



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
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Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Project Ireland 2040

Eastern and Midland Region

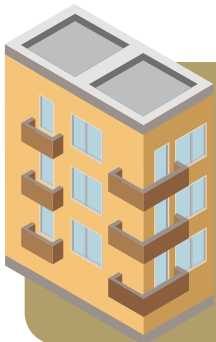
2022 Update

Key Facts and Projects 2022 Update – Eastern and Midland Region



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3,723
new social
housing builds
and **18,669**
total new
dwelling
completions.



BusConnects

Dublin - Rollout of two
Northern Orbital Routes
(Blanchardstown to Point
Village and Finglas to Howth
Junction).
G-Spine, Route 60 launched
October 2022.



N2 Slane Bypass

Preparation on statutory
approval documents and
business case ongoing.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

7 projects approved for
funding from the third
category 2 call.

3 projects approved under
the fourth category 1 call.

Dublin Airport

North Runway
completed and
operational.



Metrolink

Government approval July 2022, Railway Order
application to An Bord Pleanála September 2022,
planning submissions closed January 2023.

40



flood relief schemes are progressing or
planned including **3** in construction:
Athlone Flood Alleviation Scheme, the
Morell River Flood Management
Scheme and the River Dodder Flood
Relief Scheme.

National Train Control Centre

building completed
November 2022.

DART+

Electrification of
Drogheda & Kildare
line, planning lodged
July 2022.



Water and Wastewater

64 projects planned.

15 in progress including:
Old Connaught /
Woodbrook Water
Upgrade, Athlone Main
Drainage Sewer Network
Upgrade.

Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund

14 successful applicants
from the last round,
including in the areas of
swimming, athletics,
rugby, GAA, boxing and
football.



167,348
in IDA supported
employment
109,765
in EI supported
employment



35

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

A further **588** schools
projects were at various
stages of planning, design
and construction.



51 replacement beds at
St Mary's Phoenix Park;
the National Forensic
Mental Health Service
Hospital, Portrane became
operational and two
Ambulance Bases were
completed at Ardee and
Mullingar.



Project Ireland 2040

This document sets out the regional projects and programmes which are being planned and delivered in the Eastern and Midland 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 Eastern and Midland 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 Eastern and Midland Region covers the administrative areas of twelve local authorities – Longford, Westmeath, Offaly, Laois, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Fingal, South Dublin and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Councils and Dublin City Council. The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) is part of regional governance in Ireland, established under local government reform in January 2015.

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 3,723 social housing new builds in the Eastern and Midland Region in 2022, with more planned for 2023.

Table 1: Social Housing Completions 2022

Eastern and Midland Region	Total New Build
Dublin City	613
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	203
Fingal	361
South Dublin	391
Kildare	372
Meath	449
Wicklow	574
Laois	229
Longford	27
Louth	227
Offaly	115
Westmeath	162
Total	3,723

Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Table 2: Total Housing Completions in 2022

Dublin	New Dwelling Completions
Dublin	3,881
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	2,709
Fingal County	2,032
South Dublin	1,747
Louth	789
Kildare	2,628
Meath	1,861
Wicklow	1,555
Laois	518
Longford	124
Offaly	416
Westmeath	409
Total	18,669

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
Dublin City	136	50	86	6,290	6,426
South Dublin	271	240	31	493	764
Fingal	775	701	74	1,373	2,148
Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown	171	113	58	2,647	2,818
Kildare	987	844	143	656	1,643
Louth	541	411	130	450	991

Meath	968	597	371	381	1,349
Wicklow	1,286	1,082	204	483	1,769
Laois	451	270	181	13	464
Longford	76	12	64	7	83
Offaly	368	189	179	118	486
Westmeath	373	193	180	237	610
Total	6,403	4,702	1,701	13,148	19,551

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)

Dublin	Total per County
Dublin City	10
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	6
Fingal	4
South Dublin	4
Kildare	7
Meath	5
Wicklow	4
Laois	3
Longford	2
Offaly	2
Westmeath	6
Louth	3
Total	56

Table 4b: Successful Applications under Call 1 of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF)

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media	Dublin	No. 11 Parnell Square	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media are supporting Poetry Ireland and the Irish Heritage Trust in redeveloping the historically significant No 11 Parnell Square as a state of the art all-island institution celebrating poetry. The project compliments other development projects in the area.
Dublin City Council	Dublin	Rutland Street School	Rutland Street School was used as a school until 2007 before being partially occupied on the lowest floors by local community groups providing services to the area. In this project, the building will be redeveloped as a community development project. Ultimately, the building and site will contain not only provision for the existing community groups, but also, a wide range of other uses.
Dublin City Council	Dublin	Santry River Restoration Project	The Santry river restoration project is to demonstrate how compact regeneration and development can be facilitated while simultaneously complying with environmental and sustainability objectives such as the Water Framework Directive. The outcomes of the initiative will include improved water quality, reduced flood risk, the development of nature-based and other amenities for the communities living within the catchment.
Dublin City Council	Dublin	Artist' Workspace	Funding for two feasibility studies for creative community campuses on two Dublin City Council owned sites in Dublin 8.
Dublin City Council	Dublin	Inchicore - St Michael's Estate & Environs Regeneration	The funding is for a range of associated plans for the area including a proposed socio-economic study in relation to the development of a mixed use neighbourhood in St. Michaels Estate and environs, including long-term cost rental, improving the Camac River and development of Kilmainham Mill site.
Dublin City Council	Dublin	Park West/ Cherry Orchard Industrial Lands Analysis	Funding to carry out a detailed analysis of these primarily industrial lands to assess their potential for high density residential and employment uses taking account of Project 2040.
Dublin City Council	Dublin	Naas Road LAP lands	Funding for a study relating to the impediments to development of these key lands in the Naas Rd Local Area Plan.

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	Dublin	Dundrum Community, Cultural and Civic Action Plan	To support the local authority's development of a community cultural and civic action plan for Dundrum, to assess current provision and make recommendations on future requirements.
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC)	Dublin	Spatial and Economic Action Plan for Dún Laoghaire	The 'Spatial and Economic Action Plan for Dun Laoghaire' will examine a number of other land use scenarios for the Town, with a focus on the potential for employment-related uses. The spatial context for this Action Plan will include a focus on a number of key sites which may be coming available for development in the near future. The Action Plan will provide an economic profile of the town at present and place Dún Laoghaire in the context of the Dublin economy.
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	Dublin	Cherrywood Public Parks, Greenways & Attenuation	This project supports the provision of elements of green infrastructure, such as public parks, greenway and attenuation ponds in Cherrywood Strategic Development Zone (SDZ).
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	Dublin	Stillorgan (Public Realm works)	Stillorgan village is zoned as district centre and this project will support transformative public realm improvements as set out in the "Stillorgan Village Area Movement Framework Plan".
Fingal County Council	Dublin	Balbriggan Rejuvenation	Funding to support the planning and design of a suite of projects to make improvements in Balbriggan and its environs.
Fingal County Council	Dublin	Sustainable Swords	"Sustainable Swords" is a place-making strategy and funding is provided to complete the development of this strategy in order to improve the resilience of the local economy and provide for an enhanced, accessible, inclusive, child friendly and healthy urban environment.
South Dublin County Council	Dublin	Tallaght Town Centre	This project relates to the provision of a number of key infrastructure, services, civic, residential and amenity projects in Tallaght town centre, which upon delivery will act as a catalyst for the wider and long-term growth of Tallaght, as a living town and the thriving heart of South Dublin County.
South Dublin County Council	Dublin	Naas Road/ Ballymount	This project involves a range of studies to develop a plan led approach with a view to develop the brownfield lands into a sustainable, vibrant mixed-use urban quarter.

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Trinity College Dublin	Dublin	Campus at Grand Canal Quay (Public Realm Re-use)	This relates to the development of the Grand Canal Innovation District. This project is led by Trinity College Dublin.
Kildare County Council	Kildare	Naas Library (including Public Realm works)	The proposal is for the redevelopment and rejuvenation of Naas Town Hall to provide a library and cultural centre. The vision is to create an iconic library, cultural and public space in the heart of the historic town of Naas
Kildare County Council	Kildare	Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road	Technical assistance for the advancement of the Celbridge Southern Relief Road & Second Liffey Crossing.
Kildare County Council	Kildare	Newbridge Cultural and Civic Quarter	Project relates to plans to reinvigorate the historic heart of Newbridge and enable the creation of a Cultural and Civic Quarter. Funding will allow for project establishment, stakeholder engagement and feasibility study.
Kildare County Council	Kildare	Canal Quarter Naas	Project is for technical assistance to develop area known as Canal Quarter in Naas, as the cultural and creative district of Naas. The aim is to address the challenges affecting Naas town centre through a plan led transformation of this underutilised area of town while connecting the town centre to peripheral areas in a sustainable and permeable manner. This will be achieved through utilising and investing in the Canal Quarter's existing assets and developing new cultural, civic and retail activities, community amenities and mixed residential/commercial development.
Meath County Council	Meath	Ashbourne Road and Public Realm Improvement	This project involves significant public realm improvements and enhancement of cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in relation to the Miltown Road Works and Main Street.
Meath County Council	Meath	Navan Active Land Management Project	This URDF supported project involves the remediation of certain derelict sites as part of the wider regeneration of the County town of Navan.
Meath County Council	Meath	Railway Street Regeneration and County Archive	Technical assistance for urban regeneration plan for entire lands comprising St. Patrick's classical school and the Council's former offices in Navan.

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Wicklow County Council	Wicklow	Bray Public Transport Bridge	This URDF supported project involves the provision of a new public transport bridge over the river Dargle. This will unlock lands at the former Bray Golf Club site and adjoining brownfield opportunity sites within Bray.
Wicklow County Council	Wicklow	Arklow Historic Town Core	This project will transform the streetscape and public realm in the historic core of Arklow, including a plaza and rationalisation of the existing courthouse building.
Wicklow County Council	Wicklow	Wicklow Town	This project involves the relocation, upgrading of the library, Fitzwilliam Square upgrade, and street improvement.
Laois County Council	Laois	Portlaoise - A Cultural Quarter	This project involves the creation of a Cultural Quarter around the original historic settlement core of Portlaoise. The works will also complement housing projects being supported by DHLG&H.
Laois County Council	Laois	Portlaoise - A Low Carbon Town	This project will assist in delivering on elements of Portlaoise 2040 – A Vision for Portlaoise – a strategy for a better town centre which identified the need to remove car dominance from the town centre, address the poor pedestrian experience, and facilitate and encourage the modal shift to cycling and walking throughout the wider town.
Longford County Council	Longford	Longford Connected - Public Realm Market square	This project involves public realm works to address accessibility and connectivity in Longford Town. URDF support in relation to the Public Realm Regeneration works (Market Square and Grafton Court/Retail Square combined Contract) together with an examination of a Urban Design Framework Plan for supporting bid areas under Longford Connects going forward
Offaly County Council	Offaly	Tullamore Urban Area - Public Realm	Funding will be provided towards the Tullamore Street Enhancement Scheme which will see a variety of works carried out in the town.
Westmeath County Council	Westmeath	Loughanaskin	This area is strategically located in the centre of Athlone. This URDF supported project involves the master planning of this area to provide for integrated enterprise/commercial/ residential development.
Westmeath County Council	Westmeath	Canal Avenue and Environs Regeneration Project	This URDF supported project provides for technical assistance for the development of a project in the eastern quadrant of Mullingar's urban core, in order to revitalise the area including improving connectivity to the royal canal.

