



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



Our Rural Future

2023 Work Programme

Prepared by the Department of Rural
and Community Development

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Introduction

Our Rural Future, Ireland's national rural development policy provides a blueprint for sustainable rural development over the period to 2025.

Delivery of the policy's ambitious vision, which recognises the crucial role played by rural communities in Ireland's national economic, social, environmental and cultural development, will have a transformational impact on the quality of life in rural areas.

The publication of *Our Rural Future* in March 2021 mapped out a programme of activity across Government over the policy's five-year timeframe, and Departments and State agencies have been progressing the implementation of more than 160 commitments, with updates on this work being detailed in the series of six-monthly Progress Reports which can be found on the [Our Rural Future website](#).

Annual activity is outlined in the policy's Work Programmes – this is the third such programme and details the actions being taken in 2023 by a total of 25 departments and agencies.

There are a total of 296 actions for delivery this year. Of these, 17 will facilitate delivery of 11 new policy measures, demonstrating the Government's desire for *Our Rural Future* to evolve and respond to emerging needs identified in engagements and consultations with our stakeholders. There are also a number of actions carried over from 2022 which have been assigned revised timelines for delivery.

Updates on these actions will be provided in the Fourth and Fifth Progress Reports, to be published following the midpoint and the end of 2023 respectively.

Glossary

BCP	Broadband Connection Point
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CLÁR	Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais
CRU	Commission for Regulation of Utilities
CSP	CAP Strategic Plan
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
DCEDIY	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
DETE	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
DECC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
D/Education	Department of Education
DFHERIS	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
D/Finance	Department of Finance
D/Health	Department of Health
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
D/Justice	Department of Justice
DPENDPDR	Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform
DRCD	Department of Rural and Community Development
DSP	Department of Social Protection
DTCAGSM	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
D/Transport	Department of Transport
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EV	Electric Vehicle
FLAG	Fisheries Local Area Group
HE	Higher Education
IDA	Industrial Development Agency
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
LEO	Local Enterprise Office
LGBTI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
LGMA	Local Government Management Agency
MAP	Maritime Area Planning
NMPF	National Marine Planning Framework
NTA	National Transport Authority
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OGP	Office of Government Procurement
OPW	Office of Public Works
ORESS	Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme
ORIS	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme
PPN	Public Participation Network
QQI	Quality and Qualifications Ireland
REDF	Regional Enterprise Development Fund
RRDF	Rural Regeneration and Development Fund
SICAP	Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
URDF	Urban Regeneration and Development Fund
WDC	Western Development Commission

Optimising Digital Connectivity

Measure 1 Invest up to €2.7 billion in the rollout of the National Broadband Plan and explore how the initiative can be accelerated to deliver connectivity as soon as possible in rural areas.		
Lead Delivery Body: National Broadband Ireland under contract to DECC		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
1.1	Continue rollout of the National Broadband Plan, with construction continuing in all counties.	Ongoing
1.6	Continuation of the accelerated programme for the provision of high speed broadband to primary schools across the intervention area.	Ongoing

Measure 3 Introduce legislation to provide employees with the right to request remote work.		
Lead Delivery Body: DCEDIY		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
3.4	Complete passage of the legislation through the houses of the Oireachtas. The right to request remote working has been integrated into the DCEDIY 'Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2022'.	Q1 2023

Measure 4 Map and publish a comprehensive picture of remote working facilities across the country, and the various facilities available in each, to ensure that future hubs are developed in a strategic way that meets demand and maximises utilisation in key locations.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD, Western Development Commission		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
4.1	Data gathering to establish extent of remote working hubs across country.	Ongoing

4.3	Engage with stakeholders (Central Statistics Office and DETE) to ensure data and maps are incorporated into wider data gathering on remote working demand and supply as part of Making Remote Work.	Ongoing
4.5	Working with the WDC and across government, DRCD will publish a National Hub Strategy to ensure the strategic and sustainable development of hub services in the State.	Q4 2023

Measure 5 Establish a comprehensive and integrated national network of 400 Remote Working Hubs throughout the country, with shared back-office services and a central booking platform for users.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD, Western Development Commission		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
5.1	Building on the strong uptake to date, reach a target of 350 hubs onboarded to the ConnectedHubs.ie platform and the National Hubs Network.	Q4 2023
5.2	Development of the Connectedhubs.ie platform to improve accessibility and functionality to include corporate booking functionality, and development of management information.	Ongoing

Measure 6 Invest significantly in remote working facilities to support the retention of skilled people in rural communities and attract mobile talent to rural areas.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
6.7	The National Hub Strategy will be published in 2023 and will look at, among other issues, the funding and support structures currently in place for hubs and promoting usage of the existing network of hub sites. Potential funding structures will be considered in terms of expected efficacy and value for money.	Q4 2023

Measure 7 Provide financial support to Local Authorities to bring vacant properties in town centres back into use as Remote Working Hubs.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
7.2	Projects that address vacancy and dereliction and ensure the re-use of heritage and other existing buildings to provide the necessary appropriately-scaled facilities and infrastructure in rural areas, including remote working facilities, will continue to be eligible under the fifth call to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund and the 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme.	Q4 2023

Measure 8 Develop national data on the incidence and frequency of remote work, to provide an evidence base for future policy.		
Lead Delivery Body: CSO		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
8.2	Provide remote working statistics from the quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS).	Ongoing
8.3	Publication of the Census of Population results including the remote working questions. These will be available at a geographical level.	Q4 2023

Measure 10 Mandate public sector employers, colleges, and other public bodies to move to 20% home and remote working in 2021, with further annual increases over the lifetime of this policy.		
Lead Delivery Body: DPENDPDR		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
10.2	The Government will finalise its Public Service Transformation Programme in Q2 2023. This will include a core requirement for public service organisations to provide dynamic and agile workplaces, which will generally adhere to the principles set out in the Government's Blended Working Framework for the Civil Service.	Q2 2023

Measure 11 Pilot co-working or hot-desking for civil servants in a small number of towns initially, to support the objective of a move to 20% home or remote working.		
Lead Delivery Body: DPENDPDR		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
11.3	Following the publication of the Public Service Transformation programme (See Measure 10.2), work will commence on conducting research and identifying case studies of best practice for the delivery of dynamic and agile workspaces, including recommendations for advancing new working arrangements for public bodies. Where successful pilots are identified, the potential for scaling will be assessed under the Public Service Transformation Programme.	Q4 2023

Measure 12 Through IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta, promote and enable the uptake of remote working across their client base to support regional job creation.		
Lead Delivery Body: DETE, DTCAGSM, Údarás na Gaeltachta		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
12.3	Enterprise Ireland will continue to drive job creation in the regions through implementation of the Enterprise Ireland Strategy 2022-2024. This will include a strong focus on remote working opportunities.	Ongoing
12.4	IDA during 2023 will continue to collaborate with other regional stakeholders to highlight the network of hubs available throughout Ireland to its client base both new and existing as appropriate who wish to provide remote working opportunities to staff.	Ongoing
12.5	Bring the number of digital hubs in operation in the Gaeltacht to 33. Five new gteic digital hubs are currently under development and will become operational in 2023.	Ongoing
12.6	Supporting the development of digital and technology-based companies in gteic digital hubs and providing support mechanisms and initiatives within the gteic network such as information sessions, business meet-ups, networking events and innovations programmes.	Ongoing

Measure 14 Provide grants to retail businesses in rural towns and villages to establish an online presence to complement traditional footfall trade.		
Lead Delivery Body: DETE, LEOs		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
14.1	Delivery of the Trading Online Voucher Scheme which offers a voucher of up to €2,500 (50% co-funded by the applicant) to help businesses develop their online trading capability.	Ongoing
14.2	Launch a further call for the Online Retail Scheme aiming to encourage the retail sector in Ireland to increase their customer base and build a more resilient business in the domestic and global marketplace both online and offline.	Q1 2023

Measure 15 Develop Local Digital Strategies in each local authority area, to maximise the potential of improved rural digital connectivity for businesses and communities.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
15.1	Provide support and assistance to local authorities to produce local digital strategies to drive regional digital development.	Ongoing

Measure 16 Expand the provision of free-to-use wireless internet connectivity in rural areas through the rollout of Broadband Connection Points and other initiatives such as the WiFi4EU public wi-fi networks and the Digital Innovation Programme.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
16.4	Publication of the BCP Network's development strategy. The strategy will consider a range of issues relating to ensuring that BCPs deliver clear benefits, including the coverage and usage of existing BCP sites, development of new services and initiatives in BCPs and awareness raising activities.	Moved to Measure 164 (see page 63)
16.6	Ensure that 300 Broadband Connection Points (BCP) are live and operational.	Q2 2023

16.7	Work with local authorities to ensure the timely deployment of remaining WiFi4EU hotspots.	Q2 2023
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Measure 17 Under the Schools Broadband Programme, review on an ongoing basis the availability of broadband services and upgrade schools broadband connectivity, including within the State intervention area where possible.		
Lead Delivery Body: D/Education		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
17.1	Work with DECC on the provision of improved broadband connectivity to primary schools as identified under the National Broadband Plan Broadband Connection Point Programme.	Ongoing
17.3	Continue the implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan project to provide high speed connectivity to primary schools not included in NBP Intervention Area and commercial provision, up to 990 schools in total.	Ongoing

