



Rialtas  
na hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**

Project Ireland 2040

# Southern Region

**2022 Update**



# Key Facts and Projects 2022 Update – Southern Region



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Project Ireland  
**2040**



**2,878**  
new social  
housing builds  
and **7,637**  
total new  
dwelling  
completions.

## Transport Strategy

Waterford Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy and Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy published in December 2022.

Major regional transport projects planned including:

- **M20 Cork to Limerick Motorway**
- **N21/N69 Limerick to Adare to Foynes Road**
- **M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy**
- **N22 Ballyvourney to Macroom Road.**



## Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

**12** projects approved for funding from the third category 2 call.

**10** projects approved under the fourth category 1 call.



**Cork Area Commuter Rail Programme** – work underway on Phase 1



## Ringaskiddy Redevelopment Project

was completed and became operational in April 2022.

**59**



flood relief schemes are progressing or planned including: Templemore Flood Relief Scheme, Springfield Flood Relief Scheme and Douglas Flood Relief Scheme.

## Water and Wastewater

**68** projects planned.  
**27** in progress including: Kilrush, Liscannor and Kilfenora waste water treatment. Ennistymon Water Supply and Clarecastle Wastewater Network.

## Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund

**10** successful applicants from the last round, including in the areas of swimming, athletics, rugby, GAA, cricket and football.

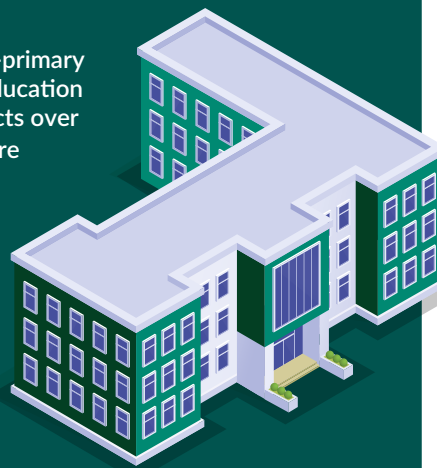


**5** Community Nursing Units (CNU) completed and **180** additional CNU beds,  
**8** New Primary Care Centres completed.

**24**

primary, post-primary and special education schools projects over **€1 million** were delivered.

A further **540** schools projects were at various stages of planning, design and construction.



**93,752**  
in IDA supported  
employments  
**72,808**  
in EI supported employment  
**2,623** clients supported  
by Local Enterprise Offices

# Project Ireland 2040

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

While this document does not provide an exhaustive list of all public capital expenditure in the region, it does serve to highlight the diverse range of investment being made by the State under Project Ireland 2040. Project Ireland 2040 set out ten National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs), built around the over-arching themes of well-being, equality and opportunity. This document sets out the main achievements under each NSO in 2022, for the Southern Region.

The document draws on information from a wide range of publicly available sources as well as material provided by Government Departments and Agencies.

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

## Regional Cities:

### Cork, Limerick and Waterford

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

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

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

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

## 3.1

## National Strategic Outcome 1 – Compact Growth

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

There were 2,878 social housing new builds in the Southern Region in 2022 with more planned in 2023.

There were 7,637 new dwellings completed in the Southern Region in 2022, up 32% on the previous period (5,787).

**Table 1: Social Housing Completion in 2022**

Southern Region	Total New Build
Clare	256
Limerick City and County	383
Tipperary	196
Carlow	81
Kilkenny	144
Waterford	149
Wexford	355
Cork City	517
Cork County	551
Kerry	246
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,878</b>

Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

**Table 2: Total Housing Completion in 2022**

Southern Region	Total New Build
Clare	566
Limerick City and County	786
Tipperary	423
Carlow	231
Kilkenny	420
Waterford	565
Wexford	954
Cork City	1,195
Cork	1,883
Kerry	614
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,637</b>

Source: Central Statistics Office

**Table 3: Total Planning Permissions in 2022**

Region and County	Houses	Multi Development Houses	One off Houses	Private Flats Apartments	Total
Clare	580	292	288	26	606
Limerick	1,090	688	402	718	1,808
Tipperary	727	437	290	42	769
Carlow	212	111	101	25	237
Kilkenny	448	255	193	148	596
Wexford	880	447	433	151	1,031

Waterford	1,001	799	202	117	1,118
Cork	1,812	1,031	781	431	2,243
Cork City	683	623	60	1,426	2,109
Kerry	476	181	295	132	608
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,909</b>	<b>4,864</b>	<b>3,045</b>	<b>3,216</b>	<b>11,125</b>

Source: Central Statistics Office

## Urban and Rural Development Fund (URDF)

The Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) was launched in 2018 to support more compact and sustainable development. The Fund is providing part-funding for applicant-led projects that will enable a greater proportion of residential and mixed-use development to be delivered within the existing built-up footprints of our cities and large towns, while also ensuring that more parts of our urban areas can become attractive and vibrant places in which people choose to live and work, as well as to invest and to visit.

In keeping with the aims of the National Planning Framework and Project Ireland 2040, the URDF demonstrates a new and more tailored approach to the provision of Government support. Over its planned duration up to 2030, URDF support in excess of €2 billion will be targeted in an integrated, dynamic and responsive way to support the regeneration and rejuvenation of our towns and cities.

Through the URDF, successful applicants receive targeted integrated support for innovative holistic solutions to the issues that have hindered the regeneration and rejuvenation of our large towns and cities.

To date, there have been two Calls for proposals under the URDF with more than €1.6 billion allocated so far in respect of 132 projects, comprising of almost 400 subprojects. The 45 proposals approved under Call 2 in 2021 builds on the existing pipeline of 87 URDF supported projects launched under Call 1. With URDF supported projects now active in every local authority area in the country, this programme of projects will ultimately contribute significantly to the transformative regeneration and development of our large towns and cities, and to the achievement of NPF and Project Ireland 2040 objectives.

In January 2023, a third round of funding support under the URDF was announced. Supporting key

objectives of Housing for All and Town Centre First, this round of URDF support specifically addresses long term vacancy and dereliction across URDF eligible cities and town. Following engagement with the local authority sector, the administrative arrangements are currently being finalised and approved programs and allocations will be issued to Local Authorities by the end of Q2 2023

During 2022 DHLGH continued to manage the 132 proposals and their various elements through the new Public Spending Code's decision gates. At the end of 2022, €144 million in URDF support had been provided to successful applicants, with 18 proposals fully completed.

**Table 4a: Successful Applications under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF)**

Southern	Total
Clare	4
Limerick City and County	9
Tipperary	3
Carlow	2
Kilkenny	3
Waterford	3
Wexford	2
Cork City	6
Cork County	9
Kerry	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>

Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

**Table 4b: Successful Applications under Call 1 of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund**

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Clare County Council	Clare	Parnell Street and the Lanes and Bow-Ways	This URDF supported project is part of an overall rejuvenation and enhancement programme for Ennis as part of the Ennis Town Centre Public Realm Regeneration. The project consists of regeneration works to two integrated and physically connected elements located at the heart of Ennis, Parnell Street and the extensive network of Lanes and Bow-Ways that characterise the Town and its Medieval core.
Clare County Council	Clare	Shannon's Strategic Masterplan (Previously The Venue Shannon)	URDF support relates to the development of a strategic masterplan to enable planning for future projects in this area.
Clare County Council	Clare	Barrack Square and Old Barrack Street and O'Connell Square and High Street	URDF support relates to the design of physical works in the area to give a high quality connected public realm.
Limerick City and County Council	Limerick	O'Connell Street	The O'Connell Street Urban Centre Revitalisation Project, involving public realm works, is part of a wider initiative, the Great Streets Programme, which will create a world-class environment to support the sustainable development of the city centre in Limerick.
Limerick City and County Council	Limerick	Opera Project (Site enabling)	This is part funding of the "Opera Centre" development in the heart of Limerick. Central to the delivery of the vision for the area, is the development of some key strategic sites. Funding is required for the non-commercial elements of the development in particular the cultural and civic components of the development, the public library, enabling works and the public realm
Limerick City and County Council	Limerick	Digital Collaboration and Virtual Reality Centre	The project is to develop a Digital Collaboration and Virtual Reality Centre in Cecil Street Limerick. The works now being supported by the URDF include survey and design and planning to bring project to procurement stage, and including initial enabling works.

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Limerick City and County Council	Limerick	World-class Waterfront	The funding is for the feasibility and design costs for the development of a world class waterfront along the River Shannon in Limerick. The World Class Waterfront Project is part of a wider initiative to create a world-class environment supporting the sustainable development of the City Centre in accordance with the objectives of the National Planning Framework. The World Class Waterfront is identified as one of seven transformational projects in the Limerick 2030 – An Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick.
Limerick City and County Council	Limerick	Social and Economic Model	Funding for technical assistance to develop a model for the economic and social impact of the Limerick 2030 programme. The model will address the development of the Opera Site. The Limerick 2030 Economic and Spatial Plan 2013 set out the blue print for the economic, social and physical transformation of Limerick City Centre and the wider county/mid-west region. The Opera Site development is identified as a strategic component of the plan. The Local Authority will commence using the Social and Economic Model in 2022, to consider the impacts of funding proposals throughout Limerick, as funding proposals are prepared.
Limerick City and County Council	Limerick	Living Georgian City Programme	The Living Georgian City Programme will focus on targeted interventions to renew vacant and underutilised stock, to increase the level of residential use in the city and show case the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient city. Funding is to advance this programme, including feasibility and demonstration projects.
Tipperary County Council	Tipperary	Liberty Square Thurles	This URDF supported project involves the enhancement of Liberty Square in Thurles, Co. Tipperary, which will knit together the previous public realm initiatives and result in the completion of the infrastructural element of the Place-making initiatives being undertaken for Thurles Town Centre as part of its wider Town Centre Initiative.
Tipperary County Council	Tipperary	Clonmel	As part of the Clonmel 2030 Transformational regeneration a series of complementary projects are in train including the regeneration of Kickham Barracks and the development of the Clonmel Regional Sports Hub.



Applicant	County	Project	Description
University of Limerick	Limerick	Digital District (Inner City Digital Hub)	Limerick City and County Council has identified that digital technologies have the transformational potential to underpin the sustainable growth of the city and region, by supporting “smart” development and regeneration using technology and new work practices to empower communities, create better services, and accelerate sustainable social and economic growth and to improve the quality of life for all. This funding is to support a renewed focus on the development of a digital district hub within the Georgian core of Limerick City.
Carlow County Council	Carlow	Carlow Town Centre	Funding for master plan for Carlow Town Centre. The vision for Carlow Town is to be a high-functioning, inclusive, compact and accessible town underpinned by a robust and diverse local economy.
Kilkenny County Council	Kilkenny	Abbey Quarter	The regeneration of the Abbey Quarter presents an opportunity to restore a significant brown field site in the heart of Kilkenny City. This URDF supported project involves a number of public realm, community and cultural infrastructure projects that are essential to stimulate and enhance commercial development in the Abbey Quarter.
Waterford City and County Council	Waterford	Waterford City and Environs - North Quays	This URDF supported project involves the provision of key transportation infrastructure that will transform City and Regional access and mobility and facilitate game changing development on the North side of Waterford. The combined projects will catalyse significant immediate development, enabling a natural extension of Waterford City Centre, to the North side of the river, as well as opening up the North side of the City for significant new development.
Waterford City and County Council	Waterford	Tramore Town Centre	This URDF supported project will transform the town centre into a more attractive destination by creating a new identifiable core with harmonised public realm linkages to the beach area and transport hub on the Lower Branch Road. It will provide a clear traffic and ‘way finding’ solution to this core area and at last provide additional off street parking at the mid contour level to greatly improve accessibility.
Wexford County Council	Wexford	Trinity Wharf Project	This URDF supported project covers the first phase development of an access road and initial enabling works in advance of the next phase of the wider Trinity Wharf Project.



Applicant	County	Project	Description
Cork City Council	Cork	Beamish and Crawford/ Grand Parade Quarter	This project relates to the regeneration of the Beamish & Crawford/Grand Parade Quarter. Funding relates to the preliminary design phase for projects eg access and public realm works. The City Plan identifies the "Beamish and Crawford / Grand Parade Quarter" as one of these transformational areas, with a specific objective to regenerate the quarter as part of the revitalization of the wider city centre. It will address existing vacancy, dereliction and underutilisation of brownfield land.
Cork City Council	Cork	Cork City Docklands	This project is complementary to the Port of Cork project and will facilitate enabling infrastructure for the Cork Docklands and relates to: a) the Eastern Gateway Bridge, and b) Land acquisition of City Docks north and south Quays. Please note Docklands Marina Park project is included for separate URDF application for Strategic Parks, Cork. The project consists of a new bridge over the River Lee linking the Lower Glanmire Rd (N8) at the "Skew Bridge" on the northern side to Monahan's Road beside Páirc Uí Chaoimh on the southern side.
Port of Cork	Cork	Tivoli Docks	This project and the Cork City Docklands project are complementary. This relates to the proposed relocation of the Port and funding relates to preparatory programme for relocation and redevelopment of Tivoli Docks. This application refers to Tivoli and the proposed interventions to release this site for redevelopment.
Irish Rail	Cork	Kent Station Yard (Site enabling)	Support for remediation works to allow for future site development.
Cork County Council	Cork	Carrigaline Western Relief Road	This project is for the development of a Relief Road for the town of Carrigaline. This project will allow vehicular traffic to bypass the main street and is intended to link the new pedestrian/cycle routes to a series of informal and formal walks and public spaces for interactions.
Cork County Council	Cork	Midleton Main Street Public Realm Improvements	This project supports Phase 2 of the Midleton Main Street Public Realm Improvements projects - part of an integrated approach to land use and transportation planning.
Cork County Council	Cork	Midleton Permeability Package of Proposals	This project covers design work, value for money assessment for projects that will facilitate the growth of Midleton.

