal Tourism, tourism trade, local tourism organisations, LYIT, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S- M
		7.7.6.	To promote the connectedness of the Wild Atlantic Way with the wider network of natural environmental tourism assets within County Donegal and the North West region, including Glenveagh National Park, so as to share knowledge, grow diversity and capacity in tourism offer and maximise opportunities to coordinate promotional and marketing strategies.	DCC, FI, Donegal Tourism, tourism trade, local tourism organisations, LYIT, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S- M
7.8.	To promote and enable economic growth and strengthening of identified development centres and their supporting settlements.	7.8.1.	<p>To prepare action plans in respect of identified Development Centres and the service settlements that support these centres so as to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To promote and support collaborative community activity and build capacity.</li> <li>▪ To engender a true sense of place, belonging and pride of place.</li> <li>▪ To enable economic activity and job creation and reduce deprivation.</li> <li>▪ To effectively coordinate and utilize the work of the community, business, voluntary and public sectors to inform strategic development.</li> <li>▪ To identify and implement priorities and actions for economic and community growth of each centre.</li> <li>▪ To encourage sustainable development.</li> <li>▪ To improve and enhance the evening and night time economy of the identified Development Centres including potential achievement of Purple Flag Status.</li> <li>▪ To explore options to reduce vacancy in town centres.</li> </ul>	DCC, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, ETB, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, Chamber of Commerce	M
		7.8.2.	To tailor and target business support programmes in Development Centres in support of business growth and sustainability.	DCC, LYIT, ÚnaG, Local Development co's	M

## Goal 7- To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		7.8.3.	To examine opportunities and potential for the identification and development of enterprise networks within and/ or between Development Centres.	DCC, ÚnaG, Local Development co's, business communities	M
		7.8.4.	To continue to support, promote and implement Bundoran as a Tourism Development Centre and harness the particular potential of its marine and coastal location.	DCC, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	M
		7.8.5.	To promote and support Donegal Town as a Tourism Development Centre including promotion of a quality town centre; prioritisation of public realm and recreational infrastructure and regeneration in the context of the built and archaeological heritage.	DCC, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, Heritage Forum, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's,	M
		7.8.6.	To promote and implement Killybegs as a Development Centre and Innovation Centre and to support and implement the Killybegs Jobs Initiative.	LYIT, BIM, DCC, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	M
		7.8.7.	To promote and implement Ballyshannon as a Tourism Development Centre emphasizing regeneration and strengthening of the town centre and to unlock the potential of the built and cultural heritage of the town	DCC, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, Heritage Forum, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	M
		7.8.8.	To promote and implement Ballybofey- Stranorlar as a Development Centre including as a Sporting Centre of Excellence and as a tourism and retail hub.	DCC, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's, Donegal Sports Partnership, Coillte, BASICC, IFI, Loughs Agency	M
		7.8.9.	To promote Carndonagh as a Tourism and enterprise Development Centre in partnership with Buncrana.	DCC, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's,	M
		7.8.10.	To promote Buncrana as a Tourism and enterprise Development Centre in partnership with Carndonagh and to unlock the full potential of the architectural heritage.	DCC, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's,	M



## Goal 7- To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		7.8.11.	To promote and implement Gaoth Dobhair as a Development Centre with particular emphasis on opportunities at Páirc Gnó Gaoth Dobhair.	LYIT, ÚnaG, DCC, communities, relevant agencies, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's, Ealaín Na Gaeltacht	M
7.9.	To unlock the potential of the built and cultural heritage of County Donegal.	7.9.1.	To support the implementation of the County Donegal Heritage Plan	DCC, Heritage Forum	S- M
		7.9.2.	To conserve and facilitate the appropriate development of heritage in support of tourism activity.	DCC, Heritage Forum, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations	S- M
		7.9.3.	To develop and implement action plans to realise the tourism potential of the County's Heritage towns and Historic Towns.	DCC, Heritage Forum, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations	S- M
		7.9.4.	To protect and promote the archaeological heritage of the County's Historic Towns.	DCC, Heritage Forum,	S
		7.9.5.	To enhance sense of place and character in towns so as to improve townscape quality including built heritage, landscaping, streetscape, public space, shared spaces and interpretation so as to 'create places' as destinations to live, work and visit.	DCC, communities, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S- M
		7.9.6.	To develop programmes to unlock the tourism potential of our built heritage through the regeneration and reuse of historic buildings to house and host tourist attractions and experiences	LYIT, ÚnaG, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's, DCC, Heritage Forum	S- M
		7.9.7.	To engage the Donegal Diaspora Heritage and harness it's potential to leverage economic benefit.	DCC, Diaspora Project-DCC, Local Development Co's, Donegal Tourism, FI DLDC	S- M- L
		7.9.8.	To enable skilled employment opportunities through the development of training programmes in traditional crafts, building skills and conservation and through the development of the cultural sector and cultural heritage attractions.	ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, ETB, LYIT	M
		7.9.9.	To add to the County's visiting experience through the development of cultural heritage attractions.	Partner: DLDC, Údarás na Gaeltachta	S- M
		7.9.10.	To develop and support appropriate cultural, arts, heritage and craft networks within the tourism sector.	LYIT, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, local tourism organisations, Donegal	S

## Goal 7- To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
				Tourism, DCC, FI, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Creative Entrepreneurs	
		7.9.11.	To examine the potential for the identification and promotion of Spiritual trails in County Donegal.	DCC, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's	S- M
7.10.	To sustain and promote the Irish language, harnessing its economic potential across the county.	7.10.1.	To promote and encourage the use of the Irish Language throughout the County as a linguistic and cultural asset adding to the tourism experience through the preparation and implementation of a County Language Plan.	Irish Language Steering Group under the LCDC, ÚnaG, Roinn na Gaeltachta, Gaeltacht community organisations, DCC	M
		7.10.2.	To support and promote the use of the Irish language in existing and emerging enterprises throughout the County through a campaign to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Support the provision of services to customers who wish to use Irish in their socio- economic activity and/ or</li> <li>b) As the language of communication among the employees of the enterprise</li> </ul>	Irish Language Steering Group under the LCDC, ÚnaG, Roinn na Gaeltachta, Gaeltacht community organisations, DCC	M
		7.10.3.	To collaboratively implement the priority actions of the forthcoming 'Report of the Enterprise & Employment Forum' established by Údarás na Gaeltachta.	ÚnaG, , DCC, ETB, private companies, Ealaín na Gaeltacht	S- M
		7.10.4.	To facilitate and/ or lobby for the provision of essential infrastructure in order to expand the enterprise capacity of the Gaeltacht.	ÚnaG	S- M
		7.10.5.	To support programmes to enhance innovation and competitiveness through the development of enterprise and natural resources within the Donegal Gaeltacht.	ÚnaG	M
		7.10.6.	To prioritize the development of knowledge- based international tradable service companies and high ability indigenous business in the Donegal Gaeltacht.	ÚnaG	M
		7.10.7.	To stimulate the development of tourism as a driver of economic development in the Gaeltacht.	ÚnaG, DCC, Ealaín na Gaeltacht	S- M
		7.10.8.	To develop the employment potential of the natural and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht together with the promotion of creative and cultural enterprise.	ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, DCC	M
		7.10.9.	To support Donegal's Irish Colleges to enhance digital marketing and online promotion.	ÚnaG, Irish Colleges, LYIT, ERNACT	S

## Goal 7- To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
7.11.	To develop the Donegal Diaspora as a global community in marketing and promoting Donegal on a global basis	7.11.1.	To reach out to the broad Irish Diaspora in all parts of the world, in order to establish collaborations that will be of mutual benefit economically, politically, culturally and in the field of education through continued work of the Donegal Diaspora project and its initiatives.	DCC, Diaspora Project- DCC, Connect Ireland, FI ÚnaG	S-M- L
		7.11.2.	To support the development of a Diaspora Centre in conjunction with the development of cultural heritage resources in the county.	<b>Diaspora Project - DCC</b> , FI, Donegal Tourism, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	M
		7.11.3.	To actively engage with and support the roll out a collaborative community partnership programme to create jobs through connections with Irelands Global Diaspora.	Connect Ireland, all agencies, business and community organisations	S- M- L
7.12.	To support sustainable farming, fishing and aquaculture in County Donegal.	7.12.1.	To continue to support the farming and fishing sectors as regards new start-ups, innovation, sustainability, driving entrepreneurship, growing existing businesses.	ÚnaG, DCC, Local Development Co's, BIM, Teagasc	S- M
		7.12.2.	To encourage and facilitate the establishment of new food opportunities in County Donegal, in particular the production of distinctive quality food produce and products, artisan foods and added-value food manufacturing businesses, which will add to the food culture with the County.	DCC, LYIT, ÚnaG, Teagasc, Local Development Co's, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M
		7.12.3.	To add to sustainability of farming communities by building capacity in the use of digital technology to enable efficiency and sustainability in management and practices	ÚnaG, Teagasc, BIM; IFA, farming organisations, Co-ops, Local Development Co's	M
		7.12.4.	To develop sustainable farming communities by maximising the benefits of renewable energy.	ÚnaG, SEAI, Local Development Co's	M
		7.12.5.	To offer training supports for farm and fishing families.	Teagasc, ÚnaG, BIM; IFA, Farming org, Co-ops, Local Development Co's	M
		7.12.6.	To collaborate with relevant agencies to carry out research in agriculture and food to undertake innovative activities and develop programmes for transfer and implementation of knowledge and findings locally	Teagasc, BIM, IFA, Farming org, Co-ops, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	M
		7.12.7.	To carry out research and development in relation to the aquaculture industry including development of a satellite centre for marine aquaculture	Teagasc, BIM, IFI, Loughs Agency	M- L
		7.12.8.	To explore and pilot opportunities for agricultural tourism to add to sustainability in the farming sector.	ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, DCC	M

## Goal 7- To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
7.13.	To promote Donegal as a world class centre for Research, Development and Innovation	7.13.1.	To develop hi- tech centres of excellence & partnerships within the learning, research and innovation sector including International partnerships so as to foster projects for North West based industries.	LYIT, ÚnaG, DCC, ETB, Industry partners, cross border and international partners, Local Development Co's	M
		7.13.2.	To continue to explore and develop enterprise initiatives on a cross border basis.	LYIT, DCC Local Development Co's, cross border partners, ÚnaG,	S- M
		7.13.3.	To promote and assist world class research and innovation in the North West region.	LYIT, ÚnaG, DCC, industry partners, cross border partners, Local Development Co's	M
		7.13.4.	To expand Foreign Direct Investment, enabling existing and new companies to consolidate and further expand their operations and grow employment.	IDA, LYIT, ÚnaG, DCC, Local Development Co's	M
7.14.	To develop and grow the clean technology sector in County Donegal.	7.14.1.	To pursue opportunities to establish a pilot SMART Rural Community in the County where the integration of renewable energy provides environmental benefits and is the basis for increasing economic competitiveness and sustainability	LYIT, DCC, Ren Net, SEAI, DCENR, Local Development Co's	M
		7.14.2.	To promote Killybegs as an Innovation Hub inclusive of projects to realise economic activity from renewable energy resources.	LYIT, DCC, BIM	S- M
		7.14.3.	To encourage and support the development of test- beds/ facilities for demonstration and commercialization purposes, that promote County Donegal as a test- bed for renewable energy technologies, particularly in relation to wave and tidal energy technology.	DCC, ÚnaG, industry partners	M
		7.14.4.	To identify and pursue infrastructural requirements that shall enable the sustainable harnessing of the renewable energy potential of the region to be realised	Eirgrid, DCC, ÚnaG	M
		7.14.5.	To support coastal communities to diversify and replace income by maximizing the benefits of renewable energy.	ÚnaG, DCC, BIM, Fishing communities, SEAI, Local Development Co's	M
		7.14.6.	To promote enterprise opportunities in implementing energy upgrades to homes by raising awareness of funding programmes available and therefore assisting in realising the maximum uptake.	DCC, Ren Net, LYIT, ÚnaG	S- M
		7.14.7.	To examine procurement processes in order to consider options to expand a register for quotations to include clean technology such as renewable and sustainable heating, renewable and sustainable lighting.	DCC, LYIT, ÚnaG,	M

## Goal 7- To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		7.14.8.	To explore the opportunity to develop a 'procure green' strategy to allow for alternative products and systems in relation to renewable and sustainable technologies be promoted in procurement proposals.	DCC, Ren Net, LYIT	M
7.15.	To promote and develop Killybegs as a Marine Resources hub and as an Innovation Centre for Marine Resources including Food, Tourism and Ocean Energy	7.15.1.	To prepare and implement an action plan in respect of Killybegs as a Development Centre and Innovation Hub for Marine Resources, Food and Tourism.	LYIT, DCC, BIM	M
		7.15.2.	To support the promotion and development of the marine resource in Killybegs through the continued sustainable development of Killybegs harbour.	Killybegs Harbour Centre, DCC, LYIT, BIM, fishing communities	S- M
		7.15.3.	To pilot a community led approach to the deployment of smart energy initiatives in the Killybegs area involving elements such as; the use of IT for town-wide carbon-footprint monitoring, management and visualization; implementation of public awareness campaigns and; examination of the potential for deployment of a pilot smart grid initiative.	Communities, public sector, private companies, LYIT	M
		7.15.4.	To provide supports to existing businesses in Killybegs to enable them maximise existing and new business opportunities	DCC, BIM, EI	M
		7.15.5.	To support and implement the Killybegs Jobs Initiative.	DCC, BIM, Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation, LYIT, DAFM	S- M- L
		7.15.6.	To promote and support the further development of Killybegs as a regional cross border destination for cruise liners.	DCC, Killybegs Harbour Centre, local tourism organisations, Local Development Co's	S- M
		7.16.	To identify and harness the economic potential of Donegal's marine resource across all parts of the sector.	7.16.1.	To further research and explore the opportunities presented to add value to natural Donegal seaweed in a variety of sectors such as food and beauty
7.16.2.	To pursue the sustainable development of the marine and fishing resource including examination of potential for clusters within key areas of the sectors, so as to achieve the full potential of the sector.			ÚnaG, BIM, fishing communities, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M
7.16.3.	To explore the potential and feasibility of establishing a Marine-Eco Centre in County Donegal.			DCC, IFI, Loughs Agency	M
7.16.4.	To support new business development in the area of marine tourism and heritage such as Seaweed Safari, Coast Watch and Marine Eco Tourism and marine history.			ÚnaG, DCC, tourism trade, Local Development Co's, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M

## Goal 7- To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		7.16.5.	To continue to develop integrated national and international networks of sailing routes building on programmes such as Sail West, Cool Routes and Malin Waters.	DCC, Donegal Tourism, FI, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M
		7.16.6.	To fully develop and market networks of marine heritage sector attractions and harness economic opportunities arising from traditional boat building and traditional boating activities in particular including linkages with food innovation/ restaurants.	BIM, ÚnaG, Donegal Tourism, FI, local tourism organisations, Food Coast, Loughs Agency, Inland Fisheries Ireland	S- M
		7.16.7.	To support the development of fish and shellfish innovation and artisan processing.	LYIT, ÚnaG, IFI, Loughs Agency	S- M
		7.16.8.	To test new markets and to promote fish and shellfish innovation and artisan processing through seafood cookery schools/ festival type events.	DCC, ÚnaG, LYIT, IFI, Loughs Agency	M
		7.16.9.	To develop, position and market Donegal as the premier location for marine and extreme coastal sports and outdoor pursuits in Ireland	Donegal Tourism, DCC, FI, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, IFI, Loughs Agency	M
7.17.	To create the right conditions and provide support for Creative Entrepreneurship in County Donegal.	7.17.1.	To establish a dedicated delivery mechanism to implement the Strategic Action Plan for Creative Entrepreneurship in County Donegal.	DCC, Creative sector, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, LYIT	S- M
		7.17.2.	To audit and map the creative sectors already operating in the county.	DCC, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Creative sector, LYIT	S- M
		7.17.3.	To tailor existing business supports to Creatives.	DCC, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Creative sector, Local Development Co's	S- M
		7.17.4.	To establish a Creative Network to inform, connect and broker creative sector development and deliver enabling workshops.	DCC, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Creative sector, LYIT	S- M
		7.17.5.	To establish a Donegal cross- sector innovation voucher to test opportunity for niche sectors	DCC, ÚnaG, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, EI, Creative sector, LYIT	S- M
		7.17.6.	To enhance Creative Sector skills through the inclusion of creative mentors in the existing Accelerate Programme.	DCC, ÚnaG, EI, Creative sector, LYIT, Ealaín na Gaeltachta,	S- M
		7.17.7.	To develop a Creative cluster project of scale and long term impact.	DCC, ÚnaG, Creative sector, LYIT, Ealaín na Gaeltachta,	S- M
		7.17.8.	To develop a Donegal Brand of Provenance for creative goods and services	DCC, ÚnaG, Creative sector, LYIT, Ealaín na Gaeltachta,	S- M

## Goal 7- To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		7.17.9.	To realise the development of a 'Content Hub' to delivery multi-disciplinary creative space to provide flexible workspaces, a public interface and a hub for Donegal's Creative sector.	DCC, ÚnaG, Creative sector, LYIT, Ealaín na Gaeltachta,	S- M
		7.17.10.	To examine opportunities to develop niche skills schools/ academy distinctive to Donegal.	DCC, ÚnaG, Creative sector, LYIT, Ealaín na Gaeltachta,	S- M
		7.17.11.	To celebrate and promote the rich and diverse creative sector in the County	DCC, Donegal Tourism, Diaspora Project- DCC, Tourism trade, local tourism organisations	S- M
7.18.	To fully develop and advance all opportunities with regard to Donegal's Digital economy	7.18.1.	To contribute to sustainability in business by developing Business Models to stimulate and facilitate the incorporation of digital technologies by traditional companies.	DCC, EI, ERNACT, Local Development Co's, ÚnaG	S
		7.18.2.	To identify potential start up and joint research projects by integrating the services of the North West Technology Park at CoLab and the outputs of the Digital Action Plan for Donegal.	LYIT, EI, IDA, DCC, ÚnaG, ERNACT	S
		7.18.3.	To undertake a research study to document and present the digital- related research being carried out in LYIT and to establish potential pathway and benefit for further research, start-ups or by existing companies.	DCC, ERNACT, EI	S
		7.18.4.	To enable local businesses by establishing a collaborative ecosystem around digital technologies delivered through a network of Local Digital Hubs.	DCC, ERNACT, EI, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's,	S
		7.18.5.	To carry out a feasibility study to assess the potential of Donegal as a location of Data Centres establishment.	ERNACT, Existing tech companies , ÚnaG	S
		7.18.6.	To establish a programme to raise awareness of, and assess demand for, the high level digital research resources available at European level to organisations (3 <sup>rd</sup> level, digital companies and public sector) in the County.	ERNACT, LYIT, existing tech companies, IDA, EI, ÚnaG	S
		7.18.7.	To pilot a community led approach to the deployment of smart energy initiatives in the Killybegs area	DCC, LYIT, EENACT	M
		7.18.8.	To investigate and advance as a matter of priority, all opportunities to ensure a high speed, resilient broadband network throughout the entire county, including the islands.	DCENR, DCC, ÚnaG, ERNACT, Local Development Co's	S- M
		7.18.9.	To establish a Digital Tech Observatory to research, monitor and assess High Speed solutions for the County and to promote ICT take up.	ERNACT, DCC, DCENR, LYIT, EI, IDA	S- M

## Goal 7- To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
7.19.	To promote research, assist enterprise and create jobs in the food sector in Co. Donegal.	7.19.1.	To continue to deliver the Donegal Food Strategy and all its integral elements in conjunction with the food business community in the county.	Food Coast, EI, LYIT, Food sector, DCC, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S- M
		7.19.2.	To develop transnational linkages to access best practices and pursue opportunities for collaborative actions.	DCC	S- M
		7.19.3.	To continue to promote the Food Coast Brand and make Donegal Famous for Food.	DCC, Food Coast, ÚnaG, FI, Donegal Tourism	S- M
		7.19.4.	To explore opportunities to develop an identity around Food providers and productions unique to the Donegal Islands	DCC, ÚnaG, Comhar na nOilean, food sector	S- M
		7.19.5.	To review need and supply of food incubator space and determine requirement for additional food grade space.	DCC, EI, ÚnaG	S- M
		7.19.6.	To maximize sustainability in the food and drink sector through direct integration with tourism strategies and networks.	DCC, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S- M
		7.19.7.	To maximize sustainability of craft brewery and micro distillery projects by collaborating with tourism providers in providing tourism trails and adding to the County's tourism product.	DCC, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, craft brewery sector	S- M
		7.19.8.	To prepare and implement an action plan in respect of Killybegs as a Development Centre and Innovation Centre for Marine Resources, Food and Tourism	BIM, DCC, LYIT	S- M
		7.19.9.	To promote artisan foods, innovation, artisan processing and quality of local produce through events and experience programmes including Food Festivals, Cookery schools and Farmers Green Show as examples.	DCC, ÚnaG, Food sector, farming sector, local tourism organisation, community organisations, Local Development Co's	S- M
7.20.	To develop sustainable social enterprise to tackle economic and social challenges.	7.20.1.	To provide services of benefit to rural communities through participation in the Rural Social Scheme	DSP, Pobail, ÚnaG, local community organisations, Local Development Co's	M
		7.20.2.	To develop and promote a model of social enterprise based on market needs and sustainability	ÚnaG, DCC	S
		7.20.3.	To support community enterprise infrastructure to ensure balanced development in the county and to enable cross border opportunities.	ÚnaG, Local Development Co's, DCC, EI, cross border partners	M
		7.20.4.	To support animation and capacity building within the community sector to enable them to engage in enterprise.	Local Development Co's,-ÚnaG,	M



## Goal 7- To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
		7.20.5.	To identify potential social entrepreneurs and provide support and collaboration in the development of sustainable social enterprise projects through the Donegal County Council Local Enterprise Office and through Social Enterprise Ireland.	DCC, Community Enterprise Fund Company, ÚnaG, Community organisations	M
7.21.	To collaborate to provide connectivity within and to the County to enable economic development.	7.21.1.	To enable Countywide economic development through the establishment of a Digital Tech Observatory to research, monitor and assess High Speed solutions for County Donegal	<b>ERNACT</b> , DCC, DCENR, LYIT, EI, IDA	
		7.21.2.	To investigate and advance as a matter of priority, all opportunities to ensure a high speed, resilient broadband network throughout the entire county, including the islands.	<b>DCENR</b> , DCC, ÚnaG, ERNACT, Local Development Co's	S- M
		7.21.3.	To promote and maximise the economic potential of Project Kelvin and the MANs as a driver of entrepreneurship, investment and enterprise.	<b>DCC</b> , ERNACT, Hibernian Networks, ÚnaG, Local Development Co's	S- M
7.22.	To collaborate to realise the delivery of necessary strategic infrastructure investment e.g. road access, air access in the North West region to support economic growth.	7.22.1.	To work in partnership with stakeholders to improve access of people and goods, into and out of the North West region by air, road, sea and rail.	DCC, DCENR, ÚnaG, all other relevant agencies/ groups, cross border partners	S- M
		7.22.2.	To support air access to the North West region through Donegal Airport, City of Derry Airport and Knock airport and to improve strategic transportation links to and from these international transport hubs.	DCC, ÚnaG, all other relevant agencies/ groups, cross border partners	S- M
		7.22.3.	To promote and support the delivery of strategic roads infrastructure including the A5 and A6 road upgrades to improve access to the North West region.	DCC, DCENR, all other relevant agencies/ groups, cross border partners	S- M
		7.22.4.	To promote and support the delivery of strategic roads infrastructure within the County including the N13, N14, N15, N56 and the Letterkenny outer relief road.	DCC, NRA, all other relevant agencies/ groups	S- M
7.23.	To develop and facilitate access to a skilled workforce to enable economic growth.	7.23.1.	To develop the Donegal Global Skills Locator Application that matches employment opportunities to those persons with relevant skills via the Donegal Diaspora network	DCC, Diaspora- DCC, ÚnaG, LYIT, ETB	S
		7.23.2.	To engage with industry of all sizes to develop new education and training courses which are more relevant to the skills' needs of enterprise at local, regional and national levels.	ETB, LYIT, ÚnaG, EI, Industry partners	S

## Goal 7- To Promote Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise

Ref	Objective	Action Ref	Action	Implementing Partners	Short or medium term action
7.24.	To implement the Governments Corporate Responsibility Plan to ensure Donegal is a good place to visit or do business.	7.24.1.	To develop training programmes in Corporate Social Responsibility tailored to sectoral needs using established and planned sectoral networks to deliver programmes.	ÚnaG, DCC Tourism Trade	M
		7.24.2.	To share and promote best practice and success stories through the Donegal Portal, the Donegal Diaspora project and through existing and planned sectoral networks.	ÚnaG, DCC, Donegal Tourism, Diaspora Project- DCC, Food Coast, FI, local tourism organisations	S

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## Glossary

CDP	County Development Plan 2012- 2018 (as varied)
CHF	Community Health Forum
CIF	Construction Industry Federation
COGG	An Chomhairle um Oideachais Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta
DAHG	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
DCENR	Department of Community, Energy and Natural Resources
DCIL	Donegal Centre for Independent Living
DITG	Donegal Interagency Traveller Project
DSP	Department of Social Protection
DTP	Donegal Traveller Project
DWN	Donegal Women's Network
DYS	Donegal Youth Service
EI	Enterprise Ireland
ETB	Education and Training Board
FI	Failte Ireland
GMIT	Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology
HSE	Health Service Executive
ICMSA	Irish Creamery Milk Supplier Association
IDA Ireland	Industrial Development Agency, Ireland
IFA	Industry Federation of Ireland
IFI	Inland Fisheries Ireland
IGBC	Irish Green Building Council
IT Sligo	Institute of Technology, Sligo
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LEO	Local Enterprise Office
LYIT	Letterkenny Institute of Technology
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NWRC	North West Regional College
RDTF	Regional Development Task Force
RPG's	Regional Planning Guidelines
SCP	School Completion Programme
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
SFI	Science Foundation of Ireland
SIM	Social Inclusion Measures Group
SITT	Seirbhís Iompair Tuaithe Teo
SPC CCDP	Strategic Planning Committee for Community, Culture and Development Planning
TIG	Travellers Interagency Group
UnaG	Udaras na Gaeltachta
WDC	Western Development Commission

# **Donegal Local Economic & Community Plan**

## **Appendix 1 The Profile of the County**

DRAFT

## Table of Contents

### Chapter 1 Donegal, A Unique Place & Connected Place

- 1.0 Defining Donegal - The Gateway, The Islands, The Gaeltacht
- 1.1 Donegal's Functional Area /Cross Border Context
- 1.2 Accessing Services in the Donegal Context
  - 1.2.1 Settlement Patterns
  - 1.2.2 Connecting Donegal Physically & Digitally
- 1.3 The Strategic Transport network
  - 1.3.1 Transport Infrastructure
  - 1.3.2 Modes of Transport
- 1.4 Area Needs Analysis: Sustainable Digital and Physical Connections

### Chapter 2 Repowering Our Towns

- 2.0 Spatial Trends
- 2.1 Urban Vitality
  - 2.1.1 Population Trends
  - 2.1.2 Vacancy and Dereliction
  - 2.1.3 Population Targets
- 2.2 The People of the Towns
  - 2.2.1 Demographics
  - 2.2.2 Employment and Economic Activity
  - 2.2.3 Education Training and Skills
- 2.3 Area Needs Analysis: Driving Economic Recovery Through Towns

### Chapter 3 Delivering Socially Inclusive Services

- 3.0 Examining Deprivation in Donegal
- 3.1 Hard to Reach Communities
  - 3.1.1 Rural Dwellers
  - 3.1.2 Gaeltacht communities
  - 3.1.3 Coastal & Island Communities
- 3.2 Vulnerable Rural Groups
  - 3.2.1 Youth
  - 3.2.2 Elderly
- 3.3 Sustainable Community Services
  - 3.3.1 Community Centres

- 3.4 Sustainable Homes
  - 3.4.1 Housing Age
  - 3.4.2 Housing Ownership
  - 3.4.3 Household Composition
  - 3.4.4 Essential Housing Services
- 3.5 Sustainable Employment Creation
  - 3.5.1 Employment Opportunities
  - 3.5.2 Employment Trends
- 3.6 Skills and Human Resource Development
  - 3.6.1 Educational Infrastructure
  - 3.6.2 Education Attainment Levels
- 3.7 Area Needs Analysis: Increasing Social Inclusivity & Sustainability in Rural Communities

## **Chapter 4 Protecting and Harnessing Our Rural Environment**

- 4.0 A Wild and Varied Biosphere
- 4.1 Environmental Assets
  - 4.1.1 Natura Sites
  - 4.1.2 Natural Heritage Areas and Other Wildlife Reserves
  - 4.1.3 Geology & Landscape
- 4.2 Our Water Resource
  - 4.2.1 Waterbody Quality
  - 4.2.2 Supply of Drinking Water
  - 4.2.3 Quality of Drinking Water
  - 4.2.4 Water Usage & Unaccounted for Water
  - 4.2.5 Wastewater Network
- 4.3 Renewable Energy Resources  
Wind, Wave, Biomass & Bio-Crops, Fossil Fuel
- 4.4 Area Needs Analysis: Protecting and Harnessing our Natural Heritage and Water Resources

## **Chapter 5 Donegal's Primary Sectors**

- 5.0 Developing a Vibrant Local Food Economy
- 5.1 A Picture of Agriculture in Donegal
  - 5.1.1 Agricultural Trends
  - 5.1.2 Agricultural Produce & Markets
- 5.2 Forestry
  - 5.2.1 Forestry Ownership
  - 5.2.2 Species Composition

- 5.2.3 Forestry Planting
- 5.2.4 Forestry Owner Groups
- 5.3 Seafood Sector
  - 5.3.1 Fishing Ports
  - 5.3.2 Fish Farming
  - 5.3.3 Sea Fish Processing
  - 5.3.4 Marketing
  - 5.3.5 Donegal Fishing Communities
  - 5.3.6 Research, Development & Training in the Marine Sector
- 5.4 Area Needs Analysis: Developing the Primary Sectors in Donegal

## **Chapter 6 Unlocking or Cultural Resource**

- 6.0 Our Unique Cultural Offering
- 6.1 Cultural Infrastructure & Our Diaspora
- 6.2 Festivals & Film
- 6.3 Language
  - 6.3.1 The Age Composition of Irish Speakers
  - 6.3.2 Irish Speaking in Donegal
  - 6.3.3 Gaeltacht Service Towns
  - 6.3.4 New Languages
- 6.4 The Creative Sector
- 6.5 A Rich Built Heritage
  - 6.5.1 Architecture
  - 6.5.2 Archaeology and Shipwrecks
- 6.6 Area Needs Analysis: Conservation through Access & Promotion

## **Chapter 7 Capitalising on Our Rural Tourism Advantage**

- 7.0 Rising Tourism Numbers
- 7.1 Our Rural Tourism Assets
  - 7.1.1 Adventure & Activity Tourism
  - 7.1.2 Food Tourism
  - 7.1.3 Cultural Tourism
- 7.2 Tourism Infrastructure & Accommodation
  - 7.2.1 Essential Tourism Infrastructure
  - 7.2.2 Accommodation
- 7.3 Area Needs Analysis: Building on Our Strong Tourism Base

## Chapter 1: Donegal, A Unique & Connected Place

### 1.0 Defining Donegal

To appreciate Donegal's present socio economic picture, it is important to understand its evolution and a good starting point is by understanding its geography. County Donegal is located in the Border Region and is bounded on the southwest, west and north by the Atlantic Ocean<sup>1</sup> and on the east by Counties Derry, Tyrone, Fermanagh and Leitrim. County Donegal shares 93% of its entire land boundary with Northern Ireland and the remaining 7% (or 9km stretch) is with County Leitrim at its most southerly point. County Donegal is the fourth largest County in the State with a land mass of 4,861 sq kms or 6.9% of the total land area of the State. The landscape is varied and dramatic, comprising of mountains, valleys, and fertile plains with a deeply indented coastline forming natural sea loughs, bays, peninsulas and many islands both inhabited and uninhabited.

Donegal is the most northerly county in Ireland. Despite improvements and investment in transportation and communications in recent decades, this corner of Ireland has managed to retain much of its rich and unique cultural identity. How we speak, how we celebrate our traditions, how communities have carved out an existence in some of the most remote and inhospitable locations in Europe are all features of life in Donegal which are as relevant today as they were centuries ago. How we have defended our lands in the past, how we have influenced and have been influenced by new immigrants, such as Planters, the Celts, the coming of Christianity and how invaders such as the Vikings and the Normans have shaped our place and our way of life, how our coastal waters were used as important shipping routes, how we farmed, fished and travelled, have all left us with a unique legacy upon which we must build a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable community.

#### The Gateway

Letterkenny and Derry was designated as a joint Gateway in the National Spatial Strategy in 2002. Letterkenny is the largest urban centre in Donegal with a population of 19,588 having grown by 28% from 2002-2011. It is the 22nd largest town in the State<sup>2</sup> (197 towns in total) and is projected to grow to 23,000 by 2016 and 25,700 by 2022. The population of the Letterkenny Derry joint Gateway has increased from 105,894 to 113,099 persons from the period 2001/2002 to 2008/2011<sup>3</sup>.

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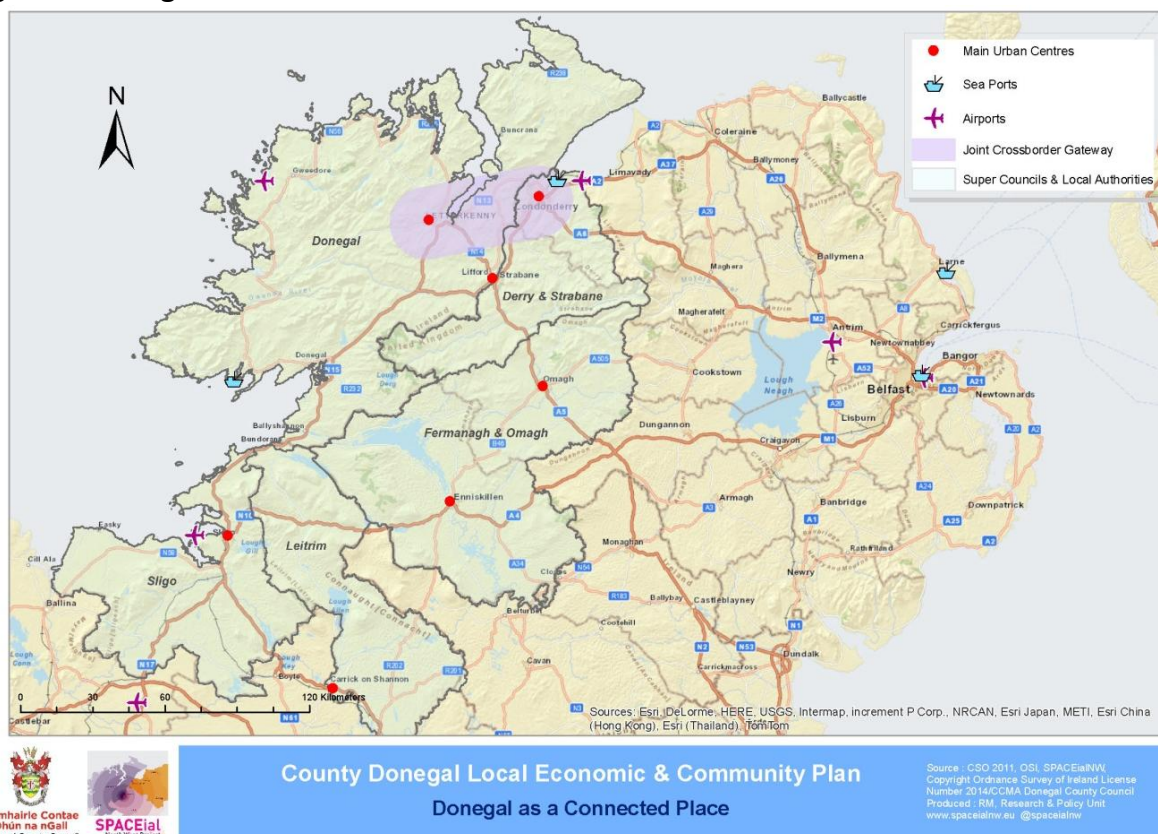
<sup>1</sup> Giving it the largest mainland coastline in the country @ 1,134km

<sup>2</sup> From a total of 197 towns, CSO 2011

<sup>3</sup> This includes the wider Derry Urban Area of Culmore, Strathfoyle and Newbuildings.



Figure 1: Donegal as a Connected Place



### The Islands

Donegal has 13 inhabited islands with a population of 796 persons in 2011. The islands of Donegal are a huge natural resource, with rich levels of biodiversity offering huge potential for eco tourism and other niche types of development

All of the above distinctive features have played a very important role in influencing the economic, social, cultural and political landscape of today's Donegal. This is an important first step in profiling the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the county and in the development of a Local Development Strategy that recognises this historical and geographical context.

### The Gaeltacht

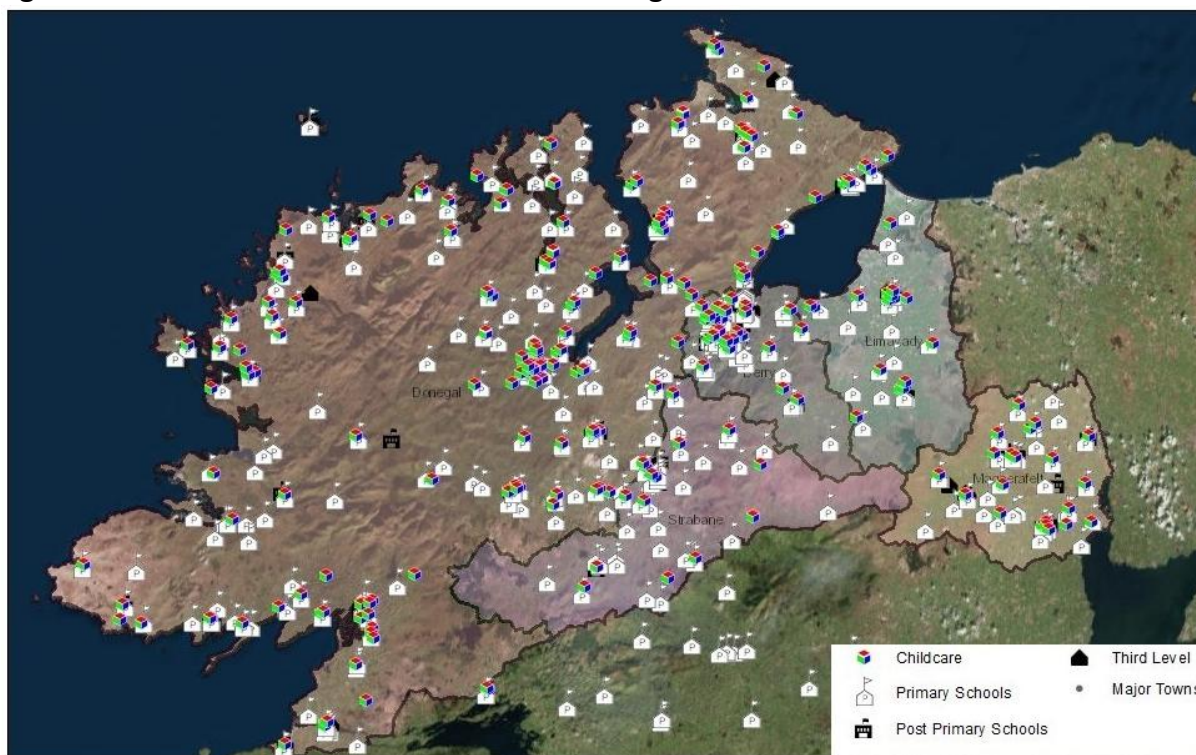
In Donegal, the Irish Language is a living language where 69% of the total population regards themselves as Irish Speakers. The Donegal Gaeltacht has a population of 24,744 and represents 24.5% of the total Gaeltacht population in the State<sup>4</sup>; In addition, the Donegal Gaeltacht encompasses a geographical area of 1,502km<sup>2</sup>. This represents 26% of total Gaeltacht land area.

<sup>4</sup> Census 2011

## 1.1 Donegal's Functional /Cross Border Area

How communities' access services can, in part, ignore administrative boundaries and this is particularly important given County Donegal's cross border context. Numerous linkages already exist in terms of accessing education, health, policing; fire services, work and retail, etc. Such cross border linkages must be taking into account when developing any strategy to enhance rural development, reduce poverty and tackle social exclusion.

**Figure 2: Educational Infrastructure in the NW Region**



County Donegal Economic & Community Plan  
Educational Infrastructure in NW Region

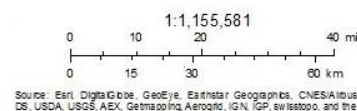
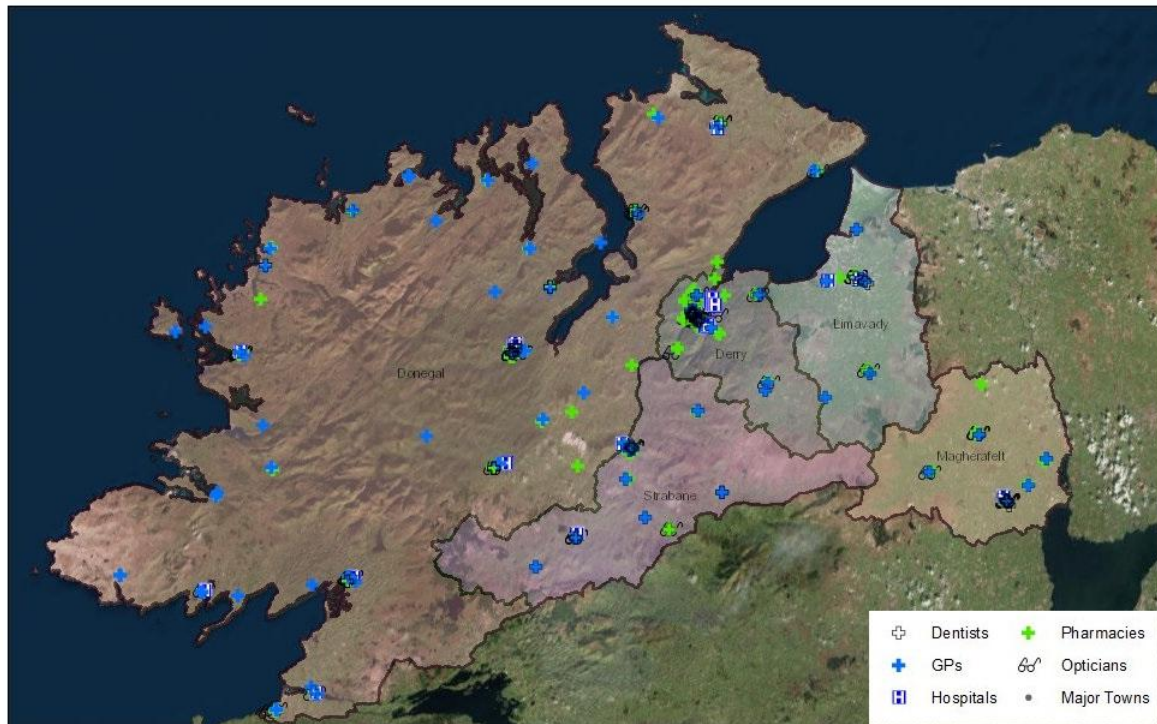


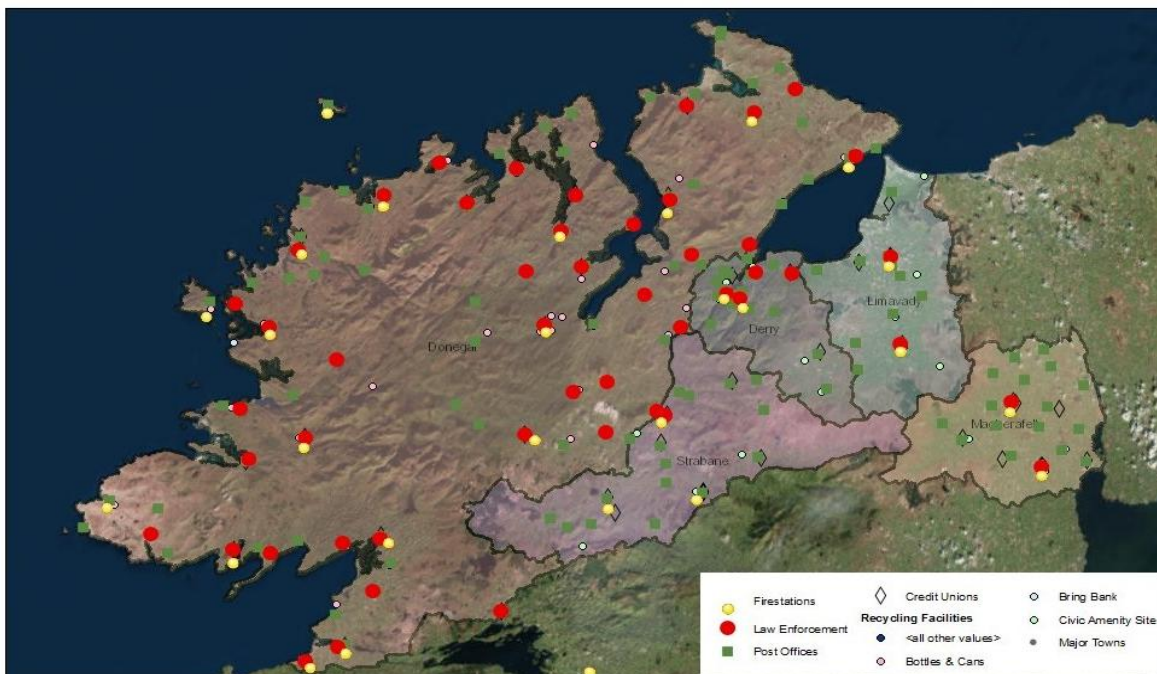
Figure 3: Health Infrastructure in the NW Region



County Donegal Economic & Community Plan  
Health Infrastructure in NW Region

1:1,155,581  
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0 15 30 60 km  
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the

Figure 4: Emergency and Financial Services in the NW Region



County Donegal Economic & Community Plan  
Emergency & Financial Services in NW Region

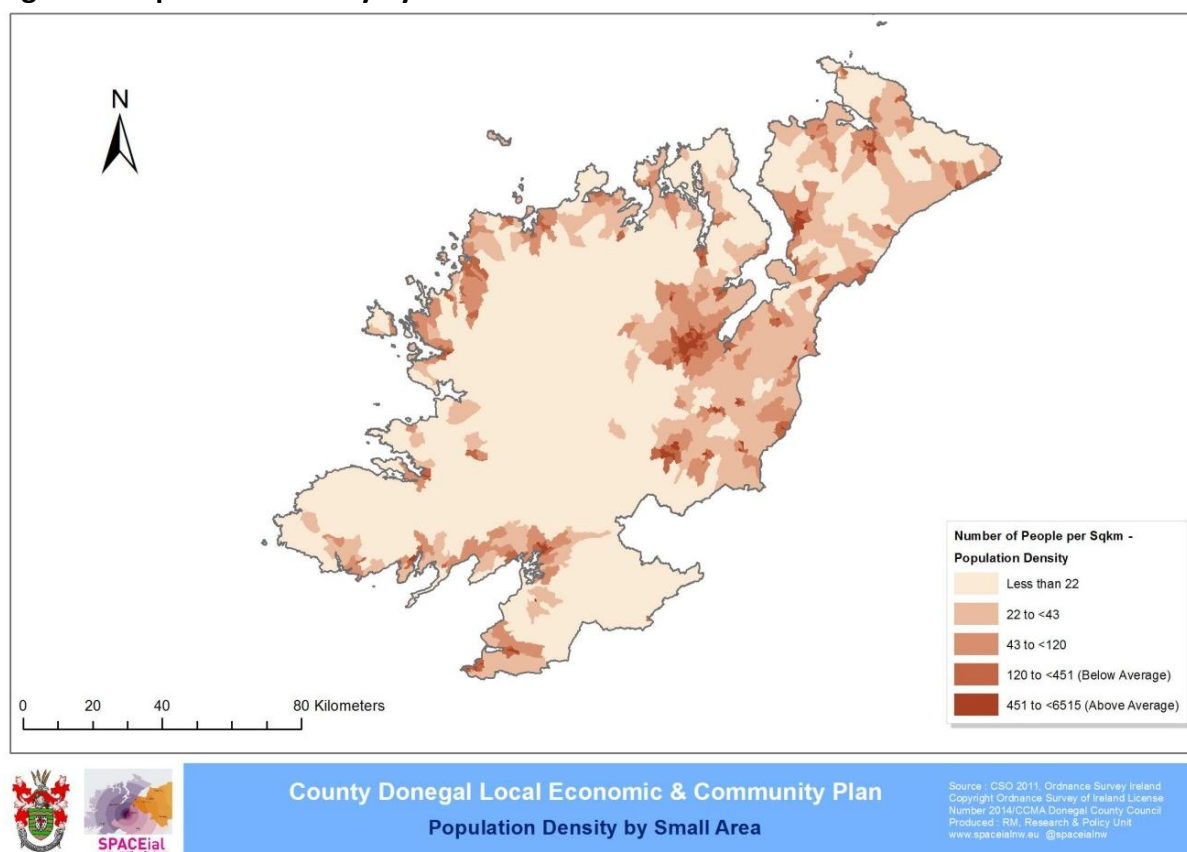
1:1,155,581  
0 10 20 40 mi  
0 15 30 60 km  
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the

## 1.2 Accessing Services in the Donegal context

### 1.2.1 Settlement Patterns

County Donegal is the fifth most rurally dispersed county in Ireland with 33.8 persons per sq km compared to a State average of 67 persons per sq km (See Table 1, Appendix 1). The county has a predominantly weak urban structure with a large number of small towns, with just 9 settlements falling into the aggregate urban area category of over 1,500 inhabitants.

**Figure 5: Population Density by Small Area**

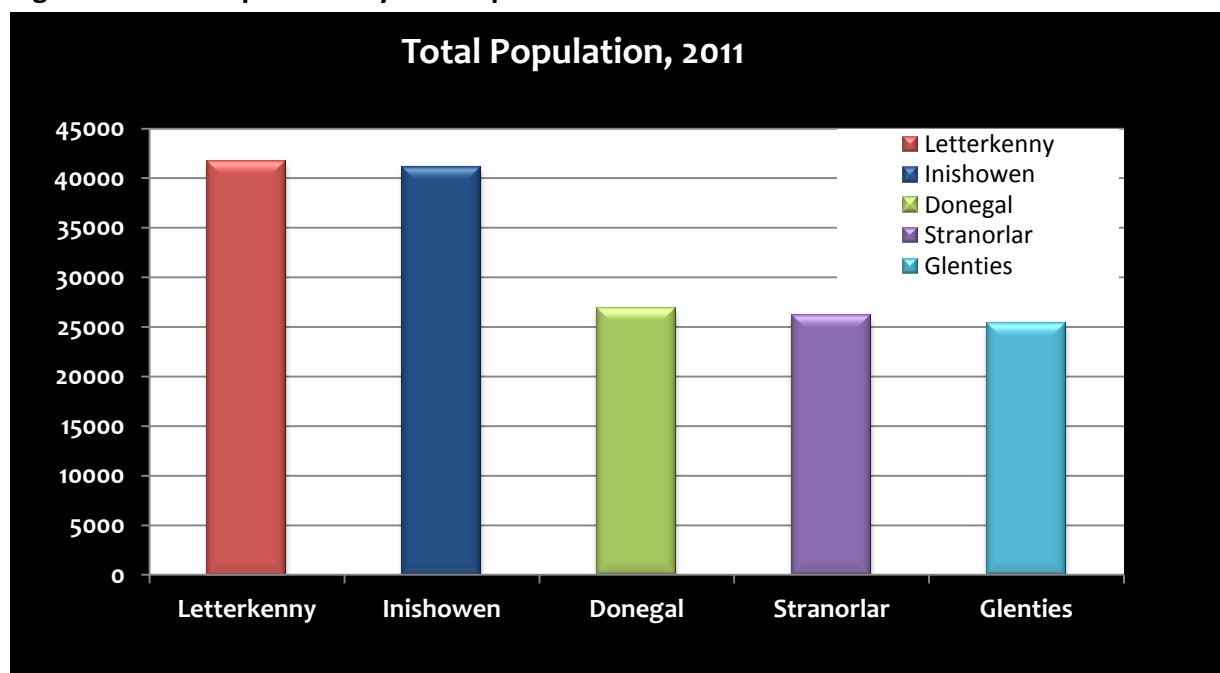


The above map, illustrates the population density within County Donegal, with darker shading reflecting denser areas. The density pattern reflects the east/west settlement size divide within the County, with the majority of the larger and medium size towns located to the north east with the smaller towns to the south west. Similarly, an examination of population change in the county over the period 2006 -2011, illustrates that above average growth has taken place along the Eastern Access and around the linked Gateway Area.

Donegal had a population of 161,137 persons in 2011, which is broken down into the 5 Municipal Districts (MD's). The population is almost evenly distributed between Letterkenny MD (41,697 persons or 25.9%) and Inishowen (MD 41,127 persons or 25.5%). In addition, the population share is similar between Donegal MD (26,863 persons or 16.7%) and Stranorlar MD (26,133 or 16.2%) while 15.7% reside in the Glenties MD (25,317 persons). Letterkenny, Inishowen and Stranorlar all have higher levels of their population

falling under 30 years of age at 44%, 43% and 42%, while Glenties and Donegal have higher percentages of their populations over 65 years at 19% and 15% respectively.

**Figure 6: Total Population by Municipal District 2011**



### 1.2.2 Connecting Communities Physically and Digitally

Given the County's size, its weak urban structure and low population density, accessing and providing services can be difficult. It is important that strategies take into account these challenges in developing efficient, sustainable and economically viable services. At the same time, it is important to examine creative and innovative methods to sustain rural services in Donegal.

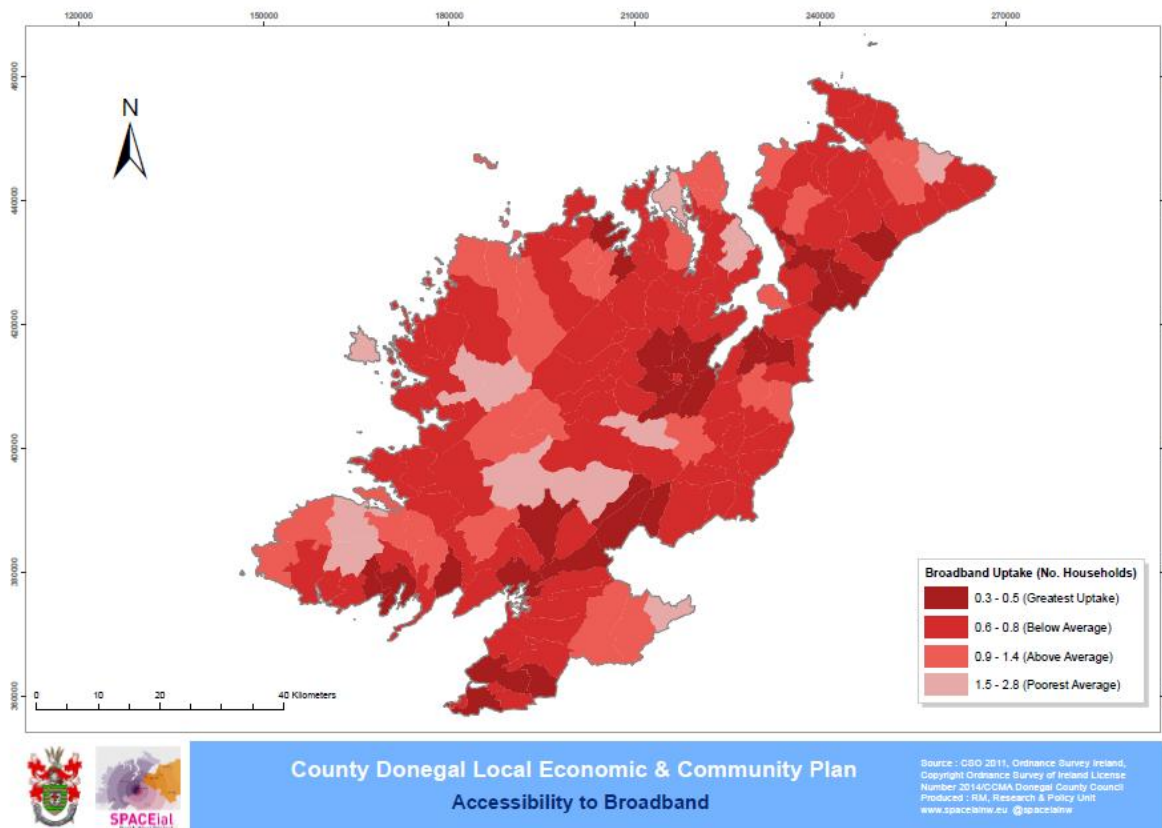
Connecting people to services can be done either physically or digitally, which requires the delivery of essential infrastructures such as a quality road network, bridges, bus services, high speed broadband, etc.

County Donegal is totally dependent on a road based transport system reflecting the small internal market and the dispersed settlement patterns. The road network is the artery for the Region's economy with 100% of goods and people being transported by road and road freight, therefore accessibility costs are among the highest in Western Europe. Opportunities exist to increase connectivity through improving access to transport and communications infrastructure.

In addition, the functionality of digital technologies provides an opportunity to counteract this, such as access to online shopping, online public services, research, e-learning, connecting with friends and families, etc. In order for online services to be accessible to all, a primary consideration is the availability of physical access (broadband connection, laptop etc) however, of equal importance is the individuals 'know-how' to have the competence to access it. The map below illustrates a generally higher uptake of broadband along the

eastern axis of the County and linked Gateway, notably areas with higher concentrations of populations under 15 years, while the western axis of the County has lower a lower uptake and a notably higher concentration of population over 65 years. This tends to illustrate the emergence of a digital divide between the uptake of broadband among younger and older segments of the population but also in a geographical context and between urban and rural areas within the county.

**Figure 7: Accessibility to Broadband**



### 1.3 The Strategic Transport Network

Ireland's economic growth depends on the ability of businesses to trade successfully in increasingly competitive global markets. The availability of competitively priced world-class infrastructure (eg; energy, telecom; transport – road, public transport, airport, seaports; waste and water) and related services is critical to support competitiveness. The availability of high quality industrial and commercial property and the upgrading of our key urban centres to make them attractive places to live and work are also vital to support economic growth and job creation.<sup>5</sup>

Significant investment has been made in infrastructure particularly in the road network over the last decade. The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) is undertaking a review of capital expenditure priorities for the period 2015-2019. It is important that

<sup>5</sup> Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Policy Statement on Foreign Direct Investment in Ireland, July 2014

Donegal and the North West region can deliver on the strategic infrastructural investment required to ensure the economic sustainability and competitiveness of the Derry Letterkenny Gateway.

A high quality transport network is crucial to sustaining growth across all areas of social, environmental and economic development. The Donegal Transportation Strategy recognises the fundamental importance of protecting, promoting and improving the network in attracting investment, developing the tourism industry, addressing climate change and in creating sustainable places and communities.

### 1.3.1 Transport Infrastructure

Donegal's strategic transport network comprises of Ports, Airports and Strategic Road Networks and key to this is its ability to connect with other national and international hubs and gateways.

#### Air & Ports

Donegal Airport and City of Derry Airport are of key strategic importance in the provision of international, national and regional access to/from County Donegal. Plans and policies must support, promote and facilitate the development of this key infrastructure.

#### Road Network

Donegal has a predominantly road based transport network, this is accentuated by limited availability/feasibility of alternative modes, the absence of rail infrastructure and by high levels of car ownership and car dependence in the County.

The Strategic Road Network as established in the Donegal County Development Plan 2012-2018 flows from and facilitates the Donegal Core Strategy, in that, it was developed to

- Promote the Letterkenny Derry Gateway and linkages with other National and International Gateways including; Dublin, Belfast, Sligo, as well as access to and through strategic ports and airports.
- Support the National Road Network, through promotion, development and protection policies
- Establish and improve strategic intra-county linkages between the Letterkenny Derry Gateway and Tier 2 and Tier 3 settlements to promote and improve efficient movement of persons and goods within and into the County to encourage investment, to grow tourism, to support agriculture and other indigenous enterprise.

#### Bus Service, Taxis and Hackneys

Bus and taxi services play a vital social role in rural communities, linking rural areas with settlements and essential services such as schools and healthcare. There are various types of bus and taxi transport serving the County:

- Bus Éireann expressway provides long-distance services, linking Donegal with Derry, Dublin, Sligo and Galway.
- Bus Éireann/Ulster Bus and private transport operators provide local commuter routes and services throughout the County.
- School bus services operated on behalf of the Department of Education and Science. Private coach and mini-bus services to Derry, Belfast, Galway, Dublin and Glasgow.

- Community bus routes operated under the Rural Transport Initiative (RTI).
- Private taxi services.
- Publicly funded taxi services, such as those operated under Health Service Executive (HSE).
- Rural hackneys are a vital element of the rural transport network. They provide transport services across rural communities particularly for those who do not have access to a motor car and those in more remote areas where bus services are limited or unavailable.

However, there are notable gaps in rural transport particularly in out of hours provision.

### 1.3.2 Modes of Transport

Of the 57,721 private households with the county, 45% (25,874) have one motor car, 32 % (18,569) have two cars, 5.4 % (3,132) have three cars and 1.8% (1,035) have four or more cars. 15.8% or 9,111 households in County Donegal did not have access to a motor car, according to the Census 2011. In relative terms, Donegal ranked in 11<sup>th</sup> position in terms of all local authorities that did not have access to a motor car in 2011, compared to 10<sup>th</sup> highest position in 2006. **(See Table 2; Appendix 1)**

The Census, 2011 illustrates a substantial increase from 2006 in those travelling to work, school or college by car in County Donegal. **(See Table 3(a, b, c & d); Appendix 1)**

#### Travelling to Work

The percentages travelling to work by *'Bus, Mini Bus or Coach'* have decreased from 1.8% in 2006 to 1.2% in 2011 in County Donegal. The comparable figure for the State in 2011 was 5.2%. Travel to work in Donegal using them more environmentally friendly methods or *'By Foot'* (6.7%) or *'By Bicycle'* (0.4%) has decreased since 2006 where the figures were 8.4% and 0.4% respectively. In addition, the comparable figures for the State in 2011 were 9.6% (*By Foot*) and 2.2% (*By Bicycle*)

#### Travelling to School

In 2011, 59.9% of children aged between 5 and 12 years travel to school as a *'Motor car passenger'* compared to 51.7% in 2006. The increase in car usage was accompanied by a drop in travel by *'Bus, Mini Bus or Coach'* from 32.3% in 2006 to 27.7% in 2011. There was also a decrease in travel to school by *'Foot or Bicycle'* dropping from 12.8% in 2006 to 10.3% in 2011. In 2011, 39.4% of children aged 13 – 18 years of age travel to school by *'Motor Car'* increasing substantially from 2006 where the corresponding figure was 29.4%. In 2011, 47.6% of students aged between 13 – 18 years travelled by *'Bus, Mini Bus or Coach'*; compared to 54.4% in 2006.

#### Travelling to College

There was also a drop in students aged 13 – 18 years using environmental modes of transport to school with 11.5% travelling *'On Foot 'or 'By Bicycle'* in 2011 compared to 14.2% in 2006. 50.4% of students at school or college aged 19 years and over travelled by motor car in 2011 compared to 43% in 2006. Those travelling *'By Foot'* or *'By Bicycle'* decreased from 27.7% in 2006 to 25.8 % in 2011. **(See Tables 3(a) – (c); Appendix 1).**



There is a significant shift away from sustainable modes of travel such as bus, cycling and walking to car based travel which needs to be addressed from an environmental and social inclusion perspective. Reasons for this change need to be identified in order to reverse this trend.

#### 1.4 Area Needs Analysis: Sustainable Digital and Physical Connections

The unique physical characteristics and colourful history of County Donegal have shaped the economic, social, cultural and political context of the present day. Increased digital and physical connectivity are required within the County to overcome the challenges of accessing services given Donegal's geographical context; for example its peripherality, size, rugged landscape, weak settlement structure, island life and an extensive Gaeltacht area. To offset the digital divide that is emerging in the Donegal context will require focused and innovative solutions by supporting initiatives that seek to build up the digital capacity of rural communities to be able to shop, communicate, pay bills, etc. online. Key aspects should focus around up skilling and knowledge transfer within the community, based around existing digital schools, taobh tire centres in libraries, digital hubs in community centres, etc. Furthermore it is necessary to examine creative and innovative proposals that increase the online presence of rural enterprises including the functionality to process online transactions.

To physically connect our rural populations, it is necessary to support and facilitate proposals that provide innovative transport solutions in rural, disadvantaged and border areas such as rural park and ride schemes, rural carpooling and car sharing schemes, and bus and taxi schemes in consultation with public, private and community organisations. In addition it is necessary to support initiatives that offset gaps in existing transport provisions especially at off-peak hours and on non-viable routes. Strong service towns which provide a high level of wide-ranging services is a key element in building a critical mass of consumers which in turn makes the delivery of more frequent and higher quality transportation services to and from such towns increasing viable.

Easily accessible streets and spaces make our towns more attractive place to live, work, visit and do business. By maintaining, creating and promoting high quality routes within and around our towns and villages, it can be as easy and attractive to walk and cycle as it is to travel by car. Projects and initiatives including small scale environmental improvements and works to public spaces should therefore have regard to how such proposals could improve the existing movement network by making them walk and cycle friendly, etc

When accessing a wide range of services in Donegal on the basis of the County's functional area and its geographical boundaries, it is necessary to examine strategies on an all island basis in developing physical and digital connections whilst working within well established cross border structures and partnerships.

## Chapter 2: Repowering Our Towns

### 2.0 Spatial Trends

Donegal is often described as a rural county; however, after Cork it has more towns and villages<sup>6</sup> than any county in Ireland. These 61 settlements range in size from just over 100 inhabitants to almost 20,000 persons and are vital in sustaining economic and social vitality and growth in the County. They provide a wide range of services and employment functions which both drive and are supported by their rural hinterlands. The towns have the potential to play a crucial role in regenerating economically stagnant areas of the County. Such physical regeneration will have far reaching cumulative benefits to not only the town catchments but to whole areas of the County.

**Table 1 (Appendix 2);** examines population distribution and growth in the County across 6 settlement sizes<sup>7</sup>. Broadly speaking the demographic nature of the County is defined by a number of distinct characteristics:

- 54% of the population live in the open countryside
- 12% of the population live in the Letterkenny Gateway
- 34% of the population live in 60 relatively small geographically dispersed settlements

### 2.1 Urban Vitality

#### 2.1.1 Population Trends

46% of Donegal's total population (or 73,466 persons) live in the 61 settlements scattered throughout the county while 54% (or 87,671 persons) live in the rural areas. Of the 61 towns there are 19 in the Inishowen Municipality,<sup>i</sup> 14 in Glenties Municipality, 12 in Donegal Municipality; 8 in Letterkenny Municipality and 8 in Stranorlar Municipality.

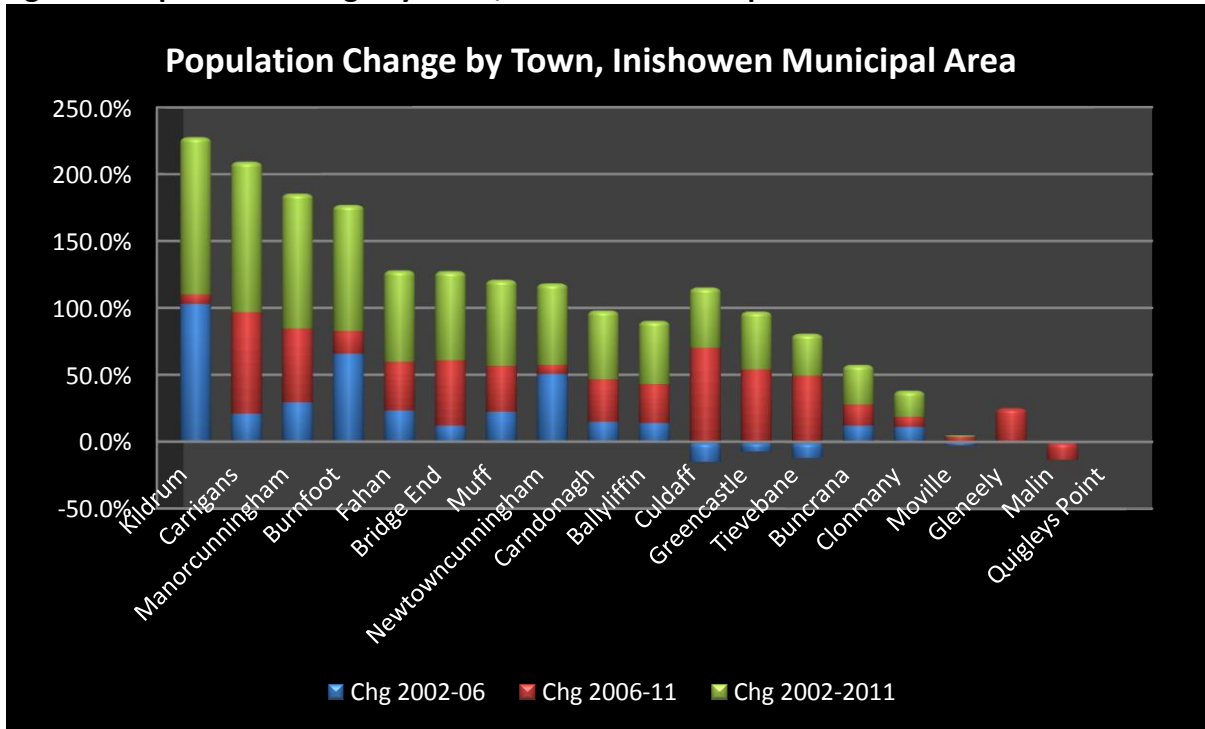
Overall, the 19 towns located in the Inishowen Municipality experienced positive population growth over the 2002 - 2011. Of the top 10 fastest growing towns in the county, 8 were located in Inishowen – Kildrum (117.6%) Carrigans (112.7%) Manorcunningham (100.9%) Burnfoot (94.2%) Fahan (68.3%) Bridge End (66.8%) Muff (64.4%) and Newtowncunningham (60.9%).

