



Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029

March 2024



Cavan

Comhairle Contae an Chabháin
Cavan County Council



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil
an Chabháin
Cavan Local Community Development
Committee



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Message from Cathaoirleach Cllr Philip Brady and Chief Executive Eoin Doyle

As Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive Cavan County Council, it is our privilege to welcome the second Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for County Cavan. LECPs were introduced by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 which recognised and strengthened the crucial role of local authorities in encouraging and promoting local economic and community development in response to local need.

The first Local Economic and Community Plan yielded extraordinary results for County Cavan and this new six year LECP builds on those achievements and has allowed us to refocus our vision and provide a strong framework to continue our support for sustainable growth for our local economy and communities.

An extensive process of engagement capturing the views of elected members, businesses, communities, and stakeholders throughout County Cavan has been carried out during the preparation of the plan. The Plan's ambition *'For County Cavan to become a place where people have more opportunities to thrive economically, with a sense of community that is strong, and people can connect not just with each other but also with the services they require and where people can live in an unique enhanced natural environment'* reflects the priorities that the citizens and businesses of Cavan cherish and value. We thank all those who have participated in the process.

The high level goals, outputs and outcomes that have been chosen to meet the LECP's ambition will require collaborative effort from key stakeholders from across different sectors to ensure that the plan will be successful in addressing the needs of both communities and businesses and enhance County Cavan as a place to live, work, and invest.

We would like to thank all those who have participated in the process of development of the LECP 2024-2029, especially the members of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee, the Local Community Development Committee and the LECP Advisory Steering Group. We look forward to working with all stakeholders and seeing the positive results which our collaboration will bring.

Cllr Philip Brady
Cathaoirleach
Cavan County Council

Mr Eoin Doyle
Chief Executive
Cavan County Council



Joint statement from the Chair of Economic Development, Enterprise, and Planning Strategic Policy Committee Cllr John Paul Feeley and Chair of the LCDC Jim Maguire

We are delighted to present the *Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)* for County Cavan 2024-2029.

This Plan comprises two distinct elements: the LECP Framework and the Implementation Plan.

The **LECP Framework** covers the period from 2024-2029. The economic and community strategic objectives are set out in the 'High-Level Goal.' The 'Objectives' identify more specific areas to be addressed, while the 'Outcomes' define the key targets for the six-year period of the Plan.

The **Implementation Plan** is more short-term, covering a two-year period, setting out objectives and key performance indicators. The Implementation Plan will be reviewed and revised every two years.

The change to the format of the LECP provides greater flexibility in addressing new issues and needs as they arise.

At the outset of drafting this Plan, a socio-economic statement encapsulating relevant data was prepared. All stages of development involved comprehensive stakeholder and public consultation.

The Goals, Objectives, Outcomes, and Actions were checked to ensure that they addressed the cross-cutting priorities of sustainability, equality, poverty, rurality, age and disability.

Community elements of the Plan aim to improve public transport, increase access to education and training, nurture cultural creativity, enhance wellbeing and health, and promote sustainability.

The economic elements aspire to improve the business environment, spur urban and rural regeneration, attract investment, provide training and skills, support existing businesses, and expand sustainable tourism development.

The LECP has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Economic and Community Plan Guidelines* issued by the Government in 2021 and in light of international, national and local policy including the *UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the *National Planning Framework*, the *National Development Plan*, the *Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly*, the *North-East Regional Enterprise Plan*, and our own *Cavan County Development Plan* and the *Cavan Digital Strategy*.

It is the responsibility of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee of Cavan County Council and Cavan LCDC to monitor the implementation of the LECP. The success of this shared plan will depend on the continued excellent collaboration that exists between all stakeholders in the county.

We would like to thank those who have taken responsibility for implementation of specific actions. All agencies must work together to deliver the goals, objectives and actions contained in the LECP for the benefit of all people of our County over the next six years.

Joint statement contd.

We hope the Plan, prepared by the LCDC, the Economic Development, Enterprise, and Planning Strategic Policy Committee and approved by Cavan County Council, strikes a balance between long-term aspirations and realistic, achievable goals which can make a tangible difference for people the length and breadth of our County.

We look forward to working together to ensure that the LECP 2024-2029 delivers.

Cllr John Paul Feeley
Chair
Cavan Economic Development,
Enterprise and Planning
Strategic Policy Committee



Mr Jim Maguire
Chair
Cavan Local Community
Development Committee



1

Introduction



1.1 Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029

This document represents Cavan's new Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for the period 2024-2029. This new LECP fulfils the requirements as set-out in the *Local Government Reform Act 2014* and has been developed in accordance with the guidance set out in the Local Economic and Community Plan Guidelines (2021).

The Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan (2024-2029) is an integrated plan that will guide the county's economic and community development over the next 6 years. In doing so, it will look to assist in creating a county that is prosperous, sustainable and inclusive with an excellent quality of life.

The LECP has been prepared by Cavan County Council in conjunction with the Cavan Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning, and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). It has been informed by extensive consultation with communities across Cavan, Elected Members, the private sector, education and training providers, government agencies, and other key stakeholders. Achievements and lessons learned from Cavan's previous LECP (2016-2021) have also been taken into consideration during the development of this plan.

The LECP includes high-level goals, objectives, actions and outcomes for the 6-year period (together these elements are known as the LECP Framework). Prioritised actions are now part of a detailed two-year Implementation Plan that identifies action owners and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to assist with monitoring and evaluation. A revised and updated Implementation Plan will be developed for each subsequent two-year period up to 2029, to reflect progress made and take account of newly emerging policies and programmes.

The plan fully aligns with and supports existing strategies at the local, regional and national level. This includes the National Planning Framework (NPF) (2018), and the National Development Plan 2021-2030; the Northern and Western Regional Assembly Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2020-2032 (NWRA RSES); and relevant policy documents for County Cavan, such as the Connected Cavan Digital Strategy and the County Development Plan (2022-2028). Considering the current climate crisis, the LECP is informed and underpinned by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Government's Climate Action Plan (2021). This will help ensure that climate and biodiversity action is central to Cavan's development moving forward.

The high-level goals, objectives, outcomes and actions were proofed, in consultation with key stakeholders, to ensure they reflected and addressed cross-cutting priorities of sustainability, equality, poverty, rurality, age and disability, as outlined in the LECP guidelines. In doing so, it was also ensured that the LECP supports the public sector duty to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect human rights. The Public Sector Duty or Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty is a legal obligation under the *Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014*.

1.2 Purpose of this document

This document (the Cavan LECP) is comprised of the following chapters:

- An ambition for Cavan developed from the views and feedback provided during the Consultation process reflecting a vision for the future as put forward by Cavan's community and business interests, and various public sector organisations that operate within the County. (Chapter 2)
- A summary of key strategies and plans that the LECP supports, embodies and aligns with at a local, regional and national level. (Chapter 3)
- A summary of key findings from the socio-economic analysis of the county, in areas including demographics, the economy, housing, community, and the environment. (Chapter 4)
- An overview of the consultation process with information on the engagements conducted and key findings identified from the analysis by theme. (Chapter 5)
- An analysis of the county's key strengths, constraints, opportunities and threats (SCOT Analysis) as Cavan moves towards 2029. (Chapter 6)

Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029

- High-level goals, objectives, actions and outcomes for the 6-year period between 2024-2029 that were developed from findings of the analysis and consultation (Chapter 7)
- An initial 2-year implementation plan outlining specific prioritised actions (along with action owners and KPIs) to assist in achieving the high-level goals, objectives and outcomes (Chapter 8)
- An overview of the approach to monitoring and evaluation of the new plan. (Chapter 9)

1.3 LECP Format

The Cavan LECP has been developed in accordance with the guidance set out in the Local Economic and Community Plan Guidelines (2021) (fig. 1.1). The LECP comprises of two distinct elements. These are:

- The **LECP Framework** covering the 2024-2029 period which consists of the high-level goals, the objectives, actions and the outcomes. The high-level goals establish the strategic direction of the Cavan LECP in relation to both economic and community elements, the objectives identify more specific areas to address. The actions are the activities that need to be carried out to realise the objectives. Finally, the desired outcomes represent key targets for the 6-year period.
- **The Implementation Plan**, which is for an initial 2-years, includes the prioritised actions and KPIs that will help to achieve the goals, objectives and outcomes for Cavan. The Implementation Plan will be reviewed and revised every 2 years.

The change to the format of the LECP process is a positive development that provides additional flexibility so that the plan can adapt to address new issues and needs as they arise over the 6-year period. It also allows Cavan County Council to identify actions that may not be progressing or achieving the envisaged impact and replace them with new actions that better suit the County’s needs in the subsequent implementation plans. Key to realising the benefits of this enhanced flexibility and the overall success of the plan will be clear, concise and regular monitoring and evaluation of progress on the LECP’s actions.

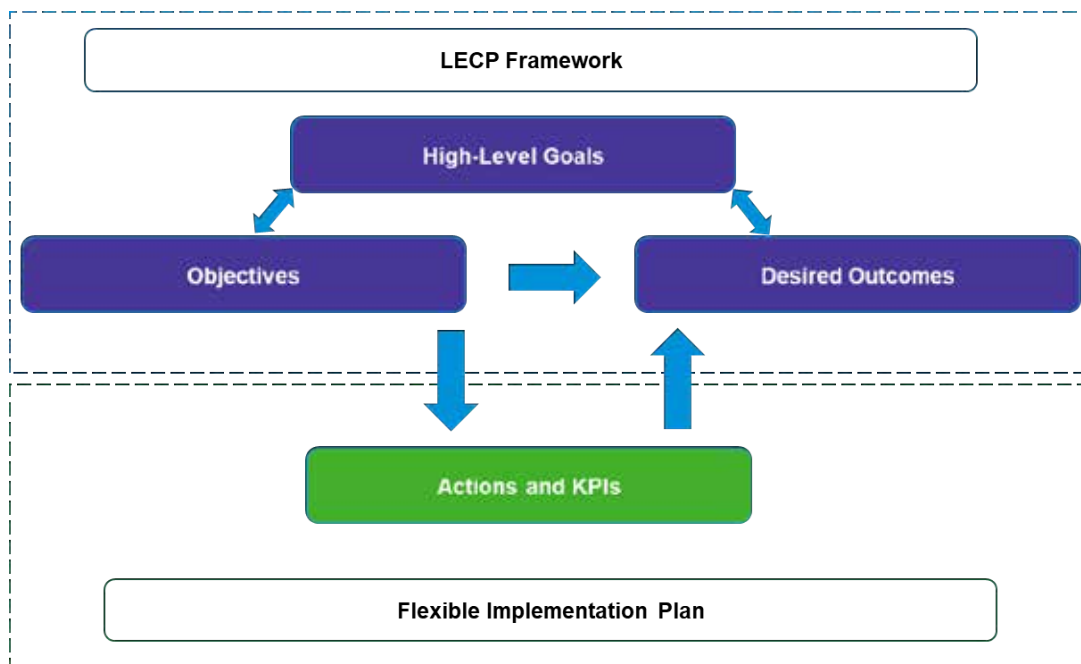


Figure 1.1: LECP Framework and Implementation Plan

Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029

1.4 Preparation of the plan

The plan has been developed through the following stages:

1. **Preparation** – The first stage in developing Cavan’s new LECP was the collation and analysis of socio-economic data from relevant sources (e.g. CSO data) and a review of existing policies and strategies in relation to the context and alignment of the plan. This information was then used in the development of the Socio-Economic Statement which included six draft high-level goals. The Socio-Economic Statement was then put forward for public consultation to generate discussion and ideas for the new LECP.
2. **Consultation** – During this stage an extensive range of public and stakeholder consultation was conducted. This included in-person community sessions in each Municipal District, written submissions on the draft Socio-Economic Statement, two online surveys (community and business sector), workshops, and a number of key stakeholder interviews. Views, ideas and suggestions were received from the public, community representative groups, local government, state agencies, education providers and the private sector. Following the conclusion of the initial round of intense consultation, the draft high-level goals were revised to reflect the views provided by the community, private sector and other key stakeholders.
3. **Development of the Objectives, Outcomes and Actions** – During the third stage, the objectives, actions and outcomes for the 6-year period were developed. These elements were developed from the findings of the analysis of data and the consultation process in stage 2. They were also informed by a second short period of consultation with key stakeholders to aid the creation of the Implementation Plan. During this round, actions were prioritised and refined. Proposed action owners/enabling agencies were further consulted with on the objectives, outcomes and actions to ensure buy-in and alignment of views and ambition. The goals, objectives, outcomes and actions were checked to ensure that they covered the crosscutting priorities of sustainability, equality, poverty, rurality, age, and disability outlined in the LECP guidelines, as well as for alignment with local, regional and national policy.
4. **Finalise Plan** – Following approval of the Objectives, Outcomes and Actions, input from the Regional Assembly and Municipal Districts was sought and incorporated into a Draft LECP. A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening report and Appropriate Assessment Screening report were also conducted following completion of the draft plan. The plan was then revised and finalised following the receipt of feedback. Subsequently, Cavan’s new LECP was formally approved by Cavan County Council on **11/03/2024**.

1.5 Responsibilities in developing the LECP

While extensive consultation with the community and private sector was carried out in the development of the new LECP, in line with and even beyond the LECP Guidelines, the following responsibilities were assigned for the development of the plan:

- LECP Advisory Steering Group (ASG): The ASG provided oversight for the overall development of the LECP
- Local Community Development Committee (LCDC): The LCDC was responsible for the preparation of the community elements of the LECP
- Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning: The SPC was responsible for the preparation of the economic elements of the LECP
- Regional Assembly: The Northern and Western Regional Assembly was consulted for inputs to ensure consistency and alignment with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 (RSES).
- Municipal Districts: The Municipal Districts of Bailieborough-Cootehill, Ballyjamesduff and Cavan-Belturbet were consulted for input and consistency in relation to the economic and community elements of the plan and with the existing County Development Plan.

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1.6 An Integrated and Collaborative Approach

This LECP covers both community and economic development as required by the LECP guidelines. However, in contrast to the previous iteration, the community and economic elements are not separated into different sections. Instead, the goals, objectives and actions have been developed using an integrated approach reflecting the cross-cutting and interlinked nature of economic development and community wellbeing.

The **community elements** of the plan have been developed and approved by the Cavan LCDC. It includes goals, objectives and actions related to enhancing inclusion, public transport, wellbeing and health, education and training, the culture and creative sector and sustainability. The **economic elements** have been developed and approved by the Cavan SPC for Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning. It includes goals, objectives and actions related to improving the business environment, urban and rural regeneration, attracting investment, training and skills, supporting existing businesses and sustainable tourism development.

As outlined in the subsequent chapters, the new LECP has been developed to be a shared plan that will require collaboration between key stakeholders from across different sectors for it to be a success. This will include Cavan County Council, the public, the private sector, community and voluntary groups, education and training providers, and other key stakeholders that provide vital services in the county. It is through this collaborative effort that this plan will succeed in addressing the needs of all the community and businesses, and enhance the county as a place to live, work, visit and invest.

1.7 Overriding Status of the Plan

Implementing this plan will involve Cavan County Council helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans setting out public policy for sustainable development, including that relating to the economy, communities, infrastructure, land use, tourism, and environmental protection and management.

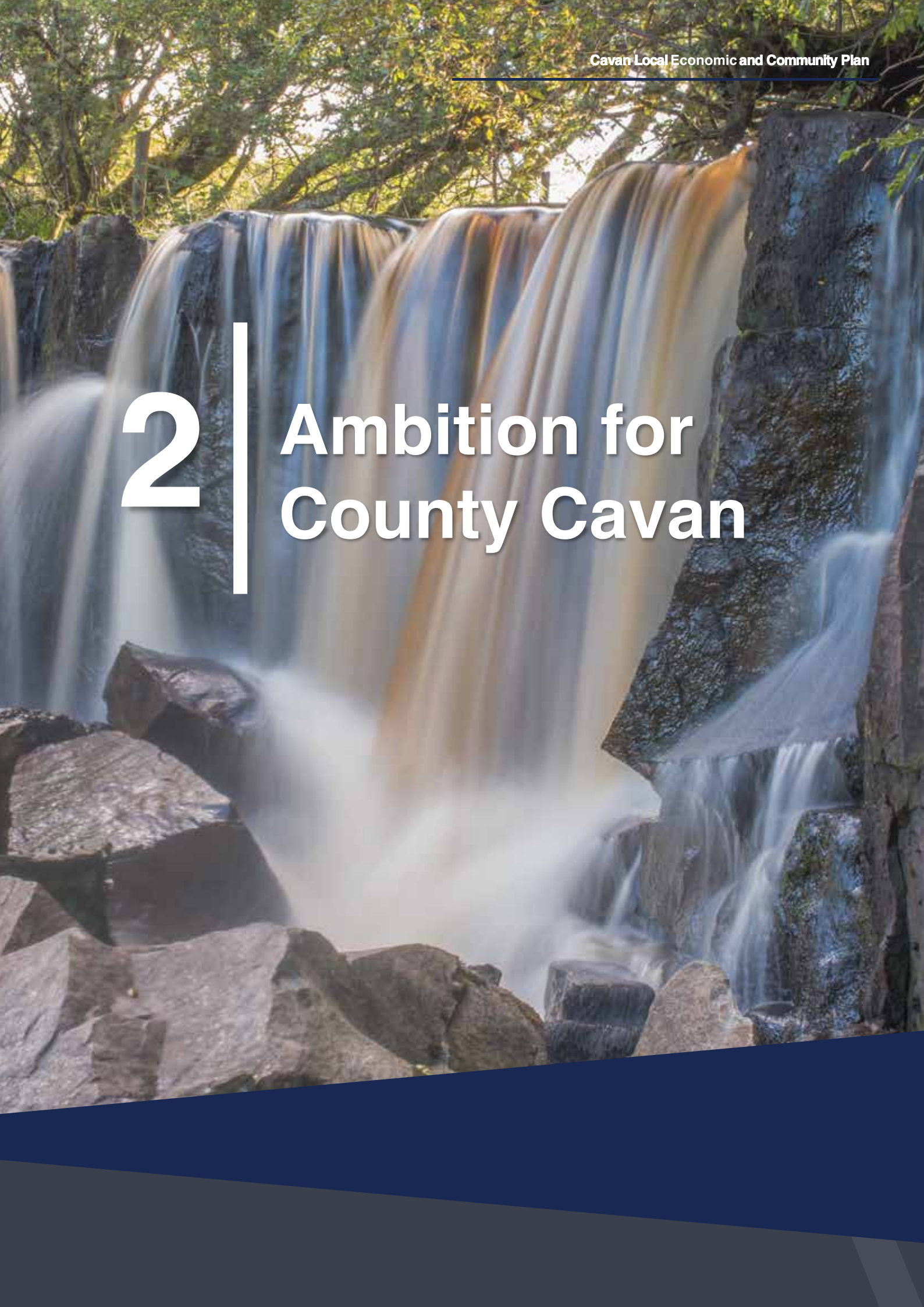
This plan is situated alongside this hierarchy of statutory documents that has been subject to environmental assessment/screening, as appropriate, and forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and will not be binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent.

As previously noted, the plan fully aligns with the provisions of the existing National Planning Framework, Ireland 2040, National Climate Action Plan 2023, Housing For All 2021, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 and the current County Development Plan, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening. As such, the plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions.

In order to be realised, projects included in this plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. It is a specific provision of this plan to ensure that all of the provisions from the County Development Plan identified as mitigation in the accompanying Screening for SEA and AA reports shall be complied with throughout the implementation of this plan.

2

Ambition for County Cavan



2.1 Ambition for Cavan

The wide-ranging function of the LECP means that it has the potential to positively impact all those who work and live in, and visit the county. As such, the development of the LECP has provided an opportunity to frame an ambition for the county and its development over the next number of years. The ambition, outlined below, is based around the understanding obtained from the research conducted in the development of the LECP and importantly, through views provided during the consultation process with key stakeholders, the community and the private sector. It builds on solid foundations and reflects reality.

Taking the findings from the analysis and consultation into account, the following ambition has been developed:

Our ambition is for County Cavan to become a place:

- **where people have more opportunities to thrive economically;**
- **with a sense of community that is strong and continues to grow;**
- **where people can connect, not just with each other but also with the services they require; and**
- **where people can live in a unique enhanced natural environment.**



3 | Policy Framework Overview

3.1 Policy Overview – Context and Understanding

This section provides a brief overview of some of the key policies at international, national, regional and local level that are influencing the development of County Cavan and to which the new LECP will be aligned. Given the importance of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the new plan, the SDGs are expanded on in slightly more detail below. The various policy documents helped inform and guide the direction of this LECP and its key elements of goals, objectives, desired outcomes and actions (figure 3.1).

From the review of relevant policies and strategies some of the key areas that County Cavan can draw upon and align with include:

Community

- Providing quality of life through compact and sustainable growth of settlements, associated services and amenities.
- Strengthening local communities to help reverse and address rural decline.
- Capitalising on Cavan’s existing quality of life, natural amenities and cultural heritage to galvanise its strengths as a place to live and work.
- Ensuring the revitalisation of town and village centres to create vibrant settlements across the county.

Economic

- Generating economic growth and diversification of local and regional economies by supporting SME and micro business creation.
- Advancing development of infrastructure to support emerging employment sectors and to embrace new ways of remote and flexible working.
- Encouraging population growth in settlements of all sizes, supported by job creation and enhanced employment opportunities.

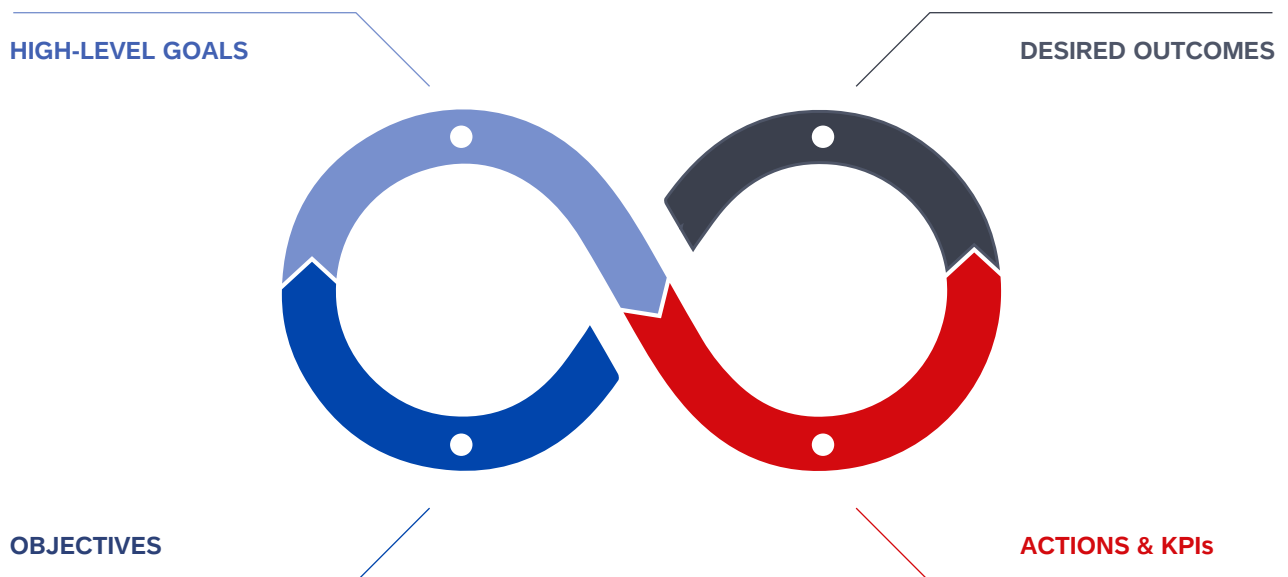


Figure 3.1: Key Elements of the LECP

3.2 International Policy

2030 Agenda – UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries – developed and developing – in a global partnership. They recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go together with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve the natural environment and biodiversity.



Of the 17 SDGs outlined in the 2030 Agenda, several share a strong alignment with the purpose and objectives of the Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan...

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Creating cities, towns, villages and communities which are safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable are key objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals. These objectives are closely aligned with those found throughout Irish spatial planning policy. Ensuring access to high-quality services, creating positive economic, social and environmental links are key to achieving this SDG, and are present throughout County Cavan’s new LECP.



SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

In line with SDG 11, promoting sustained, inclusive economic growth and fulfilling employment for all is strongly aligned with the objectives of the SDGs. Creating a diverse economy, achieving full and productive employment and decent work is a central foundation of both previous and current planning policy for County Cavan.

SDG 13: Climate Action

The urgency and scale of climate action is ever-increasing. The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent public health restrictions has revitalised our sense of value in the natural environment. It has provided a prime opportunity for us to take urgent collective action to combat climate change.



3.3 National Policy

Project Ireland 2040

National Planning Framework

The National Planning Framework (NPF) is a high-level strategy that aims to shape growth and development in Ireland out to the year 2040. The NPF draws upon lessons learned from the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020 and provides a framework for the sustainable development of Ireland’s existing settlements, as an alternative to an uncoordinated “business as usual” approach to development. As a framework document it sets in train a process by which more detailed planning documents must follow, including the relevant Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and County Development Plans. The Strategy also contains a range of National Policy Objectives (NPOs) providing a wider context for targeting future growth across the country.