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Westmeath County Council	Westmeath	Athlone Tourism Cultural Quarter	Technical assistance to regenerate the West side of Athlone to support its emerging cultural quarter status by combining strategic planning together with best practice planning policies and active land management
Westmeath County Council	Westmeath	Blackhall, Mullingar	Site assembly and technical assistance for the development of a project to unlock the potential for comprehensive regeneration and redevelopment of the southwest quadrant of Mullingar's urban core.
Westmeath County Council	Westmeath	Athlone Town Centre Regeneration and Enhancement	Technical assistance to expedite the Council's planning and design work for improvements to the public realm, unlocking derelict strategic sites and a programme of streetscape improvements.
Louth County Council	Louth	Long Walk Quarter Dundalk	Development of the Long Walk Urban Framework Plan, a rejuvenation scheme intended to reinvigorate the Long Walk Quarter by establishing a new living and working quarter at the heart of Dundalk town centre.
Louth County Council	Louth	Westgate Vision Drogheda	Technical assistance including project management, concept development, feasibility and detailed design and planning associated with "Westgate Vision". Narrow West Street in Drogheda and its environs, known as Westgate is characterised by vacancy, dereliction and underuse of buildings and this project relates to an urban design vision for the area.

Table 4c: Successful Applications under Call 2 of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF)

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Dublin City Council	Dublin	North Inner City Concept Area 1	The North Inner City project involves the regeneration and redevelopment of several areas of the north city that have suffered from dereliction and decline over a number of years. The main objective of this project is to achieve long term sustainable regeneration around the redevelopment of various areas centred around the Fruit and Vegetable Market, Parnell Square Cultural Quarter and Mountjoy Square alongside other complementary Projects.
Dublin City Council	Dublin	South Inner City Concept Area 2	The aim of the South Inner City project is to consolidate urban development and link several strategic areas of the south city through the delivery of a number of complementary projects in order to address existing public realm fragmentation, pockets of deprivation and further enhance areas of redevelopment potential.

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	Dublin	Cherrywood Public Access, Permeability and Amenity	The Cherrywood Public Access, Permeability and Amenity project is about creating a safe and friendly environment where people can live, work and play with the benefits of sustainable, integrated transport, transforming the area into a compact, mixed-use and rail-based community underpinned by the principles of quality urban design and development and place-making.
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC)	Dublin	Dundrum Community, Cultural and Civic Hub (CCCH)	This URDF support is providing an initial catalyst for various targeted areas to be encompassed within a new strategic design strategy for Dundrum.
Fingal County Council	Dublin	Balbriggan Rejuvenation	The Balbriggan Rejuvenation project involves the significant enabling of existing assets centred on its public realm, coastal and architectural character, underutilised brownfield sites by harnessing economic and development opportunities.
Fingal County Council	Dublin	Dunsink Feasibility Study - Transportation and Surface Water Assessments	This URDF supported project will involve feasibility studies in relation to the strategic land bank at Dunsink, in particular assessments relating to transport and surface water. These assessments are required to facilitate the future sustainable development of the area by addressing the need to incorporate national and regional transport policies and objectives into the local level land use plan.
South Dublin County Council	Dublin	Adamstown	The Adamstown project relates to the provision of key elements of supplementary strategic infrastructure in the SDZ (Strategic Development Zone) Planning Scheme, which upon delivery will facilitate the development of the Adamstown town centre element of the SDZ lands, and the continued roll-out of suitably located and scaled housing. This project relates to the provision of supplementary strategic town centre infrastructure.

Applicant	County	Project	Description
South Dublin County Council	Dublin	Clonburris	Clonburris is a Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) and occupies one of the most strategically important landbanks in the state. URDF support for the Clonburris proposal will act as a catalyst for the wider regeneration and development of one of Ireland's largest underutilised sites, the wider South Dublin area and the Dublin region at large. The delivery of the Clonburris SDZ has the potential to be a transformative project of national, regional and local significance in terms of regeneration and urban development. The project will facilitate the provision of distinctive and attractive places where housing can be delivered in tandem with state-of-the-art public realm, green infrastructure and community facilities. The Clonburris proposal involves the provision of critical supplementary strategic infrastructure that will be essential to the appropriate further development of this unique and complex site.
Kildare County Council	Kildare	Maynooth Town Centre Renewal – Strengthening the Grid	This project will support the preparation of a Masterplan informed by an urban design analysis and extensive stakeholder and public consultation to maximise the development potential for the urban block structure and the preparation of key town renewal projects so as to increase town centre living.
Kildare County Council	Kildare	Naas Town Renewal Masterplan	The project will support the preparation of a Naas Town Renewal Masterplan with a strong urban design, public realm, economic and transportation focus for the historic core of Naas. Place making, liveability and connectivity is at the forefront of this proposal to initiate the transformative regeneration of the town centre in a plan led, evidence based approach.
Kildare County Council	Kildare	Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road	This project supports essential infrastructure to support compact consolidated development in Celbridge by realising the full potential of zoned lands south and east of the River Liffey. It will facilitate the delivery of social infrastructure in close proximity to the town centre, public transport services, schools, community facilities and employment hubs and support wider strategic impacts on the public realm and the expansion and development potential of the town centre.
Meath County Council	Meath	Flowerhill and Abbeylands Regeneration	This is a pivotal public realm, amenity enhancements project with a historic refurbishment at its core. This will be the catalyst for development within an area of decline and dereliction that was in the past a hive of activity.

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Wicklow County Council	Wicklow	Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration	This project focuses on the regeneration of the Bray Harbour Area and release of various sites for future development through a series of integrated project elements. The overall vision is to re-imagine and regenerate the strategically located waterfront area of Bray; to increase economic activity, amenity, and connectivity to public transport, the sea-front and esplanade, thus delivering a vibrant public amenity which will be of great benefit to residents and visitors alike.
Laois County Council	Laois	Portlaoise: A place making project for a Low Carbon Town Centre	Portlaoise is Ireland's first designated Low Carbon Town. This project will complement and build on the implementation of other Low Carbon town developments under the previously approved Call 1 project such as cycle routes, E-Car Charging Points, Low Energy Public Lighting, and will also augment the work already underway on the Cultural Quarter
Longford County Council	Longford	Camlin Quarter Regeneration	Building on and further integrating the "Longford Connected" proposals under URDF Call 1, this project involves the development of connections between critical functions of the town core to promote sustainable mobility, social equity and environmental integrity. This project aims to address long standing legacy issues in order to create an attractive environment for living, commerce and investment.
Offaly County Council	Offaly	Tullamore Urban Regeneration Development 2020	This project provides for compact and sustainable development in Tullamore town centre and supplements the Public Realm works carried out under Call 1. The proposed Tullamore Regeneration Framework will be the principal impetus for compact mixed use urban development in the town centre of Tullamore, regenerating vacant and underused town centre sites in a coherent and integrated manner.
Westmeath County Council	Westmeath	Athlone Town Centre Regeneration and Enhancement	This project involves public realm and streetscape enhancement works to unlock the potential of a derelict prominent town centre site. This project is the follow on capital element to the strategic planning and urban design project supported by the URDF under Call 1.
Louth County Council	Louth	St. Nicholas Quarter and Backlands Regeneration	The main aim of the St. Nicholas Quarter & Backlands Regeneration Project is to strategically regenerate St Nicholas Quarter, an area that has experienced high levels of vacancy, including piecemeal/adhoc development and dereliction over the last 30 years

3.2

National Strategic Outcome 2 – Enhanced Regional Connectivity

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

There is one major regional transport project planned for Dublin, the M50 Enhancing Motorway Operation Services (EMOS) Project. The Motorway Operations and Control Centre upgrade was completed and is fully operational. The rollout of infrastructure to provide for Variable Speed Limits is ongoing and expected to be complete in 2023.

There are major regional transport projects planned for the Eastern and Midland Region, including M7 Naas to Newbridge Bypass Widening, the N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme and the Slane Bypass. The status of the projects is as follows:

- N11/M11 Bus Priority Scheme – The Scheme is divided into three sections, A, B and C. Route Option Selection is well advanced for options A and C.
- M7 Naas to Newbridge Bypass Widening – This project was substantially completed in 2020.
- N2 Slane Bypass - The preferred route was published in May 2020 and preparation on the statutory approval documents and Business case is nearing completion. This scheme will be progressed to planning in conjunction with public realm improvements for Slane.

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

Growth enablers for the Dublin Belfast Corridor include improved accessibility and service by rail, road and communication between Dublin and Belfast.

One of the road projects currently in Project Ireland 2040 is the Ardee Bypass which will serve to reduce congestion and delays within the town. The project is presently in the planning system. The proposed scheme will be a Type 2 Single Carriageway and comprise six road junctions, including a proposed roundabout on the N2, and two river bridge structures.

Heavy Rail Network 2022

Construction of the National Train Control Centre (NTCC) continued, the building work was completed in November 2022 with completion and full commissioning now expected by May 2026. The NTCC is a key enabler for expansion of rail services as it will enhance rail traffic management and will underpin both the planned and potential future expansion of rail services across the entire rail network.

The National Transport Authority (NTA) and Iarnród Éireann progressed the order for an additional 41 Inter-City Railcars (ICRs), which started to arrive in 2022 and will enter into service in 2023. The ICRs will further enhance and expand the rail fleet.

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

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

Three projects located in the Eastern and Midland were approved for funding of €9,549,844 from the fourth call for Category 1 applications to the RRDF in November 2022. Seven projects in the region were approved for funding of €6,865,346 under the third call for Category 2 applications to the RRDF in January 2022. In total, 51 projects located in the Eastern and Midlands Region were approved funding of €7,567,357 under the Town and Village Renewal Schemes and 62 projects were approved funding of €4,334,356 under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

Table 5: Projects approved for funding under the RRDF Category 1 fourth call in the Eastern and Midland Region

Lead Body	Project Name	County	Project Description	Total RRDF Funding
Kildare County Council	Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub	Kildare	This project will repurpose a vacant building to deliver a state of the art Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub that will provide a dedicated space for enterprise development, job creation and training in the region.	€4,277,661
Laois County Council	Durrow Community Enterprise Hub	Laois	This project will deliver a community enterprise centre to provide community, arts and remote working space for Durrow and the surrounding hinterland.	€1,456,983
Westmeath County Council	Castlepollard Regeneration	Westmeath	This project will see the refurbishment and extension of the Market House for use as a community and tourism services hub. A 1.2 acre town park will be created adjacent to the library with looped walks, play and exercise areas while the provision of a new path and public realm enhancements will improve linkages into the town centre.	€3,815,200

Source: Department of Rural and Community Development

Table 6: Projects approved for funding under the RRDF Category 2 third call in the Eastern and Midland Region

Lead Body	Project Name	County	Project Description	Total RRDF Funding
Laois County Council	Borris-in-Ossory - Removal of Dereliction	Laois	This project will develop plans for the renovation and re-use of the historic courthouse building in Borris-in-Ossory. The project aims to provide remote working and community facilities.	€212,332
Longford County Council	Granard Destination Town	Longford	This project involves the acquisition of key sites and design and planning to enable the development of a multi-use open space and parkland, as well as public realm enhancement to increase connectivity and reduce congestion in the town centre.	€1,115,400
Westmeath County Council	Castlepollard Regeneration	Westmeath	This project will see the refurbishment and extension of the Market House for use as a community and tourism services hub. A 1.2 acre town park will be created adjacent to the library with looped walks, play and exercise areas while the provision of a new path and public realm enhancements will improve linkages into the town centre.	€3,815,200
Meath County Council	Dunshaughlin Courthouse and Town Centre	Meath	The project will develop plans for the refurbishment of the Courthouse for use as a multi-purpose community space as well as public realm works along two adjacent roads to improve pedestrian safety, traffic flow and parking.	€952,600
Offaly County Council	Edenderry Regeneration Phase II	Offaly	This project involves the acquisition of a town core site and development of plans for a new community library. The acquisition of further sites will also allow for a variety of uses including leisure, community, cultural and services provision.	€2,149,408
Offaly County Council	Ferbane Regeneration	Offaly	This project will develop sites in Ferbane including the purchase of a vacant secondary school and lands to develop a multi-purpose community and enterprise hub. Plans will also include the reuse of the existing Library and Heritage Centre.	€546,400

Lead Body	Project Name	County	Project Description	Total RRDF Funding
Wicklow County Council	Blueprint for Blessington	Wicklow	The project will develop plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of derelict property to create an eHub and a visitor centre for the forthcoming greenway.	€1,034,704
Meath County Council	Oldcastle Town Centre	Meath	This project involves the development of plans for public realm upgrades to the town square including connecting roads and spaces. Plans for the vacant Fairgreen area will include an outdoor area, plaza and bowling green.	€854,502

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.

