



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Project Ireland 2040

Northern and Western Region

2022 Update

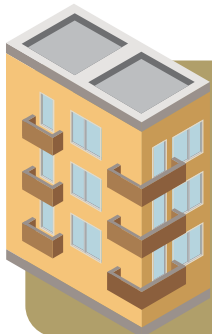


Key Facts and Projects 2022 Update – Northern and Western Region



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



832
new social
housing builds
and **3,516**
total new
dwelling
completions.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

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

8 projects approved under
the fourth category 1 call.



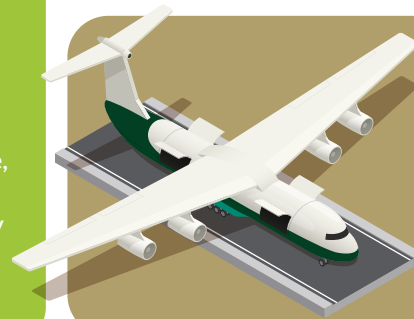
BusConnects

Construction of the
Salmon Weir Bridge to
facilitate BusConnects
Galway began in 2022.

Consultation on the
Cross City Link and
the Dublin Road scheme,
a new bus priority
corridor through Galway
City Centre, closed in
November 2022.

Major regional transport
projects planned including:

- **N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Road**
- **N56 Dungloe to Glenties Road**
- **N56 Mountcharles to Inver Road**
- **N5 Westport to Turlough Road and the Moycullen Bypass.**



Continued
development of
**Ireland
West
Knock
Airport**

31



flood relief schemes are progressing or
planned including: Westport (Cois
Abhainn and Ashwood) Flood Relief
Scheme, Raphoe, Carrick-on-Shannon,
Lifford, Galway City and Ballina.

Water and Wastewater

44 projects planned.

14 in progress and **2**
completed Ballymagroarty
Water Supply Scheme and
Tuam Regional Water Supply.

Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund

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

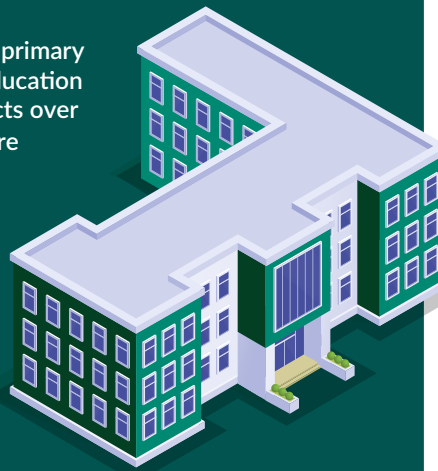


Community Nursing
Units completed at
Carndonagh
Community Hospital
and St John's
Community Hospital,
7 new Primary Care
centres completed.

8

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

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



40,375
in IDA supported
employments

35,605
in EI supported employment

1,651 clients supported
by Local Enterprise Offices

Project Ireland 2040

This document sets out the regional projects and programmes which are being planned and delivered in the Northern and Western 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 Northern and Western 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 Northern and Western Region covers the administrative areas of 8 counties; Cavan, Donegal, Galway City and County, Leitrim, Mayo, Monaghan, Roscommon and Sligo. The Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) is part of regional governance in Ireland, established under local government reform in January 2015.

Regional Cities and Centres:

Galway City and Metropolitan Area, Sligo and Letterkenny

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

Project Ireland 2040 envisages the population of Galway City and Suburbs to grow by between 40,000 - 48,000 people (50-60%) by 2040. In keeping with the vision of compact smart growth, 50% of new city housing will be within the existing Galway City and Suburbs footprint.

Project Ireland 2040 envisages the populations of Sligo and Letterkenny to each grow by approximately 7,700 people (40%) by 2040. In keeping with the vision of compact smart growth, 40% of new town housing will be within the existing Sligo Town and Letterkenny Town footprints.

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.

Urban regeneration is reviving Cavan Town Centre, Dublin Street in Monaghan Town, Ballybay, Ballyjamesduff, Clones and Carrickmacross Town Centre.

There were 832 social housing new builds in the Northern and Western Region in 2022 with more planned in 2023.

There were 3,516 new dwelling completions in the Northern and Western Region in 2022, up 27.8% on the previous period (2,750).

Table 1: Social Housing Completion 2022

Northern and Western Region	Total New Build
Cavan	98
Monaghan	140
Donegal	83
Leitrim	32
Sligo	13
Galway City	150
Galway County	224
Mayo	89
Roscommon	3
Total	832

Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Table 2: Total Housing Completion in 2022

Northern and Western Region	New Dwelling Completions
Cavan	265
Donegal	671
Galway City	413
Galway	919
Leitrim	71
Mayo	452
Monaghan	335
Roscommon	179
Sligo	211
Total	3,516

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
Cavan	259	111	148	25	284
Donegal	731	89	642	73	804
Galway City	90	61	29	129	219
Galway County	1,106	270	746	62	1,078
Leitrim	109	53	56	3	112

Mayo	319	105	214	25	344
Monaghan	211	61	150	26	237
Roscommon	137	23	114	4	141
Sligo	270	191	79	12	282
Total	3,142	964	2,178	359	3,501

Source: Central Statistics Office

Urban and Rural Development Fund (URDF)

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

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

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

To date there have been two Calls for proposals under the URDF with a total of almost €333 million allocated so far in respect of the 87 projects approved under Call 1, while in March 2021 provisional URDF funding support of €1.3 billion was announced in respect of a countrywide programme of a further 45 proposals approved under Call 2.

The 45 proposals approved under Call 2 in 2021 builds on the existing pipeline of URDF supported projects launched under Call 1. This URDF supported 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.

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

In line with the objectives of Housing for All and the Town Centre First Policy, the next round of funding under the URDF will be specifically designed to address long term vacancy and dereliction across URDF cities and towns and the acceleration of residential developments. Further detail in relation to this funding will be announced by DHLGH in early 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)

Northern and Western Region	Total per County
Cavan	2
Donegal	2
Leitrim	1
Sligo	6
Monaghan	2
Galway City	8
Galway County	1
Mayo	5
Roscommon	3
Total	30

Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

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

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Cavan County Council	Cavan	Cavan Town Centre	Technical assistance to develop a structured scheme of works to develop backlands in the town core and rejuvenate the town centre.
Donegal County Council	Donegal	Letterkenny 2040 (Public Realm and Site acquisition)	The initial part of the multi-phase 'Letterkenny 2040' project involves master planning for the delivery of transformative regeneration, renewal, and place-making that will enhance the social, economic and environmental resilience of Letterkenny. 'Letterkenny 2040' is a multi-faceted project that will deliver place-based change that benefits the urban core of Letterkenny and provides positive impacts in Letterkenny's wider regional and cross-border catchment.
Leitrim County Council	Leitrim	Public Realm Improvement Scheme for the town of Carrick-on-Shannon	The proposed project will represent the largest public sector led regeneration project ever undertaken in Co. Leitrim and involves significant enhancement of the quality and extent of the public realm of the town, befitting its built heritage legacy and recovering road space from motorists for greater use by pedestrians and cyclists in a safer and calmed environment
Sligo County Council	Sligo	Eastern Garavogue Bridge	URDF support will contribute to the cost of a proposed link road to join communities north and south of the Garavogue River, and which is also being supported by the Department of Transport.

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Sligo County Council	Sligo	O'Connell Street Enhancement	This project involves street enhancement works to improve the pedestrian core by enhancing the quality of the streetscape and improving access, through wider paths, improved paving, disabled parking spaces, and new traffic signals, etc.
Sligo County Council	Sligo	Sligo Cultural Plaza	The project will contribute to the transformation of Sligo city's centre public realm. The Plaza will accommodate a variety of open-air activities, festivals and public screenings, including an outdoor market.
Sligo County Council	Sligo	Sligo Public Realm	The project involves the planning phase of a five year implementation plan for Sligo's recently completed Public Realm Plan.
Monaghan County Council	Monaghan	Dublin Street Regeneration	Technical assistance for design and planning of scheme of works in Dublin Street South to open up brownfield backlands and landlocked greenfield sites in Monaghan town.
Galway City Council	Galway	Cycling and Walking	Funding will support initial priority investment in approx. 11km of new cycle lanes and 7km of upgraded cycle lanes and approx. 2km of city roads closed to general traffic to facilitate public transport and cyclists.
Galway City Council	Galway	Ardaun Upgrade of Martins Roundabout	This project involves the design and works associated with the upgrade of the Martin Roundabout to a signalised junction to provide primary access to Ardaun (southern section), prioritised movement of public transport, as well as full pedestrian and cyclist crossing facilities. The proposal will enable the progression of development of Ardaun South in order to achieve the growth targets of the NPF, the housing need of the city and the objectives of the core strategy of the City Development Plan and Ardaun LAP.
Galway City Council	Galway	Sandy Road Liosbán	Regeneration of Local Authority Depots at Sandy Road Liosbán. Funding is to support the preparation of a Development Feasibility Study.
Galway Harbour Company	Galway	Regeneration of Galway City Inner Harbour	This project involves master planning for the regeneration of Galway City's inner harbour area, enabling circa 100,000m ² of residential and commercial development within the city core.