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

Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

**Table 4c: Successful Applications under Call 2 of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund**

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Clare County Council	Clare	Ennis Town Centre Public Realm Regeneration	The project forms the next phase of works that will contribute to the realisation of an overall vision for a high quality, pedestrian focussed public realm in the medieval core of Ennis Town centre. This project continues the regeneration work of Parnell Street and the extensive network of Lanes and Bow-ways in the town, which is being supported under the successful Call 1 project.
Limerick City and County Council	Limerick	Living Limerick City Centre Initiative	This project is about making positive, innovative and transformational change to revitalise the centre of Limerick City and support the objective of compact growth in a holistic and strategic manner. This project is an integrated programme of urban development that will be underpinned by a programme of innovative collaboration.
Limerick City and County Council	Limerick	World-class Waterfront	This is a follow on capital element to feasibility and design works supported under Call 1 to develop a 'World Class Waterfront' along the River Shannon in close proximity to the city centre.
Tipperary County Council	Tipperary	A Pathway to a Low-Carbon Society: A Centre for Excellence for Sustainable Energy for transformational urban regeneration of Nenagh Town Centre	This project has been developed as a direct, collaborative and innovative response to deliver on the objectives of Project Ireland 2040 and the Climate Action Plan, through a transformative public-private urban regeneration proposal that builds on the established economic cluster of sustainable energy agencies, businesses and professionals in Nenagh, Tipperary and the Region. The project also seeks to put in place public infrastructure, civic spaces and public realm enhancement to consolidate the linkages to the town centre.
Carlow County Council	Carlow	Public Realm and Pedestrian Linkage Project Carlow Town	This project will provide Carlow Town with plentiful, accessible and exciting public spaces which will improve town centre linkages and increase pedestrian mobility from the town centre to Carlow College and the Railway Station. This project is the follow on capital works to the related Masterplan from the successful Call 1 funded project.
Kilkenny County Council	Kilkenny	Abbey Quarter Phase 2 (Advancement Project)	<p>This project covers the second phase of the Abbey Quarter and builds on the first phase works initiated under the successful Call 1 project.</p> <p>The Phase 2 project involves 5 complementary sub-projects covering public realm improvements, accessibility and regeneration of the Abbey Quarter.</p>

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Kilkenny County Council	Kilkenny	Kilkenny City Centre Enhanced Liveability Project	This project will increase the attractiveness, liveability and connectivity of Kilkenny at its urban core for locals and visitors alike and will transform the quality of place by radically improving the streetscape and accessibility of the Kilkenny's historic core, helping to knit together the central constituent public realm spaces and to deliver the Council's objective of a compact '10-minute City' and the most liveable urban centre in Ireland.
Waterford City and County Council	Waterford	Waterford City Centre Regeneration	The NPF has set an objective for Waterford to become a 'Regional City of Scale', driving regional growth. This project consists of the important regeneration of the Historic Core/Strategic Public Realm Plan based on a series of planned city centre Brownfield proposals including cultural, re-use, business hub and brownfield redevelopment sites. The project involves a wide range of interventions that will provide an attractive live, work and play environment to draw people back into Waterford City centre in order to bring social, economic and cultural vibrancy. The concept is to cross a 'tipping point' whereby the City centre will provide jobs and sustain itself into the future.
Wexford County Council	Wexford	Trinity Wharf Project	<p>Trinity Wharf is a brown field site, centrally located in Wexford Town with a high amenity waterfront vista. The site is identified as a Key Opportunity site in the Wexford Town &amp; Environs Development Plan 2009 – 2015 as extended. Through this project the Council plans to develop Trinity Wharf as a new mixed-use urban quarter to include retail, cultural, hotel and commercial office development.</p> <p>The development has the potential to bring significant economic and social benefits, and position Wexford as a superior location to work, live and visit.</p>
Cork City Council	Cork	Grand Parade Quarter	This project will bring about the regeneration of the Grand Parade Quarter, an underutilised area of Cork City. This is the follow on capital element to the design phase project supported by the URDF under Call 1. The development of the Grand Parade Quarter will be transformative and will combine with other complementary developments in the area to create a vibrant quarter where culture and learning acts as a catalyst for business and tourism.

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Cork City Council	Cork	Cork City Docklands	This project will unlock Cork City Docklands potential to develop as a vibrant, high quality district that will attract investment in relation to mixed use development, leisure and cultural facilities. The development of Cork City Docklands is a key element of Cork City's ambitious plans to achieve compact urban growth as part of Project Ireland 2040.
Cork County Council	Cork	Passage West - Ringaskiddy - Carrigaline Harbour Cluster	This project covers project planning and design and the initial site assembly that will facilitate the future delivery of a suite of co-ordinated and linked transformative projects targeted at the towns of Carrigaline and Passage West which together with Ringaskiddy form a key spatial cluster adjoining Cork Harbour.
Cork County Council	Cork	Mallow Town Centre Regeneration	The overarching aim of this project is focussed on stimulating town centre renewal and creating more liveable and attractive town centre. This project supports the delivery of key strategic town centre transformative projects targeted in Mallow town along with two pilot schemes involving building reuse interventions in order to assess if such interventions can stimulate private sector interest and/or activity to address some of the key challenges facing town centres.
Kerry County Council	Kerry	Destination Killarney	This project seeks to mirror the world class natural environment that is Killarney National Park with an exceptional Urban experience that sets Killarney apart as a tourism destination. The project seeks to interweave the fabric of the Urban Core of Killarney seamlessly with its natural amenities through a series of interrelated transport and public realm improvements and a traffic management strategy that removes as far as possible transitory traffic from the urban core.
Kerry County Council	Kerry	Positioning Tralee as a Regional Economic Driver & Destination Town	This project supports major areas of intervention for Tralee in relation to its economic growth. The major challenge facing the town is creating the opportunities for private sector investment in mixed use development and making these opportunities an attractive proposition for the private sector. This project continues on work of the successful Call 1 project.

Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

## 3.2

### National Strategic Outcome 2 – Enhanced Regional Connectivity

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

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

- **M20 Cork to Limerick motorway** - The N20 road corridor options are currently being progressed with Public Transport (Rail) alternatives as comparators. An on-line public consultation had unprecedented public engagement with the closing date for submissions extended by four weeks from the 18 December 2020 to the 15 January 2021. The scheme is currently at Options Selection stage was the preferred transport corridor announced in Q1 2022 and work is ongoing on the Design phase.
- **N21/N69 Limerick to Adare to Foynes** - Government approval received on 30 October 2019, to submit the scheme to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval. The oral hearing took place, and An Bord Pleanála approved the scheme in August 2022. A number of Judicial Reviews have been submitted on the project.
- **N28 Cork to Ringaskiddy road** - A judicial review of the An Bord Pleanála decision was taken which was closed in 2020. Advanced works are complete and main works are expected to commence in 2024.
- **N22 Ballyvourney to Macroom road** - Government approval was received to award the construction contract on 15 October 2019. Construction work is ongoing, and it is expected to be complete in 2024. The Macroom Bypass section of the project opened to traffic in December 2022.
- **M8/N25 Dunkettle Interchange** - Government approved the award of the Design and Build contract in October 2020. Construction is

ongoing and completion is expected in 2024. A section of cycleway was constructed with the advance works and opened in November 2020.

- **Mallow Relief Road** - Route Options Selection was completed and Design work is ongoing.
- **Listowel Bypass** - Construction is underway and completion is expected in 2024.
- Two major regional transport projects have been completed within Project Ireland 2040 in the region, both in the South-East. These are:
- **The M11 Gorey-Enniscorthy Motorway** - opened July 2019 and
- **The N25 New Ross Bypass** - completed in 2019 and opened on 29 January 2020.

The five-year funding programme from 2020 to 2024 for the maintenance and renewal of the rail network, the Infrastructure Manager Multi-Annual Contract (IMMAC), will deliver € 1.3 billion of Exchequer investment in the network. Additional funding secured as part of the National Development Plan 2021-2030 will see the delivery of a rehabilitation programme on the Dublin-Cork line, delivering journey time improvements of up to ten minutes.

Approximately €340 million of Exchequer funding was invested in IMMAC-related works in 2022, which included €64 million for the commencement of rehabilitation works on the Foynes-Limerick freight line and €6.4 million for track renewal on the Limerick to Ballybrophy line, which saw track renewal of the full line, delivering journey time improvements of fifteen minutes.

Project Ireland 2040 also commits toward an evaluation of the economic benefits and value for money of high-speed rail on the main inter-urban rail network against improvements to existing and planned line speeds along the lines. In 2020, it was decided to expand the scope of this evaluation into an all-island Strategic Rail Review. In consultation with the Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland and other relevant stakeholders, terms of reference were agreed and consultants appointed.

The Review commenced in September 2021 and a final report is expected to be published in 2023 following a public consultation for Strategic Environmental Assessment purposes. As well as the potential for high/higher speed rail, the Strategic Rail Review will consider inter-urban and inter-regional connectivity, regional connectivity including to the northwest, and connectivity to our international air and sea ports, including the potential for rail freight.



## 3.3

## National Strategic Outcome 3 – Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities

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

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

and vitality of rural areas, and supports communities and organisations to meet their needs.

12 projects were approved for funding of €65.3 million from the fourth call for Category 1 applications to the RRDF. 10 projects were approved for funding of €8.4 million from the third call for Category 2 applications to the RRDF. 69 projects were approved for funding of €10.4 million under the Town and Village Renewal Schemes and 100 projects were approved for funding of €8.4 million under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

**Table 5: Projects approved for funding under the RRDF Category 1 fourth call located in the Southern Region**

Lead Body	Project Name	County	Project Description	Total RRDF Funding
Clare County Council	Kilrush Maritime Training Centre	Clare	This project will redevelop a vacant building located to deliver a Maritime Training Centre. The centre will provide a range of specialist mandatory maritime training courses and a research and training base for the offshore renewable energy sector.	€3,536,919
Clare County Council	Old Rectory - Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience	Clare	This project includes the repurposing of the Old Rectory House as a Community and Visitor Hub.	€3,906,252
Comhar na nOileán	Neart Enterprise, Creative and Digital Hub	Cork	This project will deliver a new Enterprise, Creative and Digital Hub which will support the Neart Initiative.	€1,917,297
Cork County Council	Development for Macroom	Cork	This project includes the refurbishment of the vacant St.Colman's Church as an arts, community, cultural and heritage facility.	€7,212,103

Lead Body	Project Name	County	Project Description	Total RRDF Funding
Cork County Council	Bandon Town Centre Renewal and Regeneration Project	Cork	This project includes the conversion of a vacant building into a community space, the transformation of the old town library into an e-hub remote working facility, the provision of new public spaces and major public realm works that will support active travel.	€5,500,000
Cork County Council	Charleville Town Centre Renewal Project	Cork	The project includes the repurposing of vacant historic buildings to be used as a remote working hub and an Arts and Community Centre.	€5,199,173
Kilkenny County Council	Pilltown Town Centre Rural Regeneration	Kilkenny	This project includes the development of a historic building to provide a social enterprise and community space and public realm works to revitalise the town centre.	€1,345,301
Tipperary County Council	Reimaging and Regenerating Gantly Street - Towards an Age Friendly Neighbourhood for Roscrea	Tipperary	This project includes the creation of high quality public realm areas and footpaths, bio-retention rain gardens and water service and utilities infrastructure.	€4,511,316
Tipperary County Council	Carrick-on-Suir Regeneration Plan - A journey from the Suir Blueway to the Ormond Castle Quarter - Delivering our Community's ambition	Tipperary	This project will deliver an enterprise and digital hub in a disused building, public realm upgrades in the town centre and Castle area and an Amenity and Biodiversity Park. An arrival point will be created at the Suir Blueway which will link through the town to the proposed new greenway.	€14,391,509
Tipperary County Council	Activating Cahir's Town Centre Regeneration Strategy	Tipperary	Two key buildings will be refurbished to provide a modern library and additional space for the Enterprise Centre. Public realm enhancements will better showcase the historic square and remove car parking to disused backlands, opening up a site for town centre housing.	€11,915,749

Lead Body	Project Name	County	Project Description	Total RRDF Funding
Waterford City and County Council	Cappoquin Town - Regeneration and Renewal	Waterford	This project includes the refurbishment of three derelict properties to provide residential accommodation over commercial and office premises. Refurbishment of three townhouses with ancillary mews accommodation at the rear will also be undertaken, while the area will benefit from public realm enhancements.	€5,030,207
Wexford County Council	New Ross Regeneration Phase 2	Wexford	This project will create a new Emigrant Park on the oil tank site on the quayside of the River Barrow in New Ross.	€814,393

**Table 6: Projects approved for funding under the RRDF Category 2 third call located in the Southern Region**

Lead Body	Project Name	County	Project Description	Total RRDF Funding
Carlow County Council	Vision Rathvilly 2040	Carlow	This project includes a multi-purpose hub in a former school premises that will provide social, cultural, economic and community facilities and the development of a suite of public realm interventions.	€222,394
Clare County Council	Scariff Regeneration Plan	Clare	This project includes the development of a Multi Service Innovation and Engagement Hub and improved public realm for the Market Square in the town centre.	€524,000
Cork County Council	Fermoy Town Centre Renewal Project	Cork	This project will develop an exemplar Craft Makers Hub, the provision of enhanced recreational facilities and place making and public realm enhancements.	€1,540,000

Lead Body	Project Name	County	Project Description	Total RRDF Funding
Cork County Council	Development for Macroom	Cork	This project includes public realm interventions that will enhance footfall and improve accessibility and the development of a future vision for a prominent derelict heritage property.	€395,000
Kerry County Council	Listowel 'Where Stories Begin'	Kerry	This project includes plans for the renewal of the town square, the provision of a multifunctional co-working, tourism, heritage and cultural building, the connection of the North Kerry Greenway into the heart of the town and the repurposing of underutilised units in the town centre as enterprise spaces.	€729,304
Kerry County Council	Killorglin Town Centre SMART Rural Regeneration Project	Kerry	This project includes the repurposing of a vacant building as a multifunction hub for tourism, education, training and co-working purposes, renovate a derelict former courthouse as a heritage and cultural centre, public realm works incorporating smart travel and public spaces and enhance connectivity to the amenities of the River Laune.	€961,800
Kilkenny County Council	Callan Friary Complex/ Upper Bridge St Regeneration & Masterplan for the historic core of Callan Town	Kilkenny	This project will develop an existing historical buildings to provide a library, youth, community, arts space and a remote working hub.	€861,867
Limerick City and County Council	Limerick Greenway Hub@ Ardagh; Limerick Greenway Hub@ Abbeyfeale	Limerick	The project will develop plans to renovate a heritage building and sites adjacent to the Limerick Greenway.	€600,000

Lead Body	Project Name	County	Project Description	Total RRDF Funding
Tipperary County Council	Rialto Digital & Enterprise Hub	Tipperary	The project includes a digital and enterprise hub in a disused cinema. It also includes plans for the redevelopment of a brownfield site behind the hub, a new streetscape and exploring the potential provision of town centre housing and new public amenity.	€1,208,847
Waterford City and County Council	Dungarvan Digital Transformation Hub	Waterford	The project includes the redevelopment of three town centre buildings to provide a Digital Transformation Hub, delivering office, training and innovation workspace for nearly 200 people.	€1,394,822

## Support and Grow Tourism in Rural Communities

Project Ireland 2040 recognises the vital contribution tourism makes to the policy goals of strengthening rural economies and communities (NSO 3) and enhancing amenity and heritage (NSO 7). Tourism contributes to essential employment in all counties, especially in regional locations, outside of the main cities where other employment opportunities are limited.