Measure 18 Increase the capacity for remote and blended learning to enable young people, in particular, in rural areas to access further and higher education courses through online learning while living in their local communities.		
Lead Delivery Body: DFHERIS		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
18.1	Increase remote and blended learning to improve access to further and higher education by continuing to grow the online eCollege offer for individuals focusing on digital, IT and transversal skills.	Ongoing

Measure 20 Upskill and reskill workers in sectors undergoing transformational technological change to adapt to new roles and new ways of working.		
Lead Delivery Body: DFHERIS		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
20.2	Expand the Skills to Advance offer for employees and employers to assist the transition and adapt to changing roles in the workplace.	Ongoing
20.3	Provide new micro training and micro-qualifications in priority skills areas such as green, digital, robotics and aquafarming.	Ongoing

20.4	Delivery of the Ireland Skills Strategy review by the OECD. The findings of the review will be used to inform and shape the skills structures, including the Regional Skills Fora, into the future.	Q3 2023
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Supporting Employment and Careers in Rural Areas

Measure 21 Develop and implement a set of nine new Regional Enterprise Plans to support enterprise development and jobs growth in the regions.		
Lead Delivery Body: DETE		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
21.2	Launch European Regional Development Fund scheme to support delivery of Regional Enterprise Plans.	Q2 2023
21.3	Publish Regional Enterprise Plans Progress Reports.	Q3 2023

Measure 22 Target 400 IDA investments up to 2024 for regional locations and deliver 19 Advanced Technology Buildings in regional locations in line with the National Planning Framework.		
Lead Delivery Body: IDA Ireland		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
22.1	IDA Ireland will continue during 2023 to drive and win new FDI investments for regional location in this respect.	Ongoing
22.2	IDA will continue during 2023 to progress its programme of delivering 19 Advanced Technology Buildings to regional locations to the end of the current strategy.	Ongoing

Measure 23 Deliver ambitious job creation and enterprise development targets for the indigenous sector in the strategies of Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta and the Local Enterprise Offices to embed jobs growth more deeply within the regions.		
Lead Delivery Body: Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta, LEOs		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
23.1	Enterprise Ireland will continue to drive job creation and retention in the regions through implementation of the Enterprise Ireland Strategy 2022-2024. An additional 45,000 new jobs are targeted for creation, two-thirds created outside of Dublin. The LEOs will	Ongoing

	continue to promote employment growth across the 31 Local Authorities and engage with REDF projects in each of the regions.	
23.5	Support the network of 33 Gaeltacht community development organisations funded through Údarás na Gaeltachta in delivering annual actions plans that take into account community-specific social issues.	Ongoing
23.6	Develop an Action Plan 2023-2025 for the Uíbh Ráthach Task Force.	Q2 2023
23.7	Complete the Gaeltacht micro-enterprise strategy.	Q1 2023
23.8	Develop relationships with national and local agencies through Local Sports Partnerships and local authorities to coordinate approach in job creation in the sports sector in indigenous areas.	Q3 2023

Measure 25 Promote awareness and the use of remote working hubs and enterprise centres across the country to support remote working and encourage local enterprise start-ups.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD, DETE		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
25.3	Develop collaborative strategies with key stakeholders to promote hubs to diverse markets (SMEs, workers, etc.).	Ongoing
25.4	Publication of the National Connected Hubs Development Strategy.	Q2 2023
25.5	Enterprise Ireland will build a stronger start-up project pipeline across the regions, targeting an increase of 20% in the number of prospective and fast-growing High Potential Start-Ups), including through commercialisation of research and innovation-driven entrepreneurship.	Q4 2023
25.6	DRCD and the WDC will promote the National Hub Network and the opportunities that the Network provides for remote workers, employers and businesses of all sizes through targeted advertising campaigns and media engagement throughout 2023.	Q4 2023

Measure 26 Maximise our resources and strengths in the Green Economy to support employment opportunities for rural communities in areas such as renewable energy, sustainable tourism, energy retrofitting, the Bioeconomy and the Circular Economy.		
Lead Delivery Body: DAFM, DECC		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
26.3	Offer bioeconomy research opportunities by multiple funders including the Irish Research Council, EPA, DAFM, etc.	Ongoing
26.4	Hold annual awareness raising event on bioeconomy in Ireland known as Bioeconomy Ireland Week in October 2023.	Ongoing
26.8	Publish all of Government Bioeconomy Action Plan.	Q2 2023
26.9	Develop pilot and demonstration funding opportunities of the bioeconomy through Ireland's EU Just Transition Fund Territorial Just Transition Plan and Programme.	Q2 2023
26.10	Develop a National Biomethane Strategy.	Q3 2023

Measure 28 Develop an overarching Clustering Policy and Framework to advance strong and effective clustering and links between SMEs, multinational corporations and the third-level sector.		
Lead Delivery Body: DETE		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
28.3	Finalise consultancy report and recommendations from the National Cluster Policy Steering Group to inform a national cluster policy and framework.	Q1 2023
28.4	As part of the implementation of the Government's White Paper on Enterprise, identify a central coordinating function with responsibility for implementing a national clustering approach.	Q2 2023
28.5	Establish a National Clustering Programme.	Q4 2023

Measure 29 Examine, and take forward as appropriate, the recommendations of the SME Growth Plan to map out an ambitious long-term strategic blueprint for all SMEs, including rurality-based businesses.		
Lead Delivery Body: DETE		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
29.3	Publish a further report on actions taken to implement the 10 key recommendations within the SME and Entrepreneurship Growth Plan that were identified for continued priority delivery by the SME and Entrepreneurship Taskforce, and the additional priority to bring forward actions in relation to Climate action, SMEs, and transition to a low carbon future.	Q4 2023

Measure 30 Deliver a suite of new measures to support the development of Social Enterprises in rural areas to increase their social, economic and environmental impact and contribute to job creation locally.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
30.2	Include a focus on rural social enterprise in support programmes for social enterprises.	Ongoing
30.3	Encourage job creation through social enterprise by providing social enterprise funding supports. (Údarás na Gaeltachta)	Q2 2023
30.4	Launch a new hybrid social finance pilot which will allow social enterprises to build capacity and provide them with more financial flexibility by reducing their reliance on grant funding.	Q1 2023

Measure 31 Expand the use of socially responsible public procurement contracts, where feasible, which will incentivise the engagement of social enterprises and Circular Economy organisations.		
Lead Delivery Body: All Departments		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
31.5	Under Action 9 of the 'Working to Change' strategy, D/Justice, the Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service will continue to review procurements which are new or due for renewal to see how	Ongoing

	social criteria/clauses may be included, in pursuit of meeting the pledged target of 10% of all Criminal Justice Sector procurement contracts for the provision of goods and services to include social considerations. (D/Justice)	
31.7	Conduct research into an effective mechanism to introduce Socially Responsible Public Procurement. (D/Justice)	Q3 2023

Measure 32 Further develop the Wild Atlantic Way (WAW), Ireland's Hidden Heartlands (IHH), and Ireland's Ancient East (IAE) as regional tourism offerings and further diversify tourism opportunities by strengthening Ireland's image as an outdoor activity holiday destination to the domestic and international markets.		
Lead Delivery Body: Fáilte Ireland		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
32.6	Launch Regional Tourism Strategies (RTPs) for each of Fáilte Ireland's brand regions.	Q2 2023
32.7	Complete the redevelopment of Connaught Harbour (IHH) in partnership with Waterways Ireland.	Q4 2023
32.8	Complete the redevelopment of the River Shannon Discovery Points (IHH) in partnership with Waterways Ireland.	Q4 2023
32.9	Provide additional support to eight outdoor participative events/festivals to extend the season and increase dwell time in their destinations.	Q4 2023

Measure 33 Strengthen the identity and branding of the Gaeltacht regions and develop a Tourism Strategy for the Gaeltacht areas.		
Lead Delivery Body: DTCAGSM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
33.1	Continue development of "Gaeltacht na hÉireann" branding across businesses, organisations, language planning groups and Gaeltacht organisations in a range of different contexts. Work will also continue, in partnership with other key stakeholders, in further developing the Gaeltacht's unique potential in the realm of cultural tourism.	Ongoing

33.2	Tender and complete review of the Gaeltacht na hÉireann brand, ensuring that it is fit for purpose and accordingly in a position to be adopted across a wide range of Gaeltacht sectors.	Q3 2023
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Measure 35 Publish and implement a new National Outdoor Recreation Strategy, through Comhairle na Tuaithe, to support access to, and responsible use of, outdoor recreational and leisure facilities for people of all ages, and increase employment opportunities in rural areas.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
35.2	Review the Mountain Access Project, an initiative which seeks to secure the voluntary agreement of landowners in a defined mountain area to allow recreational access to their lands.	Q2 2023
35.3	Establishment of a strategy oversight and implementation group to assist with the delivery of <i>Embracing Ireland's Outdoors</i> , the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy.	Q2 2023
35.4	Provide guidance and resources for the development of County Outdoor Recreation Plans.	Q4 2023