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Mayo County Council	Mayo	Ballina Innovation Quarter	The project involves the redevelopment of Barracks buildings as a catalyst for urban regeneration in Ballina. They will be transformed to become a place of vibrancy, energy and entrepreneurialism, set within an attractive public realm and culminating in the creation of a high-quality addition to the regional enterprise infrastructure.
Mayo County Council	Mayo	Castlebar Urban Greenway Link	This project involves the construction of the Castlebar Urban Greenway which will be located in the town and is the final link completing the Turlough Great Western Greenway with the River Walk Greenway, Lough Lannagh and on to Westport / Achill.
Mayo County Council	Mayo	Castlebar Military Barracks	This project involves master planning and design works required for advancing this multi-phase project on this local authority owned site which when completed will be a catalyst for the wider re-energisation of the centre of Castlebar.
National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG)	Galway	Nuns Island Master planning	This project involves the creation of a Physical Development Master Plan for the Nuns Island area of Galway.
Roscommon County Council	Roscommon	Realm Plan – Market Square and Main Street	Support for a suite of regeneration projects in Roscommon town core
Roscommon County Council	Roscommon	Roscommon Town Centre	Technical assistance for further linked, next sequence of regeneration plans in Roscommon town

Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

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

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Cavan County Council	Cavan	Abbeylands Regeneration Project	This projects aims to stimulate the development of the Abbeylands Cultural Quarter and to regenerate this important town centre. This project is the follow on capital element to a related Masterplan for the Abbeylands area of Cavan Town Centre that was funded under Call 1

Applicant	County	Project	Description
Donegal County Council	Donegal	Letterkenny 2040 Phase 1: Re-energise and Connect the Historic Town Centre	Letterkenny 2040 Phase1 is a transformative urban regeneration project supporting a series of inter-related regeneration measures in Letterkenny Town Centre. This project is a strategic step in Letterkenny's longer term regeneration goal, to transform the core of the regional cross border centre as a 'Place for People and Public Life.' The project will animate and transform the 'heart' of the town, bringing much needed physical renewal and transformational impacts in terms of 'place-making,' increased footfall and stimulating economic activity in the town.
Sligo County Council	Sligo	Implementation Sligo Public Realm Implementation Sligo Public Realm	URDF support will contribute to the cost of a proposed link road to join communities north and south of the Garavogue River, and which is also being supported by the Department of Transport.
Sligo County Council	Sligo	City Campus - Sligo's Cultural and Learning Hub	The vision for this area is for it to become a new cultural centre of the city through the strategic transformation, regeneration and redevelopment of an under-utilised and semi-derelict brownfield site in the city centre of Sligo.
Monaghan County Council	Monaghan	Dublin Street Regeneration	The project will deliver the infrastructure works and development of suitable, serviced and accessible development lands, creating the physical environment for the development of new buildings for mixed use purposes.
Galway City Council	Galway	Galway City Council Transport Connectivity Project	The Galway City Council Transport Connectivity project focuses on connectivity, permeability, facilitating compact growth and creating multi-modal connections that will support an employment-based population while factoring in the future climate adaptation needs of the population. The project encompasses four transport-based subprojects which will act as a catalyst for sustainable and compact growth in Galway City and County.
Galway City Council	Galway	Galway Public Spaces and Streets Project	This proposal supports the delivery of new and improved public spaces in Galway City Centre. The focus of this proposal is on five key locations which are identified in the Galway City Public Realm Strategy 2019.

Applicant	County	Project	Description
			The works involved will support good place-making and long term compact growth, and facilitate greater residential and employment growth within the city footprint. The works at these locations will contribute to wider regeneration and will also support the planned transition to a low carbon and climate resilient city incorporating measures to reduce car use, enhance biodiversity, and incorporate sustainable drainage and flood mitigation.
Galway City Council	Galway	Galway Innovation and Creativity District	This project will support the strategic enabling and development of a masterplan or vision plan incorporating a project charter/brief, business assessment and a dedicated delivery design team to develop the comprehensive master planning Phase.
Galway County Council	Galway	Oranmore Railway Station	This project involves three distinct but related projects to promote sustainable growth around Oranmore Train Station. The projects will maximise the benefit of The rail infrastructure in particular and facilitate the future expansion of Oranmore as a compact development with high quality public transport as part of the emerging urban framework plan.
Mayo County Council	Mayo	Castlebar Historic Core Reactivation Initiative Project	This is a public realm project which will stimulate regeneration by redressing the deterioration of underutilised historic properties and backlands that frame The Mall (The Green) - Castlebar's Historic Urban Core.
Mayo County Council	Mayo	Castlebar Military Barracks Project	This project is a follow on element to a related masterplan for the multi-phased Castlebar Military Barracks project, the first phase of which was funded under Call 1.
Roscommon County Council	Roscommon	Roscommon Town Centre-Putting the Spokes back into the Hub	This project represents a vision to transform how Roscommon's primary urban settlement can serve as an exemplar for transforming other towns to liveable, vibrant compact centres, which anchor a resident urban population and a strong retail, commercial and social offering. This project aims to reinforce the vibrant commercial role of Main Street and Market Square (the hub of the town) by sensitively enabling linkages to surrounding back lands and the Circular Road Civic area (spokes of the wheel) which will open opportunities for new development within the existing urban footprint of Roscommon town.

Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

3.2

National Strategic Outcome 2 – Enhanced Regional Connectivity

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

There are major regional transport projects planned for the Northern and Western Region: the N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Road; the N56 Dungloe to Glenties Road; the N56 Mountcharles to Inver Road; the Galway City Ring Road; the N5 Westport to Turlough Road; and the N5 Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge Road.

- **N56 Dungloe to Glenties** - Construction ongoing on a phased basis. The N56 Dungloe to Cloghbolie was substantially completed in 2022 and the N56 Letterilly to Kilraine was substantially completed in January 2023.
- **N6 Galway City Ring Road** - The Oral Hearing commenced on 18 February 2020 Galway County Council received planning approval on 7th December 2021. On 30 January 2023 the High Court quashed the decision to approve and remitted the application back to An Bord Pleanála.
- **The N5 Westport to Turlough** - Received Government approval to award construction contract on 15 October 2019. Works are ongoing and completion is expected in 2023.
- **N5 Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge** - An Bord Pleanála confirmed the scheme on the 18 January 2019. The construction contract was re-tendered after the previously selected company went into receivership. A new tender competition is ongoing.
- **Moycullen Bypass** - Construction is ongoing on this project with an expected completion date of late 2023.

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.

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

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

3.3

National Strategic Outcome 3 – Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities

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

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

10 projects were approved for funding of €6,193,286 from the third call for Category 2 application to the RRDF in January 2022. Eight projects located in the Northern and Western Region were approved for funding of €40,555,955 from the fourth call for Category 1 applications to the RRDF in November 2022. 65 projects were approved of funding of €10,195,306 under the Town and Village Renewal Schemes and 97 projects were approved for funding of €7,043,184 under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

In 2022, three RRDF projects in the Northern and Western were completed, including one Category 1 projects, worth €2,304,056.14, and 2 Category 2 projects, worth €553,000.

