



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Project Ireland 2040 **Southern Region**

2020 update



Key Facts and Projects

NSO 1 - Compact Growth

- 1,834 new social housing builds in the Southern Region in 2020
- 5,912 total new dwelling completions in the Southern Region in 2020
- 31 successful applicants to the first call Urban Regeneration and Development Fund. Second call launched in January 2020.

NSO 2 - Enhanced Regional Connectivity

- N21/N69 Limerick to Adare to Foynes - Decision is expected in late 2021
- N28 Cork to Ringaskiddy road - Main works expected in 2024
- N22 Ballyvourney to Macroom road - Construction work ongoing and it is expected to be complete in 2023
- M8/N25 Dunkettle Interchange, Government approved the Design and Build contract in October 2020
- Mallow Relief Road, Technical advisors have been procured and the assessment of route options is ongoing
- Listowel Bypass - Scheme due to go to tender in Q2 2021
- Tralee Northern Relief Road - land acquired for phase 1 of this scheme
- Tralee to Fenit road upgrade - scheme being implemented on a phased basis

NSO 3 - Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities

- 10 projects were approved for funding from the second call of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund in the Region

NSO 4 - Sustainable Mobility

- Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy published in March 2020. Limerick and Waterford strategies in progress

NSO 5 - A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills

- 83,639 in IDA supported employment, 76,954 in EI supported employment
- 2,753 clients supported in the Region by Local Enterprise Offices
- 10 successful applicants for the latest round of the Regional Enterprise Development Fund
- 3rd call of the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund launched January 2020

NSO 6 - High Quality International Connectivity

- Work ongoing at Shannon - Hangar and Shannon Foynes Port, Rosslare, Waterford, and Cork

NSO 7 - Enhanced Amenity and Heritage

- Cultural investments across the region, including the Crawford Art Gallery
- 9 successful applicants from the Region in the last round of the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund

NSO 8 - Climate-Resilient Society

- 58 flood relief schemes are progressing or planned for the Southern Region

NSO 9 - Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources

- There are 4 water projects completed, 24 in progress and 75 projects planned in the Region

NSO 10 - Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services

- 75 schools projects were delivered with 12 projects in excess of €1m
- A further 497 schools projects are at various stages of planning, design and construction
- Capital affected by Covid response, works throughout region including at CUH and UH Kerry

1. Project Ireland 2040

This document sets out the regional projects and programmes which are being planned and delivered in the Southern Region as part of the public investment detailed in Project Ireland 2040 - the Government's National Planning Framework and National Development Plan.

While this document does not provide an exhaustive list of all public capital expenditure in the region, it does serve to highlight the diverse range of investment being made by the State under Project Ireland 2040. Project Ireland 2040 set out ten National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs), built around the over-arching themes of well-being, equality and opportunity. This document sets out the main achievements under each NSO in 2020, for the Southern Region.

The document draws on information from a wide range of publicly available sources as well as material provided by Government Departments and Agencies - a list of the major projects in the Southern Region is contained in the Appendix.

The Southern Region covers the administrative areas of 9 counties; Carlow, Clare, Cork City and County, Kerry, Kilkenny, Limerick City and County, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford. The Southern Regional Assembly (SRA) is part of regional governance in Ireland, established under local government reform in January 2015.

2. Regional Cities: Cork, Limerick and Waterford

Project Ireland 2040 seeks to develop our regional towns and cities as viable urban centres of scale, which can act as alternatives and a counterbalance to the continued growth of Dublin and its surrounding region. In doing so, these cities and regional towns will act as drivers of growth for their wider region and rural areas.

Project Ireland 2040 envisages the population of Cork City and Suburbs to grow by between 105,000 - 125,000 people (50-60%) by 2040. In keeping with the vision of compact smart growth, 50% of new city housing will be within the existing Cork City and Suburbs footprint.

Project Ireland 2040 envisages the population of Limerick City and Suburbs to grow by between 47,000 - 56,000 people (or 50-60%) by 2040. In keeping with the vision of compact smart growth, 50% of new city housing will be within the existing Limerick City and Suburbs footprint.

Project Ireland 2040 envisages the population of Waterford City and Suburbs to grow by between 30,000 - 35,000 people (or 50-60%) by 2040. In keeping with the vision of compact smart growth, 50% of new city housing will be within the existing Waterford City and Suburbs footprint.

The Project Ireland 2040 assessment is that a stronger Waterford City would lead to the development of the wider South-East, which has experienced slower economic recovery than the national average in recent years, together with high unemployment rates, lower value job opportunities and less job creation.

3.1

National Strategic Outcome 1 – Compact Growth

This outcome aims to secure the sustainable growth of more compact urban and rural settlements supported by jobs, houses, services and amenities, rather than continued sprawl and unplanned, uneconomic growth.

There were 1,834 social housing new builds in the Southern Region in 2020 with more planned in 2021.

There were 5,912 new dwellings completed in the Southern Region in 2020, up 10.8% on the previous period (5,336).

Table 1: Social Housing Completion in 2020

Southern Region	Total New Build
Clare	86
Limerick City and County	107
Tipperary	111
Carlow	104
Kilkenny	95
Waterford	157
Wexford	182
Cork City	295
Cork County	466
Kerry	231
Total	1,834

Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Table 2: Total Housing Completion in 2020

South	New Dwelling Completions
Clare	394
Limerick City and County	513
Tipperary	308
Carlow	195
Kilkenny	380
Waterford	472
Wexford	624
Cork City	1,026
Cork	1,425
Kerry	575
Total	5,912

Source: Central Statistics Office

Table 3: Total Planning Permissions in 2020

Planning Region and County	Houses	Multi development houses	One off houses	Private flats/ apartments	Total
Southern - Totals	6,334	4,237	2,097	2,323	8,687
Clare	394	236	158	98	492
Limerick	533	308	225	248	781
Tipperary	491	338	153	122	613
Carlow	198	128	70	23	468
Kilkenny	408	208	200	91	1,108
Waterford	298	151	147	122	2,112
Wexford	870	584	286	373	3,132
Cork City	1,029	979	50	1,016	2,045
Cork County	1,777	1,149	628	207	1,984
Kerry	336	156	180	23	359

Source: Central Statistics Office

Urban and Rural Development Fund (URDF)

The Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) will help to rejuvenate significant but underused areas in Ireland's five cities and other large towns. In the Southern Region, these include: Cork City and Metropolitan Area, Limerick City and Metropolitan Area, Waterford City, Ennis, Clonmel, Shannon, Nenagh, Thurles, Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey, Dungarvan, New Ross, Killarney, Tralee, Carrigaline, Middleton, Mallow and Cobh, amongst others.

The URDF is a key part of Project Ireland 2040 and has a total budget of €2 billion over the period to 2027. The Fund is supporting applicant-led projects that will enable a greater proportion of residential and mixed-use development to be delivered within

the existing built-up footprints of our cities and large towns, while also ensuring that more parts of our urban areas can become attractive and vibrant places in which people choose to live and work, as well as to invest and to visit.

In total, 31 projects were approved for funding from the first call of the URDF in 2018 in the Southern Region.

The second call for proposals under the URDF was launched in January 2020. Following a rigorous assessment process the proposals approved under this call will build on the existing pipeline of URDF supported projects, and will ultimately contribute significantly to the transformative regeneration and development of our large towns and cities, and to the achievement of NPF and Project Ireland 2040 objectives.

Table 4a: Successful Applicants in Call 1 of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Mid-West	Category A (Ready to Go)	Category B (to be developed)	Total per County
Clare	1	2	3
Limerick City and County	3	4	7
Tipperary	2	0	2
Carlow	0	1	1
Kilkenny	1	0	1
Waterford	2	0	2
Wexford	1	0	1
Cork City	0	4	4
Cork County	3	4	7
Kerry	2	1	3
Total	15	16	31

Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Table 4b: Successful Projects in Call 1 of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Clare County Council	Clare	Parnell Street and the Lanes and Bow-Ways	This URDF supported project is part of an overall rejuvenation and enhancement programme for Ennis as part of the Ennis Town Centre Public Realm Regeneration. The project consists of regeneration works to two integrated and physically connected elements located at the heart of Ennis, Parnell Street and the extensive network of Lanes and Bow-Ways that characterise the Town and its Medieval core.
Clare County Council	Clare	The Venue Shannon (Strategic Masterplan)	URDF support relates to the development of a strategic masterplan to enable planning for future projects in this area.
Clare County Council	Clare	Barrack Square and Old Barrack Street and O'Connell Square and High Street	URDF support relates to the design of physical works in the area to give a high quality connected public realm.

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Limerick City and County Council	Limerick	O'Connell Street	The O'Connell Street Urban Centre Revitalisation Project, involving public realm works, is part of a wider initiative, the Great Streets Programme, which will create a world-class environment to support the sustainable development of the city centre in Limerick.
Limerick City and County Council	Limerick	Opera Project (Site enabling)	This is part funding of the "Opera Centre" development in the heart of Limerick. Central to the delivery of the vision for the area, is the development of some key strategic sites. URDF funding will assist in this regard.
Limerick City and County Council	Limerick	Digital Collaboration and Virtual Reality Centre	The works now being supported by the URDF include survey, design, planning, and initial enabling works to bring the proposed Digital Collaboration and Virtual Reality Centre in Cecil Street Limerick to procurement stage.
Limerick City and County Council	Limerick	World-class Waterfront	This URDF supported project involved the feasibility and design works for the development of a world class waterfront along the River Shannon in Limerick.
Limerick City and County Council	Limerick	Social and Economic Model	Funding for technical assistance to develop a model for the economic and social impact of the Limerick 2030 programme.
Limerick City and County Council	Limerick	Living Georgian City Programme	The Living Georgian City Programme will focus on targeted interventions to renew vacant and underutilised stock, to increase the level of residential use in the city and show case the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient city. Funding is to advance this programme, including feasibility and demonstration projects.
Tipperary County Council	Tipperary	Liberty Square Thurles	This URDF supported project involves the enhancement of Liberty Square in Thurles, Co. Tipperary, which will knit together the previous public realm initiatives and result in the completion of the infrastructural element of the Place-making initiatives being undertaken for Thurles Town Centre as part of its wider Town Centre Initiative.
Tipperary County Council	Tipperary	Clonmel	As part of the Clonmel 2030 Transformational regeneration a series of complementary projects are in train including the regeneration of Kickham Barracks and the development of the Clonmel Regional Sports Hub.
University of Limerick	Limerick	Digital District (Inner City Digital Hub)	Limerick City and County Council has identified that digital technologies have the transformational potential to underpin the sustainable growth of the city and region, by supporting "smart" development and regeneration using technology and new work practices to empower communities, create better services, accelerate sustainable social and economic growth and to improve the quality of life for all. This funding is to support a renewed focus on the development of a digital district hub within the Georgian core of Limerick City
Carlow County Council	Carlow	Carlow Town Centre	Funding for master plan for Carlow Town Centre. The vision for Carlow Town is to be a high-functioning, inclusive, compact and accessible town underpinned by a robust and diverse local economy