In April 2021, €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.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

RRDF Funded Projects of Tourism Significance

In 2022, 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 DRCD, 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 comprises the following projects:

- Coolaney Mountain Bike Centre & Trail Development (Sligo);
- Ticknock (Dublin) & Ballinastoe (Wicklow) Mountain Bike Centres;
- Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Centre;
- 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 Laois 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 also 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.

In addition, 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.

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;
- Nenagh Historic Quarter Regeneration Project.

- Fáilte Ireland had no new applications to RRDF under the 2021 call.
- Together with our partners, Fáilte Ireland welcomed visitors to six newly opened attractions in Eastern and Midland counties Wicklow and Meath including:
 - Beyond the Trees Avondale, Co. Wicklow; and
 - Knowth Visitor Experience.
- Other projects supported by Fáilte Ireland that were progressed in 2022 and which are expected to commence or recommence construction in 2023 include:
 - Records Tower, Dublin Castle (Delivered through Strategic Partnerships).
 - Medieval Kilkenny Experience; and
 - Little Museum of Dublin.

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 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.

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 2021 the Ancient Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP), covering Louth and Meath, was launched. This is a five-year plan designed as a roadmap to enhance the existing

Ancient visitor proposition to achieve the objectives of addressing seasonality, increasing visitor numbers, improving dwell time and visitor dispersion across the destination.

2023 will see the launch of DEDPs for, Wexford, Kilkenny and South Tipperary.

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).

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 the 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 €61 million were allocated to the Eastern and Midland region including over €10.7 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 Eastern and Midland region, 72 BCPs were in place by the end of 2022, 71 of which were open for business and providing high speed broadband services to communities. There were also 105 school Strategic Connection Points (school SCPs) in the Eastern and Midland region that had a connection installed by the end of 2022 and 41 of these schools were provided with high-speed connectivity.
- The installation of SCPs 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

At Howth Fishery Harbour Centre the middle pier berthing project, the Fishing Pier, (under the Department's 2022 Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme), was an integral part of the overall strategy to segregate the fishing and leisure activities. €9.9 million was expended on this project between 2017 and 2022. The works included the construction of 134 metres of new quay wall, dredge, stabilisation and infill of subsea material and the creation 0.16 hectare of new lands. Works commenced on site in October 2020 and were completed in April 2022.

The development of the Howth dredging and reclamation project advanced with the submission of a planning application to Fingal County Council in July 2021. A notification of decision to grant permission was issued by Fingal County Council in August 2022; however, the decision is under consideration by An Bord Pleanála.

3.4

National Strategic Outcome 4 – Sustainability Mobility

The expansion of attractive and sustainable public transport alternatives to private car-based transport will reduce congestion and emissions and enable the transport sector to cater in an environmentally sustainable way for the demands associated with longer-term population and employment growth envisaged under Project Ireland 2040. Projects planned under this National Strategic Outcome (NSO) for the Eastern and Midlands Region include BusConnects, Metrolink and DART+.

BusConnects Dublin is one of the flagship investments to be delivered under Project Ireland 2040. The programme is made up of a number of different components, including:

- Building a new network of improved bus and cycle lanes;
- Redesigning and expanding the network of bus services;
- Introducing simpler fare structures and new ticketing technology;
- Implementing a new bus livery;
- Providing new and improved bus stops and shelters and new park and ride sites; and
- Transitioning the entire urban PSO bus fleet to low emission technologies.

The programme preliminary business case and the detailed project brief for next generation ticketing were approved by Government in March 2022. This decision also gave Decision Gate (DG) 1 approval to the programme in principle, DG1 approval to the Core Bus Corridors, which facilitates the submission of planning applications, and DG2 approval to next generation ticketing, facilitating the commencement of competitive dialogue.

To date the National Transport Authority (NTA) has submitted planning applications to An Bord Pleanála in respect of six of the Core Bus Corridor schemes and expects to submit applications for all remaining schemes by the end of Q2 2023.

The Network Redesign for the entire Dublin network is being rolled out over 11 phases and currently the NTA expect it to be completed by early 2025. Roll out of the plan began in 2021 with the launch of the H-Spine (Howth/Malahide to City Centre) in June and the C-Spine (Lucan/Celbridge to Ringsend via

City Centre) in November. Phase 3 was launched in May 2022. It consisted of two Northern Orbital Routes (N4 Blanchardstown to Point Village and N6 Finglas to Howth Junction). Phase 4, the G-Spine and Route 60 (Ballyfermot/Liffey Valley/Red Cow to the Docklands via city centre) was launched in October 2022. Next Generation Ticketing (NGT) involves the upgrade of fares and ticketing systems across bus services in Dublin. The NTA continued to progress the procurement phase through 2022 and the competitive dialogue process is currently underway. The NTA hope to award the contract by end-2023.

172 new buses for PSO bus fleets were delivered in 2022, including 107 fully electric vehicles and 24 hybrids for urban fleets.

MetroLink will be a fully electrified, segregated and mostly underground new rail line from the Swords area to Charlemont in the south of Dublin City Centre. A significant milestone in the progression of the project was cleared in July 2022, when the Minister for Transport secured DG 1 approval in principle under the Public Spending Code from Cabinet. This decision enabled the project to move to planning application stage and on 30 September Transport Infrastructure Ireland submitted a Railway Order application to An Bord Pleanála. The statutory planning consultation for the project closed on 16 January 2023.

Assuming timely planning approval from An Bord Pleanála, and Government approval in 2024 at DG2 of the Public Spending Code, the procurement process for the project could be finalised by 2025. On the basis of the above, a final project tender price for the project could be submitted to Government for its decision at Decision Gate 3 in 2025. Metro Link could then commence construction in late 2025 such that it would start operations in the early 2030s.

With regard to other light rail developments, the Minister approved the Strategic Assessment Report for Luas Finglas at DG 0 of the Public Spending Code in 2021. The Department of Transport expects to receive a Preliminary Business Case from the NTA for the project at DG 1 of the PSC in 2023.

DART+ will provide fast, high frequency electrified services to Drogheda on the Northern Line, Celbridge/Hazelhatch on the Kildare Line, and

Maynooth and M3 Parkway on the Maynooth/Sligo line. In 2021, Government approved the Preliminary Business Case for the DART+ Programme. This allowed for DART+ West to enter the statutory planning system and a Railway Order application was lodged with An Bord Pleanála in July 2022. The December 2021 Government approval also allowed for the NTA and Iarnród Éireann to conclude a 10-year procurement framework contract for additional DART fleet and place an initial order for 95 new carriages (65 battery-electric and 30 electric units). These units will begin to arrive in 2024 and enter operation in 2025, extending DART services to Drogheda in the advance of overhead electrification. In November 2022 the Government approved a second purchase of fleet under the framework agreement with Alstom, which will see a further 90 new battery-electric carriages enter service in 2026.

DART+ West was subject to two non-statutory public consultations before a three-month statutory consultation between July 2022 and October 2022 as part of the Railway Order application process. The first non-statutory consultation on DART+ Coastal North was held between February and April 2022.

Pelletstown train station was officially opened in September 2021. This station will be served by enhanced services provided under the DART+ West element of the overall DART+ Programme.

Construction of the National Train Control Centre (NTCC) continued in 2022. Building work is complete and full commissioning is expected in 2026. The NTCC is a key enabler for expansion of rail services as it will enhance rail traffic management and underpin both the planned and potential future expansion of rail services across the entire rail network, including the planned expansion of DART services under DART+.

Greenways

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

- The Fingal Way Greenway from Donabate to Balbriggan;
- The Boyne Valley Greenway from Drogheda to Navan;
- The Grand Canal Greenway from Sallins to

Clonkeen;

- Sections of the Dundalk Bay to Carlingford Lough Greenway
- The Mid-Shannon Wilderness Greenway in Longford; and
- The Kilbeggan to Mullingar Greenway in County Westmeath.

Construction and pre-construction works also continued on the National Cycleway Network (NCN) crossing the River Shannon in Athlone, the Grand Canal Greenway in Offaly and Kildare, the Blessington Greenway in Wicklow and the Mid-Shannon Wilderness Greenway in Longford (Corlea Bog); TII has provided funding to Wicklow County Council to progress feasibility, planning and design for the following greenways:

- Wicklow to Greystones Greenway
- Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway
- The following greenway projects commenced construction in 2022 with completion expected in 2023:
- Grand Canal Greenway – Aylmers Bridge to Sallins
- Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway – Nobber to Kingscourt

Active Travel

Project Ireland 2040 commits to the delivery of a comprehensive network of walking and cycling networks in all urban centres around the country, and this delivery is supported by a significantly enhanced funding programme.

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

Major projects progressed in 2022 include the Clontarf to City Centre route in Dublin (due to be completed in Q4 2023), the Belmayne Main Street in Dublin and the completion of the first extensive quietway network linking schools in the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown area (Sea to Mountains). Quietways are routes on quieter low traffic roads, mainly residential, suitable for cyclists who prefer to avoid main roads.

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 sixteen schools in the Dublin City Council area such as Scoil Íosagáin in Crumlin, St Peter's NS in Phibsborough and St Brigid's Primary School in the Coombe. In addition, almost 5,000 cycle/scooter spaces were provided at 283 schools around the country throughout 2022 as part of the SRTS programme. 108 additional schools entered the programme under Round 2 in December 2022.

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 commenced in January 2023.
- Continuation of planning, design and construction for Round 1 projects throughout 2023.

Dublin

- Royal Canal, North Strand to Cross Guns Bridge.
- Dodder Greenway, Herbert Park to Donnybrook Road.
- Dodder Greenway, Springfield Avenue to Rathfarnham Road.
- D24 Neighbourhood Pathfinder Project, Tallaght
- Clonskeagh Road, UCD to DCC County Boundary.
- Wyattville Road Phase 2 in DLRCC and
- Stillorgan Park Road to Carysfort Avenue.

Kildare

- Royal Canal Greenway, Leixlip to Maynooth.

Wicklow

- Bray Dart Station Interchange.

3.5

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

Table 7: Agency Supported Employment in the Eastern and Midland Region in 2022

Total Employment	277,113
IDA Ireland Employment	167,348
Enterprise Ireland Employment -	109,765

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

The Eastern and Midland Assembly Region is made up of the IDA Dublin, Midlands, and Mid-East Regions.

The Dublin region is home to 965 IDA client companies employing 137,822 staff. The region has repeatedly attracted significant investment across all sectors and activities with prominent investment in ICT, International Financial Services, Pharmaceuticals and Global Business Services. FDI in Dublin also has a high concentration of R&D investment particularly in the Tech sector. The Dublin region has a significant ecosystem of well-established companies across, Technology, Life Sciences, International Financial Services, Engineering and Consumer Content.

There are 113 IDA client companies in the Mid-East Region, employing 21,861 people. The FDI performance in the region has been consistent over the past ten years with employment among IDA clients increasing by 32%. The Mid-East has a significant ecosystem of well-established companies

across Technology, Life Sciences, International Financial Services and Engineering & Industrial Technologies. It has also won significant investment in the Food and the Film sub-sectors. This region also benefits hugely from the direct and indirect employment generated by IDA client companies located in Dublin.

There are 50 IDA client companies in the Midlands Region, employing 7,665 people. The existing FDI base of client companies in the region continues to perform well in terms of their operational sustainability, job retention and ongoing transformation.

The IDA is targeting 465 investments for these regions in the period 2021 to 2024 (25 Midlands; 40 Mid-East & 400 Dublin).