## Tourism Development

Tourism makes a very important contribution to the policy goals of strengthening rural economies and communities (NSO 3) and enhancing amenity and heritage (NSO 7). Tourism contributes to essential employment in all counties, especially in regional locations outside of the main cities where other employment opportunities are limited.

Fáilte Ireland's capital investment programme, Platforms for Growth, worth €150 million ran from 2019 to 2022. The programme, which falls under the Government's Project Ireland 2040 strategy and unlike any other Fáilte Ireland project, explicitly targets 'platforms' or project types that have the greatest potential to grow tourism across Ireland.

To date, funding has been available via Platforms for Growth in the form of three initiatives:

- The Immersive Heritage and Cultural Attractions 2019 Scheme;
- The Shared Facilities for Activity Providers 2020; and
- The Gala Dinner Venues Investment Scheme 2022.

The first Platform for Growth was launched in May 2019 and focused on developing immersive heritage and cultural attractions. Through this platform, Fáilte Ireland invested in heritage and cultural attractions of scale that motivate visitors to travel, either to and-or within Ireland, but without displacing the existing attractions of a destination or disturbing the competitiveness already in mature destinations. The overall objective of this platform was to deliver brilliant experiences that allow visitors to connect with Ireland and bring the national and local culture, heritage and people to life, while also delivering greater regional and seasonal spread of tourism.

€19 million worth of investment was announced for the second platform, Platforms for Growth 2, to develop world-class water sports facility centres at 22 locations across the country where water-based activities are a key visitor attraction. This investment scheme was developed in partnership between Fáilte Ireland and local authorities and to support the local economy.

To stimulate the development of unique gala dinner venues of scale, Fáilte Ireland launched a Gala Dinner Venues Investment Scheme in 2022, which is a small capital investment scheme, offering investment

grants of up to 100% of eligible project costs to a maximum of €200,000 per project. The scheme aims to support the development of up to seven 'wow' gala dinner venues of scale in the environs of Ireland's premier business tourism hubs i.e. Dublin, Cork, Kerry, the Shannon Region and Galway. Targeting

this gap in the Business Events segment will ensure recovery and growth of revenue which is central to Fáilte Ireland's sustainable growth agenda.

**Table 7: Platforms for Growth 2: Additional Information on the successful projects due to proceed**

Facility Centre	Location	Local Authority	Regional Assembly Area	Status
Claycastle Sports Activity Facility	Claycastle, Youghal, County Cork	Cork County Council	Southern Region	Pre-Planning
Kilkenny Water Sports Hub	County Hall, John St, Kilkenny	Kilkenny County Council	Southern Region	Pre-Planning
Tramore Water-Sports Activity Facility Centre	Promenade, Tramore, Co Waterford	Waterford County Council	Southern Region	Pre-Planning
Ardmore Water-Sports Activity Facility Centre	Public Car Park, Cois Trá, Ardmore, Co Waterford	Waterford County Council	Southern Region	Pre-Planning
Curragloe Water Sports Activity Centre	Whitegap, Curragloe, County Wexford	Wexford County Council	Southern Region	Planning Approved
Ballycuggeran Sports Activity Facility	Ogonnelloe, Killaloe, County Clare.	Clare County Council	Southern Region	In Planning
Dromineer Sports Activity Facility	Dromineer, Nenagh, Co Tipperary	Tipperary County Council	Southern Region	Planning Approved
Kilkee Waterworld Activity Facilities	Waterworld, East End, Kilkee, Co. Clare	Clare County Council	Southern Region	In Planning
Ballybunion Beach Shared Facilities Centre	Men's (South) Beach, Ballybunion, Co Kerry	Kerry County Council	Southern Region	Pre-Planning
Fenit Beach Shared Facility Centre	Fenit Beach, Fenit, Co. Kerry	Kerry County Council	Southern Region	Pre-Planning
Magherabeg Shared Facilities Centre	Magherabeg Lower, Castlegregory, Co Kerry	Kerry County Council	Southern Region	Pre-Planning

In addition to its large grants' schemes and strategic partnerships, Fáilte Ireland also provides capital supports to tourism attractions and experiences in Ireland through a range of regional small grants schemes and makes direct investment into developing infrastructure for the four tourism experience brands (Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Dublin).

In addition, Fáilte Ireland continues to invest in cultural and heritage tourism attractions through strategic partnerships with the OPW/Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; National Parks & Wildlife Service; Coillte; and Waterways Ireland. These critical partnerships continue to deliver capital projects that realise the tourism potential of the State's natural and built heritage assets. Through these strategic partnerships, and other collaborations with Government Departments and agencies, Fáilte Ireland is able to invest in the enhancement of visitor attractions and activities and advise on further experience development and marketing.

## Destination Development and Distribution

Fáilte Ireland has developed an approach to destination development, as set out in its new Destination Development Framework, centred on collaborative local tourism development plans ("DEDPs") that identify agreed priorities for sustainable tourism development of the destination.

The role of this five year destination and experience development plan is to support the development of unique and compelling destination experiences focused on a number of immediate and strategic destination opportunities.

In 2022 Fáilte Ireland created four long term regional development strategies and began work on 36 Destination and Experience Development Plans.

All tailored to support the sustainable development of tourism in Ireland's Ancient East, the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, and Dublin.

Kerry has five Destination Experience Development Plans (DEDP's). Each one is a five year sustainable tourism plan capturing proposed tourism development projects within one plan. Examples include:

- Skellig Coast DEDP: The very first Visitor Experience Development Plan in Ireland was hosted in the Skellig Coast of South Kerry an

area of 700 square km area between Kells and Castlecove. The Plan was launched in January 2017.

- Dingle DEDP: The Dingle DEDP launch was delayed by the COVID Pandemic with the formal launch taking place in January 2021. The Dingle DEDP has a supporting dedicated 6 Module training course looking at Visitor Experience Development which took place between 2021 and 2022. The Dingle Peninsula is the decarbonisation zone for Kerry.
- Killarney DEDP: The Killarney Destination and Experience Plan (DEDP) was launched in 2022 and outlines a new five-year strategy to promote and maintain tourism in Killarney.

2023 will see the launch of DEDPs for Cork Harbour & East Cork, Waterford, Wexford Kilkenny and South Tipperary.

## Capital Investment

Destination Towns: €5,997,886 was awarded to 12 towns in Ireland's Ancient East, including Cork City, Cashel, and Waterford in the Southern Region.

In 2022 funding for the following was also awarded:

- €1.9 million was awarded to deliver visitor experience improvements at Bray Head Signature Discovery Point on the Wild Atlantic Way;
- €200,000 in technical assistance for the preparation of an interpretation and infrastructure plan for the Boyne Valley Drive; and
- €2.2 million for the upgrades and remedial works to WAW wayfinding signage and discovery points.

Under the Urban Animation Scheme, Fáilte Ireland awarded investment of €4.2 million to six projects, including two in the Southern Regions in Cork, & Waterford to support local authorities in ambitious, creative, innovative and sustainable public realm projects that are inspired by the unique identity of place and integrated into a long-term vision to re-imagine and transform the destination.



## Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

### RRDF Funded Projects of Tourism Significant

Fáilte Ireland and Coillte continued to partner on progressing the International Mountain Biking Proposition for Rural Ireland, which received €13.6 million in RRDF funding, administered by D/RCD, in 2019. Fáilte Ireland's contribution to the project is €954,000. A strategic, large-scale project, it is considered to be of particular importance for developing the activities tourism offering in Ireland and comprised of a number of projects including one from the Southern region:

- Ballyhoura Visitor Centre Trail Head Building (Limerick);
- Coolaney Mountain Bike Centre & Trail Development (Sligo);
- Ticknock (Dublin) & Ballinastoe (Wicklow) Mountain Bike Centres;
- Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Centre; and
- Ballyhoura Visitor Centre Trail Head Building (Limerick).

In April 2022, the Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Trail was officially opened which included over 80km of new trails across the Slieve Blooms in Laois and Offaly.

Planning consent for new Trail Head Visitor Facilities at Ballyhoura, Co Limerick and Baunreagh Co Limerick were approved in Q4, 2022.

In 2022, a total of 25km of new trails were constructed bringing the total amount of new trails developed to 64km and a total trail network of 185km. An additional 32km of new trails will be constructed in 2023 delivering a total of 95km of new trail and a trail network of approximately 300km of mountain bike trails across the 5 sites.

Fáilte Ireland will continue to work with Department of Rural and Community Development on the Walks Scheme and the ambition to add 70 walks to the scheme. In long distance walking, a plan will be developed to set a Roadmap for the delivery of a Wild Atlantic Way Coastal Path.

Fáilte Ireland will also continue to work with the National Parks and Wildlife Service on enhancing and expanding the visitor experience at our beautiful national parks. The new trail development at

Connemara National Park was granted planning permission in February 2023 and will progress to delivery later in the year.

Planning consent was approved for the development of new Trail Head & Visitor Services buildings at Baunreagh, Co Laois (Slieve Blooms) and Ballyhoura, Co Limerick. These facilities will progress to delivery in 2023.

In addition, Fáilte Ireland has contributed to the following three RRDF projects which are designed to have significant tourism benefits:

- Dunbrody Famine Ship / New Ross;
- Irish National Heritage Park & Hook Lighthouse; and
- Nenagh Historic Quarter Regeneration Project.

Fáilte Ireland had no new applications to RRDF under the 2021 call.

Together with our partners, we welcomed visitors to six newly opened attractions in counties Wicklow, Mayo, Kerry, Monaghan, Meath and Roscommon.

- Ionad an Bhlascaoid, Co. Ciarrai;
- Beyond the Trees Avondale, Co. Wicklow;
- Céide Fields Visitor Centre, Co. Mayo;
- Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Co. Monaghan;
- Knowth Visitor Experience; and
- The National Famine Museum, Strokestown Park, Co. Roscommon.

Other projects supported by Fáilte Ireland that were progressed in 2022 and which are expected to commence or recommence construction in 2023 include:

- Mount Congreve Gardens, Waterford;
- Sligo Cultural Plaza, Co. Sligo;
- Surf Centre of Excellence, Strandhill, Co. Sligo; (scheduled to open Summer 2023);
- Records Tower, Dublin Castle (Delivered through Strategic Partnerships);
- Medieval Kilkenny Experience;
- Little Museum of Dublin; and
- Galway Museum.

Other Fáilte Ireland grant-aided capital projects

Five New and Enhanced Visitor Attractions and Experiences (relevant to both NSO 3 and NSO 7) were formally launched in 2021 including Johnstown Castle (Wexford). Other projects supported by Fáilte Ireland that were progressed in 2021 include the Blasket Centre in Kerry which was delivered through Strategic Partnerships and is due to open in 2022.

In addition to its large grants schemes and strategic partnerships, Fáilte Ireland also provides capital supports to tourism attractions and experiences in Ireland through a range of regional small grants schemes and makes direct investment into developing infrastructure for the four tourism experience brands including the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Ireland's Ancient East.

Fáilte Ireland also continues to invest in cultural and heritage tourism attractions through strategic partnerships with the OPW/Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; National Parks & Wildlife Service; Coillte; and Waterways Ireland. These critical partnerships continue to deliver capital projects that realise the tourism potential of the State's natural and built heritage assets. Through these strategic partnerships, and other collaborations with Government Departments and agencies, Fáilte Ireland is able to invest in the enhancement of visitor attractions and activities and advise on further experience development and marketing.

#### **Developed submission for significant Just Transition Fund project**

Fáilte Ireland closed the year with the announcement of €68 million in EU 'Just Transition' funding, allocated to Fáilte Ireland for a 'Regenerative Tourism & Place Making Scheme for the Midlands' to transform tourism in the midlands and to develop new opportunities for tourism employment in the Just Transition territory. Laois, Offaly, Longford, Roscommon, Westmeath, Galway (G2 Ballinalsoe) Kildare (K1 Athy and K4 Clane- Maynooth) and Tipperary (T2 Carrick on Suir & T5 Thurles) are included in this.

#### **Sustaining Gaeltacht Communities and Promoting the Irish Language**

A priority of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media is to sustain Gaeltacht communities through investment in Udarás na Gaeltachta and to promote the Irish language. A number of supports in 2022 are outlined below.

#### **Gteic – Gaeltacht Digital Network**

The Southern Gaeltacht region has now a total of six gteic hubs; two in Cork and four in Kerry. A total of 49 people work in the gteic hub network in the Southern region and 22 companies are located there. Building works have commenced on the development of the gteic@Baile an Sceilg hub (close to the village of Dún Géagáin, Co. Kerry), and the gteic on Oileán Chléire (off the coast of Co. Cork) is operational.

Work is ongoing on the development of gteic@Baile Bhuirne in the Cork Gaeltacht. The project has been allocated a total of €2.7 million from the REDF fund and is currently at planning stage.

## **Enhancing Sport Facilities Throughout Ireland**

The Sports Capital Equipment Programme (SCEP) is the main channel of Government support for developing sports facilities and purchasing sports equipment for sports clubs and organisations across Ireland. The 2020 round of the SCEP closed for applications in March 2021. Over 3,100 applications were submitted seeking over €200 million. Approximately 1,000 of applications were for 'equipment-only' projects. Grants with a total value of €16.6 million were announced within those applications in August 2021. 1,865 individual grant offers with a total value of over €143.8 million were announced from the remaining capital applications in February 2022.

Further allocations (totalling €6.14 million) on foot of successful appeals were announced in May 2022. A total allocation of €166.6 million for the 2020 round of SCEP represents the highest level of allocation ever made under the SCEP, with 2,878 individual grant offers in total and 59 different sports funded. All valid applications received a grant offer. Overall, grants of over €62 million were allocated to the Southern region, including over €5.8 million allocated to projects deemed to be of "regional" significance. Such projects include regional centres of excellence, Local Authority Projects and sports facilities at third level institutions.

