

COUNTY WICKLOW

Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029

Prepared by Wicklow County Council
in collaboration with the Local Community Development
Committee (LCDC) and the Economic Development
and Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee (EDES SPC).



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Welcome to the Local Economic and Community Plan for Co. Wicklow. Along with the County Development Plan, the LECP gives a framework to keep supporting the sustainable growth of our local environment, economy and communities. It also highlights how people and organisations can work together for everyone's benefit. This is the second LECP for the county and will continue to build on the work of the first plan.

The development of this plan represents a major collaboration between public and private agencies, organisations and individuals from a wide range of sectors, covering an extensive range of services. Partnership with the Public Participation Network (PPN) has ensured that the voice of the community has been heard and that an engagement process is now written into the plan. The plan also contains a detailed socio-economic profile of the county, giving a sound evidence base for setting goals and prioritising actions.

The development of the LECP was overseen and guided by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), the Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development & Enterprise Support (EDES SPC), and the LECP Advisory Group. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Advisory Group, the members of the LCDC and the members of the EDES SPC, the elected members and staff of Wicklow County Council and all of the agencies and organisations who contributed. We would also like to thank People and Place for their commitment to this project. Finally, our sincere thanks and gratitude to every person, organisation and business that helped with the plan's development.

We are confident that by working with our partners and citizens to implement this plan, we will go a long way to enhance the quality of life for our communities, drive our economy in an innovative and sustainable way and most importantly, work to preserve the environment for our future generations.

Ní neart go cur le chéile,

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive

Cllr. Aoife Flynn, Cathaoirleach Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Chair Wicklow Local Community Development Committee

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01 INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND & PLAN FORMULATION

Introduction & Background

Wicklow is strategically located on the east coast of Ireland with close linkages to national and international gateways. Owing to the county's natural beauty, Wicklow is known as the *Garden of Ireland*, with its coastal and mountainous landscapes. As a county, Wicklow is very much shaped by its proximity to Dublin. As a result, Wicklow's population continues to grow and currently stands at 155,851¹. This Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) will position Wicklow as a county prepared to harness its many unique physical, natural and human resources, in order to improve the quality of life for all who live, work and visit the county. In doing so County Wicklow is also looking forward into the future and outwards to its national and international linkages.

Statutory Context

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 has resulted in a changing and expanding role for local authorities, beyond their traditional functions. Under the Act, local authorities are considered to be *"the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level, leading economic, social and community development"*². The remit of local government now includes a more central role in local and community development. Creating and supporting stronger inter-agency collaboration and improved targeting of public funding are critical elements of this new direction in governance. The new measures originally arose from the government's 2012 plan 'Putting People First: An Action Programme for Effective Local Government', which proposed a series of local government reform measures *"to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities"*. Other measures set out under this action programme, include the integration of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) functions within local authorities, as well as the establishment of Economic Development and Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) and Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) within each local authority area.

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 is the legal basis for the reforms proposed under the government's 2012 plan. One of the key provisions of the Act is the formulation by every local authority of a LECP.

¹ Census 2022

² Department of Environment, Community and Local Government – see: <http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/LocalGovernment/Administration/FileDownload,41988,en.pdf>

"The ultimate purpose of local government is to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities"

-PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST: ACTION PROGRAMME FOR EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, 2012



The LECP is a six-year plan containing the measures necessary to promote and support community and economic development in County Wicklow and will also be the primary mechanism at local level to bring forward national programmes.

The 2014 Act provides for the establishment of a Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development and Enterprise Support and Local Community Development Committees in each local authority. These two committees are responsible for the development and implementation of this LECP. In addition, there are a wide range of State and other agencies which administer roles at a local level within the county. Agencies such as Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB), County Wicklow Partnership, Bray Area Partnership, Wicklow County Child Care Committee, Department of Social Protection (DSP), Health Service Executive (HSE) and Tusla (Child and Family Agency) operate within the county, applying national and regional programmes and policies at a local level.

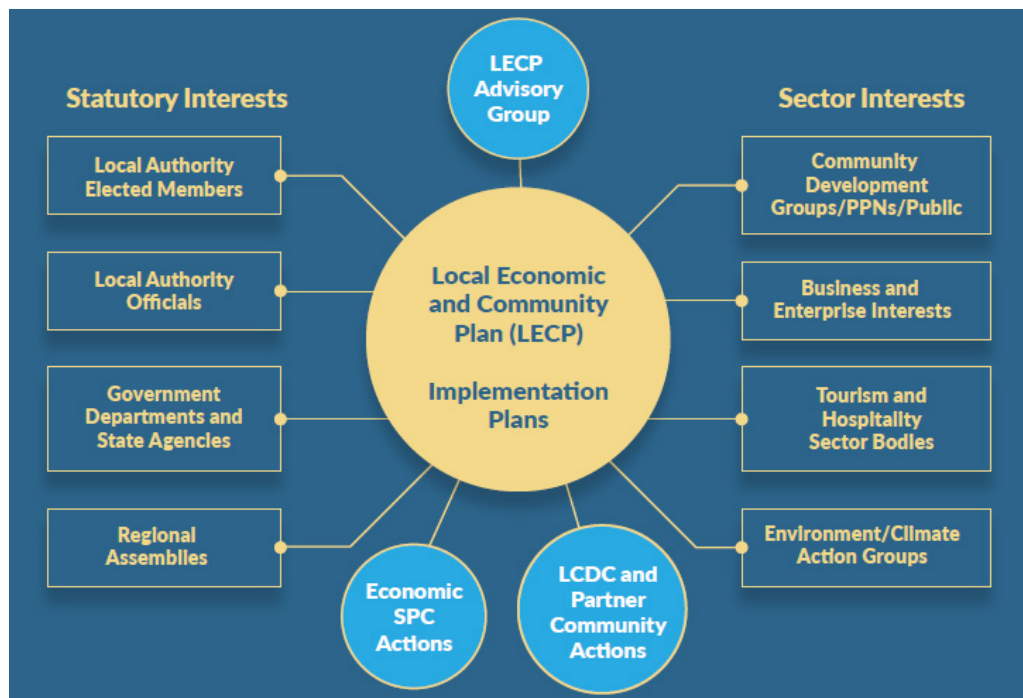
Under the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), the local development companies and a dedicated social inclusion unit within Wicklow County Council engage with marginalised communities within the county and there are a wide range of service providers using an integrated and community development approach to address issues relating to disadvantage, social exclusion and inequality.

In addition, Wicklow County Council works closely with government departments and national and regional bodies such as the IDA,

Enterprise Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, the Mid-East Regional Authority, SETU and the Regional Skills Forum to deliver on our economic objectives.

A critical element to the implementation of the Wicklow LECP is to identify and implement actions with lead agencies responsible for their execution under the plan. The community element of the plan seeks to ensure that the plan can be implemented in a collaborative manner with relevant existing and future community framework documents, to harness maximum synergy across the community planning framework for the county. The economic element of the plan seeks to build on the strengths of the county to develop additional quality employment opportunities and economic activity in the county. The plan will also support linkages between businesses and business networks, education and training bodies and promote development of infrastructure and collaborations aimed at facilitating increased economic development.





Implementation of the LECP shall be consistent with the following:

- The Regional Planning Guidelines or Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (whichever is in place).
- The Core Strategy and objectives of the County Development Plan; and
- Any other County Development Plan and Local Area Plan provisions responsible for the protection and management of the environment including environmental sensitivities.



Source: Action Plan for Jobs 2015

Figure 1.2 Hierarchy of Plan

The format of the LECP - An Agile and Flexible Approach

The new LECP will be presented in two elements in order to be able to adapt to situations or crises as they present:

- LECP Framework detailing the High-Level Goals and Sustainable Community and Economic Objectives as well as consideration of outcomes and high-level indicators for the 6-year LECP period.
- LECP Implementation Plans to detail the inputs, actions and resources required for the implementation plan period.

Purpose and Scope of Plan

The objectives and actions presented in this LECP have been developed with consideration of national and regional strategies and policies to ensure consistency is attained with overall policy. The actions put forward in this LECP therefore complement similarly themed strategies and actions represented in other strategies and plans (see Appendix 1). However, the objectives and actions set out in this LECP are more unique in nature in that they have been developed in consultation with key stakeholders, including community and business organisations and the general public and reflect the key local issues facing the county at present. In addition, the objectives and actions are underpinned by an evidence base through the socio-economic profile of the county.

1. Policy Context - EU, National, County level

2. Consultation - Public Meetings; Written Submissions; Stakeholder Workshops

3. Evidence Base - Socio-economic Profile; Economic Framework Report; County Wicklow Poverty Profile

Figure 1.3 Key Elements of the LECP

Overriding Status of the Plan

Implementing this Plan will involve Wicklow County Council helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans setting out public policy for sustainable development, including that relating to the economy, communities, infrastructure, land use tourism and environmental protection and environmental management.

This Plan is situated alongside this hierarchy of statutory documents that has been subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and will not be binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent.

The Plan fully aligns with the provisions of the existing National Planning Framework, Ireland 2040, National Climate Action Plan 2023, Housing For All 2021, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031 and the current County Development Plan, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions.

In order to be realised, projects included in this Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sectors) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. It is a specific provision of this Plan to ensure that all of the provisions from the County Development Plan identified in the accompanying Screening for SEA and AA reports shall be complied with throughout the implementation of this Plan.



02 THE POLICY CONTEXT

The LECP for County Wicklow has regard to a wide range of international, national and regional policies and strategies that shape the priorities of the plan and enable the achievement of the high-level goals. The aim of the LECP is to give a county Wicklow aspect to these plans and strategies. Some will have more influence than others. Some have become the remit of the LCDC such as Healthy Ireland/Wicklow and Sláintecare. Having regard to the policy context also ensures an integrated approach to development in terms of shared priorities with other agencies. A summary of the most relevant strategies and plans is given below.

International Level

The LECP will have regard to a number of international policies such as the European

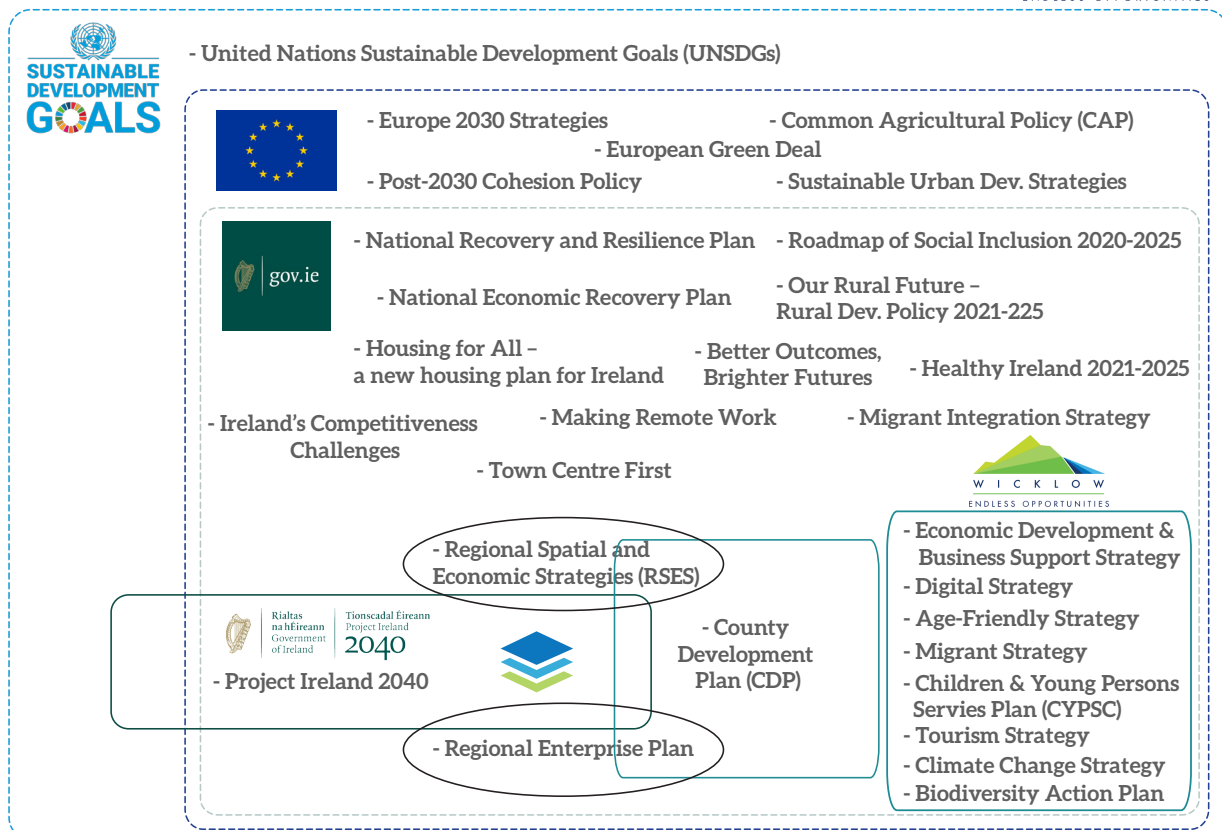
Green Deal, Just Transition Europe 2030 and the Common Agricultural Policy. It will have particular regard to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all United Nations Member States, including Ireland in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. There are 17 goals set out, each with their own actions and targets which compel long term action and strategic thinking about how we can address today's complex challenges and leave a better planet for future generations. These goals are a recurring theme throughout the LECP.



Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) in Wicklow - the Policy Context





National Level

The LECP will have regard to many national policies and strategies. It is not possible to include all of them but some of the most relevant are highlighted here.

National Planning Framework (2018)

The National Planning Framework (NPF) is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of the country out to the year 2040. The core principle that runs through the framework is that of sustainable development, and the creation of sustainable high-quality communities.

The NPF notes the 5 key principles for economic opportunity as:

- Smart specialisation
- Clustering
- Orderly growth – connected and competitive
- Placemaking – investment in creation of place
- Future proof and risk management

Climate Action Plan 2023

The Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP23) is the second annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2019. This plan is the first to be prepared under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, and following the introduction, in 2022, of economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings. The plan implements the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings and sets out a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve our emissions by 2030 and reach net zero no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government. Climate Action Plan 2023 sets out how Ireland can accelerate the actions that are required to respond to the climate crisis, putting climate solutions at the centre of Ireland's social and economic development.

The National Climate Action Plan 2021 places a clear focus on leadership and transformation of service delivery. This approach will be reflected in the LECP.

Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025

The vision of this policy is for a thriving rural Ireland which is integral to our national economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing and development. It includes an Ireland which is built on the interdependence of urban and rural areas. An Ireland which recognises the centrality of people, the importance of vibrant and lived-in rural places, and the potential to create quality jobs and sustain our shared environment.

The policy aims to deliver wellbeing for all, and to support an aligned policy approach to rural development. It seeks to promote enhanced community participation, to prepare rural areas for technological, demographic and environmental change, and to address the diversity of challenges and opportunities facing rural areas, informed by analysis, data, and consultation.

Our Rural Future represents the Irish Government's blueprint for a post-COVID-19 recovery and development of rural Ireland over the next 5 years. It provides the framework to

achieve the vision of transforming the quality of life and opportunity for people living in rural areas.

- Optimising Digital Connectivity
- Supporting Employment and Careers in rural areas
- Revitalising rural towns and villages
- Enhancing participation, leadership and resilience in rural communities
- Enhancing public services in rural areas
- Transitioning to a climate neutral society
- Supporting the sustainability of agriculture, the marine and forestry

Town Centre First Policy

The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community.



Project Ireland 2040

National Planning Framework



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2023 CAP23

Changing Ireland for the Better



Our Rural Future Rural Development Policy 2021-2025



Irish towns are facing significant challenges and opportunities that require a coordinated and comprehensive response. This Town Centre First policy will facilitate that response by towns of all sizes across the country so that their centres can function as the sustainable and vibrant heart of the communities they serve, in ways that are adaptable and appropriate to 21st Century needs.