Table 5: Projects approved for funding Projects approved for funding under the RRDF Category I Fourth call in the Northern and Western Region

Lead Body	Project Name	County	Project Description	Total RRDF Funding
Cavan County Council	Ballyjamesduff Community and Enterprise Hub	Cavan	This project will redevelop a derelict town centre building to provide a remote working hub and community facilities.	€6,922,400
Donegal County Council	Ramelton Re-Imagined	Donegal	This project includes the restoration and extension of a heritage building to provide a community facility, a public park and a multi-purpose civic space.	€6,359,894
Leitrim County Council	Carrick-on-Shannon Business Campus	Leitrim	This project involves the purchase of the former MBNA Campus and the development of a state-of-the-art enterprise campus in the existing buildings.	€7,200,000
Leitrim County Council	Food Innovation and Knowledge Hub, as part of Leitrim Food Enterprise Zone	Leitrim	This project will develop phase 2 of the Drumshanbo Food Enterprise Zone and build on the success of the Drumshanbo Food Hub to cultivate a pipeline of food innovators, entrepreneurs and educators.	€2,810,091

South West Mayo Development Company CLG	Ballinrobe Community Arts and Amenity Centre - Regeneration of the iconic Valkenburg complex	Mayo	This project will regenerate a vacant building to provide a multi-purpose community facility, tourism accommodation, conference and meeting facilities and a café.	€4,594,600
Mayo County Council	Newport Regeneration	Mayo	This project will include public realm works which will enhance the streetscape in the town centre including dark skies friendly lighting. The demolition of derelict buildings will allow the construction of an Enterprise and Tourism Hub.	€5,653,073
Monaghan County Council	Blackwater Valley Rural Enterprise and Digital Hub	Monaghan	This project will deliver the construction of a new Enterprise and Digital Hub. A café and craft shop will be included along with a commercial kitchen.	€2,660,046
Roscommon County Council	Boyle Community Library	Roscommon	This project will deliver a community library on a brownfield town centre site. The library will be a "My Open Library" and will include meeting and event spaces, technology and research spaces, workshop and creative spaces.	€4,355,851

Table 6: Projects approved for funding Projects approved for funding under the RRDF Category II Third call in the Northern and Western Region

Lead Body	Project Name	County	Project Description	Total RRDF Funding
Donegal County Council	Repowering Buncrana A NW Place Standard Project	Donegal	This project will develop a number of integrated measures that will work to strengthen the shore front, enhance walking and cycling, provide quality shore front amenities and integrate art and biodiversity into the urban landscape.	€1,169,396
Údarás na Gaeltachta	Cill Ulta: Northwest Bioeconomy Hub	Donegal	This project will provide state of the art facilities and create sustainable employment opportunities in the bioeconomy sectors. It will include enterprise units, hot desk facilities, education and meeting facilities and will facilitate a member's hub, bioeconomy corridor and cross border engagement.	€196,119

Lead Body	Project Name	County	Project Description	Total RRDF Funding
Galway County Council	Gort Inse Guaire	Galway	This project will develop plans to redesign the Market Square and town centre streets and reinvigorate Canon Quinn Park, a greenspace on the town centre.	€798,584
Leitrim County Council	4-Strand Rural Regeneration Intervention for Drumshambo (ExCHANGE)	Leitrim	This project will develop plans to repurpose two high profile buildings in the town centre as the Exchange Smart Working Hub and Creative Studios, create access to the town backlands for recreation and business use, and carry out design works for the People's Park.	€596,290
Monaghan County Council	Carrickmacross Workhouse Community Tourism & Arts Hub	Monaghan	The project will develop plans to continue the restoration of the Workhouse site and deliver a Community Hub providing community based care services, youth and training facilities with office space, café and restaurant. Plans will include a Workhouse Museum, Heritage Centre and Remembrance Garden.	€288,608
Roscommon County Council	Putting the Heart Into Monksland	Roscommon	The project will complete plans for a new community hub, linear park and increased pedestrian and cycle linkages between residential and commercial areas. A concept plan for the development of brownfield sites is included.	€1,207,144
Roscommon County Council	Rejuvenating Strokestown's Potential	Roscommon	This project includes improved public realm and parking, plans for the redevelopment of Bawn Street, creation of a civic space at the gates to Strokestown House, and creation of community gardens on a backlands site.	€560,375
Sligo County Council	Ballisodare Regeneration 2021	Sligo	The project will develop plans for the Sally Gardens area including a new town park in the backlands with activity and event spaces and off street parking. The plans will include connectivity to the village through pedestrian routes, traffic management and a river trail.	€580,000

Lead Body	Project Name	County	Project Description	Total RRDF Funding
Monaghan County Council	Lough Egish Food Park Expansion	Monaghan	This project will develop plans for the expansion of Lough Egish Food Park through the acquisition of a greenfield site and right of way access to provide three additional industrial units. Plans will include the design of access roads and public realm works, additional waste water treatment capacity and upgrade of utilities supply.	€585,810
Cavan County Council	Belturbet Town Regeneration Master Plan	Cavan	This project will prepare plans for the development of a multipurpose digital enterprise and tourism hub and for the further development of the heritage railway visitor attraction.	€210,960

Support and Grow Tourism in Rural Communities

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

Tourism Development

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

grants of up to 100% of eligible project costs to a maximum of €200,000 per project. The scheme aims to support the development of up to seven 'wow' gala dinner venues of scale in the environs of Ireland's premier business tourism hubs i.e. Dublin, Cork, Kerry, the Shannon Region and Galway. Targeting this gap in the Business Events segment will ensure recovery and growth of revenue which is central to Fáilte Ireland's sustainable growth agenda.

Table 7: Platforms for Growth 2 : Additional Information on the Successful Projects due to Proceed

Facility Centre	Location	Local Authority	Regional Assembly Area	Status
Tullan Strand Centre for Water Sports Activities Bundoran	Drumacrin, Tullan Strand, Bundoran, Co Donegal	Donegal County Council	Northern and Western Region	Pre-Planning
Downings Water Sports Activity Facility	Cnoc Na Muirleog, Na Muirleo, Na Dunaibh (Downings), Co Donegal	Donegal County Council	Northern and Western Region	Pre-Planning
Corrib Sports & Adventure	Dyke Road, Terryland, Galway	Galway City Council	Northern and Western Region	Pre-Planning
Keel Facility Centre for Water Sports Activities	Keel Sandybanks, Achill Island, Co. Mayo	Mayo County Council	Northern and Western Region	Pre-Planning
Carrowmore Water Sports Facility Centre	Carrowmore Beach, Louisburgh, Co Mayo	Mayo County Council	Northern and Western Region	In Planning
Carrowmore Water Sports Facility Centre	The Beach, Mackduff, Enniscrone, Co Sligo	Sligo County Council	Northern and Western Region	Pre-Planning
Enniscrone	The Beach, Mackduff, Enniscrone, Co Sligo	Sligo County Council	Northern and Western Region	Pre-Planning
Rosses Point PFG	Rosses Point, County Sligo	Sligo County Council	Northern and Western Region	Pre-Planning

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

RRDF Funded Projects of Tourism Significance

Fáilte Ireland and Coillte continued to partner on progressing the International Mountain Biking Proposition for Rural Ireland, which received €13.6 million in RRDF funding, administered by D/RCD, in 2019. Fáilte Ireland's contribution to the project

is €954,000. A strategic, large-scale project, it is considered to be of particular importance for developing the activities tourism offering in Ireland and comprises of the Coolaney Mountain Bike Centre & Trail Development (Sligo) in this region.

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

new trail and a trail network of approximately 300km of mountain bike trails across the 5 sites.

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

Fáilte Ireland will also continue to work with the National Parks and Wildlife Service on enhancing and expanding the visitor experience at our beautiful national parks. The new trail development at Connemara National Park was granted planning permission in February 2023 and will progress to delivery later in the year.

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

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

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 Monaghan Development and Experience Development Plan launched in 2022. The role of this five-year commercial 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.

Capital Investment

As part of Destination Towns €5,997,886 was awarded to 12 towns in Ireland's Ancient East: Carlow, Cork City, Monaghan, Portlaoise, Kildare Town, Drogheda, Trim, Cashel, Kilkenny, Waterford, New Ross and Wicklow Town. Trim in Co Meath was the first Destination Town completed and launched in 2022. The remaining towns are to launch in 2023.

In 2022 funding for the following was also awarded:

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

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

Fáilte Ireland will 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.

Together with our partners, we welcomed visitors to three newly opened attractions in counties Mayo, Monaghan, and Roscommon.

- Céide Fields Visitor Centre, Co. Mayo;
- Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Co. Monaghan; and
- The National Famine Museum, Strokestown Park, Co. Roscommon.

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

- Sligo Cultural Plaza, Co. Sligo;
- Surf Centre of Excellence, Strandhill, Co. Sligo; (scheduled to open Summer 2023); and
- Galway Museum.

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 Monaghan Development and Experience Development Plan launched in 2022. The role of this five year commercial 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.

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 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 €36 million were allocated

to the Northern and Western region, including over €5 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 Northern and Western region, 105 BCPs were in place by the end of 2022, 103 of which were open for business and providing high speed broadband services to communities. There were also 224 school Strategic Connection Points (school SCPs) in the Northern and Western region that had a connection installed by the end of 2022 and 85 of these schools were provided with high-speed connectivity. The installation of BCPs and the delivery of public BCPs throughout the country is almost completed. NBI is working to accelerate the rollout of high-speed broadband to schools across the State.