Measure 36 Invest in greenways, blueways, walking trails and other outdoor recreation infrastructure to support the growth in outdoor recreational tourism.		
Lead Delivery Body: D/Transport, DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
36.1	<p>The exchequer capital funding available for greenways in 2023 is €60 million. €17 million has been carried over from 2022 making a total of €77 million available for 2023. Work is continuing on ten greenways currently under construction. Over 70 projects are at various stages of delivery.</p> <p>In 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further sections of the Grand Canal Greenway, the My Greenway (Midleton to Youghal), and a section of the Connemara Greenway will be completed. • Construction will continue on Athlone Bridge ahead of completion in 2023. 	Ongoing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction will commence on a section of the South Kerry Greenway. Continue to progress the large number of projects currently at the Design/Preliminary Business Case stage. 	
36.2	Open new Call for Applications under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme to support development of natural amenities such as our mountains, lakes, beaches, bogs, walkways, greenways, blueways and other outdoor recreation infrastructure.	Q2 2023
36.3	Develop Interpretation Plans for new greenways and blueways in collaboration with local authorities to ensure infrastructure developed as best in class visitor experiences. (DTCAGSM)	Q4 2023
36.5	Three greenway Interpretation and Wayfinding Plans will be developed and presented to D/Transport for implementation funding. (Fáilte Ireland)	Q4 2023
36.6	Completion of 300km of Mountain Bike Trails open for visitors in partnership with Coillte. (Fáilte Ireland)	Q4 2023
36.7	Three Water Sport Facility Buildings complete with the remaining 17 in development (planning, design, etc.) (Fáilte Ireland)	Q4 2023
36.8	Launch Best Practice toolkit for walks developers & community groups to ensure a good visitor experience. (Fáilte Ireland)	Q4 2023
36.9	Launch guidelines for community and destination groups to develop walking festivals. (Fáilte Ireland)	Q4 2023
36.10	Develop a strategic partnership with Bord na Móna to enhance the outdoor recreation infrastructure in the midlands.	Q2 2023

Measure 37 Develop a pilot bicycle up-cycling initiative to support employment creation, to harness the potential of investment in greenways and to support the development of the social enterprise business model.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
37.2	Interim evaluation of five approved projects will take place, with consideration to be given to an extension of the pilot.	Q3 2023

Measure 40 Develop a Dark Skies Strategy for Ireland, with a focus on the opportunities it can create for rural communities and employment creation.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2022 Actions		Status
40.4	Establishment of Dark Skies Strategy Steering Group made up of key stakeholders.	Q2 2023

Measure 42 Identify opportunities for the Creative Industries in Ireland and maximise their potential to support employment in rural areas through the development of a roadmap to support the sector.		
Lead Delivery Body: DTCAGSM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
42.2	Review training and development supports provided for the Gaeltacht audio-visual sector to ensure this evolving sector is fit for purpose, including the preparation of a development, investment and training strategy (Údarás na Gaeltachta)	Q4 2023
42.3	Develop a roadmap for the creative industries targeting design-based, digital creative and content creation sectors, and building on existing strengths in film, animation, a burgeoning games industry and on the potential of our design-based industries.	Q4 2023

Measure 44 Through a new Pathways to Work Strategy 2021-2025, support people to upskill, reskill and find employment through increased capacity and intensive activation and training.		
Lead Delivery Body: DSP		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
44.3	Carry out mid-term review of the Pathways to Work strategy, including a public consultation process.	Q4 2023

Measure 45 Through the National Disability Inclusion Strategy, develop initiatives to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities living in rural areas, including through remote working options.		
Lead Delivery Body: DCEDIY		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
45.1	In 2023, the Open Doors Initiative to operate an Employer Information Service – “Employers for Change” – will continue to be funded and an employer-focused awareness campaign will be developed and rolled out. Work continues on the development of a Phase Three Action Plan for the CES, which will outline priorities for the final two years of the strategy up to 2024.	Q4 2023

Revitalising Rural Towns and Villages

Measure 46 Deliver a range of strategic investment programmes over the lifetime of this policy that meet the needs of differentiated rural areas, including through the €1 billion Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, and an enhanced Town and Village Renewal Scheme.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
46.3	Invite applications under a new round of Town and Village Renewal Funding with enhanced Grant Aid of up to €500,000 available for projects to contribute to key targets and outcomes in Our Rural Future.	Q3 2023
46.6	Open a new call for applications under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) to support projects that contribute to key targets and outcomes of Our Rural Future in addition to the National Planning Framework and National Development Plan.	Q4 2023
46.7	Ensure that the design of the Rural Development Investment Programme appropriately reflects any imbalances in regional development, including by reference to EU Commission regional classifications.	Q4 2023

Measure 49 Fund Local Authorities to adapt and improve outdoor public spaces for cultural events and activities all-year round, and support the recovery of the creative, cultural, entertainment and events sector.		
Lead Delivery Body: DTCAGSM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
49.1	Administer the roll-out and delivery of up to 22 projects by local authorities approved under the Outdoor Public Space Scheme.	Ongoing

Measure 50 Deliver major regeneration projects in towns with a population of over 10,000 which play an important role as key hubs in rural areas, through the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		

2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
50.1	Continue delivery of the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.	Ongoing

Measure 51 Develop and deliver a collaborative Town Centre First approach to put town centres at the heart of decision-making where appropriate.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH, DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
51.3	Complete initial tranche of Town Centre First Plans.	Q2 2023
51.4	Establish the TCF Toolkit (lead by National TCF Office).	Q2 2023

Measure 52 As part of the Town Centre First approach, provide and resource dedicated Local Authority staff to support town centre renewal.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
52.2	Completion of recruitment of 26 Town Regeneration Officers and establishment of TRO Network.	Q2 2023

Measure 53 Enhance the powers of Local Authorities to offer commercial rates-based incentives for businesses, targeting the re-use of vacant commercial units.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
53.1	<p>The preparation and commencement of regulations under sections 9 and 15 of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 9 provides that a local authority may make schemes for the abatement of rates in respect of vacant properties. Section 15 of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019 provides that a local authority may make rates waiver schemes to support the implementation of the National Spatial Strategy, Development Plans, Local Area Plans or Local Economic and Community Plans. <p>The legislation will be commenced in 2023, with a view to introducing Section 9 and 15 schemes in 2024.</p>	Q4 2023

Measure 54 Examine the feasibility of introducing ‘meanwhile use’ legislation so that empty buildings and shopfronts on main streets can be brought back into compatible use on a short-term, temporary basis as pop up shops, street markets, exhibitions spaces and other purposes in accordance with Town Centre First policies.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
54.1	DHLGH to engage with DETE to discuss any necessary changes to the planning legislation to allow for meanwhile use.	Q2 2023

Measure 55 As part of the Town Centre First approach, provide seed capital to Local Authorities to provide serviced sites at cost in towns and villages, to allow individuals and families to build homes in rural centres.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
55.2	Continue to roll out the Croí Cónaithe ‘Ready to Build’ scheme in conjunction with local authorities to support the provision of Serviced Sites for New Homes in town and villages.	Ongoing

Measure 56 Engage the Approved Housing Bodies with responsibility for housing for older people to develop accommodation in town centres more suited for those with reduced mobility.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
56.1	Develop and roll out a Geographic Information System (GIS) Decision Support Tool for use by the Department, local authorities, approved housing bodies and developers which would score available sites on their appropriateness for housing developments for older people in line with Action 2.3 and Action 5.9 set out in "Housing Options for Our Ageing Population", published in 2019.	Q2 2023

Measure 57 Expand the Town and Village Renewal Scheme as an enabler to bring vacant and derelict buildings and sites back into use as multi-purpose spaces and for residential occupancy.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
57.1	The 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme will continue to prioritise projects that bring vacant and derelict buildings and sites back into use as multi-purpose spaces.	Ongoing

Measure 58 Encourage greater use of the Buy and Renew Scheme and the Repair and Lease Scheme to combat vacancy and dereliction.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
58.1	Funding of €12 million has been secured for the Repair and Leasing Scheme for 2023; this will be targeted at bringing back into use 130 homes and to provide funding for Vacant Homes Officers in each local authority.	Ongoing

Measure 63 Examine the establishment of a Community Ownership Fund to help community groups and social enterprises buy or take over local community assets at risk of being lost, to run as community-owned businesses.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
63.1	The 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme will support the purchase of vacant or derelict buildings to be brought back into use as multipurpose community spaces through the roll-out of the Building Acquisition Measure.	Q4 2023

Measure 64 Invest in infrastructure, including water and wastewater infrastructure, to support the development of rural towns and villages.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
64.3	The roll-out of €50million scheme to improve wastewater infrastructure in rural towns and villages will continue with the delivery of recommendations for funding by an independent expert panel.	Q2 2023

Measure 65 Support the take-up of Irish Water’s Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme 2020-2024, which will provide water and waste water growth capacity in smaller settlements that would otherwise not be provided for in Irish Water’s capital investment plan.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
65.2	Progress the 36 waste water treatment projects announced by Irish Water in September 2021 through Preliminary Business Case stage to Final Business Case stage (detailed design and tender).	Ongoing