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

National Development Plan 2021 - 2030

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2030 sets out the investment priorities that underpin the implementation of the National Planning Framework as part of Project Ireland 2040. Through a total investment of €165 billion, this level of capital spending aims to ensure ongoing cross-sectoral regional development and public investment. A large proportion of this investment is directed into major national infrastructure projects. These relate to sustainable mobility, international and regional connectivity, the transitions to a low carbon and climate-resilient economy, compact growth, as well as enhanced amenities and natural and built heritage.

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

3.4 Regional Policy



Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA)

The RSES for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly provides an overarching framework for the creation and enhancement of attractive places with the necessary supporting infrastructures to stimulate enterprise investment and to realise economic potential. The RSES primarily aims to support the delivery of the programme for change set out in Project Ireland 2040 – the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the National Development Plan 2021-2030 (NDP). As the regional tier of the national planning process, it will ensure coordination between the City and County Development Plans (CCDP) and Local Enterprise and Community Plans (LECP) of the nine local authorities in the region in order to achieve the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.



North-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024

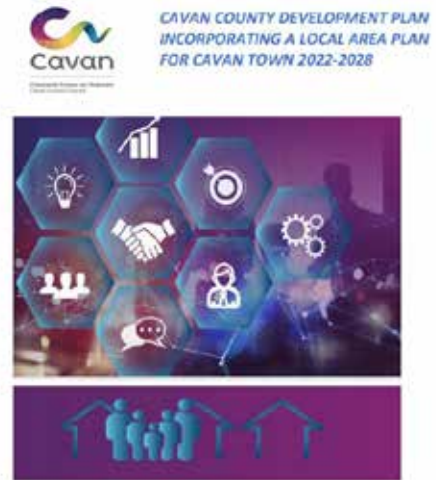
The Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 for the North-East is a strategic regional document which outlines the challenges and opportunities influencing the development of enterprise in the North-East region. Building on the actions achieved through previous Regional Enterprise Plans, the plan focuses on existing and emerging strengths in areas unique to the North-East towards achieving new objectives and actions for the region out to 2024.

The Plan contains five strategic objective areas relating to matters such as promoting the region, the digital economy, supporting SMEs, mainstreaming climate action in enterprise, and developing existing and emerging growth sectors.

3.5 Local Policy

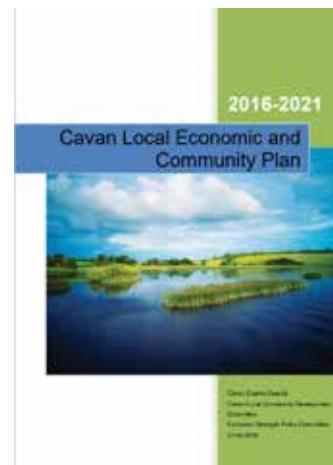
Cavan County Development Plan 2022 – 2028

The Cavan County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 sets out the proposed policies and objectives for the development of the county over the 6-year plan period. The Development Plan seeks to develop and improve, in a sustainable manner, the social, economic, environmental and cultural assets of Cavan. Mandatory requirements include the inclusion of objectives for the zoning of land, the provision of infrastructure, the conservation and protection of the environment, and the integration of planning and sustainable development with the social, community and cultural requirements of the county and its population. The Plan aims to support Cavan’s aim of being a county where people can have a good quality of life, which is a better place to live, work and makes a contribution to national economic growth by promoting sustainable development and facilitating stable economic growth.



Cavan LECP 2016 – 2021

This document is the previous iteration of the Local Economic and Community Plan for County Cavan and identifies goals, objectives and actions to promote and support the economic and community development of Cavan. The Plan was focused on achieving the county vision ‘that Cavan 2021 will be a place that we can be proud of; a place where people can have a good quality of life; a better place to live, to work and to enjoy.’ It has been reviewed for learnings for the new LECP.



Cavan Digital Strategy 2021 – 2024

The Digital Strategy for Cavan 2021-2024 (*Connected Cavan*) aims to encourage and support citizens, businesses, and visitors to harness the potential of a digitally enabled society through digital adoption and innovation. This Strategy will also inform the current and future County Development Plan and new LECP for Cavan. It builds on existing resources, knowledge, networks and plans to “*pave the way for future prosperity, cohesion and sustainability across the economy and communities of the county. ... We commit to develop and activate communities through exposure to digital content and technology and support people to discover the value of using digital in their daily lives*” (Councillor Clifford Kelly, Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council, 2021).



4

Socio-Economic Profile



Snapshot Socio-Economic Analysis

4.1 Introduction

This section provides an initial snapshot overview of a selection of key areas including demographics (population), housing, the economy, social and community, and the environment. The findings from this analysis and the policy review were used as a starting point to identify strengths, constraints, opportunities and threats for the county. The snapshot also informed the development of the initial draft High-Level Goals and were used to stimulate discussion during the consultation process.

The findings outlined below are based on the analysis of 2016 Census and 2022 Census data. Further up-to-date information has also been incorporated from other departmental and agency releases, as well other sources such as the SEAI, Pobal, and GeoDirectory.

County Cavan is part of the regional development area administered by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly. This region comprises eight counties (i.e. Galway, Roscommon, Monaghan, Mayo, Leitrim, Donegal, Sligo, Cavan). Within this report whenever the word 'region' is used, it denotes the region covered by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly.

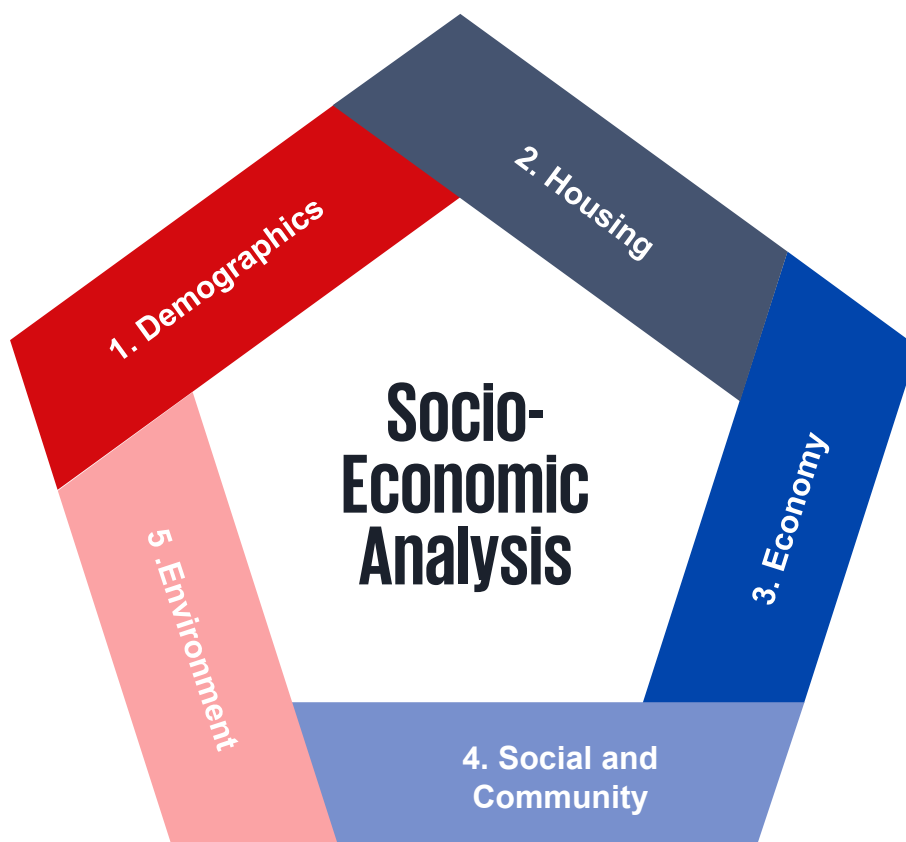


Figure 4.1: Socio-Economic Analysis

4.2 Demographics

Census 2022 results reveal a continued upward population growth trend for Ireland as a whole, with the state's total population increasing 7.6% in 6 years. This increased population trend is also reflected in County Cavan which grew by 7.3% in the same period, the 21st highest growth rate in the country. As recorded on census night 2022, the county's population was 81,704, the 24th most populated county in the state. This figure represents a fifth consecutive census day increase in the population since 1996.

- The county has a low **population density** with an average of 42 people per square kilometre. The western part of the county has a lower population density than the central and eastern parts. The primary urban settlement in the county is Cavan Town (CSO 2022, 11,714 population). The largest town west of Cavan Town is Belturbet (CSO 2022, 1,610 population).
- The 7.3% **population growth rate** between 2016 and 2022 was a substantial increase from the 4.1% growth rate between 2011 and 2016.
- Cavan's population grew both by **new births and inward migration** to the county. The net inward-migration rate for Cavan in 2022 was 5 per 1000 which was slightly less than the rate of natural increase of 6 per 1000.
- Cavan has a growing cohort of older and younger persons. In 2022, the largest **age cohorts** are the 0-9 (13.7%), 10-19 (14.9%), and 40-49 (14.7%) age groups (Figure 4.2). Although only 10% of the population in Cavan belonged to the age cohort of 80 and over, between 2016 and 2022 it was the cohort that experienced the strongest growth (21.7%). In the same period the cohort 30-39 decreased by 5%.
- In 2022, Cavan's population largely consisted of Irish **nationals** at 85.2% of the population. The largest grouping of foreign nationals was those from Poland and the UK which accounted for 2% and 1.9% respectively of the county's population. The number of Ukrainian nationals in the county increased significantly in 2022.
- In 2022, White Irish and White Irish Travellers made up 79.3% of Cavan's population, with 10.7% of the population being members of other White **ethnic groups**. By themselves White Irish Travellers make up .6% of the total population of the county and 4.9% of the population is made up of other ethnic groups.

Cavan - Population by Gender and Age Group (2022)

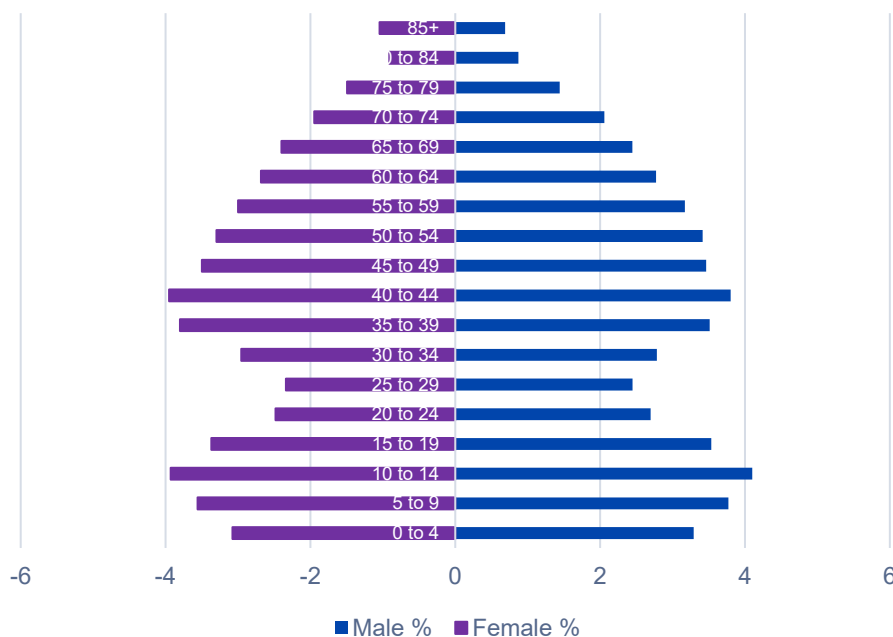


Figure 4.2: Cavan population pyramid

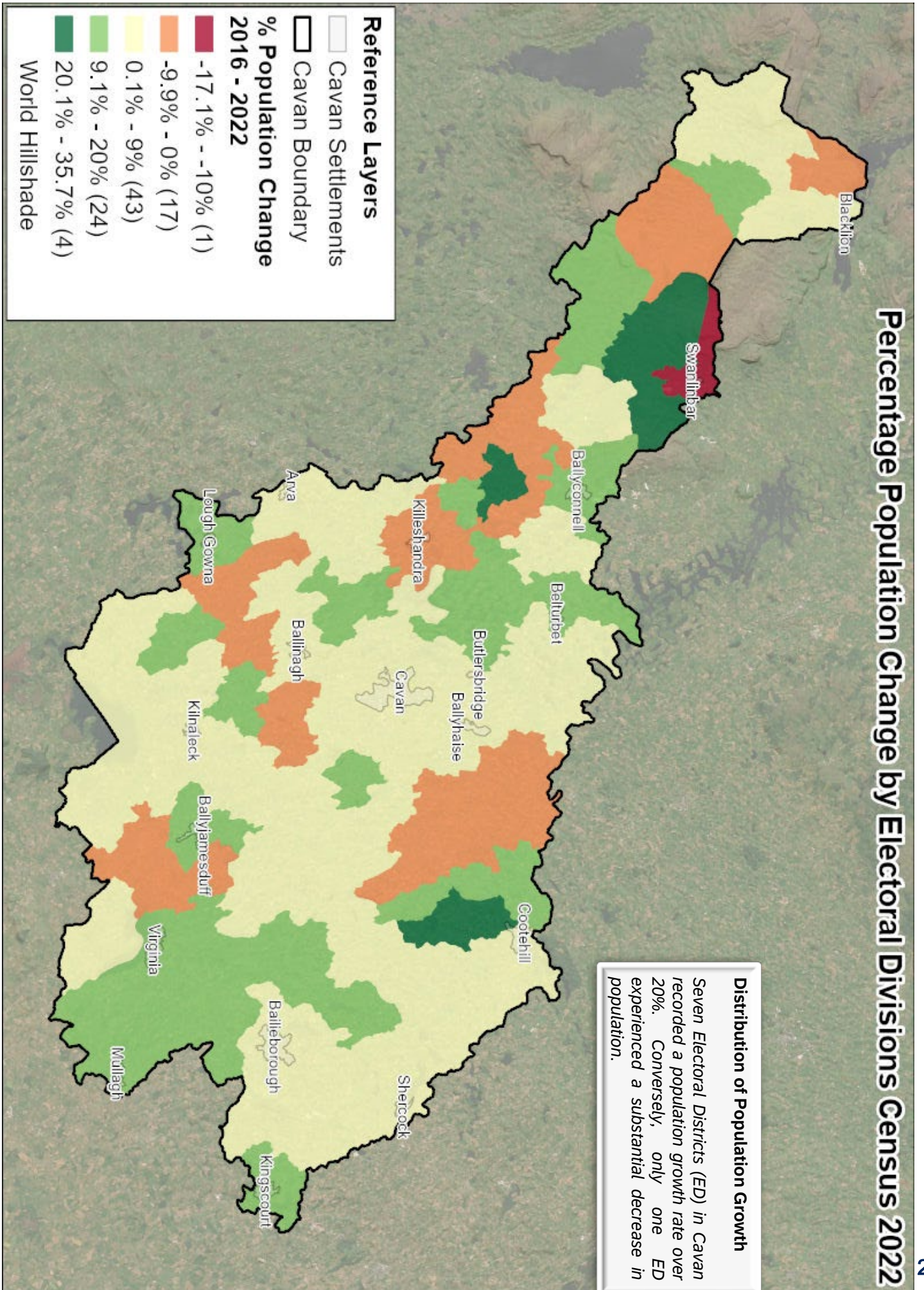


Figure 4.3: Cavan population change according the Electoral Divisions

4.3 Housing

The high population growth rate between the 2016 to 2022 period was not reflected in the housing stock growth rate for the same period, either within the region or across the state. The national housing stock rate increase between 2016 and 2022 was 6%, compared to a 3% increase in Cavan during the same period.

- County Cavan's **housing stock** stood at 34,601 in 2022, which represents an increase of 890 units since 2016.
- In 2022, Cavan County was at the lower end of national league table for **housing construction**, ranking 31st in the country amongst local authority areas.
- 34.9% of Cavan's 2022 **housing units** were built between 2001 and 2010, with only 8.8% of the 2022 housing stock built after 2011.
- As per 2022 Census, Owner occupied with no mortgage and Owner occupied with mortgage made up 40.8% and 28.4% of total **tenures** respectively. By contrast, Rented from a Private Landlord stood at 16%. These figures are broadly in line with regional/national figures.
- There was a 2.9% decline in the home **ownership rates** (from 74.2% to 71.5%) for the county between 2011 and 2016. This was primarily from the group categorised as Owner occupied with mortgage who declined by -4.0%. However, this was partially offset by an 1.1% increase in those categorised as Owner occupied with no mortgage. The same trend continued in 2022 with home ownership rates declining to 69.2% in the county.
- In 2022, Cavan's **housing stock vacancy rate** stood at 11.8% (4,074). The rate was the fifth highest number in the country (accounting for 2.44% of national vacancies) and the fifth highest rate in the region.
- As seen in Figure 4.4, the **top 5 reasons for vacancy** given during the 2022 Census in Cavan were "Deceased" (20%), "Rental Property" (18.7%), "Farmhouse" (11.8%), "Renovation" (11.1%), "Other Reason" (14.8%). The top three reasons account for 51.5% of vacancy.

Reasons for House Vacancy - Cavan, Region, and National 2022

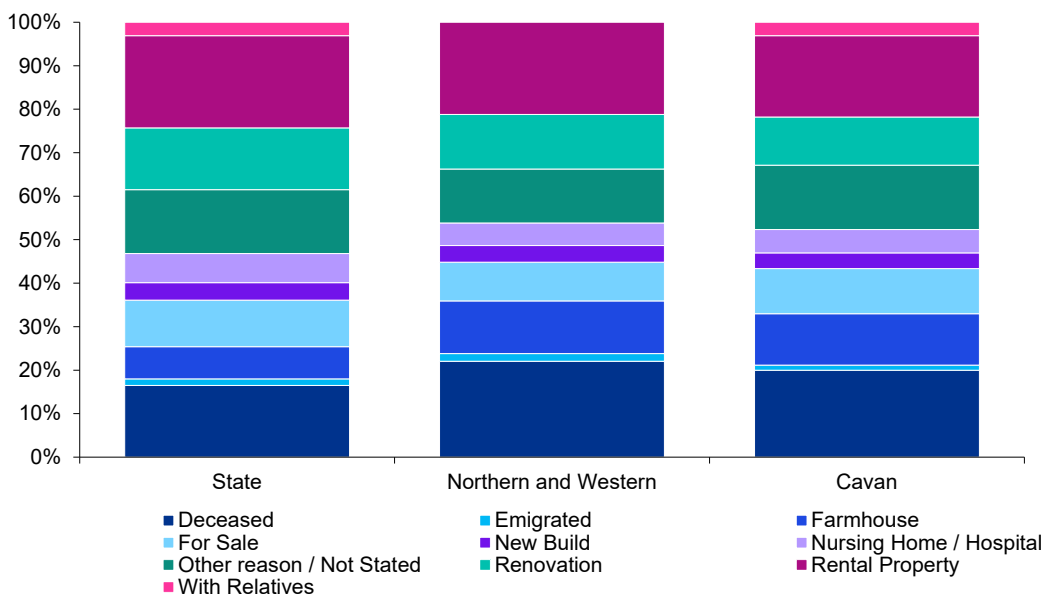


Figure 4.4: Reasons for house vacancy

4.4 Economy

According to the 2022 Census, the economy of Cavan is mixed in character with employment split across different industries. Out of those who are employed, 22.8% work in professional services, 20.5% in commerce and trade, 16.4% in manufacturing, 8.2% in construction and 8.1% in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

- **Notable employers** in the county include Kingspan, Mannok, Tirlan and Saint-Gobain Construction materials. According to the 2016 Census, 15.5% of employment in Cavan was attributed to FDI firms. This is slightly lower than the national average of 16.8.
- **Key economic initiatives** include the county's Food Cluster and Food Strategy, the Cavan Digital Hub, Diaspora Engagement, and Tourism Development Plans. Cavan is also part of the 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands' visitor proposition, devised by Fáilte Ireland.
- In terms of **industry sub-categories**, in 2022 'Professional Services', 'Commerce and Trade', and 'Manufacturing Industries' accounted for 22.8%, 20.5%, 16.4% of employment respectively. In comparison, the share for 'Professional Services' was 25.3% at the regional level and 24.5% at the national level while the share for and 'Manufacturing Industries' was 13% at the regional level and 11.8% at the national level.
- The 2021 Business Demography provides a breakdown of the total **business employment** within the county based on the various size classes. Of the 18,740 employed by businesses: under-10 employee businesses accounted for 27.3% of employment, 10-19 employee businesses accounted for 14.4%, 20-49 employee businesses accounted for 19.2%, 50-249 employee businesses accounted for 27.3%, while 250 and over employee businesses accounted for 11.9%.
- According to the county's socio-economic **Catchment Profiles** (2016), 22.3% of Cavan people commute out of county. According to Census 2016, commuters in Cavan saw the biggest rise in their average commuting time, which rose by 8.8 per cent between 2011 and 2016 to over 28 minutes.
- There are some clear divergences across **gender economic status**. In 2022, 61% of men were employed compared to 49% of women. Between 2016 and 2022 the number of women employed had grown by 17%, while the number of men in employment increased by 14%.
- Between 2015 and 2020, **disposable income** per person rose from €16,518 to €19,697. This is lower than the figure for the Northern and Western Region at €20,254 and the national average of €23,461, as per the 2020 national accounts (Figure 4.5).
- Cavan had the eighteenth highest **business vacancy rate** in the country at 12.9%, as reported in the GeoDirectory Commercial Buildings Report Q2 of 2022.
- Cavan will benefit from the **€65m National Broadband investment** which, once complete, has potential to connect up to 16k premises in the Intervention Area (IA).
- In 2021, Cavan Town was granted **€14.49M for the Cavan Town Regeneration Project** as part of the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.

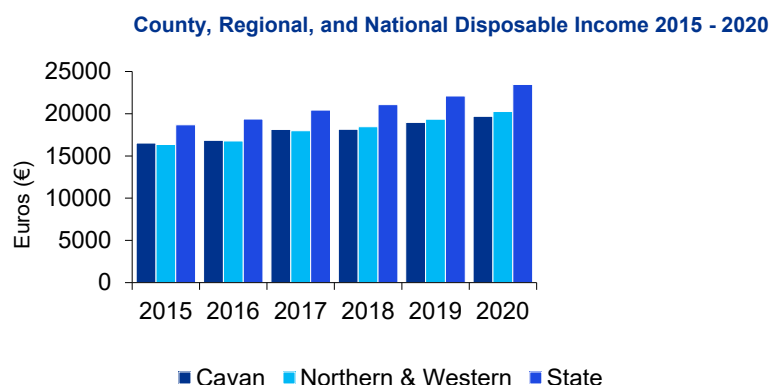


Figure 4.5: Disposable income

4.5 Social and Community

Building a strong community involves addressing interrelated areas such as health, education, social deprivation, and heritage. The following are some key social and community attributes of County Cavan.

- Cavan has a strong **education base**, including Cavan Institute (Further Education and Training college) in Cavan town.
- According to the CSO 2016, 14% of Cavan's population live within 10km of the **north-south border**. A total of 493 people in Cavan crossed the border to work and school (Census 2016).
- In 2022, 30.4% of Cavan's population aged 15 and over have completed some form of **third level qualification**. This is below the region (32.8%) and that of the state (39.2%).
- As of 2021, the most prevalent **category for tertiary qualifications** obtained in Cavan is social sciences, business and law (10%), followed by engineering, manufacturing, and construction (9.5%).
- As depicted in Figure 4.6, based on Census 2022, 60.6% of people in Cavan reported themselves as being in **Very Good Health** which is above figures for both the region (53%) and the state (53.2%). A further 26.8% of people classified themselves as being in **Good Health** which is less than the wider region (30.5%) and the state (29.7%).
- According to the CSO, as of June 6th 2023 84,613 **Ukrainian nationals** arrived in Ireland. Of these, 1,558 (1.84% of the total migrant number) arrived in Cavan.
- The **POBAL Deprivation Index Score** for Cavan in 2022 was -3.99. This classes the county as “marginally below average”. Of the five counties in the Republic of Ireland that bound Cavan, only one – Longford – had a lower index score. 74.1% of people in Cavan live in an area categorised as “marginally below average”/“disadvantaged”. 25.9% are classified as living in a “marginally above average” area according to the Index. The electoral division of Cavan Urban is classified as “disadvantaged” (-16.93) in 2022 (see Figure 4.7).
- In terms of **household composition of family units**, couples/families with children make up 55.4% of households, while single-parent households account for 15% of households.
- Cavan has one of the highest **suicide rates** in the country. Feedback from stakeholders indicates that suicide affects people of all age groups.