Agriculture Food and the Marine

A key project at Killybegs Fishery Harbour Centre, under the Department’s 2022 Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme, was the continued construction of a 120-metre extension to the pier at Smooth Point to meet the increasing demand from the fishing industry. Works commenced during October 2019. It had been expected that the Smooth Point pier extension would be completed in 2022 but the project experienced

delays because of COVID-19 and contractor difficulties. €11.7 million was spent on the project between 2019 and 2021 and approximately 50% of the works were completed. The works ultimately need to be re-tendered, and the current contract is valued at €10.495 million (excluding VAT). Works are expected to be complete in August 2023.

In November 2022 the Minister appointed a contractor with a €30 million contract for the development of a Deep-Water quay in Ros am Mhíl Fishery Harbour Centre. At present Ros am Mhíl Fishery Harbour Centre has 325 meters of quayside but is limited in deep water to a maximum of 5-8 meters chart datum and experiences congestion in busy fishing seasons. The new development will be assessable to large vessels such as Irish Navy vessels, Marine Institute Research Vessels, marine survey vessels and marine leisure craft.

3.4

National Strategic Outcome 4 – Sustainability Mobility

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

A transport strategy for Galway City was prepared by the National Transport Authority (NTA) in partnership with Galway City Council and Galway County Council in 2016. The Strategy set out an overall framework for the development of transport infrastructure and services in Galway City and its environs over a twenty-year period. A review of the Galway Transport Strategy and the development of a new Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy will be carried out by the NTA in 2023, in conjunction with the local authorities.

This review will include a comprehensive analysis of all transport options for a multi-modal perspective to identify the optimal modal solutions to meet the transport needs of Galway in the next in the coming decades.

BusConnects Galway will deliver a rationalised network of five high-performing cross city routes. All routes will serve major city centre attractions as well as linking major destinations across the city, comprise next generation bus lanes, including segregated bike lanes, enhanced services, cashless fares and account-based ticketing. A network of park and ride sites, serviced by the more efficient bus network, will also be put in place.

Non-statutory public consultations have been held for the Cross City Link and the Dublin Road scheme. Galway City Council submitted a planning application in September 2022 to An Bord Pleanála for the Galway Cross-City Link, a new bus priority corridor through Galway City Centre, connecting the west and the east of the city from University Road to the Dublin Road. The consultation period closed on 18

November 2022. The Dublin Road scheme will enter the planning process in 2023, following a second non-statutory public consultation process.

In August 2021 An Bord Pleanála gave consent for the development of the Salmon Weir Bridge, a pedestrian and cycling bridge which is an important element of BusConnects Galway. Construction began on the project in mid-2022.

Investment in public transport is ongoing within the Region. A best practice example of where the integration of transport, spatial and economic planning is to be delivered is through the Galway Transportation Strategy. This should be used as a template elsewhere and initially as a priority for other areas, including Sligo and Letterkenny, incorporating the cross-border network with Derry.

Letterkenny is targeted as a strategic regional centre and this requires much greater integration of land-use and transport planning which, in turn, enhances the flow and movement of existing and future activities and assets across the wider Northwest City Region. Project Ireland 2040 will enhance connectivity of people and places by promoting sustainable transport options and integrating land use and transport.

Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan

The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan is a major national public transport initiative with the aim of increasing public transport connectivity, particularly for people living outside the major cities and towns.

Over 100 rural villages will benefit from frequent public transport service (at least three return trips daily) for the first time. The plan will also see a 25% overall increase in rural bus services, and over 60 new connections to regional cities from surrounding areas.

Collectively, these measures will not only further improve connectivity in the area but will provide viable alternatives to the private car for those living in the region.

The Plan is managed by the National Transport Authority (NTA) and TFI Local Link offices with the help of funding from the Department of Transport.

Connecting Ireland (CI) was launched in October 2021 with a public consultation which was completed in December 2021.

The first year of implementation of CI was in 2022, with 38 new and enhanced services launched.

The original distribution of services was defined by a baseline audit undertaken by the NTA and subsequent amendments to the Plan based on public consultation feedback.

In 2022, routes identified through the 2021 Connecting Ireland consultation process were prioritised to provide emergency public transport services to areas where the population and transport demand increased due to the requirement to house Ukrainian refugees in rural locations.

This was achieved by accelerating network improvements, including additional stops, route modifications, and more services to increase connectivity.

This acceleration served a dual purpose by catering for both the new and existing demand.

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

Various Greenway projects in Donegal including:

- Sections of the Inishowen Greenway (Buncrana to Carndonagh and Bridgend to Buncrana & Newtowncunningham);
- The Barnesmore Gap Greenway;
- The Burtonport to Letterkenny Greenway;
- Three Greenway projects in Galway, Galway to Oughterard, Derrigimlagh to Kylemore Abbey and from Athenry to Milltown;
- The Sligo Greenway from Collooney to the Mayo County Boundary;
- The Sligo-Leitrim and Northern Counties Greenway managed by Leitrim County Council;
- The Lough Ree Greenway (Athlone to Ballyleague / Lanesborough), Mid Shannon Greenway (Ballyleague / Lanesborough to Tarmonsbarry / Stroketown / Roosky) and the Lough Key to Carrick-on-Shannon Greenway in Roscommon;
- The Ballina / Castlebar / Westport Interurban Greenway, Clew Bay Belclare to Murrisk Greenway and Great Western Greenway at Newport Town in Mayo;

- The Cavan Railway Greenway;
- The Ulster Canal Greenway; and
- Progress also continued in 2022 on construction of the Clifden to Recess Greenway in Galway, and the extensions to the Great Western Greenway in Achill, Mayo.

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

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

In addition to numerous smaller Active Travel projects undertaken across the North West region in 2022, a major project progressed was the launch of the Salmon Weir Bridge across the River Corrib in December.

Significant progress was also made with the Safe Routes to School Programme, 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 St. Michael's NS in Corcaghan, Co. Monaghan. In addition almost 5,000 cycle/scooter spaces have been provided at 283 schools across the country throughout 2022 as part of the SRTS programme.

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

Safe Routes to School

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

Active Travel

- Donegal Town One-Way Active Travel Scheme, commencing construction in 2023
- South Dougiska Cycle Scheme in Galway, for construction in 2023
- Eglinton Canal Active Travel Scheme in Galway, for construction in 2023
- Carraroe to City Centre Active Travel Pathfinder Scheme in Sligo, in design development
- The Monaghan Town Greenway Upgrade, due to be opened in 2023

3.5

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

Table 8: Employment in the Northern and Western Region in 2022

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

Source: CSO and Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

A competitive, innovative and resilient enterprise base is essential to provide the jobs and employment opportunities for people to live and prosper in all regions. Achieving the ambitious employment targets in the National Planning Framework in the context of increased global uncertainty, Brexit, the response to Covid-19 and technological disruption, underlines the importance of building competitive regional clusters and generating an uplift in enterprise export competitiveness to secure sustainable jobs and growth. The Enterprise Development Agencies continued to support an innovative and resilient enterprise base in 2022.

IDA Ireland

The Northern and Western Assembly Region is made up of the IDA Border and Western Regions. There are 73 IDA client companies in the Border Region, employing 8,885 people and 126 in the West Region, employing 31,490 people. The FDI performance in the region has been strong over the past ten years with employment among IDA clients increasing by 59% within the Engineering & Industrial Technologies, Medical Technologies, Technology, International Financial Services and Life Sciences sectors.

The IDA Border region includes the regional growth centres of Letterkenny and Sligo. The region has fostered strong collaboration, for example through Atlantic Technological University (ATU) Sligo participation in National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT), the development of the Atlantic MedTech cluster and ATU Letterkenny engagement with client companies on the formation of a North-West chapter of Cyber Ireland.

There are 99 IDA supported companies in Galway City and County, employing 24,400 in total. The FDI performance in the Region has been strong over the past ten years with employment among IDA clients increasing by 69%. There is a significant ecosystem of well-established Life Sciences companies, which has helped drive strong cluster development. The number of people employed in software engineering, technical support, global business services and R&D in the Region has also grown considerably. IDA will target 101 investments for the Northern and Western region in the period 2021 to 2024.