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<sup>6</sup> Census of Population, 2011

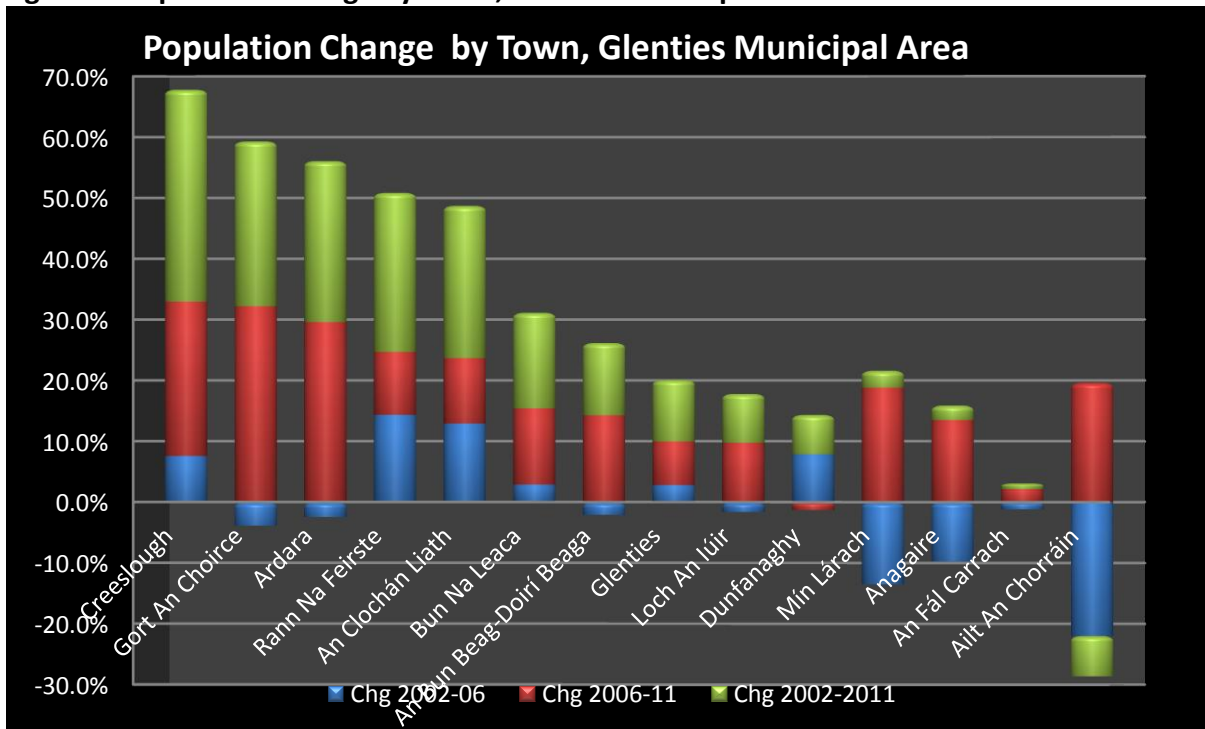
<sup>7</sup> Established by the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Region 2010-2022

**Figure 1: Population Change by Town, Inishowen Municipal Area**



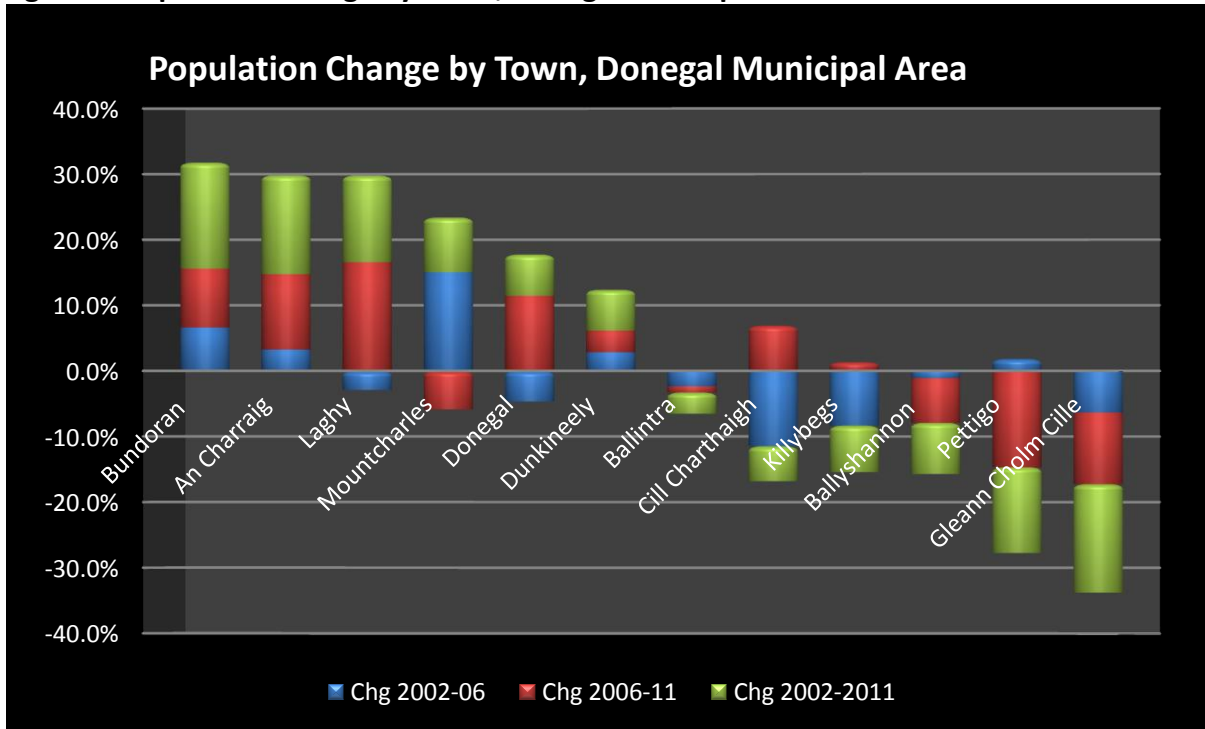
The trend for the Glenties Municipal Area is slightly different with the positive growth in the population in the latter part of the decade, more than compensating for the negative growth in the 2002-2006 period with the result that only Ailt an Choráin (Burtonport) experienced declines in population.

**Figure 2: Population Change by Town, Glenties Municipal Area**



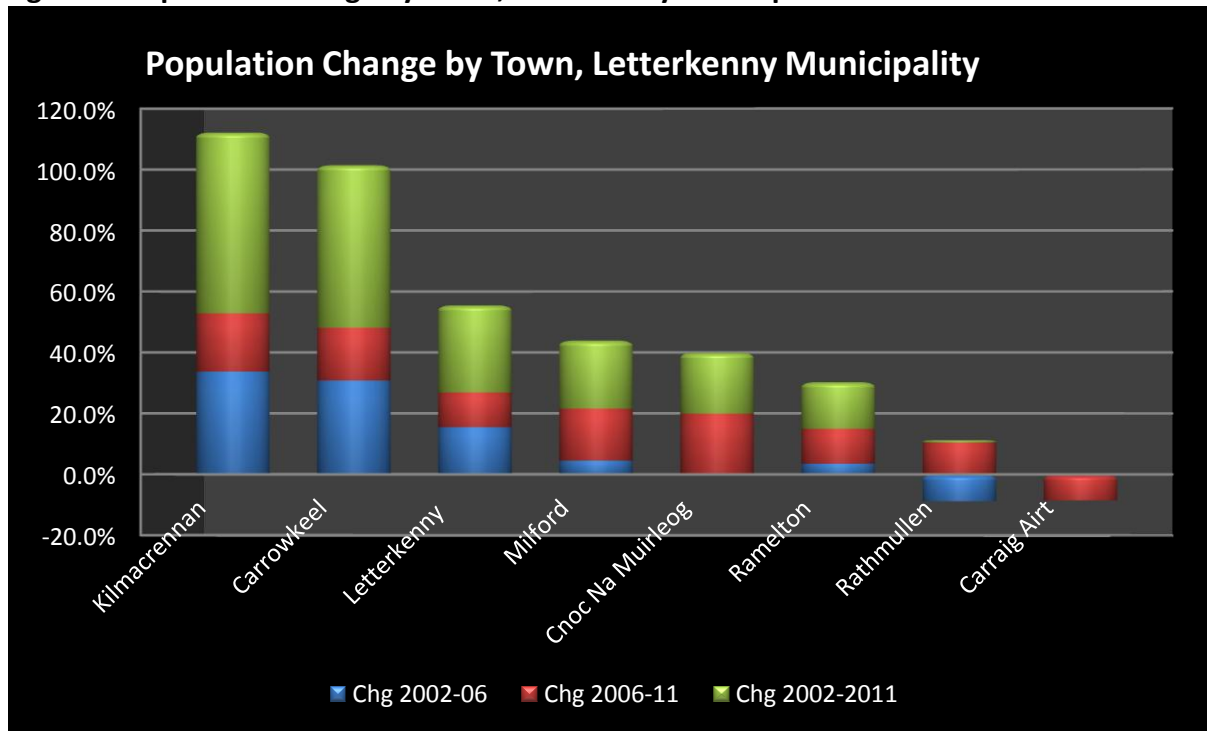
Over the period 2002 -2012, 6 of the 12 towns in the Donegal Municipality decreased in population size, these include; Cill Chartaigh, Killybegs, Ballintra, Ballyshannon, Glenn Cholm Cille and Pettigo.

**Figure 3: Population Change by Town, Donegal Municipal Area**



The Letterkenny Municipality accounted for two of the fastest growing towns in the county; Kilmacrennan (59.3%) and Carrowkeel (53.4%). Overall, all towns in this municipality grew over the 2002–2011. The negative growth in Rathmullen in the 2002-2006 (-8.8%) was compensated for by; 2011 positive growth in the 2006-11 period.

**Figure 4: Population Change by Town, Letterkenny Municipal Area**



All of the 8 towns in the Stranorlar Municipality grew over the 2002–2011.

### 2.1.2 Vacancy and Dereliction

There is a shared public interest in ensuring the most efficient use of land and buildings, especially in urban areas. Strategic planning guidelines in Ireland advocate the optimisation of town centres as key economic drivers of rural hinterlands and whole regions<sup>8</sup>. In line with this, Town Development Plans and Settlement Frameworks recognise consolidation, revitalisation and the sustainable sequential development of towns outwards from the core as key development objectives for towns across the County. These policy approaches aim to reduce instances of vacancy, dereliction and underutilised land in our towns which can have a very damaging effect.

To derive the maximum benefit from regeneration it is important to target central parts of the worst affected areas. Our most stagnant urban locations can be identified using indicators such as vacancy, dereliction and population density. Donegal County Development Plan 2012-2018 identifies town centre areas for all settlements at Tiers 1, 2 & 3 in the settlement hierarchy. It is a key objective of the plan to increase sustainability within these core areas through redevelopment and regeneration.

**Table 2 (Appendix 2)** examines the number of vacant and derelict buildings and the vacancy-dereliction rates in our town centres<sup>9</sup>. Overall instances of dereliction and vacancy are prevalent in our town centres, with just 4 of the 26 settlements under 8% vacant/derelict. Milford has the highest rate at 30%, while Ballybofey Stranorlar has the highest number of vacant and derelict properties at 122 followed by Letterkenny with 101. Another factor that can determine urban vibrancy is population density. This is measured by the number of persons per square kilometre. The state average is 1,137 persons per sq km<sup>10</sup> while Donegal settlements have a significantly lower level with a combined population density of 638 persons per sq km. There are a number of factors driving population density levels including undeveloped and underutilised urban lands etc. The Letterkenny Development Plan identifies 66% (613 ha) of such lands within its plan area.

**Table 3 (Appendix 2)**, identifies the density of different sized population categories in County Donegal in comparison to the State, it illustrates that towns falling in population band category 10,000 – 20,000 are nearly 50% lower than the State average and so forth. Projects, initiatives and proposals which intensify urban land use by reusing vacant or underutilised buildings and lands and thus serve to regenerate such locations are encouraged.

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<sup>8</sup> Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, 2009, Pg. 42 & PI & Dev Acts 2000-2012

<sup>9</sup> Incl. towns in tiers 1-3 only

<sup>10</sup> Calculated using Census Settlement Boundaries

### 2.1.3 Population Targets

The Donegal County Development Plan 2012-2018 provides a framework targeting how much and where development will take place in the County. This framework, namely the ‘Core Strategy’ provides for:

- ❖ a linked Gateway focus for Letterkenny as the primary centre where the creation of critical mass and alignment of key infrastructures is crucial in driving development and prosperity for the region (Tier 1)
- ❖ substantial managed growth for the larger Strategic Support Towns to strengthen these 9 key centres to increasingly act as economic drivers and service centres for the rural catchments (Tier 2 Settlements)
- ❖ targeted development to consolidate and rejuvenate the smaller towns and villages (Settlements in Tiers 3 & 4)
- ❖ balanced development to sustain rural communities and protect the environment (Tier 5).

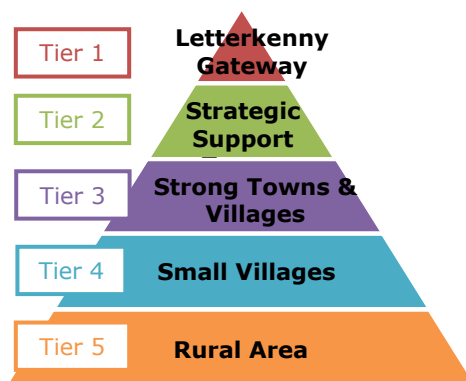
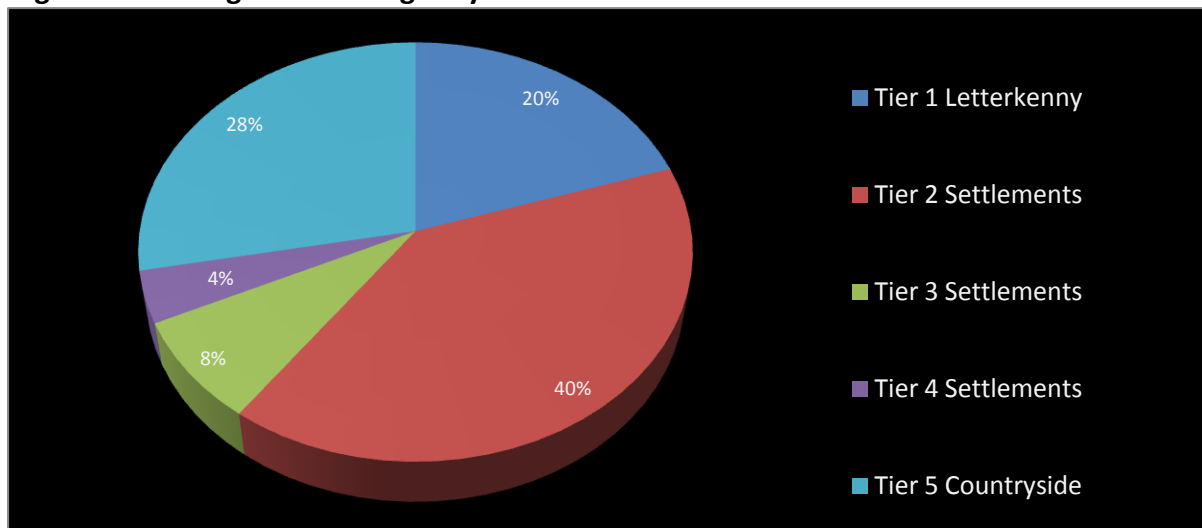


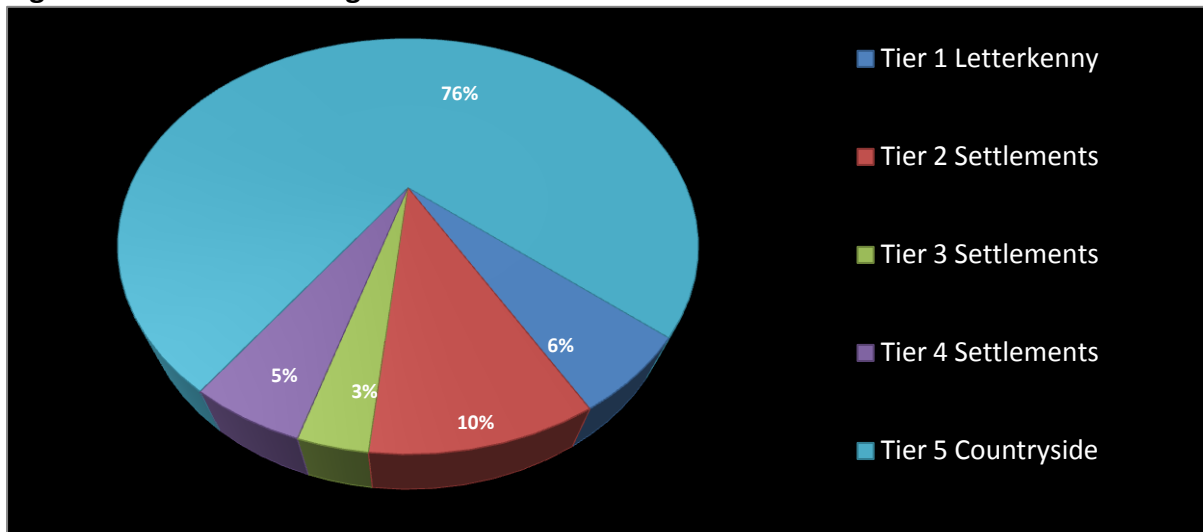
Figure 5: Population Targets

Based on population projections, infrastructural capacities, housing vacancy rates and other indicators the County Donegal Development Plan estimated a need for 4,578 new houses in Donegal over the 2012-2018 period. Figure 6 below, illustrates the share of this predicted growth by settlement tier. The Donegal Housing Monitor indicates an increase of 754 dwellings in the County from 2011-2012. Figure 7 illustrates the share of this growth (754) by tier. The charts show significant displacement of new housing from that targeted for tiers 1 & 2 to where housing growth is predominantly taking place in tier 5. These trends highlight an increased risk of stagnancy and reduced levels of activity in our town centres. Vibrant urban centres are key to driving growth and recovery; therefore the introduction of projects and initiatives which assist in increasing urban vibrancy and in consolidating and rejuvenating town centre locations in line with the current County Plan framework are of vital importance to urban and rural Donegal.

Figure 6: Housing Growth Target by Tier 2012-18



**Figure 7: Share of Housing Growth for 2011-12**



## 2.2 The People of the Towns

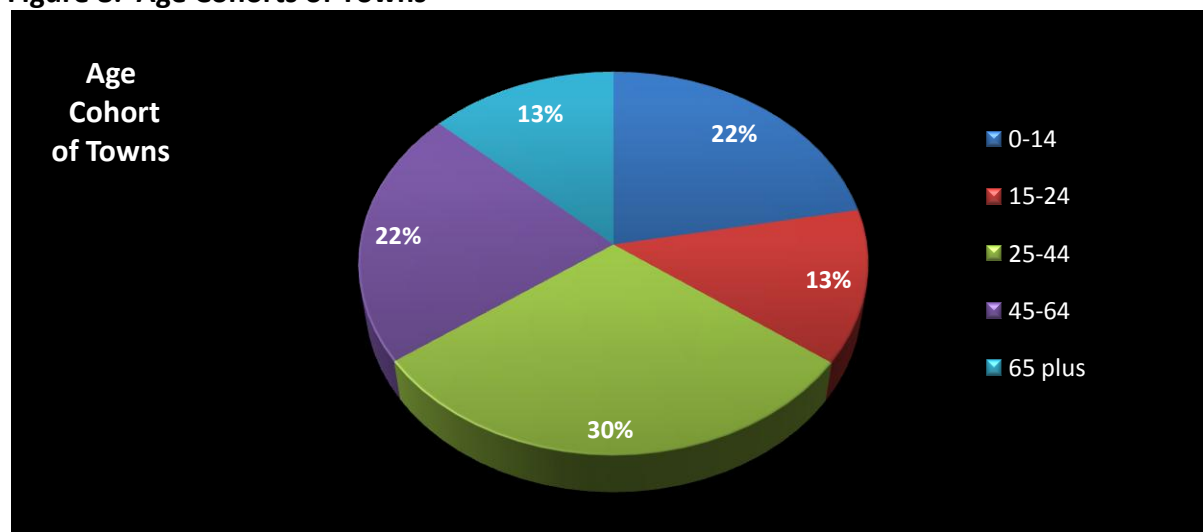
This section provides some socio economic characteristics of the people who live in the different rural towns in each of the Municipal districts in County Donegal .

### 2.2.1 Demographics

#### Age

On average towns in County Donegal had an age dependency ratio of 57.6%. This is a measure showing the number of dependents (aged 0-14 and over the age of 65) to the total population of working age (15-64 years). Above average age dependency ratios (or >58%) were found in 9 of the 12 towns in the Donegal MA; 11 of the 14 towns in Glenties MA; 12 of the 18 towns in Inishowen; 4 of the 8 towns in Letterkenny and 4 of the 8 Towns in Stranorlar. Detailed in **Table 4 (Appendix 2)**.

**Figure 8: Age Cohorts of Towns**



### Nationality

**Table 5 (Appendix 2)**; illustrates that 11.3% (or 8,115 persons) of the population in County Donegal had a non Irish nationality<sup>ii</sup>. Above average rates (Greater than 11.5%) were recorded in 3 (Bundoran, Donegal, Mountcharles) of the 12 towns in Donegal MA; in 1 (Ardara) of the 14 settlements in Glenties MA; in 1 (Bunrana) of the 18 towns in Inishowen; in 1 town (Letterkenny Legal Town and Environs) in the Letterkenny MA and 1 town (Ballybofey-Stranorlar) in the Stranorlar MA. See **Table 5 (Appendix 2)** for a breakdown of the population of towns by ethnicity.

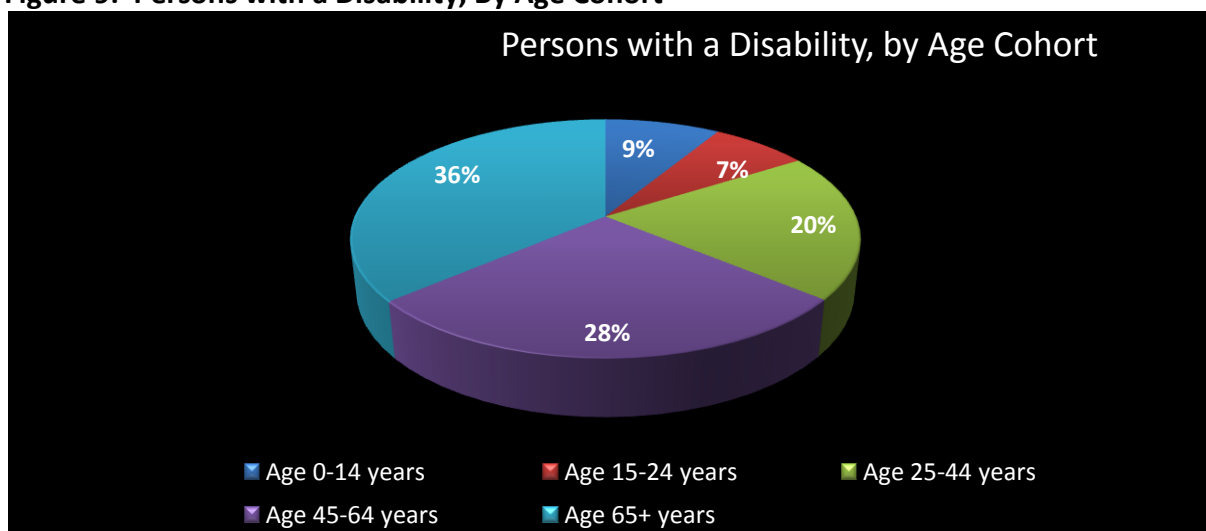
### Lone Parent Families

Census 2011 illustrates that there are 4,762 or 35% of all families living in urban areas in County Donegal that are headed by a lone parent. Above average rates (greater than 35.5%) were found in 3 (Bundoran, Ballyshannon and An Charraig) of the 12 settlements in Donegal MA; in 8 (Creeslough, Dunfanaghy, An Fál Carrach, Anagaire, Ailt An Chorráin, Glenties, Loch An Lúir, Gort An Choirce) of the 14 settlements in Glenties; in 4 (Carndonagh Clonmany, Manorcunningham and Bridge End) of the 18 settlements in Inishowen; in 5 (Carrowkeel, Kilmaccreannan, Milford, Ramelton and Carraig Airt) of the 8 settlements in Letterkenny MA and in all of the 8 settlements in Ballybofey Stranorlar MA. See **Table 6 (Appendix 2)**.

### People with Disabilities

15.4% of the population or 11, 286 persons with a disability were living in towns in County Donegal. Above average rates (i.e. 16% or higher) were found in 5 (Bundoran, Ballintra, Ballyshannon, Dunkineely and Killybegs) of the 12 towns in the Donegal MA; in 11 (An Bun Beag-Doirí Beaga, Creeslough, Dunfanaghy, An Fál Carrach, Míin Lárach, Anagaire, Ardara, Ailt An Chorráin, Glenties, Loch an Lúir) of the 14 towns in the Glenties MA; in 4 (Carndonagh, Clonmany, Moville, Malin) of the 18 towns in Inishowen MA; in 4 (Kilmaccreannan, Milford, Ramelton, Carraig Airt ) of the 8 towns in the Letterkenny MA and in 5 (Ballybofey/Stranorlar, Castlefin, Convoy, Raphoe and Drumkeen) in the Stranorlar MA. (See **Table 7 Appendix 2**).

**Figure 9: Persons with a Disability, By Age Cohort**



On average 36% of persons with disability in rural towns were aged 65 years and over while 15% were under 15 years.



## Social Class

**Table 8 (Appendix 2)**; examines the top socio economic groups of all persons living in private households in each town by municipality and illustrates that that :

In the Donegal Municipality:

- 3 towns had the highest concentrations of their population falling into the 'non manual' socio economic grouping and these were Bundoran @24%, Ballyshannon@ 24% and DonegalTown @ 23%.
- 3 towns recorded 'manual skilled' as their top social economic groups - Ballintra @ 17%, Dunkineely @ 16% and Pettigo @ 13%.
- Mountcharles recorded both 17% or persons falling in both the 'manual skilled' and 'non manual skilled'. Laghy had the highest proportion of its population falling into the 'employers and managers' category @19%.
- 4 towns fell into the 'semi skilled' category - An Charraig 15% , Glen Cholm Cille 28%, Cill Chartaigh 23% and Killybegs 25%.

In the Glenties Municipality:

- 8 towns - Creeslough @19% , Dunfanaghy @19%, An Fál Carrach @15%, Ailt An Chorráin @19%, An Clochán Liath @17%, Glenties @21%, Rann Na Feirste @12% and Gort An Choirce @ 15% had the highest concentrations falling into the non manual category.
- 3 towns have highest concentration of their populations falling into the 'semi skilled socio economic grouping' these are An Bun Beag-Doirí Beaga @15%, Bun Na Leaca @17% and @ Loch An Lúir @19% .
- 2 towns had the highest concentrations falling into the 'manual' & semi skilled categories which were Mín Lárach @ 16% and Ardara @16%. While Anagaire had 19% falling into the 'employers and managers' category.

In the Inishowen Municipality:

- 10 towns had the highest concentration of their populations falling into the 'non manual' socio economic grouping and these were Bunrana @ 16%, Burnfoot @ 17%, Carndonagh @ 18%, Carrigans @ 22%, Moville@ 19%, Newtowncunningham @ 17%, Manorcunningham @ 19%, Kildrum@ 18%, Culdaff @15% and Quigleys Point @ 22%
- 5 towns had highest concentrations falling into the 'employers and managers' socio economic grouping and these were Ballyliffen @21%, Fahan @ 25%, Greencastle @ 25%, Muff @ 18% and Bridgend @ 18%.
- 2 towns fell into the 'manual skilled' category, which were Tievebane @ 21% and Malin @15%. In Clonmany, the highest concentration fell into 'own account workers' @ 12%.

In the Letterkenny Municipality:

- 6 of the 8 towns (Letterkenny @ 21%, Cnoc na Muirleog @ 22%, Kilmacrennan @ 26%, Milford @ 23%, Remelton @ 19% and Carraig Airt @19% had the highest concentrations of their populations falling into the Non Manual Category.
- Highest concentrations were recorded in Carrowkeel in the Lower Professional Category@ 15% and Rathmullen @ 17%.

In the Stranorlar Municipality:

- All of the 8 towns had the highest concentrations of its population falling into the 'Non Manual Category' Ballybofey –Stranorlar @ 24%, Castlefin @ 19%, Convoy @21%, Lifford@24%, Raphoe @17%, St. Johnston @18%, Killygordan @ 20% and Drumkeen @ 25%.

### Non Labour Force Participation

**Table 9 (Appendix 2);** 42% of the population living in rural towns in County Donegal were not participating in the labour force, this equates to 23,986 persons. The reasons for non participation in the labourforce were mainly due to persons being retired (37%), being students (26%), looking after the home or family ( 23%) or unable to work due to sickness or disability (14%).

Above average rates of participation (or rates > 43%) were recorded in:

- 9 of the 12 towns in the Donegal MA , namely Bundoran, Ballintra, Ballyshannon, Dunkineely, Laghy, Pettigo, An Charraign , GlencolmCille and Cill Chartaigh.
- 11 of the 14 towns in the Glenties MA , namely An Bun beag-Doirí beag, Creeslough, Dunfanaghy, An Fál Carrach, Mín Lárach, Anagaire, Ailt An Chorráin, An Clochán Liath, Glenties, Loch An Lúir and Rann na Feirste.
- 5 of the 18 towns in the Inishowen MA, which were Carndonagh, Clonmany, Fahan, Greencastle and Merville.
- 6 of the 8 towns in Letterkenny MA, including Carrowkeel, Cnoc na Muirleog, Kilmacrennan, Ramelton, Rathmullen and Carraig Airt.
- 3 of the 8 towns in Stranorlar MA , namely Castlefin, Convoy and Raphoe,

### Unemployed

9,402 persons living in rural towns in County Donegal were unemployed, this equates to 28.4 % of the total labourforce<sup>iii</sup> for these towns. Above average rates (i.e.> 29%) were recorded in Ballintra, Ballyshannon, Laghy, An Charraig and Glenn Cholm Cille or 5 of the 12 towns in the Donegal MA.

These above average rates were also recorded in Creeslough, An Fál Carrach, Mín Lárach, Anagaire and Bun Na Leaca or 5 of the 14 towns in the Glenties MA. While 8 of the 18 towns in the Inishowen MA recorded above average rates and these included Bunrana, Burnfoot, Carndonagh, Carrigans, Merville, Mannorcunningham, Culdaff and Quigleys Point.

5 of the 8 towns in the Letterkenny MA recorded above average unemployment rates and these included Carrowkeel, Kilmacreannan, Milford, Ramelton and Carraig Airt. All of the 8 towns in the Stranorlar MA recorded above average unemployment rates.

## 2.2.2. Employment and Economic Activity

### Employment

There were 23,730 persons at work in the rural towns in County Donegal in 2011, giving a work rate of 71.6%. Below average work rates (or <71%) were located in 5 of the 12 towns in the Donegal MA, namely Ballintra, Ballyshannon, Laghy, An Charrig and Gleann Cholm Cille. In the Glenties MA, below average work rates were recorded in Creeslough, An Fál Carrach, Mín Lárach, Anagaire and Bun Na Leaca or 5 of the 14 rural towns.

8 towns (Bunrana, Burnfoot, Carndonagh, Carrigans, Merville, Mannorcunningham, Culdaff and Quigleys Point) out of 18 rural towns in the Carndonagh MA recorded below average rates. 5 of the 8 towns in the Letterkenny MA recorded below average rates, these were Carrowkeel, Kilmacrennan, Milford, Ramelton and Carraig Airt. All of the 8 towns in the Stranorlar MA recorded below average rates. (See Table 9 Appendix 2).

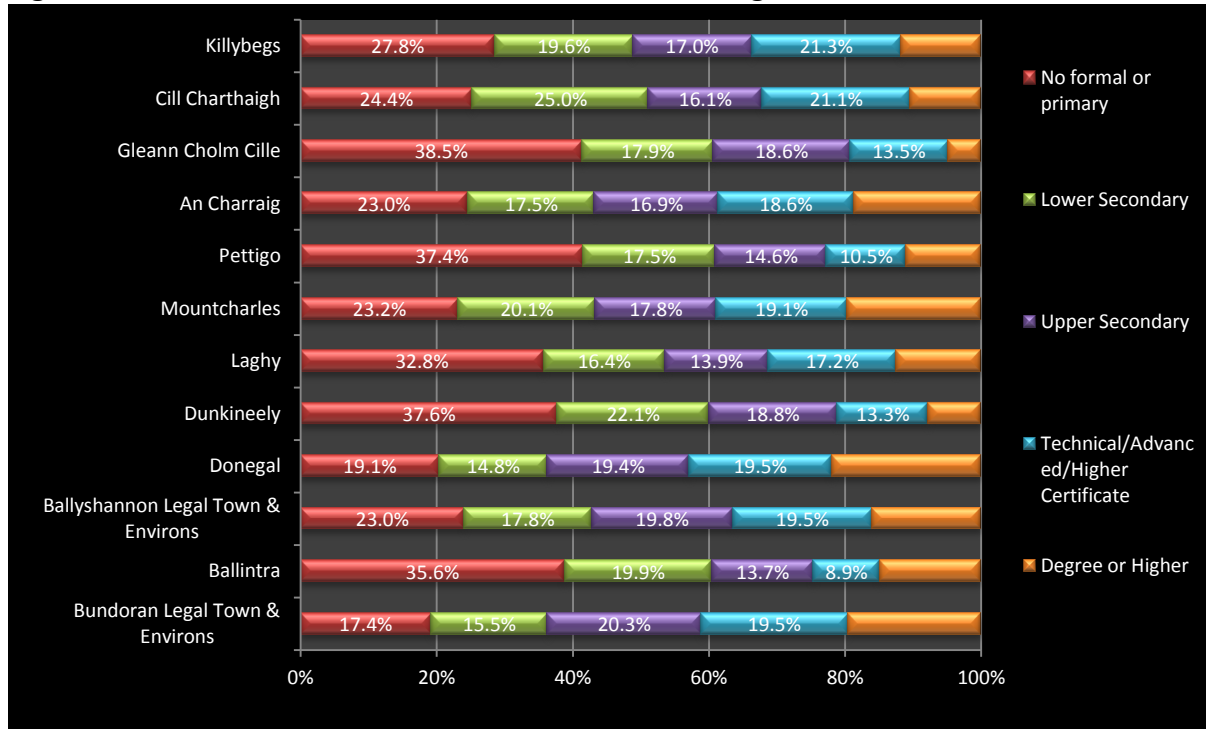
### Economic Activity

In the absence of a comprehensive business database at the local level in Donegal we can look at the number of commercial or non-residential buildings in Donegal towns. 44% (6,597) of non residential buildings in the County are within the counties 61 settlements, with the largest proportion (1,536) in Letterkenny. The table below sets out those with the highest % share among the towns in the County.

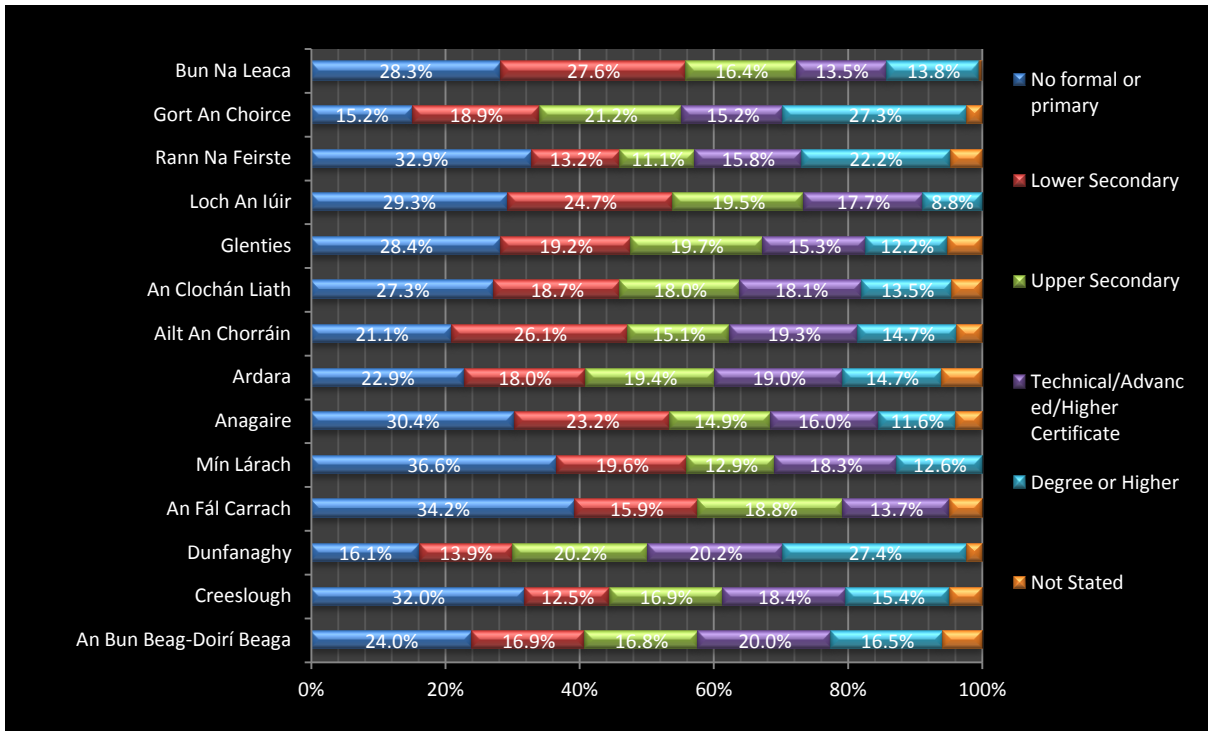
### 2.2.3 Education, Training & Skills

#### Educational Attainment

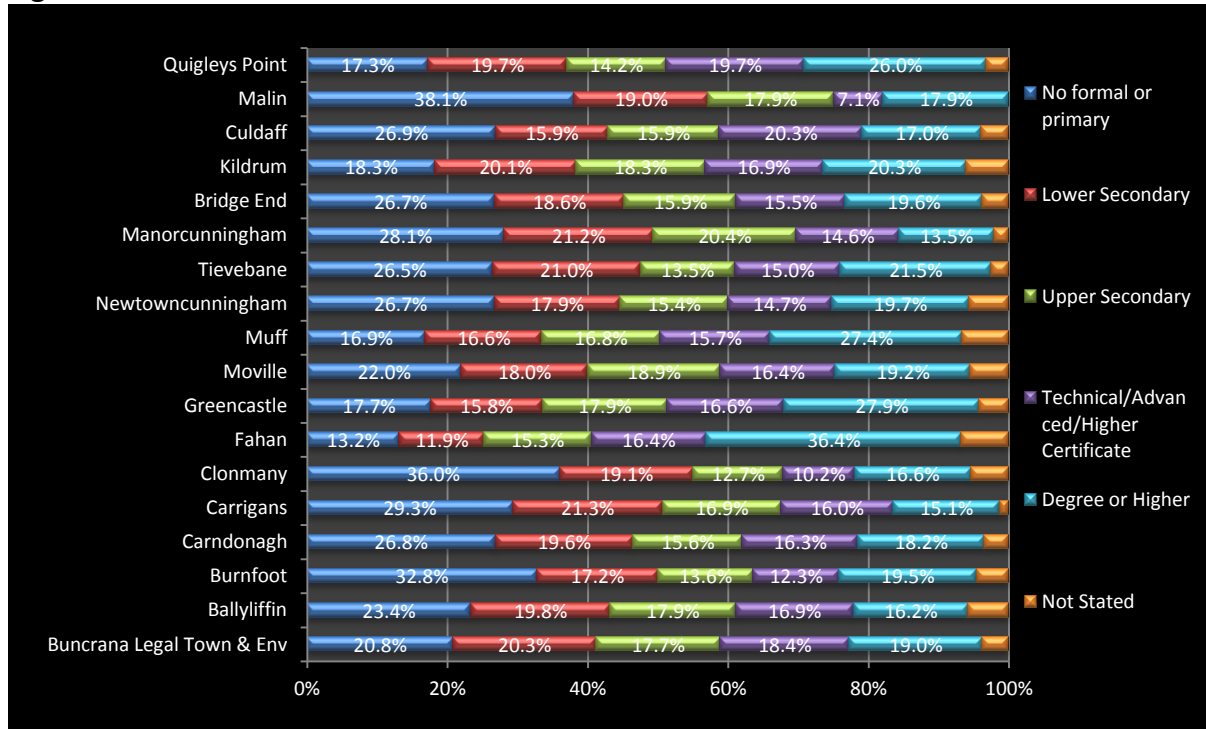
**Figure 10: Educational Attainment in Towns in the Donegal Electoral Area**



**Figure 11: Educational Attainment in Towns in the Glenties Electoral Area**

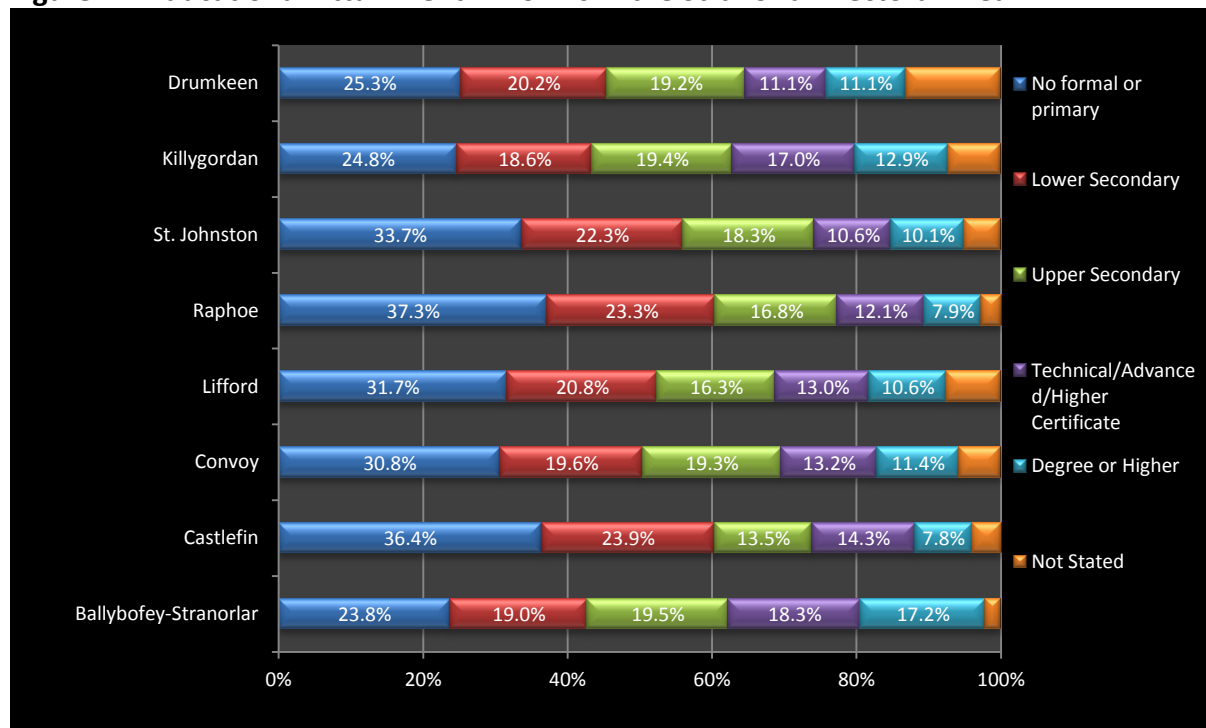


**Figure 12: Educational Attainment in Towns in the Inishowen Electoral Area**



**Figure 13: Educational Attainment in Towns in the Letterkenny Electoral Area**



**Figure 14: Educational Attainment in Towns in the Stranorlar Electoral Area**

### 2.3 Area Needs Analysis: Driving Economic Growth Through Towns

Towns and rural areas have a strong interdependency. Settlements provide a wide range of social and economic services to those living in their hinterlands while rural areas create demand for many services in the settlements through the production of raw materials and economic activities such as agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and recreation.

Sustainable, vibrant and economically viable (large or medium sized) settlements are therefore essential in sustaining rural communities, which in turn serve to drive their settlement centres.

A number of towns across Donegal have been designated as development hubs. These designations set out to promote and guide more specific sectoral development in a number of key towns as set out in the adjacent tables.

Bundoran – Marine Tourism
Ballyshannon – Cultural Tourism
Donegal Town – Tourism
Ballybofey/Stranorlar – Sports
Carndonagh/Buncrana – Tourism
Gweedore – Business Development
Killybegs – Renewables & Food

Large or small scale urban regeneration initiatives based around such sectoral themes have the potential to stimulate a range of towns across the County to act as sustainable economic drivers and service centres for their respective catchments.

It is essential that new projects, policies and initiatives maximise the potential of our towns to increasingly develop as economic and social drivers to support the sustainable development of their rural hinterlands by;

- Sequential development from the core
- Reuse of vacant and derelict buildings
- Targeted development of brownfield and other underutilised town centre lands

In examining the potential for rural towns to act as vehicles for economic revival, the urban planning objectives of consolidation and strengthening identified for a range of towns in the Donegal Core Strategy provides a platform for regeneration and redevelopment initiatives.

- To assist proposals by local communities and businesses aimed at tackling urban decay and stagnation through regeneration and upgrade at central urban locations (buildings & spaces)

The above serves to address the trends identified with regard to town centre dereliction, vacancy and population density. Such proposals also serve to increase quality of life through enhancing our living environment and to grow our local service centres to increasingly serve as tourism bases, retail hubs, employment centres, etc. In general, opportunities to reuse existing buildings have the potential to conserve and promote our historic and architecturally important buildings, streetscapes and heritage towns. In this way other important LEADER themes associated to maximise finite resources such as land and to increase environmental efficiencies through building upgrade are all targeted.

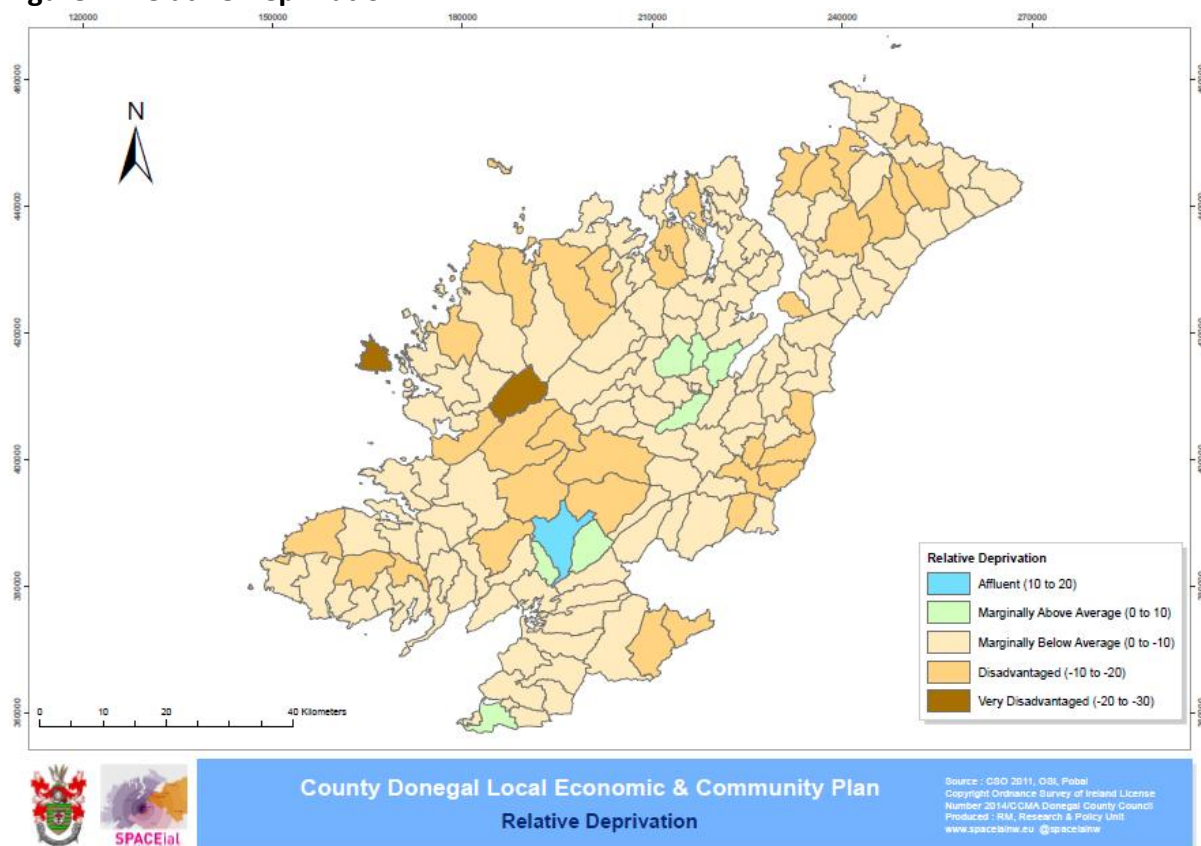
## Chapter 3 Delivering Socially Inclusive Services

### 3.0 Examining Deprivation in Donegal

Deprivation and social exclusion continue to present challenges in the Donegal Context. The Haase Pratschke Relative Deprivation Score attributed to County Donegal in 2011 was  $-6.25^1$  making it the second most deprived local authority area in the State after Limerick City at  $-6.66$ . An analysis of the indicators making up Haase Pratschke Index reveals that the key drivers of Donegal low deprivation score are low educational attainment (@ 26.1%) and high male unemployment rates (@ 31.4%).

The relative deprivation scores in County Donegal range from the most affluent score of  $+11.09$  (recorded in Lough Eske) to the most disadvantage score of  $-25.54$  (recorded in An Dúchoradh). Spatially, below average rates are both evident in aggregate urban and rural areas. Of the 149 Electoral Divisions within County Donegal, 103 could be described as 'marginally below average'; 36 were classified as 'disadvantaged' and 2 as 'very disadvantaged'. Therefore, 141 Electoral Divisions had scores that fell below the national average of  $+0.24$ . The 'marginally above average' deprivation scores were recorded in the electoral divisions surrounding Letterkenny, Bundoran and Lough Eske.

**Figure 1: Relative Deprivation**





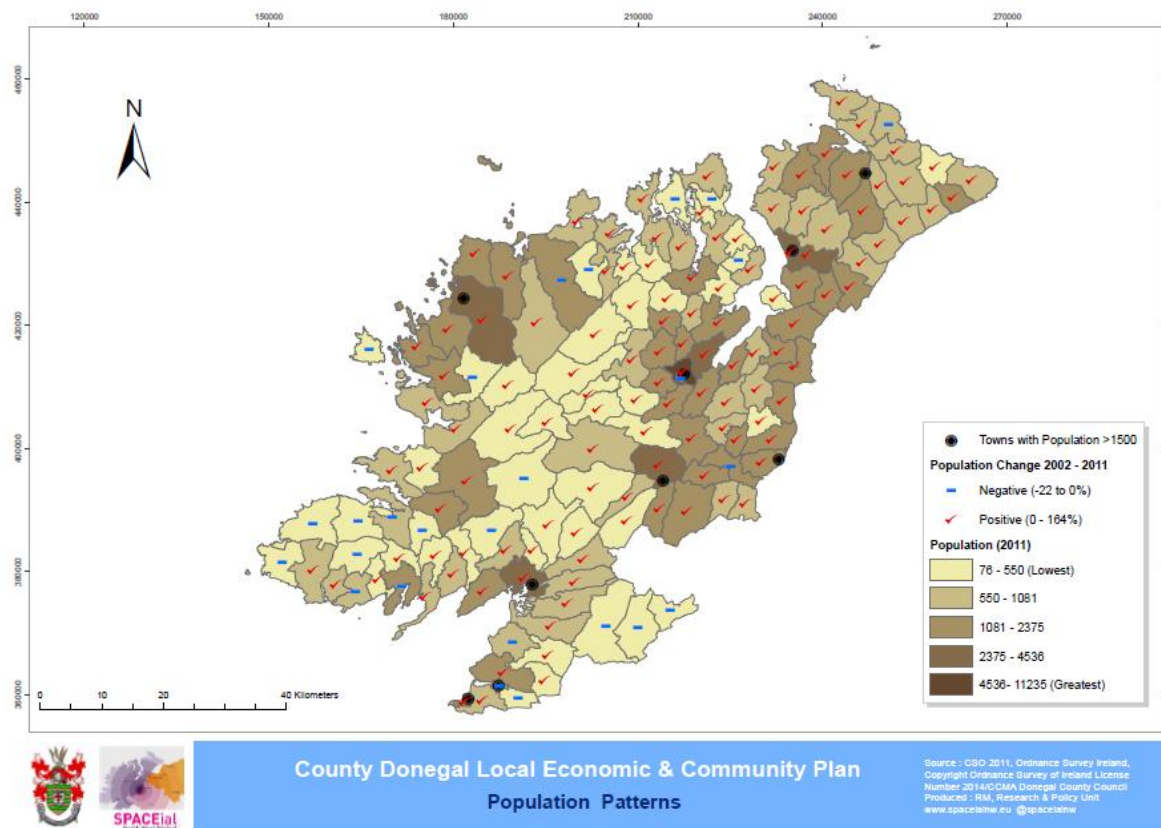
## 3.1 Hard to Reach Communities

### 3.1.1 Rural Dwellers

According to the Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020, rural areas in Ireland are considered to be those areas outside of the cities of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford. Therefore, all of County Donegal can be regarded as being part of the rural area. The Census 2011 classifies an aggregate urban area as comprising of populations of 1,500 inhabitants and there are nine such towns in County Donegal; Letterkenny, Buncrana, Ballybofey-Stranorlar, Donegal Town, Carndonagh, Ballyshannon, Bundoran, Lifford and An Bun Beag-Doirí Beaga. Therefore, 27.4%<sup>iv</sup> of the total population of County Donegal reside in aggregate urban areas compared to 62% in the State<sup>v</sup>. This further emphasises the rural nature of County Donegal with 72.6 2% of its population (or 116,890 persons) residing in aggregate rural areas compared to 38% in the State.

The following map (Figure 2) presents the changing population trends by Electoral Division in County Donegal, over the period 2006 - 2011. This map illustrates that the strongest population growth is located in Electoral Divisions along the North East Axis which coincides with the location of largest aggregate urban areas but also the fastest growing towns in the County. The weakest growth was recorded in Electoral Divisions in the South West of the County. In addition, there were notable pockets in; Letterkenny Urban, Crossroads, Fanad North & West, Greenfort and Carthage and around Pettigo and Ballyshannon. 123 EDs grew, 25 declined, 1 remained the same, 4<sup>th</sup> largest rural component in the state.

**Figure 2: Population Patterns**



### 3.1.2 Gaeltacht Communities

The Donegal Gaeltacht is located mainly in the west of the County along the coast and is the second largest Gaeltacht in the country. The Donegal Gaeltacht has a population of 23,783 (Census 2011) and represents 24.5% of the total Gaeltacht population. The three parishes of Na Rosa, Gaoth Dobhair and Cloich Cheann Fhaola constitute the main centre of population of the Donegal Gaeltacht and with a population of just over 16,000 is considered to be the most densely populated rural area in Europe. While language is the foremost uniquely defining feature of this area, the Gaeltacht also maintains a rich social and cultural heritage. The peripherality of the Donegal Gaeltacht and use of the Irish language can often make accessing goods and services a major issue for persons living in Gaeltacht areas.

### 3.1.3 Coastal & Island Communities

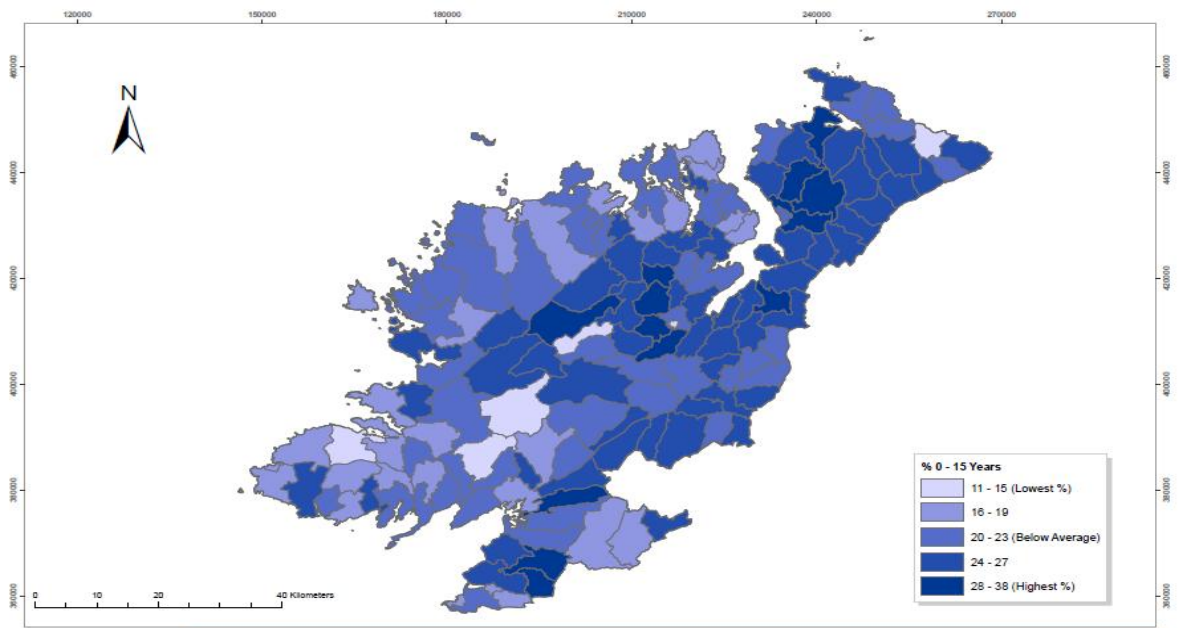
Donegal has a rugged coastline of 1,134km (17% of the States total) and dotted with islands. Of the islands, Aranmore, Tory, Inishfree Upper, Island Roy and Gola are inhabited and located within the Gaeltacht. Ireland's territorial waters extend to the 12mile (22km) nautical limit. Historically, the fishing industry was of great importance in Donegal. However, restructuring and quota restrictions over the decades have impacted on this industry. The geographical location of the coastline and islands, creates difficulties associated with access, communications and economic development for these communities. The fishing communities of Donegal were badly impacted by the recession and they require an alternative means of earning a living.

## 3.2 Vulnerable Rural Groups

### 3.2.1 Youth

In 2006 there were 33,426 persons under the age of 15 years compared to 36,949 in 2011. This represents a growth of 10.1% (3523) compared to a growth of 13.3% in the State. So 23% of the population of County Donegal are under the age of 15 years and this is higher than in the percentage share in the State @21.3%. Figure 3; illustrates the age distribution of the population age under 15 years which depicts lower concentrations towards the South West of the County and higher concentrations along the North East Axis.

### Figure 3: Youth Population



**County Donegal Local Economic & Community Plan**  
**Youth Population**

Source: CSO 2011, Ordnance Survey Ireland, Copyright Ordnance Survey of Ireland License Number 2014/CORMA Donegal County Council Produced: SPAL Research & Policy Unit www.spaceial.ie @spaceialme

There were **45,704 persons aged 0-18 years** inclusive and these can be broken down into a number of distinctive life cycles:

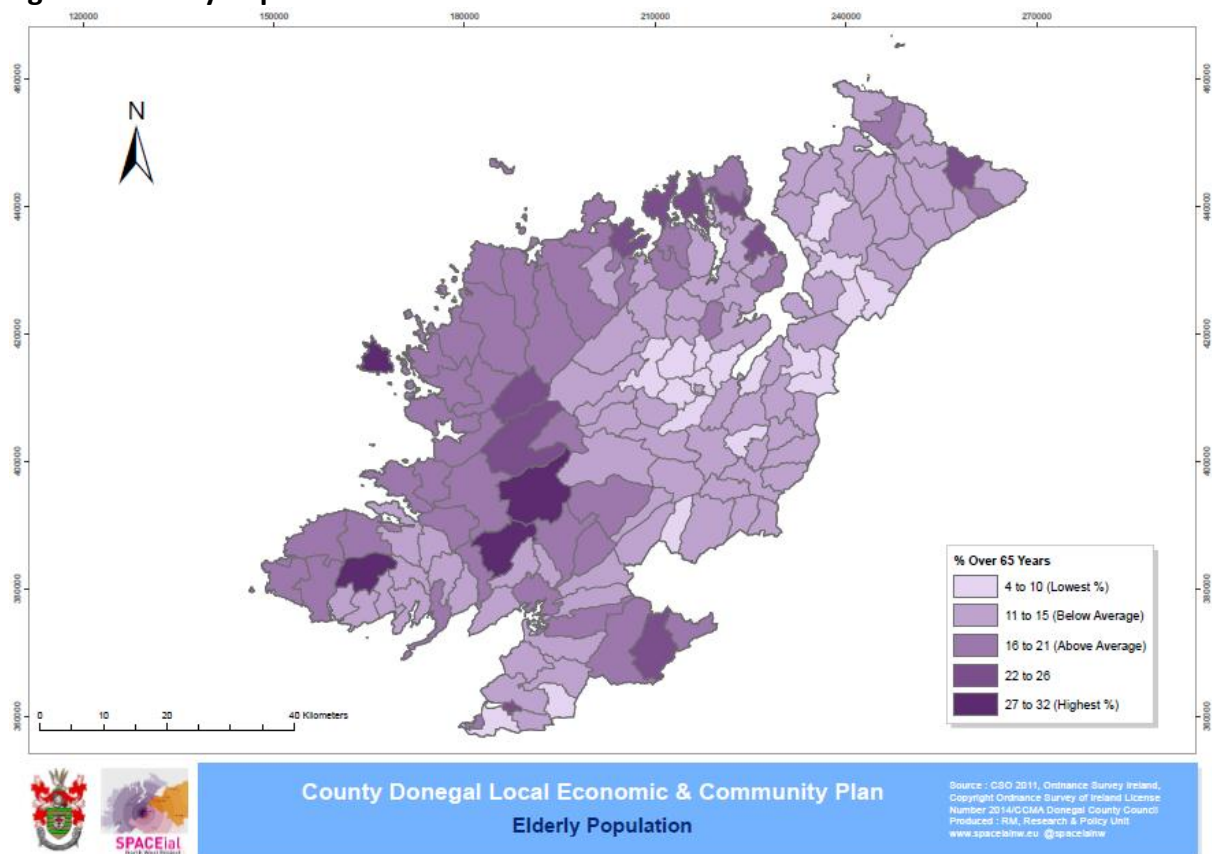
- Pre School Children (0-4 years) - Census 2011, illustrates an increase in the number of pre-school children from 11,168 in 2006 to 12,727 in 2011 or an increase of 14% (1,599 children). This is higher than the 9.4% increase in the population of County Donegal as a whole, but lower than the 18% increase experienced in the State. This has a number of implications for service delivery within the county, in terms of ample childcare provision, supports for children with special needs, access to GP's, hospital services etc.
- Primary School Children (5 – 12 years)- There was an increase in the number of children of primary school age in County Donegal, rising from 17,830 in 2006 to 19,463 in 2011, or an increase of 9.2% (or 1,663 children). The number of primary school children in the State in 2011 was 504,267, increasing by 12% over the intercensal period and at a faster rate than in the State. Services are much the same for primary school children, however transport to schools and different type of sporting and recreation activities increase in importance.
- Secondary School Children (13 -18 years) - There was a slight increase (0.2%) in the number of children of secondary school age ( 13-18yrs) in County Donegal from 13,482 in 2006 to 13,514 in 2011. In 2011, the total number of children in the State at secondary school age was 344,931, an increase of 0.8%. Again similar services are required as above in addition to transport to both schools, colleges and work placements etc.

### 3.2.2 Elderly

People in County Donegal are living longer and in 2011 the population aged 65 years plus had increased by 17 % (or by 3,060 persons) to 21,471. Of the 21,471 persons falling into this age category 9,241 persons were aged 75 years plus, 168 persons were aged 95 years plus and 25 persons were 100 years plus. In total, Donegal had 13.3% of its population falling into the 65 years and over age category. Whilst increased life expectancy can be testimony to advancements in health care in general and to quality of the natural and physical environment in particular in County Donegal, from a service delivery perspective it is important to ensure that those additional years are healthy years<sup>vi</sup>. The 2011 Census highlighted that 12.5% of the population of the Border Regional Authority Area were 65 years and over. Recent research recently carried out by AIRO<sup>vii</sup> indicates that in 2031, 21.5% of the population of the Border Regional Authority Area will be over 65 years of age, bringing with it major demographic and service related challenges.

Figure 4 below reveals that above average concentrations of elderly persons are located towards the West and North West of the County, mainly in Gaeltacht areas and in areas that have experienced lower levels of population growth.

**Figure 4: Elderly Population**



### Age Dependency Ratios

Given the changes in the population cohorts outlined above, it is not surprising that County Donegal had the second highest age dependency ratio@ 56.9% in the State, where the rate was 49.3%. So for every 1 older or younger persons in County Donegal, there are 1.75 persons of working age. The impact of high age dependency rates are in terms of lower tax revenue, lower pension funds and higher Government expenditure on services.

## 3.3 Sustainable Community Service

### 3.3.1 Community Centres

Community centres have the potential to combat many of the challenges faced by rural communities in Donegal. In recent years significant investment has been made in building and upgrading community centres, resulting in a high level network of community infrastructure throughout the County. An opportunity exists to increase activity and broaden the functionality of such centres. Community centres have the potential to act as community technology hubs to assist in providing online services to members in hard to reach communities who may not have the technology or skills to access such services. The potential of some community buildings to be used as multi service points comprising even social or cultural enterprises has great opportunities to increase tourism footfall with many spin off businesses becoming viable in the process. By increasing the economic viability and social vitality of such locations, rural communities can maximise their potential. Opportunities exist to reduce use of fossil fuels and at the same time reduce running costs of community buildings through initiatives such as the SEAI Better Energy Community program.

### 3.4 Sustainable Homes

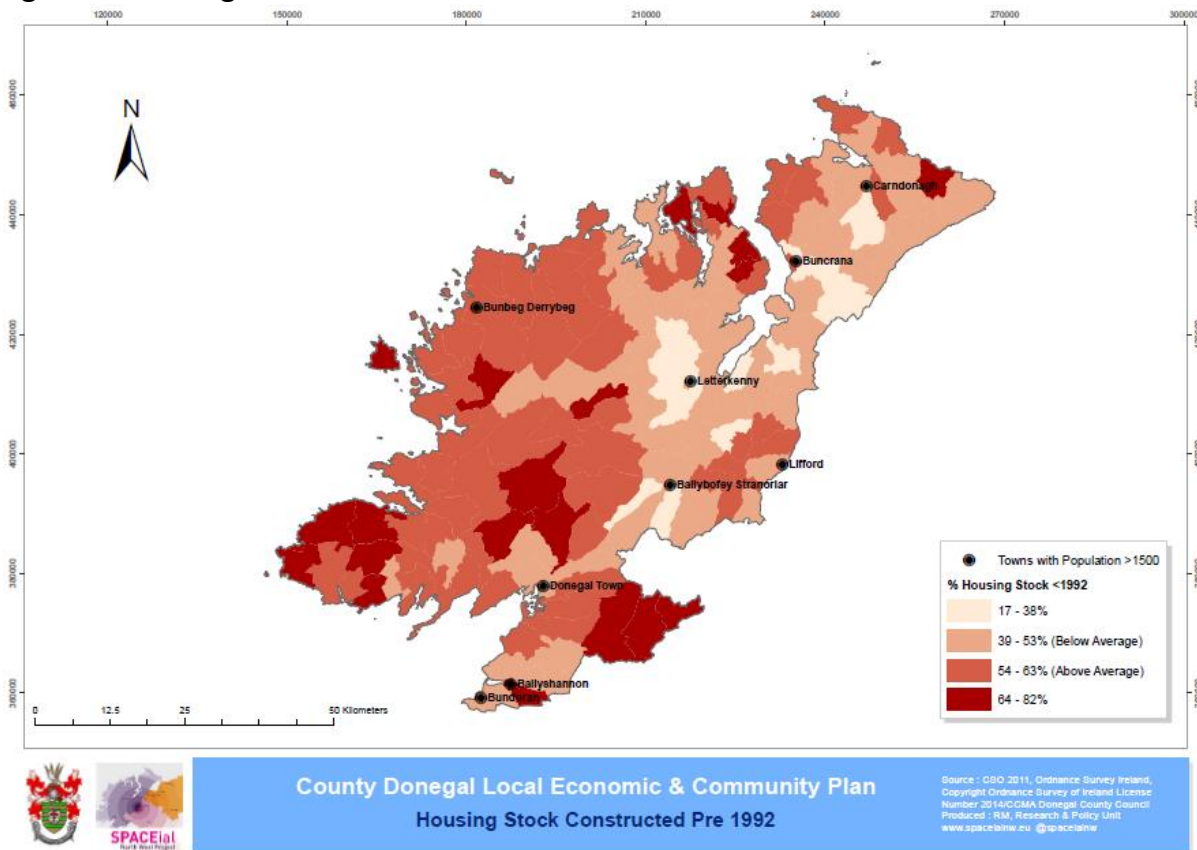
Sustainability can be improved by investing in existing infrastructure, whether it's unfinished or inadequate new housing, older housing or vacant or derelict housing. Homes can be future proofed by reducing our reliance on non renewable energy in our homes through such investment. This section examines our current position in terms of our existing fuel consumption, use of alternative transport, energy efficiency levels of our buildings, etc.

#### 3.4.1 Housing Age

Building Regulations were initially provided for under section 86 of the 1963 Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, and matters for which regulations could be prescribed were listed. However these provisions were never enacted and, prior to 1992, there were no National Building Standards in force throughout the country (although building bye-laws had been in force in parts of the country). The first National Building Standards in Ireland were introduced by the Building Control Act of 1990 (BCA 1990). The regulations came into force on the 1st June 1992.

Buildings built prior to 1992 (incl. those in Donegal) were not subject to building control regulations. Map 5 below details the housing stock constructed prior to 1992. Many of these buildings were deemed to be of a substandard build in terms of structure, fire, site preparation and resistance to moisture, materials and workmanship, sound, ventilation, hygiene, drainage and waste disposal, heat producing appliances, stairways, ramps & guards, conservation of fuel and energy, access for disabled people (this list sets out the various parts of the current regulations).

Figure 5: Housing Stock Constructed Pre-1992



### 3.4.2 Housing Ownership

There were 57,964 private households in County Donegal, increasing by 15% over the period 2006-11. Of which 57,721 were permanent private households (15% increase 2006 – 2011) and 243 were temporary private dwellings in 2011(-42% decrease 2006-2011).