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Kilkenny County Council	Kilkenny	Abbey Quarter	The regeneration of the Abbey Quarter presents an opportunity to restore a significant brown field site in the heart of Kilkenny City. This URDF supported project involves a number of public realm, community and cultural infrastructure projects that are essential to stimulate and enhance commercial development in the Abbey Quarter.
Waterford City and County Council	Waterford	Waterford City and Environs - North Quays	This URDF supported project involves the provision of key transportation infrastructure that will transform City and Regional access and mobility and facilitate game changing development on the North side of Waterford. The combined projects will catalyse significant immediate development, enabling a natural extension of Waterford City Centre, to the North side of the river, as well as opening up the North side of the City for significant new development.
Waterford City and County Council	Waterford	Tramore Town Centre	This URDF supported project will transform the town centre into a more attractive destination by creating a new identifiable core with harmonised public realm linkages to the beach area and transport hub on the Lower Branch Road. It will provide a clear traffic and 'way finding' solution to this core area and at last provide additional off street parking at the mid contour level to greatly improve accessibility.
Wexford County Council	Wexford	Trinity Wharf Project	This URDF supported project covers the first phase development of an access road and initial enabling works in advance of the next phase of the wider Trinity Wharf Project.
Cork City Council	Cork	Beamish and Crawford/Grand Parade Quarter	This URDF supported project covered the design phase for the regeneration of the Beamish & Crawford/Grand Parade Quarter.
Cork City Council	Cork	Cork City Docklands	This project is complementary to the Port of Cork project and will facilitate enabling infrastructure for the Cork Docklands.
Port of Cork	Cork	Tivoli Docks	This URDF supported project covers the elements of the preparatory planning for the proposed relocation of the port and redevelopment of Tivoli Docks.
Irish Rail	Cork	Kent Station Yard (Site enabling)	Support for remediation works to allow for future site development
Cork County Council	Cork	Carrigaline Western Relief Road	This project is for the development of a Relief Road for the town of Carrigaline. This project will allow vehicular traffic to bypass the main street and is intended to link the new pedestrian/cycle routes to a series of informal and formal walks and public spaces for interactions.
Cork County Council	Cork	Midleton Main Street Public Realm Improvements	This project supports Phase 2 of the Midleton Main Street Public Realm Improvements projects - part of an integrated approach to land use and transportation planning.
Cork County Council	Cork	Midleton Permeability Package of Proposals	This project covers design work, value for money assessment for projects that will facilitate the growth of Midleton.

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Cork County Council	Cork	Cobh UEA - Public Realm - Diaspora Centre	The funding relates to the Ballynoe Urban Expansion Area (UEA) and public realm improvements in Cobh and a Diaspora centre. Funding relates to design and feasibility studies.
Cork County Council	Cork	Carrigaline Public Realm	The project will advance the Carrigaline Western Relief road project to detailed design stage and will form part of wider plans to improve the public realm in the town.
Cork County Council	Cork	Carrigtwohill	Funding relates to scheme design and planning for a suite of proposed transport/movement/public realm works in Carrigtwohill.
Cork County Council	Cork	Mallow Town Regeneration	Support for initial public realm works as part of the wider Mallow Town Regeneration Plan and Works Programme.
Kerry County Council	Kerry	Phase I Tralee Town Centre - Rock Street, Russell Street and Bridge Street	Support towards Phase 1 of Tralee Town Centre -Rock Street, Russell Street and Bridge Street
Kerry County Council	Kerry	Smarter Travel Killarney (Link & Public Realm)	Funding for construction of Killarney inner link road between New St and High St and public realm improvements as part of project to consolidate town core and improve traffic management.
Kerry County Council	Kerry	Áras Phádraig Masterplan	Funding for master plan for Aras Phádraig site and enjoining public car park at Lewis Road Killarney, an area that is important to the economic regeneration and urban fabric enhancement of the town.

Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

3.2

National Strategic Outcome 2 – Enhanced Regional Connectivity

A core priority under Project Ireland 2040 is the essential requirement to enhance and upgrade accessibility between urban centres of population and their regions, in parallel with the initiation of compact growth of urban centres.

There are seven major regional transport projects planned in the Southern Region, including the M20 Cork to Limerick motorway, the N21/N69 Limerick to Adare to Foynes Road, M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy road and the N22 Ballyvourney to Macroom road.

M20 Cork to Limerick motorway - The N20 road corridor options are currently being progressed with Public Transport (Rail) alternatives as comparators. An on-line public consultation had unprecedented public engagement with the closing date for submissions extended by four weeks from the 18 December 2020 to the 15 January 2021. The scheme is currently at Options Selection stage with the preferred transport corridor expected to be unveiled in September 2021.

- N21/N69 Limerick to Adare to Foynes - Government approval received on 30 October 2019, to submit the scheme to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval. The oral hearing took place and a decision is expected in late 2021. Work is progressing to facilitate delivery of the Adare Bypass element of this project first, in time for the Ryder Cup in 2027.
- N28 Cork to Ringaskiddy road - A judicial review of the An Bord Pleanála decision was taken which was closed in 2020. Advanced works are due to commence shortly and main works expected in 2024.
- N22 Ballyvourney to Macroom road - Government approval received to award construction contract on 15 October, 2019. Construction work is ongoing and it is expected to be complete in 2023.
- M8/N25 Dunkettle Interchange, Government approved the award of the Design and Build contract in October 2020. Construction is ongoing and completion is expected in early 2024. A section of cycleway was constructed with the advance works and opened in November 2020.
- Mallow Relief Road, Technical advisors have been procured and the assessment of route options is ongoing.
- Listowel Bypass, the tender documents for the construction project are being finalised and the scheme will go to tender in Q2 2021.

- Tralee Northern Relief Road – land acquired for phase 1 of this scheme.
- Tralee to Fenit road upgrade – scheme being implemented on a phased basis.

Other projects include the Coonagh to Knockalisheen Road which is part of the Limerick Regeneration programme, the Shannon Bridge which is part of the Kialloe Bypass, and the realignment of the Nenagh to Thurles Road (R498 at Latteragh) to cater more safely for traffic.

- Coonagh to Knockalisheen – procurement process for main construction contract underway.
- Shannon Bridge/ Kialloe Bypass/ R498 upgrade - at land acquisition stage and advance works stage.
- R498 Latteragh realignment – at planning stage.

Two major regional transport projects have been completed within Project Ireland 2040 in the region, both in the South-East. These are:

- The M11 Gorey-Enniscorthy Motorway- opened July 2019.
- The N25 New Ross Bypass - completed in 2019 and opened on 29 January 2020.

3.3

National Strategic Outcome 3 – Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities

The €1 billion Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF), launched in 2018, is providing the investment needed to support rural renewal, strengthen and build resilience in rural towns, villages and communities and deliver on the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.

The RRDF is administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and is complemented by a range of additional programmes and schemes delivered under the Department's Rural Regeneration Programme as part of Project Ireland 2040, including the Town and Village Renewal Scheme

and Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, which help maintain and develop the growth and vitality of rural areas, and supports communities and organisations to meet their needs.

Ten projects were approved for funding under the RRDF Category 2 second call. 185 projects were approved for funding of €9,783,847 under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and 91 projects were approved for funding of €5,977,508 under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. Inland Fisheries Ireland were also awarded funding of €500,000 for a nationwide safety and sustainable access project.

Table 5: Projects approved for funding under the RRDF Category 2 second call

Lead Body	Project Name	Location	Project Description	Total RRDF Funding
Limerick City & County Council	Dereliction and re-use for housing development in the core of towns and villages in rural Limerick	Limerick	This project will develop plans to bring derelict properties in towns across Limerick back into use with an emphasis on re-use for housing. The proposal has four strands of derelict properties and four approaches to their development which aim to promote housing development and address dereliction throughout rural Limerick.	€2,500,000.
Tipperary County Council	A Pathway to the Regeneration of Cahir Town Centre	Tipperary	This project will progress plans for the redesign of the town centre, with a firm focus on showcasing Cahir's historic character.	€632,987
Tipperary County Council	Carrick-on-Suir Regeneration Plan	Tipperary	This project will design a plan to link the Suir Blueway at Healy Park, through the main street to the Ormond Castle Quarter and also along the quays. A plan for an arrival point will be developed for Healy Park which will consider the needs of kayakers, cyclists and walkers. Public realm improvements on the main street will be designed to include pedestrian friendly zones and enhanced way-finding.	€365,625
Tipperary County Council	Nenagh Historic and Cultural Quarter - A Tourism Led Regeneration Plan	Tipperary	This project is for the design and planning phase to regenerate specific existing buildings and civic spaces of distinction and value, stimulating tourism growth and revitalising the local economy/visitor economy through tourism-led regeneration. The focus will be on the development of three flagship pillars of Nenagh Gaol, Nenagh Castle and Banba Square, with three supporting pillars of Pearse Street Properties, Tourist Information Centre and Genealogy Centre.	€650,034

Lead Body	Project Name	Location	Project Description	Total RRDF Funding
Fáilte Ireland	The Beara Breifne Way	Cavan, Cork, Galway, Leitrim, Limerick, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary	This project will develop plans to enhance the trail quality and visitor experience to make a positive economic and social contribution to local communities. The project will provide: a technical audit of the trail; develop an interpretation framework to develop a visitor experience and an enhanced trail standard for strategic long distant trails and a branding and visitor orientation strategy.	€66,667
Waterford City and County Council	Cappoquin Town - Regeneration and Renewal	Waterford	This project will bring to a stage of detailed design and shovel readiness a number of key associated and inter-linked projects which are all elements of a Cappoquin Regeneration Strategy and Master Plan. Elements of the project include the improving of residential attractiveness and capacity of the town centre; the developing of new and improved enterprise spaces; facilities and partnerships in and around the Town Centre; the developing of the amenity and tourism potential of the River Blackwater.	€1,207,500
Cork County Council	Development of a Georgian Cultural/ Heritage Quarter for Mitchelstown	Cork	This project will develop plans to repurpose a key vacant landmark building that will act as a pivot to enable further public realm and interpretative interventions to facilitate the overall branding and place making of a Georgian Cultural/Heritage Quarter in Mitchelstown.	€270,000
Cork County Council	Regeneration of Youghal Town Centre and the Development of a future vision for the disused former Courthouse	Cork	This project will develop plans for the regeneration of the town centre through public realm renewal and the redevelopment of a disused former Courthouse as a visitor experience.	€281,250
Kerry County Council	Cahersiveen Town Centre Regeneration Project	Kerry	This involves the planning of three inter-related regeneration projects in Cahersiveen: The Daniel O'Connell Quarter, the Ocean Meets Sky at the Edge of the World Story and the enhancement of the public realm.	€2,056,380
Fáilte Ireland	The Beara Breifne Way	Cavan Cork Galway Leitrim Limerick Offaly, Roscommon Sligo Tipperary	This project will develop plans to enhance the trail quality and visitor experience to make a positive economic and social contribution to local communities. The project will provide: a technical audit of the trail; develop an interpretation framework to develop a visitor experience and an enhanced trail standard for strategic long distant trails and a branding and visitor orientation strategy.	€33,334

Tourism

Project Ireland 2040 recognises the vital contribution tourism makes to the policy goals of strengthening rural economies and communities (NSO 3) and enhancing amenity and heritage (NSO 7). Tourism contributes to essential employment in all counties, especially in regional locations outside of the main cities where other employment opportunities are limited. In 2019, tourism accounted for 260,000 jobs nationally and in some counties, as many as 1 in 5 jobs relied on tourism.