Measure 67 Bring forward proposals for the development of a Policy on the Night Time Economy which will support the revitalisation of our rural towns, as well as our larger urban centres and cities, in the post-COVID recovery.		
Lead Delivery Body: DTCAGSM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
67.2	Continue to work in partnership with key departments, agencies and stakeholders to drive the progress of the 36 actions contained in the Report of the Night-Time Economy Taskforce and where possible to ensure that the Night-Time Economy is included as a target policy area for any relevant existing or new capital scheme interventions.	Ongoing
67.3	Fund new Night-Time Advisors in nine pilot towns and cities across the country – Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick, Kilkenny, Drogheda, Sligo, Buncrana and Longford Town. These two-year pilot initiatives, will be key to the revitalisation and growth of the cities, towns, and villages across the country.	Q3 2023

Measure 68 Support the development of Smart Towns and Villages which use innovative solutions to improve resilience, build on local strengths and maximise opportunities to create desirable places to live and work.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
68.1	Launch of call for applications under PEACE PLUS Investment Area 2.4 Smart Towns and Villages.	Q3 2023
68.2	The 2023-2027 LEADER Programme will support the development of Smart Villages strategies and initiatives throughout the lifetime of the programme.	Ongoing

Enhancing Participation, Leadership and Resilience in Rural Communities

Measure 69 Refine and build on a range of programmes to support communities, voluntary organisations, social enterprises and charities to build their resilience and enhance their impact in the aftermath of COVID-19.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
69.3	Continue to deliver Community and Voluntary Energy Support Scheme until such time as the scheme closes (early 2023), to assist community and voluntary organisations meet increased energy costs.	Q2 2023

Measure 70 Implement the National Volunteering Strategy 2021-2025, which will support both volunteers and community-based organisations in rural areas and nationwide.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
70.3	Develop Volunteer Strategy for sporting sector that aligns with DRCD policy. (DTCAGSM)	Q4 2023

Measure 72 Hold a regular series of Rural Ideas Fora to engage with rural dwellers to enable them to input on an ongoing basis to issues which impact on them and their communities, and to encourage their ongoing contribution to national rural policy innovation.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
72.1	The ongoing series of Rural Ideas Fora events will continue in 2023.	Ongoing

Measure 74 Build capacity for community development through provision of mentoring/training for community development leaders, with a particular focus on young people between the ages of 18 and 25.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
74.2	The assessment of training needs in the Community and Voluntary sector, taking place as part of the Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities Strategy, will continue with Project Two and Project Three assessments into the training needs of trustees of voluntary boards and smaller community and voluntary organisations. Following finalisation of these reports, an implementation plan will be developed.	Q2 2023
74.4	Launch of open calls under PEACE PLUS Investment Areas (1.1 Co-designed Local Community PEACE Action Plans, and 1.3 Building Positive Relations), which will support projects which develop new community leaders and enhance the capacity of existing community leaders to promote peace and reconciliation.	Q3 2023

Measure 77 Implement a €70 million Transitional LEADER Programme for community-led rural development for the period 2021-2022, and develop and deliver a new LEADER programme to commence in 2023, in line with the next EU funding framework.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
77.3	Engage with Local Action Groups with regard to the closure of the 2014-2020 and Transitional LEADER programmes.	Q3 2023
77.4	Progress Stage 2 of the selection process of Local Development Strategies for the 2023-2027 LEADER programme ensuring Local Action Groups are operational by end August 2023.	Q3 2023

Measure 78 Deliver the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) to the end of 2023, and develop a new SICAP programme to commence in 2024, following a review and consultation with stakeholders.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2022 Actions		Timetable for delivery
78.2	Continue delivery of SICAP in 2023, resulting in funding of €44 million being used to assist over 2,200 community groups and over 23,000 individuals.	Q4 2023
78.3	Finalise review of current programme and consultation to inform next SICAP programme.	Q2 2023
78.4	Finalise procurement and awarding of tenders for delivery of SICAP 2024+.	Q3 2023

Measure 79 Increase the number of places on the Rural Social Scheme, TÚS and Community Employment Scheme to support rural communities.		
Lead Delivery Body: DSP		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
79.4	Extend eligibility for TÚS to persons in receipt of Disability Allowance.	Q1 2023
79.5	Review the individual contract extensions that have been allowed on CE (Community Employment) and TÚS schemes where they have been allowed retain existing participants in cases where no replacement candidate has been referred.	Q3 2023
79.6	Implement pilot scheme to extend eligibility of Community Employment to qualified adults.	Q2 2023
79.7	Complete Review of Rural Social Scheme.	Q4 2023

Measure 80 Support the development of social innovation as a means of addressing pressing social challenges.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
80.1	Support organisations promoting the development of social innovation as a means of addressing pressing social challenges.	Ongoing
80.3	<p>The PEACE IV Programme, which is managed by the Special EU Programmes body and includes the six border counties, includes a Future Innovators project to supports communities to develop local solutions to social problems during the period 1 July 2021 – 31 August 2023.</p> <p>The launch of the PEACE PLUS Programme will further support the development of social innovation as a means of addressing social challenges.</p>	Q3 2023

Measure 81 Provide investment for multi-purpose spaces in the community (e.g. community centres, libraries, and sports clubs) for a variety of activities, including leisure, community, cultural and services provision.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
81.2	The Small Scale Capital Works programme awarded funding to 30 local authorities for refurbishments in public libraries. The remaining six local authorities are due to complete works in 2023.	Q4 2023
81.3	The CLÁR 2023 Programme, with an allocation of €7.85 million, will deliver a new round of funding and continue to incorporate measures to support the development of community facilities.	Ongoing
81.4	Support the development of sporting facilities through the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme, including through the launch of a new round of the Programme in 2023. (DTCAGSM)	Ongoing
81.5	Implement the 2023 tranche of the Community Centres Investment Fund, with a focus on new build centres.	Q2 2023
81.7	The Community Support Fund 2023 will provide funding of €10 million to support groups in disadvantaged areas with their non-pay running costs and funding to carry out necessary repairs and	Q3 2023

	improvement to their facilities. This funding also includes ring-fenced funding of €100,000 for Women's Sheds.	
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Measure 82 Further enhance the Public Participation Network and Local Community Development Committee structures to ensure that local communities are fully involved in, and contribute to, decisions affecting their local areas.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
82.5	Consider recommendations arising from the training needs assessment conducted by Pobal and devise an implementation plan.	Q4 2023
82.7	Oversee preparation, delivery and completion of PPN awareness campaign and related communication measures.	Q2 2023
82.8	Develop, agree and commence implementation of roadmap for PPNs.	Q3 2023
82.9	Support remaining PPNs in the development of their Community Wellbeing Statements.	Q4 2023
82.10	Develop a programme of awareness at national and local level on LCDCs and their role and function, highlighting how community members can be part of the LCDC structure so they can contribute to decisions affecting their local areas.	Q2 2023
82.11	Provide resources and training to LCDCs on good practices on the engagement of marginalised communities in planning and decision making processes. This includes capacity building in Public Sector Duty, Intercultural awareness and reducing barriers to engagement.	Q2 2023

Measure 83 Work in consultation with local community and voluntary groups and with local decision-making structures to help welcome and integrate newcomers to rural towns and villages and to support cohesion more broadly.		
Lead Delivery Body: DCEDIY		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
83.1	Comhairle na nÓg across the 31 Local Authorities are available for consultation on welcoming and integrating young newcomers to	Ongoing

	rural towns and villages and on supporting cohesion. Individual Comhairlí at local levels have developed specific actions on a voluntary basis in relation to welcoming migrants and other groups.	
83.2	UBU Your Place Your Space is a national targeted youth service funding scheme based on service requirements identified from a needs analysis conducted locally by the Education and Training Board that involves all relevant stakeholders. Target groups under the scheme may include Young People Experiencing Marginalisation (e.g. Travellers/Roma, migrants, LGBTI+) and Young People who are at risk of not flourishing (including young people experiencing rural isolation).	Ongoing

Measure 84 Implement Culture and Creative Strategies in each Local Authority area, including “Culture Days”, to showcase local cultural heritage.		
Lead Delivery Body: DTCAGSM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
84.1	The Culture and Creativity Strategies in all 31 Local Authorities are currently being funded and implemented to deploy creativity to support wellbeing, social cohesion and economic development at local level. These strategies will be launched in Q1 2023.	Q1 2023
84.3	Hold Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of creativity for children and young people led by the Creative Ireland Programme, in partnership with 31 local authorities.	Q2 2023

Measure 85 Empower local communities and enhance community health and wellbeing by supporting heritage, arts, cultural activities and other activities to tackle social issues such as cohesion, rural isolation and mental health.		
Lead Delivery Body: DTCAGSM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
85.1	Support the wellbeing of older people through Creativity in Older Age Scheme 2023 and through a regional programme co-designed with Older People’s Councils; Traveller health and wellbeing through a programme developed in partnership with the HSE and the Arts Council and co-designed by Travellers; the mental wellbeing of young people coping with disabilities. A range of new and existing Social Prescribing initiatives in the community and	Ongoing

	healthcare facilities will be developed in collaboration with local authorities.	
85.2	Creative Youth will provide enhanced access for seldom heard or marginalised children and young people to engage with and experience creative activities, supported by programmes such as the Local Creative Youth Partnerships (LCYP).	Ongoing