Housing for All

'Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland' is the government's housing plan to 2030. It is a multi-annual, multi-billion-euro plan which will improve Ireland's housing system and deliver more homes of all types for people with different housing needs. The government's overall objective is that every citizen in the State should have access to a good quality home.

The government's vision for the housing system over the longer term is to achieve a steady supply of housing in the right locations with economic, social and environmental sustainability built into the system.

Particularly relevant to the LECP:

- A new 'Croí Cónaithe' (Cities) Fund to incentivise owner-occupier apartment development in city centres.
- Increased funding for the Land Development Agency for strategic development of public lands for affordable and social housing in city and town centres
- A new 'Croí Cónaithe' (Towns) Fund to service sites in regional towns and villages.
- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, and Rural Regeneration and Development Fund investment to support the Town Centre First approach. This will form part of the objectives of regenerating cities, towns and rural areas.
- Planning exemptions for 'above shop' conversions and streamlining of the Protected Structures system.
- A nationwide, local authority-led Compulsory Purchase Order scheme

Remote Work in Ireland – Future Jobs

A priority area looks at rural and community development, seeking to facilitate remote working arrangements to maintain and develop communities so that people can work in the place they live. Further work is ongoing in this area, especially having regard to the increase in remote working since Covid-19, however this plan is still relevant and addresses not only the remote working facility but also enhances the community in which it is located.

The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan

The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan is a major national public transport initiative funded by the Department of Transport. Managed by the NTA, the aim of the plan is to increase public transport connectivity, particularly for people living outside the major cities and towns. Connecting Ireland proposes to expand the public transport network in rural areas and to increase service levels via the rollout of new and improved services planned on a phased basis from 2022 to 2025.

White Paper on Enterprise

The white paper sets out an ambitious vision for Ireland's enterprise policy, to protect Ireland's strong economic position, and respond to challenges and opportunities that have emerged because of the pandemic, wider economic and geo-political developments, digitalisation and an increased urgency to decarbonise industry. It aims to provide for a sustainable, innovative and high-productivity economy, with rewarding jobs and livelihoods in the period ahead. It includes actions addressing decarbonisation and energy efficiency.

Seven priority enterprise policy objectives:

1. Integrating decarbonisation and net zero commitments
2. Placing digital transformation at the heart of enterprise policy.
3. Strengthening the Irish-owned exporting sector.
4. Enabling locally trading sectors to thrive.

5. Advancing Ireland's FDI and trade value proposition.
6. Stepping up enterprise innovation.
7. Building on strengths and opportunities.



The National Volunteering Strategy 2021 - 2025

The purpose of this strategy is to recognise, support and promote the unique value and contribution of volunteers to Irish society. Volunteerism is key to developing communities as vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable places where people want to live. The economic, cultural and social benefit of volunteering permeates through a diverse range of activities which include providing supports to arts and heritage, education, health, sport and social inclusion. COVID-19 has further highlighted the importance of volunteering as a mechanism to support individuals and communities.

Sustainable Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland 2019-2024

The strategy describes a long-term vision for our communities and sets a general direction of travel for government policy in relation to supporting

communities and the community and voluntary sector. It comprises 11 high level objectives with 43 associated actions. The strategy aims to:

- Change how decisions are made for and about communities, providing a stronger voice for the most marginalised communities.
- Strengthen community resilience and capacity to meet emerging challenges posed e.g., Brexit, climate change.
- Renew the community statutory partnership crucial to developing and delivering outcomes for communities, with a better use of resources and more sustainable and long-term change.
- Support governance and operational capacity in groups and organisations

Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025

This Framework sets out a vision for a Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where well-being is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility.

The framework describes four high-level goals:

- Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life
- Reduce health inequalities
- Protect the public from threats to health and well-being
- Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland.

Better Outcomes Brighter Futures: The national policy framework for children & young people

Better Outcomes Brighter Futures aligns government commitments to children and young people against five national outcomes.

The policy framework identifies five areas that have the potential to improve outcomes and transform the effectiveness of existing policies, services and resources in achieving these national outcomes. This is delivered at county level by the Children & Young People's Services Committee.

The five key areas are:

- Active & Healthy
- Achieving
- Safe
- Economic Security
- Connected & Respected

Zero Tolerance- The Third National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence (2022-2026)

This ambitious five-year strategy is aimed at making Ireland a safer place for women, girls and all intersectional identities at heightened risk of experiencing domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. The Strategy is based on the four pillars of the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention, Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Policy Co-ordination. Within the Strategy, Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's) are identified as the structure responsible 'for local co-ordination' (p24) and as such the LECP's must make reference to supporting the local co-ordination of the National Strategy.

Regional Level

The LECP will have regard to key regional policies and strategies that include:

Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern & Midlands Region

The key themes of the RSES are reflected in the LECP:

- Healthy place-making
- Climate Action
- Economic Opportunity

The RSES recognises that the 'Core Region' contains a strong network of county and market towns that contain a good level of local employment, services and amenities, which serve not just their resident populations but also a wider catchment area, including towns such as Arklow. It is recognised that these towns have capacity for continued commensurate growth to become more self-sustaining and to attract high quality knowledge-based employment at strategic accessible locations.

The regional ports are recognised in the RSES as important centres of economic activity and the RSES seeks to protect and support the role of regional ports including Wicklow and Arklow, as economic drivers for the Region.

The RSES recognises Bray as having a highly concentrated and diversified employment base and providing employment for its residents and surrounding towns as far as Wicklow, Arklow and Gorey. Due to Ardmores studios the town has been at the centre of the Irish film industry for 60 years. The town aims to attract major employment generating investment in the retail, services and industrial sectors with a particular focus on promoting Bray as a destination for high value investment in people-based industries, at locations accessible by public transport. There is also scope for employment growth at Fassaroe to improve the local employment base in Bray.





The RSES recognises that Wicklow-Rathnew is a major employment hub with a strong employment base attracting inflows of workers from around the County. The largest sectors in the settlement are commerce, manufacturing and education/health/public administration. There are a number of active business and industrial parks, with potential for expansion, as well as a supply of undeveloped zoned employment land available for growth.

Wicklow town plays a significant role in the provision of administrative services, delivering the functions of local government as well as other services. There is potential for the town centre to strengthen and promote economic development associated with retail and commerce, the expansion of port and harbour activities and the nearby Ashford Studios.

Wicklow port is home to commercial businesses and fishing as well as providing important leisure amenity with tourism potential. Wicklow port is well positioned to become a hub for the service of the offshore wind energy sector in particular. Wicklow has a long maritime tradition with leisure events such as the Wicklow Regatta and the round Ireland Yacht Race which starts and ends in Wicklow Port.

There is potential to develop Wicklow-Rathnew as a recreation and tourism hub due to its attractive coastal location and proximity to key destinations e.g., Glendalough, Wicklow Mountains, Brittas Bay and within the town - Wicklow Gaol, the Murrough, coastal walks, beaches, architectural heritage, sports facilities.

The Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) that forms part of the RSES identifies a number of large-scale employment and mixed-use development areas within the metropolitan area which should be developed in coordination with the sequential delivery of infrastructure and services.

In Wicklow the identified strategic locations are:

- North-South Corridor (DART)



- Strategic Employment Locations – Bray – extension to Fassaroe
- Greystones
- Employment Potential – re-intensification of commercial town centre functions and new mixed-use district
- Redevelopment of IDA strategic sites at Greystones to strengthen employment base for North Wicklow.

Mid-East Regional Enterprise plan to 2024

This plan has five key objectives as follows:

- Position the Mid-East as the primary location for the development of Agri food hubs.
- Develop and operate a Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus
- Enable the development and expansion of equine businesses across the Mid-East
- Develop key projects that facilitates the job creation opportunities that result in the transition to a low carbon economy.
- Support the continued development of a positive enterprise ecosystem in the Mid-East

At County Level

The LECP will have regard to various county level, plans, policies and strategies that include:

Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028

The CDP sets out a strategic spatial framework for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Wicklow for the period between

2021 and 2027. The CDP focuses on ‘big picture’ planning issues. It sets a framework within which developments could be undertaken, in the event that the public or private sectors have the finance to develop.

The CDP provides for, and controls, the physical economic and social developments of the county, in the interests of the overall common good and in compliance with environmental controls. It includes a set of developmental standards and objectives which set out where land is to be developed, and for what purposes. It informs decisions on where public services such as roads and water infrastructure are to be provided and affects the type of buildings that can be constructed and the use to which land can be put. It affects many facets of daily life in terms of where you can live, what services and facilities are available and where job opportunities are to be sited.

The County Development Plan is based on three overarching cross-cutting themes that inform and shape all aspects of the County Development Plan and are reflected strongly in the LECP. There is significant overlap between the three themes. Placemaking integrates with the creation of sustainable communities which includes housing, sustainable mobility, healthy town and village centres and economic development. Climate change has implications for sustainable mobility, healthy town and village centres and economic development. Economic development is increasingly integrated with our response to climate change and to the delivery of healthy place making.

The CDP and the LECP goals are aligned and have an important role to play in achieving the

goals related to these three themes. The two plans complement each other in the development of the county.

Wicklow County Council Climate Adaptation Strategy

Wicklow was one of the first counties to adapt a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. The strategy aims to ensure a comprehension of the key risks and vulnerabilities of climate change, to bring forward climate resilient actions in a planned and proactive manner and to ensure that climate action considerations are mainstreamed into all plans and policies. The Local Authority Climate Action Plan will be developed in 2023 along with the Climate Action Fund.

Healthy Wicklow

The LCDC has responsibility for the oversight of the Healthy Wicklow Programme. The programme is based on the importance of cross-sectoral and partnership approaches to achieve established priorities.

For the period 2023 – 2025 the Healthy Wicklow plan is prioritising the following:

- Improvement in individual mental health (focusing on active community action and traveller mental and physical health)
- Decrease in % of those at risk of poverty or basic deprivation (focusing on food poverty)

In a County Wicklow context, Wicklow County Council support the implementation of Healthy Wicklow through employment of a Healthy Ireland Coordinator, whose role it is to engage with community stakeholders, lead the development of the Healthy Wicklow Action

Plan, oversee the budgets and funding allocations for actions to be delivered across the county, and complete financial and progress reports to various departments.

Sláintecare

The *Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme* provides targeted resources to communities experiencing health inequalities as a result of wider determinants of health. As part of the *Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme*, the Department of Health has commissioned Local Authorities, the HSE and a wide range of community-based organisations to work in partnership and deliver a range of health and wellbeing initiatives. The aim is to achieve health equity for all by creating economic, social, cultural and physical environments that foster healthy living.

Wicklow County Council is participating in the delivery of *Sláintecare Healthy Communities*. Using a place-based approach, the impact of wider determinants on the health and wellbeing of people living in designated SHC areas will be explored and targeted programmes developed. Success will depend in no small part on the quality of engagement and partnership with communities, community service providers, and statutory agencies.

Local Sláintecare Healthy Communities Objectives include:

- Apply a wider determinants approach to health inequalities, community profiling, and project planning.
- Focus on long-term and self-sustaining initiatives.

- Integrate the health and wellbeing agenda across the work of the Local Authority.
- Identify, promote and facilitate any activities that actively protect and improve the health and wellbeing of people living in SHC areas.
- Promote partnership working across all statutory services, community groups, and local communities with regards to protecting and improving the health and wellbeing of people living in SHC areas.

County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023 - 2027

The County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy supports and enacts the objectives of the Wicklow Age Friendly County Programme. The objectives are to improve the health and well-being of older people in the County, increase participation in the social, economic and cultural life of the community and encourage effective partnerships between local statutory, private and voluntary organisations.

THE County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023 to 2027 has 72 actions over eight thematic groups dealing with outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect of social inclusion, civic participation, employment, community information and community support and health services.



The LECP and the age friendly programme will develop a Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of age the age friendly section of the LECP.

County Wicklow Digital Strategy 2019 - 2022

In recognition that digital technologies and connectivity have transformed people's lives, County Wicklow's Digital Strategy sets out to achieve maximum social and economic benefits. This strategy was updated in 2023. Some of the main objectives include improving access to broadband and technology, improving digital skills for all, increased opportunities for remote working and building infrastructure to encourage greater use of digital technology in all aspects of life. One of the underlying principles of the Strategy is to support the revitalisation of rural areas through social and digital innovation.

Wicklow Tourism Strategy & Marketing Plan 2018 - 2023

The Strategy notes that the County is performing well but has enormous untapped potential arising from its natural and built assets, proximity to large markets and relationship to the stories and promise of Ireland's Ancient East. It is recognised that the tourism growth strategy should maximise off-peak visits, deliver business year-



round, be high value, attract international as well as domestic visitors and it must maximise the positive economic impact, achieving overnight stays as a priority.

The Strategy identifies five priority actions as follows:

- Develop new accommodation
- Develop the key settlements of Bray, Wicklow, Greystones, Arklow, Blessington and Enniskerry as visitor hubs
- Masterplan for Glendalough
- Grow thematic experiences
- Develop a common narrative

County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2020-2025

The County Wicklow Outdoor Strategy 2020 to 2025 is a blueprint for realising the county's outdoor recreation potential. During the next five years, the goals and actions of this Strategy are about consolidating the recreation resources in County Wicklow and making sure it is working efficiently to deliver economically to the locality, in recreation terms for users and in an environmentally responsible way.

The four pillars to deliver the goals and actions set out in the Strategy are:

- Planning and Collaboration – all agencies on board, all respected and all contributing.
- Increased awareness – educating about environmental responsibility and making sure everything carried out under this strategy protects or enhances our natural environment.

- Resources – planning, financial resources and Human Resources that are required to succeed in rollout.
- Animating the outdoors – this is telling Wicklow's recreation story – bringing it to life – crossing social media, marketing and public relations.

Glendalough & Wicklow Mountains National Park Masterplan and Visitor Orientation Plan for County Wicklow

Failte Ireland, following a tendering process and in partnership with the NPWS, Coillte, OPW, National Monuments and Wicklow County Council, has appointed a multi-disciplinary team to work on developing a Visitor Experience and Development Masterplan for County Wicklow. The brief is wide and includes all aspects of developing the local and international tourism markets for the County with a particular aim of reducing congestion and enhancing the visitor experience in Glendalough.

Co. Wicklow Heritage Plan

The overall aim of the Plan is to conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage of Wicklow and to foster a greater awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of this by all. The Heritage Plan represents a strategic approach to the management of heritage in County Wicklow that is underpinned by both National and local heritage policy.



Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy

This strategy was developed on behalf of Wicklow County Council and led to the development of the Wicklow Naturally brand and the food and drink producers network aimed at promoting Wicklow produce sustainably and supporting producers.

The aims of the strategy are:

- Tell the Wicklow Food Story
- Develop a Food Activity Calendar
- Increase Food Stakeholder Networking
- Get Local Food to Local Consumers
- Provide Appropriate Business Supports

The Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy and Wicklow Naturally have a particular focus on food sustainability and have several actions to be implemented in this area.

County Wicklow Food Poverty Research Report

This report, commissioned by Wicklow County Council and CYPSC, aimed to conduct research

into the issue of food poverty in County Wicklow, both from the perspective of those impacted by food poverty, and those providing solutions to food poverty. The report highlighted the good work that was being done, but also the gaps in services and the problems encountered by those affected.

While recognising that food poverty is a structural issue rooted in inequality, interim actions were needed for those most vulnerable:

- Establish a County Wicklow Community Food Partnership
- Develop a three-year work plan
- Compile and circulate a directory of community food services in Co. Wicklow
- Hold a networking event for community food services/responses in the county
- Explore the feasibility of Community Groceries and Community Cafes in the county using the social enterprise model





County Wicklow Migrant Integration Strategy 2020 – 2026

The County Wicklow Migrant Integration Strategy was developed in 2020 and despite COVID-19 restrictions, it is based on a very wide and inclusive engagement process.