The impact of COVID-19 on tourism globally has been overwhelming and immediate with unprecedented consequences for Ireland's tourism and hospitality sector. With regard to Fáilte Ireland's Tourism Capital Programme in 2020, the pandemic resulted in a pause on construction activity which in turn resulted in delays to tourism capital projects being progressed. It also saw the closure of major visitor attractions. Despite these challenges, Fáilte Ireland continued to deliver its capital investment programme.

Five new and enhanced Visitor Attractions and Experiences (relevant to both NSO 3 and NSO 7) funded by Fáilte Ireland were completed in 2020 but could not open due to COVID-19 public health restrictions. Among these projects is the Johnstown Castle Estate & Gardens, Co. Wexford, which is located in Ireland's Ancient East tourism experience brand region. Also included in this group of projects is the Blasket Centre Viewing Platform, Co. Kerry, which is located along the Wild Atlantic Way. Fáilte Ireland partnered with the OPW on this project, which received €1.913m in Fáilte Ireland funding.

Funding for the Irish Language

Investment in the Irish Language supports and strengthens the use of Irish both outside traditional Gaeltacht areas and as the principal community language in the Gaeltacht regions. In 2020, over €1.6 million was advanced to support community groups in the Gaeltacht as part of the Gaeltacht Language Planning Process and supporting Irish-Language Networks established outside the Gaeltacht. Údarás na Gaeltachta continued to invest in the refurbishment and development of Gaeltacht business infrastructure to support job creation, employment stabilisation and develop new initiatives in 2020. The number of gteic digital hubs in 2020 doubled by year end with 16 digital hubs operating across five Gaeltacht counties. The gteic network will be central to providing opportunities for remote working, especially for the Gaeltacht Diaspora looking to return home.

Gaeltacht

Planning permission was obtained by Údarás na Gaeltachta in 2020 for the Seanospidéal an Daingin project which will be a significant central resource for the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht.

In County Cork, work began on the Coláiste Íosagáin site, where a Regional Development Hub is being developed by Údarás na Gaeltachta with the support of funding from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF).

gteic – The Gaeltacht Digital Network in Kerry

Three gteic hubs were opened and operational in the Kerry Gaeltacht in 2020 and will provide up to 60 workspaces when lockdown restrictions are finally lifted. gteic@Corca Dhuibhne in Daingean Uí Chúis Business Park completed and is open. gteic@Baile anSceilg was set up during the year in South Kerry, as was. gteic@An Dromaid.

Agriculture Food and the Marine

Teagasc is investing almost €9m to develop a new National Food Innovation Hub at the Teagasc Moorepark Research Campus in Cork, with funding from the DAFM to support innovation in the food industry.

A key project under the 2020 Fisheries Harbours Programme included the continuation of the Dinish Quay Extension at Castletownbere.

The coming year will see the development of a training and research development facility funded by DAFM for the beverages sector at Teagasc Oakpark, Carlow.

3.4

National Strategic Outcome 4 – Sustainable Mobility

The expansion of attractive and sustainable public transport alternatives to private based car transport will reduce congestion and emissions, and enable the transport sector to cater in an environmentally sustainable way for the demands associated with longer-term population and employment growth envisaged under Project Ireland 2040.

Cork City Council and Cork County Council published the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy in March 2020, in partnership with the National Transport Authority (NTA). The strategy provides a framework for the planning and delivery of transport infrastructure and services across the Cork Metropolitan Area, for the period up to 2040.

The strategy contains proposals relating to all modes of transport, including road network improvements; a revised, more extensive and higher capacity bus system (BusConnects Cork); enhancements to the commuter rail service, including additional stations; a future light rail or bus rapid transit corridor to serve the increased population growth out to 2040 as envisaged by the NPF; as well as a number of bus and rail-based park and ride sites. BusConnects Cork will include the development of segregated cycling lanes.

In 2020 a design team was appointed to commence work on the **Cork Light Rail** project.

In Limerick, the National Transport Authority (NTA) in collaboration with Limerick City and County Council, Clare County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland is developing the Limerick – Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy. A draft of the Strategy was published for public consultation in September 2020. Submissions are currently being analysed.

In Waterford, work has commenced on the development of the Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy for the city, which, as with all the cities, will provide the strategic backdrop to the increased levels of investment, planned in the coming years. A draft Strategy will be ready for public consultation in 2021.

Funding was allocated under the Carbon Tax Fund to a number of Local Authorities in the region to support the development of Greenways. This is pre-construction support, mostly on feasibility, planning and design. The funding supported:

- a joint proposal from Cork and Waterford to examine the feasibility of a Greenway from Mallow to Dungarvan;
- feasibility and design work on both sections of the West Clare Greenway, from Ennis to Moyasta and from Kilkee to Kilrush;
- feasibility of an extension of the Limerick Greenway from Rathkeale to Patrickswell via Adare;
- an extension of the Suir Blueway closer to Clonmel;
- feasibility of a Greenway in Carlow from Bagenalstown to Palace East; and
- planning on the Rosslare to Waterford Greenway.

Progress also continued on the construction of Greenways in Kerry (Tralee to Fenit, Listowel to Limerick Boundary), Cork (Middleton to Youghal) and Kilkenny (Waterford to New Ross), whilst planning permission was granted to the South Kerry Greenway (Glenbeigh to Cahirciveen).

Project Ireland 2040 commits toward delivery of a comprehensive network of walking and cycling networks in all our major cities and this delivery is supported by a significantly enhanced funding programme.

In 2020, a number of significant projects were completed such as:

- **Cork - Daly's ("Shakey") Bridge Refurbishment and enhancement.** Daly's ("Shakey") Bridge is unique in Ireland as the only suspension bridge of its type and age. In addition to the restoration of the bridge, the project also set about enhancing the pedestrian connectivity to the north of Daly's Bridge. The works included an upgrade of the existing pedestrian facilities, public lighting, painting, access ramps and hand/ parapet railings.
- **Cork - Horgan's Quay Cycle Lane.** The scheme consists of the upgrading of footpaths, improvements to junctions to enhance safety for pedestrians and cyclists, improvements to public lighting, the provision of street furniture, lining and signage as required. The work forms part of cycle infrastructure along a route between Silversprings and Kent Station.

- **Limerick – Shannon Bridge COVID-19 Protected Cycle Lane.** A cycle-lane on Shannon Bridge was installed by Limerick City and County Council as part of the Guiding Limerick through COVID-19 plan. One of the in-bound lanes on Shannon Bridge was reassigned to a two-way cycle-lane to provide safe cycling access to the city centre from the north side of the city.
- **Waterford – River Suir Trail Development.** The development of Cycling and Walking Projects. Three sections of the River Suir Trail were completed in 2020:
 - » Glenville to Sycamores/Cove Lane - Approx. 440m
 - » Freshfield to Maypark - Approx. 640m
 - » Kings Channel to Ballinakill - Approx. 560m.

More generally, the Region will benefit from continued investment in public transport.

3.5

National Strategic Outcome 5 – A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills

Table 6: Agency-supported Employment in the Southern Region in 2020

Total Employment	733,900
IDA Ireland Employment	83,639
Enterprise Ireland Employment	76,954

Source: CSO and Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

A competitive, innovative and resilient enterprise base is essential to provide the jobs and employment opportunities for people to live and prosper in all regions. Achieving the ambitious employment targets in the National Planning Framework in the context of increased global uncertainty, Brexit, the response to Covid-19 and technological disruption, underlines the importance of building competitive regional clusters and generating an uplift in enterprise export competitiveness to secure sustainable jobs and growth.

The Enterprise Development Agencies continued to support an innovative and resilient enterprise base in 2020.

IDA Ireland

IDA in the Southern Region

There are 428 IDA client companies in the Mid-West Region, employing 83,639 people. Limerick City and County have 67 IDA supported companies employing 13,263 in total. Co Clare has 64 IDA client companies employing a total of 6,726 and Co Tipperary has 12 IDA supporting companies employing 4,180 in total. There are 194 IDA client companies in Cork employing 43,856 and 17 in Kerry employing 2,153 in total. In County Carlow there are 5 IDA supported companies employing 1,309. In County Kilkenny there are 8 IDA supported companies employing 697 in total. In Waterford there are 39 IDA supported companies employing 7,875 and in Wexford there are 22 companies employing 3,580 in total.

The FDI performance in the region has been consistent over the past five years with employment among IDA clients increasing by 27%.

The Southern Region has a significant ecosystem of well-established companies across Technology, Life Sciences, International Financial Services and Engineering & Industrial Technologies. It has also won

significant investment in the Food and the Film sub-sectors.

IDA will continue to work closely with Enterprise Ireland and its indigenous base of companies to identify synergies, enhance clusters, participate in site visits and maximise benefits for the Southern Region.

IDA Regional Property Programme during the period of their last strategy:

- IDA delivered an Advanced Building Solution in the National Technology Park, Limerick;
- Commenced construction of the Advanced Manufacturing Centre in the IDA National Technology Park in Limerick;
- IDA undertook significant upgrade work at the National Technology Park and at Raheen in Limerick and invested in strategic infrastructure in Limerick;
- An Advanced Building Solutions in Waterford;
- Undertook significant upgrade work IDA Business and Technology Parks in Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford;
- Invested in strategic infrastructure at Belview in Kilkenny;
- An Advanced Building Solution for Tralee, Co. Kerry;
- Undertook significant upgrade work on our Business and Technology Parks in Cork, Killarney, Carrigtwohill and Mallow; and
- Invested in strategic infrastructure at Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork.

Under their new property programme, IDA will

- Deliver an Advanced Building Solution in Limerick over 2021-2024;
- Complete construction of the Advanced Manufacturing Centre in the second half of 2021;
- deliver a 3rd Advanced Building Solution in Waterford;
- complete the construction of an Advanced Building Solution in Carlow;
- complete additional upgrade works and investment in IDA Parks across the region to ensure a robust client value proposition;
- acquire additional strategic sites for future development; and

- carry out additional upgrade works and investments for IDA Parks in the region to ensure a robust value proposition for clients and acquire additional strategic sites in the region for development.

Further upgrade works and investment are planned for IDA Parks in the region to ensure a robust value proposition for clients, and IDA plans to acquire additional strategic sites for future development.

The IDA intends to seek out a partnership with Tipperary County Council for the delivery of an advance planning permit for an Advanced Technology Building in Clonmel to further the location from an attractiveness perspective.

IDA Ireland will continue to work closely with the private sector and local authorities in the Mid-West to secure the provision of appropriate and cost-effective building and property solutions for client companies.

IDA will target 234 investments for the Southern region in the period 2021 to 2024.

The main clusters in the Region are in high value manufacturing with over 10,000 jobs within the Life Science's cluster of companies spread right across the region. The region also has important clusters in Technology, Engineering & Industrial Technologies, and International Financial Services, which are complemented by research centres that help win new business and assist existing client companies with transformation.