Measure 87 Commission research on the experiences and outcomes of children and young people in rural Ireland, building on the Growing Up In Ireland and other relevant datasets.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
87.2	In conjunction with DCEDIY, publish and disseminate completed research on 'Civic Participation of Young People in Rural Ireland'.	Q3 2023
87.3	Participate in the Growing Up in Ireland Policy Advisory Group to support the development of research and data needs for the next wave of data collection from the GUI cohort.	Q4 2023

Measure 88 Undertake research to inform the particular needs of women, girls, LGBTI+, Travellers, Roma, migrants and those of migrant origin living in rural areas.		
Lead Delivery Body: DCEDIY		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
88.2	The review of implementation of the LGBTI+ Youth Strategy will be completed in 2023 and used to inform any future strategy.	Q2 2023
88.3	Commission research into LGBTI+ persons and ageing.	Q4 2023
88.4	Commission work to shape a baseline of public attitudes to all equality groups.	Q2 2023

Enhancing Public Services in Rural Areas

Measure 90 Update the Rural Housing Guidelines for planning authorities, to address rural housing in a broader rural development and settlement context.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
90.1	Prepare updated Rural Housing Planning Guidelines that will continue to allow for the development of homes in rural areas while also highlighting the need to manage certain areas around cities and towns in order to avoid over-development of those areas.	Q2 2023

Measure 91a Provide improved rural public transport services and pilot new transport initiatives for people of all ages and abilities living in rural areas, through: a) Developing and implementing a Sustainable Rural Mobility Plan to ensure all settlements over a certain size in terms of population have a service connecting them to the national public transport system.		
Lead Delivery Body: D/Transport, National Transport Authority		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
91a.2	D/Transport will support the NTA's implementation of the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan to increase public transport connectivity outside major cities and towns in rural Ireland.	Ongoing
91a.3	Additional funding has been allocated for the starting of New Town Services in key rural towns across Ireland. Starting with Carlow Town, the NTA will finalise plans and run tender competitions for bus services.	Q3 2023
91a.4	The NTA will roll out up to 69 new and enhanced routes proposed under Connecting Ireland Phase 2 implementation in 2023.	Q4 2023

Measure 91b b) Delivering expanded Local Link services and further integrating Local Link services with other existing public transport services through the roll out of the NTA Connecting Ireland Plan.		
Lead Delivery Body: D/Transport, National Transport Authority		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
91b.2	Identify the potential for integration of non-emergency health transport services with Local Link services managed by the NTA by conducting and monitoring a pilot project in Co. Leitrim, which will run until 2024, to deliver non-emergency health transport services.	Ongoing
91b.3	Transition PSO Local Link bus services to low-/zero-emission bus fleets – starting with the deployment of two electric vehicle buses on the Dingle peninsula, Co. Kerry.	Moved to Measure 91f (see page 62)
91b.4	Commence services on 10 new bus routes, with enhancement of a further five routes.	Q2 2023
Measure 91c c) Developing a subsidised Local Area Hackney Scheme in designated areas of rural Ireland which are too small or remote to support a full- time taxi or hackney service.		
Lead Delivery Body: D/Transport, National Transport Authority		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
91c.4	Roll out new Local Area Hackney Pilot Scheme. The programme will be run in 21 rural areas, stretching from Donegal to Cork, for one year.	Q4 2023
Measure 91d d) Developing and trialling a grant-aided Community Transport Service Scheme through Local Link to support otherwise unsustainable community services.		
Lead Delivery Body: D/Transport, National Transport Authority		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
91d.3	New Community Transport Service schemes are being rolled out across the State in 2023. These will be monitored during 2023 in terms of journeys completed, kilometres travelled, reported costs, and feedback from community groups that are served by the schemes. An evaluation report will be published by the NTA summarising lessons and recommendations for the future.	Q4 2023

Measure 91e e) Running a pilot, after COVID-19 has abated, to examine the potential for ride-hailing services to improve rural connectivity.		
Lead Delivery Body: D/Transport, National Transport Authority		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
91e.1	<p>Following receipt of advice from the Advisory Committee on SPSVs on the potential for ride-hailing services to improve rural connectivity, NTA will consider the viability of such a scheme in the regulated environment.</p> <p>The NTA has incorporated ride-hailing services into demand responsive services (DRT) and the use of technology to provide demand responsive (DRT) services is being examined. It is proposed to trial smart DRT as a mode within the wider public transport network over a five-year period.</p>	Ongoing

Measure 92 Build on the work already undertaken to ensure that public transport services in rural and regional areas are accessible to persons with disabilities.		
Lead Delivery Body: D/Transport, National Transport Authority		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
92.1	The NTA has set a target of having wheelchair accessible bus stops (one stop in each direction) in 43 towns with a population over 5,000. This would mean 50% of main towns would have a wheelchair accessible bus stop (one in each direction).	Ongoing
92.2	Purchase of additional low floor buses, for Public Service Obligation regional commuter routes up to 50km, to enable wheelchair users to board with normal ramp access and have a dedicated wheelchair space.	Ongoing
92.3	The NTA will continue to manage the upgrading of existing and older infrastructure and facilities, such as Victorian-era rail infrastructure via the Department of Transport's dedicated, ringfenced Accessibility Retrofit Programme funding.	Ongoing
92.5	Reduce advance notice requirement on InterCity and all other rail routes down to 12 hours, and monitor progress.	Q1 2023
92.6	Work with Bus Éireann to developing accessible bus bays in bus stations, including in Dundalk, Longford, Clonmel and Macroom.	Q4 2023

92.7	Fund the multi-annual ringfenced Public Transport Accessibility Retrofit Programme. 2023 total Retrofit allocation is €18m.	Ongoing
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Measure 94 Explore the potential to develop a pilot scheme to support the use of rural pubs as community spaces and hubs for local services.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
94.3	Finalise implementation of the projects selected in the pilot programme.	Q4 2023

Measure 95 Undertake research on early learning and care, and school-age childcare needs of parents who work atypical hours or live in rural communities, and develop recommendations for future action.		
Lead Delivery Body: DCEDIY		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
95.2	Complete and publish research in partnership with DRCD and DETE.	Q3 2023

Measure 96 Establish 96 new Community Healthcare Networks throughout the country to re-shape how community healthcare services will be delivered and support people to live more independently in their community.		
Lead Delivery Body: D/Health		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
96.1	Continue the roll-out of 96 Community Health Networks across the country to support the local delivery of integrated care at the appropriate level of complexity.	Ongoing

Measure 97 Through the Healthy Ireland programme, support improved health and wellbeing of rural communities in collaboration with Local Authorities and local stakeholders and partners.		
Lead Delivery Body: D/Health		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
97.1	Deliver the Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme, which empowers local authorities to identify local needs and align their policies to meet the Healthy Ireland objectives for the local population.	Ongoing
97.2	Strengthen the Healthy Cities and Counties infrastructure to deliver on the Healthy Cities and Counties goals.	Ongoing
97.5	Commence work on a successor to the National Physical Activity Plan which will chart the course of Physical Activity policy in the coming years.	Q4 2023

Measure 98 Introduce a new Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill to redefine the functions of An Garda Síochána to include community safety.		
Lead Delivery Body: D/Justice		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
98.3	Progress the Bill through the Houses of the Oireachtas to enactment by the summer recess.	Q3 2023

Measure 101 Provide greater clarity for local authorities and local communities, through a revised legislative framework, on how local CCTV schemes can be established while enhancing community safety and data protection safeguards.		
Lead Delivery Body: D/Justice		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
101.3	Enactment of the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Bill.	Q3 2023

Measure 102 Invest in high-quality walking and cycling infrastructure specifically targeted at towns and villages across the country.		
Lead Delivery Body: D/Transport		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
102.1	Continue the roll out of 340 Active Travel Projects in 19 rural local authorities, to be completed by 2025.	Ongoing
102.2	Support expansion of walking and cycling facilities across the country through the creation of up to 248 posts in local authorities dedicated to delivering and promoting active travel in Ireland.	Ongoing
102.3	Publish the National Cycle Network and Implementation Plan. (Transport Infrastructure Ireland)	Q2 2023

Measure 103 Ensure that the Local Improvement Scheme is funded into the future.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
103.1	The Local Improvement Scheme will fund the upgrade and maintenance of non-public rural roads and laneways. The 2023 Scheme will see €12 million allocated to local authorities.	Ongoing

Measure 104 Adopt a whole-of-Government approach to the protection and promotion of the Irish language, in implementing the 20-year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030 and Action Plan, and enacting the Official Language Amendment Bill.		
Lead Delivery Body: DTCAGSM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
104.2	The fourth annual progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Irish Language will be published. Work will commence on the development of a new Action Plan.	Q3 2023
104.4	Explore options, based on demand and available resources, to extend the range of subject provision through the medium of Irish	Ongoing

	for Gaeltacht post-primary schools via the e-Hub project. (D/Education)	
104.5	Explore how the provision of Irish-medium education can be increased and supported in rural areas as part of the development of the new policy on Irish-medium education outside of the Gaeltacht. (D/Education)	Q4 2023

