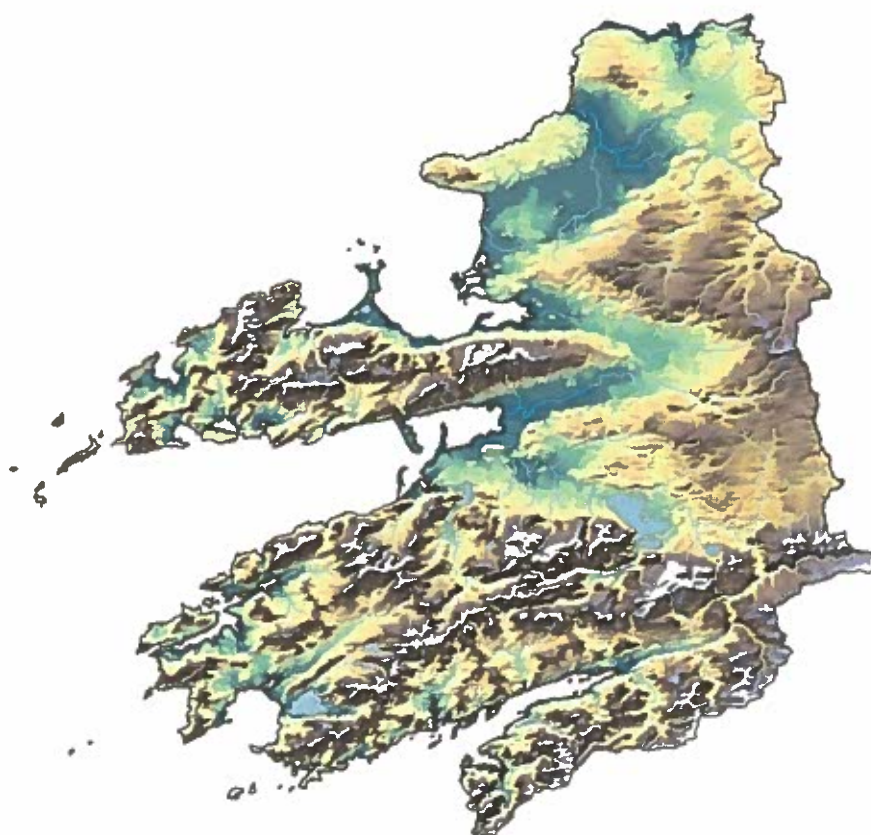




**Coiste Forbartha Pobail
Áitiúil Chiarraí
Kerry Local Community
Development Committee**



**Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 - Ireland
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**

County Kerry

**LEADER
Local Development Strategy**



I.R.D. Duhallow Ltd.

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1.0 Section 1: The Local Action Group (LAG)

1.1 Organisation Details

1.1.1 Kerry Local Community Development Committee

1.1.2 County Buildings,
Rathass,
Tralee,
Co. Kerry
V92 H7VT

1.2 Primary Contact for LEADER

1.2.1 Michael Scannell, Chief Officer, LCDC

1.2.2 Address as per Kerry Local Community Development Committee

1.2.3 066 718 3662

1.2.4 mscannell@kerrycoco.ie

1.3 Legal Description of LAG

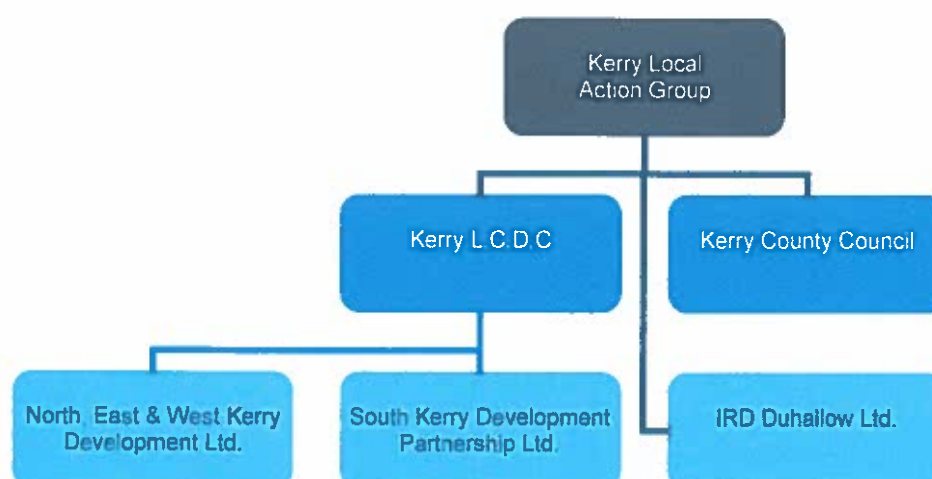
1.3.1 In accordance with Kerry Heads of Agreement on the proposed implementation framework for the LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 in Co. Kerry, the Local Action Group is the Kerry Local Community Development Committee with additional membership from IRD Duhallow as an implementing partner. The sole implementing bodies are the Local Development Companies.

1.3.2 The Kerry Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is the combined membership in session of the LCDC. The Local Development Companies (LDC's) in the Kerry LCDC area are North, East & West Kerry Development, South Kerry Development Partnership and IRD Duhallow.

Table 1.3.1: Legal details of the Kerry LAG

LAG	Date Established	CRO No.s	Tax Certificate Number	Expiry Date
LCDC	2015			
KCC		0563711D	W180777	31.03.16
NEWKD	2008	454570 (CHY 18448)	09694029-00252T	31.12.15
SKDP	1991	191645	06591645-28078T	30.06.16
IRDD	1989	176369	06576369-28753H	31.03.16

Chart 1.3.1: Local Action Group Partners



1.3.3 Legal Structure

The LAG - Public/Private/Community within the LCDC along with the Local Authority (Kerry County Council) as financial partner and Local Development Companies as Implementing Partners. (See Table 1.3.1 & Chart 1.3.1).

1.3.4 Description of activities

The LAG will facilitate a community led local development approach to rural development. It will make funding decisions coherent with the Local Development Strategy.

1.4 LAG composition and Decision Making

1.4.1 The Kerry LAG has twenty members. It is comprised of the nineteen members of the LCDC and one representative for IRD Duhallow LDC (See Appendix 11.1.1: Table). The LAG is supported by a designated Chief Officer (See 1.2), support officer and administrative staff.

1.4.2 Selection process for LCDC Members

Of the 19 members in the LCDC, 10 members must be from the private sector. The membership represents a broad range of sectors, including social, community, environmental, agricultural and the local development sector in its private membership.

1.4.3 The membership of the LCDC will be reviewed in 2019 and any new members will be appointed within the requirements for appointments for the particular sector with a balance of geographic, gender and socio-economic representation. New members for the community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental pillars will be selected by the Public Participation Network. Members from other sectors or organisations will be nominated by the said sectors.

1.4.4 Decision making structures/procedures

The LAG has an oversight and decision making role on the delivery of community and social development programmes. In its operation it will have full regard to local, national and European programmes and procurement requirements and will, at all times, have at its core the principles of human rights, equality and social justice. (See also Appendix 11.1.2 – 11.1.6).

1.4.5 Evaluation Committee

The operation of the LAG will be in an open, transparent and fair manner in accordance with the Operational Rules and procedures pertaining to the LAG Evaluation Committee, Conflicts of Interest for LAG members and Evaluation Committee members and the evaluation of projects as required by the programme operating rules and as agreed between Kerry LAG and the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government and adopted by the members. (See Appendix 11.1.6).

1.4.6 Frequency of LAG meetings

The LAG intends to meet on a monthly basis (but at least 10 times per year); minutes will be recorded and circulated in advance of each subsequent meeting. Working groups and/or sub committees will be established for specific purposes and meet when appropriate. A minimum of 51% non-public sector representation must be present when decisions are being made and no one sector may have more than 49% representation at such times.

1.5 LAG Roles & Responsibilities

1.5.1 Financial management

Kerry County Council is assuming the role of lead financial partner in the Kerry LAG. As lead financial partner, Kerry County Council will be responsible for carrying out the administrative tasks associated with this role, including the performance of administrative checks in accordance with Article 48 of [EU Regulation 809/2014](#) (where DECLG delegates these checks to the LAG). (See also 1.6 LAG's Financial Management).

1.5.2 Administration

As part of the process of preparation for the LEADER programme 2014-2020, formal agreements have been drawn up between the LCDC as LAG, Kerry County Council as Financial Partner and the three Local Development Companies – (i) North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd, (ii) South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd and (iii) IRD Duhallow Ltd as Implementing Partners (See Appendices 11.1.2 - 11.1.6).

1.5.3 Article 48 Administrative Checks – Time Required per Check

It is estimated that administrative checks will be carried out at three stages in the project lifecycle, on the basis of a detailed checklist – (See Appendix 11.1.6 Table: d) – Indicative Evaluation Committee Scoring record).

1.5.4 Check 1: will be performed immediately prior to consideration of the project proposal going to the LAG Evaluation Committee. We expect that this first check will be the most resource intensive and will include a check on amongst other things:

- a) eligibility of the project and the promoter
- b) viability of the project
- c) appropriateness of contributions in kind (donation of land/labour)
- d) verification of matching funding
- e) evaluation of cost
- f) compliance with public procurement requirements
- g) compliance with State aid rules.

Estimated duration - 0.5 days per project.

1.5.5 Check 2: will be performed prior to issuing the letter of offer / contract to the promoter. This check will focus on work carried out post consideration by the Evaluation Committee and up to the issuing of the contract/ letter of offer.

Estimated duration - 0.2 days per project.

1.5.6 Check 3: will be performed at payment claim stage, i.e. before payment issues. It will include a check to verify realisation of expenditure, VAT registration, and compliance with tax clearance rules.

Estimated duration - 0.5 days per project.

1.5.7 A site visit may be required at one or all stages in this process, but this will depend on the nature of the project. The need for site visits is incorporated into the above estimates.

Estimated duration - 0.5 days per project.

1.5.8 Administrative checks on applications for support shall be compliant with the LEADER Operating Rules and shall include a verification of:

- a) Compliance with applicable legal obligations, including state aid, procurement, and other standards/requirements
- b) The eligibility of the beneficiary
- c) The eligibility criteria, commitments and other obligations of the operation for which support is requested.
- d) Compliance with the selection criteria
- e) For costs reimbursement of eligible costs actually incurred and paid a verification of the reasonableness of the costs submitted. The costs shall be evaluated using a suitable evaluation system, such as reference costs, a comparison of different offers or an evaluation committee.

1.5.9 Administrative checks on payment claims shall be compliant with the LEADER Operating Rules and shall include a verification of:

- a) the completed operation compared with the operation for which the application for support was submitted and granted

b) the costs incurred and the payment made.

1.5.10 Administrative checks shall include procedures to avoid irregular double financing with other Union or national schemes and with the previous Rural Development Programme (RDP) period. Where financing from other sources exists, these checks shall ensure that the total support received does not breach the maximum permissible amounts or support rates.

1.5.11 Administrative checks relating to capital investment projects shall include at least one visit to the operation being supported, or, the investment site to verify the realisation of the investment. Where the total eligible costs of the project is less than €2,000 a site visit is not required.

1.5.12 The procedures by which these checks will be performed will be documented in The LAG's procedures manual. Crucially, the procedures shall require the recording of control work undertaken, the results of the verification and the measures taken in respect of discrepancies.

1.5.13 The performance of the checks shall include the use of appropriate checklists, which detail the staff member who has performed the check, the date of any check and supervisor who has reviewed the check.

1.5.14 The Department of Environment, Community & Local Government will delegate the Administrative Checks on projects to the LAG where a Local Authority is the Lead Financial Partner. In these circumstances, the Administrative Checks on (i) "in-house" projects and (ii) administration and animation costs will be completed by an entity independent of the LAG.

1.5.15 Training

While Kerry County Council would foresee that the staff assigned to this work would have a very good working knowledge of public procurement and basic accounting/audit skills, it is envisaged that Kerry County Council staff will be required to attend DECLG held workshops on the requirement of the Articles 28/48 administrative checks.

1.5.16 Animation & Calls

These LAG Agreements, (See 1.8 & Appendices 11.1.2 - 11.1.6). set out protocols, responsibilities and separation of duties for animation, capacity building, managing calls for projects, decision-making on approval or rejection of projects, the financial management and monitoring of projects, and of the overall Local Development Strategy.

1.5.17 Monitoring/ Evaluation

The Local Development Companies, as implementing partners, will prepare, collate and submit files to the appropriate body for Article 48 checks. The costs incurred in carrying out the Article 48 checks and the associated administration costs will be borne by Kerry County Council as the lead financial partner (See 1.8 & Appendices 11.1.2 - 11.1.6).

1.6 LAG's Financial Management

1.6.1 Financial Partners

As Kerry County Council is expected to be the lead financial partner it will be responsible for carrying out the administrative tasks associated with this role, including the performance of administrative checks in accordance with Articles 28 and 48 of [EU Regulation 809/2014](#).

1.6.2 Controls & management procedures

Kerry County Council uses the Agresso accounting system for the management of financial transactions and has a set of procedures for financial controls and management associated with the Agresso system. A dedicated LEADER Programme job code has been set up on the Council's Agresso system, through which all transactions relating to the LEADER Programme funding will be processed.

1.6.3 Oversight

Kerry County Council, as financial partner, is subject to audit by the Local Government Audit Service. The Council also has an internal audit service and an Audit Committee in place. The Council liaises at local, national and European level with the designated bodies as appropriate. The Local Authority has a set of procedures for financial controls and management. The financial reporting framework applied is the Accounting Code of Practice for Local Authorities as prescribed by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

1.6.4 Public procurement adherence

There is wide ranging experience within the financial partner and implementing partner staff and the support staff for The LAG with regard to public procurement requirements and such requirements will be strictly adhered to.

1.6.5 Financial Operation

The LAG will operate under the financial procedures set out in the RDP LEADER Operating Guidelines, and will be supported by the technical expertise and experience of the Kerry LAG partner organisations. This will provide reassurance regarding accuracy, transparency, public accountability, reliability and confidentiality. The Kerry LAG will have procedures in place for the control, monitoring and review of procurement of goods and services, budgets, expenditure, reporting, processing grant claims and issuing grant payments in compliance with relevant legislation and rules and regulations for the RDP LEADER programme.

1.6.6 A separate LEADER coding structure has been established within Kerry County Council (as lead financial partner) to manage the flow of funding into the Kerry LAG and the payment process to Implementing Partners.

1.7 LEADER Staffing

1.7.1 The LAG will assign a total of the equivalent to 11.7 full time staff comprised of 1.5 FTE KCC staff and 10.2 FTE LDC staff to the administration and implementation of the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 (see Appendix 11.8.8 for LDC staffing numbers and costs). The LCDC will provide the full 25% for the administration and animation from the available programme budget to the Local Development Companies as implementing partners for all elements of the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 as outlined in the Heads of Agreement (See 1.8 & Appendices 11.1.2 - 11.1.6).

1.7.2 No. of staff

a) Kerry County Council:

The LAG will be supported by 1.5 Full Time Equivalent Kerry County Council staff.

b) North, East & West Kerry Development: Equivalent to 5.0 full time staff.

(See also Appendix 11.1.7b: Table)

c) South Kerry Development Partnership: Equivalent to 4.1 full time staff.

(See also Appendix 11.1.7c: Table)

d) IRD Duhallow: Equivalent to 1.1 full time staff.

(See also Appendix 11.1.7d: Table)

1.7.3 Organisational Charts

(See Appendices 11.1.8 - 11.1.11: Charts)

1.8 Project Selection Procedures for LEADER

1.8.1 Appraisal & Selection

Project calls will initially be assessed by the Project Appraisals Committees (PAC) of the implementing partners. The PAC will make a recommendation to the boards of the implementing partners, which in turn will make recommendations to the LAG. The final approval or rejection of project proposals will rest with the LAG.

1.8.2 Project Selection

The LAG implementing partners, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd and IRD Duhallow Ltd, will prepare and publish both defined and time bound and open calls for project proposals under the Local Development Strategy. The Projects Appraisal Committees (PAC) of each implementing partner will exercise powers as delegated to it and appraise projects and make recommendations to the Board with reference to agreed criteria, budgets and targets. The PAC will proof projects in relation to key issues such as their impact on job creation, economic impact, equality, climate change, environment and social inclusiveness. Specific targeted calls, for example; food business development or festivals and events, etc. will have dedicated criteria drawn up to accompany the call to make it clear to potential promoters the steps and procedures involved in the application and selection process (See Appendix 11.1.6: b) Table). Projects that encourage protection of the natural environment, support the ongoing development of the green economy, promote the benefits of ecosystems services and encourage the protection and value of management of local/regional/national environmental resources will be encouraged.

1.8.3 40% Statement

The LAG confirms that the required 40% minimum project budget will be allocated to “time limited” calls for proposals as required under the programme rules. Project and initiative calls will be designed and developed, as appropriate to local needs, by each implementing partner, appropriate to specific Themes, Sub Themes and Actions to encourage engagement with the LEADER programme from communities, businesses and individuals.

1.9 Relevant Experience

1.9.1 Managing & Administration of Calls:

Kerry County Council as lead financial partner will provide:

- a) Finance advisory expertise.
- b) Procurement expertise.
- c) Internal Audit advisory expertise.

1.9.2 The LAG members represent a wide range of interested parties, community representatives, elected officials and statutory bodies with exceptional skills and experience locally, while almost half have had direct experience within a LAG in the past. Their experience in this specialised area will support an efficient and effective implementation of the programme. This previous experience extends across the breadth and depth of previous LEADER programmes, including drawing up local development strategies, managing implementation and delivery, managing and overseeing budgets, inputs, targets, outputs and outcomes, project selection, project approval and approval of payments. This experience and inherent skills is essential to the successful delivery of the new LEADER programme 2014-2020 in the Kerry Sub-region. (See Appendix 11.1.12: Table)

1.9.3 In addition, and most importantly, the LAG has the effective support of three implementing partners with almost 75 years of collective experience in the Delivery of LEADER I, LEADER II, LEADER+ and the LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. Skills and experience exist within the LAG at all levels, including the Implementing Partner Boards, Working Groups, CEOs, management teams and staff. The Implementing Partners and

their staff, through their experience of direct programme delivery, have the necessary skills and experience required to execute all aspects of programme delivery including animation, capacity building, project application, IT systems management, file management, preparing project evaluation reports, presenting projects to the Evaluation Committee and Boards for approval, liaising with the managing authority, monitoring and evaluation and financial reporting.

1.9.4 Collectively, the new LAG which has emerged in Kerry is a leading example of the skills, experience and knowledge required to execute LEADER 2014-2020 and to implement the programme to the highest possible standards for the greatest economic, social and environmental dividend for the Kerry area and its people.

1.9.5 Further to an agreement signed with the Local Community Development Committee and The Local Authority, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow are the sole programme implementing partners for their respective geographic areas. All three organisations have extensive experience in the development, design and implementation of area based multi-sectoral development strategies.

1.9.6 The three implementing partners have all delivered the entire suite of LEADER programmes (LEADER I, LEADER II, LEADER+/National & Rural Development (LEADER) Programme 2007-2013) in their respective geographic areas since the programme was introduced to Ireland in the early 1990's. Animation and capacity building with local communities has been the foundation stone on which LEADER successes in Kerry have been built.

1.9.7 Working with local communities and businesses to develop their project applications through continuous rolling calls for projects has been a unique feature of the implementation of the LEADER programme. Each of the three organisations have over two decades of experience in managing and administering such calls for projects to local promoters. The three programme implementers have also successfully delivered a vast array of other exchequer/EU funded rural development initiatives, including EU Interreg Programmes, EU Life Programmes, Clár and Salmon Hardship Community Support Scheme. A feature of all of these development programmes has been the management and administration of calls for projects from local promoters/participants.

1.9.8 By virtue of their considerable programme experience to date, the strength of their relationships with their local communities and key sectors, their extensive reach into and knowledge of their own respective geographic areas, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd & IRD Duhallow are uniquely placed to manage and administer calls for projects under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020.

1.9.9 Area based approach

The area based approach is recognised as one of 7 Specific Features of LEADER along with:

- a) Bottom-up elaboration and implementation of strategies
- b) Networking
- c) Co-operation
- d) Innovation
- e) Integrated and multi-sectoral actions
- f) Local Public-Private Partnership:

1.9.10 The three programme implementers, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd & IRD Duhallow have over twenty years experience in promoting area based development through multi-sectoral and integrated strategies that are driven from the bottom-up and led by voluntary Boards of Directors that combine the efforts and expertise of civil society, the productive sector, local government and statutory bodies.