Enterprise Ireland in the Southern Region Offices

- In 2020, 70,382 people were employed in 1,746 Enterprise Ireland (EI) supported companies in the Southern Region.
- From 2018-2020, payments of €133 million were made to companies in this region to assist them to start, scale and grow in international markets.
- As part of Project Ireland 2040, EI has co-funded, with local enterprise development groups, 175 Community Enterprise Centres across the country, including 63 in the Southern Region.
- The COVID-19 Enterprise Centres Fund was developed to provide financial support to enterprise centres who have been impacted by COVID-19, providing them with financial support for the implementation of a 6 to 12 - month Recovery Plan. 6 for profit and 28 not for profit enterprise centres were approved €1,686,000 in the Southern Region.
- Enterprise Ireland administer the Regional Enterprise Development Fund on behalf of Government, to support significant regional

initiatives to build on sectoral strengths and/or to better leverage identified resources to improve enterprise capability. To date, 31 projects in the Southern Region have been approved €41.1 million under this scheme.

- The Regional Technology Clustering Fund is administered by Enterprise Ireland on behalf of Government to build sectoral clusters of Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) at regional level. Limerick Institute of Technology was approved €406,000 to support the Irish Digital Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing Cluster (IDEAM). Carlow IT was approved €377,000 to support the Engineering Cluster. 3 South West projects were approved €987,000 to support the Cyber Security SME Cluster, Agritech Cluster and the Circular Bioeconomy Cluster.
- EI supports and collaborates with Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) in the region, including the University of Limerick (UL), Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) through innovation supports, such as the Commercialisation Fund, Innovation Partnerships and Innovation Vouchers. In 2018-2020 payments of €10.7 million were made to these institutions. In the South East, support is given to Carlow IT and Waterford IT through Innovation supports such as the Commercialisation Fund, Innovation Partnerships and Innovation Vouchers. In 2018-2020 payments of €8.1 million were made to these institutions. In the South West EI support IT Tralee, UCC, Cork IT and Tyndall National Institute through Innovation supports such as the Commercialisation Fund, Innovation Partnerships and Innovation Vouchers. In 2018-2020 payments of €19.5 million were made to these institutions.

Local Enterprise Office update

Table 7: Local Enterprise Offices in Southern Region in 2020

Regions	Client Numbers 2019	Client Numbers 2020	Client Change 2019-2020	Total Jobs 2019	Total Jobs 2020	Net Job Change 2019	Net Job Change 2020
Southern	2,729	2,753	24	14,683	13,567	1,158	-601

The **Mid-West Region** is served by its Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) in Clare, Limerick, Roscommon and Tipperary, which are co-located with the Local Authorities. In 2020, the LEOs operating in the Mid-West Region supported 824 businesses employing 4,402 jobs. The number of client businesses increased by 8 in 2020 relative to 2019 with the number of jobs declining by 94 in the same period.

The **South-East Region** is served by its Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford, which are co-located with the Local Authorities. In 2020, the LEOs operating in the South-East Region supported 975 businesses employing 5,003 jobs. The number of client businesses increased by 4 in 2020 relative to 2019 with the number of jobs declining by 144 in the same period.

The **South-West Region** is served by its Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) in Cork City, Cork South, Cork west/North and Kerry, which are co-located with the Local Authorities. In 2020, the LEOs operating in the South-West Region supported 954 businesses employing 4,162 jobs. The number of client businesses increased by 12 in 2020 relative to 2019 with the number of jobs declining by 363 in the same period.

Regional Enterprise Development Fund

The Regional Enterprise Development Fund is about supporting every region to build on its unique strengths and ultimately create sustainable jobs. Collaboration is at its core – among the public and private sectors, within and across regions. In January 2020, under the third call of the Fund, 26 projects were awarded funding totalling €40m. Almost €100 million in funding has now been approved for 68 projects across three competitive calls under the Fund to date, with projects approved in every region, ranging from the development of new start-up/enterprise hubs to nationally significant sector focused applied research and innovation facilities that build on specific regional specialisms. The Fund, which is administered for the Government by Enterprise Ireland (EI), will operate on a rolling basis as part of Project Ireland 2040.

Table 8: Successful Applicants for the third call of the Regional Enterprise Development Fund in the Southern Region

Projects approved	County	Description	Fund
Future Mobility Campus Ireland CLG	Clare	This project will create and deliver future mobility testbed facilities for stimulating research, development and innovation in the area of Autonomous Connected Electric Shared Vehicles (ACES), including Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAV) in Ireland. The testbed will be located in the Limerick-Shannon metropolitan area at Shannon Free Zone, Shannon, Co. Clare. The testbed will enable companies to add value to their businesses by testing new technologies and harnessing data to inform new mobility innovations.	€4,723,197
Tipperary Innovation Engine (Company Limited by Guarantee)	Tipperary	The Tipperary Innovation Engine project will upgrade an existing facility at Tipperary Technology Park as part of a Regional Innovation project, linking with Engine Innovation Limerick city, to provide flexible co-working and individual office spaces and multi-service centre for enterprise. The project aims to address high unemployment levels in the town.	€500,000

Projects approved	County	Description	Fund
Emerald Aerospace Group	Clare	This project aims to capture the growth that the aerospace industry is experiencing globally by increasing aerospace manufacturing export business revenues for members through an extension of activities of this enterprise led cluster in the Mid-West.	€350,560
South East Economic Development Company Limited	Waterford	The overall aim of this project is to create a Lean Industry 4.0 facility (LI4) that will support process-orientated efficiencies and productivity in the South East. LI4 is an innovation-rich lean industry building and stimulus project, to accelerate growth and deliver business impact through collaboration, innovation, and clustering, which will facilitate the development of scalable, sustainable and profitable	€1,342,751
The Tradebridge Collaboration DAC	Wexford	Building on a successful 2018/9 pilot, Tradebridge creates new opportunities for Enterprise Ireland & LEO clients in the South East of Ireland to generate export sales quickly and cost effectively by leveraging its powerful contact network to open warm leads in Savannah & South East Georgia, USA. It also aims to open opportunities for the three South East Ports through business ecosystem development.	€247,827
National Design Innovation Hub	Kilkenny	TEaM Rural is an acronym for Trade, Enterprise and Marketing, the three pillars of economic development around which the services and structure of TEaM Rural are designed. The project involves a dedicated approach to entrepreneurship and ecosystem development in Rural Towns & Villages, through a collaborative and open innovation approach to entrepreneurship, which uses a network of local, regional, national and international collaborators. The collaborative network comes from a cross section of industry, community development, chamber of commerce, local authority and academia. TEaM Rural operates as a trade name assigned to The National Design Innovation Hub and the concept originated in Finland	€396,800
Firies Business Hub DAC	Kerry	The 'Kerry Food Hub' is a not-for-profit community project located in Firies, Co Kerry. The Hub provides food production facilities to start-up entrepreneurs and small but growth-oriented food businesses. The project involves a physical expansion of the premises and development of an online sales tool designed to provide greater connectivity between the Hub-based Artisan producers and buyers in one of their key target markets.	€1,151,960
Seirbhísí Forbartha Gnó (SFG) DAC	Cork	The project involves the development of a Regional Development Hub providing 1,835 sq. mtrs. of enterprise development space in Baile Bhuirne, through redeveloping an existing state-owned asset. The project will serve the regional catchment area and provide localised access to a full range of business training and development supports. The project will support the creation of 200 jobs, including 75 direct jobs, 75 spinouts and 50 indirect jobs.	€2,700,000
SynBioHub DAC	Cork	The SynBioHub project will develop Ireland's first Life Sciences 'BioHub' based at the Cork Science and Innovation Park. The Hub will offer the infrastructure and ecosystem that will support early stage Life Science enterprises with high potential for growth into productive SMEs.	€3,063,000

Projects approved	County	Description	Fund
Benchspace Cork CLG	Cork	The Benchspace Creative Hub will organise and equip graduate and existing creatives to commercialise their abilities and grow new enterprise in the region. It will provide relevant business skills, additional technical training and will assist with business development by build links into local industry.	€342,256
KerrySciTech	Kerry	This project aims to increase the impact and influence of KerrySciTech as a catalytic cluster for the growth of the science, technology and engineering sector in the region and furthering its successful evolution by implementing innovative and collaborative initiatives as an industry led and demand driven value creating cluster for the Kerry and the South-West region.	€120,000

Source: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

The Government established the **Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF)** to encourage collaboration between enterprise – both SME and MNC – and Ireland’s research sector in the development and deployment of disruptive innovative technologies and applications, on a commercial basis, targeted at tackling national and global challenges. The Fund is open to partnerships that have the potential to develop technologies that will significantly alter markets, or the way businesses operate.

A third DTIF call was launched in 2020, with the results announced in April 2021.

Science Foundation Ireland Programme activity

SFI funds research that makes a real difference to our society and economy, now and into the future.

The agency funds research in Ireland’s Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) - often in partnership with Industry or other national and international research funders. Through this funding we are ensuring that Ireland has the skills, ideas and technologies that we need to be a true global knowledge economy and that we are addressing societal challenges.

SFI funding opportunities are open to all HEIs across the country and through an extensive peer review process funding is awarded based on the available budget.

A key goal of SFI’s Strategy, *Shaping our Future*, is to “increase geographical involvement and engagement across the country, including through the SFI Research Centres, and increased collaboration with the new Technological Universities and the Institutes of Technology to ensure that benefits arising from our activities are realised across the entirety of Ireland.”

In support of this goal, the newly formed Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) secured a new

budget for Science Foundation Ireland to support excellent and impactful research which benefits from the unique strengths of both sectors. This has led to the establishment of a new funding programme which will see research proposals, led by the Technological University (TU) / Institutes of Technology (IoT) sector with partners from the established University sector. This investment will not only increase financially supported collaboration between the sectors but importantly will provide leadership opportunities for the TU/IoT sector.

SFI provides funding programmes to enable deep industry academic collaboration across the country. The newly launched SFI Industry RD&I Fellowship seeks to support academia-industry interactions to address industry-informed challenges. Awards under this programme will be made to academic researchers (at faculty and postdoctoral level) wishing to spend time in industry through the temporary placement of academic researchers with an industry partner.

SFI Research Centres

Since launching in 2012, the SFI Research Centres have transformed the research ecosystem in Ireland, creating an environment where multi-institutional and multi/inter-disciplinary collaborations are now the norm and where industry (both SMEs and MNCs) can effectively join and collaborate with these academic networks.

The SFI Research Centres are helping to improve the quality of people’s lives through healthcare, informing public policy on climate change mitigation and they have been instrumental in the delivery of SFI’s Education and Public Engagement strategy, including increasing engagement with underserved and underrepresented communities across Ireland.

SFI Research Centres will play a critical role in helping Ireland recover from and succeed in the face of unprecedented global challenges such as BREXIT,

future pandemics and climate change. Such threats also present opportunities to harness Ireland's scientific human capital to create innovative solutions through research and innovation, to ultimately create a more resilient economy and society.

A key objective of the Centres programme is to support SME competitiveness through R&D collaborations, an objective that is critically important in terms of realising the potential for Centres to positively impact on rebooting of the Irish economy.