The number of IDA client companies and total people employed across the Region are set out in the Table below:







Table 8: Number of IDA Client Companies and Total Employed in the Eastern and Midlands Region

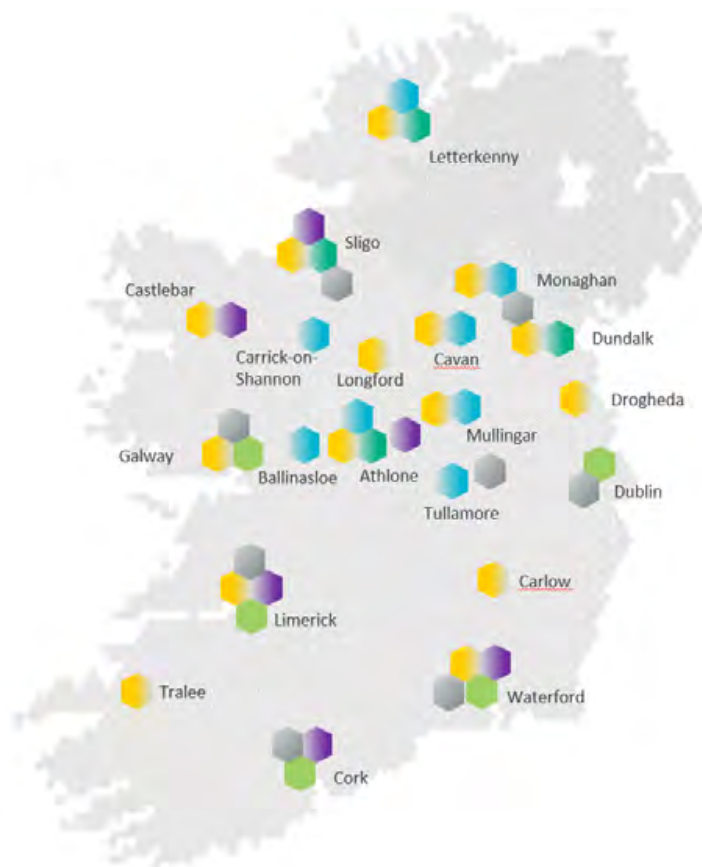
County	No. of Companies	Total Employment
Dublin	965	137,822
Louth	36	4,485
Meath	18	2,449
Kildare	39	12,174
Wicklow	20	2,753
Total	1,078	159,683
Westmeath	27	4,501
Offaly	11	1,377
Laois	5	167
Longford	7	1,620
Total	50	7,665
Total Eastern & Midlands	1,128	167,348

Source: DETE Employment Survey 2022

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:

- Complete significant infrastructure upgrade works at Clonsaugh Business & Technology Park
- Deliver Advanced Building Solutions in Drogheda and Dundalk
- Partner with Meath County Council for the delivery of an advance planning permit for an Advanced Technology Building in Navan, Co. Meath
- Deliver Advanced Building Solutions in Athlone, Mullingar and Longford
- Partner with Offaly County Council to secure planning permission for an Advanced Technology Building in Tullamore
- Acquire additional strategic sites in the region for development.
- Progress or commence upgrade works at IDA Parks

- Continue to partner with local authorities to secure the provision of available lands for potential future development
- Continue to work closely with the private sector to secure the provision of appropriate and cost-effective building and property solutions for client companies.

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 to IDA clients by County and Year

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Dublin	€29,245,489	€25,308,465	€26,872,060	€24,794,941	€22,157,870
Louth	€1,668,686	€397,633	€2,022,330	€9,139,112	€1,428,041
Meath	€417,571	€140,496	€107,719	0	€182,259
Kildare	€1,444,050	€1,042,553	€34,650	€2,004,030	€66,865
Wicklow	€371,719	€5,000	€3,420,440	€557,577	€487,818
Total	€3,902,026	€1,585,682	€5,585,139	€11,700,719	€2,164,983
Westmeath	€4,688,713	€4,814,567	€747,350	€4,557,617	€3,146,661
Offaly	€181,321	€368,352	0	€1,195,208	€201,335
Laois	€401,212	0	€4,950	0	€24,850
Longford	€851,631	€2,037,478	€928,877	€3,565,809	€2,440,323
Total	€6,122,877	€7,220,397	€1,681,177	€9,318,634	€5,813,169
Eastern & Midland Total	€39,273,392	€34,114,544	€34,138,376	€45,814,294	€30,136,022

Table 10: IDA Job Announcements made in 2022

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs/ Investment	Town
Pfizer	December 2022	Investment of over €1.2 billion at its Grange Castle facility.	N/A	Dublin
Black Shamrock	November 2022	Expansion of Dublin Operation	80 Jobs	Dublin
Browne Jacobson	November 2022	First office in Dublin	N/A	Dublin
Huawei	October 2022	European Cloud Hub	200 Jobs	Dublin
WorkFusion	October 2022	European HQ	100 Jobs	Dublin
Fidelity Systems	October 2022	Expansion of its national footprint	300 Jobs	Dublin
Grifols	October 2022	New albumin purification and filling plant at its global manufacturing and supply hub in Grange Castle	200 Jobs	Dublin
BJSS	October 2022	Establish new Deliver Centre	75 Jobs	Dublin
Ipsen Ireland	September 2022	Launch Ipsen's newly upgraded manufacturing site in Blanchardstown, Dublin	N/A	Dublin

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs/ Investment	Town
myPOS	September 2022	Received authorisation as an Electronic Money Institution (EMI) from the Central Bank of Ireland	N/A	Dublin
Mainstream Renewable Power	August 2022	Global Headquarters	100 Jobs	Dublin
Norman Disney & Young	July 2022	Announced plans to expand its newly established Irish operation with a commitment to build its technical and leadership team	20 Jobs	Dublin
Evolv AI	June 2022	Announced it is making Ireland the focal point for its European team	25 Jobs	Dublin & Limerick
Refapp	June 2022	Establishment of EMEA Sales Hub	15 Jobs	Dublin
Hader Solutions	June 2022	Opening of first distribution centre in Dublin	18 Jobs	Dublin
GeistM	June 2022	Established EU HQ	40 Jobs	Dublin
Workato	June 2022	Creation of 50 Jobs at Dublin office	50 Jobs	Dublin
Astra Zeneca	June 2022	€65 million investment in new and enhanced capabilities across its sites in College Park, Blanchardstown and Monksland Industrial Park, Athlone.		Dublin & Athlone
Toast	June 2022	Official opening of New Dublin office	100 Jobs	Dublin
Trinseo	June 2022	New Global Business Services Hub	100 Jobs	Dublin
ActiveCampaign	June 2022	Official opening of new Dublin Hub		Dublin
VMWare	June 2022	Committing to hiring 205 new hires by 2025	205 Jobs	Dublin
TikTok	June 2022	Additional 1,000 Jobs	1,000 Jobs	Dublin
OFX	June 2022	Establishment of its European HQ	15 Jobs	Dublin
Supermetrics	May 2022	Dublin office opening	100 Jobs	Dublin
Horizon Therapeutics	May 2022	Formal opening of its new global corporate HQ in Dublin	50 Jobs	Dublin
Takeda	May 2022	Opening of Cell Therapy production facility	100 Jobs	Dublin
MarketStar	April 2022	Secured location for EMEA HQ	300 Jobs	Dublin
Gilead Sciences	April 2022	Opening of its City Centre office creating the company's only Global Paediatric Centre of Excellence	33 Jobs	Dublin
Workday	April 2022	Planning to build new European HQ	1,000 Jobs	Dublin
Bluecrux	March 2022	Global Expansion and the opening of its second office in Dublin	50 Jobs	Dublin

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs/ Investment	Town
Clearco	March 2022	€100 million investment	125 Jobs	Dublin
Shippo	March 2022	Opening of a new European R&D Centre	120 Jobs	Dublin
Guidewire	March 2022	Opening of its new EMEA Headquarters	150 Jobs	Dublin
Conga	March 2022	Expansion in Dublin with a new office as part of its European growth strategy	40 Jobs	Dublin
Okta	March 2022	Opening of new Dublin EMEA HQ Office with an initial focus on sales and marketing roles.	200 Jobs	Dublin
Gong	February 2022	EMEA HQ Expansion across sales, marketing, customer success, engineering, recruiting and more.	80 Jobs	Dublin
IBM Ireland	February 2022	Hiring 200 people nationally across its operations in Ireland with jobs in RD&I to digital sales.	200 Jobs	Dublin
(Nationally)	Dublin	Additional 1,000 Jobs	1,000 Jobs	Dublin
McGill and Partners	February 2022	Opening of its Dublin office.	50 Jobs	Dublin
VidMob	January 2022	Expansion of EMEA Operation in Dublin.	75 Jobs	Dublin
Udemy	January 2022	Expansion of EMEA HQ.	120 Jobs	Dublin
Panasonic Avionics	October 2022	Panasonic Avionics announced expansion of its European MRO (maintenance, repair & overhaul) facility in Dundalk. It will increase its workforce at the site to 60 people with 30 additional jobs over the next 3 years.	30 Jobs	Dundalk
Kaseya	July 2022	Kaseya, a US IT management and security software company announced plans to establish a new Centre of Excellence in Dundalk with the creation of 250 jobs over three years	250 Jobs	Dundalk
Yapstone	July 2022	Global Payments Processor, Yapstone celebrates ten years at its International HQ in Drogheda	-	Drogheda
Lufthansa Technik	November 2022	Lufthansa Technik Turbine Shannon, the Irish subsidiary of Lufthansa Technik AG, officially opened its new Mobile Engine Services facility in Celbridge, Kildare	€28 million	Celbridge

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs/ Investment	Town
Diageo	July 2022	€200 million investment: First Purpose Built Carbon Neutral Brewery	50/€200 million	Newbridge
KDP	June 2022	KDP opened a state-of-the-art facility with plans to expand its team with 20 new roles to be filled by year's end.	20 Jobs	Newbridge
Nikon Precision Europe	April 2022	Expanding from 140 jobs to 180.	40 Jobs	Leixlip
MGS	April 2022	€7 million investment with 20,000ft expansion to plant located on Kildare Innovation Campus	100 Jobs	Leixlip
Comar / Automatic Plastics	September 2022	Comar announced a multi-million-euro expansion plans for its Ireland-based affiliate – Automatic Plastics Limited (APL) located in Tinahely, Co. Wicklow. The initiative is expected to result in the creation of approximately 80 new jobs over the next 3 years	80 Jobs	Tinahely
Takeda	September 2022	Celebrated 25 years of business in Ireland with an anniversary event at their Bray site. The company has developed three other locations in Ireland – Baggot Street, Citywest and Grange Castle – which collectively employ over 900 people		Bray
Technimark	December 2022	Company announced €26 million expansion investment, plus the creation of 80 new highly skilled roles over the next 2 years.	80 / €26 million	Longford
Enermech	September 2022	Enermech, a global integrated solutions specialists company, officially opened its first Irish facility in Athlone.	170 jobs / €9.2 million investment	Athlone
Gilero	September 2022	Corporate on-line press release in relation to company's new design centre to be located in Athlone. No job numbers outlined. Gilero are a new company investment, with an associated 22 jobs.	Not Disclosed	Athlone
Ashland	August 2022	Corporate on-line press release in relation to company's plans to expand its Viatel bioresorbable polymer manufacturing and R&D in Mullingar. No job numbers outlined on on-line press release.	Doubling footprint & headcount.	Mullingar

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs/ Investment	Town
Ericsson	May 2022	Company officially announced its plans to hire 250 people at its Irish R&D Centre in Athlone, to support the company's ongoing development of innovative cloud-native products as part of its 5G portfolio.	250 jobs	Athlone
DuPont/OxyMem	March 2022	Company officially announced multi-million-euro transformation of its OxyMem™ Membrane Aerated Biofilm Reactor (MABR) at its manufacturing facility in Athlone.	Not Disclosed	Athlone