1.9.11 Since their establishment, all three organisations have successfully delivered an extensive number of area based rural development programmes, (i.e. The entire Suite of LEADER Programmes to-date, Salmon Hardship Community Support Scheme, Clar, EU Interreg Programmes, EU Life Programme, Dormant Accounts Programmes, Local Development Assistance Programme, Local Development Social Inclusion Programme, Local & Community Development Programme, the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme, Rural Social Scheme & Tús).

1.9.12 In developing area based approaches to the economic development of their rural areas as a core element in previous strategic planning cycles, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, IRD Duhallow & North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd have developed detailed socio-economic profiles of their areas. By doing so, they gained an insight into the key socio economic & demographic characteristics of their areas and an understanding of the nature of changes that have occurred.

1.9.13 They have each also conducted a stock-take of key assets (economic, social & environmental) in their areas to identify their economic development potential. Furthermore, they have conducted extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders to identify the social, economic and environmental development needs, threats and opportunities within their respective areas and have designed appropriate development strategies in response. These strategies have sought to diversify and strengthen the rural economic base by protecting and increasing employment, fostering the development of new and existing enterprises and by supporting individuals to access employment/self-employment opportunities.

1.9.14 Social Inclusion & poverty

Poverty reduction and the promotion of social inclusion is a key aim of all three implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. All three organisations, since their establishment in the early 1990's have designed and delivered interventions that support social inclusion and poverty reduction, focusing their efforts on their rural areas. Instances of rural isolation, social exclusion, lack of economic development opportunities and access to key services have been identified as issues.

1.9.15 Through specific state funded social inclusion initiatives such as the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme, the Local & Community Development Programme and now the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme, the implementing partners, in addition to focusing on geographic areas of disadvantage, have also focussed their efforts on identified targets groups – those individuals & groups who are at a higher risk of social exclusion, such as the unemployed, lone parents, new communities, people with disabilities etc. South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, IRD Duhallow and North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd have an extensive knowledge of these target groups as a result of over twenty years' experience in delivering a range of exchequer funded social inclusion and poverty reduction interventions.

1.9.16 All three organisations successfully tendered to implement the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) in their respective geographic areas in Kerry. The three programme implementers deliver a range of locally tailored interventions to:

- a) Support and resource disadvantaged communities and marginalised target groups to engage with relevant local and national stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues.
- b) Support individuals and marginalised target groups experiencing educational disadvantage so they can participate fully, engage with and progress through life-long learning opportunities through the use of community development approaches.
- c) Engage with marginalised target groups & residents of disadvantaged communities who are unemployed and are outside of mainstream employment service provision to move them closer to the labour market, improve their work readiness and support

them in accessing employment and self-employment and creating social enterprise opportunities.

Therefore the focus of this LDS will be broader so as not to overlap with SICAP.

1.9.17 Management of EU funding etc.

The three implementing partners have successfully managed numerous State and EU funded rural development initiatives since their establishment. In the last 3 years all three organisations combined have managed exchequer and EU funding totalling €40 million.

1.9.18 All three organisations have well established financial, administrative and operating systems, and documented policies & procedures to ensure compliance with the exacting governance requirements of the various funding streams. The three organisations are subjected to an external annual audit each year and undergo periodic financial monitoring visits/project inspections/audits from their funding providers.

1.9.19 All three organisations have established Finance/Audit/Administration board sub-structures who are designated by their respective boards to monitor and keep under review compliance with their organisations established financial/administrative and operational procedures and to ensure adherence to proper governance standards. From their experience of successfully managing a broad range of EU & Exchequer funding, all three organisations are well versed in the reporting and monitoring requirements of such funding.

1.9.20 NEWKD are signed up to the Governance Code (Type C) and The Charities Act 2015 and the Local Employment Service have been awarded Excellence Through People Standard for Human Resource Management.

1.9.21 South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd has adopted and is compliant with the Governance Code and the Charities Act 2015.

1.9.22 IRD Duhallow is compliant with the Governance Code and The Charities Act 2015; it has been awarded Excellence Through People Standard for Human Resource Management and has ISO 9001:2008 QMS, ISO 14001:2004 (environmental). It operates its safety management system to OHSAS 18001:2007 International Standards.

1.9.23 Leveraging matched and complimentary funding

In implementing various state and EU rural development programmes, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East and West Kerry Development Ltd & IRD Duhallow have leveraged very significant amounts of matching funding from a number of other sources. These include the project matched funding element from community and private promoters through successive LEADER programmes, funding from other statutory bodies to complement each organisations core local development activities, private matched funding from enterprises generated through the delivery of Enterprise Support programmes (i.e. Skillnets), EU funding (i.e. Life Programmes & Interreg Programmes) leveraged utilising national exchequer funding as part matching funding.

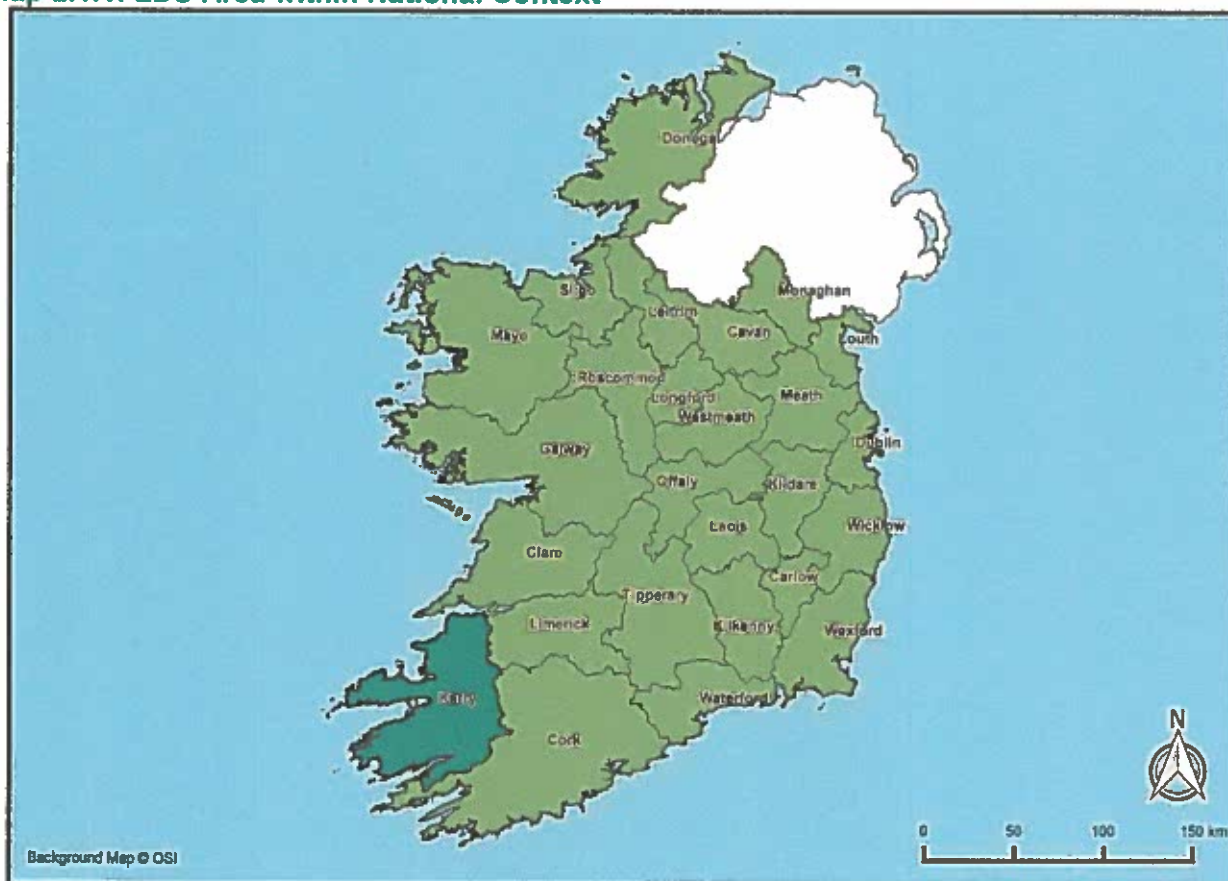
2.0 SECTION 2: Area Profile

2.1 Area Selection

2.1.1 Description of geographical area covered by the LDS

The Local Development Strategy area encompasses the County of Kerry. County Kerry is located in the South West of Ireland and covers an area of 1,815 sq. miles. It is the 5th largest of the 32 counties of Ireland by area and the 13th largest by population. The CSO 2011 census recorded the population of County Kerry as 145,502. Kerry is a coastal county and is bordered on its western coast by the Atlantic, and landward by County Limerick to the east and County Cork to the south-east (See Map 2.1.1).

Map 2.1.1: LDS Area within National Context



2.1.2 The County faces the Atlantic Ocean and, typically for an Eastern-Atlantic coastal region, features many peninsulas and inlets, principally the Dingle Peninsula, the Iveragh Peninsula, and the Beara Peninsula. The county is bounded on the west by the Atlantic Ocean and on the north by the River Shannon. Co.Kerry is a mountainous region and contains the twelve highest mountains in Ireland, including the highest, Carruntuohill, which is part of the Macgillicuddy's Reeks range, and Mount Brandon, which is part of the Slieve Mish range (See Appendix 11.2.1: Map).

2.1.3 Just off the coast are a number of islands, including the Blasket Islands, Valentia Island and the Skelligs. Skellig Michael is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, famous for the medieval monastery clinging to the island's cliffs. The most westerly point of mainland Ireland is located at Dunmore Head on the Dingle Peninsula. When including the islands of Ireland the most westerly point is at Tearaght Island, which is part of The Blasket Islands off the Dingle Peninsula. The most westerly inhabited area of Ireland is Dún Chaoin, on the Dingle Peninsula. The River Feale, the River Laune and the Roughty River flow through Kerry, into the Atlantic.

2.1.4 Natural Environment/Biodiversity

Kerry's natural environment is diverse and contributes to some of the most iconic landscapes in the Country. Its natural heritage ranges from mountain ranges steeped in cultural heritage, a diversity of wildlife, coastal and marine habitats including several off-shore islands and internationally important ecological sites such as Killarney National Park.

2.1.5 Many of the County's habitats and species are protected at National and European Level. Almost half of the County is designated under the EU Habitats Directive as part of the European Natura 2000 network. Referred to as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) (See Appendix 11.2.2: Map) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) (See Appendix 11.2.3: Map) there are 31 SACs and 14 SPAs designated in the County. The aim of the Natura 2000 network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. In addition Kerry has two internationally important wetland areas which attract internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl. Known as Ramsar sites they are Castlemaine Harbour and Tralee Bay. These areas also have a valuable and beneficial role in flood regulation, water purification, wildlife habitat and recreation.

2.1.6 At a National level Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) (See Appendix 11.2.4: Map) are designated to protect ecologically important habitats and species of national importance. Nature Reserves are areas of land, inland water or foreshore areas also established for habitat/species conservation. Kerry has several NHAs/Nature Reserves spread throughout the County including sites that protect native woodlands, wetlands and peatlands.

2.1.7 Kerry traditionally exhibited a less intensive land use which now provides for many habitats of local ecological value. Hedgerows, marginal lands associated with less intensive agriculture, watercourses unmodified from source to sea and an array of species inhabiting this diversity of habitats all combine to form the fabric of the County's rural landscape.

2.1.8 The county's natural environment therefore provides opportunities for sustainable recreational activities, and employment. Ecology related tourism is becoming increasingly popular and there is significant potential for sustainably developing this niche tourism market whilst ensuring protection of the natural environment. All tourism related development and activity must protect the environment/Natura 2000 sites from adverse effects, as required by National legislation and European Directives.

2.1.9 Settlement pattern:

Kerry is a rural county with a dispersed settlement pattern. There are a significant number of one-off houses in all rural areas throughout the county. The only exception to this is on the higher reaches of mountainous areas (See Map 2.1.2).

2.1.10 The settlements within the LDS are as classified by their role into five categories consisting of Hub towns, Regional, District Towns, Villages, Small Villages and Development Nodes (See Appendix 11.2.5: Table).

2.1.11 Tralee / Killarney Hub:

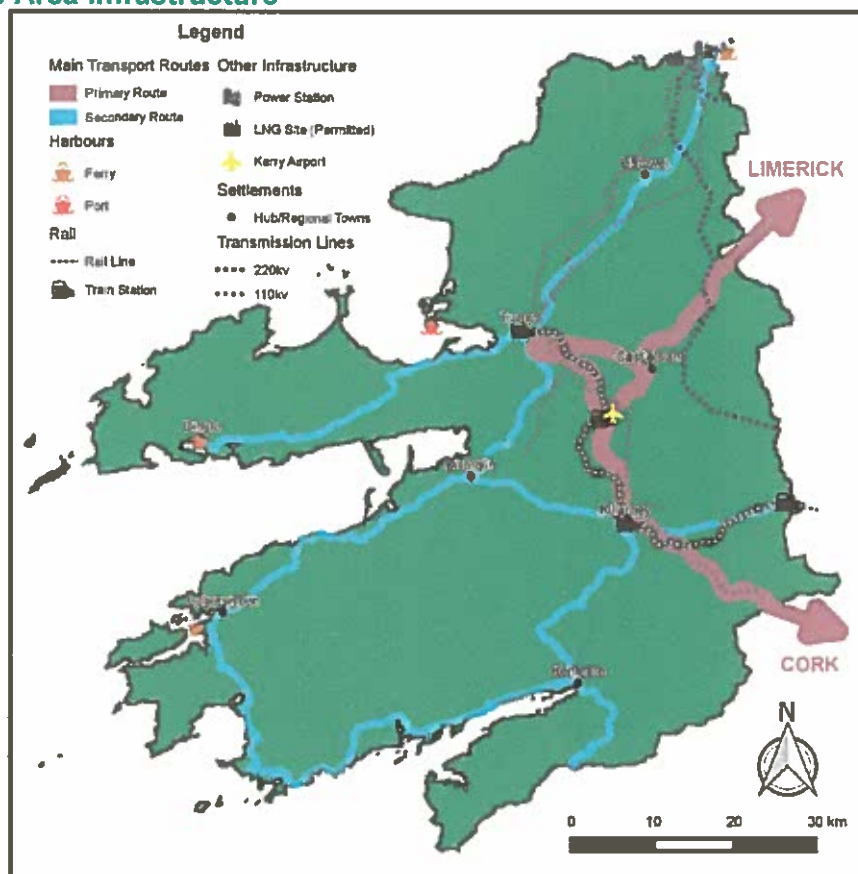
The Hub towns of Tralee and Killarney (See Map 2.1.3) have been identified in the NSS 2002 – 2020 as a Linked Hub capable of providing strong and sustainable economic growth sufficient to drive economic development throughout the County (Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021). This is to be achieved through the development of the area's potential; critical mass in population, skills, infrastructure and services and linkages between other gateways, hubs, and lower tier towns. The National Spatial Strategy is currently under review.

2.1.12 INFRASTRUCTURE:

2.1.13 Air Transport:

Kerry International Airport is located in a central location on the N21, 10 minutes (16 km) from Killarney and 15 minutes from Tralee (17km). The airport is 1.6 kilometers from Farranfore railway station with services to Killarney, Tralee, Mallow, Cork, Limerick Junction and Dublin Heuston. Neighbouring Shannon and Cork International Airports connect the Southwest Region to major American and European air travel hubs and destinations (See Map 2.1.4).

Map 2.1.4: LDS Area infrastructure



2.1.14 Road Transport:

The total road network in the County under the four classifications: National Primary, National Secondary, Regional and Local, measures 4,881km. The LDS area is accessed by a network of national primary and secondary routes. The N21 links Kerry with Limerick - Dublin and the N22 links Kerry with Cork. Improvements to these routes are planned (See Map 2.1.4).

2.1.15 Rail:

The County has one rail line serving the towns of Tralee, Killarney, Kerry Airport (Farranfore) and Rathmore. There are eight trains operating in each direction between Mallow (with connecting trains to Cork City) and Tralee. There are seven trains daily operating from Tralee/Killarney in both directions to Dublin, including an early morning commuter service between Killarney and Tralee (See Map 2.1.4).

2.1.16 Bus:

There are frequent bus links to the major urban centres of Cork, Limerick, Galway and Dublin. Kerry's dispersed settlement pattern coupled with the relatively low level of urbanisation makes it difficult to provide economically viable inter-County public transport. Currently bus services in the main transport corridors from Tralee and Killarney and between the two Hub towns and Regional

Towns are relatively good. However, minor towns and most rural areas are poorly served (See Map 2.1.4).

2.1.17 Ports, Harbours and Piers:

Fenit Sea Port is an important commercial centre providing a strategic transport link for the import and export of goods to and from the County by sea. Dingle harbour is also used for the carriage of goods but on a much smaller scale than Fenit. Kerry's proximity to the Cork Ferry Port is also an important sea link (See Map 2.1.4).

2.1.18 The Shannon Estuary features 500km² of navigable water running from Kerry Head and Loop Head as far as Limerick City, a distance of 100km. The Estuary provides a location suitable for marine-related industry and compatible or complimentary industries and enterprises which require deep water access. The sustainable development of the estuary within the boundaries of Kerry (and also Limerick and Clare) is being guided by the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP).

2.1.19 Electricity transmission Grid network:

The existing electricity transmission network consists of 220kV and 110kV substations and lines for the collection and distribution of significant amounts of electricity. There is lower grid capacity in South West Kerry and the Dingle peninsula (See Map 2.1.4).

2.1.20 Power Sources:

A large LNG regasification terminal is proposed for the Tarbert / Ballylongford land bank. This plant would supply LNG to the Irish market. This development would also provide a secure gas and electricity supply in the region by connection to the natural gas network via Foynes, Co Limerick (See Map 2.1.4).

2.1.21 The County's theoretical wind energy resource is considerable. The entire County, with the exception of small pockets, has economically viable wind speeds at 50m, 75m and 100m above ground level. Kerry also has significant bio-energy potential in the form of agricultural land, forestry, and recycled waste from municipal treatment plants, agriculture and industrial sources.

2.1.22 Water Supply

Most of Kerry is served by modern public water supply schemes which produce good quality water (30 billion litres annually). There are adequate quantities of water available for future development almost everywhere, except for Kenmare which will need a supplementary source if demand rises.

2.1.23 Waste Water

All the towns and most of the larger villages (17 in total) in the County are fully sewered and have modern waste water treatment plants with spare treatment capacity. There are a further 30 villages with sewerage schemes and most require upgrading of their treatment facilities. Given the dispersed settlement pattern and numbers of one-off housing units, domestic waste water treatment systems proliferate.

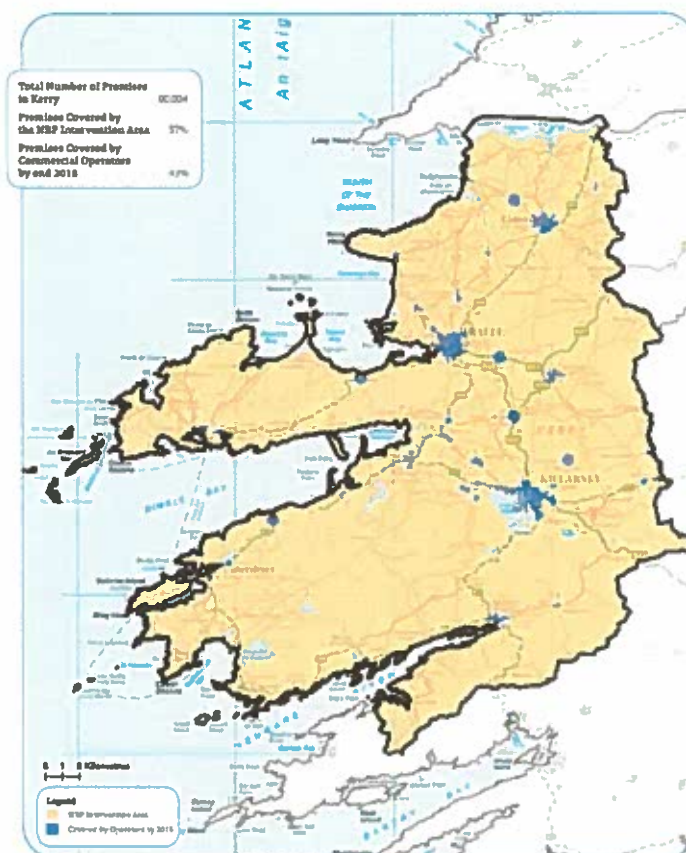
2.1.24 Information and Communication Technology.

Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures provide the majority of the county with mobile phone coverage, but the service is poor in the more remote parts of the county.