Table 9: IDA Clients and Employment by County

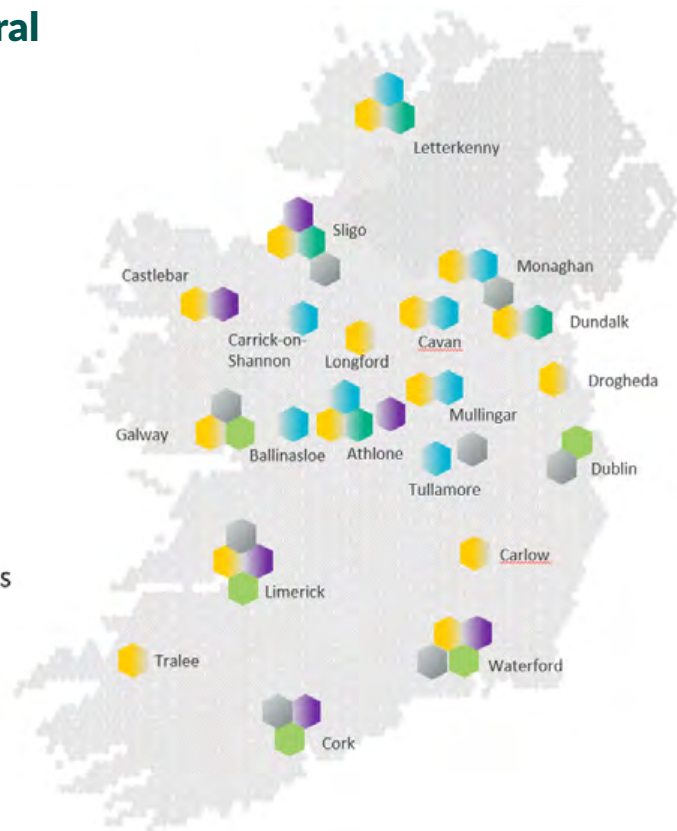
County	No. of Companies	Total Employment
Donegal	21	3,696
Sligo	31	2,955
Leitrim	4	1,011
Cavan	9	795
Monaghan	8	428
Total	73	8,885
Galway City & County	99	24,400
Mayo	17	5,525
Roscommon	10	1,565
Total	126	31,490
Northern & Western Total	199	40,375

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 over 2021-2024, IDA will:

- Deliver additional Advance Building Solutions in Mayo and Galway;
- Work in partnership with Mayo County Council to develop access infrastructure to lands in Ballina.
- Deliver an Advance Building Solution in Letterkenny, Cavan and Sligo over 2021-2024.
- Deliver an Advance Technology Building in Monaghan.
- Partner with Leitrim to secure Planning Permission for an Advance Technology Building in Carrick-on-Shannon
- Acquire additional strategic sites in the region for development.
- Continue upgrade works and investment on IDA Parks in the Region to ensure a robust value proposition for clients.

IDA will continue to work closely with the private sector in the North and West 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 10: Grant Payments by County and Year

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Donegal	€1,203,370	€224,445	€269,360	€4,667,694	€1,127,160
Sligo	€303,718	€1,947,824	€3,771,782	€2,057,405	€1,680,337
Leitrim	€32,075	€33,712	0	€138,000	0
Cavan	0	€596,770	€269,273	0	€5,000
Monaghan	€150,000	0	0	0	€150,000
Total	€1,689,163	€2,802,751	€4,310,415	€6,863,099	€2,962,497
Galway	€12,997,846	€7,533,969	€10,581,508	€12,622,184	€11,061,925
Mayo	€2,250,971	€4,442,479	€4,572,443	€218,646	€2,963,460
Roscommon	€1,066,560	€1,001,487	€1,110,153	€259,917	€307,000
Total	€16,315,377	€12,977,935	€16,264,104	€13,100,747	€14,332,385
Northern & Western Total	€18,004,540	€15,780,686	€20,574,519	€19,963,846	€17,294,882

Table 11: Announcements made in the Northern & Western Region over 2022

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs / Investment	Town
Zinkworks	March 2022	Zinkworks, a Telecoms & Financial Services Research & Development company has announced the establishment of a software engineering hub in the CoLab facility on the Letterkenny I.T. Campus in Letterkenny Co Donegal, creating 50 new jobs over the next 18 months.	50 Jobs	Letterkenny
Concentrix	February 2022	Concentrix, a leading global provider of customer experience (CX) solutions and technology, announced the creation of 50 remote working roles. They have chosen to focus its first phase of recruitment in Donegal given its close proximity to the company's established site in Derry.	50 Jobs	Letterkenny
Trailstone	July 2022	Trailstone Group, a global energy and technology company, announced that it plans to open a new office location in Sligo, creating up to 20 new jobs over the next three years for the North West region and top tech talent graduating from the Atlantic Technological University Sligo.	20 Jobs	Sligo

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs / Investment	Town
Arrotek	May 2022	Arrotek, a medical device designer and manufacturer announced its plans to create up to 100 new permanent positions after it was granted planning permission for a 20,000 sq ft extension to its headquarters in Sligo.	100 Jobs	Sligo
Amcor	April 2022	Amcor, a global leader in developing and producing responsible packaging solutions, announced an investment to establish new thermoforming capabilities for medical packaging in its Sligo, healthcare packaging facility creating 75 new jobs.	75 Jobs	Sligo
Advantio	January 2022	Advantio, a Cybersecurity provider announced the establishment of its European Cybersecurity HQ in Sligo, with the creation of 40 jobs over the next three years.	40 Jobs	Sligo
Ultra Clean Holdings	March 2022	Ultra Clean Holdings announced plans to establish an Advanced Technology Cleaning Centre (ATCC) in Cavan with the creation of 100 jobs. It will support the semiconductor industry which will provide ultra-high purity tool chamber parts cleaning and coating, as well as micro-contamination analytical services to chip makers and equipment providers.	100 jobs	Cavan
Fidelity	October 2022	Fidelity Investments® Ireland has announced further expansion of its national footprint commencing a recruitment drive for 300 new fulltime positions for its world-class team in Ireland.	200 Jobs	Galway
Genesys	October 2022	Genesys, a global cloud platform in customer experience orchestration, officially opened a new R&D centre in Galway. The sustainable, mixed-use facility is the new home for the experts developing its range of cloud solutions. It's the largest Genesys R&D centre in Europe.	-	Galway
Rhenus	August 2022	Rhenus Ireland announced plans to build a brand-new site at the Rhenus Parkmore facility in Galway. Once completed, the new facility will double Parkmore's existing capacity to 20,000 square metres, comprising a multi-client warehouse to service the west of Ireland.	-	Galway

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs / Investment	Town
SAP	July 2022	SAP SE (NYSE: SAP) celebrated the 25th anniversary of its Ireland operation. To mark the occasion, Clas Neumann, Global Head of the SAP Labs Network joined Liam Ryan, Managing Director, SAP Ireland in welcoming Minister of State Hildegard Naughton and IDA Ireland to its Galway office.	-	Galway
Medtronic	July 2022	IDA Ireland, together with Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar attended a 40-year celebration at Medtronic's Parkmore facility in Galway where 200 Research & Development roles were announced.	200 Jobs	Galway
Diligent	July 2022	Diligent, a leader in modern governance providing SaaS solutions across governance, risk, compliance and ESG, welcomed Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD, to officially open its new European hub at Bonham Quay in Galway.	-	Galway
Trane Technologies	July 2022	Thermo King® by Trane Technologies (NYSE: TT), a global climate innovator, today launched a new research and development (R&D) center adjacent to its sustainable manufacturing operations in Galway.	-	Galway
Biomerics	May 2022	Biomerics, a vertically integrated medical device contract manufacturer serving the interventional device market, announced the opening of a 2,000 sq. ft. Balloons & Balloon Catheters Centre of Excellence in Galway.	40 Jobs	Galway
Poly	May 2022	Poly, the global audio and video technology powerhouse that created the headset used by Neil Armstrong in 1969 to communicate one of the world's most famous phrases to the world, has officially landed in Ireland.	-	Galway
Valeo	April 2022	Valeo has produced its one hundred millionth automotive nearfield camera, which gives the car its rear and surround vision, at its Tuam site in Ireland (around 850 employees).	-	Galway
Boston Scientific	April 2022	Boston Scientific unveiled a new €100 million expansion of its operations at Ballybrit. The expansion is expected to enable 300+ jobs in the coming years and includes over 40,000 square feet of medical device manufacturing space that will be powered by renewable energy.	300 Jobs	Galway

HID Global	March 2022	HID Global officially opened their new 500 staff capacity Centre of Excellence in Galway city.	-	Galway
Signify Health	March 2022	Signify Health, a U.S. value-based healthcare platform that leverages advanced analytics, technology, and nationwide healthcare provider networks, announced the opening of a new technology centre.	125 jobs	Galway
Cerenovus	February 2022	Cerenovus announced a €50 million (US\$55 million) investment over the next three years at its site in Galway.		Galway
Fort Wayne	October 2022	Fort Wayne Metals, a manufacturer of precision wire and components used in the world's most demanding applications, celebrated 20 years of manufacturing in Ireland. The company's Castlebar site, established in 2002 with just five employees, today celebrates 20 successful years, with 150 dedicated employees, providing wire-based solutions to our customers in the Medical Device sector.	-	Castlebar
Baxter Healthcare	June 2022	Baxter Healthcare SA, a MedTech leader, is celebrating 50 years of manufacturing in Ireland. The company's Castlebar site, established in 1972 with just nine employees, celebrates its current more than 1,200 employees and 50-year legacy.	-	Castlebar