This strategy does five things:

- Provides a summary demographic profile of ethnic minorities and migrant communities in Co. Wicklow]
- Discuss migrants which might be particularly vulnerable in Co. Wicklow including refugee and asylum seekers
- Provide an audit of services that are provided to migrants in the county and identify possible gaps
- Sets out an action plan for the strategy
- Provides recommendations for the implementation, monitoring and review of the strategy

County Wicklow acknowledges the contribution which migrants make to our community and affirms our commitment to full participation on an equal basis for migrants and host communities in County Wicklow society, services and local government.



Please note the above section is a reference to some of the most relevant plans and strategies and those most relevant to the remit of the LECF. See Figure 2.1 for an overview of some of the key strategies and plans that need to be connected to the LECF.

Figure 2.1





03 THE CONSULTATIONS

Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LECP) embarked on an extensive consultation process for the development of a new Local Economic and Community Plan. As the Public Participation Network (PPN) was also embarking on a consultation process for the PPN Well Being Statement, the decision was made to combine the consultation process for both plans. See Table 3.1 for details.

Table 3.1 Consultation events and participant numbers

<i>Event</i>	<i>Participant Numbers</i>
Social Inclusion Women's Network	60
Economic Breakfast Briefing	100
Wicklow Municipal District	18
Arklow Municipal District	30
Baltinglass Municipal District	22
Greystones Municipal District	27
Bray Municipal District	20
Webinar consultation	13
Written submissions	9
PPN Environment workshop	12
Comhairle na nÓg Summit	100
Online Survey	20
Stakeholder focus groups	45
Engagement with Marginalised Communities	20
-Migrants	
-Travellers	
-LGBTQ+	
-Older People	
-People with Disabilities	
Total consultees	496

The process of developing the LECP was supported through the establishment of a LECP Advisory Group, made up of representatives of elected representatives and officials from Wicklow County Council. Various Inputs on the draft emerging plan were also provided by the Economic Development and Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and the LECP as well as Wicklow County Council Climate Action Team, Wicklow Public Participation Network, Wicklow Planning Alliance, Cllr Derek Mitchell and Bray Area Partnership.

Figure 3.1 PPN Wellbeing Statement



Summary of Consultation Findings

Enterprise Innovation and Creativity

Tourism featured strongly in the consultation report for the LECP. Tourism was seen as a strong driver for the economy in County Wicklow as well as a wellbeing resource for residents of the county. There was a strong consensus on developing the tourism product in terms of accommodation, the food sector and the outdoor recreation product, including the marine sector and the development of walking trails and greenways. The concept of Green Tourism was another area that featured during the consultation. Green tourism is defined as environmentally friendly tourism activities with various focuses and meanings. In broad terms, green tourism is about being an environmentally friendly tourist or providing environmentally friendly tourist services. The focus here is on the enjoyment of the natural environment while limiting the impact on the natural environment.

Regarding culture and creativity, analysis of the public consultation shows creativity was seen

in terms of new and innovative solutions to economic and social development, while culture was seen as a driver for economic activity, with a demand for spaces for this sector to flourish. The film sector featured strongly with many suggestions for the development of this sector. Interestingly culture was also seen in terms of creating and expressing a unique identity for the county, in expressing pride for the county and in welcoming and embracing newer cultures.

Digital Wicklow

Digital Wicklow featured strongly in several ways during the consultation. The opportunities that remote working can offer in terms of an economic driver for the county and in terms of quality of life for the residents of the county, were recognised by many taking part in the consultation process. Participants also recognised the opportunities that enhancing the digital economy can offer to economic activity in the county. It also offers environmental benefits contributing to the lowering of emissions into the atmosphere. There was concern expressed about the roll out of broadband especially in more rural areas.

Rural Development

The support for town and village development and regeneration was a recurring theme in the public consultation report and showed an understanding of the many aspects involved, including heritage, culture, place making and economic development. There was a definite support for more emphasis on the local, in terms of decision making and in terms of being involved in partnership with the Local Authority in local development. Derelict buildings and sites were a cause of concern as was the provision of

attractive and safe public spaces and facilities. Remote working spaces and digital connectivity featured strongly as did measures for support for shopping locally and encouraging the growth of new enterprise.

Climate action

There was a palpable need and appetite evident for positive climate action and protecting the environment. Education, capacity building and support were identified specifically, and Wicklow County Council was seen as having a key leadership role in this. Significant concerns were also expressed in relation to biodiversity loss and management. There was also a strong interest in the applications of models such as the circular economy and community wealth building. There was a strong focus on leadership and a transformative approach to service delivery, reducing emissions and adapting to the impacts of the changing climate throughout and across all pillars of development.

Health Resilience and Wellbeing

Building on the health and wellbeing trends that became so popular during the covid-19 pandemic was a recurring theme during the consultations. There is a stronger appreciation and need of public and open spaces and an increased awareness of placemaking. There is also an increased recognition of the importance of strong communities and social capital and an equally strong recognition that communities need physical spaces, support and resources to build social capital.

Concerns were expressed about access to health services, especially mental health services. Also of concern was the move to digital services,

especially among older people. People were also worried about air quality, isolation and loneliness, and the rising cost of living in terms of food and fuel. This links with Just Transition which is thinking about people who are impacted especially the most vulnerable to increased costs/ rising prices particularly regarding food and fuel.

Equality, Diversity and Just Transition

The consultation feedback was very strong on the concepts of inclusion and addressing barriers to participation in all aspects of society. In particular the areas of integration of new communities, access and services for those with disabilities was seen as a priority. This was seen in a human rights context in terms of services and access but also came across strongly in terms of values. The value of trauma-based practice was highlighted.

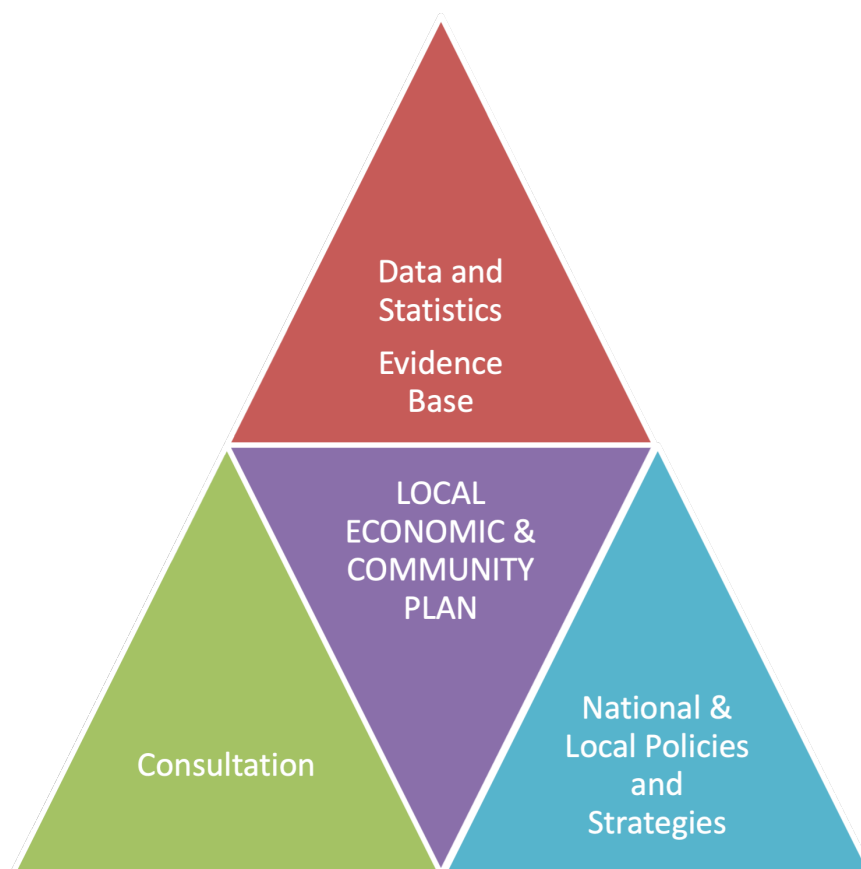
Connectivity was seen in terms of community connectivity which was so important during the recent pandemic; digital connectivity, addressed above; and transport connectivity. Transport connectivity was possibly the topic of most concern as it affects all areas of life, from social, to employment, to access to training, education and services.

Engagement with Marginalised Communities

County Wicklow was selected as one of four pilot projects to develop and test engagement strategies to support inclusive participation in the LECP. The pilot project concluded that there is little point in carrying out excellent and effective engagements and generating quality inputs, if these are not given adequate significance and are not appropriately valued in the decision-making

or policy/ plan development and implementation of the organisation concerned. A number of steps need to be taken by Local Authorities, LCDC's and other relevant decision-making bodies to deliver truly meaningful engagement with marginalised communities and to ensure the optimum benefit is achieved with this. To this end it was agreed that the LCDC would set up a Social Inclusion Measures Group, along the lines of the SIM subgroup of the County Wicklow County Development Board. This will be an action in the LECP implementation plan. This will be led by Wicklow County Council which will provide administrative and implementation support.

Figure 3.2 Key Elements of the LECP Development



Introduction



04 WICKLOW SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE, 2023 SUMMARY

In terms of its surface area (2,027 km²), Wicklow is the seventeenth-largest county on the island of Ireland. The county has a population (2022 Census of Population) of 155,851. County Wicklow has a population density of 76.7 persons per km². County Wicklow's population is the sixteenth highest among Ireland's thirty-two counties and the twelfth highest among the twenty-six counties in the State. Thus, in demographic terms, Wicklow may be classified as a 'large-sized' Irish county. While County Wicklow reflects or approximates median Irish values in respect of several demographic and socio-economic variables, it exhibits considerable internal diversity.

County Wicklow's distinctive topography, and specifically its extensive uplands, create a natural boundary that generates strong local identities. Local citizens refer to West Wicklow, East Wicklow and the Wicklow Mountains as three distinctive and clearly recognised sub-county areas. West Wicklow is reasonably well connected to Carlow, Kildare and South Dublin, and its economic structure is similar to that of the adjoining counties. The Wicklow Uplands dominate the centre of the county and have a human geography profile that is shaped by upland farming, an extensive national park and a well-established tourism industry. On many socio-economic indicators, the Wicklow Uplands are similar to the Mountains of Mourne and the Antrim Plateau in respect of their demographic and socio-economic characteristics. The lowlands of East Wicklow provide the transport corridors that connect the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) with the southeast of Ireland. This is the most urbanised part of County Wicklow, and its economy is more entwined with that of the GDA than is the case elsewhere in the county. While

this three-way sub-county understanding of County Wicklow's internal dynamics is useful, it is however, limited.

A socio-economic analysis of the county reveals, north-south patterns are often as significant as east west gradients. The GDA has a significant effect on the demographics and socioeconomics of the north of County Wicklow. While all of County Wicklow is affected by spill over effects from the GDA, these are most pronounced in the north of the county, and in particular along the east coast from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to Wicklow Town. This part of County Wicklow has high levels of commuting to the GDA; many of its enterprises are geared towards providing services to the GDA; and the provision of housing and hard infrastructure exhibits a pattern that is oriented towards responding to the GDA – in terms of needs and opportunities. This does not come without a cost to the environment in terms of transport emissions. Further south along Wicklow's east coast, particularly south of Wicklow Town, the influence of the GDA begins to dissipate, although there is some evidence that Arklow and the surrounding communities are reflecting the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of areas that are in the second tier of GDA commuter zones – similar to parts of counties Laois, Offaly and Cavan.

In West Wicklow, especially along the N81 (national primary route) from South Dublin / Dublin 24 to Blessington, there is clear evidence of the influence of the GDA, on the local landscape, in respect of housing, demographic expansion and infrastructure requirements. Just as is the case in East Wicklow, the GDA influence dissipates further south, and the south of the Baltinglass Municipal District (MD) exhibits characteristics

10th
LARGEST COUNTY
BY POPULATION

155,851
POPULATION

76.7
PERSONS PER
SQ KM

9.4%
INCREASE IN
POPULATION
FROM 2016

of a more traditional rural economy. Indeed, many of its features are closer to median values for County Carlow than County Wicklow.

Thus, Wicklow County Council and other bodies need to be very cognisant of the significant geographical diversity that pertains at sub-county level. Agencies are indeed aware of this, and several pursue local level and sub-county approaches.

In the wider European context however, Wicklow is a large-sized local authority, as Ireland has, in demographic terms, the second-largest local authorities among EU member states. Smaller local authorities are generally associated with higher levels of subsidiarity and reduced distances between citizens and decision-makers. Smaller-scale local authority areas also tend to be characterized by higher levels of interagency interfacing, networking and collaboration, and it is envisaged that those involved in the Wicklow LECP, as well as other local stakeholders, will utilise this socio-economic summary to optimise their work - individually and collectively over the coming years.

Demographics

Wicklow's population increased by 9.4% (+13,426 persons) between 2016 and 2022 (Census 2022) to 155,851. This is faster than the corresponding rate for the State (+8.1%), but it lags behind the corresponding rate for the Eastern Region (+10.9%), Meath (13.2%) and Kildare (11.4%). Growth has not been evenly distributed across the county; however, it is most prevalent in the Bray and Greystones Municipal Districts. Proximity to the GDA and the main commuter routes is a factor in driving population growth, and the areas with the healthiest demographic profile - in terms of growth and age structure - are Greystones, Enniskerry, Newtownmountkennedy and the surrounding peri-urban zones. As is the case regionally and nationally, Wicklow's population is ageing.