- a) Broadband infrastructure in Tralee Town is of a high standard with direct links to other countries, and can facilitate international e-commerce business. However, the quality of broadband in the more peripheral rural areas of the County is poor.
- b) The Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources have published a National Broadband Plan - Delivering a Connected Society - A National Broadband Plan for Ireland 2012. The areas in Kerry where the plan considers it is not

commercially viable for private sector operators to provide broadband have been identified across the county (See Map 2.1.5). As the map indicates, public intervention will be required, if broadband is to be rolled out across rural Kerry.

Map 2.1.5: Broadband



2.2 Socio-Economic Profile:

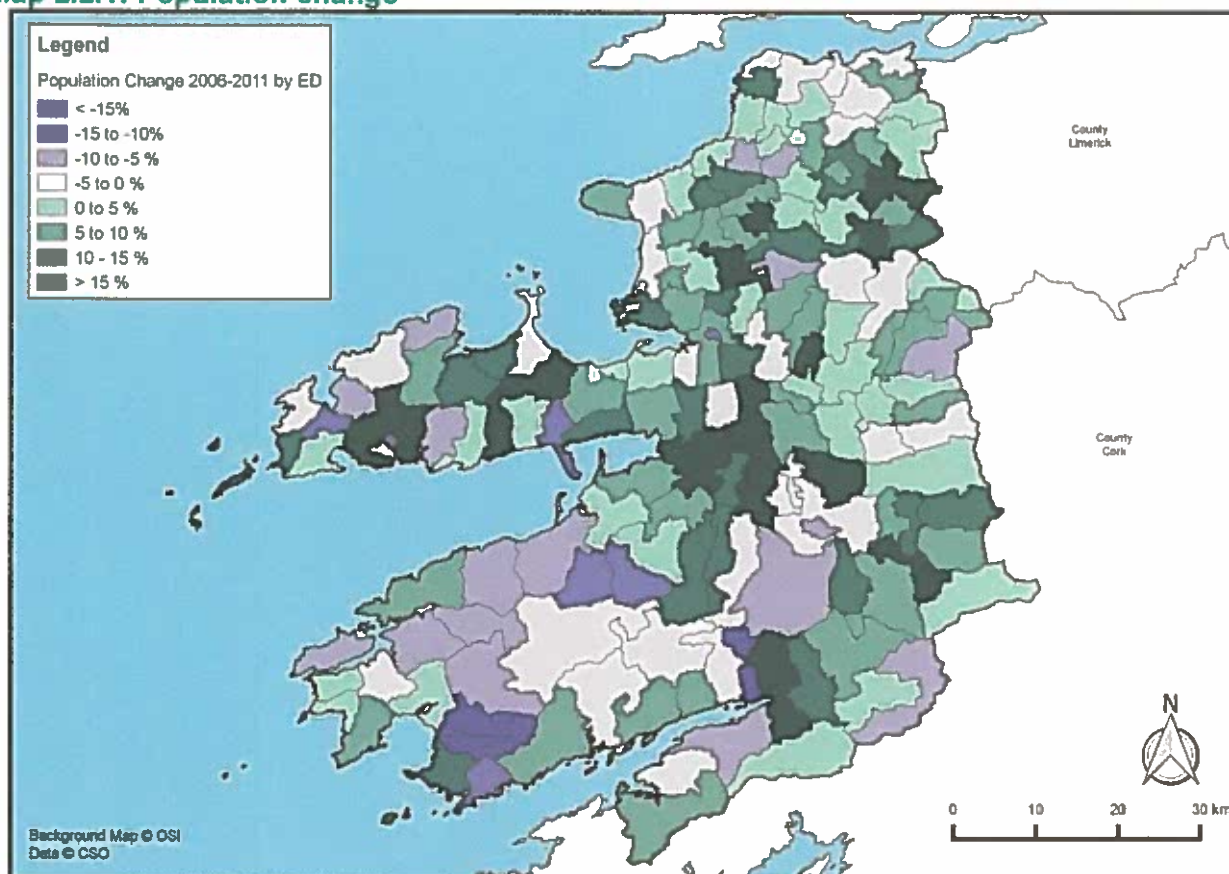
2.2.1 Demographics

Kerry's population was recorded as being 145,502 in 2011, 65% of the population lives in rural areas and 35% in urban areas, ranking Kerry the 8th most rural County in the State.

2.2.2 2011 Census showed the degree to which population growth was unevenly spread. Kerry's Hub towns, Tralee and Killarney combined, accounted for over 26% of population growth. Both areas experienced growth rates of between 5 and 7 times the County average. Killorglin and Kenmare experienced a growth rate of 28% or 7 times the County average. An Daingean Uí Chúis at 2.3% had the lowest growth rate at regional town level (other than Cahersiveen which experienced population loss). At the other end of the urban spectrum population decreases were experienced in the more rural towns and traditional tourism areas in both North and South of the County, in that, Ballybunion, Cahersiveen, Ballyheigue, Waterville and Sneem all experienced population decreases.

2.2.3 Substantial population decreases occurred in South and West Kerry and the most northern parts of North Kerry in the period 2006 – 2011 (See Map 2.2.1). There is also a clear pattern of population decline in areas without easy access to the major employment centres. It is known that population follows on the heels of job creation. Developing employment sectors such as tourism and farm diversification is a key objective of this strategy.

Map 2.2.1: Population change



2.2.4 The population of males to females as a ratio is approximately 1:1 up to the 70-74 age groups. Over 75 years, the proportion of females significantly outnumbers the proportion of males. At 85 years and over there are 2.1 females to 1 male (See Table 2.2.1).

Table 2.2.1: Population by Age and Percentage

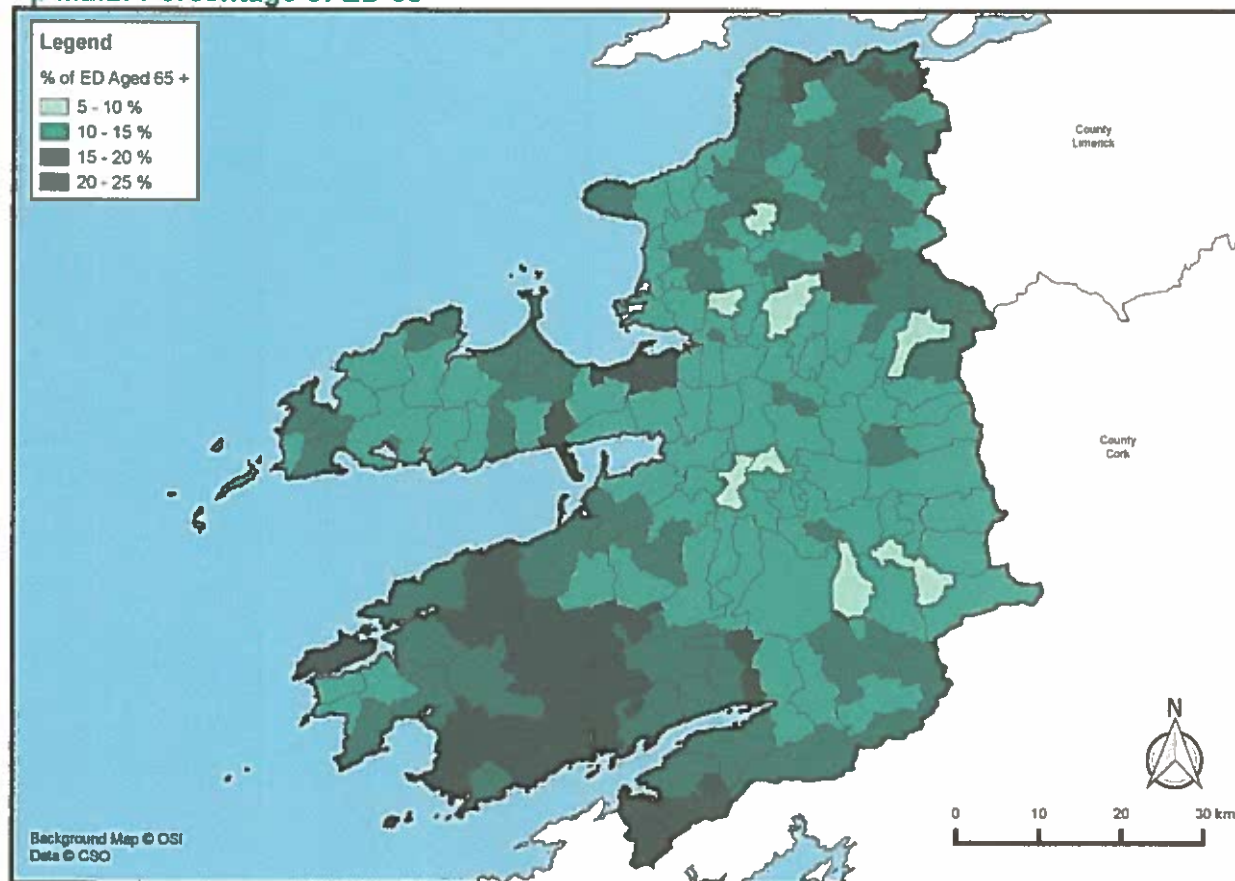
Age Group 2011	Total		Males		Females	
	Kerry	State	Kerry	State	Kerry	State
Age 0-4	6.9%	7.8%	6.9%	8.0%	6.8%	7.5%
Age 5-9	6.6%	7.0%	6.8%	7.2%	6.5%	6.8%
Age 10-14	6.7%	6.6%	6.8%	6.8%	6.6%	6.4%
Age 15-19	6.0%	6.2%	6.1%	6.3%	5.9%	6.0%
Age 20-24	5.2%	6.5%	5.2%	6.5%	5.2%	6.5%
Age 25-29	6.6%	7.9%	6.4%	7.6%	6.8%	8.1%
Age 30-34	7.4%	8.6%	7.5%	8.6%	7.4%	8.6%
Age 35-39	7.4%	7.9%	7.6%	8.0%	7.1%	7.9%
Age 40-44	7.2%	7.2%	7.3%	7.3%	7.0%	7.1%
Age 45-49	7.0%	6.7%	6.9%	6.7%	7.0%	6.6%
Age 50-54	6.7%	6.0%	6.8%	6.0%	6.6%	5.9%
Age 55-59	6.2%	5.3%	6.2%	5.4%	6.1%	5.3%
Age 60-64	5.8%	4.8%	6.0%	4.8%	5.6%	4.7%
Age 65-69	4.7%	3.8%	4.9%	3.8%	4.6%	3.8%
Age 70-74	3.5%	2.9%	3.5%	2.8%	3.5%	2.9%
Age 75-79	2.7%	2.2%	2.5%	2.1%	2.9%	2.4%
Age 80-84	1.9%	1.5%	1.6%	1.3%	2.2%	1.8%
Age 85+	1.6%	1.3%	1.0%	0.8%	2.1%	1.7%

2.2.5 Age Dependency

All three regions (the State, South West and County) had an increase in their age dependencies between 2006 and 2011 (See Table 2.2.1). Kerry's total age dependency increased by 2.9% in that period, the South West by 3.3% and the State by 3.5%. In 2011, Kerry had a higher age dependency (52.9%) than both the South West (50.2%) and the State (49.3%). However, it is Kerry's aged dependency that has inflated this rate as Kerry's younger age dependency is lower than the State and the South West.

2.2.6 The LAG has an aging population profile (See Map 2.2.2). The area has the second highest average age in the State at 38.5 years. Kerry has less population under 25 years old and more in the over 65 age cohorts than the national average. 31.4% (45,663 persons) of Kerry's population are under 25 years old compared to 33% for the State. At the other end of the age continuum 14.8% (20,988 persons) are over 65 years with the comparable State figure being 12.6%. 47.2% of Kerry's population is in the 40 to 99 years age group compared to 41.6% of the State in the same age group. As might be expected with this age profile Kerry was among the 4 counties with low birth rates at 14.3 per 1,000 population.

Map 2.2.2: Percentage of ED 65+



2.2.7 Nationality and Ethnicity

The 2011 census recorded 84.5% of the national population and 86.1% of the population in Kerry as being white Irish. 0.6% of the population in Kerry was comprised of White Irish Travellers as compared to the national figure of 0.7%. In total there were 860 travellers enumerated in Census 2011 (416 males and 444 females).

2.2.8 3.69% of Kerry's non-Irish national population was from the UK compared to the State figure of 2.51%. The second largest group of non-nationals came from Poland (4,048). 485 asylum seekers were accommodated in direct provision.

2.2.9 Of Kerry's resident population 9.22% (13,109) speak a language other than English or Irish at home. Of these 19.12% (2,507 - excl Not Stated) classified their ability to speak English as not well/not well at all.

2.2.10 Almost 26% of Kerry's non-Irish population is under 25 years. A further 47% of non-Irish nationals are aged between 25 and 44 years. Only 7% of non-Irish nationals are over 65.

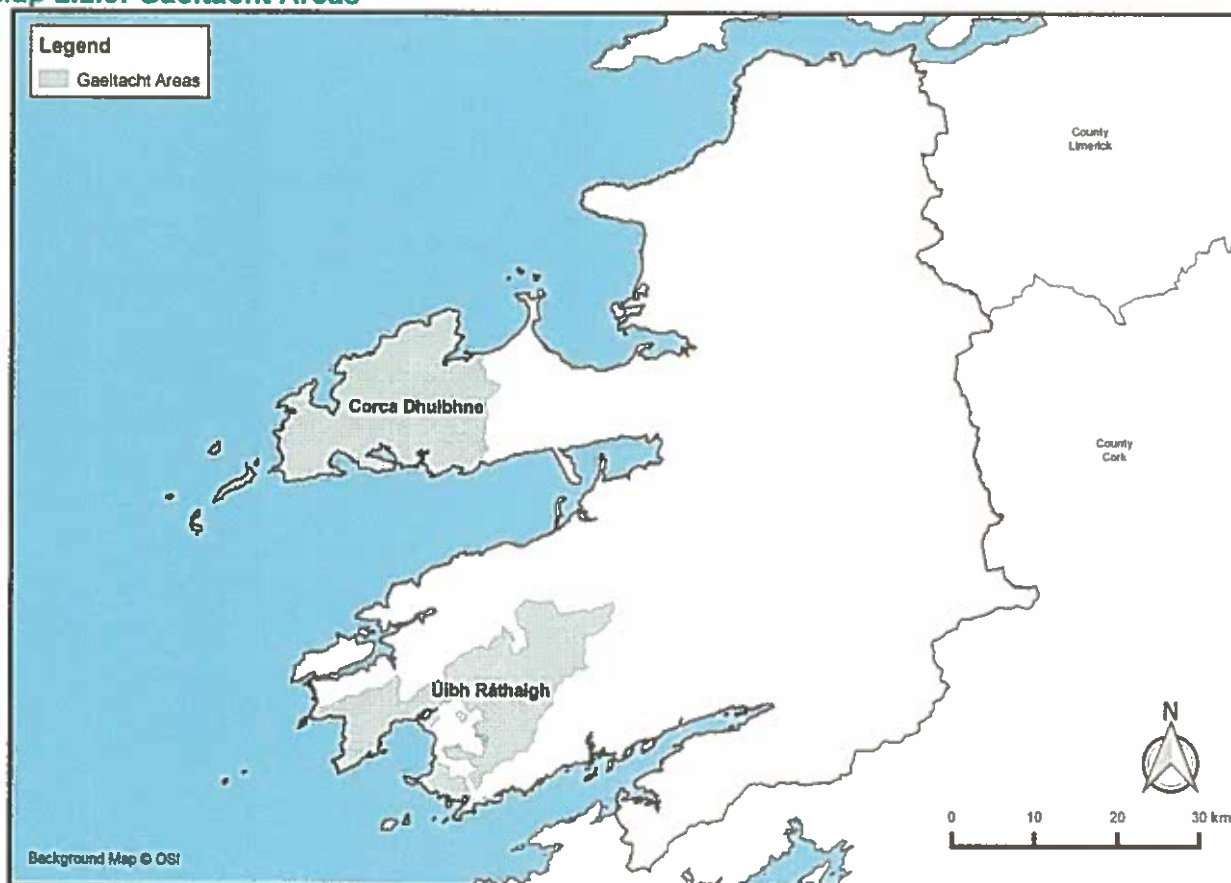
2.2.11 Lone parents

The proportion of lone parents (as a proportion of all households with dependent children) was 19.7% in 2011 which was just below the national average. Listowel urban (39.0%), Tralee urban District (37.4%), Dunquin (33.3%), Lixnaw (32.2%) & Killehenny (31.2%) all have rates which are high by national comparison. There are 54 predominantly rural EDs, where the rate is under 10%.

2.2.12 Gaeltacht and the Irish Language

In Kerry, the Gaeltacht area embraces a large part of the Corca Dhuibhne and Úibh Ráthaigh peninsulas. The population of the Kerry Gaeltachtaí is 8,729 (CSO 2011) which represents c. 8.7% of the national Gaeltacht population in 2011 (See Map 2.2.3).

Map 2.2.3: Gaeltacht Areas



2.2.13 Rural Services

There is a direct correlation between population density and access to services. In particular service provision and accessibility are poorest in deprived rural areas (notably Iveragh, Beara and peripheral North Kerry). Given the settlement pattern and the on-going population decline in some areas, access to service provision will be an on-going concern.

2.2.14 Housing

There were 74,747 houses in Kerry in 2011 of which 53,088 were occupied as permanent private households. There were 21,981 permanent private households located in the main settlements

and 31,325 located in the wider rural area. The majority (73.71%) of dwellings in the County are owner occupied and 44.46% of these are owned outright with no mortgage attached. This is 10% higher than that of the State (6.7%) and that of the South-West. 21.99% of permanent private households are in the rented sector with 14.05% rented from private landlords.

2.2.15 There are 3,862 Local Authority housing units and an additional 729 tenants provided for through the Rental Allowance Scheme. There are 24 halting site bays to provide housing to the traveller community. There are 4,925 households that qualify for Local Authority Housing and are on the council's waiting list.

2.2.16 26.4% (19,719) of dwellings were vacant on census night. This vacancy rate is significantly higher than the State vacancy rate of 14.5%. Vacant properties are distributed across the County in both urban and rural areas. When holiday homes are included in the total number of vacant properties, vacancy rates in some electoral areas are as high as 50-70%. These areas tend to be along the coast from Kenmare to Valentia Island. Vacancy rates are also high around Glenbeigh and parts of the Dingle Peninsula.

2.2.17 The population growth target for the entire County for the period 2015-2021 is 8,108. The total number of residential units required to meet housing requirements, resulting from population growth for the County is 3,118 units. 235.75 hectares of land zoned for residential development is required to provide for housing need arising from population growth over this period.

2.2.18 Education

In 1996 the percentage of Kerry people with third level education stood at 16.8% on the educational spectrum whilst those who left with 'No Formal/ Primary' accounted for 33.2%. By 2011 the 'Third Level' percentage had increased to 26.4% and the 'no formal/primary' reduced to 17.4% showing a trend towards higher levels of education attainment.

2.2.19 In relation to 'no formal/primary' the gap between Kerry and the State has closed significantly over this period, from 3.5% more than the State in 1996 to 1.4% in 2011. However, the experience in the 'third level' category has not been as positive as the gap between the State figure and Kerry has widened, from a gap of 2.9% in 1996 to 4.2% in 2011, meaning the State has 4.2% more in the 'Third level' education attainment category than Kerry.

