

Cork City Council's

LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN

2023-2029

Key Questions



**LET'S PLAN
TOGETHER**



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council



We are Cork.



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil
Chathair Chorcaí
Cork City Local Community Development
Committee

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1. Introduction

Cork City Council is commencing the process of creating a new six-year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for Cork City to help guide the growth and development of our city's communities, voluntary sector, economic stakeholders and citizens as a whole. This plan builds on the work and priorities identified in the first LECP 'Pure Cork: An Action Plan for the City' which covered the years between 2016-2021.

The LECP is the primary mechanism at local level to transfer relevant actions arising from EU, national, regional and local strategies and policies to a Cork City context. The LECP is developed and implemented in partnership between Cork City Council and other economic and community stakeholders and therefore, provides an enabling framework that supports collaborative working between the economic and community sectors and across all stakeholders to the communities themselves. It therefore helps to bring community and economic stakeholders together, to strategically align and work towards shared goals in a collaborative way.

The LECP was first introduced in 2015 and seen as an important departure from centralised strategic planning, giving a greater role to Local Authorities in local community and economic development. The LECP contains both a Community Plan which addresses social issues primarily and issues of social inclusion and an Economic Plan which addresses issues of economic development, employment and enterprise.

Economic development and local and community development, while distinct functions which involve some different challenges, approaches and skills, are mutually supportive in building sustainable communities with strong local economies. There are many areas of common interest and action that make our city spaces more vibrant and welcoming for all Cork residents and in doing so, attract footfall for the various businesses and eateries in the city.

The process of developing this plan is centred around providing ample opportunities for contributions and responses from communities and people across the city. It is the intention of the City Council to establish what the key issues and opportunities are and what matters most to the people of Cork City.

What is the Local Economic and Community Plan?

It is a six-year plan that sets out the objectives and actions needed to promote the community and economic development of Cork city's neighbourhoods and communities.

What is Community Development?

Local community development is a process of working with individuals, groups, and organisations in a local community to identify their needs and address issues and concerns. It works to meet those needs and solve issues by developing community infrastructure, facilities, programmes and services. Local community development can help to build a sense of community and promote civic engagement and social inclusion.

What is Economic Development?

Local economic development is the promotion of economic growth and stability in a specific geographical area. This can be done through a variety of methods, including attracting and retaining new business, and creating jobs as well as supporting people to start their own businesses and social enterprises.

Why have a Local Economic and Community Plan?

It is important for local communities to have a plan for their economic development and future. A plan gives Cork City Council, businesses, community and voluntary groups and local communities a roadmap to follow. It helps to ensure that everyone is working together towards the same goal. The plan should include strategies for promoting economic growth, creating jobs, making our neighbourhoods more resilient and sustainable and improving the quality of life for residents.

What the Local Economic and Community Plan is not?

It is not a spatial plan, meaning, it does not plan for where new houses, offices, roads or other infrastructure is built and installed. It can however help to attract funding to develop community and economic infrastructure and facilities such as business support hubs, training centres, community centres, play areas, parks, community gardens, sports facilities, etc.

Why have a plan that integrates Community and Economic Development?

An integrated plan can help to identify the various needs of the community and the local businesses and try to meet those needs together. A very good example are social enterprises. These organisations use the power of business to solve social or environmental problems. However, there are many other ways an integrated plan makes sense.

Integrated plans can identify what skills are needed by businesses and offer targeted skills training in that community. This helps build a local educated workforce which will in turn help to attract new businesses into the area. Plans can also identify what skills are already in the community so that the right businesses are attracted into the area. Councils and communities can also attract new employment by creating nice, welcoming spaces with a vibrant art, culture, social and sporting scene. Barriers to employment such as poor literacy, disability, inadequate childcare, etc. can also be identified and services created to help people to overcome those barriers. This all helps create a 15-minute neighbourhood where people live near where they work. This reduces commuting and congestion and improves social networks and the health of a community and its environment.

Why should you get involved in developing the new Local Economic and Community Plan?

Public consultations are a great way to have your voice heard on important issues and tell us what your community needs- you know your community best after all!