## **The National Broadband Plan**

The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is the initiative to rollout high-speed broadband to the 1.1 million people living and working in almost 560,000 premises, including almost 100,000 businesses and farms, along with 679 schools, where commercial operators will not commit to deliver the service. It is expected that eventually over 600,000 premises will be served by the NBP, including new builds.

Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) are public locations which have been selected to receive high-speed connectivity as part of the NBP in areas with poor broadband coverage including many of our offshore islands. By the end of 2022, 281 BCPs were

in place throughout the country and 278 of these were open for business. These are located in places of community importance including community centres, library hubs, local sports facilities, tourism locations and other public places.

In the Southern region, 103 BCPs were in place by the end of 2022, all of which were open for business and providing high speed broadband services to communities. There were also 232 school Strategic Connection Points (school SCPs) in the Southern region that had a connection installed by the end of 2022 and 81 of these schools were provided with high-speed connectivity. The installation of BCPs and the delivery of public BCPs throughout the country is almost completed. NBI is working to accelerate the rollout of high-speed broadband to schools across the State.

## **Agriculture Food and the Marine**

Pier development works continued at Castletownbere Fishery Harbour Centre (under the Department's 2022 Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme). The works comprised of the construction of a new quay structure approximately 216m in length, dredging of a berthing pocket adjacent to the new wharf extension and construction of two new breakwater structures. Dredge material was reused in the construction, as backfill material to the pier and as infill material to the breakwaters. Works commenced in October 2018. Between 2018 and 2022, €47.2 million was expended on the project. At the end of 2022, works were substantially complete, with minor land reclamation works to be completed in Spring 2023.

# 3.4

## National Strategic Outcome 4 – Sustainability Mobility

The expansion of attractive and sustainable public transport alternatives to private car transport will reduce congestion and emissions and enable the transport sector to cater for the demands associated with population and employment growth envisaged under Project Ireland 2040 in an environmentally sustainable way. Furthermore, the provision of safe, alternative, active travel options, such as segregated cycling and walking facilities can also help alleviate congestion and meet climate action objectives, as well as improving interconnectivity with public transport. Continued investment in public transport is a focus under Project Ireland 2040.

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

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

Following an extensive public consultation process, the National Transport Authority (NTA) published the proposed BusConnects Cork network in June 2022. The draft network provides an increase of over fifty percent in bus services across the city, to allow more people to gain access to more places quickly.

The first round of public consultation in relation to the 12 new Sustainable Transport Corridors proposals closed on 3 October 2022. A second round of public consultation will take place in 2023 following the updating of the proposals.

In December 2022, the NTA has submitted the Strategic Assessment Report for BusConnects Cork to the Department to seek Decision Gate (DG) 0 approval under the Public Spending Code. This Strategic Assessment Report is currently under review and it is anticipated Ministerial approval will be sought in Q2 2023.

Work also continued in 2022 on a draft new bus network for Limerick City, which was then published for public consultation on 22 February 2023. It was developed by the NTA with the assistance of Jarret Walker & Associates, a specialist bus network designer, in collaboration with Limerick City & County Council, Clare County Council and Bus Éireann.

Under the proposals within the Limerick bus network redesign report, the level of bus services in Limerick city and its suburbs will increase by approximately 70%. The added service levels will be enabled by the extension of bus services to new areas, more routes with frequent services, an enhanced Sunday timetable and a new 24-hour route. NTA expects that the new bus network will be finalised in Q3 of this year, with the rollout of the new system planned for 2025.

Half of the fleet in Limerick was converted to Hybrid buses in 2021. There are a further 20 zero-emission double deck buses on order for Limerick, which are expected to be delivered and commissioned in 2023. This will convert the entire bus fleet in Limerick to low/zero-emission by the end of 2023.

Work continued in 2022 on the options selection process for Cork Light Rail. Transport Infrastructure Ireland expect to begin a non-statutory public consultation process on the emerging preferred route for the project in Q2 2023.

The Cork Area Commuter Rail Programme represents the largest investment in the rail network in Cork undertaken by the State. The programme comprises a number of separate but interrelated projects that encompass:

- The integration of the three existing railway corridors in the Cork area, which arrive in the city at Kent Station, providing a high-frequency north-east connection through the city and creating an integrated network;
- Full electrification, or alternative fuelling, of the suburban rail network;
- Other infrastructure improvements required to accommodate a transformative 10-minute frequency (from current 30-minute frequency) for the suburban rail network in Cork;
- Additional rolling stock to be introduced to meet the potential of existing and future demand;

- A multi-modal integrated transport hub for the city provided at Kent Station to promote modal shift from the private car and enhance attractiveness of the city docklands regeneration and development; and
- New stations at prime regeneration sites, Park & Ride interchange points and new development areas.

Certain key enabling elements of the programme were packaged into Phase 1 of the programme and included in Ireland's National Recovery & Resilience Plan (NRRP), as submitted to the European Commission in 2021. All works associated with Phase 1 will be completed by end-2026 as required by the European Commission.

This will see a €185 million investment (€164 million of EU funds) in Cork's rail infrastructure, which will facilitate the longer-term electrification of the network through construction of a new 'through' platform at Kent Station to create an integrated suburban network, re-signalling of the network, and double-tracking from Glounthaune to Midleton.

Work is already underway on Phase 1 of this programme. A planning application has been submitted to Cork City Council seeking planning consent for the additional platform at Kent Station. Separately, the tender process for the re-signalling project has commenced. Subject to market response, the detailed design phase is expected to commence next year. A four-week non-statutory public consultation on the preferred option for double tracking the current single line between Glounthaune and Midleton concluded on 16 August 2022. The feedback received fed into the Railway Order application, which was submitted to An Bord Pleanála on 10 November 2022.

In addition to the infrastructure works described above, the frequency of a number of rail services in the Cork Metropolitan Area were doubled in July 2022, with a frequency of every 30 minutes to/from Cork-Cobh and Cork-Midleton and a frequency of every 15 minutes to/from Cork and Glounthaune.

The NTA published the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATs) in December 2022. The strategy was prepared by the NTA in collaboration with Limerick City and County Council, Clare County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland, with the cooperation of Iarnród Éireann to provide a roadmap for sustainable transport in the region over the next 20 years.

The NTA also published the Waterford Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy in December 2022.

It was developed in collaboration with Waterford City and County Council, Kilkenny County Council, the Southern Regional Assembly and Transport Infrastructure Ireland. In November 2022, the Government approved the final business case for the Waterford North Quays project under Decision Gate 3 of the Public Spending Code. This approval also included €170.6 million in Exchequer funding for the project. This investment includes funding for a new sustainable transport bridge linking the North Quays to the South Quays for pedestrians, cyclists and buses and funding to relocate Plunkett Station to a new location on the North Quays, a move which is supported in the Waterford Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy.

## Greenways

TII became the approving Authority for Greenways in September 2021 funding was allocated through the Department and TII to a number of Local Authorities in the region to support the development of Greenways. This included pre-construction support, mostly on feasibility, planning and design. The funding supported:

- A joint proposal from Cork and Waterford to examine the feasibility of a Greenway from Mallow to Dungarvan;
- Feasibility and design work on the West Clare Railway Greenway, from Ennis to Moyasta and from Kilkee to Kilrush;
- Feasibility of an extension of the Limerick Greenway from Rathkeale to Limerick City via Adare and Patrickswell and ;
- An extension of the Suir Blueway from Clonmel towards Cahir, and from Carrick-on-Suir towards the Waterford Greenway;

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

## Active Travel

In 2022, €310 million was spent across the NTA Active Travel Programme. This funding is allocated across all local authorities in Ireland, with over 1,000 active projects providing improved walking and cycling facilities.

Major projects progressed in 2022 include the Mahon

to Marina Greenway in Cork (substantially complete), and the Bilberry to City Centre route in Waterford (due to be completed in Q1 2023). Other major achievements include the signing of the contract for the Waterford Sustainable Transport Bridge in November.

Significant progress was also made with the Safe Routes to School Programme (SRTS), with delivery plans almost complete for all Round 1 schools and many front of school treatments now moving from detailed design to construction stage and some already complete, including the Model School in Limerick and Bunscoil Rinn an Chabhlaigh, Cork. In addition almost 5,000 cycle/scooter spaces have been provided at 283 schools across the country throughout 2022 as part of the SRTS programme.

The following Active Travel projects, along with many more, are expected to commence or continue construction in 2023 include:

#### **Safe Routes to School**

- Design work on Round 2 schools is to commence in January.
- Construction is expected to start on over 100 front of school treatments throughout 2023.

#### **Cork**

- MacCurtain Street Public Transport Improvement Scheme, Cork.
- N40 New Cycle / Pedestrian Overbridge (Tramore Valley Park).
- Dunkettle to Carrigtwohill final phase.

#### **Waterford**

- River Suir Sustainable Transport Bridge.



## 3.5

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

**Table 8: Agency-supported Employment in the Southern Region in 2022**

<b>Total Employment</b>	<b>166,560</b>
IDA Ireland Employment	93,752
Enterprise Ireland Employment	72,808

Source: CSO and Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

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

The Enterprise Development Agencies continued to support an innovative and resilient enterprise base in 2022.

### IDA Ireland

IDA markets the Southern Region in three separate regions, namely the South-West comprising Cork and Kerry, the South-East, made up of Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford and Waterford and the remaining counties of Clare, Tipperary and Limerick making up the IDA's Mid-West Region.

There are 229 IDA client companies in the South-West Region, employing 52,228 people, 154 in the Mid-West, employing 26,004 people and 86 in the South-East, employing 15,520 people giving a total of 469 IDA supported companies in the Southern Assembly Region, with a combined employment of 93,752 people.

The FDI performance in the Southern Region has been consistent over the past ten years with employment among IDA clients increasing by 66%. The Region has a significant ecosystem of well-established companies across Technology,

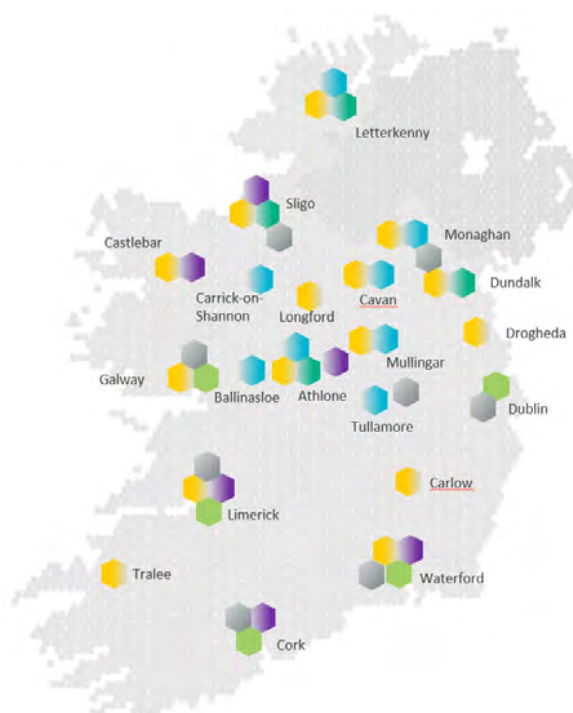
Life Sciences, International Financial Services and Engineering & Industrial Technologies. The Region has won significant investment across all of these sectors over a sustained period which has contributed significantly to employment growth and positive economic impacts on other sectors of the economy.

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

### Property programme central to regional delivery

2021-2024

-  Cities
-  Regional Growth Centres
-  Proposed ABS Locations
-  Building Programme Partnerships
-  Infrastructure Investment
-  Strategic Land Acquisition





### Under the new property programme 2021-2024 IDA will:

- Deliver a 3rd Advanced Building Solution in Waterford
- Complete the construction of an Advanced Building Solution in Carlow
- Work with Wexford County Council with a view to seeking advance planning permission for an Advanced Technology Building in Wexford
- Deliver an Advanced Building Solution in Tralee, Co. Kerry
- Deliver an Advanced Building Solution in Raheen Business Park, Limerick
- Complete construction of the Advanced Manufacturing Centre
- Complete additional upgrade works and investment in IDA Parks across the region to ensure a robust client value proposition
- Acquire additional strategic sites in the region for development

IDA will continue to work closely with the private sector in the Southern Region to secure the provision of appropriate and cost-effective building and property solutions for client companies

### Kinetic Labs

Kinetic Labs is a purpose-built science innovation centre for the South-East Region located at Worklab in the IDA Industrial Estate, which became operational in January 2021. Facilities include 400m<sup>2</sup> of high-quality wet lab space with shared lab space for companies starting out and individual furnished/unfurnished facilities for more established companies. Worklab also provides office space, meeting rooms and all the facilities required to help companies establish and grow.

### Grant Payments to IDA clients in the Region over the last 5 years

Grants paid in a particular year are not necessarily linked to either the investments won or the jobs created in that 12-month period. Grants are generally drawn down over the lifetime of a project which is normally over a period of three to five years. Some investments which result in job creation may not be grant aided and some well-established firms may no longer be receiving grant payments.