Table 2.2.2: (Derived from) Haasse Pratschke Small Area Deprivation Index 2011

Relative Index Score	Classification	Kerry Number of SAs by Class	Kerry Percentage of SAs by Deprivation Score	National Number of SAs by Class	National Percentage of SAs by Deprivation Score
over 30	extremely affluent	0	0.0%	30	0.2%
20 to 30	very affluent	0	0.0%	472	2.6%
10 to 20	affluent	22	3.1%	2411	13.0%
0 to 10	marginally above average	253	36.1%	6234	33.7%
0 to -10	marginally below average	347	49.5%	6483	33.1%
-10 to -20	disadvantaged	71	10.1%	2408	13.0%
-20 to -30	very disadvantaged	8	1.1%	448	2.4%
below -30	extremely disadvantaged	0	0.0%	2	0.0%
Total		701		18,488	

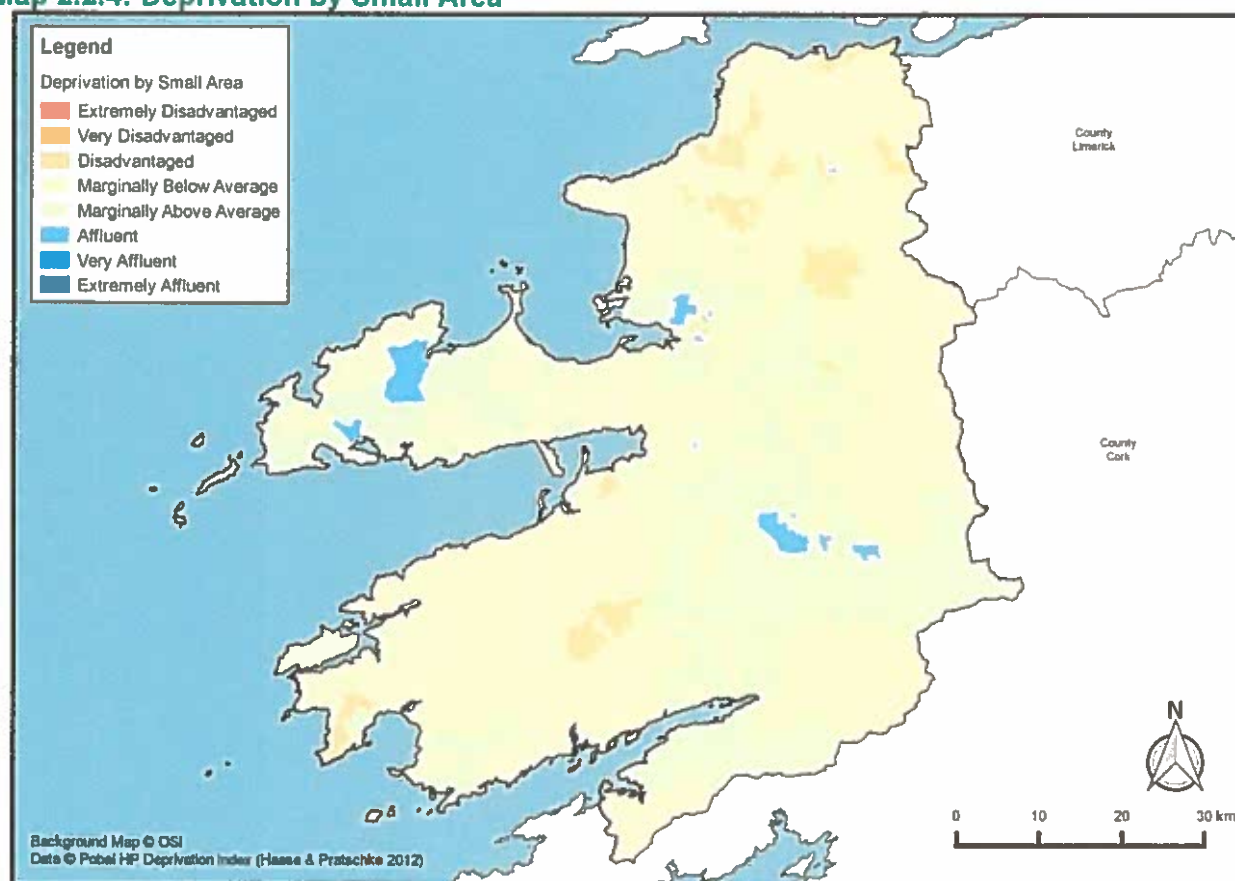
2.2.20 Deprivation and Affluence

Kerry is one of the counties with the lowest levels of disposable income per capita in the country. In 2011 Kerry's Disposable income was €17,016. This constitutes 89.3% of the State level (100%). Although the live register has dropped there are still over 13,000 people 'signing on'. The economic dependency for Kerry is 1.6, so for every one person working 1.6 people are dependent.

2.2.21 Small Areas

There are 701 Small Areas in The LAG area under each category of the Haase Pratschke Deprivation Index 2011. Almost 50% of these (347) are classified as being marginally below average and 36.1% as marginally above average (253). There are no areas classified as extremely affluent, very affluent, or extremely disadvantaged (See Table 2.2.2).

Map 2.2.4: Deprivation by Small Area



2.2.22 In terms of the Spatial Distribution of Deprivation in the County by Small Area, the largest concentrations of areas which are marginally above average are, in general, located in the environs of Tralee, Killarney, Castleisland, Daingean Uí Chúis and Kenmare. Smaller concentrations are located in the environs of Listowel, Ardfert, Cahersiveen, Waterville, Sneem, Killorglin Milltown and Rathmore. Outside these areas the majority of the County is classified as being marginally below average. Significantly, this includes a large proportion of rural areas (See Map 2.2.4).

2.2.23 10.1% of the County is disadvantaged. The majority of disadvantaged areas are located in North Kerry with some areas in the Iveragh Peninsula. The most affluent parts of the County are situated primarily in the wider environs of Killarney, and to a smaller extent around Daingean Uí Chúis and Tralee, yet excluding Tralee town. There are 8 SAs in the County classified as very disadvantaged. Five such areas are located in Tralee, two in Listowel and one in Castleisland.

2.2.24 Health

In comparison to other EU countries, Ireland continues to have the highest levels of self-perceived good health of any EU country. 88% of the population considers their health to be in 'very good' or good 'health'.

2.2.25 The population of those aged 65 years is expected to almost double in the next 20 years, with the greatest proportional increase in the 85+ age group. Kerry's population over the age of 60 is 20.2% which is 3.7% higher than the national figure of 16.5%. At a national and county level one of the major health challenges will be successfully addressing the needs of an aging population.

2.2.26 The 2011 census recorded 19,168 (9,410 male, 9,758 female) people with a registered disability in Kerry. This equates to 13.17% of the County's total population. This is only slightly higher than the State figure of 12.98%. The number of persons with a disability increases with age due to age related medical conditions. The most common forms of disability are conditions which limit one or more basic physical activities (8,329 persons or 15.3% of the total population with a disability), or a chronic illness (8,334 or 15.3% of the total population with a disability).

Table 2.2.3: Persons with Disability by % of Population and Location

Persons with Disability by % of Population and Location			
	Population	With disability	Population with disability
	No. Persons	No. Persons	%
State	4,588,252	595,335	12.98%
Regional	664,534	87,540	13.17%
Kerry	145,502	19,168	13.17%
Hub Towns			
Tralee	23,693	3,706	15.64%
Killarney	14,219	1,867	13.13%
Regional Towns			
An Daingean Uí Chúis	1,965	278	14.15%
Cahersiveen	1,168	198	16.95%
Castlesland	2,513	354	14.09%
Kenmare	2,175	278	12.78%
Killorglin	2,082	300	14.41%
Listowel	4,832	776	16.06%
District Towns			
Ardfert	800	115	14.38%
Ballybunion	1,354	214	15.81%
Ballyheigue	628	101	16.08%
Milltown	838	138	16.47%
Rathmore	778	73	9.38%
Sneem	258	45	17.44%
Tarbert	551	71	12.89%
Waterville	465	50	10.75%
Total as per Settlements above	58,319	8,564	14.68%
Remainder of County (Wider Rural Areas)	87,183	10,604	12.16%

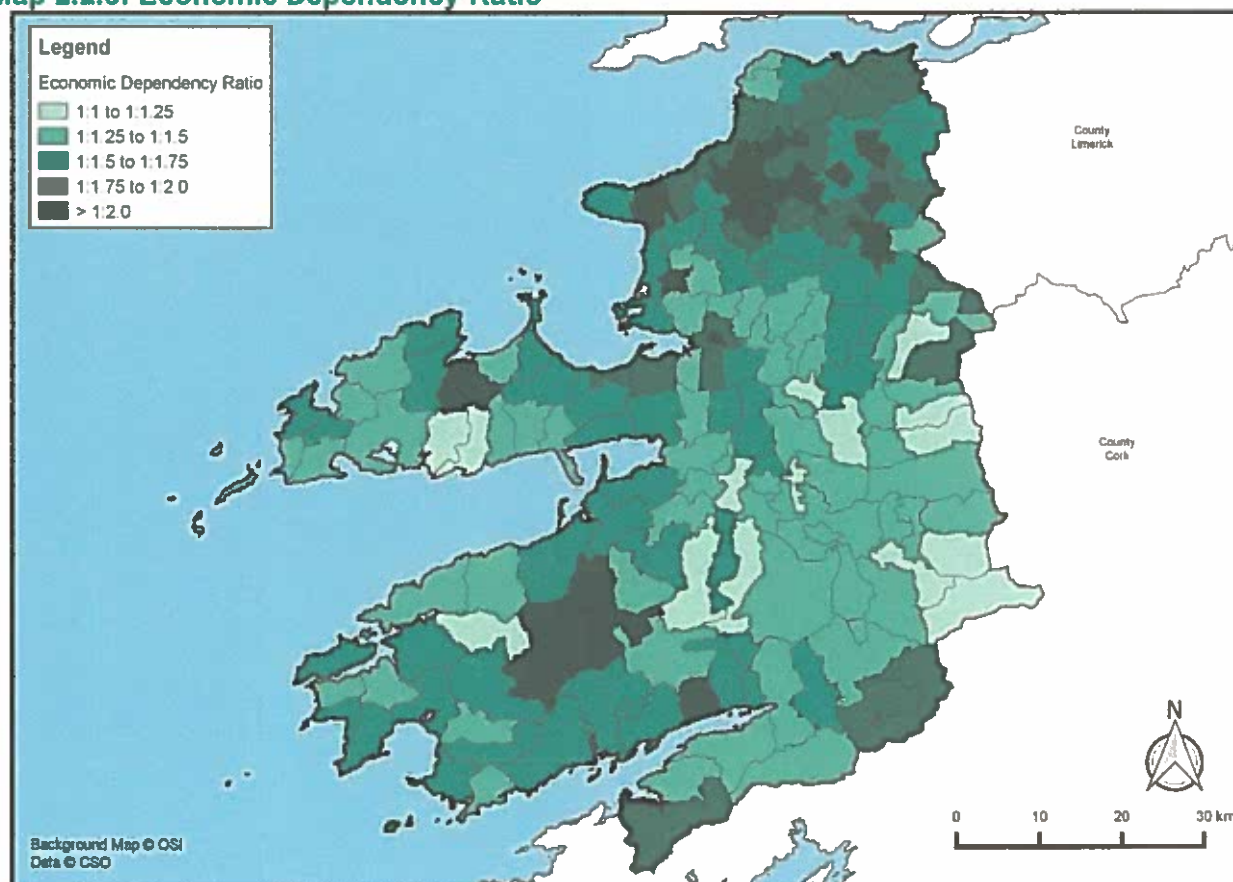
2.2.27 There are almost 6,000 paid carers and slightly over 6,000 unpaid carers in Kerry. In relation to unpaid carers 2,186 live in the Hub, Regional and District towns, and 3,859 live in the wider rural area. 25% of unpaid carers deliver over 43 hours personal help. While, men contribute significantly to the provision of care, women deliver more personal care hours than men. This is particularly evident where female carers provide two thirds of the 43 or more hours of personal care.

2.2.28 The percentage of population with a disability in the towns of Tralee, Cahersiveen, Listowel, Ballybunion, Ballyheigue and Sneem are all significantly higher than the national figure of 12.98% (See Table 2.2.3). However, when the populations of the settlements are taken as a whole, the percentage of people with a disability is 14.68%. In the remainder of the County the percentage of disabled persons is 12.16% which is 0.82% less than the national figure.

2.2.29 Economic Dependency Ratio (EDR):

The economic dependency ratio increased in the period 2006 to 2011 for both Kerry and the Irish State and South West. This is due to a decline in the number of people at work as well as an increase in the child population and other inactive populations such as the unemployed over this five year period. The EDR for Kerry at 1.61 was slightly above both the State (1.54) and the South West (1.52) for 2011. For Kerry the ratio signifies that for every economically active person there are 1.6 economically inactive people. However, in certain areas the EDR is higher. For every one person working there are up to two inactive people in areas of Listowel Urban and Rural, Tralee Urban, North East of Daingean Uí Chúis (Ballincouty) and South of Killorglin (Cloon, Lickeen, Glanlee) (See Map 2.2.5).

Map 2.2.5: Economic Dependency Ratio



2.2.30 Employment Sectors

Kerry's economy, a fifth of the size of the South West is heavily dependent on Wholesale and Retail, Tourism and Agriculture. The Wholesale and Retail sector dominates in terms of employment. This is followed by Health and the Public Sector (Health, Education and Public administration) which employs over a quarter of the workforce in both the South West and Kerry.

2.2.31 In the period 2006 - 2011 over half of all 'construction' and construction related jobs were lost. This was compounded by a 20% loss of manufacturing jobs and a 15% loss in transport related jobs. These job losses contributed to a 160% increase in the numbers unemployed. In the same period, however, the education, public administration and agriculture sectors experienced significant employment growth rates. Education was the largest growth area increasing by 887 jobs since 2006, recording an overall increase of 22.6%. This was followed by public sector administration which experienced growth rates of 20%. Employment in the agriculture, forestry and fishing has grown by 581 jobs, an increase of 11.5% (See Table 2.2.4).

2.2.32 Although there are high levels of similarities between the economies of the State, the South West and Kerry there are also some notable differences. Kerry's strong tradition in the Tourism and Agriculture sectors is reflected in the relatively larger proportion of the work force employed in these sectors compared to the South West and the State. The opposite applies in the context of Manufacturing. Residents in The LAG area have a greater dependency on the Hospitality and Agriculture sectors than those in the South West and the State. There is approximately double the number of LAG residents employed in these sectors when compared to the national averages.

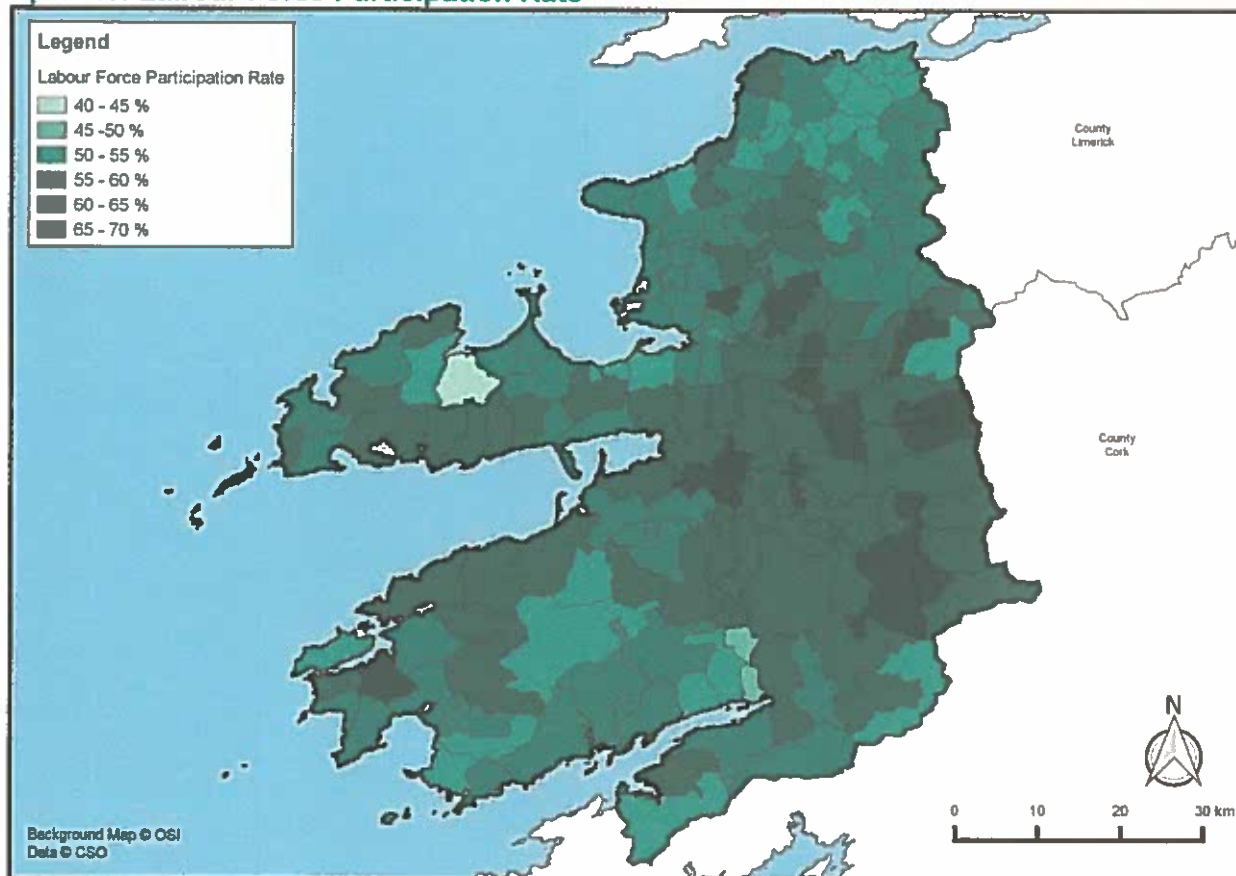
Table 2.2.4: Labour Force by Broad Industrial Group 2006/2011

Labour Force By Broad Industrial Group 2006/2011	2006	% of at work 2006	2011	% of at work 2011	Change 2006-2011	% Change 2006-2011
Agriculture, forestry fishing	5040	8.3%	5621	10.1%	581	11.5%
Mining, quarrying and turf production	247	0.4%	121	0.2%	-126	-51.0%
Manufacturing industries	6660	11.0%	5237	9.4%	-1423	-21.4%
Electricity, gas and water supply	401	0.7%	425	0.8%	24	6.0%
Construction	8216	13.5%	3338	6.0%	-4878	-59.4%
Wholesale and retail trade	8087	13.3%	8300	14.9%	213	2.6%
Hotels and restaurants	5581	9.2%	5483	9.8%	-98	-1.8%
Transport, storage and communications	2428	4.0%	2042	3.7%	-386	-15.9%
Banking and financial services	1547	2.5%	1752	3.1%	205	13.3%
Real estate, renting and business activities	3355	5.5%	3471	6.2%	116	3.5%
Public administration and defence	2448	4.0%	2945	5.3%	497	20.3%
Education	3917	6.4%	4804	8.6%	887	22.6%
Health and social work	6110	10.0%	6439	11.5%	329	5.4%
Other community, social and personal service activities	2223	3.7%	2345	4.2%	122	5.5%
Industry not stated	4550	7.5%	3444	6.2%	-1106	-24.3%
Total at work	60810	100.0%	55767	100.0%	-5043	-8.3%
Unemployed-looking for first regular job	924		921		-3	-0.3%
Unemployed - having lost or given up previous job	4842		12598		7756	160.2%
Total in labour force	66576		69286		2710	4.1%

2.2.33 Labour Force Participation (LFPR)

In 2011, there were 69,286 people in the labour force in Kerry accounting for 22% of the overall labour force of the South West region. Kerry's labour force in 2011 reflects a 4% increase (2,710) when compared to 2006. Unemployment at 19.5% was just slightly above the national average (19%). The labour force participation rate at 59.7% was 2.3% below the State average (62%). Between 1991 and 2011, the female LFPR increased from 31% to 52%, which contrasted with the national figure of 55% in 2011 (See Map 2.2.6).

Map 2.2.6: Labour Force Participation Rate



2.2.34 Unemployment

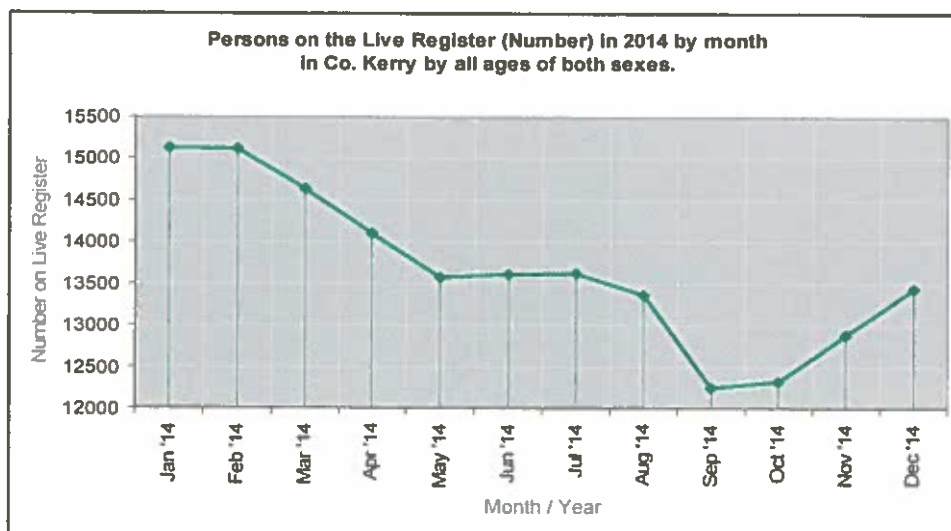
Labour market data from the live register shows that there were 13,439 people 'signing on' in December 2014. This is almost a 9% decrease when compared to figures for December 2013.