Enterprise Ireland in the Northern and Western Region

- The Northern and Western Region is home to 667 Enterprise Ireland (EI) client companies employing 35,605.
- In 2022, payments of €41.3 million were made by Enterprise Ireland into the Northern and Western 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.
- EI has co-funded, with local enterprise development groups, 175 Community Enterprise Centres across the country, including 58 in the Northern and Western Region.
- EI, in partnership with the Technological Universities, has established a nationwide network of 16 Technology Gateways, which deliver technology solutions for Irish industry close to their market needs and are open to all sizes of companies. There are three Technology Gateways under the Atlantic Technological University: WiSAR – Wireless Solutions, PEM – Precision Engineering and Manufacturing and MET – Medical and Engineering Technologies.
- 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 is 1 Technology Centre located in the Northern and Western region: Construct Innovate focusing on sustainable construction and built environment technology.

- The Covid-19 Enterprise Centres Fund was developed to provide financial support to enterprise centres who have been impacted by COVID-19, providing them with financial support for the implementation of a 6 to 12 month Recovery Plan. 3 for profit and 25 not for profit enterprise centres were approved, totalling €2,358,738 in the Northern and Western Region.
- EI supports all sectors with success in Construction, BPO, Fintech, Food and Lifesciences.
- EI has funded the establishment of a national network of business innovation centres and specialist bio-incubation facilities across the

Higher Education Sector. Galway is currently home to 4 business innovation centres; NUIG Business Innovation Centre, NUI Galway Innovation in Business Centre (IIBC); Innovation Hub ATU Galway and the Innovation Hub ATU Mayo.

Local Enterprise Office Update

In 2022, the LEOs operating in the Northern and Western Region supported 1,651 businesses employing 8,647 jobs. There was an increase of 33 in the number of client businesses in 2022 relative to 2021, with the number of jobs increasing by 193 in the same period.

Table 12: Statistics for the Local Enterprise Offices 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
Northern and Western	1,618	1,651	33	8,454	8,647	833	536

The **North East Region**, is served by its Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) in Cavan and Monaghan, supported 348 businesses in 2022, employing 2,418 jobs. The number of client businesses decreased by 14 in 2022 relative to 2021, with the number of jobs increasing by 41.

The **North West Region** is served by its LEOs in Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim, which supported 610 businesses in 2022, employing 2,897 jobs. The number of client businesses increased by 8 in 2022 relative to 2021, with the number of jobs increasing by 111.

The **West Region** is served by its LEOs in Galway, Roscommon and Mayo, which supported 650 businesses employing 3,450 jobs. The number of client businesses decreased by 4 in 2022 relative to 2021, with the number of jobs increasing by 159.

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), Border Enterprise Development Fund (BEDF) and Regional Enterprise Transition Scheme (RETS) support the development and implementation of collaborative and innovative projects that can sustain and add to employment at county, regional and national level.

These funds which are administered by Enterprise Ireland, have been an effective instrument of policy particularly as a complement to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment's Regional Enterprise Plans where it has served as an enabler for projects emerging from that regional collaborative process.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, through Enterprise Ireland, has approved grants totalling over €126 million to drive regional enterprise development initiatives since 2017, under the REDF, the BEDF and RETS. 25 Projects in the Northern and Western region have secured €45.2 million under these funds.

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 with 11 projects in the Northern and Western region securing funding of €635,000.

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 13: Successful Northern and Western projects under the Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme.

Project	County
BIA Innovator Campus CLG	Galway
Western Innovation Life Science Hub CLG	Galway
Sligo Leitrim Energy Agency CLG	Sligo
Inishowen Development Partnership CLG	Donegal
Cavan County Council	Cavan
Inishowen Development Partnership CLG	Donegal
Galway City Council	Galway
Action Tuam CLG	Galway
Horan Airport Trust CLG	Mayo
Comhoibriu CLG	Galway
Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce	Mayo

Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF)

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, 24 projects with the

lead partner located in the Northern and Western Region were awarded over €88 million. The projects cover areas such as life sciences, medical devices, ICT, artificial intelligence, manufacturing and environmental sustainability. Under the fourth DTIF call, nine of the projects have partners in the region, with six leading their project. These projects were awarded €26.8 million as set out in the table below.

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

Table 14: DTIF Call 4 - Funded Projects with Lead Partner based in Northern and Western Region

County	Project Name and Short Description	Amount Awarded	Status of Project
Galway	A multifactorial wound treatment monitoring system for intelligent healing of chronic wounds.	€4,595,758	Pre-contract
Galway	Closed-loop, whole-cycle approach to reducing the carbon footprint of livestock.	€2,765,498	Pre-contract
Galway	BioBlate: an intelligent surgical ablation system for treating complex mixed tissue infections including diabetic feet.	€3,364,616	Pre-contract
Galway	VascuSense: a minimally invasive and intelligent crossing-atherectomy device for the treatment of critical limb ischaemia (reduced blood supply).	€7,042,893	Pre-contract
Galway	BioVas: Microvascular vessel wall Intervention for vein closure in venous leg ulceration.	€4,596,674	Pre-contract
Galway	A breakthrough platform technology to detect and prevent peripheral neuropathy (nerve damage in hands and feet, etc) caused by chemotherapy.	€4,392,089	Pre – contract

Green Transition Fund

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

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

From its launch in June until the end of 2022, over €2 million in funding was approved for approximately 150

companies for projects under the Green Transition Fund. Approximately €1.2 million was approved under the Climate Planning Fund for Business (CPFB), and over €800,000 approved under the Enterprise Emissions Reduction Investment Fund (EERIF).

In the Northern and Western Region, a total of 24 projects were approved in 2022 under the Green Transition Fund, with a total value of €632,000.

Science Foundation Ireland Programme Activity

Science Foundation Ireland (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 required 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 North and Western region during 2022 are just under €15 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. 5 of the 15 awards (€5.2 million) involved Tus/IOTs in the North and Western 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. None of the placements are with companies in the North and Western region, however, one awardee is an academic at the University of Galway and will take up a fellowship with a company in Kildare.

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 and 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 the rebooting of the Irish economy.

The researchers that SFI supports in the HEIs are collaborating heavily with enterprise in Ireland. In 2022, SFI researchers reported 92 collaborations with MNCs and 128 collaborations with SMEs in the Northern and Western Region.

SFI currently supports 16 SFI Research Centres, two of which are hosted at NUI Galway.

- CÚRAM, the SFI Research Centre for Medical Devices, aims to radically improve health outcomes for patients by developing 'smart' medical devices and implants. It develops these devices through collaborations with industry partners and hospital groups to enable their rapid translation to clinics.
- INSIGHT, SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics is one of the largest data analytics centres in Europe. It undertakes high-impact research, seeks to derive value from Big Data and provides innovative technology solutions for industry and society by enabling better decision-making. The Centre is formally hosted at NUI Galway with strong co-leadership at DCU, UCC and UCD.

The current SFI investment in these Centres through the SFI Research Centres Programme is just over €101 million.

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

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.

NUI Galway is host to one such SFI Centre for Research Training - SFI Centre for Research Training in Genomics Data Science funding through investment of €13 million. A key feature of the CRTs is the close collaboration with their industry partners to develop PhD programmes which respond to the needs of industry.

Higher Education

Project Ireland 2040 is bringing significant investment in higher education in the Northern and Western Region.

Eleven major infrastructure projects will be delivered around the country as part of a Public-Private Partnership Programme (PPP) for the higher education sector under Project Ireland 2040, including a Library, IT and Education building at Atlantic Technological University (ATU) Donegal and a STEM building at ATU Galway City. These projects respond directly to skills needs at regional level. Both projects are in Bundle 2 of the Higher Education PPP Programme which reached tender stage in 2022.

Five major projects were approved funding under the Higher Education Strategic Infrastructure Fund (HESIF) with two projects in the northern and western region, ATU Sligo (E01 Project) and University of Galway Learning Commons Project. ATU Sligo's (E01 Project) is a new four storey extension of a central building. The project commenced construction in September 2021 and continued through construction in 2022. University of Galway Learning Commons Project continued through the design stage in 2022.