**Table 9: Grant Payments by County and Year**

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Waterford	€7,981,450	€3,757,354	€7,001,542	€4,402,166	€3,532,451
Wexford	€320,697	€652,455	€260,158	€155,000	€690,408
Carlow	€1,700,000	€14,601	0	€4,553	€420,000
Kilkenny	0	€407,000	0	€429,000	€815,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€10,002,147</b>	<b>€4,831,410</b>	<b>€7,261,700</b>	<b>€4,990,719</b>	<b>€5,457,859</b>
Limerick	€5,504,314	€14,132,082	€5,413,824	€5,756,874	€18,797,498
Clare	€6,278,229	€4,233,087	€8,069,014	€3,788,972	€2,412,357
Tipperary	€8,452,800	€7,195,766	€4,792,342	€2,159,434	€4,396,502
<b>Total</b>	<b>€20,235,343</b>	<b>€25,560,935</b>	<b>€18,275,180</b>	<b>€11,705,280</b>	<b>€25,606,357</b>
Cork	€35,954,435	€24,772,267	€24,569,556	€17,430,002	€20,848,403
Kerry	€103,650	€151,021	€1,264,097	€440,688	€2,357,952
<b>Total</b>	<b>€36,058,085</b>	<b>€24,923,288</b>	<b>€25,833,653</b>	<b>€17,870,690</b>	<b>€23,201,355</b>
<b>Southern Total</b>	<b>€66,295,575</b>	<b>€55,315,633</b>	<b>€51,370,533</b>	<b>€34,566,689</b>	<b>€45,695,296</b>

**Table 10: Announcements made throughout 2022 in the Southern Region**

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs / Investment	Town
Logitech	November 2022	Official opening of new office Building 1, City Gate Plaza, Mahon, Cork	Official opening of new office	Cork
Net App	November 2022	Official opening of new International HQ Navigation Square, Cork Docklands	Ribbon cutting event	Cork
Dell Technologies	November 2022	Official opening of the newly redeveloped Customer Solution Centre	€2 million investment	Cork
Oxford Global Resources Ltd	October 2022	Job announcement.	Creation of 75 new jobs	Cork
GE Healthcare	October 2022	Opening of a new production line for pharmaceutical imaging agents	€30.5 million expansion with the creation of 140 new jobs	Cork
AbbVie	September 2022	Expansion and job announcement to mark its 20-year anniversary	€60 million investment and the creation of approximately 70 new jobs	Cork
Stryker	July 2022	Opening of a high-tech facility at IDA Business & Technology Park, Carrigtwohill	600 new jobs	Cork
Park Place Technologies	June 2022	Opening a of new support and operations centre, Blarney Business Park	The new facility will allow employee expansion which is expected to double by 2024	Cork
Apple	May 2022	Expansion to its Cork operation	Development of a new campus building that will afford the extra capacity to accommodate 1300 employees	Cork
Merck	May 2022	A science and technology company located in Cork expanding its membrane and filtration manufacturing capabilities at its Carrigtwohill facility and to construction a purpose built facility at Blarney Business Park	370 new roles to be created by 2027 and €440 million investment in the Carrigtwohill facility	Cork

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs / Investment	Town
Johnson Controls	May 2022	Launch of their OpenBlue Innovation Centre	18 new R&D roles as well as securing 40 existing roles to work on the next generation solution for Johnson Controls	Cork
Blancco	May 2022	Official opening of new offices	Capacity for up to 34 employees	Cork
Apple	April 2022	New Engineering and Test Facility	680 jobs since 2019	Cork
Remitly Global	April 2022	Announced it will increase operations in Cork.	Creating approximately 120 jobs over the next six months	Cork
Biomarin	April	10 year anniversary	N/A	Ringaskiddy
NS1	April 2022	Announced it is to establish a presence in Cork.	Creation of 30 engineering jobs.	Cork
Nasuni	March 2022	New Innovation Centre announced for Cork	55 new engineering jobs over three years	Cork
Janssen	March 2022	Expansion of its biopharmaceutical supply chain facility with an investment of €150 million	Potential to create 180 new full-time jobs	Ringaskidd, Co. Cork
Astellas	September 2022	Opening of a new laboratory to celebrate 30 years located in Killorglin, Co. Kerry	TBC	Killorglin, Co. Kerry
Sun Life	Sept 2022	€6 million in sustainable, state-of-the-art renovations that include the latest technology solutions, a focus on employee collaboration and a carbon neutral goal.		Waterford
Horizon Therapeutics	Aug 2022	Planning Application	350 Jobs	Waterford
Public Relay	May 2022	Establish Media Analytics Centre	40 Jobs	Waterford
Horizon Therapeutics	May 2022	Global biotech manufacturing operation with specialist roles in Science and Engineering	50 Jobs	Waterford
EirGen Pharma	April 2022	€12 million investment and new facility: 3,500m <sup>2</sup> of state-of-the-art manufacturing and packaging capabilities		Waterford
Waters Corp.	October 2022	25 year Anniversary and €6 million Investment for Clinical Diagnostic R&D Centre Expansion	€6 million	Wexford

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs / Investment	Town
MSD	August 2022	New State of the Art Facility	100 Jobs	Carlow
Abbott	August 2022	New Building	800 Jobs/ €440 million	Kilkenny
Johnson & Johnson	September 2022	Expansion of its existing facility in Plassey, Limerick. With a 100 million investment	80 Jobs	Castletroy
Ortec Inc	September 2022	Officially opened its manufacturing and operations centre in Limerick, as its European Headquarters	100 Jobs	Newcastle West
WP Engine	July 2022	Opening of New Offices at Henry St Limerick and increasing its workforce	20 Jobs	Limerick
File Cloud	July 2022	Creation of jobs in Limerick by 2024	50 Jobs	Limerick City
Three Ireland	June 2022	Expansion of workforce in Limerick	175 Jobs	Castletroy
Legato Technologies	May 2022	Expansion of R&D Hub	80 Jobs	Castletroy
Transact	May 2022	Opening of R&D Global Expansion		Limerick City
Johnson and Johnson	March 2022	€35 million investment in Limerick	120 Jobs	Castletroy
Analog Devices	March 2022	€100 million investment in Limerick	250 Jobs	Raheen
Stats Perform	February 2022	Expansion of workforce at Limerick announcement of new Global Rugby Centre of Excellence	340 Jobs	Limerick City
Eli Lilly	January 2022	R&D Investment €400 million to create new jobs	300 Jobs	Raheen
Meira GTX	September 2022	Opening of GMP manufacturing facility in Shannon, Clare	100 Jobs	Shannon
Siemens Mentor Graphics	July 2022	Siemens Mentor Graphics announces, it is to establish a software research and development division in Shannon, Co. Clare. The multimillion-euro investment of €7 million will help create 25 new R&D roles over the next three years.	25 Jobs	Shannon
Integrity	May 2022	British firm expanding into Ireland, offering a range of support services to businesses, with the creation of up to 20 jobs as an initial target	20 Jobs	Cashel
Waystone	May 2022	Expansion and creation of 100 jobs	100 Jobs	Cashel

## Enterprise Ireland in the Southern Region Offices

- In 2022, 72,898 people were employed in 1,269 Enterprise Ireland (EI) supported companies in the Southern Region.
- In 2022 payments of €54 million were made by Enterprise Ireland into the Southern Assembly region. This investment allowed for additional employment creation to occur, whilst it also supported improved productivity through investments in digital technology, and fostered innovation through new investments in R&D projects.
- As part of Project Ireland 2040, EI has co-funded, with local enterprise development groups, 175 Community Enterprise Centres across the country, including 63 in the Southern Region.
- The COVID-19 Enterprise Centres Fund was developed to provide financial support to enterprise centres who have been impacted by COVID-19, providing them with financial support for the implementation of a 6 to 12 - month Recovery Plan. 6 for profit and 28 not for profit enterprise centres were approved €1,686,000 in the Southern Region.
- Enterprise Ireland administer the Regional Enterprise Development Fund and Regional Enterprise Transition Scheme on behalf of Government, to support significant regional initiatives to build on sectoral strengths and/or to better leverage identified resources to improve enterprise capability. To date, 31 projects in the Southern Region have been approved €43.5 million under this scheme.
- Enterprise Ireland administered the Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS) in 2022 and in the Southern Region 22 projects were approved funding across Priming and Feasibility Studies totalling €1.7 million.
- Enterprise Ireland engages in research and innovation activity with Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) in the region through various programmes like Commercialisation Fund, Innovation Partnerships, Disruptive Technologies Fund and Innovation Vouchers.
- EI also funds 8 Technology Gateways in the Southern Region: Shannon ABC applied biotechnology – TUS Midwest; IMaR intelligent mechatronics & RFID radio frequency identification technologies – MTU Kerry; CAPPA applied light-based photonic technologies – MTU Cork; NIMBUS embedded and computing and software systems – MTU Cork; SEAM engineering materials – SETU Waterford; PMBRC pharmaceutical and healthcare – SETU Waterford; TSSG mobile services – SETU Waterford; and DESIGN+ applied design – SETU Carlow. The Gateways work in conjunction with industry to aid the research and development of innovative products and services through a dedicated team of full-time researchers and engineers.
- The Technology Centre Programme is a joint initiative between Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland, allowing Irish companies and multinationals to work together in these centres. Technology Centres are collaborative entities established and led by industry. These centres are resourced by highly qualified researchers associated with research institutions who are empowered to undertake market focused strategic R&D for the benefit of industry. There are 3 Technology Centres located in the Southern region: MCCI - Microelectronic Circuits Centre Ireland - Tyndall Institute Cork; DPTC - Dairy Processing Technology Centre – University of Limerick; and PMTC - Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology Centre – University of Limerick

## Local Enterprise Office

In 2022, the LEOs operating in Southern Region supported 2,623 businesses employing 14,276 jobs. There was an increase of 5 in the number of client businesses in 2022 relative to 2021, with the number of jobs increasing by 754 in the same period.

**Table 11: Local Enterprise Area Statistics – Southern Region**

Regions	Client Numbers 2021	Client Numbers 2022	Client Change 2021-2022	Total Jobs 2021	Total Jobs 2022	Net Job Change 2021	Net Job Change 2022
Southern	2,618	2,623	5	13,522	14,276	1,019	1,397

**The Mid-West Region** is served by its Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) in Clare, Limerick and Tipperary, which are co-located with the Local Authorities. In 2022, the LEOs operating in the Mid-West Region supported 808 businesses employing 4,696 jobs. The number of client businesses increased by 12 in 2022 relative to 2021 with the number of jobs increasing by 196 in the same period.

**The South-East Region** is served by its Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford, which are co-located with the Local Authorities. In 2022, the LEOs operating in the South-East Region supported 915 businesses employing 5,173 jobs. The number of client businesses increased by 22 in 2022 relative to 2021 with the number of jobs increasing by 270 in the same period.

**The South-West Region** is served by its Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) in Cork City, Cork South, Cork west/North and Kerry, which are co-located with the Local Authorities. In 2022, the LEOs operating in the South-West Region supported 900 businesses employing 4,407 jobs. The number of client businesses decreased by 29 in 2022 relative to 2021 with the number of jobs increasing by 288 in the same period.

## Regional Enterprise Plans

Nine Regional Enterprise Plans to 2024 were launched in 2022. These Plans focus on undertaking collaborative initiatives that can help strengthen the regional enterprise ecosystem thereby realising enterprise growth across all regions of the country.

## Regional Enterprise Development Funding

The Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF), the Border Enterprise Development Fund (BEDF) and Regional Enterprise Transition Scheme (RETS) support the development and implementation of collaborative and innovative projects that can sustain and add to employment at county, regional and national level. These funds, which are administered by Enterprise Ireland, have been an effective instrument of policy particularly as a complement to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment's Regional Enterprise Plans where it has served as an enabler for projects emerging from that regional collaborative process.

Between 2018 and 2020 the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, through Enterprise Ireland, approved grants totalling over €126 million for 79 projects to drive regional enterprise development initiatives, under the REDF, the BEDF and RETS. Projects have been approved in every region, ranging from the development of new start-up/enterprise hubs to nationally significant sector focused applied research and innovation facilities that build on specific regional specialisms.

In response to the impact of inflation on construction projects during 2022, Enterprise Ireland launched €12 million in additional funding to support REDF construction projects. This Addendum funding was directed at projects which experienced Tender Price Inflation and related additional costs to fund their completion.

Following the publication of the Regional Enterprise Plans to 2024 and Government plans for new multiannual regional enterprise development funding from early 2023, Enterprise Ireland launched the **Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS)**. The REISS was introduced to enable promoters to investigate and confirm early-stage concepts with potential for enterprise innovation and accelerate the progress of significant or disruptive projects seeking to develop new innovative activities. The REISS supports the development of potential innovative regional projects aligned with the objectives of the nine new Regional Enterprise Plans. In total 47 projects were approved funding of €3.4 million across all regions.

Under the REDF, BEDF, RETS, REISS and Addendum schemes over €140 million in approved grants have been secured by 127 innovative Regional enterprise projects between the years 2017 and 2022.

**Table 12: Successful Applicants for the Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme in the Southern Region**

Project	County
Future Mobility Campus Ireland CLG	Clare
BNest Social Initiative DAC	Limerick
Limerick Enterprise Network	Limerick
South East Economic Development Office CLG	Waterford
Incupharm DAC	Waterford
Carlow Community Enterprise Centres CLG	Carlow
High Performance Building Alliance DAC	Wexford
ThreeD (Design Develop Disseminate) DAC	Waterford
Agritech Centre of Excellence CLG	Kerry
Limerick City and County Council	Limerick
University of Limerick	Limerick
Tipperary Town Revitalisation CLG	Tipperary
Tipperary County Council	Tipperary
ZE-Aviation Alliance CLG	Clare
Waterford City and County Council	Waterford
South East Economic Development Office CLG	Waterford
South East Technological University	Waterford
Munster Technological University	Cork
RDI Hub CLG	Kerry
Energy Champion CLG	Cork
Recreate Shandon CLG	Cork City



## Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund

The Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF) was established in 2018 as part of the National Development Plan and committed €500 million in funding over the period to 2027 for co-funded collaborative projects involving the enterprise and research sectors. DTIF projects focus on the development and deployment of disruptive technologies to deliver new solutions through investment in the development and implementation of innovative products and services that will alter markets, or the way business operates.

Since 2018, DTIF invested €288 million in 86 collaborative disruptive innovation projects with strong commercialisation potential under the first four calls of the Fund. Of these, 17 projects with the lead partner located in the Southern Region were awarded almost €64 million. The projects cover areas such as life sciences, medical devices, ICT, artificial intelligence, manufacturing and environmental sustainability. Under the fourth DTIF call, five of the projects have partners in the region, with one leading their project. This project was awarded €3.6 million as set out in the table below.

A fifth DTIF call was launched in April 2022 and closed in July 2022. The successful projects will be announced in 2023.

**Table 13: DTIF Call 4 - Funded Projects with Lead Partner based in Southern Region**

County	Project Name and Short Description	Amount Awarded	Status of Project
Limerick	To disrupt the global recycling market by identifying the potential hazards and risks associated with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) recycling sector.	€3,609,629	Pre - contract

## Green Transition Fund

The Green Transition Fund was officially launched by the then Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD, Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality with responsibility for Law Reform, James Browne TD and Minister of State for Land Use and Biodiversity, Senator Pippa Hackett on 16th June 2022.

As part of the roll out of the fund, in Budget 2022, Government announced that €55 million would be made available under the National Recovery & Resilience Plan to assist enterprises through the Green Transition Fund. This budget is split into two streams, the **Enterprise Emissions Reduction Investment Fund** (€30 million) and the **Climate Planning Fund for Business** (€25 million) which will both run from 2022 and 2025.