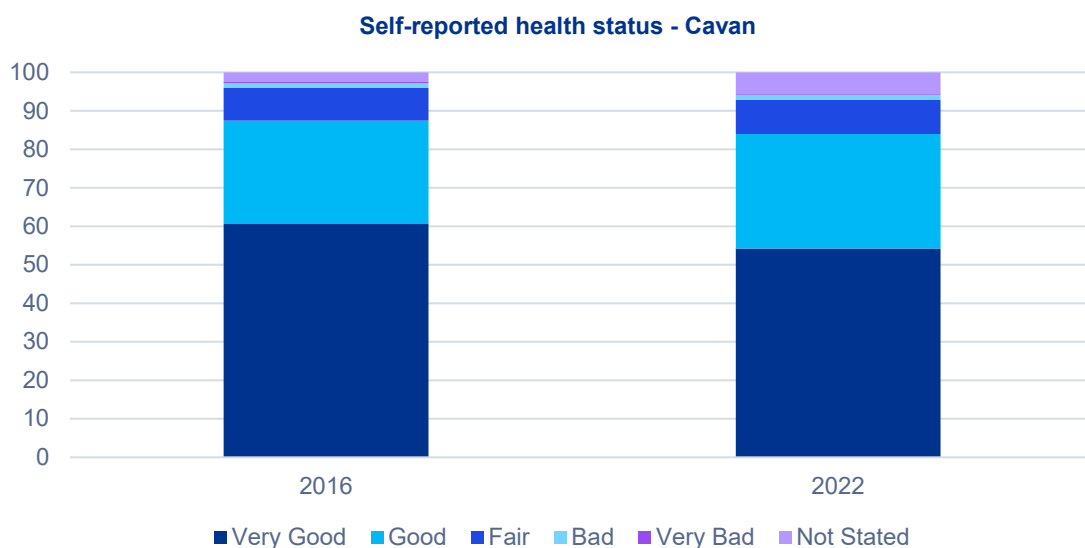


Figure 4.6: Health status

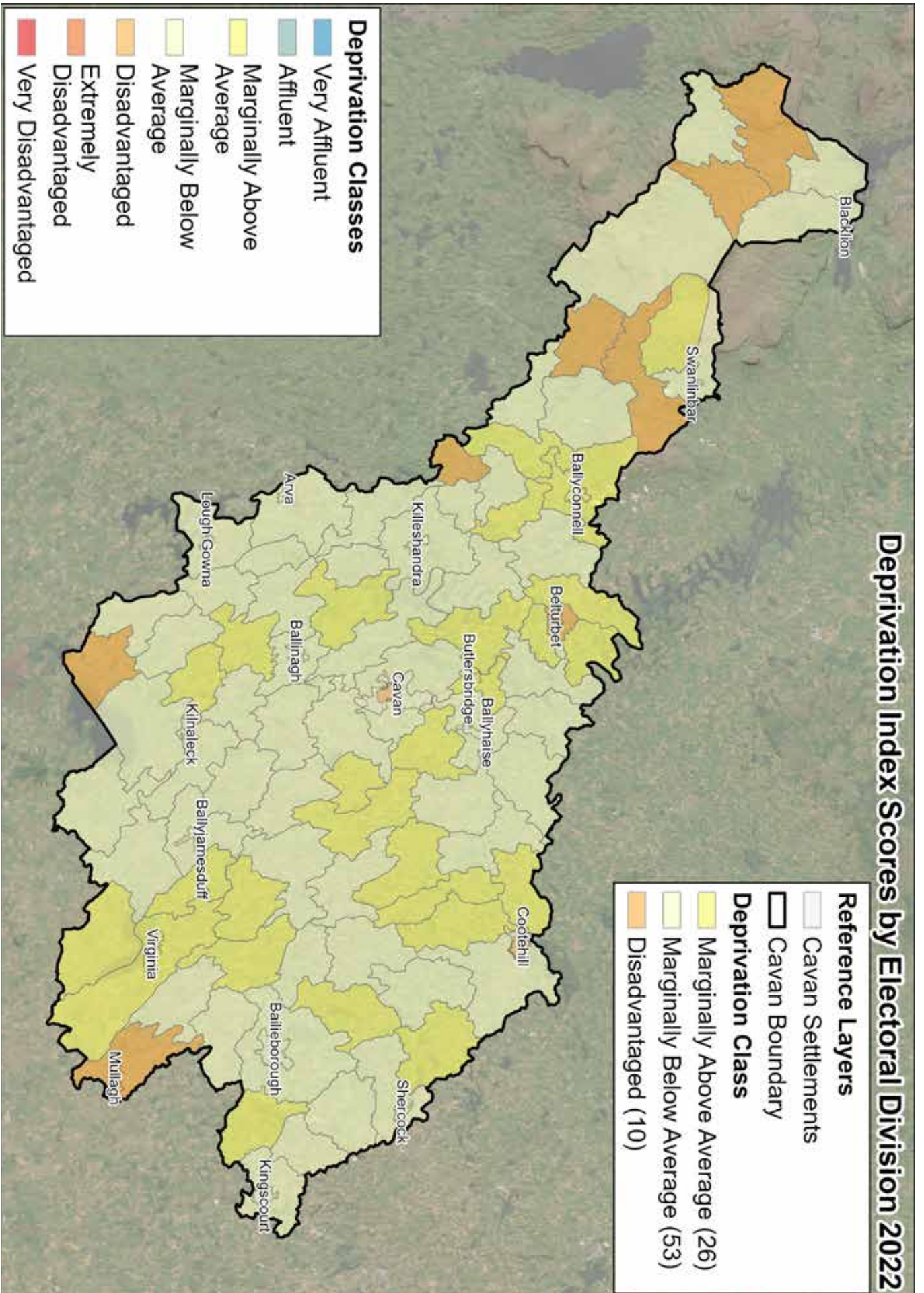


Figure 4.7: Cavan deprivation index scores according the Electoral Divisions

4.5 contd.

- As seen in Figure 4.8, the number of recorded crimes in Cavan/Monaghan Garda Division peaked before the pandemic. From 2021 to 2022 total crimes recorded in the Division increased by 7% (CSO, 2023).

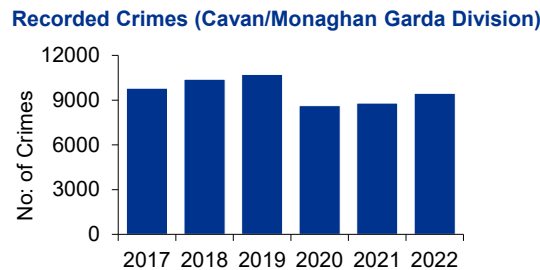


Figure 4.8: Recorded crimes

4.6 Environment

Ireland is facing a climate and biodiversity crisis with EU and national policy necessitating the integration of climate action into all areas of life (incl. industry, building and transportation).

- Just over 23% of households in Cavan use electricity for **heating** with the most prevalent source for domestic heating being oil, representing more than 58% of the county's total energy consumption. Taken together, fossil fuel sources account for 77% of all home heating in Cavan (58% Oil, 8% Mains Gas, 8% LPG, 3% Solid Fuel).
- Data from the SEAI (2022), shows that Cavan's energy efficient buildings are clustered in and around towns and villages with areas with lower **BER ratings** generally situated in rural areas (illustrated in Figure 4.9). According to the Cavan Energy Masterplan, the average BER rating for the homes of households experiencing fuel poverty is E1.
- Approximately 69% of those **commuting** to work, school, college, or childcare in Cavan use a personal motor vehicle while only 18.7% of commuters walk, cycle or use public transport (Census 2022).
- In 2022, the percentage of people '**working at or mainly from home**' in Cavan was 5.2%.
- The SEAI supports 12 **Sustainable Energy Communities** in the county which are focussed on a range of community development and sustainability initiatives.
- From 2021 to 2022, new **electric vehicles** sold in Cavan increased by 35.5% from 76 to 103. As of September 2023, there are 13 EV charging stations in Cavan.
- According to the SEAI's Wind Atlas (accessed 4/12/23) there are 11 **wind farms** in County Cavan. Combined they have a combined maximum export capacity of 130.02MW. Bindoo Wind Farm alone has a maximum export capacity of 48MW.
- In 2022, an EPA study of the **ecological status of Irish rivers** between 2016 and 2021 found that 59% of Cavan's rivers are considered either good or high quality with 20.5% of Cavan's rivers of poor quality (caused primarily by human activity). Meanwhile, 20.8% of lakes were rated as Bad or Poor, with a much lower level of lakes showing Good or High water quality (1% and 2% respectively).
- Flooding** is a major issue for the county. In recent years heavy rain caused significant subsidence in Bailieborough and a landslide at Benbrack Mountain in west Cavan. In Cavan Town, some 54 homes and 56 non-residential properties are currently considered at risk of flooding.
- Cavan county has six Special Areas of Conservation (**SACs**) incl. Boleybrack Mountain, Corratirrim, Cuilcagh – Anierin Uplands, Killyconny Bog, Lough Oughter and the River Boyne and Blackwater. There are three Special Protection Areas (**SPAs**) (incl. Loughs Oughter, Kinale, Derragh, and Sheelin) and two Natural Heritage Areas (**NHAs**) (incl. Slieve Rushen Bog, Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough). Cavan's bogs and other wetlands sequester significant amounts of carbon and provide other services such as water treatment, and help to reduce the risk of flooding.

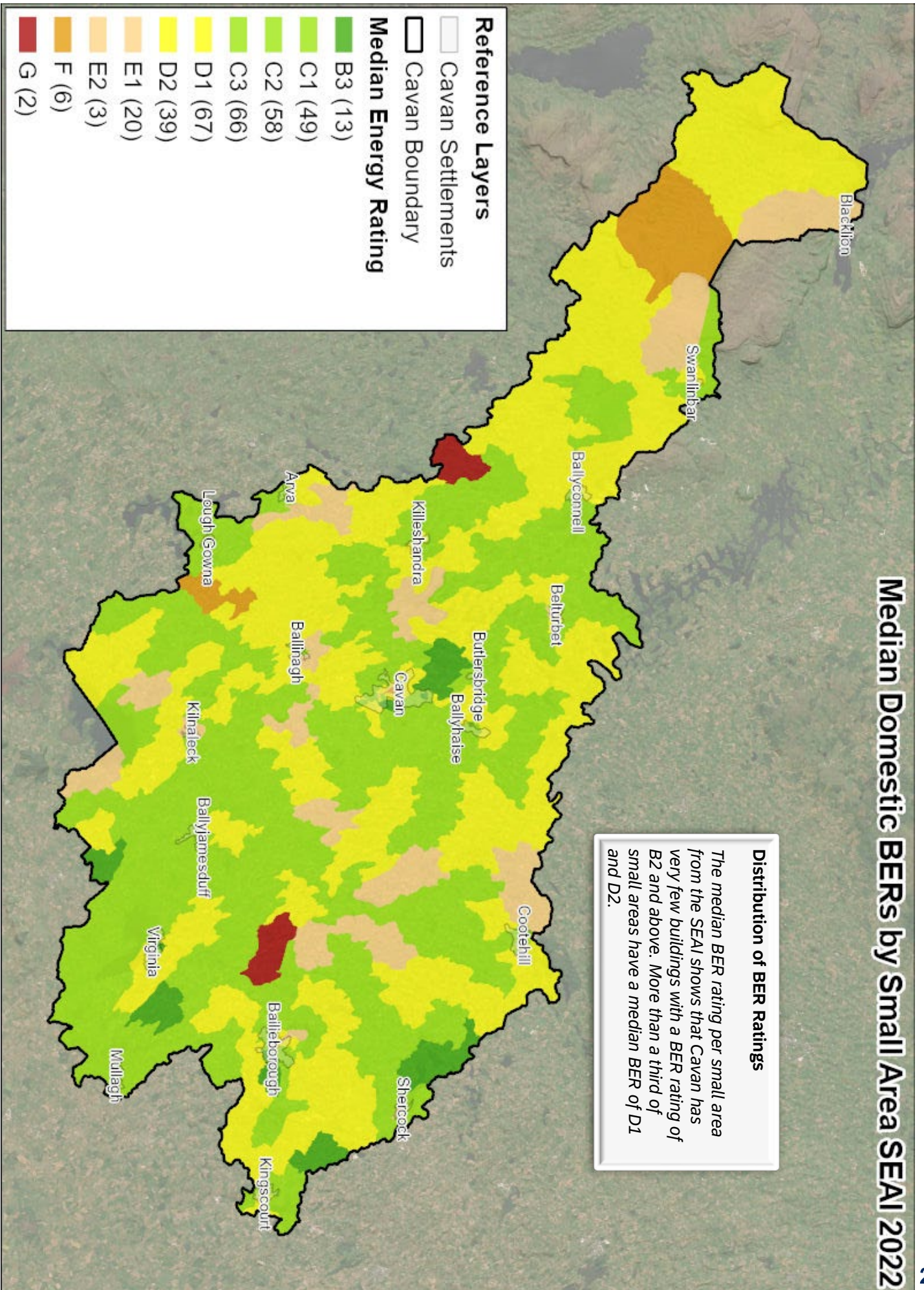


Figure 4.9: Cavan BER scores by Electoral Divisions



5 | SCOT Analysis

5.1 SCOT Analysis

A high level study into Cavan's Strengths, Constraints, Opportunities, and Threats (SCOT) was conducted and several major points across each category were identified.

Strengths – can be understood as the **advantages** of Cavan in the **present day**. They can be seen as a 'snapshot' of the present day.

Constraints – can be understood as the **challenges** facing the county at present.

Strengths

- Cavan has a growing population with early stage families accounting for over a quarter of the population.
- Cavan has a very strong enterprise culture.
- The county has a strong culture of volunteerism and social advocacy – i.e. champions for their communities.
- The local economy is well developed, with over half of businesses in the professional services, commerce and trade, and manufacturing industries. The vast majority of employment in the county is provided by SMEs and micro businesses.
- Notable large employers with roots in the region include Mannok and Kingspan – companies which provide success stories and role-models for local entrepreneurs.
- The county has a developing digital economy – including the Cavan Digital Hub and associated facilities which support remote and hybrid work.
- Ongoing socio-economic initiatives in the county include the food brand Created in Cavan, Cavan Calling Diaspora Engagement Plan and tourism development plans.
- The county has a number of high quality hotels providing suitable accommodation options to visitors.
- Local education providers include the CMETB, Cavan Innovation and Technology Centre, Cavan Institute (which has a €40 million expansion planned), as well as the Ballyhaise Agriculture College.
- The county can offer a high quality of life, natural amenities, and a lower cost of living than other parts of the country.
- Cavan has an attractive landscape, including lakes, waterways, and rolling hills (e.g. Shannon-Erne Navigation, Cuilcagh Lakelands GeoPark).

Constraints

- Cavan has a relatively low rate of housing construction combined with a high vacancy rate. Economic viability and inadequate waste water treatment facilities have been cited as key reasons for the relatively low house construction levels.
- Derelict, vacant and un-used commercial and residential buildings undermines the viability and appeal of urban centres. This is accentuated by 'fast visits' and a general lack of footfall
- A lack of childcare options limits employment and thus social mobility opportunities in the county for parents.
- Most small areas in Cavan are considered marginally below average or disadvantaged.
- Cost of living increases are putting significant pressure on local people who face increased housing, heating, and grocery prices.
- Cavan has a sizeable older population who require additional supports and services into the future.
- Successfully integrating new arrivals (incl. Ukrainian and other refugees) is an ongoing, evolving challenge.
- Younger people in particular report issues around social exclusion – including a limited range of recreational options and limited public transport options.
- Building Energy Rating (BER) data from the SEAI indicates that Cavan still faces a significant challenge in meeting its decarbonisation and climate action objectives.
- The county requires road investment – including to improve east-west mobility (i.e. to the Dublin-Belfast corridor) and to relieve local congestion.
- The public transport system such as the Local Link bus service requires investment to expand routes and increase service frequency.
- Broadband rollout is incomplete in some parts of the county, thereby limiting local business, employment, and social opportunities.

5.1 SCOT Analysis

Opportunities – can be understood as the **future strengths** of a place or county. They represent the potential advantages available to Cavan and its communities.

Threats – can be understood as the **future constraints** of a place or county. They represent the potential challenges facing Cavan and its communities.

Opportunities

- The county's proximity to the Northern Ireland border and to the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor are both selling points for Cavan as an attractive location to live, work and do business.
- Existing initiatives in agri-food, tourism, and rural regeneration could encourage increased inward investment.
- Cavan has untapped potential as a sustainable tourism destination given its natural and built heritage sites.
- Promoting employment through skills development and entrepreneurship supports will help stimulate the county's wider economy.
- There are opportunities to improve tertiary education attainment within the county relative to peer counties.
- The county's strong manufacturing base (incl. construction focused firms) could pivot even more towards opportunities in green and sustainable building practices.
- There are growing partnership opportunities between educational institutions, industry and community bodies.
- The county has zoned land which could be developed on a partnership basis for community, residential and business purposes.
- There are significant funding opportunities for the county, including URDF, RRDF, LEADER, ERDF, the PEACEPLUS programme.
- The county could benefit from opportunities in the decarbonisation and sustainability fields – incl. renewable energy generation, building energy efficiency, and electrified and active transport.

Threats

- Economic opportunities in other counties and internationally (including in Northern Ireland) may encourage younger people to migrate from Cavan.
- Housing purchase and rental affordability rates have deteriorated significantly since 2016.
- Extreme weather events (incl. flooding, storms and extreme temperatures) will place additional strain on built infrastructure and agriculture, and may lead to increased energy demand.
- The transition towards a low carbon economy (incl. buildings and transport) may cause friction between affluent and less-affluent community members.
- Demographic changes will need to be planned for – including the provision of services to the young, older residents, and new arrivals.
- Global economic uncertainties including increased cost of living undermine efforts to improve the lives of the people of Cavan.
- Cavan's widely dispersed population limits the ability of services to reach people as well as the effectiveness of interventions.
- Mental and physical wellbeing is an ongoing challenge in the county, requiring input and support from many stakeholders.
- Cavan faces competition from other regions around housing, employment and lifestyle opportunities.
- Inadequate transport linkages in the county exacerbate inequalities and limit socio-economic opportunities.

6 | Consultation Findings



6.1 Consultation Process & Findings

This chapter summarises the various consultations which were undertaken as part of the analysis to inform the Cavan LECP 2024-2029. The LECP has been developed in a collaborative and cooperative manner through engagement with a wide range of key stakeholders including the public, Public Participation Network (PPN), community representative groups, Cavan County Council, state agencies, education providers and the private sector. The following was undertaken:

- Three in-person focus-group and public consultation sessions in Cavan, Ballyjamesduff, and Cootehill (February 14th-28th 2023).
- Online business survey (see Appendix A in section 9 for additional results not addressed in this chapter).
- Online community survey (see Appendix B in section 9 for additional results not addressed in this chapter).
- Individual meetings with key stakeholders from the public, private and community sectors.
- Two online group workshops after the initial round of consultation with key stakeholders to aid the refinement of the actions.
- Written submissions.

The aim of these engagements, in conjunction with the socio-economic analysis, was to identify key priorities and needs that could be addressed through the High-Level Goals, objectives and actions of the plan, and in the desired outcomes. This includes discussion of community issues such as service provision and social inclusion, and economic issues such as attracting inward investment and developing the green economy (e.g. renewable energy, manufacturing products for building retrofitting).

The extensive consultation exercise was, therefore, designed to identify opportunities and needs as well as secure vital buy-in from key stakeholders who will ultimately be the drivers and champions of specific actions contained in the Implementation Plan. In doing so, the public participation process sought to generate a sense of shared ownership for the High-Level Goals, and secure the buy-in of key stakeholders, including the public.

The targeted engagement process brought together key stakeholders from a wide range of fields including government agencies, the private sector, community and voluntary groups, the environment, health, education, creative sector, heritage, tourism, as well as younger and older groups. Representative groups which were involved include Cavan County Council staff, multicultural groups, Cavan County Museum, Comhairle na nÓg, Cavan Drug and Alcohol Forum, Local Link, Citizens Information, Family Resource Centre, Cavan Disability Network, Cavan Travellers Consultation, Volunteer Cavan, and Cavan Childcare Committee.

What key objectives would you prioritise to create a sustainable and prosperous future for the people of Cavan?

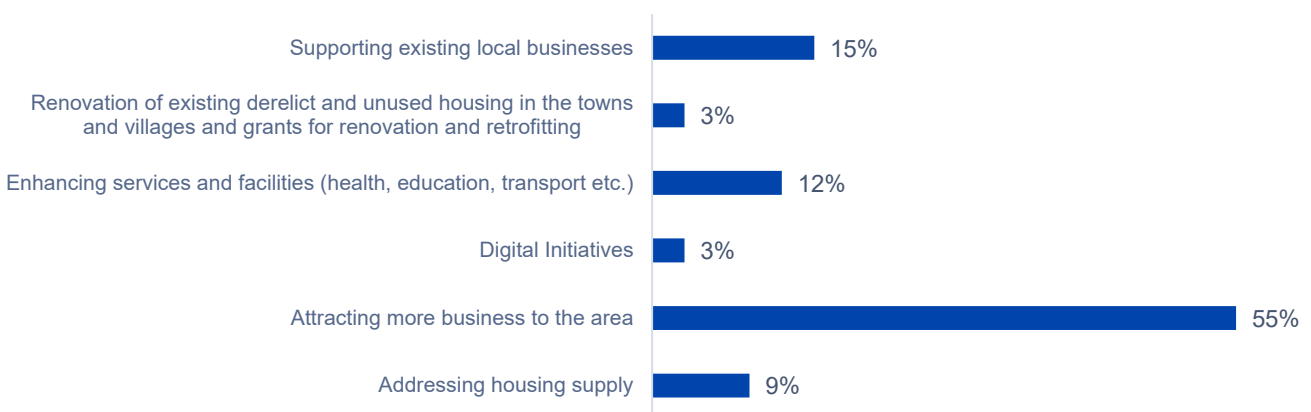


Figure 6.1: Views on Cavan’s key objectives as communicated in the community survey

6.2 Key Themes from the Consultation

All written submissions and survey responses were collated and reviewed as part of the consultation analysis as well as the key points raised during the workshops. Written responses included:

- **Written Submissions** – 4 submissions were received.
- **Community Survey** – 34 survey responses were received. The survey sought community views in relation to areas such as Cavan's greatest assets, barriers to living and working in Cavan, service provision, remote working, climate change and the use of smart technology, amongst other areas.
- **Business Survey** – 21 survey responses were received. The survey sought views of the private sector in relation to Cavan's main strengths and barriers as a place to do business, the county's urban centres, climate action, Brexit and COVID-19.

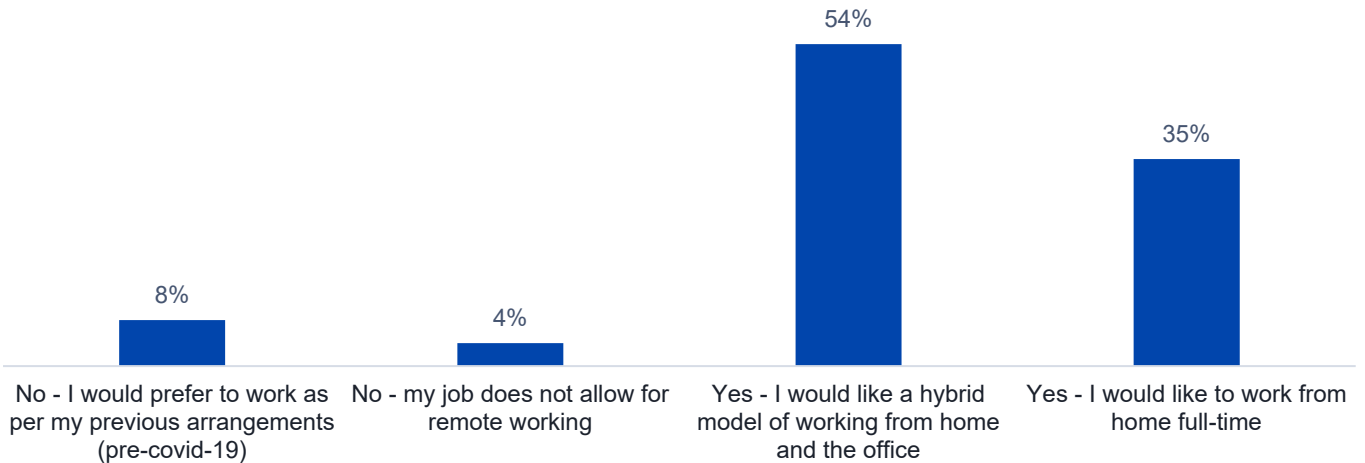
The combined analysis of the different strands of the consultation identified several key themes aligned to economic and community needs. A sample 'snapshot' of points under these themes are outlined below. The findings of the consultation have been used to assist in the identification of what the county needs and its key strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats. Similarly, ideas and suggestions put forward by the community and other key stakeholders have been incorporated, both directly and indirectly, into the goals, objectives, key desired outcomes and actions.