Figure 4.1 An overview of the county facts and figures

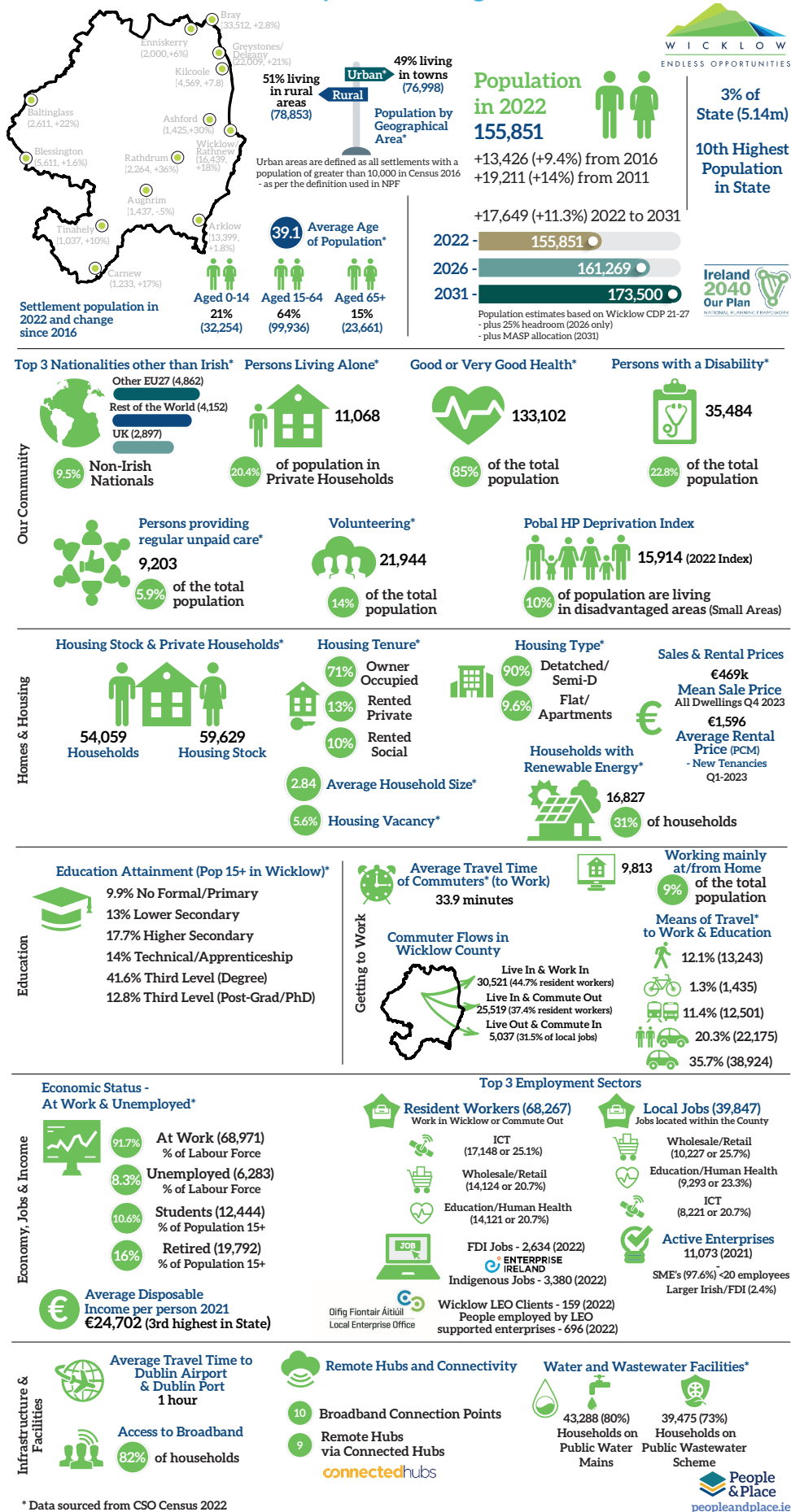
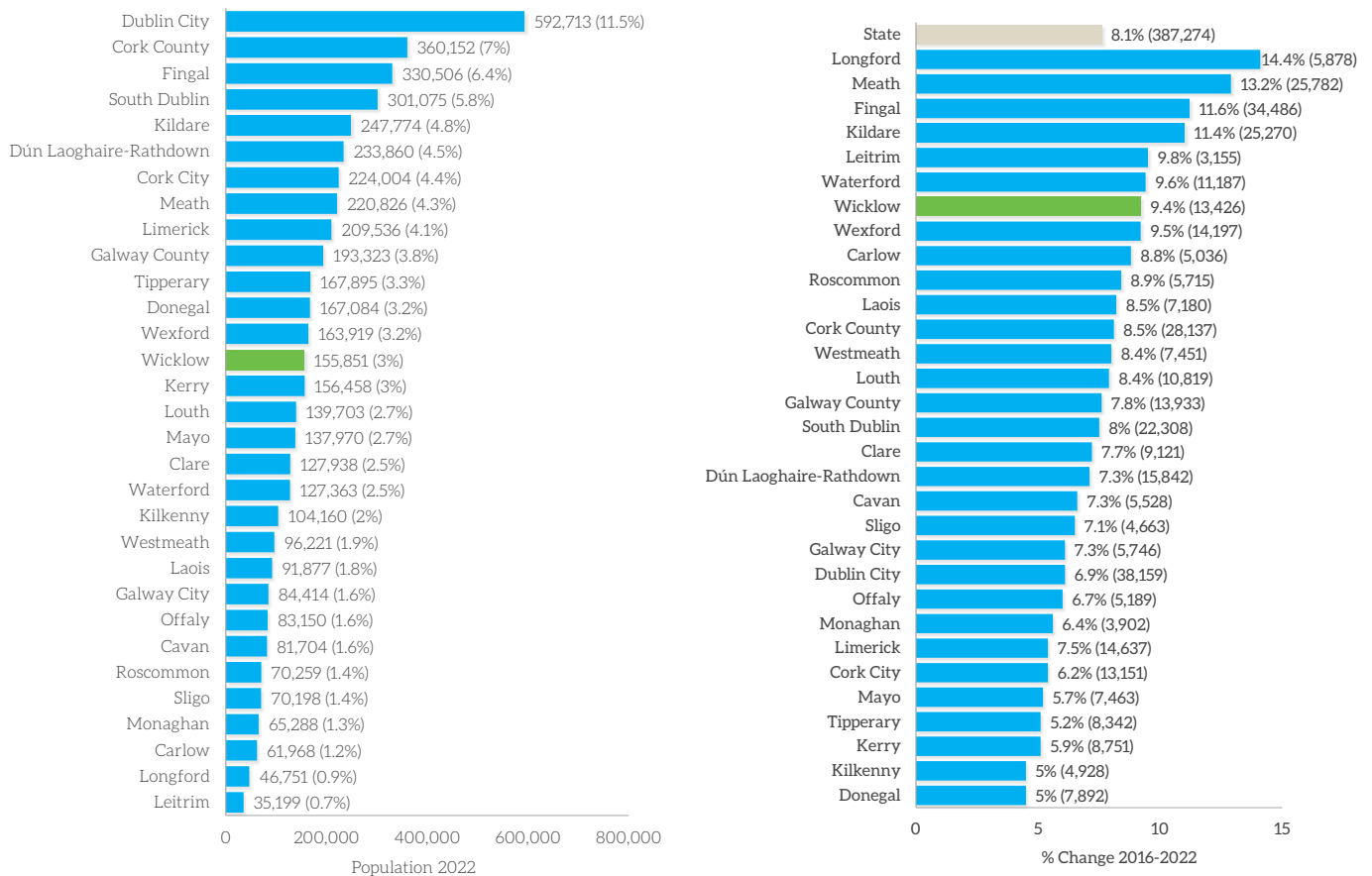


Figure 4.2: Total Population 2022 and Population Change 2016-2022



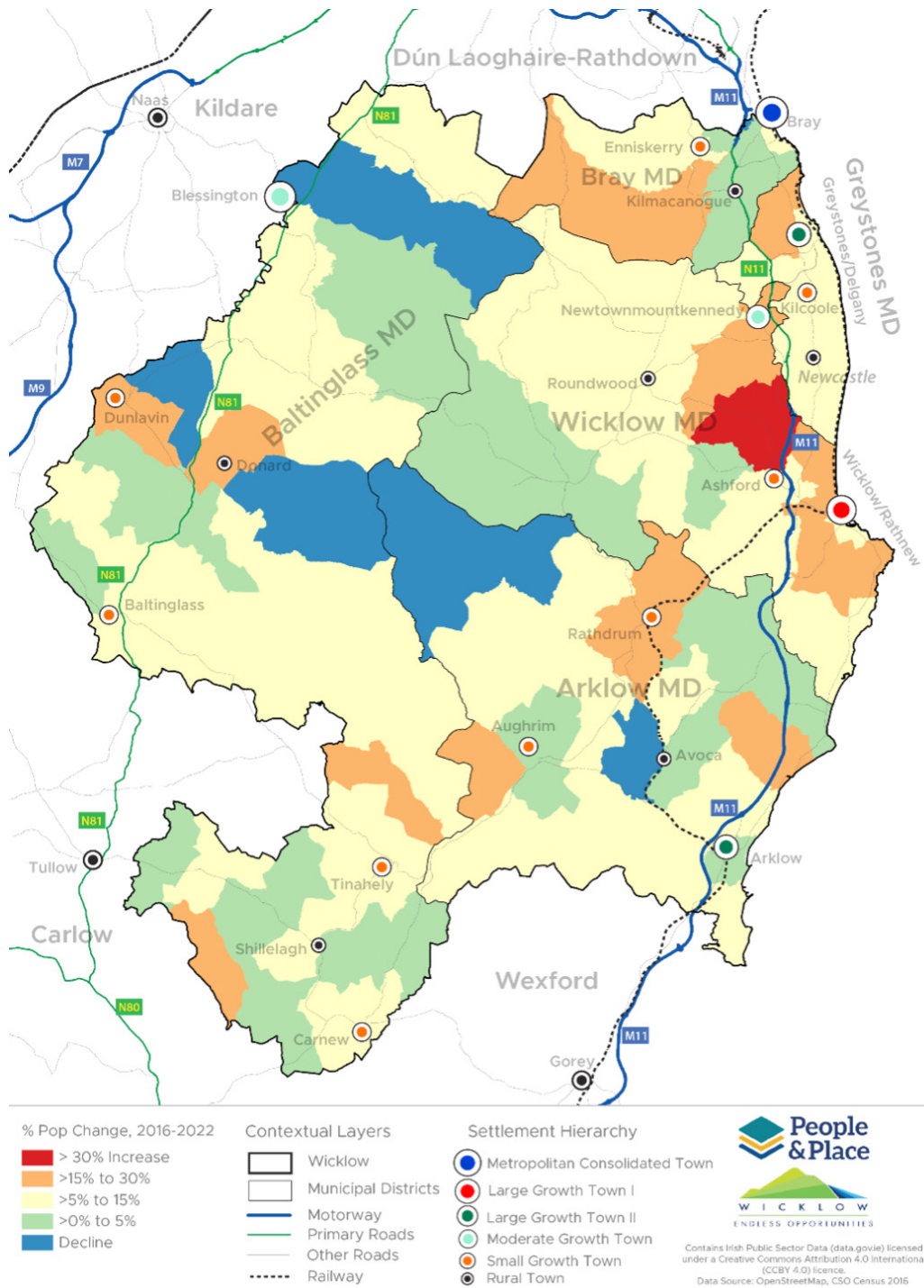
Key Facts:

According to the most recent (2022) Census of Population returns, County Wicklow:

- Has a total population of 155,851; and experienced an increase in population of 9.4% – the seventh highest among the 31 local authority areas.
- Recent population growth in county Wicklow (+9.4% or +13,426) has been most pronounced in the Greystones (+15%) and Wicklow MDs (+15%). In contrast, Bray (+3%) and Arklow (+6.5%) recorded much lower levels of growth;
- Net in-migration is the primary driver of recent population growth and accounts for 59.6% of the +13,060 increase in population since 2016.
- County Wicklow's population is projected to increase by 11.3% between 2022 (Census 2022) and 2040 – Population estimates based on Wicklow CDP 21-2 (plus 25% headroom (2026 only), plus MASP allocation (2031)).
- Nearly a third of the population is aged 0-24 years; values are 32.2% in Ireland and 32.6% in Wicklow, and within the county, the highest rates of young people (among the resident population) are generally in the north and east of the county.

- Almost one in seven persons is aged 65+ (15.2%, compared with 15.1% across the State), and the highest values are generally in rural areas and in the south of the county. The population 65+ in Wicklow has increased by 27% since 2016 (+5,085).
- The county's population is also expected to age over the next twenty years and beyond. According to the DHPLG projections, the county will experience an increase of 78% in the population aged 65+ between 2021 and 2040 (+17,390).

Figure 4.3: Percentage Population Change in Wicklow Electoral Divisions, 2016-2022



Social Indicators

Like Ireland, County Wicklow has become increasingly diverse in respect of nationalities, ethnicities and languages. While the State continues to become more diverse, in Wicklow the proportion of persons with a nationality other than Irish was higher in 2011 than in 2016. Non-Irish nationals and those with dual nationality account for ten percent of the county's population. UK nationals, Poles and Lithuanians represent the most numerous nationalities – other than Irish.

While the proportion of UK nationals is declining, the population of most other nationalities is increasing. Romanians represent the nationality whose numbers have experienced the greatest percentage increase since 2011. There are notable micro-level geographies associated with the distribution of persons with a nationality other than Irish. Blessington and Arklow have notable concentrations of Poles, while Wicklow Town and Blessington have the highest proportions of Lithuanians among their resident populations. Polish, French and Spanish are the most widely spoken foreign languages in County Wicklow. County Wicklow has the largest proportion of members of the Church of Ireland and the third-highest proportion of Protestants of any county in the State. The county has a below-average proportion of Irish Travellers in its resident population, although there are significant Traveller communities in Rathnew and Woodenbridge.

County Wicklow is, in aggregate terms, the tenth-most affluent local authority area in Ireland, based on the Pobal HP Index of Deprivation 2022. The county records a score of 1.1 on the index,

which is above the State aggregate value of 0.4. In spatial terms, affluence is largely concentrated in the Greystones Municipal District. While there has been an overall reduction in the level of deprivation since 2011, the index reveals persistent structural weaknesses in parts of Bray, Arklow and Wicklow Town, as well as emerging challenges in rural communities – most notably in the south of the Baltinglass MD and much of the Arklow MD.

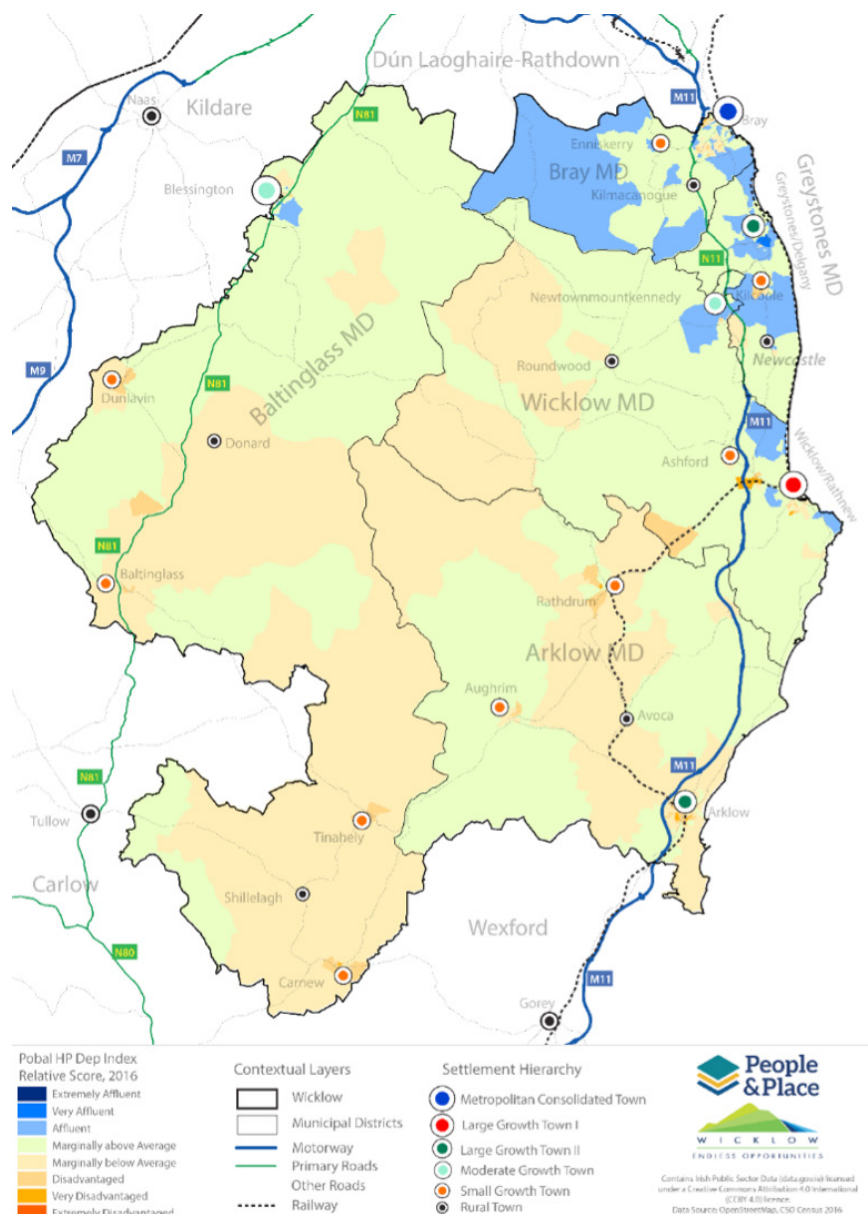
Key Facts:

- Just under ten percent (9.5%) of County Wicklow's resident population has a nationality other than Irish. The corresponding figure for Ireland is 12.4%. Within Co. Wicklow, non-Irish nationals are more likely to reside in urban areas (than in rural communities).
- The Bray MD has the highest rate of population with a nationality other than Irish.
- There are 887 persons who self-declare as an Irish Traveller. They comprise 0.6% of the county's resident population (relative to 0.6% across the State), with the highest numbers being in Wicklow-Rathnew.
- The Pobal HP Index of Affluence and Deprivation reveals that County Wicklow is, in aggregate terms, the tenth most affluent local authority area in Ireland, based on the Pobal HP Index of affluence and deprivation. The county records a score of 1.1 on the index, which is above the State aggregate value of 0.4.
- While County Wicklow's overall score, on the Pobal HP Index, is positive, two of its five

municipal districts record negative values. These are Arklow and Baltinglass; record scores of -3.5 and -1.4 respectively. Thus, Arklow is the most disadvantaged of the five municipal districts, while the Greystones MD is the most affluent (7.91). While Wicklow is a relatively affluent county, it is the least affluent in the GDA and adjoining counties. In total, 10% of the population in Wicklow are residing in disadvantaged areas (159,14).