2. Context of the Local Economic and Community Plan

As the State's second city, Cork plays a key role in driving the economic, social and cultural fabric of Ireland, in particular the southern region. Did you know that:

- According to the 2022 census¹, the population of Cork City is almost 222,333 and is projected to grow by around 50-60% by 2040²
- The Cork region contributes 19% to the national economic output in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In The Financial Times, Cork is ranked 2nd small city in Europe for economic potential

¹ CSO Census 2022

² Project Ireland 2040

- Cork is home to significant national level health, educational and cultural institutions serving the southern region of Ireland. These include Cork University Hospital (CUH), University College, Cork (UCC), Munster Technological University (MTU), and the Crawford Gallery to name a few.
- Cork City boasts a strong heritage, with well-loved local heritage and cultural amenities such as the English Market, Shandon, the Cork Opera House, the Everyman Theatre, the Triskel Arts Centre, Elizabeth Fort, the Cork City Museum, the Glucksman Gallery, Ballincollig Powder Mills and the internationally iconic Blarney Castle. The streetscape and the channels of the River Lee provide Corkonians and visitors alike with a unique experience.
- Access to Cork is continuously improving. Cork is home to the fastest growing airport in Ireland. Investment is being rolled out to improve public transport, walking, cycling, road and rail access. The National Transport Authority recently adopted a €3.5 billion twenty-year transport plan for Cork.
- Cork is recognised by the World Health Organisation as a Healthy City.
- Cork City is one of the first globally to receive the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Learning City award.
- The majority of Cork City's population and settlements (pre-boundary extension in 2019) located in the city's suburbs (67.3%). The southside suburbs are home to the largest percentage of the population (43.6%) followed by the northside suburbs (23%), the four urban towns of Ballincollig, Blarney, Glanmire and Tower (16%), and lastly the city centre (12%). With a high percentage of the population living in the suburbs, 63% of the population use a private car to get to and from work while only 9% use public transport.³
- The analysis also showed that (pre-boundary extension in 2019), 16.7% of Cork City's population is living in the "RAPID" areas (areas designated as disadvantaged)⁴ of Churchfield/Gurranebraher, Fair Hill, Farranree/Farranferris and Knocknaheeny and Mahon. The communities living in these areas have the lowest levels of income, highest levels of single-parent households, highest levels of disability, lowest levels of education and poorest health outcomes. While there are considerable levels of high-paying job opportunities in the RAPID areas which account for 13.9% of all jobs in the city, most of these jobs are taken up by people not living in the area. Knocknaheeny and Mahon have the highest level of inward flow of workers where large quantities of people travelling to these areas daily from across the city to work for various large indigenous and multinational firms operating in these areas.⁵
- Census 2016 showed that, Cork City's population is ageing with a dependency ratio presently in line with the state average. The majority of Cork City's population aged 65 and over are living in the southside suburbs of Ballinlough, Ballintemple, Bishopstown and Wilton and towns Ballincollig, Blarney and Glanmire.⁶
- Census 2016 showed that, Cork City has a high level of one-parent households, with some areas having twice the national average. It also has a lower percentage of husband, wife and children households with the average number of persons per household being 2.63 people.⁷

³ CSO Census 2016

⁴ [Revitalising Areas through Planning Investment and Development \(RAPID\) - Cork City Council](#)

⁵ CSO Census 2016

⁶ CSO Census 2016

⁷ CSO Census 2016

- Census 2016 showed that, Cork City’s population is diverse with 15.4% of the population being classified as “non-Irish” the majority of which are living in the city centre. 0.5% of Cork City’s population is classified as white Irish traveller.⁸
- Census 2016 showed that, 18.01% of the population had a disability which is higher than the national average of 17.7%. This rate has been rising in Cork from 12.5% in 2006.⁹

For a full outline of the Socio-Economic analysis of Cork city, please refer to the Socio-Economic Statement available in the ‘Materials’ section of the CiviQ platform and on the Cork City Council website www.corkcity.ie/lecp.

SWOT Analysis

Based on the findings of the Socio-Economic Analysis, a SWOT analysis was carried out to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats related to Cork city. This provides guidance as to the key areas where the LECP should focus and the additional services and facilities which may be required.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population is increasing and Cork City is the fastest growing city in Ireland. • Strong economy with employment opportunities across various sectors. • Strong record in attracting and retaining Foreign Direct Investment. • Cork City is the second largest fluent English-speaking city in the European Union. • Excellent business networks/organisations which support new business ventures and inward investing companies. • Significant supports for entrepreneurs at all stages. • International airport serving major British and European locations. • Home to two major universities which cater to more than 38,000 students each year. • High Quality of Life • A learning, WHO Healthy and Age Friendly City. • A diverse City benefitting from the presence of strong multinational communities. • Low levels of Deprivation • Strong community and voluntary sector • Strong record of inter-agency works to help minorities. • UNESCO Learning City 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills shortage in certain sectors • 10.6% people in Cork City have no formal education. • Continued concentration of deprivation in Cork City’s RAPID areas. • Lack of public transport options compared to other European cities. • Cork City’s citizens are over reliant on the private car as their primary mode of transport negatively the city’s campaign to tackle climate change.