- 43% of dwellings (24,268) were owner occupied without a loan or mortgage, compared to 34% in the State.
- 32% of dwellings (18,418) were owner occupied with loan or mortgage, compared to 35% in the State. 27% (or 4,929 households) of households with a loan or mortgage in County Donegal were headed by an unemployed person or person not in the labour force.
- 24% of households (13,989) were rented, increasing by 19% (or 9,471 households) since 2006. The majority of these households (53%) were rented from private landlords, followed by 34% from a Local Authority, 3 % from a Voluntary Body and 10% were occupied free of charge. The percentage of households rented in the State was 29%.

### 3.4.3 Households Composition

Of the 57,964 private households in County Donegal:

- 14,890 single persons households (26%), which is greater than the corresponding percentage for the State @ 24%
- 29,486 husband and wife households with/without children or other persons (51%), which is greater than the percentage for the State @ 49%
- 3,247 cohabiting couple households with/without children or other persons (6%), which is lower than the percentage for the State @ 9%
- 6,947 lone parents households (12%), marginally higher than the percentage for the State
- 515 lone parents households with/without other persons (1%)
- 572 multiple family units households with/without other persons (1%)
- 2,307 non- family households comprising of related or unrelated persons (4%)
- 29% of all persons in the 65 years and over age category (or 5,763 persons) were living alone.

### 3.4.4 Essential Housing Services

#### Central Heating

The majority of households in County Donegal used oil (@) 69.7% as the primary central heating source. Of the 34 local authority areas, Donegal had the fourth highest dependency on oil, after Monaghan (78.4% ), Cavan (72.5%) and then Wexford ( 71%) . The percentage of households using oil to heat their homes in the State was 43.7%.

Other fuels used to heat home in County Donegal included 11.8% using coal (incl. anthracite) and 11.4% using peat (incl. turf). In addition 2.3% used electricity, 1.5% used wood (incl. wood pellets), 1% used natural gas. In addition 703 households (1.2%) in County Donegal stated that they had no central heating (**See Table 1 Appendix 3**).

#### Water Supply

77% of all occupied households in County Donegal are connected to the public mains in 2011 (74.8% in 2006); 10.9% were connected to a local authority group scheme (11.5% in 2006); 1.6% to a private group scheme (2.4% in 2006) and 7.7% to an other private water source (8.9% in 2006)

There are 5,355 households in County Donegal with a private water source (i.e. a private group scheme or other private source) of which 1,368 or 26% of all households were built

since 2001 in County Donegal. 89 households in County Donegal had no piped water in 2011 compared to 140 in 2006 (**See Table 2 Appendix 3**).

### **Sewerage Facilities**

40% of all occupied households in County Donegal were connected to a public sewerage scheme (38.3% in 2006), 52% had individual septic tanks (56.4% in 2006), 3.4% had individual treatment not septic tanks (2.1%) and 0.6% had other types of sewerage facility (0.7% in 2006). 80 households did not have a sewerage facility compared to 163 in 2006.

There are currently 30,383 individual septic tanks within County Donegal. There has been a decrease in the number of septic tanks in houses built in Donegal between the years 2001 – 2005 and 2006 – 2011, where the numbers fell from 4,276 to 3,072 (**See Figure 1 (a & b) Appendix 3**).

### **Internet & Broadband Connections**

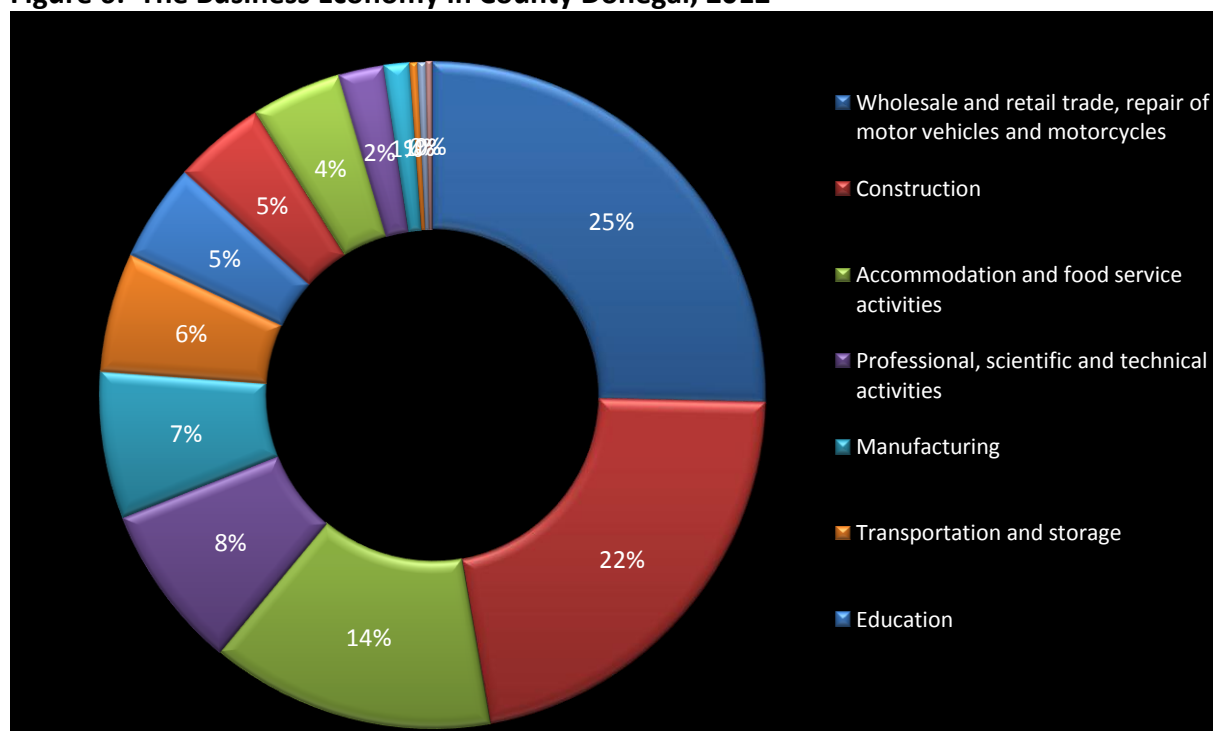
In County Donegal 36,963 households (65%) stated that they had an internet connection, either through broadband or other internet access types. However, 19,662 households did not have an internet connection<sup>viii</sup> and this represents 34% of all households in County Donegal and is larger than the State average of 26%. Of the 19,662, there are 14,533 located in aggregate rural areas and 5,129 located in aggregate town areas. Therefore, 36% of all household in aggregate rural areas do not have internet access in County Donegal, compared to 32% in aggregate rural areas in the State. While 31% of all households in aggregate town areas in County Donegal do not have internet access compared to 23% in aggregate town areas in the State (**See Table 3 (a, b & c) Appendix 3**).

## **3.5 Sustainable Employment Creation**

### **3.5.1 Employment Opportunities**

According to the Business Demography Dataset from the CSO, there were 5,166 active enterprises<sup>ix</sup> in County Donegal in 2012 decreasing year on year since 2006, when the number of active enterprises was 7,153. The number of persons engaged in these companies in 2012 was 25,460 while the number of employees was 22,249 persons.



**Figure 6: The Business Economy in County Donegal, 2012**

### 3.5.2 Employment Trends

#### Persons at Work

There was 53, 277 persons at work in Donegal in 2011 a decrease of 3,393 persons (or -6%) since 2006 which is in line with the decrease nationally. The top employment sectors in Donegal were:

- No 1, 'Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles' (ranked No 2 in 2006);
- No 2, 'Human health and social work activities' (ranked No 3 in 2006);
- No 3, 'Education' (ranked No 5 in 2006);
- No 4, 'Manufacturing' (ranked no 4 in 2006);
- No 5, 'Agriculture Forestry and Fishing' (ranked No 7 in 2006)

The number of males at work in 2011 was 27, 933, a decrease of 14.9% over the period 2006 – 2011<sup>x</sup>. However, the number of females at work in 2011 was 25,344 females, increasing by 6.3%<sup>xi</sup> over the 2006 – 2011 period.

#### Unemployment

In 2011, there were 18,869 people's unemployed or first time job seekers an increase of 10,447 persons since 2006. Donegal's unemployment rate<sup>xii</sup> increased from 12.9% in 2006 to 26.2% in 2011. Donegal had the highest unemployment rate for any county in the State followed by Longford @ 24.7% and Wexford @ 24%. The unemployment rate for the State also increased from 8.5% in 2006 to 19.0%.

One of the key drivers of Donegal's poor deprivation rates in 2011 is the high levels of male unemployment.

In County Donegal in 2011, males were twice more likely than females to be unemployed or first time job seekers with 12,766 males and 6,103 females unemployed or first time job seekers. Male unemployment rates increased from 14.4% in 2006 to 31.4% in 2011. The female unemployment rate increased from 10.8% in 2006 to 19% in 2011. Both unemployment rates are higher than the rates for males and females in the State @ 22% and 15% respectively.

Youth unemployment is also an issue in County Donegal in 2011, where 32% of the population in the labour force aged between 16 and 35 years of age were unemployed compared to 23% in the State. Further analysis shows, 39.4% of males<sup>xiii</sup> and 23% of females<sup>xiv</sup> falling to the age category were unemployed (**See Table 4 Appendix 3**).

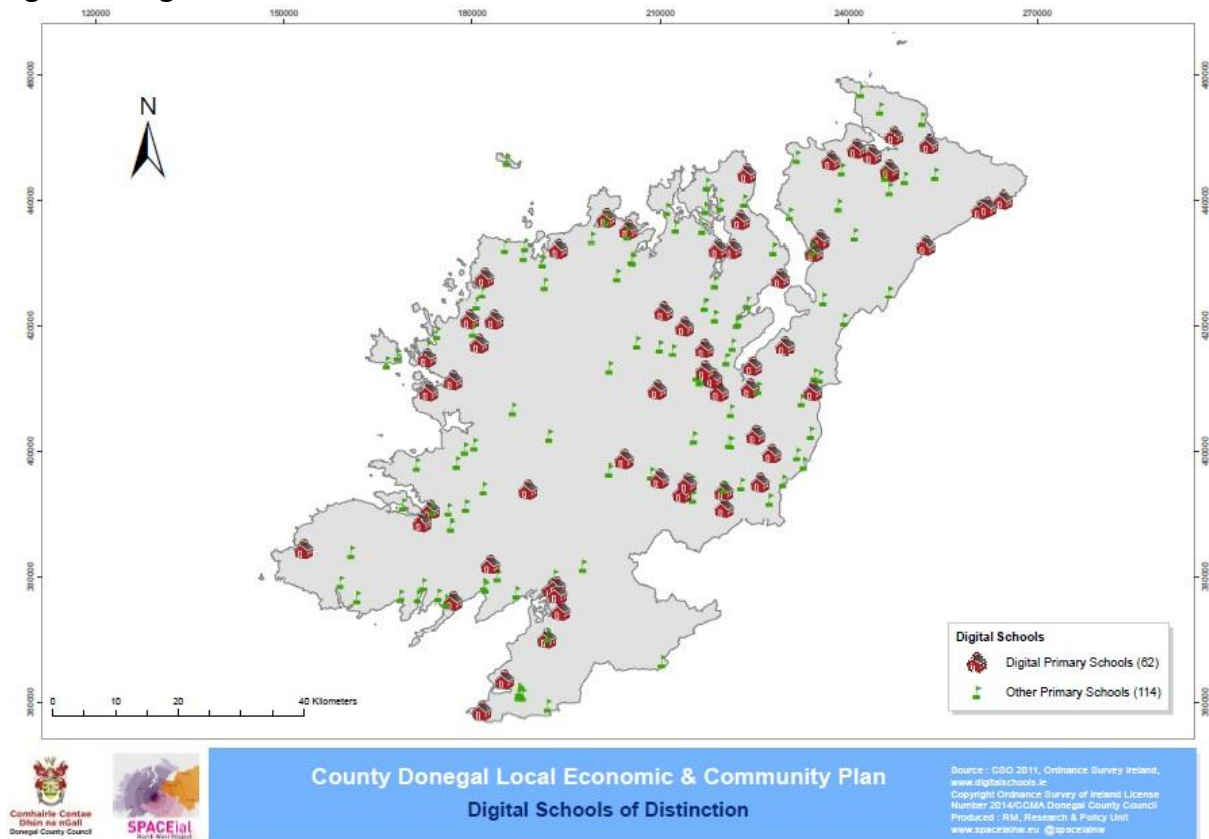
## **3.6 Skills and Human Resource Development**

### **3.6.1 Educational Infrastructure**

In the academic year 2013-2014, County Donegal had 175 mainstream national schools with a total enrolment of 18,919 students and 2 special schools both of which are located in Letterkenny) with a total enrolment of 154 students.

The Digital Schools of Distinction is a flagship programme which aims to promote, recognise and encourage excellence in the use of technology in primary schools. Figure 7 below, illustrates that there are currently 62 such schools in the process of becoming digital schools in County Donegal. There were 27 post primary schools in 2014-2015, with a total enrolment of 12,854 students.

Figure 7: Digital Schools of Distinction



### Third Level Infrastructure

Opportunities in terms of third level education have become more favourable in Donegal in recent years. The Letterkenny Institute of Technology currently has two third level campuses in Donegal; one in Letterkenny and one in Killybegs. The schools of Business, Engineering, Science and Tourism provide a wide variety of programmes with awards right up to Masters and Doctorate levels. The Education Training Board of Ireland (ETB) and An tSeirbhís Oideachais Leanúnaigh agus Scileanna (SOLAS) offer a wide array of courses which are certified. Effective Offshore, is an offshore training college in Falcarragh. It is one of Irelands most significant training locations.

#### 3.6.2 Educational Attainment Levels

One of the key drivers of poor deprivation rates within County Donegal is the level of educational attainment and Census 2011 reveals that of all the persons aged 15 years and over in County Donegal, who had finished their full time education :

- 24.9% finished with 'no formal or primary education' compared to 15.2% in the State.
- 18.5 % finished with 'a lower secondary education' compared to 16.6% in the State.
- 17.3% of person in County Donegal finished their education with upper secondary compared to 20% in the State.
- 16.6% had attained a technical/vocational qualification, an advanced certificate/completed apprenticeship and higher certificate compared to 18.8% in the State.
- 18.2% had attained a third level degree or higher compared to 24.6% in the State.

Although the percentage of persons whose full time education has ceased without formal or primary education in 2011, had improved in County Donegal since 2006 <sup>xv</sup> when ranked

amongst all other counties in the State, it still retains its ranking as the County with the highest percentage of persons with 'no formal or primary education'. It is interesting to note that the top 10 counties with the highest ranking of persons with 'no formal or primary education' in 2011 was Donegal (24.9%), Monaghan (20.8%), Mayo (20.5%), Cavan (19.4%), Longford (19.3%), Wexford (18.5%), Offaly (18%), Louth (17.9%), Leitrim (17.6%) and Roscommon (17.3%), were also the same top 10 counties with the highest ranking in this regard in 2006.

Females are more likely to attain a third level qualification or higher in County Donegal in that 22.1% of all females (11,710) whose full time education has ceased have attained a third level degree or higher in County Donegal compared to 14.4% of all males (7,580). Both percentages are lower than in the State where 27% of all females and 22% of all males whose full time education had ceased had attained a third level qualification.

Males in Donegal are more likely to have lower levels of education than females, in that 27.7% of all males (or 14,577) whose full time education had ceased in 2011 left with no formal or primary education compared to 22% of all females (or 11,784) whose education had ceased.

### Third Level Qualification by Field of Study

In 2011, 26,867 persons in County Donegal had attained a third level qualification after completing two or more years of study and this was the ninth highest number in the State in 2011. The top 10 qualifications by field of study in Donegal in 2011 were in:

Rank # 1	Social sciences, business and law, attained by 6,510 persons; (1st in State)
Rank # 2	Health and welfare, attained by 4,724 persons; (2nd in State)
Rank # 3	Education and teacher training attained by 3,979 persons; (5th in State)
Rank # 4	Science, mathematics and computing, attained by 2,998 persons; (4 <sup>th</sup> in State)
Rank # 5	Engineering, manufacturing and construction, attained by 2,763 persons; (3rd in State)
Rank # 6	Nursing and caring attained by 2,347 persons; (7th in State)
Rank # 7	Business and administration, broad programmes, attained by 1,800 persons; (6th in State)
Rank # 8	Humanities, attained by 1,459 persons; (9th in State)
Rank # 9	Accounting and taxation, attained by 1,134 persons; (8th in State)
Rank # 10	Arts, attained by 1,116 persons; (11th in State)

### 3.7 Area Needs Analysis: Increasing Sustainability & Social Inclusivity in Rural Communities

There are many people in Donegal who form part of our Hard to Reach Communities, whether they living in our most rural locations, our Gaeltacht communities or our coastal and island communities. Throughout the County we also have rising numbers within key vulnerable groups such as our youth and our elderly.

There are many ways to improve the status of those communities by increasing inclusivity through social and economic initiatives and opportunities. Such improvement can only take place through accessing quality services and economic infrastructures. The improvement of such services requires increasing access to:

- **Quality housing**

Initiatives to improve and upgrade housing to meet building regulations and increase their environmental sustainability

- **Training Programmes and Initiatives**

Such must be specific to economic opportunities and infrastructure locally so as to enable participants to use the skills attained through such courses.

- **Online services**

By enabling individuals physical access but also the 'know how' and assistance to use services such as online billing, banking, retail, information services, communication, etc through their local community centre.

- **Enhanced rural transport services**

Using innovative ways to provide transit for individuals such as community rota systems, safer routes such as off road trails and cycleways, vehicle pooling, working in conjunction with other communities and other services being provided in the locality, e.g. meals on wheels, community nursing, etc

- **Increased Accessibility for those with Disability**

Initiatives and projects to maximise accessibility so as to enable those with disabilities to integrate and interact with day to day services through multi sensory and highly accessible services and infrastructure

- **Community Centres as Opportunity Hubs**

Initiatives to increasing viability (reducing running costs and increasing potential income streams) and activities in community centres which provides more opportunities for vulnerable groups to partake in classes, courses and for increased social interaction in general.

- **Employment and Enterprise**

Initiatives to enable hard to reach communities to tap into increasing economic opportunities from tourism such as providing accommodation, tours on local cultural and heritage, shops, cafes, outdoor recreation enterprises, etc. Such projects may include the reuse of buildings for such uses, the development of tourism products, etc.

## Chapter 4 Protecting & Harnessing Our Rural Environment

### 4.0 A Wild and Varied Biosphere

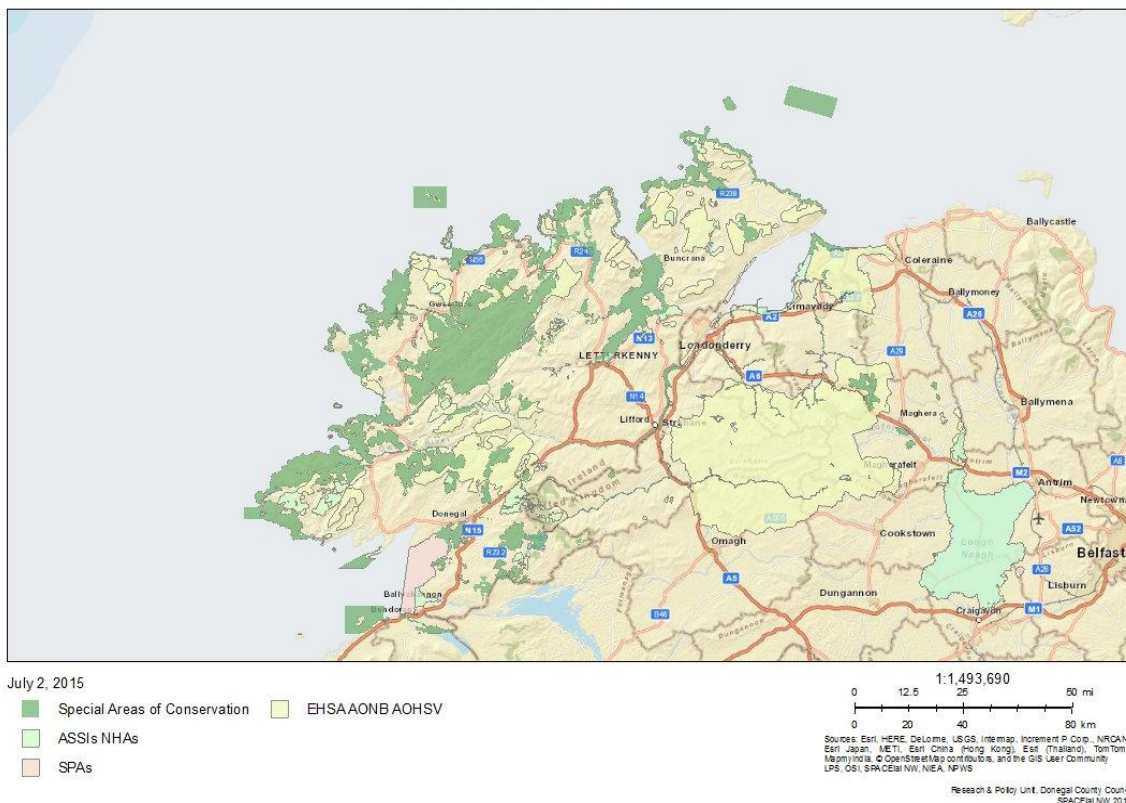
Donegal's environment offers huge opportunities for growth and development for enterprise creation and tourism product development whilst also improving recreational access for Donegal residents. Protecting our most important habitat and promoting a pristine environment along with our green image is an integral part of developing the Donegal Brand.

The County offers visitors and residents access to a range of rich and unique ecosystems from whale & dolphin watching, to basking sharks, from the Golden Eagle and corncrake to the seal colonies around our coast. This richly diverse environment has led to the designation of a number of European, National and locally important sites across the County. The location, nature and extent of such designations should therefore be profiled and examined to ensure that appropriate strategies are implemented for their promotion and protection.

Donegal has a large number of nationally and internationally important ecological sites and species that are protected under Irish and European legislation.

### 4.1 Environmental Assets

**Figure 1: Environmental Designations**



#### 4.1.1 Natura Sites

Natura 2000 Sites comprise a Europe wide network of especially important areas which are designated under either the Habitats Directive to protect and conserve habitats and species

of particular importance as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) (such as red deer, bat species) or under the Birds Directive to protect birds and particularly rare listed and vulnerable species (corncrake, cattle egret).

Natura 2000 Sites	Number of Sites
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	47
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	25
Total	72

Comparative to the national ratio of Natura 2000 sites, Donegal has a significant share of our most internationally important sites; Donegal comprises 7% of the land cover of the Country as a whole, yet has 12.3% of the entire Country's SAC designated sites. County Donegal has the largest population of Corncrake in Ireland. Also protected under the directive are wetlands, especially those of international importance, that attract large numbers of migratory birds. Lough Swilly is one of the most important wetlands for birds in Ireland with 22 waterfowl species in nationally important numbers and three species in internationally important numbers. There are 122,900 hectares of SAC designated lands and 26,650 hectares of SPA designated lands which, overlap in parts and when taken together comprise of 124,921 hectares of Natura 2000 sites, or 25.7% of all land County Donegal's land coverage. Species whose status is a cause for concern are specifically identified for special conservation measures in Annex I of the Birds and Habitats Directives. 61 Annex I habitats are found in Ireland, 41 of which are represented in County Donegal. Of the 16 listed priority habitats found in Ireland and 9 of these are found in County Donegal's SACs.

#### 4.1.2 Natural Heritage Areas and Other Wildlife Reserves

Natural Heritage Areas were established under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 and represent the basic designation for wildlife protection. They were derived from Areas of Scientific Interest (ASI) and include some of the best remaining areas of natural and semi-natural habitat in the County. Sites may have been selected on the basis of having special scientific significance for one or more species, communities, habitats, landforms, geological or geomorphological features, or a diversity of natural attributes.

Designation	Number of Sites
Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs)	14
Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs)	74

There are many other wildlife protection areas in the County. These include Glenveagh National Park, numerous Ramsar Sites, Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries, a Wildfowl Reserve, a Biogenetic Reserve and a Refuge for Fauna.

**Glenveagh** is one of 6 National Parks to be found in the state. It is the second largest in size comprising of 16,958 hectares of rugged mountain, blanket bog and pristine lakes. The park is a significant ecological, recreational and educational asset to the County. The parks appeal and value is immense, exemplified in the fact that it remains the largest tourist attraction in Co. Donegal. The park is served by a highly skilled and experienced team of conservation rangers. Wildlife rangers are also employed to cover 6 regions within the County in terms of monitoring, managing and protecting wildlife.

**Ramsar Sites** were established as a result of the Ramsar Convention, the mission of which is ‘the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world’. There are 45 such sites in Ireland with 4 sites in Donegal.

**Natures Reserves** are protected under Sections 15 and 16 of the Wildlife Act 1976. These areas are set aside for the conservation of fauna, flora and their habitats. The majority are state-owned, however, some are in private ownership. There are 9 Nature Reserves in Co. Donegal.

**Wildfowl Sanctuaries** are protected under the Wildlife Act 1976 (Open Seasons) Orders where shooting is prohibited so that game birds can feed undisturbed. There are 6 Wildfowl Sanctuaries in Donegal.

**Biogenetic Reserves** are designated to act as ‘living laboratories’ and are representative examples of various types of natural environment in Europe. The concept was launched by the Council of Europe in 1973. The Biogenetic Reserve network comprises 344 established in 22 Countries. 14 sites have been designated in Ireland, one of which the Pettigo Plateau Biogenetic Reserve is located in Donegal.

**Refuges for Fauna** are designated under the Wildlife Act 1976 to protect named species of wild animal (vertebrate or invertebrate). There are 7 such refuges in Ireland to protect 22 named species. One such refuge is in Horn Head, County Donegal, designated to protect 16 breeding bird species on the cliffs and small islands where there is no threat of potentially damaging activities due to the sites inaccessibility.

#### 4.1.3 Geology and Landscape

According to geologists such as J.B. Whittow, Donegal is one of the most geologically complex areas in all of Ireland. As geology is an intrinsic part of our natural heritage, the conservation and promotion of our most important geological features is essential. The Heritage Act and planning legislation in particular, place responsibility upon Local Authorities to ensure the protection of the geological heritage within planning policy. Whilst many of our sites of geological and geomorphological importance are protected as part of Natural Heritage Areas, other important sites are designated as Irish Geological Heritage (IGH) sites. There are 145 such sites in the County, from the Gweebarra fault to the oldest rocks in Ireland found on Inistrahull Island off Malin Head.

Donegal is a land of breathtaking natural beauty with a long picturesque coastline, mountains, hills, rivers, lakes, valleys and unspoilt natural habitats. ‘The Beautiful Scenery’ is the top reason for tourists choosing to holiday in Donegal/Sligo, according to *Failte Ireland’s Holidaymaker Study 2013 – Donegal/Sligo*. In the same study ‘Natural Environment’ scored highest in terms of their overall experience, while 80% of respondents gave the ‘Beautiful Scenery/Countryside’ as their reason for recommending the area. These figures serve to highlight the significance of protecting and promoting our landscape in the sustainable development of the tourism sector in Donegal.

Landscape Character Assessment (**LCA**)<sup>11</sup> is key to implementing a comprehensive landscape management strategy for the County. While projects should seek to harness the significant benefits from our landscape by promoting awareness of and increasing access to its beauty,

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<sup>11</sup> A Landscape Character Assessment was carried out to establish the levels of Landscape Sensitivity in the County that would inform future development in the County.



it is crucial that such initiatives ensure that the integrity of our scenic areas are not compromised. The County Development Plan 2012-2018 gives a commitment to carry out an LCA for the County. This assessment will inform on the 'capacity' of a particular landscape type or area to accommodate change without significant effects on its character, or overall change to the landscape character type.

## 4.2 Our Water Resource

Clean water is one of the most important elements for life. This is critical not only to our own human existence, but also to sustain plant and animal life. Therefore it is essential that we maintain and enhance the quality of our groundwater, rivers, lakes and coastal waters. It is also important that we identify pollution sources in order to develop strategies to reduce such occurrences including potential threats from agriculture, wastewater, industry etc. We must ensure that human impact on our rural environment is managed so we can maximise opportunities for growth and development particularly in terms of tourism and diversification in rural Donegal. Adequate water treatment and supply and adequate wastewater collection and treatment are key parts of the infrastructures essential to economic, social and environmental development in Donegal.

### 4.2.1 Waterbody Quality

The Environmental Protection Agency has classified surface water bodies into five designations; High status - Good status - Moderate status - Poor status - Bad status. One of the primary aims of the Water Framework Directive (Article 4) is to achieve good surface water status by 2015. If a waterbody is already classified as 'good status' or 'high status' then it should be maintained; there can therefore, be no deterioration in quality.

The water quality status of the waterbodies monitored in the County are:

Waterbody	Bad	Poor	Moderate	Good	High	U/A	Total
River Segments	4	108	110	224	86	0	532
Loughs	0	1	14	47	56	0	118
Coastal Waters	0	0	7	6	3	8	24
Transitional Waters	0	0	8	2	5	6	21

Of the 40 groundwater reserves in the County all have a 'good' water quality status.

### 4.2.2 Supply of Drinking Water

In Donegal, 97% of drinking water is from surface waters, while 3% is sourced from groundwater. In 2013 there were 73 water schemes in the County supplied from 178 reservoirs using 4,366km of water main via 175 pumping stations. Figures show that 84.5% of the population in the County are served by public water schemes, with 12% served by private wells and the remaining 3.5% either by group schemes or other small private schemes (See Table 2 Appendix 4).

There currently are 16,445 non-domestic water connections in the County. Of this figure there are 1,060 connections which have a fixed charge of water. This figure is made up of 65% in agriculture, 20% in commercial and 15% in holiday and leisure. Of the total number of

connections which are metered; 43% are in agriculture, 32% in commercial, 13.6% in holiday and leisure, 6.4% in industrial and 5.9% in institutional.

#### 4.2.3 Quality of Drinking Water

In Donegal in 2013, the compliance rate for microbiological parameters (such as coliform bacteria, e-coli, specific pathogenic bacteria) was 100%, while the compliance rate for chemical parameters (such as bromate, lead, fluoride, trihalomethanes, etc) was 99.1%. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes a Remedial Action List each quarter focusing attention on resolving the most serious deficiencies in public water supplies across the Country. Since 2013, 10 public water supplies in Donegal serving a total population of 39,508 persons have remained on the Remedial Action List (See table 3 Appendix 4). These supplies require significant investment to ensure compliance with quality standards. In addition a number of other public water supplies, which did not comply with standards in 2013 included: Buncrana, Burnfoot, Cranford, Fanad East, Frosses-Inver, Inishowen West, Killybegs, Lettermacaward, Lough Mourne, Pollan Dam, Rosses, Ballymagroarty, Churchill, Gleneely and Meenreagh.

In general in Ireland the quality of private group schemes continues to improve, however these schemes remain inferior to public water supplies. Small private supplies showed an increase in e-coli non-compliance, from 7.7% of supplies in 2011 to 11.3% of supplies in 2012. Water infrastructure is necessary for economic growth and development. Irish Water plan to invest just under €10 million in Donegal's water infrastructure over the next number of years (See Table 4 Appendix 4). However, not all water schemes fall under the remit of Irish Water, therefore it is important that any opportunities that exist locally to resolve issues regarding capacity and/or quality of supply through public, private and community partnerships are to be encouraged. This is particularly applicable for smaller schemes which have not been transferred to Irish Water. A review of such schemes in terms of their capacities and quality is required to enable potential opportunities to upgrade or enhance such services. Proposals for initiatives such as these are welcomed for discussion.

#### 4.2.4 Water Usage and Unaccounted for Water<sup>12</sup>

In 2010, the water consumption level in the County was 5,168,636m<sup>3</sup>. This figure decreased slightly to 5,149,697m<sup>3</sup> in 2012. It rose by 480,927m<sup>3</sup> in 2013 and decreased the following year in 2014 to 5,157,934m<sup>3</sup> (Laboratory Section, Donegal County Council 2015).

The loss of treated drinking water through leakage, etc is a significant issue in Ireland. The level of such water loss is substantially higher than in Northern Ireland, Scotland, etc. Unaccounted for water (UFW) is calculated as a percentage of total volume of water supplied. Between 2008-2013 Donegal's average 'Unaccounted for Water' rate was 45%.

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
43%	46%	53%	45%	40%	42%

#### 4.2.5 Wastewater Network

There are 97 wastewater schemes in Co. Donegal with 105 treatment plants. 9 large urban areas in Ireland did not meet the European Union Directive requirement to provide secondary treatment, 3 of these were in Donegal: Killybegs, Bundoran and Convoy. There are a further 16 smaller urban areas in Donegal without secondary treatment. These included; Falcarragh, Kilcar, Moville, Ramelton, St Johnston, Burtonport, Coolatee Housing

<sup>12</sup> Local Authority Service Indicators, Annual Reports 2008-2012

Scheme & Kerrykeel, Killybegs which failed to meet the standard for nutrients in waste water discharged to sensitive areas from larger towns (>10,000).

In 2013 there was one area in Donegal where effluent samples taken by the EPA in 2013 did not comply with the effluent quality standards in the waste water discharge licence, that being Milford.

Wastewater is a key infrastructure necessary for economic growth and development. Therefore, deficiencies in networks and treatment are required to facilitate growth in many areas of the County. Irish Water's strategic investment programme aims to invest over 46 million up to 2020 in water and wastewater infrastructure in Donegal (See Table 5 Appendix 4).

However, not all wastewater schemes are under the remit of Irish Water, therefore it is important that any opportunities to resolve issues regarding capacity and/or quality of supply through public, private and community partnerships are to be encouraged. This is particularly applicable for smaller schemes which have not been transferred to Irish water.

### 4.3 Renewable Energy Resources

#### Wind Energy

Wind power and biomass are by far the most common form of renewable technology used in the North West Region. Donegal hosts the optimal conditions for development of such technologies, particularly wind power with regard to wind speeds. Large scale wind farms are common in the region and produce well above the national average of wind energy. Donegal, Derry and Tyrone combined produce 25% of Ireland's wind power. Donegal is 2<sup>nd</sup> in terms of production next to Cork. Donegal is ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in the 2011 table of Microgeneration from PV and Wind produced by SEAI. However, wind resource is not a factor in placing Donegal 11<sup>th</sup> on this table. (Ren Net – Renewable Energy Business Network; Interim Evaluation Report 2014).

In 2010, Donegal was producing approximately 15% of electricity from renewable sources. The Government have established an ambitious target to increase this nationally to 40% of by 2020, with wind energy providing a significant contribution to that target (5,500MW) (Donegal County Development Plan 2012-2018 (as varied)). Of the 1,803MW of power which is currently generated by wind farms in Ireland, 279.65MW is generated in Donegal from a total of 28 wind farms.

#### Wave Energy

There is a notable wave energy resource off the coast of Donegal. To harness and benefit from this significant renewable resource there is a need to install the necessary supporting grid infrastructure.

Pilot projects will necessitate the identification of network connection points with appropriate capacity and transmission infrastructure. Ireland has the potential to become a world leader in the manufacture and use of ocean energy systems and has 3rd Level research expertise in the areas of turbine design at University of Limerick, wave tank model testing at University College Cork and wave energy modelling at Queen's University, Belfast. In terms of prototype development, there are currently three wave energy developers in

Ireland. The Government has indicated that Ireland should become a world leader in renewable energy, as these are unparalleled ocean resources which position the Country at the forefront in the development of full-scale, commercially viable ocean wave energy generating facilities.

### **Biomass and Bio-crops**

Biomass is the biological material derived from living, or recently living organisms. For centuries people in Donegal relied upon our natural resources including peat as a source of fuel and seaweed for the fertilisation of crops. While the harvesting of peat is increasingly unsustainable there is a wide range of sustainable and affordable alternatives. The County has large areas of sustainable managed commercial forestry which has potential for use as wood fuel for both domestic and commercial markets. In addition, the growth of interest in energy crops such as willow, rape seed and miscanthus, all represent alternative biofuel opportunities which are viable and already growing in the County. It is notable that the Department of Agriculture provides grant support for the growing of willow and miscanthus. South West College in association with the Answer Project have developed an application which provides data on low medium and high suitability for growing willow throughout Donegal. Opportunities exist in Donegal for communities to tap into Bio Remediation through Willow.

### **Fossil Fuel**

It is key Government policy to encourage investment in offshore oil and gas exploration. A number of exploratory prospecting licenses have been issued to companies for the Slyne and Rockall basins, 150km of the Donegal coast. In addition, in 2010 the Government invited applications for onshore licensing options over the North West Carboniferous Basin (an area of approximately 8,000 sqkm, which includes the area south of the River Erne in Ballyshannon and around Bundoran).

An opportunity exists to expand and develop the roles of Killybegs and Donegal Airport as strategic maintenance service facilities for offshore activities. Ireland currently imports 96% of its gas supplies from Europe via an interconnector from the UK. If commercially viable hydrocarbon reserves are discovered then exploration and production activities must be subject to rigorous assessment and safe and tested procedures. Nationally the supply of gas will be strategically supplied through inter-connections between Ireland and the UK, which will secure sufficient gas supplies for the foreseeable future. A new gas pipeline has been constructed from Belfast to Derry and the Council would support the extension of existing services into the County.

## **4.4 Area Needs Analysis: Protecting and Harnessing our Natural Heritage & Water Resource**

### **Sustainable Access and Promotion**

The natural heritage of the County is a key asset for local, national and international tourism. Sustainable access to and promotion of these assets are central elements to its further development. In conjunction with NPWS locally, there is an array of ways in which our natural environment can be accessed. Opportunities exist to develop and enhance these various means such as bus tours, packages, guided hiking and cycling, boating, watersports, trail development, bike, segway hire, beach access, whale and dolphin watching, interpretative on site and online promotional resources. Natural heritage tourism

can be combined with cultural and built heritage (Chapter 6) such as folklore, archaeology, genealogy, architecture and history to provide a more comprehensive tourism offer.

### **Developing a Hub to Donegal's Biosphere**

The rich and diverse range of geology, landscape and habitat has created a truly unique biosphere across the entire County. Only in recent years has an awareness of some of these unique elements begun to emerge. Therefore a real and present opportunity exists to develop a 'Natural Network' for the County's biosphere.

- Such a network would serve to 'join up' the unique designations and eco locations across the County for the purposes of protection and promotion through information and access.
- The development of such a tool presents the opportunity to build on Glenveagh's unique comparative advantage so that it can develop further as the 'biosphere hub' for the region.
- The key towns in the regions have the potential to develop as central access points from which the richness of satellite locations can be experienced.

Glenveagh's Nature Education Centre runs a range of programmes aimed at children across a range of age groups to educate and develop young people's appreciation of the natural world. Opportunities exist to develop educational programmes and information initiatives across a range of ecological areas and locations. These will serve to increase promotion and conservation across the County's biosphere network.

### **Small Scale Water & Wastewater Infrastructure**

Explore collaborative opportunities to upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure in particular small scale private or public schemes that are not under auspices of Irish Water, where small investments or targeted measures would enable commercial and tourism development to take place.

### **Our Environment as a Cross Cutting Theme**

As part of the implementation of the LEADER programme, the promoting, protecting and enhancement all areas of our environment must be considered across all emerging objectives and projects.

All LEADER Projects and Initiatives should be screened to identify opportunities where environmental enhancement measures can be incorporated into the project. Such enhancements may include for example, measure to:

- increase water protection and conservation,
- pollution reduction,
- low impact methods for development,
- facilitation of native species,
- sustainable waste management,
- increased energy efficiency,
- use of renewable energy

## Chapter 5 Donegal's Primary Sectors

### 5.0 Developing a Vibrant Local Food Economy

Consumer spending patterns are crucial to local economic performance. Research by the London Economics Foundation has found that every €10 spent in a local food business is worth €25 to the local economy. Therefore, a substantial multiplier effect occurs when money is circulated locally.

According to projections from the TASTE Council, by 2020 the existing base of Artisan and Speciality Food Firms have the potential to double their output from 3 – 6%, increasing their market share from 3 – 6% resulting in the creation of new jobs for the local economy. The potential of the food sector in assisting with the development of a vibrant local food economy in Co. Donegal is high.

This chapter will examine different aspects of Donegal's Food Resource to demonstrate the potential it offers for farm diversification, creation of rural enterprises, development of rural tourism and the long term sustainability of rural communities.

### 5.1 A Picture of Agriculture in Donegal

On the basis of rural extent of the Donegal landscape, agricultural activity has for many decades being a primary sector of economic and social importance in the County. However, over the years agricultural activity has changed in Donegal. Changes in farming techniques, changes in market demands together with an ever aging farmer population as seen the need for a more focused and structured move toward farm diversification.

#### 5.1.1 Agricultural Trends

##### Farm Numbers

There were a total of 9,240 farms in County Donegal in 2010, decreasing by 4.9% (435 farms) over the 2000-2010 period and by 9.7% (988 farms) over the 1991-2010 period. The total number of farms decreased by 1,667 in the State over the 2000-2010 period. Farm sizes are also increasing in County Donegal, from an average farm size of 26.2 HA in 2000 to 27.9HA in 2010. For example, in 1991 there were 41.6% of farms less than 10 AAU compared to 26.5% in 2010. In addition, farms between 30 and 100 AAU increased from 17.8% in 1991 to 29.7% in 2010. The average farm size in the State in 2010 was 32.7 Ha. (See Figure 1)

**Figure 1: No. of farms in Donegal by farm size and year**

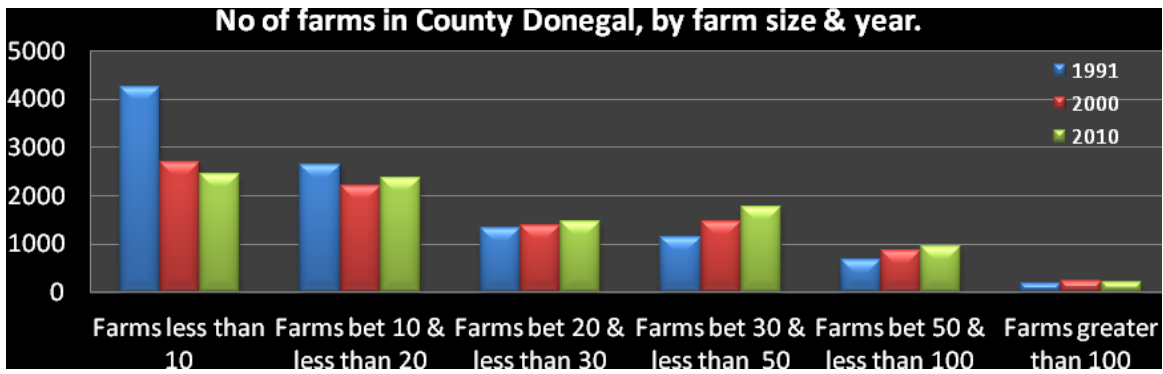
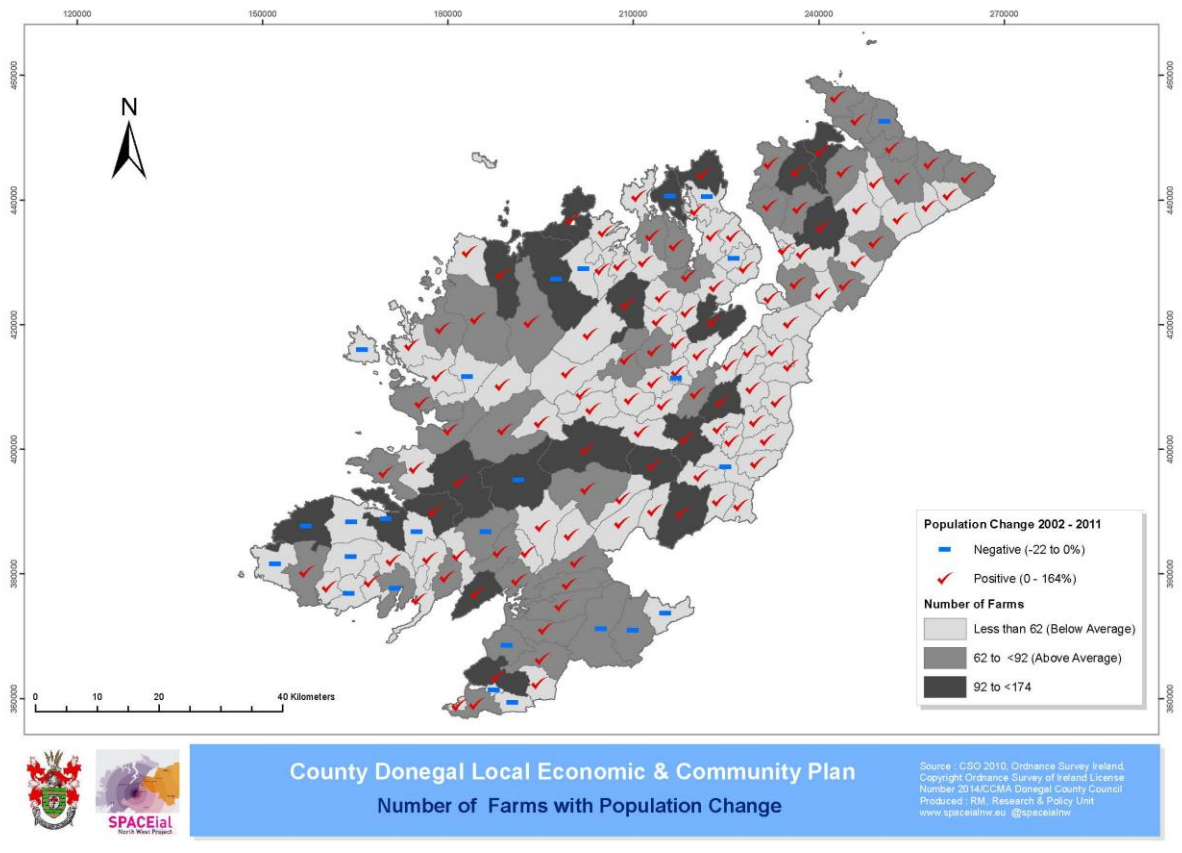


Figure 2: No. of farms with population change



**Age of Holder**

More than half (54%) of all farm holders in County Donegal were aged 55 years or older in 2010, compared to 43% in 2000. In 2010, 29% were aged 65 years and over compared to 23% in 2000, the comparable figure for the State was 26% in 2010. The numbers of holders aged less than 35 years has decreased from 13.4% to 8.2% over the 10 year period in County Donegal; however this decrease is not as severe in the State, where numbers almost halved (See Figure 2, 3 & 4).

Figure 3: No. of family farms in County Donegal by age of holder

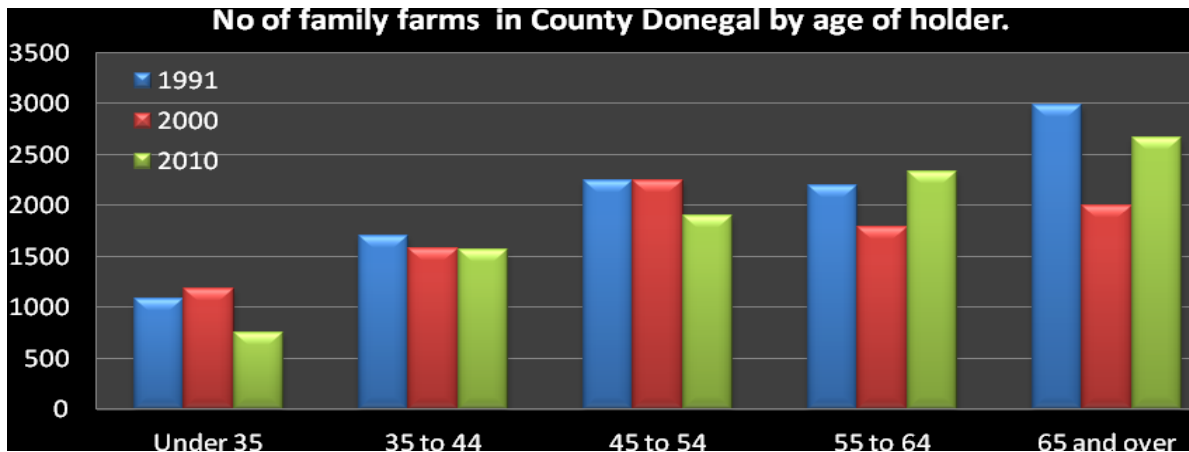
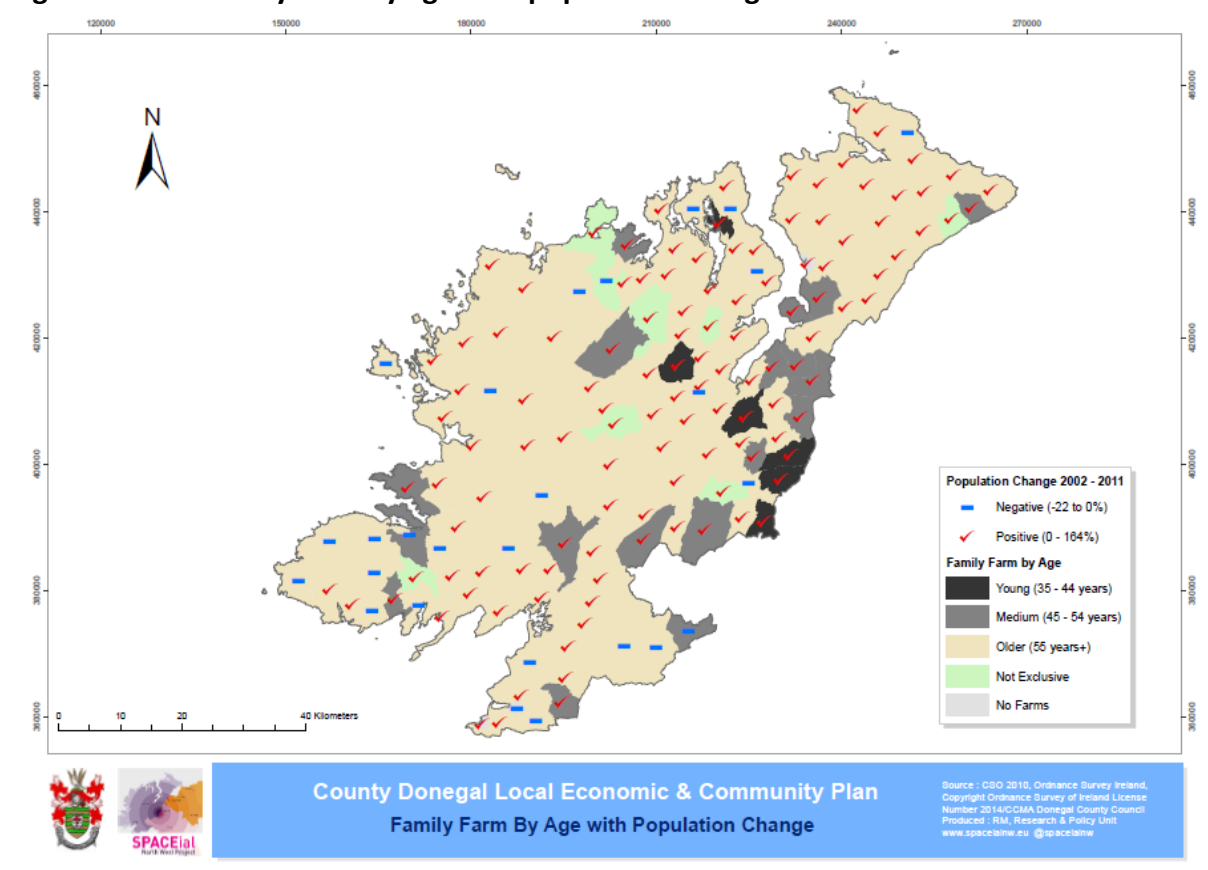


Figure 4: Family farm by age with population change



### Farm Workers

The number of persons working on farms in County Donegal increased by 10% over the period 2000-2010, from 13,975 to 15,503 persons. The corresponding increase for the State is 6%. Although, there was an increase in the actual number of holders, spouses, other family members and non family regular labourers; the largest driver of this change was in other family members increasing by 665 persons. Of the 15,503 persons engaged in farming in County Donegal, 14,734 were family workers (95%) and 769 were regular non-family



workers (5%). Collectively this workforce provides 8,970 annual work units. One annual work unit = 1,800 hours or more of labour input per person per annum (See Table 1).

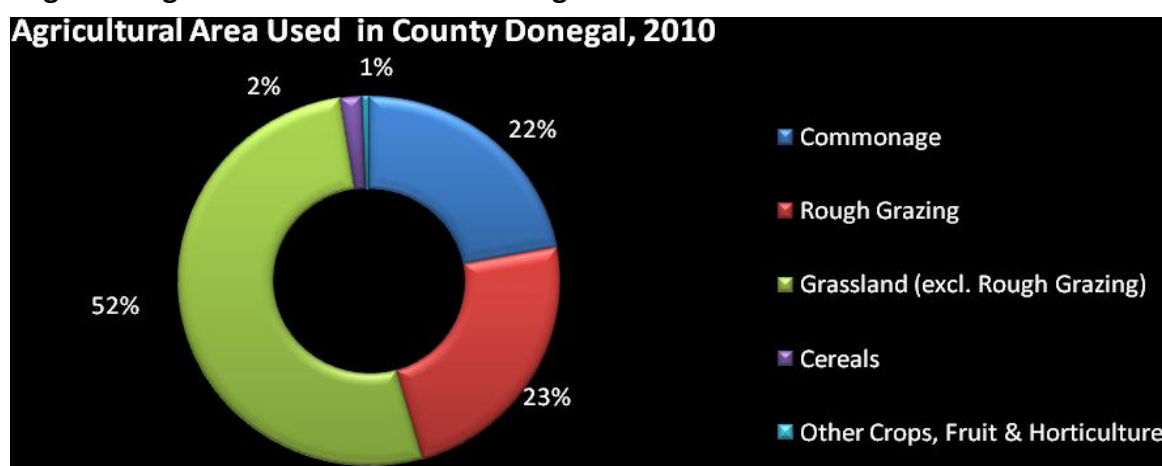
**Table 1: Farm labour input by number of persons and Annual Work Units (AWU)**

Persons / AWU	1991	2000	2010
Holder: Persons	10,214	8,804	9,222
Holder: AWU	7,944	6,189	6,177
Spouse: Persons	3,068	1,820	2,104
Spouse: AWU	2,120	957	890
Other Family: Persons	2,693	2743	3,408
Other Family: AWU	1,824	1,250	1,477
Non Family Labour:Persons	437	608	769
Non Family Labour:AWU	337	277	427
Total Persons	16,412	13,975	15,503
Total Farm AWU	12,224	8,672	8,970

#### Agricultural Area (incl. Commonage)

Of the 330,770 agricultural area used in County Donegal, 52% was for grassland (lower than the State @ 76%); 23% was for rough grazing (higher and the State at 9%); 22% was for Commonage (higher than the State @ 8%); 2% was for Cereals (lower than the State @ 5%) and 1% was for Other Crops (lower than the State @ 2%) See Figure 5.

**Figure 5: Agricultural Area Used in Donegal 2010**



#### 5.1.2 Agricultural Produce & Markets

##### Key Farm Produce

**Potatoes** – 240 farms in Donegal produce potatoes; this is more farms than any other County in the State. Across these farms 1,201 ha of potatoes are grown, making Donegal the fifth highest potato producing County in the State.

The potato is of immense historical, commercial and cultural significance. Few plants have had as strong an influence on the destiny of a nation as the potato has exercised in Ireland. The Tops Potato Propagation Centre in Raphoe comprises the National Potato Genebank. Here an extensive collection of over 400 unique potato varieties are maintained, the oldest of which pre-dates the Irish Famine, with old and modern Irish varieties and varieties from

abroad providing a living legacy of our long association with the potato. The Potato Propagation Centre forms part of DAFM Seed Certification Division. It produces approx. 30,000 minitubers from virus-free microplants, tests micro plants, mini tubers and seed crops for a range of viruses and conducts potato disease trials. The work at the centre ensures a healthy supply of seed potato is available and certified as well as ongoing development to eliminate potato virus and disease.

Teagasc's Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020, highlights that tillage farming in the region is located mainly in east Donegal and historically this was associated with seed potato production. The area under seed potatoes peaked at 1600 hectares, but has since been reduced to 295 hectares due to poor profitability and rejection of crops for diseases such as Blackleg etc. Over the last number of years the county has also seen a reduction in the area under ware potatoes due to price volatility and low profitability, while consumption is also declining, with potatoes being substituted with rice and pasta.

**Cattle** – Average herd size in County Donegal in 2010 was 36 cattle per farm compared to 60 cattle per farm in the State. 34% of cattle (34,474) on farms in County Donegal were kept for breeding purposes, of which 15,456 (24%) were dairy cows. 66% fell into the other cattle categories. (5298 farms)

**Sheep** – Sheep farming plays a significant role in the rural economy of Co. Donegal. With just under 426,000 sheep across 5,280 flocks, Donegal has significantly more sheep and the greatest number of flocks of any County in Ireland.<sup>13</sup> 12% (576,463) of the National flock were in County Donegal, with an average flock size of 114 sheep per farm (5,042 farms).

**Pigs, Poultry & Deer** – Donegal had 38,525 pigs on 60 farms, giving an average of 642 pigs per farm compared to the State average of 1,254. Donegal had 38,525 pigs on 60 farms, giving an average of 642 pigs per farm compared to the State average of 1,254. Donegal had 28,962 poultry on 420 farms, giving an average number of 69 poultry per farm. In addition Donegal had 10 farms with 85 farmed deers.

**Equine** – In 2014 more than a third of calls made to the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA) were requests to assist horses or donkeys in County Donegal. In the same year Donegal County Council dealt with a further 13 abandoned equines, bringing the total to 56. The numbers of horses and donkeys requiring re-homing or removing from premises in the County in 2014 was 147 up 28% on 2013. The ISPCA have called for horse owners in the County to cease breeding their animals as a first step in tackling the current crisis. These welfare problems derive from the excessive numbers of equines bred and brought into the County from 2000-2007 and the subsequent collapse of the horse and pony market nationally.

The Irish Horse board has identified performance horses and ponies as the largest and most important export market in Ireland. The Horse Board facilitate this market through assisting international purchasers with the shipping cost associated with exporting such animals from Ireland. The performance related areas include jumping, hunting, polo and show ponies, cross country, eventing, driving, etc, across a range of breeds such as Irish Sport Horse, Irish Draught and Connemara Ponies.

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<sup>13</sup> National Sheep & Goat Census 2013, DAFM

### Farmers Markets

Country Markets has been a co-operative business for over 60 years. It is a national organisation with branch markets in most counties in the country. These indoor markets generally operate one day a week to market the shareholders' fresh farm, garden and home produce and handcrafts. There are a number of farmers markets that take place around Donegal each week.

Bridgend	Harrys Restuarant	Saturday	10.30am - 2.30
Buncrana	Church of Ireland Hall	2nd & 4th Sat	2.00 - 3.00pm
Carrick	Old School	Saturday	11.00am
Dunfanaghy	Ozanam Centre	Saturday*	11.00am – 12.00pm
Kilclooney	Dolmen Centre	Saturday	11.00am
Leghowney	Leghowney Hall	2nd and 4th Saturday of month	11.00am
Ramelton	Town Hall	Saturday	11.00am
Ramelton	Market Square	Every 2nd Friday	10.00am

Source:<http://www.bordbia.ie/consumer/aboutfood/farmersmarkets/Pages/CountryMarkets.aspx>

## 5.2 Forestry

Forestry and woodlands in County Donegal present considerable opportunities<sup>14</sup> for the development of rural areas in Donegal and the North West Region.

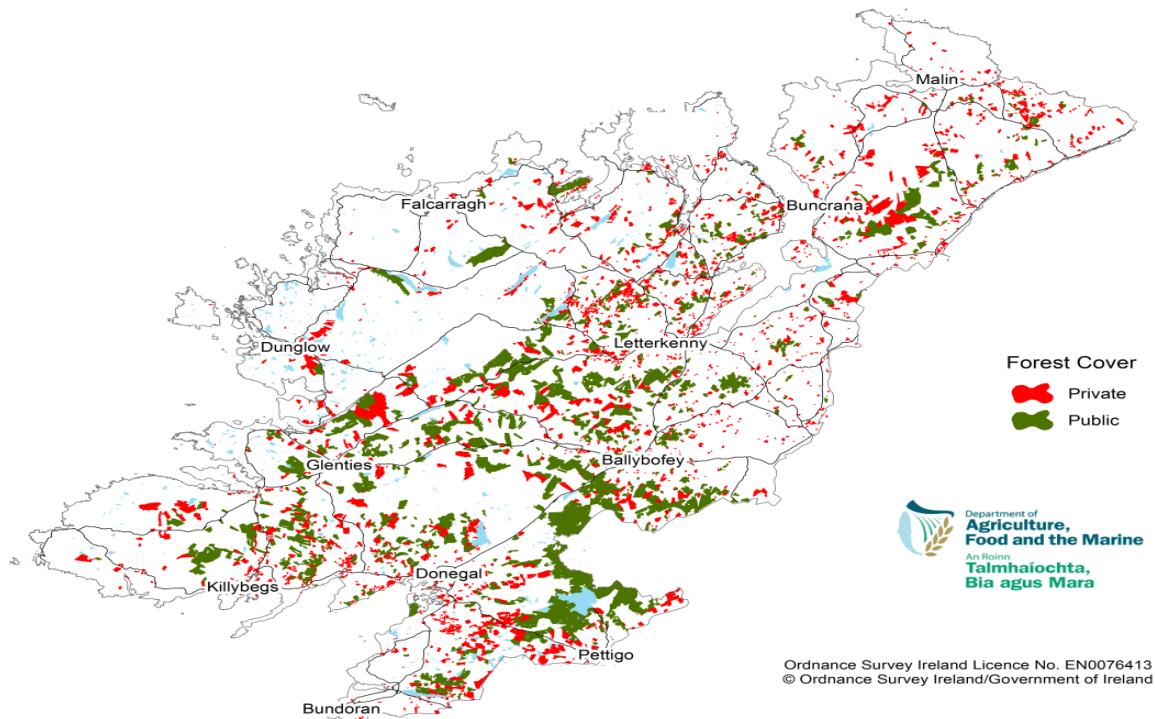
Provides an opportunity to increase farm viability through diversification into primary wood production and value added wood products whilst also helping to meet the demand for access to rural amenities, activity and adventure tourism.

The development of forestry and woodlands in Donegal also assists in tackling environmental challenges through sustainable land use and eco-system management. At a time when Donegal needs to reduce its dependency on oil as an energy source, forestry provides significant opportunities for the development of the whole Biomass<sup>xvi</sup>/ Wood Energy Sector whilst forests also sequester CO<sup>2</sup> emissions from the atmosphere.

### Figure 6: Forest Cover Public and Private 2011-2012

#### <sup>14</sup> Benefits of Forestry

- Environmental Benefits: Carbon Sequestration: whereby 4 – 6 tonnes are sequestered per hectare per annum  
59,177 ha = 355,062 tonnes sequestered per annum by Donegal Forests
- Social Benefits: Tourism, Recreation, Landscape, Heritage, Health, Art
- Economic Benefits: Construction – Natural, Renewable, Building Material, Wood Energy - Firewood, Woodchip, Wood Pellets, Employment/ Enterprise

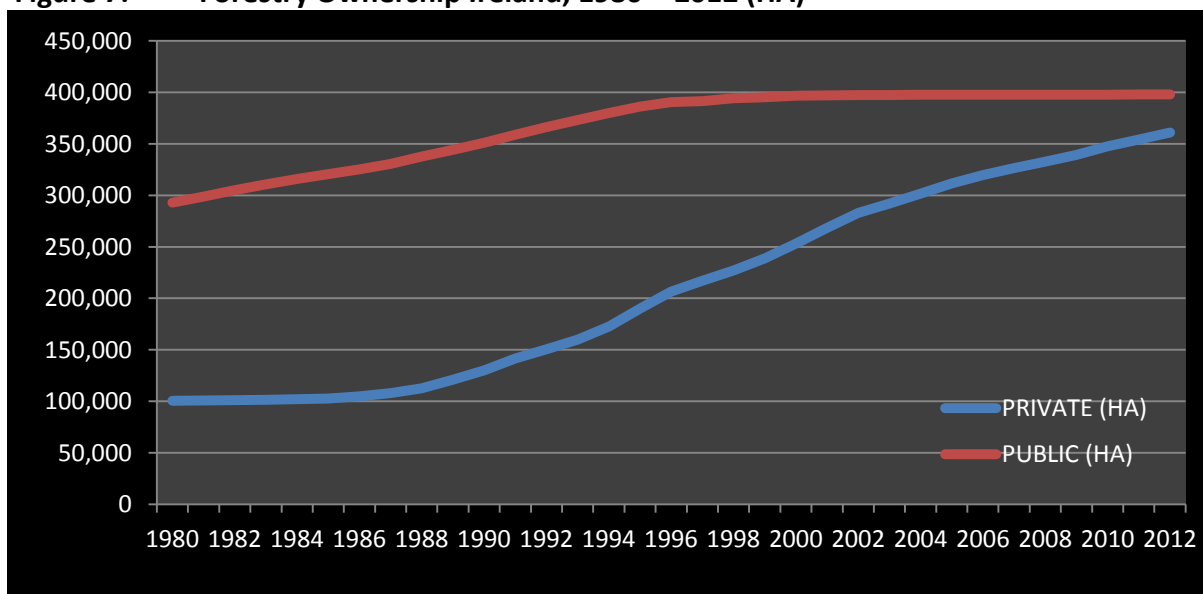


### 5.2.1 Forestry Ownership

In 2012, the area of forest in Ireland was estimated at 758,761 ha compared to 752,109 ha in 2011. Total land area covered by forestry in 2012 was 11%, of which 47% (or 360,834 ha) were in private ownership and 53% (or 397,927 ha) were in public ownership. These forests are managed by Coillte. Growth in the area covered by forestry is mainly driven by growth in private sector afforestation (See Figure 6 above).

The total area of forestry in Donegal in 2012 is estimated at 59,177 ha or 12.25% of the total land area in 2012. 38% (22,770.67ha) were in private ownership and 62% (36,406 ha) were in public ownership.

**Figure 7: Forestry Ownership Ireland, 1980 – 2012 (HA)**



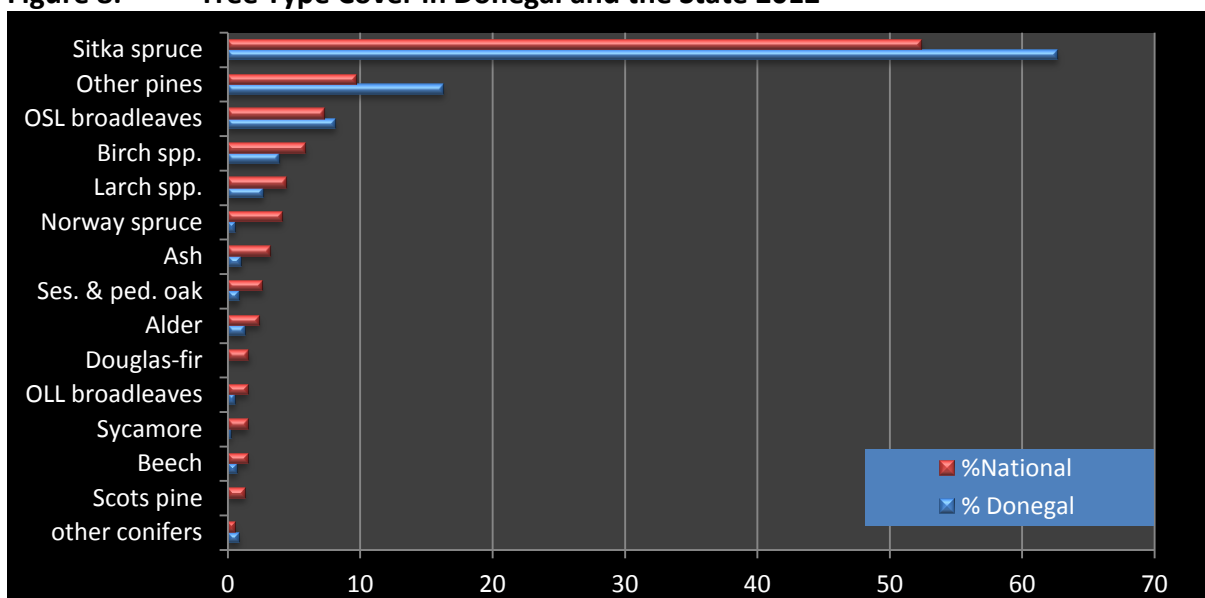
Source: [http://www.teagasc.ie/forestry/advice/index\\_statistics.asp](http://www.teagasc.ie/forestry/advice/index_statistics.asp)

### 5.2.2 Species Composition

In 2012, 83% of stocked forests in County Donegal were coniferous (41,220 ha) and 17% were deciduous (8,230 ha) compared to 74% and 26% in the State. Sitka spruce is the most common type of species in both Donegal and the State @ 334,560ha and 31,100ha respectively.

The largest broadleaf groups in both instances were 'Other Short Living Broadleaf' OSL @ 3,980 ha<sup>xvii</sup> in Donegal and 46,220 ha<sup>xviii</sup> in the State. Over half of the OSL in the State is due to willow and this is also reflected strongly in the Donegal instance with significant uptake in willow plantations in recent years. This area offers significant potential economically and environmentally into the future. The next most important broadleaf species in both Donegal and the State are Birch, Ash, Oak and then 'Other Long Living Broadleaf'. See Figure 8.