Further Education and Training (FET)

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

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

- Targeted support of €164,000 was provided during 2022 to support 3 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 €1.9 million was split across four ETBs to provide funding for minor capital projects and equipment renewal,
- The progression of eleven capital and emergency health and safety projects,
- Capital support was approved for the provision of NZEB (Near Zero Energy Building) Centre of Excellence. One NZEB capital project was progressed in 2022 for Mayo Sligo Leitrim ETB

The Strategic Infrastructure Upgrade Fund (SIUF) for the FET sector was announced by the Minister in February 2022. The primary purpose of the SIUF is to support ETB capital projects that will upgrade existing FET infrastructure and provide a high quality teaching and learning environment, aligned with the principles of the FET College of the Future. The Fund is targeted at projects costing between €100,000 and €5 million. Each ETB was invited to submit up to a maximum of two project proposals. The total indicative value of the Fund is €80 million. Under the SIUF, 1 project (MSLETB-Mohill) was approved to proceed to design and planning in 2022.

The FET College of the Future Major Projects Fund was launched in February 2022, with a funding envelope of €115 million, with the objective of addressing existing deficits in current FET infrastructure, supporting projects that drive reform of the FET sector, including consolidation of provision in high quality facilities, integration of further education and training, realisation of centres of excellence and unified tertiary planning. Projects over the value of €5 million were considered under this programme call. Three College of the Future Major Projects were announced in the North and West region (GRETb-Galway, MSLETB-Castlebar and CMETB-Cavan) and are currently at the Preliminary Business Case stage.

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.

Continued Exchequer support for smaller regional airports to underpin connectivity is provided under the Regional Airports Programme 2021-2025 including at Donegal Airport. Given its scale of operation, Ireland West Airport Knock plays a greater role in terms of international access. Knock undertook two significant developments in 2021, namely a runway end safety area upgrade and the refurbishment and upgrade of the electrical infrastructure. Works continued to be carried out on these projects in 2022. These works follow a major runway rehabilitation project, which was completed in 2019. In addition, Knock Airport's designation as a Strategic Development Zone will contribute to the long-term development of the airport and the regional economy.

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, quality of life private inward investment, and attracting and retaining talent and enterprise.

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 15: Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund Successful Projects in Northern and Western Region

Advocates	Summary of Project	Total Grant
Cavan GAA County Board, Cavan County Council	Cavan Regional Sports Campus - Indoor facility with synthetic pitch, outdoor floodlit multisport 3G pitch, GAA pitches and athletics track with grass inset.	€837,680
Donegal County Council, Letterkenny Institute of Technology, Ladies Gaelic Football Association, Cricket Ireland	Letterkenny IT - Multi-pitch community hub comprising of a full sized 4G artificial grass pitch, grass match pitch, cricket wicket, two full sized soccer pitches, 4 small grass pitches, training area and hurling wall, a walking trail with outdoor gym, a playground and cross country route, an athletic sprint track and building with changing rooms.	€326,845
Sligo County Council	Waterpoint Aqua Park Renovation Project - Essential infrastructural repair to roof and improvements to the heating system to the Waterpoint.	€300,000
Irish Rugby Football Union, Galway City Council, Special Olympics Ireland, Community Games	Connacht Rugby Sportsground Redevelopment - Construction of a high performance training centre and modern stadium with capacity of 12,000. The current pitch will be replaced with synthetic grass. Community Games and Special Olympics Ireland will host sporting events in the facilities.	€10,000,000
Galway City Council, Swim Ireland	Galway Regional Aquatic and Fitness Centre (Cappagh Park) - Construction of a new swimming pool that will have the capability to host National and International water polo/short course swimming events.	€8,003,415

Renville GAA, Galway County Council, Gaelic Athletic Association, Ladies Gaelic Football Association, Camogie Association	Renville Sports and Community Centre - Construction of a full size 4G all-weather GAA pitch (floodlit), 2 x full size sand based GAA pitches, a juvenile pitch, training areas, ball wall, 2km lit community amenity walking/ running track and public toilets.	€2,100,000
Galway County Council, New Inn Community Development Company Ltd	East Galway Sports Campus (New Inn) - Full Size Astro turf pitch, Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) for volley ball, tennis, underage soccer, multipurpose training area, ball wall for handball, racket ball and hurling practice, Basketball court, Bocce playing area, new dressing rooms, new car parking and general landscaping.	€749,312
Roscommon County Council	iRos (Indoor Recreation and Outdoor Sports Park) – Roscommon Town - An indoor 4 court sports hall. One outdoor floodlit 3G pitch and one grass pitch. A perimeter trail for recreational walking. Redeployment of existing tennis courts within the site and enhancements to car parking and site access.	€136,484
FAI, Finn Harps FC	Development of a viewing stand, floodlighting, pitch and associated facilities for Finn Harps Football Club.	€3,991,009

Tourism

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

With specific regard to State-owned or managed built and natural heritage sites and amenities, Fáilte Ireland has developed a series of strategic partnerships with key State bodies (OPW and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; NPWS; Coillte; and Waterways Ireland) that own and manage attractions and sites considered to be of vital importance to tourism. Through these partnerships, Fáilte Ireland can assist with the refurbishment and enhancement of key visitor attractions and advise on further experience development and marketing, thereby assisting these bodies to unlock the tourism potential of Ireland's natural and built heritage assets and meet the growing international demand for world-class outdoor tourism experiences.

Fáilte Ireland also has, since 2018, a partnership in place with the Department of Rural and Community Development on the funding of that Department's Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure or the necessary maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing

outdoor recreational infrastructure in Ireland.

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

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

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

- The Shannon Tourism Masterplan [developed under strategic partnership between Fáilte Ireland and Waterways Ireland and in collaboration with the 10 Local Authorities along the navigation] was launched in March 2021. The Plan sets out an ambitious roadmap with 120 actions to support the Shannon to become an iconic visitor experience for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands. In 2022, new mooring and cruise berths were completed at Redbridge, Co Longford, Rooskey, Co Longford and at two locations in Athlone, Co Westmeath. Work commenced on the redevelopment of Connaught Harbour in 2022 and is scheduled for completion in Q2, 2023. This will see the addition of 40 additional cruise berths, enhanced public realm, trail head for the Hymany Way on the Beara

Breifne Way, campervan facilities as well as a blueway connection from Connaught Harbour to Castle Harbour and an off road pedestrian linkage to the town.

- Significant progress was made on the Beara Breifne Trail Audit Plan, once the COVID-19 lockdowns ended in May 2021. Work is well underway on the Interpretation, Wayfinding and Branding strategies which will ensure the development of the trail as an internationally motivating long distance walking trail. The Beara Breifne Way Trail Audit, Interpretation and Wayfinding Plan was completed in 2022. The Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Plan is currently being finalised.
- Fáilte Ireland and Coillte progressed the International Mountain Biking Proposition for Rural Ireland, comprising four separate projects – due to deliver four national trail centres across seven counties and over 300km of trails. This is considered to be of particular importance in developing the activities tourism offering in Ireland. [The proposition includes: one project in the Southern area (the Ballyhoura Visitor Centre Trail Head Building, Co. Limerick); two projects in the Eastern and Midland Region (Mountain Bike Centres in Ticknock, Dublin & Ballinastoe, Wicklow and the Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Centre, Laois/Offaly); and one project in the North West (the Coolaney Mountain Bike Centre and Trail Development in Sligo)].
- In April 2022, the Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Trail was officially opened which included over 80km of new trails across the Slieve Blooms in Laois and Offaly. Planning consent for new Trail Head Visitor Facilities at Ballyhoura, Co Limerick and Baunreagh Co Limerick were approved in Q4, 2022.
- In 2022, a total of 25km of new trails were constructed bringing the total amount of new trails developed to 64km and a total trail network of 185km. An additional 32km of new trails will be constructed in 2023 delivering a total of 95km of new trail and a trail network of approximately 300km of mountain bike trails across the 5 sites.
- Fáilte Ireland will continue to work with Department of Rural and Community Development on the Walks Scheme and the ambition to add 70 walks to the scheme. In long distance walking, a plan will be developed to set a Roadmap for the delivery of a Wild Atlantic Way Coastal Path.
- Fáilte Ireland will also continue to work with the National Parks and Wildlife Service on enhancing and expanding the visitor experience at our beautiful national parks. The new trail development at Connemara National Park will progress to delivery later in 2023.
- In addition to the above projects, which are all aimed at developing the outdoors/ activity offering, Fáilte Ireland also progressed its strategic partnership with the OPW and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. 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.