⁸ CSO Census 2016

⁹ CSO Census 2016

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redevelopment of the Cork City Docks is progressing and upon completion will provide extensive employment and housing opportunities. • Cork City can become one of Europe’s most sustainable and climate friendly city thanks to its participation in the EU Missions Climate Neutral and SMART Cities Programme • Create linkages between Cork City’s indigenous enterprise and Cork City’s multinational base to benefit Cork City’s indigenous base and further embed multinationals in Cork City’s economy • Potential to develop a local green economy through offshore windfarms and tidal energy due to Cork City’s proximity to the sea. • Unlock the value of the social economy to deliver both social and economic benefits. • Further develop Cork City’s tourism sector to create economic and employment opportunities. • The strength of Cork City Centre as the key commercial hub of the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change causing rising sea levels and biodiversity loss. • Energy crisis will potentially cause disruption for citizens and businesses. • Cost of living increases, energy crisis and war in Ukraine will disproportionality impact Cork City’s vulnerable citizens and negatively impact businesses. • A lack of diversification among the Cork city’s FDI base, terms of sector, could expose the local economy to risks related to macroeconomic trends in trade and investment and to policy changes in partner countries • Lack of Housing supply which is hindering social, cultural and economic growth.

3. Public Consultation- Key Questions

General

KEY QUESTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the best things about your community i.e. community assets? - What is your vision for Cork city’s neighbourhoods and communities over the next 6 years? - What are the main issues and concerns facing communities in Cork city? - How can we solve those issues? - What are the main needs of communities in Cork city? - How can we meet those needs? - What community infrastructure, facilities and services should we prioritise and where? - How can we grow the local economy across all of Cork city including the city centre, suburbs, urban towns and hinterland? - How do we build communities not just houses and offices? - How do we build 15-minute neighbourhoods? - How can we attract and retain new business and create jobs, especially in the disadvantaged areas of the city?

- How can we better support new business start-ups, entrepreneurship, and social enterprises?
- How is all of this done in a sustainable way that will reduce the impact on and protect the environment?
- How can we ensure our economy is stable and resilient through economic cycles?
- How do we de-couple economic growth and prosperity from increases in carbon emissions and environmental degradation at a city level?
- How do we make sure Cork develops with the proper mix of recreational amenities, green spaces and support the valuable biodiversity and natural assets of the city?
- How can communities be supported to take action on climate?
- How can we promote social inclusion and integration?

Vision

Below is a suggested vision for the new Local Economic and Community Plan. This is the same vision as the one found in the City Development Plan. By having a shared vision across both plans, we are aligning and ensuring we're working at all levels to realise the vision.

“.. Cork City to take its place as a world class city, driving local and regional growth, embracing diversity and inclusiveness and growing as a resilient, healthy, age-friendly and sustainable compact city with placemaking, communities and quality of life at its heart.”

Key Question: Is there anything you would add to or change about the vision?

Goals

We have drafted a set of six High-Level Goals to help realise the vision. These were developed by the Local Economic and Community Plan Advisory Group and informed by the following pieces of work which are all available to download in the 'Materials' section of this platform:

- A review of the out-going Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 'Pure Cork' (this features in the Background document)
- A policy review carried out by Cork University Business School
- The findings of a socio-economic analysis and statement

The six draft High-Level goals are:

1. A city valuing **health and wellbeing**.
2. A city built on **partnership, inclusion, and equality**.
3. A city of **learning and culture**.
4. A city driving **economic and enterprise development**.
5. A city of **safe, accessible, and resilient** neighbourhoods and communities.
6. A city leading on **sustainability and climate action**.

Question: Is there anything you would add to or change about these goals?

Themes

The following themes are based on the above draft High-Level Goals.

Health and Wellbeing

One of the goals of the Local Economic and Community Plan is to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all ages in all areas of the city.

Thinking about..

- Improving health and wellbeing for all ages and abilities
- Reducing health inequalities
- Restructuring health services to ensure quality health care for all
- Building inter-connected, cross-sectoral and holistic local health systems
- Building integrated health planning which address the social determinants of health in all policies
- Building resilience to better respond to public health threats
- Creating models of best practice
- Creating spaces and places for health using a community placemaking approach

QUESTIONS:

1. What new projects could help achieve these?
2. What existing projects could be supported to achieve these?
3. How can we monitor and evaluate projects and programmes better?
4. What supportive networks and partnerships do we need to make these projects and programmes succeed?

Partnership, Inclusion and Equality

One of the goals of the Local Economic and Community Plan is to reduce the marginalisation of specific groups within the city, to promote social inclusion and continue to develop partnerships with Cork City Council and communities.