**Figure 8: Tree Type Cover in Donegal and the State 2012**

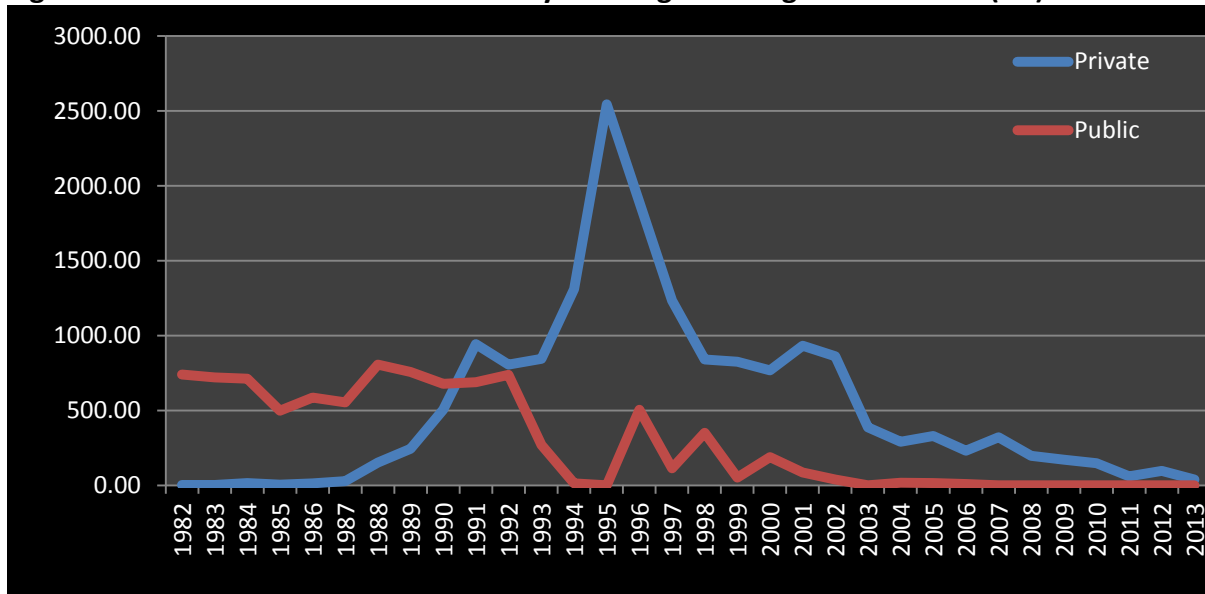


Source: National Forestry Inventory, 2012

### 5.2.3 Forestry Planting

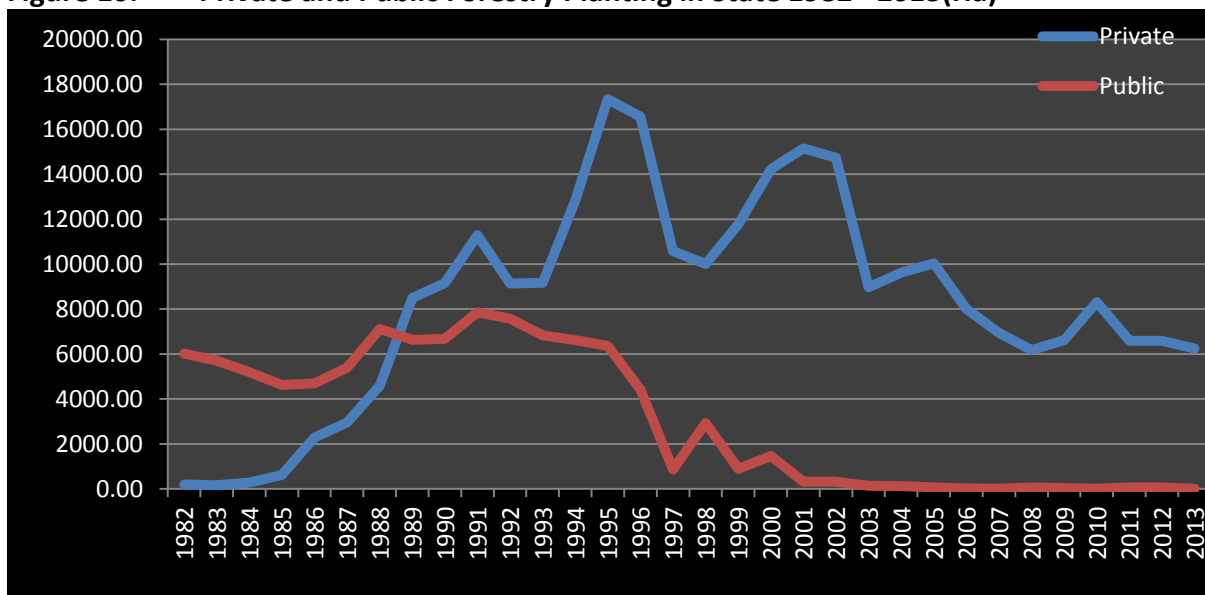
Forestry planting took off in County Donegal in the late 80s and approximately 50% of forests in the County are less than 25 years old. In 2012, there were 6,600 hectares planted by 977 owners in the State of which 96.40 ha were planted by 11 forestry owners in County Donegal. There are approximately 1,000 private forests owners (mostly farmers) in County Donegal. The average forest size in Donegal is less than 10ha. See Figure 9 and 10.

**Figure 9: Private and Public Forestry Planting in Donegal 1982 – 2013(Ha)**



Source: [http://www.teagasc.ie/forestry/advice/index\\_statistics.asp](http://www.teagasc.ie/forestry/advice/index_statistics.asp)

**Figure 10: Private and Public Forestry Planting in State 1982– 2013(Ha)**



Source: [http://www.teagasc.ie/forestry/advice/index\\_statistics.asp](http://www.teagasc.ie/forestry/advice/index_statistics.asp)

### 5.2.4 Forestry Owner Groups Donegal Woodland Owners

Donegal Woodlands Owners Society Ltd (DWOSL) is a wood fuel supply co-operative which supports and promotes sustainable forest management and timber marketing. In 2015 DWOSL were active in over 25 different forest sites throughout Donegal; felling, extracting, planting, processing, managing and growing the log and firewood sales business. They are

constantly developing new initiative in order to concentrate the core business of helping forest owners to manage their own forests and add value to their timber.

### Inishowen Forestry Owners

Membership of this group is open to forest owners and others interested in maximising local forest potential. The group is in its infancy. It is a loose informal setup of neighbours helping each other out with help from Inishowen co-op and the Western Forestry co-op.

### Environmental Impacts and Benefits

Environmentally, trees are a necessity in our environment. They have physical, social, psychological benefits. Physically they offer health benefits in terms of carbon sequestration. Socially and psychologically they are an important cultural resource and offer invaluable recreational space to individuals by enhancing everyday health and well being.

Sustainable land use management is of extreme importance. Forestry needs to be carried out in a well planned manner, so as to ensure that it does not have a negative visual impact on the landscape and to ensure that the new plantations are not impacting on the visibility along road frontages.

Potential to offset the CO<sup>2</sup> emissions from other forms of farming through forestry, for example; Carbon Sequestration of 3.4 tonnes per hectare (36,407 +22,771) 59,178 = 201,205 tonnes.

### Community Forests in Donegal

Community forests provide a fantastic outdoor recreational facility in Donegal for both young and old. Many have disabled access. Forests offer considerable recreational benefits and can also be an educational area for wildlife enthusiasts. They are an area of interest also for tourists and can provide for an inexpensive outdoor activity for a family.

Ards Forest Park located on the N56 between Cresslough and Dunfanaghy is a key example of such a facility. It is a major tourist attraction and a popular spot for families, school trips etc to visits on a day out.

## 5.3 Seafood Sector

As an island nation, fishing has always been economically and socially important to Ireland. The clear waters around Ireland's 7,400km coastline have provided exceptionally good seafood for thousands of years. Commercial trawlers can now travel vast distances across the ocean and some are fitted with hydraulically powered winches capable of scooping up several tonnes of fish in a single net. During much of the 20th century overfishing and marine pollution pushed some fish stocks to the brink of extinction. Today, the interests of Irish fishermen, fishing communities and consumers of fish products are supported through the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The CFP is negotiated and agreed between all 28 Member States and initiatives that promote sustainable fishing are being encouraged and part funded by the European Fisheries Fund (EFF). The CFP was substantially reformed in 2014 and is now financially supported through a new European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

Ireland's seafood sector is worth some €700 million to the economy, and employs around 11,000 people mainly in coastal counties from Donegal to Louth. The four main industry activities are; Fishing, Aquaculture, Processing and Marketing.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Irish Sea Fisheries Board



*“62% of fish landed in Irish ports in 2013 was through the ports of Killybegs and Greencastle and this contributed to a total of €113m to the local economy”.*

There are a number of other smaller and important ports in the County, however, their value is not as easy to calculate.

### 5.3.1 Fishing Ports

The top fishing ports in Ireland are Killybegs, Castletownbere, Dingle, Ros A Mhil, Dunmore East, Kilmore Quay, Howth, Greencastle and Union Hall. With 2 of these ports located in Donegal, the County has a significant stake in the Irish sea fisheries industry. In 2013 Killybegs rank No 1 in Ireland in terms of tonnage and value of landings in 2013, while Greencastle ranks No 5 in terms of tonnages and 8<sup>th</sup> with regards to value of all Irish Ports. Table X below tracks Donegal’s stake in terms of the actual monetary value and live weight of landings into Killybegs and Greencastle. It also examines the proportion of landings and values in the national context, which shows that the two Donegal ports combined have landed on average 60.5% of all seafood landed in the state from 2009-2013. The value of landings in Killybegs and Greencastle have increased significantly since 2010. Landing values have averaged 35% of State landing values in the last 3 years. In 2013, Killybegs and Greencastle landed €105 million, an economically significant proportion to the County.

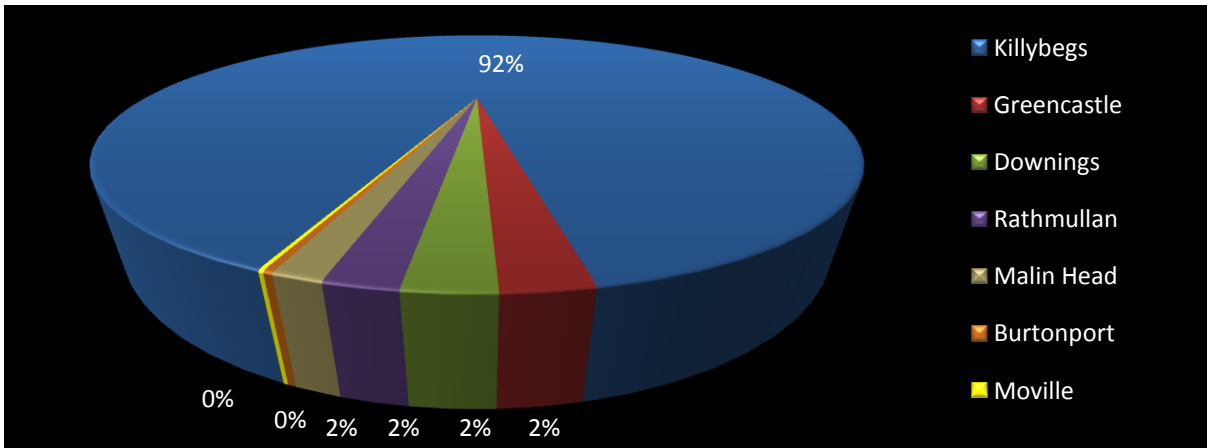
**Table 2: Value and Tonnage of Sea Fish Landings Killybegs and Greencastle 2009-2013**

	Killybegs				Greencastle			
	Value ('000)	% Nat Value	Live Weight	% Nat Landings	Value ('000)	% Nat Value	Live Weight	% Nat Landings
2013	€105,133	34.8	170,14	60.8	€ 8,182	2.7	3,793	1.4
2012	€117,983	35.3	197,65	60	€ 10,430	3.1	7,155	2.2
2011	€104,312	35.3	100,62	50.6	€ 6,355	2.2	3,337	1.7
2010	€ 61,874	29.8	163,44	66.5	€ 7,479	3.6	4,039	1.6
2009	€ 55,273	27	144,15	64.8	€ 5,080	2.5	2,745	1.2

Source: Sea Fish Protection Authority, 2015<sup>xix</sup>

Fishing landings in Donegal ports in 2004 comprised of 113,919 tonnes. This accounted for more than 60% of all landings nationally, demonstrating significance of Donegal and in particular Killybegs which accounted for over 55% of all tonnage landed in the state in 2004. Table 2; illustrates the tonnage landed at Killybegs compared to other ports in the County verifying its significance as the premier strategic fishing port not only of Donegal but on the island of Ireland.

### Figure 21: Sea Fish Landings (Tonne) in Donegal Ports, 2004



### 5.3.2 Fish farming

Aquaculture activity includes growing fin fish such as salmon and trout and shellfish farming, including the cultivation of mussels, oysters and scallops. County Donegal has also developed a successful aquaculture industry both in the fin fish and shellfish areas with numerous farms around the coast. The impact of aquaculture on our environment is an important consideration, however so too is the impact of other industries and activities on aquaculture. Therefore shellfish waters are subject to ongoing monitoring by the Environmental Protection Agency. **Table 3**; below sets out the aquaculture production areas in the County Donegal, the species involved and their draft monitoring classifications for 2014/2015.

**Table 3: Aquaculture Production Areas 2014-2015**

Production Area	Boundaries	Bed Name	Species	Class
Lough Foyle	Magilligan Head to Inishown Head	All Beds	Mussels	B
			Oysters	B
Trabreaga	Malin Head to Dunaff Head	All Beds	Oysters	B
Lough Swilly	Fanad Head to Dunaff Head	All Beds	Mussels	B
			Oysters	B
Mulroy Bay	Melmore Head to Ballyhoorisky Point	All Beds	Mussels	A*
			Oysters	B
Sheephaven	Rinnfaghla Point to Horn Head	All Beds	Mussels	B
Gweedore	Carrick Point to Carrickacuskeame and Torglass Island to Dunmore Point	All Beds	Oysters	B
Dungloe	Wyon Point to Burtonport Pier	Dungloe	Oysters	B
		Tearman	Oysters	A
		Inner	Oysters	C
Traweenagh	Dooley Point to Crohy Point	All Beds	Oysters	A
Gweebarra	Gweebarra Point to Cashelgolán Point	All Beds	Oysters	A
Loughras Beg	Loughras Point to Gull Island	All Beds	Oysters	B
McSwynes Bay (Bruckless)	Carntullagh Head to Pound Point	Bruckless	Mussels	A*
Inver Bay	St. John's Point to Doorin Point	All Beds	Mussels	B
Donegal Harbour	Doorin Point to Rossnowlagh Point.	All Beds	Oysters	B
			Mussels	B

### 5.3.3 Sea Fish Processing

Seafood companies produce high value products from salmon, whitefish, shellfish and pelagic fish species (eg. herring, mackerel and horse mackerel) all of which generate substantial export earnings to the sector. BIM have identified the following sea food producers and processors in County Donegal. See Table 4.

**Table 4: Seafood Companies Products**

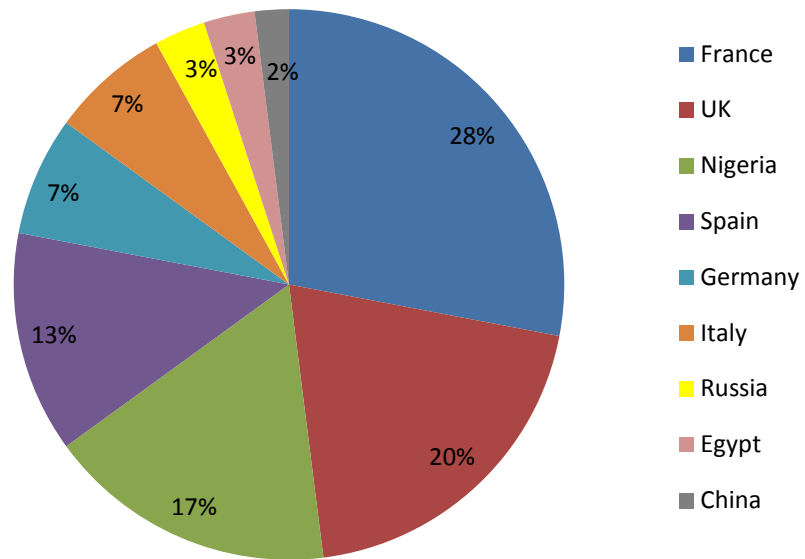
Name	Location	Finfish	White fish	Pelagic	Shellfish	Smoked
Hannigan Fish Trading	Annagry				?	
Sliogeisc na Rossan (T/A Irish Premium Oysters)	Lettermacaward				?	
Atlantic Fish Ireland Ltd.	Bunbeg				?	
Burtonport Fishermans Co-op	Burtonport				?	
Byrne Seafoods	Carndonagh	?	?			
Atlanfish Ltd.	Carndonagh				?	
Starcrest Seafoods Ltd.	Donegal Town	?	?			
Irish Fish Cannery	Dungloe			?		
Premier Fish Products	Dungloe			?		
Marine Harvest Ireland	Fanad	?				
Greencastle Fish Shop	Greencastle	?	?			
Eany Fish Products Ltd.	Inver	?				
Arctic Fish Processing Ltd.	Killybegs			?		
Donegal Fish Ltd.	Killybegs			?		
Fish Sales Killybegs Ltd.	Killybegs	?		?		
Gallagher Bros. (Fish Merchants) Ltd.	Killybegs			?		
Island Seafoods Ltd.	Killybegs			?		?
Killybegs Seafoods Ltd.	Killybegs			?		
Norfish Ltd.	Killybegs			?		
Sean Ward (Fish Exports) Ltd.	Killybegs			?		
Albatross Seafoods Ltd	Killybegs	?	?			?
Fish Sales Killybegs Ltd.	Killybegs		?			
Murrin Fisheries Ltd.	Killybegs	?	?			
Errigal Fish Co. Ltd.	Meenaneary				?	
Foyle Fishermen's Co-op Society	Moville	?	?			

Source: BIM, 2015

### 5.3.4 Marketing

In Ireland the domestic seafood market was worth €326 million in 2013. Despite a decline in 2013, exports of Irish seafood have increased by 29% since 2010 from €378 million to €489 million.

### Irish Seafood Exports 2012



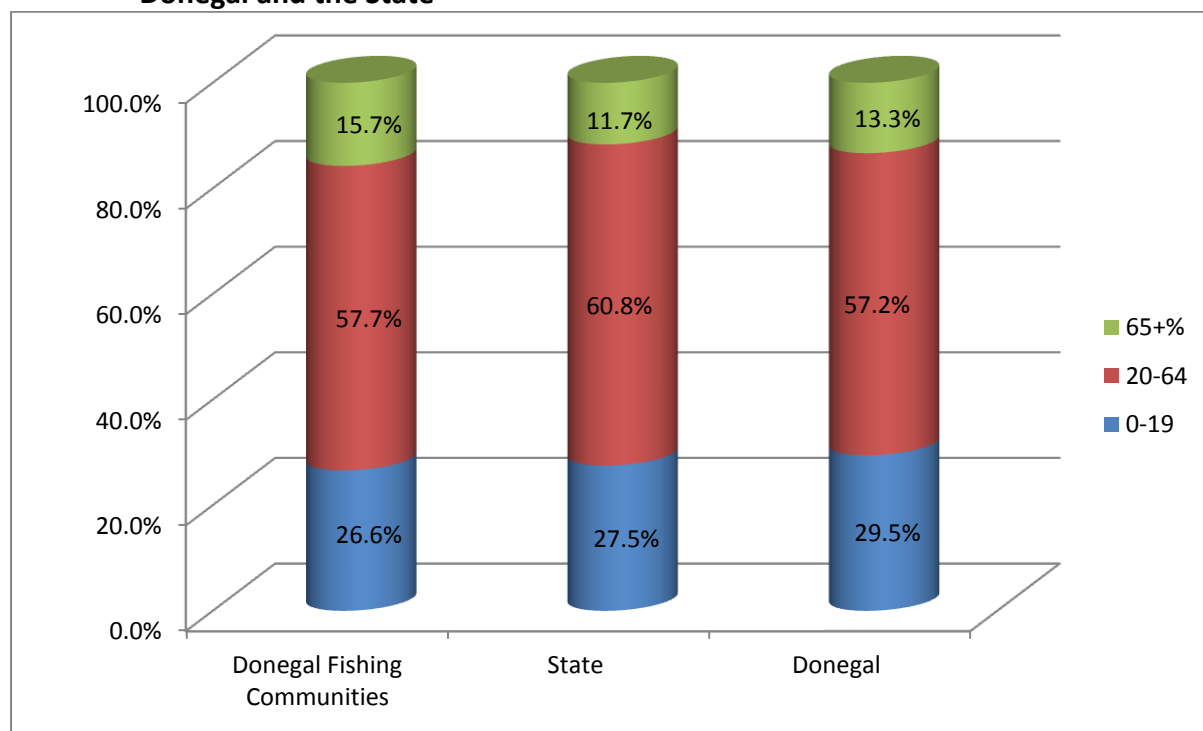
An estimated 65% of Irish seafood exports are sold in EU markets, with France being the main market followed by the UK and Spain. Ireland exported seafood worth €38 million to Asian markets in 2013, an increase of over 40% on 2012. Exports to China alone were worth €12 million. Nigeria is Ireland's top export market outside the EU with exports amounting to €40 million in 2013. Ireland aims to increase total seafood sales to €1 billion and create an additional 1,200 jobs by 2017 under the Government's Food Harvest 2020 strategy. In 2010 an estimated 1.3 million tonnes of fish were taken by the fishing fleets of EU member states from the waters around Ireland<sup>16</sup>. Ireland landed 259,500 tonnes of these fish or 23% of the international landings. Ireland harvests over 40 different types of high quality commercial seafood including salmon, whitefish, pelagic and shellfish species. Irish mussel harvesters were among the first in Europe to achieve organic certification and today supply retailers and premium caterers in many French and German cities, including Michelin-starred restaurants in Paris.<sup>17</sup>

### 5.3.5 Donegal Fishing Communities – A Profile

#### Theme 1 – Population by Age Cohorts

Donegal has an ever aging fishing community. Figure 12; below shows that Donegal fishing communities have a higher population in the 0-19 age bracket and the 65plus age bracket than that of the State.

**Figure 12: Population by age Cohorts in Donegal Fishing Centres proportionate to Co. Donegal and the State**



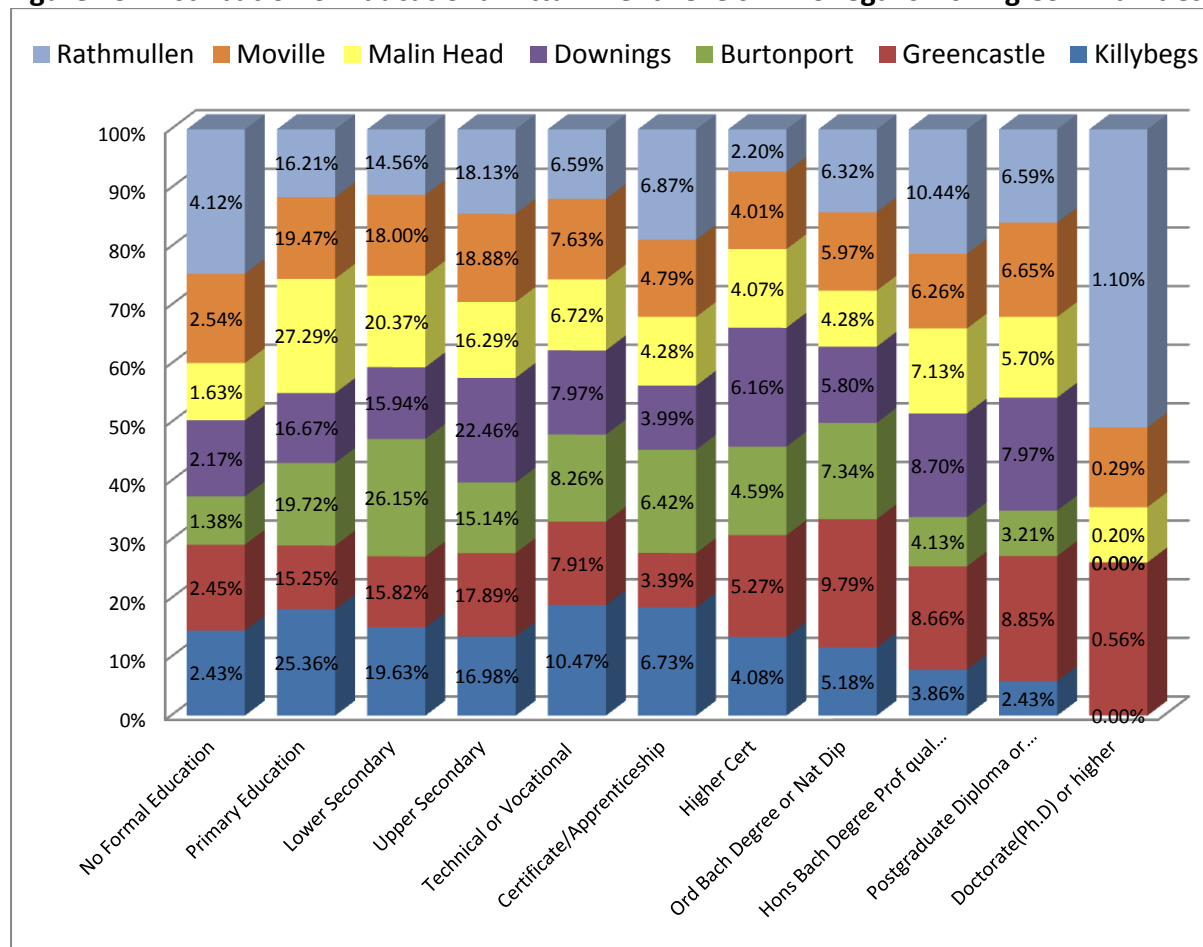
#### Theme 2 Educational Attainment and Early School Leavers

Figure 13 below looks at educational attainment proportionally across Donegal's 7 main fishing centres. Rathmullan is significant higher than the other 6 centres in terms of No Formal Education. School leaving age can be impacted on where accessible and readily available employment exists. This can be particularly relevant where such employment is

<sup>16</sup> ICES Sub-areas VI & VII

<sup>17</sup> Source European Commission: [http://ec.europa.eu/ireland/key-eu-policy-areas/common-fisheries-policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/ireland/key-eu-policy-areas/common-fisheries-policy/index_en.htm)

handed down from generation to generation in the form of agricultural, fishing and forestry operations and other family businesses.

**Figure 13: Distribution of Educational Attainment Levels in Donegal's Fishing Communities**

### Killybegs

The geography of Killybegs adjacent to major fishing grounds, its location in one of Europe's most outstanding natural harbours, an ancient maritime heritage and year round temperate climate have resulted in its establishment as the most important fishing port in Ireland and is key to the economic future of this region of Donegal. In 2013, more than 170,000 tonnes of fish was landed into Killybegs with a value in excess of €105,133,000. Of this more than 100,000 tonnes are attributable to Irish registered vessels, which accounts for 45% of total fish landings by Irish vessels in Irish ports. This fishing activity is mostly centred on the pelagic sub-sector; out of the total Irish fleet of 23 Refrigerated Sea Water (RSW) vessels in Ireland, 19 are based in Killybegs. In addition to this large pelagic fleet, there is a small but modern whitefish sub-sector and a dedicated shellfish sub-sector. These fleet activities bring with them substantial ancillary industries which has positive spin-offs for offshore oil and gas industries.

In contrast to many other declining fishing communities, Killybegs is vibrant, prosperous and thriving; despite the pelagic sub-sector coming under some financial pressure, it continues to generate very significant levels of economic activity. What little diversification there is remains strongly maritime-based. Manufacturing, such as the traditional carpet-making, has all but ceased. Oil and gas exploration service and support industries have emerged in recent years. The management and support of visiting vessels has become increasingly economically significant.



In 2009 the total turnover in the area was around €250 million with 82% being attributed to the fisheries sector. Offshore oil and gas support activities are in the region of 2-3%. Tourism also accounts for 3% of turnover and, for an economic activity which plays a subsidiary role, is quite well catered for with several good hotels, guesthouses, restaurants and leisure facilities. The development of the port has also had an unusual spin-off in the shape of increasingly frequent visits from cruise ships which is expected to grow in coming years.

The new pier at Killybegs remains underutilised and must be promoted and developed to ensure the maximisation of this superb infrastructure. Value-adding is a basic requirement for any food-producing industry. The local catering college, a satellite institution of Letterkenny Institute of Technology, is the logical focus for a product innovation centre. To supplement the work of such a centre, the industry envisages EFF support for transnational/multi-state initiatives, fast-tracking marketing and pricing issues. Where industry has already acted to implement sustainable fishing practices, such as attaining MSC certification for a fishery, its efforts must be upheld and protected at international level.

Killybegs is in a pivotal position to diversify and utilise the extraordinary natural resources which are within reach. Based on its excellent geographical location and already established fishing, processing and ancillary industries, it is ideally placed to create and maintain sustainable jobs in value-added seafood, enhanced ancillary services, offshore support services, tourism and marine leisure and green/renewable energy industries

An important challenge for the people of Killybegs is to transfer that entrepreneurial spirit, which sustained the fishing industry so successfully, to other economic sectors ripe for exploitation such as tourism, cruising, off shore technologies.

This area of Killybegs has all the right ingredients to become a world leader in marine based technology, offshore exploration and engineering activity, research and development in the area of multi use of marine byproducts, proteins, lipids for oils, as well as functions associated with emergency services and innovation.

### Greencastle

Greencastle is Donegal's second port after Killybegs and continues to punch above its weight in the national context. In 2013 Greencastle landed 3,793 tonnes of fish with a value in excess of €8,100,000. This is of great significance locally not only from a monetary perspective but also from the point of view of the expertise and infrastructure that comes with this scale of a port.

The potential for diversification here is enormous, particularly with the recent uptake of whale and dolphin watching that is taking place in this area in addition to the growing interest in accessing the significant underwater archaeology in this area.

### 5.3.6 Research, Development & Training in the Marine Sector

The offshore training college in Falcarragh, **Effective Offshore**, is Ireland's most significant training location. It specialises in offshore training and skills necessary for exploration and development in oil, gas and renewable industries including health and safety, rope access, accident and emergency procedures. This centre of excellence is a key partner to Killybegs as the focus on marine diversification grows into the areas of offshore resources including tidal and wind energy prospects, underwater exploration, etc. The combination of human

capital, strategic infrastructure and natural coastline gives Donegal strong comparative advantage putting the coastal communities in pole position to become world leaders in offshore exploration and marine based research and development. Effective Offshore have partnered with Údaras na Gaeltachta and SOLAS as a means of channelling the economic potential of such developments towards those many of whom have a range of marine experience from the fishing industry and now seek to broaden their skills and increase their employment opportunities.

**Letterkenny Institute of Technology** (LYIT) offers many courses, one of which is a National Apprenticeship Programme in Professional Cookery at the Killybegs Campus, Tourism College. Courses like this have been developed by Fáilte Ireland, IBEC, Irish Hotels Federation, The Restaurant Association of Ireland, SIPTU, LYIT and certifications representatives. Courses in the whole area of tourism and hospitality are offered from Certificate to Masters level.

#### 5.4 Area Needs Analysis: Developing the Primary Sectors in Donegal

Donegal's primary sectors are at the heart of rural Donegal, however it has the potential to be the forefront of many of the County's key growth sectors. Agricultural, fishing and forestry have a significant role to play in driving our food and scientific industries. Additionally the skill set and experience of those involved in the primary sectors as well as the lands, waters and buildings used for these activities present significant opportunities for rural communities to harness the growing tourism, recreational and off-shore sectors. With an aging farming population there is an ever increasing need to reinvigorate the younger farming population so as to maximise incomes and increase the future sustainability and viability of primary sector activities in rural Donegal through encouraging:

- dialogue on opportunities presented to all parties as a result of early farm transfer, leasing or partnership
- new methods and ideas to sustain traditional farming by adding value to produce
- increasing promotional aspect of primary sector activities
- each producer in the County to undertake a genuine examination of their holding and to identify realistic opportunities for diversification

#### **Key Areas for Development**

**Food:** Facilitate, development and market entry for food producer groups, including for example the development of a number of food academy's in the County to link producer networks with end users, to drive growth in food tourism by providing such a centre of excellence.

**Lamb:** Significant potential exists for producers in the County to add value in the area of lamb production, which has a growing global reputation. Development of the *Donegal Hills* Lamb Brand- Teagasc has identified the potential for the Mountain/Hill flock to produce higher value added cross-bred stock to meet expansion requirement of the lowland sheep enterprises.

**Potatoes/Seed:** A high level of expertise has developed in the county over the last number of years, in terms of growing seed potatoes. This presents an opportunity to develop this specialist area further is important to ensure this knowledge and expertise is maximised.

Marketing initiatives to highlight the health benefits of potatoes would also assist in this area.

**Shows, Festivals & Markets:** Agricultural shows have gained momentum in Donegal in recent years. There are a number of annual agricultural shows that take place around the County such as Ardara, Clonmany, Carndonagh, Killygordan, Glencolumbkille. There is considerable potential for marketing to take place at such events. Within this there is scope for; hosting national level agricultural events such as the National Sheep Shearing Championships, etc. This would require cooperation between key stakeholders and farming bodies. Farmers markets offer great potential for rural producers to get their products established as well as the arts and crafts industry. However, there is a requirement for standard codes of practise to be developed around the operation of these markets, with a clear leadership role established for the focus to be more based on local Donegal produce.

**Honey:** There is a huge demand for honey and there are a number of support networks for bee keepers in South Donegal. The Teagasc Options Courses brings such networks together to share learning, examine ideas and determine what worked and what did not work through, however there is a gap post in these courses in translating these ideas into practise or business ventures

**Organic Farming:** This is a significant growth are with potential, however production needs to be scaled up so that substantial critical mass exists to increase its viability.

**Equines:** The equine industry remains in a state of recovery following a significant collapse in 2008. According to the Irish Horse Board demands for performance horses and ponies continues to rise, this includes high level performance including eventing as well as low level performance such as riding horses and ponies. By increasing the performance ability of stock, sales will increase and demand will continue to rise to sustainable levels. Projects and initiatives such as equine training or breaking programmes would further increase these levels particularly for young stock. It is important that any projects or initiatives in the equestrian area do not serve to exacerbate the existing problems by for example; encouraging a return to high levels of breeding low quality stock.

**Primary Sector Waste:** A key area for the circular economy is the potential for reuse of the many bi-products from the agricultural, forestry and fishing sectors. Research is required to explore the most effective options in extracting and developing useful new products from such waste products the various in which the extraction of useful materials from food waste. This may also involve identification of where volumes of waste are occurring, identifying new uses for such products.

**Medicinal Properties:** Another area with significant potential. Such products are emerging such as parts of many seaweed varieties, etc. Again this area requires further research to be carried out.

**Seaweed:** Seaweed production in a growing industry in Donegal's coastal communities. AlfAran Kilcar, is becoming a key health product in cosmetics and in food, it is also an great fertiliser used in golf greens (K Club), sporting pitches, horticulture, etc The many known and unknown uses for the wide range of seaweed forms has enormous potential as an

important growth area. Japan consumes 90% of all seaweed consumed globally, giving Ireland and indeed Donegal producers a massive market for export.

**Salmon Fishing:** According to the Irish Salmon Growers' Association, salmon farming offers considerable scope for sustainable jobs in Donegal's coastal communities. With increasingly high global demands, an opportunity exists to meet this, however efficiencies in supply and production are required to ensure a year round quality and sustainable exports. A key focus must be based around ensuring the sustainability of salmon farming practice, to prevent any associated pollution of our transitional and inshore habitats. This requires aquaculture policymakers to build specific links with the industry and the subsequent introduction of enablers in this area.

**Off Shore Training & Development:** Growing area of expertise in Donegal, where skills from fishing industry and renewable sector can be transferred across to such sectors as offshore exploration & emergency training.

**Forestry Owner Groups:** Present huge opportunity for the on-going development of forestry in the County through potential acquisition of harvesting equipment, retain stronger bargaining power together when negotiating with buyers, and are more attractive to buyers as they can access larger volumes via a single contact point.

**Community Forests:** They provide a huge opportunity for rural communities to develop small scale tourism projects.

**Forestry Enterprise Development:** Supports required for feasibility studies, start up costs for a business and equipment costs, small scale harvesting, seed collectors, nurseries requirement to add value.

**Sustainable Forestry:** Timber Certification can be used as another environmental marketing tool to increase the value of forestry produce. Initiatives are required to establish the outlay required to attain such certification across the County's many producers.

**Training Opportunities:** There are many training requirements that would increase efficiencies and outputs in this area such as chainsaw skills; Measurement; Business Supports and equipment; Marketing; Distribution.

**Biomass:** An area of growth and potential in Donegal. The demand for biomass is easily quantified however difficulties arise in ensuring supply and quality control. Structures needs to be established that will monitor quality and guarantee supply levels.

**Marine Infrastructure:** Our strategic location, our island communities and our fishing industry have all contributed to an extensive network of marine infrastructure around the County comprising some 154 piers, jetties and slipways. This resource provides a great opportunity across a range of rural development sectors such as servicing the islands, marine tourism, ecological tours, fishing development, accessing shipwrecks, water sports etc. Work is required to review this network and develop a marine infrastructure strategy for the County which prioritises island and strategic access, as well as requirements to ensure the development of a high quality network of recreation and leisure infrastructure around the County. Proposals must integrate accessibility requirements for those with

mobility impairment. Projects and initiative which support this strategy are therefore encouraged.

**Seafood Marketing:** As the largest fishing County in Ireland Donegal would benefit significantly from effective marketing in this area to raise awareness, demand and expectations of customers within Ireland, from an export perspective and from a food tourism standpoint.

## Chapter 6 Unlocking Our Cultural Resource

### 6.0 A Unique Cultural and Heritage Offering

The physical geography of the County has resulted in a truly unique natural environment<sup>18</sup>. The interactions of human geography<sup>19</sup> with this environment have shaped a very rich and distinctive identity for Donegal and its people. Historic periods and events such as the Flight of the Earls, The Plantation of Ulster, The Great Famine and the Partition of Ireland have impacted in a particular way in Donegal, on our thinking, our language, our relations, traditions, and our way of life.

These impacts are evident through our ever changing economic, religious, social and political landscape. What we have today is a rich cultural heritage. The legacy of which includes the thousands of artefacts in our museums, our dramatic landscape, our folklore and mythology, our writings, fine art, our festivals, music, architecture, dance, etc.

#### 6.1 Cultural Infrastructure and Our Diaspora

Cultural activities are abundant throughout the County. They are present through an extensive network of cultural infrastructure. The Regional Cultural Centre in Letterkenny is at the heart of culture in the County. This is complemented by an extensive network of facilities countywide including; The Balor Theatre, (Ballybofey), The Alley (Ballyshannon), The Dolmen Centre (Ardara), the Workhouse (Dunfanaghy), Fort Dunree (Inishowen) to name but a few. Alongside this network are the cultural services provided by local government, state bodies and departments and NGO's. Together, there are some 429 facilities, providers and practitioners that contribute to the cultural infrastructure of Donegal. In order to continue to grow our cultural sector and increase opportunities to showcase our cultural offering to residents and visitors it is vitally important to consolidate our existing infrastructure through; increasing activities, increasing audience/visitor numbers through promotion, coordination, etc.

We have approx 57,000 people engaging with us from 132 countries.

Top 5 below

1.	Ireland	34,148	47.73%
2.	United Kingdom	15,837	22.14%
3.	United States	11,957	16.71%
4.	Australia	1,575	2.20%
5.	Canada	1,503	2.10%

The Donegal Diaspora project acts as a platform to raise awareness and appreciation of the County.

The project aim is to promote Donegal, encouraging inward investment to the County. Key areas of focus are; culture, heritage, tourism, business, education and enterprise.

<sup>18</sup> For the purposes of LEADER Natural Heritage is mainly covered under Chapter 4. Rural Environment

<sup>19</sup> socio-economic & political

Great potential exists to utilise countywide resources, creating a step-change in cultural, economic, business and tourism regeneration across County Donegal. It is recognised that this broad community, the Donegal Diaspora, is a key resource for the region, with the potential to create linkages that provide skill, experience, networks and resources.

## 6.2 Festivals and Film

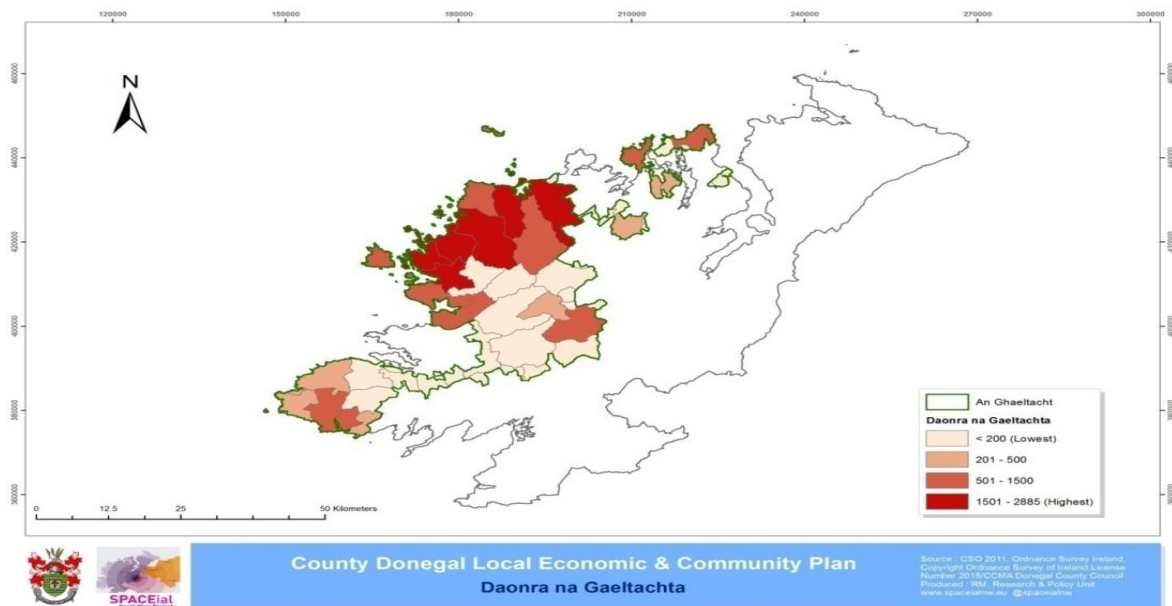
The County has successfully attracted many key events and festivals to the region. Highlights include; Oireachtais, Rinci Uladh, Pan Celtic Festival, European Strongman, Fleadh Ceoil, Ulster Special Olympics, Letterkenny Live, Flight of the Earls, etc. In addition a number of festivals are held annually in the County including; the Rory Gallagher Festival, Sea Sessions Festival, A Taste of Donegal, Errigal Arts Festival, An Guth Gafa, Donegal Bay and Bluestacks Festival, Heritage Week and Culture Night. A list of existing festivals and events can be found in **Table 1 Appendix 6**.

Having played host to a long line of productions and with films such as A Shine of Rainbows, 48 Angels and Grabbers in recent years, Donegal has been firmly established as the perfect choice for film location managers. Ethereal landscapes, clean light, long days, friendly hospitality and quality production resources through the Donegal Film Office are amongst the many features attracting film makers from all over the world. Accommodating productions whether large or small has many direct and indirect benefits to the County. These include the direct creation of employment locally, increased business to local service providers and in many cases the final product acts as a global showcase of Donegal's offer.

## 6.3 Language

Successive governments have promoted the preservation of the Gaeltacht as an Irish speaking community since the foundation of the State. The Gaeltacht presents an opportunity to naturally maintain the continuity of the Irish language tradition but also provides the ideal environment for people who wish to become fluent in Irish. The population of the Donegal Gaeltacht is 24,744 persons and having grown by 4% between 2006 - 2011. Out of all Gaeltacht areas, 33% reside in Co. Galway; 25% in Co. Donegal; 15% in Galway City; 11% in Mayo; 9% in Kerry; 4% in Cork and 2 % respectively in both Waterford and Meath. **(See Table 2 Appendix 6 and Figure 1 below)**

**Figure 1: Daonra na Gaeltachta**



There are 17,132 Irish Speakers aged 3 years and over in the Donegal Gaeltacht comprising of 69% of the total Gaeltacht population<sup>20</sup>. Frequency of use is a good indicator of a person's ability to speak a language. Census 2011 illustrates that 32% of all Irish Speakers aged 3 years and over 'speak Irish daily outside of the education system' in Gaeltacht Areas in County Donegal while the highest was in Galway County Gaeltacht Areas @ 33%. However this is above the average for the State @ 27%.

Under the language Act 2012, the Donegal Gaeltacht is divided into 8 distinctive linguistic regions, each of which must develop a language plan over the next 2 years and implement within the 7 years via a wide range of activities. The individual plans must support the development of the language and Gaeltacht area taking into account the differing linguistic characteristics of each area.

### 6.3.1 The Age Composition of Irish Speakers

**Table 3 Appendix 6;** breaks down the 17,132 persons aged 3 years and over in Donegal Gaeltachta Areas who are Irish Speakers into different age categories. This table reveals that Donegal has a marginally higher percentage of children who are Irish Speakers aged 3 - 4 years and 5 - 9 aged categories than in the State. For each four year age category from 10 to 59 years, Donegal has a lower percentage of Irish Speakers than in the State. For each four year age category over 60 years, Donegal has a higher percentage of Irish Speakers than in the State. These figures are indicating a longer term threat to maintaining Irish Language as a living language within the Gaeltacht. Therefore projects and initiatives are required to highlight the importance of the language within the County so as people from all over the County embrace this unique cultural asset so as assist in its promotion and integration into everyday life right across Donegal.

<sup>20</sup> [1] all countries excluding Ireland [2] 20 'other countries' with 742 people were excluded in this instance due to lack of actual figures by birthplace. Total represent 34250 from 47 countries

Sources: Data - CSO, 2011 Images - <http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/tra>



### 6.3.2 Irish Speaking in Donegal

There were 58,998 persons in County Donegal (40%) who regarded themselves as 'Irish' speakers in 2011, while 92,471 selected into the 'Non Irish' speakers category. **Table 4 Appendix 6**, breaks down the population aged 3 years and over into Irish and Non Irish speakers. This table reveals in 2011 that the ranking for Galway was @ no 1; Kerry @ No 4; Mayo @ No 5; Cork @ No 6<sup>th</sup> and Waterford @ No 9<sup>th</sup> remained unchanged over the period 2006 and 2011. The ranking for Donegal dis-improved from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> position, while Meath position improved from 18<sup>th</sup> position in 2006 to 17<sup>th</sup> position in 2011.

### 6.3.3 Gaeltacht Service Towns

The figures above indicate that there is substantial potential to grow the Irish Language outside of the Gaeltacht and of particular interest here is the creation of Gaeltacht Service Towns, under the Gaeltacht Act 2012, which are defined as those towns situated in or adjacent to Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas and which have a significant role in providing public services, recreational, social and commercial facilities for those areas.

### 6.3.4 New Languages

Despite the dramatic drop in immigration experienced since 2007 with the effects of the economic recession, encouragingly inward flows have recovered slightly since 2010. According to the 2011 Census, it was determined that 34,992 people who were resident in County Donegal on census night, defined their birthplace as being outside Ireland, representing an actual increase of 7784 since 2006. Relative to the State at 17%, the proportion of County Donegal's resident population as a percentage of total population originating from outside the country by birthplace was greater at 22%. The 34,992 persons who were born outside of Ireland but resided in Donegal came from 47 different countries bringing a wide range of new languages to the County.

22% of the County's population were born outside of Ireland making Donegal a culturally diverse County and part of a much wider global community. This provides a wide range of opportunities in terms of enhancing the language skills of the labour force etc but also provides challenges in terms of integration into the economic, social and cultural fabric of the County and in delivering services.

## 6.4 The Creative Sector

The Creative Edge Project identified 429 creative businesses/bodies within the County. The table below shows the wide range of such businesses in the County.

Creative Sector	Businesses
Advertising	3
Architects	76
Art Centres/Theatres/Galleries	45
Artists (incl. animation)	31
Ceramics/Stone Working	17
Creative Entrepreneur	7
Engineering/Industrial Design	12
Film/TV	44

Food / Production	7
Glass/Crystal	6
Graphic /Web Design/ICT	28
Interior Design	8
Jewellery	14
Marketing	8
Metal Working	9
Music	9
Photography	49
Print Press/Services	24
Radio incl. publishing	9
Software Development	21
Textiles incl. Weaving, Basketry, Leather etc	64
Crafts incl. Wood Turning, Toy & Musical Instrument Making	22
Other	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>526</b>

## 6.5 A Rich Built Heritage

The cultural legacy of our past is embedded into the rich built fabric found in Donegal's built environment. This is evidenced in the market towns, clachan villages and victorian terraces from the warehouses, bridges and railway stations, to the churches, mills, forts and piers, from the big houses, vernacular cottages and outbuildings, to stone circles, shipwrecks, milestones and water pumps. The innate qualities found in these are as important to our cultural identity as the spoken and written word.

The Heritage Towns Scheme is based on the principle that a number of towns with a strong physical character have the potential to be representative of the heritage of Ireland. This process has the dual effect of helping to conserve the built environment of these towns and of providing a marketing tool for the tourism industry. Within Donegal, Ardara and Ramelton were designated and marketed under this initiative (Ardara - with a theme of weaving and Ramelton - with a theme of Georgian port or town). Donegal County Council has designated the following towns; Ardara, Ballyshannon, Moville, Ramelton and Raphoe as 'Heritage Towns'.<sup>21</sup>

### 6.5.1 Architecture

How and where we build structures determines how we live now and in the future. Quality building design and layout are directly linked to how easily and safely we can get around, how we use energy, the amenity value of our built environment and ultimately our sense of place. These are all important attributes not only to our own quality of life but also in making our places sustainable and attractive to others.

Donegal has many fine examples of architecturally important structures across a range of periods and styles from Fanad Lighthouse to St. Eunan's College to our Roshine slate

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/history-heritage/heritage-towns/the-heritage-towns-of-don/>

cottages, to the internationally iconic St. Aengus Chapel in Burt which was voted ‘Building of the Twentieth Century’ by the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI). While our Record of Protected Structures in Donegal is amongst the smallest in the Country comprising of 375 structures, our National Inventory of Architectural Heritage<sup>22</sup> is one of the largest. In its current form it contains some 1,669 structures and provides a representative sample of the architectural heritage across Inishowen, Stranorlar, Donegal and Letterkenny Municipal Districts. These important structures range from bridges to lighthouses, walled gardens to post boxes to lime kilns. 12 carry a National rating while 1657 carry a Regional rating.

Buildings are a valuable resource essential for living, working and socialising. There are almost 92,500 buildings in Donegal; 84% of these are used for residential purposes, 7% for non-residential purposes (e.g. shops, community centres, offices) and the remaining 9% are dual purpose properties comprising both residential and non-residential uses. 8,205 of these buildings are either vacant or derelict, many of which are an important part of our built heritage.

Vacancy and dereliction have a negative impact on society for many reasons, including the creation of visual eyesores, economic decline, health and safety dangers, anti-social behaviour and reducing resource and environmental efficiencies by wasting lands and buildings which are scarce resources. Where clustering of vacancy and dereliction occurs these issues can have a devastating effect on the built heritage of whole areas, particularly in our rural towns and villages where historic streetscapes can be lost. As a result the innate character and sense of place of the whole settlement is lost reducing its attractiveness as a place to live, invest, visit and do business in.

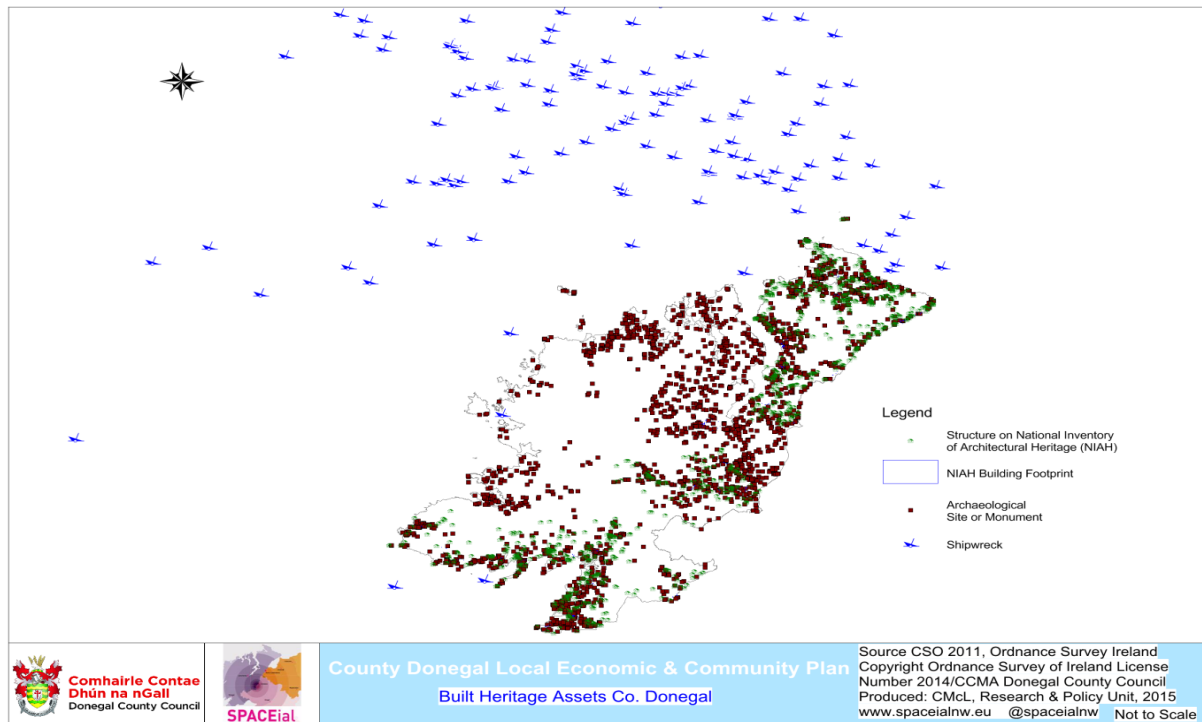
### 6.5.2 Archaeology

A direct window to our past is the archaeological evidence that remains visible today. In Donegal the richness of our heritage means that today we have a significant body of objects, structures, features and sites of archaeological importance. According to the Archaeological Survey of Ireland's (ASI) Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) there are 3,129 monuments and sites in Donegal. These range from Crannogs to Bullaun Stones, from Midden sites amongst the oldest remains to be found in Ireland, to the Kilcooney dolmen over 4000 years old and one of the finest examples of a monument of its kind in Europe. As well as land based archaeology, we have a rich maritime heritage including underwater archaeology. There are more German U Boats and ocean liners sunk off the coast of Malin Head than anywhere else in the world the majority of which were casualties of WW1 and WW2. Donegal's extensive coastline together with a number of navigable loughs, and its key strategic position in terms of invading and defending the island, have resulted in a uniquely rich shipwrecks adding to Donegal's maritime heritage. Due to its rich Underwater archaeology – shipwrecks, The Infomar Project uses lidar technology to map the seabed. It is detecting more and more wreck sites of the Donegal coast. The current number of wrecks stands at 252.

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<sup>22</sup> Published by Heritage Council

**Figure 2: Built Heritage Assets Co. Donegal**



## 6.6 Area Needs Analysis: Conservation Through Access & Promotion

**Promotion:** Many elements of our cultural heritage are protected under one form of legislation or another. Therefore all projects and initiatives which seek to promote, develop or increase access to our built heritage must recognise the strategic importance of such elements, seek any necessary permissions and where appropriate include measures to protect and conserve such elements of cultural heritage for future generations. Projects and initiatives which seek to develop and promote elements our cultural heritage as an educational resource are also encouraged.

**Economy & Enterprise:** Donegal's rich culture and heritage presents an enormous opportunity for enterprise development and economic growth, while at the same time enhancing the protection and sustainability of our rich heritage. As well as adding to the attractiveness of Donegal for tourists these elements greatly enhance our sense of place and our identity for residents. It provides that highly attractive factor now being sought by both indigenous and international companies considering the County as an investment location in that it can provide a high quality of life for the skilled labour force required by such companies. Therefore the development, conservation and in particular the promotion of our built and natural heritage is a key economic factor for the County.

Projects and initiatives are welcomed which serve to increase awareness locally and regionally of the significance of our culture and heritage in order to maintain and promote it as a vehicle for economic regeneration in our rural communities.

Cultural and built heritage is an area with significant potential from a tourism perspective. Project which seek to promote access and conservation of such elements are welcomed.

**Film & Festival:** An opportunity exists to develop new or existing festivals and events around products and traditions that are indigenous or particularly important in the County. There are many possibilities such as turf, Donegal fiddle tradition, potato, seaweed, storytelling & recitation, An Gaeltacht Dhún na nGall, Extreme Outdoors, Donegal's Biosphere.

It is crucial that the status of Donegal as a top film location is upheld and built upon, through continued promotion of the County as a diverse yet convenient location, continued collaboration between the Donegal Film Office and industry, raising awareness locally of the positive impacts and outcomes from producing films in the County.

**An Ghaeilge:** As a living language, opportunities to integrate the Irish language into all facets of day to day life in Donegal must be constantly targeted. Some of the many areas where integration opportunities exist include, the use of the language in work environments, in delivering services, by incorporating Irish names into shop display, through the type of programmes and films on TG 4, by making the use of Irish fashionable i.e. having 'Irish Tents' at music festivals, by creating opportunities for employment in cultural tourism based around the use of the Irish language, by incorporating the 'new Irish' who want to be able to speak the language as good as any Donegal person.

**Built Heritage:** The importance of our built fabric and its association with our past are at the forefront of not only how we live now, but how we can sustain and regenerate our place for the future. How we retain our historic built fabric and how we sensitively incorporate new development into our environment are key aspects of this. Reusing and reinventing existing structures to make them relevant today is essential to their structural maintenance and ultimately their longevity for the future. An opportunity exists to conserve and promote our built heritage and to reinvigorate our spaces and communities at the same time by reduce instances of vacancy and dereliction through the restoration and reuse of buildings and structures for accommodation purposes, local enterprise, retail and tourism services. Understanding the value of our archaeological network of heritage sites is key to its preservation and enjoyment. Opportunities exist to develop archaeological trails throughout Donegal to increase awareness of such artifacts and to increase accessibility to such sites. There exists, significant potential to promote and develop underwater archaeology in the County both in terms of diving and research potential of wreck sites but also as an educational resource around the activities, routes and purposes of such vessels off our coast.

## Chapter 7: Capitalising on Our Rural Tourism Advantage

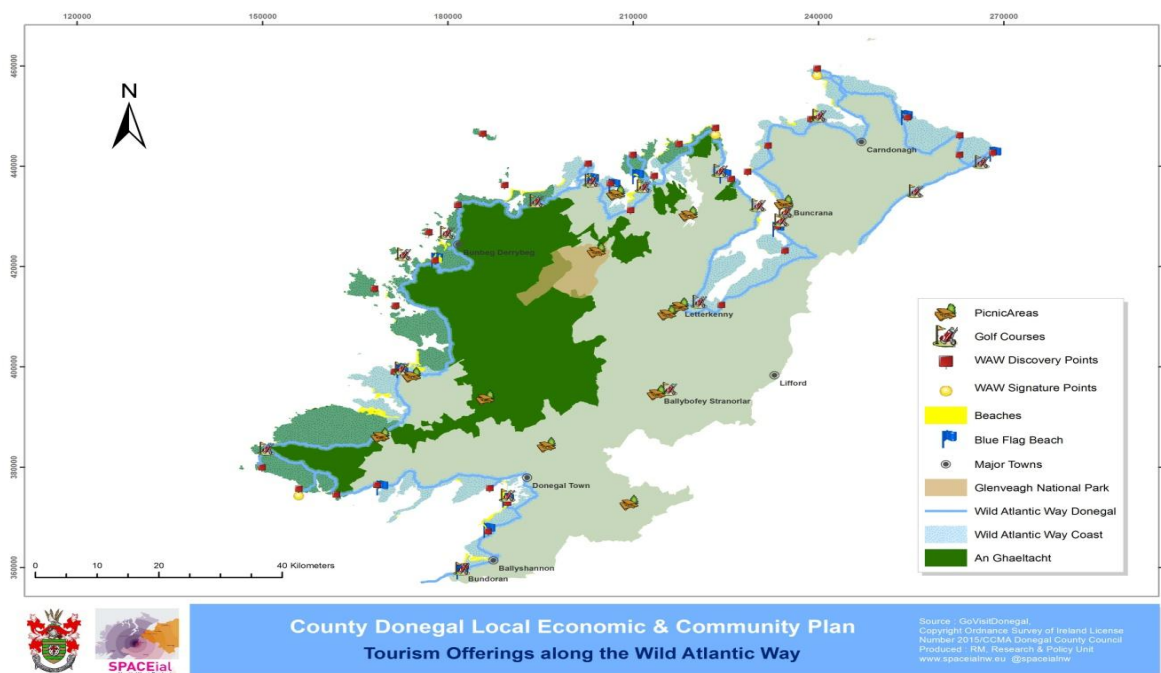
### 7.0 Rising Tourism Numbers

The number of tourists visiting Donegal is consistently on the increase. In 2013, 199,000 overseas visitors came to Donegal, increasing by 14.3% since 2012. Of the visitors in 2013, €78,000 were from Britain, 70,000 from mainland Europe, 37,000 from North America and 14,000 from other locations. Overseas visitors were worth €48m to the local economy. The counties domestic visitors were also up from 245,000 (2012) to 260,000 (2013). The domestic tourism market was worth €64million.

There are a number of factors driving this event including the establishment and promotion of the Wild Atlantic Way, along which there are a number of signature points like Slieve League, Fanad Head & Malin Head and discovery points including; spell binding islands<sup>xx</sup> breathtaking blue flag beaches<sup>xxi</sup>, world class golf courses<sup>xxii</sup>, community forests and picnic areas<sup>xxiii</sup>, and historical landmarks<sup>xxiv</sup> etc (See Figure 1 below)

Investments have been targeted into various tourism products over the years and this is testimony to the quality of the tourism offering. However, targeted initiatives and investments are necessary for rural communities to harness the full potential of all the Wild Atlantic Way brings in terms of diversifying into accommodation provision, developing tourist based enterprises etc To achieve this it is also essential to provided rural communities with the tools necessary to make such diversification viable, be it upgrading farm houses to take in tourist, installation of public amenities like toilets, recycling bins, picnic areas etc; developing small rural enterprise based around the Donegal Brand etc It is also important as tourism levels rise in rural areas that the protection and enhancement of our unique landscape and heritage is at the forefront of all such projects.

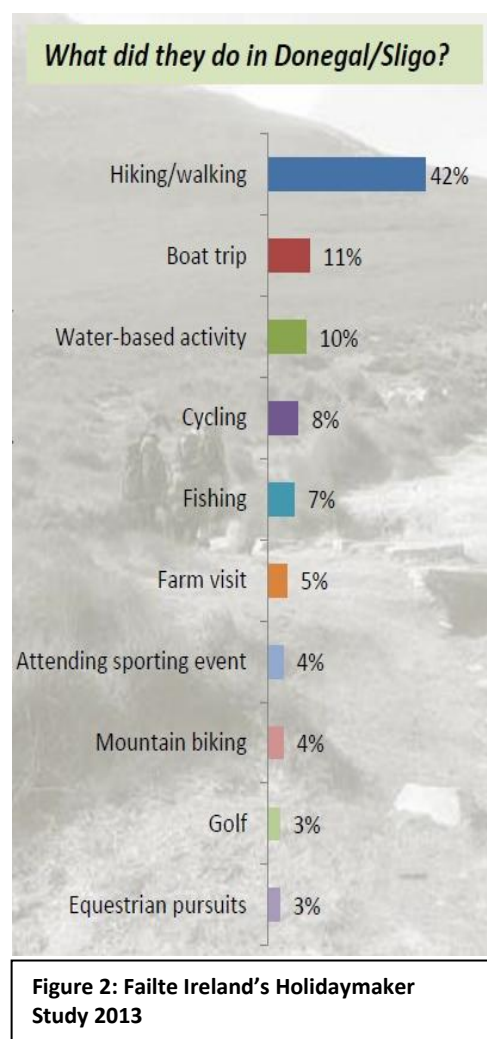
**Figure 1: Tourism Offerings along the Wild Atlantic Way**



## 7.1 Our Rural Tourism Assets

Tourism plays a significant role in Donegal's rural economy. Continued supporting measures for a varied and innovative approach to rural tourism development are crucial in sustaining rural communities into the future. Failte Ireland's *Holidaymaker Study 2013 – Donegal/Sligo* found the most frequently cited reason for recommending Donegal/Sligo was the 'the Beautiful Scenery/Countryside' (80% of respondents). When asked 'What did they do in Donegal/Sligo?' A breakdown of the 10 most popular answers is illustrated on the adjacent table. It must be noted that all of the top 10 answers comprised various ways our natural environment was accessed and experienced by tourists. This significant emphasis on outdoor recreation, totalling 97% of responses, undoubtedly places the sustainable management of our natural heritage at the heart of Donegal's tourism agenda.

The *Go Visit Donegal Brochure*, prepared by the Donegal Tourism Sector Forum in 2015, profiles areas such as; rural recreation and adventure tourism, food tourism, culture and heritage initiatives and these are presented below.



### 7.1.1 Adventure and Activity Tourism

#### Donegal - An Outdoor Adventure Capital

Donegal, with the highest number (13) Blue Flag Beaches in the country @ 13 and provides a wide range of adventure and watersport activities from Kayaking, Kitesurfing or Deep – Sea-Diving to the outdoor enthusiastic. In addition there are a number of surf schools offering quality accommodation, fun surf lessons and competitive boat hire packages. The golfing enthusiastic can play on world champion ship golf courses like Ballyliffen Golf Course, Donegal Golf Course, Narin and Portnoo golf course, Portsalon golf course Rosapenna golf course etc (See Table 1 & 3 Appendix 7)

#### Donegal – An Anglers Paradise

The County boasts clean rivers, famed for the prolific runs of salmon, numerous sea trout and wild game fisheries which entice anglers from many parts of the world. The Atlantic coast offers short angling while deep sea fishing is also available. Donegal offers the angler wild and plentiful fish stocks, fully equipped sea angling licensed charter boats and a wide range of stunning locations all over the County (See Table 2 Appendix 7)

### Donegal – A Trail Blazing Landscape

In Donegal, the adventure seeker can explore a wide range of walking trails like Colmcille Trail, Mamore Gap, Bluestack Way, Drumboe Woods, Bloody Forelands, Ards Forest Park; can hike through some of the most dramatic and iconic mountains for example; Errigal, Muckish, Slieve Sneacht, Urris Ridge, Slieve League etc; can cycle along 1000 km of coastal and inland cycle ways or hack by horse or pony using through the 11 different Equestrian Adventure Centres throughout the County (See Table 3 Appendix 7).

The County has state of the art Sporting and recreational facilities for example Letterkenny Regional Sports and Leisure Centre; Finn Valley Athletic Club Stranorlar; Garten Outdoor Education and Training Centre; Waterworld Bundoran to name but a few.

### Parks and Play Areas

Table 4 Appendix 7; outlines the range of Parks and Gardens in County Donegal. Glenveagh provides the Tourism Flagship attraction for the County attracting more visitors annually than any other attraction in the County. In addition there are a number of town parks that are distributed across the major settlements in the County. Play Grounds and Mini Pitches, are one of the most evenly distributed facilities across the County with one or more within a 10 km range of each main settlement .

#### 7.1.2 Food Tourism

Fáilte Ireland, identified in 2009, that €1.2 billion was spent on food and drink by the 9.8m overseas tourists. Applying these figures to the Donegal context for 2013, reveals that the 199,000 overseas visitors spent on average €25 million on food and drink in the County. Given the potential of the sector, it is important to strengthen the current producer base to ensure a large and robust number of producers across the various sectors.

The Donegal Food Strategy has presented a clear vision as to how to achieve this ‘by working collectively to make Donegal famous for food and recognised as a pioneering region for its approach to fostering and growing new start up and existing food businesses’.

- Increase the amount of new food start ups through both artisan and added value start-ups.
- Increase opportunities for restaurants, hotels, retailers to source locally produced ingredients at competitive prices.
- Marketing and promotion of Donegal as a Food Region via the Food Coast Brand.
- Increased co-ordination of food strategy in the County via a Food Coordinator.

Donegal’s unique location and natural environment has resulted in distinctive farming and fishing techniques. This has lead to the production of distinctly Donegal food products, particularly in our most remote, inhospitable and least agriculturally productive areas. The agri food sector is continuing to experience growth as more and more indigenous brands are becoming established and being distributed to a wider consumer base.

Such product proposals provide an opportunity for rural communities to diversify and establish alternative income streams by adding value and providing employment beyond primary agricultural and fishing production.

An opportunity also exists to link such local producers with the growing numbers of tourists visiting the County. The Food Coast – Donegal’s Good Food Initiative has the overall aim of acting as the central platform for establishing Donegal as a “food County” – a place with a vibrant food culture and food economy. The establishment of the Wild Atlantic Way brings



with it readily accessible routes to an ever expanding global market for local producers. However, a co-ordinated approach is required to showcase our product range at events, markets, as part of tours, etc.

Chapter 5 Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry; provides more detail on opportunities to further develop our growing food sectors such as organic lamb from the Donegal hills, Donegal honey, Island pigs, seaweeds, etc.

### 7.1.3 Cultural Tourism

Chapter 6; outlined Donegal's strong cultural sector comprising of a unique sectoral mix of practitioners, facilities and services. There has been continued investment of cultural and arts funding in Letterkenny from local and national sources, including; An Grianan theatre (310k in 2013), Regional Cultural Centre (€135,000 - Arts Council in 2013), Donegal County Museum (grant funding 2011-2013).

Donegal has a rich Built, Natural and Cultural Heritage. These unique features and assets which are explored in depth in Chapter 6 and in Chapter 4, provide a unique tourism product through our natural heritage designations. The Nature designations alone make up almost a quarter of Donegal's landcover (not including offshore waters). 46 Special Areas of Conservation (333 SqKm); 26 Special Protection Areas (306 SqKm); 14 Natural Heritage Areas (21 SqKm); 80 Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (314 SqKm); 7 National Nature Reserve (11 SqKm). The County's archaeological heritage comes in the form of 3,129 Sites and Monuments. In terms of the County's architectural heritage, the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage currently identifies 1,782 buildings in Donegal while there are 375 of these on the County's Record of Protected Structure.



Figure 3: Failte Ireland's Holidaymaker Study 2013

## 7.2 Tourism Infrastructure & Accommodation

Donegal hosts many of the ideal qualities to make it a highly successful County in terms of future tourism development. The rugged coastline, the picturesque landscape, a County rich with heritage and culture, the uniqueness and endearing nature of the people and the development of the Wild Atlantic Way, collectively, offers endless opportunities that need to be fully utilised, but this needs to be done in a constructive and effective manner to lay foundations that are both solid and robust. Foundations that can be built upon to maximise the full economic potential of the County for future generations.

### 7.2.1 Essential Tourism Infrastructure

The wealth of attractions outlined in the previous section are heavily distributed across the length and breadth of the County. In terms of accessing these areas, 74% of tourists travel by private motor car, 15% by private coach, 5% use public transport with the remaining 6% by other means<sup>23</sup>. Almost always accessed by either car based tourists or coach tours travelling along our scenic routes such as the WAW, Atlantic Drive, Inishowen 100. This road based travel requires a range of essential facilities, including;

### **Public Conveniences**

A number of media reports in recent years have highlighted the lack of public toilet facilities at various locations throughout the County. Such reports have centred around the lack of toilet facilities, maintenance problems as well as their closure in a number of towns in Donegal. Current provision of public conveniences in the County include 15 such facilities currently provided throughout the County, with a further 7 currently closed. To enable a wider provision of such services it will be necessary to review the current offer with a view to reopening facilities which are currently closed or to introduce new facilities where none currently exist. These may be particularly useful in the larger settlements or at key tourism locations across the County.