- As of November 2022, County Wicklow was home to 1,846 refugees from Ukraine of the 58,829 who have come to Ireland. Within the county, the greatest numbers are in Bray East LEA (3.5% of the local population); and
- Just under one in six (17.2%) families with children (under 15 years) is headed by a lone parent – a percentage point below the proportion across the State (18.6), and the highest proportions of lone parent families are in Carnew, Baltinglass and Arklow.

Figure 4.4: Pobal HP Deprivation Index, 2016



Education

County Wicklow records higher levels of educational attainment than is the case across Ireland as a whole. In Wicklow, as is generally the case elsewhere in Ireland, higher levels of educational attainment are associated with a younger age profile, urban-based residents, immigration and employment in the knowledge economy and related services. That said however, many neighbourhoods in Bray and in Arklow and its environs record below-average levels of educational attainment.

The spatial patterns locally indicate an association between a lack of formal qualifications and distance from the labour market. In Bray, these variables also correlate with urban deprivation. Educational attainment levels are generally lower in the southwest of the county – associated with transitioning directly from school to employment in agriculture and agri-industry. Today, County Wicklow has among the highest pupil-teacher ratios and most expensive childcare in Ireland.

Key Facts:

- In general, education attainment levels in Wicklow are better than the State average with a higher proportion of persons having technical, professional qualification and/or third-level degree. Slightly under one-in-ten (9.9%) completed their education without obtaining a qualification. This is below the corresponding figure for Ireland (9.8%).
- In Ireland, 39.2% of the population has a third-level qualification, while in County Wicklow, the corresponding figure is slightly higher at 41.6%. The Greystones MD has the highest rate and is more than double that of the Arklow MD.
- Among County Wicklow's 82 primary schools, 14 (17%) have DEIS status – this is the third lowest rate in the State (2023/24).
- Among County Wicklow's 23 post-primary schools, 7 (30%) have DEIS status – this is lower than the proportion across the State and the thirteenth lowest among the State's 31 local authority areas.
- In County Wicklow, the proportion of children in classes of 20 to 30 is higher than the State average and stands at 74.7%. The proportion in classes with more than thirty pupils is also higher, at 14.6% - just above the State average.
- Data on progression from the Leaving Certificate (among the 2022 student cohort) reveal that a majority of County Wicklow's second level students' progress to third-level education. On average, across the county's second-level schools, over 40% of students' progress to a university, and a further 38% progress to an Institute of Technology (IoT) or other HEI; and
- Among Ireland's thirty-one local authority areas, Wicklow has the fifth highest mean childcare costs - the highest outside Dublin. In 2020/2021, the mean weekly childcare fee in County Wicklow was €2013. This is over €27 higher than the State average.

Economy and Employment

In County Wicklow, the rates of participation in the labour force and workforce are similar to those of Ireland. Within the county, rates (on both indicators) are higher in the Bray and Greystones Municipal Districts than in the rest of the county. Relative to the county (as a whole) and the Eastern and Midlands Region, the Arklow and Wicklow Municipal Districts have lower proportions of persons at work, and they have higher rates of unemployment. The Arklow MD emerges as having the greatest challenges in respect of unemployment and a reliance on traditional economic activities. In contrast, the Bray and Greystones MDs have more vibrant economic profiles.

The northeast of the county, and in particular the Greystones MD, has a higher proportion of resident workers, who are employed in professional occupations and who, by extension, belong to the higher socioeconomic groups. In contrast, the south and west of the county – in both urban and rural communities – have higher proportions of persons who are in manual occupations and who belong to the lower socioeconomic groups. The data point to the importance of promoting economic diversification in these parts of County Wicklow, in tandem with socially oriented interventions – supporting integrated human capital and economic development.

The north of the county has high levels (>50% in most EDs) of commuting to the GDA. Commuting to the GDA is manifestly more significant than travel to any other destination. Proximity to the GDA shapes the socio-economic profile of much of North Wicklow, particularly Greystones and its wider environs.

Key Facts:

- County Wicklow's labour force participation rate is 60.9%) and is broadly the same as the State (61.2%) as a whole.
- The proportion of the labour force classified as being 'at work' (91.7%) is similar to that of the State (91.7%). The numbers at work have increased by 11.1% since 2016 (+7,517)
- More than four in every ten (25,519 or 37.4%) members of the workforce (those with a known work destination) commutes to work outside the county. This is the fifth highest rate in the State with only Dublin local authorities and Meath having higher rates.
- Commuting figures from Census 2012 reveal that 44.7% of resident workers in County Wicklow work within the county.
- Commuting maps clearly indicate the influence of the GDA on the economic geography of North Wicklow. Across the Bray Municipal District, the northern half of the Greystones MD and all parts of the Baltinglass MD (north of the Poulaphouca Reservoir), over 40% of the resident workforce commutes to the GDA. Values decline gradually as one moves from north to south.
- Relative to those who live and work in County Wicklow, outbound commuters are more likely to have a third-level qualification, work in ICT and Professional Services industries and belong to the higher socioeconomic groups such as 'employers and managers'. The primary mode of transport for outbound commuters is private mode of transport - over three quarters.

- There are 39,847 jobs and 68,267 resident workers in County Wicklow; thus, the county's jobs to workers ratio stands at 58:100
- More than half the jobs in Wicklow are within the settlements of Bray (8,763), Arklow (3,040), Wicklow (2,637), Greystones-Delgany (2,514) and Blessington (1,125) (2016 data).
- Commerce & Trade (23.0%), Professional Services (22.1%) and Manufacturing (13.4%) have been identified as key sectors to the County Wicklow economy. Combined, these sectors employ around 13,000 people (2016 data).
- Commerce & Trade and Professional Services account for almost half of the jobs held by County Wicklow's resident workers (2016 data).
- There are very clear rural to urban and southwest (highest) to northeast (lowest) gradient in terms of the significance of primary sector employment in County Wicklow. Agricultural employment is particularly significant in the south of the county with the highest values in the southern half of the county - notably in the south of the Baltinglass MD and the west of the Arklow MD.
- Manufacturing industries account for just under ten percent (9.7%) of employment among resident workers in County Wicklow. In proportional terms, Wicklow has the sixth-lowest value in the State, and the county experienced little overall change since 2011 (+0.9%, n=54). Employment in the secondary sector (manufacturing) is less significant in County Wicklow than in the other counties that surround the GDA; values in Kildare, Louth and Meath are higher than in County Wicklow (2016 data).
- Employment in Professional Services, Commerce & Trade and the Public Sector is most prevalent in and around the main towns (most notably Bray, Wicklow and Arklow) and rural communities in North Wicklow that have high levels of outbound commuting (2016 data).
- There are 6,014 persons (2022 data) employed in State-assisted foreign (2,634) and indigenous (3,380) firms in County Wicklow. According to the IDA, there are 20 IDA supported companies located in Wicklow.
- In 2022, the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office (LEO) supported 159 clients, and these provide 696 jobs.
- County Wicklow's unemployment rate fell by more than a quarter (-27%) between 2016 and 2022. The self-declared unemployment rate (which is different to the live-register figure) for County Wicklow stood at 8.3% or 6,283 (in 2022).
- Within County Wicklow, analysis shows the concentrated nature of unemployment, particularly in the Arklow Municipal District - in both urban and rural areas. The Arklow MD had an unemployment rate more than double that of the Greystones MD.
- Median gross household income (2016) in County Wicklow (€48,392) is over €3,000 above the level for the State as a whole (€45,256). This is the seventh highest gross household income in the State. Within County Wicklow, the highest median gross

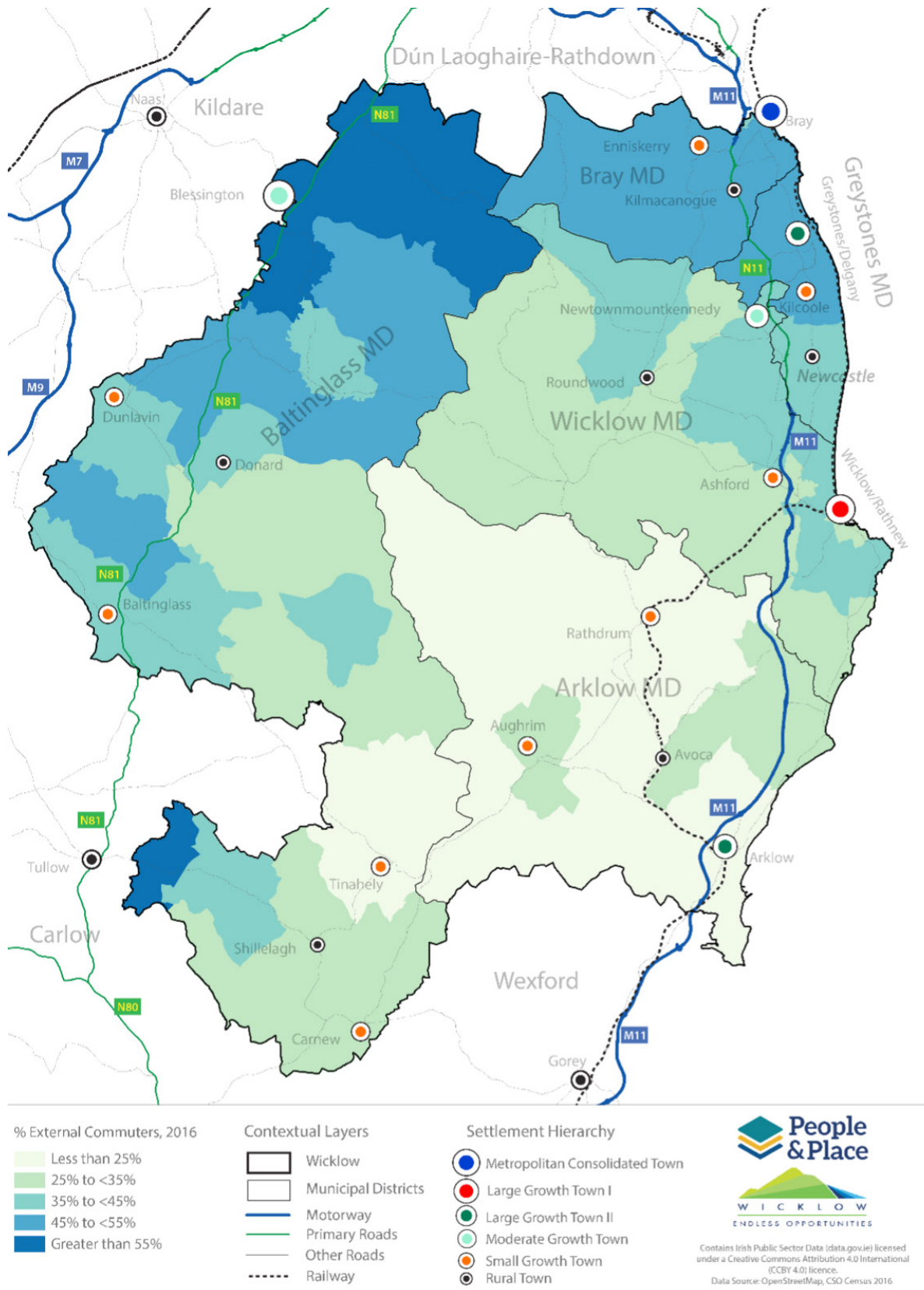
household income is within the Greystones MD (€61,478) whereas the figure is lowest in the Arklow MD at €40,815.

- The proportion of households who derive the majority of their income from social welfare (12.7%) is the seventh lowest among the 31 local authority areas.
- The proportion of households who derive the majority of their income from State pension (12.2%) is the ninth lowest among the 31 local authority areas. However, the importance of both social welfare and pension payments for household income has a clear spatial distribution with highest levels in the south of the county in the Baltinglass and Arklow MDs; and

- Among those who live in rented accommodation an average of 31.7% of household income (2016) is expended on rent. This is the fourth highest rate among the 31 local authority areas.



Figure 4.5: Employment Commuter Flows from Wicklow



Housing

According to the CSO Census in 2022, Wicklow has a total housing stock 59,629. This figure accounts for occupied properties (55,309), vacant properties (3,334) and unoccupied holiday homes (986).

There are 3,334 vacant properties in County Wicklow (5.6% of housing stock). The single most common cause of housing vacancy is that the property is in the rental market (17.6%); this occurs in approximately one in six cases. A slightly smaller proportion (17.2%) of vacant dwellings are properties undergoing renovation, while just under thirteen percent are vacant as the owner is deceased. Other, less prevalent, reasons for housing vacancy include the house being on a farm (therefore potentially difficult to sell or rent, due to shared access and infrastructure), the owner being in a nursing home / hospital or temporarily living with relatives. One in ten vacant properties is on the market, and this proportion is broadly in line with the picture across the State.

According to Census 2022, the majority (71%) of homes in County Wicklow are privately owned. A further 13.3% of households are in the private rental sector. Just over one-in-ten (10.3%) are rented from the local authority. Across the five municipal districts, the Greystones MD has the highest level of home ownership. There, one-third of homes are owned outright, while a larger proportion are owner-occupied, with a mortgage / loan.

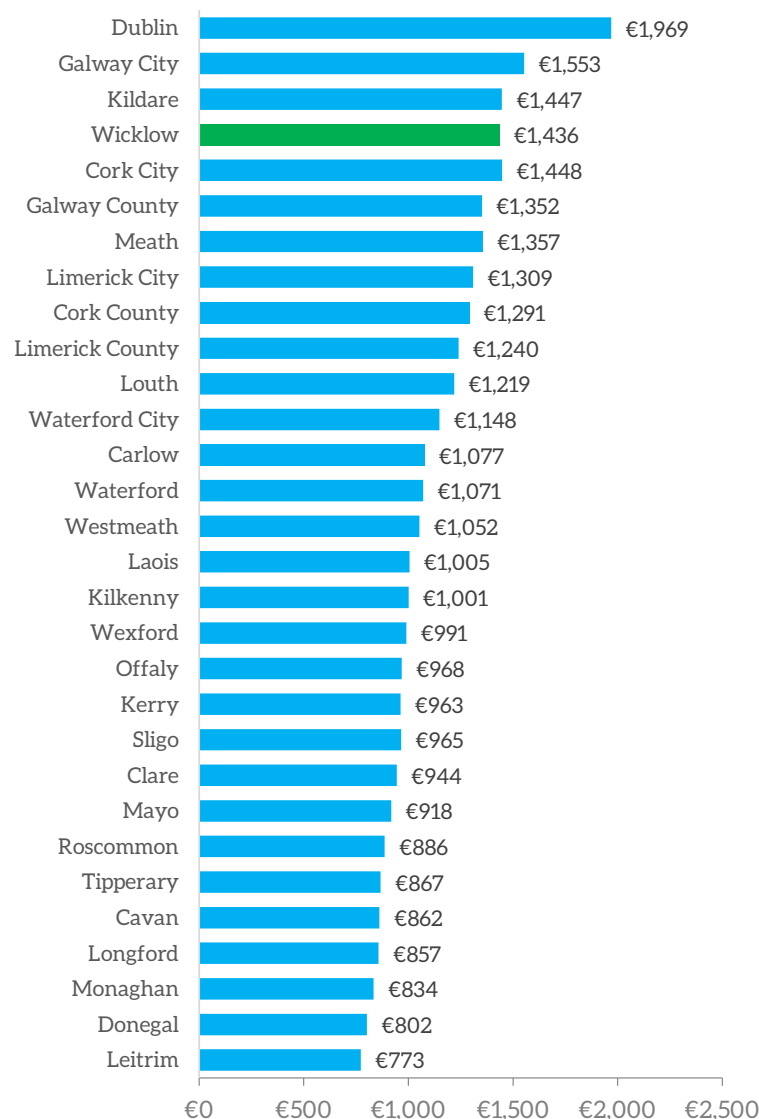
Both the sales and rental market in Wicklow is amongst the most expensive in the State.