6.2.1 Economy, Employment, and Housing

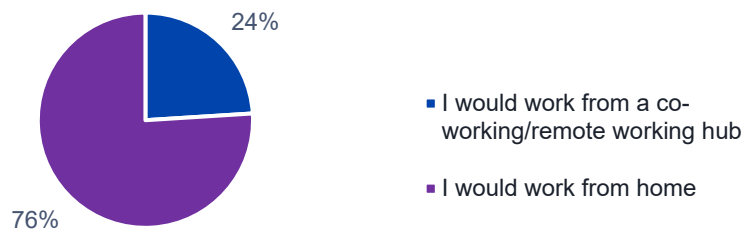
- The **lack of accommodation**, particularly affordable rental and purchase housing, was regularly mentioned. The issue was highlighted as undermining the county's ability to attract investment, to grow its population and to adequately sustain and service its communities. This relates to issues such as increasing mortgage rates, planning permission challenges and limited step down options for older people in towns.
- The county's **tourism industry** needs to be developed – including the type and quality of tourism offerings. The industry is restrained by a lack of a variety of accommodation, including alternative options such as farm stays and regenerative tourism. Participants felt that the county's tourism offerings – including Tullydermot Waterfalls and Shannon Pot – are underpromoted and that it is difficult to sell what is 'unique' about Cavan.
- Participants highlighted the **important role which education providers** such as Cavan Institute plays in developing the skills required by employers. Participants also underlined the importance of educational initiatives to develop financial literacy, digital skills and apprenticeships.
- **Areas of interest for economic development** which were mentioned include opportunities in the green economy (e.g. renewable energy, retrofitting apprenticeships, ag-tech, agrifood, and engineering.). The contribution of indigenous businesses such as Tirlán, Kingspan, and Mannok was highlighted.
- Participants highlighted the importance of the **Cavan Digital Hub** for providing shared hybrid/remote work and start-up spaces.
- The county's access to the **Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor and strong cross-border ties** were mentioned as advantageous for the county. The need to strengthen the physical connections with the **Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor** was communicated.
- A key challenge for the county is in **retaining and attracting its workforce**, including its younger talent. To do so, the participants mentioned the need for accessible, meaningful and flexible employment opportunities along with improved local transport, working hubs and childcare supports.

6.2.1 Economy, Employment, and Housing contd.

Into the future, would you be interested in working from home on a more regular basis?



If provided with the option to work remotely (including in a hybrid format), which of the following options would be more likely?



Figures 6.2 & 6.3: Community survey questions on working remotely

6.2.2 Infrastructure and Accessibility

- Considering Cavan's location as a midlands border county and its relative proximity to Dublin and Belfast, the **east-west road connections** require improvements.
- The shortage of **public transport options and frequency** throughout the county was highlighted as an area that needs improvement, particularly in rural areas. Specific action areas include the Local Link Bus service, interlinked services and interchange connectivity. Participants indicated support for the rollout of rural taxi services – such as the local hackney pilot being tested in Killeshandra.
- The consultation identified a **desire and need for safe, sustainable and active transport** and associated infrastructure throughout the county. Participants mentioned the need for more well-segregated cycleways, greenways, improved pedestrian paths, disabled parking spaces as well as road and pothole maintenance.

6.2.3 Environment and Sustainability

- Participants indicated their **concern around the impacts of climate change**, particularly the threat posed by flooding. Participants also highlighted issues around the degradation of land and waterway ecosystems.
- The importance of **protecting the county’s biodiversity** was also highlighted, as well as the associated challenges facing farmers. Among the suggestions presented include the development of community gardens and the rewilding and restoration of natural ecosystems. Providing strong support for farmers was also mentioned.

What is your view about the impact of climate change on businesses in Cavan?

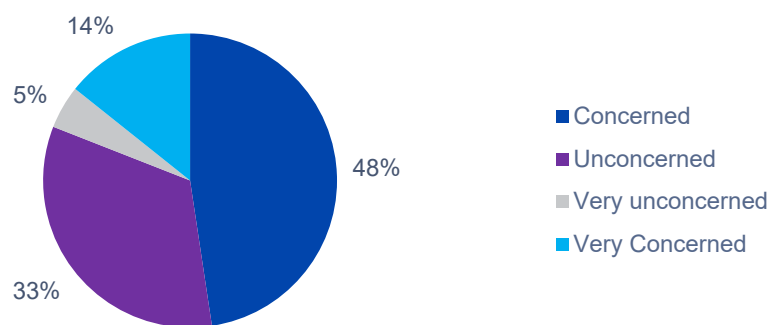


Figure 6.4: Views on the impact of climate change on County Cavan from the business survey

- Shared and **active mobility options (incl. Greenway development)** were identified as mechanisms for reducing the county’s **over-reliance on private car ownership**, whilst at the same time reducing rural isolation. Participants also mentioned the importance of walks and hikes such as the Cavan Way.
- Suggestions to develop Cavan’s **green economy**, included the promotion of retrofitting apprenticeships and the rollout of solar and wind energy projects. Participants highlighted the importance of linkages with education providers and support for grassroots community initiatives (e.g. Tidy Towns, Sustainable Energy Communities) and business ventures (e.g. eco-tourism and agri-tourism).
- **Natural amenities** in County Cavan include the Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark and angling in the county’s waterways. Participant suggestions included the need for more parks and greenspace across the county, as well as the potential restoration of bogland for recreational and educational purposes.

Which of these green initiatives would you see benefitting Cavan the most?

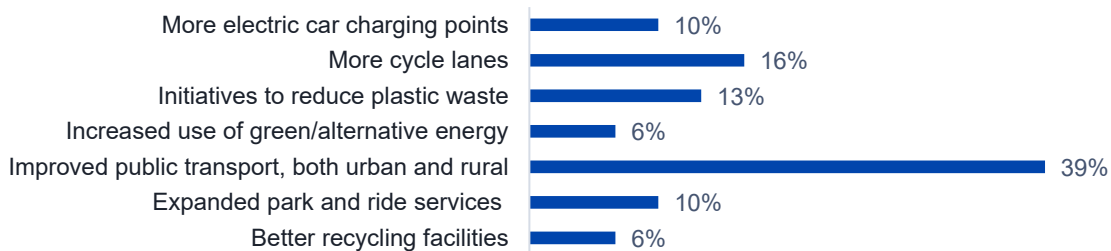


Figure 6.5: Green initiative suggestions from the community survey

6.2.4 Community and Quality of Life

- Participants indicated that the **county's greatest assets** are the 'warmth of its people' and its natural amenities, such as its waterways and hiking trails.
- Cavan's **active heritage, culture and arts sector** was mentioned as a key strength of the county, and a key contributor to social inclusion and community well-being. This includes Cavan's strong food culture, the Irish language, the recent Fleadh Ceoils, and the Ramor Theatre and Cavan Townhall.
- The county has a strong **sporting culture** with the community largely centred around the GAA. However, according to some participants, there is a need for shared sports amenities and facilities, as well as alternative recreational options (e.g. Youth Clubs).
- As reflected by the county's high suicide rate, there is a **need to address mental health issues** across all groups and ages. In particular, it is important to ensure engagement between educators, experts and parents. Amongst younger people, there is a need to provide physical spaces for growth and development and to address issues around isolation and lack of services.

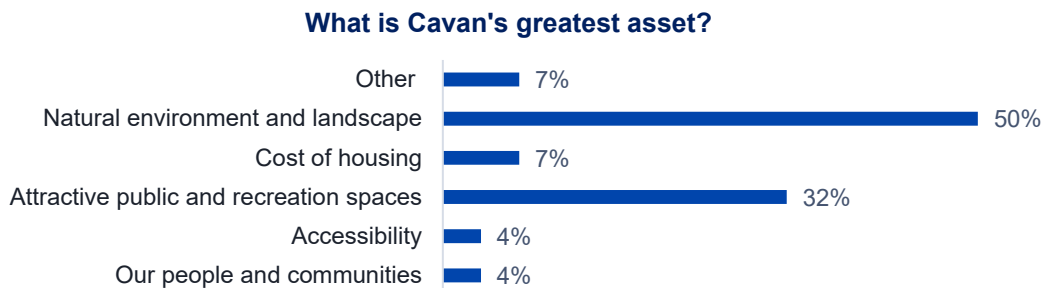


Figure 6.6: Cavan's greatest assets as taken from the community survey

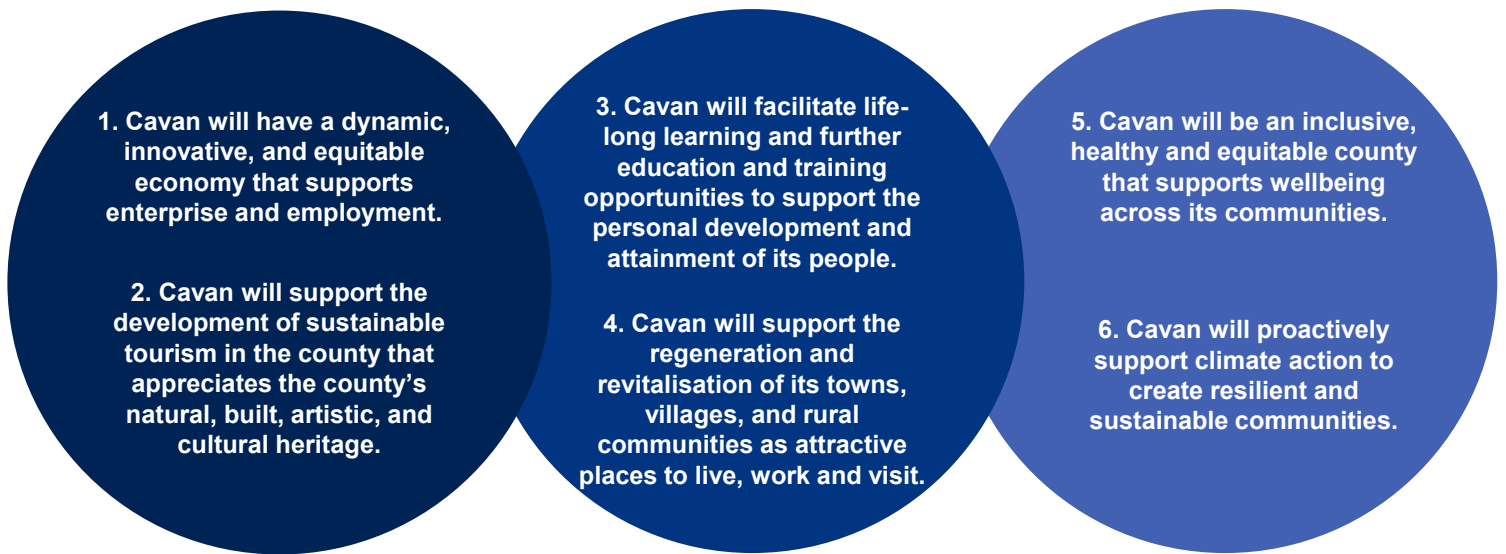
- Participants highlighted the importance of engaging with and integrating **vulnerable groups** such as younger and older people, people with disabilities, people on low incomes, as well as minority groups (incl. Travellers, new arrivals, migrants) and geographically isolated people. Amongst the suggestions mentioned were the provision of language classes and working through a fulltime county Access Officer.
- Concerns were raised about **anti-social behaviour** across the county, organised crime and drugs. The issue of **domestic violence** was also highlighted as one which needs to be addressed.
- There is a **strong culture of volunteerism** benefitting the wider community which needs to be nurtured and supported. Suggestions included the progression of the county's 'Age Friendly' strategy and engagement with key stakeholders around the development of Family Resource Centres. Other suggestions were simplifying the volunteer screening process and supporting various outreach and fund-raising activities.
- Areas of disadvantage** are present to different degrees across the county, with multi-dimensional efforts needed to address the issues (incl. education, sports, culture and arts). Participants mentioned the new 'working poor' population (due to cost of living increases) and high school leaving rates amongst disadvantaged groups in particular. It was felt that some areas in the county are being left behind with East Cavan experiencing growth and West Cavan experiencing depopulation and rural decline.
- In terms of **amenities and facilities**, participants mentioned the lack of parks and playgrounds, community gardens and men's and women's sheds. Facilities such as bins and seating in the public realm, as well as pet fouling control measures were also mentioned.
- Additional service requirements identified** include the need for more citizens information services, legal advice, affordable healthcare, counselling and childcare services. The need to improve education and employment options of all groups, through the provision of digital connectivity and digital literacy training was also mentioned.



7 High-Level Goals, Objectives, Actions & Outcomes

High Level Goals

Cavan County Council together with the LCDC, SPC for Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning and other key stakeholders have developed six high-level goals with associated objectives, actions and desired outcomes to assist in guiding the direction of the county over the 2024-2029 period. Their development has been informed from the findings of the socio-economic analysis, stakeholder and public consultation, and the review of existing policies at local, regional and national level.



The six High Level Goals align with the suggested Themes in the LECP Guidelines:

- Health and Wellbeing (High Level Goals 3 & 5)
- Economic Development (High Level Goals 1, 2, 3 & 4)
- Community and Local Development (High Level Goals 2, 4 & 5)
- Climate Action (High Level Goal 6)

As outlined in the following chapter, the goals, objectives, actions and outcomes cover both economic and community elements as required by the LECP guidelines. They have been designed to positively contribute to the economic and community development of Cavan and are aligned with the overall ambition for a connected, inclusive, prosperous and sustainable county.

The high-level goals, objectives, actions and outcomes support the crosscutting priorities outlined in the LECP guidelines. They also support the public sector duty to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect human rights. Crosscutting priorities addressed in this LECP include: sustainability, equality, poverty, rurality, age and disability.

The sections that follow outline each high-level goal, along with the associated objectives, actions and desired outcomes (related to the goals and objectives) in more detail. All the actions have been linked with their corresponding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Overall, there are 22 Objectives and 84 Actions.

- High Level Goal 1 has 4 Objectives and 14 Actions.
- High Level Goal 2 has 3 Objectives and 12 Actions.
- High Level Goal 3 has 3 Objectives and 11 Actions.
- High Level Goal 4 has 5 Objectives and 20 Actions.
- High Level Goal 5 has 4 Objectives and 13 Actions.
- High Level Goal 6 has 3 Objectives and 14 Actions.

The initial prioritised actions related to the goals are included in the 2-year Implementation Plan in Chapter 8. All of these measures are in line with the provisions of the existing County Development Plan and the wider planning framework (refer to “Overriding Status of the Plan” text at section 1.7).

Goal 1: Cavan will have a dynamic, innovative, and equitable economy that supports enterprise and employment.

Objective 1.1: Improve the attractiveness of the county as a place to grow a business.

Need: Attracting more businesses to Cavan was by far the most popular response in the community survey to the question about what should be prioritised in creating a more sustainable and prosperous county. The importance placed by the public on the issue is not surprising given the comparatively low average amount of disposable income within Cavan and the high level of commuting outside the county (i.e. 22.3% in Census 2022). During consultations for this LECP it was also apparent that there was a belief that most jobs would have to be created locally rather than depending on foreign direct investment (FDI). With an increasing population, comes the need to provide additional employment. Both the National Planning Framework and RSES contain the employment growth to population growth ratio of 2:3 (jobs : population).

Action 1.1.1. In line with the employment growth to population growth ratio of 2:3 (jobs : population) contained within the RSES and National Planning Framework, support new and existing indigenous enterprises and encourage innovative entrepreneurship.



Action 1.1.2. Ensure adequate zoning and access to suitable serviced sites and enterprise space (including incubation centres) to promote a positive business environment.



Action 1.1.3. Develop Cavan's ambition for a green and digital economy.



Action 1.1.4. Develop appropriate infrastructure, in line with the County Development Plan, such as broadband, water, roads, etc., which supports economic and enterprise development in County Cavan.



Action 1.1.5. Support retail businesses on our main streets to survive and thrive through e-commerce, increased footfall and innovative actions.



Key desired outcomes

For Cavan to have a stronger, more innovative and resilient economy. To improve the county's attractiveness as a place to start and grow businesses.

Goal 1 contd.

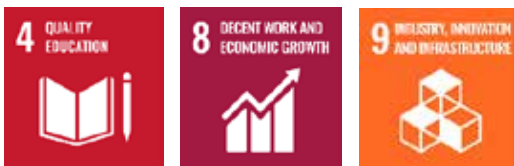
Objective 1.2: Coordinate new pathways into employment in the county rewarding upskilling and training.

Need: Workforce availability was given in the business survey as one of the key impediments to growth. Interestingly, it was also given as one of Cavan's business strengths. The growth in the green economy, sustainability issues and artificial intelligence (AI) offers both threats and opportunities to Cavan's businesses. However, to meet the challenge of change, those working in Cavan's businesses will need to be suitably knowledgeable/skilled. In 2022, 24% of Cavan's population aged 15 and over had completed some form of tertiary education. This is below the figures for the region (27%) and state (33.7%). The level of third level attainment is lowest in the areas of social disadvantage.

Action 1.2.1. Investigate the skills need of the county, including current and future skills, especially in high potential sectors, and create a strategic plan to develop and attract skilled individuals to live and work in the county.



Action 1.2.2. Encourage and support the development and delivery of education at all levels to increase the range of skills across the county.



Action 1.2.3. Work with education providers, such as CMETB / Cavan Institute, Cavan Innovation and Technology Centre, along with industry players to create pathways from education to employment, including vocational and academic training with a focus on in-demand sectors such as engineering / construction / green energy.



Key desired outcomes

A more skilled population, with skills better aligned with industry needs.

Objective 1.3: Develop the county's brand and attractiveness for inward investment

Need: Cavan has strengths in its quality of life offering. The county's lakelands, boglands and forest parks have strong amenity value. In March 2023, according to an Real Estate Alliance / Irish Independent analysis Cavan had the second lowest average house price of any county in Ireland. The relative affordability of housing is an attribute that would be relevant to employers struggling to recruit and retain workers. However, the level of FDI related employment is lower in Cavan than the wider region or state. Unfortunately, due primarily to profitability, private sector housing supply remains an issue. To further increase the attractiveness of the county for investment, suitable development land for industry will need to be developed in line with the County Development Plan.

Goal 1 contd.

Action 1.3.1. Attract FDI to support job creation in partnership with the local authority and enterprises agencies.



Action 1.3.2. Promote County Cavan as an attractive investment location.



Action 1.3.3. Building upon existing work in identifying suitable development land, work will be undertaken to facilitate and develop these lands in line with the County Development Plan (CDP) and the objectives of the LECP.



Key desired outcomes

That key decision makers know about the advantages of investing in Cavan. That there are sites available for those investments to occur within.

Objective 1.4: Develop key infrastructure projects enabling economic development.

Need: Creating a county attractive to commercial investment is about developing an ecosystem that is conducive to success. This means not only having the serviced sites available for businesses to establish themselves and an adequately skilled workforce, it also means having appropriate infrastructure that allows those businesses to easily sell their goods and services and operate efficiently. For instance, water infrastructure needs to be sufficient to handle the needs of food processing and manufacturing in general. Wastewater treatment facilities are also essential to the sustainable growth of towns and villages. Geographically, County Cavan is located relatively close to the Dublin-Belfast economic corridor. Despite this, the commercial potential of this proximity is undermined by the sub-standard road connections, in particular to Dundalk. There is no rail line in Cavan. In the 2023 Draft All-Ireland Strategic Rail Review the reinstatement of a single-track line from Portadown to Mullingar via Cavan was proposed. It is worth noting that in the business survey for this report, ‘accessibility’ was by far the most frequent response to the question about Cavan’s constraints as a place to do business.

Action 1.4.1. Support Cavan Town to be an attractive location for investment, underpinning its designation as a key town for growth, as set out in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032.



Goal 1 contd.

Action 1.4.2. Develop appropriate infrastructure which will enhance County Cavan's attractiveness as a location for FDI investments.



Action 1.4.3. Support the delivery of infrastructure such as housing, water, roads, etc., in our towns and villages which will enhance their potential for enterprise development and investment.



Key desired outcome

That the necessary infrastructure be put in place to facilitate commercial success of existing and prospective employers in the county, i.e. an ecosystem for business success.

Goal 2: Cavan will support the development of sustainable tourism in the county that appreciates the county’s natural, built, artistic, and cultural heritage.

Objective 2.1: Support and develop both new and existing attractions and infrastructure that complements the existing strengths of the county.

Need: The desire to develop the county’s tourism sector regularly came up during the stakeholder engagement sessions. The primary aim was to provide more employment. There was a feeling that in spite of Cavan’s natural and cultural attributes, the county was attracting too few visitors. According to Fáilte Ireland, Cavan had the 15th highest county revenue figure from overseas tourists in 2016 (i.e. €51m). Aside from creating jobs, an important benefit from tourism is that it can lead to additional amenities and businesses being created that would not be otherwise commercially viable (e.g. hotels, cafés, craft businesses, artisan food producers, adventure centre/activity). In effect, this enhances the quality of life for residents. It also adds to the overall attractiveness of the county to investment by creating a place where companies can better attract and retain employees.

Action 2.1.1. Complete and implement an updated Tourism Development Plan to support the growth of tourism in the county and deliver benefits across urban and rural Cavan.



Action 2.1.2. Support an approach to tourism that builds upon the county’s rich artistic, cultural, and food heritage.



Action 2.1.3. Building on the county’s strengths in the food sector, continue to promote Cavan food, particularly through the ‘Created in Cavan’ brand and Cavan Food Network.



Action 2.1.4. Support the development and enhancement of tourist accommodation, particularly in areas where capacity is low. Particular attention should be paid to glamping, campsites and those accommodations focusing on sustainability.



Key desired outcomes

A strengthened tourism proposition that simultaneously uses and supports the county’s strengths in landscape, culture, heritage and food. More accommodation. Greater economic impact from tourism and an improved financial yield per visitor.

Goal 2 contd.

Objective 2.2: Support new and existing tourism opportunities that protect and enhance the natural heritage of the county.

Need: According to a 2019 Fáilte Ireland survey of overseas holidaymakers, the top four factors when considering Ireland for their holiday were: beautiful scenery, plenty of things to see and do, interesting history and culture, and a good range of natural attractions. The fifth most important thing was friendly, hospitable people. According to 2022 data from Fáilte Ireland, the most popular activities engaged in by domestic holidaymakers were hiking/walking and swimming. Cavan is well placed to fulfil the desire of foreign and domestic tourists to connect with Ireland’s landscape. The county has six Coillte Forest Parks. This compares well with the five Republic of Ireland counties that border Cavan. The county also has one of only three UNESCO Global Geoparks in Ireland (i.e. Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark). Finally, Cavan contains a high concentration of lakes and is cut by the Shannon-Erne Waterway. This provides opportunities but also obligations. Legal obligations include various protections under national and EU law for water protection, wildlife, archaeology and historic architecture. The marketing of a tourist attraction with a heavy emphasis on the natural landscape can suffer reputational damage if the asset is not being suitably managed. Consequently, it is important that the natural, historic and cultural assets on which Cavan’s tourism sector depends are sustainably and sensitively developed.

Action 2.2.1. Seek opportunities for implementing Regenerative Tourism projects to sustainably develop and renew Cavan’s natural heritage.



Action 2.2.2. Explore opportunities to sustainably develop and manage Cavan’s waterways for angling, leisure, and tourism, in collaboration with local communities, partners, and national authorities.



Action 2.2.3. Building on Cavan Calling, create a set of impactful initiatives focused on the diaspora that attract those with a Cavan connection to visit and dwell in the county.



Action 2.2.4. Continue to promote the development of recreational infrastructure and other active travel measures within the county to support active enjoyment of the county.



Action 2.2.5. Support key tourist attractions including the Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, Cavan County Museum, Dún an Rí Forest Park and Killykeen Forest Park to reach their full commercial, social and educational potential.



Goal 2 contd.

Action 2.2.6. Support Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark continuing designation as a UNESCO Geopark landscape.



Key desired outcomes

Tourism investment designed to result in a better natural environment. Greater access to well managed, natural amenities for tourists and locals. A tourism product that nurtures the county's assets.

Objective 2.3: Support and promote the This is Cavan tourism brand.

Need: Despite Cavan's strong alignment in provision of what holidaymakers say are key factors in considering their destination, the current level of visitors is low. Although it is important that the county's attractions are sensitively developed and sufficient accommodation provided, it is vital that commercial buyers and consumers know what Cavan has to offer. By promoting the County and attracting more visitors, the commercial viability of the accommodation providers and attractions is supported.

Action 2.3.1. Build upon and strengthen the success of the This is Cavan brand.



Action 2.3.2. The Cavan tourism offering will be promoted in collaboration with national agencies to national and international audiences and buyers.



Key desired outcomes

Greater awareness from commercial buyers and prospective visitors about Cavan and what it has to offer. More people wanting to come to and stay in Cavan.

Goal 3: Cavan will facilitate life-long learning and further education and training opportunities to support the personal development and attainment of its people.

Objective 3.1: Develop the range and depth of post-secondary and life-long learning options available to people in the county by working with education partners such as CMETB, Cavan Institute and Ballyhaise Agricultural College.

Need: Census 2022 indicates that much of Cavan’s population leaves as they enter their late teens and twenties. This carries on a pattern from earlier censuses. During consultation for this report, the common reasons given for this migration were people leaving to pursue education and employment opportunities. Although many people do return in their thirties – apparently to raise families of their own – the long-term impact is leading to an aging society in Cavan. In 2016, County Cavan had an average Older Age Dependency Rate of 21.8. This was a rise from 19.8 in 2011. To counter this, providing additional training and education opportunities for those finishing their second level education is necessary. This will help retain more of the younger population. Increasing the training provision in the county also supports local businesses by providing a larger, more skilled, local workforce.