### **Picnic Areas & Viewing Points**

According to Ordnance Survey Ireland Donegal has numerous picnic areas and viewing points across the County, these are in locations such as; Ards Friary, Ludden Buncrana, Grianan an Aileach, Bundoran, Ballymacool, Ballyshannon, Donegal Town, Letterkenny, Pettigo etc. These offer the meandering tourist opportunities to stop off and enjoy Donegal's natural environment and also present ideal locations for casual trading ventures for the rural community. Increasing tourism related facilities at the locations present an opportunity to further develop tourism in these areas. Such facilities could display information on local attractions, events and services, waste and recycling facilities etc. It is important that these sites comprise necessary facilities .

### **Motorhome Facilities**

Recent research conducted by students at LYIT has highlighted the distinct lack of the specific services required by motorhome tourists in the County. An excellent example of such a facility opened in Buncrana in 2013, however there is a need for such provision at multiple locations countywide. This service gap provides an opportunity for the rural community to provide motorhome service points as a standalone income supplement or in conjunction with their existing business such as pub, shop, B & B's, activity centre, etc.

### **Environmental Impact - Litter & Recycling**

An increase in tourist numbers can have a damaging impact on our environment. This can occur in many ways such as where excessive numbers of visitors or inappropriate vehicles erode fragile surfaces, or where littering is taking place. These can all have a damaging effect on our natural environment, which is in many cases the initial point of attraction for many tourists to the County in the first place. It is essential that measures and programmes are put in place and enforced to ensure that such activities are controlled and such impacts are eliminated. Existing levels of litter and recycling facilities need to be re-examined given the significant increase in tourism numbers.

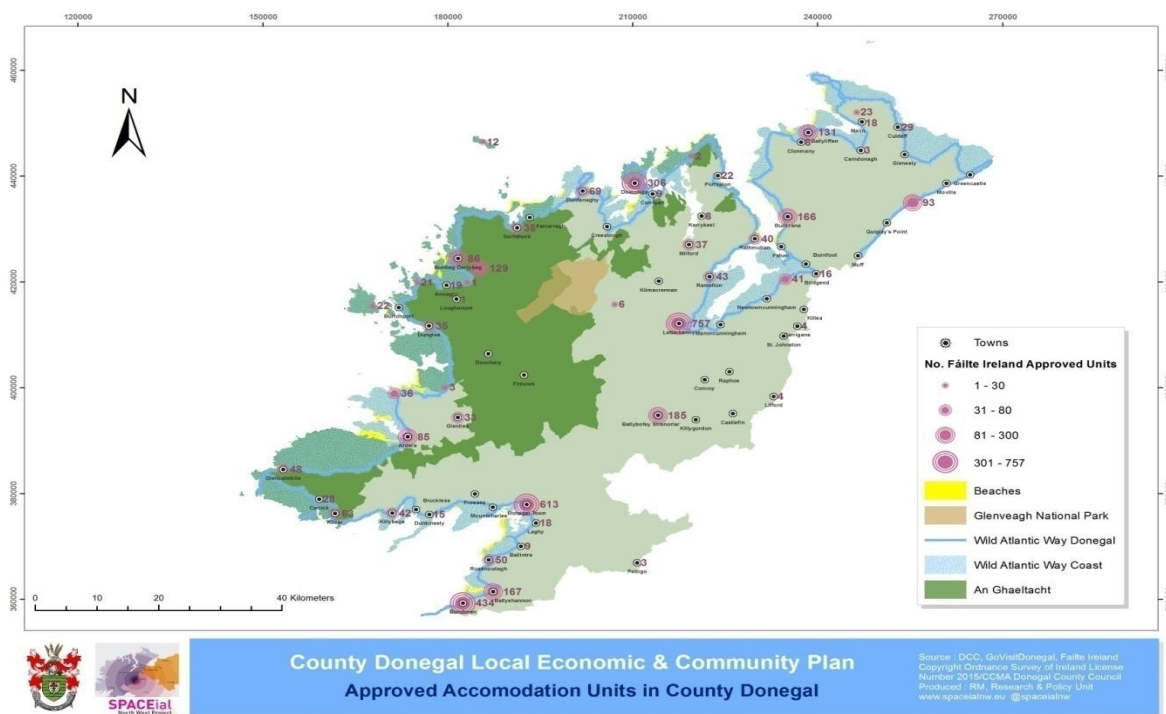
## **7.2.2 Accommodation**

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<sup>23</sup> Fáilte Ireland's Holidaymaker Study 2013 – Donegal/Sligo

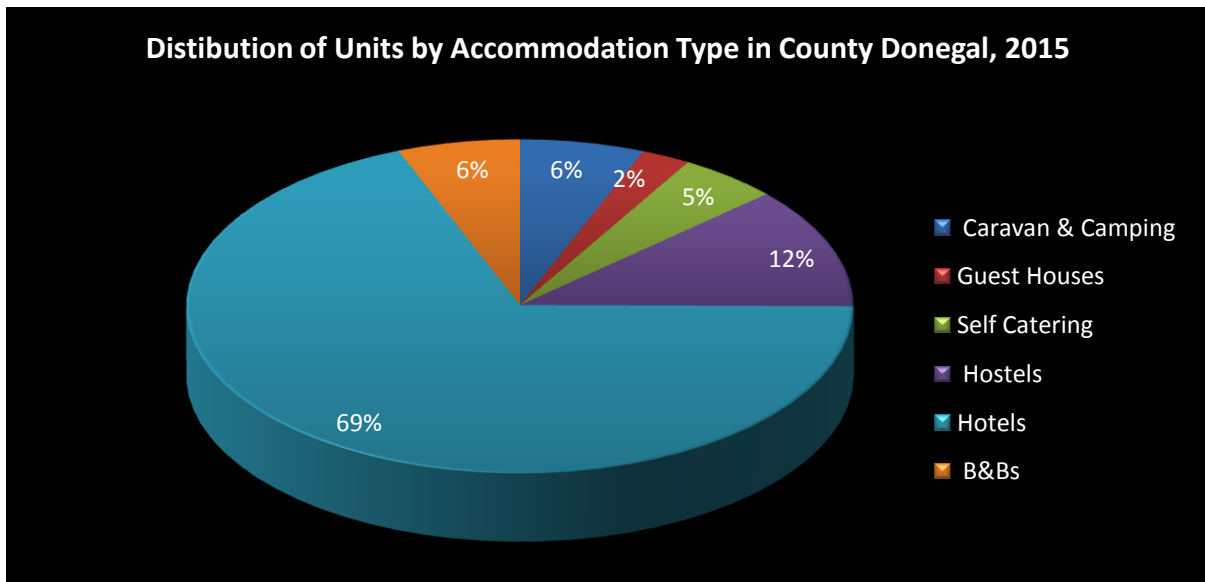
Fáilte Ireland under their quality assurance scheme produces a register of accommodation units by county each year. These have been extracted for Donegal in 2015<sup>xxv</sup> and amalgamated to their respective town area. These are presented in relation to the Wild Atlantic Way, to illustrate the availability of accommodation to cater for the potential update in demand give the increasing success of the WAW. This illustrates that there are currently 3,750 units along the 550km route. Analysis of the geographical identifies concentrations of accommodation supply clustered around key settlements. Accepting that there are additional unapproved units along this route, this still illustrates the growing demand for increased accommodation provision. The potential for farm diversification into accommodation provision.

**Figure 4: Approved Accommodation Units in Donegal**



Examining the distribution of Fáilte Ireland approved accommodation units illustrates that there is a clear dominance by the Hotel Sector providing 69% of all units in the County. The lower levels of provision across the other sectors provides an opportunity for rural communities to make up this deficit through small scale conversions, existing farmhouses, outhouses and available land for camp and caravan parking. Of the 248 units available through camp and carvan parking, these are located at 6 sites ( 3 of which are located in the Downings/Rossguill area, 1 in Ballyshannon , 1 Portsalon and 1 in Rosbeg) leaving large areas of the WAW without such approved accommodation.

**Figure 5: Distribution of Units by Accommodation Type in Donegal 2015**



### 7.3 Area Needs Assessment: Building on Our Strong Tourism Base

Donegal has all the components to be a leading County in terms of tourism. A strong tourism base already exists and tourist numbers continue to increase annually. It is now essential that high quality tourism services are in place to cater for this growth. A clear opportunity now exists for rural communities to tap into this growing industry, and in doing so the visitor experience will be further enhanced, including greater access to the range of information required by visitors to the County. To achieve this, more focused development is required in the following areas:

**Marketing & Promotion:** While strategic marketing is successfully taking place in terms of promoting the County as a great place to visit, more localised promotion is required by local agencies, communities, businesses and individuals to ensure that tourists are aware of the vast amount of attractions across the County and how they can access them. It is important to create awareness within communities of everyone's role in tourism promotion. Significant opportunities exist to develop online and downloadable applications to assist tourists in navigating the many routes and in finding the many attractions and services the County has to offer. Such initiatives must be coordinated, adaptable and comprehensive.

**Rural Diversification:** As the number of visitors increase, Donegal's rural communities, businesses and individuals must be ready to tap into this valuable resource by creating new tourism related enterprises and services. Not only will this result in an enhanced tourism offer for visitors, it will also supplement incomes for rural communities. This is particularly attractive for those communities along the Wild Atlantic Way, where opportunities exist to reuse vacant houses and other structures to provide accommodation, cafe's, shops, etc.

**Creating Recreational Access:** There is enormous potential among rural communities in the County to develop tourism trails as a means of increasing tourist footfall locally through the promotion of the many smaller scale or lesser known unique cultural, natural and built heritage features such as our shipwrecks, geological sites, our unique islands, historic towns and villages, archaeology, rare birds and animals, our uplands, etc.

**Coordinating Our Tourism Offer:** There are many opportunities for new and existing companies in the tourism sector to combine their services in order to offer ready made package holidays incorporating multiple destinations and activities around the County.

**Tourism Infrastructure:** As visitor numbers increase, we must ensure that adequate facilities are available throughout the County. This is particularly important given the transient nature of the Donegal tourism industry as a result of initiatives such as the Wild Atlantic Way. Businesses and communities must play their part in providing public conveniences, parking, waste services. Projects and initiatives must ensure such services will be provided.

**Tourism Product Development:** The development of new and expansion of existing tourism products is encouraged. Areas of our built, natural and cultural heritage offer many opportunities to give visitors a different experience through for example watersports, horse riding, walking, rock climbing, island hopping, cruising in our sea loughs and inland waterways. Opportunities exist to facilitate tourists and local communities alike with safer and greener transport options through the development of our waterways, off road trails and cycle ways.

**Diaspora:** Through initiatives such as the gathering, the strength and benefits of our diaspora is clear. Other initiatives to engage with our diaspora are encouraged, particularly from a tourism perspective.

**Accommodation & Ancillary Facilities:** Initial examination of accommodation levels around the County, show an existing and future need to increase provision in a wide range of locations. Recent tourism surveys have identified that visitors to the region are seeking unique accommodation experiences as part of their stay. Therefore projects which seek to increase accommodation provision such as through the reuse of historic and unique buildings, structures and objects are welcomed. Alternatives in this regard include the range of glamping options, motorhome parking and services, bunkhouses, bothys, disused agricultural and industrial structures, pods, etc.

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<sup>i</sup> Due to data confidentiality a full set of statistical data is not available for the Town of Gleneely therefore the following analysis is based on 60 towns.

<sup>ii</sup> Either UK, Polish, Lithuanian, Other EU 27, Rest of World

<sup>iii</sup> The total labour force is the sum of persons at work, unemployed and first time job seekers and in 2011 this equated to 33,132 persons

<sup>iv</sup> 44,247 persons

<sup>v</sup> Urbanisation has marginally increased in County Donegal since 2006 where there were 25% of the population residing in aggregate urban areas. The two new towns making it into the aggregate urban category are An Bun Beag-Doirí Beaga and Lifford. In addition Moville (1,481) & Convoy (1,438) narrowly missed this classification in 2011

<sup>vi</sup> <http://healthland.time.com/2013/07/29/were-living-longer-and-healthier/>

<sup>vii</sup> The All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO)

<sup>viii</sup> This can be due to a number of reasons, in that the household could have chosen not to take up access, connections may not be available etc

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ix Excluding the activities of holding companies

x compared to -13.8% nationally

xi compared to 3.7% nationally

xii Which is calculated as the sum of persons unemployed or first time job seekers as a percentage of the labour force

xiii 28% in the State

xiv 18% in the State

xv 28.9% in 2006

<sup>xvi</sup> Biomass is fuel developed from organic materials and renewable and sustainable sources of energy, from forestry debris, scrap lumber, certain crops, manure etc

<sup>xvii</sup> 48% of all broadleaf in Donegal.

<sup>xviii</sup> 28% of all broadleaf in State

<sup>xix</sup> [http://www.sfpa.ie/Sea-](http://www.sfpa.ie/Sea-FisheriesConservation/FisheriesStatisticsandQuotaUptake/AnnualLandingStatistics.aspx)

[FisheriesStatisticsandQuotaUptake/AnnualLandingStatistics.aspx](http://www.sfpa.ie/Sea-FisheriesConservation/FisheriesStatisticsandQuotaUptake/AnnualLandingStatistics.aspx)

<sup>xx</sup> For example Gola , Aranmore, Tory, Inch, Inishboffin etc

<sup>xxi</sup> For example Tullan Strand, Rossnowlagh, Fintra Bay, Marble Hill etc

<sup>xxii</sup> Located in Ballyliffen, Muragh, Stranorlar, Bunrana etc

<sup>xxiii</sup> Ards Forest Park; Glenveagh National Park; Swan Park, Ballymacool Town Park; Barrack Hill etc

<sup>xxiv</sup> Donegal Castle, Inch Castle, the Ring Fort at Grianan an Aileach, The standing stone circle at Beltany, Kildonney Dolmen etc

<sup>xxv</sup> Register of Accommodation, 2015 Fáilte Ireland

**PART 2: APPENDIX I****Table 1: Population Density by County (Per Sq Km)**

	Population	Area (sq km) (Number)	Pop Density KM <sup>2</sup>
Dublin	1,273,069	924	1378.1
Louth	122,897	824	149.2
Kildare	210,312	1,693	124.2
Meath	184,135	2,332	79.0
Limerick	191,809	2,683	71.5
Cork	519,032	7,442	69.7
Wicklow	136,640	2,000	68.3
Waterford	113,795	1,836	62.0
Wexford	145,320	2,353	61.8
Carlow	54,612	895	61.0
Westmeath	86,164	1,756	49.1
Monaghan	60,483	1,273	47.5
Laois	80,559	1,719	46.9
Kilkenny	95,419	2,061	46.3
Galway	250,653	5,846	42.9
Cavan	73,183	1,856	39.4
South Tipperary	88,432	2,256	39.2
Offaly	76,687	1,995	38.4
Longford	39,000	1,040	37.5
Clare	117,196	3,159	37.1
Sligo	65,393	1,791	36.5
North Tipperary	70,322	1,992	35.3
Donegal	161,137	4,764	33.8
Kerry	145,502	4,679	31.1
Roscommon	64,065	2,445	26.2
Mayo	130,638	5,351	24.4
Leitrim	31,798	1,502	21.2
<b>State</b>	<b>4,588,252</b>	<b>68,466</b>	<b>67.0</b>

**Table 2: Private households in permanent housing units in each Local Authority area, classified by motor car availability.**

	All hhlds	One motor car	Two motor cars	Three motor cars	Four or more motor cars	At least one motor car	No motor car	% of HHlds No Car
Dublin City	207,847	85,069	36,255	5,781	1,442	128,547	79,300	38.2%
Limerick City	22,300	9,806	4,445	701	166	15,118	7,182	32.2%
Cork City	47,110	19,391	10,085	2,095	580	32,151	14,959	31.8%
Waterford City	18,199	8,352	4,394	640	167	13,553	4,646	25.5%
Galway City	27,697	12,262	7,233	1,295	337	21,127	6,570	23.7%
Louth	43,897	18,314	13,875	2,331	752	35,272	8,625	19.6%
Longford	14,410	6,288	4,548	789	261	11,886	2,524	17.5%
Sligo	24,428	9,760	8,466	1,520	486	20,232	4,196	17.2%
South Tipperary	32,664	13,269	11,142	2,270	779	27,460	5,204	15.9%
Westmeath	30,624	12,435	10,811	1,883	637	25,766	4,858	15.9%
Donegal	57,721	25,874	18,569	3,132	1,035	48,610	9,111	15.8%
Kerry	53,088	22,028	18,314	3,464	1,258	45,064	8,024	15.1%
Mayo	47,932	19,836	16,918	2,982	1,011	40,747	7,185	15.0%
Carlow	19,365	7,909	6,748	1,300	508	16,465	2,900	15.0%
South Dublin	89,877	38,912	30,980	5,440	1,538	76,870	13,007	14.5%
Offaly	26,543	10,758	9,577	1,819	646	22,800	3,743	14.1%
Monaghan	21,176	8,660	7,379	1,565	593	18,197	2,979	14.1%
North Tipperary	25,611	10,173	9,387	1,826	644	22,030	3,581	14.0%
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	75,786	31,457	27,252	5,128	1,366	65,203	10,583	14.0%
Cavan	25,720	10,451	9,288	1,735	701	22,175	3,545	13.8%
Wexford	52,345	21,938	18,264	3,637	1,348	45,187	7,158	13.7%
Wicklow	47,579	18,410	17,976	3,476	1,273	41,135	6,444	13.5%
Leitrim	12,228	5,219	4,423	707	244	10,593	1,635	13.4%
Laois	27,916	11,224	10,439	1,840	709	24,212	3,704	13.3%
Clare	42,534	16,944	16,316	2,834	875	36,969	5,565	13.1%
Kilkenny	33,583	13,074	12,736	2,470	930	29,210	4,373	13.0%
Roscommon	23,601	9,820	8,736	1,586	509	20,651	2,950	12.5%
Fingal	92,951	40,326	34,493	5,365	1,429	81,613	11,338	12.2%
Waterford County	24,040	9,133	9,523	1,826	693	21,175	2,865	11.9%
Galway County	60,644	22,988	24,890	4,427	1,492	53,797	6,847	11.3%
Kildare	70,504	26,579	29,245	5,112	1,697	62,633	7,871	11.2%
Limerick County	47,121	17,606	18,941	3,970	1,491	42,008	5,113	10.9%
Cork County	140,445	51,979	57,530	11,582	4,328	125,419	15,026	10.7%
Meath	61,922	22,522	26,858	4,736	1,695	55,811	6,111	9.9%
<b>State</b>	<b>1,649,408</b>	<b>668,766</b>	<b>556,036</b>	<b>101,264</b>	<b>33,620</b>	<b>1,359,686</b>	<b>289,722</b>	<b>17.6%</b>



Table 3 (a) Population aged 15 years and over travelling to work

	On foot	Bicycle	Bus, minibus or coach	Train, DART or LUAS	Motorcycle or scooter	Motor car: Driver	Motor car: Passenger	Van	Other, incl. lorry	Work mainly at or from home	Not stated	All means of travel
State	170510	39803	91676	52749	8443	1067451	69164	116248	14770	83326	64260	1778400
	9.6%	2.2%	5.2%	3.0%	0.5%	60.0%	3.9%	6.5%	0.8%	4.7%	3.6%	
Donegal	3497	185	647	28	61	33420	2830	5626	714	2709	2292	52009
	6.7%	0.4%	1.2%	0.1%	0.1%	64.3%	5.4%	10.8%	1.4%	5.2%	4.4%	

Table 3(b) Children at school aged between 5 and 12 years

	On foot	Bicycle	Bus, minibus or coach	Train, DART or LUAS	Motorcycle or scooter	Motor car: Driver	Motor car: Passenger	Van	Other, incl. lorry	Work mainly at or from home	Not stated	All means of travel
State	118523	6252	60263	691	..	..	296711	909	169	264	13083	496865
	23.9%	1.3%	12.1%	0.1%			59.7%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	2.6%	
Donegal	1906	60	5283	3	..	..	11428	43	3	15	342	19083
	10.0%	0.3%	27.7%	0.0%	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	59.9%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	1.8%	

Table 3(c) Students at school or college aged between 13 and 18 years

	On foot	Bicycle	Bus, minibus or coach	Train, DART or LUAS	Motorcycle or scooter	Motor car: Driver	Motor car: Passenger	Van	Other, incl. lorry	Work mainly at or from home	Not stated	All means of travel
State	73946	6592	96153	5640	236	6339	126172	703	94	245	5616	321736
	23.0%	2.0%	29.9%	1.8%	0.1%	2.0%	39.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	1.7%	
Donegal	1428	28	6008	10	7	235	4735	33	6	7	136	12633
	11.3%	0.2%	47.6%	0.1%	0.1%	1.9%	37.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	1.1%	

Table 3(d) Students at school or college aged 19 years and over

	On foot	Bicycle	Bus, minibus or coach	Train, DART or LUAS	Motorcycle or scooter	Motor car: Driver	Motor car: Passenger	Van	Other, incl. lorry	Work mainly at or from home	Not stated	All means of travel
State	51959	8530	40470	11896	633	53606	16291	1131	91	592	6631	191830
	27.1%	4.4%	21.1%	6.2%	0.3%	27.9%	8.5%	0.6%	0.0%	0.3%	3.5%	
Donegal	1318	74	952	45	7	2016	710	85	3	15	177	5402
	24.4%	1.4%	17.6%	0.8%	0.1%	37.3%	13.1%	1.6%	0.1%	0.3%	3.3%	

**PART 2: APPENDIX II**

**Table 1: Population Distribution By Settlement Size**

Population Category	Number of Settlements	Combined Population 2006	Combined Population 2011	Actual Increase 2006-2011	% Increase 2006-2011	% Pop Distribution in Settlements 2011	% Pop Distribution in County 2011
10,000-20,000	1	17,586	19,588	2002	11	27	12
5,000-10,000	1	5,911	6,839	928	16	9	4
2,000-5,000	5	13,088	14,636	1548	12	20	9
1,000-2,000	10	11,874	13,317	1443	12	18	8
500-1,000	13	7,639	9,221	1,582	21	13	6
<500	31	8,239	9,865	1,626	20	14	6
<b>All Settlements</b>	61	64,337	73,466	9129	14	101	<b>46</b>
<b>Rural Area</b>	-	82,927	87,671	4,744	6	-	<b>54</b>
<b>Total</b>	-	147,264	161,137	13,873	9	-	100

**Table 2: Vacancy and Dereliction in Towns**

<b>Town</b>	<b>Vacant &amp; Derelict Buildings</b>	<b>Vacancy/ Dereliction Rate</b>
Ballybofey Stranorlar	122	16
Letterkenny	101	5
Bundoran	92	17
Ballyshannon	70	12
Buncrana	58	9
Milford	53	30
Moville	49	18
Killybegs	47	15
Carndonagh	41	12
Donegal Town	30	6
Mountcharles	21	22
Raphoe	20	17
Dungloe	19	12
Dunfanaghy	15	14
Glenties	14	13
Ardara	14	10
Lifford	14	8
Falcarragh	11	9
Muff	10	11
Manorcunningham	8	24
Ramelton	7	10
Newtowncunningham	4	8
Creeslough	3	23
Bunbeg Derrybeg	3	21
Bridgend	3	4
Convoy	0	0

**Table 3: Core Strategy Targets by Tier**

Tier	Location	Population Projection 2012-2018	Housing Units Required	Land Required (HA)	New Housing Distribution %
1	Gateway*	2700	925	41	20
2	Strategic Support Towns	5114	1826	228	40
3	Strong Towns & Villages	1023	365	46	8
4	Small Towns & Villages	511	183	23	4
5	Rural Area	3579	1278	N/A****	28
1-5	<b>County</b>	<b>12927</b>	<b>4577</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 4: Age Dependency Rates in Donegal Towns**

Municipal Area	Town	Dependents less than 15 and greater than 65	Working Aged Persons 16 to 64 yrs	Age Dependency Ratio
Donegal	Bundoran Legal Town and its Environs	753	1387	54.3%
Donegal	Ballintra	79	130	60.8%
Donegal	Ballyshannon Legal Town and its Environs	956	1547	61.8%
Donegal	Donegal	921	1686	54.6%
Donegal	Dunkineely	148	227	65.2%
Donegal	Laghy	90	107	84.1%
Donegal	Mountcharles	187	281	66.5%
Donegal	Pettigo	114	125	91.2%
Donegal	An Charraig	148	134	110.4%
Donegal	Gleann Cholm Cille	83	129	64.3%

Donegal	Cill Charthaigh	94	154	61.0%
Donegal	Killybegs	451	846	53.3%
Glenties	An Bun Beag-Doirí Beaga	664	889	74.7%
Glenties	Creelough	167	243	68.7%
Glenties	Dunfanaghy	117	195	60.0%
Glenties	An Fál Carrach	355	505	70.3%
Glenties	Mín Lárach	168	274	61.3%
Glenties	Anagaire	105	148	70.9%
Glenties	Ardara	263	468	56.2%
Glenties	Ailt An Chorráin	119	204	58.3%
Glenties	An Clochán Liath	492	691	71.2%
Glenties	Glenties	337	532	63.3%
Glenties	Loch An Iúir	152	185	82.2%
Glenties	Rann Na Feirste	174	178	97.8%
Glenties	Gort An Choirce	65	132	49.2%
Glenties	Bun Na Leaca	173	268	64.6%
Inishowen	Buncrana Legal Town and its Environs	2533	4306	58.8%
inishowen	Ballyliffin	184	277	66.4%
Inishowen	Burnfoot	162	304	53.3%
Inishowen	Carndonagh	1008	1526	66.1%
Inishowen	Carrigans	115	221	52.0%
Inishowen	Clonmany	201	269	74.7%
Inishowen	Fahan	234	335	69.9%

Inishowen	Greencastle	317	500	63.4%
Inishowen	Moville	564	917	61.5%
Inishowen	Muff	406	865	46.9%
Inishowen	Newtowncunningham	435	632	68.8%
Inishowen	Tievebane	141	210	67.1%
Inishowen	Manorcunningham	229	414	55.3%
Inishowen	Bridge End	192	305	63.0%
Inishowen	Kildrum	213	368	57.9%
Inishowen	Culdaff	90	174	51.7%
Inishowen	Malin	45	61	73.8%
Inishowen	Quigleys Point	98	129	76.0%
Letterkenny	Letterkenny Legal Town and its Environs	6397	13191	48.5%
Letterkenny	Carrowkeel	132	256	51.6%
Letterkenny	Cnoc Na Muirleog	156	259	60.2%
Letterkenny	Kilmacrennan	286	399	71.7%
Letterkenny	Milford	367	603	60.9%
Letterkenny	Ramelton	436	776	56.2%
Letterkenny	Rathmullen	201	317	63.4%
Letterkenny	Carraig Airt	84	144	58.3%
Stranorlar	Ballybofey-Stranorlar	1795	3057	58.7%
Stranorlar	Castlefin	290	497	58.4%
Stranorlar	Convoy	553	885	62.5%
Stranorlar	Lifford	605	1053	57.5%

Stranorlar	Raphoe	460	697	66.0%
Stranorlar	St. Johnston	206	377	54.6%
Stranorlar	Killygordan	216	392	55.1%
Stranorlar	Drumkeen	43	108	39.8%
		26769	46489	57.6%

**Table 5: Population by Nationality in Donegal Towns**

	Toan	Irish	UK	Polish	Lithuanian	Other EU 27	Rest of World	Not Stated	Total	Other than Irish
Donegal	Bundoran	1734	74	96	12	27	69	38	2050	13.6%
Donegal	Ballintra	197	8	0	0	0	0	1	206	3.9%
Donegal	Ballyshannon	2266	70	38	25	22	27	20	2468	7.4%
Donegal	Donegal	2077	84	166	16	52	86	12	2493	16.2%
Donegal	Dunkineely	356	14	2	0	0	0	3	375	4.3%
Donegal	Laghy	174	15	0	1	1	0	1	192	8.9%
Donegal	Mountcharles	397	23	31	0	4	9	2	466	14.4%
Donegal	Pettigo	218	4	4	0	0	6	4	236	5.9%
Donegal	An Charraig	254	11	5	0	0	4	6	280	7.1%
Donegal	Gleann Cholm Cille	193	5	0	0	2	1	7	208	3.8%
Donegal	Cill Charthaigh	237	2	2	0	1	2	1	245	2.9%
Donegal	Killybegs	1185	40	6	13	15	19	5	1283	7.2%
Glenties	An Bun Beag-Doirí Beaga	1332	88	49	0	6	25	7	1507	11.1%
Glenties	Creelough	362	29	0	0	3	5	3	402	9.2%



Glenties	Dunfanaghy	270	14	1	0	1	8	3	297	8.1%
Glenties	An Fál Carrach	774	56	1	0	5	10	6	852	8.5%
Glenties	Mín Lárach	417	21	0	0	2	0	0	440	5.2%
Glenties	Anagaire	219	17	0	0	1	1	0	238	8.0%
Glenties	Ardara	625	35	5	0	49	6	4	724	13.1%
Glenties	Ailt An Chorráin	291	21	0	0	0	3	3	318	7.5%
Glenties	An Clochán Liath	1039	68	11	0	4	25	11	1158	9.3%
Glenties	Glenties	785	40	17	0	5	6	5	858	7.9%
Glenties	Loch An Iúir	312	21	0	0	0	0	0	333	6.3%
Glenties	Rann Na Feirste	323	17	1	0	0	2	7	350	5.7%
Glenties	Gort An Choirce	175	8	0	0	1	1	0	185	5.4%
Glenties	Bun Na Leaca	395	14	2	0	0	1	1	413	4.1%
Inishowen	Buncrana	5896	288	233	55	145	74	49	6740	11.8%
inishowen	Ballyliffin	395	30	8	0	8	2	2	445	10.8%
Inishowen	Burnfoot	432	22	0	0	1	1	3	459	5.2%
Inishowen	Carndonagh	2246	148	10	11	25	47	13	2500	9.6%
Inishowen	Carrigans	308	14	0	1	0	1	3	327	4.9%
Inishowen	Clonmany	426	16	8	0	0	5	5	460	6.3%
Inishowen	Fahan	505	19	0	0	4	9	5	542	5.9%
Inishowen	Greencastle	750	31	2	0	4	2	7	796	4.9%
Inishowen	Moville	1333	46	18	9	15	12	10	1443	6.9%
Inishowen	Muff	1186	44	0	0	4	15	9	1258	5.0%
Inishowen	Newtowncunningham	981	45	1	5	3	7	17	1059	5.8%

Inishowen	Tievebane	329	12	0	3	2	1	1	348	5.2%
Inishowen	Manorcunningham	582	30	5	0	5	11	5	638	8.0%
Inishowen	Bridge End	481	6	0	1	0	2	3	493	1.8%
Inishowen	Kildrum	535	11	0	0	0	3	7	556	2.5%
Inishowen	Culdaff	229	12	0	0	2	1	2	246	6.1%
Inishowen	Malin	97	7	0	0	0	0	0	104	6.7%
Inishowen	Quigleys Point	205	15	0	0	3	0	2	225	8.0%
Letterkenny	Letterkenny	15751	809	989	63	328	1136	202	19278	17.2%
Letterkenny	Carrowkeel	356	20	0	0	2	1	5	384	6.0%
Letterkenny	Cnoc Na Muirleog	353	15	7	0	1	1	7	384	6.3%
Letterkenny	Kilmacrennan	611	53	9	0	5	4	3	685	10.4%
Letterkenny	Milford	884	41	6	0	8	12	10	961	7.0%
Letterkenny	Ramelton	1110	61	0	0	12	8	9	1200	6.8%
Letterkenny	Rathmullen	458	19	11	0	3	6	12	509	7.7%
Letterkenny	Carraig Airt	207	18	0	0	1	1	1	228	8.8%
Stranorlar	Ballybofey-Stranorlar	4078	169	214	78	100	127	28	4794	14.4%
Stranorlar	Castlefin	733	25	0	15	1	8	2	784	6.3%
Stranorlar	Convoy	1298	77	6	5	1	26	19	1432	8.0%
Stranorlar	Lifford	1549	48	5	0	5	20	16	1643	4.7%
Stranorlar	Raphoe	1103	24	2	0	3	8	15	1155	3.2%
Stranorlar	St. Johnston	536	30	1	4	1	2	2	576	6.6%
Stranorlar	Killygordan	535	43	0	9	5	1	10	603	9.6%
Stranorlar	Drumkeen	144	2	0	0	0	0	2	148	1.4%

	Total	63229	3049	1972	326	898	1870	636	71980	11.3%
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**Table 6: Lone Parent Families in Donegal Towns**

		Total (No of families)	Total No of Children	Total No of Lone Parent Families	Total No of Children in Lone Parent Families	Lone Parent Families as a percentage of all families with children
Donegal	Bundoran	344	659	123	212	35.8%
Donegal	Ballintra	38	83	10	14	26.3%
Donegal	Ballyshannon	455	822	167	247	36.7%
Donegal	Donegal	428	765	146	218	34.1%
Donegal	Dunkineely	67	138	20	38	29.9%
Donegal	Laghy	36	71	12	22	33.3%
Donegal	Mountcharles	92	178	25	36	27.2%
Donegal	Pettigo	42	75	11	17	26.2%
Donegal	An Charraig	52	97	26	42	50.0%
Donegal	Gleann Cholm Cille	38	73	11	19	28.9%
Donegal	Cill Charthaigh	45	85	10	16	22.2%
Donegal	Killybegs	248	452	70	104	28.2%
Glenties	An Bun Beag-Doirí Beaga	269	512	83	127	30.9%
Glenties	Creeslough	77	136	39	56	50.6%
Glenties	Dunfanaghy	59	105	25	42	42.4%
Glenties	An Fál Carrach	165	310	80	132	48.5%
Glenties	Mín Lárach	93	181	23	31	24.7%
Glenties	Anagaire	43	85	19	35	44.2%
Glenties	Ardara	130	244	43	64	33.1%

Glenties	Ailt An Chorráin	65	117	31	42	47.7%
Glenties	An Clochán Liath	193	388	60	91	31.1%
Glenties	Glenties	155	313	55	86	35.5%
Glenties	Loch An Iúir	70	140	28	40	40.0%
Glenties	Rann Na Feirste	63	136	6	10	9.5%
Glenties	Gort An Choirce	36	66	15	21	41.7%
Glenties	Bun Na Leaca	88	177	29	50	33.0%
Inishowen	Buncrana	1360	2667	437	718	32.1%
inishowen	Ballyliffin	75	164	16	23	21.3%
Inishowen	Burnfoot	86	181	25	47	29.1%
Inishowen	Carndonagh	458	930	184	339	40.2%
Inishowen	Carrigans	63	124	16	28	25.4%
Inishowen	Clonmany	83	183	31	56	37.3%
Inishowen	Fahan	89	178	21	33	23.6%
Inishowen	Greencastle	149	311	30	44	20.1%
Inishowen	Moville	267	497	87	126	32.6%
Inishowen	Muff	244	473	47	79	19.3%
Inishowen	Newtowncunningham	231	470	77	131	33.3%
Inishowen	Tievebane	75	173	18	24	24.0%
Inishowen	Manorcunningham	148	263	62	91	41.9%
Inishowen	Bridge End	108	220	45	78	41.7%
Inishowen	Kildrum	120	246	35	65	29.2%
Inishowen	Culdaff	50	100	13	16	26.0%
Inishowen	Malin	12	23	3	5	25.0%
Inishowen	Quigleys Point	45	102	9	14	20.0%
Letterkenny	Letterkenny	3425	6668	1157	1963	33.8%
Letterkenny	Carrowkeel	84	162	30	45	35.7%
Letterkenny	Cnoc Na Muirleog	74	158	25	49	33.8%
Letterkenny	Kilmacrennan	142	263	73	120	51.4%
Letterkenny	Milford	207	397	86	132	41.5%

Letterkenny	Ramelton	235	444	89	152	37.9%
Letterkenny	Rathmullen	96	171	31	43	32.3%
Letterkenny	Carraig Airt	43	79	24	42	55.8%
Stranorlar	Ballybofey-Stranorlar	907	1723	330	553	36.4%
Stranorlar	Castlefin	167	360	77	136	46.1%
Stranorlar	Convoy	277	547	122	193	44.0%
Stranorlar	Lifford	353	684	160	288	45.3%
Stranorlar	Raphoe	234	444	111	184	47.4%
Stranorlar	St. Johnston	116	238	53	83	45.7%
Stranorlar	Killygordan	136	259	57	103	41.9%
Stranorlar	Drumkeen	30	57	14	20	46.7%
	Total Urban	13580	26367	4762	7835	35.1%

**Table 7: People with Disabilities in Donegal Towns**

Municipality		Age 0-14 years	Age 15-24 years	Age 25-44 years	Age 45-64 years	Age 65+ years	Total Person with a Disability	Total (Total)	% of total Pop with Disability	% of Persons with Disability Aged 65 +	% of Persons with a Disability aged 14 years and younger
Donegal	Bundoran	22	21	70	119	140	372	2140	17.4%	37.6%	5.9%
Donegal	Ballintra	4	4	7	10	15	40	209	19.1%	37.5%	10.0%
Donegal	Ballyshannon	30	25	68	133	201	457	2503	18.3%	44.0%	6.6%
Donegal	Donegal	24	28	69	106	170	397	2607	15.2%	42.8%	6.0%
Donegal	Dunkineely	5	3	8	24	26	66	375	17.6%	39.4%	7.6%
Donegal	Laghy	5	1	5	2	14	27	197	13.7%	51.9%	18.5%
Donegal	Mountcharles	10	5	8	14	25	62	468	13.2%	40.3%	16.1%
Donegal	Pettigo	2	4	3	10	18	37	239	15.5%	48.6%	5.4%
Donegal	An Charraig	5	1	6	8	22	42	282	14.9%	52.4%	11.9%
Donegal	Gleann Cholm Cille	0	4	4	11	12	31	212	14.6%	38.7%	0.0%

Donegal	Cill Charthaigh	3	0	7	14	14	38	248	15.3%	36.8%	7.9%
Donegal	Killybegs	17	14	38	67	86	222	1297	17.1%	38.7%	7.7%
Glenties	An Bun Beag-Doirí Beaga	22	12	40	57	141	272	1553	17.5%	51.8%	8.1%
Glenties	Creelough	4	5	11	17	38	75	410	18.3%	50.7%	5.3%
Glenties	Dunfanaghy	3	3	8	17	30	61	312	19.6%	49.2%	4.9%
Glenties	An Fál Carrach	11	10	27	50	92	190	860	22.1%	48.4%	5.8%
Glenties	Mín Lárach	3	5	7	29	33	77	442	17.4%	42.9%	3.9%
Glenties	Anagaire	0	3	8	17	23	51	253	20.2%	45.1%	0.0%
Glenties	Ardara	12	9	22	29	50	122	731	16.7%	41.0%	9.8%
Glenties	Ailt An Chorráin	3	5	9	23	28	68	323	21.1%	41.2%	4.4%
Glenties	An Clochán Liath	14	5	33	86	145	283	1183	23.9%	51.2%	4.9%
Glenties	Glenties	7	11	17	46	62	143	869	16.5%	43.4%	4.9%
Glenties	Loch An Iúir	2	3	11	20	33	69	337	20.5%	47.8%	2.9%
Glenties	Rann Na Feirste	4	1	6	10	29	50	352	14.2%	58.0%	8.0%
Glenties	Gort An Choire	4	2	4	5	9	24	197	12.2%	37.5%	16.7%
Glenties	Bun Na Leaca	6	1	9	17	21	54	441	12.2%	38.9%	11.1%
Inishowen	Buncrana	94	73	196	246	360	969	6839	14.2%	37.2%	9.7%
inishowen	Ballyliffin	2	4	8	11	22	47	461	10.2%	46.8%	4.3%
Inishowen	Burnfoot	4	5	11	10	13	43	466	9.2%	30.2%	9.3%
Inishowen	Carndonagh	39	19	88	122	174	442	2534	17.4%	39.4%	8.8%
Inishowen	Carrigans	1	5	11	14	13	44	336	13.1%	29.5%	2.3%
Inishowen	Clonmany	9	7	12	19	46	93	470	19.8%	49.5%	9.7%
Inishowen	Fahan	7	3	7	13	58	88	569	15.5%	65.9%	8.0%
Inishowen	Greencastle	4	6	13	22	27	72	817	8.8%	37.5%	5.6%
Inishowen	Moville	9	13	47	67	109	245	1481	16.5%	44.5%	3.7%
Inishowen	Muff	14	11	25	37	20	107	1271	8.4%	18.7%	13.1%
Inishowen	Newtowncunningham	17	7	37	32	38	131	1067	12.3%	29.0%	13.0%
Inishowen	Tievebane	5	2	3	7	7	24	351	6.8%	29.2%	20.8%
Inishowen	Manorcunningham	7	7	21	26	21	82	643	12.8%	25.6%	8.5%

Inishowen	Bridge End	7	5	11	9	14	46	497	9.3%	30.4%	15.2%
Inishowen	Kildrum	6	3	14	21	7	51	581	8.8%	13.7%	11.8%
Inishowen	Culdaff	3	4	4	7	7	25	264	9.5%	28.0%	12.0%
Inishowen	Malin	0	3	2	4	11	20	106	18.9%	55.0%	0.0%
Inishowen	Quigleys Point	5	6	8	4	9	32	227	14.1%	28.1%	15.6%
Letterkenny	Letterkenny	284	273	685	733	753	2728	19588	13.9%	27.6%	10.4%
Letterkenny	Carrowkeel	7	7	10	17	13	54	388	13.9%	24.1%	13.0%
Letterkenny	Cnoc Na Muirleog	5	2	10	11	25	53	415	12.8%	47.2%	9.4%
Letterkenny	Kilmacrennan	11	7	29	52	42	141	685	20.6%	29.8%	7.8%
Letterkenny	Milford	14	18	34	39	50	155	970	16.0%	32.3%	9.0%
Letterkenny	Ramelton	6	15	43	49	82	195	1212	16.1%	42.1%	3.1%
Letterkenny	Rathmullen	4	3	13	19	31	70	518	13.5%	44.3%	5.7%
Letterkenny	Carraig Airt	3	3	6	9	19	40	228	17.5%	47.5%	7.5%
Stranorlar	Ballybofey-Stranorlar	82	50	179	247	289	847	4852	17.5%	34.1%	9.7%
Stranorlar	Castlefin	17	12	31	37	34	131	787	16.6%	26.0%	13.0%
Stranorlar	Convoy	22	23	41	76	94	256	1438	17.8%	36.7%	8.6%
Stranorlar	Lifford	15	21	50	84	89	259	1658	15.6%	34.4%	5.8%
Stranorlar	Raphoe	30	17	57	73	77	254	1157	22.0%	30.3%	11.8%
Stranorlar	St. Johnston	13	4	18	24	31	90	583	15.4%	34.4%	14.4%
Stranorlar	Killygordan	12	2	15	34	16	79	608	13.0%	20.3%	15.2%
Stranorlar	Drumkeen	1	3	5	8	8	25	151	16.6%	32.0%	4.0%
Total	Total	981	828	2249	3124	4086	11268	73258	15.4%	36.3%	8.7%

**Table 8: Socio economic groups of all persons living in private households**

Municipal Area	Towns	A Employers and managers (Persons)	B Higher professional (Persons)	C Lower professional (Persons)	D Non-manual (Persons)	E Manual skilled (Persons)	F Semi-skilled (Persons)	G Unskilled (Persons)	H Own account workers (Persons)	I Farmers (Persons)	J Agricultural workers	Z All others gainfully occupied and unknown
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												(Persons)
Donegal	Bundoran	17%	4%	8%	24%	7%	7%	4%	6%	1%	0%	23%
Donegal	Ballintra	14%	5%	5%	14%	17%	14%	10%	4%	3%	0%	14%
Donegal	Ballyshannon	12%	3%	11%	24%	13%	11%	5%	4%	1%	0%	16%
Donegal	Donegal	16%	4%	10%	23%	11%	8%	4%	5%	2%	0%	16%
Donegal	Dunkineely	13%	1%	4%	15%	16%	16%	8%	8%	2%	1%	15%
Donegal	Laghy	19%	2%	13%	15%	9%	7%	5%	9%	5%	1%	15%
Donegal	Mountcharles	16%	4%	13%	17%	17%	7%	4%	9%	1%	0%	12%
Donegal	Pettigo	7%	2%	7%	10%	13%	7%	9%	8%	12%	2%	24%
Donegal	An Charraig	8%	3%	11%	10%	13%	15%	8%	7%	8%	0%	18%
Donegal	Gleann Cholm Cille	9%	0%	7%	13%	2%	28%	9%	5%	3%	0%	23%
Donegal	Cill Charthaigh	11%	5%	5%	10%	12%	23%	7%	10%	0%	0%	16%
Donegal	Killybegs	13%	2%	5%	15%	13%	25%	3%	6%	2%	0%	15%
Glenties	An Bun Beag-Doirí Beaga	11%	1%	14%	14%	10%	15%	8%	5%	1%	0%	21%
Glenties	Creelough	12%	3%	6%	19%	14%	13%	6%	3%	1%	1%	21%
Glenties	Dunfanaghy	17%	6%	11%	19%	5%	7%	5%	17%	2%	0%	11%
Glenties	An Fál Carrach	8%	1%	11%	15%	13%	11%	7%	5%	2%	0%	27%
Glenties	Mín Lárach	8%	3%	5%	16%	10%	16%	11%	10%	1%	2%	17%
Glenties	Anagaire	19%	0%	3%	16%	17%	16%	8%	9%	0%	0%	13%
Glenties	Ardara	14%	2%	9%	16%	14%	16%	9%	6%	1%	1%	13%



Glenties	Ailt An Chorráin	13%	3%	12%	19%	9%	11%	4%	5%	3%	0%	21%
Glenties	An Clochán Liath	14%	4%	9%	17%	8%	9%	7%	11%	0%	0%	21%
Glenties	Glenties	10%	3%	6%	21%	11%	13%	6%	7%	3%	1%	19%
Glenties	Loch An Iúir	6%	1%	8%	17%	13%	19%	4%	8%	1%	0%	24%
Glenties	Rann Na Feirste	9%	6%	9%	12%	10%	9%	8%	9%	2%	0%	25%
Glenties	Gort An Choirce	14%	5%	12%	15%	12%	12%	4%	6%	4%	0%	15%
Glenties	Bun Na Leaca	10%	3%	9%	10%	12%	17%	11%	8%	1%	0%	20%
Inishowen	Buncrana Legal Town and its	14%	4%	10%	16%	14%	11%	5%	6%	1%	0%	17%
Inishowen	Ballyliffin	21%	3%	6%	12%	12%	11%	5%	12%	7%	0%	10%
Inishowen	Burnfoot	13%	3%	7%	17%	16%	11%	8%	6%	4%	0%	15%
Inishowen	Carndonagh	13%	4%	13%	18%	10%	8%	4%	9%	2%	0%	18%
Inishowen	Carrigans	11%	7%	1%	22%	13%	16%	6%	7%	2%	1%	15%
Inishowen	Clonmany	11%	3%	6%	10%	7%	10%	6%	12%	7%	0%	27%
Inishowen	Fahan	25%	14%	14%	16%	3%	7%	4%	9%	1%	0%	7%
Inishowen	Greencastle	25%	5%	12%	8%	7%	14%	3%	9%	4%	1%	13%
Inishowen	Moville	15%	3%	10%	19%	12%	8%	5%	8%	3%	0%	17%
Inishowen	Muff	18%	9%	14%	13%	10%	12%	5%	6%	0%	1%	12%
Inishowen	Newtowncunningham	13%	4%	11%	17%	8%	10%	6%	7%	2%	1%	21%
Inishowen	Tievebane	20%	9%	10%	12%	21%	1%	5%	5%	5%	0%	12%
Inishowen	Manorcunningham	6%	2%	7%	19%	8%	18%	7%	9%	1%	1%	21%
Inishowen	Bridge End	18%	5%	10%	12%	8%	11%	5%	6%	1%	2%	23%
Inishowen	Kildrum	12%	9%	12%	18%	13%	8%	1%	9%	1%	1%	15%
Inishowen	Culdaff	12%	2%	9%	15%	10%	13%	6%	6%	1%	0%	27%

Inishowen	Malin	13%	2%	3%	12%	15%	11%	10%	4%	12%	5%	15%
Inishowen	Quigleys Point	17%	7%	4%	22%	10%	12%	3%	11%	4%	0%	9%
Letterkenney	Letterkenny	11%	8%	16%	21%	8%	7%	3%	4%	1%	0%	21%
Letterkenney	Carrowkeel	4%	0%	15%	14%	14%	11%	7%	9%	2%	0%	23%
Letterkenney	Cnoc Na Muirleog	15%	1%	13%	22%	8%	10%	4%	8%	2%	1%	17%
Letterkenney	Kilmacrennan	9%	2%	11%	26%	7%	11%	5%	5%	1%	0%	23%
Letterkenney	Milford	12%	4%	8%	23%	6%	9%	5%	7%	1%	1%	26%
Letterkenney	Ramelton	9%	7%	11%	19%	8%	7%	6%	4%	2%	1%	25%
Letterkenney	Rathmullen	17%	3%	12%	16%	8%	7%	3%	11%	3%	1%	19%
Letterkenney	Carraig Airt	15%	4%	2%	19%	5%	2%	5%	6%	1%	2%	38%
Stranorlar	Ballybofey-Stranorlar	11%	3%	11%	24%	12%	10%	3%	5%	1%	1%	18%
Stranorlar	Castlefin	6%	1%	4%	19%	10%	16%	8%	7%	1%	1%	27%
Stranorlar	Convoy	9%	4%	9%	21%	13%	9%	5%	4%	2%	2%	21%
Stranorlar	Lifford	8%	4%	7%	24%	11%	10%	4%	3%	1%	0%	29%
Stranorlar	Raphoe	9%	2%	5%	17%	11%	8%	4%	7%	2%	3%	33%
Stranorlar	St. Johnston	5%	3%	8%	18%	8%	19%	9%	3%	0%	1%	26%
Stranorlar	Killygordan	10%	1%	5%	20%	11%	13%	5%	6%	1%	1%	26%
Stranorlar	Drumkeen	12%	2%	6%	25%	9%	10%	3%	1%	1%	0%	31%
	All Rural Towns	12%	5%	11%	19%	10%	10%	5%	6%	1%	0%	20%

**Table 9: Indicators of Economic Activity in Donegal Towns**

Municipality	Town	Labourforce Participation Rate	Non Labourforce Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate	Work Rate	Labourforce
Donegal	Bundoran	55.8%	44.2%	28.1%	71.9%	973
Donegal	Ballintra	55.9%	44.1%	33.7%	66.3%	95
Donegal	Ballyshannon	55.1%	44.9%	30.9%	69.1%	1134
Donegal	Donegal	58.7%	41.3%	22.2%	77.8%	1282
Donegal	Dunkineely	50.7%	49.3%	24.7%	75.3%	150
Donegal	Laghy	55.7%	44.3%	30.1%	69.9%	83
Donegal	Mountcharles	57.9%	42.1%	22.6%	77.4%	208
Donegal	Pettigo	47.7%	52.3%	25.3%	74.7%	95
Donegal	An Charraig	49.3%	50.7%	30.4%	69.6%	102
Donegal	Gleann Cholm Cille	48.3%	51.7%	29.9%	70.1%	87
Donegal	Cill Charthaigh	55.9%	44.1%	25.4%	74.6%	114
Donegal	Killybegs	57.8%	42.2%	27.4%	72.6%	616
Glenties	An Bun Beag-Doirí Beaga	51.9%	48.1%	27.6%	72.4%	648
Glenties	Creelough	54.7%	45.3%	31.8%	68.2%	176
Glenties	Dunfanaghy	55.9%	44.1%	19.0%	81.0%	147
Glenties	An Fál Carrach	47.9%	52.1%	34.4%	65.6%	334
Glenties	Mín Lárach	49.3%	50.7%	41.3%	58.7%	179
Glenties	Anagaire	48.1%	51.9%	29.3%	70.7%	99
Glenties	Ardara	59.5%	40.5%	27.0%	73.0%	355
Glenties	Ailt An Chorráin	50.4%	49.6%	25.0%	75.0%	132
Glenties	An Clochán Liath	47.4%	52.6%	28.9%	71.1%	460
Glenties	Glenties	52.1%	47.9%	27.3%	72.7%	366
Glenties	Loch An Iúir	45.2%	54.8%	26.5%	73.5%	113
Glenties	Rann Na Feirste	50.2%	49.8%	27.0%	73.0%	137

Glenties	Gort An Choire	62.2%	37.8%	26.8%	73.2%	97
Glenties	Bun Na Leaca	59.5%	40.5%	42.0%	58.0%	200
Inishowen	Buncrana	57.8%	42.2%	31.2%	68.8%	3013
Inishowen	Ballyliffin	55.8%	44.2%	28.9%	71.1%	197
Inishowen	Burnfoot	66.4%	33.6%	29.3%	70.7%	229
Inishowen	Carndonagh	52.9%	47.1%	36.9%	63.1%	1015
Inishowen	Carrigans	67.2%	32.8%	39.4%	60.6%	170
Inishowen	Clonmany	43.1%	56.9%	28.5%	71.5%	158
Inishowen	Fahan	56.6%	43.4%	16.4%	83.6%	250
Inishowen	Greencastle	56.2%	43.8%	20.5%	79.5%	351
Inishowen	Moville	55.0%	45.0%	31.6%	68.4%	652
Inishowen	Muff	73.1%	26.9%	24.7%	75.3%	695
Inishowen	Newtowncunningham	63.6%	36.4%	26.4%	73.6%	478
Inishowen	Tievebane	58.5%	41.5%	25.5%	74.5%	145
Inishowen	Manorcunningham	63.8%	36.2%	31.6%	68.4%	301
Inishowen	Bridge End	65.0%	35.0%	24.6%	75.4%	228
Inishowen	Kildrum	69.6%	30.4%	19.2%	80.8%	286
Inishowen	Culdaff	65.5%	34.5%	34.6%	65.4%	133
Inishowen	Malin	57.6%	42.4%	28.3%	71.7%	53
Inishowen	Quigleys Point	66.5%	33.5%	32.0%	68.0%	103
Letterkenny	Letterkenny	62.5%	37.5%	24.1%	75.9%	9503
Letterkenny	Carrowkeel	55.5%	44.5%	31.1%	68.9%	167
Letterkenny	Cnoc Na Muirleog	56.7%	43.3%	23.8%	76.2%	181
Letterkenny	Kilmacrennan	47.8%	52.2%	34.0%	66.0%	241
Letterkenny	Milford	58.1%	41.9%	33.9%	66.1%	443
Letterkenny	Ramelton	55.2%	44.8%	32.0%	68.0%	534
Letterkenny	Rathmullen	51.6%	48.4%	24.0%	76.0%	221
Letterkenny	Carraig Airt	47.3%	52.7%	39.3%	60.7%	89
Stranorlar	Ballybofey-Stranorlar	57.6%	42.4%	29.5%	70.5%	2169
Stranorlar	Castlefin	56.2%	43.8%	35.2%	64.8%	332

Stranorlar	Convoy	53.4%	46.6%	33.5%	66.5%	594
Stranorlar	Lifford	57.4%	42.6%	39.5%	60.5%	719
Stranorlar	Raphoe	53.1%	46.9%	42.9%	57.1%	478
Stranorlar	St. Johnston	57.1%	42.9%	34.5%	65.5%	258
Stranorlar	Killygordan	64.9%	35.1%	39.4%	60.6%	287
Stranorlar	Drumkeen	62.6%	37.4%	36.4%	63.6%	77
	Total	58.0%	42.0%	28.4%	71.6%	33132

**Table 10: Towns with the highest % Share of Non Residential Buildings**

Letterkenny	23%	An Clochán Liath	3%
Buncrana	7%	Moville	2%
Donegal	6%	Bun Beag-Doirí Beaga	2%
Ballybofey-Stranorlar	6%	Lifford	2%
Ballyshannon	4%	An Fál Carrach	2%
Carndonagh	4%	Raphoe	2%
Bundoran	4%	Glenties	2%
Killybegs	3%	Ardara	2%

## PART 2: APPENDIX III

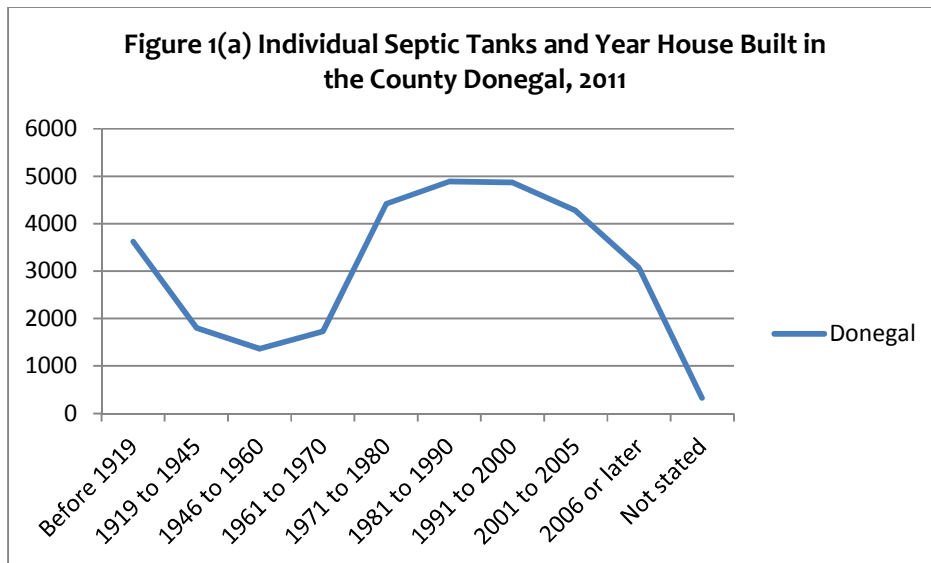
**Table 1: Source of Heating in Donegal, Census 2011**

	All households (excl non stated)	Oil	Natural Gas	Electricity	Coal (incl. anthracite)	Peat (incl. turf)	Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG)	Wood (incl. wood pellets)	Other fuels	All types of fuel
State	1627070	711330	550215	140419	79145	78638	10452	21395	8524	1600118
	0	44.5%	34.4%	8.8%	4.9%	4.9%	0.7%	1.3%	0.5%	
Donegal	57245	39884	558	1339	6758	6527	245	849	382	56542
	0	70.5%	1.0%	2.4%	12.0%	11.5%	0.4%	1.5%	0.7%	

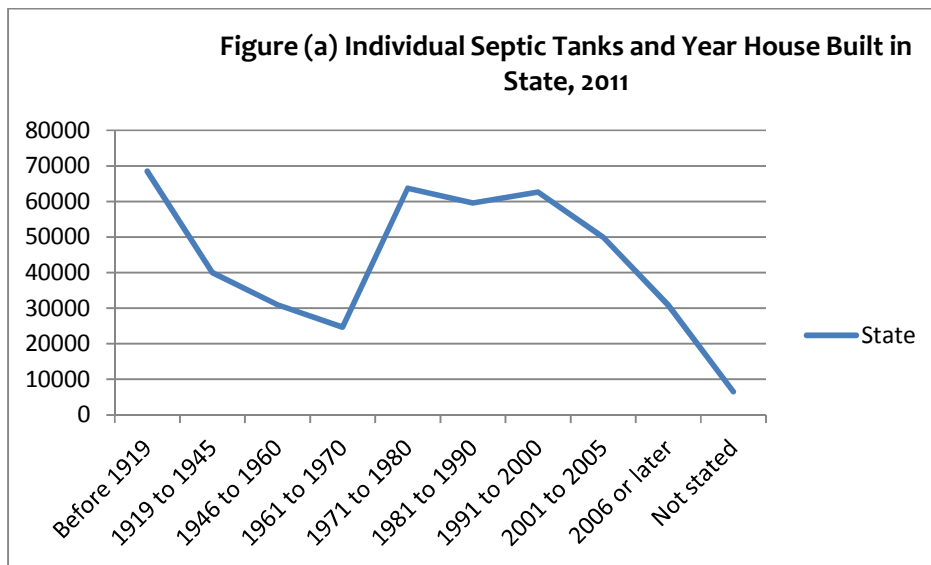
**Table 2: Private Dwellings in Permanent Housing Units by Type of Water Supply in County Donegal and the State, 2011**

	<b>All types of water supply</b>	<b>Public mains</b>	<b>Local authority group scheme</b>	<b>Private group scheme</b>	<b>Other private source</b>	<b>No piped water</b>	<b>Not stated</b>
State	1,649,408	1,247,185	144,428	45,774	161,532	2,080	48,409
		75.6%	8.8%	2.8%	9.8%	0.1%	2.9%
Donegal	57,721	44,542	6,298	919	4,436	89	1,437
		77.2%	10.9%	1.6%	7.7%	0.2%	2.5%

**Figure 1 (a)**



**Figure 1(b)**



**Table 3 (a) Private Households in Permanent Housing Units (Number) in Donegal and State by Internet Access, 2011**

	All households	Yes, owns a personal computer	No, does not own a personal computer	Computer ownership not stated	Yes, broadband internet access	Yes, other than broadband internet access	% with access	No internet access	% without access	Internet access not stated
State	1,649,408	1,199,298	414,597	35,513	1,051,942	132,973	74%	426,096	26%	38,397
Donegal	57,721	37,955	18,805	961	32,293	4,670	65%	19,662	35%	1,096

**Table 3 (b) Private Households in Permanent Housing Units (Number) in Aggregate Rural Areas in Donegal and State by Internet Access, 2011**

	All households	Yes, owns a personal computer	No, does not own a personal computer	Computer ownership not stated	Yes, broadband internet access	Yes, other than broadband internet access	% with access	No internet access	% without access	Internet access not stated
State	599,335	416,953	172,086	10,296	331,424	68,429	68%	187,123	32%	12,359
Donegal	40,796	26,424	13,723	649	22,020	3,472	64%	14,533	36%	771

**Table 3 (c) Private Households in Permanent Housing Units (Number) in Aggregate Town Areas in Donegal and State by Internet Access, 2011**

	All households	Yes, owns a personal computer	No, does not own a personal computer	Computer ownership not stated	Yes, broadband internet access	Yes, other than broadband internet access	% with access	No internet access	% without access	Internet access not stated
State	1,050,073	782,345	242,511	25,217	720,518	64,544	77%	238,973	23%	26,038
Donegal	16,925	11,531	5,082	312	10,273	1,198	69%	5,129	31%	325



**Table 4: Unemployment Ranking by County**

Ranking	County	2006	2011
6	Offaly	8.5%	23.2%
3	Wexford	9.3%	24.0%
8	Laois	7.4%	21.4%
5	Carlow	9.3%	23.3%
2	Longford	11.4%	24.7%
1	Donegal	12.9%	26.2%
18	Roscommon	6.3%	19.4%
9	Cavan	8.2%	21.2%
13	Monaghan	7.7%	20.6%
10	Westmeath	8.2%	21.1%
4	Louth	11.1%	23.8%
14	Leitrim	8.1%	20.3%
12	South Tipperary	8.5%	20.7%
17	Kilkenny	7.5%	19.4%
11	Limerick	9.1%	20.7%
25	Kildare	6.3%	17.9%
7	Waterford	10.0%	21.6%
20	North Tipperary	7.5%	19.0%
24	Meath	6.5%	18.0%
19	Wicklow	8.1%	19.3%
21	Clare	7.6%	18.8%
15	Kerry	8.7%	19.5%
23	Sligo	7.5%	18.1%
16	Mayo	9.1%	19.5%
22	Galway	8.7%	18.3%
27	Cork	7.3%	16.5%
26	Dublin	8.9%	17.1%
	<b>State</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>19.0%</b>

**PART 2: APPENDIX IV****Table 1: List of Ramsar Sites, Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries, Wildfowl Reserve, Biogenetic Reserve and Refuge for Fauna in Donegal**

Category	MIA ID	Name	Location	Type
Ramsar Site	841	Trawbreaga Bay	Carndonagh	Sheltered bay
Ramsar Site	334	Pettigo Plateau	Pettigo	Highland blanket bog
Ramsar Site	475	Meenachullion Bog	Fintown	Lowland blanket bog
Ramsar Site	373	Lough Barra Bog	Glendowan	Lowland blanket bog
Nature Reserve	22	Duntally Wood	Creelough	Oak ash hazel woodland
Nature Reserve	23	Rathmullan Wood	Rathmullan	Old oak woodland
Nature Reserve	27	Ballyarr Wood	Ramelton	Old Oak woodland
Nature Reserve	28	Lough Barra Bog	Glendowan	Lowland blanket bog
Nature Reserve	29	Meenachullin	Fintown	Lowland blanket bog
Nature Reserve	30	Derkmore Wood	Gweebarra Bridge	Oak scrub
Nature Reserve	31	Pettigo Plateau NR	Pettigo	Highland blanket bog
Nature Reserve	34	Ardnamona Wood	Lough Eske	Oak Woodland
Nature Reserve	35	Inch Lake	Inch Levels, Burt	Brackish lagoon
Wildfowl Sanctuary	WFS-14	Blanket Nook	Newtowncunningham	Brackish lagoon
Wildfowl Sanctuary	WFS-13	Ards	Creelough	
Wildfowl Sanctuary	WFS-15	Dunfanaghy Lake	Dunfanaghy	
Wildfowl Sanctuary	WFS-17	Trawbreaga Bay	Carndonagh	Sheltered bay
Wildfowl Sanctuary	WFS-16	Lough Fern	Milford (south of)	
Wildfowl Sanctuary	WFS-61	Sheskinmore Lough	Rosbeg	
Biogenetic Reserve	32	Pettigo Plateau BR	Pettigo	Highland blanket bog
Refuge for fauna	33	Horn Head	Dunfanaghy	Coastal cliffs

**Table 2: Water Supply in Donegal**

EPA Donegal 2013	Schemes	Population Served	Pop %
Public Water Supplies (PWS)	33	136,294	84.5
Public Group Schemes (PUG)	7	3,140	2
Private Group Schemes (PRG)	6	754	0.5
Small Private (PRI)	27	1402	1
Private Well (PW)	N/A	19,547	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>161,137</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 3: Remedial Action List**

Towns to be Completed in 2015	Towns to be Completed by Dec 2017/Dec 2018
Rathmullan	Cashelard
	Cresslough
	Fintown
	Glenties-Ardara
	Gortahork - Falcarragh
	Greencastle
	Owenteskna-Kilcar
	Letterkenny
	Narin-Portnoo

**Table 4: Irish Water Investment Plan 2014-2016**

Scheme	Status 2014-2016
Inishowen Regional Water Supply Scheme Trunk Mains	Review Scope and Commence Construction
Rathmullen Water Supplies-Fintown Water Supply	Continue in Construction
Gortahork/Falcarragh Water Supply Scheme Network	Review Scope and Commence Construction
Lettermacaard Regional Water Supply Scheme Site Investigation Contract (RAL)	Review Scope and Commence Construction
Ballyshannon/Rosswalagh Regional Water Supply Scheme. Water Treatment Plant – DBO	Review Scope and Commence Construction
West Donegal Regional Water Supply Schemes (including Lettermacawaard)	Review Scope and Commence Construction
Cranford Regional Water Supply Scheme	Review Scope and Commence Construction
Gortahork/Falcarragh Water Supply Scheme Upgrade of WwTP	Review Scope and Commence Construction
Inishowen Regional Water Supply Scheme	Review Scope and Commence Construction

Lough Mourne/Letterkenny Regional Water Supply Scheme	Review Scope and Commence Construction
<b>Total projected spend</b>	<b>€9,893,250.00</b>

**PART 2: APPENDIX VI**

**Table 1: Festivals for All the Family**

<b>Festivals and Events</b>		
March	Buncrana St. Patrick's Weekend Festival 2013	Buncrana
March	St. Patrick's Day Parade	Letterkenny
May	Bealtaine Festival	Donegal
May	Cup of Tae Festival	Ardara
May	Dungloe Walking Festival	Dungloe
May	Siúlóid Thullach Beaglaigh	Falcarragh
May	Laghey Blast Festival	Laghey
May	Laurentic Conference and Commemoration	Buncrana
May	The Guth Gafa Festival	Malin & Derry
May	The Melting Pot Festival	Ardara
May	The Northwest Garden Show	Castlefinn
May/June	Rory Gallagher International Tribute Festival	Ballyshannon
June	Donegal Garden Trail	Co. Donegal
June	Mevagh Ramblers Walking Festival	Carrigart/Downings
Jun/Jul	Earagail Arts Festival	Countywide
June	Festifal	Falcarragh
June	Sea Sessions	Bundoran
June	Donegal International Rally	Letterkenny
June	Inishowen Agricultural Festival	Moville
June	Annual Finn Valley Agricultural Show	Stranorlar
July	Buncrana Music Festival	Buncrana
July	Burtonport Summer Festival	Burtonport
July	Earagail Arts Festival	Throughout Donegal
July	Ramelton's Annual Lennon Festival	Ramelton
July	Ceol na Coille Irish Music Summer School	Glenswilly, Letterkenny
July/Aug	Mary from Dungloe	Dungloe
July/Aug	Hillwalking in the Donegal Highlands	Gleann Cholm Cille
July/Aug	The Annual Donegal Fiddle Summer School	Glencolmcille
August	Ballyshannon International Folk Festival	Ballyshannon
August	Letterkenny Live	Letterkenny
August	Clonmany Festival	Clonmany
August	Greencastle Regetta	Greencastle
August	Rathmullan Regatta Gathering	Rathmullan
August	The Kildarragh Fair	Dungfanaghy
August	Kilcar Fleadh	Kilcar
July/Aug	Hillwalking in the Donegal Highlands	Gleann Cholm Cille
August	Annual Ballyshannon Agricultural Show	Ballyshannon
August	Come Gather Round People Sixties Festival	Moville & Greencastle
August	Kilcar Street Festival	Kilcar
August	DylanFest on the Lough	Moville & Greencastle
August	A Taste Of Donegal Food Festival	Donegal Town
August	BeatlesFest on the Lough	Moville & Greencastle

September	Culture Night	Letterkenny
September	Annual Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Award	Buncrana
September	The Johnny Doherty Festival	Ardara
September	Dunfanaghy Jazz and Blues Festival	Dunfanaghy
Sept/ Oct	Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival	Donegal Town & Ballyshannon
November	Allingham Arts Festival	Ballyshannon
December	Donegal Lapland	Isle of Doagh, Inishowen