However, there is a major variation in sales and rental prices within the county, with the north and east of the county being the most expensive. The rental market in County Wicklow is also heavily supported by State expenditure through the HAP scheme; nearly three in ten rental properties are currently in receipt of HAP payments.

Key Facts:

- According to Census 2022, there are 59,629 housing units in Wicklow.
- There are 3,334 vacant properties in Wicklow (5.6% of housing stock). The single most common cause of housing vacancy, in Wicklow, is that the property is in the rental market; this occurs in approximately one in six cases.
- Wicklow has the second-highest mean sale price per home among the twenty-six counties. The average sale price of a home in County Wicklow in 2022 was €451k. Dublin recorded the highest price at €500. In Kildare, which records the third-highest price, at €365, the average price is €86k (20%) lower than in County Wicklow. Wicklow is more than twice as expensive than the median value across the State.
- Within Wicklow County, there is a considerable variation in respect of house prices. When prices are computed by Eircode area, the resultants analysis reveals that the cheapest homes are in the Arklow and Naas areas (west Wicklow), and the most expensive homes are in the Greystones and Bray areas.

- For Q2 2023, the average monthly rent for a home in Wicklow County stood at €1,436 (see graphic below). This is the third highest across the thirty-one local authority areas. Rents are higher in Dublin local authorities Galway City and Kildare. Rental prices have increased continuously over the past six years. In 2023, they were thirty-nine percent higher than they were in 2016.
- Within the county, the highest rents are in the Greystones, Delgany and Blessington local areas; all have values in excess of €1,400. The most affordable rents are in the Rathnew, Arklow and Baltinglass local areas.
- Nearly a quarter (23%) of rented properties in the county are included under the housing assistance payment (HAP) scheme (2022), and while the proportion declined between 2020 and 2021, the general trend, over the past five years, has been upward. In 2022, there were 1,658 HAP tenancies in place.
- Since 2016 there have been 6,779 (Q3 2016 to Q3 2023) housing completions in Wicklow;
- The latest homelessness data from the DPHLG has identified a total of 46 adult homeless persons within Wicklow (October 2023).



Environment

Wicklow is a county with outstanding natural beauty, significant habitats and a wide range of biodiversity. Consequently, and in order to protect the county's environmental resources, which are fundamental to its tourism industry and sustainable agriculture, a number of legal designations are in place.

Several sites in County Wicklow have been designated as 'special protection areas' (SPAs). The largest of these are the Wicklow Mountains SPA, the Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA and the Murrough SPA along the eastern seaboard. Wicklow Head is also designated with SPA status. A substantial part of Wicklow has also been designated a special area of conservation (SAC) - the largest being the Wicklow Mountains SPA. Most of the county's coastline from Bray to Arklow along with several upland fens and bogs have been afforded SAC status - Bray Head SAC, the Murrough Wetlands SAC, Magherabeg Dunes SAC, Buckronev-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC, Wicklow Reef SAC, Vale of Clara SAC, Carriggower Bog SAC and Glen of the Downes SAC are amongst the largest in the county. Most of the county's SACs are also proposed national heritage areas (pNHAs).

Over recent years, there has been a concerted effort to reduce the carbon footprint of our homes, by improving their building energy ratings (BERs) among other measures. Of the assessed housing stock in County Wicklow (2022), over a quarter (25.1%) has attained a BER rating of B2 or higher. This is the fifth highest proportion among the State's thirty-one local authorities. It should be

noted, however, that only forty percent of the county's housing stock has had its BER assessed. Poor BER ratings are associated with high levels of heat demand, and 2022 figures indicate that County Wicklow had the tenth lowest per capita level of heat demand of all counties. Total energy demand, across all sectors in County Wicklow, amounted to 893 gigawatt hours (in 2022) - the thirteenth lowest level in the State.

County Wicklow has nine connected wind farms (including Arklow Bank) and accounts for just over 6% of the total national wind farms and the county accounts for 2.2% (93MW) of the maximum export capacity from connected wind generators. All wind farms in Wicklow are in the south of the county. At present, there are four planned solar farms in the county with a maximum export capacity of 33mw.

Sales of electric and hybrid vehicles have been increasing over recent years, and in 2022, they accounted for more than half of all new car sales in County Wicklow - up from just below ten percent in 2018.

County Wicklow has a dense network of rivers and some large lakes located in the county. As part of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Monitoring Programme approximately one third of major rivers in Ireland and important tributaries are surveyed and assessed each year. Within Wicklow, a large proportion of the river and lake network are classed as having 'High' and 'Good' status (Vartry, Dargle, Slaney etc). However, a number of rivers have been classed as having 'Poor' and 'Bad' status in the most recent WFD analysis - King's Liffey (Dublin Mountains),

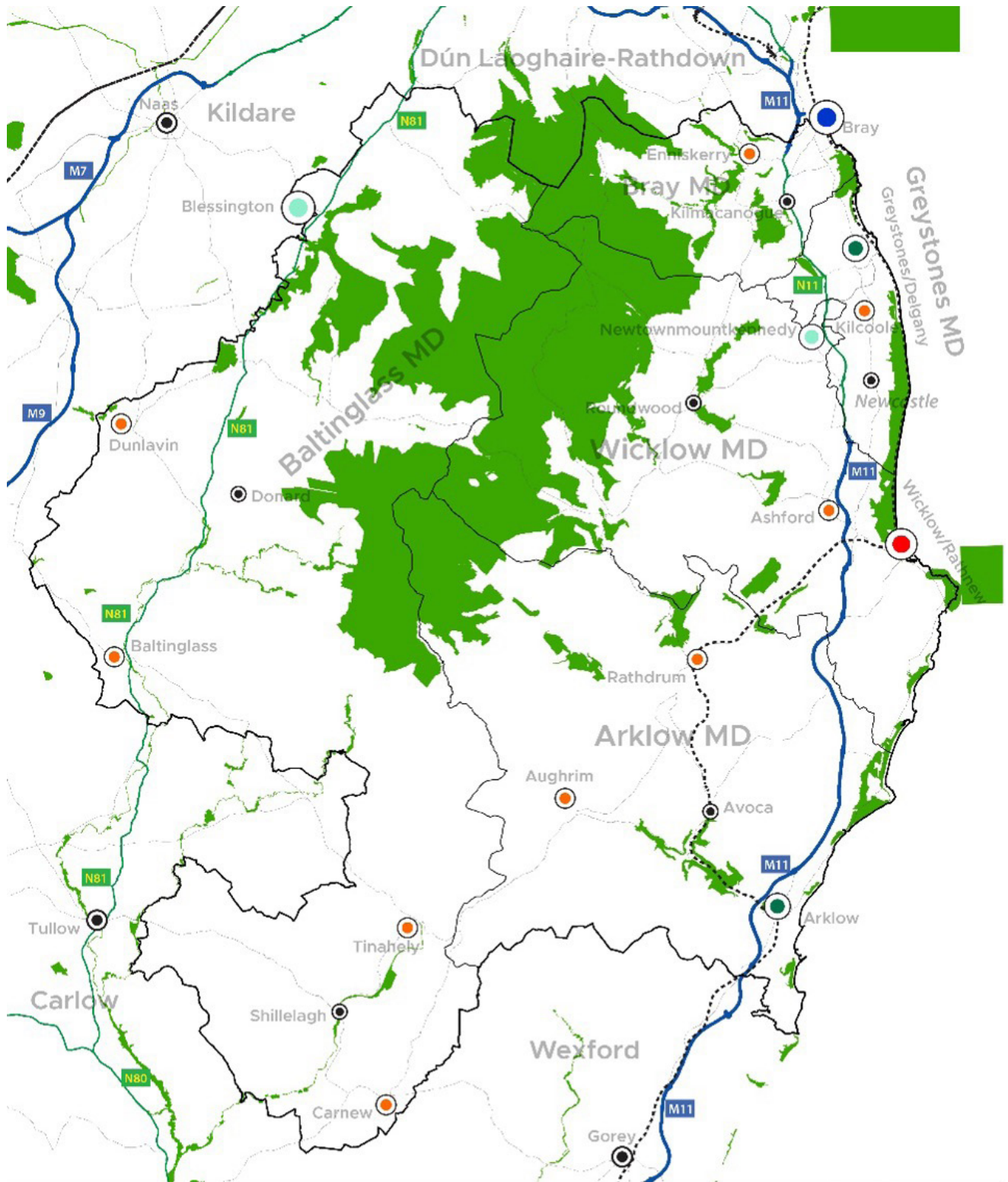
Barrow (east) and the Avoca, Kilcoole Stream, Newcastle and Avonbeg river networks. Of the assessed lakes, all water features are classed as having moderate to good status.

The CORINE (Co-ORdinated INformation on the Environment) land cover for 2018 compiled by the Environmental Protection Agency is a useful way to visualise the land cover within a county. Wicklow is characterised by the following main land cover types - Pastures (large parts of Wicklow lowlands to the east and west of Wicklow Mountains), Moors/Heathland and Peatbogs (predominantly across the expanse of the Wicklow Mountains). Wicklow also has a dense network of forested areas with coniferous forest being by far the dominant type and more than six times as numerous as broadleaved forest cover.

Key Facts:

- Most of the landscapes and seascapes that underpin County Wicklow's tourism industry have been afforded legal protection under the Natura 2002 Framework, and these are predominantly in the west and upland areas of the county - primarily the Wicklow Mountains.
- There is considerable scope, in County Wicklow, to increase both the number of BER assessments undertaken and the proportion of homes with low energy consumption. As of 2022, a quarter (25.1%) of assessed homes have attained a BER rating of B2 or higher.
- County Wicklow is making a good contribution to Ireland's wind energy supply - hosting over nine percent of the State's wind farms with an additional contracted wind farm at Ballymanus with a significant export capacity.
- County Wicklow is one of the leading counties in Ireland with significant potential for offshore wind farm development with existing projects at Arklow Bank and proposed developments such as Codling Wind Park;
- Between 2018 and 2022, County Wicklow experienced a fivefold increase in the proportion of new cars sold that were either electric or hybrid.
- Among Ireland's thirty-one local authority areas, County Wicklow has a relatively low proportion of domestic waste that goes to landfill (41%). A total of 16.6% of domestic waste is mixed dry recyclables (green bin), 12.7% is organic waste (brown bin) and the remaining 29.7% classed as 'Other' by SEAI; and
- County Wicklow has a dense network of rivers and some large lakes located in the county. The latest WFD analysis highlights that a high proportion of Wicklow's rivers and lakes are classed as having good quality. Some issue remains in rivers such as the Avoca, Kilcoole Stream, Newcastle and Avonbeg river networks; and
- Wicklow is characterised by the following main land cover types - Pastures (large parts of Wicklow lowlands to the east and west of Wicklow Mountains), Moors/Heathland and Peatbogs (predominantly across the expanse of the Wicklow Mountains).

Figure 4.7: NATURA 2000 areas in Wicklow



Natura 2000 Sites

Natura 2000

Contextual Layers

- Wicklow
- Municipal Districts
- Motorway
- Primary Roads
- Other Roads
- Railway

Settlement Hierarchy

- Metropolitan Consolidated Town
- Large Growth Town I
- Large Growth Town II
- Moderate Growth Town
- Small Growth Town
- Rural Town



Contains Irish Public Sector Data (data.gov.ie) licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence.
Data Source: OpenStreetMap, CSO Census 2016

Conclusions

Much of North Wicklow, in particular the Greystones and Bray MDs, exhibits demographic and socio-economic characteristics that are largely shaped by interactions with the GDA. The GDA also exerts considerable influence on the northwest of the county, including Blessington. However, areas south of Blessington, and the southwest of the county are less influenced by the GDA. Indeed, interactions with counties Carlow and Kildare are more significant here.

Thus, County Wicklow's profile is determined by externalities as much as by local factors. These geographical realities point to the importance of inter-local authority networking and cross-county collaborations in driving and delivering economic and social progress and in ensuring environmental conservation.

The census and other data presented here (and in the broader socio-economic profile) provide some pointers in respect of future trends in Wicklow. While County Wicklow's demographics and socio-economic profile will be shaped by several factors, many of which are subject to extraneous influences, and it would be unwise to be entirely definitive, the data and analysis presented in this profile suggest that:

- Wicklow's overall population will continue to grow over the coming decades, although at a slower pace than has occurred over the past twenty years;
- The decline in the rate of natural increase implies that in-migration will become more significant in growing and sustaining population levels;
- In-migration will become increasingly significant in maintaining a balanced age profile and in ensuring that social and health services are funded, as the Irish population is ageing;





- County Wicklow's population is urbanising and will continue to urbanise, and some parts of southwest Wicklow are vulnerable to depopulation;
- Proximity to the GDA has afforded County Wicklow, and in particular the north of the county, opportunities to prosper and to diversify its economic base, and such opportunities are likely to grow – associated with investments under Project Ireland 2040;
- Proximity to the GDA poses challenges in respect of dealing with spill over effects from the GDA, and without investment in social housing provision and the alleviation of agglomeration pressures in the GDA, Wicklow will find itself in a reactive mode that may compromise vision planning;
- While connectivity to the GDA and the South-East Region has improved over recent decades, the scale of outbound commuting puts pressures on infrastructure, the environment and communities. Without due investment in local economic development, ICT connectivity and sustainable modes of transportation, such pressures will increase in importance for climate action and better commuting options;
- Dealing with the legacies of de-industrialisation in Wicklow Town and Arklow and emerging deprivation in rural communities will require additional investment in social inclusion, community development and greater provision of opportunities for lifelong learning and upskilling; and
- Wicklow's Uplands and National Park are important drivers of economic development and greater valorisation of these natural resources and the ecosystem services they provide will be important for the county and the region. Wicklow Uplands Council play a key role in moderating the impact of climate and building resilience of natural systems.



05 SCOT ANALYSIS

Co Wicklow Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities and Threats (SCOT) Analysis

Strengths	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant stock of natural resources that drive economic activities and offer citizens recreational spaces and a good quality of life. • A young and relatively vibrant population. • Ability to offer citizens/residents a good quality of life. • High levels of participation in the workforce – particularly in areas that are well connected to Dublin. • Proximity to services, facilities, attractions and amenities – locally and in the Greater Dublin Area. • Above-average disposable income. • Good broadband connectivity, including from commercial providers. • Legislative protection of significant natural habitats and resources, including the Wicklow Mountains National Park. • A strong tourism infrastructure – diverse and high-quality natural and cultural products. • Strong creative and film sector • A county of outstanding natural beauty, with iconic sites and attractions – a strong tourism offering and scenic amenities - forests, mountains and coastline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographic and resource pressures associated with spill-over effects from the Greater Dublin Area. • Considerable internal diversity and the lack of a central focal point or service centre in the county. • Persistent and inter-generational disadvantage and distance from the labour market in some urban and rural communities. • Expensive real estate / family homes. • Growing reliance on HAP support for private rented sector. • An over-reliance on economic spill overs from Dublin, rather than on Wicklow-generated opportunities. • Service sector inflation – due to GDA influences. • Retaining visitors – converting day-trippers in to long-stay visitors. • A narrow economic base and structural economic weaknesses in parts of West and South Wicklow. • High-levels of car-dependent, out-bound commuting and long commutes; need for improved public transport. • Growing dependence on a declining pool of volunteers to provide community services. • Providing sufficient accommodation for arrivals from Ukraine, those seeking international protection, tourists and other visitors. • Attracting and retaining skilled workers in some sectors. • Biodiversity loss and poor environmental quality of some key rivers and lakes in the county.