2.2.35 The total Live Register indicates that Kerry had an annual net reduction in unemployment of 8.5% in 2014, which is similar to the State. The month of September had the biggest reduction in Live Register figures among all ages in both Kerry and the State. This is due, in part, to people starting educational courses which begin in September (See Table 2.2.5 & Chart 2.2.1).

Table 2.2.5: Persons on Live Register (No.) 2014 by Month, in Kerry, by all ages of both sexes.

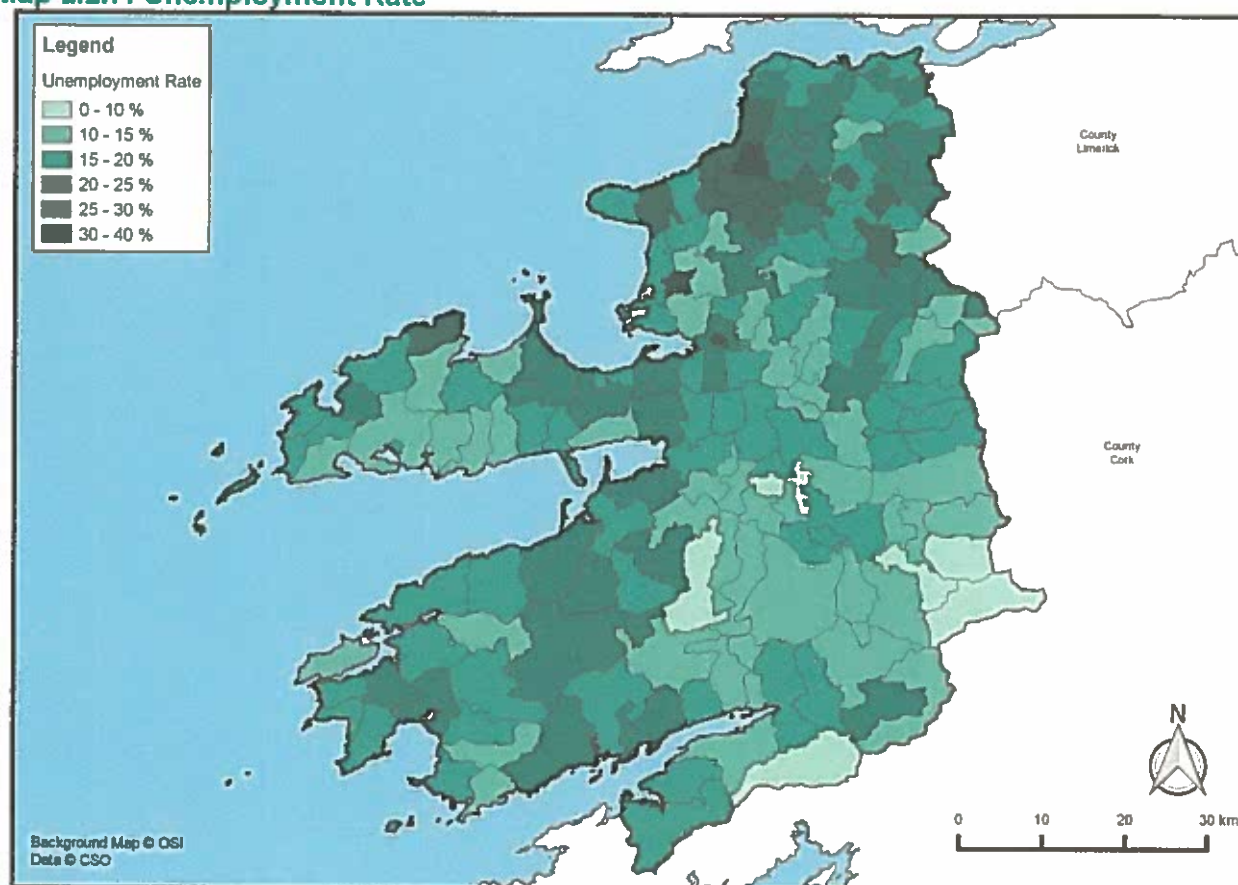
2014	All ages & both sexes
January	15126
February	15122
March	14629
April	14098
May	13576
June	13612
July	13616
August	13363
September	12244
October	12322
November	12874
December	13439

Chart 2.2.1:
Persons on Live Register (No) 2014 by Month, in Kerry, all ages of both sexes.



2.2.36 In 2014 most welfare offices benefited from a month on month decrease from March to September inclusive. The exceptions to this were the welfare offices of Tralee and Listowel, which showed increases of 4% respectively in the June to July period. This increase may be due to students finishing education in late May and joining the live register.

Map 2.2.7: Unemployment Rate



2.2.37 Unemployment fell in June and July in south and west Kerry. This reflects the seasonal nature of tourism which is one of the major employment sectors in these areas (See Map 2.2.7). The map shows the distribution of unemployment recorded in the 2011 census. There is a clear pattern of higher unemployment rates in North Kerry and the Iveragh peninsula.

2.2.38 In April 2014 over 60% of those on the live register were on it less than a year, 25% were signing on for at least three years. This suggests there is a solid core of long-term unemployed. As the economic climate improves there is on-going reduction in the numbers of unemployed.

2.2.39 Youth Unemployment

In 2014 there was a net reduction of 6% in claimants under 25 years of age. In 2015 there are 1200 persons under 25 years unemployed (Local DSP) in the LDS area (See Table 2.2.6).

Table 2.2.6: No's under 25 year on the Live Register of Unemployed in Kerry

Rural Town	24/05/2015	25/11/2015
Tralee	679	591
Dingle	42	29
Killorglin	95	98
Cahersiveen	51	37
Listowel	312	268
Killarney	204	152
Kenmare	32	25
Kerry	1415	1200

2.2.40 Enterprise

In 2012 there were 5,910 active enterprises in Kerry over 240 fewer than in 2011; most of the decline was accounted for by the loss of enterprises in the construction and retail industries. Despite the declines experienced, construction and wholesale had the highest number of enterprises in 2012, combined they accounted for over 46% of the active enterprise population (23% respectively). In Kerry, accommodation and food services take third position accounting for 16% of active enterprises.

2.2.41 There are significant regional disparities in growth within the Country with most Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) located in the Gateways of Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Galway. The vast majority (92%) of enterprises in the LDS area had fewer than 10 persons engaged, accounting for one third of all employees in active enterprises. In comparison to the larger enterprises the number of jobs per enterprise is low, with 37% of employees working in large companies (50-250+).

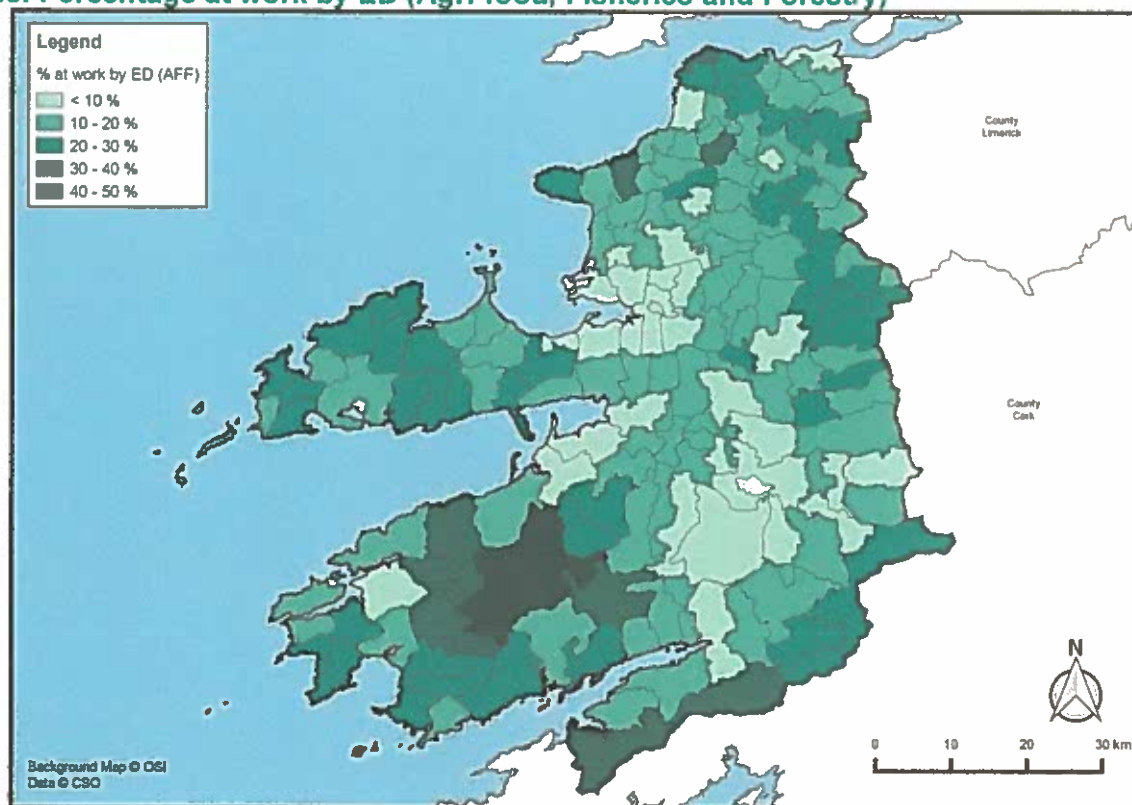
2.2.42 It is clear peripheral areas will not benefit from FDI to the same extent as Ireland's biggest cities. The LDS area will have to depend on growing local indigenous enterprises to create future employment. In recognition of this, the Kerry County Development Plan (2015-2021) makes provision for the development of rural enterprises in appropriate locations and in a sustainable manner.

2.2.43 In the LAG area, there is huge potential to develop new small enterprises in rural sectors such as tourism, agriculture and the agri-food industry. The provision of employment opportunities in rural areas, close to rural communities, will not only support economic growth but will be critical in maintaining sustainable vibrant rural communities in rural areas. It is a key objective of the LDS to facilitate the development of new enterprises in rural areas.

2.2.44 Agriculture

Agri-food, fisheries and forestry represent Ireland's largest indigenous industry. Primary Agriculture accounts for 2.5% of GDP and the agri-food sector (including agriculture, food, drinks) accounts for around 7% of GDP. The Food Harvest 2020 report sets a target of increasing the value of primary agricultural output by 33% (€1.5bn) by 2020 with a view to the agriculture and food industries playing a key role in the overall recovery of the Irish economy.

Map 2.2.8: Percentage at work by ED (Agri-food, Fisheries and Forestry)



2.2.45 Agriculture output in Kerry is valued at €358m (5.3% of the State) with additional output from farming amounting to €262m. Forestry and Aquaculture output is valued at €12m and €4.7m respectively. Agriculture is the second largest employer in the County, with 5,621 working in the Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing sectors. At 10% of Kerry working population, it is 3% higher than South West and double the State (See Map 2.2.8). The map demonstrates the prominence of agriculture, fisheries and forestry employment in the County. Parts of North Kerry and South Kerry have between 30% and 50% of labour force engaged in this sector.

2.2.46 The age profile of farmers is getting older. There are just 7% of farmers under 35 years of age and almost half of the farmer population are over 55 years of age. Kerry is comparable with the State with a slightly lower number of farmers under the 45-age bracket and slightly higher in the older age brackets. For farming to thrive, it will be necessary for younger age groups to be involved in farming.

2.2.47 Kerry is home to 8,412 farms with an average farm size of 34ha. There are over 2,000 dairy farmers in the County producing 450 million litres of milk which represents approximately 9% of all milk production in Ireland. Over 6,000 farmers produce cattle and 2,000 farmers produce sheep (Teagasc 2012). In the County, there are 86,130 dairy cows and 47,338 beef cows. It is important to note that outputs from farms across the county vary significantly. The more fertile land cover in major parts of North Kerry allows higher farm outputs than the less fertile lands found, for example, in large areas of South Kerry.

2.2.48 Farm Families

What type of farm system employed depends upon the geography of soil quality and topography of the land resource. In North and East Kerry, large areas of dry grassland allow for dairy farming which is the most lucrative type of farming in Kerry. Many other parts of the county are characterised by a mix of bog/heath, forest and scrubland which are more suited to, for example, sheep farming. The average family farm income for 47% of farms in Kerry was between €7,023 and €9,676 in 2010 (See Table 2.2.7).

Table 2.2.7 Average family farm income among the main farm types in Kerry and the State, 2010.

Farm Type / System	Average Annual Income 2010 (€)	% of Farms in the State [#]	% of Farms in Kerry [#]
Cattle Rearing	7,023	56	47
Cattle Other	9,676		
Dairy	44,432	11	18
Sheep	12,269	10	17
Mixed Livestock	31,533	11	9
Tillage	36,759	3	1
All	17,771	91 ^a	92 ^a

2.2.49 Historically, especially on smallholdings, off-farm employment has supplemented farm income. Thus, high levels of unemployment have impacted adversely on low-income farm families. Traditionally, construction and manufacturing (requiring low levels of educational attainment) have been an important source of off-farm jobs. As employment in these sectors fell by 60% between 2006 and 2011, farming families have been particularly hard hit.

2.2.50 Low-income farm families will be targeted as part of the overall suite of leader actions aimed at agricultural and rural diversification with the aim of increasing local employment and pluriactivity. There is significant potential for on-farm diversification into production of specialist foods, agri-tourism and energy production. On-farm diversification in Ireland only stands at 1.95% which is much lower than other European countries such as England with 31%. There is also the possibility for education and training programmes designed to increase job opportunities in non-farming occupations to secure off-farm jobs to supplement low farm incomes. This variability is clearly reflected in the farm output figures from the 2010 census of Agriculture. The standard farm output in South Kerry at €17,195 is well below that of the County (€27,458) and the state (€30,620).

2.2.51 Tourism

Tourism is the sector of the economy with the most potential for growth in the short and medium term. Kerry received 846,000 tourists in 2011. Ten percent of Kerry's labour force is employed in hotels and restaurants compared to a national average of 6%. In total there were approximately 7,500 people working in the broader tourism sector in 2014 (13.5%). The rate of dependency on tourism in Kerry had increased by 2.5% in the inter-censal period 2006- 2011. The enterprise tourism dependency rate for Kerry in 2011 at 19% was the highest in the State.

2.2.52 Ireland's tourist product is generally associated with rural based holiday activities; however the expansion in tourist numbers and revenue has largely benefited urban areas with rural tourism remaining a relatively small niche in the overall tourism context. The importance of tourism to rural economies is growing and in some instances is critical to the economy of these areas. The future of rural tourism relies on capitalising on the opportunities presented by growing niche markets which includes the diversification of farm activity.

2.2.53 Kerry's scenic landscape is the corner stone on which its tourism industry is built. The name and the image of the County has captured the imagination of visitors searching for the 'wild', 'remote', 'real' Ireland with open roads, unspoilt culture and countryside – the Irish experience. This landscape provides the back drop to all tourism activities. County Kerry is renowned as a centre for outdoor activities and has a well-established network of long distance walks. Communities' have been involved in identifying and developing routes.

2.2.54 The LAG area is well positioned to become a significant destination for the growing market for culture, heritage and arts based activity holidays. The 'sightseer and culture seeker' market is growing; they are interested in exploring a Country's sights and finding out about its culture and

heritage. This sector of the market is high yield in terms of greater visitor spend and the increased length of time visitors stay in the County. This type of tourism can, if developed, thrive in even the most remote parts of the County.

2.2.55 The Kerry coastline, stretching to over 1000 km has a rich maritime and coastal heritage from shipwrecks, impressive coastal promontory forts, shell middens and ecclesiastical sites that dot the coast. There is also a developed network of coastal and seaside villages along the Atlantic seaboard and the County boasts some 13 of the Country's 81 blue flag beaches in 2015. Given the extent of the County's maritime heritage and the indigenous strengths of the region's coastal environs there is significant capacity to sustainably develop this niche tourist market. Coastal regions in Kerry are already benefiting from the influx of Irish and overseas sea anglers but the potential for growth is considerable

2.2.56 The LAG area has a rich tradition of arts and craft industries including traditional currach making, lace making, and pottery. There is a growing demand by both domestic and foreign visitors for such products. Many crafts workers and artists reside and work in more remote parts of the County, less frequented by tourists and the development of craft and food trails would be hugely beneficial to the success of these enterprises. Food tourism is an expanding sector around the globe and Kerry is well positioned to capture some of this market.

2.2.57 There are two official Gaeltacht areas in the County: Gaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne on the Dingle Peninsula and Gaeltacht Uíbh Ráthaigh on the Iveragh Peninsula, as well as a significant expanding Irish speaking community in the rest of the County. These Gaeltacht areas are rich in language, tradition, literature, folklore, music, historical and archaeological sites, but more importantly, they are the source and wellspring for our national language, a living language of the community for the past 2000 years. There are many opportunities for communities, if given the capacity, to develop its tourism potential.

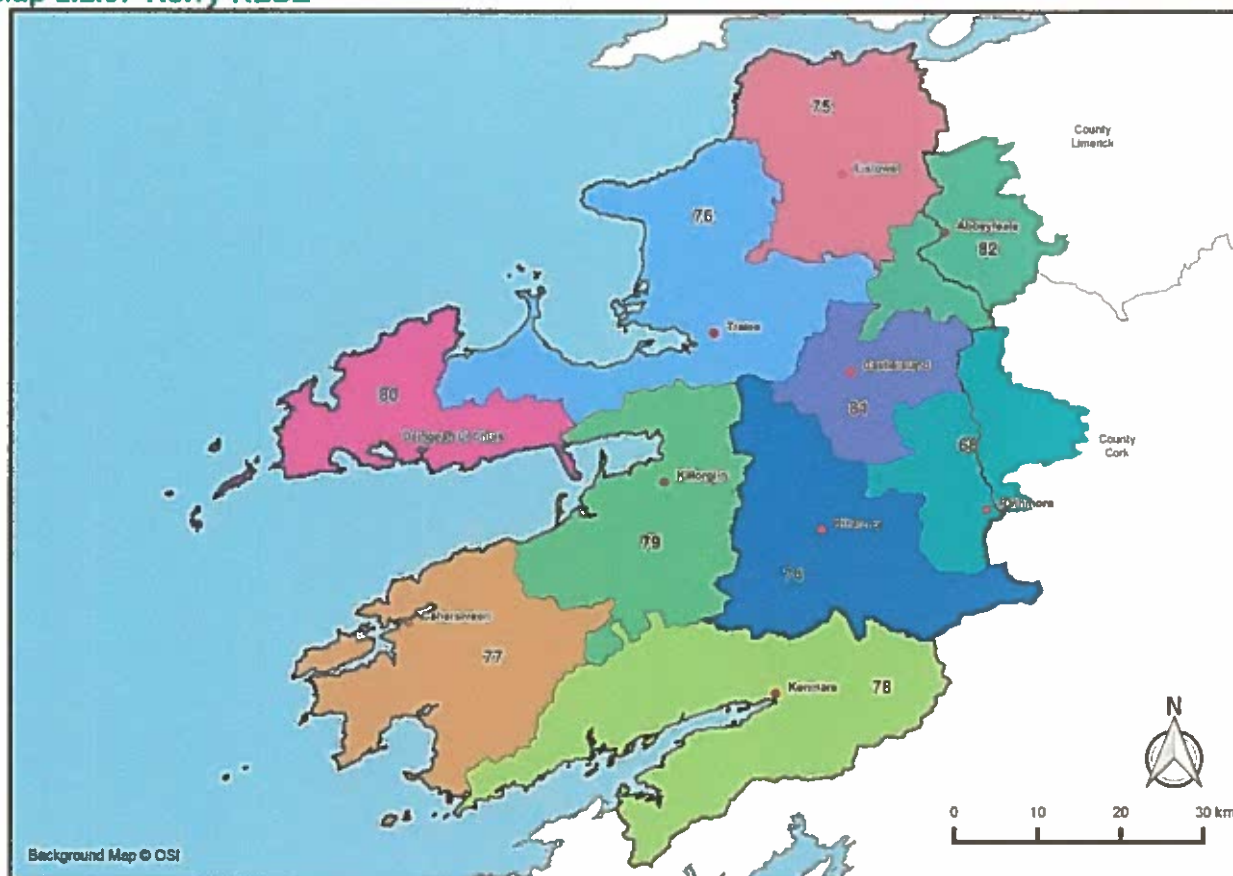
2.2.58 The Wild Atlantic Way is Ireland's first long distance touring route stretching along the Atlantic coast offering major development potential and opportunities for sustainable infrastructural development. The Euro Velo cycling route that connects the whole continent passes through Ireland with the proposed route running from Abbeyfeale-Listowel-Tralee -Dingle (Slea Head)-Ring of Kerry-Beara being developed.