The researchers that Science Foundation Ireland supports in the Higher Education Institutes are collaborating heavily with enterprise in Ireland. In 2020 SFI researchers reported 264 formal collaborations with MNCs and 187 collaborations with SMEs in the Southern Region.

SFI currently supports 16 SFI Research Centres, 7 of which are based in the Southern Region. The current SFI investment in these Centres through the SFI Research Centres Programme is over €185m.

These Centres are working across a broad spectrum of areas that are critical to our economy and well-being.

APC, Microbiome Ireland SFI Research Centre, one of the world's leading institutes in gut microbiome research. The Centre explores the role that microbes play in health and disease. The microbiome is a target for the prevention and treatment of disease, it is also a source of functional food ingredients, new drugs and disease biomarkers.

CONFIRM is a world-leading SFI research centre in Smart Manufacturing hosted by the University of Limerick with a mission to transform industry to become leaders in Smart Manufacturing.

IPIC, SFI Research Centre brings together researchers to develop new light-enabled technologies. Photonics is the generation, manipulation and use of light. It is a key enabling technology that underpins the internet and drives growth in diverse industries such as the ICT and MedTech sectors, as well as industrial technology which includes both manufacturing and environmental monitoring.

Lero, the Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Software, brings together expert software teams from universities and institutes of technology across Ireland in a co-ordinated centre of research excellence with a strong industry focus. Lero's research spans a wide range of application domains from driverless cars to artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, fintech, govtech, smart communities, agtech and healthtech.

MaREI is the SFI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine research and innovation, coordinated by the Environmental Research Institute (ERI) at University College Cork. The Centre comprises over 200 researchers working with over 50 industry

partners, focusing on defined global challenges such as the Energy Transition, Climate Action and the Blue Economy.

VistaMilk, SFI Research Centre for Digitalising Dairy Production and Processing, hosted at Teagasc, in partnership with several institutions represents a unique collaboration between Agri-Food and information communications technology (ICT) research institutes and leading Irish/multinational food and ICT companies. The Centre is jointly funded by Science Foundation Ireland and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Higher Education

Project Ireland 2040 is bringing significant investment in higher education in the Southern Region.

Eleven major infrastructure projects will be delivered around the country as part of a Public-Private Partnership Programme for the higher education sector. Five of these are in the Southern Region, including an Applied Science and IT building at LIT, a new Engineering, Computing and General Teaching Building in Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT), a Science and Health building in IT Carlow, a new Learning Resource Centre for the MTU Cork campus and a new STEM building for the MTU Tralee Campus. These projects respond directly to skills needs at regional level. LIT, WIT and IT Carlow are all in Bundle 2 of the Higher Education PPP Programme, which will shortly be brought to tender. The MTU projects were brought to tender in 2020 as part of Bundle 1 of the PPP Programme.

Funding of €1.8m was approved for remedial work to the Foundation Building and Tara Building on the Mary Immaculate College campus on a phased basis. The phase 2 works were completed in 2020.

University College Cork (UCC) has plans for student accommodation, which was on site in 2020, an Innovation Park and ICT services. There is also a planned upgrade and expansion of the Tyndall National Institute (Block A, Phase 3 completed in November 2020) and plans for a new dental hospital (completed design stage in December 2020). Approval in principle has also been provided for Exchequer co-funding for a new building for Cork University Business School.

UCC was among eight higher education institutions approved in 2020 to progress projects under the Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation Pathfinder Programme co-funded with SEAI. These projects will test and demonstrate energy retrofit approaches, build scale, and inform key stakeholders.

MTU (Cork Campus) has received approval for funding for upgrades to the main 1974 campus building under the Higher Education Refurbishment

and Upgrade Fund. The programme of works will be phased over five years to minimise disruption to students and staff. A roof upgrade was completed in 2020.

The Limerick IT (LIT) Coonagh Campus upgrade is funded under the Higher Education Refurbishment and Upgrade Fund. The development of the facility includes two stages of works - an enabling works package and the fit-out works of the former retail development on the site. The enabling works package reached substantial completion in September 2020.

Further Education

The NDP provided for the first time a dedicated capital envelope for the FET sector. Expenditure increased from €5.5m in 2018 to €16.7m in 2020.

This supported two smaller scale projects in the Southern Region. Targeted support was also provided during 2020 for four apprenticeship equipment projects across the six ETBs in the Southern region to support new and modernised apprenticeship syllabi, for off-the-job training in ETB training centres. In addition, a Devolved/Minor works Grant of €2.1m was split across the six ETBs in the region to provide funding for minor capital projects and equipment renewal.

3.6

National Strategic Outcome 6 – High-Quality International Connectivity

As an island, continued investment in our port and airport connections to the UK, the EU and the rest of the world is integral to underpinning international competitiveness. It is also central to responding to the challenges as well as the opportunities arising from Brexit.

In 2019, the Shannon Group delivered a new wide body aircraft painting hangar at Shannon Airport, capable of taking large aircraft up to the size of an airbus A380. This is the first aircraft hangar to be developed in Ireland in almost 20 years. Its construction is the kind of expansion envisaged to grow a globally recognised and internationally competitive aviation industry cluster in and around the airport and is also in line with the National Aviation Policy. As well as the employment created during the construction phase, the new hangar will provide up to 150 jobs in aviation engineering services in Shannon.

The Shannon Group has also continued the development of its property portfolio in the Shannon Free Zone, assisting the IDA and EI in their drive for inward investment and increased employment in the region. This included the construction of three state of the art light engineering units located in Block K & L. Two of the units were acquired by MeiraGtx to accommodate its commercial scale manufacturing and research operations. MeiraGtx is currently investing in the multi-million euro expansion of its Shannon facility which will result in the creation of over 100 highly skilled jobs and act as a catalyst for future similar developments in Shannon and which will benefit the entire region.

In January 2020, it was announced that €4.7 million of Regional Enterprise funding has been allocated to Future Mobility Campus Ireland (FMCI) a non-for-profit company established to develop a pioneering test bed for connected and autonomous vehicles at Shannon with Jaguar Land Rover and the Group and many industry, education and local authority stakeholders amongst others. The fund is part of the Government initiative under Project Ireland 2040 and aligns with the Future Jobs Ireland framework.

Shannon Foynes Port Company's Infrastructure Development Programme is well underway and will consist of a jetty expansion program, the joining of the East and West Jetties and the infill behind, land purchase and site development at Foynes in light of the land bank shortage at Foynes Port and the Foynes Rail Reinstatement. An Bord Pleanála granted

permission on the 28 December 2018 for the port capacity extension project. This commenced with detailed design and assessment of Tenders for first phase works, namely joining of east and west jetty. The investment programme will improve international connectivity and increase capacity through the construction of new quay walls and associated port infrastructure and external connectivity with the upgrade of the N69 and the reinstatement of the Limerick-Foynes rail line. The project has been delayed by the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic and by delays in obtaining foreshore consents. The company hope to commence work on the project in mid-2021.

Project Ireland 2040 also recognises the importance of continuing investment to further improve the quality of port facilities, particularly those in the South-East such as Rosslare and the Port of Waterford given their role in maintaining transportation linkages with crucial EU markets.

Strengthening access routes to Ireland's ports through investment to upgrade and enhance the road transport network to improve journey times is and remains a Government priority. Examples of such investments include the development of the M11, in terms of improving connectivity to Rosslare in the South-East.

Port of Cork Company has plans to invest in its capital programme over the period to 2021. This investment is aimed at the Ringaskiddy Redevelopment Project, which involves the redevelopment of existing port facilities at Ringaskiddy to accommodate larger sea-going vessels and increase port capacity, further developing it as an international gateway to trade. Work on the construction phase is ongoing but was impacted by the COVID 19 restrictions in 2020

Continued Exchequer support for smaller regional airports is planned under the Regional Airports Programme 2021-2025, including Kerry Airport.

3.7

National Strategic Outcome 7 – Enhanced Amenity and Heritage

Tourism

Tourism development plays a key role in enhancing amenity and heritage (NSO 7) around the country, in conjunction with its role in strengthening rural economies and communities (NSO 3). Fáilte Ireland's strategic partnerships with the OPW, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Coillte and Waterways Ireland have allowed these bodies to unlock the tourism potential of Ireland's natural and built heritage assets. These projects will significantly enhance Ireland's national tourism offering and meet a growing international demand for world-class outdoor tourism experiences.

Fáilte Ireland also has, since 2018, a partnership in place with the Department of Rural & Community Development on the funding of that Department's Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

In 2020, Fáilte Ireland and Coillte continued to partner on progressing the International Mountain Biking Proposition for Rural Ireland, which received €13.6m in RRDF funding, administered by D/RCD, in 2019. This strategic, large-scale project comprises four national trail centres across seven counties

and over 300km of trails, and is considered to be of particular importance in developing the activities tourism offering in Ireland. The proposition includes one project in the mid-west area: the Ballyhoura Visitor Centre Trail Head Building, Co. Limerick.

As the centres are all located in rural and some remote areas, their economic impact will be considerable where there are few other economic drivers.

The Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund

The Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF) was launched in 2018 to provide support for larger sports projects. The fund initially focused on the requirements and development plans of National Governing Bodies of sport and local authorities.

Following a detailed assessment process, provisional allocations of €82.4m were announced in 2020 for 32 successful applicants. Most of these projects are undergoing assessment of economic analysis and financial projections. The following projects were announced for the Southern Region.

Table 10: Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund Successful Projects in Southern Region

Advocates	Summary of Project	Total Grant
Limerick City and County Council, Athletics Ireland	Construction of athletics track to International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) standard, including all associated track facilities with disability access.	€1,256,276
Limerick City and County Council	Askeaton Pool - Relocation and rewiring of the plant room due to flooding.	€646,659
Tipperary County Council, Tennis Ireland, Tipperary GAA, Limerick Institute of Technology	Thurles Regional Sports Campus - A tennis centre containing six covered clay courts and two open air courts: One 4G full-sized floodlit pitch incorporating a covered stand for 600 spectators; One sand-carpet, full-sized floodlit pitch with covered accommodation for further spectators as part of the principal stand structure; a multi-purpose ancillary space building; an extension to the strength and conditioning facility; and a lit running trail.	€562,554
Kilkenny County Council	The Watershed Development including expansion of the gym to maximise space to create a dual purpose spin studio. Replacement defender filters in the swimming pool, and track hoists for changing rooms to cater for people with a disability.	€1,443,750

Advocates	Summary of Project	Total Grant
Wexford County Council	Enniscorthy Sports Hub - Upgrade of the existing Athletics facility to include the provision of a sports amenity building and construction of a throwing cage for discus and hammer.	€300,000
Munster Technological University (formerly Cork Institute of Technology), Cork City Council, Athletics Ireland	Construction and operation of a high performance athletics indoor training facility and surfacing of the existing outdoor track.	€9,225,000
Cork County Council Football Association of Ireland	Munster Centre of Excellence Phase One (Glanmire) - Development of facilities including grass pitches, floodlighting, artificial pitch with floodlighting and dressing rooms.	€2,025,699
Rowing Ireland, Cork County Council	Replacement of rowing and landing pontoons and access gangways and development (Albano course) at the National Rowing Centre	€613,049
Munster Branch IRFU (MBIRFU), Cork City Council	Construction of an indoor Training Facility with a floodlight 3G playing surface, gymnasium, dressing rooms and treatment rooms. Single storey ticketing booth and associated parking facilities.	€1,512,017

Source: Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Culture

A sum of €494,000 was invested in enhancing local arts and cultural infrastructure across the South East region in 2020. This included funding of €213,000 granted to Kilkenny County Council under the Arts and Culture Capital Enhancement Support Scheme (ACCESSII), and funding provided under two new capital schemes, the Live Performance Support Scheme (€257,000) and also Stream D of the Cultural Capital Scheme 2019-2022, (€23,000). The Live Performance Support Scheme and Stream D of the Cultural Capital Scheme 2019-2022 were set up as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to assist the arts and culture sector at this time. Organisations supported across these various schemes included Kilkenny Art Gallery Society, Kilmuckridge Memorial Hall Community, and the Theatre Royal, Waterford.