Life-long learning goes beyond those completing their second level education. It is the pursuit of knowledge for personal and professional reasons. Engaging in lifelong learning is connected with better economic conditions, a more vibrant social life, and healthier lifestyle behaviours.

Action 3.1.1. The county will support education providers such as CMETB / Cavan Institute and Ballyhaise Agricultural College in the delivery of further education and training options to enhance career development and skills formation, including traineeships and apprenticeships.



Action 3.1.2. Support education providers in the county in accessing additional funding and pursuing partnerships to enhance educational opportunities in Cavan.



Action 3.1.3. Encourage and facilitate the provision of life skills training, including financial literacy, energy sustainably, nutrition, and other skills as identified.



Action 3.1.4. The Irish language will be supported and promoted within Cavan as part of the county’s intangible cultural heritage.



Action 3.1.5. Develop life-long learning options throughout the county to educate and enrich the lives of people from all over Cavan.



Goal 3 contd.

Key desired outcomes

A more skilled and better educated population, able to take advantage of economic opportunities. A stronger culture of lifelong learning that leads to personal economic, social and health benefits.

Objective 3.2: Provide accessible education opportunities to support the integration and participation of all our communities across the county.

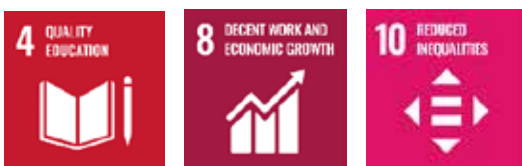
Need: Data from Census 2022 shows that the county’s population is becoming more diverse. Overall, the population is aging. Between 2016 and 2022, the proportion of those aged 80 and above in Cavan grew by 21.7%. In 2022, White Irish and White Irish Travellers made up 79.3% of Cavan’s population, with 10.7% of the population being members of other White ethnic groups. By themselves, White Irish Travellers make up 0.6% of the total population of the county and 4.9% of the population is made up of other ethnic groups. From February 2022 to Oct 8th 2023, PPS numbers were given to 1,787 Ukrainian nationals who settled in County Cavan under the Temporary Protection Directive. As of late 2023, Ukrainians account for roughly 2% of Cavan’s population. Another aspect of diversity is the number of people in the county with additional needs. In Census 2022, 8% of Cavan’s population reported that they had at least one long-lasting condition or difficulty to a great extent or a lot. Overall, 20% reported some sort of long-lasting condition or difficulty.

With increased diversity in needs, nationality, ethnicity and age comes both opportunities and challenges. This is particularly the case with new arrivals to the county. Opportunities from new communities include greater economic innovation and a younger, more dynamic workforce which can support the financing of social services. There could also be a greater local variety in cuisine, the arts, sport and other social activities. This improves the liveability of a place. Challenges include possible strains on services from additional supports and services not being put in place. Social cohesion can also come under pressure if migrants are not sufficiently integrated into wider society.

Action 3.2.1. Work with older people to develop attractive life-long learning options that improve their ability to connect with and participate in the community.



Action 3.2.2. Facilitate new communities in Cavan to engage in education and training to support their participation and integration into the community and the workplace.



Action 3.2.3. Support those with disabilities and / or additional needs to engage in education and training programmes.



Action 3.2.4. Continue to enhance inclusivity and accessibility of education and training provision to enable participation by all, in particular those experiencing disadvantage / hardest to reach.



Goal 3 contd.

Key desired outcomes

Education opportunities available to all that match their personal needs and ambitions. Greater community cohesion and social connections amongst the county's residents. Less inequality and disadvantage.

Objective 3.3: Support the development of third-level educational provision within the county.

Need: Cavan's population pyramid structure shows that people in their late teens and twenties often leave the county. From consultation for this report, the main reasons provided as to why this happens were people pursuing education and work opportunities. Also from consultations, it emerged that many of these later returned to raise families. However, the quantity of those who leave and then return is not accurately known. Providing a greater provision of third level education was seen as an important way of retaining Cavan's younger population. Given the significant increase post-pandemic in the cost of living, having more courses would also alleviate financial pressures on some and encourage more people – especially from disadvantaged backgrounds – to pursue third level education. Another benefit would be to provide the workforce required by Cavan's businesses. In the business survey undertaken for this plan, 'workforce availability' was the joint second most mentioned constraint to doing business in the county.

Action 3.3.1. Work with relevant stakeholders within the county such as CMETB / Cavan Institute and third level institutions nationally, to explore the options to support the provision of third level courses within the county.



Action 3.3.2. Leverage the recent Government announcement of a new FET College of the Future for Cavan Institute as a suitable location for delivery of third level courses, from a range of providers.



Key desired outcomes

More third level courses available locally. More students studying third level courses within the county.

Goal 4: Cavan will support the regeneration and revitalisation of its towns, villages, and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit.

Objective 4.1: Facilitate Active Living and Connectivity for all communities in Cavan.

Need: A central factor to the economic and social life of any individual is their ability to access – in person and/or online – employment opportunities, education, community services and amenities. In both the community survey undertaken for this report and various public meetings accessibility to employment and services repeatedly emerged as one of the county’s most serious issues. The settlement pattern in Cavan is highly dispersed. It has a low population density with an average of 42 people per square kilometre. The dispersed nature of settlement in the county means that strong transport connections are essential to ensuring people can access the services they need. The dispersed settlement pattern also means that – where feasible – services need to be distributed across Cavan. Within Cavan’s towns and villages the density of housing is also low. This means that people may have to walk or cycle some distance to access services. Finally, consideration must be given towards Cavan’s aging population and others with additional needs.

Action 4.1.1. Explore the development of transport solutions to support the participation of all society (e.g. volunteering levels, engagement with sporting and social clubs) but particularly young people in our sports clubs, social clubs, schools, and communities across rural and urban Cavan.



Action 4.1.2. Support the development of community recreational resources across rural and urban Cavan.



Action 4.1.3. Support the implementation of measures and infrastructure to promote active travel within the county both for main journeys and last mile options.



Key desired outcomes

Significantly increased levels of cycling and walking. Easier for people to access social and recreational activities. Gaps in community recreational needs filled.

Objective 4.2: Effectively use housing as a tool to develop more resilient communities across the county.

Need: In the community survey for this report, ‘housing availability’ was the most popular answer to what was the biggest threat, issue or concern for the future development of Cavan. To have sustainable populations in the county’s communities, sufficient housing needs to be available. However, although Cavan’s population has grown robustly (i.e. 7.3% between 2016 and 2022, 4.1% between 2011 and 2016), the rate of housing construction has not kept pace. Indeed, only 890 houses were constructed in the county between 2016 and 2022 for a population that grew by 5,528. There is also a relatively high housing stock vacancy rate. Despite the increasing population and desire for housing, according to a Real Estate Alliance / Irish Independent study, in March 2023 Cavan had the second lowest average house price of any county in Ireland (i.e. €168k). According to the Society of Chartered Surveyors of Ireland, in 2023 the average cost of delivering a new three bed semi-detached home in Ireland – excluding Dublin – was €386k. This means that it is unprofitable for

Goal 4 contd.

private developers to construct new housing in Cavan without heavy state subvention. One-off housing planning applications dominate. Anecdotally, this is often for family members building on family land. According to the Office of Planning Regulator, in 2021 Cavan had one of the highest overall planning approval rates in the country. Another inhibitor of housing construction in the county is the insufficient provision of wastewater treatment facilities.

Action 4.2.1. Ensure adequate zoning and access to suitable serviced sites for social and affordable housing throughout the county.



Action 4.2.2. Encourage compact and well serviced development within the established settlements of the county.



Action 4.2.3. Using funding sources from national (e.g. Croí Cónaithe, URDF, RRDF) and European sources (e.g. the Green New Deal, PEACEPLUS), bring derelict and other existing property up to standard, in areas of demand.



Action 4.2.4. Support a variety of residential developments in the county to provide options that support all stages of life, in particular step-down housing close to town and village centres.



Action 4.2.5. Encourage the reuse of existing dwellings and structures across rural Cavan for housing.



Action 4.2.6. Support the provision of social and affordable housing across Cavan.



Goal 4 contd.

Action 4.2.7. Support the provision of adaptable and accessible housing in accordance with the local housing disability strategy and all national policy initiatives.



Key desired outcomes

Improved pipeline of housing provision. Greater availability of housing that matches the needs of residents. Significant reduction in dereliction and vacancy. Stable populations across Cavan's communities.

Objective 4.3: Cavan will support the revitalisation of its town, villages and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit.

Need: A strong community is more than a collection of houses. It is a network of social and economic connections where individuals support each other for long-term mutual gain. Every community needs a core to bring its residents together. This supports social cohesion and the development of a sense of place and community identity. In turn, mental health levels are improved. Community cores are places where people access services, shop, play and do business. They are key social and economic drivers for an area. According to a 2023 report from the European Commission, Ireland has the highest level of loneliness in the EU. Cavan has a very dispersed settlement pattern. During consultation for this report, social isolation and access to services frequently came up. Bringing people together to live, work and play is likely to improve both overall community mental and physical health. Other benefits include a general improvement to residents' quality of life, job creation / maintenance and reduced transport related greenhouse gas emissions.

Action 4.3.1. Support the renovation of derelict commercial premises and identify opportunities to bring derelict properties back into use.



Action 4.3.2. Continue to redevelop and support the work of the Council and communities to create attractive and welcoming public spaces.



Action 4.3.3. Explore the development of physical and digital infrastructure to support more sustainable ways of working, living, and commuting across rural and urban Cavan.



Key desired outcomes

Towns, villages and rural communities that encourage people to meet, shop, play, socialise and do business in. Physically attractive communities with low levels of vacancy and dereliction. Communities that are better places in which to live.

Goal 4 contd.

Objective 4.4: Build up capacity in our volunteer-led services and social enterprise sectors.

Need: The most successful communities are the ones that can analyse the challenges their place faces, come up with reasonable actions to address these issues, collaborate well both internally and externally, and obtain the necessary funding, while leveraging the community’s volunteerism. To enable this to happen, community leaders – both existing and emerging – across the county need support (i.e. training, mentoring, advice, data). During consultation for this report, it became obvious that there were geographic gaps in certain services which would typically be provided by the private sector. Where commercial viability is in doubt, social enterprises may be able to provide valuable services in rural or disadvantaged areas within Cavan.

Action 4.4.1. Support the work of groups and Community Champions across rural and urban Cavan to foster and develop new community initiatives.



Action 4.4.2. Support communities to examine the development of new accessible community spaces in suitable locations across the county.



Action 4.4.3. Continue to provide and enhance early-stage and ongoing capacity building for social enterprises and volunteer organisations and community groups across the county.



Key desired outcomes
 More effective, empowered and knowledgeable community leaders. Stronger, more effective collaboration between the local authority and Cavan’s communities.

Objective 4.5: Support the development of Cavan’s arts and culture sector as a way of improving residents’ quality of life

Need: The benefits of a vibrant arts and culture sector are several. Firstly, the mental health and creativity of participants and audiences is improved. Secondly, it increases the liveability of a place. Liveability is a factor in investment decisions. Employees of multi-nationals and growing domestic companies want to live in culturally interesting places. Thirdly, employment is created / maintained either directly in the arts / culture sector or indirectly in the associated hospitality sector. Finally, supporting a vibrant arts and culture sector brings communities closer together and improves both pride in place and community health.

Action 4.5.1. Support the implementation of the county’s new arts and culture strategies to sustainably develop the sector in Cavan and attract target audiences.



Goal 4 contd.

Action 4.5.2. Explore linkages and funding opportunities with local, national and European agencies to deliver innovative and inclusive arts and creative projects.



Action 4.5.3. Support measures which facilitate inclusion and participation in the arts, particularly for those in marginalised sectors of society.



Action 4.5.4. Support the further development of Library, Archive, Museum and Genealogy services in Cavan.



Key desired outcomes

A stronger, more dynamic arts and culture sector in County Cavan. Increase in participation and attendance levels from residents in general, but especially those from marginalised sectors of society. A better social life for residents.

Goal 5: Cavan will be an inclusive, healthy and equitable county that supports wellbeing across its communities.

Objective 5.1: Promote an open approach to health and wellbeing in the county.

Need: In Census 2022, 60.6% of people in Cavan reported themselves as being in Very Good Health. This is higher than the figures for the region (53%) and state (53.2%). A further 26.8% of people classified themselves as being in Good Health which is less than the wider region (30.5%) and the state (29.7%). Despite these outwardly positive figures, Cavan has consistently had one of the highest county suicide rates in Ireland. Indeed, during consultation sessions for this LECP, mental health and suicide were frequently discussed. Obesity is also high. A 2019 survey by the CSO found that 30% of adults living in the Border region (i.e. counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo) were obese. Overall, 59% of adults living in the Border region were overweight. Living with obesity increases the risk of a person developing conditions such as type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke and some types of cancer. Being overweight or obese can also affect quality of life and contribute to mental health issues, such as depression. Research has shown that effective, sustained collaboration between clinical and public health professionals and associated measures can lead to improved individual and population health.

Action 5.1.1. An open approach to addressing mental health will be implemented in the county in partnership with national research institutes, and through engagement with local organisations, community groups and charities working on the ground.



Action 5.1.2. Supporting the implementation of national health policy and improving access to healthcare for the people of the county through initiatives such as Enhanced Community Care.



Action 5.1.3. Conduct a survey of marginalised and vulnerable populations to determine gaps in provision of socially inclusive healthcare and incorporate these into future planning decisions.



Action 5.1.4. Continue to strengthen collaboration between the public, community and voluntary sectors to encourage a holistic approach to tackling gaps and inequalities in health and wellbeing.



Key desired outcomes

Improved community mental and physical health. Greater cooperation to improve public health. More data to drive improved decision making. Improved quality of life.

Goal 5 contd.

Objective 5.2: Improve accessibility and inclusivity of public services across the county.

Need: Cavan's population is becoming increasingly diverse in its composition and needs. As shown in Census 2022, Cavan's population is aging. Secondly, on Census night 2022 20% of the population reported experiencing at least one long lasting condition or difficulty to any extent. Eight percent of the county's population reported experiencing at least one long-lasting condition or difficulty to a great extent or a lot. Thirdly, the county is home to a growing number of migrants. At the end of 2023, Ukrainian nationals alone made up roughly 2% of Cavan's population. Many of the new arrivals may not be able to understand English to a high level. Finally, Cavan's growing population is living in a county with a highly dispersed settlement pattern. All this adds complexity to not only what public services are provided but also how they are delivered.

Action 5.2.1. Conduct an audit of existing public infrastructure. Analyse this to ensure its accessibility and ability to serve the whole community. Implement recommendations into the design of services and facilities.



Action 5.2.2. Conduct an audit in the county to understand gaps and address the challenges to accessibility in the county's settlements and community buildings across rural and urban Cavan.



Action 5.2.3. Continue to implement the Cavan Age Friendly strategy and support the full and active participation of older people in the social life of the county.



Key desired outcomes

Greater physical access for all to necessary services. Improved involvement in community life.

Objective 5.3: Develop opportunities that support social inclusion and promote the active participation of all people, especially the marginalised in the social life of the community.

Need: According to Healthy Ireland, being socially connected has multiple benefits. These include: 1. improving a person's mood, 2. improving brain health which helps slow cognitive decline, 3. improving both physical and mental health, and 4. providing support when we are in need. It is often harder for those from socially disadvantaged groups to have authentic connections with people outside of their immediate geographic range. There is a broad correlation between social isolation, poorer mental health and social disadvantage. During consultation for this report, rural entrepreneurs, farmers and growers were also reported to experience social isolation.

Action 5.3.1. Examine the creation of indoor and outdoor spaces in appropriate locations to provide young people a place to affordably socialise (including spaces for people with mobility and/or learning difficulties or sensory issues).



Goal 5 contd.

Action 5.3.2. Examine the development of spaces for the county's older population to socialise and meet.



Action 5.3.3. Support the Volunteering Sector in the county to grow its capacity and place volunteering at the heart of community engagement.



Action 5.3.4. Support efforts to increase the physical activity and recreation levels within the county, including the work of the Cavan Sports Partnership, the Local Sports Plan, along with the development of Cavan Regional Sports Campus.



Key desired outcomes

More places to safely meet, socialise and play. More opportunities to contribute to society through volunteering. Cavan Regional Sports Campus under development / completed. A happier and healthier population.

Objective 5.4: Improve the physical and mental wellbeing of all the people of Cavan.

Need: Drug use regularly came up during the public consultation meetings for the LECP. When mentioned, it was usually connected with issues such as loneliness, mental health and suicide. Cocaine in particular seems to be an issue in the county.

Research undertaken in 2005 by the ESRI and National Crime Council indicated that nationally 15% of women and 6% of men had experienced severely abusive behaviour from a partner at some time. According to Women's Aid, overall, one in four women nationally have been subject to some form of domestic abuse. There are no publicly available statistics available for Cavan. Nonetheless, there is little to indicate that the county would deviate significantly from the national trends.

Action 5.4.1. Develop community programs in alignment with the 3rd National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Implementation Plan.



Action 5.4.2. Support an evidence-based approach to combatting Drugs and Alcohol abuse and misuse in the county.



Goal 5 contd.

Key desired outcomes

Reduction in domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. Reduction in drug and alcohol misuse. A safer Cavan.

Goal 6: Cavan will proactively support climate action to create resilient and sustainable communities.

Objective 6.1: Cavan will proactively continue to support climate action.

Need: According to the Cavan's Climate Action Plan, the frequency of heatwaves, droughts, and flooding are all projected to increase by 2050. Increased flooding and droughts will disrupt farming. The impact from heat waves is of particular concern to Cavan's growing population of older people. As part of global efforts, the Irish government has committed itself to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030. With a highly dispersed settlement pattern, a dynamic outward looking economy and a large area given over to agriculture, Cavan will be significantly impacted by government policy as it seeks to reduce emissions. The county will need to be nimble in how it reacts to policy change and the move towards becoming a green economy. Aside from economic opportunities, the shift to a sustainable future offers the chance of improving overall community health and quality of life. However, there are also threats, and change will inevitably negatively impact some.

Action 6.1.1. Implement the county's Climate Action Plan and conduct a baseline emissions study to understand the current level of emissions in the county and the gap to targets for 2030 and 2050.



Action 6.1.2. Support the development of Sustainable Energy Communities across the county.



Action 6.1.3. Support projects across the county where they contribute effectively to meeting the county's Climate Action targets.



Key desired outcomes

Significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Significant increase in decarbonisation projects across the county. Wide and deep community involvement in climate action.

Objective 6.2: Develop further climate adaptation and mitigation actions at scale with sponsorship and outside funding.

Need: For Cavan to play its part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions it will need to embrace the economic and funding opportunities that is following the shift in government policy. The international move towards green, renewable energy is now inevitable. According to the International Energy Agency, renewable energy will provide 35% of global power by 2025. Ireland's 2021 Climate Action Plan has an aim of reaching up to 80% of electricity being generated by renewable sources by 2030. Another area where the government is heavily focusing on is emissions associated with buildings. According to the Irish Green Building Council approximately 37% of national carbon emissions stem from the construction and built environment sector. Within County Cavan there is no Small Area as shown in Census 2022 where the median BER for domestic residences was B2 or above. Indeed, more than a third of Small Areas had a median BER of D1 or D2. *According to the Cavan Energy Masterplan, the average BER rating for the homes of households experiencing fuel poverty is E1. The households experiencing fuel poverty are those most in need of assistance but also the least able to take advantage of the available supports.*

Goal 6 contd.

Action 6.2.1. Continue supporting the development of the Cavan Town Decarbonisation Zone.



Action 6.2.2. Cavan County Council will review its operations and assets in order to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency.



Action 6.2.3. Cavan County Council will support and encourage policies and development which increase the energy efficiencies of existing buildings and encourage zero emissions new builds.



Action 6.2.4. The Council will explore linkages and opportunities to work with European, national, and local funding partners to deliver innovative projects for the betterment of the county.



Action 6.2.5. Support the development of sites dedicated to the production of renewable energy in the county and support the journey to Net Zero by 2050.



Key desired outcomes

Significant increase in the number of innovative climate change projects. Lessons learnt from these projects implemented at scale across the County. Greater provision of renewable energy.

Objective 6.3: Protect and support the environment of Co. Cavan.

Need: Government action as chiefly manifested in the *Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021*, *Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022* and associated plans (e.g. annual Climate Action Plans, National Biodiversity Action Plan) and funding will have a profound impact on Cavan. A set of Sectoral Emissions Ceilings was agreed by Government in 2022. These establish maximum limits on greenhouse gas emissions for each sector of the economy until the end of the decade. Much of Cavan's economy is dependant on agriculture and industry. The target reductions for these two sectors are 25% and 35% respectively. Cavan also has a high dependency on fossil fuel powered cars. The targeted national reduction from transport associated emissions by 2030 is 50%.

Even if the increase in global temperature is limited to 1.5degC or 2degC above pre-industrial levels, physical mitigations and changes in land management will be required within the county to deal with the consequences of a changing climate. Older and vulnerable people in Cavan will need particular assistance, as will farmers.

Goal 6 contd.

Action 6.3.1. Support policies to reduce transport emissions by improving transport planning and adopting the Avoid-Shift-Improve approach.



Action 6.3.2. Support and encourage the development of a more sustainable agriculture sector in the county through education, action and proactive adaptation in accordance with the Cavan Climate Action Plan and national policies.



Action 6.3.3. Support and encourage the growth of the circular economy and bioeconomy.



Action 6.3.4. Support the implementation of local biodiversity support actions within Cavan, including smaller initiatives and larger projects in line with the National Biodiversity Action Plan.



Action 6.3.5. Protect and enhance the water quality of Cavan’s water bodies in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive and other environmental functions.



Action 6.3.6. Build climate resilience in our infrastructure to combat the effects of climate change.



Key desired outcomes

Significantly improved natural environment. The development of a comprehensive circular economy within the county. Communities that can better manage extreme weather events. An agri-business sector that is successfully adapting to the policy, climatic and economic impacts of climate change.

8

Implementation Plan



Two-Year Implementation Plan

8.1 Approach

This chapter outlines the initial implementation plan for the LECP. It includes specific actions that will contribute to the achievement of the goals, objectives and outcomes highlighted in the previous chapter. However, there has been an important change in comparison to the previous iteration of the county's LECP with added flexibility built into its design. While the LECP itself covers a 6-year timeframe out to 2029, the Implementation Plan will be reviewed and revised every 2 years as the plan progresses. As such, consideration has been given in the development of the initial Implementation Plan to actions which can be progressed within that timeframe.

This new, more flexible approach provides an opportunity to identify actions that may not be achieving the desired impact and revise or replace them in subsequent Implementation Plans with initiatives that may be more suited to achieving the goals, objectives and outcomes of the LECP. Similarly, an opportunity now exists to update the Implementation Plan to address issues that emerge over the timeframe of the LECP, meaning that it can remain relevant and aligned to changing circumstances in the county. Finally, actions that are deemed to be the most impactful but also onerous to implement may be built upon and carried over into successor Implementation Plans. Key to realising the benefit of this more flexible approach, will be the monitoring and evaluation of progress in relation to the actions of the Implementation Plan.

The initial Implementation Plan contains 37 prioritised actions which support the 6 goals, 22 objectives and associated desired outcomes. The actions cover both economic and community elements with many of the actions interlinked and contributing to a number of objectives and goals. Key stakeholders and agencies that will lead and enable the implementation of the actions have been identified along with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and funding sources to aid the monitoring and evaluation of progress.

8.2 Policy Alignment

Like the goals and objectives, the actions are aligned with a number of existing strategies and policies including the County Development Plan, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and the National Planning Framework. Furthermore, as noted in Chapter 1 of this document, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been central to the development of the LECP and have underpinned the formulation of the actions in the initial Implementation Plan (figure 8.1). Combined, the goals, objectives, outcomes and actions will work to enhance Cavan as a more connected, inclusive, prosperous and sustainable county as it moves towards 2029.



Figure 8.1: UN Sustainable Development Goals

Funding

Each of the 37 prioritised actions within this two-year implementation plan have been ascribed likely funding sources. These will assist the LCDC and other relevant stakeholders in completing the prioritised actions and realising the associated objectives.

8.3 Actions

Goal 1: ‘Cavan will have a dynamic, innovative, and equitable economy that supports enterprise and employment’.