Thinking about..

- Empowering people and communities to engage in their communities and local government
- Strengthen the partnership between Cork City Council and communities
- Prioritising the needs of communities experiencing exclusion.
- Demonstrating a commitment to human rights, equality, integration and anti-discrimination, paying particular attention to the responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.
- Developing local strategies and policies relevant to inclusion, integration and equality
- Building integrated health planning which address the social determinants of health in all policies

QUESTIONS:

1. What new projects could help achieve these?
2. What existing projects could be supported to achieve these?
3. How can we monitor and evaluate projects and programmes better?
4. What supportive networks and partnerships do we need to make these projects and programmes succeed?

Learning and Culture

One of the goals of the Local Economic and Community Plan is to promote the arts, culture, creativity and lifelong learning in Cork, and to enhance education levels across the city.

Thinking about..

- Using Education and Lifelong Learning approaches to support the delivery of all UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Strengthening the partnerships between all stakeholders in lifelong learning
- Empowering and enabling people of all ages, interests and abilities in lifelong learning, creativity and the arts
- Removing the barriers to participation in lifelong learning and cultural activities for marginalised and under-represented groups
- Optimising and extending arts and cultural infrastructure in the city
- Animating our city centre, communities and neighbourhoods through art, learning and cultural events and creative placemaking
- Advancing the potential of arts, cultural and creative industries to drive economic growth
- Enabling people to access employment through education and training

QUESTIONS:

1. What new projects could help achieve these?
2. What existing projects could be supported to achieve these?
3. How can we monitor and evaluate projects and programmes better?
4. What supportive networks and partnerships do we need to make these projects and programmes succeed?

Economic and Enterprise Development

One of the goals of the Local Economic and Community Plan is to promote economic and enterprise development in the city.

Thinking about..

- Developing Cork city's communications, transport, and enterprise infrastructure to support economic growth
- Supporting Cork city's innovative ecosystem to develop new ideas, concepts, products and processes to contribute to sustainable economic growth.
- Working with stakeholders to create an enterprise-friendly ecosystem that supports Cork city's entrepreneurs, SMEs, and social enterprises through all stages of development
- Attracting and retaining Foreign Direct Investment in Cork City
- Developing and expanding Cork City's tourism industry to support jobs and economic opportunities
- Developing the skills base in Cork City to ensure there is an adequate supply of skills available to support economic and enterprise growth.

QUESTIONS:

1. What new projects could help achieve these?
2. What existing projects could be supported to achieve these?
3. How can we monitor and evaluate projects and programmes better?
4. What supportive networks and partnerships do we need to make these projects and programmes succeed?

Safe, Accessible and Resilient Neighbourhoods and Communities

One of the goals of the Local Economic and Community Plan is to create safe, accessible and resilient neighbourhoods and communities that will be better able to react to future threats and thrive into the future.

Thinking about...

- Developing and supporting the structures and partnerships which underpin safety and wellbeing in our city
- Adopting a placemaking approach to programme, policy and planning in Cork City Council
- Promoting local actions for built and natural heritage.
- Promoting partnership approaches to accessibility and services
- Supporting and championing the resilience of community organisations and structures

QUESTIONS:

- 1. What new projects could help achieve these?**
- 2. What existing projects could be supported to achieve these?**
- 3. How can we monitor and evaluate projects and programmes better?**
- 4. What supportive networks and partnerships do we need to make these projects and programmes succeed?**

Sustainability and Climate Action

One of the goals of the Local Economic and Community Plan is to create a sustainable economy and sustainable neighbourhoods and communities that will be supported to act on climate.

Thinking about..

- Ensuring our city and infrastructure is resilient and adaptive to a changing climate
- Increasing energy efficiency and the proportion of energy from low carbon sources
- Encouraging modal shift to sustainable travel through walking, cycling and public transport
- Managing waste sustainably by reducing, reusing, recycling and recovering waste while moving to a circular economy
- Establishing environmentally friendly systems that encourage biodiversity

QUESTIONS:

- 1. What new projects could help achieve these?**
- 2. What existing projects could be supported to achieve these?**
- 3. How can we monitor and evaluate projects and programmes better?**
- 4. What supportive networks and partnerships do we need to make these projects and programmes succeed?**

4. Other ways to engage

Here are other ways you can 'Have Your Say':

- Complete the Public 'Have Your Say' survey (link on the website: www.corkcity.ie/lecp)
- Attend one of our engagement events (see details on the website: www.corkcity.ie/lecp)

Should you have any queries please email us on: community@corkcity.ie or call the Community Team on 0214 924000.

For more info, please visit: www.corkcity.ie/LECP

Thank you