Measure 106 Develop Gaeltacht Service Towns situated in or adjacent to Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas which will play a significant role in providing public services, recreational, social and commercial facilities for those areas.		
Lead Delivery Body: DTCAGSM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
106.1	Approve six language plans for Gaeltacht Service Towns. It is expected, that work will commence on the preparation of a Language Plan for the third town located in 2023.	Q4 2023

Transitioning to a Climate Neutral Society

Measure 108 Publish a new Climate Action Plan in 2021 and update on an annual basis.		
Lead Delivery Body: DECC		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
108.6	Undertake a public consultation to capture views, observations and other inputs from the public to inform the development of the 2024 Climate Action Plan.	Q3 2023
108.7	Finalise report from public consultation to inform the development of the 2024 Climate Action Plan.	Q3 2023
108.8	Undertake Call for Expert Evidence as part of National Dialogue on Climate Action to support and inform Climate Action Plan 2024.	Q3 2023
108.9	Publication of Climate Action Plan 2024.	Q4 2023

Measure 110 Enable community energy to play a role in reaching the target of generating at least 70% of electricity through renewables by 2030, through supports such as a Community Benefit fund and a community category within the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme.		
Lead Delivery Body: DECC		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
110.6	Rollout of the next five toolkits in the Community Energy Resource Toolkit.	Q2 2023
110.7	Publication of Small-scale Generation Support Scheme (SSG) High Level Design, supporting non-domestic renewable electricity generators above 50kW, and community energy and SME projects up to 6 MW.	Q2 2023
110.6	Launch a public facing Community Benefit Fund National Register.	Q4 2023

Measure 111 Prioritise the development of microgeneration of renewable electricity, allowing people sell excess power back to the grid, through the establishment of a Microgeneration Support Scheme.		
Lead Delivery Body: DECC		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
111.3	SEAI to assess the extension of the MSS grant scheme to include other technologies beyond solar.	Q2 2023
111.4	Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) to consult on an Implementation Plan for a support tariff for new micro-generators between 6 kW and 50 kW.	Q2 2023
111.6	Review of Microgeneration Support Scheme to assess capital grants and tariff support structures, in line with revised ambition under Climate Action Plan 23 and the need to encourage and support small businesses to become active consumers.	Q2 2023

Measure 112 Expand the Sustainable Energy Communities Network from 500 to 1,500 by 2030, to support local communities to be directly involved in energy projects.		
Lead Delivery Body: DECC		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
112.2	Increase the number of Sustainable Energy Communities and Energy Master Plans.	Ongoing

Measure 113 Launch further calls for projects to be supported from the Climate Action Fund.		
Lead Delivery Body: DECC		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
113.3	Climate Action Fund Community Climate Action Programme – Strand 1: Local authority/community partnership projects to be approved and commence.	Q3 2023

Measure 114a Continue to develop Ireland's approach to a Just Transition away from fossil fuels, including by (a) investments in the regions supported by the Territorial Just Transition Plan for Ireland for the EU Just Transition Fund.		
Lead Delivery Body: DECC		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
114a.3	Design and commence a scheme to support local and regional development, in line with priorities in relevant Regional Enterprise and Local Economic and Community Plans.	Q4 2023
Measure 114b b) Promote the integration of just transition considerations into climate action and relevant sectoral policies		
Lead Delivery Body: DECC		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
114b.2	Establish Just Transition Commission to provide strategic advice to the Government.	Q2 2023
Measure 114c c) Supporting projects under the National Just Transition Fund.		
Lead Delivery Body: DECC		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
114c.3	DECC will continue to provide grant funding during 2023 to approved projects under the National Just Transition Fund.	Ongoing

Measure 115 Retrofit 500,000 homes and install 400,000 heat pumps across the country up to 2030, contributing to employment opportunities in rural areas.		
Lead Delivery Body: DECC		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
115.1	Following further evaluation of a potential new Community Activation Scheme, a targeted and more streamlined strand of the Communities Grant Scheme focused on smaller projects for retrofitting homes will be introduced.	Q2 2023

115.5	Implement a national awareness and demand generation campaign for residential retrofit.	Q4 2023
115.6	Expand the number of SEAI registered One- Stop-Shops and increase the number of new registered retrofit providers and BER assessors.	Q4 2023

Measure 116a Bring investment and job opportunities to coastal communities by developing the offshore renewable energy sector, including through: a) The finalisation of the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
116a.3	Co-ordination of preparation of MAP Act regulations.	Q2 2023
116a.4	Develop policy and subsequent guidelines for sub-National Marine Plans i.e. Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs).	Q3 2023
116a.5	Develop Marine Planning Guidelines for offshore renewable energy.	Q3 2023
Measure 116c c) The development of an offshore transmission grid.		
Lead Delivery Body: DECC		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
116c.2	Publication of offshore grid regulatory framework by the CRU.	Q1 2023
116c.4	Connection offers issued to successful O-RESS 1 Projects by EirGrid	Q4 2023
116c.5	Publish Policy Statement on the Framework for Phase Two Offshore Wind.	Q1 2023

Measure 116d d) Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (O-RESS) auctions.		
Lead Delivery Body: DECC		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
116d.3	Results of O-RESS 1 Auction will be announced.	Q2 2023
116d.4	Launch of O-RESS 2, subject to designation of Go-To-Areas.	Q4 2023

Measure 117a Rehabilitate peatlands to contribute to reduced carbon emissions, carbon sequestration and enhanced biodiversity, including through: a) Funding investment of €108 million to repurpose 80,000 acres of bog in the Midlands as part of a major peatlands restoration plan.		
Lead Delivery Body: DECC		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
117a.6	Commencement of rehabilitation on a further 21 bogs across the project area.	Q4 2023
Measure 117b b) The national raised bog designated sites restoration programme to restore in the region of 25,000 hectares of raised bog.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
117b.1	Work will continue in 2023 on the restoration and revitalisation of five protected raised bogs Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Natural Heritage Areas (NHA), with further phases of restoration planned for other sites later in 2023.	Ongoing

Measure 118 Develop a national policy on coastal erosion and flooding and maintain a multi-annual investment programme in flood relief measures to protect impacted communities.		
Lead Delivery Body: OPW, DHLGH		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
118.3	Work will continue on the delivery of flood relief schemes, the progression of applications under the Voluntary Homeowners Relocation Scheme, and the provision of funding to local authorities for the Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection.	Ongoing
118.4	The OPW will carry out its annual maintenance programme for the maintenance and repair of river channels and embankments.	Ongoing
118.5	The Interdepartmental Group on Coastal Change Management Strategy will finalise and submit its report to Government with options and recommendations for managing the projected impact of coastal change to our coastal communities, economies, heritage, culture and environment.	Q2 2023

Measure 119 Carry out a comprehensive review of Public Participation Networks and Local Economic and Community Plans, to ensure that they are fit for purpose for climate action.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
119.4	Consult with officials from the four local authority Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) regarding the climate action interventions which have been proposed by local authorities in the High-Level Goals and Sustainable Community Objectives in their forthcoming LECPs, and, if required, provide further written guidance to LCDCs.	Q4 2023

Supporting the Sustainability of Agriculture, the Marine and Forestry

Measure 121 Develop and Implement a new Agri-Food Strategy to 2030, building on the success of the previous strategies.		
Lead Delivery Body: DAFM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
121.2	Progress implementation of Food Vision 2030, with updates provided through Annual Report 2022.	Ongoing

Measure 122 Encourage and support Local Authorities to expand the number of farmers' markets, farm shops and food emporiums, and support the formation of community-owned markets in all towns, showcasing local food produce from local farmers, growers, and food producers.		
Lead Delivery Body: DAFM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
122.1	Engagement with DRCD to scope potential involvement of Local Community Development Committees in the implementation of this measure.	Q2 2023

Measure 123 Support farm diversification, including through the provision of the Options programme managed by Teagasc.		
Lead Delivery Body: DAFM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
123.3	Deliver a series of Farm Business Options workshops throughout Teagasc Advisory Regions. Three remaining workshops will take place by Q2 2023.	Q2 2023

Measure 124 Support research and development in areas such as agri-food, bio-based systems, smart agriculture and precision agriculture to promote and encourage innovation.		
Lead Delivery Body: DAFM, DETE		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
124.3	The following Enterprise Ireland programmes will continue to support this measure: 1) Commercialisation Fund Programme which funds the development of innovations at all stages of the commercial pipeline to the point where they can be commercialised as new products, services and/or companies. 2) Innovation Partnership Programme which encourages Irish-based companies to work with Irish research institutes resulting in mutually beneficial co-operation and interaction. 3) In-Company RD&I Fund which supports the development of new or improved products, services or processes which will add a competitive advantage to the company.	Ongoing
124.6	DAFM will continue co-funding arrangements with other funders across both national and international initiatives.	Ongoing

Measure 125 Explore the potential application of Living Labs in an Irish context, establishing innovation networks to identify and pilot tailored place-based initiatives for primary production, food and bio-based systems.		
Lead Delivery Body: DAFM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
125.1	Explore opportunity under the Common Agricultural Policy Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) development.	Ongoing
125.2	An Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) Coordination Group will be established.	Q2 2023
125.3	DAFM, with other EU Member States, will continue to develop the Horizon Europe Partnership Consortium on Agroecology, Living Labs and Research Infrastructures for submission under the 2023-2024 EU Work Programme for Horizon.	Q4 2023