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local-level awareness of the county's diversity, and agencies' flexibility and responsiveness to sub-county features, needs and potential. • Collaboration with adjoining counties – particularly for West and South Wicklow. • Expansion of the east coast public transport corridor and the development of feeder services. • Networking and collaboration among tourism providers and rural development actors to offer Wicklow packages. • Rural economic development in West and South Wicklow – in collaboration with stakeholders in adjoining counties. • Renewables both large scale and community • Circular and bioeconomy creating innovative jobs. • Further harnessing of the county's cultural heritage and identity and fostering a greater sense of place, particularly among newcomers. • Harnessing the increase in knowledge and cultural capital associated with in-migration. • Ongoing economic growth and opportunities associated with population growth. • Leveraging investments under Ireland 2040. • Harnessing the potential of connected / remote working and the creative industries as part of a wider strategic approach to stemming and reversing population decline in rural communities. • Expanding farmers' participation in various ecological initiatives and the promotion of high-nature value farming with appropriate remuneration for ecological services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological pressures due to resource demands elsewhere, most notably in the GDA. • Oversight of rural considerations and needs, due to urban-generated demands and expectations. • Growing demographic, economic and service provision gaps between the Bray and Greystones MDs and the rest of the county. • Limited opportunities for higher / further education within the county. • External perceptions of the county being affluent leading to under-investment in education and social services. • Single-track rail-line south of Bray. • Limited east-west transport connectivity, especially public transit; and • Lack of preparedness, in some sectors, for the ageing of the population. • Food and fuel poverty • Climate action leaving those least able to afford transition behind – becoming a further tool of inequality. • Sourcing resources, financial and human; and • Low incomes and poor public transport connectivity threaten many households' ability to make a just transition to zero carbon emissions.



06 FINAL VISION & HIGH-LEVEL GOALS

Final Vision

Our vision is for a vibrant and sustainable County (which provides a high quality of life and well-being for all; which values socially inclusive urban and rural communities; is driven by a dynamic and innovative economy; promotes sustainable development and the rights of all; building on the County's unique and rich natural and cultural heritage.)

Wicklow's High Level Goals





- ✓ 1 - Compact Growth
- ✓ 4 - Sustainable Mobility
- ✓ 8 - Low Carbon, Climate Resilient and Sustainable Society
- ✓ 9 - Sustainable, Planned and Infrastructure-led Development

HLG1 Climate Action

Objective	Outcome
1.1. Ensure that all plans, strategies, policies, programmes, projects and funding schemes are environmentally proofed	Limiting the impact of economic and social development on the environment Increased awareness of our carbon footprint and methods to ameliorate that
1.2 Lead the Community Climate Action programme to build capacity and initiate and support community climate action initiatives	Encouraging and supporting communities to take up the baton of responsibility for maintaining and caring for their environments in an appropriate manner
1.3 Support enterprises and communities to deliver on climate change targets	Leading the change in practice in community and enterprise action for the environment
1.4 Support protect and enhance Biodiversity	Behaviour changes in relation to biodiversity
1.5 Support the development of renewable energy opportunities	A county that explores all opportunities to lead in the development and provision of renewable energy, especially offshore wind energy



- 3 - Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities
- 7 - Diversity, Language, Culture and Heritage Enhancement
- 9 - Sustainable, Planned and Infrastructure-led Development

HLG2 Enterprise, Innovation and Creativity

Objective	Outcome
2.1 Support skills development in the county, matching with market demand	A better educated, more skilled and more successful population in a county that realises its full economic potential with better and more employment opportunities for our people Improved and more targeted use of resources
2.2 Promote sustainable tourism in the county having regard to environmental impact	A successful tourism economy that is eco-friendly and environmentally responsible, changing practices while offering viable economic returns
2.3 Develop a strong and vibrant creative, craft and screen sector	A leading county in the film, creative content and creative /craft sector
2.4 Support the sustainable expansion of the food and beverage sector	A county known for its quality and diverse food offering through the Wicklow Naturally brand

HLG2 Enterprise, Innovation and Creativity

Objective	Outcome
2.5 Support the development of the circular economy and community wealth building	<p>New models of economic development that are innovative and sustainable in the county</p> <p>Reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.</p>
2.6 Capitalise on natural resources such as the maritime economy ensuring nature-based solutions	A vibrant and sustainable marine economy that is environmentally innovative
2.7 Continue to develop the social enterprise sector	A county-wide thriving social economy addressing social and environmental issues in an innovative and inclusive way
2.8 Promote the development of a thriving green economy in which enterprises are supported to take advantage of emerging green business opportunities	New and innovative models of economic activity with reduced impact on the environment
2.9 Promote climate action and green skills in training and education in partnership with KWETB, SETU, Clermont Campus and LEO	A skilled workforce contributing to the innovative and vibrant green economy
2.10 Support the growth and development of lower carbon enterprises through supplier development programmes that align with green procurement strategies	Raised awareness and changes in the environmental impact of economic activity
2.11 Address any gaps in enterprise centre space in the county	A network of spaces that support the growth of enterprise in the county boosting competitiveness investment and job creation in the county

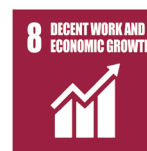


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Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

- ✓ 3 - Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities
- ✓ 7 - Diversity, Language, Culture and Heritage Enhancement

HLG3 A Connected County

Objective	Outcome
3.1 Improve transport infrastructure in the county	Increased and improved transport infrastructure
3.2 Promote the development of sustainable transport infrastructure in the county	New and innovative methods of improved transport infrastructure contributing to the reduction of emissions
3.3 Support the roll out of quality broadband throughout the county	A county leading in the digital society with opportunities for regeneration and reducing commuting contributing to reduction in environmental impact of commuting
3.4 Increase facilities for remote working and co-working	Increased infrastructure supporting local employment, reducing the need for commuting, attracting talent, innovation and inward investment
3.5 Ensure increase in digital services does not lead to further exclusion from services and participation in society	A population partaking in the digital society where skill or economic means is not a barrier



Tionól Reigiúnach Oirthir agus Lár-Tíre
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly



3 - Strengthened Rural Economies
and Communities



5 - A Strong Economy

HLG4 Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Just Transition

Objective	Outcome
4.1 Support the diversity of groups in our society including integration of minority groups.	<p>A county that welcomes and embraces diversity and inclusivity.</p> <p>A socially connected society encouraging and supporting positive engagement between people in communities to create a greater sense of participation, responsibility and shared purpose.</p>
4.2 Implement community development principles of inclusion, equality and meaningful engagement of marginalised groups	<p>A society that works to reduce inequalities.</p> <p>The meaningful engagement of those most excluded in our society to take part in the social, environmental and economic development of the county through supportive structures and a commitment to action.</p>
4.3 Implement a fair and inclusive approach to climate action through a just transition model	Empowering communities to engage in climate action in an inclusive and equitable way.
4.4 Address gaps in service delivery in the county	Improve local services through cooperation and better coordination reducing duplication and smarter use of public money.

HLG4 Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Just Transition

Objective	Outcome
4.5 Address the issue of supported services for those experiencing domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.	Improved safety and services for those experiencing domestic violence
4.6 Support the adoption of the Public Sector Duty Act for service delivery	A more widespread adoption of a human rights approach to service delivery



Tionól Reigiúnach Oirthir agus Lár-Tíre
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

- ✓ 1 - Compact Growth
- ✓ 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility
- ✓ 3 - Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities
- ✓ 4. Sustainable Mobility
- ✓ 6 - High-Quality International Connectivity

HLG5 Health, Resilience and Well Being

Objective	Outcome
5.1 Drive the environmental, economic and social regeneration of County Wicklow's towns and villages and their hinterlands	<p>Maximising opportunities to benefit from funding schemes to regenerate and develop the county in partnership between communities and agencies.</p> <p>A placemaking approach to attractive vibrant and attractive places</p>

HLG5 Health, Resilience and Well Being

Objective

Outcome

5.2 Strengthen and sustain strong civil society with actively engaged and connected communities

A commitment to improve community sustainability by greater opportunity and cohesion.

An increase in local democratic activity so that residents exercise meaningful influence and are an integral part of local decision making with capacity to identify and address needs in partnership with service delivery agencies.

Improvements in ability of different players to carry out roles, including the ability of public agencies to understand how communities work and vice versa, the ability of community organisations to take on wider responsibilities, the ability of public agencies to work more flexibly across their traditional boundaries, the ability of residents to take part in these developments and benefit from them.

5.3 Support the provision of community, sport and recreational infrastructure for communities

Increased infrastructure for the well-being and health of our residents contributing to more socially cohesive communities.

The creation of third spaces, accessible to communities.

5.4 Improve the health and quality of life of all, with a focus on the social determinants of health impacting on at risk communities

A county where residents are living longer healthier lives in a way that tackles the significant inequalities in society.

A holistic and multifaceted approach to improve health outcomes for all especially those most at risk of health inequalities.

5.5 Support the well being of our children and young people

A county where our children have the best start in life with improved life chances for young people at risk.

HLG5 Health, Resilience and Well Being

Objective

Outcome

5.6 Improve the safety of our communities through the JPCs and safety measures in the public realm

A county where residents can live their lives safe from crime disorder and danger.

5.7 Support the well-being and quality of life of our ageing population

A county that is prepared for our older population to live with a good quality of life.

5.8 Continue to provide the strategic direction for service delivery in the county including but not limited to SICAP and LEADER

LECP acts as a strategic umbrella for Wicklow to reduce what can hinder service delivery in Wicklow while at the same time strengthening cooperation and collective action.

Implementation

The LECP will also comprise of two-year implementation plans, developed by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Economic Development and Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), with the input of communities, SIM and the PPN, and considering the social, environmental and economic context of the time.

The process will be overseen by the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will oversee the general implementation of the LECP and will monitor progress on the actions against the measurable targets and expected outcomes. The Advisory Committee will also ensure integration of both community and economic actions. The LCDC will continue to monitor the implementation and management of the community related objectives and actions while the SPC will continue to monitor the implementation and management of economic development objectives and actions. The actions established every two years will form the primary structure for the delivery of the LECP. Implementation of the actions will be undertaken by the lead responsible agency as identified in each action.

The implementation plan will contain:

- The detail of each action;
- The lead and partner agencies responsible for the implementation of each action;
- The inputs and expected outcomes of each action; and
- Measurable targets and timelines for each action.

This model of implementation, we believe, enables the plan to:

- Adapt to changing circumstances;
- Avail of new funding opportunities;
- Respond to new policies and strategies;
- Allow for ongoing input and observations from key stakeholders;
- Allow for more focused collection and analysis of data; and
- Measure social impact.

Implementation of the LECP shall be consistent with the following:

- The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy;
- The Core Strategy and Objectives of the County Development Plan; and
- Any other County Development Plan and Local Area Plan provisions responsible for the protection and management of the environment including environmental sensitivities.

Monitoring and Review

The Monitoring and Review phase is a crucial stage of the LECP strategic process as it allows for the LECP progress to be evaluated and identifies emerging issues, including identifying any elements of the plan that may require amending in order for the actions to be achieved, improving the overall performance of the LECP. This phase of the process may also highlight the need for the introduction of mitigation measures in the event of negative impacts being identified during the monitoring phase. This phase also contributes to accountability.

As part of the LECP process, a LECP monitoring framework will be formulated and the LECP will be measured against relevant national, regional and local indicators. Monitoring of the LECP following its implementation is a further function of the Advisory Steering Group. The LCDC will also monitor and review the implementation of the community elements of the plan, while the SPC will monitor the economic elements. Both bodies are responsible for revising actions where appropriate. Each Objective and Action table in the LECP identifies the responsible lead for co-ordinating each action. Each action is also allocated a timescale for completion of the action and monitoring and review process.

Monitoring and review of the LECP will be carried out in two ways:

- Measurable indicators will be formulated for each of the Wicklow LECP Objectives, based on the socio-economic features of the county, using data sources from State, semi-State and other agencies, as appropriate. This will include data from 'County Wicklow Socio Economic Profile', prepared as a baseline information source for the development of the LECP, and other sources such as Central Statistics Office (CSO), Department of Social Protection (DSP) Live Register data, GeoDirectory, An Garda Síochána crime statistics etc (to be updated on full release of Census 2022 results). These data sources include indicators that are produced at varying interval periods and consequently, measurement of the improvement of the quality of life will be evaluated over the medium-term;
- The Wicklow Economic and Community Monitor will also be used as a means to inform all stakeholders of the social and economic trends within the county; and
- The evaluation of progress of all LECP Actions will be measured in accordance with the corresponding timeframe schedule set out in the implementation plans.

Further definition of the indicators and specific targets for both the Objectives and the Actions will be agreed in the aftermath of the adoption of this LECP.

Prepared by Wicklow County Council
in collaboration with the Local Community Development
Committee (LCDC) and the Economic Development
and Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee (EDES SPC).



COUNTY WICKLOW

Two-Year Implementation Plan



Prepared by Wicklow County Council
in collaboration with the Local Community Development
Committee (LCDC) and the Economic Development
and Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee (EDES SPC).



- ✓ 1 - Compact Growth
- ✓ 4 - Sustainable Mobility
- ✓ 8 - Low Carbon, Climate Resilient and Sustainable Society
- ✓ 9 - Sustainable, Planned and Infrastructure-led Development

Objectives

1. Lead the Community Climate Action programme to build capacity and support a Just Transition
2. Support enterprises to deliver on climate change targets
3. Support, protect and enhance Biodiversity
4. Maximise Renewable Energy opportunities in the county

1.1 Lead the Community Climate Action programme to build capacity and support a just transition

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
1.1.1	Implement the Climate Action Plan for the County	SPC & LCDC	WCC (Climate Action Team)	SPC & LCDC	General Population	Number of actions implemented	2025
1.1.2	Support the implementation of the HSE Climate Action Strategy 2023-2030	LCDC	HSE	LCDC	General Population	Number of actions implemented	2025

1.1.3	Ensure that plans, strategies, programmes and funding schemes are environmentally proofed	LCDC	WCC (Climate Action Team)	LCDC	General Population	Number of plans and strategies environmentally proofed	2025
1.1.4	Implement the Community Climate Action Fund	LCDC	WCC (Climate Action Team)	LCDC	General Population	Number of projects supported	2025
1.1.5	Expand the Sustainable Energy Communities Programme	LCDC	WCC (Climate Action Team)	LCDC; CWP; BAP	Local Communities	Number of local communities supported	2025
1.1.6	Embed a strategic climate action focus within the Community Benefit Fund	LCDC	WCC (Climate Action Team)	LCDC	Local Communities	Number of local communities supported	2025

1.2 Support enterprises to deliver on climate change targets

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
1.2.1	Continue to provide LEO support for SMEs to reduce their carbon footprint through relevant programmes and supports	SPC	WCC (LEO)	Climate Action Team; Enterprise Ireland	SMEs under 50 employees	Number of SMEs supported	2025
1.2.2	Ensure sustainable, environmentally friendly practices are in place in all Economic Development managed properties	SPC	WCC	Climate Action Team	Enterprise tenants	Number of measures implemented	2025

1.3 Support, protect and enhance Biodiversity

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
1.3.1	Review, update and implement the Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan	LCDC	WCC (Climate Action Team)		Biodiversity in the county	Number of actions implemented	2025
1.3.2	Create Green Infrastructure Standards for managing public greenspaces	LCDC	WCC (Climate Action Team)		General public & Biodiversity	Green Infrastructure Standards developed	2024
1.3.3	Develop and support pollinator conservation initiatives on public realm sites	LCDC	WCC (Climate Action Team)		General public & Biodiversity	Number of pollinator initiatives developed and supported	2025
1.3.4	Improve the energy performance of built heritage in public and private ownership	LCDC	WCC (Climate Action Team)	OPW; Private individuals and communities	Built Heritage	Number of heritage buildings supported	2025
1.3.5	Implement biodiversity projects at Wicklow County Campus	LCDC	WCC (LEO)	WCC - Climate Action Team ;An Taisce	Biodiversity in Clermont Campus	Number of biodiversity initiatives implemented	2025