**Table 2: Population of all Gaeltacht Areas 2006 - 2011**

	2006	2011
Cork Gaeltacht Areas	3,803	3,895
Donegal Gaeltacht Areas	23,783	24,744
Galway City Gaeltacht Areas	14,304	15,299
Galway County Gaeltacht Areas	30,748	33,608
Kerry Gaeltacht Areas	8,695	8,729
Mayo Gaeltacht Areas	10,868	10,886
Meath Gaeltacht Areas	1,670	1,771
Waterford Gaeltacht Areas	1,632	1,784
All Gaeltacht Areas	95,503	100,716

Source: [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)

**Table 3: Irish Speakers aged 3 years and over by Age Category in County Donegal**

	All Gaeltacht Areas	Cork Gaeltacht Areas	Donegal Gaeltacht Areas	Galway City Gaeltacht Areas	Galway County Gaeltacht Areas	Kerry Gaeltacht Areas	Mayo Gaeltacht Areas	Meath Gaeltacht Areas	Waterford Gaeltacht Areas
All ages	66238	2951	17132	7123	23855	6185	6667	1054	1271
3 - 4 years	1410	86	384	87	526	142	123	23	39
5 - 9 years	5570	237	1458	668	2049	400	536	107	115
10 - 14 years	6222	277	1538	724	2194	561	591	153	184
15 - 19 years	5520	215	1276	737	2005	520	573	97	97
20 - 24 years	3873	172	866	711	1380	278	331	74	61
25 - 29 years	3609	187	748	641	1213	320	368	58	74
30 - 34 years	3986	197	925	637	1427	362	323	45	70
35 - 39 years	4514	216	1116	526	1705	410	383	63	95
40 - 44 years	4435	206	1136	393	1723	419	384	81	93
45 - 49 years	4412	210	1136	382	1643	438	419	82	102
50 - 54 years	4559	197	1104	436	1745	464	443	92	78
55 - 59 years	4306	178	1009	380	1660	491	441	62	85
60 - 64 years	3845	138	1030	296	1399	446	450	31	55
65 - 69 years	3087	128	931	226	1056	310	373	25	38
70 - 74 years	2295	101	796	109	778	178	274	20	39
75 - 79 years	1864	93	677	79	568	162	239	19	27
80 - 84 years	1420	67	526	53	410	146	193	13	12
85 years and over	1311	46	476	38	374	138	223	9	7

Source: [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)

**Table 5: Irish Water's Strategic Investment Programme in water and wastewater infrastructure in Donegal.**

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Status 2014-2020</b>
Ballybofey Stranorlar SS WwTP & Network	Review Scope and Commence Construction
Ballybofey/Stranorlar Sewerage Schemes Network	Review Scope and Commence Construction
Bridgend Sewerage Scheme (G/SLI) Wastewater Treatment Plant & Network	Review Scope and Commence Construction
Donegal (Group B) Sewerage Schemes Network	Review Scope and Commence Construction
Raphoe Sewerage Scheme	Review Scope and Commence Construction
Glenties/Dungloe Sewerage Scheme WwTP DBO	Continue in Construction
Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme Network – Site Investigation Contract	Continue in construction
Moville/Greencastle Sewerage Scheme	Review Scope and Commence Construction
Towns & Village Sewerage Scheme	Review Scope and Commence Construction
Donegal (Group B) Sewerage Schemes Wastewater Treatment Plants - DBO	Review Scope and Commence Construction
Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme (Network)	Review Scope and Commence Construction
Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme (Network)	Review Scope and Commence Construction
Gweedore Sewerage Scheme DBO Site Investigation Contract	Continue Planning and Business Case Review
<b>Total proposed spend</b>	<b>€46,012,083</b>



**PART 2: APPENDIX VII**

**Table 1: Donegal - An Outdoor Adventure Capital**

<b>Adventure</b>		
Castlefin X Treme Karting	Castlefin	Go-Karting & Tank Driving
Donegal Adventure Centre	Bundoran	Surfing, Kayaking Archery, Skateboarding, Abseiling & Body Training
Donegal Airsoft	Newtowncunningham	Airsoft, Archery, Crazy Golf
Donegal Kitesurf School		Kitesurf, Kite Buggy
Extreme north	Moville	
Gartan Ourdoor Pursuits Centre	Churchill	Surfing, Kayaking, Archery, Canoeing, Power boating, Rock Climbing, Wave Skiing & Windsurfing
Glen Valley Adventure Centre	Carrigart	
Irish Adventures	Buncrana	Kayaking, Gorge Walking, Archery, Mountain Biking, Hills Walks, Pier Jumping
Inishowen Quad Safari	Buncrana	Quad Biking Treks
Letterkenny Activity Centre	Letterkenny	Karting, Archery, Body Zorb, Airsoft
Mulroy Clay Pigeon Shooting	Milford	Clay Pigeon Shooting
Rockhill Activity Centre	Kerrykeel	Water Sports, Pirates Island, Archery
The Lakeside Centre	Ballyshannon	Surfing, Sailing, Kayaking, Archery, Canoeing, Windsurfing, Orienteering
The Old Foundry Paintball Games Ltd	Letterkenny	Paintball
<b>Diving</b>		
Dive Arranmore	Aranmore Islands	
Mevagh Dive Centre	Carrigart	
Rosguill Charters	Downings	
Sliabh Liag Boat Trips	Teelin	
<b>Kayaking</b>		
Donegal Sea Kayaking	Fanad Peninsula	Tours and hire
Inish Adventures	Moville	Kayaking and Canoeing
Jaws Watersports	Dunfanaghy	Surfing, Sea Kayaking & Kite Surfing
Rapid Kayaking	Annagry	Kayaking & Open Canoeing
<b>Sailing</b>		
Selkie Sailing	Derrybeg	
Lough Swilly Marina	Fahan	
<b>Surfing</b>		

Adventure One Surf School	Fanad	
Bundoran Surf Company	Bundoran	
Donegal Adventure Centre	Bundoran	
Fin McCool Surf School	Rossnowlagh	
I Surf Ireland	Rossnowlagh	
Inishowen Surf School	Buncrana	
Jaws Watersports	Dunfanaghy	
Narosa Surf School	Dunfanaghy	
Surfworld	Bundoran	
Turf 'n' Surf	Bundoran	
<b>Beaches</b>		
Ballyhernan	Approx 4km south of Fanad Head	Green Coast
Bundoran Beach	Bundoran	Blue Flag
Carrickfin Beach	Annagry	Blue Flag
Culdaff Beach	Malin	Blue Flag
Dooley	Approx 13km south of Dungloe	Green Coast
Downings Beach	Downings	Blue Flag
Drumatinney	Approx 3km north of Falcarragh	Green Coast
Fintragh Beach	Killybegs	Blue Flag
Killhoey Beach	Dunfanaghy	Blue Flag
Ladies Bay	Adjacent to Buncrana town	Green Coast
Lisfannon Beach	Buncrana	Blue Flag
Magheroarty	Approx 5km west of Gortahork	Green Coast
Marble Hill Strand	Dunfanaghy	Blue Flag
Murvagh Beach	Laghey, Donegal Town	Blue Flag
Narin Beach	Dunmore Head, Portnoo	Blue Flag
Port Arthur	Approx 5km north of Derrybeg	Green Coast
Portsalon Beach	Portsalon	Blue Flag
Rathmullan	Northern Shore of Lough Swilly	Green Coast
Rossnowlagh Beach	Rossnowlagh	Blue Flag
Stroove Beach	Greencastle	Blue Flag

**Table 2: Donegal - An Anglers Paradise**

<b>Game Angling</b>		
Assaroe Lake	Ballyshannon	Salmon & Brown Trout
Crana River & Fullerton Reservoir	Buncrana	Brown Trout
Donegal Bay	Teelin	Pollock, Wrasse, Giant Bluefin Tuna, Blue Shark
Drowes River	South Donegal	Salmon & Brown Trout
Dunfanaghy Fishery	Dunfanaghy	Brown Trout
Glen river	Carrick	Salmon & Sea Trout
Gweebarra River	Lettermacaward	Salmon & Sea Trout
Lough Beagh	Glenveagh National Park	Sea Trout & Brown Trout
Lough Melvin	South Donegal	Salmon & Brown Trout
Meadow Trout Fishery	Rosnakill	Rainbow Trout, Licenses, Rod Hire
Owenea River/Owentocker	Glenties	Salmon, Sea Trout & Brown Trout
Pettigo Lakes	Pettigo	Brown Trout
River & Lough Eske	Donegal Town	Salmon & Brown Trout
River Clady	Gweedore	Salmon & Sea Trout
River Crolla	Gweedore	Salmon & Sea Trout
River Deelee	Convoy/Raphoe	Salmon/Sea Trout & Brown Trout
River Duff	South Donegal	Salmon Fishing
River Eany	Inver	Salmon & Trout Fishing
River Finn	Central Donegal	Salmon & Sea Trout
The Rosses Fishery	Dungloe	Salmon, Sea Trout & Brown Trout
<b>Coarse Angling</b>		
Assaroe Lake	Ballyshannon	Bream, Roach, Hybrids
Pettigo Lakes	Pettigo	Bream, Roach, Perch, Pike
<b>Sea Angling</b>		
Arranmore Charters	Annagry	Reef, Wreck & Shark Fishing
Fishing In Ireland	Bruckless	General, Shark & Reef Fishing
Bundoran Star	Bundoran	Reef, Shark & General inshore fishing
Inishfree Charters	Burtonport	Reef, Shark & General Fishing
Bonito Charters	Downings	Reef, Pollock
Fishing Donegal	Downings	Wreck and Shark Fishing
Rosguill Boat Charters	Downings	Blue Shark, Blue Fin Tuna
Dun a Mara	Killybegs	Sea Angling
Killybegs Angling Charters	Killybegs	Reef, Shark & general inshore fishing
Saoire Mara Charters	Kincasslagh	Deep sea angling
Inishowen Boating Company	Malin	Deep Sea Angling, Shark & Wreck
	Magheraroarty	Mixed Fishing
Donegal Sea Fishing	Mullinasole	Wreck, Reef & Shark Fishing
Tirconnell Charters	Portnoo	Reefs & Wrecks
Rathmullan Charters	Rathmullan	Wreck, Pollock, Tope, etc
Slieve Liag Boat Trips	Teelin	Pollock, Wrasse, Giant Bluefin Tuna, Blue Shark

**Table 3: Donegal's A Golfers Haven**

<b>Golf</b>		
Ballybofey/Stranorlar Golf Club	Stranorlar	18 Hole
Ballyliffin Golf Club Glashedy	Ballyliffen	2 18 Hole, Links
Bundoran Golf Club	Bundoran	18 Hole, Links
Donegal Golf Club	Laghey	18 Hole, Links
Dunfanaghy Golf Club	Dunfanaghy	18 Hole, Links
Greencastle Golf Club	Greencastle	18 Hole, Links
Letterkenny Golf Club	Letterkenny	18 Hole
Narin/Portnoo Golf Club	Portnoo	18 Hole, Links
North West Golf Club	Buncrana	9 Hole, Links
Portsalon Golf Club	Portsalon	9 Hole, Links
Rosapenna Golf Club	Downings	9 Hole, Links
Buncrana Golf Club	Buncrana	9 Hole, Links
Cruit Island Golf Club	Kincasslagh	9 Hole, Links
Cloughaneely Golf Club	Falcarragh	9 Hole, Links
Gweedore Golf Club	Derrybeg	9 Hole, Links
Otway Golf Club	Rathmullan	9 Hole, Links
Redcastle Golf Club	Redcastle	9 Hole, Links
<b>Pitch and Putt</b>		
Atlantic Apartotel Pitch & Putt	Bundoran	
Pin Tavern Pitch & Putt	Letterkenny	
Rosapenna Pitch & Putt	Downings	
Rosguill Holiday Park Pitch & Putt	Downings	
Sandfield Pitch & Putt	Ardara	

**Table 4: Parks and Gardens**

<b>Gardens</b>		
Backleas	Stranorlar	
Beltany View Garden	Raphoe	
Black Rock Garden	Lifford	
Brigit's Garden	Annagry	
Bruckless House	Bruckless	
Carrablagh House	Portsalon	
Cille Garden	Kilcar	
Cluain na d'Tor Nursery Gardens	Falcarragh	
Dunmore Gardens	Carrigans	
Glenalla House	Milford	
Glenveagh National Park and Gardens	Glenveagh	
Greenfort,	Kerrykeel	
Irish Garden Centre for the White House	Castlefinn	

Lower Cranny Garden	Inver	
Oakfield Park	Raphoe	
Rathmullan House	Rathmullan	
Ros Ban Garden	Raphoe	
Salthill Gardens	Mountcharles	
Sea View Garden	Mountcharles	
St Columb's Garden at Glebe House	Churchill	
Summy Garden	Portnoo	

# Donegal Local Economic & Community Plan

## Appendix 2

Participation; Policy Context Review; Key  
Funding Programmes

September 2015



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

DRAFT

# Contents

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<b>Chapter 1: Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chapter 2: Outputs of the Participatory Process</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Chapter 3: Review of strategy and policy context</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Chapter 4: Summary Profile of Key Policy &amp; Funding Programmes</b>	<b>61</b>

## Figures:

---

Figure 1:	The Timeline for Participation
Figure 2:	Key Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats arising from the public submissions
Figure 3:	Dates of meetings of LCDC, EDC and Economic, Enterprise & Planning Policy SPC
Figure 4:	Tourism Forum S.W.O.T output
Figure 5:	Priority Areas Identified by the Economic Agencies operating in the County
Figure 6:	The Outputs of Business Sector Consultative Session
Figure 7:	Scope of Strategies and Policies Reviewed

## Appendices:

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Appendix 1:	Public authorities and publicly funded agencies that are carrying out functions in County Donegal
Appendix 2:	Representation of the LCDC, the Economic Development Committee and the Economic, Enterprise & Planning Policy SPC
Appendix 3:	Membership of the Extended SIM
Appendix 4:	Representation of the Social Inclusion Linkage Group.
Appendix 5:	Representation of the Social Inclusion Linkage Group
Appendix 6:	The Urban settlement Hierarchy for County Donegal
Appendix 7:	The Spatial Dimensions for the Development Centres/ Hubs
Appendix 8:	Ireland's Offshore Natural Resources- The Real Map of Ireland
Appendix 9:	National Broadband Plan- Map of State Intervention Areas in County Donegal



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# Chapter 1- Introduction

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This document together with Appendix 1 to the LECP ('The Profile of the County') forms part of the evidence base that has informed and shaped the development of the Donegal Local Economic & Community Plan. The particular elements of information that are collated and recorded in this document, 'Appendix 2' are:

1. Outputs of participation providing the local and 'bottom up' approach of experience on the ground;
2. Review of the national, regional and local strategies and policies within which the plan will be implemented and;
3. A profile of the key policy and funding programmes

The combined impacts of the information contained hereunder and the 'profile of the County' contained in Appendix 1 of the Plan, is to provide the evidence base from which the 7 priority Goals of the Donegal LECP have been formulated, together with the Objectives and Actions. The evidence base will also be important for the further development of the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review framework.

Volume 1 of the LECP contains a 'Socio- Economic Statement' which is a statement of the key messages coming from the evidence base that is set out across this document and within Appendix 1.

## The Priority Goals of the Donegal LECP

1. To Develop Donegal as a **Connected Place**
2. To Harness Donegal's **Natural and Human Capital**
3. To Value, Sustain and Develop Our **Culture and Creative resource**
4. To Promote **Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities**
5. To Develop Donegal as a Lead region for **Learning, Research and Innovation**
6. To Develop the **'Donegal' Brand**
7. To Promote **Entrepreneurship, Investment and Enterprise**

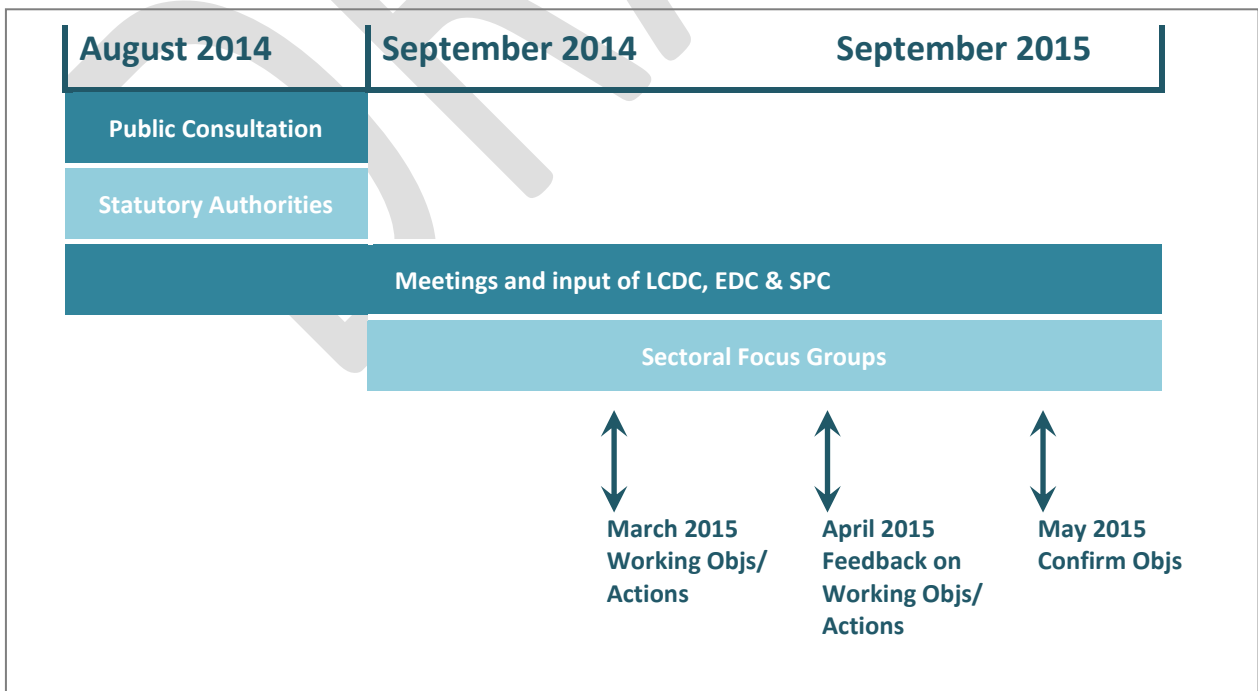
# Chapter 2- Outputs of the Participatory Process

## 2.1 Background

As one of the key values underpinning the preparation of the Donegal Local Economic & Community Plan, participation and engagement in the plan making process has been prioritised. As a result, an extensive participatory process has been undertaken and this has formed the building blocks enabling the preparation of a partnership plan by all of the stakeholders in the County. Three key pathways of participation developed through (i) Consultation with the wider public and with statutory consultees; (ii) The input of the Local Community Development Committee, the Economic Development Committee and the SPC for Community, Culture and Development Planning and; (iii) The input of a series of Sectoral Focus Groups. The timeline for participation is outlined in Figure 1.

A record of each form of participation and their outputs is set out on the following pages. Broadly, participation was facilitated through analysis of trends, sharing of information, discussion of key issues and needs and identification of opportunities. These conversations informed the emerging goals, objectives and actions of the LECP which were widely circulated for review amongst all the stakeholders at the end of March 2015. After considering feedback on the emerging goals, objectives and actions, the LCDC and EDC agreed the Goals and high level Objectives of the Plan subject to further refinement of actions.

**Figure 1: The Timeline for Participation**



## 2.2 Consultation with the Public and with Statutory Authorities

A 'public consultation process' was initiated on 11th August 2014 by the placing of a notice in local newspapers and on the Donegal County Council website inviting the public to make observations or submissions in writing regarding the preparation of the Plan. In total, 100 submissions were received made up of a combination of individual written submissions and a number of submissions completed through an online questionnaire. A report on the public consultation process was prepared at that time and can be accessed at [www.donegal.ie](http://www.donegal.ie)

Figure 2 extracts the key Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats arising from the public submissions. The submissions were solution and opportunity focused and a number of particular sectors and areas for targeted growth and resources emerged as follows:

- Tourism and the Wild Atlantic Way
- The marine resource
- Agriculture
- The green economy
- The creative economy
- Education, learning and training
- Capacity building within the community and voluntary sector
- Health and wellbeing
- Collaborative and partnership approaches

**Figure 2 Key Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats arising from the public submissions.**

<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Richness of county's assets particularly for tourism such as landscape, natural environment, heritage, culture, geology, archeology, built heritage, wildlife, biodiversity, friendliness of Donegal people, Donegal accent, fishing tradition, extent of existing cultural facilities</li> <li>- Quality of life on offer.</li> <li>- Existing economic base</li> <li>- The Donegal Gaeltacht</li> <li>- Proximity to Derry</li> <li>- Strengths in a number of key towns referred to including Ballybofey- Stranorlar, Bundoran, Killybegs, Donegal Town, Ardara</li> <li>- Extent of community &amp; Voluntary sector</li> <li>- Established</li> <li>- Significant community capacity and experience is established</li> <li>- The multi- cultural nature of the county</li> <li>- 'Healthy Ireland' already enshrined through national policy</li> <li>- Wild Atlantic Way Strategy</li> </ul>	<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of employment &amp; high youth unemployment</li> <li>- Lack of quality cycle network</li> <li>- Lack of adequate rural transport</li> <li>- Lack of public access to places of interest</li> <li>- Lack of marine infrastructure</li> <li>- Lack of tourism infrastructure such as information boards, signage, picnic areas, lay- bys</li> <li>- Lack of financial support to SME's</li> <li>- Diminished capacity in community organisations</li> <li>- Lack of training in social enterprises</li> <li>- Lack of consistent funding stream in respect of community and voluntary sector</li> <li>- Lack of appropriate physical spaces for services and activities across the sectors.</li> <li>- Geographical location in North West</li> <li>- Lack of adequate brand</li> <li>- Inadequate water and wastewater systems</li> <li>- Lack of control on a number of external determinants</li> </ul>
<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Important sectors with good opportunities are tourism, the marine and agriculture.</li> <li>- To further develop the County's green economy.</li> <li>- To further develop the County's Creative economy.</li> <li>- To further grow tourism in the County particularly</li> </ul>	<p><b>THREATS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reliance on community and voluntary sector especially volunteers, to reach marginally excluded groups.</li> <li>- Lack of alternative to drink culture undermining the objectives of the LECP e.g. Donegal Brand and Tourism.</li> </ul>

<p>in the areas of: Heritage, culture, walking, cycling, Irish language, angling, fishing, marine, town regeneration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To promote to Donegal as 'Healthy Donegal.'</li> <li>- To improve health through walking and cycling.</li> <li>- To be an exemplar in Donegal for the natural environment.</li> <li>- Opportunities to further develop the potential of a number of particular locations including Malin Head, Killybegs.</li> <li>- Further opportunities to work in partnerships and collaborate across all the sectors.</li> <li>- Provide creative waste solutions</li> <li>- Enable people through increased training and learning opportunities.</li> <li>- Positively use vacant buildings.</li> <li>- To establish a Donegal Energy Agency.</li> <li>- To set a community development levy on windfarm proposals.</li> <li>- To learn new heritage and culture from the County's multi-cultural population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sustainability of community organisations.</li> <li>- That heritage is not harnessed in an appropriate manner.</li> <li>- Further closure of services and facilities such as Garda Stations.</li> <li>- Threat of windfarms on health, natural environment and landscape.</li> <li>- Overdevelopment of the landscape.</li> <li>- Limited number of existing employers therefore levels of employment are vulnerable.</li> <li>- Brain drain due to emigration/ exodus of young people.</li> <li>- Impact of Irish water on the County's water and waste water infrastructure and planned programmes.</li> <li>- Impact of charges and taxes on SME's.</li> </ul>
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Appendix 1 of this document identifies the public authorities and publicly funded agencies that are carrying out functions in relation to economic and community development in County Donegal and notification was sent to each agency identified to set out the process to prepare the plan and to seek their participation in the process. Following this notification, the input of statutory consultees occurred primarily throughout the focus group workshops and this input is integrated into the record of these workshops.

### 2.3 Meetings and Input of LCDC, EDC and SPC

The preparation of the LECP has been led through the LCDC and the Economic Development Committee of Donegal County Council. The Committees, though their representation across the sectors, connected at the initial phase of participation with the grass roots groups and organisations that are critical to the economic and community dimensions of the county. Reflecting the integrated nature of the Plan, the LCDC and EDC have held joint meetings to consider and discuss the LECP. The Economic, Enterprise & Planning Policy SPC also consistently considered the preparation of the LECP and endorsed the recommendations of the EDC and LCDC as regards the confirmation of the high level objectives. The dates of the joint meetings of the LCDC and EDC together with a note of the stage in the process considered at each meeting are set out in Figure 3. Appendix 2 of this document sets out the representation of the LCDC, the Economic Development Committee and the Economic, Enterprise & Planning Policy SPC.

**Figure 3: Dates and Note of Meetings of LCDC, EDC and Economic, Enterprise and Planning Policy SPC**

<b>Joint LCDC and EDC meetings</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> October 2014	Outline of the legislation, purpose, process and context setting
11 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	Description of what the socio- economic profile will consist of (Data & policy context) Update on the participative process Outline of the emerging goals and examples of high level objectives flowing from the goals
2nd Feb 2015	Update on the participative process undertaken Outline of the emerging goals Outline of the methodology to develop the objectives and actions from the information collated
31st March 2015	Circulation and presentation on a comprehensive working draft of the emerging goals, objectives and actions and feedback requested over consequent weeks.
27th May 2015	Circulation and presentation on the integration of feedback and participation in relation to the working draft of the emerging goals, objectives and actions. Goals and high level objectives were confirmed.
9th July 2015	Outline of the intervening communications and ongoing participative process. Outline of DECLG. Guidelines note. Indicative pathway ahead to lead to a draft LECP
<b>SPC for Community, Culture &amp; Development Planning</b>	
22nd Jan 2015	Update on the participation process undertaken Outline of the emerging goals Outline of the methodology to develop the objectives and actions from the information collated
24th March 2015	Verbal update that we were etching towards emerging goals, objectives and actions for 31st march
30th June 2015	SPC Endorsed the goals and objectives as agreed by LCDC and EDC

#### 2.4 Sectoral Focus Groups

A number of targeted focus groups were identified as important groups from which sector specific participation be sought. The focus groups opened up ongoing exchange of information, consideration of the evidence base, identification of issues and needs through SWOT analyses, collaboration and input into the plan occurring from August 2014 leading right through to the publication of the draft LECP. The focus groups feeding into the Plan are:

- ✓ Social Inclusion Measures Group
- ✓ Community Development Alliance
- ✓ Social Inclusion Linkage Group
- ✓ Public Participation Network Secretariat
- ✓ Digital Action Plan Working Group
- ✓ Tourism Forum

- ✓ Economic agencies
- ✓ Business community
- ✓ Education & Training Board
- ✓ Letterkenny Institute of Technology
- ✓ Health Service Executive
- ✓ Farming representatives
- ✓ Creative Industries

### **2.5 The Social Inclusion Measures Group**

The SIM group and extended SIM is a multi- agency structure working in the area of social inclusion and poverty. The SIM aims to improve access to services for vulnerable individuals and target groups, to provide a co-ordinating role amongst the relevant agencies, to feed into plans and projects such as the LECP and to promote actions to address social inclusion and poverty. (NB: Appendix 3 identifies the Extended SIM demonstrating the overlap with representation on other groups including the PPN Secretariat, Social Inclusion Linkage Group and the Community Development Alliance).

The SIM group first came together to discuss the preparation of the LECP on 3rd November 2014 at which time key statistical data in the form of a S.W.O.T analysis was presented. The group discussed the types of issues and needs relevant for the LECP and for the development of goals, objectives and actions, in the context of social inclusion and poverty. Key areas discussed at the workshop were:

- That there is a threat due to the importance of and reliance on community groups and volunteers in the delivery of services and programmes.
- That there is an identified need to improve access to services and tailoring access to services around individual needs.
- That an opportunity exists to make better use of existing facilities especially on an outreach basis through a collaborative approach.
- That the barriers to accessing services are as a result of limitations in transportation, limitations of broadband availability and effect of digital exclusion, and language barriers.
- That an opportunity exists to map services and assets currently available so as to enable identification of opportunities for collaborative service delivery.
- That an opportunity exists to reduce digital exclusion through supported access to IT at a local level using existing community and cultural infrastructure.
- That an opportunity exists to improve the sustainability of community organisations by working with the LEO to provide training.

The SIM group came together on 22nd April 2015. A draft of goals, objectives and actions was circulated to the group and individual and agencies provided direct written feedback on the content. A further facilitated workshop of the SIM and Extended SIM groups was convened on the 3rd September 2015. The workshop focused solely on the detailed actions of Goal 4 and this integrated further refinement and re- shaping in the context of addressing community development and improving social inclusion and combating poverty.

### **2.6 Community Development Alliance**

Having participated in individual capacity through the SIM and/ or PPN Secretariat, representatives of the Community Development Alliance came together on 16th June 2015 in response to the need to further refine the actions of the plan with a particular reference to community development, social inclusion and poverty. As a consequence, a facilitated workshop of the SIM and Extended SIM groups was convened on the 3rd September 2015 focusing solely on the detailed actions of Goal 4 and this integrated further refinement and re- shaping in the context of addressing community development and also improving social inclusion and combating poverty.

### **2.7 Social Inclusion Linkage Group (PPN Linkage Group)**

Similar to the Community Development Alliance and the SIM Group, the PPN Social Inclusion Linkage Group, reaching a number of additional groups and organisations working in the County met on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The Group were briefed on the process undertaken to develop the goals, objectives and actions and discussed a number of areas where further work and refinement was considered to be appropriate. The members of the Social Inclusion Linkage Group undertook to participate in the Extended SIM workshop on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 which focussed on the community development, social inclusion and poverty elements of Goal 4. Appendix 4 consists of the representation of the Social Inclusion Linkage Group.

### **2.8 Public Participation Network Secretariat**

A PPN Secretariat workshop took place on 23rd April 2015 at which point the emerging goals, objectives and actions were circulated and discussed. Individual members and agencies provided direct written feedback on the content of the emerging goals, objectives and actions. Representation of the PPN Secretariat also participated in the workshop of the Extended SIM on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 which focussed on the actions of Goal 4. Appendix 5 consists of the representation of the PPN Secretariat.

### **2.9 Digital Action Plan Working Group**

A working Group to prepare a County Donegal Digital Action Plan was convened in March 2014 and consistent alignment of the processes to prepare the Digital Action Plan and to prepare the LECP has been ensured. This alignment responds to the early identification of digital technology including broadband availability and quality, and digital skills as a cross cutting priority theme in the LECP and as a critical enabler of community and economic development. A synopsis of the Digital Action Plan is contained in Chapter 3 of this document, of this document together with an outline of the consistency and integration with the LECP and identification of objectives of the LECP that have particular relevance. The Digital Action Plan was adopted in September 2015.



## 2.10 Tourism Forum

The Tourism Forum came together on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014 to discuss the needs and opportunities from a tourism perspective. The outputs are demonstrated as a S.W.O.T in Figure 4.

**Figure 4: Tourism Forum S.W.O.T output**

<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Wild Atlantic Way strategy</li> <li>- The built heritage of the County.</li> <li>- Natural Resources</li> <li>- Existing capability in craft and creative industries.</li> <li>- Numerous well known Donegal people with a proven track record.</li> <li>- Remoteness</li> <li>- Promotion and marketing work through existing vehicles such as <a href="http://www.govisitdonegal.com">www.govisitdonegal.com</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Availability and quality of Broadband</li> <li>- Progress on the A5 road upgrade</li> <li>- Loss of the Derry to Dublin flight</li> <li>- Number of physical leisure facilities</li> <li>- Level of collaboration within the tourism industry.</li> <li>- Level of community representation within the tourism sector.</li> <li>- Level of awareness of community- led tourism projects.</li> <li>- Provision for cruise tourism products and services.</li> <li>- The distance perception-‘its too far away’</li> <li>- Capacity in relation to digital knowledge</li> <li>- Tourism signage</li> </ul>
<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Product development:</b> Continue to improve a sustainable tourism product including through a Donegal Greenway; a Spiritual Trail; Ards Sculpture Park; architectural heritage; historic towns; linguistic heritage; physical leisure facilities for day trippers; WiFi availability in tourism hotpots; cruise tourism opportunities, creative industries, development of a cultural tourism project on the WAW.</li> <li>- <b>Collaboration and marketing:</b> Encourage collaboration and partnerships through tourism forum meetings. Through this platform examples of the type of outputs possible are: sharing knowledge and success stories, identifying County ambassadors and ensuring consistency between localised tourism strategies and the WAW strategy.</li> <li>- <b>Education, training &amp; supports:</b> Opportunities focussed on traditional skills, eco-tourism, agricultural tourism; learning courses for communities such as digital marketing and hospitality; a tourism education programme. Entrepreneur module for schools; economic research study of the benefits of the WAW; development of a Tourism Research Centre in Killybegs.</li> </ul>	<p><b>THREATS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vulnerability of rural transport</li> <li>- Regulatory Frameworks as barriers to harnessing natural resources.</li> <li>- The loss of traditional skills</li> <li>- Funding opportunities and ability to extend projects.</li> </ul>

### 2.11 Economic agencies

On 3rd November 2014, a consultative session with the Economic Agencies operating the County was convened. Given the early stage in the process, the previous goals of An Strateis 2012 were discussed as potential priority themes and the outputs of the discussion are set out in Figure 5.

**Figure 5: Priority areas identified by the Economic Agencies operating the County**

<p><b>Theme:</b> The Green economy</p>	<p><b>Areas of discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is necessary to influence the regulatory frameworks to support the development of clean technology.</li> <li>- There is an opportunity to scope, design and implement a localised Smart Grid pilot project in Killybegs to integrate different energy sources and connect with the national grid.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme:</b> Enterprise and skills development</p>	<p><b>Areas of discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote seaweed development</li> <li>- Deliver the coordinated promotion of entrepreneurship and enterprise in Donegal. Target: an increase in the number of start ups over three years.</li> <li>- Provide business environments, services and supports appropriate to the needs of businesses in Donegal. Target: Further develop the model of 'First Stop Shop' services for business.</li> <li>- Encourage and pursue inward investment utilising Diaspora linkages. Target: a three- year inward investment plan targeted at Massachusetts.</li> <li>- Encourage and pursue inward investment by ensuring effective communication with IDA Ireland.</li> <li>- Ensure coordinated delivery of 'Connectivity' investment to support enterprise and employment including A5 road upgrade and reinstatement of Derry to Dublin air route.</li> <li>- Design and implement community digital hubs at strategic locations in the county - change in the ability of local communities and business sector to take advantage of business, societal and community advantage of the digital environment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme:</b> Education</p>	<p><b>Areas of discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop educational links to promote greater capability and human capital and develop research and innovation.</li> <li>- Continue the established links with M2D2.</li> <li>- Develop a skills linkages between ETB and Pramerica to target further training linked to industry needs.</li> <li>- Carry out research and development in relation to the aquaculture industry.</li> <li>- To establish a satellite centre for marine aquaculture at LYIT.</li> <li>- To review the LifeLong Learning programme.</li> <li>- To develop learning in Digital Media at secondary level education.</li> <li>- To encourage the uptake of STEM subjects at secondary level.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme:</b> The 'Donegal' Brand</p>	<p><b>Areas of discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote the Brand of Donegal as the 'People' and the 'Place.'</li> <li>- To develop a coherent communication strategy in relation to the Donegal brand.</li> <li>- To establish an all- Ireland Entrepreneurial Programme and Clusters of Entrepreneurship.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme:</b> Access to services</p>	<p><b>Areas of discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide for the availability of Broadband in rural areas.</li> <li>- Maximise the potential of Project Kelvin</li> <li>- Examine the potential of a community broadband scheme in a rural area of the county.</li> <li>- Provide WiFi in public buildings.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>

<p><b>Theme:</b> Natural Resources and Tourism</p>	<p><b>Areas of discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote and support further development of the WAW.</li> <li>- Integrate food and tourism strategies</li> <li>- Develop opportunities for eco- tourism</li> <li>- Support the development of localised tourism strategies to create linkages, networks and scaling up to the WAW.</li> <li>- Develop and support appropriate cultural, arts, heritage and craft clusters within the tourism sector.</li> <li>- Develop the Ards Sculpture Park.</li> <li>- Develop and implement language plans including harnessing the potential of the Irish language as regards tourism.</li> </ul>
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## 2.12 Business community

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014, a facilitated consultation session with the business sector was convened at which, in workshop format, consideration was given to the action areas under each of the 7 emerging goals. The outputs of the sessions in relation to each goal are set out in Figure 6.

**Figure 6: The outputs of the business sector consultative session**

<p><b>Goal 1:</b> To develop Donegal as a Connected Place</p>	<p><b>Priority areas identified:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Target: Journey time by road from Dublin to Letterkenny to be 2 hours by 2020.</li> <li>- Further develop infrastructure between smaller urban centres throughout the county.</li> <li>- Market Donegal as one connected place, not a series of separate areas.</li> <li>- Create a PR campaign emphasising how close Donegal is to Dublin.</li> <li>- Target: Broadband connectivity of 100mb or more for 15 towns by 2020.</li> <li>- Investigate how to make vacant premises throughout the county available for business.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 2:</b> To Harness Donegal's Natural &amp; Human Capital</p>	<p><b>Priority areas identified:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop eco- tourism and expand to include activity based tourism</li> <li>- Improve water quality throughout the county</li> <li>- Further develop the Food Coast</li> <li>- Support the fisheries and aquaculture sector.</li> <li>- Promote natural resources such as wind power</li> <li>- Develop a scoping document to ascertain the economic value of wind power for Donegal.</li> <li>- Develop a concerted litter campaign.</li> <li>- Improve mapping of the WAW</li> <li>- Encourage closer links between industry and education, science and mathematics.</li> <li>- Improve skills of graduates entering engineering and technology sectors employment through internships.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 3:</b> To Value, Sustain &amp; Develop Our Culture and Creative Resource</p>	<p><b>Priority areas identified:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop and support appropriate cultural, arts, heritage and craft clusters within the tourism sector.</li> <li>- Develop the creative industries</li> <li>- Commit to a dedicated annual programme of events for the Regional Cultural Centre in Letterkenny</li> <li>- Promote cultural and artistic festivals around the County.</li> <li>- Develop and support projects that foster closer links between culture, heritage and tourism.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Goal 4:</b> To Promote Sustainable, Healthy &amp; Inclusive Communities</p>	<p><b>Priority areas identified:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stimulate local communities by using state owned vacant enterprise units for community and social enterprise.</li> <li>- Prioritise community broadband schemes to create employment and support sustainable communities.</li> <li>- Pilot a model of community projects which will create local business opportunities.</li> <li>- Further support cottage industries through funding, IT skills, and human resources.</li> <li>- Identify local community champions and acknowledge their contributions.</li> <li>- Introduce an annual County Regeneration Week.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 5:</b> To Develop Donegal as a Lead Region for Learning, Research &amp; Innovation</p>	<p><b>Priority areas identified:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create closer cross border educational links</li> <li>- Develop open data exchanges especially with the public sector.</li> <li>- Develop EU twinning to further learning for educational bodies and state agencies.</li> <li>- Continue supports for small businesses.</li> <li>- Extend STEM to second level with the assistance of industry partners, mentoring and site visits.</li> <li>- Use broadband to further link STEM with industry.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 6:</b> To develop the 'Donegal' Brand</p>	<p><b>Priority areas identified:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen the Gaeltacht aspects of the Donegal Brand</li> <li>- Develop 'Donegal' brand under one agreed font and style to be used across all sectors and to be supported by a dedicated PR campaign- rolled out initially by the food, tourism and state sectors.</li> <li>- Promote the 'Work Life Balance' offered in Donegal and develop a campaign around local champions extolling this lifestyle.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 7:</b> To Promote Entrepreneurship, Enterprise and Investment</p>	<p><b>Priority areas identified:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote enterprise modules in schools and colleges</li> <li>- Investigate how to directly create employment from opportunities presented by Donegal Diaspora.</li> <li>- Ensure the relevant information on locating or relocating to Donegal is readily available online</li> <li>- Promote the Donegal Portal.</li> <li>- Develop a joint approach from Donegal County Council and Chambers of Commerce in working with State Agencies on issues affecting local business.</li> </ul>

### 2.13 Donegal Education & Training Board (ETB) & Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT)

Direct engagement with the ETB and with LYIT took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 and 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015 respectively followed by written inputs into the preparation of the plan and through the representation of both educational authorities on the LCDC and the EDC. The key areas identified included:

- Establishment of a Countywide Community Education Forum providing for coordination in the sector, connections between all levels of education providers and providing a forum to establish clear links with industry to identify the skills needs of industry.
- Coordination is required of the delivery of community- based education opportunities.
- An emphasis should be placed on 'healthy' communities as well as sustainable and inclusive communities- education, learning, training, Lifelong learning, up- skilling and re- skilling all contribute to healthy people.

- Key areas building upon our human capital include coordination of educational activity; up- skilling, re- skilling and Continuous Professional Development; Identification of industry needs; integration of new technologies through the lifecycle of education i.e. Primary, post primary, Further Education & Training and 3<sup>rd</sup> level; provision of effective paths from FET to Higher Education.
- Emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics as the key skills of the Knowledge Economy.
- The priorities for Donegal as a Connected Place are in the areas of (i) Partnership (Regional/ National/ Cross border and internationally) (ii) Strategic access infrastructure such as roads and ports (iii) Broadband (iv) Donegal Diaspora and (v) the County energy network.
- The key natural assets for the County are: marine resources, energy, adventure/ activity tourism, landscape, culture, language, arts and music.
- The Creative Industries should be further developed.
- Emerging Smart Regional Specialisations are in the areas of marine resources, renewable energy and food.
- Entrepreneurship should be integrated into teaching in schools and higher education.
- Supports for female entrepreneurs, established entrepreneurs and immigrant entrepreneurs.
- Key areas and/ or important projects for investment and enterprise include marine engineering in Killybegs and the regional importance of CoLab/ North West Science Park.

#### **2.14 Health Service Executive (HSE)**

Direct engagement with the HSE took place on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 in the context of feeding in the written feedback of HSE to the emerging goals, objectives and actions, and furthermore through the representation of HSE on the LCDC and the EDC. The key areas identified for further consideration included:

- Emphasis on 'healthy' communities as well as sustainable and inclusive.
- The importance of partnership working and collaborative opportunities.
- Emphasis on social and natural capital as a resource for the County as well as economics.
- Two particular areas of strategy require appropriate integration into the plan namely; (i)'Healthy Ireland' and how this can be implemented through local structures so as to improve health and wellbeing and; (ii) 'Connect Donegal Suicide Prevention Action Plan.'
- Rural transport is identified as an important enabling factor in accessing services. A collaborative forum to develop, resource and implement innovative solutions to rural transport needs should be established.
- Options should be explored around the capacity of local community organisations and the potential to resource organisations with Community Development Workers.

### 2.15 Farming representatives

Direct engagement with farming representatives took place on 10th December 2014 and furthermore through representation on the LCDC. Key issues identified in relation to the LECP include:

1. **Connectivity:** Rural broadband and mobile phone coverage is critical for Farmer-led Health and Safety.
2. **Food:** Opportunities exist to work collaboratively in relation to food e.g. Creevy Co-Operative realise tourism opportunities as well as farming and food opportunities. Other collaborations that will provide opportunity include the establishment of farmers markets promoting locally produced goods; collaboration to identify and utilise land banks by renting to new farmers.
3. **Learning:** A number of areas of need and opportunity were identified:
  - Learning in relation to food traceability- food to plate.
  - collaborative provision of training to farmers including digital training
  - The need for an audit to identify training needs particularly in relation to skills such as sheepdog trials, thatching.
4. **Other:** A number of other areas of opportunity were identified:
  - Opportunities to protect water quality with benefits for the environment and fishing.
  - The potential for the development of Greenways in the county so as to harness the opportunities of our landscape, waterways, rivers and built heritage.
  - Recommendations of the CEDRA report in relation to rural development.

### 2.16 Creative Industries

The Donegal County Council Local Enterprise Office (LEO) engaged with the creative sectors and other stakeholders to inform the development of a Strategic Action Plan for Creative Entrepreneurship for Donegal through workshop formats commencing in October 2014. Consistent alignment of the processes to prepare the Strategic Action Plan and to prepare the LECP has been ensured. This alignment responds to the identification of the creative sector, as an important economic sector in the county with a particular contribution to the tourism sector. The Strategic Action Plan was launched on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and it is consistent with the LECP and its actions are important to the delivery of high level objectives of the LECP.

A synopsis of the Strategic Action Plan for Creative Entrepreneurship for Donegal is contained in Chapter 3 of this document together with an outline of the consistency and integration with the LECP and identification of objectives of the LECP that have particular relevance.

# Chapter 3- Review of Strategy and Policy Context

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## 3.1 Background

The review of the strategy and policy context is considered in 4 key areas:

- The Spatial Planning & Development Strategies
- The Economic Strategies
- The Community Strategies
- The Local Sectoral Strategies and Sectoral Organisations

Sections 3.2 to 3.5 provide a description of each strategy and an outline of how the strategy has impacted the LECP in terms of consistency and integration. A number of particular objectives that are most distinctly related to each strategy are identified. Figure 7 lists the scope of the strategies and policies reviewed.

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### Figure 7: Scope of Strategies and Policies Reviewed

#### The Spatial Planning & Development Strategies (section 3.2)

- National Spatial Strategy 2002- 2020
- The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Region, 2010
- The County Donegal Development Plan 2012- 2018 (as varied)
- An Stratéis – Donegal Strategy for Social, Cultural and Economic Development 2012-2018
- Town Development Plans for Letterkenny, Buncrana & Bundoran
- The Gateway and Hubs Development Index (GHDI) 2012
- Development Centres/ Hubs

#### The Economic Strategies (section 3.3)

- Action Programme for Effective Local Government- Putting People First, DECLG, 2012
  - Construction 2020
  - Making it Happen- Growing Enterprise for Ireland, Forfás, 2010
  - OECD LEED (Local Economic and Employment Development) Report on Delivering Local Development, 2014
  - Energising Irelands Rural Economy- The report of the Commission for the economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA) 2014
  - IDA Ireland, Winning Foreign Direct Investment 2015- 2019
  - Driving Enterprise, Delivering Jobs, Strategy to 2016, Enterprise Ireland
  - Údarás na Gaeltachta, Strategic Plan 2014- 2017
  - Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), 'Harnessing Our Oceans Wealth,' July 2012
  - The Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan, 2014
  - Bord Iascaigh Mhara Strategy 2013- 2017
  - Delivering on Green Potential – Government Policy Statement on growth and Employment in the Green Economy, 2012
  - Developing a Green Enterprise, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, 2011
  - EirGrid, Your Grid, Your Views, Your Tomorrow, A Discussion Paper on Irelands Grid Development Strategy, 2015
  - Faillte Ireland
  - Border Region Action Plan for Jobs
  - National Broadband Plan, Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, 2012
-

### **The Community Strategies (section 3.4)**

- Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland , 2012
- OECD LEED (Local Economic and Employment Development) Report on Delivering Local Development
- Energising Irelands Rural Economy- The report of the Commission for the economic
- Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA) (2014)
- Corporate Social Responsibility Plan, Good for Business, Good for the Community 2014- 2016.
- 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010- 2030
- Ireland's National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007- 2016 (NAP inclusion)
- Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2015
- Report of the High Level Group on Traveller Issues in 2006 and the National Strategy for Traveller/ Roma Integration, 2011
- Better Outcomes Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children & Young People 2014 – 2020
- Building a High Quality Health Service for a Healthier Ireland, HSE Corporate Plan 2015- 2017
- Healthy Ireland - Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 – 2025
- Further Education & Training Strategy 2014- 2019, SOLAS and Department of Education & Skills
- An Garda Síochána Strategy Statement 2013- 2018
- National Broadband Plan, Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, 2012
- National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan 2013

### **The Local Sectoral Strategies and Sectoral Organisations (section 3.5)**

- Donegal County Council Corporate Plan 2015- 2019
- The One Plan for Derry- Londonderry
- North West Partnership Board
- North West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCBG)
- Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)
- Active Donegal - Strategic Plan 2011-2014
- Donegal Diversity Plan, 2011 – 2013
- Donegal Intercultural Platform
- Donegal Traveller Interagency Group
- Donegal Youth Service
- Donegal Women's Network
- Connecting For Life Donegal, Preventing Suicide Together, Action Plan 2015- 2012
- North West Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force Plan 2011- 2014
- Local Development Companies
- Enterprise Development on the Gaith Dobhair Business Park, 2015, Údarás na Gaeltachta
- Coillte Northwest Business Area Unit (BAU) Strategic Plan 2011- 2015
- Donegal Road Safety Plan 2010- 2015, Donegal County Council
- The County Donegal Heritage Plan 2014- 2019, County Donegal Heritage Forum
- LYIT Strategic Plan, Our Commitment to the North West Gateway Learning Region, 2014- 2017
- Donegal ETB Education Plan 2011 – 2015
- Donegal Digital Action Plan, 2015
- Strategic Action Plan for Creative Entrepreneurship in Donegal



### 3.2. The Spatial Planning & Development Strategies

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
<b>National Spatial Strategy 2002- 2020</b>	The National Spatial Strategy (NSS) 2002-2020 is a planning framework designed to achieve a sustainable balance of social, economic and physical development and population growth across the Country. It identifies Letterkenny-Derry as a linked Gateway to function as an economic driver for the Northwest region. The NSS 'Update and Outlook Report, ' 2010, identified future areas of priority action including implementation of the Governments Smart Economy Policy Objectives and development of economic strategies, harnessing of rural economic development opportunities, environmental protection, cross border coordination, integration of strategic planning and investment prioritisation, preparation of Core Strategies for land use plans and reduction of dependence on fossil fuels.	The LECP replicates the NSS as regards the identification of the Letterkenny-Derry Gateway as the regional driver of growth and opportunity and furthermore reinforces the importance of balanced growth within the region through its objectives for the strengthening of Tier 2 towns and Development Centres and through its objectives to maximise on the rural economic opportunities and strengths of the County.	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.6; 1.7</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.4; 2.5; 2.8; 2.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.5; 3.6; 3.11; 3.12; 3.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.8; 4.9; 4.10; 4.16; 4.21</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.2; 5.3; 5.4; 5.5; 5.6; 5.7; 5.8; 5.9; 5.11; 5.17; 5.18</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.2; 6.3</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.4; 7.6; 7.7; 7.8; 7.18</p>
<b>The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Region, 2010</b>	The Regional Planning Guidelines recognize the people as the regions most important asset and therefore emphasize the importance of making improvements to quality of life. The key strategic goals relate to the development of Letterkenny as the strategic driver of growth for the County; to facilitate integrated sustainable development between urban and rural areas; to improve connectivity and mobility links; to promote innovation, economic growth and	The LECP draws significantly from the strategy of the RPG's, identifying the economic importance of the growth of the Gateway and the strengthening of Tier 2 towns/ Development Centres, particularly targeting areas such as research and innovation and the digital economy. In tandem and to build upon the County's strengths and opportunities as a substantially rural economy, the	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.1; 1.3; 1.6; 1.7; 1.8</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.2; 2.4; 2.5; 2.6; 2.8</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.1; 3.4; 3.5; 3.6; 3.9; 3.10; 3.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.2; 4.7; 4.8; 4.9; 4.10; 4.21</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.2; 5.4; 5.5; 5.6; 5.7; 5.8; 5.9; 5.11; 5.16; 5.18</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>competitiveness; to facilitate emerging sectors to provide sustainable jobs and; to protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment and built heritage. The RPG's identify a Core Strategy for the Region that establishes the population growth framework for each local authority to be incorporated into the relevant Development Plan.</p>	<p>LECP targets future economic growth and competitiveness in Rural Economic Development, focussing on areas including tourism, culture, heritage, natural resources and agri- food.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.2</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.3; 7.4; 7.3; 7.6; 7.7; 7.8; 7.9; 7.10; 7.11; 7.12; 7.13; 7.14; 7.19</p>
<p><b>The County Donegal Development Plan 2012- 2018 (as varied)</b></p>	<p>The County Donegal Development Plan (CDP) 2012- 2018 delivers a Core Strategy and settlement hierarchy for the County of 5 levels (Appendix 6 of this document refers) with a focus on the Letterkenny- Derry Gateway followed by the strategic towns (Buncrana, Carndonagh, Bridgend, Ballybofey/Stranorlar, Donegal town, Ballyshannon, Bundoran, Killybegs, and Dungloe). The Core Strategy recognises the importance of the Donegal rural area and the extent to which future growth should occur there. The CDP emphasises the need for the coordinated, planned and joined up approach to investment and new development so as to contribute to the recovery of the national and regional economy and to improve quality of life indicators such as access to services. In particular, the following areas are identified as important policy areas for development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Investment in research and innovation in renewable energy development, knowledge based services, agri- food sector &amp; environmental products.</li> <li>▪ Development of sustainable economic</li> </ul>	<p>Similar to the frameworks of the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines, the LECP is consistent with the spatial planning framework set out in the Core Strategy of the CDP 2012- 2018 as regards its settlement hierarchy, led through the identification of the linked Gateway and supported through Tier 2 towns/ Development Centres. Significant objectives of the LECP and their related activities support the implementation of the hierarchy. The LECP also recognises the potential of the rural areas of the county to contribute to culture, community and the economy and therefore targets rural and hard to reach areas, isolation, the power of broadband and the distinct rural resources that, if tapped appropriately, have the potential to result in significant and sustainable economic growth.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.1; 1.3; 1.6; 1.7; 1.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.1; 2.4; 2.7; 2.8; 2.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.1; 3.3; 3.4; 3.5; 3.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.1; 4.2; 4.5; 4.8; 4.9; 4.10; 4.21</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.5; 5.6; 5.11; 5.12; 5.16; 5.17; 5.18;</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.2</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.3; 7.6; 7.8; 7.9; 7.12; 7.14; 7.15; 7.16; 7.21; 7.22</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>models.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strengthen cross border collaboration.</li> <li>▪ Maximise technology and digital capabilities.</li> <li>▪ Develop Killybegs as a Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy.</li> <li>▪ Develop educational collaboration.</li> <li>▪ Develop vibrant, sustainable communities ensuring social inclusion and equality.</li> <li>▪ Facilitate a coordinated approach to the delivery of social, community and cultural infrastructure and services.</li> <li>▪ Develop the potential of the rural economy.</li> <li>▪ Integrate environmental considerations in decision making.</li> <li>▪ Develop sustainable tourism opportunities.</li> <li>▪ Ensure the development of strategic access to the County</li> </ul>		
<p><b>An Stratéis – Donegal Strategy for Social, Cultural and Economic Development 2012-2018</b></p>	<p>The Donegal Strategy for Social, Cultural &amp; Economic Development 2012- 2014, prepared by the County Donegal Development Board has performed to date as an integrated strategy setting out a shared vision through aims and objectives for the economic, social and cultural development of County Donegal. The strategy provides the impetus and context for a range of innovative projects and for the identification and accessing of new and additional funding for the region. The strategy provides a well developed foundation from which the LECP has been further evolved. The 6 Goals of An Stratéis are:  <b>Goal 1:</b> To Ensure Best Access to Supports and</p>	<p>The strong foundations of programmes and activities that have been delivered through implementation of An Stratéis are reflected in the continuum of the County’s economic and community strategy that is now contained in the Local Economic &amp; Community Plan. The LECP builds upon the success of An Stratéis, both in relation to the very tangible and visual achievements that have been delivered and also in relation to the collaborative and partnership environment that has been strongly established in the County.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.2; 1.3; 1.4; 1.8; 1.12; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.4; 2.5; 2.7; 2.8</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.1; 3.3; 3.4; 3.5; 3.8; 3.10; 3.11; 3.15</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.9; 4.10; 4.12; 4.13, 4.14; 4.15; 4.17; 4.19; 4.20</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.1; 5.2; 5.5; 5.6; 5.7; 5.8; 5.9; 5.12</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.2; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>Services for All in Donegal</p> <p><b>Goal 2:</b> To Ensure the Continued Development and Sustainability of the County's Cultural Resources</p> <p><b>Goal 3:</b> To promote Enterprise and Skills development in the region</p> <p><b>Goal 4:</b> To develop a Donegal Brand across all sectors</p> <p><b>Goal 5:</b> Tourism Destination Development for Donegal</p> <p><b>Goal 6:</b> To develop Donegal as a lead region for the Green Economy</p>		<p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.3; 7.4; 7.6; 7.9; 7.11; 7.12; 7.13; 7.14; 7.15; 7.19; 7.22</p>
<p><b>Town Development Plans for Letterkenny, Buncrana &amp; Bundoran</b></p>	<p>Development Plans for Letterkenny, Buncrana and Bundoran address the strategic role of these centres of population growth. In particular, the Letterkenny Plan recognises the regionally significant role of the town as the linked Gateway with Derry and as a key centre within which the economic growth of the County is to be driven. Each of the Development Plans consist of a Core Strategy that is consistent with the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan 2012- 2018 (as varied). The relevant plans are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Letterkenny &amp; Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015 (as varied);</li> <li>▪ The Buncrana &amp; Environs Development Plan 2014- 2020 and;</li> <li>▪ The Bundoran &amp; Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015 (as varied)</li> </ul>	<p>Similar to the consistency with the County Development Plan 2012- 2018, the LECP reflects the spatial strategies provided for through the statutory development plans, particularly as regards objectives and their activities to strengthen and regenerate town centres; to provide for urban renewal; to unlock the potential of the built and cultural heritage of the towns and to deliver strong communities participating in place- making.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.4; 1.6; 1.7; 1.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.1; 2.4; 2.6; 2.7</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.1; 3.3; 3.4; 3.5; 3.9</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.2; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.17; 4.19; 4.21</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.10; 5.11; 5.16; 5.18</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.2; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.3; 7.5; 7.6; 7.8; 7.9; 7.10; 7.21; 7.22</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
<b>The Gateway and Hubs Development Index (GHDI) 2012</b>	<p>The Gateway and Hubs Development Index 2012 presents an overview of the performance and progression of Ireland’s primary urban centres. In the case of the Letterkenny- Derry linked Gateway, the report identifies the importance of the cross border context, evidenced in particular by the extent of cross border commuting to work and recognises that Derry does have a significant economic impact upon Letterkenny and its surrounding hinterland within east Donegal, reinforcing the linked Gateway status of the two adjacent settlements. The Index also reports positive growth and activity in the Letterkenny Gateway such as growth of 10.43% in the Gateway population which is ahead of the Gateway average; 7.51% increase in third level qualified workforce and a 47.30% increase in broadband connectivity in the Gateway. The Letterkenny Gateway is also reported to have performed well in the Health and Wellness domain including a higher life expectancy than the Gateway average.</p> <p>Challenges are identified in areas such as the performance of new firm formation rate which is lower than the national Gateway average, and a higher than average Gateway unemployment rate. In addition, the Index reports that the Letterkenny Gateway has one of the highest deprivation rates of all the Gateways.</p>	<p>The LECP directly addresses opportunities and challenges that are evidenced both in the GHDI and also through the Socio- Economic Statement that forms part of the Plan. Direct references in the LECP relate to activities to support the growth and strengthening of the Gateway including the reaffirmation of our important cross border linkages particularly in the areas of strategic infrastructure, research and innovation, learning and health. Indirect references that are appropriate for implementation throughout the County have also a distinct resonance and foundation in the Gateway such as the opportunities to build upon our strengths identified in the GHDI in the domain of Health and Wellness through the further development of ‘Healthy Letterkenny’ and drawing from the framework of ‘Healthy Ireland.’</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.1; 1.4; 1.6; 1.11; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.7; 2.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.3; 3.8; 3.9; 3.12; 3.14; 3.15</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.1; 4.3; 4.4; 4.16; 4.19</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.3; 5.4; 5.5; 5.6; 5.7; 5.9; 5.11; 5.12; 5.13; 5.14; 5.16; 5.17</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.5</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.13; 7.18; 7.21; 7.22;</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
<b>Development Centres/ Hubs</b>	<p>Donegal County Council identified 7 Development Centres/ Hubs in the County, the objective of which is to identify areas of potential to advance economic development through integrated Action Plans, one in respect of each Development Centre. This work requires a coordinated and integrated approach that will involve all stakeholders across the community, private, public and agency sectors. The shared ownership of this work is critical including the implementation phase of actions identified. The Development Centres identified (their areas of focus listed below) largely reflect the Tier 2, ‘Strategic Support Towns’ identified in the CDP 2012- 2018 (as varied):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bundoran - Marine Tourism</li> <li>▪ Ballyshannon - Cultural Heritage &amp; Enterprise</li> <li>▪ Donegal Town -Tourism Focus</li> <li>▪ Ballybofey / Stranorlar - Sports Theme</li> <li>▪ Buncrana / Carndonagh -Tourism</li> <li>▪ Gweedore - Business Development</li> </ul> <p>Appendix 7 of this document shows the spatial dimension of the Development Centres. The Council’s work in relation to Development Centres aims to develop the existing assets and potential that exists.</p>	<p>The LECP reflects the collaborative approach to the delivery of actions plans in respect of each Development Centre particularly through objective 7.8. The focus of the implementation of Development Centres through the LECP is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To promote and support collaborative community activity and build capacity.</li> <li>▪ To engender a true sense of place, belonging and pride of place.</li> <li>▪ To enable economic activity and job creation and reduce deprivation.</li> <li>▪ To effectively coordinate and utilize the work of the community, business, voluntary and public sectors to inform strategic development.</li> <li>▪ To identify and implement priorities and actions for economic and community growth of each centre.</li> <li>▪ To encourage sustainable development.</li> <li>▪ To improve and enhance the evening and night time economy of the identified Development Centres including potential achievement of Purple Flag Status.</li> <li>▪ To explore options to reduce vacancy in town centres.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.4; 1.7</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.4; 2.6; 2.7</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.3; 3.5; 3.8; 3.9</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.7; 4.12; 4.13, 4.14; 4.15; 4.19; 4.20; 4.21</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.10; 5.17; 5.18</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.2; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.4; 7.5; 7.6; 7.8; 7.9; 7.15; 7.21; 7.22</p>

### 3.3. The Economic Strategies

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
<b>Action Programme for Effective Local Government- Putting People First, DECLG, 2012</b>	‘Putting People First’ outlines Government policy for reform and development across the local government system so as to provide a stronger and clearer role for local government in economic and community development. The policy outlines that the ultimate purpose of local government is to promote the well being and quality of life of citizens and communities, through effective, accountable and democratic representation, and efficient performance of functions and delivery of services at the local level.	The LECP is informed by the overarching vision of ‘Putting People First’ to promote the wellbeing and quality of life of citizens and communities. This theme is intertwined throughout the goals and all of the objectives of the LECP such is the integrated nature of the plan its goals and objectives.	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> All</p> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> All</p> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> All</p> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> All</p> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> All</p> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> All</p> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> All</p>
<b>Construction 2020</b>	<p>Construction 2020 is a strategy for the creation of a renewed and vibrant construction industry that is fit for the future and is an essential part of creating jobs. The priority areas identified in the strategy include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A Strategic approach to the provision of housing</li> <li>▪ A continued improvement in the planning process</li> <li>▪ The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects.</li> <li>▪ Access to mortgage finance in reasonable and sustainable terms</li> </ul>	The LECP integrates with the priority areas of the national strategy through the targeted activities in relation to education, training and up-skilling. Particular opportunities are identified in Donegal in relation to conservation and development of traditional building skills.	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> N/A</p> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.6; 2.9; 2.10</p> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.9; 3.12</p> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.7; 4.16</p> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.4; 5.7; 5.9; 5.12; 5.13;5.14</p> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> N/A</p> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.9</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitoring and regulation of the sector</li> <li>▪ Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce</li> <li>▪ Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to recovery of the sector.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Making it Happen- Growing Enterprise for Ireland, Forfás, 2010</b></p>	<p>‘Making It Happen: Growing Enterprise for Ireland’ reports that it is businesses that create jobs and drive economic growth and outlines therefore that it is essential that the optimum business environment is in place to allow them to do so. The report emphasises that creating this optimum environment requires coordinated action across the whole of government. Four complementary critical success factors are set out: innovation, productivity, cost competitiveness and a strong enterprise mix.</p> <p>The report's recommendations across the four success factors focus on the essential areas of education and skills development, R&amp;D and innovation, management development, public procurement, access to finance, infrastructure priorities, the regulatory environment and competition policies.</p>	<p>The creation of the wider environment in which economic activity and business can thrive in Donegal is a central theme of the LECP provided for through a number of proposed activities including business supports, investment in roads infrastructure, investment in international infrastructure connections, broadband connectivity, establishment of clusters, business marketing, county- led marketing, training in targeted growth sectors, established links between industry and education bodies, as examples.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.1; 1.3; 1.4; 1.5; 1.6; 1.7; 1.8; 1.11</p> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.4; 2.8; 2.9; 2.10</p> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.5; 3.11; 3.12</p> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.7; 4.16</p> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.1; 5.3; 5.4; 5.5; 5.6; 5.7; 5.9; 5.11; 5.12; 5.13; 5.14; 5.16; 5.17; 5.18; 5.19</p> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.2; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5</p> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.4; 7.5; 7.8; 7.13; 7.15; 7.18; 7.19; 7.21; 7.22</p>
<p><b>OECD LEED (Local Economic and Employment</b></p>	<p>Delivering Local Development examines the local conditions and instruments for policy interventions to achieve successful local economic development in participating</p>	<p>The LECP endorses the approaches of Delivering Local Development and forms part of the implementing mechanisms being developed through Local</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.1; 1.4; 1.6; 1.11; 1.13</p> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> N/A</p>



Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
<b>Development) Report on Delivering Local Development, 2014</b>	countries. In Ireland, the purpose of the report is to assist in shaping the new Local Government system to ensure that a robust and sustainable local development environment is created. The report contains a number of recommendations, which are based on supporting the implementation of the reforms and cover key actions for national government, local government, the local development sector, business, and trade unions. At a National level, the recommendations include that there must be a clearly articulated vision and future phases of devolution, that there should be a focus on the economic case and Action Plan for Jobs that cross sector champions should be indentified and local development funds continued. At a local level, recommendations include that there should be effective cross border collaboration and local development agencies take on clear and defined roles.	Government Reform. At a local level, the vision and high level goals of the LECP provides a framework for a robust and sustainable local development environment in Donegal. In particular, it recognises the importance and potential benefit to be achieved through cross border collaborations and this is exemplified through the preparatory work to deliver the Action Plan for Jobs for the Border Region where a cross border dimension is integral. The LECP identifies the Action Plan for Jobs as an important implementing mechanism to achieve goals and objectives of the LECP and to this end, engagement flowing between the processes to prepare both the Action Plan for Jobs and the LECP has been well established.	<b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.12 <b>GOAL 4</b> N/A <b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.1; 5.11; 5.12; 5.16; 4.17 <b>GOAL 6</b> N/A <b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.3; 7.21; 7.22;
<b>Energising Irelands Rural Economy- The report of the Commission for the economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA) 2014</b>	The Report of CEDRA, consisting of 34 recommendations, identifies the vision for the rural economy as becoming a dynamic, adaptable and outward looking multi-sectoral economy. The report emphasises the need for an integrated approach recommending the preparation by Government of a clear and committed Rural Economic Development Policy Statement, the establishment of a strategic research function and a mechanism for policy delivery and coordination. The report also recommends the establishment of Rural	The findings and recommendations of 'Energising Irelands Rural Economy' are particularly applicable in the case of County Donegal and in the objectives of the LECP to strengthen rural communities, build their capacity and facilitate rural economic development. The identification of Rural Economic Development Zones is identified as an important area of activity within the development plan. This work has the potential to strengthen the rural economy therefore building resilience in	<b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.1; 1.2; 1.3; 1.4; 1.7; 1.13 <b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.4; 2.7; 2.9; 2.10 <b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.3; 3.4; 3.5; 3.9; 3.12 <b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.7; 4.9; 4.10; 4.16; 4.19; 4.20; 4.21 <b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.7; 5.9; 5.12; 5.13; 5.14; 5.17; 5.18