Measure 126 Implement Ag Climatise – A Roadmap towards Climate Neutrality for the agri-food sector.		
Lead Delivery Body: DAFM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
126.2	Ag Climatise will be updated to take account of the increased ambition set out in the Climate Action Plan.	Q3 2023

Measure 128 Publish a successor forestry programme to deliver an ambitious afforestation plan, to achieve an afforestation target of 8,000 ha/year, with a particular focus on an increased farmer participation and habitat creation.		
Lead Delivery Body: DAFM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
128.5	The new Forestry Strategy is currently being finalised and will be published after environmental assessment processes are completed.	Q2 2023

Measure 129 Provide ongoing support for the development of the knowledge and skills base of the agriculture and forestry sectors by the Teagasc Advisory and Education Services.		
Lead Delivery Body: DAFM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
129.2	<p>Teagasc Advisory Service:</p> <p>Teagasc will continue through its advisory service to provide a comprehensive advisory and environmental support service.</p> <p>Deliverables for 2023 include: providing advisory service to 43,000 clients (including Business & Technology Advisory Service and scheme support for DAFM/EU schemes); Signpost Advisory Service (10,000 registrations); Organic Farming Service; ASSAP service and a comprehensive range of Discussion Groups, farm walks, open days and media updates across the year.</p>	Ongoing
129.3	Teagasc Education Service:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch the Sportsturf Technician (Higher Level 6) Apprenticeship Programme, with a proposed minimum intake of 20 apprentices in September. • Appoint a new climate specialist to the Curriculum Development and Standards Unit. • Recommence Whole College Evaluation Projects in association with D/Education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q2 2023 • Q2 2023 • Q2 2023
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Measure 131 Support generational renewal, including young farmers and women in agriculture, through measures including the CAP, taxation measures and access to finance initiatives.		
Lead Delivery Body: DAFM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
131.5	Progress actions on gender equality set out in Food Vision 2030, the new stakeholder-led strategy for the Irish agri-food sector, including a national dialogue on women in agriculture.	Ongoing
131.7	Monitor access to finance for the agri-food sector, including through the Ukraine Credit Guarantee Scheme and the Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme announced in Budget 2023.	Ongoing
131.8	Explore the convening of an Irish Youth Food Systems Summit.	Q4 2023

Measure 132 Increase awareness and outreach across the farming community of programmes and initiatives to support the safety, health and wellbeing of farmers.		
Lead Delivery Body: DAFM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
132.1	Support the roll out of the On Feirm Ground programme and extension to Private Veterinary Practitioners and agri-sales staff.	Ongoing
132.6	Assess the impact of the Farm Health and Safety and Wellbeing European Innovation Partnership projects.	Q2 2023
132.8	Develop and implement a joint DAFM/HSA farm safety media campaign.	Q4 2023

Measure 133 Conduct a review of the means test for Farm Assist to ensure farmers receive the appropriate level of support through this scheme.		
Lead Delivery Body: DSP		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
133.3	Increase the amount of the available disregard under the Farm Assist Scheme for agri-environmental schemes from €2,540 to €5,000 (as announced in Budget 2023).	Q1 2023

Supporting the Sustainability of our Islands and Coastal Communities

Measure 135 Publish and implement a new cross-Departmental Policy for Island Development and associated action plans to ensure delivery of the policy, including in areas such as housing, health, energy, utilities, waste management, climate change, education, digital connectivity, employment, infrastructure and transport.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
135.1	Publication of policy and action plan.	Q2 2023

Measure 136 Progress vital infrastructure development for our island communities.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
136.1	Funding to be delivered to local authorities for the delivery of the minor capital works programme, with works completed by year end. These works comprise road improvements and marine works but also can include other small construction projects such as helipads, recycling facilities, slipway repairs, etc.	Ongoing
136.3	Support Galway County Council in progressing the Inis Oírr Pier development to tender stage.	Q3 2023

Measure 137 Establish a forum for ongoing dialogue between local authorities, relevant policy Departments and island communities.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
137.2	Identify relevant stakeholders and agree structure of an island forum in each of the relevant local authority areas, in the context of the National Islands Policy.	Q4 2023

Measure 138 Establish gTeic enterprise hubs on the islands under the remit of Údarás na Gaeltachta to support employment opportunities.		
Lead Delivery Body: Údarás na Gaeltachta		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
138.2	Development of new gteic digital hub on Inis Oírr, Co na Gaillimhe, bringing the total number of operational island hubs to eight. When the full programme is completed, gteic hubs on eight islands will provide approximately 100 workspaces on Gaeltacht islands.	Q4 2023
138.3	Implementation of programmes and initiatives to support the establishment of new islands-based enterprises and the promotion of remote working in the gteic digital hubs.	Ongoing

Measure 139 Explore the potential for community-based enterprise hubs on islands not under the remit of Údarás na Gaeltachta.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
139.1	Local development companies are exploring the potential for community-based enterprise hubs as part of their annual work programmes to achieve their community support targets.	Ongoing

Measure 140 Maximise the potential to utilise the islands as test-beds for innovative technologies (e.g. eHealth, micro-generation of renewable energy).		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
140.1	Building on the eHealth pilot project ongoing on Clare Island, additional actions are being explored in the context of the National Islands Policy.	Ongoing

Measure 142 Publish Ireland’s first ever Marine Spatial Planning policy, setting out a clear vision for the future development of our marine planning system.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
142.2	Draft Marine Planning Policy Statement to be developed, following public consultation and analysis, with formal establishment expected in 2023.	Q3 2023

Measure 143 Following completion of the Marine Spatial Planning policy, bring forward Ireland’s first National Marine Planning Framework which will introduce a planning system for managing the development of Ireland’s maritime area in the same way that the National Planning Framework does on land.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
143.1	Supporting Reform of Marine Management in Ireland (SRMMI) Project – DG REFORM funded cross-Government project identifying the changes needed, including specifying digital systems and tools, to put in place plan-led marine management in Ireland as detailed in the MAP Act.	Q2 2023
143.3	Further advance Marineplan.ie, by oversight and development of spatial data tools to support decision making. The next phase of project will be advanced to procurement and design to develop the new system.	Q4 2023

Measure 146 Continue to invest in coastal communities through the Fisheries Local Area Group (FLAG) scheme, providing support for investments by micro seafood enterprises and projects in the area of marine tourism and leisure and the wider marine sector.		
Lead Delivery Body: DAFM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
146.2	Issue calls for expression of interest in the community-led local development under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund 2021-2027 Operational Programme.	Q2 2023
146.4	Complete the first round of selection of strategies for FLAGs under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Seafood Development Programme 2021-2027.	Q4 2023

Implementation of the Policy

Measure 147 Support rural communities to develop long-term cohesive Master Plans for their areas, to support an integrated place-based approach to rural development (aligned with Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, County Development Plans, Local Development Plans, and relevant national, regional and local policy objectives).		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
147.2	Following the initial 2021 allocation to 26 towns, a second call for town nominations under the Town Centre First Plan will take place.	Q4 2023

Measure 148 Develop an effective rural proofing model to ensure the needs of rural communities are considered in the development of Government policies.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
148.3	Engage with Departments to undertake a phased pilot approach to apply a 'rural lens'. This will underpin the development of an initial draft rural proofing model.	Q4 2023

Measure 150 Establish a Higher Education Institutions Network on rural development to ensure ongoing engagement with rural development experts over the lifetime of this policy.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
150.1	Ongoing engagement with rural development experts over the lifetime of this policy will continue through meetings of the Our Rural Future Higher Education and Research Network.	Ongoing
150.3	Expand the Network on an all-island basis through the addition of representatives of DAERA, Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster.	Q2 2023

Measure 151 Enhance the sharing of information and best practice on rural development policy on a North-South basis and identify areas for further cooperation.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
151.1	Ongoing engagement between representatives of DRCD and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland will continue through biannual meetings of the North-South Rural Policy Forum.	Ongoing

Measure 152 Deepen engagement at international level on policy relating to rural development matters through increased participation, including at OECD and EU level.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
152.1	Participate in OECD Working Party on Rural Policy and relevant EU networks.	Ongoing

Measures added in 2022

Measure 153 Support social cohesion and integration following the arrival of citizens of Ukraine in rural communities.		
Lead Delivery Body: All Departments		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
153.1	Implement a number of infrastructural and community initiatives to support rural communities dealing with the challenges and opportunities arising from the arrival of Ukrainian refugees.	Ongoing
153.2	Provide additional funding of up to €10m to Local Development Companies for delivery of SICAP to new arrivals from Ukraine. (DRCD)	Q4 2023
153.3	Consider additional staffing requests for organisations supported under the Community Services Programme that are working with the Ukrainians fleeing the invasion of their country. (DRCD)	Q4 2023
153.4	Provide additional services, routes, and trips via the deployment of new shuttle bus services as well as supplementing existing public transport offerings in identified towns and villages, with additional stops and added trips and days of service. This will be across both Demand Responsive (door-to-door) and Regular Rural (timetabled) routes. New services will be added where public transport is not available. (D/Transport)	Q2 2023
153.5	Complete the Healthy Ireland Ukrainian Resilience Fund once-off fund. (D/Health)	Q1 2023
153.6	Provide education supports to arrivals from Ukraine through Regional Education and Language Teams. (D/Education)	Q4 2023
153.7	Expansion of flexible and intensive literacy provision, including further development of standalone adult numeracy modules in accessible formats and with flexible levels of support, and more intensive English language support for migrants. (D/FHERIS)	Q4 2023