1.4 Maximise Renewable Energy opportunities in the County

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
1.4.1	Support the development of off-shore wind energy especially through the provision of infrastructure	SPC	WCC	Wind energy companies	Wind energy providers and potential users	Number of supporting initiatives in progress	2025
1.4.2	Maximise opportunities for investment, jobs, supply chain and skills development from offshore renewable energy	SPC	WCC	Wind energy companies; skills taskforce;	Wind energy providers and potential users	Number of individuals trained	2025



- 3 - Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities
- 7 - Diversity, Language, Culture and Heritage Enhancement
- 9 - Sustainable, Planned and Infrastructure-led Development

Objectives

1. Support skills development in the county, matching with market demand
2. Promote sustainable tourism in the county having regard to environmental impact
3. Develop a strong and vibrant creative and screen sector
4. Support sustainable expansion of the food and beverage sector
5. Capitalise on emerging opportunities from the marine economy
6. An environmentally sustainable economy
7. Address gaps in the enterprise space in the county

2.1 Support skills development in the county, matching with market demand

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
2.1.1	Support the work of the County Wicklow Skills Taskforce and implement the Skills Strategy	SPC	WCC	KWETB; SETU	Countywide employers and employees	Number of actions implemented	2024 - 2025
2.1.2	Develop a Masterplan for Wicklow County Campus to facilitate future skill development.	SPC	WCC	KWETB	Countywide employers and employees	Masterplan developed	2024

2.2 Promote sustainable tourism in the county having regard to environmental impact

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
2.2.1	Review County Wicklow Tourism Strategy in line with the Destination Experience Development Plan	SPC	WCC/ Tourism Unit	Failte Ireland; CWP	Tourism services providers (and tourists)	Review of Tourism Strategy completed	2025
2.2.2	Market and promote County Wicklow under a strong and unified County Wicklow Tourism brand	SPC	WCC/ Tourism Unit	Failte Ireland; CWP	Tourism services providers (and tourists)	Marketing initiatives; brand developed	2025
2.2.3	Build on and support thematic tourist experiences e.g. film, food, outdoor recreation, blueways/greenways etc	SPC	WCC/ Tourism Unit	Failte Ireland; CWP	Tourism services providers (and tourists)	Number of experiences developed	Ongoing
2.2.4	Support the development and expansion of a range of tourist accommodation	SPC	WCC/ Tourism Unit	Failte Ireland; CWP; tourism services providers	Tourism services providers (and tourists)	Increase in diversity and number of types of tourist accommodation available	Ongoing
2.2.5	Explore opportunities to develop a Camino in County Wicklow	SPC	WCC/ Tourism Unit	CWP	Tourism services providers (and tourists)	Feasibility study completed	2025

2.2.6	Explore opportunities of developing a fleet of e-bikes in County Wicklow under the Smart Tourism model	SPC	WCC/ Tourism Unit	WCC/Active Travel Unit	Tourism services providers (and tourists)	Feasibility study completed	2025
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2.3 Develop a strong and vibrant creative and screen sector

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
2.3.1	Implement the County Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy	SPC	WCC	Screen Ireland	Screen Enterprises	Number of strategy actions implemented	2025
2.3.2	Maximise the development of the Clermont Screen Hub	SPC	WCC	Screen Ireland; Screen Sector Enterprises	Screen Professionals	Number of enterprises based in the screenhub	2025
2.3.3	Continue to work with the 'Irish Costume Archive Project' to promote Film Heritage	SPC	WCC	ICAP	Screen Industry	Archive maintained in Wicklow	2025
2.3.4	Develop a feasibility study for a Film Museum	SPC	WCC	Arts Sector	Screen sector	Feasibility study completed	2025
2.3.5	Develop a feasibility study for an advanced screen training facility at Wicklow County Campus	SPC	WCC	Screen Sector; Screen Ireland	Screen sector	Feasibility study completed	2025

2.3.6	Continue to implement the County Wicklow Craft Strategy	SPC	CWP	WCC	Craft sector	Number of actions implemented	2025
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2.3.7	Develop additional creative and cultural spaces	SPC	WCC	CWP, Creative Wicklow	Creative sector and local communities	Number of additional spaces developed	2025
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2.4 Support the sustainable expansion of the food and beverage sector

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
2.4.1	Progress the development of a Food Incubation Hub at Wicklow County Campus	SPC	WCC	Wicklow Naturally, Enterprise Ireland, LEADER	Food Enterprises	Part VIII Food Hub in place	2025
2.4.2	Review the Co. Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy and implement an updated Action Plan	SPC	WCC	Wicklow Naturally, LEADER	Food Enterprises	Review completed; Number of actions implemented	2025
2.4.3	Increase the focus on food sustainability within the Food & Beverage Strategy	SPC	WCC	Wicklow Naturally; Climate Action Team	Food Enterprises	Number of actions focused on food sustainability implemented	2025

2.5 Capitalise on emerging opportunities from the marine economy

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
2.5.1	Explore opportunities to develop port infrastructure to support the offshore renewable energy sector	SPC	WCC Environment Section	WCC LEO; EDU; TRO	Offshore renewable energy sector and associated enterprises	Feasibility studies completed	2025
2.5.2	Develop harbour masterplans for Wicklow and Arklow harbours	SPC	WCC Environment Section	EDU	Wicklow and Arklow town	2 masterplans developed	2025
2.5.3	Collaborate to deliver enterprise space for the marine sector	SPC	WCC Leo	Enterprise Ireland	SMEs	Part VIII in place for spaces	2025
2.5.4	Encourage local supply chain opportunities for the marine sector	SPC	WCC	Renewable energy sector, LEO, Skills strategy group	SMEs	Number of opportunities identified	2025

2.6 An environmentally sustainable economy

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
2.6.1	Support the implementation of the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy	SPC	WCC Climate Action Team	ED, LEO, CCSD, LEADER, etc	General Population	Number of actions supported	2025
2.6.2	Explore community wealth building programme possibilities	SPC	WCC	LEADER	General Population	Report on options completed	2025
2.6.3	Support the development of the social enterprise sector through the Co. Wicklow Social Enterprise Strategy and LEADER, SICAP and LEO	SPC	CWP; BAP	LEO	Social Enterprises	Number of social enterprises developed; supported	2025
2.6.4	Support SME's through (i) Green for Micro (ii) Climate Toolkit for Business (iii) Green Start with Enterprise Ireland (iv) Climate Ready Training with Skillnet (v) Energy Efficiency Grant	SPC	WCC LEO	SMEs	SMEs	Number of SMEs supported	2025
2.6.5	Develop a Renewable Energy Training Facility at Wicklow County Campus in partnership with KWETB	SPC	WCC	KWETB	Potential employees	Part VIII Planning	2025

2.7 Address gaps in enterprise space in the county

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
2.7.1	Collaborate to develop a Regional Enterprise Space Strategy	SPC	LEO	Enterprise Ireland, EMRA	SMEs	Strategy developed	2025
2.7.2	Capitalise on development/emerging opportunities to secure enterprise space in the county	SPC	WCC EDU	LEO, Enterprise Ireland; URDF/RRDF	SMEs	Number of schemes accessed	2025



Objectives

1. Promote the development of sustainable transport infrastructure
2. Support the roll out of quality broadband and Remote Working infrastructure
3. Improve access to and capacity for connectivity to services

3.1 Promote the development of sustainable transport infrastructure

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
3.1.1	Continue to support and promote improved transport infrastructure	SPC	WCC	National Transport Authority	General Population	Number of transport infrastructure initiatives supported	2025
3.1.2	Promote the decarbonisation of transport including travel, public transport, electric vehicles	SPC & LCDC	WCC (Climate Action Team)	LCDC; National Transport Authority	General Population	Number of decarbonisation transport initiatives supported	2025

3.1.3	Support the roll out of the Active Travel Programme and align it with strategic objectives of relevant plans and projects to achieve a high quality cycling and pedestrian network which will connect communities	LCDC	WCC Active Travel Unit	National Transport Authority	General Population	Number of Active Travel projects underway	2025
3.1.4	Increase EV charging points	SPC & LCDC	WCC	Energy Providers	EV potential drivers	Number of EV charging points installed	2025
3.2 Support the roll out of quality broadband and Remote Working Infrastructure							
Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
3.2.1	Support the development of remote working options in suitable locations across the county	SPC & LCDC	WCC	CWP	Employers & employees, communities	Number of additional remote working opportunities developed	2025
3.2.2	Develop a marketing plan for remote working in the county	SPC & LCDC	WCC		Employers & employees, communities	Marketing plan delivered	2025
3.2.3	Review, update and implement the Co. Wicklow Digital Strategy	SPC & LCDC	WCC Broadband Officer	LCDC & SPC	General Population	Strategy in place and number of actions delivered	2025

3.3 Improve access to and capacity for connectivity to services

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
3.3.1	Put programmes in place to enhance the digital skills of all citizens in the county	SPC & LCDC	KWETB	WCC; CWP; BAP; Age Friendly programme	General Population	Number of programmes delivered	2025
3.3.2	Support and develop the Smart Villages Programme	LCDC	CWP	WCC	Local Communities	Number of programmes delivered	2025



Objectives

1. Support the diversity of groups in our society including integration of minority groups
2. Implement community development principles of inclusion, equality and meaningful engagement of marginalised groups
3. Implement a fair and inclusive approach to climate action through a Just Transition model
4. Address key gaps in service delivery in the county

4.1 Support the diversity of groups in our society including integration of minority groups

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
4.1.1	Implement the Co. Wicklow Migrant Integration Strategy	LCDC	WCC	BAP; CWP;PPN; LCDC	Migrant & Host populations	Number of actions implemented	2025
4.1.2	Provide the necessary training (including trauma based practice) to LA and HSE staff	LCDC	WCC	LCDC; HSE	Migrant & Host populations	Number of staff trained	2025

4.1.3	Provide targeted services ref health inequalities to disadvantaged groups	LCDC	HSE	BAP (SICAP); CWP (SICAP);PPN; LCDC	Travellers, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees and others as identified	Number of targeted services provided	2025
4.2 Implement community development principles of inclusion, equality and meaningful engagement of marginalised groups							
Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
4.2.1	Establish and progress the work of the new LCDC Social Inclusion Network Group	LCDC	WCC	LCDC	Disadvantaged groups	SING established and meeting regularly serviced by WCC	2025
4.2.2	Enable the Social Inclusion Network Group (SING) to ensure LCDC members are regularly informed and made aware of current social inclusion challenges	LCDC	WCC	LCDC	Disadvantaged groups	Number of reports/inputs	2025
4.2.3	Enable the SING to support the implementation of the LECP and of the Public Sector Duty Act	LCDC	WCC	LCDC	Disadvantaged groups	Number of reports and submissions in relation to key plans	2025

4.3 Implement a fair and inclusive approach to climate action through a Just Transition model

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
4.3.1	Identify and focus on communities most affected by climate impacts or those vulnerable to costs of mitigation and map supports available	LCDC	WCC	LCDC; CWP; BAP	Disadvantaged groups	Number of Just Transition initiatives implemented	ongoing

4.4 Address key gaps in service delivery in the county

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
4.4.1	Address the issue of supported services for those experiencing domestic, sexual and gender-based violence	LCDC	New DSGBV Agency; LCDC	CYPSC; WCC; TUSLA; Local Service Providers	DSGBV Victims/ Survivors	Increase in number of specialist supported services accessible locally	2025
4.4.2	Support the implementation of the Age Friendly Strategy and the CYPSC Work Plan	LCDC	WCC; CYPSC	LCDC	Older population; children & young people	Number of actions implemented	2025



- ✓ 1 - Compact Growth
- ✓ 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility
- ✓ 3 - Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities
- ✓ 4. Sustainable Mobility
- ✓ 6 - High-Quality International Connectivity

Objectives

1. Drive the environmental, economic and social regeneration of County Wicklow's towns and villages and their hinterlands
2. Strengthen and sustain strong civil society with actively engaged and connected communities
3. Support the provision of community, sport and recreational infrastructure for communities
4. Improve the health and quality of life of all, with a focus on the social determinants of health impacting on at risk communities
5. Improve the health and quality of life of all, especially those most vulnerable
6. Improve the safety of our communities through the JPCs and safety measures in the public realm

5.1 Drive the environmental, economic and social regeneration of County Wicklow's towns and villages and their hinterlands

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
5.1.1	Maximise funding opportunities for urban and rural regeneration and development	SPC & LCDC	WCC	Local Communities, Town Team's, CWP, BAP	Local Communities	Number of communities supported	2025

5.1.2	Ensure the structures and resources are in place to implement regeneration and development projects	SPC & LCDC	WCC		Local Communities	Number of and resources in place	2024
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5.1.3	Work collaboratively and utilise placemaking principles, develop plans and implement projects within specific towns, addressing specific issues e.g. commuting or disadvantage	SPC & LCDC	WCC	Local Communities, Town Team's, CWP, BAP	Local Communities	Number of initiatives supported	2025
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5.2 Strengthen and sustain strong civil society with actively engaged and connected communities

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
5.2.1	Continue to support the PPN, Comhairle na nÓg, Older Persons Network and the Disability Network	LCDC	LCDC	PPN, Comhairle na nÓg, Older Persons Network and Disability Network,	Support networks for Civil Society	Number of networks supported	2025
5.2.2	Continue to provide capacity building and support for community activity/groups/volunteers including funding workshops	LCDC	CWP; BAP	WCC, Volunteer Bureau	Local Community Members	Number of community groups supported	2025

5.3 Support the provision of community, sport and recreational infrastructure for communities

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
5.3.1	Maximise funding opportunities to develop community, sport & recreational infrastructure – having regard to the Audits of Community Sport & Recreational Facilities	LCDC	WCC - CC&SD	LSP; Sports Capital, LCDC	Local communities and communities of interest	Number of infrastructure projects supported	2025
5.3.2	Provide informal public gathering places critical for a functioning civil society	LCDC	WCC	CWP; BAP; Local Communities; Town Teams	Local Communities	Number of new spaces created	2025
5.3.3	Address key gaps in community infrastructure especially in areas of high population growth	LCDC	WCC	CWP; BAP; Local Communities; Town Teams	Local Communities undergoing significant population growth	Number of additional facilities developed	2025

5.4 Improve the health and quality of life of all, with a focus on the social determinants of health impacting on at risk communities

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
5.4.1	Support the delivery of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme	LCDC	Sláintecare	LCDC; WCC; Bray Area Partnership	Disadvantaged communities	Number of actions supported/delivered	2025
5.4.2	Carry out a Health Impact Assessment on the LECP	LCDC	Sláintecare	LCDC; WCC	Disadvantaged communities	Health Impact Assessment completed	2025
5.4.3	Maximise efforts to engage communities and stakeholders and opportunities for delivery of programmes	LCDC	Sláintecare	LCDC; WCC; Bray Area Partnership; PPN	Disadvantaged communities	Number of communities supported	2025

5.5 Improve the health and quality of life of all, especially those most vulnerable

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
5.5.1	Support the actions of the Healthy Wicklow Plan focusing on physical and mental health and food poverty	LCDC	Healthy Wicklow	WCC; LCDC; Bray Area Partnership	Disadvantaged groups	Number of LSP Programmes delivered; Food Poverty Coordinator in place	2025
5.5.2	To work with all relevant agencies to provide and facilitate the provision of social housing accommodation of good quality in the best environment possible in line with government strategy 'Housing for All'	LCDC	WCC	LCDC	Social Housing tenants and individuals in precarious housing situations	Increase in number of social housing units available	2025

5.6 Improve the safety of our communities through the JPCs and safety measures in the public realm

Ref	Action	Reporting to	Lead Agency	Collaborators	Target Group / Beneficiaries	Performance Indicators	Timeline
5.6.1	Implement the JPC Municipal District Policing Plan Committees	LCDC	JPC	LCDC; WCC	General Population	Number actions implemented	2025



Prepared by Wicklow County Council
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