2.2.59 The LAG area has a number of established and new festivals which are unique. Communities have been actively involved in the development of newer festivals. Many towns and villages have various summer and winter festivals. The communities of declining seaside resorts have successfully developed festivals which have made an important contribution to their declining tourist economies. There is significant potential for rural communities across the county to develop their tourism economies in this way.

2.2.60 REDZ

Recommendation 5 of the CEDRA report for the establishment of Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZs) was "to enhance the capacity for local communities to contribute to and take ownership of local economic development by creating local strategic economic development plans". Minister Phelan described this as being "a real "bottom-up" approach and will allow rural communities to actively participate in and drive their local economies"

Map 2.2.9: Kerry REDZ



2.2.61 The DECLG website (environ.ie) describes the REDZ as functional rather than administrative areas that reflect the spatial patterns of local economic activities and development processes, i.e. they are the sub-county zones within which most people live and work. There are eight REDZ which are located completely within the County Kerry border (See Map 2.2.9). These are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) REDZ 74 – Killarney Area | f) REDZ 79 – Killorglin Area |
| b) REDZ 75 – Listowel Area | g) REDZ 80 – Daingean Uí Chúis Area |
| c) REDZ 76 – Tralee Area | h) REDZ 81 – Castleisland Area |
| d) REDZ 77 – Cahersiveen Area | |
| e) REDZ 78 – Kenmare Area | |

2.2.62 There are also two REDZ which are partially located within the County Kerry border. These are:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| a) REDZ 68 – Rathmore Area | b) REDZ 82 – Abbeyfeale Area |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|

2.2.63 Rural communities realise the potential of tourism to their economies and the future of their communities. They have demonstrated their willingness to take an active and successful part in developing tourism. It is a LEADER objective to develop the capacity of rural communities to drive tourism in even the most remote parts of Kerry.

2.3 Key Services / Programmes

2.3.1 Statutory:

This section presents an overview of the key statutory and community services in the LDS area.

2.3.2 Education Services:

- a) In Kerry there are 134 National Schools. There are 3 special schools, St. Ita's & St. Joseph's National School in Tralee, St. Francis Special School in Beaufort, and Nano Nagle National School in Listowel.
- b) Secondary schools are spread across the county, with the main towns of Tralee, Killarney and Listowel each having at least 1 secondary school, with other secondary schools located in Ballybunion, Castleisland, Dingle, Killorglin, and Milltown. Kerry Education & Training Board also has schools in Castleisland, Causeway, Cahersiveen, Tralee, Killarney, Killorglin and Listowel. In addition there is 1 boarding school for girls, Coláiste Íde in Dingle.
- c) The LDS area is well serviced by 3rd level education with an Institute of Technology in Tralee. The Institute has three schools; Business Computing & Humanities; Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics; and Health & Social Sciences. The university cities of Cork and Limerick are also accessible from Kerry, with both of these cities also home to Institutes of Technology.
- d) There are libraries in Tralee (Headquarters), Ballybunion, Cahersiveen, Castleisland, Dingle, Kenmare, Killarney, Killorglin and Listowel. These libraries offer varying levels of service and opening hours. A mobile library service also operates in the County, with two libraries travelling to a detailed schedule.
- e) The Kerry Education and Training Board provide a range of educational programmes and services in the areas of adult education, further education and secondary education. An adult guidance service is also provided.
- f) Kerry College of Further Education in Tralee offers full-time accredited Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses with other centres around the county all offering similar courses.
- g) The Equality for Women Measure (EWM): an initiative of the Department of Justice and Equality and is managed by the Department and Pobal offers accredited and non-accredited modules.

2.3.3 Youth Services:

- a) The Kerry ETB works with local youth work organisations and groups to support the development of youth work programmes and facilities.
- b) Xistance Youth Café, supported by NEWKD provides a safe alcohol free space for young people to meet and engage in activities. The cafe also provides a range of supports, activities and programmes around areas such as leadership (programme with NUI), mental health and well being, and substance misuse
- c) The Kerry Diocesan Youth Service (KDYS) is a voluntary youth work organisation founded by the Diocese of Kerry. KDYS provides a wide range of activities for all young people in the region. They have 5 centres in the County, Tralee, Killarney, Killorglin, Listowel and Castleisland.
- d) Macra Na Feirme is a voluntary organisation for young people between the ages of 17 and 35, and has clubs in Kerry.

2.3.4 Health Services:

- a) There are a large number of GPs working in the LDS area with SouthDoc providing out of hours and weekend services. SouthDoc has treatment centres in 9 towns in the County.
- b) In Kerry there are HSE Health Centres located in the following communities: Ardfert, Ballinskelligs, Cahersiveen, Causeway, Glenbeigh, Kenmare, Killarney, Killorglin, Listowel, Rathmore, Sneem, Tralee and Waterville.
- c) Primary Care services refer to health and social care services provided outside of the hospital setting. This includes Public Health Nurses, Therapists, Social Workers and a range of other health professionals. There are Primary Care Teams in Castleisland, Iveragh, Kenmare, Kerry Head, Killarney, Killorglin-Milltown, North Kerry, Tralee, and West Kerry.

- d) For mental health services there are hostels, training centres, clinics, day hospitals, day centres, and child and adolescent psychiatry provided by the HSE in various locations around the county.
- e) Pieta House in Tralee is a not for profit centre for the prevention of suicide and self-harm. This Mental Health Organisation helps people who have suffered, or are suffering, from mental health problems. There are weekly meetings in Dingle, Killorglin (every 2 weeks), Tralee, and Killarney.

2.3.5 Disability Services:

A number of disability services relating to intellectual disability, autism, physical and sensory disability, and children's disability services are provided by the HSE across the County.

2.3.6 Child and Family Services

- a) Tusla is the statutory Child and Family Agency with responsibility for: child protection and welfare services; services for children in care and adoption; family support and "early years" inspection services; educational welfare services; domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence services. Tusla have an office in Tralee.
- b) The Kerry County Childcare Committee (KCCC) is the first point of contact for anyone involved in childcare including childcare providers and students and parents. KCCC is funded by the Government to deliver early childhood care and education programmes which support children and families. On its website there is an extensive list of childcare providers in the county.
- c) There are 12 Family Resource Centres (FRCs) in the LDS area spread across the county. Key services provided by the FRCs include: family support services, education and training opportunities, after-school clubs, and childcare facilities.
- d) Playgrounds located in the LDS area are as follows: Tarbert, Listowel, Ballybunion, Ballyheigue, Ardfert, Fenit, Tralee, Castleisland, Brandon, Milltown, Killorglin, Cromane, Rossbeigh, Cahersiveen, Valentia Island, Killarney, Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville, The Glen, Lixnaw, Fossa, Rathmore, and Moyvane.
- e) Kerry Children Services Committee (CSC) was established in 2010 as a partnership of agencies working together to improve the lives of children, young people and families in County Kerry. The purpose of the initiative is to improve outcomes for children and to ensure that all children in Kerry are:
 - i) Healthy both mentally & physically
 - ii) Supported in active learning
 - iii) Safe from accidental or intentional harm & secure in the immediate & wider physical environment
 - iv) Economically secure
 - v) Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community & included in participating in society.

2.3.7 Information Services

Citizens' Information Centres provide information, advice and advocacy on a broad range of public and social services, rights and entitlements. In Kerry, Citizen's Information Centres are located in Tralee, Killarney, Listowel, Dingle, Killorglin, Cahersiveen, and Kenmare.

2.3.8 Services for Non-Irish Nationals:

- a) The Killarney Asylum Seekers Initiative (KASI) supports asylum seekers, refugees, migrant workers and their families; and facilitates their integration into the community and the Tralee International Resource Centre supports integration in Tralee by providing a drop in facility and services for the international community, through interagency co-operation.
- b) Fáilte Isteach is a community-based project where volunteers welcome migrants to the community through conversational English classes, with classes run in Kerry in Cahersiveen and Killarney.

2.3.9 Employment Supports

- a) The Department of Social Protection provides a wide range of income supports and employment services to job seekers, people on low incomes, lone parents, people with disabilities, older people, and people wishing to return to education. Department of Social Protection local offices are located in Dingle, Killorglin, Cahersiveen, Kenmare, Listowel, Tralee and Killarney.
- b) In particular, schemes such as the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance, Back to Education Allowance, and the Back to College Initiative for Job Seekers support unemployed people to progress from the live register to education or self-employment. The Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme is implemented in the LDS area by North, East and West Kerry Development, South Kerry Development Partnership, and IRD Duhallow.
- c) Intreo Offices, managed by the Department of Social Protection, offer help with employment and income support services needs including; advice on education, training, job search assistance and information and access to a range of income supports. Intreo offices are located in Cahersiveen, Kenmare, Listowel, Tralee and Killarney.
- d) The Department of Social Protection also funds a number of work placement programmes, including the Community Employment Scheme; TÚS – the Community Work Placement Initiative; Jobsbridge; and Gateway.
- e) South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd and North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd operate Local Employment Services under contract to Dept. of Social Protection. South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd delivers the service from Cahersiveen, Killorglin, Killarney & Kenmare. North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd deliver the service from Tralee and as required to Castleisland, Listowel and Dingle. The service focuses on Job Seekers Allowance & Job Seekers Benefit, Young Unemployed, Low-Income Smallholders, People with Disabilities, Lone Parents, Travellers, Ex-Offenders, Women Returnees, and Qualifying Dependents. It assists those most disadvantaged in the labour market into employment by the provision of specialist high quality support and locally responsive services. It also assists those persons referred from the Dept. of Social Protection to return to employment through a series of educational and back to work supports.
- f) Jobs Clubs provide a service to assist jobseekers to enter / re-enter employment through the provision of individualised supports, a 'drop in' service and formal workshops. The Jobs Club service enables jobseekers to take positive steps towards realising their career plans and to explore and follow-up employment opportunities. Jobs Clubs provide active, practical and participative supports under the guidance and supervision of a Jobs Club leader. There are Jobs Clubs in Killarney, Tralee, Listowel and Castleisland.
- g) The Kerry Education and Training Board provide extensive adult educational training services in centres across the county including: Dingle, Kenmare, Killarney, Killorglin, Listowel, Cahersiveen, Waterville, Causeway and Tralee.
- h) The Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) is a personal money advice service which aims to support people to address personal debt. There are MABS offices in Tralee and Killarney.

2.3.10 Enterprise Services:

- a) Based in Tralee, the Local Enterprise Office (LEO), operates as the first stop shop for persons interested in setting up an enterprise, and provides support and services to help start, grow and develop micro businesses. Together with information on State supports, the LEO provides financial supports, management development, mentoring and business skills training.
- b) The Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme (BTWEA) assists unemployed people to become self-employed. Individuals who are setting up their own business and who qualify for the BTWEA scheme may retain a percentage of their social

- welfare payment for up to 2 years. In the LDS area the scheme is administered by South Kerry Development Partnership and North, East and West Kerry Development.
- c) The Kerry Businesswomen's Network (KBN) was established in 2006. Today KBN is one of Ireland largest female networking organisations with over 100 members. The network is a non-profit organisation and acts as a catalyst to encourage positive growth within female owned, operated or managed businesses based in the Kerry Region.
- d) Teagasc provides integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural communities; the LDS area is serviced by offices in Tralee, Killarney and Listowel.

2.3.11 Social Enterprise:

Many community services include an element of social enterprise such as laundrettes, childcare etc. Where social enterprise is only one part of the services offered by an organisation, these organisations are listed under their primary service function.

- a) There are three Community Enterprise Centres in Kerry, the KTI Centre in Killarney, the Mart Society Cahersiveen and the Kerry Food Hub in Fries which are all members of the National Association of Community Enterprise Centres and funded by Enterprise Ireland.
- b) The Sliabh Luachra Community Enterprise Centre in Castleisland that hosts the REVAMP Furniture Recycling Project is a community services enterprise that provides employment for the traveller community in Castleisland while meeting the household furniture needs of low income families in Kerry and also reducing the amount of large household waste in landfill.
- c) Voluntary Housing Associations make a significant contribution to social housing needs across the county with responsibility for an estimated 559 units.
- d) Duhallow Community Food Services is an award winning community enterprise providing a subsidised meal service to those that are not in a position to cook for themselves, and those who are isolated because of age, illness, lack of transport or other disadvantages that may arise as a result in living in a rural area. In order to supplement the cost of producing the "meals on wheels" service, Duhallow Community Food Services expanded the business into two other key facets, bakery and contract catering.
- e) Teach Iosagain is a community based facility operated by a Social Action Group. The group runs, among other services, a Care of the Older Adults' programme. The programme includes a laundry service, twenty-seven sheltered houses, the Day Care Centre and a Meals-On-Wheels service. It also provides services to the mentally ill.

2.3.12 Access and Transport:

- a) Kerry is one of 18 Units nationally following the Restructuring of the Rural Transport Programme. The main focus of restructuring is to protect the future provision of rural transport services, reduce administrative overhead costs while concurrently establishing an improved structure to facilitate the national integration of rural transport, thus realising the potential for improved synergies across a range of Exchequer funded and local rural transport services. What was Kerry Community Transport has now become a Transport Co-ordination Unit (TCU) for the County - Local Link Kerry. Kerry Community Transport Ltd (KCT) provides community transport bus services throughout Kerry. Services, which are community led, are set up to link individuals living in rural communities with local services and facilities. Kerry Community Transport operates 125 scheduled services throughout the county.
- b) There are bus services to Cork and beyond from Tralee via Killarney, and there are also intercity bus routes between Tralee/Killarney and Limerick. Bus Éireann operates bus services to the towns in the LDS area with some routes catering for tourists during the summer. A private operator, Dublin Coach, has begun operating a bus

- service to Dublin/Dublin Airport from both Tralee and Killarney, with Citylink operating a route between Killarney and Galway recently.
- c) There is a train line running from Tralee eastwards to Mallow where it connects with the Cork-Dublin line. There are stations at Tralee, Farranfore, Killarney, and Rathmore. Trains either serve Dublin directly or connect with Dublin-Cork trains in Mallow. They run approximately every 2 hours.
 - d) Fenit Port is a deep sea port with a minimum of 5m draft which regularly caters for ships up to 15,000 tonnes. There are about 17 shipments per year. This is almost totally due to the export of container cranes manufactured by Liebherr Group an Irish subsidiary, based in Killarney, which are shipped all over the world.
 - e) Kerry Airport is a regional airport centrally located in the heart of County Kerry. Kerry Airport currently offers scheduled direct flights to Dublin, London-Stansted, London-Luton and Frankfurt-Hahn with additional flights to Alicante & Faro during the summer months.

2.3.13 Community Safety and Security:

The Kerry Garda Division has stations in Ardfert, Annascaul, Cahersiveen, Ballybunion, Ballyduff, Ballyferriter, Ballyheigue, Tarbert, Barraduff, Killarney, Knocknagoshel, Castlegregory, Castleisland, Castlemaine, Dingle, Farranfore, Glenbeigh, Kenmare, Killorglin, Listowel, Lixnaw, Sneem, Portmagee, and Waterville. The total number of stations in the county has reduced in recent years with the closure of some small rural stations.

2.3.14 Broadband Provision:

The County is served with broadband fibre optic connectivity to the trunk and junction network of the Country's main switching centres. Tralee can facilitate international e-commerce businesses. Important also is the availability of high speed broadband services suitable for multinational companies including local area networks (LAN) connected to a wide area network (WAN). According to the 2011 census, 54.6% of households in County Kerry had broadband connectivity compared with 63% nationally. County Kerry was omitted from a national project that would bring 100Mbps to secondary schools in Ireland.

2.3.15 The 2011 census, reported that 54.6% of households in the LAG area had broadband connectivity compared with 63% nationally. Broadband provision in many rural areas is substandard and in areas that are more peripheral it is unavailable. The lack of access to high-speed broadband will undermine any efforts to secure economic growth in rural areas (See Map 2.1.5).

2.3.16 Community Services

The LDS area has a well-developed community infrastructure. While statistics on volunteers were not recorded in the 2011 census, 25,543 people in the LDS area classified themselves as volunteers in the 2006 census with 77% of these involved in multiple voluntary activities:

- a) Details on the number of Community Groups in the County (See Appendix 11.2.6: Table).
- b) The Community Services Programme (CSP) supports social enterprises and community organisations to deliver local services to their communities and to employ people from disadvantaged groups. In the LDS area, the following are beneficiaries of the CSP: Ballyheigue Social Economy Enterprises Limited, Ballyspillane Community & Family Resource Centre Limited, Beehive Theatre Company Limited, Cahersiveen Community Resource Centre Limited, Comhchoiste Ghaeltachtaí Chiarraí Theas Teoranta, Cunamh Energy Action Limited, Kerry Flyer Limited, Knocknagoshel Sports & Recreational Association Limited, Listowel Community Centre Limited, North and East Kerry Leader Partnership Teoranta, Over the Water Sports Centre Limited Social Action Group Rathmore Limited, Tralee Community Care Action Limited, and Valentia Community Health & Welfare Association Limited.

- c) Kerry Volunteer Centre is a collaborative countywide programme to enhance volunteering by providing support to community and voluntary organisations. It supports the sustainment and development of community responses by identifying and making connections with potential volunteers.
- d) Kerry Recreation & Sports Partnership encourages, promotes and supports the people of Kerry to participate in sport and physical activity, providing information and training, and implementing, coordinating and supporting a wide variety of programmes, activities and initiatives across the county. They seek to develop a pro-active culture towards active living. Through consultation with organisations and individuals, both at local and national level, the needs of and opportunities for the people of Kerry are discussed. As a result they develop, co-ordinate, and jointly deliver and support programmes, courses and activities for individuals, organisations and communities.
- e) The Equality for Women Measure (EWM) supported by North East and West Kerry Development is a positive action programme for women, which aims to advance the role of women in decision making, at all levels throughout Irish society. The objectives of the EWM are to generate funding, to support positive actions which improve women's opportunities, and to improve access rates for women in education, training and ultimately employment.
- f) Community of Excellence in Mental Health and Well Being. This project provided the chosen community Ballyduff (via application process) with a range of both community and mental health supports to develop and enhance mental health wellbeing within the community. The project took place over 18 months and its success will be replicated in other communities going forward.
- g) The Kerry Social Farming Project helps build closer links between the farming community & people with additional needs. In Social Farming, the farm remains a working farm at its core but invites people with additional needs to participate in the activities of the farm. The Kerry Social Farming project has established a number (8 currently) of Social Farms in County Kerry, where people with additional needs/intellectual disabilities can spend time, work and enjoy the experience of being with animals and plants in a safe and friendly environment. The Kerry Social Farming project is being promoted through a working group which consists of members from South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North East & West Kerry Development Ltd, Kerry Parents & Friends, St John of God Kerry Services, Cunamh Iveragh, Kerry Down Syndrome and host farmers.

2.3.17 Environmental Services

- a) Kerry County Council is participating in an Intelligent Energy Europe project called Smart Reflex. This project aims at increasing the diffusion of flexible district heating and cooling systems using a high share of renewable energy sources in European cities and towns. District heating enables utilization of locally sourced biomass and other renewable energy sources. The project commenced in March 2014 and will run for a period of 36 months. This project is part funded under the Intelligent Energy Europe programme.
- b) Transition Kerry is part of a local, national & international initiative working together to get local communities to think about making themselves more resilient, in response to three major issues that are happening in our world: climate change, peak oil and economic decline.
- c) IRD Duhallow Warmer Homes Scheme provides energy efficiency improvements in the homes of the elderly and vulnerable, making their homes more comfortable, healthier and more cost effective to run. IRD Duhallow has delivered insulation services under the Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme (BEWHS) since 2006. This service is provided free of charge to eligible householders. IRD Duhallow administers this service across all of North Cork, South Limerick and Kerry.

- d) IRD Duhallow has successfully applied to SEAI for funding to deliver deeper energy efficiency measures to groups of houses and community-buildings in partnership with local authorities, utility providers, local communities and community based organisations.
- e) The MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum is a representative management forum designed to protect, manage and sustainably develop the MacGillycuddy Reeks. It is an initiative of Comhairle na Tuaithe and is led locally by South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd. The forum consists of a number of partners ranging from SKDP, KCC, DECLG, landowners, community representatives, elected officials, state bodies and other interested parties. The Forum's vision is to cater for the growing number of visitors to the MacGillycuddy Reeks while minimising the environmental impact and creating opportunities for local communities, enterprise and businesses through several actions.