Enterprise Ireland

- In 2022, 70,786 people were employed across 1,736 Enterprise Ireland supported companies in the Dublin region. In 2022, 21,105 people were employed in 439 Enterprise Ireland (EI) supported companies in the Mid-East Region. In 2022, 11,066 people were employed across 193 Enterprise Ireland (EI) supported companies in the Midlands region. In the Louth region there were 6,348 people employed by 127 companies in 2022.
- Enterprise Ireland supports all sectors with success in Construction, BPO, Fintech, Food and Lifesciences. As part of Project Ireland 2040, EI supports all sectors with success deriving from sectors, such as manufacturing of wood and wood products, manufacturing of food and beverages, and mining and quarrying activities.
- In 2022 payments €98 million were made by Enterprise Ireland into the Midlands and Eastern 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.
- The COVID-19 Enterprise Centres Fund was developed to provide financial support to enterprise centres impacted by COVID-19, providing them with financial support for the implementation of a 6 to 12 - month Recovery Plan. One for profit and 16 not for profit enterprise centres were approved €1.7 million in Dublin. Five not for profit enterprise centres were approved €486,000 in the Mid-East region. One for profit and six not for profit enterprise centres were approved €451,000 in the Midlands.
- Enterprise Ireland administers the Regional Enterprise Development Fund and the Border Enterprise Development Fund on behalf of Government, to support significant regional initiatives to build on sectoral strengths and/ or to better leverage identified resources to improve enterprise capability. To date, 7 projects in Dublin have been approved funding totalling €12.4 million under these schemes; 11 projects in the Mid-East (Louth, Meath, Kildare and Wicklow) have been approved for €19.7 million in funding; and 5 projects in the Midlands (Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois) have been approved for €6.4 million under these schemes.
- Enterprise Ireland administered the Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS) in 2022 and in the Eastern and Midland Region 15 projects were approved funding across Priming and Feasibility Studies totalling €1.2 million.
- EI supports and collaborates with the following HEIs in the Eastern & Midland Region, DCU, DKIT, IADT, NCAD, Maynooth University, RCSI, TCD, TU Dublin, TUS (Midlands) and UCD through innovation supports, such as the Commercialisation Fund, Innovation Partnerships and Innovation Vouchers.
- EI also funds 5 Technology Gateways in the Eastern and Midland Region TUS (Midlands): COMAND connected media; APT Polymer Technologies; MiCRA bio diagnostics – TU Dublin, CREST coatings innovation - TU Dublin; and CREDIT renewables, energy optimisation & storage – Dundalk IT. 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 5 Technology Centres located in the Eastern and Midland region: CeADAR Irelands Centre for Applied AI – University College Dublin; Food for Health Ireland - University College Dublin; IMR - Irish Manufacturing Research – Mullingar; MTI - Meat Technology Ireland – Teagasc, Dublin 15; and Learnovate Learning Technologies – Trinity College Dublin.
- EI has co-funded, with local enterprise development groups, 175 Community Enterprise Centres across the country,

including 18 in the Midlands. These Centres provide space in a supportive environment for budding entrepreneurs and serve to help the development of entrepreneurship locally.

- Enterprise Ireland administers the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF) on behalf of Government. DTIF funding supports enterprises in Ireland to collaborate together and with the public research system on disruptive technologies innovation, build on research in Ireland and leverage that research for commercial impact and foster deeper and wider RD&I collaborations between the public and private sectors in key technology areas.

Local Enterprise Office Update

In 2022, the LEOs operating in the Eastern and Midlands Region supported 2,947 businesses, employing 14,940 jobs. There was an increase of 25 in the number of client businesses in 2022 relative to 2021, with the number of jobs increasing by 1,187 in the same period. This can be seen in the table below.

Table 11: Statistics for Local Enterprise Office in 2022

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
Eastern and Midlands	2,922	2,947	25	13,753	14,940	1,147	1,514

The Dublin Region is served by its Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) in Dublin City, Fingal, Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown, and Dublin South which are co-located with the Local Authorities. In 2022, the LEOs operating in the Dublin region supported 1,238 businesses employing 5,782 people. The number of client businesses increased by 73 in 2022 relative to 2021 with the number of jobs increasing by 500 in the same period.

Louth is served by its Local Enterprise Office also co-located with its Local Authority, supporting 222 client companies in 2022, and 913 jobs. The number of client businesses decreased by 10 in 2022 relative to 2021, with the number of jobs increasing by 15.

The Mid-East Region LEOs in Kildare, Meath and Wicklow, which are co-located with the Local

Authorities. In 2022, the LEOs operating in the Mid-East Region supported 672 businesses employing 3,400 jobs. The number of client businesses increased by 9 in 2022 relative to 2021 with the number of jobs increasing by 80 in the same period.

The Midlands Region is served by its LEOs in Laois, Longford, Offaly and Westmeath, which are co-located with the Local Authorities. In 2022, the LEOs operating in the Midlands supported 858 businesses employing 4,727 jobs. The number of client businesses decreased by 4 in 2022 relative to 2021 with the number of jobs increasing by 474 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 are supporting every region to build on its unique strengths and ultimately creating sustainable jobs. 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.

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

The **Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS)** was introduced in 2022 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 Eastern and Midland Region

Company Name	County
InsTech.ie Home Ireland CLG	Dublin
Nutgrove Community Enterprise Centre CLG	Dublin
Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG	Wicklow
Irish Manufacturing Research CLG	Westmeath
South Dublin County Council	Dublin
UCD Nova DAC	Dublin
The University of Dublin	Dublin
Electrical Manufacturers and Distributors Association of Ireland CLG	Dublin
National Association of Community Enterprise Centres (NACEC) CLG	Louth
National University of Ireland Maynooth	Kildare
Technological University of the Shannon	Westmeath
Longford Enterprise Development Company CLG	Longford
Technological University of the Shannon	Westmeath
North Offaly Development Fund CLG	Offaly

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, 45 projects with the lead partner located in the Eastern and Midlands Region were awarded €134 million. The projects cover areas such as life sciences, medical devices, ICT, artificial intelligence, manufacturing and

environmental sustainability. Under the fourth DTIF call, 12 of the projects have partners in the region, with seven leading their project. These seven projects were awarded €22.4 million as set out in the table below. It is expected that additional Call 4 projects will be announced in 2023.

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 Eastern and Midlands Region

County	Project Name and Short Description	Amount Awarded	Status of Project
Dublin	Develop a miniature implantable smart pump for the treatment of Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction (HFpEF).	€3,138,159	Pre – contract
Dublin	A pre-clinically validated solution to enable treatment of >90% of patients with Tricuspid Regurgitation.	€5,871,203	Pre – contract
Dublin	The development of a safe and effective personalised therapy that will disrupt Overactive Bladder Treatment market using an innovative artificial intelligence-based digital platform.	€1,549,987	Pre – contract
Dublin	Developing an orally self-administered vaccine technology delivered to intestinal mucosa to better protect against pathogens.	€2,344,164	Pre – contract
Dublin	Developing a DB stent that is more effective and efficient but will also eliminate pre-stent procedures and mitigate risk associated with conventional stent procedures.	€3,452,100	Pre – contract
Dublin	An AI-driven parental control concept that will modify a phone at the kernel level to access all incoming and outgoing data and encrypt messaging apps.	€2,831,153	Pre – contract
Dublin	Develop an AI-driven patient monitoring platform, combined with a diagnostic test capable of identifying patients at high risk of progression of acute diseases (sepsis/pneumonia).	€3,257,704	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.

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 East and Midlands during 2022 are approximately €88.5 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. 8 of the 15 awards (€8.8 million) involved Tus/IOTs in the East and Midlands 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 programme 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 four of those placements due to take place in companies the East and Midlands 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 377 collaborations with MNCs and 422 collaborations with SMEs in the Eastern and Midlands Region.

SFI currently supports 16 SFI Research Centres, 7 of which are hosted in Higher Education Institutes within the Eastern and Midland Region.

These Centres are:

ADAPT, is a world-leading SFI Research Centre for AI-driven Digital Content Technology and combines the expertise of researchers at seven higher education institutions with that of industry partners to produce ground-breaking innovation in digital content that is revolutionising the way people interact with content, systems and each other.

AMBER, the SFI Research Centre for Advanced Materials and BioEngineering Research is a dynamic, multidisciplinary partnership between world-leading material scientists, bioengineers and industry. The Centre works collaboratively to address fundamental research questions and create solutions with impact for society in ICT, MedTech, energy and sustainable industrial technologies.

BiOrbic, SFI Bioeconomy Research Centre is a national collaboration of over 100+ researchers, focused on the development of a sustainable circular bioeconomy. BiOrbic researchers work on selectively separating and extracting valued compounds from renewable materials, converting those resources into novel bio-based products and processes, delivering market and industry-scalable sustainable resources.

CONNECT is the Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Future Networks and Communications. Its mission is to research and develop innovative solutions for the communications challenges facing society today. The Internet of Things, 5G/6G networks and future communications services are the Centre's main areas of focus.

FutureNeuro is the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Research Centre for Chronic and Rare Neurological Diseases. The Centre aims to change the patient

journey through research informed by the needs of both patients and neurologists. This includes developing rapid and accurate tools for diagnosis, the development of therapies to correct damaged brain networks, technologies to enable patients to monitor their own health and well-being, and linking this to Ireland's national imaging, diagnostics and eHealth infrastructure.

iCRAG is the SFI Research Centre for Applied Geosciences. The Centre is developing innovative science and technologies to better understand the Earth's past, present, and future and how people are connected to it. Comprising 150 researchers, eight research institutions and collaborating with more than sixty industry partners, the Centre's vision is to be a world leader in applied geoscience research, discovery, and public understanding of Earth's critical resources and environment for a sustainable society.

I-Form, the SFI Research Centre for Advanced Manufacturing, is delivering the next level of understanding and control for complex manufacturing processes. The Centre aims to shape the future of manufacturing through high-impact research into the application of digital technologies to materials processing. I-Form brings together a nationwide pool of expertise in materials science, engineering, data analytics and cognitive computing.

The current SFI investment in these Centres through the SFI Research Centres Programme is over €202 million.

It is important to note that although the Higher Education Institutes with responsibility for these Research Centres are based within the Eastern and Midland Region (Dublin) their academic and industry partners are located right across Ireland. Equally, HEIs within the Eastern and Midland Region that are not hosts of the other 9 SFI Research Centres are academic partners on those Centres. A good example of this is the company Nova Leah – a medical device cybersecurity compliance risk company based in Dundalk Co. Louth but is a spin-off company of Lero, the SFI Research Centre for Software which is hosted in Limerick.

SFI funds 6 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.

Two of the six CRTs are hosted in the East and Midlands Region:

SFI Centre for Research Training in Machine Learning, hosted at University College Dublin

SFI Investment €15.5 million

The SFI Centre for Research Training in Machine Learning will address the urgent industry demand for Machine Learning talent. The centre will bring together leaders in their field to supervise and train students. Students will benefit from world-class, inter-institutional programmes, led by active researchers as part of a mature interdisciplinary environment that emphasises cutting-edge research with an industry-relevant and entrepreneurial focus.

SFI Centre for Research Training in Digitally Enhanced Reality, Trinity College Dublin

SFI Investment €17 million

This CRT focuses on the development of digital skills for next generation human-centric media technology, including machine intelligence-based sensing and understanding of digital content and information, its transformation and personalisation, its multimodal interaction and delivery via speech, text, video, image and VR/AR, and its impactful application in multiple industry and societal settings.

As with the SFI Research Centres, the CRTs have academic and industry partners all over Ireland that are benefiting from these investments.

Higher Education

Project Ireland 2040 is bringing significant investment in higher education in the Eastern and Midlands Region.

Construction completion was achieved on the Grangegorman PPP project with the delivery of the East Quad in 2020 and Central Quad in 2021. Together the Quads provide c.52,000 sq. m of purpose built academic space, and allowed 10,000 TU Dublin students and 1,200 staff to vacate their former homes in Kevin Street and Cathal Brugha Street to bring life to the new buildings. In addition, €12 million Exchequer funding was approved to support the second largest project in Programme III, namely the Academic Hub & Library, which began construction in 2022. The opening of the historic Lower House, East Quad and Printmaking Workshop brought university life to the east side of the Grangegorman campus for the first time. The opening of the gateway at Broadstone Plaza further opened the campus allowing greater access to the site from the city.

Eleven major infrastructure projects will be delivered around the country as part of a Public-Private Partnership Programme for the higher education sector. Three of the eleven projects on the programme are in Dublin including on the Technological University Dublin (TUD) - Tallaght and Blanchardstown campuses and in the Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dún Laoghaire (IADT). In the Midlands, a new STEM building in the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) Athlone will be delivered as part of this Programme. The contracts were signed in December 2022 for the Bundle 1 projects. Construction phase is due to commence on site in January 2023 with an expected completion date of December 2024 (TUD Blanchardstown), April 2025 (TUD Tallaght), March 2025 (TUS Athlone) and March 2025 (IADT).