A sum of over €1 million was invested in enhancing local arts and cultural infrastructure across the South West region in 2020. This included funding of €133,000 granted under the Arts and Culture Capital Enhancement Support Scheme (ACCESSII), funding of €20,000 under the Arts Culture Capital Scheme and funding provided under the Live Performance Support Scheme (€819,000) and also Stream D of the Cultural Capital Scheme 2019-2022, (€52,000). Organisations supported across these various schemes included Siamsa Tire, Tralee, the Everyman Palace Theatre, Cork City and the Triskel Arts Centre, Cork City. The Department of Tourism, Culture Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media's also supported the Sirius Arts Centre in Cork in hosting a community-sourced exhibition about Cobh, and the Kerry Writers

Museum in hosting the 'Listowel through the Ages' exhibition.

The Department of Tourism, Culture Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media's sectoral capital plan, 'Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage, 2018-2027', is supporting the redevelopment of the Crawford Gallery in Cork. The Crawford Art Gallery is the only National Cultural Institution located in its entirety outside Dublin. The gallery is housed in an 18th and 19th century building complex which has significant infrastructural deficits. The gallery has prepared a phased development plan composed of essential works, refurbishment of the existing building and development of a new block for education, conservation and storage purposes and the integration of the gallery into the wider urban regeneration initiative at Opera Lane and the creation of a cultural plaza. Considerable progress was made in 2020 in progressing plans for the redevelopment of the gallery, including approval of its preliminary business case.

3.8

National Strategic Outcome 8 – Climate-Resilient Society

Project Ireland 2040 highlights the centrality of this National Strategic Outcome (NSO) to all other elements of spatial policy. The themes highlighted in the NPF focus on the role of spatial policy in influencing where we live, where we work, and how we travel. These are all directly relevant to the pattern of energy use and in particular, the current level of harmful greenhouse gas emissions to which Ireland is committed to achieving substantial reductions.

The third year of Project Ireland 2040 has also seen major investment by the commercial state sector in energy, involving ESB/EirGrid:

- 2020 saw the completion of final refurbishment works at the 400 kV substations in Moneypoint, Co. Clare, Ireland's largest electricity generation station. In addition, the planning and foreshore applications were submitted for the Cross-Shannon 400kV cable.
- The Beenaspuck and Tobertoreen Wind Farm and Battery were energised in January 2020. The project is the first hybrid facility and battery energy storage connection of this scale to connect to the transmission network.
- EirGrid/ESB are now in the construction phase of an electricity project to reinforce the network in the general Laois-Kilkenny region. Works are on-going on the reinforcement project, with stakeholder interactions and discussions continuing.
- Construction of a new 220 kV single substation 'Loughtown' connected via approx. 500m of UGC to the existing Great Island 220 kV Station. This will facilitate the connection of a 500 MW interconnector to Pembrokeshire in Wales. Works are continuing with customer planning consent expected in Q1 2022.
- Works are continuing to complete the remaining works for the Wexford 110kV station uprate project. This will improve the continuity of supply for the entire South East of the country. Line uprating works in the Kilkenny area were not commenced in 2020 due to COVID-19 and the need to maintain security of supply to care facilities and hospitals in the region. These works will be rescheduled for the next available construction period.
- EirGrid continue to progress the Celtic Interconnector project with their French counterparts. The Celtic Interconnector is a planned subsea (undersea) link to allow the exchange of electricity between Ireland and

France. 2020 saw the announcement of the Ballyadam site in Co. Cork as the location for the converter station. Applications for the necessary consents for this project will be submitted in 2021.

- The new Clashavoon-Dunmanway 110 kV line project was completed in September 2020. This new circuit secures supplies to the area and enables the exporting of excess generation.
- The energisation of Carrigdangan 110 kV station in Co Cork also took place in December 2020 and facilitates the connection of a 55 MW wind farm in the area. The Kelwin Phase 2 project customer also energised their new 26.6 MW battery storage facility at Coolnagoonagh 110 kV Station in December 2020.

Climate Action Fund

The GRAZE Gas project, to be located in Mitchelstown, Co. Cork, aims to support the installation of the first transmission connected Central Grid Injection (CGI) facility for renewable gas and a grant scheme to support circa 74 compressed natural gas vehicles. Support of up to €8.47 million will be provided from the Climate Action Fund. Planning permission has been secured and preliminary design and key industry standard risk assessments have been completed.

Under the Road Management Office (RMO) – Local Authority Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project, up to €17.47 million will be invested from the Climate Action Fund, to retrofit 270,000 non-LED Local Authority public lights to high efficiency LED Lanterns. Retrofitting to LED lights and implementing the new dimming and trimming profiles has the potential to save over 55% in energy and maintenance costs for Local Authorities once completed and is estimated to deliver emissions reduction of over 30,000 tonnes of CO₂ per annum. The project will run in 3 distinct phases, coinciding with three regions – South West, East and North West. The South West region went to tender in September 2020.

The 3CEA (Three Counties Energy Agency) – Driving HGV efficiency into Brexit project, moved to deliver phase in late 2020. Up to €1.37 million will be provided from the Climate Action Fund to support the transport sector in reducing fuel consumption and emissions from vehicles. Over a two-year period, telematics equipment will be installed in over 1,000 heavy goods vehicles and appropriate training for the drivers will be provided. Through continuous

monitoring and positive reinforcement of driving behaviour performance, at least 10% fuel efficiency is expected to accrue. Depending on project results, it may be scaled further by private industry.

Four Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) were established in 2018 to facilitate effective climate action at regional and local level. The Climate Action Regional Offices are operated by a lead Local Authority in four different regions around the country. The South-East Region is covered by the Midlands and Eastern Region CARO, which is operated by Kildare County Council. The Atlantic Seaboard South CARO, which is operated by Cork County Council, covers counties Kerry, Cork and Limerick.

To further enhance Local Authority response to climate change and facilitate the Local Authorities in fulfilling their commitments under the Climate Action Plan, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) allocated funding to local authority climate change training during 2020. Delivery of the training in 2020 was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; however, development of courses for different groups of staff and elected members was progressed with rollout of training courses planned for 2021.

Flood Relief Schemes

There are 58 Flood Relief Schemes planned for the Southern Region. 7 in Limerick, 6 in Clare and 8 in Tipperary, 2 in Waterford, 2 in Wexford, 5 in Kilkenny, 1 in Carlow, 20 in Cork and 7 in Kerry. These include the Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme which incorporates the King's Island Flood Relief Scheme, the Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme, the Graiguenamanagh Flood Relief Scheme, the Lower Lee (Cork City) Flood Relief Scheme, the Clonakilty Flood Relief Scheme, the Tralee Flood Relief Scheme and the Middleton Flood Relief Scheme.

3.9

National Strategic Outcome 9 – Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources

Project Ireland 2040 highlights the centrality of our sustainable water resources to the implementation of the NDP to underpin our environmental and economic well-being into the future, against the backdrop of the significant deficits in the capacity and quality reflecting historic underinvestment which is being reversed under the NDP.

Overall there are currently 24 water and waste water projects in progress and a further 75 project planned in the Southern Region.

At sub-regional level in the Mid-West, there are currently 2 water and waste water projects in progress. In early 2020, works commenced on the Shannon Waste Water Treatment Plant Project: the upgrades to the treatment plant will improve the waste water treatment performance, increase the capacity at the plant and ensure compliance with the Waste Water Treatment Regulations. Further benefits of the project include providing for growth and development in Shannon and surrounding areas, and improving water quality in the River Shannon.

In the South-East, there are currently 4 water and waste water projects in progress, e.g. the Gorey Regional Water Supply Scheme: this project provides for a new water treatment plant and reservoir at Ballyminaun Hill, upgrades works to an existing reservoir at Ballyminaun Hill and associated interconnecting infrastructure. The existing scheme is operating at maximum capacity. This project will increase capacity to the area in order to facilitate growth and development. This project will benefit businesses and residents of Gorey and the surrounding area through improvement of security of water supply.

In the South-West, there are currently 18 water and waste water projects in progress, e.g. the Skibbereen Regional Water Supply Scheme project will provide a safe, secure and reliable supply of drinking water and benefit over 7000 people in the Skibbereen area. This project will also support removal of Drimoleague, Schull and Leap from the EPA's Remedial Action List (RAL) and ensure compliance with current drinking water regulations.

Table 11: Irish Water Projects

Southern	Completed	In Progress	Planned
Clare	0	2	11
Limerick	0	0	9
Tipperary	2	0	8
Carlow	0	1	3
Kilkenny	0	1	3
Waterford	0	0	4
Wexford	0	2	9
Cork	1	17	25
Kerry	1	1	3
Total	4	24	75

Source: Irish Water

3.10

National Strategic Outcome 10 – Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services

Access to quality primary education, health services and childcare, relative to the scale of a region, city, town, neighbourhood or community is a defining characteristic of attractive, successful and competitive places. Project Ireland 2040 provides significant public investment in education and health infrastructure to meet current infrastructure needs, cater for an estimated population growth of one million and respond to Ireland's changing demographic profile.

Education

There were 75 school building projects delivered in the Southern Region in 2020 of which 12 (listed in the table below) were of a value in excess of €1m:

Table 13: Status of Schools Building Project in excess of €1m Delivery in 2020

Status of Ongoing Project (SR)	No Projects at each stage
Onsite	22
Stage 3 (Tender Stage)	5
Stage 2b (Detailed Design)	24
Stage 2a (Developed Sketch Scheme)	16
Stage 1 (Preliminary Design)	76
Site Acquisition Stage	12
Project Brief	37

Source: Department of Education

Table 12: Schools Building Project in excess of €1m delivered in 2020

No.	County	School	School Type
1	Clare	St Joseph's Secondary School, Spanish Point	Post Primary School
2	Limerick	Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom	Post Primary School
3	Limerick	Our Lady Queen of Peace NS	Primary
4	Limerick	St John's Girls & Infant Boys N.S	Primary
5	Kilkenny	Colaiste Mhuire, Johnstown	Post Primary School
6	Cork	Clonakilty Community College	Post Primary School
7	Cork	St. Colman's Community College, Middleton	Post Primary School
8	Cork	Davis College, Summerhill, Mallow	Post Primary School
9	Cork	Gaelscoil An Ghort Alainn, Aibinne Murmont, Gort Alainn	Primary
10	Cork	Morning Star NS, Ballyphehane	Primary
11	Kerry	St Joseph's SS, Ballybunion	Post Primary School
12	Kerry	SN Mhuire na mBraithre, Tralee	Primary

Source: Department of Education

A further 497 schools building projects were at various stages of planning, design and construction, of which 192 were of a value in excess of €1m.