2.3.18 Tourism Infrastructure:

- a) In the LDS area, there are two Fáilte Ireland tourist offices with the main tourist office - The Discover Ireland Centre - in Killarney. There are also tourist offices of varying scale located in Kenmare, Valentia, Tarbert, Listowel, Killorglin and Cahersiveen.
- b) The LDS area has 44 walking and cycling trails listed under the Irish Trails Office approved National Trails.
- c) There are six national monuments open to the public in the LDS Area: Carrigafoyle Castle, Listowel Castle, Ardfert Monastery, Reask Monastic Site, Ross Castle, and Skellig Michael which is a World Heritage Site.
- d) Killarney National Park is one of 6 National Parks in Ireland. The focal point for Killarney National Park would be Muckross House and Gardens. Killarney National Park contains many features of national and international importance such as the native oak woods and yew woods together with an abundance of evergreen trees and shrubs and a profusion of bryophytes and lichens which thrive in the mild Killarney climate. The native red deer are unique in Ireland with a presence in the country since the last Ice Age. Killarney National Park was designated as a Biosphere Reserve in 1981 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), part of a world network of natural areas which have conservation, research, education and training as major objectives.
- e) The Kerry International Dark Sky Reserve has been designated Ireland's first International Dark Sky Reserve located in the Iveragh Peninsula and is one of only three gold tier reserves on the planet and the only gold tier reserve in the Northern Hemisphere.
- f) GoKerry is an all Kerry tourism organisation giving a voice to businesses, individuals and communities promoting Kerry as Ireland's most vibrant tourism destination. GoKerry is supported by tourism providers county-wide, Kerry County Council, Fáilte Ireland, South Kerry Development Partnership, North, East & West Kerry Development, IRD Duhallow, Údaras na Gaeltachta, DSP, IT Tralee, Local Enterprise Office
- g) The Tourism Development & Built Infrastructure Unit of Kerry County Council was established in 2014 to promote further economic development in Kerry by facilitating the development and promotion of a sustainable and diversified tourism industry, through the establishment of effective partnerships and collaborations with Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland and the local tourism trade, developing new tourism initiatives, enhancing existing tourism infrastructure and ensuring an acceptable standard of environment for locals and visitors. This Unit has also set up a Destination Kerry Tourism Forum, to be an umbrella body for tourism in the county. In co-operation with Destination Kerry Forum Kerry County Council is in the process of developing an integrated Tourism Strategy & Action Plan 2016 – 2020 to support the expansion of tourism in Kerry.

- h) An Assets Register of tourist related infrastructure & services' providers is being formulated to aid in enhancing the tourism experience of visitors. It includes the varied forms of Tourism in our county some of which are Eco & Marine, Astro, Adventure, Recreation, Amenity, Activities, Craft, Food, Culture, Heritage & Attractions.
- i) There are 32 Discovery Points along the Wild Atlantic Way including two designated Iconic Viewing Points in Co. Kerry - Bray Head, Valentia Island and Dunquin which are being developed.
- j) MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum (See 2.3.17 Environmental Services (e)).

2.4 Area Needs / Analysis

2.4.1 It is clear that as the economy improves the current trend in increased economic activity and job creation will continue. This is evidenced in the huge drop in unemployment. However, a significant portion of the LAG area, due to historically low levels of investment and economic activity, will not benefit from economic growth to the same extent as other less peripheral areas unless economic and social deficits identified here are addressed.

2.4.2 The key infrastructural deficit facing the LAG area is the limited availability of high-speed broadband in much of rural Kerry. This is a real impediment to economic growth and the creation of new enterprises. If available, high speed broadband would facilitate the development of economic enterprise and educational resources. With so many social and economic services moving online, lack of access to reliable high speed broadband inhibits rural resident's ability to access these services and compounds the access issues arising from peripherality and physical remoteness.

2.4.3 Kerry's dispersed settlement pattern coupled with the relatively low level of urbanisation makes it difficult to provide economically viable inter-County public transport. Transport is crucial to the development of communities, and the accessibility of services and employment.

2.4.4 Kerry's renewable energy resources allow for the production of electricity, heat and transport fuel. This is an opportunity for the growth of small enterprises. It provides an opportunity for communities to benefit from the development of reduced energy costs. The development of renewable energies will also contribute to reducing the carbon foot print of the LAG.

2.4.5 Tourism provides real opportunities for substantial and enduring economic growth. The varied nature of the County's tourism offer provides opportunities for employment in the most rural of areas, and the increase in spend necessary to support rural towns and villages. A number of sectors of tourism cannot realise their tourist potential without investment in tourism infrastructure. This is particularly the case with maritime and inland water tourism. Cultural, heritage and eco-tourism are, in many ways, only in the early stages of development, and have the potential to extend the tourist season to encompass the majority of the year.

2.4.6 In addition to tourism, the LAG area needs to develop new enterprises to expand into traditional employment areas such as engineering, manufacturing, creative and knowledge-based industries. However, this will only happen if barriers to growth are removed. In the LAG area barriers include poor connectivity, insufficient business support networks, a lack of access to adequate financing and facilities for expansion. Provision for the development of small and medium sized rural enterprises in rural areas is made in the Kerry County Development Plan (2015-2021).

2.4.7 There is a direct correlation between population density and access to services. The LAG area has a dispersed settlement pattern which creates challenges to providing cost effective services. The recent decline in public funding and services has compounded a situation where service provision has historically been lower than in urban areas, or in areas from which large service centres cannot easily be accessed. While, services cannot be provided everywhere, there

is a need to ensure that appropriate infrastructure is in place, and community based organisations have the necessary capacity to contribute to the needs of their populations. In particular, service provision with an emphasis on cultural, social, recreation, education and training.

2.4.8 The changing economic profile in The LAG area presents two challenges. The first challenge is the decline in the numbers of people under the age of 25. 31% percent (45,663 persons) in the LAG area are under 25 years old compared to 33% for the State. The difficulty in the retention of young people can be attributed to the need to access employment centres, social activities and educational facilities.

2.4.9 The second challenge is the growth in the over 65 cohorts. 14.8% of Kerry's population is over 65 years and 47.2% of it's population is in the 40 to 99 years cohorts. Birth rates in the LAG area are low. The number of older people has contributed to a higher age dependency than the national average. Nationally it is projected that Ireland's population over the age of 65 will double in the next twenty years. Service provision will need to adapt to cater for the needs of an aging population. However, it should be noted that the over 65's have a lot to offer and contribute significantly to the work of community organisations.

2.4.10 Kerry is one of the counties with the lowest levels of disposable income per capita in the country. North Kerry, the Iveragh peninsula, and the majority of rural areas outside the influence of Tralee, Killarney, Killorglin Dingle and Kenmare, exhibit higher levels of deprivation. The economic dependency ratio is also highest in these areas. Good access to services reduces the effects of low income, isolation and disability.

2.4.11 47% percent of farms in Kerry have an income below €9,676. The availability of off- farm employment needs to grow, and farming activity needs to diversify to supplement low farm incomes. Only approximately 2% of farms in Ireland have diversified. There is considerable opportunity for farms to diversify into enterprises related to tourism, eco-tourism and food production if the business environment increases the capacity of farmers to invest in new markets.

2.4.12 Conclusion

There is clearly huge potential for the development of small and medium enterprises in areas such as tourism, renewable energy, farm diversification and traditional employment sectors. The success in the development of these sectors depends on the extent to which infrastructural deficits, particularly broadband, are met.

2.4.13 The deficit in the provision of services is equally important to reduce the impacts of deprivation, and the needs arising from the change in the demographic profile of the LAG area. Supports are clearly needed by the under 25 age group and the 65+ age cohorts. Economic and social development will improve the quality of life and contribute to the growth of the economy.

2.5 LDS Boundary Area

2.5.1 LDS Boundary Map (See Appendix 11.2.7: Map).

2.5.2 Electoral Districts List (See Appendix 11.2.8: Table).

3.0 SECTION 3: Participative planning

3.1 Public Consultation:

3.1.1 The Kerry LAG recognises the importance of the active engagement and participation of Kerry citizens in the sustainable development of their communities and the opportunity for them to input meaningfully into the design, development and implementation of the Kerry LEADER local Development strategy. The Local Community Development Committee has supported both the efforts of the three programme implementing partners in Kerry, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow in the comprehensive public consultation processes undertaken by each implementing partner and the various community consultations processes undertaken by Kerry County Council.

3.1.2 Number and Type of consultation events held:

In keeping with the Community Led Local Development (CLLD) approach of LEADER, the programme implementing partners in County Kerry, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd & IRD Duhallow undertook a comprehensive consultation process at a local level to ensure the local development strategy was informed by the active engagement & participation of rural communities across the county. In addition to the LEADER specific consultation events held by the three implementing partners, Kerry County Council & the LAG also undertook a number of public consultation events, the results of which have fed into the development of the LEADER local development strategy for the county (See Table 3.1.1).

Table 3.1.1: Consultation events

Consultation Events
Community Consultations Events (LEADER Specific) – Implementing Partners
81 individual community consultations – Directly engaging 572 individuals in attendance representing over 200 community & voluntary organisations. Over 4,000 individuals indirectly engaged.
Enterprise Consultation Events (LEADER Specific) – Implementing Partners
12 Consultation events – with a total of over 226 businesses met
Stakeholder Workshop Events
2 Stakeholder Consultation Forum/events - engaging community, statutory, business, environmental interests, Local Authority including Development Companies, Family Resource Centres, HSE, Members of PPN Secretariat, ADAPT, An Garda Síochána, CEDRA, Education Centre, Enable Ireland, ITT, KASI, KDYS, CSC, Citizens Information, Kerry Community Transport, County Childcare Committee, Kerry Disability Network, Kerry Mental Health, Kerry Parents & Friends, Kerry Travellers, Kerry Volunteer Centre, KETB, MABS, National Parents Council, TIRC.
LAG Workshop Event
1 workshop event Involving LAG members representing community, business, farming, statutory agencies, environmental, local authority and local development.
Tourism Strategy – Public Meetings – Kerry County Council
9 public meetings & 7 working groups engaging 61 individual groups.
Public meetings In each Municipal Area - LECP
4 public meetings in each of the 4 Municipal District Areas engaging members of the public and PPN Registered Community Groups and PPN Secretariat Members in each Municipal District Area.
Community & Citizen Survey
1 event engaging directly with 104 community & voluntary groups (representing a combined membership of 4,000 individuals) and 1,000 individuals.

Focused Group Meetings - LECP

4 focus group meetings engaging individuals representing County Childcare Committee, SKDP, NEWKD, Udaras na Gaeltachta, PPN Secretariat Reps, HSE, Kerry Education Services, KDYS, Kerry Travellers Development Project, TIRC, KASI, An Garda Síochána, KCC Housing, KCC Staff (Environment, Operations, County Library, Fire Service, Arts, KRSP, Tourism), PPN Secretariat Reps, KDYS, NEWKD, SKDP, HSE.

3.1.3 The format of the community consultation events was participatory in nature to promote meaningful engagement and to ensure the active participation of the local community in identifying the challenges and opportunities of their local areas. Whilst the exact format of the meetings in each implementing partners geographic area varied, typically the format of these meetings consisted of an introduction to the new LEADER programme, key theme and sub-thematic areas, review of previous plans/work undertaken by the community and open discussion on key economic, social and environmental challenges facing the community and identification of sustainable development opportunities.

3.1.4 In addition to the eighty-one specific community consultation events, twelve enterprise consultation events were held in a number of geographic locations throughout the county. The purpose of these enterprise consultation events was twofold;- Raise awareness amongst the business community/business interests with regard to the economic/enterprise development opportunities through LEADER and afford an opportunity to those wishing to either establish a new enterprise or sustain/expand an existing enterprise to discuss their potential projects in detail with staff of the implementing partners and explore opportunities for LEADER support. The enterprise consultation events provided the implementing partners with an important overview of both the challenges facing the business sector in the County and the type of supports required.

3.1.5 On October 12th 2015 – the Kerry Local Community Development Committee held a half day LEADER strategy development workshop. The workshop was attended by CEOs of the three implementing partners and members of the Kerry Local Community Development Committee. The purpose of the workshop was to support the development of the Kerry LEADER Local Development Strategy by identifying key priorities for the county within each sub-theme of the programme. The format of the workshop consisted of a presentation on the programme themes & sub themes and the key features of LEADER, (café style) workshops on each programme theme where participants (having been divided into three groups) had an opportunity to identify and discuss three key priorities under each programme sub theme and general feedback at the end of the workshop on the priorities identified.

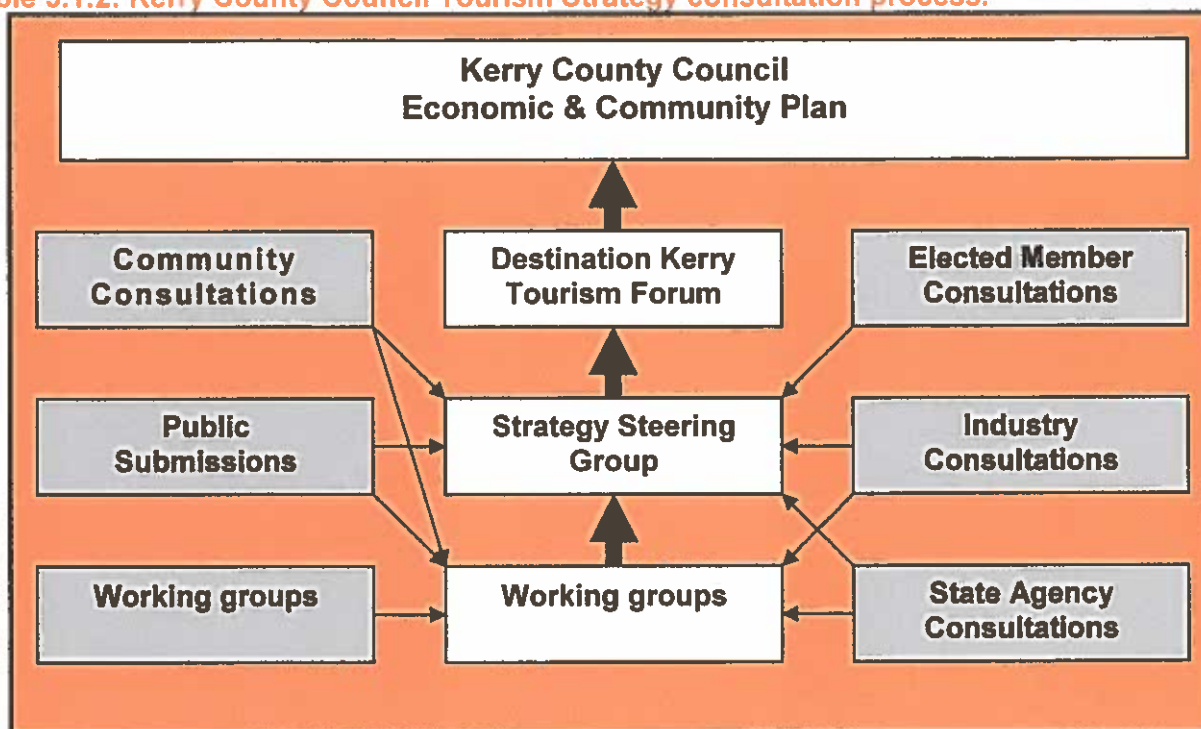
3.1.6 Kerry County Council is currently engaged in an ongoing process (See Table 3.1.2) of consultation for the development of a countywide Tourism Strategy. Kerry County Council's overarching strategic themes include the following:

- a) To protect and enhance Kerry's natural environment.
- b) To provide a world class experience for the visitor.
- c) The Tourism Sector, local communities and the State Agencies working together.
- d) Embracing new up-to-date technologies for both the visitor and research purposes.
- e) To ensure the continued success of the Tourism Sector for the county.

3.1.7 In May 2015, Kerry County Council held nine public consultation meetings throughout the County as part of the process of developing a tourism strategy for the County. These meetings were widely publicised and were facilitated by Kerry County Council staff and supported by Fáilte Ireland. The meetings were held in Castleisland, Listowel, Killarney, Rathmore, Cahersiveen, Tralee, Daingean Uí Chúis, Kenmare and Killorglin. Of the 61 groups involved 44 have made written submissions.

3.1.8 Furthermore, Kerry County Council established seven working groups in the areas of Adventure Tourism, Natural & Cultural Heritage, Education, Branding & Marketing, Community Tourism, Events & Festivals, Infrastructure & Enterprise.

Table 3.1.2: Kerry County Council Tourism Strategy consultation process.



3.1.9 As part of the stakeholder engagement and in preparation of the higher level goals for the LECP, various interest groups were consulted under the umbrella of the Local Community Development Committee. The public consultation utilised a number of different approaches, including public meetings in each Municipal district, online consultation and stakeholder consultation workshops and focused group meetings. Whilst the focus of these meetings was preparation for the formation of the higher level Kerry LECP goals and the identification of key actions under each goal, the goals and key actions identified are relevant to and have informed the development of the Kerry LEADER Local Development Strategy.

3.1.10 South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd (as part of a major study on the issue of rural vibrancy undertaken independently by Mary Immaculate College University of Limerick throughout 2013 & 2014) surveyed 1,000 South Kerry citizens and 104 Community & Voluntary organisations across South Kerry (with a combined membership in excess of 4,000). The survey afforded both members of the general public and community & voluntary organisations an opportunity to provide their perspectives on the vibrancy of their rural areas utilising a range of economic, social & environmental indicators of rural vibrancy and comment on the most significant challenges facing their communities. The findings from the study (O'Keeffe, B. (2015) *Rural Vibrancy in North-West Europe – The Case of South Kerry*) have informed the development of the Kerry LEADER local development strategy.

3.1.11 Inclusive process that involved key stakeholders:

All consultation events were promoted and well publicised to raise awareness of the process amongst all key stakeholders. The community consultation events saw individual meetings held in each community. These meetings were publicised locally using a variety of different means (Parish Newsletter, Church notes/newsletter, Parish/Community website, local notices in parish halls, word of mouth etc.). Community groups directly contacted by the implementing partners were also encouraged to invite other community groups active in the local area. The inclusive nature of these

community consultation meetings can be ascertained from the array of groups represented at these consultation events (See Table 3.1.3).

Table 3.1.3: Consultation Groups

Community Development Organisations (Co-Ops, Community Councils etc.)	Community / Family Resource Centres
Community Centres	Tidy Towns
Women's Groups	Men's Shed
Preschool / Crèche / Playgroup	Youth Groups
Playground / Community Field	Active Retired
Recreational Groups	Residents Associations
Community Alert	Heritage / Folklore
Health & Well Being / Social Care	Parish Magazine
Festivals	Graveyard / Grotto Committees
Tourism Groups	Disability Groups

3.1.12 The significant number of consultation events held, combined with the use of varied consultation methodologies and the specific targeting of marginalised groups and peripheral geographic communities has ensured an inclusive process in which all key stakeholders were engaged. The range of consultation events held coupled with the different formats utilised have engaged a diverse range of community & voluntary type organisations as identified in the table above, business interests ranging from chambers of commerce/business networks to individuals wishing to develop their business ideas, key statutory agencies (Failte Ireland, KETB, LEO, HSE, Udaras Na Gaelatchta, Teagasc etc.), Local authority, environmental organisations (An Taisce) and farming organisations (IFA, ICOS).

3.1.13 Multi-sector approach that involves co-ordination with relevant sectors e.g. economic, social, cultural & environment

A multi-sectoral approach was adopted by the programme implementing partners and The LAG to ensure both the exploration of needs from key different stakeholder's perspectives and the development of holistic multi-sectoral responses. The consultation processes directly engaged with various sectoral groups including, farmers, food producers, local tourism groups, community & voluntary groups covering a very broad remit of different population cohorts, activity and geographic areas of coverage (Women's groups, Men's Sheds, Residents associations Youth groups, active retired, disability groups etc.), social partners - farmers organisations, business interests/networks & environmental interests. The different sectoral group interests were captured from a combination of the public consultation events, stakeholder workshops, focus group meetings & enterprise consultation events.

3.1.14 Specific methodologies for engaging with more difficult to reach groups

A number of specific methodologies were adopted to ensure the engagement of more difficult to reach groups. Consultation meetings were held within local communities at a time and date agreed with the groups. As the majority of these groups are run by members of the broader community on a voluntary basis, the vast majority of these consultation meetings were held in the evening/nighttime outside of working hours. This outreach approach through which communities were directly engaged in their own areas (avoiding the need for them to travel long distances) at a time and date that accommodated them was important in ensuring that more remote, peripheral and isolated communities were afforded the opportunity to actively participate in the preparation of the Local Development Strategy.