Maynooth University (MU) Technology Society and Innovation Building is one of five projects approved in 2019 under the Higher Education Strategic Infrastructure Fund (HESIF). The project was completed in 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.

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.

Two projects were approved to proceed to Preliminary Business Case stage in 2022: - Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT) - National Centre for Craft Apprenticeship Provision and Technological University Dublin (TUD) - Broombridge - Design and Construct Sustainable Building Centre.

A second phase of the jointly funded DFHERIS/SEAI Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation Pathfinder Programme 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, one further project was approved in principle to progress for University College Dublin (UCD) in 2021 (Quinn

School of Business BER B Retrofit). This is in addition to a previous project approved for UCD under the 2020 Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation Pathfinder Programme (Belfield Campus District Heating Decarbonisation). Dublin City University (DCU), Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dun Laoghaire and Maynooth University were also among the original seven higher education institutions approved in 2020 and significant progress was made on the design, planning and delivery of these projects during the course of 2021 and 2022. 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 Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation Pathfinder Programme (EEDPP) for the higher education sector.

Co-funding was approved for a new Sports Science, Health and Recreation building at TUD Tallaght. The institute has high demand for courses in this area and the Tallaght campus will provide the hub for Sports Science within TUD. This project is on site in 2022 and expected to be substantially complete in Q1 2023.

Exchequer funding of €15 million has been approved in principle towards a co-funded major project for the Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies (E3) learning foundry on Trinity College Dublin's (TCD) main campus. The new building aims to integrate engineering, technology and the natural sciences in order to strengthen technological innovation and natural capital through world-leading research, education and entrepreneurship. Enabling works to facilitate the construction of the new building including phase 2 of the demolition works were completed in 2021. The construction of the new building is ongoing in 2022. TCD are also advancing planning for Trinity East, a new campus at Grand Canal Dock.

An allocation of €24 million was approved towards the cost of the DCU Future Tech Building Project in September 2018 for the construction of a new building at the DCU Main Campus. This state-of-the-art building will provide a new 4 storey science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) facility. This facility will accommodate 3,000 additional STEM students, and it will also house DCU's entire School of Health & Human Performance. The DCU Future Tech Building was officially renamed as the Polaris Building at a ceremony on 10 November 2022. The Polaris Building project is currently on site.

As part of Project Ireland 2040, funding has been approved for a major phased refurbishment and

upgrade of the North and South Blocks at DkIT, which house the Institute's STEM facilities. This is a phased project being supported under the Higher Education Infrastructure Upgrade and Refurbishment Fund. The construction of the new STEM Extension building is ongoing in 2022.

The Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) major redevelopment project at Westland Row was substantially completed in 2022. The new 6,500 sq. meter space includes a purpose-built opera studio and rehearsal space; 75 teaching rooms featuring adjustable acoustics; a new state-of-the-art library to underpin an ambitious research agenda; a sonic arts hub for electronic music composition; a 60-seat tiered lecture hall; and a dedicated music therapy facility for people of all ages and needs.

Phase 2 will conclude in May 2023, when RIAM open a professional standard recital hall of over 300 seats, designed by acousticians Sounds Space Vision and theatre consultant Roger Spence. This hall has been imagined for solo and chamber music and will be unique to Ireland. RIAM will present a limited number of high-level artists in this space as well as student performances and recordings. A contribution of €7 million (which has been fully drawn down) was provided by the Department toward this project.

The Department completed its full contribution of €17 million to support the higher education facilities at the National Children's Hospital. The facilities will support the provision of specialist undergraduate and postgraduate training in areas such as paediatric medicine, nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, radiography and psychology. The Children's Hospital works are progressing well with the facility now nearing 80% complete against the contract value.

Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies (DIAS) was provided an all in grant of €253,970 for security upgrade works, ICT infrastructure and server upgrade. The balance of all capital funding approved was drawn down in 2022.

The Apprenticeship Expansion Programme 2021 approved funding to enable expansion in apprenticeship provision. TUD received funding for two electrical projects which were completed in 2022. DkIT received funding for one plumbing project which was completed in 2022 and one electrical and plumbing project which is due for completion in Q2 2023.

A Devolved/Minor works Grant of just over €3 million was split across the region to provide funding for minor capital projects and equipment renewal.

At TUS Athlone, car parking upgrade works were completed on the East Campus Carpark at a cost of €800,000 to the Exchequer.

Further Education and Training

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 €2.25 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 million was split across six ETBs to provide funding for minor capital projects and equipment renewal,
- The acquisition of the Advanced Manufacturing and Training Centre of Excellence (AMTCE) in Dundalk for Louth Meath ETB in 2022,
- The progression of thirty-three capital and emergency health and safety projects, including an €11 million project for the AMTCE facility for LMETB.

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. Under the SIUF six projects were approved to proceed to design and planning in 2022 (LMETB 1. Drogheda and 2. Navan, LOETB – Mount Lucas, LWETB – Athlone, KCETB- Thomastown and DDLETB-Clondalkin).

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. Five, College of the Future Major Projects were announced in the East & Midlands region (LMETB-Dunboyne, DDLETB-Fingal, KCETB-Kilkenny City, KWETB-Bray and CMETB-Cavan) and reached 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 Region will benefit from its close access to Dublin Airport and the opening of the North runway at the Airport, as well as Dublin Port, which is progressing a major infrastructural investment at the port to accommodate larger sea-going vessels and to increase capacity.

The North Runway Project at Dublin Airport provides increased runway capacity and supports wider economic development as part of Project Ireland 2040. The North Runway is an investment in a key piece of strategic national infrastructure for current and future generations in Ireland which will ensure that Dublin Airport can meet expected future demand. The North Runway was completed in 2022 and has been operational since 24th August 2022.

A new visual control tower at Dublin Airport is also in development to facilitate tower control services in a parallel runway environment. The construction phase of the project was completed in Q1 2019. The tower is complete and operational.

Dublin Port is progressing implementation of its Masterplan in order to ensure that the Port can provide for future sustainable growth and changes in facilitating seaborne trade in goods and passenger movements to and from Ireland and the Dublin region in particular.

Works include the redevelopment of existing berths, creation of new berths, deepening of the port's navigable channel from 7.8m to 10m draught, upgrading of the road network, provision of unified state services facilities for control and inspections and improvements in utility infrastructure.

Approximately 25% of the overall project has been completed to date, with considerable work completed on the Alexandra Basin Redevelopment which is the first of three Strategic Infrastructure Developments projects. Works are also commencing on elements of the MasterPlan 2 (MP2) Project, which is the second

major capital development project from Dublin Port's Masterplan 2040. Between the ABR Project and the MP2 Project, Dublin Port Company has now secured all of the planning permissions required for the major development works planned on the northern side of the port. The company is also progressing the third and final Masterplan project, the 3FM project, with the commencement of the pre-planning stage and in particular the preparation of the detailed project design and the environmental impact reports. It is expected that the company will be lodging a planning application with An Bord Pleanála in 2023.

3.7

National Strategic Outcome 7 – Enhanced Amenity and Heritage

Project Ireland 2040 recognises the value of cultural heritage and sporting facilities as a key component of, and contributor to, the attractiveness and sustainability of our cities, towns, villages and rural areas in terms of developing cultural creative spaces, private inward investment, quality of life, and attracting and retaining talent and enterprise.

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 number of projects were advanced in 2022, including:

- 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.
- The Government announced approval in principle of the preliminary business case for the redevelopment of National Concert Hall in December 2022. This major project will upgrade 16,300m² of the Earlsfort Terrace site, much of which pre-dates the foundation of the State. This project will protect and restore this unique heritage asset while also creating the necessary facilities for a greatly expanded National Concert Hall.
- The preliminary business case for the redevelopment of the Natural History Museum was approved to proceed to planning and

detailed design stage. A particular focus of the project is to address long-standing issues with accessibility, to restore the building fabric, and to enhance the visitor experience, telling important stories of our biodiversity and to showcase the unique heritage building.

- Progression, under the Public Spending Code, in developing strategic assessment reports and preliminary business cases for other significant institutions, such as IMMA, the National Museum's Collection Resource Centre and the Chester Beatty.

Cultural Heritage – Digitisation

Over €1.3 million was disbursed through the Cultural Digitisation Scheme in 2022, which will preserve and enhance the accessibility of our cultural heritage. €360,000 was provided during the year towards the digitisation of the 1926 Census and €96,600 was provided for National Library digitisation projects.

A flagship initiative under this scheme is the commitment to invest in the Beyond 2022 digitisation and research project led by Trinity College Dublin which was progressed further during the year (€872,000 in funding was provided). This project seeks to rediscover and restore much of the archival material lost in the destruction of the Public Record Office in 1922.

The Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland (an outcome of this five-year State funded programme of research) was launched on in June 2022. The project has combined historical investigation, archival conservation, and technical innovation, to re-imagine and recreate through digital technologies, the Public Record Office of Ireland, which was destroyed on 30th June 1922 in the opening engagement of the Civil War. This project was endorsed by the Expert Advisory Group on Commemorations who identified it as key legacy project of the Decade of Centenaries Programme 2012-2023. It was supported through a capital grant allocation of €2.5 million from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, under Project Ireland 2040.

Led by Trinity College Dublin, this all-island and international collaborative research project has recreated, to a greater extent than anticipated, the record collections lost in the destruction of the Public Record of Ireland in the opening engagement of the Civil War on the 30 June 1922. The outcome of the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland has far surpassed the original expectations in terms of the scale of resources now committed by national and international partners and the reception and the engagement the work has received.

From working with five core partners (the National Archives, the National Archives (UK), the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, the Irish Manuscripts Commission, and the Library of Trinity College Dublin), there has also been unprecedented engagement from over seventy archives, libraries and museums around the world.

The digital content publicly available and fully-searchable at the end of 2022, exceeded 60 million words of text (over 20 per cent more than anticipated), and includes an extensive collection of over 6,000 historical maps of Ireland whose inclusion was not anticipated at the time of launch.

Extensive conservation and listing work has been completed on the 1922 Salvaged Records during the year. These are the precious archival survivors pulled from the rubble in 1922. Arising from this successful collaboration a new 'community of conservation practice' has developed between the Core Partners project, another unexpected legacy from the project.

Other key achievements from the project include an open-access Web3D reconstruction of the ruined Public Record Office of Ireland, which allows visitors to experience the impressive Record Treasury for the first time in a century. This 3D model is an interactive showcase for the project's research. The Knowledge Base for Irish History, which will allow for greater engagement and understanding of the resources, was also published. An extensive outreach programme was also developed and carried out during the year including public talks, academic papers and media interviews.

Three Gold Seams, which is triple the number initially projected, were also launched in 2022. A 'Gold Seam' describes a particularly rich collection of replacement materials. Ranging from the thirteenth to the eighteenth centuries these are the Medieval Exchequer papers, Cromwellian Surveys and the 1766 Religious Census. These Gold Seams are three of a number of collections that have been identified as been of particular significance.

The launch of the Virtual Treasury attracted extensive media coverage in print, broadcast and online from across the island of Ireland and global including audiences in Britain, Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand. Over 11 million readers and viewers were reached nationally and 268 million globally.

The Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland was also the recipient of a number of awards including the prestigious Roger Ellis Prize awarded by the Archives and Records Association, UK & Ireland. Beyond 2022 was also recognised with three nominations: The Trinity Innovation Award for Societal Good which was awarded to the programme director in November 2022; The AI Ireland, Nomination in the Category of Society Good in Artificial Intelligence, November 2022 and the Spider Awards, Digital for Good, Shortlist, December 2022.

In December 2022, an allocation of €3.6 million was approved for Phase III (2023–2025), of Beyond 2022: The Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland. This will facilitate further research and fresh collaborations with new partners expanding the collections in the Virtual Treasury which will be made freely accessible to all.