From its launch in June until the end of 2022, over €2 million in funding was approved for approximately 150 companies for projects under the Green Transition Fund. Approximately €1.2 million was approved under the Climate Planning Fund for Business (CPFB), and over €800,000 approved under the Enterprise Emissions Reduction Investment Fund (EERIF).

In the Southern Region, a total of 28 projects were approved in 2022 under the Green Transition Fund, with a total value of over €579,000.

## Science Foundation Ireland Programme activity

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

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

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

New research investments awarded to eligible institutions in the Southern regions is approximately €31 million. The vast majority of these awards are under multi annual programmes which run for a

number of years. The benefits of these investments are very often shared in other regions due to the collaborative nature of research in Ireland

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

In support of this goal, a new funding programme, SFI Frontiers for Partnerships was launched in April 2021. The SFI Frontiers for Partnership call is open to research proposals led by the Technological University (TU) / Institutes of Technology (IoT) sector with partners from the established University sector. Funding of €16.2 million in funding from Science Foundation Ireland for 15 collaborative projects was announced under this programme in 2022. Two of the 15 awards (~€2.1 million) involved Tus/IOTs in the Southern region.

This investment will not only increase financially supported collaboration between the sectors but importantly will provide leadership opportunities for the TU/IoT sector. The programme is being run in partnership with the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) and Sustainable Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

SFI provides funding programmes to enable deep industry academic collaboration across the country. The SFI Industry RD&I Fellowship seeks to support academia-industry interactions to address industry-informed challenges. Awards under this programme are made to academic researchers (at faculty and postdoctoral level) wishing to spend time in industry through the temporary placement of academic researchers with an industry partner. This programme runs in two phases ("Call A" and "Call B") each year. Five awards have been made under the 2022 Call A with one of those placements due to take place in a company in the Southern region.

## SFI Research Centres

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

The SFI Research Centres are helping to improve the quality of people's lives through healthcare,

informing public policy on climate change mitigation and they have been instrumental in the delivery of SFI's Education and Public Engagement strategy, including increasing engagement with underserved and underrepresented communities across Ireland.

SFI Research Centres will play a critical role in helping Ireland recover from and succeed in the face of unprecedented global challenges such as BREXIT, future pandemics and climate change. Such threats also present opportunities to harness Ireland's scientific human capital to create innovative solutions through research and innovation, to ultimately create a more resilient economy and society.

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

The researchers that Science Foundation Ireland supports in the Higher Education Institutes are collaborating heavily with enterprise in Ireland. In 2022, SFI researchers reported 247 collaborations with MNCs and 208 collaborations with SMEs in the Southern Region.

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

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

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

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

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

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

*MaREI is the SFI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine research and innovation*, coordinated by the Environmental Research Institute (ERI) at University College Cork. The Centre comprises over 200 researchers working with over 50 industry partners, focusing on defined global challenges such as the Energy Transition, Climate Action and the Blue Economy.

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

The current SFI investment in these Centres through the SFI Research Centres Programme is over €206 million.

It is important to note that although the Higher Education Institutes with responsibility for these Research Centres are based within the Southern Region (Cork and Limerick) their academic and industry partners are located right across Ireland. Equally, HEIs within the Southern regions that are not hosts of the other SFI Research Centres are academic partners on those Centres.

SFI funds **six Centres for Research Training (CRTs)** that are collectively hosted across a partner network of 10 research bodies. The purpose of the SFI Centres for Research Training is to build on research excellence and to provide cohorts of academically outstanding future research leaders with the skills and knowledge required to address the future challenges of an ever-changing work environment.

Three of these CRTs are hosted in the Southern region:

#### **SFI Centre for Research Training in Foundations of Data Science, University of Limerick**

*SFI Investment €17.7 million*

The SFI Centre for Research Training in Foundations

of Data Science will train a cohort of PhD students with world-class foundational understanding in the horizontal themes of Applied Mathematics, Statistics, and Machine Learning. These fundamental themes will be fused together by applying them to real-world challenges in vertical themes including Data Analytics, Privacy and Security, Smart Manufacturing, Networks, and Health and Wellbeing. PhD students trained in this Centre for Research Training will gain a fundamental understanding that will make them uniquely adaptable to the rapidly-evolving needs of Ireland's data science industry. Students will engage with industries developing an understanding of their needs, gaining transversal skills and an appreciation for true impact in the process.

#### **SFI Centre for Research Training in Artificial Intelligence, University College Cork**

*SFI Investment €18 million*

The SFI Centre for Research Training in Artificial Intelligence brings together supervisors working across the full spectrum of AI techniques - from knowledge representation and reasoning, machine learning, data mining, computer vision, natural language processing, optimisation and decision-making, robotics, and autonomy - with the ambition to develop into a truly national initiative across the full third-level sector.

The centre focuses strongly on the development of AI solutions in domains such as smart buildings, mobility and transportation, autonomous vehicles, public service delivery, manufacturing, enterprise, cybersecurity, climate change and environment, agriculture, marine, food production, and natural resources.

#### **SFI Centre for Research Training in Advanced Networks for Sustainable Societies, University College Cork**

*SFI Investment €18 million*

The SFI Centre for Research Training in Advanced Networks for Sustainable Societies focuses on enabling technologies for future hyper-networks, including concepts such as network virtualization, dependable communications, Internet of Things, data driven network management and applications in sustainable and independent living. This centre will train the next generation of researchers who will seek solutions to the technical and societal challenges of global hyper-connectivity.

SFI provides funding programmes to enable deep industry academic collaboration across the country.

The **SFI Industry RD&I Fellowship** seeks to support academia-industry interactions to address industry-informed challenges. Awards under this programme are made to academic researchers (at faculty and postdoctoral level) wishing to spend time in industry through the temporary placement of academic researchers with an industry partner. 27 researchers have been funded to undertake projects with companies in areas such as VR, chatbots, biotech, coastal erosion and breast cancer representing investment of €2.1 million to support these collaborations. The programme is also supported by IDA and applications for the 2022 competition are now open.

## Higher Education

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

Eleven major infrastructure projects will be delivered around the country as part of a Public-Private Partnership Programme for the higher education sector. Five of these are in the Southern Region, including an Applied Science and IT building at Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) Limerick, a new Engineering, Computing and General Teaching Building in South East Technological University (SETU) Waterford, a Science and Health building in SETU Carlow, a new Learning Resource Centre for the Munster Technological University (MTU) Cork and a new STEM building for the MTU Tralee. These projects respond directly to skills needs at regional level. TUS Limerick Campus, SETU Waterford and Carlow projects are all in Bundle 2 of the Higher Education PPP Programme and reached tender stage in 2022. The contracts were signed in December 2022 for the MTU projects. Construction phase is due to commence on site in January 2023 with an expected completion date of April 2025 (MTU Cork) and July 2025 (MTU Tralee).

Five major projects were approved funding under the Higher Education Strategic Infrastructure Fund with approval being provided for a new building for Cork University Business School. The application for planning permission for the CUBS building was submitted in December 2022.

A second call of the Higher Education Strategic Infrastructure Fund (HESIF II) was launched in 2022 and the evaluation process was substantially progressed. Outcomes will be announced in early 2023.

University College Cork (UCC) student accommodation project at Victoria Cross (Crow's Nest) is due for completion in 2023.

The Technological Sector Strategic Projects Fund was launched in February 2022 to strengthen the technological sector by supporting additional capacity and delivering core infrastructure improvements including research and innovation activity. It will support the identification of a pipeline of projects which will support an ambitious transformation agenda including the strengthening of progression pathways from further education and, realising the full potential of digital technologies and ensuring that our campuses are flexible and future-proofed.

Six projects were approved to proceed to Preliminary Business Case stage in 2022, three of which are located in the southern region i.e. MTU Cork - Block D and A Combined Extension, MTU Tralee - Kerry Campus Learner Centre and TUS Thurles- Connected Campus.

A second phase of the jointly funded DFHERIS/SEAI Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation Pathfinder Programme (EEDPP) was launched in 2021. The number of projects gaining approval in principle under the two rounds has now grown to fifteen from an initial eight in the first round. Under this expanded programme, projects for the University of Limerick (UL) (IBC 2), MTU Kerry (Melbourn Building), SETU Waterford (Deep fabric retrofit to Business School), SETU Carlow (Burrin Building) and UCC (Enterprise Deep Retrofit) were approved in principle to progress. This is in addition to a previous project approved for UCC (Decarbonisation of the O'Rahilly Building Heating System) under the 2020 EEDPP. These projects will test and demonstrate energy retrofit approaches, build scale, and inform key stakeholders. Approval has been given for a third round of the EEDPP for the higher education sector.

MTU Cork has received approval for funding for upgrades to the main 1974 campus building under the Higher Education Infrastructure Upgrade and Refurbishment Fund. The programme of works are phased over five years to minimise disruption to students and staff. The implementation strategy is based on seven work phases, Phases 1 to 4 are complete, Phase 5 is planned for completion in Q4 2023 and the remaining phases are due to be completed by 2025.

The TUS Coonagh Campus Phase 1 project reached procurement for the Fit-Out Phase in 2022. The Enabling Shell and Core Phase was completed which involved heavy civil and structural works and

changes to the building envelope in advance of the Fit-Out Phase. TUS proceeded to tender for the Fit Out in November 2022 with tenders returned in December 2022. Following tender assessment and the subsequent award of the contract, it is anticipated that works will commence on site in Q1 2023.

The Apprenticeship Expansion Programme 2021 approved funding to enable expansion in apprenticeship provision. Funding was approved for five projects across TUS, SETU and MTU including two which were electrical projects, two were electrical and plumbing and one was a plumbing and metal fabrication project. All five projects were complete in 2022. Funding was also approved in 2022 for apprenticeship programmes identified to introduce Phase 6 electrical training in MTU Kerry.

The upgrade works at SETU Carlow were completed in 2022 at a cost of €440,000.

The entrance works at MTU Tralee were completed in 2022 at a cost of €393,000.

## Further Education and Training (FET)

The NDP provided for the first time a dedicated capital envelope for the FET sector. Expenditure increased from €5.5 million in 2018 to €44.1 million in 2022.

This increased level of funding provided an opportunity to establish and support a range of programmes including:

- Targeted support of €2.7 million was provided during 2022 to support six Apprenticeship applications providing for both additional capacity and new and modernised apprenticeship syllabi, for off-the-job Phase 2 training in Education and Training Board (ETB) centres,
- Devolved Capital Grant of just over €3.1 million was split across six ETBs to provide funding for minor capital projects and equipment renewal,
- The progression of seven capital and emergency health and safety projects,
- Capital support was approved for the provision of NZEB (Near Zero Energy Building) Centres of Excellence. Two NZEB capital projects were progressed in 2022 for Cork ETB and Limerick Clare ETB.

The Strategic Infrastructure Upgrade Fund (SIUF) for the FET sector was announced by the Minister in February 2022. The primary purpose of the SIUF

is to support ETB capital projects that will upgrade existing FET infrastructure and provide a high quality teaching and learning environment, aligned with the principles of the FET College of the Future. The Fund is targeted at projects costing between €100,000 and €5 million. Each ETB was invited to submit up to a maximum of two project proposals. The total indicative value of the Fund is €80 million. Under the SIUF five projects (KETB-1. Tralee Monavalley and 2. Listowel Kerry Campus, TETB-Carrick-On-Suir, LCETB- Limerick CFE, CETB- Mallow Youthreach) were approved to proceed to design and planning in 2022.

The FET College of the Future Major Projects Fund was launched in February 2022, with a funding envelope of €115 million, with the objective of addressing existing deficits in current FET infrastructure, supporting projects that drive reform of the FET sector, including consolidation of provision in high quality facilities, integration of further education and training, realisation of centres of excellence and unified tertiary planning. Projects over the value of €5 million were considered under this programme call. Four College of the Future Major Projects were announced in the Southern region (TETB-Clonmel, CETB-Bishopstown, LCETB-Newcastlewest and KETB-Killarney) and reached the Preliminary Business Case stage in 2022



## 3.6

## National Strategic Outcome 6 – High-Quality International Connectivity

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

The Shannon Airport Group has continued with development of its property portfolio in the Shannon Free Zone, assisting the IDA and EI in their drive for inward investment and increased employment in the region. The Shannon Airport Group continues to implement its business plan to redevelop and refurbish its core commercial properties at the Shannon Campus; construction and the development within the Shannon Free Zone is ongoing with a number of older properties having been upgraded and with the development of new high-grade commercial/light industrial buildings offering superior property solutions for existing and potential tenants. The Group is currently working on a number of future projects which include further development opportunities as well as expansion for existing tenants seeking additional space.

The Shannon Airport Group is a key project partner in Future Mobility Campus Ireland (FMCI). FMCI is the first complete development centre and full-scale test bed in Ireland, based in the Shannon Industrial Estate.

The facility focuses on comprehensive mobility technologies that span both ground and air uses (for example autonomous driving, micro-mobility, smart cities, un-manned drones). FMCI supports a range of parties; from individual researchers to multi-national corporations, as well as start-ups and government entities. FMCI assists organisations to conceive, develop, trial, and deploy transformative transport solutions locally in Shannon but relative globally.

The Shannon Airport Group is a founding partner of FMCI and has been a driving force in setting up the company along with providing significant contributions towards its establishment. FMCI Testbed has seen CAV companies already start to locate in Shannon, for example, EXIDA and RENOVO Auto. Throughout 2022 the Shannon Airport Group supported the development of FMCI new Control Centre investment, with refurbishment works on the

new FMCI Control Centre, test car park area and estate infrastructure completed in 2022. The funding for FMCI is a Government initiative under Project Ireland 2040 and aligns with the Future Jobs Ireland framework.

Continued Exchequer support for smaller regional airports is provided under the Regional Airports Programme 2021-2025, including Kerry Airport. In addition, due to the impact of COVID 19 on regional State airports and their suppressed passenger numbers in 2020 and 2021, Exchequer funding was also provided to both Shannon and Cork regional State airports in 2022 under the Regional Airports Programme. While the Programme supported Shannon Airport in implementing capital projects to ensure regulatory compliance in the areas of safety and security, funding was provided to Cork airport to support a significant runway overlay project. This project involved the remediation works to upgrade and replace life expired infrastructure and is considered to be a key strategic asset for the South of Ireland for the next 20 years.