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>Economic Development Zones (REDZs) to enhance the capacity for local communities to contribute to and take ownership of local economic development by creating local strategic economic development plans. The report addresses the fiscal arrangements to support rural economic development, recommending the establishment of a Rural Innovation and Development Fund, a Rural Town Stimulus Programme and support for innovative, small scale pilot initiatives. Opportunities are identified in the area of local enterprise support services through the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs), capacity building for rural communities, the development of the social enterprise sector, identification of minimum broadband speeds required for rural areas and rural towns, integration of the rural transport programme with public transport strategies and the preparation of a national plan for the development of tourism in rural areas.</p>	<p>the rural community and assisting to retain the structure of our Donegal rural communities.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.2</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.4; 7.5; 7.6; 7.8; 7.9; 7.12; 7.14; 7.16; 7.17; 7.19; 7.20; 7.21; 7.22</p>
<p><b>IDA Ireland, Winning Foreign Direct Investment 2015- 2019</b></p>	<p>The Mission of 'Winning Foreign Direct Investment' is for 'IDA Ireland partners with multi- national companies to win and develop foreign direct investment, providing jobs for the economic and social benefit of Ireland.' The strategy reports that client companies in the border region now employ 9,734 and these include leading companies in the Engineering, Life Sciences, Financial and Services Sector. The Strategy outlines that IDA is targeting a minimum 30% to 40% increase in the number of</p>	<p>The publication of the Border Regional Action Plan for Jobs is anticipated during September 2015 and alignment has occurred between the LECP and the Regional Action Plan. The key themes of infrastructure, skills development and the creation of a strong economic ecosystem are embedded within the LECP and are consistent with and supportive of the IDA strategy in order to facilitate economic growth in County Donegal and the North</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.1; 1.4; 1.5; 1.6; 1.7; 1.8; 1.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.4; 2.8; 2.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.5; 3.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.9; 4.10; 4.16</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.1; 5.2; 5.4; 5.5; 5.6;</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>investments for each region outside Dublin outlining that 30% to 40% uplift in projects would result in 61 to 66 projects in the border region. The Strategy refers to the preparation of new Regional Action Plans will provide a structure for all stakeholders in each region to work together in a collaborative manner to maximise future FDI investment potential, in conjunction with other economic development objectives such as indigenous industry and tourism.</p>	<p>west region.</p>	<p>5.8; 5.9; 5.10; 5.11; 5.12; 5.13; 5.14;5.16; 5.17;5.18</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.2; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.4; 7.5; 7.6; 7.7; 7.11; 7.13; 7.14; 7.15; 7.16; 7.18; 7.19; 7.21; 7.22</p>
<p><b>Driving Enterprise, Delivering Jobs, Strategy to 2016, Enterprise Ireland</b></p>	<p>Enterprise Irelands Strategy is about maximising growth and job creation within Irish- owned Businesses. Sectors for future growth are identified as food, manufacturing, software, internationally traded services and construction. The vision of the Strategy is underpinned by 4 pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Start: involves making Ireland the best small country to do business; increasing the number of start- ups; providing supports for microenterprise.</li> <li>▪ Innovate: Involves helping Irish companies to develop a competitive edge; optimising ROI (Return on Investment) on State Investment in research.</li> <li>▪ Scale: Involves driving scale at all stages of company growth; driving exports; driving competitiveness initiatives; bolstering in-company capacity to scale.</li> <li>▪ Anticipate: Involves helping Irish companies establish competitive positions in advanced technologies, sectors and high growth markets.</li> </ul>	<p>The ethos of 'Driving Enterprise, Delivering Jobs' is reflected in the LECP particularly in relation to the provision of supports to business and in relation to the creation and enabling of the necessary environment within which to do business in Donegal.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.1; 1.4; 1.6; 1.7; 1.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.4; 2.4; 2.10; 2.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.1; 3.5; 3.6</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.7; 4.10; 4.16</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.1; 5.2; 5.3; 5.4; 5.5; 5.6; 5.7; 5.8; 5.9; 5.10; 5.11; 5.12; 5.16; 5.18; 5.19</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: All</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
<b>Údarás na Gaeltachta, Strategic Plan 2014-2017</b>	<p>The Mission Statement of the Údarás na Gaeltachta, Strategic Plan 2014- 2017 is ‘to develop an energetic, successful and sustainable Gaeltacht community and economy, and thus maintain, promote and strengthen the use of Irish as the predominant language of the Gaeltacht community. The objectives of the Strategic Plan are set out under 2 themes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Theme 1: To support and develop language, community and cultural resources. Objectives under this theme relate to the provision of supports to sustain an Irish speaking community; enabling Gaeltacht communities to develop and improve their resources; developing skills and employability and; promoting the arts and increasing employment in the arts and culture- based sectors.</li> <li>▪ Theme 2: To enhance innovation and competitiveness through the development of enterprise and natural resources. Objectives under this theme relate to the encouragement of a strong innovative enterprise culture through supports for new and established businesses; developing new opportunities for the Gaeltacht’s coastal resources; stimulating the development of tourism and; facilitating the provision of essential infrastructure in order to expand enterprise capacity.</li> </ul>	<p>The LECP identifies the Donegal Gaeltacht and the linguistic heritage of the county as an important community and economic resource and directly sets out objectives to support the growth of sustainable employment and business activity as a means to retain the Gaeltacht population and enable opportunities for growth.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.4; 1.8</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.3; 2.4; 2.5; 2.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.2; 3.3; 3.4; 3.5; 3.6; 3.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.7; 4.9; 4.10; 4.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.1; 5.2; 5.5; 5.6; 5.8; 5.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.2; 6.3; 6.4</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.2; 7.4; 7.5; 7.6; 7.7; 7.9; 7.10; 7.11; 7.12; 7.13; 7.14; 7.16; 7.17; 7.18; 7.19; 7.21; 7.22</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
<p><b>Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), 'Harnessing Our Oceans Wealth,' July 2012</b></p>	<p>Ireland's strategy to harness its offshore renewable potential is provided through the Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), 'Harnessing Our Oceans Wealth,' published July 2012, which establishes the vision, high level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business so as to enable our marine potential to be realised. The strategy is further reinforced through the 'Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan,' 2014 which provides a framework for the sustainable development of Irelands offshore energy resources across three key pillars- environmental sustainability, technical feasibility and commercial viability. The Plan identifies that Irelands sea area is around ten times the size of the country's landmass and that Irelands position on the Atlantic edge of the EU gives an almost unparalleled offshore energy resource, with suitable conditions available for the development of the full range of current offshore renewable energy technologies Appendix 8 shows Irelands Offshore National Resources- The Real Map of Ireland. The Plan recognises that the potential for offshore renewable energy will contribute to sustainable employment and growth in the green economy.</p>	<p>Donegal's coastline and marine environment is identified in the LECP as a key environmental, economic and community resource. It provides exceptional examples of wildlife and biodiversity; it provides economic potential in sectors such as fishing, aquaculture, energy and tourism; and provides community and social benefits in terms of recreation, sport, health and wellness.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.3; 1.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.2; 2.4; 2.5; 2.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.6; 3.7; 3.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.4; 4.8; 4.9</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.2; 5.8</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.2</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.7; 7.12; 7.14; 7.15; 7.16; 7.22</p>
<p><b>The Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan, 2014</b></p>			

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<b>Bord Iascaigh Mhara Strategy 2013- 2017</b>	<p>The BIM Strategy is an action plan aiming to deliver 1200 jobs and €1 billion seafood sales by building scale and enhancing competitiveness in the Irish seafood sector. The strategy is focussed on five strategic priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To expand the raw material supply from fisheries and aquaculture to Irish processors</li> <li>▪ Maximise additional value from the raw material base</li> <li>▪ Create scale within industry structures</li> <li>▪ Develop industry skills that will help grow the sector</li> <li>▪ Enhance the environmental sustainability of Irish seafood</li> </ul>	<p>Then importance of fishing, the marine and coastal communities is identified in the LECP as an area for further growth and development. County Donegal is one of the most important fishing county's in Ireland particularly through Killybegs and Greencastle. The emphasis of the LECP is to undertake activity that will enable fishing and coastal communities to be sustainable.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.4; 1.7; 1.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.9</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.1; 5.2; 5.10; 5.12; 5.16; 5.18</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.2; 7.4; 7.5;7.8; 7.12; 7.13; 7.16; 7.19; 7.22</p>
<b>Delivering on Green Potential – Government Policy Statement on growth and Employment in the Green Economy, 2012</b>	<p>‘Delivering on Green Potential’ is the Government’s Policy Statement on Growth and Employment in the Green Economy in Ireland. It identifies the significant opportunities in the sector for Ireland, such as the abundance of renewable resources and potential for exportation of clean energy, the strong R &amp; D base, the potential of Ireland as a location to test and develop new technologies, excellent natural resources, an outstanding natural environment to support ‘green’ tourism activities, strengths in key enabling technologies such as engineering and biotechnology. A number of exemplar companies and an established international image as a Green Island.</p>	<p>The potential of the Green Economy in Donegal is identified in the LECP as a key area of activity ranging from the implementation of energy efficiency measures in homes to more strategic level proposals such as the development of the Green Economy sector at Killybegs through the establishment of an Innovation Hub for Marine Resources, Food &amp; Tourism. The LECP recognises that the implementation of activities in relation to the Green Economy will have potential benefit for communities in terms of energy efficiency, for the environment in the protection and safeguarding of our natural assets and biodiversity and for the economy in terms of employment.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.1; 2.2;; 2.4; 2.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.7; 3.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.8; 4.9</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.2; 5.4; 5.6; 5.8; 5.12</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.2; 6.5</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.4; 7.6; 7.13; 7.14; 7.15; 7.16; 7.22</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance														
<b>Developing a Green Enterprise, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, 2011</b>	'Developing a Green Enterprise' is a guide providing an overview of services and supports available to businesses in adopting an environmentally sustainable and resource-efficient approach to their business. It focuses on four areas; water conservation, waste prevention; energy efficiency; and Clean technology.	The integration of environmentally sustainable and resource efficiency approaches to business is supported in the LECP as part of the creation of the optimum business environment in which Donegal business and grow and thrive. This theme also expanded in the LECP with similar activities in relation to efficiency and sustainable of community buildings and efficiency and environmental sustainable of housing.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>GOAL 1</b></td> <td><b>N/A</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>GOAL 2</b></td> <td><b>OBJ: 2.1; 2.2; 2.4</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>GOAL 3</b></td> <td><b>N/A</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>GOAL 4</b></td> <td><b>OBJ: 4.4; 4.8; 4.9; 4.10 4.19; 4.20</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>GOAL 5</b></td> <td><b>OBJ: 5.6; 5.8</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>GOAL 6</b></td> <td><b>N/A</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>GOAL 7</b></td> <td><b>OBJ: 7.1</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>GOAL 1</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>GOAL 2</b>	<b>OBJ: 2.1; 2.2; 2.4</b>	<b>GOAL 3</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>GOAL 4</b>	<b>OBJ: 4.4; 4.8; 4.9; 4.10 4.19; 4.20</b>	<b>GOAL 5</b>	<b>OBJ: 5.6; 5.8</b>	<b>GOAL 6</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>GOAL 7</b>	<b>OBJ: 7.1</b>
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<b>EirGrid, Your Grid, Your Views, Your Tomorrow, A Discussion Paper on Irelands Grid Development Strategy, 2015</b>	In March 2015, EirGrid published a discussion paper entitled 'EirGrid, Your Grid, Your Views, Your Tomorrow', to assist in consultation to review 'Grid25', Ireland's grid development strategy. The final strategy is anticipated to be published later in 2015 and it will support Ireland's wider policy objectives; economic, environmental and social, including the Government's Action plan for Jobs and the IDA's Regional Development Strategy. The paper outlines that Ireland's energy transmission needs can be met with reduced new infrastructure build because of new technological developments and updated projections of future electricity demand. Major projects in the country	The availability of reliable and effective energy systems is critical to the economic growth of the North West region and our ability to attract investment. The LECP recognises this as forming part of the strategic infrastructure investment that is required for Donegal and the region to reach its full potential and a partnership approach is to be adopted in order to advocate necessary investment to ensure energy security to the region.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>GOAL 1</b></td> <td><b>OBJ: 1.4; 1.11</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>GOAL 2</b></td> <td><b>N/A</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>GOAL 3</b></td> <td><b>N/A</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>GOAL 4</b></td> <td><b>N/A</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>GOAL 5</b></td> <td><b>N/A</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>GOAL 6</b></td> <td><b>N/A</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>GOAL 7</b></td> <td><b>OBJ: 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.14; 7.22</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>GOAL 1</b>	<b>OBJ: 1.4; 1.11</b>	<b>GOAL 2</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>GOAL 3</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>GOAL 4</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>GOAL 5</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>GOAL 6</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>GOAL 7</b>	<b>OBJ: 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.14; 7.22</b>
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Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>are the North South Interconnector, Grid West and Grid Link. Other projects identified in the discussion paper include ‘the North West project’. The paper describes the North West project that as part of the overall need to increase capacity for renewable generation across the island of Ireland, it is also necessary to strengthen the grid in the North West. The paper indicates that EirGrid will be consulting with the public on the need for this project, and on the range of possible solutions later in 2015.</p>		
<p><b>Faillte Ireland</b></p>	<p>The strategy of Failte Ireland in relation to tourism in the north west is embodied within the Wild Atlantic Way (WAW) project. The WAW is Ireland’s first long distance tourist route stretching along the Atlantic Coast from Donegal to West Cork. The overall aim of the project is to develop a long- distance touring route that will achieve greater visibility for the west of Ireland in overseas markets. There are 6 stages to the project, the first three now completed (Brand proposition and identity, identify the route &amp; develop a way- finding strategy). The remaining stages in the project are to deliver the ‘Discovery Points’; selling WAW experiences and; Marketing and communications.</p>	<p>The LECP identifies tourism as one of the key areas of focus for economic development throughout the County and the Wild Atlantic Way is identified as critical in this regard. The LECP aims for an integrated approach to increase visitor numbers, dwell time, spend and satisfaction through activities around product development, marketing, harnessing the cultural resource, delivery of necessary physical infrastructure required and enterprise and business support. In addition, a north west collaborative approach to the development and promotion of the region as a tourist destination is advocated.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 1.4; 1.5; 1.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 2.4; 2.5</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 3.5; 3.6</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b>    <b>N/A</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b>    <b>N/A</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 6.1; 6.2; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 7.1; 7.5; 7.6; 7.7; 7.9; 7.11; 7.16; 7.19; 7.21; 7.22</p>



Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
<b>Border Region Action Plan for Jobs</b>	Publication expected September 2015.	Coordination and consultation channels established to ensure complementarities between the LECP and the Action Plan for Jobs in the Border Region	N/A
<b>National Broadband Plan, Department of Communications, Energy &amp; Natural Resources, 2012</b>	The Government’s National Broadband Plan aims to ensure that all citizens and businesses have access to high speed broadband no matter where they live or work. The Plan outlines that this will be delivered through a combination of Commercial and State led investment. The State intervention, ‘Connecting Communities’ will extend reliable high speed broadband (at least 30Mbps) to every premise in the country where there is no current or planned high speed broadband network. Appendix 9 of this document shows a map of County Donegal outlining the areas that are to be covered by commercial operators and the areas that are to be addressed under ‘Connecting Communities.’	The importance attributed to investment in Broadband infrastructure under the National Broadband Plan reflects the priority emphasis that has also been identified in the LECP. The LECP identifies the need for broadband as an enabler of community and economic development and as a cross cutting theme that impacts on everything we plan to do in Donegal. The LECP therefore supports the National Broadband Plan and in particular aims to seek priority roll out of the Plan in County Donegal.	<p><b>GOAL 1</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 1.1; 1.2; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 4.1; 4.2</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 5.3; 5.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 6.3</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.11; 7.21</p> <hr/>

### 3.4. The Community Strategies

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
<b>Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland , 2012</b>	<p>The overall aim of the Governments’ document, ‘Our Sustainable Future,’ is to provide for the integration of sustainable development into key areas of policy. The key challenges identified in the strategy include economic resilience, sustainable consumption and production, climate change and clean energy, sustainable transport, social inclusion, sustainable communities and spatial planning, public health and education. The strategy discusses commitments, targets and remaining gaps together with 70 measures which the Government will implement and which form the core of ‘Our Sustainable Future’. These measures are cross cutting and include actions such as the integration of environmental and social indicators into measures of economic progress, resource efficiency, an integrated approach to green infrastructure, development of a National Landscape Strategy, national climate policy, implementation of the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (2007- 2016), implementation of Core Strategies in local planning, implementation of preventative interventions in respect of health, and the development of Irelands green economy.</p>	<p>The principle of sustainable development is replicated throughout the LECP objectives and activities and across all sectors given the broad and cross cutting benefits that will result. Examples include activities in the areas of walking and cycling to improve opportunities for recreation, health and wellbeing and to provide important green infrastructure to service the tourism industry. Resource efficiency and the development of the Green economy are provided for through the objectives of the LECP together with consistency in the spatial planning related objectives of the LECP with the Core Strategy of the County Donegal development plan. In addition, the integration of sustainable development across all the Goals and Objectives of the LECP has been considered in detail through the process of screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment. The screening exercises concluded that the LECP in itself shall not give rise to significant effects on the environment (SEA) and that it shall not give rise to significant impacts on the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 Sites (AA).</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.3;1.6; 1.7; 1.9</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.1; 2.2; 2.4; 2.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.7; 3.9</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.8; 4.10; 4.21</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.2; 5.8; 5.10; 5.17; 5.18</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.2</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.4; 7.6; 7.8; 7.12; 7.14; 7.15; 7.16; 7.20;</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
<p><b>OECD LEED (Local Economic and Employment Development) Report on Delivering Local Development</b></p>	<p>Delivering Local Development examines the local conditions and instruments for policy interventions to achieve successful local economic development in participating countries. In Ireland, the purpose of the report is to assist in shaping the new Local Government system to ensure that a robust and sustainable local development environment is created. The report contains a number of recommendations, which are based on supporting the implementation of the reforms and cover key actions for national government, local government, the local development sector, business, and trade unions. At a National level, the recommendations include that there must be a clearly articulated vision and future phases of devolution, that there should be a focus on the economic case and Action Plan for Jobs that cross sector champions should be identified and local development funds continued. At a local level, recommendations include that there should be effective cross border collaboration and local development agencies take on clear and defined roles.</p>	<p>The LECP endorses the approaches of Delivering Local Development and forms part of the implementing mechanisms being developed through Local Government Reform. At a local level, the vision and high level goals of the LECP provides a framework for a robust and sustainable local development environment in Donegal. In particular, it recognises the importance and potential benefit to be achieved through cross border collaborations and this is exemplified through the preparatory work to deliver the Action Plan for Jobs for the Border Region where a cross border dimension is integral. The LECP identifies the Action Plan for Jobs as an important implementing mechanism to achieve goals and objectives of the LECP and to this end, engagement flowing between the processes to prepare both the Action Plan for Jobs and the LECP has been well established.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.1; 1.4; 1.6; 1.11; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.12</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.1; 5.11; 5.12; 5.16; 4.17</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.3; 7.21; 7.22</p> <hr/>
<p><b>Energising Irelands Rural Economy- The report of the Commission for the economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA) (2014)</b></p>	<p>The Report of CEDRA, consisting of 34 recommendations, identifies the vision for the rural economy as becoming a dynamic, adaptable and outward looking multi-sectoral economy. The report emphasises the need for an integrated approach recommending the preparation by Government of a clear and committed Rural Economic Development Policy</p>	<p>The findings and recommendations of 'Energising Irelands Rural Economy' are particularly applicable in the case of County Donegal and in the objectives of the LECP to strengthen rural communities, build their capacity and facilitate rural economic development. The identification of Rural Economic Development Zones is</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.1; 1.2; 1.3; 1.4; 1.7; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.4; 2.7; 2.9; 2.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.3; 3.4; 3.5; 3.9; 3.12</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.7; 4.9; 4.10; 4.16; 4.19; 4.20; 4.21</p> <hr/>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>Statement, the establishment of a strategic research function and a mechanism for policy delivery and coordination. The report also recommends the establishment of Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZs) and the development of. The report addresses the fiscal arrangements to support rural economic development, recommending the establishment of a Rural Innovation and Development Fund, a Rural Town Stimulus Programme and support for innovative, small scale pilot initiatives. Opportunities are identified in the area of local enterprise support services through the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs), capacity building for rural communities, the development of the social enterprise sector, identification of minimum broadband speeds required for rural areas and rural towns, integration of the rural transport programme with public transport strategies and the preparation of a national plan for the development of tourism in rural areas.</p>	<p>identified as an important area of activity within the development plan. This work has the potential to strengthen the rural economy therefore building resilience in the rural community and assisting to retain the structure of our Donegal rural communities.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.7; 5.9; 5.12; 5.13; 5.14; 5.17; 5.18</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.2</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.4; 7.5; 7.6; 7.8; 7.9; 7.12; 7.14; 7.16; 7.17; 7.19; 7.20; 7.21; 7.22</p>
<p><b>Corporate Social Responsibility Plan, Good for Business, Good for the Community 2014-2016.</b></p>	<p>The Governments Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Plan highlights the role that CSR can play in contributing to Ireland’s economic recovery confirming that when enterprises go beyond what is required by legislation alone, positive impacts can be felt across the local and wider communities in which they operate. They can contribute to positioning the country to be a better place in which to do business and a better place to live. The Plan sets out the general</p>	<p>The principles of the Corporate Social Responsibility Plan are reflected in the LECP both in terms of performance and approach by individuals and organisations and also in terms of the more strategic level marketing programme of the County. This is most recently evidenced in the publication of the ‘Donegal Prospectus’ which also highlights the strengths of the County as a place to live, visit and do</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.5;1.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.4; 2.7; 2.8; 2.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.5; 3.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.4; 4.19</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.9; 5.10; 5.19</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	framework within which CSR operates in Ireland and outlines the key principles and objectives including the Pillars on which CSR is based in Ireland. The Plan also explains how CSR can contribute positively to a company's business and highlights practical supports which are available to organizations.	business.	<b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.2; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5 <b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.5; 7.6; 7.11; 7.20; 7.21; 7.22
<b>20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010- 2030</b>	The objective of the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010- 2020 is to increase on an incremental basis the use and knowledge of Irish as a community language. The Strategy sets out areas of action under nine headings namely education, the Gaeltacht, family transmission of the language, administration, services and community, media and technology, dictionaries, legislation and status, economic life, cross-cutting initiatives. The Plan emphasizes the need to ensure the appropriate delivery of services through the Irish language including local government services, health services and youth services as examples.	The Irish language represents a key social and cultural feature of both the Donegal Gaeltacht and the wider County. The strengthening of the use of the language in the County is therefore an important community and economic objective of the LECP that will strengthen communities, strengthen rural areas and provide opportunities in terms of the implementation of cultural heritage and tourism activity in particular. The Irish language is in tandem being addressed through the preparation of a Donegal Irish Language Plan including the identification of Gaeltacht Service Centres.	<b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.8 <b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.3 <b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.2 <b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.10; 4.11 <b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.18 <b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.2 <b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.10
<b>Ireland's National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007- 2016 (NAP inclusion)</b>	This strategy for social inclusion is based on the lifecycle approach set out in the National Partnership agreement Towards 2016. This National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (NAP inclusion), complemented by the social inclusion elements of the National Development Plan 2007-2013: Transforming Ireland– A Better Quality of Life for All, sets out how the social inclusion strategy will be achieved over the period 2007-2016. Five thematic areas and their	Goal 4 of the LECP (To Develop Sustainable, Healthy and Inclusive Communities) consists of a number of objectives that directly relate to, and are consistent with the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion. Each of the thematic areas of the Action plan are identifiable as target groups with the LECP so as to reduce social exclusion, increase participation, provide pathways to	<b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.2; 1.3; 1.4; 1.13 <b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.9; 2.10 <b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.3; 3.12 <b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.7; 4.8; 4.9; 4.10; 4.12; 4.13; 4.14, 4.15; 4.16; 4.17; 4.18; 4.19

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>goals representing each lifecycle are set out in the Plan as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children: targeted pre school education for urban areas covered by DEIS; reducing the proportion of children with literacy difficulties in primary schools; increasing the proportion of 20-24 years completing upper secondary level education to maintaining child income support.</li> <li>▪ People of Working Age – increased provision of supports for persons who are furthest from the labour market to take up employment and the maintenance of the lowest social welfare rate.</li> <li>▪ Older People -Increased investment in community care services for older people.</li> <li>▪ People with Disabilities - increase employment and participation levels for people with disabilities to lead full and rewarding lives.</li> <li>▪ Communities - building and supporting sustainable communities by focusing on housing, health and integration of migrants.</li> </ul>	<p>education, training and employment and to facilitate equality.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.4; 5.7; 5.9; 5.12; 5.13; 5.14</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.4; 7.12; 7.20</p>
<p><b>Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2015</b></p>	<p>The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) aims to tackle poverty, social exclusion and long term unemployment through local engagement and collaboration between disadvantaged individuals, marginalised target groups, community organisations, public sector agencies and other stakeholders. The programme will support and resource disadvantaged communities and marginalised target groups to engage with relevant local and national</p>	<p>The aims of SICAP directly relate to the social inclusion elements of the LECP and therefore, activities occurring through SICAP will result in implementation of objectives and activities of the LECP and Goal 4 is particularly relevant in this regard.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.2;1.3; 1.4; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.7; 2.9; 2.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.3; 3.8; 3.12</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.7; 4.8; 4.9; 4.10; 4.12; 4.13; 4.14, 4.15; 4.16; 4.17;</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues. It will also support individuals and marginalised target groups experiencing educational disadvantage so they can participate fully, engage with and progress through life-long learning opportunities through the use of community development approaches. This programme will engage with marginalised target groups/individuals and residents of disadvantaged communities who are unemployed but who do not fall within mainstream employment service provision, or who are referred to SICAP, to move them closer to the labour market and improve work readiness, and support them in accessing employment and self-employment and creating social enterprise opportunities.</p>		<p>4.18; 4.19</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.4; 5.7; 5.9; 5.12; 5.13; 5.14</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.4; 7.12; 7.20</p> <hr/>
<p><b>Report of the High Level Group on Traveller Issues in 2006</b></p>	<p>The Report of the High Level Group on Traveller Issues in 2006 summarised the situation in relation to the provision of services to Travellers in the key areas of accommodation, health, education and employment and made a number of recommendations. These recommendations included general structural and strategic issues as well as matters specific to particular sectors with a particular emphasis on adopting an inter-agency approach and effective consultation with local Travellers.</p>	<p>The LECP addresses the needs of the Traveller and Roma community, primarily through Goal 4, objective 4.15 and promotes a partnership approach to identify issues, concerns and barriers to service delivery experienced by the Traveller and Roma Communities and to develop programmes to address these barriers and deliver more effective and efficient services. In addition, other objectives of the LECP will be relevant in relation to the development of programmes addressing the needs of the Traveller and Roma Communities where these objectives relate to broader subject areas such as social inclusion, women,</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.2;1.3; 1.4; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.7</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.3; 3.8</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.1; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.12; 4.13; 4.14, 4.15; 4.16</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.7; 5.9; 5.13; 5.14;</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> N/A</p> <hr/>
<p><b>National Strategy for Traveller/ Roma Integration, 2011</b></p>	<p>In 2006, Traveller Interagency Groups were established under County and City Development Boards to coordinate the integrated delivery of services and supports at local level and in 2007, a</p>		

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	<p>National Traveller Monitoring and Advisory Committee (NTMAC) was established as an independent forum for dialogue between the relevant social partners. The Report and Recommendations for a Traveller Education Strategy was launched in 2006, with a focus on mainstreaming of Traveller education.</p> <p>Ireland’s National Strategy for Traveller/ Roma Integration, published in 2011, draws together key elements of existing relevant national strategies together with initiatives in place to assist the Roma Community. It considers the four pillars of Education, Accommodation, Health, &amp; Employment.</p> <p>Following a 2014 review of the effectiveness of structures for consultation with and improving outcomes for the Traveller and Roma communities, the Department of Justice &amp; Equality (DJE) has established a National Traveller &amp; Roma Inclusion Strategy Steering Group. During 2015, the Department of Justice &amp; Equality will be undertaking a consultation process aimed at reviewing Ireland’s existing National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy with a view to making appropriate changes by early 2016.</p>	<p>health and wellbeing.</p>	
<p><b>Better Outcomes Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for</b></p>	<p>The vision of ‘Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures’ is for Ireland to be ‘one of the best small countries in the world in which to grow up and raise a family, and where the rights of all children and young people are respected, protected and</p>	<p>The LECP supports the implementation of the National Strategy directly through objective 4.13, ‘To work towards the 5 national outcomes for children as set out in the National Policy Framework for</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.2; 1.3; 1.4; 1.6; 1.7; 1.9</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.7</p> <hr/>



Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
<b>Children &amp; Young People 2014 – 2020</b>	<p>fulfilled; where their voices are heard and where they are supported to realise their maximum potential now and in the future. The Plan identifies five national outcomes as follows, that are necessary to progress the vision for children and young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Active &amp; healthy, physical &amp; mental wellbeing</li> <li>▪ Achieving full potential in all areas of learning &amp; development</li> <li>▪ Safe &amp; protected from harm</li> <li>▪ Economic security &amp; opportunity</li> <li>▪ Connected, respected &amp; contributing to their world</li> </ul>	<p>Children and Young People 2014- 2020. Particular areas of activities are identified around participation in sport, support for community based activities, lifelong learning opportunities, recreational and social opportunities, safe spaces for young people, the development of ‘Child &amp; Family Support Networks.’</p>	<p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.3</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.7; 4.13; 4.16</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.13; 5.14</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.20</p>
<b>Building a High Quality Health Service for a Healthier Ireland, HSE Corporate Plan 2015-2017</b>	<p>The vision of the HSE Corporate Plan is for ‘A healthier Ireland with a high quality health service valued by all.’ The Plan consists of 5 Goals as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promote health and wellbeing as part of everything we do so that people will be healthier</li> <li>▪ Provide fair, equitable and timely access to quality, safe health services that people need</li> <li>▪ Foster a culture that is honest, compassionate, transparent and accountable</li> <li>▪ Engage, develop and value our workforce to deliver the best possible care and services to the people who depend on them</li> <li>▪ Manage resources in a way that delivers best health outcomes, improves people’s experience of using the service and demonstrates value for money</li> </ul>	<p>The LECP integrates with the HSE Corporate Plan specifically in relation to the promotion of health and wellbeing and in relation social inclusion and participation of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. This is particularly evident through the objectives of Goal 4.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.3;1.4; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.1; 2.2</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.1; 3.8</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.12; 4.13; 4.14</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.9</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> N/A</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
<b>Healthy Ireland - Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 – 2025</b>	<p>The vision for a Healthy Ireland contained in this document is where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility . This framework focuses on 4 key areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increasing the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life by decreasing the prevalence of unhealthy behaviours and to increase the degree to which conditions are prevented.</li> <li>▪ Reducing health inequalities by focusing on reducing the gaps between the highest and lowest occupational classes and socio-economic groups, and between the wealthiest and most deprived areas.</li> <li>▪ Protecting the public from threats to health and wellbeing through effective and integrated strategies and interventions.</li> <li>▪ Creating an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland.</li> </ul>	<p>The LECP is consistent with the approach of the Healthy Ireland Framework drawing initially on the key aim of the framework to improve health and wellbeing. The LECP specifically seeks to implement an integrated approach to improving health and wellbeing initially through the strengthening of Letterkenny as ‘Healthy Letterkenny’ and to be further implemented throughout the County. Significant work has already been achieved through programmes such as ‘Active Letterkenny’ and most recently exemplified through the publication of ‘Connecting for Life Donegal, Preventing Suicide Together, Action Plan 2015- 2020.’</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 1.4;1.9; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 2.2; 2.7</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b>    <b>N/A</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.4; 4.6; 4.12; 4.13; 4.14, 4.15</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 5.13; 5.14</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b>    <b>N/A</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 7.20</p>
<b>Further Education &amp; Training Strategy 2014-2019, SOLAS and Department of Education &amp; Skills</b>	<p>The FET strategy aims to deliver a higher quality learning experience leading to better outcomes for all those who engage in FET. The strategic goals of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Skills for the economy: Involving an appropriate advisory infrastructure to inform FET provision by employers; FET provision for a diverse range of people but focus on long-term unemployed and unemployed young</li> </ul>	<p>The national strategy for Further Education and Training represents a critical element of the educational ecosystem in the county. The integration, planning and quality of education provision is a recurring theme in the LECP as an enabler for people to access opportunity and thereby delivers community and economic growth. The</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 1.4</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 2.7; 2.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 3.3</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.7; 4.11; 4.13;4.16</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 5.4; 5.7; 5.9; 5.12;</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>people; a new apprenticeship scheme; a new FET employee development strategy; FET provision to assist people to start and sustain their own business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Active Inclusion: Involving support for active inclusion across FET; a strategy to promote literacy and numeracy across FET.</li> <li>▪ Quality provision: Involving responding to learner needs; ensuring excellence in FET programme development; upgrading the guidance service; developing standards for staff qualifications in FET sector; providing effective pathways for FET graduates to levels 7 &amp; 8 within higher education.</li> <li>▪ Integrating planning and funding: Involving a new integrated FET planning model; developing a data infrastructure to support policy and provision; introducing performance related funding; evaluating effectiveness of current FET provision.</li> <li>▪ Standing on FET: Involving promoting and providing high quality FET responsive to needs of industry and learners; conducting an economic and social impact study on each ETB.</li> </ul>	<p>emphasis in the FET strategy on quality and refinement of provision and services offered is central to and consistent with the objectives of the LECP as regards the targeting and tailoring of learning.</p>	<p>5.13; 5.14; 5.15</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> N/A</p> <hr/>
<p><b>An Garda Síochána Strategy Statement 2013- 2018</b></p>	<p>The Strategic Statement outlines that the strategic intent is to work in partnership to make our communities safe through four strategic goals as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Securing our nation</li> <li>▪ Proactive policing operations</li> <li>▪ Ensuring safe communities</li> <li>▪ Delivering a professional service</li> </ul>	<p>There are clear complementarities to be gained through the local integration of programmes of An Garda Síochána with activities originating in the LECP. These relationships are apparent in relation to areas such as road safety, place- making, community capacity building, and social inclusion as examples. The partnership</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.4</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.7</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.3</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.17; 4.19 4.13; 4.16</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
		<p>established through the Donegal Joint Policing Committee is central to the delivery of complementarities in programmes and activity.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: N/A</p>
<p><b>National Broadband Plan, Department of Communications, Energy &amp; Natural Resources, 2012</b></p>	<p>The Government’s National Broadband Plan aims to ensure that all citizens and businesses have access to high speed broadband no matter where they live or work. The Plan outlines that this will be delivered through a combination of Commercial and State led investment. The State intervention, ‘Connecting Communities’ will extend reliable high speed broadband (at least 30Mbps) to every premise in the country where there is no current or planned high speed broadband network. Appendix 9 of this document shows a map of County Donegal outlining the areas that are to be covered by commercial operators and the areas that are to be addressed under ‘Connecting Communities.’</p>	<p>The importance attributed to investment in Broadband infrastructure under the National Broadband Plan reflects the priority emphasis that has also been identified in the LECP. The LECP identifies the need for broadband as an enabler of community and economic development and as a cross cutting theme that impacts on everything we plan to do in Donegal. The LECP therefore supports the National Broadband Plan and in particular aims to seek priority roll out of the Plan in County Donegal.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.1; 1.2; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.1; 4.2</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.3; 5.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.3</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.11; 7.21</p>
<p><b>National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan, 2013</b></p>	<p>The National Disability Strategy is a whole-of-Government approach to advancing the social inclusion of people with disabilities and it sets out the practical measures that will be taken to advance the National Disability Strategy over the period 2013 to 2015. The Plan covers a wide range of government departments so as to ensure that mainstream public services are to be designed and delivered in ways that include people with disabilities, so that people with disabilities are considered by the public sector to</p>	<p>The LECP supports the principles and goals of the national Disability Strategy Implementation Plan through the broad objectives that occur throughout the goals in order to improve social inclusion and remove barriers. The Plan specifically addresses the needs of persons with disabilities through objective 4.15, ‘To promote and support persons with disabilities to participate fully in economic, social and cultural life.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.3; 1.4; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.1</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.3; 4.6; 4.8; 4.15</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.7</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: N/A</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>be an integral part of the community they serve. Therefore the Implementation Plan addresses barriers to inclusion, The Plan identifies four High Level goals under the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Equal citizens</li> <li>▪ Independence and choice</li> <li>▪ Participation</li> <li>▪ Maximising potential</li> </ul>		<p><b>GOAL 7</b>    <b>OBJ: N/A</b></p>

### 3.5. The Local Sectoral Strategies and Sectoral Organisations

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
<b>Donegal County Council Corporate Plan 2015- 2019</b>	<p>The Corporate Plan sets out the strategic direction for Donegal County Council over the period 2015- 2019. There are 6 strategic objectives in the plan as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To take the lead role in promoting sustainable economic development and job creation in Donegal</li> <li>2. To continue to manage , maintain and develop the physical , social, economic, environmental, community and cultural infrastructure in our county</li> <li>3. To provide accessible, efficient and good value services and supports</li> <li>4. To conserve, manage, support and promote our arts, culture, environment, heritage and</li> </ol>	<p>There are clear and direct linkages between the LECP and the Donegal County Council Corporate Plan across the areas of enabling activity for economic development, strategic infrastructure, sustainable and inclusive communities and the promotion of cultural heritage. The Corporate Plan is consistent with the broad and overarching themes of the 7 Goals of the LECP with both Plans working in tandem with distinct complementarities.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b>    <b>ALL</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b>    <b>ALL</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b>    <b>ALL</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b>    <b>ALL</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b>    <b>ALL</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b>    <b>ALL</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b>    <b>ALL</b></p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>languages</p> <p>5. To support and promote sustainable and inclusive communities</p> <p>6. To support and develop our organisational capacity to achieve our objectives.</p>		
<b>The One Plan for Derry-Londonderry</b>	<p>The One- Plan is the agreed vision and framework for the regeneration of the Derry-Londonderry. The mission of the One- plan is to deliver renewal- economic, physical and social, building a stronger and more vibrant economy with increased prosperity for our city and region, in ways which ensure that opportunities and benefits from regeneration are targeted towards the most deprived groups in our communities'. Its Transformational Themes are Employment and Economy; Education and Skills; Building Better Communities; Health and Wellbeing and; Sustainable and Connected City Region.</p> <p>The One- Plan recognises the importance of how Derry- Londonderry relates to the rest of the region and identifies the City region as cross border by definition outlining that it is therefore important to agree a mutually supporting series of proposals that promotes the distinctiveness of Derry- Londonderry and the region. The Plan references the wide range of partnership initiatives and particularly references the establishment of the North West Partnership Board in 2010 together with it's identified areas for cross border collaboration.</p>	<p>The growth of Derry- Londonderry envisaged through the One- Plan is of regional importance and the collaborative cross border approach to the strengthening of the region will assist in achieving both the objectives of the One- Plan and the objectives of the LECP. To date, strong partnerships have been established within the region to combine regional critical mass and increase capability and this approach has been proven successful through partnerships such as the North West Gateway Learning Region and the North West Health Innovation Corridor. The LECP strongly advocates and supports the continued implementation of a cross border partnership approach.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1 OBJ:</b> 1.1; 1.4; 1.6; 1.11; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2 OBJ:</b> 2.4; 2.5</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3 OBJ:</b> 3.1; 3.5; 3.6; 3.15</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4 OBJ:</b> 4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5;</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5 OBJ:</b> 5.1; 5.5; 5.6; 5.10; 5.12; 5.16</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6 OBJ:</b> 6.1; 6.2; 6.3</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7 OBJ:</b> 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.5; 7.6; 7.7; 7.13; 7.22</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
<b>North West Partnership Board</b>	The North West Partnership Board is a multi-sectoral platform aiming to promote a coordinated approach and collaboration with regard to economic, social and cultural development, on a cross border basis. The NWPB are currently preparing a NW Action Plan supported by ICLRD and with involvement from DRD (NI) and DECLG (ROI). Key areas to be focussed on in the action plan are culture and creative industries; renewables and green economy; health innovation (including Strategic Innovation- Centres of Excellence, as drivers of economic development; and well- being and Quality of Life with a focus on social inclusion and well- being) and; tourism. The cross cutting themes that have been identified as crucial to development include economic development; connectivity (including transport and broadband), education and skills; the environment and rural development.	The work of NWPB aligns significantly across all of the goals of the LECP. It represents an established platform to achieve partnerships and effective cross border collaborations.	<p><b>GOAL 1 OBJ:</b> 1.1; 1.4; 1.6; 1.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2 OBJ:</b> 2.4</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3 OBJ:</b> 3.4; 3.5</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4 OBJ:</b> 4.2; 4.4; 4.5; 4.7</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5 OBJ:</b> 5.1; 5.5; 5.6; 5.7; 5.8; 5.9; 5.11; 5.12; 5.17</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6 OBJ:</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7 OBJ:</b> 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.5; 7.6; 7.13; 7.14; 7.17; 7.18; 7.21; 7.22</p>
<b>North West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCBG)</b>	The NWRCBG comprises the Derry City and Strabane District Council and Donegal County Council areas. The aim of the Group is 'to strengthen and develop the local economy, through collaboration, to enhance the socio-economic position of the North West Region. The work of the Group includes enterprise development, tourism development, cross border collaboration and strategic development.	The work of NWRCBG aligns significantly across all of the goals of the LECP. Similarly to the NWPB and ICBAN, It represents an established platform to achieve partnerships and effective cross border collaborations.	<p><b>GOAL 1 OBJ:</b> 1.1; 1.4; 1.6; 1.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2 OBJ:</b> 2.4</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3 OBJ:</b> 3.4; 3.5</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4 OBJ:</b> 4.2; 4.4; 4.5; 4.7</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5 OBJ:</b> 5.1; 5.5; 5.6; 5.7; 5.8; 5.9; 5.11; 5.12; 5.17</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6 OBJ:</b> N/A</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
<b>Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)</b>	<p>ICBAN is a network of 10 member councils across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland with a common aim, 'to respond to the unique economic and social needs of the ICBAN region.' The platform works to establish and influence cross border regional policy and a framework for delivery to meet the needs and potential of the ICBAN area.</p>	<p>The work of ICBAN aligns significantly across all of the goals of the LECP and with the aims of the NWPB and NWRCBG in improving the economic and community development of the region. Similarly to the NWPB and ICBAN, It represents an established platform to achieve partnerships and effective cross border collaborations.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.5; 7.6; 7.13; 7.14; 7.17; 7.18; 7.21; 7.22</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.1; 1.4; 1.6; 1.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.4</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.4; 3.5</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.2; 4.4; 4.5; 4.7</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.1; 5.5; 5.6; 5.7; 5.8; 5.9; 5.11; 5.12; 5.17</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.5; 7.6; 7.13; 7.14; 7.17; 7.18; 7.21; 7.22</p>
<b>Active Donegal - Strategic Plan 2011-2014</b>	<p>'Active Donegal' is the Strategic Plan of Donegal Sports Partnership for the period 2011- 2014. Its mission statement is to "Ensure the sustainability of the Donegal Sports Partnership's future, in order that it can continue to build capacity within sports, schools and communities and supporting them in their strengthening of 'Active Donegal'". The plan is based on four pillars of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Active Communities: To provide the necessary framework to target low participation sectors using established programmes such as Sports Inclusion</li> </ul>	<p>Participation in sports across all sectors of the community is promoted within the LECP as a means to improve health and wellbeing and improve social inclusion with consequential impacts in terms of reduction and prevention of ill health. This approach has distinct relationships to the implementation of the National 'Healthy Ireland Strategy', the local work in relation to 'Healthy Letterkenny' &amp; 'Healthy Donegal' and the most recent publication by HSE, 'Connecting For Life Donegal,</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.4; 1.9; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.1; 2.2; 2.4</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.12; 4.13;4.14; 4.19</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.2</p>



Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>Disability Officer projects, Community Relations through Sport, Go for Life, Lets Walk Donegal and Women in Sport. By developing programmes that utilise the local environment including outdoor activities such as, walking, cycling and a new dedicated watersports programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Active Partnership: For example by marketing the 'Active Donegal' brand.</li> <li>▪ Active Sports: By supporting local sports clubs to raise awareness, promote best practice and increase participation by all.</li> <li>▪ Active Schools: By increasing participation as the basis for lifelong engagement in sport and physical activity and maintaining programmes throughout the education sector.</li> </ul>	<p>Preventing Suicide Together, Action Plan 2015- 2012'. In addition, the 'green' perception of Donegal has a particular resonance in the promotion of sports, recreation and healthy lifestyles adding to the quality of life experience in County Donegal and contributing also to the tourism product offer in the County.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 7 OBJ: 7.6</b></p>
<p><b>Donegal Diversity Plan, 2011 – 2013</b></p>	<p>The aim of the Plan is to enhance equality, interculturalism, anti-racism and anti-sectarianism in our county and to promote and enhance the integration and inclusion of everyone in Donegal. The intercultural framework is based around a number of key themes which aim to provide effective protection and redress against racism; to promote economic inclusion and equality of opportunity; to accommodate diversity in service provision; to address negative stereotyping of communities including negative media coverage and lack of acknowledgement of sectarianism; to encourage active participation of minority ethnic and religious groups in political and community settings.</p>	<p>The LECP identifies diversity within Goal 3 and Goal 4, as having an important role in striving to build sustainable, healthy and inclusive communities. The Plan specifically addresses diversity through objective 3.8, aiming 'to embrace and nurture cultural diversity in contemporary society.'</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1 OBJ: 1.4; 1.13</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2 OBJ: 2.3; 2.7</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3 OBJ: 3.1; 3.3; 3.8</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4 OBJ: 4.3; 4.5</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5 N/A</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6 OBJ: 6.1; 6.2; 6.3</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7 OBJ: 7.9</b></p>

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<b>Donegal Intercultural Platform</b>	<p>The Mission of Donegal Intercultural Platform is to provide a voice for minority ethnic and culture groups and to work for human rights and equality. The group support people from minority groups to participate fully in civil life in Donegal and people from the majority culture to fully appreciate cultural diversity. The Group run many projects including art, festivals conferences; provide advice, support, advocacy and training; publish books and information; provide a welcome to the centre for everyone and; run a racist/ sectarian reporting scheme.</p>	<p>The LECP supports the work of the Intercultural Platform primarily through the objectives and actions of Goal 4. In particular the LECP aligns with the Intercultural Platform and the Donegal Diversity Plan through objectives in relation to diversity, social inclusion and participation.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1 OBJ:</b> 1.2; 1.3; 1.4; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2 OBJ:</b> 2.7; 2.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3 OBJ:</b> 3.1; 3.3; 3.8; 3.12</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4 OBJ:</b> 4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.7; 4.15; 4.16; 4.17; 4.19</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5 OBJ:</b> 5.7; 5.9; 5.13; 5.14</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6 OBJ:</b> 6.1; 6.2</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7 OBJ:</b> N/A</p>
<b>Donegal Traveller Interagency Group</b>	<p>In 2009, the Donegal Interagency Group on Travellers issues prepared their Strategic Plan for the period 2009- 2011. The Plan set out a number of objectives around the thematic areas of culture; accommodation; health services; education (including formal education) and youth services; further education, training and employment; law enforcement. In 2013, the Traveller Interagency Group participated in a facilitated workshop where the remit of the group was discussed including a draft mission statement as follows: 'Donegal CDB Interagency Group on Traveller Issues will work in partnership with the Traveller Community to understand their issues and concerns. It will attempt to deliver more effective and efficient services, as well as identify barriers to service delivery, and</p>	<p>In anticipation of reviewed national and local frameworks addressing the needs of the Traveller and Roma communities, the LECP directly addresses the issues relating to the Traveller and Roma communities through objective 4.15 in areas including participation, promotion of the Interagency Framework, access to specific and mainstream services, education, exclusion, literacy, access to employment and reflecting culture and primary care issues. In addition, other broader objectives of the LECP that will have a specific relevance to the Traveller and Roma community include those relating to education and training, children and young people, social inclusion, health and</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1 OBJ:</b> 1.2;1.3; 1.4; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2 OBJ:</b> 2.7</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3 OBJ:</b> 3.3; 3.8</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4 OBJ:</b> 4.1; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.12; 4.13; 4.14, 4.15; 4.16</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5 OBJ:</b> 5.7; 5.9; 5.13; 5.14;</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6 N/A</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7 N/A</b></p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>where possible, eradicate these. The group will also provide support to the Traveller community to develop culturally appropriate services, and promote equality of outcome for all Travellers within the county'. The Department of Justice &amp; Equality (DJE) will be reviewing all TIG's by the end of 2015 and this will have regard to the ongoing review of national policy regarding the effectiveness of structures for consultation with and improving outcomes for the Traveller and Roma communities.</p>	<p>wellbeing as examples.</p>	
<p><b>Donegal Youth Service</b></p>	<p>Donegal Youth Service (DYS) is a countywide youth service with over 30 affiliated youth clubs and projects that provide drop- in facilities, programmes and services to young people all over Donegal. The vision of Donegal Youth Service is that all young people are nurtured and supported to reach their full potential and take their place as valued members of a healthy society. DYS work across a range of areas including education, youth health, employment, youth support, safety and cyberbullying, child protection and Garda vetting, equality and diversity. Projects include the Daybreak Programme, Community Employment Project, Youth Information Centre, Youth Outreach Project, Loft project, Breakout Project and Donegal Youth Council.</p>	<p>The LECP specifically addresses the needs of young people through objective 4.13, 'To work towards the five national outcomes for children and young people' and through its identified actions. In addition, the needs of young people, particularly in relation to training and employment are recognised and addressed in the broader objectives of the LECP.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1 OBJ:</b> 1.2; 1.3; 1.4; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2 OBJ:</b> 2.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3 OBJ:</b> 3.12</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4 OBJ:</b> 4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.7; 4.13; 4.16; 4.19</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5 OBJ:</b> 5.4; 5.7; 5.12; 5.13; 5.14</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6 OBJ:</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7 OBJ:</b> N/A</p>
<p><b>Donegal Women's Network</b></p>	<p>Donegal Women's Network is part of the umbrella organisation, the National Collective of Community- Based Women's Networks (NCCWN). The mission of the Donegal Women's</p>	<p>The LECP addresses the issues experienced by women in Donegal through objective 4.6 which states, 'To promote social justice, equality and</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1 OBJ:</b> 1.2; 1.3; 1.4; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2 OBJ:</b> 2.7; 2.10</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>Network is ‘To highlight the reality of women’s lives in Donegal and promote social justice, equality and women’s rights. The working objectives of the group are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide direct support to women’s groups in promoting their services/ activities and establishing new women’s groups in local communities where need is identified</li> <li>▪ Bring ‘gender lens’ to mainstream community and local development initiatives</li> <li>▪ Addressing gender- based violence</li> <li>▪ Promoting women’s community leadership and empowerment</li> <li>▪ Women’s health and wellbeing</li> <li>▪ Awareness raising on gender equality and women’s human rights</li> <li>▪ Improving access to local services</li> <li>▪ Providing networking opportunities to women at a local, regional and national level</li> </ul>	<p>women’s human rights. In addition, the plan indirectly addresses women’s issues through other objectives of the Plan that are broader in nature such as those relating to social inclusion, education, learning, social inclusion, rural transport as examples.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.1; 3.12</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.7; 4.16</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.9; 5.13; 5.14</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1</p>
<p><b>Connecting For Life Donegal, Preventing Suicide Together, Action Plan 2015- 2012</b></p>	<p>‘Connecting for Life Donegal’ is the first local suicide prevention action plan to be prepared in Ireland based on the recently launched national suicide prevention strategy. The action plan connects all key partners from the statutory, NGO, community and voluntary sectors. The vision of the action plan is of “A county where fewer lives are lost through suicide and where communities and individuals are empowered to improve their mental health and wellbeing”. There are 7 strategic goals as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To improve the understanding of, and attitudes to, suicidal behaviour, mental</li> </ul>	<p>The County Donegal response to suicide prevention through ‘Connecting for Life Donegal’ is a specific action plan addressing the issues of suicide but it recognises that a cross sectoral approach is required. The LECP specifically references the action plan through the anticipated actions of objective 1.13 and furthermore reflects the cross sectoral approach to all of the issues around suicide prevention through objectives relating to collaboration and partnership, health and wellbeing, social inclusion,</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.4; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.7</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.7; 4.12; 4.13; 4.14; 4.15; 4.16; 4.17; 4.19</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.7; 5.13; 5.14</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>health and wellbeing within the county</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To support local communities’ capacity to prevent and respond to suicidal behaviour</li> <li>▪ To target approaches to reduce suicidal behaviour and improve mental health among priority groups</li> <li>▪ To enhance accessibility, consistency and care pathways of services for people vulnerable to suicidal behaviour</li> <li>▪ To ensure safe and high-quality services for people vulnerable to suicide</li> <li>▪ To reduce and restrict access to means of suicidal behaviour</li> <li>▪ To improve surveillance, evaluation and high quality research relating to suicidal behaviour</li> </ul> <p>The primary outcomes identified in the action are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reduced suicide rate in the whole population of Donegal and amongst specified priority groups</li> <li>▪ Reduced rate of presentations of self-harm in the whole population of Donegal and amongst specified population groups</li> </ul>	<p>pathways to employment, children and young people and the development and promotion of a Donegal as a ‘Healthy’ county.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 6</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.20</p> <hr/>
<p><b>North West Regional Drug &amp; Alcohol Task Force Plan 2011- 2014</b></p>	<p>The overall strategic objective for the North West Regional Drug &amp; Alcohol Task Force Plan 2011-2014 is to continue to tackle the harm caused by individuals and society in the misuse of drugs through a concerted focus on the five pillars of supply reduction, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and research. A suite of activities are set out in the plan including the strengthening and support for a community-based focus to drug and alcohol misuse;</p>	<p>Objective 4.4, ‘To promote and support health and wellbeing in County Donegal’ is directly related to tackling the harm caused through misuse of drugs and alcohol, and this is particularly referenced in action 4.4.12 to improve the capacity of communities to respond to alcohol misuse and related harm. Taken in a more cumulative manner, the wider objectives of the LECP in relation to creating</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.4; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.7</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.3</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.4; 4.5</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> N/A</p> <hr/>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	mobilising an integrated cross-sectoral response; maintaining a role in informing national policy formulation; taking account of and contributing to other initiatives aimed at improving social inclusion and tackling disadvantage.	opportunities for people, reducing deprivation and promoting social inclusion as examples, will contribute to reducing threat and vulnerability and to in combination will assist to improve quality of life.	<b>GOAL 6</b> N/A <b>GOAL 7</b> N/A
<b>Local Development Companies</b>	The Local Development Companies in County Donegal are Donegal Local Development Company (DLDC) and Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP). Both are delivering rural development and social inclusion programmes and initiatives throughout their respective areas of Donegal. Both DLDC and IDP deliver a number of major programmes along with a range of other smaller schemes and initiatives e.g. SICAP, the Rural Development Programmes (LEADER), Rural Social Schemes (RSS), Jobs Initiative Programme, Tús, CE Childcare Scheme, Development Education Programme, Family Support Initiatives and the Traveller’s Job Club Coach Initiative. The Companies also importantly collaborate on a number of County- wide and Cross- border Initiatives.	The work of the Local Development Companies as regards delivering rural development and social inclusion programmes is central to the LECP. Across all 7 goals, the objectives of the LECP align significantly with the work of the Local Development Companies and both are identified as a critical mechanism through which many objectives of the LECP will be achieved.	<b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.1; 1.2; 1.3; 1.4; 1.6; 1.7; 1.8; 1.9; 1.10; 1.11; 1.13 <b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.2; 2.4; 2.5; 2.6; 2.7; 2.9; 2.10; 2.11 <b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.1; 3.3; 3.4; 3.5; 3.6; 3.7; 3.8; 3.10; 3.12; 3.13 <b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.1; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.7; 4.8; 4.9; 4.10; 4.12; 4.13; 4.14; 4.15; 4.16; 4.17; 4.18; 4.19; 4.20; 4.21 <b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.6; 5.7; 5.9; 5.12; 5.13; 5.14; 5.15; 5.18; 5.19 <b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.2; 6.5 <b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.4; 7.5; 7.6; 7.7; 7.8; 7.9; 7.12; 7.20
<b>Enterprise Development on the Gaoth Dobhair Business Park, 2015, Údarás na Gaeltachta,</b>	The report entitled ‘Enterprise Development on the Gaoth Dobhair Business Park’ presents a number of key findings, recommendations and actions in relation to the challenges to the successful attraction of new employment generating enterprises to the Gaoth Dobhair area. There are 5 key recommendations:	In line with the Údarás na Gaeltachta Strategic Plan, the Local approach to the development of the Donegal Gaeltacht is consistent with and reflected throughout the LECP.	<b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.1; 1.4; 1.5; 1.7; 1.8; 1.11; 1.13 <b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.3; 2.4; 2.8; 2.9; 2.10 <b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.1; 3.2; 3.4; 3.5

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agencies with a training and employment remit engage with employers with regard current and future skills requirement.</li> <li>▪ A marketing team be resourced aimed at; raising the profile of the NW Donegal Gaeltacht and the Gaoth Dobhair Business Park; working with IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and Connect Ireland to market the area through their network of overseas offices and; attracting entrepreneurs and enterprise to the Business Park leading to the creation of 300 new jobs over 3 years.</li> <li>▪ A 3 year capital development programme be undertaken aimed at refurbishing/ upgrading a number of properties on the Business Park</li> <li>▪ The NW Donegal Gaeltacht is prioritised in the National Broadband Plan for the installation of high speed broadband connectivity.</li> <li>▪ A collaborative approach to active engagement with early stage businesses, start ups and the local business community be undertaken to increase business activity in the area.</li> </ul>		<p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.2; 4.7; 4.10; 4.16; 4.21</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.1;5.2; 5.5; 5.6; 5.7; 5.8; 5.10; 5.12; 5.13; 5.18; 5.19</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.2; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.2; 7.4; 7.57.6; 7.8; 7.9; 7.10; 7.11; 7.12; 7.13; 7.14; 7.16; 7.17; 7.18; 7.19; 7.21; 7.22</p>
<p><b>Coillte Northwest Business Area Unit (BAU) Strategic Plan 2011- 2015</b></p>	<p>The North West BAU Strategic Plan sets out the economic, social and environmental strategies and priorities for the long and medium term and gives direction for the management of the areas forests for the next 5 years. The role of Coillte in the county extends into areas including forest management; timber production; development of the energy wood market; renewable energy,</p>	<p>Having 36 forests encompassing County Donegal, the resource addressed by the North West BAU Strategic Action Plan is significant, as is its potential to contribute to the economic and community growth of the County. The collaborative approach advocated in the Strategic Plan is reflected through the objectives of the LECP. The</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b> OBJ: 1.4; 1.9</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b> OBJ: 2.1; 2.2; 2.4; 2.5</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b> OBJ: 3.1; 3.5; 3.6; 3.7</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b> OBJ: 4.4</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>telecommunications; recreational sites including outdoor pursuits e.g. Ards Forest Park, Drumboe Woods; cultural and archaeological heritage; implementation of the Water Framework Directive; biodiversity and conservation. Given the extent of reach of the activities of Coillte, the Strategic Plan outlines that continued collaboration with other relevant authorities, organisations and partners is critical to contribute to the development of projects that have the potential to deliver strategic benefit to the area such as job creation, recreation, culture and heritage. In the North West the long term vision is of forestry management at an intensity that is appropriate to the environmental sensitivity and productive of the land resource. The vision includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Forestry as a vibrant industry in the area</li> <li>▪ Protection of habitats through management</li> <li>▪ Continuity of forest habitat for rare and threaten species</li> <li>▪ Health and wellbeing benefits for the public through a range of recreational activities in the forests</li> <li>▪ Forest recreational sites will be a part of the tourism infrastructure</li> <li>▪ A shared vision on expectations from forests and how they are managed.</li> </ul>	<p>potential to contribute to the local economy is also recognised in the LECP not only through timber production and the direct management of forests but increasingly through the contribution of forests to the tourism product offer throughout the County. Furthermore, the environmental benefits that can be accrued through forestry management provide potential opportunities for further partnerships and in particular for programmes of exemplar activity in county Donegal. This type of activity is reflected through objectives of the LECP in relation to the protection, harnessing and promotion of the natural asset.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.6; 5.8</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.1; 6.2</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.4; 7.5; 7.6; 7.7</p> <hr/>



Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance														
<b>Donegal Road Safety Plan 2010- 2015, Donegal County Council</b>	The objective of the Donegal Road Safety Plan is 'to reduce the number of road collision casualties in County Donegal in line with national and European casualty reduction targets.' The Plan focuses on implementing measures across five core elements namely; education, engineering, enforcement, evaluation and empowerment.	The LECP integrates the objectives and activities of the Donegal Road Safety Plan as an important means to improve safety and environments for communities particularly in the areas of education and engineering where physical interventions are appropriate.	<table border="1"> <tr><td><b>GOAL 1</b></td><td><b>N/A</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>GOAL 2</b></td><td><b>N/A</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>GOAL 3</b></td><td><b>N/A</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>GOAL 4</b></td><td><b>OBJ: 4.13; 4.17</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>GOAL 5</b></td><td><b>N/A</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>GOAL 6</b></td><td><b>N/A</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>GOAL 7</b></td><td><b>N/A</b></td></tr> </table>	<b>GOAL 1</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>GOAL 2</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>GOAL 3</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>GOAL 4</b>	<b>OBJ: 4.13; 4.17</b>	<b>GOAL 5</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>GOAL 6</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>GOAL 7</b>	<b>N/A</b>
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<b>GOAL 7</b>	<b>N/A</b>																
<b>The County Donegal Heritage Plan 2014-2019, County Donegal Heritage Forum</b>	<p>The Plan outlines that County Donegal enjoys and rich and unique heritage that represents a crucial element of everyday life supporting recreation, health, employment, learning and enjoyment and that the aim of the plan is to optimise these benefits to the County. This is to be achieved through the following 4 Goals of the Heritage Plan and their associated objectives and actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To encourage awareness, appreciation , access and enjoyment of the county's heritage resources</li> <li>▪ To promote and conserve Donegal's heritage for present and future generations, and for it's diaspora</li> <li>▪ To conserve and facilitate the appropriate</li> </ul>	The potential benefits of our heritage that are identified in the Heritage Plan of recreation, health, employment, learning and enjoyment are reflected throughout the goals of the LECP. In particular and at the foremost, heritage as part of identifying place and place- making is recognised as an important part of building communities and the built heritage is particularly relevant in this regard. The LECP also identifies significant potential in programmes that will harness the tourism potential of our heritage resources.	<table border="1"> <tr><td><b>GOAL 1</b></td><td><b>OBJ: 1.5</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>GOAL 2</b></td><td><b>OBJ: 2.3; 2.4; 2.5; 2.6; 2.7; 2.8; 2.9</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>GOAL 3</b></td><td><b>ALL</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>GOAL 4</b></td><td><b>OBJ: 4.5; 4.11</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>GOAL 5</b></td><td><b>N/A</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>GOAL 6</b></td><td><b>OBJ: 6.1; 6.2</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>GOAL 7</b></td><td><b>OBJ: 7.6; 7.7; 7.9; 7.10; 7.11; 7.17</b></td></tr> </table>	<b>GOAL 1</b>	<b>OBJ: 1.5</b>	<b>GOAL 2</b>	<b>OBJ: 2.3; 2.4; 2.5; 2.6; 2.7; 2.8; 2.9</b>	<b>GOAL 3</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>GOAL 4</b>	<b>OBJ: 4.5; 4.11</b>	<b>GOAL 5</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>GOAL 6</b>	<b>OBJ: 6.1; 6.2</b>	<b>GOAL 7</b>	<b>OBJ: 7.6; 7.7; 7.9; 7.10; 7.11; 7.17</b>
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Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LCEP	Objectives of the LCEP of particular relevance
	<p>development of heritage in support of tourism activity and to harness opportunities presented through initiatives such as the Wild Atlantic Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To identify, appropriately conserve and harness opportunities presented by heritage assets within the county's settlements in a manner that benefits the social, cultural and economic quality of the county</li> </ul>		
<p><b>LYIT Strategic Plan, Our Commitment to the North West Gateway Learning Region, 2014-2017</b></p>	<p>The Mission Statement of the LYIT Strategic Plan is that 'LYIT will confirm its significant national profile for excellence in higher education through the pursuit of an ambitious development agenda informed by public policy, strong regional engagement, and a fundamental commitment to a student- centred ethos'. The strategic domains of the plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learning and teaching; Focussed on ensuring students can fulfil their potential by empowering learners and providing high quality programmes of study that are closely aligned with the needs of employment.</li> <li>Student experience; Focussed on working collaboratively to improve the student experience.</li> <li>Research, Innovation and enterprise; Focussed on building a suitable framework for research supports to sustain and grow existing research centres, leverage collaborations and to continue to offer local enterprise services through CoLab and the NWRSP.</li> </ul>	<p>The theme of education and learning underpins much of the LCEP as a key enabler both to economic growth and community growth. It relates distinctly to the 'people' concept of the plan-empowering people and enabling opportunities for people. LYIT, together with the other educational providers in the County and within the North west region are critical to the delivery of a high quality and coherent learning environment and this is reflected across the goals of the Plan as a recurring theme.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 1.4; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 2.9; 2.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 3.12</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 4.3; 4.5; 4.7; 4.13; 4.16</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 5.1; 5.2; 5.3; 5.4; 5.5; 5.6; 5.7; 5.8; 5.9; 5.12; 5.13; 5.14; 5.15; 5.16</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 6.1</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 7.3; 7.13; 7.14; 7.15; 7.16; 7.17; 7.18; 7.19; 7.22</p>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collaboration and regional engagement; Focused on maximising the benefits of LYIT inclusion in two regional clusters and play a role in regional development and promoting the region’s rich cultural heritage.</li> <li>▪ Sustainability and resource utilisation; Focused on greater coordination of policy and strategy bodies, improving capacity for data capture and evidenced based decision making, and taking strides in strategy implementation.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Donegal ETB Education Plan 2011 – 2015</b></p>	<p>The plan ‘Ag Obair Le Chéile’ sets out to promote and provide a diverse programme of education and training opportunities throughout the county to enable students and learners to achieve their full potential through 4 key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Teaching and Learning; including activity such as educational programmes and supports services that meet changing needs; Integrated generic skill development; maintain and enhance quality standards; use of accreditation; stimulate creativity and entrepreneurship.</li> <li>▪ A Progressive and Accountable Organisation: including activities such as provision of staff learning opportunities; active promotion of services through Irish.</li> <li>▪ Using Information Technology; including activities such as the development of an integrated ICT strategy to support development in teaching and learning, management of Information, communication and collaboration.</li> </ul>	<p>The important role of the County’s educational authorities is a recurring theme across the LECP. The excellence in learning, education and skills that is exemplified in the County Donegal VEC Education Plan, is integral to the growth of Donegal, so as to enable community activation, provide pathways to employment and opportunity and improve economic prosperity. The LECP promotes the continued collaborative and partnership approaches to the deliver of education and learning within the North West Region.</p>	<p><b>GOAL 1</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 1.4</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 2.7; 2.10</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 3.3</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.7; 4.11; 4.13;4.16</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 5.4; 5.7; 5.9; 5.12; 5.13; 5.14; 5.15</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b>    <b>N/A</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b>    <b>N/A</b></p> <hr/>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
<b>Donegal Digital Action Plan, 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Working in Partnership: including activities such as building on relationships with community, voluntary, statutory, cross border and business organisations; providing improved structures for development, integration and support of youth services.</li> </ul> <p>The Digital Action Plan aims to capitalise on the potential of technologies to improve the economic and societal fabric of our communities and it has a particular emphasis on job creation. 3 Goals have been identified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Digitally- skilled communities co- creating services with business and the public sector.</li> <li>2. An expanded Letterkenny digital cluster, home to indigenous and FDI companies.</li> <li>3. A working, visible and relevant Donegal digital research and innovation environment.</li> </ol> <p>12 actions have been identified in the plan including the establishment of local digital hubs; activity to match digital education and training with supply and; the provision of services as a Digital Tech Observatory to carry out work required by the Action Plan.</p>	Digital technology and broadband have been identified as a recurring theme in the LECP that has the potential to enable community and economic development of significant scale and benefit. As a result, the implementation of the Digital Action Plan and its actions are reflected across the goals of the LECP as an integrated part of the Plan.	<p><b>GOAL 1</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 1.1; 1.2; 1.13</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> N/A</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 4.1; 4.2</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 5.3; 5.11</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 6.3</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.11; 7.21</p> <hr/>
<b>Strategic Action Plan for Creative Entrepreneurship in Donegal, 2015</b>	<p>Initiated by the Local Enterprise Office of Donegal County Council, the aim of the Action Plan is to create the right conditions for creative entrepreneurship in Donegal. 7 projects for the initial implementation phase are identified in the plan as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creative Partnership</li> <li>2. Creative sector mapping and Audit</li> </ol>	The creative sector is identified in the LECP as an important sector for further development and support particularly through Goals 3 and 7. The development of the sector is an integral part of harnessing the creative and cultural resource for which the county is well known. In doing so, the resource is not	<p><b>GOAL 1</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 1.4</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 2</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 2.9</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 3</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 3.1; 3.3; 3.4; 3.5; 3.6; 3.13; 3.14; 3.15</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 4</b>    <b>OBJ:</b> 4.4</p> <hr/>

Plan/ Strategy	Description	Consistency & integration with LECP	Objectives of the LECP of particular relevance
	<p>3. Creative network and workshops                      4. Tailor existing business supports                      5. Skills and Accelerator Programme                      6. Access to finance supports                      7. Innovation cluster development</p> <p>Ideas for longer term strategic development are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Donegal branding for creative products and services</li> <li>▪ Content creation and co- working hub</li> <li>▪ Creative niche skills academy</li> </ul>	<p>only nurtured but it is harnessed to add to tourism product offer, to establish niche business markets in arts and crafts and, ultimately to create employment. In particular, objective 3.13 is 'To develop the creative industries as an exemplar of local skill and knowledge celebrating the wealth and diversity of creative enterprise' and objective 7.17 is 'To create the right conditions for Creative Entrepreneurship in County Donegal.'</p>	<hr/> <p><b>GOAL 5</b> OBJ: 5.16; 5.19</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 6</b> OBJ: 6.2</p> <hr/> <p><b>GOAL 7</b> OBJ: 7.1; 7.4; 7.5; 7.6; 7.7; 7.17</p> <hr/>

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# Chapter 4: Profile of Key Policy & Funding Programmes

## 4.0 Introduction

The Local Economic and Community Plan sets out an overarching vision, goals and objectives for the County and region which also support the overarching policy and funding frameworks as set out at European level. Such funding and policy frameworks are given expression in Europe 2020 and in the multi-annual financial frameworks and programmes for the period 2014-2020. The ability to maximise and attract external funding to the county and wider region will be key in supporting the implementation of the plan. This chapter provides a profile of the key policy and funding programmes which will be of interest to all stakeholders in realising the goals and objectives contained within the LCEP Plan.

## 4.1 Europe 2020

‘Europe 2020’ sets out the European Unions 10 year strategy for job creation and growth and sets out a clear and distinct focus on three main priorities ‘*Smart Sustainable and Inclusive growth.*’

**Smart Growth** – *developing an economy based on knowledge & innovation*

**Sustainable Growth** – *promoting a more resource efficient, greener & more competitive economy*

**Inclusive Growth** – *fostering a high-employment economy delivering economic, social & territorial cohesion.*

Within this broad framework five sub-headings exist from which targets have been set to be achieved by 2020. These five headings cover:

- Employment;
- Research and development;
- Climate/energy;
- Education;
- Social inclusion and poverty reduction.

The Europe 2020 strategy provides the context and framework from which all EU funding programmes originate from and sets out these 11 main project priorities which span all EU programmes:

- 1) Strengthening research, technological development and innovation;
- 2) Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies;
- 3) Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF);
- 4) Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors;
- 5) Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management;

- 6) Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency;
- 7) Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures;
- 8) Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility;
- 9) Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty;
- 10) Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning;
- 11) Enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration.

Source: [Europe 2020 - Europe 2020 in a nutshell - European Commission](#)

It is clear that many of the thematic priorities of the Europe 2020 Strategy also are of key importance in the context of Donegal. Specific goals and objectives are contained within the LCEP across all of the above topic areas.

## 4.2 Multi-Annual Financial Frameworks 2014-2020 – EU programmes

### 4.2.1 Funding Opportunities from Interregional Cooperation.

There are a suite of funding programmes contained within the Multi-Annual Financial Frameworks which are designed to support Inter-regional co-operation. The Interreg programmes are a significant contributor to supporting inter-regional co-operation with an allocation of Interreg V stemming from the [European Regional Development Fund](#) of EUR 10.1 billion, which represents 2.8% of the total of the European Cohesion Policy budget.

Source : [Interreg C - Interregional cooperation - Regional Policy - European Commission](#).

The following programmes are of particular interest to the LCEP:

#### (i) Interreg VA

The Interreg VA programme aims to tackle problems across borders and along the 38 internal borders of the EU, concerning directly over one third of the population. An identified need exists to co-operate across borders/regions to enable the building of partnerships and critical mass and to develop opportunities and new ideas to address regional challenges and to encourage the development and creation of new products and services. The programme realised the potential for cross border networking and exchange of learning whilst also creating the opportunity for implementation of policies.