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 the Eastern and Midland Region

Advocates	Summary of Project	Total Grant
Dublin City Council, TU Dublin, Grangegorman Development Agency, Mountaineering Ireland, Volleyball Ireland, Basketball Ireland, Paralympics Ireland	Grangegorman Campus - The development of an Indoor Sport Centre. Phase 1 will comprise of a Sports Hall, Gym, Fitness Studio and Changing Accommodation. Later phases will include a swimming pool with changing accommodation, squash and handball courts and indoor jogging track.	€1,747,500
Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council, Irish Sailing and Irish Underwater Council	A National Watersports Campus in Dún Laoghaire including a centre for community watersports activities and public slipway and a High Performance Coaching Centre. A mixed use space for hosting international sailing championships, swimming, triathlon, rowing and canoeing. Accommodation facilities for NGB's and Campus tenants.	€441,893
Dublin City Council, Football Association of Ireland	Redevelopment of Dalymount Park creating a new four sided stadium around a re-orientated pitch. The stadium and pitch will be UEFA Category 3 compliant. The overall capacity will be 6,000. The stadium will provide a home ground for Bohemians FC and Shelbourne FC.	€918,750
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Archery Ireland, Fencing Ireland, Triathlon Ireland, Cycling Ireland, Special Olympics Ireland, Athletics Ireland, Gymnastics Ireland	St Thomas's Community Multisports Complex, Tibbradden Road, Whitechurch - Multisport Campus including a multisport gymnasium, hall and an indoor sprint track area. The outdoor area includes track and field facilities as well as a jogging trail around the site and a specialist outdoor archery area.	€5,250,000
R.D.S., Horse Sport Ireland, Irish Rugby Football Union	RDS Main Arena Redevelopment - Construction of a two-tier capacity grandstand to replace the existing Anglesea stand and terrace.	€10,000,000
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	Ringside Training and Education Centre - Construction of a viewing gallery and a new boxing ring. Upgrade of facilities including a new mezzanine floor and a new entrance lobby.	€300,000
Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council	Samuel Beckett Civic Campus - Construction of a new Sports Building, a linear park connecting the spectator areas to the path to be suitable for wheelchairs, jogging and running.	€5,000,000
Kildare GAA, Kildare County Council, Gaelic Athletic Association, Ladies Gaelic Football Association, Camogie Association	St Conleth's Kildare GAA Ground redevelopment, Newbridge - Construction of a new 3000 seated stand including changing facilities and public toilets. Installation of floodlighting, upgrade works to pitch including a new playing surface.	€4,875,000
Meath GAA, Gaelic Athletic Association, Ladies Gaelic Football Association, Camogie Association	Redevelopment of Páirc Tailteann including 4000 seater stand and refurbishing facilities such as dressing rooms, re-alignment of pitch and new floodlights.	€6,273,139

Advocates	Summary of Project	Total Grant
Meath County Council, St. Peter's GAA Club (Dunboyne)	Rooske Road, Dunboyne, Co. Meath - Linear walkway, sports playing fields, changing facilities	€2,012,276
Wicklow County Council	Wicklow Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre - Refurbish and upgrade the swimming pool facilities. Improve building accessibility for wheelchair access.	€864,177
Wicklow County Council	Charlesland Athletics Track - Replace the running track at Shoreline Sports Park	€309,642
Laois County Council	Essential safety improvement works to Portarlinton Leisure Centre Swimming Pool.	€300,000
Louth County Council	Dundalk Leisure Centre Refurbishment and upgrade - Upgrade of swimming pool wet changing village with major emphasis on disability access.	€300,000

The National Sport Campus

In November 2022 the Government reaffirmed its commitment to the phased delivery of the Sport Ireland National Sports Campus and approved a new masterplan for its future development. The masterplan provides the framework for the long-term development of the campus over the next 15-20 years incorporating world-class sporting facilities for elite athletes, facilities for recreational and community use, office accommodation for National Governing Bodies, and athlete accommodation. The vision for the campus is that it will be a local, national, and international centre for sporting excellence within Ireland, the home for the development of athletes and a focal point for the promotion of sport, health and wellbeing within the community.

The National Velodrome and Badminton Centre is one of the first projects expected to be delivered under the masterplan. The objective of this project is to contribute to the success of high performance programmes and to increase participation in both track cycling and badminton, with positive impacts for both national pride and social well-being. In December 2022, Fingal County Council notified Sport Ireland of its decision to grant planning permission. Final grant of planning was awarded in January 2023.

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.
 - Work continued on development of the Dublin Visitor Orientation Programme, which includes the creation of a coastal trail to encourage visitors to explore and experience the Dublin coastline.
 - 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 Laois 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 commenced in 2023 to develop Roadmap & Framework 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 national parks.
- 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.

Eastern and Midlands Locations (Funding):

- Dublin City Council (€847,487). Louth County Council (€672,208) - Myths and Legends Projections were launched as part of the Lú Festival at the end of October 2022 and over the course of two long weekends they attracted over 250,000 people to the streets of Drogheda. The Murals are also completed. The final element of the project, the Augmented Reality Trials will be completed in 2023.

Platforms for Growth (2019 to 2022)

Platforms for Growth is Fáilte Ireland's four-year capital investment programme worth €150 million.

The programme specifically targets product themes and types known as 'platforms', which have the greatest potential to grow tourism in Ireland. This capital investment 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.

Dublin Coastal Trail Phase 1 Implementation

Developed by Fáilte Ireland in partnership with Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Fingal County Council and Irish Rail, the trail opens up access to the Dublin coastline and encourages visitors to explore the towns, outdoor activities and attractions that lie within easy reach of the city centre.

Working with over 30 industry providers in villages from Killiney to Skerries, businesses were consulted and supported in a drive to develop and promote accommodation, activities, attractions, outdoor and food experiences. Key businesses are undergoing digital transformation and learning how best to target both international markets and high-end segments. This collaboration, networking and cross-promotion between businesses is well under way and continued through 2022.

At the same time, new information signage across 11 coastal villages has been installed that distills each location's story and highlights what is unmissable and memorable in the area. In total, there are eleven stops along the Trail, each with its own fascinating tale to tell and experiences to share. 101 plaques have been installed at the relevant DART or rail station stop also to further enhance orientation for visitors.

Creating rich experiences along the entire Trail will increase time spent in each location, grow revenues, and spread positive word of mouth.

Winter in Dublin

Winter in Dublin was successfully launched in October 2021, with an ambition to create an enduring programme to cut through both domestically and internationally, positioning Dublin as a must-visit city in the shoulder season. The concept informed by both domestic and international research, which show that city breaks make up a considerable proportion of winter breaks.

A launch event for Winter in Dublin 2022 took place in Smock Alley Theatre in early September with approximately 100 tourism stakeholders across Dublin attending, followed by generation workshops which resulted in great networking and cross collaboration. See also www.visitdublin.com.

Destination Towns

Destination Towns funding of €1.8 million across four Dublin towns (Skerries, Docklands, Dún Laoghaire and Lucan) is being invested in projects that aim to boost the attractiveness and tourism appeal of towns. The aim of the investment programme is to increase dwell time and spend in towns with tourism potential.

Successful lighting projects of iconic buildings or structures within the towns was completed in 2021 and early 2022 to enhance appeal, showcase stand out structures or buildings of architectural interest and improve overall urban appeal.

Outputs from this programme is creation of Heritage Trails within these towns:

- Doors of the Docklands – AR App with Heritage Trail of the Docklands.
- Skerries Town / Story of Saint Patrick – Physical Signs and Audio.
- Dún Laoghaire Heritage Trail – Physical Signs.
- Lucan – Signage and Trail.

VisitDublin.Com

As visitors increasingly access tourist information online, the newly enhanced mobile-first website is part of Fáilte Ireland's long-term digital transformation strategy. VisitDublin.com includes enhanced tourism business listings with high resolution imagery carousels and video options. Google Listing and Google Map integration will help visitors find out What's Nearby, and the What's On section provides a comprehensive listing of events and exhibitions which all provides a wider choice for visitors during their time in Dublin.

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 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.

Funding has been awarded to:

- Cork City Council - €673,310
- Dublin City Council - €847,487
- Galway City Council - €1,030,834
- Kilkenny County Council - €439,875
- Louth County Council - €672,208
- and,
- Waterford City and County Council - €539,275

By Q4 2023, four projects will be successfully completed thereby enhancing and reimagining urban centres for both the local community and visitors alike. Two further projects will be completed by Q4 2024, bringing the scheme to a close.

3.8

National Strategic Outcome 8 – Climate-Resilient Society

Project Ireland 2040 highlights the centrality of this 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. EirGrid and ESB have significant investments planned in the area:

- On the North South Interconnector, the NI Court of Appeal provided its judgement in relation to the appeal brought by the Department for Infrastructure in October 2022. The judgement found that the Minister for Infrastructure acted lawfully by making the North South planning decision without recourse to the Stormont Executive Committee. The project now has planning consent in both jurisdictions and the next phase of the project is being progressed.
- The Kildare – Meath project will strengthen the electricity network between the Dunstown substation in Kildare and the Woodland station in Meath. It made significant progress in 2022. Following a number of public information days and stakeholder engagement on the emerging best performing route option on the single 400kV underground cable, the best performing option has now been selected. It is expected that the planning application will be lodged to An Bord Pleanála in 2023.
- EirGrid and ESB 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 developments in this project in 2022, 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 which totalled €204,600. Landowner and stakeholder engagement is ongoing, and currently remains highly positive.
- The East Meath – North Dublin project is a proposed development to reinforce the network in that region to meet growing demand for electricity in the east of the country and will support the flow of renewable energy to meet this demand from other parts of the country. This project is in the engagement and consultation phase which will help to determine programme, risks, underground cable routing, underground cable route options and ground investigations. The emerging best performing route option will be announced in 2023.
- In March 2022, EirGrid formally launched Powering Up Dublin which proposed a major, multi-year upgrade of the Dublin electricity grid, helping to facilitate Government renewable energy targets and meet growing demand in the city and county. In-depth scoping and preparation exercises have been undertaken to develop a masterplan for the programme, as well as communications and engagement strategies. The Dublin Infrastructure Forum was established seeking to bring efficiencies and co-ordination of the required delivery of infrastructure generally in the Dublin area. The Powering Up Dublin Business Forum and Powering Up Dublin Community Forum were also established as part of the broader stakeholder engagement strategy.
- Civil works are well advanced and mechanical works are beginning on these gas-fired peaking plants in Corduff, Dublin Bay and Poolbeg respectively. On commissioning, these three fast-start gas plants will provide more than 180MW of generation into the system.
- Grid Scale batteries support the national grid in providing storage capacity and stability in times of low wind availability. These run in two-hour time periods and take a minimum of two hours to recharge depending on the grid connection. The first Aghada 19MW (38MWhr) went live in 2022. Construction of four other batteries began in 2022: three in Dublin (Inchicore – known as Kylemore, Poolbeg and South Wall) and a very large additional battery in Aghada – with a capacity of 150MW). This will bring ESB's battery portfolio to approximately 300MW of two-hour batteries. These are planned to enter service in 2023/2024.

Climate Action Fund

The South Dublin County Council Tallaght District Heating Network is well underway with €4.45 million in support being provided from the Climate Action Fund. This project will see waste heat from a data centre used to heat surrounding buildings, including the Tallaght campus of the Technological University Dublin and other civic buildings. The first phase of the project will be completed and operational in Q1 of 2023. The network, when completed, will result in an estimated reduction in carbon dioxide emissions in the South Dublin County area of nearly 1,500 tonnes per year.

Up to €20 million is also being invested to develop the Dublin District Heating System from the Climate Action Fund. The system will capture waste heat generated at industrial facilities, in particular, the Dublin Waste to Energy Plant in Ringsend and piping it into homes and businesses in the Poolbeg, Ringsend and Docklands areas of Dublin city. The preliminary business case for this project has been prepared.

Climate Action Regional Offices - Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office

Four Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) were established in 2018 to facilitate effective climate action at regional and local level and are funded through a service level agreement (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.