Measure 154 Review of School Transport Scheme, including provision of school transport in rural communities.		
Lead Delivery Body: D/Education		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
154.1	Complete the review of the School Transport Scheme (which encompasses the School Transport Scheme for Children with Special Educational Needs and the Primary and Post-Primary School Transport Schemes) with a view to ensuring that it serves students and their families appropriately. The review will consider issues such as climate action, school transport in rural areas, and promoting where possible initiatives that encourage walking and cycling to school.	Q2 2023

Measure 155 Provide supports to small schools to facilitate a sustainable future for schools in communities of lower population density.		
Lead Delivery Body: D/Education		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
155.1	Advance an action research project examining new ways of supporting small schools through the Primary Education Forum.	Q4 2023

Measure 156 Support and promote sustainable tourism in rural areas by working with businesses to measure and understand their carbon footprint, set target for emission reduction and benchmark their business against others.		
Lead Delivery Body: DTCAGSM, Fáilte Ireland		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
156.3	Fáilte Ireland will work with 350 strategic tourism businesses who are already actively using FI's carbon calculator and for the first time, will establish base line date for the tourism industry.	Ongoing
156.4	Fáilte Ireland will use its climate action Road Map toolkit to work with businesses to develop an action plan to support the reduction of their carbon footprint while also reducing their costs by making changes in areas like Energy, Food, Water and Waste.	Ongoing

156.5	Design, develop and commence roll-out of an Umbrella Certification program that will allow businesses to showcase their sustainability credentials to industry and importantly, to customers.	Q4 2023
156.6	Develop marketing campaign specifically to promote businesses that are demonstrating real progress on the sustainability journey.	Ongoing
156.7	Fáilte Ireland will collaborate with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland to enhance the tourism relevance and eligibility for their grant schemes.	Ongoing

Measure 157 Development of strategic Gaeltacht tourism initiatives.		
Lead Delivery Body: Údarás na Gaeltachta, Fáilte Ireland		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
157.3	Údarás na Gaeltachta to undertake a pilot programme to develop and promote language holidays for select target demographics. Coláistí Samhraidh will receive marketing supports and be encouraged to develop linkages with local accommodation providers as part of the pilot programme. Pilot programme participants will be finalised by the end of Q1 2023 and the scheme will begin to roll out in Q3 2023.	Q3 2023
157.4	Údarás na Gaeltachta to undertake an audit of existing greenways & cycle trails in the Gaeltacht and agree a 10-year roadmap for future development.	Q4 2023
157.5	Complete the South Connemara Outdoor Recreation Hub report.	Q2 2023
157.6	Progress the development and delivery of four walking trail projects in the Connemara Gaeltacht.	Q4 2023
157.7	Following strategic partnership agreement between Údarás na Gaeltachta and Fáilte Ireland (Measure 157.1), the agencies will develop a list of priority tourism development projects to be taken forward.	Q1 2023

Measure 158 Development and implementation of An Gaeltacht Ghlas strategy, which will look to create a sustainability strategy for the Gaeltacht, taking into account economic, community and social sectors.		
Lead Delivery Body: Údarás na Gaeltachta		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
158.1	Launch and develop implementation plan for An Ghaeltacht Ghlas strategy.	Q2 2023

Measure 159 Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the forestry licensing system to support measures aiming to achieve an afforestation target of 8,000 ha/year.		
Lead Delivery Body: DAFM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
159.4b	Develop a customer charter.	Q2 2023

Measure 160 Co-develop and implement rural development elements of the new PEACE PLUS programme 2021-2027.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD, SEUPB		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
160.2	Following launch of the PEACE PLUS Programme, DRCD will work with the SEUPB and relevant NI departments on the preparation of guidance documents and calls for applications for approval by the Programme Monitoring Committee for relevant measures under the programme.	Q2 2023
160.3	Present at pre-application support workshops hosted by SEUPB on PEACE PLUS Investment Areas for which DRCD is responsible.	Ongoing

New Measures for 2023

Measure 91f f) Examine the potential transition of TFI Local Link fleet to low/zero emission fleet		
Lead Delivery Body: National Transport Authority		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
91f.1	Deploy two electric vehicle buses in Local Link services on the Dingle Peninsula, Co. Kerry.	Q2 2023
91f.2	Commence scoping study of potential to roll out electric vehicles to other TFI Local Link services and review contract arrangements for TFI Local Link and rural transport services to determine opportunities for low emission bus fleet.	Q4 2023
91f.3	Monitor the decarbonisation of local bus routes and support provided to private sector bus operators, as committed to under the EU Just Transition Fund 2022-2027.	Ongoing

Measure 116d Accelerate and drive delivery of the development of offshore renewables in Ireland through the Offshore Wind Energy Programme (OWEP) Taskforce.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
116e.1	Lead on and monitor the work of the OWEP Taskforce to deliver Workstream 1 and coordinate across Pillar 1 workstreams. Details of the OWEP Taskforce are available online on Gov.ie .	Ongoing

Measure 163 Conduct a review of the National Planning Framework.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
163.1	Commence review of the National Planning Framework.	Q4 2023

Measure 164 Further develop the role of Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) as digitally-enabled community assets that facilitate the delivery of online services in rural and under-served communities.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
164.1	Publication of the BCP Network's development strategy. The strategy will consider a range of issues relating to ensuring that BCPs deliver clear benefits, including the coverage and usage of existing BCP sites, development of new services and initiatives in BCPs and awareness raising activities.	Q2 2023
164.2	Expand the delivery of digital skills, STEM and digital literacy training at BCPs.	Q2 2023
164.3	Assess the capacity of the equipment deployed at BCPs to meet users' expectations and needs. Where required, provide for upgraded equipment and / or services.	Ongoing
164.4	Launch the new BCP website and booking portal.	Q3 2023

Measure 165 Promote remote working and employment in rural areas.		
Lead Delivery Body: DSP		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
165.1	Support jobseekers to identify and access opportunities for work and work experience, including remote/blended working through www.jobsireland.ie .	Ongoing

Measure 166 Examine and take forward commitments outlined in the White Paper on Enterprise to support balanced regional and rural economic development outcomes.		
Lead Delivery Body: DETE		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
166.1	Develop an Implementation Plan for assignment of commitments to relevant stakeholders.	Q1 2023

166.2	Collate progress updates on actions undertaken by stakeholders.	Q3 2023

Measure 167 Implementation and monitoring of the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan (CSP) for the period 2023-2027, which will address existing and emerging challenges including climate action, environmental protection, generational renewal, viable farm incomes, and sustain vibrant rural areas.		
Lead Delivery Body: DAFM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
167.1	Implement the interventions according to the timeline set out in the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027.	Ongoing
167.2	Engage as needed with the Commission to ensure the approval of the first amendment to the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027.	Q2 2023
167.3	Establish governance structures and evaluation framework for the plan.	Q3 2023

Measure 168 Provide options to livestock farmers to aid diversification within the agriculture sector.		
Lead Delivery Body: DAFM		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
168.1	Mobilise recommendations of the Food Vision Reports and support land use diversifications options for livestock farmers, such as anaerobic digestion, forestry and tillage.	Ongoing

Measure 169 Implement a new Community Recognition Fund to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in communities hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		

2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
169.1	Announce successful projects under new €50m Community Recognition Fund.	Q2 2023

Measure 170 Explore the potential to provide long-term State supports for the construction of student accommodation.		
Lead Delivery Body: DFHERIS		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
170.1	Develop policy and methodology for potential long-term State support for the construction of student accommodation to provide additionality for targeted cohorts.	Q4 2023

Measure 171 Roll-out of the further education College of the Future model, facilitating community-based learning excellence across the regions.		
Lead Delivery Body: DFHERIS		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
171.1	ETBs will further develop their FET College of the Future proposals as part of the Preliminary Business Case stage.	Q4 2023

Measure 172 Prepare planning guidelines for Gaeltacht areas.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
172.1	Publish a draft set of Gaeltacht planning guidelines for consultation.	Q2 2023

Measure 173 Roll out provision of domestic violence accommodation (refuge and other forms of safe accommodation such as safe houses) across the State, including for people living in rural areas.		
Lead Delivery Body: D/Justice		

2023 Actions		Timetable for delivery
173.1	Implement the recommendations of the Tusla Review of Emergency Accommodation for victims/survivors of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence (DSGBV), which includes a commitment to double refuge accommodation over the lifetime of the DSGBV Strategy 2022-2026. 24 refuge places are to be delivered in Wexford, Dundalk and Navan in 2023 and 2024.	Ongoing