Objective 1.1

Policy/Planning Framework	Economic
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 11
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 3, NSO 5
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 3.7, RPO 3.13, RPO 4.24, RPO 4.39, RPO 4.41, RPO 9.3
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 1 Cavan will have a dynamic, innovative, and equitable economy that supports enterprise and employment.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Economic Development Objective (SEDO) Improve the attractiveness of the county as a place to grow a business.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions</p> <p>1.1.1. In line with the employment growth to population growth ratio of 2:3 (jobs : population) contained within the RSES and National Planning Framework, support new and existing indigenous enterprises and encourage innovative entrepreneurship.</p> <p>1.1.2. Ensure adequate zoning and access to suitable serviced sites and enterprise space (including incubation centres) to promote a positive business environment.</p> <p>1.1.3. Develop Cavan’s ambition for a green and digital economy.</p> <p>1.1.4. Develop appropriate infrastructure, in line with the County Development Plan, such as broadband, water, roads, etc which supports economic and enterprise development in County Cavan.</p> <p>1.1.5. Support retail businesses on our main streets to survive and thrive through e-commerce, increased footfall and innovative actions.</p>

Goal 1: ‘Cavan will have a dynamic, innovative, and equitable economy that supports enterprise and employment’.

Objective 1.1 (contd.)

<hr/> LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>1.1.1. In line with the employment growth to population growth ratio of 2:3 (jobs : population) contained within the RSES and National Planning Framework, support new and existing indigenous enterprises and encourage innovative entrepreneurship in line with national and regional policy.</p> <p>1.1.2. Ensure adequate zoning and access to suitable serviced sites and enterprise space (including incubation centres) to promote a positive business environment.</p>
<hr/> LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners</p> <p>1.1.1 Lead: Cavan County Council (CCC) Partners: Industrial Development Authority (IDA), Enterprise Ireland (EI), Cavan County Local Development (CCLD)</p> <p>1.1.2 Lead: CCC Partners: Local businesses, IDA, EI, CCLD</p>
<hr/> LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Key Performance Indicators</p> <p>1.1.1.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No. of (Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and Enterprise Ireland companies supported. 2. Complete a feasibility study on the development of a Food Hub in County Cavan. <p>1.1.2.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enable the provision of sufficient enterprise spaces. 2. Number of serviced sites at design/planning stage in business parks by 2025. CCC to work with other state agencies.
<hr/> Potential Funding Sources (example)	RRDF, URDF, REDF, ERDF, LEADER

Goal 1: ‘Cavan will have a dynamic, innovative, and equitable economy that supports enterprise and employment’.

Objective 1.2

Policy/Planning Framework	Economic
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 4, SDG 8, SDG 9
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 3, NSO 5
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 3.13, RPO 4.39, RPO 4.41, RPO 7.3, RPO 7.7, RPO 9.3
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 1 Cavan will have a dynamic, innovative, and equitable economy that supports enterprise and employment.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Economic Development Objective (SEDO) Coordinate new pathways into employment in the county rewarding upskilling and training.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions</p> <p>1.2.1. Investigate the skills need of the county, including current and future skills, especially in high potential sectors, and create a strategic plan to develop and attract skilled individuals to live and work in the county.</p> <p>1.2.2. Encourage and support the development and delivery of education at all levels to increase the range of skills across the county.</p> <p>1.2.3. Work with education providers, such as CMETB / Cavan Institute, Cavan Innovation and Technology Centre, along with industry players to create pathways from education to employment, including vocational and academic training with a focus on in-demand sectors such as engineering/ construction/green energy.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Action</p> <p>1.2.3. Work with education providers, such as CMETB / Cavan Institute, Cavan Innovation and Technology Centre, along with industry players to create pathways from education to employment including vocational and academic training with a focus on in-demand sectors such as engineering/ construction/green energy.</p>

Goal 1: ‘Cavan will have a dynamic, innovative, and equitable economy that supports enterprise and employment’.

Objective 1.2 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners 1.2.3. Lead: CCC and Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board (CMETB) Partners: North East Regional Skills Forum (NERSF), Cavan Innovation and Technology Centre, Local Businesses</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Key Performance Indicators 1.2.3. 1. Skills needs assessed. 2. Additional courses created to meet demands of employers. 3. No. of courses provided on digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI) skills/knowledge that match industry needs. 4. Communications maintained with key employers to ensure training provision is on track to meet their needs.</p>
Potential Funding Sources (example)	<p>SOLAS, Dept. of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science</p>

Goal 1: ‘Cavan will have a dynamic, innovative, and equitable economy that supports enterprise and employment’.

Objective 1.3

Policy/Planning Framework	Economic
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 11
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 3, NSO 5
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 3.4, RPO 3.7, RPO 3.13, RPO 4.45, RPO 4.46
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 1 Cavan will have a dynamic, innovative, and equitable economy that supports enterprise and employment.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Economic Development Objective (SEDO) Develop the county's brand and attractiveness for inward investment.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions 1.3.1. Attract FDI to support job creation in partnership with the local authority and enterprises agencies. 1.3.2. Promote County Cavan as an attractive investment location.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>1.3.3. Building upon existing work in identifying suitable development land. Work will be undertaken to facilitate and develop these lands in line with the County Development Plan (CDP) and the objectives of the LECP.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Actions 1.3.1. Attract FDI to support job creation in partnership with the local authority and enterprise agencies. 1.3.2. Promote County Cavan as an attractive investment location.</p>

Goal 1: ‘Cavan will have a dynamic, innovative, and equitable economy that supports enterprise and employment’.

Objective 1.3 (contd.)

	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners 1.3.1. Lead: IDA Partners: CCC, EI</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>1.3.2. Lead: CCC Partners: Local Businesses, EI, IDA</p>
	<p>Key Performance Indicators 1.3.1. 1. Number of investments.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>1.3.2. 1. Develop key data sets and marketing materials which underpins the value proposition of County Cavan to attract investors (delivered by December 2024).</p>
Potential Funding Sources (example)	CCC

Goal 1: ‘Cavan will have a dynamic, innovative, and equitable economy that supports enterprise and employment’.

Objective 1.4

Policy/Planning Framework	Economic
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 11
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 1, NSO 2, NSO 3, NSO 4, NSO 5, NSO 7
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 4.45, RPO 6.5, RPO 6.6, RPO 6.8, RPO 6.10, RPO 6.26, RPO 6.27, RPO 6.28, RPO 6.29, RPO 6.30, RPO 6.31, RPO 7.16, RPO 7.17, RPO 7.18, RPO 7.19, RPO 8.12, RPO 8.14, RPO 9.1
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 1 Cavan will have a dynamic, innovative, and equitable economy that supports enterprise and employment.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Economic Development Objective (SEDO) Develop key infrastructure projects enabling economic development.</p>
	<p>Actions 1.4.1. Support Cavan Town to be an attractive location for investment underpinning its designation as a key town for growth as set out in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>1.4.2. Develop appropriate infrastructure which will enhance County Cavan’s attractiveness as a location for FDI investments.</p> <p>1.4.3. Support the delivery of infrastructure such as housing, water, roads, etc., in our towns and villages which will enhance their potential for enterprise development and investment.</p>
	<p>Prioritised Actions 1.4.1. Support Cavan Town to be an attractive location for investment underpinning its designation as a key town for growth as set out in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>1.4.3. Support the delivery of infrastructure such as housing, water, roads, broadband, etc, in our towns and villages which will enhance their potential for enterprise development and investment.</p>

Goal 1: ‘Cavan will have a dynamic, innovative, and equitable economy that supports enterprise and employment’.

Objective 1.4 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners 1.4.1. Lead: CCC Partners: IDA, EI</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>1.4.3. Lead: CCC Partners: Uisce Éireann, National Transport Authority (NTA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Transport for Ireland (TFI) Local Link Cavan Monaghan</p> <p>Key Performance Indicators 1.4.1. 1. Number of key infrastructure projects commenced / progressed by 2025 such as the Abbeylands Project, Cavan Regional Sports Campus and the new Further Education Campus at Cavan Institute. 2. Further development of serviced enterprise sites (e.g. Cootehill Enterprise Park and Killygarry Business Park).</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>1.4.3. 1. Key infrastructure (housing, water roads, broadband etc.) being delivered in alignment with the current objectives of the County Development Plan, such as Virginia Wastewater Treatment Plant, Kingscourt Town Centre Regeneration, completion of the N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon (bypass of Killydoon Village) and the further progression of the Virginia Bypass. 2. Increased number of bus routes and frequency of services. 3. Construction of 9.32km of cycling facilities. 4. Construction of 13.1km of footpaths.</p>
Potential Funding Sources (example)	<p>Croí Cónaithe, Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, URDF, RRDF, NTA Active Travel Grants Programme, NTA/TFI, Dept. of Transport</p>

Goal 2: ‘Cavan will support the development of sustainable tourism in the county that appreciates the county’s natural, built, artistic, and cultural heritage’.

Objective 2.1

Policy/Planning Framework	Economic
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 8, SDG 11, SDG 13
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 3, NSO 7, NSO 8
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 3.4, RPO 3.5, RPO 4.1, RPO 4.2, RPO 4.3, RPO 4.6, RPO 4.7, RPO 4.8, RPO 4.9, RPO 4.11, RPO 5.13, RPO 5.14, RPO 5.15, RPO 5.16, RPO 9.1
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 2 Cavan will support the development of sustainable tourism in the county that appreciates the county’s natural, built, artistic, and cultural heritage.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Economic Development Objective (SEDO) Support and develop both new and existing attractions and infrastructure that complements the existing strengths of the county.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions</p> <p>2.1.1. Complete and implement an updated Tourism Development Plan to support the growth of tourism in the county and deliver benefits across urban and rural Cavan.</p> <p>2.1.2. Support an approach to tourism that builds upon the county’s rich artistic, cultural, and food heritage.</p> <p>2.1.3. Building on the county’s strengths in the food sector, continue to promote Cavan food, particularly through the ‘Created in Cavan’ brand and Cavan Food Network.</p> <p>2.1.4. Support the development and enhancement of tourist accommodation, particularly in areas where capacity is low. Particular attention should be paid to glamping, campsites and those accommodations focusing on sustainability.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>2.1.1. Complete and implement an updated Tourism Development Plan to support the growth of tourism in the county and deliver benefits across urban and rural Cavan.</p> <p>2.1.3. Building on the county’s strengths in the food sector, continue to promote Cavan food, particularly through the ‘Created in Cavan’ brand and Cavan Food Network.</p> <p>2.1.4. Support the development and enhancement of tourist accommodation, especially in areas where capacity is low. Particular attention should be paid to glamping, campsites and those accommodations focusing on sustainability.</p>

Goal 2: ‘Cavan will support the development of sustainable tourism in the county that appreciates the county’s natural, built, artistic, and cultural heritage’.

Objective 2.1 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners 2.1.1. Lead: CCC Partners: Fáilte Ireland, CCLD, Local Tourism Businesses</p> <p>2.1.3. Lead: CCC Partners: Fáilte Ireland, CCLD, Cavan Food Network, Local Tourism Businesses</p> <p>2.1.4. Lead: CCC Partners: CCLD, Local Hospitality Businesses</p> <p>Key Performance Indicators 2.1.1. 1. Tourism Development Plan completed and launched. 2. Present progress on the plan during networking event to be held each year for Tourism Trade members. At least one networking event held annually.</p> <p>2.1.3. 1. New / revised Cavan Food and Drink Strategy developed and launched. 2. Grow Created in Cavan Food Network by 10% by the end of 2025.</p> <p>2.1.4. 1. No. of tourism providers supported under the LEADER programme. 2. No. of additional beds / rooms at design / planning stage.</p>
Potential Funding Sources (example)	LEADER, CCC, Fáilte Ireland

Goal 2: ‘Cavan will support the development of sustainable tourism in the county that appreciates the county’s natural, built, artistic, and cultural heritage’.

Objective 2.2

Policy/Planning Framework	Economic
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 4, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 11, SDG 13, SDG 14
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 7, NSO 9
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 4.1, RPO 4.2, RPO 4.3, RPO 4.6, RPO 4.7, RPO 4.9, RPO 4.12, RPO 4.16, RPO 4.35, RPO 4.37, RPO 8.15, RPO 8.16, RPO 8.17, RPO 9.6
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 2 Cavan will support the development of sustainable tourism in the county that appreciates the county’s natural, built, artistic, and cultural heritage.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Economic Development Objective (SEDO) Support new and existing tourism opportunities that protect and enhance the natural heritage of the county.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions</p> <p>2.2.1. Seek opportunities for implementing Regenerative Tourism projects to sustainably develop and renew Cavan's natural heritage.</p> <p>2.2.2. Explore opportunities to sustainably develop and manage Cavan's waterways for angling, leisure, and tourism, in collaboration with local communities, partners, and national authorities.</p> <p>2.2.3. Building on Cavan Calling, create a set of impactful initiatives focused on the diaspora that attract those with a Cavan connection to visit and dwell in the county.</p> <p>2.2.4. Continue to promote the development of recreational infrastructure and other active travel measures within the county to support active enjoyment of the county.</p> <p>2.2.5. Support key tourist attractions including the Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, Cavan County Museum, Dún an Rí Forest Park and Killykeen Forest Park to reach their full commercial, social and educational potential.</p> <p>2.2.6. Support Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark continuing designation as a UNESCO Geopark landscape.</p>

Goal 2: ‘Cavan will support the development of sustainable tourism in the county that appreciates the county’s natural, built, artistic, and cultural heritage’.

Objective 2.2 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>2.2.2. Explore opportunities to sustainably develop and manage Cavan's waterways for angling, leisure, and tourism in collaboration with local communities, partners, and national authorities.</p> <p>2.2.5. Support key tourist attractions including the Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, Cavan County Museum, Dún an Rí Forest Park and Killykeen Forest Park to reach their full commercial, social and educational potential.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners</p> <p>2.2.2. Lead: CCC Partners: Fáilte Ireland, CCLD, Waterways Ireland, Uisce Éireann, Group water schemes, Inland Fisheries Ireland</p> <p>2.2.5. Lead: CCC Partners: Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, Cavan County Museum, Coillte, other identified tourist attractions, Fáilte Ireland, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Key Performance Indicators</p> <p>2.2.2.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of a Cavan Angling Development Strategy. 2. Capital improvement works applied for at least one key angling site / location each year through Dept. of Rural and Community Development schemes. <p>2.2.5.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop masterplan for Killykeen Forest Park in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland and Coillte. 2. Implement Dún an Rí Forest Park masterplan. 3. Seek capital funding for a project in each forest park over the two years of this implementation plan. 4. Overall 15% increase from 2022 visitor numbers at key tourist sites. 5. Complete Shannon Pot / Cavan Burren project.
Potential Funding Sources (example)	<p>Fáilte Ireland Grants Scheme, LEADER, Outdoor Recreation Investment Scheme, Dept. of Rural and Community Development</p>

Goal 2: ‘Cavan will support the development of sustainable tourism in the county that appreciates the county’s natural, built, artistic, and cultural heritage’.

Objective 2.3

Policy/Planning Framework	Economic
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 8
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 5, NSO 7
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 4.1, RPO 4.2, RPO 4.3, RPO 4.6, RPO 4.7, RPO 4.8, RPO 4.9, RPO 5.13, RPO 9.1
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 2 Cavan will support the development of sustainable tourism in the county that appreciates the county’s natural, built, artistic, and cultural heritage.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Economic Development Objective (SEDO) Support and promote the This is Cavan tourism brand.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions 2.3.1. Build upon and strengthen the success of the This is Cavan brand.</p> <p>2.3.2. The Cavan tourism offering will be promoted in collaboration with national agencies to national and international audiences and buyers.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Prioritised Actions 2.3.1. Build upon and strengthen the success of the This is Cavan brand.</p> <p>2.3.2. The Cavan tourism offering will be promoted in collaboration with national agencies to national and international audiences and buyers.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners 2.3.1. Lead: CCC Partners: Fáilte Ireland, Tourist destinations and hospitality businesses, Coillte, Waterways Ireland</p> <p>2.3.2. Lead: CCC Partners: Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	

Goal 2: ‘Cavan will support the development of sustainable tourism in the county that appreciates the county’s natural, built, artistic, and cultural heritage’.

Objective 2.3 (contd.)

Key Performance Indicators

2.3.1.

1. Continue to promote and grow the This is Cavan website / online presence.
2. Replace and expand distribution of existing This is Cavan signage along national and key regional roads entering the county.
3. Deliver at least one advertising / promotional campaign per year.
4. Greater brand awareness amongst international buyers.

LECP Implementation Plan

2.3.2.

1. Deliver at least one advertising / promotional campaign per year.
2. Increased number of familiarisation (‘fam’) trips to Cavan by international buyers and travel writers.
3. Increased participation by Cavan businesses at the Meitheal trade event and other similar events.

Potential Funding Sources (example)

Fáilte Ireland, LEADER, Dept. of Rural and Community Development

Goal 3: ‘Cavan will facilitate life-long learning and further education and training opportunities to support the personal development and attainment of its people’.

Objective 3.1

Policy/Planning Framework	Community / Economic
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 8
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 3, NSO 5, NSO 10
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 4.39, RPO 4.41, RPO 7.7
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 3 Cavan will facilitate life-long learning and further education and training opportunities to support the personal development and attainment of its people.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Community / Economic Development Objective Develop the range and depth of post-secondary and life-long learning options available to people in the county by working with education partners such as CMETB, Cavan Institute and Ballyhaise Agricultural College.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions</p> <p>3.1.1. The county will support education providers such as CMETB / Cavan Institute and Ballyhaise Agricultural College in the delivery of further education and training options to enhance career development and skills formation, including traineeships and apprenticeships.</p> <p>3.1.2. Support education providers in the county in accessing additional funding and pursuing partnerships to enhance educational opportunities in Cavan.</p> <p>3.1.3. Encourage and facilitate the provision of life skills training, including financial literacy, energy sustainably, nutrition, and other skills as identified.</p> <p>3.1.4. The Irish language will be supported and promoted within Cavan as part of the county’s intangible cultural heritage.</p> <p>3.1.5. Develop life-long learning options throughout the county to educate and enrich the lives of people from all over Cavan.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>3.1.1. The county will support education providers such as CMETB / Cavan Institute and Ballyhaise Agricultural College in the delivery of further education and training options to enhance career development and skills formation, including traineeships and apprenticeships.</p> <p>3.1.5. Develop life-long learning options throughout the county to educate and enrich the lives of people from all over Cavan.</p>

Goal 3: ‘Cavan will facilitate life-long learning and further education and training opportunities to support the personal development and attainment of its people’.

Objective 3.1 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners 3.1.1. Lead: CCC and CMETB / Cavan Institute Partners: Ballyhaise Agricultural College (Teagasc)</p> <p>3.1.5. Lead: CMETB / Cavan Institute Partners: Ballyhaise Agricultural College (Teagasc), CCC</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Key Performance Indicators 3.1.1. 1. Ongoing training needs assessment undertaken by relevant bodies, e.g. CMETB. 2. More courses devised, traineeships and apprenticeship positions created to match the desires of locals and the needs of employers.</p> <p>3.1.5. 1. Strong provision of life-long learning courses that meet local demands / needs.</p>
Potential Funding Sources (example)	<p>CMETB, SOLAS, Dept. of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, National Training Fund, Creative Ireland Grants Scheme, Tusla Bursary Scheme, CCC</p>

Goal 3: ‘Cavan will facilitate life-long learning and further education and training opportunities to support the personal development and attainment of its people’.

Objective 3.2

Policy/Planning Framework	Community
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 8, SDG 10
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 3, NSO 10
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 7.1, RPO 7.2, RPO 7.3, RPO 7.7, RPO 7.15
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 3 Cavan will facilitate life-long learning and further education and training opportunities to support the personal development and attainment of its people.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO) Provide accessible education opportunities to support the integration and participation of all our communities across the county.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions</p> <p>3.2.1. Work with older people to develop attractive life-long learning options that improve their ability to connect with and participate in the community.</p> <p>3.2.2. Facilitate new communities in Cavan to engage in education and training to support their participation and integration into the community and the workplace.</p> <p>3.2.3. Support those with disabilities and / or additional needs to engage in education and training programmes.</p> <p>3.2.4. Continue to enhance inclusivity and accessibility of education and training provision to enable participation by all, in particular those experiencing disadvantage / hardest to reach.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Action</p> <p>3.2.4. Continue to enhance inclusivity and accessibility of education and training provision to enable participation by all, in particular those experiencing disadvantage / hardest to reach.</p>

Goal 3: ‘Cavan will facilitate life-long learning and further education and training opportunities to support the personal development and attainment of its people’.

Objective 3.2 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners 3.2.4. Lead: CMETB / Cavan Institute and CCC Partners: Ballyhaise Agricultural College (Teagasc), Primary Schools, Children and Young People’s Committee (CYPSC), Teach Oseail Family Resource Centre, Focus Family Resource centre</p> <p>Please note: due to the diffuse nature of primary school management in the county, a key factor to the success of this action will be recruiting suitable representatives from primary schools to work with the Lead bodies – especially CCC – to accomplish the KPIs.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Key Performance Indicators 3.2.4.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessment undertaken of primary and secondary schools to examine if Cavan is taking full advantage of the DEIS scheme. Recommendations enacted. 2. Study carried out to establish viability of creating a pilot programme for DEIS primary school homework clubs to provide hot dinners. 3. Comprehensive programme of early needs diagnosis implemented for children entering Primary School. 4. Improved provision of affordable and adequate public transport to schools and other education centres for children and adults with disabilities, and adult learners. 5. Delivery of consistent learner supports across all FET provision. 6. Further development of learner supports to facilitate access and participation by all.
Potential Funding Sources (example)	<p>Tusla Bursary Scheme, CMETB, SOLAS, Dept. of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Dept. of Education, CCC, TFI Local Link Cavan Monaghan</p>

Goal 3: ‘Cavan will facilitate life-long learning and further education and training opportunities to support the personal development and attainment of its people’.

Objective 3.3

Policy/Planning Framework	Community / Economic
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 4, SDG 10
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 5, NSO 10
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 4.38
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 3 Cavan will facilitate life-long learning and further education and training opportunities to support the personal development and attainment of its people.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Community / Economic Development Objective Support the development of third-level educational provision within the county.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions 3.3.1. Work with relevant stakeholders within the county such as CMETB / Cavan Institute and third level institutions nationally, to explore the options to support the provision of third level courses within the county.</p> <p>3.3.2. Leverage the recent Government announcement of a new FET College of the Future for Cavan Institute as a suitable location for delivery of third level courses, from a range of providers.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Actions 3.3.1. Work with relevant stakeholders within the county such as CMETB / Cavan Institute and third level institutions nationally, to explore the options to support the provision of third level courses within the county.</p> <p>3.3.2. Leverage the recent Government announcement of a new FET College of the Future for Cavan Institute as a suitable location for delivery of third level courses, from a range of providers.</p>

Goal 3: ‘Cavan will facilitate life-long learning and further education and training opportunities to support the personal development and attainment of its people’.

Objective 3.3 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners</p> <p>3.3.1. Lead: CMETB / Cavan Institute and CCC Partners: Ballyhaise Agricultural College (Teagasc), Dept. of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science, Dept. of Education</p> <p>3.3.2. Lead: CMETB / Cavan Institute and CCC Partners: Dept. of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science, Dept. of Education, Third Level Institutes</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Key Performance Indicators</p> <p>3.3.1.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore the potential for Cavan FET providers to deliver Higher Education programmes in partnership with Third Level Institutes regionally, nationally and internationally. 2. Additional provision of third level courses (cert, diploma, degree) on site in Cavan. 3. No. of links created with industry in the county for placements and to ensure courses meet employer needs, especially in agribusiness and manufacturing. <p>3.3.2.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progression of CMETB FET College of the Future project in Cavan.
Potential Funding Sources (example)	<p>CMETB, SOLAS, Dept. of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science</p>

Goal 4: ‘Cavan will support the regeneration and revitalisation of its towns, villages, and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit’.

Objective 4.1

Policy/Planning Framework	Community
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 10, SDG 11
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 1, NSO 2, NSO 3, NSO 4
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 6.5, RPO 6.7, RPO 6.8, RPO 6.10, RPO 6.14, RPO 6.20, RPO 6.21, RPO 6.22, RPO 6.26, RPO 6.27, RPO 6.28, RPO 6.29, RPO 6.30, RPO 6.31, RPO 6.49, RPO 6.50, RPO 9.2
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 4 Cavan will support the regeneration and revitalisation of its towns, villages, and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO) Facilitate Active Living and Connectivity for all communities in Cavan.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions</p> <p>4.1.1. Explore the development of transport solutions to support the participation of all society (e.g. volunteering levels, engagement with sporting and social clubs) but particularly young people in our sports clubs, social clubs, schools, and communities across rural and urban Cavan.</p> <p>4.1.2. Support the development of community recreational resources across rural and urban Cavan.</p> <p>4.1.3. Support the implementation of measures and infrastructure to promote active travel within the county both for main journeys, and last mile options.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Action</p> <p>4.1.1. Explore the development of transport solutions to support the participation of all society but particularly young people in our sports clubs (including minority sports), social clubs, schools, and communities across rural and urban Cavan.</p>

Goal 4: ‘Cavan will support the regeneration and revitalisation of its towns, villages, and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit’.