In relation to ports, the Port of Cork Company's Ringaskiddy Redevelopment Project was completed and became operational in April 2022. The €90 million Cork Container Terminal (CCT) at Ringaskiddy was officially opened in September 2022. The new 360m-long quay has a 13m depth of water, meaning it is capable of handling some of the biggest container ships in the world, typically 300m long and 16 containers wide. The development will enable the Port to increase capacity and throughput, accommodate larger vessels and further develop it as an international gateway for trade. The completion of the project represents the first phase of the Port's Strategic Development Plan and capital investment program which will see new cargo handling equipment, an extension of the deep-water berth, and a further extension of Ringaskiddy over the coming years.

The project was part funded by the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) which is European grant funding along with finance from the European Investment Bank and Ireland Strategic Investment Fund. The operation of this new world class container terminal

represents the conclusion of years of planning, financing, and construction and will future proof the Port of Cork to the benefit of the Irish, regional and local economies.

Shannon Foynes Port Company's (SFPC's) Infrastructure Development Programme is well underway and will consist of a jetty expansion program, the joining of the East and West Jetties and the infill behind, land purchase and 38 hectare site development for a new port logistics park at Foynes Port and the Foynes Rail Reinstatement. The investment programme will improve international connectivity and increase capacity through the construction of new quay walls and associated port infrastructure and external connectivity with the upgrade of the N69 and the reinstatement of the Limerick-Foynes rail line. The project has successfully been awarded European Grant funding from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). In addition, in accordance with its Masterplan, Vision 2041, SFPC has commenced pre-planning for a new 800m deep water berth with 18m draught alongside at Foynes. This infrastructure will also enable SFPC operate as a marshalling port for offshore wind, providing the necessary port capacity requirements for floating offshore wind on the Atlantic coast. The future development of the Deepwater Port at Foynes Island will provide both offshore wind integration services as well as a Neo-Panamax-capable container terminal providing the required capacity to expand the container business at the inner Port of Foynes.

€64 million of Exchequer funding was provided to Iarnród Éireann in 2022 to undertake rehabilitation works on the Foynes – Limerick freight line. Subject to funding allocation it is expected that works to reinstate the line will take 18 months to complete, and it is anticipated that the route will open for freight services in 2025.

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

In line with the Strategic Masterplan for Rosslare Europort, Iarnród Éireann and Rosslare are investing in customer facilities, port infrastructure, freight facilities, port assets, new technology and linking the new entrance of the port with a proposed new port access road. Additionally, to support the free flow of import and export trade through Rosslare to GB, plans are underway by the OPW to progress the construction of permanent State Agency facilities

within the Port for the regulatory controls required by the State post Brexit.

Rosslare Europort and Irish Rail are also progressing plans for the development of largescale facilities at the port for the development of ORE and anticipate that they will lodge a planning application in 2023.

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



# 3.7

## National Strategic Outcome 7 – Enhanced Amenity and Heritage

### National Cultural Institutions Investment Programme

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media continues to implement the National Cultural Institution Capital Investment Programme under the National Development Plan. The plan commits to investing €460 million in our National Cultural Institutions over the ten years of the NDP and, on this basis, a key project in Cork City was advanced in 2022:

- Work continues on the final business case preparation for the redevelopment of the Crawford Art Gallery in Cork including further exhibition and office spaces. These plans include the integration of the Crawford Art Gallery into the wider urban regeneration initiative at Opera Lane and the creation of a cultural plaza. The project was submitted for planning in November

2022 and it is anticipated that the project will receive a formal grant of planning permission in March 2023.

### Sport Facilities

The Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF) was launched in 2018 to provide support for larger sports projects where the level of exchequer support is greater than that available under the Sports Capital Expenditure Programme (see details of the SCEP under NSO 3). The fund initially focused on the requirements and development plans of National Governing Bodies of sport and Local Authorities. Following a detailed assessment process, provisional and formal allocations of €86.3 million have been announced for 33 successful applicants. A number of projects have commenced, while the majority of the projects are undergoing examination of economic analyses and financial workings or completing legal formalities before commencing on site.

Table 14: Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund Successful Projects in Southern Region

Advocates	Summary of Project	Total Grant
Limerick City and County Council, Athletics Ireland	Construction of athletics track to International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) standard including all associated track facilities with disability access. The development includes a 400m oval shaped, 8-lane synthetic athletics track including a 100m sprint track, a centre of track sports field, a walking circuit around the track, floodlighting and public lighting of the facilities. The project is nearing completion.	€1,256,276
Limerick City and County Council	Askeaton Pool - Relocation and rewiring of the plant room due to flooding.	€646,659
Tipperary County Council, Tennis Ireland, Tipperary GAA, Limerick Institute of Technology	Thurles Regional Sports Campus - A tennis centre containing six covered clay courts and two open air courts; One 4G full-sized floodlit pitch incorporating a covered stand for 600 spectators; One sand-carpet, full-sized floodlit pitch with covered accommodation for further spectators as part of the principal stand structure; a multi-purpose ancillary space building, an extension to the strength and conditioning facility and a lit running trail.	€562,554

Kilkenny County Council	The Watershed Development - Expansion of the gym to maximise space to create a dual purpose spin studio. Replace defender filters in the swimming pool. Track Hoists for changing rooms to cater for people with a disability.	€1,443,750
Wexford County Council	Enniscorthy Sports Hub - Upgrade the existing Athletics facility to include the provision of a sports amenity building and construction of a throwing cage for discus and hammer.	€300,000
Munster Technological University (formerly Cork Institute of Technology), Cork City Council, Athletics Ireland	Construction and operation of a high performance athletics indoor training facility. Resurfacing of the existing outdoor track.	€9,225,000
Cork County Council Football Association of Ireland	Munster Centre of Excellence Phase One (Glanmire) - Development of facilities including grass pitches, floodlighting, artificial pitch with floodlighting and dressing rooms.	€2,025,699
Rowing Ireland, Cork County Council	Replacement of rowing and landing pontoons and access gangways, development (Albano course) at the National Rowing Centre.	€613,049
Munster Branch IRFU (MBIRFU), Cork City Council	Construction of an indoor Training Facility with a floodlight 3G playing surface, gymnasium, dressing rooms and treatment rooms. Single storey ticketing booth and associated parking facilities.	€1,512,017
Waterford City Council and the GAA	Redevelopment of Walsh Park, Waterford. This will see the capacity of Walsh Park increase from 11,046 to 15,438. The project will also see a new state of the art PA System, turnstiles, dressing rooms, VIP area and administration offices and toilets are to be developed. The project was broken into Phases with Phase 1 underway currently and progressing as planned with €1,126,000 funding available towards Phase 1.	€3,753,000

## Tourism

Tourism development plays a key role in enhancing amenity and heritage (NSO 7) around the country, in conjunction with its role in strengthening rural economies and communities (NSO 3).

With specific regard to State-owned or managed built and natural heritage sites and amenities, Fáilte Ireland has developed a series of strategic partnerships with key State bodies (OPW and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; NPWS; Coillte; and Waterways Ireland) that own and manage attractions and sites considered to be of vital importance to

tourism. Through these partnerships, Fáilte Ireland can assist with the refurbishment and enhancement of key visitor attractions and advise on further experience development and marketing, thereby assisting these bodies to unlock the tourism potential of Ireland's natural and built heritage assets and meet the growing international demand for world-class outdoor tourism experiences.

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

provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure or the necessary maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in Ireland.

The scheme seeks to support those sporting and recreational pursuits based on use of the resources of the countryside that contribute to healthy active lifestyles and the economic and tourism potential of the area for both local communities and tourist visitors alike.

### **Fáilte Ireland-supported amenity and heritage related projects advanced in 2022**

In 2022, despite a second year of COVID-19 restrictions, work continued on the following Fáilte Ireland-funded amenity and heritage projects:

- The Shannon Tourism Masterplan [developed under strategic partnership between Fáilte Ireland and Waterways Ireland and in collaboration with the 10 Local Authorities along the navigation] was launched in March 2021. The Plan sets out an ambitious roadmap with 120 actions to support the Shannon to become an iconic visitor experience for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands. In 2022, new mooring and cruise berths were completed at Redbridge, Co Longford, Rooskey, Co Longford and at two locations in Athlone, Co Westmeath. Work commenced on the redevelopment of Connaught Harbour in 2022 and is scheduled for completion in Q2, 2023. This will see the addition of 40 additional cruise berths, enhanced public realm, trail head for the Hymany Way on the Beara Breifne Way, campervan facilities as well as a blueway connection from Connaught Harbour to Castle Harbour and an off road pedestrian linkage to the town.
- Significant progress was made on the Beara Breifne Trail Audit Plan, once the COVID-19 lockdowns ended in May 2021. Work is well underway on the Interpretation, Wayfinding and Branding strategies which will ensure the development of the trail as an internationally motivating long distance walking trail. The Beara Breifne Way Trail Audit, Interpretation and Wayfinding Plan was completed in 2022. The Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Plan is currently being finalised.
- Fáilte Ireland and Coillte progressed the International Mountain Biking Proposition for Rural Ireland, comprising four separate projects – due to deliver four national trail centres across seven counties and over 300km of trails. This is considered to be of particular importance

in developing the activities tourism offering in Ireland. The proposition includes: one project in the Southern area (the Ballyhoura Visitor Centre Trail Head Building, Co. Limerick); two projects in the Eastern and Midland Region (Mountain Bike Centres in Ticknock, Dublin & Ballinastoe, Wicklow and the Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Centre, Laois/Offaly); and one project in the North West (the Coolaney Mountain Bike Centre and Trail Development in Sligo).

- In April 2022, the Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Trail was officially opened which included over 80km of new trails across the Slieve Blooms in Laois and Offaly. Planning consent for new Trail Head Visitor Facilities at Ballyhoura, Co Limerick and Baunreagh Co Limerick were approved in Q4, 2022.
- In 2022, a total of 25km of new trails were constructed bringing the total amount of new trails developed to 64km and a total trail network of 185km. An additional 32km of new trails will be constructed in 2023 delivering a total of 95km of new trail and a trail network of approximately 300km of mountain bike trails across the 5 sites.
- Fáilte Ireland will continue to work with Department of Rural and Community Development on the Walks Scheme and the ambition to add 70 walks to the scheme. In long distance walking, a plan will be developed to set a Roadmap for the delivery of a Wild Atlantic Way Coastal Path.
- Fáilte Ireland will also continue to work with the National Parks and Wildlife Service on enhancing and expanding the visitor experience at our beautiful national parks. The new trail development at Connemara National Park will progress to delivery in 2023.

In addition to the above projects, which are all aimed at developing the outdoors/activity offering, Fáilte Ireland also progressed its strategic partnership with the OPW and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This led to the completion and opening of a tourism development at the Customs House, Dublin, in 2021. Three further projects were advanced in 2021 and were completed in 2022 under this partnership – visitor centres at Knowth in Meath, Céide Fields in Mayo, and the Blaskets Centre in Kerry. A further 9 projects remain under development with the OPW/ DHLGH under the Strategic Partnership.

## Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) – in Partnership with DRCD

In 2021 the ORIS scheme awarded investment of €3.5 million for 189 small scale projects across the country and €15.5 million to develop 66 outdoor recreation projects and development funding for a further 18 projects. Fáilte Ireland contributed €4 million towards these projects in partnership with DRCD in 2021. Fáilte Ireland collaborates with DRCD on the evaluation of the ORIS Scheme and the roll out of previous years investments.

While Fáilte Ireland did not co-fund the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme in 2022, collaboration is ongoing with regard to the opportunities for tourism recreation infrastructure within the scheme.

## Urban Animation Scheme

Fáilte Ireland's Urban Animation Capital Investment Scheme is a pilot capital grants scheme for Local Authorities. Launched in April 2021, this scheme is aimed at supporting sustainable tourism development through public realm and urban animation projects that have the potential to transform and re-imagine urban centres for visitors and communities. Following a competitive assessment process, €4.2 million in funding was awarded to urban animation projects in six counties, where the local stories, culture and heritage will be brought to life through a variety of large-scale outdoor performance spaces, public art and light installations. In the Southern region, the following funding allocations were made:

- Cork City Council (€673,310) - Progress with installations to be completed by end of 2023. September.
- Kilkenny County Council (€439,875) - To date three of the five elements of the project have been completed.
- Waterford City and County Council (€539,275) - Clock Sculpture was completed in late 2022 and officially launched on 21st December 2022.

## Platforms for Growth

Fáilte Ireland is currently investing in large-scale tourism attractions and experiences through its capital investment programme, Platforms for Growth (2019 to 2022). This programme has run two investment platforms to date – a programme of funding to support and expand immersive heritage and cultural attractions and an investment programme, in partnership with Local Authorities, to develop activity facility centres for water-based activities.

Fáilte Ireland's first call for applications (Platforms for Growth 1), in 2019, focused on the platform of immersive heritage and cultural attractions, inviting proposals for large-scale projects of €2.5 million upwards. The aim is to ensure strong economic growth by investing in heritage and cultural attractions of scale that will motivate visitors to travel, either to and/or within Ireland, but without displacing the existing attractions of a destination or disturbing the competitiveness already in mature destinations.

The second platform (Platforms for Growth 2), launched in December 2020 and involving a targeted call for applications from local authorities, aims to develop activity facility centres at waterside locations across Ireland. €19 million worth of investment was announced for this platform, to be used to develop world-class facility centres at 20 locations across the country where water-based activities are a key visitor attraction. These facilities, designed to serve as a hub in each locality from which multiple water-sports operators can base themselves, will provide hot showers, changing and toilet facilities, secure storage, induction spaces, equipment wash-down and orientation points.

# 3.8

## National Strategic Outcome 8 – Climate-Resilient Society

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

In 2022 Project Ireland 2040 continued to see major investment by the commercial state sector in energy, involving ESB/EirGrid:

- The Celtic Interconnector 700MW project, connecting Ireland to France, reached significant milestones during 2022. In February 2022, the CRU published its decision on the Celtic Electricity Interconnector EirGrid Regulatory Framework which sets out the regulatory framework to support the development of the project. In May 2022, An Bord Pleanála granted approval for the Ireland Onshore element of the Celtic Interconnector Project, subject to a number of conditions. In August 2022, an application for a Foreshore Licence in Ireland, submitted in 2021, was granted by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (Foreshore Unit), while an application to the UK Marine Management Organisation under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Part 4, for a marine licence to undertake the installation of that portion of the Celtic Interconnector within the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) was granted in September 2022. Stakeholder, public and landowner engagement is a particularly significant part of the Celtic Interconnector project. A Community Benefit Strategy is now in place, with a total of €2.4 million of community benefit funds allocated for the project.
- EirGrid are in the construction phase of an electricity project to reinforce the network in the general Laois-Kilkenny region. There has been a number of recent developments in this project and work has commenced on the Ballyragget and Coolnabackey substations. As part of the Laois Kilkenny reinforcement

project, 12 community organisations were awarded funding as part of the EirGrid Phase 1 Community Benefit Fund (totalling €204,600). Landowner and stakeholder engagement is ongoing, and currently remains highly positive.