Health

The programme of capital works in the health sector were significantly impacted by the outbreak of COVID-19. A significant programme of emergency works was undertaken throughout the country delivering additional capacity, equipment and medical gas upgrades in the Covid response. Some of the projects delivered were emergency in nature and some were projects already included in the pipeline of NDP works.

Projects delivered in the region as planned in the NDP include acute healthcare projects including: the new Radiation Oncology Unit at Cork University Hospital and an Acute Mental Health facility at University Hospital Kerry. In addition, a number of Ward blocks became operational, including: Croom Hospital (24 bed ward block), University Hospital Limerick (60 bed

- Ward Block), South Tipperary General Hospital (40 bed Ward Block) and a new Ward Block at University Hospital Waterford (72 replacement inpatient beds and a Palliative Care Unit (19 Palliative Care Beds).

The CNU programme saw the completion of two projects (a new 100 bed at St Patrick's Hospital, John's Hill, Waterford and the refurbishment and extension of Dunmanway Community Hospital to meet HIQA compliance). Four new Primary Care Centres were delivered in the Southern Region in 2020 (Cahir, Clonakilty, Tralee and Kilmallock). Also in 2020, 12 upgrades or refurbishments to existing or purchased dwellings to meet the housing requirements of people transitioning from congregated settings were completed across the Southern Region (Carlow, Clare, Kilkenny, Limerick and Tipperary).

Table 14: HSE Capital Infrastructure 2020 in the Southern Region

Facility	Project details	Completed	Operational
Croom Hospital, Co. Limerick	Provision of 24 Bed Rapid Build Ward (all single rooms) - as part of the Covid Action plan.	2020	2020
Nenagh Hospital, Co. Tipperary	Ward Block extension and refurbishment programme, including 16 single rooms and 4 double rooms - to comply with HIQA Standards. 3 additional beds. Part funded by the Friends of Nenagh Hospital.	2020	2020
South Tipperary General Hospital	Development of 40 bed modular unit.	2020	2020
University Hospital Limerick	Additional Bed Capacity: Provision of a 60-bed ward block.	2020	2020
University Hospital Limerick	Provision of 24 Bed Rapid Build Ward (all single rooms).	2020	2020
University Hospital Limerick	Reconfiguration of recently vacated ED to create a Medical Short Stay Unit.	2020	2020
Cahir, Co. Tipperary	Primary Care Centre, by lease agreement.	2020	2020
Kilmallock, Co Limerick	Primary Care Centre, by lease agreement.	2020	2020
Bruff, Co Limerick	Upgrade of Bruff House (Brothers of Charity).	2020	2020
Bruff, Co. Limerick	Upgrade of Bruff Apartments (Brothers of Charity).	2020	2020
Birr Road, Roscrea, Co Tipperary	Refurbishment of a residential dwelling to meet the housing requirements for people transitioning from congregated settings.	2020	2020
Ardnacrusha, Co. Clare	Upgrade of BOC House, Ardnacrusha.	2020	2020
Carrig Road, Roscrea, Co Tipperary	Refurbishment of a residential dwelling to meet the housing requirements for people transitioning from congregated settings.	2020	2020
Parkmore, Roscrea, Co Tipperary	Refurbishment of a residential dwelling to meet the housing requirements for people transitioning from congregated settings.	2020	2020
Ballysimon, Co Limerick	Refurbishment of a residential dwelling to meet the housing requirements for people transitioning from congregated settings.	2020	2020

Facility	Project details	Completed	Operational
Lisnagry, Limerick	Refurbishment of a residential dwelling to meet the housing requirements for people transitioning from congregated settings.	2020	2020
Castletroy, Limerick	Disability services - Upgrade of Milford House.	2020	2020
University Hospital Waterford	Development of a new block to include replacement inpatient beds and a Palliative Care Unit. (72 inpatient beds and 19 Palliative Care Beds).	2020	2020
University Hospital Waterford	Further upgrade Acute MH Unit to comply with recommendations of the Mental Health Commission Report.	2020	2020
Homefield, Blackbog, Co Carlow	The upgrade of Homefield, Blackbog, Co Carlow, part funded by CAS.	2020	2020
St Patrick's, Kilkenny	Upgrade of 4 existing premises to meet housing requirements for 12 people transitioning from St Patricks.	2020	2020
St Patrick's, Kilkenny	Upgrade of 4 existing premises to meet housing requirements for 9 people transitioning from St Patricks.	2020	2020
St Patrick's Hospital, John's Hill, Waterford	100 Bed CNU to replace beds in St Patrick's and St Otteran's (20 Bed MH).	2020	2020
Cork University Hospital	Phase 2 facilities at CUH - New Radiation Oncology Unit 7 linacs - 5 fitted (of which 4 are replacement).	2020	2020
University Hospital Kerry	Refurbishment and upgrade of the acute Mental Health Unit - Phase 2 completed.	2020	2020
Clonakilty, Co. Cork	Primary Care Centre, by lease agreement.	2020	2020
Tralelee, Co. Kerry	Primary Care Centre, by lease agreement.	2020	2020
Dunmanway Community Hospital, Co. Cork	HIQA Compliance - Refurbishment and Extension - 23 beds.	2020	2020

Source: HSE Estates

3.11

Other Public Investment Sectors

Justice

Significant development work is underway at Limerick prison with completion expected in Q2 2022. The project will deliver a new accommodation cell block for male prisoners, visits and reception area, staff facilities, kitchen and new accommodation facility for female prisoners together with related recreational and other support facilities to assist prisoners to reintegrate back into society on release from custody.

Appendix

Major Project Investment Tracker

Details of a wider selection of projects are available on the Project Ireland 2040 map *MyProjectIreland* at gov.ie/2040.

Name of Project	Brief Description of Project	Location (County)	Project Commencement Date	Project Completion Date
Remediation of Haulbowline Island	Haulbowline Island East Tip Remediation project. Other projects will be carried out on the Island over the lifetime of the National Development Plan.	Cork	2014	2022
Midleton Flood Relief Scheme	This project is a flood relief scheme for Midleton.	Cork	2022	2024
Skibbereen Flood Relief Scheme	This project is the flood relief scheme for Skibbereen, Co. Cork.	Cork	2016	2019
Crawford Art Gallery	This project is made up of a phased development plan - the first phase involves completion of essential works, refurbishment of existing building and developing further office and gallery space, including the construction of a new block for education, conservation and storage purposes.	Cork	Subject to Appraisal	Subject to Appraisal
Carrigaline School Campus - 19881Q, 76273O & 20162Q	A new 24 classroom primary school and a new 7 classroom special school and a new 500 pupil post-primary school. Roll numbers 19881Q, 76273O, 20162Q.	Cork	2019	2021
Phase 2 UL Glucksman Library	Major library extension, providing 2,000 additional student places.	Limerick	2015	2018
CIT Learning Resource Centre	A new Learning Resource Centre which will consist of classrooms, learning resource spaces and administration space. In conjunction with decanted space elsewhere on campus, the new building will increase capacity of the institution by 1,000 students. Part of the Higher Education PPP Programme.	Cork	2021	2024
IT Tralee STEM building	A new STEM building which will include labs, classroom spaces and agri-engineering workshops. The new building will increase capacity of the institution by 440 students. Part of the Higher Education PPP Programme.	Kerry	2022	2024
IT Carlow Science & Health Building	A new Science and Health Building which will include undergraduate and postgraduate science labs, classrooms and learning resource space. In conjunction with decanted space elsewhere on campus, the new building will increase capacity of the institution by 500 students. Part of the Higher Education PPP Programme.	Carlow	2022	2024
LIT Applied Science & IT Building	A new Applied Science and IT Building which will include undergraduate and postgraduate labs, teaching space and administration space. In conjunction with decanted space elsewhere on campus, the new building will increase capacity of the institution by 649 students. Part of the Higher Education PPP Programme.	Limerick	2022	2024

Name of Project	Brief Description of Project	Location (County)	Project Commencement Date	Project Completion Date
WIT Engineering, ICT and Teaching Building	A new Engineering, ICT and Teaching building which will include undergraduate and postgraduate labs, specialist and general teaching spaces and administration space. In conjunction with decanted space elsewhere on campus, the new building will increase capacity of the institution by 1037 students. Part of the Higher Education PPP Programme.	Waterford	2022	2024
Cork University Business School (CUBS)	The proposed building will accommodate over 4,500 students and 225 staff. The project is being co-funded under the Higher Education Strategic Infrastructure Fund.	Cork	2022	2025
Electricity Transmission Network: Cross Shannon Cable Project	This project is the proposed 400 kV submarine cable across the Shannon Estuary between the existing substations at Moneypoint and Kilpaddoge.	Clare/ Kerry	Subject to Appraisal	Subject to Appraisal
Electricity Transmission Network: Kilpaddoge-Knockanure 220kV Project	This programme is the proposed 220kV electricity infrastructure project to link the Kilpaddoge and Knockanure substations in North Kerry.	Kerry	Subject to Appraisal	Subject to Appraisal
Cork University Hospital Radiation Oncology Unit	The project will involve the development of a new Unit containing 5 Linacs - Linear Accelerators (4 replacement, 1 additional) as part of the National Project for Radiation Oncology. Shell and core space for two more linacs will also be included.	Cork	2016	2019
Limerick University Maternity Hospital at University Hospital Limerick	The project encompasses relocation of service in accordance with the review of Maternity Services.	Limerick	2023	Subject to Appraisal
Limerick ward block	The project covers the Ward Block Replacement (96 beds) located over Emergency Department and Renal Dialysis Units.	Limerick	2022	2025
Waterford University Hospital Ward Block	Development of a new block to include replacement inpatient beds and a Palliative Care Unit.	Waterford	2017	2020
Central Kerry Regional Water Supply Scheme - Upgrade of Lough Guitane Water Treatment Plant	The project involves the development of a new water treatment plant including monitoring and scada systems, network modelling and pipeline rehabilitation, existing reservoir assessments and refurbishment and construction of new reservoirs as required to enable optimum management of water supply and quality throughout the entire network.	Kerry	2016	2018
Cork City Water Supply Scheme - Upgrade of Water Treatment Plant	Irish Water is progressing the upgrade of the existing Water Treatment Plant to replace and extend the water treatment facility at the Lee Road to provide a more secure water supply in Cork City.	Cork	2019	2022
Cork City Wastewater Network	Irish Water is progressing the drainage area planning phase of the Cork City Wastewater Network. The objective of this project is to upgrade the wastewater network.	Cork	Subject to Appraisal	Subject to Appraisal