The CARO Eastern and Midlands office covers all the counties in the Eastern and Midlands Region with the exception of the four Dublin local authority areas, and is operated by Kildare County Council. The four Dublin Local Authorities are covered by the Dublin Metropolitan Region CARO, which is operated by Dublin City 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 Eastern and Midlands Region include:

- Wicklow, Meath and Kildare County Councils, with the support of SEAI's Pathfinder Programme and E&M CARO, are forming a Mid-East Energy Unit. The shared objectives are to develop a Mid-East Energy Unit to support energy and emission management, project development and implementation and retrofit investment. The local authorities have committed to providing funding for this initiative from 2022 to 2025 with matching funding being provided by SEAI for projects through the Pathfinder Programme. The Mid East Energy Unit was due to launch in Wicklow in December.
- The Midlands Energy Agency (MEA) was established in 2007 when the county councils of Laois, Longford, Offaly, and Westmeath came together and in 2021, Roscommon County Council. The objective of MEA is to assist local authorities in reducing energy costs, to assist with resource capability and capital funding support to identify, progress and deliver agreed public sector energy efficiency and carbon reduction projects in the region. In applying for the pathfinder program, with the support of E&M CARO, it is envisaged that the Midland Energy Agency will accelerate the development of energy management systems in each local authority and enhance the investment to achieve the target in energy efficiency and carbon reduction for the local authorities by 2030. The MEA local authorities expect to sign up to SEAI's Pathfinder Programme in early 2023.
- The Dublin CARO supported the local authorities in the Dublin region with the development of the Dublin Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy which was launched in June 2022. This strategy will support the Climate Action Plan (CAP) targets on electric vehicle ownership by deploying EV charging infrastructure across the region. As part of the strategy, the public were asked to express their interest for a charge point in their local neighbourhood, e.g., car park, sports club, schools etc.
- The Dublin Metropolitan (DM) CARO in conjunction with Dublin's energy agency CODEMA and the four Dublin local authorities, organised 'Dublin Climate Action Week' in September 2022. The overall vision of Dublin Climate Action Week 2022 was 'to highlight Dublin's climate action progress to its citizens and demonstrate the leadership role of the four local authorities in conjunction with other partners'.

Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme

The Midlands and Eastern 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 in the Eastern and Midland Region

There are 40 flood relief schemes currently underway or planned for the Eastern and Midland Region across the following counties:

Table 15: Statistics for Flood Relief in the Eastern and Midlands Region

County	Number of Schemes
Dublin	16
Kildare	7
Laois	3
Louth	4
Meath	2
Offaly	1
Westmeath	1
Wicklow	6
Totals	40

These include three schemes at construction: The Athlone Flood Alleviation Scheme, the Morell River Flood Management Scheme and the River Dodder Flood Relief Scheme. These schemes, when complete, will provide protection to more than 600 properties. The Ashbourne Flood Relief Scheme reached substantial completion in 2022, providing protection to 49 properties.

3.9

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

The National Planning Framework (NPF) highlights the centrality of our sustainable water resources to underpin our environmental and economic well-being into the future, against the backdrop of the significant deficits in the capacity and quality of our current provision.

For the Blanchardstown Sewerage Scheme, a major milestone was reached in 2022 with the installation of a duplicate sewer and completion of underground storage tanks. This project represents an investment of approximately €88 million by Uisce Éireann and involves the upgrade of the existing sewer network currently serving Blanchardstown, Mulhuddart and Castleknock as well as a number of towns in Meath including Dunboyne, Clonee, Ashbourne and Ratoath.

The expanded capacity of the wastewater network will facilitate existing and future residential and commercial development and enable the long term social and economic development of the greater Blanchardstown region and surrounding areas including Meath. Furthermore, the new scheme will reduce the frequency and volume of untreated wastewater overflows from the wastewater network to the River Tolka, protecting habitats and ecosystems in the River Tolka and Dublin Bay.

Table 16: Statistics for Water and Wastewater Projects 2022

Eastern & Midlands	Completed	In Progress	Planned
Dublin	1	5	17
Kildare	1	1	5
Meath	0	1	20
Wicklow	0	3	4
Laois	0	0	2
Longford	1	1	3
Offaly	0	0	5
Westmeath	0	2	1
Louth	1	2	7
Total	4	15	64

Uisce Éireann Projects in the Eastern and Midland Region

For the **Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme**, the final section of pipeline was completed in 2022 to reinforce and improve the existing network. Under this Scheme, Uisce Éireann is upgrading the waste water infrastructure in Newbridge, Sallins, Clane, Naas and Kill which are currently served by a wastewater network which is no longer fit for purpose. With an investment of over €38 million, these upgrades will reduce the risk of overflows during storms and ensure the network has enough capacity for future growth in these towns.

The **Old Connaught/Woodbrook Water Upgrade** started in 2022. This project involves the construction of strategic reservoir storage and associated water mains connections to provide network resilience and flexibility for Southeast Dublin (Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council) and parts of North County Wicklow. The works involve the construction of two new reservoirs and approximately 13km of new water mains. Once completed, this project will improve the security of drinking water supply in the area and benefit homes and businesses, as well as supporting future development in the area.

Athlone Main Drainage Sewer Network Upgrade started construction in 2022. When complete, this project will reduce the risk of sewer flooding in Athlone and address non-compliant sewer overflows into the River Shannon. It will also improve the capacity of the sewer network allowing for current and future population growth. The existing overflows spill untreated wastewater into the River Shannon, which is designated as a sensitive area. This project will also improve and protect the River Shannon.

There are currently 15 water and wastewater projects in progress in the Mid-East, including an upgrade to the Portloman Water Treatment Plant. The Portloman Water Treatment Plant is located at Lough Owel, northwest of Mullingar. It supplies Mullingar and surrounding areas with drinking water. This investment will ensure the long term delivery of a clean, safe drinking water source for Mullingar.

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.

There were over 90 school building projects delivered under the Large Scale and Additional Accommodation Scheme in the Eastern and Midland Region in 2021 of which 35 (listed in the table below) were of a value in excess of €1 million.

Table 17: School Building Projects delivered with a value in excess of €1 million in the Eastern and Midland Region during 2022

No.	County	School	School Type
1	Dublin	Burrow NS	Primary
2	Dublin	St Patricks SNR Mixed	Primary
3	Dublin	Scoil Cnoc Mhuire Junior	Primary
4	Dublin	GS Mologa	Primary
5	Dublin	St Laurence O'Toole's National School	Primary
6	Dublin	Edmund Rice College	Post Primary
7	Dublin	Malahide Portmarnock ETSS	Post Primary
8	Dublin	Sallynoggin Killiney DLR North Primary School	Planned Primary
9	Dublin	St. Kevin's Community College	Post Primary
10	Dublin	Firhouse ETSS	Post Primary
11	Dublin	Presentation College	Post Primary
12	Dublin	Scoil Phobail Chuil Mhin	Post Primary
13	Dublin	Balbriggan Community College	Post Primary
14	Dublin	Portmarnock Community School	Post Primary
15	Dublin	Rathcoole ETNS	Primary
16	Dublin	North Dublin Muslin NS	Primary
17	Dublin	St Michael's House Special National School Foxfield	Special Education
18	Dublin	Goatstown Educate Together Secondary School	Post Primary
19	Dublin	Scoil Chaitriona	Post Primary
20	Dublin	Maryfield College (Phase 2)	Post Primary

21	Kildare	Naas Community College	Post Primary
22	Laois	Coláiste Íosagáin	Post Primary
23	Laois	Coláiste Íosagáin	Post Primary
24	Laois	Scoil Mhuire	Primary
25	Meath	GS Thulach Na NÓG	Primary
26	Meath	St Ciaran's Community School	Post Primary
27	Meath	Boyne Community School	Post Primary
28	Meath	Drogheda ETSS	Post Primary
29	Offaly	Geashill NS	Primary
30	Westmeath	Naomh Clar NS	Primary
31	Wicklow	Woodbrook College	Post Primary
32	Wicklow	Blessington Community College	Post Primary
33	Wicklow	St Kevin's Community College	Post Primary
34	Wicklow	Colaiste Chraobh Abhann	Post Primary
35	Wicklow	Greystones Community College	Post Primary

Source: Department of Education

A further 588 schools building projects were at various stages of planning, design and construction of which 427 have a value in excess of €1 million.

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

Status of Ongoing Project (EMR)	Eastern and Midland
Project Brief	38
Stage 1 (Preliminary Design)	159
Stage 2a (Developed Sketch Scheme)	41
Stage 2b (Detailed Design)	77
Stage 3 (Tender Stage)	50
Grand Total	427

Source: Department of Education

Health

In 2022, progress was made on a number of projects across the community and acute sectors. On the community side there was continued progress on facilities for Older People, Primary Care and Mental Health. Projects completed included the creation of 51 replacement beds at St Mary's Phoenix Park, reconfiguration works were completed on 18-bed High Dependency Unit for older Intellectual Disability Clients

at Peamount Hospital and the National Forensic Mental Health Service Hospital, Portrane became operational.

Also in 2022, two Ambulance Bases were completed at Ardee (winner of the 2023 RIAI Choice award in the Wellbeing category) and Mullingar, extensive reconfiguration works were completed at Midland Regional Hospital, Tullamore, and infrastructural improvements included the first phase of the electrical resilience programme at Tallaght University Hospital.

Acute facilities completed in the Eastern and Midland region included the 12 bed Integrated Care Unit at Tallaght University Hospital, the Bone Marrow Unit and the extension to the Outpatient Department for non-

invasive cardiology diagnostic and respiratory services at St. James's Hospital.

Table 19: Health Capital Projects Completed and Operational in the Eastern and Midland Region in 2022

Facility	Project details
CHI at Temple Street	Neurosurgery rehabilitation for over 6's from Beaumont. Redevelopment of the fourth floor, 2nd MRI and relocation of CT into a series of rehabilitation rooms.
Tallaght University Hospital	12 bed Integrated Critical Care Unit.
Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise	Reconfiguration to provide additional clinical and admin accommodation.
Midland Regional Hospital, Tullamore	Reconfiguration works to provide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute Medical Assessment Unit; • 2 Isolation Rooms in ED • Reconfigure and extend Blood transfusion and Histology labs.
St. James's Hospital	Bone Marrow Unit – 7 Isolation Rooms for the Bone Marrow Unit.
St. James's Hospital	Extension to the ground floor Outpatient Department for non-invasive cardiology diagnostic and respiratory services.
Midland Regional Hospital, Tullamore	Conversion of Ward Area to provide 4 new neutral pressure isolation rooms
Our Lady's Hospital, Navan	Ward Refurbishment works to male and female inpatient nightingale wards.
Knocklyon/ Rathfarnham (Ballyboden) Primary Care Centre	Primary Care Centre, by lease agreement.
Mullingar Ambulance Base	Ambulance Station – Mullingar: Replaced existing fragmented service and integrated fleet and operatives in one central location in Mullingar.
Ardee Ambulance Base	New Ambulance Station, Ardee
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda	Purchase and installation of a second CT scanner.
Midland Regional Hospital, Mullingar	Respiratory and Paediatric Day Care Unit (internal reconfiguration).
St Mary's, Phoenix Park	Upgrade of heating/electrical system in original Main Building, creation of 51 bed replacement beds.
St Ita's Campus, Portrane, Co. Dublin	Final Phase of upgrade & Refurbishment of Block 123.
Tallaght University Hospital	First phase of electrical resilience programme in Tallaght University Hospital. Installation of new 3.5MVA Medium Voltage generator & New LV generator and transformer at Substation 2.
Beaumont Hospital	Upgrade of Air Handling Units to Theatre & Radiology Departments.
Peamount Hospital	Reconfiguration of an existing 18-bed High Dependency unit (Hollybank) for older Intellectual Disability Clients.
Bray - HUB 17, Enhanced Community Care Programme	Reconfiguration of ground floor of Bray Civic Centre to create clinical space for use as an interim ECC Hub.
Swords Primary Care Centre - HUB 29, Enhanced Community Care Programme	Fit out of leased building to provide accommodation for CHN Team.

Source: HSE Capital & Estates