Objective 4.1 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners 4.1.1. Lead: CCC Partners: TFI Local Link Cavan Monaghan, CMETB, CCLD</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Key Performance Indicators 4.1.1.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased number of routes and frequency of Local Link buses and users. 2. Feasibility of community cars investigated. 3. Improvements made to walking and cycling infrastructure across Cavan’s towns and villages. Construction of 9.32km of cycling facilities, 13.1km of footpaths. 4. Programme supported assisting young people – especially those in rural areas – obtain their driving licence. 5. Increased number of young people participating in sports and social clubs. Surveys needed with sports and social clubs.
Potential Funding Sources (example)	<p>NTA Active Travel Grants Programme, NTA/TFI, LEADER, CMETB, SOLAS, Dept. of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Dept. of Rural and Community Development schemes (e.g. CLÁR, Outdoor Recreation Investment Scheme)</p>

Goal 4: ‘Cavan will support the regeneration and revitalisation of its towns, villages, and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit’.

Objective 4.2

Policy/Planning Framework	Community
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 13
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 1, NSO 13, NSO 9
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 3.2, RPO 3.3, RPO 3.6, RPO 3.8, RPO 3.9, RPO 9.1
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 4 Cavan will support the regeneration and revitalisation of its towns, villages, and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO) Effectively use housing as a tool to develop more resilient communities across the county.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions</p> <p>4.2.1. Ensure adequate zoning and access to suitable serviced sites for social and affordable housing throughout the county.</p> <p>4.2.2. Encourage compact and well serviced development within the established settlements of the county.</p> <p>4.2.3. Using funding sources from national (e.g. Croí Cónaithe, URDF, RRDF) and European sources (e.g. the Green New Deal, PEACEPLUS), bring derelict and other existing property up to standard, in areas of demand.</p> <p>4.2.4. Support a variety of residential developments in the county to provide options that support all stages of life, in particular step-down housing close to town and village centres.</p> <p>4.2.5. Encourage the reuse of existing dwellings and structures across rural Cavan for housing.</p> <p>4.2.6. Support the provision of social and affordable housing across Cavan.</p> <p>4.2.7. Support the provision of adaptable and accessible housing / supported living centres in accordance with the local housing disability strategy and all national policy initiatives</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>4.2.4. Support a variety of residential developments in the county to provide options that support all stages of life, in particular step-down housing close to town and village centres.</p> <p>4.2.5. Encourage the reuse of existing dwellings and structures across rural Cavan for housing.</p> <p>4.2.7. Support the provision of adaptable and accessible housing / supported living centres in accordance with the local housing disability strategy and all national policy initiatives.</p>

Goal 4: ‘Cavan will support the regeneration and revitalisation of its towns, villages, and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit’.

Objective 4.2 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners</p> <p>4.2.4. Lead: CCC Partners: Identified Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs), Cavan Older People’s Council</p> <p>4.2.5. Lead: CCC Partners: Identified Approved Housing Bodies</p> <p>4.2.7. Lead: CCC and Health Service Executive (HSE) Partners: Dept. of the Environment, Climate and Communications, AHBs, Relevant Charities</p> <p>Key Performance Indicators</p> <p>4.2.4.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pipeline of a variety of housing provided that matches the varying needs of Cavan’s population. Number of more houses in the process of being delivered. 2. Assist the private sector in delivering step-down housing in Cavan’s town and village centres. 3. Proactively support the delivery of social housing options in County Cavan. The Housing for All target for new build social housing in 2024 and 2025 is 170 units total <p>4.2.5.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strong promotion conducted of available assistance (e.g. Croí Cónaithe). This may include: seminars, planning and funding clinics/roadshows, social media campaign, County symposium. <p>4.2.7.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of fully supported living houses/centres provided in the county – staffed and adequately resourced. 2. No. of existing houses modified.
Potential Funding Sources (example)	<p>Croí Cónaithe, Housing Aid for Older People Grant, Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Dept. of the Environment, Climate and Communications</p>

Goal 4: ‘Cavan will support the regeneration and revitalisation of its towns, villages, and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit’.

Objective 4.3

Policy/Planning Framework	Community
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 8, SDG 11, SDG 13
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 7, NSO 9
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 3.6, RPO 3.9, RPO 5.17, RPO 7.20
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 4 Cavan will support the regeneration and revitalisation of its towns, villages, and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Economic Development Objective (SEDO) Cavan will support the revitalisation of its town, villages and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions</p> <p>4.3.1. Support the renovation of derelict commercial premises and identify opportunities to bring derelict properties back into use.</p> <p>4.3.2. Continue to redevelop and support the work of the Council and communities to create attractive and welcoming public spaces.</p> <p>4.3.3. Explore the development of physical and digital infrastructure to support more sustainable ways of working, living, and commuting across rural and urban Cavan.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Action</p> <p>4.3.1. Support the renovation of derelict commercial premises and identify opportunities to bring derelict properties back into use.</p>

Goal 4: ‘Cavan will support the regeneration and revitalisation of its towns, villages, and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit’.

Objective 4.3 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners 4.3.1. Lead: CCC Partners: CCLD, Identified Approved Housing Bodies</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Key Performance Indicators 4.3.1.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement a county wide road show to provide advice and supports to property owners on policy and funding available for the redevelopment and reuse of vacant and derelict buildings throughout our towns and villages. 2. Work with retailers to develop a programme for a biennial county Retail Symposium that will address a range of issues impacting on local retail, including: succession planning, online shopping, shop local campaigns, etc. 3. Reduce vacancy and dereliction in our towns and villages by increasing the number of sites on the Derelict Sites Register by 100%. 4. Compulsory purchase (CPO) to be used for problematic vacant and derelict sites where all other options have been reasonably exhausted. Note: in 2023, 14 sites were subject to a CPO. 5. Deliver small areas of public open spaces / pocket parks in our town and villages. Phased delivery of same should ensure the completion of an open space strategy identifying suitable locations in each of our towns and villages whilst also building on and improving existing green infrastructure at these locations.
Potential Funding Sources (example)	<p>Croí Cónaithe, Built Heritage Investment Scheme, Historic Towns Initiative</p>

Goal 4: ‘Cavan will support the regeneration and revitalisation of its towns, villages, and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit’.

Objective 4.4

Policy/Planning Framework	Community
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 11, SDG 17
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 3, NSO 5
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 4.38, RPO 4.39, RPO 4.41, RPO 4.42, RPO 9.3
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 4 Cavan will support the regeneration and revitalisation of its towns, villages, and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Economic Development Objective (SEDO) Build up capacity in our volunteer-led services and social enterprise sectors.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions</p> <p>4.4.1. Support the work of groups and Community Champions across rural and urban Cavan to foster and develop new community initiatives.</p> <p>4.4.2. Support communities to examine the development of new accessible community spaces in suitable locations across the county.</p> <p>4.4.3. Continue to provide and enhance early-stage and ongoing capacity building for social enterprises and volunteer organisations and community groups across the county.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Action</p> <p>4.4.3. Continue to provide and enhance early-stage and ongoing capacity building for social enterprises and volunteer organisations and community groups across the county</p>

Goal 4: ‘Cavan will support the regeneration and revitalisation of its towns, villages, and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit’.

Objective 4.4 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners 4.4.3. Lead: Cavan Volunteer Centre and Public Participation Network (PPN) Partners: CCC, CCLD</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Key Performance Indicators 4.4.3.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training and mentoring provided on relevant areas such as governance, fundraising and project management. 2. Improved governance, management and impact of various groups. This is to be measured by relevant surveys. 3. Number of volunteers registered and trained.
Potential Funding Sources (example)	AIB Community Fund

Goal 4: ‘Cavan will support the regeneration and revitalisation of its towns, villages, and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit’.

Objective 4.5

Policy/Planning Framework	Community
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 3, SDG 10, SDG 11
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 3, NSO 5
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 7.1, RPO 7.2, RPO 9.1, RPO 9.3
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 4 Cavan will support the regeneration and revitalisation of its towns, villages, and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO) Support the development of Cavan’s arts and culture sector as a way of improving residents’ quality of life</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions</p> <p>4.5.1. Support the implementation of the county’s new arts and culture strategies to sustainably develop the sector in Cavan and attract target audiences.</p> <p>4.5.2. Explore linkages and funding opportunities with local, national and European agencies to deliver innovative and inclusive arts and creative projects.</p> <p>4.5.3. Support measures which facilitate inclusion and participation in the Arts, particularly for those in marginalised sectors of society.</p> <p>4.5.4. Support the further development of Library, Archive, Museum and Genealogy services in Cavan.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Action</p> <p>4.5.3. Support measures which facilitate inclusion and participation in the Arts, particularly for those in marginalised sectors of society.</p>

Goal 4: ‘Cavan will support the regeneration and revitalisation of its towns, villages, and rural communities as attractive places to live, work and visit’.

Objective 4.5 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners 4.5.3. Lead: CCC Partners: Arts venues and festivals</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Key Performance Indicators 4.5.3. 1. Research undertaken as to how to increase inclusion and participation in the Arts, especially amongst those who are marginalised. 2. Recommendations of research implemented. 3. Increased inclusion and participation. Quantified with survey.</p>
Potential Funding Sources (example)	CCC, Arts Council, Creative Ireland

Goal 5: ‘Cavan will be an inclusive, healthy and equitable county that supports wellbeing across its communities’.

Objective 5.1

Policy/Planning Framework	Community
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 3, SDG 17
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 3, NSO 10
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 7.8, RPO 7.10, RPO 7.11
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 5 Cavan will be an inclusive, healthy, and equitable county that supports wellbeing across its communities.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO) Promote an open approach to health and wellbeing in the county.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions</p> <p>5.1.1. An open approach to addressing mental health will be implemented in the county in partnership with national research institutes, and through engagement with local organisations, community groups and charities working on the ground.</p> <p>5.1.2. Supporting the implementation of national health policy and improving access to healthcare for the people of the county through initiatives such as Enhanced Community Care.</p> <p>5.1.3. Conduct a survey of marginalised and vulnerable populations to determine gaps in provision of socially inclusive healthcare and incorporate these into future planning decisions.</p> <p>5.1.4. Continue to strengthen collaboration between the public, community and voluntary sectors to encourage a holistic approach to tackling gaps and inequalities in health and wellbeing.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Action</p> <p>5.1.1. An open approach to addressing mental health will be implemented in the county in partnership with national research institutes, and through engagement with local organisations, community groups and charities working on the ground.</p>

Goal 5: ‘Cavan will be an inclusive, healthy and equitable county that supports wellbeing across its communities’.

Objective 5.1 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners 5.1.1. Lead: HSE Partners: CCC, Save our Sons and Daughters (SOSAD), relevant charities/NGOs</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Key Performance Indicators 5.1.1. 1. Undertake a research and profiling study gathering all available data on suspected suicides and self-harm to identify risk and contributory factors specific to the border counties.</p>
Potential Funding Sources (example)	<p>HSE, Mental Health Ireland, Healthy Ireland Fund, Dept. of Rural and Community Development</p>

Goal 5: ‘Cavan will be an inclusive, healthy and equitable county that supports wellbeing across its communities’.

Objective 5.2

Policy/Planning Framework	Community
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 3, SDG 10
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 3
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 7.12, RPO 7.13, RPO 7.14
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 5 Cavan will be an inclusive, healthy, and equitable county that supports wellbeing across its communities.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO) Improve accessibility and inclusivity of public services across the county.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions 5.2.1. Conduct an audit of existing public infrastructure. Analyse this to ensure its accessibility and ability to serve the whole community. Implement recommendations into the design of services and facilities.</p> <p>5.2.2. Conduct an audit in the county to understand gaps and address the challenges to accessibility in the county's settlements and community buildings across rural and urban Cavan.</p> <p>5.2.3. Continue to implement the Cavan Age Friendly strategy and support the full and active participation of older people in the social life of the county.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Action 5.2.3. Continue to implement the Cavan Age Friendly strategy and support the full and active participation of older people in the social life of the county.</p>

Goal 5: ‘Cavan will be an inclusive, healthy and equitable county that supports wellbeing across its communities’.

Objective 5.2 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners 5.2.3. Lead: CCC Partners: Cavan Older People’s Council, HSE, other relevant charities/NGOs and community groups</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Key Performance Indicators 5.2.3. 1. Conduct 3-5 walkability assessments in the county. 2. Development of one Age Friendly Town in the county. This will include walkability studies to be used in enhancement of public realm. 3. Roll out the Age Friendly Business Recognition Scheme in one town. 4. Ensure that Cavan Older People Council hosts an Annual Roadshow. 5. Host retirement planning seminar.</p>
Potential Funding Sources (example)	<p>Healthy Ireland Fund, CCC, Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, NTA/TFI</p>

Goal 5: ‘Cavan will be an inclusive, healthy and equitable county that supports wellbeing across its communities’.

Objective 5.3

Policy/Planning Framework	Community
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 3, SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 17
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 3, NSO 5, NSO 7
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 5.11, RPO 7.9, RPO 7.15
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 5 Cavan will be an inclusive, healthy, and equitable county that supports wellbeing across its communities.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Economic Development Objective (SEDO) Develop opportunities that support social inclusion and promote the active participation of all people, especially the marginalised in the social life of the community.</p> <p>Actions 5.3.1. Examine the creation of indoor and outdoor spaces in appropriate locations to provide young people a place to affordably socialise (including spaces for people with mobility and/or learning difficulties or sensory issues). 5.3.2. Examine the development of spaces for the county’s older population to socialise and meet. 5.3.3. Support the Volunteering Sector in the county to grow its capacity and place volunteering at the heart of community engagement. 5.3.4. Support efforts to increase the physical activity and recreation levels within the county, including the work of the Cavan Sports Partnership, the Local Sports Plan, along with the development of Cavan Regional Sports Campus.</p>
LECP Framework	
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Actions 5.3.1. Examine the creation of indoor and outdoor spaces in appropriate locations to provide young people a place to affordably socialise (including spaces for people with mobility and/or learning difficulties or sensory issues). 5.3.3. Support the Volunteering Sector in the county to grow its capacity and place volunteering at the heart of community engagement.</p>

Goal 5: ‘Cavan will be an inclusive, healthy and equitable county that supports wellbeing across its communities’.

Objective 5.3 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners 5.3.1. Lead: CCC Partners: Comhairle na nÓg, CCLD</p> <p>5.3.3. Lead: Cavan Volunteer Centre and PPN Partners: CCC, CCLD</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Key Performance Indicators 5.3.1.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research and plans underway for creation of a number of Teenspaces following South County Dublin model. 2. Work with CMETB and other agencies to provide dedicated indoor spaces for teens. At least one additional space in first two years. 3. Develop the Cavan Local Sports Plan. 4. Phase 1 of Cavan Regional Sports Campus commenced. 5. All new / renewed spaces designed to be Age Friendly. <p>5.3.3.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mentoring and training events provided to community groups. Number of people trained. 2. Ongoing information about available funding provided to community groups.
Potential Funding Sources (example)	<p>Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Dept. of Rural and Community Development, LEADER</p>

Goal 5: ‘Cavan will be an inclusive, healthy and equitable county that supports wellbeing across its communities’.

Objective 5.4

Policy/Planning Framework	Community
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 3, SDG 5, SDG 10
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 3, NSO 7, NSO 10, RPO 9.1
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 7.10, RPO 7.15
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 5 Cavan will be an inclusive, healthy, and equitable county that supports wellbeing across its communities.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Economic Development Objective (SEDO) Improve the physical and mental wellbeing of all the people of Cavan.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions 5.4.1. Develop community programs in alignment with the 3rd National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Implementation Plan.</p> <p>5.4.2. Support an evidence-based approach to combatting Drugs and Alcohol abuse and misuse in the county.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Actions 5.4.1. Develop community programs in alignment with the 3rd National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Implementation Plan.</p> <p>5.4.2. Support an evidence-based approach to combatting Drugs and Alcohol abuse and misuse in the county.</p>

Goal 5: ‘Cavan will be an inclusive, healthy and equitable county that supports wellbeing across its communities’.

Objective 5.4 (contd.)

<p>LECP Implementation Plan</p>	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners</p> <p>5.4.1. Lead: Dept. of Justice (Cuan) and CCC Partners: CCC, An Garda Síochána, Cavan and Monaghan Drug and Alcohol Service (CAMDAS), Domestic Violence Advisory Service, Rape Crisis North East, Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre, Tusla, HSE, Safe Ireland</p> <p>5.4.2. Lead: CCC Partners: HSE, Merchant’s Quay Ireland CAMDAS, An Garda Síochána, Cavan and Monaghan Drug and Alcohol Forum, PPN, Healthy Cavan</p> <p>Key Performance Indicators</p> <p>5.4.1.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No. of community programmes in line with the Domestic Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Implementation Plan being supported. Impact being measured. 2. Support further stakeholder engagement in relation to the development of a women’s refuge in the Cavan / Monaghan area. 3. Feasibility study to assess gaps in supports and provision, and what resources may be needed to deliver women’s refuge and ancillary services. <p>5.4.2.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All available relevant research reviewed and actions devised to address issues relating to alcohol and other drug use in the county. 2. No. of actions supported in Cavan and Monaghan Drug and Alcohol Forum 2022-2024 Action Plan and any successor documents. 3. Increased number of people accessing supports for drug related intimidation and violence through the DRIVE programme. 4. Increased number of people engaging in supports for their alcohol and other drug use, including where appropriate shared care and case management plans across all relevant state agencies and community service providers, particularly for issues around homelessness, mental health and family matters. 5. Increased number of people in recovery from alcohol and other drug use in Cavan.
<p>LECP Implementation Plan</p>	<p>Potential Funding Sources (example)</p> <p>Dept. of Justice, Dept. of Health</p>

Goal 6: ‘Cavan will proactively support climate action to create resilient and sustainable communities’.

Objective 6.1

Policy/Planning Framework	Community
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 13
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 8, NSO 9
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 5.1, RPO 5.5, RPO 5.6, RPO 9.4
LECP Framework	High Level Goal 6 Cavan will proactively support climate action to create resilient and sustainable communities.
LECP Framework	Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO) Cavan will proactively continue to support climate action.
LECP Framework	Actions 6.1.1. Implement the county's Climate Action Plan and conduct a baseline emissions study to understand the current level of emissions in the county and the gap to targets for 2030 and 2050. 6.1.2. Support the development of Sustainable Energy Communities across the county. 6.1.3. Support projects across the county where they contribute effectively to meeting the county's Climate Action targets.
LECP Implementation Plan	Prioritised Action 6.1.1. Implement the county's Climate Action Plan and conduct a baseline emissions study to understand the current level of emissions in the county and the gap to targets for 2030 and 2050.

Goal 6: ‘Cavan will proactively support climate action to create resilient and sustainable communities’.

Objective 6.1 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners 6.1.1. Lead: CCC Partners: Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Key Performance Indicators 6.1.1. 1. Climate Action Plan being comprehensively implemented. Number of initiatives / projects being carried out. 2. No. of jobs created in the green economy (e.g. retrofit, renewable energy). 3. Progress made towards reaching 51% emissions reduction by 2030.</p>
Potential Funding Sources (example)	<p>SEAI Community and Business Grants, Croí Cónaithe, NTA Active Travel Grants Programme, NTA/TFI, Enterprise Ireland Green Transition Fund, LEADER, Climate Action Fund</p>

Goal 6: ‘Cavan will proactively support climate action to create resilient and sustainable communities’.

Objective 6.2

Policy/Planning Framework	Community
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 9, SDG 11, SDG 13
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 5, NSO 6
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 9.4, RPO 9.7
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 6 Cavan will proactively support climate action to create resilient and sustainable communities.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Economic Development Objective (SEDO) Develop further climate adaptation and mitigation actions at scale with sponsorship and outside funding.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions</p> <p>6.2.1. Continue supporting the development of the Cavan Town Decarbonisation Zone.</p> <p>6.2.2. Cavan County Council will review its operations and assets in order to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency.</p> <p>6.2.3. Cavan County Council will support and encourage policies and development which increase the energy efficiencies of existing buildings and encourage zero emissions new builds.</p> <p>6.2.4. The Council will explore linkages and opportunities to work with European, national, and local funding partners to deliver innovative projects for the betterment of the county.</p> <p>6.2.5. Support the development of sites dedicated to the production of renewable energy in the county and support the journey to Net Zero by 2050.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>6.2.1. Continue supporting the development of the Cavan Town Decarbonisation Zone.</p> <p>6.2.4. The Council will explore linkages and opportunities to work with European, national, and local funding partners to deliver innovative projects for the betterment of the county.</p>

Goal 6: ‘Cavan will proactively support climate action to create resilient and sustainable communities’.

Objective 6.2 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners 6.2.1. Lead: CCC Partners: PPN, Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs), Businesses, CCLP</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>6.2.4. Lead: CCC Partners: PPN, Farming organisations, Business representatives, IDA, EI, EU Funds, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Irish Environmental Network</p> <p>Key Performance Indicators 6.2.1. 1. Create and publish the Decarbonisation Zone actions. 2. Implement impactful Decarbonisation Zone actions that set an example for other towns and villages to follow.</p> <p>6.2.4. 1. Strategically important topics selected (e.g. green rural economy, environmentally sustainable urban regeneration, farm income diversification, regenerative tourism). 2. Irish and European partners identified. 3. Number of project ideas developed and funding secured with partners. 4. No. of projects being implemented.</p>
Potential Funding Sources (example)	<p>SEAI Community and Business Grants, Croí Cónaithe, NTA Active Travel Grants Programme, NTA/TFI, Enterprise Ireland Green Transition Fund, LEADER, EU INTERREG and other EU funding sources</p>

Goal 6: ‘Cavan will proactively support climate action to create resilient and sustainable communities’.

Objective 6.3

Policy/Planning Framework	Community
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	SDG 6, SDG 11, SDG 13, SDG 14
National Development Plan (NDP) National Strategic Outcome	NSO 7, NSO 8, NSO 9
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	RPO 3.10, RPO 3.11, RPO 5.1, RPO 5.2, RPO 5.4, RPO 5.5, RPO 5.6, RPO 6.42, RPO 8.18, RPO 8.19, RPO 8.20, RPO 9.4, RPO 9.8
LECP Framework	<p>High Level Goal 6 Cavan will proactively support climate action to create resilient and sustainable communities.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Sustainable Economic Development Objective (SEDO) Protect and support the environment of Co. Cavan.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Actions</p> <p>6.3.1. Support policies to reduce transport emissions by improving transport planning and adopting the Avoid-Shift-Improve approach.</p> <p>6.3.2. Support and encourage the development of a more sustainable agriculture sector in the County through education, action, and proactive adaptation in accordance with the Cavan Climate Action Plan and national policies.</p> <p>6.3.3. Support and encourage the growth of the circular economy and bioeconomy.</p> <p>6.3.4. Support the implementation of local biodiversity support actions within Cavan, including smaller initiatives and larger projects in line with the National Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>6.3.5. Protect and enhance the water quality of Cavan’s water bodies in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive and other environmental functions.</p> <p>6.3.6. Build climate resilience in our infrastructure to combat the effects of climate change.</p>
LECP Framework	<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>6.3.5. Protect and enhance the water quality of Cavan’s water bodies in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive and other environmental functions.</p> <p>6.3.6. Build climate resilience in our infrastructure to combat the effects of climate change.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	<p>6.3.6. Build climate resilience in our infrastructure to combat the effects of climate change.</p>

Goal 6: ‘Cavan will proactively support climate action to create resilient and sustainable communities’.

Objective 6.3 (contd.)

LECP Implementation Plan	<p>Lead Agencies and Partners 6.3.5. Lead: CCC Partners: Uisce Éireann, Office of Public Works (OPW), Waterways Ireland, Farming organisations, Major manufacturers and food production plants, Coillte.</p> <p>6.3.6. Lead: CCC Partners: OPW</p> <p>Key Performance Indicators 6.3.5. 1. Advocate for improved water treatment facilities for Cavan’s towns and villages. 2. Nitrate run-off from farms reduced. 3. Water quality in Cavan’s waterbodies improving, especially in water bodies used for recreation and drinking water. 4. By 2030, no water body in Cavan to be classified as having ‘poor’ or ‘bad’ water quality. By end of this Implementation Plan, on target to reach the 2030 target.</p> <p>6.3.6. 1. Conduct a study on the likely impact climate change will have on the society and economy of County Cavan. 2. Create comprehensive strategy to address flooding risk within the county.</p>
LECP Implementation Plan	
Potential Funding Sources (example)	Rural Water Programme, Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

8.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

This chapter outlines the Council's high-level approach to the monitoring of the 2024-2029 Local Economic and Community Plan. The monitoring and evaluation of the LECP will be vital to ensure the successful implementation of the plan. As previously highlighted, the evaluation of progress will also be key to realising the benefits of the flexible Implementation Plan which will be reviewed and revised every 2 years.

Cavan County Council, on behalf of the Cavan Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning, and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), is committed to the regular and accurate monitoring of the performance and progress of the new plan. However, as the LECP is a shared plan, accurate monitoring and evaluation can only be achieved through a coordinated effort with key stakeholders who are involved in the delivery and implementation of the plan's actions.

The monitoring of progress on the goals, objectives and actions will assist the Council and its partners in adopting a data led and evidence-based approach to decision making whilst increasing collaboration across the county (figure 8.2). This in turn will contribute to the appropriate allocation of resources to address the specific needs of the county and assist in ensuring value for money is achieved over the timeframe of the LECP.