3.8

National Strategic Outcome 8–Climate-Resilient Society

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

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

- Progress has been made on landowner engagement, surveys and borehole investigations at tower sites.
- Oweninny 2 wind farm is expected to have completed all grid testing in mid/late April 2023 after which it will be ready for commercial operation. The project team and Eirgrid are progressing a special protection scheme which will reduce constraint.
- 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 North Connacht project will create a new electricity transmission network in the Northwest and will provide capacity for economic growth and to connect new renewable generation. The project includes a new 60km 110kV underground electricity cable circuit from Ballina, County Mayo, to Ballaghaderreen, County Roscommon; as well as upgrade works to existing infrastructure. In June 2022, EirGrid submitted a Strategic Infrastructure Development planning application to An Bord Pleanála. The project is expected to move into construction in 2023, subject to grant of the planning consent.

Climate Action Regional Offices

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

All of the counties in the Northern and Western Region are covered by the CARO Atlantic Seaboard North office except for Roscommon, Leitrim, Monaghan and Cavan which are served by the Eastern and Midland CARO. The lead local authority for the Atlantic Seaboard North office is Mayo County Council.

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

- Lead by the CARO and with the support of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), the 5 local authorities in the Atlantic Seaboard North Region established a Regional Energy Bureau in 2022 to sit alongside the CARO to lead an outcome-focused approach to meeting the 2030 local authority targets including retrofitting of public buildings. These local authorities have all delivered energy projects in the past of varying scale and value.
- Supported by the Eastern & Midlands CARO, the three local authorities of Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, and Leitrim County Councils have come together to address their combined climate mitigation ambitions through the formation of a Border Region Energy Unit with the support of SEAI's Pathfinder Program. The intent of the Border Region Energy Unit is to support the three Local Authorities in meeting their 2030 and beyond energy efficiency and

carbon emission targets and to fulfil their exemplary leadership role with respect to climate action.

- A #ProtectOurDunes campaign was led by the ASBN CARO and work on this started in 2021 as part of the inaugural World Sand Dune Day, with the aim of raising awareness around the value of sand dunes, how dunes are formed and the potential damage that can be caused to dunes from human activity.

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

There are 31 flood relief schemes currently ongoing or planned for the Northern and Western Region across the following counties:

Table 16: Planned Flood Relief Schemes in Northern and Western Region

County	Number of Schemes
Cavan	1
Donegal	14
Galway	4
Leitrim	3
Mayo	3
Monaghan	3
Roscommon	3
Total	31

Source: OPW

These include the Westport (Cois Abhainn & Ashwood) Flood Relief Scheme, which is currently at construction, and flood relief schemes for Raphoe, Carrick-on-Shannon, Lifford, Galway City and Ballina, which are at design and development stages.

3.9

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

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

There are currently fourteen water and wastewater projects in progress and a further forty-four projects planned in the Northern and Western Region. Overall, there were two projects completed in 2022 (Ballymagroarty Water Supply Scheme and Tuam Regional Water Supply project).

Table 17: Uisce Éireann Projects

Northern and Western	Completed	In Progress	Planned
Donegal	1	6	19
Leitrim	0	0	0
Sligo	0	1	1
Galway	1	3	10
Mayo	0	0	5
Roscommon	0	1	2
Cavan	0	0	6
Monaghan	0	3	1
Total	2	14	44

Since 2014, Uisce Éireann has prioritised investment to improve drinking water quality for residents and businesses across the North and West regions. In 2022, Uisce Éireann commenced the Killybegs Water Treatment Plant, which will support economic, social development and tourism in the area while reducing the risk of supply interruptions and ensuring compliance with EU Drinking Water Regulations. In 2022, Uisce Éireann also commenced construction of a replacement water intake and associated transfer water main along the banks of the River Corrib, which will ensure a safer and more secure water supply for more than 80,000 customers in Galway City and surrounding areas.

Uisce Éireann is working to ensure that wastewater is treated in accordance with EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directives and Environmental Protection Agency wastewater discharge licensing. Uisce Éireann has eliminated 65% of the raw sewage nationally. In the North and West, construction is progressing in a number of areas where raw sewage has been entering the environment for decades including Burtonport, Kerrykeel, Kilcar, Spiddal and Ahascragh.

In Kilcar, Uisce Éireann commenced the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant which will ensure the treatment of wastewater is fully compliant

with legislation and will eliminate the discharge of raw sewage into Tawny Bay.

Works commenced in 2022 on the Rosses Point Sewerage Scheme to upgrade the wastewater infrastructure. This project will improve water quality for swimmers and the aquatic environment.

Uisce Éireann continues work on the Roscommon Main Drainage Scheme project to safeguard the environment and provide for future growth and development in the town. When completed, this €20 million project will reduce the risk of sewer flooding in Roscommon Town and improve water quality in the River Jiggy and River Hind. It will also increase the capacity of the sewer network, providing a platform for future population growth and economic development.

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 40 school building projects delivered under the School Building Programme in the Northern and Western Region in 2022 of which 8 (listed in the table below) were of a value in excess of €1 million:

Table 18: Schools Building Projects delivered with a value in excess of €1 million in the Northern and Western Region during 2022

No.	County	School	School Type
1	Galway	Archbishop Mc Hale College	Post Primary
2	Mayo	Sacred Heart School	Post Primary
3	Monaghan	Inver College	Post Primary
4	Donegal	Scoil Choilmcille, Letterkenny	Primary
5	Donegal	Scoil Mhuire B & C, Stranorlar	Primary
6	Galway	Gort Community School	Post Primary
7	Donegal	Scoil Choilmcille, Letterkenny	Primary
8	Donegal	Scoil Mhuire B & C, Stranorlar	Primary

Source: Department of Education

A further 320 schools building projects were at various stages of planning, design and construction of which 206 were of a value in excess of €1 million:

Table 19: Status of existing Schools Building Projects on 1st January 2023 with a value in excess of €1 million.

Status of Ongoing Project (EMR)	Northern and Western
Project Brief	9
Stage 1 (Preliminary Design)	102
Stage 2a (Developed Sketch Scheme)	23
Stage 2b (Detailed Design)	20
Stage 3 (Tender Stage)	25
Onsite	27
Grand Total	206

Source: Department of Education

Health

In 2022, progress was made on a number of projects across the community and acute sectors in the Northern and Western region. On the Community side, there was continued progress on the Community Nursing Unit (CNU) programme, which included construction completion at Carndonagh Community Hospital in Donegal and St John's Community Hospital in Sligo. Progress also continued on the Primary Care Centre programme with seven facilities completing, including Drumcliffe, the first of the two-site North Sligo Network project (Grange to complete in early 2023) and also Nazareth House in Sligo. In Donegal, Newtowncunningham, Buncrana and Donegal Town were completed, in addition to Moycullen in Galway and Carrickmacross in Monaghan.

Acute facilities completed in 2022 included the interim Emergency Department and Cardio Thoracic Ward at University Hospital Galway, the Replacement Orthopaedic Theatre Block at Merlin Park University Hospital and the new CT scanner facilities at Portlinculla University Hospital. Other projects delivered in the region include the Ambulance Base at Merlin Park University Hospital, which provides a permanent facility to serve Galway City.

Table 20: Health Capital Projects Completed and Operational in the Northern and Western Region in 2022

Facility	Project details
University Hospital Galway	Interim Emergency Department to facilitate service continuity.
Merlin Park University Hospital	Replacement Orthopaedic Theatre Block.
University Hospital Galway	Cardio Thoracic ward provision - Phase 2 completed.
Carndonagh Community Hospital	HIQA Compliance – Refurbishment.
St John's Community Hospital	HIQA Compliance – Refurbishment.
North Sligo Network	North Sligo Network Primary Care Centre (Drumcliffe).
Newtowncunningham Primary Care Centre	Primary Care Centre - HSE own build.
Nazareth House, Sligo Primary Care Centre	Nazareth House Refurbishment - Phase 2.
Buncrana Primary Care Centre	Primary Care Centre, by lease agreement.
Carrickmacross Primary Care Centre	Primary Care Centre, by lease agreement.
Donegal Town Primary Care Centre	Primary Care Centre, by lease agreement.
Moycullen Primary Care Centre	Primary Care Centre, by lease agreement.

Facility	Project details
Merlin Park University Hospital	Provision of an Ambulance Base to serve Galway City - permanent facility.
Portiuncula University Hospital, Ballinasloe	New CT Scanner room and associated facilities for replacement CT Scanner.
HUB 04 - Galway City, Dangan, Enhanced Community Care Programme	Fit Out of Lease Office Space for an interim Enhanced Community Care Hub.

Source: HSE Capital & Estates