Name of Project	Brief Description of Project	Location (County)	Project Commencement Date	Project Completion Date
Cork Lower Harbour Main Drainage Project	The Cork Lower Harbour Main Drainage Project is required to significantly enhance the water quality in Cork Harbour. The project is important in terms of protecting the environment, facilitating economic development and providing for a growing population. In addition to this, the need for a wastewater treatment plant for Cork Lower Harbour is a requirement under both European and National legislation in order to improve health, integrity of the environment and improve water quality in compliance with the European Union's Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.	Cork	2016	2021
Skibbereen Regional Water Supply Scheme - Water Treatment Plant & Network	The proposed Skibbereen Regional Water Supply Project addresses the water quality deficiencies in Schull, Leap, Baltimore, Drimoleague and Skibbereen.	Cork	2019	2021
Tralee Wastewater Network	Irish Water are progressing the drainage area planning phase of the Tralee Wastewater Network. The objective of this project is to upgrade the wastewater network.	Kerry	Subject to Appraisal	Subject to Appraisal
Carlow Wastewater Treatment Plant	This project involves upgrading the existing wastewater treatment facilities to meet the Waste Water Discharge Authorisation standards.	Carlow	2022	2025
Clonroadmore Wastewater Treatment Plant	The project consists of the construction, commissioning and testing of an expansion to the Clonroadmore Wastewater Treatment Plant, which will increase the facility capacity and upgrade the sludge handling facilities. The project also includes provision of preliminary treatment works at a number of pumping stations.	Clare	2024	2026
Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant	Upgrade of the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant; provide capacity for current and future growth, as well as compliance with both the Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations (UWWTR) and EPA wastewater discharge authorisation (WWDA). The upgrade Project is currently at Feasibility Study stage and a concept design and options report is being prepared.	Clare	2023	2025
Limerick Wastewater Treatment Plant	The project includes the works required for Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive Compliance for the projected design loads, including phasing of works having regard to the existing very significant licenced industrial loads; identifying the additional works required to provide for significant new industrial customers engaging with Chlorine Dioxide Solution; and identifying Capital Maintenance works required.	Limerick	2022	2025
Mallow Wastewater Treatment Plant	Irish Water (IW) has identified the need to upgrade Mallow Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to ensure compliance with the Urban Wastewater Directive.	Cork	2021	2023
Midleton Wastewater Network	Wastewater Network Infrastructure extension to facilitate housing development in the high growth area of Midleton (Water-Rock) in County Cork.	Cork	Subject to Appraisal	2024

Name of Project	Brief Description of Project	Location (County)	Project Commencement Date	Project Completion Date
Waterford City Wastewater Treatment Plant	Upgrade of Wastewater Treatment Plant to protect environment and quality of receiving waters and facilitate growth.	Waterford	2024	2026
National Laboratory (Limerick)	Irish Water is developing a national laboratory in Limerick with an expected analytical capacity of approximately 1.2 million tests per year.	Limerick	2021	2024
Bandon Water main and Sewer Network Upgrade	The scope of works comprises the upgrading of 5km of combined sewers and removal of 10 combined sewer overflows, with the objective of reducing wastewater overflows to the Bandon River, thereby enabling compliance with EPA Wastewater Discharge Licence for the Bandon agglomeration. The works will also alleviate sewer flooding instances in Bandon and provide increased capacity in the network for existing and future development. The project also includes water main rehabilitation, the primary driver for the water main rehabilitation works is leakage reduction within the network with a secondary benefit of the introduction of a pressure management system.	Cork	2018	2022
Cork City Water Supply Scheme - Ballynora Ballincollig Reservoir	The purpose of this project is to incorporate a high-level reservoir into the Cork Harbour and City Water Supply Scheme. The reservoir will provide storage for the Ballincollig area to the West of Cork City environs and provide adequate water supply infrastructure to meet the projected growth in population.	Cork	2027	2029
Clonmel Regional Water Supply Scheme -Water Treatment Plant	The purpose of this project is to, achieve a sustainable improvement in the Water Supply Scheme of Clonmel Town and Rural environs in terms of quality, quantity and reliability; alleviate water quality issues through the provision of appropriate water treatment while also supporting current and future development through the provision of additional supplies; and improve scheme reliability through the provision of additional treated water storage.	Tipperary	Subject to Appraisal	2030
Midleton Water Supply Scheme - Interconnection to Inniscarra Regional Water Supply Scheme and Additional storage	The principal objective of the Extension of the Cork Harbour and City Water Supply Scheme to Midleton and Whitegate project is to address the demand deficiencies and water quality risks in the two supplies.	Cork	2027	2029
Ballyvolane and Monard Wastewater Network	Cork City Metropolitan Area has a population of 208,669, and is expected to grow by 50% to 60% to 2040. The draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region projects an additional 50,000 population with city and suburbs by 2026, and a further 25,000 population between 2026 and 2031. Irish Water has entered into a Project Works Service Agreement (PWSA) with Developers for the design of a new Ballyvolane Pumping Station to cater for growth in the area.	Cork	2026	2028
Midleton Wastewater Transfer Project	A Wastewater Transfer Project for Midleton, Co. Cork.	Cork	2024	2026

Name of Project	Brief Description of Project	Location (County)	Project Commencement Date	Project Completion Date
Tralee Flood Relief Scheme	Assess, develop, design and build a viable and cost effective sustainable flood relief scheme to protect 717 properties by constructing embankments and flood defence walls.	Kerry	2024	2026
King's Island Flood Relief Scheme	Assess, develop, design and build a viable and cost effective sustainable flood relief scheme to protect 423 properties by constructing embankments and flood defence walls. This is phase 1 of the Limerick City and Environs Scheme.	Limerick	2021	2023
Limerick Flood Relief Scheme	Assess, develop, design and build a viable and cost effective sustainable flood relief scheme to protect properties by constructing embankments and flood defence walls.	Limerick	2023	2027
Bandon Flood Relief scheme	This project is the flood relief scheme for Bandon, Co. Cork.	Cork	2016	2020
Ballyvourney and Ballymakeera Flood Relief Scheme	This project is a Flood Relief Scheme for Ballyvourney and Ballymakeera.	Cork	2023	2026
Blackpool Flood Relief Scheme	This project is a Flood Relief Scheme for Blackpool, Cork City.	Cork	2021	2023
Clonakilty Flood Relief Scheme	This project is a Flood Relief Scheme for Clonakilty.	Cork	2018	2021
Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme	This project is a flood relief scheme for Enniscorthy, Co Wexford.	Wexford	2021	2024
Opera Site, Limerick	Redevelopment of Opera Site for office accommodation as part of a larger regeneration project.	Limerick	Subject to Appraisal	Subject to Appraisal
Lower Lee (Cork City) Flood Relief Scheme	This project is a Flood Relief Scheme for Cork City and area up to Inniscarra Dam.	Cork	Subject to Appraisal	2026
Ringaskiddy Redevelopment	The project will see the redevelopment of existing port facilities at Ringaskiddy to accommodate larger sea-going vessels and increase port capacity.	Cork	2016	2021
New Aircraft Hangar at Shannon Airport	This project will see the construction of a new wide body paint hangar at Shannon Airport.	Clare	2018	2020
Capacity Extension Works	This project will see capacity extension works at Shannon Foynes Port to include jetty expansion works and the expansion of the port estate on lands to the east of the existing port.	Limerick	2020	2023
Commercial Property Development	Development of Shannon Group's commercial property portfolio, which is designed to deliver high quality advanced manufacturing, warehousing and office space solutions. This programme will assist the IDA and Enterprise Ireland in their drive for inward investment and increase employment in the region.	Clare	Subject to Appraisal	Subject to Appraisal
Coonagh to Knockalisheen Road	This project is part of the Limerick Regeneration programme and critical to the regeneration of Limerick and particularly Moyross.	Limerick	2020	2023

Name of Project	Brief Description of Project	Location (County)	Project Commencement Date	Project Completion Date
Listowel Bypass	This scheme consists of 5.95km western and northern bypass of Listowel Town Centre and consists of approximately 3.65km of new road, 2.3km on line improvement of the existing network along the mainline and 1.5km of side road improvements. This scheme is listed as an inter-urban road in the NDP. The N69 runs through Listowel Town connecting Tralee and its hinterland to North Kerry and West Limerick/ Clare and carries a high volume of heavy commercial vehicles. The N69 crosses the River Feale at Listowel, which is the only river crossing in the area and hence is heavily congested as well as a constraint/restriction to the development of the region. The proposed development addresses these issues.	Kerry	2021	2023
M8/N25 Dunkettle Interchange	Upgrading of the Dunkettle Interchange to a fully free flow junction (except for the M8 to N8 South West movement). A new dumbbell interchange will be provided to the east of the main interchange for Little Island. Improvements will also be made to the Silversprings junction on the N8 into the City.	Cork	2020	2023
M20 Cork to Limerick	The scheme consists of the development of a high quality route connecting Cork to Limerick.	Multi-County	2025	Subject to Appraisal
N21/N69 Limerick to Adare to Foynes	The project consists of 16km road from Foynes to Rathkeale with a single carriageway link road to the existing N69 at Askeaton and 16Km motorway from Rathkeale to Attyflin, east of Adare (incorporating the Adare Bypass).	Limerick	2022	2025
N22 Ballyvourney to Macroom	The new road development consists of 22 km upgrade of the N22 National Primary Route from Ballyvourney to Macroom to a dual carriageway standard.	Cork	2019	2023
N28 Cork to Ringaskiddy Road	This scheme consists of an upgrade of approximately 12.5km of the N28 route from the N40 South Ring Road to the Port in Ringaskiddy and a motorway service area at the terminus of the scheme.	Cork	2024	2027
N72/N73 Mallow Relief Road	This scheme consists of a single carriageway bypass of the town of Mallow. The scheme length would be of the order of 4.5km to 7km.	Cork	2025	2027
PPP: M11 Gorey-Enniscorthy Motorway	This project includes works of approximately 26km of mainline to motorway standard (M11 route), 4km of dual carriageway (N80 Link Road), 8km of single carriageway (Enniscorthy N30 route).	Wexford	2015	2019
PPP: N25 New Ross Bypass	The scheme comprises 14.6km of dual carriageway (N25 and N30 route), and 1.2km of single carriageway (New Ross N30 route). The scheme includes a significant crossing of the River Barrow.	Wexford	2016	2020
Shannon Crossing/ Killaloe Bypass/ R494 Upgrade	The Shannon Bridge will cross the River Shannon approximately 1km south of the existing Killaloe Bridge and will connect the proposed Killaloe Bypass with the R494 upgrade. The projects are merged for efficiencies and value for money.	Clare	2021	2023

Name of Project	Brief Description of Project	Location (County)	Project Commencement Date	Project Completion Date
Waterford North Quays	The North Quays Project consists of 4 transport focussed infrastructure projects intended to open up the site for the development of commercial and residential land with direct sustainable access to the City Centre and intercity locations	Waterford	2021	2023
Shannon Flood Relief Scheme	This project will deliver a new Flood Relief Scheme for Shannon, Co Clare	Clare	2022	2024
Grousemount Wind Farm	Large scale Wind Farm located in Co. Kerry with installed capacity of 122.6MW	Kerry	2017	2020

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