The Interreg VA co-operation programme aims to tackle common challenges and exploit and maximise the potential of under-utilised resources. It concerns the jurisdictions of Border counties of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the West of Scotland who all face similar problems and challenges. Resulting from extensive public consultation Interreg VA has four main programme priorities:

- Research & Innovation;
- Environment;
- Sustainable Transport and;
- Health.

With an overall ERDF budget of €240m and an emphasis placed on focused projects and a wider range of activities to ensure a significant change, this programme provides many opportunities for cross border projects and initiatives to be led and co-ordinated in the context of the LECP.

#### **(ii) Peace IV**

A specific fund allocation is available to Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland in recognition of the indigenous challenges specific to this region. This allocation of funding within the new regulations for 2014-2020 aim to address issues associated with the creation of a more peaceful society and a budget of €229m of ERDF has been allocated for the PEACE IV Programme. The new PEACE Programme will provide support to projects that contribute towards the promotion of greater levels of peace and reconciliation. It will place a strong emphasis on promoting cross-community relations and understanding in order to create a more cohesive society. The Draft Programme has four key priority areas and is awaiting formal approval from the European Commission:

- Shared Education;
- Children & young people;
- Shared spaces & Services;
- Building positive relations at a Local level.

Source: [http://www.seupb.eu/Libraries/2014-2020\\_Programmes/9806 -  
\\_PEACE\\_IV\\_Programme\\_Factsheet\\_Final\\_3.sflb.ashx](http://www.seupb.eu/Libraries/2014-2020_Programmes/9806_-_PEACE_IV_Programme_Factsheet_Final_3.sflb.ashx)

#### **4.2.2 Transnational Co-operation – Interreg**

**Interreg VB** comprises transnational cooperation programmes with an agreed coordinated response across a range of specific problems and as set out under agreed priorities. The VB programmes eligible to Ireland are:

##### **(i) Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme (NPA).**

During the period 2014-2020, the Programme will allocate approximately €56 million of European regional development funding to projects and will focus on four priorities:

- Using Innovation to Maintain and Develop Robust and Competitive Communities;
- Promoting Entrepreneurship to Realise the Potential of the Programme Area's Competitive Advantage;
- Fostering Energy-Secure Communities through Promotion of Renewable Energy and energy efficiency;
- Protecting, Promoting and Developing Cultural and Natural Heritage

##### **(ii) North West Europe (NWE) programme's**

The North West Europe Programme mission for 2014-2020 is to produce measurable positive change in the North-West of Europe on three themes:

- Innovation;
- Low carbon and;
- Resource and materials efficiency

To achieve its objectives, the Programme will co-finance cooperation projects with €370 million of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).



### **(iii) The Atlantic Area Funding Programme (AA)**

The programme aims to address transnational cooperation geared towards cohesive, sustainable and balanced territorial development of the Atlantic Area and its maritime heritage. A total of €140 million of ERDF will be available to Projects across the eligible region. The Atlantic Area Programme is awaiting approval and has four draft priorities as follows:

- Stimulating Innovation and Competitiveness;
- Fostering Resource Efficiency;
- Strengthening the Territory's Resilience to Risks of Natural Climate and Human Origin;
- Enhancing Bio-diversity and the Natural and Cultural Assets.

### **(iv) Policy Focused measures**

In addition to the suite of programmes identified above, the INTERREG EUROPE (VC) programme aims to promote exchange and transfer of knowledge and best practices among the European regions with an emphasis on policy development. This programme is due to open in July 2015 and over the funding period 2014-2020 will focus on the following four priorities:

- Research and Innovation;
- Competitiveness of SMEs;
- Low-carbon Economy;
- The Environment and Resource Efficiency.

Source: [http://www.seupb.eu/Libraries/2014-2020\\_Programmes/9806\\_-\\_INTERREG\\_VA\\_Programme\\_Factsheet\\_FINAL\\_1.sflb.ashx](http://www.seupb.eu/Libraries/2014-2020_Programmes/9806_-_INTERREG_VA_Programme_Factsheet_FINAL_1.sflb.ashx)

## **4.3 Other EU programmes**

In addition to the suite of Inter-regional and Transnational Cooperation programmes profiled above under which Ireland has eligibility to bid to, the following programmes provide an additional resource and address a range of priorities on specific topics of interest to the LCEP.

### **4.3.1 Horizon 2020**

Horizon 2020 is a €70 billion research and innovation funding programme (2014-2020) with a distinct emphasis on Excellent Science, Industrial Leadership and Tackling Societal Challenges. The goal is to ensure Europe produces world-class science, removes barriers to innovation and makes it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering innovation. The programme is framed around Europe 2020 for smart sustainable and inclusive growth.

### **4.3.2 The LIFE Programme**

The LIFE Programme is one of the main EU mechanisms for funding projects in the area of the environment and works on the basis of two sub-programmes of Climate Action and the Environment that the projects must be based upon. The programme provides a national allocation and seeks to involve local, regional and national stakeholders.

### **4.3.3 The COSME programme**

The COSME Programme is the European programme for the 'Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises', covering the funding period from 2014 to 2020 with a planned budget of €2.3bn, COSME seeks to support Small and medium Enterprises in the following areas:

- Better access to finance for SMEs (60% of budget)
- Access to markets (21.5% of budget)
- Supporting entrepreneurs (3% of budget)
- More favourable conditions for business creation and growth (11.5% of budget)

Source: [COSME - European Commission](#)

### **4.3.4 The URBACT programme**

The URBACT programme is the European Territorial Cooperation programme that seeks to create and encourage sustainable integrated urban development in cities across Europe. URBACT seeks to enable cities to work together and develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges, by networking, learning from one another's experiences, drawing lessons and identifying good practices to improve urban policies. The URBACT III programme will be organised around four main objectives:

- Capacity for Policy Delivery;
- Policy Design;
- Policy Implementation and;
- Building and Sharing Knowledge

It is anticipated to achieve these main objectives by way of three types of interventions:

- transnational exchange;
- capacity-building and;
- capitalisation & dissemination

## **4.4 National Programmes**

Within the context of the LCEP, there are key national programmes which will support the implementation of the Plan. These include:

### **4.4.1 National Rural Development Programme - LEADER**

The LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 will provide €250 million in financial resources to address poverty reduction, social inclusion and economic development of rural areas over the 2014-2020 programme period. LEADER is a community led approach to the delivery of rural development interventions and the delivery of same is currently being finalised by the Department of the Environment Community and Local Development (DoECLG).

### **4.4.2 Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) aims to tackle poverty, social exclusion and long-term unemployment through local engagement and partnership between disadvantaged individuals, community organisation's and public sector agencies and will run from April 2015 until December 2017.

The Programme has three goals:

- 1) To support and resource disadvantaged communities and marginalised target groups to engage with relevant local and national stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues;
- 2) To support individuals and marginalised target groups experiencing educational disadvantage so they can participate fully, engage with and progress through life-long learning opportunities through the use of community development approaches;
- 3) To engage with marginalised target groups/individuals and residents of disadvantaged communities who are unemployed but who do not fall within mainstream employment service provision, or who are referred to SICAP, to move them closer to the labour market and improve work readiness, and support them in accessing employment and self-employment and creating social enterprise opportunities.

Source: <https://www.pobal.ie/Publications/Documents/SICAP%20Requirements%202015.pdf>

#### **4.5 Implementation**

It is clear from the above summary that there exist many opportunities to work in collaboration with local, regional, and EU regions to attract resources to this region. The multi-annual financial framework provides cyclical funding calls which require a proactive and targeted approach to attracting funding and resources to the county. The LECP has set out a range of objectives which are consistent with the challenges and opportunities which the European Commission is seeking to address. The EU unit of Donegal County Council working with partners continues to explore all opportunities to attract resources to the county and also to identify EU networks of benefit and interest to the county and wider region.

# Appendices

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## **Appendix 1:**

### **Public authorities and publicly funded agencies notified of the preparation of the LECP**

- Department of Social Protection
- Health Service Executive
- Traveller Interagency Group
- Drugs Task Forces
- Teagasc
- Education & Training Board
- Department of Children and Youth Affairs/ Tusla local structures
- An Garda Síochána/ Joint Policing Committee
- Fáilte Ireland
- Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
- Údarás na Gaeltachta
- Third level institutions
- Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
- Enterprise Ireland
- IDA Ireland
- Solas (Education & Training Authority)
- Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources
- Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine
- Irish Water

## Appendix 2: Representation on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Economic Development Committee (EDC) & SPC for Community, Culture & Development Planning

### Local Community Development Committee

Name	Organisation
Mr. Seamus Neely	Donegal County Council
Cllr. Martin McDermott	Donegal County Council
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher	Donegal County Council
Cllr. Niamh Kennedy	Donegal County Council
Mr. Michael Tunney	Donegal County Council (LEO)
Paul Hannigan	Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Ms Maire O'Leary	Health HService Executive
Mr. Michael Mac Giolla Easbuig	Udaras na Gaeltachta
Mr. Shaun Purcell	Education Training Board
Mr. Anthony Doogan	Inishowen Development Partnership
Mr. Jim Slevin	Donegal Local Development Company
Ms. Susan McCauley	PPN
Ms. Susan Mc Loughlin	PPN
Mr. Martin McBride	PPN
Mr. Emmett Johnston	PPN
Mr. Jan Feenstra	IBEC Rep
Mr. PJ Hannon	ICTU
Mr. James O'Donnell	Famers Rep
Ms. Noreen Ní Mhaoldomhnaigh	Comhar na nOilean

### Economic Development Committee

Name	Organisation
Mr. John Nugent	IDA
Ms. Carole Brenan	Enterprise Ireland
Ms. Micheal Mac Giolla Easpuic	Udaras na Gaeltachta
Ms. Mary O'Malley	ETB
Ms. Michael Tunney	LEO
Mr. Pdraic Fingleton	DLDC
Mr. Andrew Ward	IDP
Ms. Nóirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh	Comhar na nOileán Teo
Mr. Jan Feenstra	IBEC
Mr. Andrew McNulty	PPN Community Rep
Ms. Maire O'Leary	HSE
Mr. Paul Hannigan	LYIT
Cllr. John Campbell	Donegal County Council
Cllr. Paul Canning	Donegal County Council
Cllr. Frank McBrearty	Donegal County Council
Cllr. M T Gallagher	Donegal County Council

Cllr. John Ryan	Donegal County Council
Cllr. John O'Donnell	Donegal County Council
Mr. Seamus Neely	Donegal County Council
Mr. Michael Heaney	Donegal County Council
Mr. Paddy Doherty	Donegal County Council
Mr. Barney McLaughlin	Donegal County Council

**Economic, Enterprise and Planning Policy SPC**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Sector</b>
Barry McMenamin	Building/ Construction
Lisa McMonagle	Agriculture/ Farming
Peter Cutliffe	Business/ Commercial
Dermot McLaughlin	Environmental
Annette Patton	Community/ voluntary/ social inclusion
Charlie Kelly	Trade Union
Nicholas Crossan	Elected Member of Donegal County Council
Dessie Shiels	Elected Member of Donegal County Council
Paul Canning	Elected Member of Donegal County Council
Albert Doherty	Elected Member of Donegal County Council
Enda Bonner	Elected Member of Donegal County Council
Maire Therese Gallagher	Elected Member of Donegal County Council
Martin Harley	Elected Member of Donegal County Council
Niamh Kennedy	Elected Member of Donegal County Council
Garry Doherty	Elected Member of Donegal County Council
Bernard McGuinness	Elected Member of Donegal County Council
Sean McEniff	Elected Member of Donegal County Council
James Pat McDaid	Elected Member of Donegal County Council
Liam Blaney	Elected Member of Donegal County Council

**Appendix 3****Representation on the Extended Social Inclusion Measures Group**

<b>Name of Community Group</b>	<b>Name of Rep</b>	<b>SIM/ Extended SIM</b>
Michael O'hEanaigh	Donegal County Council	SIM
Crona Gallagher	Donegal Education Training Board	SIM
Annette Patton	Community Workers Co-op	SIM
Gearóid Ó Maonaigh	DLDC	SIM
Sean O Gallchóir	Údarás na Gaeltachta	SIM
Tracey Mitchell	NW Regional Drugs Task Force	SIM
Máire O Leary	Health Service Executive	SIM
Avril McMonagle	Donegal County Childcare Committee	SIM
Shauna McClenaghan	Inishowen Development Partnership	SIM
Denise McCool	Inishowen Development Partnership	SIM
Hugh Friel	Donegal Travellers Project	SIM
Siobhan McLaughlin	Donegal Travellers Project	SIM
Colette Stuart	Citizens Information System	SIM
Margaret Glackin	Action Inishowen	SIM
Eileen Burgess	DCC CS	SIM
Finola Brennan	Donegal Womens Network	SIM
Susan McCauley	DCCF/ Family Resource Centre	SIM
John Andy Bonar	Letterkenny Institute of Technology	SIM
Charles Sweeney	Donegal County Council	SIM
Loretta McNicholas	Donegal County Council	SIM
Lynda McGavigan	Donegal County Council/ Housing	SIM
Caroline McCleary	Donegal County Council, SIU	SIM
Maureen Kerr	Donegal County Council, CS	Extended SIM
Myles Sweeney	Donegal Sports Partnership	Extended SIM
Noreen Doogan	MABS	Extended SIM
Shaun Hannigan	Donegal County Council, CS	Extended SIM
Fiona O'Shea	Rural Transport	Extended SIM
Kieran Doherty	Alcohol Forum	Extended SIM
Sean McGrory	Jigsaw Donegal	Extended SIM
Caroline Mason Mohan	HSE	Extended SIM
Anne Sheridan	HSE	Extended SIM
Kate Wilkinson	HSE	Extended SIM
Maria McInnes	Tusla	Extended SIM
Anne McAteer	HSE	Extended SIM
Chief Superintendent Terry McGinn	Garda Siochana	Extended SIM
Francis Byrne	Dept. Social Protection	Extended SIM
Padraic Fingleton	DLDC	Extended SIM
Denis Kelly	Donegal County Council	Extended SIM
Sinead Harkin	Donegal County Council	Extended SIM
Margaret Fitzgerald	Donegal County Council	Extended SIM
Georgina Adu-Boahene	Donegal Intercultural Platform	Extended SIM
Billy Banda	Donegal Food Bank	Extended SIM
Marty Keeney	Donegal Youth Service	Extended SIM
Paula Leonard	Donegal Travellers Project	Extended SIM
Gina Grant	Donegal Down Syndrome	Extended SIM
Jim Nash	New Horizons Partnership	Extended SIM



**Appendix 4****Representation of the Social Inclusion Linkage Group.**

<b>Name of Community Group/ Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Rep</b>
Active Retirement Ireland	Kevin Monaghan
19 <sup>th</sup> Donegal (Lifford/ Clonleigh) Scout Group	Joe Boland
An Mhachaire Le Cheile Teo	Frances Boyle
Ardara Parish Council	Mary McGowan
Ardara Womens Group	Louise Breslin
Arthritis Irelan, Donegal Branch	Sarah Meagher
Autism Support Donegal	Dolores Bonner
Ballyshannon & Bundoran Community Health Forum	Christine Ovens
Balor Developmental Community Arts (DCA) Group	Caroline Bell
Barrack Kill Town Park Carndonagh Community Food Project	Janine Strong
Bunrana GAA	Jim Doherty
Bunrana Youth Drop- In	Andrew Garvey- Williams
Bundoran Community Group	Val O'Kelly
Cairde le cheile	James McClean
Cara House FRC	Susan McCauley
CDP na Rosann	Norah Cullinan Breslin
Clúid Housing Association	Deirdriú Murray
Coiste Forbartha Anagaire	Jimmy Duffy
Coiste Furbairt Oileán Ruaigh	Máire UiDochartaigh
Colaiste Chara Coláiste Samhraidh	Maireád Uí Bhrádaigh
Comhairle Paróiste Chill Chartha (Kilcar Parish Council)	Seán ÓBeirne
Community Development Alliance	Annette Patton
Creelough Drama Group	Ellen Druce
Creelough Women's Group	Sally Kelly
Donegal Women's Centre	Roisin Kavanagh
Donegal Down Syndrome	Amber Pyper or Gina Grant
Donegal Fibromyalgia Support Group	Jude Bromley
Donegal Intercultural Platform	Georgina Adu- Boahene
Donegal South Forum	Louise Brelin
Donegal Travellers Project	Siobhan McLaughlin
Donegal Youth Service	Lorraine Thompson
Donegal Youth Service	Charlene Logue
Dunkineely Community Ltd.	Michael Cunningham
Fanad Day Centre	Danny Kelly
Foróige	Eimear O'Connor
Foyle Sailability	Karen McCormick
IFAN	Shauna Clenaghan/ Denis McCool
Inishowen Community Forum	Margaret Glackin

<b>Name of Community Group/ Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Rep</b>
Inishowen Community Forum	Joseph McLaughlin
Inishowen Community Forum	Winifred Northy
Inishowen Women/s Information Network (IWIN)	Mary Doherty B
Irish Wheelchair Association	Mary McGrenra
Killygordon & Crossroads Youth Club	Maggie Gilbert
Kilmacrenan Men Shed	Micheál M. Fadden
LAn Teo.	Bearnaí Ó Gallchobhair
Letterkenny C.D.P. Ltd.	Margaret Toner
Letterkenny Cathedral Quarter Company Ltd	Donnan Harvey
Letterkenny Trades Council	John Quinn
Letterkenny Youth & Family Service (LYFS)	Garry Glennon
Lifestart Services Ltd	Mary Walker Callaghan
Manorcunningham Community Development Association Ltd.	Carmel Doherty
Mevagh Family Resource Centre	Marrietta Herraghty
NCCWN- Donegal Women's Network	Finola Brennan
New Horizons Partnership Ltd.	James Nash
Parentstop Ltd- Co Donegal Parent Support Service	Patricia Lee
Pobail le Cheile	Owen Curran
Raphoe Family Resource Centre	Tony McDaid
Rosses Community Dyslexia Group	Sheila McBride
Spraoi agus Spórt Family Centre Limited	Helen Nolan/ Tracy Doyle
The Carers Association	Rose McBrearty
The Joyce Cary Creative Centre	Martin Lynch
Tír Boghaine Teo	Evanna Schorderet
We Care LK Food Bank	Billy Banda

## **Appendix 5**

### **Representation of the PPN Secretariat.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Name of Community Group/ Organisation</b>
Máirin Uí Fhearraigh	Comharchumann na nOileán
Louise Breslin	Ardara Parish Council
Dermot McLaughlin	Wild Inishowen
Helen Nolan	Spraoi agus Spórt Family Centre
Andrew McNulty	Balor Developmental Community Arts
Francis Coyle	Isaac Butt Heritage Centre Committee
Martin McBride	North Donegal Community Network
Anne McGowan	Letterkenny Tidy Towns
Finola Brennan	National Collective of Community- based Women's Networks
Joseph McNulty	Bundoran Childcare
Ralph Sheppard	Birdwatch Ireland

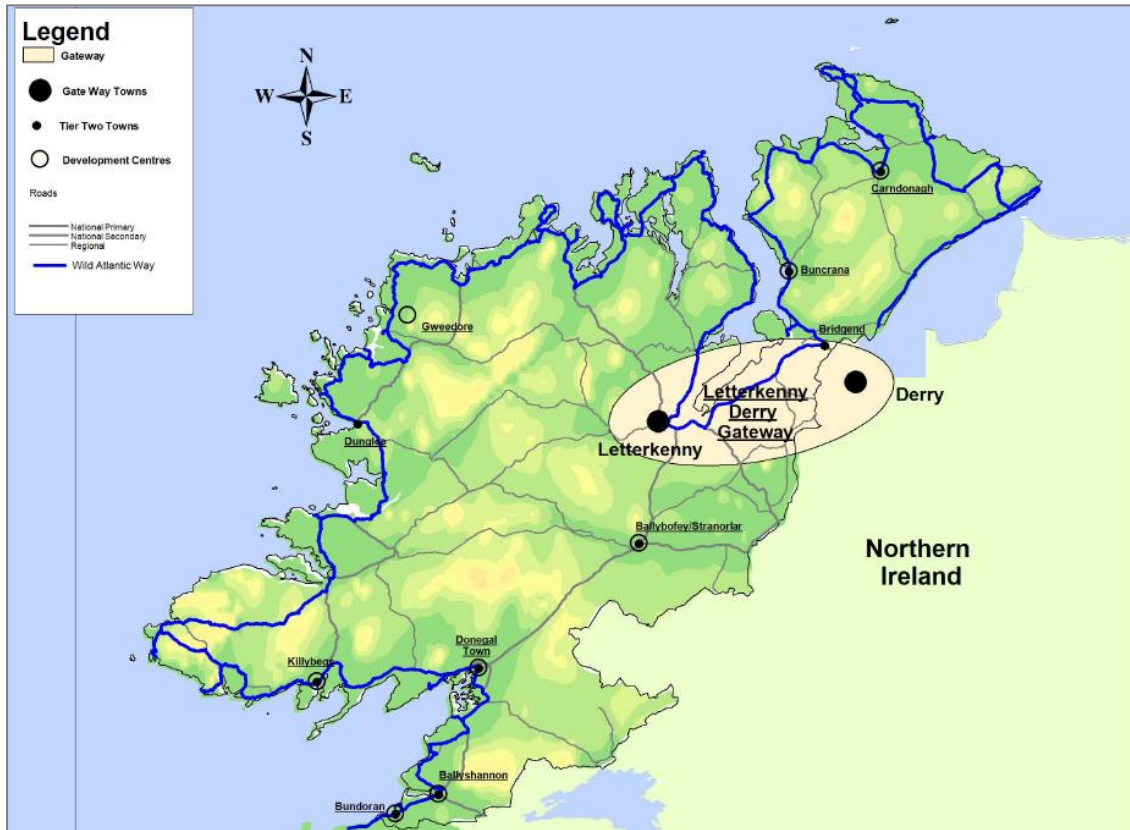
Name	Name of Community Group/ Organisation
Patricia Murphy	Irish Basking Shark Group
Keith Corcoran	Birdwatch Ireland
Kate Morgan	Downstrands Family Resource Centre
Annette Patton	Community Development Alliance
Paul Kernan	Pobal le Chéile
James Trearty	Termon Clean Up Group
Karen McCormick	Foyle Sailability
Joe Boland	19 <sup>th</sup> Donegal Scout Group

**Appendix 6:  
The Urban Settlement Hierarchy for County Donegal.**

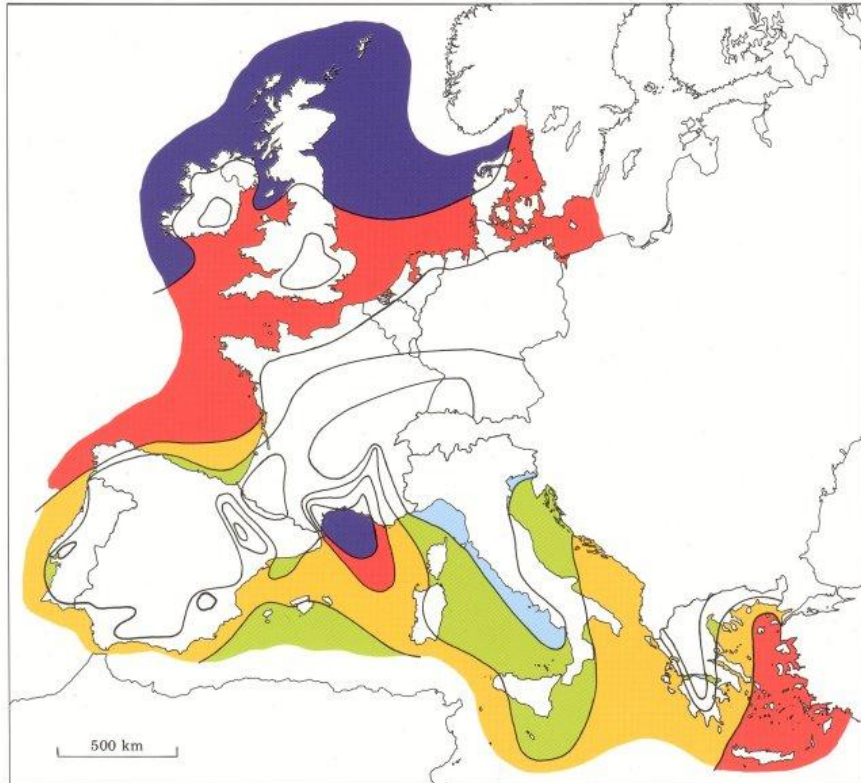


*(Source: County Donegal Development Plan 2012- 2018)*

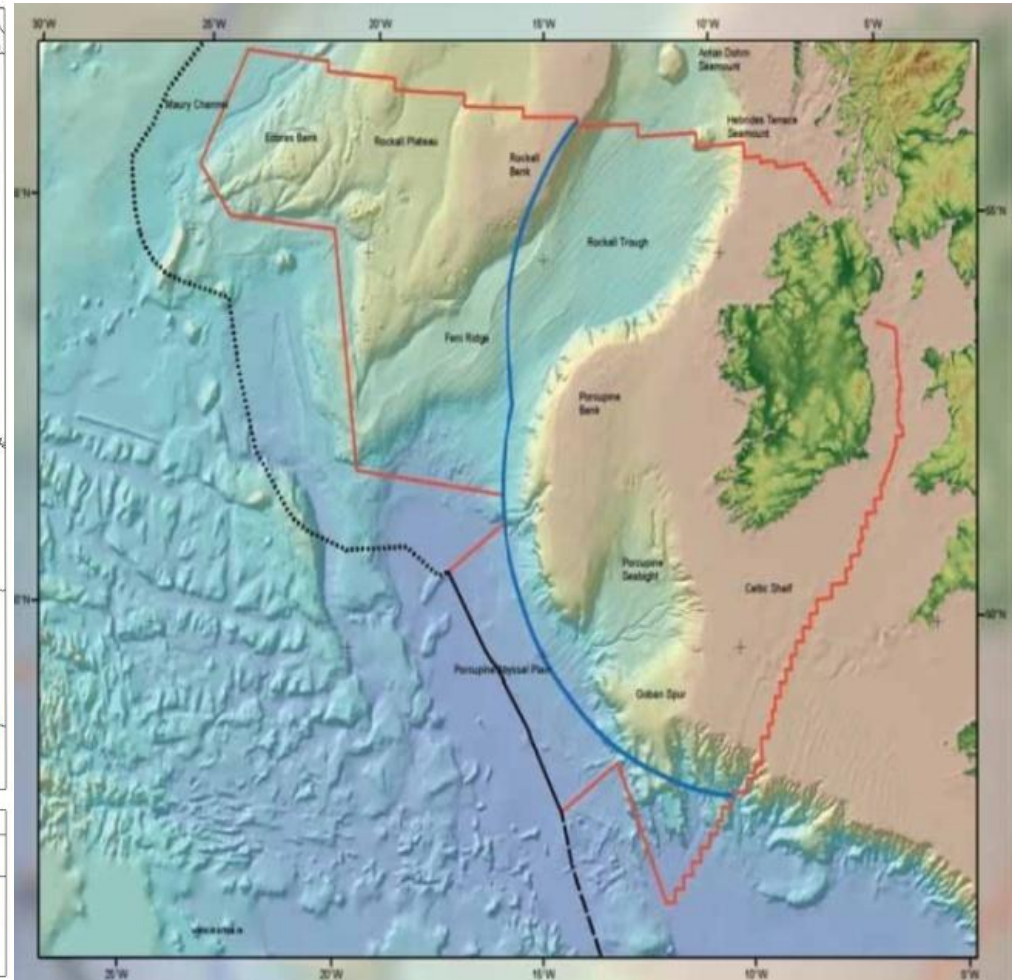
## Appendix 7: The spatial dimension for the Development Centres/ Hubs



**Appendix 8:  
Ireland's Offshore National Resources – The 'Real Map of Ireland'**

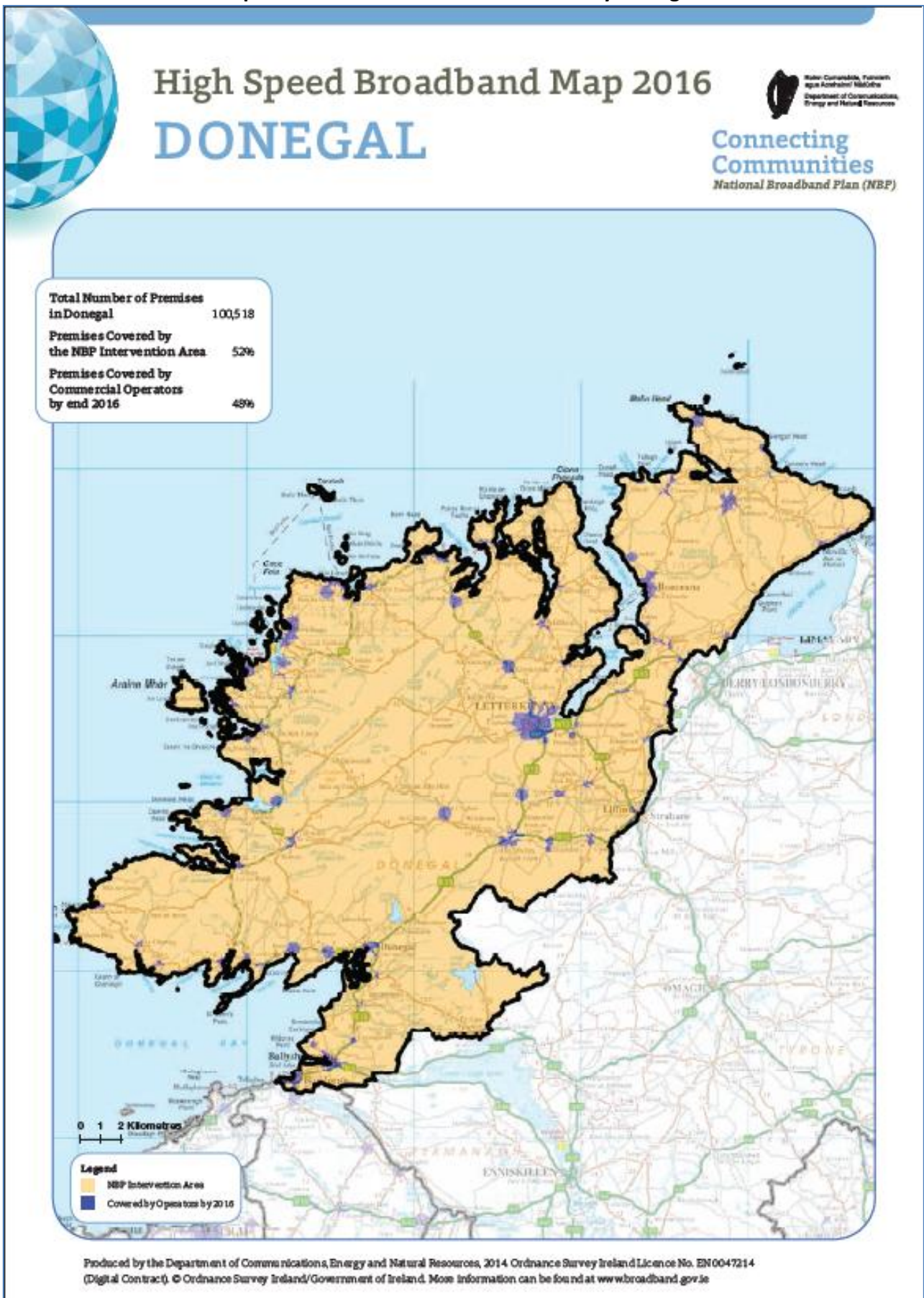


Wind resources over open sea (more than 10 km offshore) for five standard heights									
10 m		25 m		50 m		100 m		200 m	
$m s^{-1}$	$Wm^{-2}$	$m s^{-1}$	$Wm^{-2}$	$m s^{-1}$	$Wm^{-2}$	$m s^{-1}$	$Wm^{-2}$	$m s^{-1}$	$Wm^{-2}$
> 8.0	> 600	> 8.5	> 700	> 9.0	> 800	> 10.0	> 1100	> 11.0	> 1500
7.0-8.0	350-600	7.5-8.5	450-700	8.0-9.0	600-800	8.5-10.0	650-1100	9.5-11.0	900-1500
6.0-7.0	250-300	6.5-7.5	300-450	7.0-8.0	400-600	7.5- 8.5	450- 650	8.0- 9.5	600- 900
4.5-6.0	100-250	5.0-6.5	150-300	5.5-7.0	200-400	6.0- 7.5	250- 450	6.5- 8.0	300- 600
< 4.5	< 100	< 5.0	< 150	< 5.5	< 200	< 6.0	< 250	< 6.5	< 300



Appendix 9:

National Broadband Plan- Map of State Intervention areas in County Donegal





**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

## Municipal District of Donegal

13<sup>th</sup> October 2015

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### Community, Development & Enterprise

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## REPORT

1. Donegal Town Development Hub
  - a. Connect Mental Health Business Workshop
  - b. Promotion of Donegal Craft Village
  - c. Retail Strategy – Donegal Town
2. Donegal Town Craft Village Update
3. Playgrounds – Donegal
4. Bundoran Activity Report
  - a. Discover Bundoran Brochure 2016
  - b. Pumpkin Carving Competition and Pumpkin Parade
5. Donegal Diaspora Project
6. Tip O’ Neill
7. Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative
8. Public Participation Network
9. Pride of Place
10. Tourism - The Gathering – 2015
11. Youth Council
12. County Museum
13. Heritage Office Update



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

**Municipal District: Donegal**

**Activity / Project Update**

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	Donegal Town – Development Hub
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	The broad elements to this Development Hub are Enterprise Development, Retail Strategy and Tourism
<b>Progress to date within the last two months/quarter* - inclusive of current status</b>	<p><b>Promotion of Connect Mental Health Business Workshop through Donegal Community Chamber, Donegal Business Focus Group and Donegal Craft Village, plus social media</b></p> <p>See Change, the National Mental Health Stigma Reduction partnership, will deliver a free one hour business workshop at 2pm in the Abbey Hotel, Donegal Town. This workshop provides information on mental health and mental health problems for employers, managers and employees as well as offering best practise advice on creating workplaces that are free of stigma and discrimination and equipped to support the mental health needs of the organization. Tea, coffee and refreshments will be served from 1.30. Attendance is free.</p> <p><b>Register here:</b> <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/see-change-business-workshop-tickets-18767000604">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/see-change-business-workshop-tickets-18767000604</a></p> <p><b>What is Connect Mental Health</b></p> <p>Connect Mental Health is a three day mental health awareness event that will take place from October 8th -10th 2015 across South Donegal. The date is significant with the event planned to coincide with World Mental Health Day, October 10th.</p> <p><b>Find out more:</b> <a href="http://www.connectmentalhealth.ie">www.connectmentalhealth.ie</a></p> <p><b>Promotion of Donegal Craft Village</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New Social Media Site</li><li>• New brochure designed/printed/distributed</li><li>• Signage improved</li><li>• All units now occupied – 2 new tenants</li></ul> <p><b>Retail Strategy – Donegal Town</b></p> <p>Donegal Town – Business Focus Group</p> <p>Meetings held with Business Focus Group, projects identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• September Shopping Event</li><li>• Christmas Shopping Event</li></ul> <p>'Shop Donegal' Voucher Scheme</p> <p>Launch event - October</p>
<b>Contact Person</b> <i>(to include telephone number &amp; e-mail address)</i>	Mary Daly, Project Officer 074/9724484, mob 0876782196 or <a href="mailto:mdaly@donegalcoco.ie">mdaly@donegalcoco.ie</a>





**Comhairle Contae  
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Donegal County Council

**Municipal District: Donegal**

**Activity / Project Update: June 2015**

Activity / Project Title	Donegal Craft Village
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	1. Refurbishment of Units 2, 3 & 4, Donegal Craft Village
<b>Budget (if applicable)</b>	1. €2,681 incl. VAT - Unit 2 2. €12,735 - Units 3 & 4
<b>Progress to date within the last quarter - inclusive of current status</b>	<p>1. Unit 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrading of plumbing system</li> <li>• Installation of new doors</li> <li>• Supply and apply paint</li> <li>• Hedge trimming and general clean up of exterior</li> </ul> <p>3. Unit 3 &amp; 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrading electrical system</li> <li>• Painting interior and exterior of units</li> <li>• Replacement of Stove with back boiler</li> <li>• Installation of radiators</li> <li>• Servicing of plumbing system</li> <li>• Check light fittings</li> <li>• Hedge trimming and general clean up of interior and exterior</li> </ul> <p><u>Current Status:</u> Works complete</p> <p>All units in the Craft Village are occupied and I list hereunder name of current tenants and their businesses:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clare O'Presco, Handweaving:- Donegal Tweed being hand woven on a traditional Donegal loom into various products such as home furnishings, bags, scarfs and other gift items.</li> <li>2. McGonigle Glass Studio:- Produces glass jewellery, large glass pictures and functional platters.</li> <li>3. Johnny McCabe , Artist:- Landscape Art and Portraiture of the rugged beauty of County Donegal.</li> <li>4. Niall Bruton, Jewellery / Sculpture: Design and production of items in metal from medal to monument in scale; together with handcrafted jewellery with Celtic forms utilizing precious metals and gemstones.</li> <li>5. Michael Griffin, Raw Studio:- sculptor who works with ancient bogwoods producing sculptures of birds, fish, figures and abstract forms.</li> <li>6. Paper Tree, Paper Craft:- Paper crafted giftware that is personalised for individual customers.</li> <li>7. Michelle McKee, Hand Felted Landscapes:- An ancient craft known as 'hand felting' to create dramatic landscape pictures.</li> <li>8. Aroma, Coffee Shop and Mini Bakery.</li> </ol>
<b>Contact Person</b>	Eamon Boyle <a href="mailto:eamonb@donegalcoco.ie">eamonb@donegalcoco.ie</a>



**Comhairle Contae  
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Donegal County Council

**Municipal District: Donegal**

**Activity / Project Update: October 2015**

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	<b>PLAYGROUNDS</b>
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	Annual maintenance of Playgrounds  1. Glencolmcille 2. St John Bosco, Donegal Town 3. Mall Park, Ballyshannon & Outdoor Fitness Equipment 4. Kilcar
<b>Budget</b> <i>(if applicable)</i>	
<b>Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status</b>  <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	1. Works consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Replacement of broken equipment</li><li>• Replace worn safety tiles and remove trip hazards</li><li>• Grease all equipment that contains bushes, bearings , shackles, etc.</li></ul> <u>Current Status:</u> Rospa Inspections and identification of necessary repairs have been carried out with a view to tendering for annual maintenance tender for 2015 / 2016 shortly.
<b>Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period</b>  <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	* Annual Maintenance Tender to be advertised before end of October, 2015.
<b>Contact Person</b> <i>(to include telephone number &amp; e-mail address)</i>	Eamon Boyle Executive Engineer Three Rivers Centre Tel: 087 1788623 <a href="mailto:eamonb@donegalcoco.ie">eamonb@donegalcoco.ie</a>



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

**Municipal District: Donegal**

**Activity / Project Update**

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	Discover Bundoran Brochure 2016
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	Updating of Discover Bundoran tourism brochure
<b>Progress to date within the last two months/quarter* - inclusive of current status</b>	Project at very early stage as yet. Compiling calendar of events for 2016. Gathering new images. Selecting committee.
<i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	
<b>Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period</b>	Update text. Issue letter to businesses to be part of the business directory. Source new images to update previous ones.
<i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	
<b>Contact Person</b> (to include telephone number & e-mail address)	Shane Smyth – <a href="mailto:shane@discoverbundoran.com">shane@discoverbundoran.com</a> 087 3737817



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

**Municipal District: Donegal**

**Activity / Project Update**

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	Pumpkin Carving Competition and Pumpkin Parade
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> annual pumpkin carving competition and parade. Family friendly event being held during the October Mid Term Break.
<b>Budget (if applicable)</b>	€500
<b>Progress to date within the last two months/quarter* - inclusive of current status</b>	Posters designed and printed. Pumpkins ordered. Advertising and promotion begun.
<b>Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period</b>	Other logistics to be sorted. Materials like cutters etc to be purchased.
<b>Contact Person</b> <i>(to include telephone number &amp; e-mail address)</i>	Shane Smyth – <a href="mailto:shane@discoverbundoran.com">shane@discoverbundoran.com</a> 087 3737817



**Activity / Project Update**

<p><b>Activity / Project Title</b></p>	<p>Donegal Diaspora Website</p>
<p><b>Progress to date within the last month</b></p> <p><b>September 2015</b></p>	
<p><b>Project Targets for the next month</b></p> <p><b>136 countries worldwide</b></p> <p><b>90 people per day</b></p>	
<p><b>Contact Person</b></p>	<p><a href="mailto:aideen.doherty@donegalcoco.ie">aideen.doherty@donegalcoco.ie</a></p>



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

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CRADAM UÍ NÉILL  
**Tip O'Neill**  
*Irish Diaspora Award*  
[www.rishdiasporaaward.ie](http://www.rishdiasporaaward.ie)

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### **The Tip O'Neill Diaspora events 2015**

#### **The Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Award 2015**

This gala event took place in Buncrana on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Loretta Brennan Glucksman, noted US philanthropist and CEO Emeritus of the International Funds for Ireland, was the recipient of the award. The Master of Ceremonies was conducted by Aengus Mac Grianna, RTÉ newsreader. Speakers at the event were Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council – Cllr Ciaran Brogan, Chairman of the Tip O'Neill Diaspora Committee – Cllr Nicholas Crossan, Minister for Gaeltacht Affairs, Joe Mc Hugh, TD, and Tip O'Neills' son Tommy O'Neill.

The Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach and at the Department of Foreign Affairs with special responsibility to Diaspora Affairs, Jimmy Deenihan TD, presented the Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Award for 2015 to Loretta Brennan Glucksman. Ms Brennan Glucksman made an acceptance speech thanking Donegal County Council and everyone involved in the Tip O'Neill initiative.

The Gateway Singers complimented the evening with some of their repertoire performance immediately after the Award ceremony.

#### **The Tip O'Neill Inishowen Schools Diaspora Competition Awards 2015**

This event, which was coordinated by Geraldine Mc Hugh, Executive Librarian Lifford, took place in the St Patrick's Primary School, Drumfries at 1.00pm on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

The O'Neill family attended and Rosemary & Susan O'Neill presented the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and six highly commended prizes to the prize winners and their respective schools received prizes for partaking in the schools competition also. The O'Neill family were highly impressed with the essay, art and poetry competition which consisted of history, genealogy and life of the Speaker of the House, Tip O'Neill. The Inishowen Schools entries to the Tip O'Neill are currently on display in the Tip O'Neill Suite in the Sliabh Sneacht Centre in Drumfries.

#### **The Tip O'Neill Diaspora Lecture 2015**

The Tip O'Neill Diaspora Lecture was delivered by Professor Ronan Fanning in the Sliabh Sneacht Centre in Drumfries on Saturday morning of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Local Historian, Seán Beattie, who is a former college colleague of Professor Ronan Fanning's, chaired the lecture and detailed the life and works of Professor Fanning to date.

The title of the lecture was **"The Anglo-American Alliance and the Irish Question: The Role of Tip O'Neill"**.

The lecture was well attended and the O'Neill family were thoroughly impressed with the content and learnt a lot more about their father's role in Irish History.

#### **Summary of Lecture**

The Anglo-American alliance, Britain's so-called 'special relationship' with the United States, dictated American policy on Ireland for the first three quarters of the 20th century. From the Paris peace conference of 1919, in which President Woodrow Wilson resisted Sinn Féin's claim to participate because he would not 'imperil the work of the entire conference or Anglo-American co-operation in order to force an Irish settlement', through World War II when Ireland's neutrality angered both the British and the Americans and through the first three decades of the Cold War that policy remained unchanged. It was best summarised by Secretary of State Cordell Hull when he rejected a proposal by John Cudahy, the American Minister in Ireland, that President Roosevelt invite the British ambassador in Washington to the White House to express an interest in the settlement of Anglo-Irish differences on Northern Ireland. The partition of Ireland, declared Hull in March 1940, was 'a matter in which the United States government could not properly intervene'.

Tip O'Neill played a key role in dismantling that policy. His term of office as Speaker of the House of Representatives, from 1977 until his retirement in 1986, was book-ended by the two presidential initiatives that transformed United States policy towards Northern Ireland: President Carter's initiative of August 1977 and President Reagan's role in persuading Margaret Thatcher to conclude the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985 with the Irish government that laid the foundations for the coming of peace in Northern Ireland. Tip O'Neill, through his use of the power of the Speaker's office behind the scenes to put pressure on the White House, was the principal architect of both initiatives

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Ronan Fanning is Professor Emeritus of Modern History at University College Dublin, a Member of the Royal Irish Academy and a joint editor of the *Dictionary of Irish Biography* (2009) and of the series *Documents on Irish Foreign Policy* of which nine volumes covering 1919-51 have already been published. Co-author with Michael Lillis of *The Lives of Eliza Lynch* (2009) which has since been filmed as *Eliza Lynch – Queen of Paraguay*, his other books include the definitive history of the Irish Department of Finance, a history of independent Ireland and *Fatal Path: British Government and Irish Revolution, 1910-22* (London, 2013). His new book, *Eamon de Valera: A Will to Power* will be published in October 2015.

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**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

Municipal District: Countywide

**Activity / Project Update,**

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative 2015
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	The key objective of the Fund is to provide support to local and community event organisers and activities / projects that will harness diaspora links for the benefit of local and community tourism. The Fund is being administered by your local city / county council.
<b>Budget</b>	€ 32,223.00
<b>Progress to date within the last two months-inclusive of current status</b>	Funding draw-down process is ongoing.  55 of 64 funded Events have already taken place.  So far 17 events have claimed their funding with further 8 being processed.  <b>Event organisers are urged to return necessary documents for funding draw-down.</b>
<b>Project Targets for the next bi-monthly reporting period</b>	Progress on submissions of Post Event Reports
<b>Contact Person</b> <i>(to include telephone number &amp; e-mail address)</i>	Iga Lawne, Tourism Community Support Officer, Donegal Tourism Ltd E: iga@countydonegaltourism.com / T: 074-972 4475





**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

**Municipal Area: Countywide**

**Activity / Project Update**

<p><b>Activity / Project Title</b></p>	<p>The IPB Pride of Place national adjudication took place from 24th – 26th August 2015. The adjudicators were ex Co Mangers of Monaghan, Declan Nelson and Eddie Sheehy of Co Wicklow.</p>
<p><b>Progress to date within the last month</b></p>	<p><b>Killybegs Community Council</b> gave an excellent presentation and tour of relevant development initiatives around the town, e.g., The Niall Mór Centre, The Carpet Factory, The Mens Shed, Mooneys Boat Building Yard , The LYIT Catering College, a visit on one the Mc Guinness’s large fishing vessel and a visit to a Fish Processing Plant on the outskirts of the town. The community involvement in the Tidy Towns was apparent with the floral displays all around the town, painted derelict buildings on the main street, the old churches and graveyards kept. Campaigns to keep the local hospital and the Catering College were explained. Plans for the future were presented at the end of the adjudication.</p> <p><b>Coiste Pobail Ghort a’Choice</b> gave a tour of Micí Mac Gabhann’s House/Heritage Centre, various developments on the pier in the past year, e.g., the paving, walkways, seating, tables and walks adjacent to the area of Magheraroarty. An excellent presentation was given by various members of the committee on the activities of the Community Centre, e.g., the Gael Linn Colaste Gaeilge which is attended by approx 800 people during the Summer; the Youth Club who have a 10 year lease on the Youth Centre upstairs, which was designed by them, i.e., a disabled access was put in place following last year’s adjudication, the interior design and furnishings was chosen by the Youth and it is utilised and kept by them all the time; There is a ladies committee and a men’s committee and various activities such as local crafting, visits to other suchlike projects, quizzes, classes such as computer literacy, language, keep-fit classes etc. A lot of fundraising is carried out in fun/interesting ways. An all-inclusive society exists in Magheraroarty.</p> <p><b>The Workhouse, Dunfanaghy:</b> The Manager and staff welcomed the adjudicators and gave a presentation on the history, development of the workhouse as a tourist, children’s activities, heritage and cultural centre. The presentation consisted of information about the Workhouse’s community involvement in developing local walks in the Dunfanaghy area, the Tidy Towns committee and various festivals such as the annual Dunfanaghy Jazz &amp; Blues and other seasonal activities throughout the year. The playground has been a great addition to the Workhouse. There is a restaurant and craft shop in the building and the centre is utilised by locals &amp; visitors throughout the year.</p> <p><b>The Sliabh Sneacht Centre, Drumfries:</b> This centre was officially opened in 2014 by Tip O’Neill’s son, Tommy, from Boston. Kevin Doherty gave an excellent presentation on the history and the need of this community centre in Drumfries. Since opening it has hosted concerts, meetings, indoor sports, classes of various kinds, e.g., robotics, dancing, computer literacy,</p>

	<p>etc. It houses the Tip O'Neill Suite where the O'Neill family and interested parties have donated photographs, paintings and other memorabilia to the centre. It also houses a genealogy centre for the area. A wedding took place in the centre in August that attracted a lot of media attention. The North West cycling club use the centre as their point of starting &amp; finishing. The Slieve Sneacht walk has been developed by the community organisers and toilet &amp; shower facilities are provided for the use of people partake in outdoor activities in the area.</p>
<b>Project Targets for the next month</b>	<p>The National IPB Pride of Place Awards will take place in Treacy's Hotel in Ennis on 14th November 2015.</p>



**Activity / Project Update**

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	Public Participation Network (PPN)
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	Link through which organisations from the community & voluntary sector have a voice on Council decision making bodies and structures
<b>Progress to date within the last two months/quarter* -inclusive of current status</b>	<p>Four levels of PPN:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. County Plenary – 430 members</li> <li>2. Municipal District PPN – Divided into the 5 MDs of Co. Donegal</li> <li>3. Secretariat – 19 member organising committee of the PPN. Had their sixth meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup></li> <li>4. Linkage Groups. There are 7 of these specific interest sub groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Inclusion – Held their second meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> September. Discussed Goal 4 of LECP and then participated in a social inclusion measures workshop on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September to agree and outline the actions in Goal 4 of the plan with a social inclusion focus</li> <li>• Tourism – Held first meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> September- elected 2 community reps onto Tourism Forum</li> <li>• Environment – Held first meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September.</li> <li>• Heritage – Held first meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September, elected 2 reps onto Heritage Forum</li> <li>• Community Safety &amp; Joint Policing – Held first meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September – elected the 7 community reps onto Joint Policing Committee</li> <li>• Older persons forum –first meeting to be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> October</li> <li>• Fishing and aquaculture - linkage group membership to be reviewed at next secretariat meeting</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Release of PPN newsletter in October</li> <li>• County plenary AGM to be held mid-November</li> <li>• Next Secretariat meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November</li> <li>• Meetings of MD PPN structures</li> </ul>
<b>Contact Person</b>	Bobby Smith 074 9194276



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

Municipal District: Countywide

**Activity / Project Update, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	Donegal Gathering website and Facebook <a href="http://www.donealgathering.com">www.donealgathering.com</a>
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	Donegal Gathering is a key initiative of the Donegal Diaspora project bringing together young and old, from near and far, for a truly unique experience. The Donegal Gathering calendar is packed with amazing exhibitions, fun festivals, cracking concerts and sporting events taking place in Donegal.
<b>Budget (if applicable)</b>	N/A
<b>Progress to date within the last two months inclusive of current status</b>	<b>Donegal Gathering website</b>  Donegal Gathering statistics show continuous increase of visits to the website in 2015 compare to last year.  Total website views since January 2015: 120,272 Total Visitors since January 2015: 60,587 <b>(website views in the first 6 months of 2015 have exceeded total website views of 2014)</b>  Monthly traffic in 2014 & 2015 was as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• July:- 2014: 12,670 / 21,820 <b>(up 72%)</b></li><li>• August:- 2014: 8,018 / approx. 21,077 <b>(up 163%)</b></li><li>• September:- 2014: 4,020 / approx. 9,000 <b>(up approx. 123%)</b></li></ul> <b>Donegal Gathering Facebook Page</b>  <u>Current Status:</u>  No of Likes: 2,524 Average Monthly Post Reach Aug & Sept 2015: 20,275  A weekly schedule promoting local events is in place.
<b>Project Targets for the next bi-monthly reporting period</b>	Website stats update for Q3 2015
<b>Contact Person</b> <i>(to include telephone number &amp; e-mail address)</i>	Iga Lawne, Tourism Community Support Officer E: <a href="mailto:iga@countydonesaltourism.com">iga@countydonesaltourism.com</a> T: 074-9724475



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall  
Donegal County Council**

**Municipal District: ALL**

**Activity / Project Update**

	DONEGAL YOUTH COUNCIL
<b>Progress to date within the last two months</b>	<p><b>Road Safety</b> The group are launching a new road safety radio on dangers of drink driving in conjunction with the Donegal Road Safety Working Group which will run on Highland Radio, Ocean FM and also iradio from Oct 1<sup>st</sup>-16th. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> ad the group have completed and will complete 2 more radio ads on different topics between now and the end of the year on the topics of mobile phone use and driver fatigue. DYC have also linked with Donegal star Ryan McHugh to launch a new road safety poster initiative for schools. The group will also be assisting at the upcoming DCC Road Safety Roadshow on October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b>Web Safety</b> The group are launching a Web Safety Survey for Donegal Results on October 12<sup>th</sup> in Donegal Youth Service headquarters. The survey details the findings of surveys of online use and behaviour with young people from all over the county.</p> <p><b>Shake up Sports</b> Donegal Youth Council are running their <i>Shake Up Sports</i> initiative in the Buncrana on October 20th. <i>Shake Up Sports</i> is a major project that members of the Youth Council have been responsible for developing since the beginning of this year, with the first event welcoming 100 6<sup>th</sup> Class students from surrounding Finn Valley area Primary schools. There will be another Shake Up Sports in Letterkenny in late November.</p> <p><b>Party in the Park</b> The group were involved in organising a major Party in the Park “Lets Go Mental” event on Wed August 26<sup>th</sup> which will promoted positive mental health messages throughout the day with music and other fun activities. Up to 1000 people attended the event.</p> <p><b>Donegal Young Carers</b> DYC continuing to link with Young Carers Working group in development of strategic plan to support young carers in the county. Earlier this year Youth Council produced short film to highlight the issue of young carers and have been working to have it shown in all schools across the county during Young Carers week in late October.</p> <p><b>Mental Health</b> DYC were also involved in helping launch the new Read Your Mind project by Jigsaw, which has been the development of newly available Mental Health books and resources through Donegal libraries.</p> <p><b>Norway</b> DYC have completed application to develop a youth exchange for the Youth Council in 2016, which would see a partnership with the Nordland Youth Council.</p> <p><b>2016</b> 4 Youth Councillors participated in a Consultation in Dublin called “A Future Vision for Ireland” on September 30<sup>th</sup> which explored how Ireland should involve young people in the 2016 celebrations next year.</p>
<b>Project Targets</b>	<p>Road Safety Roadshow Shake Up Sports Inishowen &amp; Letterkenny Dail na nOg 27<sup>th</sup> November in Croke Park – 8 members of the Youth Council will represent the Youth Council at the National Youth parliament event.</p>
<b>Contact</b>	Martin Keeney 0876806676 <a href="mailto:youthcouncil@donegalyouthservice.ie">youthcouncil@donegalyouthservice.ie</a>



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

**Municipal District: ALL**

**Activity / Project Update**

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	Donegal County Museum events for Wainfest 2015
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	The Museum is organising 2 events during Wainfest 2015, Children's Arts and Book Festival.
<b>Progress to date within the last two months</b>	<p>As part of Wainfest 2015, the Children's Arts and Book Festival organised by Donegal County Council's Cultural Services, the Museum is organising 2 events as follows:</p> <p>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October: Children in the Workhouse, in conjunction with the Archives Service, schools have the opportunity to learn more about the lives of children in Letterkenny Workhouse – booking required.</p> <p>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2pm and 3.30pm – Scary Stories in the County Museum, in conjunction with ShopLK (Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce) and as part of the Wainfest Family Fun Day.</p>
<b>Contact Person</b> <i>(to include telephone number &amp; e-mail address)</i>	Judith McCarthy, 074 9124613, museum@donegalcoco.ie



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

**Electoral Area:- ALL**

**Activity / Project Update**

<b>Activity Title</b>	'County Donegal in 1916' Heritage Education Pack
<b>Activity Description</b>	<p>The 'County Donegal in 1916' Heritage Education Pack is a collaborative effort between the Donegal County Archives, Donegal County Museum, County Donegal Heritage Office and Donegal County Library Service. The heritage education pack will be composed of an illustrated booklet and 15-18 facsimile documents contained within a designed folder that address the material heritage related to key selected themes. The heritage education pack will be aimed at teachers, students and a general audience and 5,000 copies will be produced. The aims of this Heritage Plan action are to: (i) raise awareness of society and culture in County Donegal in 1916, (ii) set national events (such as the Easter Rising) and international events (such as the First World War, the Battle of the Somme and the Battle of Jutland) in the context of their effects on society in County Donegal, (iii) recognise the role that key individuals from County Donegal played in national/international events in 1916 and (iv) communicate the material culture of County Donegal in 1916 through key documents and artefacts. The production of the heritage education pack is an action of the County Donegal Heritage Plan (Action 3.4).</p>
<b>Budget (if applicable)</b>	€11,334
<b>Progress to date within the last two months – inclusive of current status</b>	Meetings and on-going research by Donegal County Archives, Donegal County Museum, County Donegal Heritage Office and Donegal County Library Service.
<b>Project Targets for the next bi-monthly reporting period</b>	Finalisation of content by Donegal County Archives, Donegal County Museum, County Donegal Heritage Office and Donegal County Library Service. Design and printing of heritage education pack.
<b>Contact Person</b> <i>(to include telephone number &amp; e-mail address)</i>	Joseph Gallagher, Heritage Officer, County Donegal Heritage Office, Donegal County Council, Station Island, Lifford, County Donegal Telephone: (074) 917 2576 E-mail: heritage@donegalcoco.ie



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

**Electoral Area:- ALL**

**Activity / Project Update**

<b>Activity Title</b>	Maritime Built Heritage Study in County Donegal (Phase I)
<b>Activity Description</b>	<p>As part of the implementation of the County Donegal Heritage Plan (Action 5.8), the County Donegal Heritage Forum, Donegal County Council in association with The Heritage Council will be commissioning of a Maritime Built Heritage Study. The aims of this Heritage Plan action are to (i) provide an overview of the maritime heritage and history of County Donegal (circa 1600 – present); (ii) record the location and material heritage of piers and associated buildings in County Donegal; (iii) establish a searchable database of piers, quays, slipways and landing places in County Donegal in consultation with Donegal County Council; (iv) assess the heritage value of piers and associated structures; (v) produce a photographic record of, and field sheet and site map for, each pier/quay/slipway/landing place site surveyed; (vi) interrogate existing sources of information on our maritime built heritage to assist in its interpretation and presentation; (vii) prepare narrative on seven locations that highlight the ways in which our built heritage facilitates the interpretation and presentation of the maritime story of County Donegal based on consultation with key stakeholders; and (ix) deliver a report and public presentation on the findings of the study. Phase I involves desk study and selected field survey phase of the study.</p>
<b>Budget</b> <i>(if applicable)</i>	€14,500 (Phase I)
<b>Progress to date within the last two months – inclusive of current status</b>	Terms of reference for study prepared and proposals sought.
<b>Project Targets for the next bi-monthly reporting period</b>	Assessment of proposals, procurement of researchers and initiation of study.
<b>Contact Person</b> <i>(to include telephone number &amp; e-mail address)</i>	Joseph Gallagher, Heritage Officer, County Donegal Heritage Office, Donegal County Council, Station Island, Lifford, County Donegal Telephone: (074) 917 2576 E-mail: heritage@donegalcoco.ie



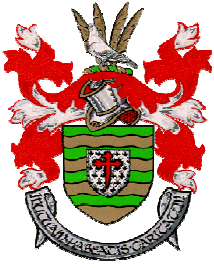


**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

**Municipal District:- ALL**

**Activity / Project Update**

<b>Activity Title</b>	New County Donegal Heritage Plan
<b>Activity Description</b>	<p>The County Donegal Heritage Office and the County Donegal Heritage Forum in partnership with The Heritage Council is in the process of preparing the new, five-year County Donegal Heritage Plan. The aim of the Heritage Plan is to raise awareness, understanding and appreciation of the rich and diverse heritage of our county; to promote its conservation, enhancement and enjoyment; and to sustainably harness the economic, social and cultural benefits of heritage for current and future generations. The objectives of the Heritage Plan are to: (i) increase knowledge and awareness, and promote appreciation and enjoyment of County Donegal's heritage to reinforce our sense of place and identity, (ii) promote and encourage best practice in the conservation and management of our heritage, (iii) encourage partnership, networking and active engagement with our heritage, (iv) promote heritage education, training, tourism and outreach activities, and (v) collect data on heritage, inform decision-making and promote economic, cultural and social development. The County Donegal Heritage Forum prepares and submits an annual application to The Heritage Council for matching funding for the implementation of Heritage Plan actions. The plan will also be implemented through other functions undertaken by Donegal County Council, including its culture, community and economic development functions. Over the lifetime of the County Donegal Heritage Plan (2007-2013), it is estimated that Donegal County Council, The Heritage Council and other County Donegal Heritage Forum partners have invested at least €750,000 in the implementation of County Donegal Heritage Plan actions.</p>
<b>Budget (if applicable)</b>	N/A
<b>Progress to date within the last two months – inclusive of current status</b>	The County Donegal Heritage Plan (2014-2019) was adopted unanimously by the elected members of Donegal County Council at their meeting on July 27, 2015.
<b>Project Targets for the next bi-monthly reporting period</b>	Design of the new County Donegal Heritage Plan.
<b>Contact Person</b> <i>(to include telephone number &amp; e-mail address)</i>	Joseph Gallagher, Heritage Officer, County Donegal Heritage Office, Donegal County Council, Station Island, Lifford, County Donegal Telephone: (074) 917 2576 E-mail: heritage@donegalcoco.ie



# Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall Donegal County Council

## Seirbhísí Uisce agus Timpeallachta. Water and Environment Services.

Tel/Guthán: (074) 9153900 Fax/Facs: (074) 9172812.  
[www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie) [www.ccdhunnangall.ie](http://www.ccdhunnangall.ie)

### **ENVIRONMENT SECTION REPORT OCTOBER 2015.**

#### **Waste and Litter.**

Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2015, this legislation has been enacted and will come into effect over the next year. It will make provision for the introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices under the Air Pollution Act 1987 and the Waste Management Act 1996.

Litter control and enforcement continue to be undertaken by the Councils Mobile Litter Units and Litter wardens, in conjunction with community groups and individual members of the public.

In one case a clean-up of a very remote beach produced 1.1 tonnes of seaborne litter, thanks to the efforts of the local community and farmers.

Waste and Litter Enforcement has resulted in 700 Complaints to the Council,  
113 Fixed Penalty Notices issued  
39 referrals to the Councils Solicitors  
13 cases before the Courts  
4 Convictions.

#### **Backyard Burning and Bonfires.**

With Halloween approaching the Council will be actively ensuring that the Prohibition on the Burning Waste Regulations is enforced. The Council will be particularly trying to prevent the opportunistic burning of waste items such as tyres, furniture, bedding and general household waste.

Such activities generate huge plumes of noxious smoke that can damage both public health and private property and the Council will endeavour to prevent such activities over this period.



# Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall Donegal County Council

*In association with*  
**Bryson Recycling Ltd**

## **FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION**

Cleaning Agents including bleaches, Waste Medicines, Batteries, Antifreeze, Herbicides (weed killers), Pesticides, Adhesives, Old Paints, (No empty paint tins please), Paint stripper/thinner, Aerosols, Inks, Waste Oil.

**All containers, bottles, etc, must be labelled and materials clearly identifiable**

### **Saturday 3rd October**

9am - 12pm: Milford Recycling Centre, Moyle Road, Milford (074 9163185).  
2pm - 5pm: Stranorlar Recycling Centre, Railway Road, Stranorlar (074 9175001).

### **Saturday 10th October**

9am – 12pm: Carndonagh Recycling Centre, Railway Road, Carndonagh (074 9329460).  
2pm – 5pm: Letterkenny Recycling Centre, Carnamuggagh, Letterkenny (074 9125822).

### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

9am - 12pm: Dungloe Recycling Centre, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Dungloe (074 9522689).  
2pm - 5pm: Laghey Recycling Centre, Laghey (074 9723669).

**Staff from Bryson Recycling will be available on site to accept any non-hazardous waste at a cost of €3 per standard black bag and sorted recyclable materials for €4 per car load.**

**For further information contact the relevant Recycling Centre or Donegal County Council Office on (074) 9153900.**

**Bryson**  
**Recycling**  
*Building Better Futures*

Donegal County Council congratulates Letterkenny on historic Tidy Towns success. This is a fantastic achievement for Letterkenny and for Donegal. Letterkenny Tidy Towns have worked tirelessly over the years and truly deserve the accolades that they are now receiving.

The Tidy Towns competition covers a very broad spectrum of categories including the Community Involvement and Planning, Built Environment and Streetscape, Landscaping and Open Spaces, Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities, Tidiness and Litter Control, Sustainable Waste and Resource Management, Residential Street and Housing Areas, Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes.

Letterkenny gained a total of 9 points from last year which shows how much the committee and volunteers increased their efforts which has resulted in Letterkenny being awarded the title of Ireland's Tidiest Town. Letterkenny also took the title of Ireland's Tidiest Large Urban Centre, a Gold Medal Award, the North West and West Regional Award and the County Award. Letterkenny Tidy Towns are and have been an example to other towns and villages in the County and many others will be encouraged by this win. Special mention must also go to the other towns that won awards, Glenties and Buncrana achieving Gold Medals, Malin, Carraig Airt and Raphoe achieving Silver Medals Awards. Glenties were commended in the County Awards with Malin being Highly Commended. Ballyshannon really impressed this year with an Endeavour Award by receiving an increase of 21 points from 2014. Carraig Airt also won the Value Water Award for Best Small Town and were Highly Commended in the Gaeltacht Award. Finally special mention must go to David Davin from Donegal Town Tidy Towns for being named a Supervalu Tidy Towns Hero 2015.

While it is indeed important to give special mention to those groups that won awards at the national ceremony, praise must be given to all Tidy Towns groups that entered the national competition. A total of 36 groups from Donegal entered this year's competition and every group increased their marks from 2014. This is a testament to the work carried out by volunteers at a local level. This year also saw many changes to the structure of the competition and all groups have embraced those changes.

Donegal County Council will continue to support and provide advice to Tidy Towns groups through the provision of small grants, attending Tidy Towns meetings and delivering workshops and organising seminars on topics such as Sustainable Waste and Resource Management.



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

## Donegal Municipal District Meeting of 13th October 2015 Motions & Questions

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**Agenda Item No.51**

Office Ref:DLMD-2015-09001

**Submitted by Clr. Barry O Neill****Assigned to:** Roads and Transportation**Motion** That this Municipal District Council abolishes Car Parking charges in the town of Ballyshannon**Signed off by:** MARK SWEENEY

**Response:** The Donegal County Council (Parking Places) Bye-Laws 2004 relate the following towns, Ballybofey, Stranorlar, Donegal Town and Ballyshannon.  
The Council are currently reviewing these By-Laws with a view to updating them in line with the report previously presented at the Workshop meeting held on 8th September 2015.  
To assist the Members in their consideration of this motion our review will include an analysis of the parking statistics in Ballyshannon together with the a report on the benefits of retaining pay and display in the Town.  
Subject to workload I hope to be able to present the Bye-Law review and Ballyshannon report before the end of the year.

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**Agenda Item No.52**

Office Ref:DLMD-2015-09002

**Submitted by Clr. Niamh Kennedy****Assigned to:** Community and Enterprise**Motion** That this MD along with Failte Ireland reconsider, investigate and resolve the reasons why Kilcar village and the coast road at Kilcar is bypassed (Wild Atlantic Way and Signage).**Signed off by:** Paddy Doherty**Response:** The Council will forward this proposal to Failte Ireland and request a meeting to discuss same.

**Submitted by Clr. Niamh Kennedy****Assigned to:** Roads and Transportation**Question** Can the Municipal District of Donegal consider placing speed ramps at housing estates in this MD and give reasons for and against?**Signed off by:** MARK SWEENEY**Response:** Donegal County Council as part of a pilot scheme set up to coincide with Circular RSD 01/2014 issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport have identified a number of social housing estates where it is proposed to introduce a 30km/hr "Slow Zone" in line with the guidelines issued by the Department. The estates identified in the Donegal MD are as noted below:

1. Emerald Drive Housing Estate in Killybegs.
2. St Theresa's Housing Estate in Bruckless.
3. Mill Race Crescent housing Estate in Donegal Town.
4. Saimer Drive Housing Estate in Ballyshannon
5. Erne Dale Heights Housing Estate in Ballyshannon
6. Elaghmore Housing Estate in Bundoran.

The Slow Zones should be developed and implemented as a Local Authority supported community based approach to reduce speed limits to 30km/hr and to add safety measures within a select area in order to change driver behaviour.

The ultimate goal of a Slow Zone is to lower the incidence and severity of crashes and to enhance quality of life.

Once a Slow Zone has been set up the Local Authority will then monitor vehicular speeds within the estates.

If the vehicular speeds are not adhering to the 30km/hr speed limit (85th percentile) then the Local Authority can apply to the Department for funding to add engineering solutions to the estate to slow vehicles down.

The introduction of speed ramps is one such engineering solution.

The main benefit of the introduction of speed ramps is that they will slow traffic down.

The main drawbacks are as follows:

1. Vehicles tend to speed up between the speed ramps.
2. Speed ramps can cause driver distraction in that the driver focusing on the speed ramps making them less aware of their surroundings..
3. Some residents are happy to see speed ramps but do not want them in front of their property.
4. Speed ramps on steep slopes can be a hazard to the road user.
5. Speed ramps will reduce response times for emergency vehicles.
6. Speed ramps generate increased noise levels from vehicles crossing the ramps.

It is recommended that speed ramps are only installed within self contained sections of an estate with low traffic volumes and not on through roads within the estate where there are higher traffic volumes. Speed ramps in housing estates should only be considered after the introduction of a Slow Zone.

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**Agenda Item No.72**

Office Ref:DLMD-2015-09004

**Submitted by** Clr. Niamh Kennedy

**Assigned to:** Roads and Transportation

**Question** Can this MD implement a pilot scheme for the proper treatment of invasive plant species eg Knotweed?

**Signed off by:** MARK SWEENEY

**Response:** There is currently a pilot project underway within this Municipal District for the treatment of Japanese knotweed.

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Date: 14/9/2015

Dear Bernie,

Can I please request a deputation from the Bundoran surf industry to the November meeting of the Donegal Electoral area meeting.

Killian O'Kelly

6 Bayview tc

Bundoran

Donegal

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