- The Cross Shannon Cable Project is a submarine cable that will link the electricity substation at Kilpaddock in North Kerry to the Moneypoint generating station in Clare. During times of high wind, the Cross Shannon Cable Project will facilitate the flow of renewable electricity from the west to the east of the country. The project has already received planning permission and licencing and land acquisition activities are ongoing.
- The Aghada project involving a new configuration at Aghada 220kV Station has now been completed. This project facilitated the connection of equipment for a battery storage project.
- The Ballyvouskill 220kV reactor project is now completed and will provide voltage support in the Southwest, specifically in low wind scenarios.

### Climate Action Fund

Over €8.4 million in funding from the Climate Action Fund has been allocated for the Green Renewable Agricultural Zero Emissions Gas project, led by Gas Networks Ireland. This project will deliver the first large-scale central grid injection (CGI) facility in the State and will collect renewable gas from anaerobic digestion plants in the catchment area, transport it by road to the facility, and inject it into Ireland's gas network. The CGI will connect to the transmission network near Mitchelstown and the land for the CGI has been secured and full planning permission obtained.

Under the Road Management Office (RMO) – Local Authority Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project, up to €17.47 million will be invested from the Climate Action Fund, to retrofit 210,000 non-LED Local Authority public lights to high efficiency LED Lanterns. Retrofitting to LED lights and implementing the new dimming and trimming profiles has the potential to save over 55% in energy

and maintenance costs for Local Authorities once completed and is estimated to deliver emissions reduction of over 30,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum. The project will run in 3 distinct phases, coinciding with three regions – Southwest (led by Cork County Council), East (led by Kilkenny County Council) and Northwest (led by Mayo County Council). Validation of this project is being finalised with approval expected to issue shortly.

The 3CEA (Three Counties Energy Agency) – Driving HGV efficiency into Brexit project, moved to delivery phase in late 2020. Up to €1.37 million will be provided from the Climate Action Fund to support the transport sector in reducing fuel consumption and emissions from vehicles. Over a two-year period, telematics equipment will be installed in over 1,000 heavy goods vehicles and appropriate training for the drivers will be provided. Through continuous monitoring and positive reinforcement of driving behaviour performance, at least 10% fuel efficiency is expected to accrue. Depending on project results, it may be scaled further by private industry.

## Climate Action Regional Offices

Four Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) were established in 2018 to facilitate effective climate action at regional and local level and are funded through an SLA with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. The CAROs are operated by a lead local authority in four different regions around the country. The CAROs coordinate and support the 31 local authorities to lead transformative change and measurable climate action across Ireland's cities and counties.

All of the counties covered by the CARO Atlantic Seaboard South office are in the Southern Regional Assembly region - Clare, Limerick, Kerry, Cork City and County. The lead local authority for the Atlantic Seaboard North office is Cork County Council.

In 2022, the CAROs played a key role supporting the delivery of actions for the local authority sector in the Climate Action Plan across a number of areas. Specific achievements in the Southern region include:

- The ASBS regional coordinator spoke at a conference on Coordinating Local Government to deliver climate action, making the link between the work of the CAROs and biodiversity officers and ecologists in local

authorities and other state agencies.

- CARO ASBS had a stand at the Cork Summer Show run by the Munster Agricultural Society attended by over 60,000 people in June. Over the two days over 600 people engaged with the stand which had science demonstrations proving the heating effect of Carbon Dioxide as well as fun experiments for kids and posters about the science.

## Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme

The Eastern and Midland Region CARO, with support from Tipperary County Council and the Local Authority Services National Training Group, is responsible for delivering the Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme nationally. This programme aims to develop capacity within the local government sector to deliver ambitious climate action measures at local level and is funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

This programme is designed to increase understanding of climate change and the need for action among all local authority staff and elected members. Building climate action capacity in the local authorities is essential to support the leadership role in the fight against climate change and in building resilience to its negative effects.

The Climate Action Training Programme comprises a suite of six training pillars, each tailored and designed to specific target groupings. Training is delivered in areas such as climate science, the translation of international and national policy to local requirements, practical adaptation and mitigation measures, leadership, local innovation and behavioural change. Specific training has been rolled out to support local authorities with their local climate action plans.

The councils set annual targets for the number of local authority staff (including front line staff, senior management and climate action teams) and elected members who will receive climate related training. In 2021, 13,500 staff from all local authorities completed training through the programme. In 2022, 4,019 staff completed training.



## Flood Relief Schemes

There are 59 Flood Relief Schemes ongoing or planned for the Southern Region.

This includes Templemore Flood Relief Scheme, Co. Tipperary, and Springfield Flood Relief Scheme, Co.

Clare, which are currently at construction. Douglas Flood Relief Scheme reached substantial completion in 2022 and now provides protection to over 220 properties.

Table 15: Planned Flood Relief Schemes in the Southern Region

County	Number of Schemes
Limerick	7
Clare	6
Tipperary	8
Waterford	2
Wexford	2
Kilkenny	6
Carlow	1
Cork	20
Kerry	7
Total	59



## 3.9

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

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

Overall there are currently 27 water and wastewater projects in progress and a further 68 project planned in the Southern Region.

At sub-regional level, in the Southern Mid-West there were two new water treatment plants constructed at Corofin and New Doolough and there are currently five projects in progress, including three new waste water treatment plants in Kilrush, Liscannor and Kilfenora. Ennistymon Water Supply and Clarecastle Wastewater Network also commenced in 2022.

**Table 16: Statistics on Water & Wastewater Projects**

Southern	Completed	In Progress	Planned
Clare	2	5	7
Limerick	0	0	9
Tipperary	1	1	12
Carlow	0	4	4
Kilkenny	1	2	1
Waterford	0	1	5
Wexford	3	1	4
Cork	6	12	24
Kerry	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>68</b>

### Uisce Éireann Projects

In the South-East, there were five water and wastewater projects completed in 2022 including Athurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon waste water treatment plant upgrades. There are nine water and waste water projects in progress including the Rathvilly Water Supply Treatment Plant Upgrade.

Works commenced on this project in 2022 which will ensure the removal of Carlow North Regional Water Supply from the EPA's Remedial Action List and ensure compliance with current drinking water quality regulations.

In the South-West, there were seven projects completed in 2022 including Castletownbere

wastewater treatment plant upgrade which has now eliminated the discharge of untreated wastewater into Bantry Bay. New wastewater treatment plants were also completed in Coachford, Dripsey and Inishannon.

The Lee Road Water Treatment Plant upgrade in Cork City was also completed which provides approximately 70% of Cork City's total treated water supply. Work progressed in 2022 on the upgrade to the water supply in Cork City including the Eastern Strategic Trunk Watermain, the Shanakiel Watermains Upgrades and the Western Trunk Watermain providing strategic network interconnections. There are currently 13 water and waste water projects in progress, in the South-West (Cork and Kerry), including Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme in west Kerry which will provide a new sewer collection system that will ensure wastewater from the village is treated appropriately.

## 3.10

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

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

### Education

In excess of 50 school building projects delivered under the School Building Programme in the Southern Region in 2022 of which 24 (listed in the table below) were of a value in excess of € 1 million:

**Table 17: Schools Building Projects delivered with a value in excess of €1 million in the Southern Region during 2022**

No.	County	School	School Type
1	Carlow	St. Laserian's NS	Primary
2	Clare	Lissycasey NS	Primary
3	Clare	Ennis Community College	Post Primary
4	Cork	Cloyne NS	Primary
5	Cork	SN Cnoc Na Manach	Primary
6	Cork	SN Fionan Na Reanna	Primary
7	Cork	Scoil Naomh Padraig	Primary
8	Cork	St Killians Special School	Special Education
9	Cork	Colaiste and Phairsaigh	Post Primary
10	Cork	Le Cheile Post Primary School	Post Primary
11	Cork	Kinsale Community School	Post Primary
12	Cork	Glasheen Pouladuff Cork city Primary School	Primary
13	Kerry	GS Mhic Easmainn	Primary
14	Kerry	Killarney Community College	Post Primary
15	Kilkenny	SN Baile an Phuill	Primary
16	Kilkenny	Grennan College	Post Primary
17	Limerick	Mungret Community College	Post Primary
18	Tipperary	SN Mhuire Na Trocaire	Primary
19	Tipperary	Portroe NS	Primary
20	Tipperary	GS Chluain Meala	Primary

No.	County	School	School Type
21	Waterford	St Stephens NS	Primary
22	Waterford	De La Salle College	Post Primary
23	Wexford	SN Naomh Seosaimh	Primary
24	Wexford	Gorey Educate Together Secondary School	Post Primary

Source: Department of Education

A further 540 schools building projects were at various stages of planning, design and construction, of which 361 were of a value in excess of €1 million.

**Table 18: Status of existing Schools Building Projects on 1st January 2023 with a value in excess of €1 million**

Status of Ongoing Project (EMR)	Southern
Project Brief	17
Stage 1 (Preliminary Design)	201
Stage 2a (Developed Sketch Scheme)	28
Stage 2b (Detailed Design)	40
Stage 3 (Tender Stage)	22
Onsite	53
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>361</b>

Source: Department of Education

## Health

In 2022 progress was made on a number of projects across the community and acute sectors in the Southern region. On the community side, progress continued on the Community Nursing Unit (CNU) programme with five facilities completing across the Southern region (Clonakilty Community Hospital in Cork, the Community Hospitals at Cahersiveen and Listowel in Kerry, Raheen CNU in Clare and Sacred Heart Hospital in Carlow). Outside of the CNU programme, completion of an extension to Heather House, St Mary's Campus Cork provided 60 additional beds, the new Blarney CNU provided 50 additional beds, while the Older Person Replacement Rehabilitation Beds at St. Finbarr's Hospital provided 70 replacement beds.

The Primary Care Centre programme continued to progress in 2022 with the completion of eight new facilities across the Southern region (Ballincollig,

Beara, Castleisland, Ennis (Station Road), Enniscorthy, Fermoy, Ferrybank (Waterford/ Kilkenny), Thomastown/Ballyhale). Also in 2022, works on the mental health facility at Carriagaline, Cork created 14 High Support Mental Health Residential care beds, and in Clonmel the 10-bed Crisis House unit was completed.

Acute facilities completed included the new 72-bed replacement Medical Ward Block at St Luke's General Hospital, Kilkenny, the Blood Science Project at Cork University Hospital, the new Modular Ward Block at Mercy University Hospital, Cork, the reconfiguration of the High Dependency Unit at University Hospital Kerry, and at University Hospital Waterford the second Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory and a theatre to facilitate ophthalmology procedures were completed.

**Table 19: Health capital projects completed and operational in the Southern Region in 2022**

Facility	Project details
St. Luke's General Hospital, Kilkenny	New 72 Bed Replacement Medical Ward Block.
Cork University Hospital	Blood Science Project - Extension and Refurbishment of existing pathology laboratory.
University Hospital Kerry	Reconfiguration of existing High Dependency Unit (5 bed).
University Hospital Limerick	Lift Replacement Programme (4 Lifts).
Ennis General Hospital	Phased redevelopment of Ennis GH - fit out of vacated areas in existing building.
Carrigaline, Cork	14 single bed dwelling purchased to create 14 bed High Support Mental Health Residential care beds.
Raheen Community Nursing Unit	HIQA Compliance – Refurbishment (25 beds).
Clonakilty Community Hospital and Long Stay (Mount Carmel)	HIQA Compliance - Refurbishment and Extension (122 beds).
Cahersiveen Community Hospital	HIQA Compliance - Refurbishment and Extension (33 beds).
Heather House, St Mary's Health Campus, Cork	60 single bedroom extension to existing 50 bed Heather House CNU.
Listowel Community Hospital	HIQA Compliance - Refurbishment and Extension (24 beds).
Ennis, Station Road Primary Care Centre	Primary Care Centre, by lease agreement.
Beara (Castletownbearhaven) Primary Care Centre	Primary Care Centre, by lease agreement.
Fermoy Primary Care Centre	Primary Care Centre, by lease agreement
Castleisland Primary Care Centre	Primary Care Centre, by lease agreement.
Ballincollig Primary Care Centre	Primary Care Centre, by lease agreement.
Enniscorthy Primary Care Centre	Primary Care Centre, by lease agreement.
Thomastown/Ballyhale Primary Care Centre	Primary Care Centre, by lease agreement.
Ferrybank Primary Care Centre	Primary Care Centre, by lease agreement.
Sacred Heart Hospital, Carlow	HIQA – Refurbishment and Extension (63 beds).

Facility	Project details
Mercy University Hospital, Cork	Radiology Expansion Phase 2.
Mercy University Hospital, Cork	Additional Bed Capacity - new modular 30-bed ward block.
HUB 08 - Ennis - St. Joseph's, Enhanced Community Care Programme	Blockwork extension in an existing courtyard to provide 6 additional offices in advance of the full Hub.
HUB 07 - Limerick, Enhanced Community Care Programme	Fit out of leased building for interim accommodation for support services.
University Hospital Waterford	Development of a theatre to facilitate cataract surgery and other Ophthalmology procedures.
University Hospital Waterford	Second Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory to enable the expansion of the Cardiac Diagnostic/ Interventional service.
Crisis House Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	10 bed Crisis Housing unit to facilitate the vacation of St Luke's Hospital.
Blarney CNU, Blarney Co. Cork	50 Single Bedroom new development.
St Finbarr's Hospital, Cork	Older Person Replacement Rehabilitation Beds - 20 single room beds in new build and 50 refurbished beds in existing building.

Source: HSE Capital & Estates

# 3.11

## Other Public Investment Sectors

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### Justice

The Irish Prison Service have completed the Limerick Prison redevelopment project Q4 2022. This project delivered a new male prisoner cell accommodation (B wing) with ancillary services, staff facilities and a new kitchen / laundries facilities. A new accommodation facility for female prisoners was also completed, with new visits, reception area, new gate lock and operational support services. Additional related recreational and other support facilities were provided to assist prisoners to reintegrate back into society on release from custody.