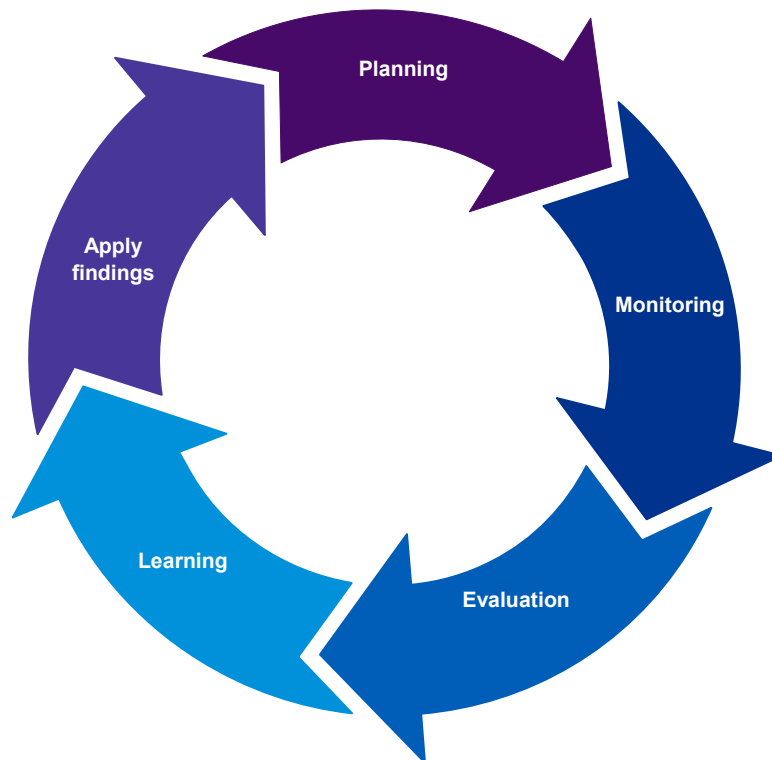


Figure 8.2: Monitoring and Evaluation Wheel

8.5 Cavan LECP Monitoring and Evaluation Approach

The approach to monitoring is designed to be uncomplicated, concise and accurate. It is acknowledged that reporting requirements need to be as time efficient as possible given the various agencies and stakeholders involved in the delivery of the LECP's actions. The foundation of the approach is based around a needs-based approach to monitoring and evaluation (i.e. the opportunity to revise the actions), open and clear communication, collaboration, and a culture of ownership within the Council to ensure the LECP's success.

As outlined in the previous chapters, the goals, objectives, outcomes and actions have been developed and enabling agencies and KPIs identified. Data sources, outlined below, have also been identified to assist in the monitoring of the plan. Cavan LCDC (Community actions) and the Economic, Enterprise and Planning SPC (Economic actions) will be responsible for the overall monitoring and evaluation of the plan and will liaise regularly with the various stakeholders and agencies involved in its implementation (the enabling agencies). Where relevant for specific actions and in coordination with the Council, nominated points of contact will be identified in the enabling agencies to provide updates on progress by agreed dates.

8.6 Management structure

For the actions in this plan to become reality determined implementation is required. The LCDC and Economic, Enterprise and Planning SPC will be responsible for the overall monitoring and evaluation of the plan's implementation.

A report on progress being made should be compiled and published annually through the LCDC / SPC. The report should contain reflections from the LCDC / SPC on lessons learnt, emerging matters and how the implementation process can be improved for the following year. The progress report should be made available online and publicised on the Council's social media channels.

At an early stage, the LCDC / SPC should contact every agency identified as being a key stakeholder and agree a route to accomplishing each of the 37 prioritised actions. The various actions should become the LCDC's work programme with a master GANTT chart created to track progress.

Towards the end of this two-year Implementation Plan, its success is to be evaluated and overall lessons learnt for the successor document.

8.7 What is being monitored?

The overall actions and KPIs of the implementation plan will be monitored and evaluated for progress with updates sought from the relevant enabling agencies on a bi-annual basis. The KPIs vary by nature with some relating to enrolment and participation numbers for courses and training, while others are implementation dependent e.g., in relation to progressing pilot initiatives, feasibility studies, campaigns or establishing working groups or similar. Regardless of the nature of the KPIs, the actions of the initial Implementation Plan should result in clear updates and reports on progress; be it the number of participants enrolled on a course or on what initiative has or has not progressed.

These updates will contribute to the overall evaluation of progress towards the higher-level goals, objectives and outcomes for the entire LECP period. The outcomes also vary in nature with regards to reporting and can be monitored in many instances through statistical data (updated at varying intervals outlined further below) provided by the CSO and other agencies such as GeoDirectory. In other instances, specific data will be held by the Council as well as other key stakeholders involved in the delivery of the LECP such as the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, service providers (e.g. TFI) and community groups (e.g. Cavan PPN).

8.8 What will be reported?

Through their nominated points of contact, relevant enabling agencies will provide short progress related updates on relevant actions and KPIs. Where information or data related to KPIs is not yet available (e.g. annual enrolment figures for courses or similar), this should be noted along with the envisaged date for when such data will be released. Any issues relating to the implementation of the action or reporting on the KPIs should be highlighted in the updates provided. Cavan LCDC / Economic, Enterprise and Planning SPC will review any such issues and where appropriate, solutions will be identified and implemented.

The goals, objectives and actions have been coded for ease of reference. For reporting purposes when referring to actions, the action number and where applicable action KPI should be referenced. For each action, a record should be kept on whether it has commenced, is in progress or has been completed. In instances where actions have not commenced, detail should be provided in the update as to why this is the case and the action's envisaged start date if applicable. Where actions have not been progressed, this should also be recorded and a reason provided. Similarly, where feasibility studies have resulted in ideas or pilots not being progressed, this should be clearly noted and recorded for future planning purposes.

8.9 Data Sources

The below highlights a number of data sources that have been utilised in the development of the LECP and can also be used to support the monitoring of its progress:

Business Demography

The business demography, updated annually, provides information on numbers of enterprises, enterprise births and deaths and survival rates as well as related employment figures. It can be used to update information on employment growth by enterprise category.

Census Information

Statistics and datasets from Census 2022 and future censuses will contribute greatly to monitoring progress in relation to a number of elements, particularly in relation to the goals, objectives and outcomes. This includes population information, level of employment, principal economic status, means of travel (e.g. walking, cycling or by vehicle), general health assessment, educational attainment and more.

CSO New Dwelling Completion

The CSO's New Dwelling Completions data is based on the number of domestic dwellings connected by the ESB Network to the electricity supply. Updated quarterly, it can assist in monitoring the housing supply in the county and whether it remains adequate to support the County's growth and development.

GeoDirectory

The GeoDirectory provides information on a quarterly basis on commercial and residential vacancy at county and selected town level. It can be used to track changes in the commercial and residential vacancy rates in Cavan. This can be supplemented with findings from town centre health checks should they be undertaken in the county over the course of LECP timeframe.

HEA Enrolments by HEI Region/Home County

The Higher Education Authority provides information, updated annually, on enrolments by county. This includes data on institution, course level and mode of study amongst other areas.

Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The Labour Force Survey replaced the Quarterly Household Survey and provides labour force estimates in relation to measure of employment and unemployment in the country including by region. It is updated quarterly.

Live Register

The Live Register provides information on a monthly basis in relation to those seeking jobseekers benefit and jobseekers allowance and includes county level information. Notably, it is not designed to measure unemployment as it includes part-time, seasonal and casual workers that maybe entitled to jobseekers benefit and allowance.

Pobal HP Deprivation Index

The Pobal HP Deprivation Index shows the level of overall affluence and deprivation by Electoral District and Small Area along with associated deprivation scores. The latest version of the index is based on the 2022 Census.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme Reports (SICAP)

Pobal release annual reports related to the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme by county which includes indicators and identified trends around specific target groups including those from minority groups, the unemployed and older people.

9

Appendices

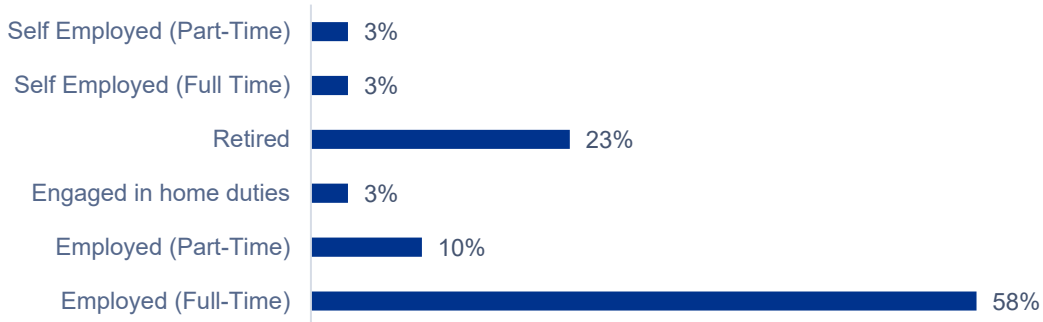


Appendix A

Community Survey Results

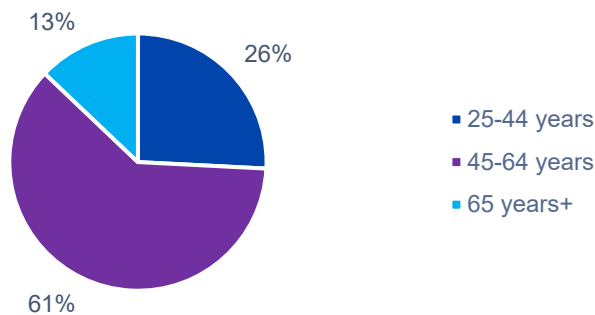
The following are additional charts derived from the community surveys that have not been previously incorporated into the consultation findings section of the document.

How would you best describe your present principal status?



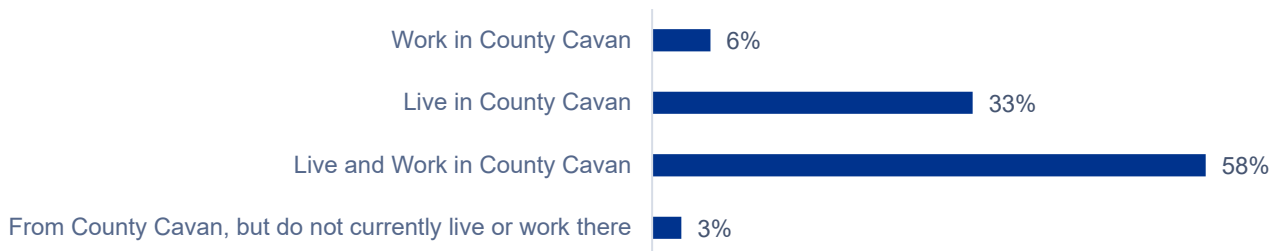
A majority of the community members who engaged with the consulting process and filled out the survey were in full-time employment. The remainder included other principal statuses such as retirees, part-time employment and self-employment.

What age bracket do you fall into?



61% of survey respondents were between the ages of 45 and 64. None were under the age of 25.

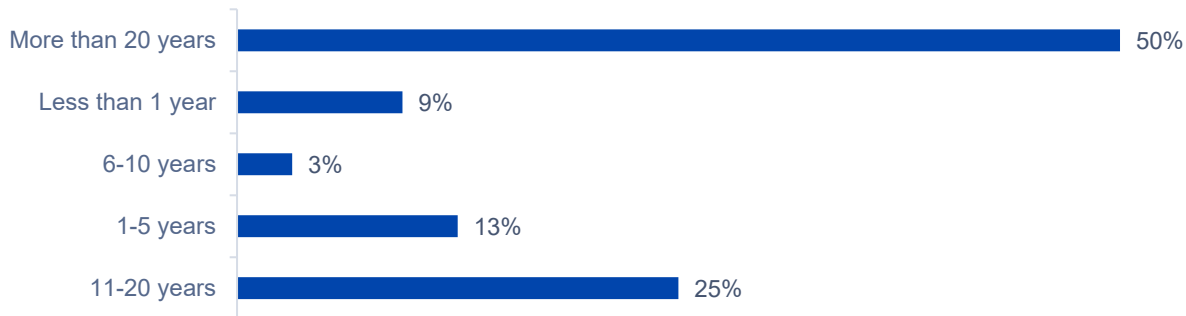
How would you describe your connection with County Cavan?



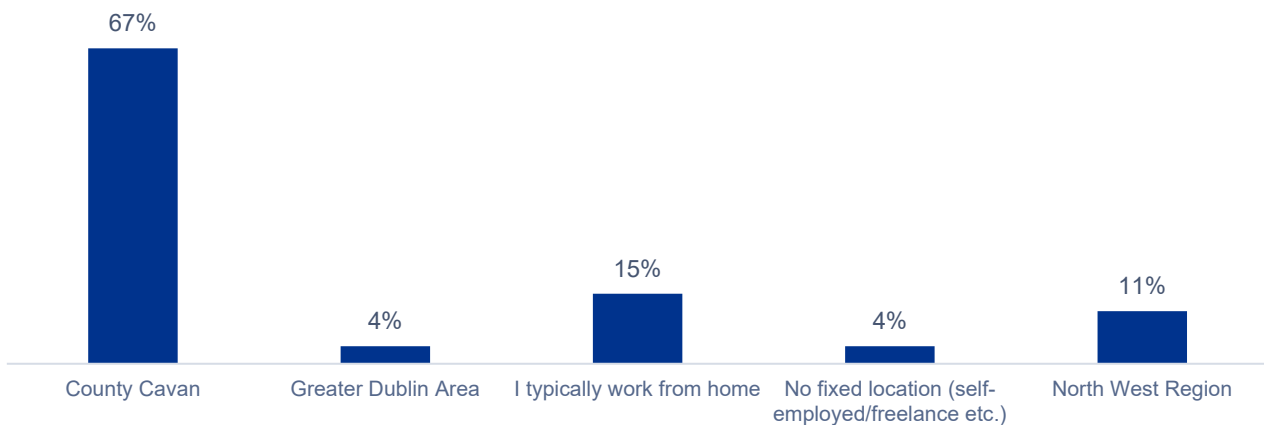
Almost all survey respondents currently reside in County Cavan, with 58% of respondents also working in County Cavan.

Community Survey Results (cont.)

How long have you lived and/or worked in County Cavan?

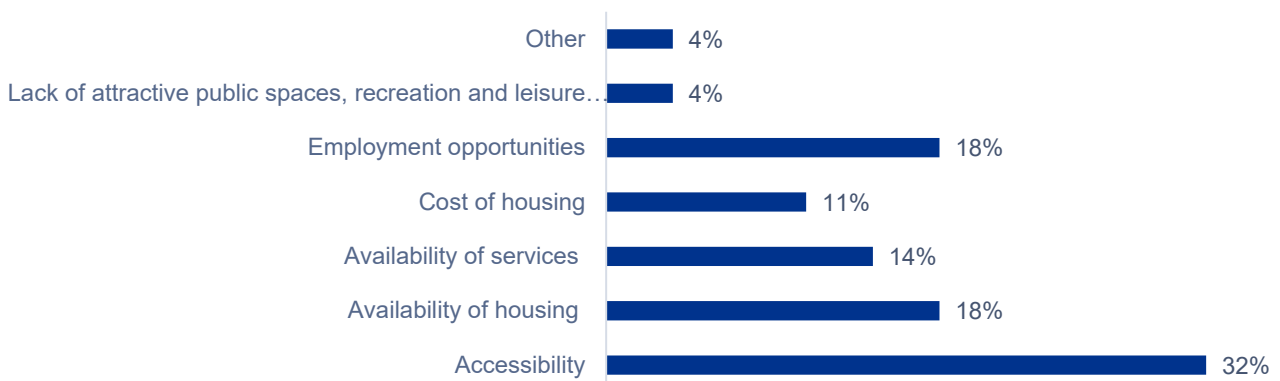


If employed, where is your usual place of work?



67% of the employment was based in County Cavan, with the rest occurring in the Northwest Region, Greater Dublin Area or working from home.

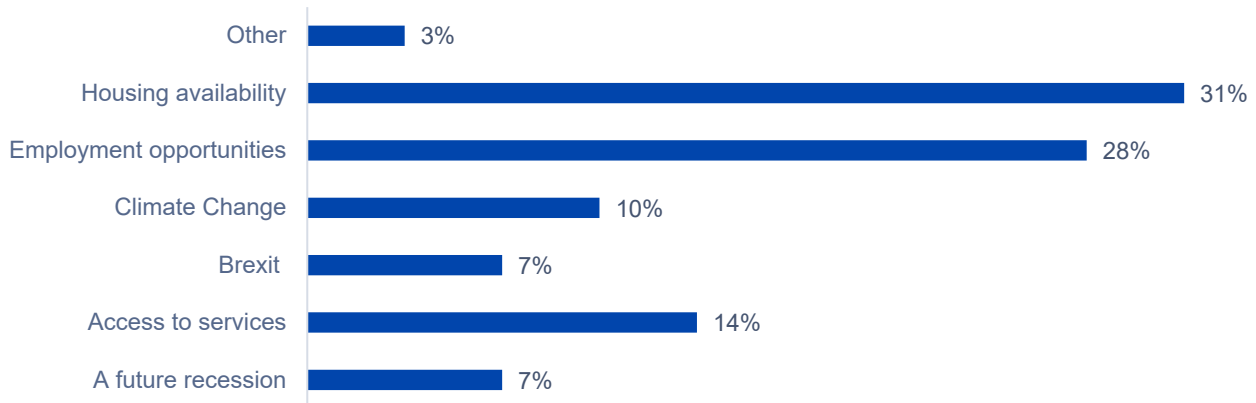
What are the main barriers to people coming to live and work in Cavan?



According to the survey results, the main barriers to people coming to live and work in Cavan is accessibility (at 32%). Other notable barriers include the lack of available housing, services and employment opportunities.

Community Survey Results (cont.)

What is the biggest threat, issue or concern for the future development of Cavan?



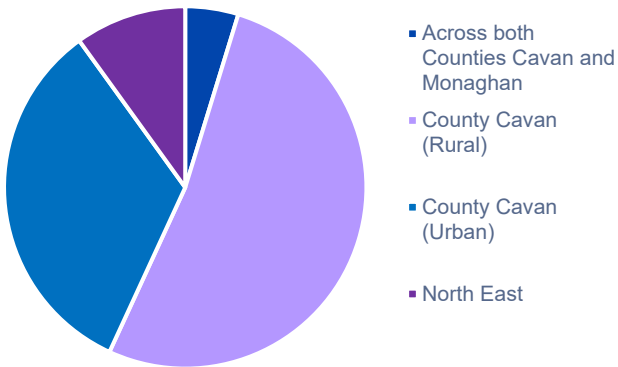
31% of survey respondents believe housing availability is the biggest threat for the future development of County Cavan. Another 28% feel that a lack of employment opportunities is the biggest concern. Climate change and access to services also ranked highly as a concern. Some survey respondents also added written submissions, the most notable examples being lack of public transport / infrastructure and emigration of younger generations.

Appendix B

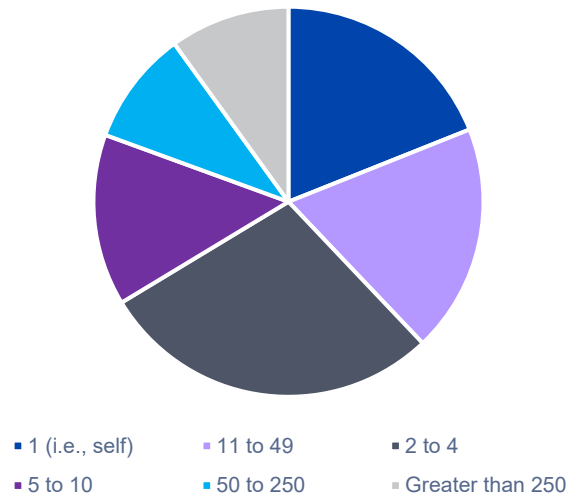
Business Survey Results

In addition to the community surveys, a number of businesses in Cavan were surveyed. The following sections contains insights which were gathered from the survey not already overviewed in Section 6.

Where is your business located?



Approximately how many people does your business/organisation directly employ?



A majority of the businesses surveyed were located in the rural Cavan, with a considerable amount also in urban Cavan. The vast majority of businesses were smaller than 50 employees.

How many years have you been operating at your current location?



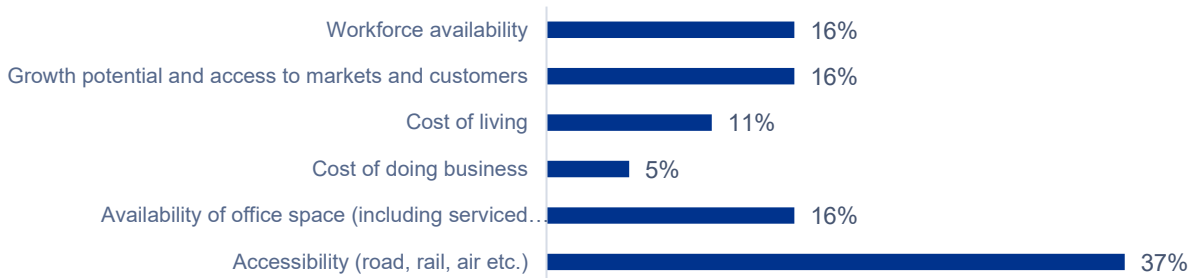
Business Survey Results (cont.)

In your view, what is Cavan’s main strength as a place to do business?

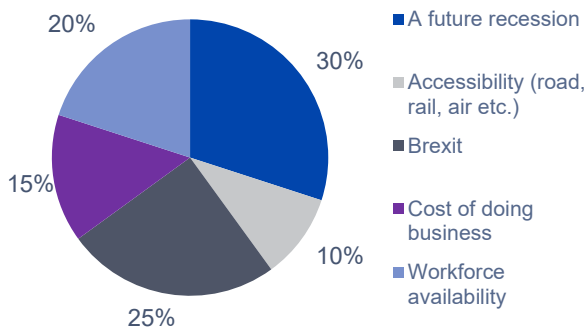


32% of businesses believed that Cavan’s lower cost of doing business is its greatest strength as a place to do business. Workforce availability and accessibility are also considered strengths of doing business in Cavan. However, as per the following chart, transport accessibility was ranked as a significant constraint of doing business for some respondents.

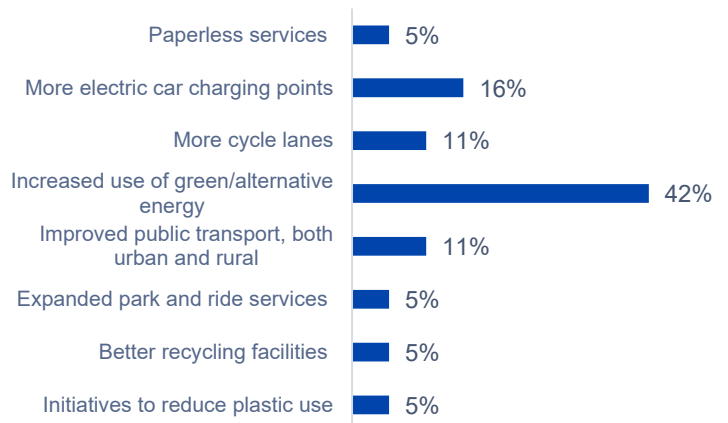
In your view, what is Cavan's main constraint as a place to do business?



In your view, what is the biggest threat or concern businesses have for the future economic growth of Cavan?



Which of these green initiatives would you see benefitting Cavan the most?



When asked about the threats to future economic development, a future recession was rated as one of the most significant. 42% of businesses, meanwhile, believed that increased use of green and alternative energy would be the best green initiative to benefit Cavan.

Appendix C

Members of Cavan Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning, and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

LCDC members

Name	Representing
Brendan Jennings	Director of Services, Cavan County Council
Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick	Elected Member
Cllr Clifford Kelly	Elected Member
Cllr TP O'Reilly	Elected Member
Dr Fiona McGrath	Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board
Conor Craven	Local Enterprise Office
Carmel Denning	Department of Social Protection
Ruth Woods	HSE
Jim Maguire (Chairperson)	Cavan County Local Development Company
Beth McEntee	Community and Voluntary Interests
Gayathri Devi Soman	Social Inclusion Interests
Barry Kavanagh	Environmental Interests
Frances O'Neill	Disability Interests Network
Aisling Traynor	Youth Issues
Maryam Temile	Women's Issues
Connie Whelan (Vice Chairperson)	Chambers of Commerce
Catherine McCollum	Agricultural and Farming Interests

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC members

Name	Representing
Cllr John Paul Feeley (Chairperson)	Elected Member
Cllr Peter McVitty	Elected Member
Cllr Sarah O'Reilly	Elected Member
Cllr Winston Bennett	Elected Member
Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick	Elected Member
Cllr Carmel Brady	Elected Member
Stanley Nwaneri	Community / Voluntary
Vacant	Agriculture and Farming
Vacant	Development and Construction
Vacant	Business and Commercial

Images courtesy of Cavan County Council and Fáilte Ireland.