3.1.15 Programme Implementers also specifically targeted certain groups for inclusion in the community consultation meetings, due to an understanding that such groups would not respond to the information promoted through general publicity materials and events. This targeting of groups consisted of letters written specifically to the group inviting them to the consultation events,

followed up & reinforced by a series of phone calls. In targeting specific weaker groups for inclusion, the programme implementers also used their companywide contacts from other programme supports such as SICAP, RSS & Tús. Local groups within rural & peripheral communities were also urged to identify and engage other groups that they felt should be included in the consultation process and were encouraged to contact these groups directly in order to engage them in the process. This use of local knowledge and local contact was important.

3.1.16 A wide variety of consultation processes & methods were utilised to ensure that the most appropriate methodology was used to engage with harder to reach/weaker groups. All consultation meetings were facilitated, utilising external facilitators in some instances and focus group meetings were also utilised to engage specific target group cohorts.

3.1.17 Summary of the outcome regarding the key findings and areas/themes for local development

The following were the key findings arising from the consultation process:

- a) Given the range of needs identified, the diversity of the county and the importance of taking a holistic and integrated approach to the sustainable development of our rural areas - the Kerry Local Development Strategy should focus on the three thematic programme areas of Economic Development, Enterprise Development & Job creation, Social inclusion and the rural environment.
- b) One of the greatest challenges facing the County's rural areas is the lack of job opportunities for rural dwellers, especially young people and the consequent difficulties of attracting and retaining sufficient levels of population to support the economic development of these areas. Therefore the greatest focus (in investment terms) should be on the Economic Development, Enterprise Development & Job creation thematic area.
- c) There has been a significant contraction in the level of service provision to rural communities across the county and this varies from area to area, with more remote, peripheral and isolated communities fairing worst. The LDS should address the deficits in terms of service provision and community facilities in these rural communities.
- d) Protecting our environment & rural landscape is important as they underpin our tourism and food businesses and provide high quality recreational experiences for visitors and locals alike. They are important contributors to the quality of life for people living in our rural areas.
- e) The older age profile of many members of community & voluntary groups is a cause for concern. There is a requirement for supports to enable community groups to proactively engage with, involve and retain young people in their activities.
- f) Lack of job opportunities combined with a poor social infrastructure provides huge challenges for more remote and peripheral rural areas in retaining significant cohorts of its population, especially young people.
- g) Significant financial investment coupled with animation & capacity building supports are required by many rural areas in order to support local efforts to drive economic development opportunities, diversify the local economic base and grow enterprise and employment opportunities for rural dwellers.
- h) Tourism presents a very significant opportunity to generate economic growth in our rural areas, particularly those rural communities located along the route of the Wild Atlantic Way. The Wild Atlantic Way is having a positive impact in terms of visitor numbers with many of these communities experiencing an increase (and significant in some areas) in visitor numbers. Seasonality remains a significant challenge with the vast majority of visitors coming in the months of July & August. The LDS needs to address these seasonality issues.
- i) To realise the full potential of our tourism industry, we need to maximise opportunities to leverage our key assets, such as our scenic landscapes, pristine natural environment, rich cultural, heritage & traditions. There are additional

opportunities to utilise our key assets in a sustainable way to realise the full economic & community potential of rural tourism. The LDS should support communities to explore and optimise on these opportunities in order to grow visitor numbers & spend.

- j) Starting/Growing a business in rural areas remains a significant challenge, with additional barriers/challenges that need to be surmounted in order for rural businesses to develop and grow. In order to diversify the economic base of rural areas and increase their employment potential – the LDS needs to support start-ups and existing business to address these challenges. Potential growth areas identified included tourism, food, engineering, manufacturing, renewable energy, ICT, services, creative sector, Arts, sports & cultural activities.
- k) In rural areas particularly impacted by out-migration & emigration, social enterprise can play an important role in addressing the economic development & diminished service provision challenges experienced in these rural areas. The potential of social enterprise has not been fully explored and the LDS should address this issue in terms of supporting communities to identify and develop social enterprise opportunities and to enhance the development capability of existing social enterprises.
- l) Sustaining and increasing the vibrancy of our rural towns and villages is not only important from a quality of life perspective for the residents of our rural towns and villages, it is also important from an economic development standpoint – particularly with regard to efforts to expand the economic impact of rural tourism. The LDS should address the need for continued and increased investment in our rural towns & villages to maintain and improve key community infrastructure, facilities and local amenities and strengthen the capacity of key actors to collaborate and increase the economic, community and environmental impacts of their efforts.
- m) Broadband provision is completely inadequate in many rural areas and this is having a negative impact on the quality of life of many rural dwellers given the significant range of services that are now transacted on line. The lack of access to high speed broadband will also undermine efforts to strengthen the economic base of rural areas. The LDS should address the lack of access to high speed reliable broadband experienced by many rural communities.
- n) In Ireland, despite substantial progress made at the initial stage of the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, considerable challenges remain, particularly in the area of public participation.
- o) The involvement of local communities is vital, as it can result in a greater sense of ownership or buy-in to the scheme. The importance of a community led local development approach to Integrated Catchment Management is recognised Internationally, as an important tool to improve resource management and decision-making (EEA, 2014), raising awareness and demand for retro-fitting water harvesting measures to homes, business premises and community buildings.
- p) Expert guidance can help communities to participate in the development and implementation of an agreed vision of sustainable land and water use for their catchment.
- q) In parallel with the Integrated Catchment Management process is the need to develop river restoration plans to address a range of biological and ecological needs of the rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters in County Kerry. Pressures on these water bodies include river bank erosion, invasive species, exploitation, water abstraction, pollution including excessive diffuse run-off from farms, private dwellings and other economic units.
- r) Other measures are required to address the ecological needs of sensitive aquatic species including Freshwater Pearl Mussel. An aim of the LDS is to make biodiversity more accessible to local stakeholders. Ultimately these stakeholders are crucial in influencing successful outcomes for the conservation of biodiversity in the county.

- s) To address this deficit, to establish a base-line knowledge of biodiversity and its importance through Animation. In parallel with this, will be the demystifying of the EU Habitats Directives for local communities, who view these EU Directives negatively and as an imposition onto their way of life. The importance of concepts such as "Ecosystem services" and "Natural Capital" will be outlined bringing the relevance of biodiversity into the homes of people not normally engaged in nature conservation.
- t) Training such as habitat mapping and species identification are important tools which must be mastered.
- u) Other relevant issues affecting biodiversity such as water conservation, land management, persecution and invasive species can be tackled through the heightened awareness and peer learning associated with citizen science.

3.2 SWOT

3.2.1 Participants:

Interest groups, including those representing the disadvantaged, community & voluntary, social partners and statutory agencies have participated in the design stage of the LDS via their role on a working group in each of the LDC's (See Table 3.2.1).

Table 3.2.1: Interest Group Participation for 2014 – 2020 LDS

Statutory Bodies	Disadvantaged Groups	Community Based	Social Partners
Kerry County Council	Elderly	Geographical	Farming Organisations
Teagasc	Small Holders	Women	Unions
Coillte	Socially Excluded	Culture & Heritage	Employers
DSP	Support Groups	Carers	Youth Organisations
Fáilte Ireland	Unemployed & Underemployed	Youth	Foroige
ETB	Unskilled	Environment	
HSE	Rural Isolated	Chamber of Commerce	
Enterprise Ireland	Rural Youth	Recreation	
MABS	People with Disabilities		
NPWS	Women		
Garda Siochana	Travellers		
SOLAS			
Inland Fisheries			
SEAI			

3.2.2 LDS Area SWOT Analysis: Table 3.2.2

LDS Area Strengths	LDS Area Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Attractive quality of life. b) Distinctive county culture. c) Conscientious and varied agricultural base. d) Excellent marine & river environments. e) Vibrant entrepreneurial culture. f) Tourism brand, sector and product. g) Vibrant Irish language and cultural tradition. h) Proximity to Cork & Limerick Cities. i) Proximity to 3 airports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Peripheral location. b) Lack of connectivity of region to motorways. c) Cork/Limerick motorway stalled. d) Poor Broadband. e) Poor phone cover. f) Poor surface of internal road network. g) Out migration & Emigration. h) Aging demographic profile.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j) Rail service. k) Network of schools at primary and secondary levels. l) Local 3rd level college. m) Good electricity infrastructure. n) Commitment of Local Authority to support LEADER. o) Capacity & track record of the 3 LDC's p) Strong Local Governance Structures. q) Partnership approach by all stakeholders. r) Ability of LDS's to engage with communities in their individual areas. s) High value Environment areas well distributed. t) Good quality landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) High dependency on traditional employment sectors. j) Peripherality issues in development of the County. k) Poor service access in peripheral areas and some small towns and villages. l) Lack of inward investment much of the 'poor' land of the county under pressure. m) Small holders and low income families dependent on declining agriculture and manufacturing.
LDS Area Opportunities	LDS Area Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Environment strong but needs more practical buy in. b) Biodiversity through planting more native species and improving pollination. c) Eradicate destructive invasive species from the county. d) Possibility of joint regional projects e) Tourism potential: activity, cultural, language, eco, etc. f) Marine, coastal and river leisure g) Angling, walking, cycling, mountain biking h) Establish high tech employment opportunities. i) Use innovative approaches to improve economic, community, cultural and environment prospects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Need to create skilled employment opportunities or 25-45 year olds will migrate out b) Monoculture of single species forestry but improving. c) Further decreases in government support for Rural development. d) That the €100m taken from LEADER will not be put back. e) Invasive species on roadways & rivers. f) That the cities and urban regions will get prioritised for high tech jobs.

3.2.3 Thematic SWOT Analysis: Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation (ED, ED & JC): Table 3.2.3

(ED, ED & JC) Strengths	(ED, ED & JC) Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Internationally recognisable Kerry brand. b) Strong tradition of educational attainment with Kerry home to the Institute of Technology Tralee. c) Kerry Technology Park provides a world class business environment. d) Strong Entrepreneurial Spirit with a number of very successful indigenous companies. e) Market leaders in light engineering. f) Strong craft sector e.g. de Staic, Mulcahy supported by "Original Kerry" craft brand. g) A number of long established strong multinationals. h) Strong Local Food Sector. i) Kerry International Dark Sky Reserve – The 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Poor broadband infrastructure. b) Lack of foreign Direct investment. c) High Dependency on Tourism and Agriculture. d) Seasonality of the tourism industry. e) Connectivity to main urban centres needs to be addressed. f) Continued reliance on Imported Energy g) Low population density with an older age profile in rural parts of the county – undermining the economic development potential of these areas.

<p>only gold tier dark sky reserve in the Northern hemisphere.</p> <p>j) Vibrant Internationally renowned festivals – Rose of Tralee, Listowel Writers Week, Listowel & Killarney horse racing festivals, Puck Fair.</p> <p>k) Wild Atlantic Way – 450km of a scenic costal drive.</p> <p>l) Kerry, Cork & Shannon Airports.</p> <p>m) Tarbert Ferry, Fenit and Foynes Ports</p> <p>n) Strong tradition in the Tourism & Agriculture Sectors.</p> <p>o) Strong community tourism represented by “Go Kerry”.</p> <p>p) Large Diaspora.</p>	
(ED, ED & JC) Opportunities	(ED, ED & JC) Threats
<p>a) Development of Rural tourism Sector e.g. Eco Tourism, Astro Tourism, Marine Tourism, Adventure Tourism, Angling and Heritage Tourism and Culture.</p> <p>b) Sustainable development of the Wild Atlantic Way.</p> <p>c) Sustainable development of Kerry’s natural resources which foster increased employment and enterprise opportunities in the area of energy, fishing, marine, forestry, food etc.</p> <p>d) Sustainable development of Kerry’s natural environment which fosters opportunities for the development of sustainable recreational activities – walking, cycling & heritage trails, water based activities etc.</p> <p>e) Opportunities to develop the Social Enterprise Sector.</p> <p>f) To establish a rapid response unit to support new enterprises to establish anywhere in the county.</p>	<p>a) Poor Broadband and mobile Connectivity especially in rural areas. Concerns that the National Broadband Scheme will be unable to deliver to all rural areas.</p> <p>b) Out migration & Emigration.</p> <p>c) Loss of market share in Tourism.</p> <p>d) Area continually overlooked in terms of Foreign Direct Investment.</p> <p>e) Additional challenges (scalability, access to credit, business support networks etc.) for enterprises in more remote rural/peripheral areas.</p> <p>f) Dependency on Tourism which is seasonal.</p> <p>g) That increased renewable energy output will increase cost of energy.</p>

3.2.4 Thematic SWOT Analysis: Social Inclusion: Table 3.2.4

Social Inclusion Strengths	Social Inclusion Weaknesses
<p>a) Community spirit .</p> <p>b) Volunteer culture.</p> <p>c) A vibrant community & voluntary sector with a strong tradition of community development.</p> <p>d) Community Networks.</p> <p>e) Interagency approach.</p> <p>f) A proactive local development sector with strong community engagement.</p> <p>g) Resilience in hard to reach communities.</p> <p>h) Good integration strategy.</p> <p>i) Strong sporting clubs and organisations.</p>	<p>a) Access to services in rural communities.</p> <p>b) Contraction and withdrawal of services in many rural areas.</p> <p>c) Poor connectivity compounding the isolation and peripherally experienced by many rural communities.</p> <p>d) Limited transport options to urban centres.</p> <p>e) Social isolation in Rural Areas.</p> <p>f) Out-migration and emigration eroding the cohort of young people in many rural communities.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j) A number of high quality multi purpose community facilities developed in the last LEADER Programme. k) Sound playground strategy. l) Community based social housing. m) Unique Sliabh Luachra Culture. n) Irish Language areas in West and South Kerry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g) Distance from centres of excellence for health care. h) Few primary health centres in rural areas. i) Rural towns with no GP service. j) Poor youth facilities. k) Low level of LEADER funding available to address needs. l) Further reduction in rural transport funding. m) Rural crime increasing – fear developing. n) Financial and other supports for carers greatly reduced.
Social Inclusion Opportunities	Social Inclusion Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ageing population in need of services b) Animate and build capacity of active retired groups c) Improve access to facilities d) Development of Social Enterprises e) Development of private enterprises focused on service provision. f) Increased volunteering opportunities for active retired. g) Development of capacity of hard to reach communities. h) Amenities for youth and children i) Upgrade community facilities to cater for wider base. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Declining Rural Population (especially younger people) b) Ageing population – need to have better local services or improved rural transport to access central services c) Poor demographic structure in many areas d) Decline in agriculture and traditional industries. e) That LEADER funding will not be restored.

3.2.5 Thematic SWOT Analysis: Rural Environment: Table 3.2.5

Rural Environment Strengths	Rural Environment Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 13 Blue Flag beaches (2015). b) Relatively Green Environment. c) Angling. d) Marine Tourism. e) Inland Waterways. f) Diverse natural environment with a diversity of wildlife, coastal & marine habitats, including several off-shore islands and internationally important ecological sites. g) Locally available sources of Renewable Energy e.g. Wood Energy. h) Abundance of natural heritage sites. i) Strong localised environment groups. j) County location and climate yields unique variety of flora and fauna. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Impacts of climate change. b) Environment getting bad name seen as a threat to progress. c) Poor agricultural land not adequately valued for high environment quality. d) Lack of volume in local market. e) Lack of local buy-in for conservation needs. f) Bees and other pollinators reducing. g) County not meeting Water Framework Directive. h) Seemingly complacent regarding destruction of some habitats.
Rural Environment Opportunities	Rural Environment Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Utilizing the natural Renewable Energy opportunities that could help brand Kerry as a Green economy. b) Marine and coastal habitats that are rich in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Invasive species. b) Threat to Raptor population. c) That communities, landowners and farmers can feel divorced from top-down

biodiversity. c) Potential to develop local Energy production and community owned energy schemes. d) Kerry has range of diverse natural landscapes and habitats that could better be promoted and highlighted. e) Involve communities in environmental monitoring projects. f) Bring environment science out to the communities. g) Support small scale bee keeping. h) Increase biodiversity in Tidy Towns. i) Introduce wetlands. j) Marginal land as major environment habitats. k) Bog land restoration.	environmental measures proposed to protect their local environment. d) That designated conservation areas will come under pressure due to lack of support for landowners and farmers. e) That forestry is increasingly seen as only option for marginal land use. f) That persecution of rare species which are seen as a threat to certain developments will continue. g) Kerry has an embarrassment of riches when it comes to scenery so other environmentally valuable areas seen as useless.
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3.2.6 LECP (Economic, Infrastructure & Quality of Life) SWOT

(See Appendices 11.3.1, 11.3.2 & 11.3.3: Tables).

3.3 Agreed LDS Priorities

3.3.1 Process to agree priorities & objectives:

The process of prioritising the actions was an iterative process ensuring that all views elicited were heard and that relevant internal and external documents were objectively examined. It was also evident from this process that the local knowledge on the ground and in all the relevant organisations and agencies was consistent with the comprehensive statistical information available and analysed.

3.3.2 The process of agreeing priorities and objectives was also informed by parallel and ongoing initiatives in developing a Co.Kerry Tourism Strategy and of course the overall Local Economic & Community Plan.

3.3.3 The management and staff of the local development companies are experienced and skilled in processing a diverse range of needs, strengths and opportunities into a cohesive set of strategies that are then reflected in complementary actions rooted in responding in a community-led approach.

3.3.4 This process of consultation, analysis, facilitation and prioritisation was further strengthened by the proactive input and oversight of the various stakeholders in the Local Community Development Committee, which contributed to relevant priorities and a realistic set of strategic actions.

3.3.5 Many of these actions, while specifically informed by and consistent with the LEADER 2014-2020 programme, are building on the developments, actions, initiatives and research achieved through previous development programmes, especially LEADER.

3.3.6 See Appendices 11.3.7 – 11.3.34 for detail of consultations undertaken by the Local Development Companies.

3.3.7 Rationale for Themes / Sub Themes:

Through our comprehensive consultation process, the review of relevant plans and our analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, it is very clear that in each of the 3 local development areas there is a broad range of needs encompassing all themes and sub-themes. Improving the quality of life of people living throughout Co.Kerry will require applying the LEADER

2014-2020 Programme across economic, social and environmental strategies and actions. Therefore, given the diversity of the County Kerry area, the LDS agreed priorities address all of the RDP themes and sub themes.

3.3.8 With the levels of out-migration obvious from our analysis of the relevant statistics and highlighted in many of our facilitated consultation sessions, it is clear that the issues of the **economy and employment** are some of the most important to be addressed by all stakeholders in Co.Kerry. It is also clear that the LEADER programme needs to continue to be a crucial element in the response to these issues in terms of the bottom-up resource it can generate, as well as its inherent flexibility and the vast experience of the development approach over the past three decades. In this, LEADER will complement other actions being taken at a national, regional and county-wide level by other key stakeholders.

3.3.9 Co.Kerry is a very entrepreneurial region both out of necessity and capacity, and **enterprise development** is prioritised in the LDS throughout the 3 LDC areas, which need a renewed focus on economic development, diversifying the economic base, focusing on potential growth areas (as identified in the Kerry draft LECP) of food, engineering & manufacturing, renewable energy, ICT, services, creative sector, arts and crafts, sports & cultural activities. The continued development of existing and new social enterprises will play a significant role in addressing the challenges of unemployment, lack of job opportunities, and diminished services as a result of the contraction and withdrawal of public services in these areas. The capacity of groups and individuals animated through the LEADER / Rural Development Programme will enable communities turn structural weaknesses into opportunities for the parallel sustainable development of the local economy and the provision of bespoke social services.

3.3.10 As well as the above-mentioned areas for support **tourism** has been highlighted as vitally important to the economy of the whole of the county with the activity, accommodation and hospitality sectors key drivers of employment. Consultation with local communities and tourism interests have identified the opportunities of further leveraging our rich cultural, social and environmental assets in order to sustainably grow visitor numbers to rural parts of the county, increase the length of stay and visitor spend and address the seasonality issues which affect rural tourism in Kerry. The SWOT analysis identifies the diversification and further development of tourism, such as Eco & Marine Tourism, Astro-Tourism, Adventure Tourism & Activities as further opportunities to be pursued. Local tourism businesses and communities have identified the need for animation, training and investment to enable them enhance and better align their product offering to complement and optimise on opportunities, such as those presented by the Wild Atlantic Way.

3.3.11 It was very apparent through the consultation and analysis phases of our work that the quality of life of the people in our communities is inextricably linked to their **rural towns and villages**. However, most of these towns and villages have been very adversely affected by the economic downturn, with increased business closures, decreases in employment levels and increases in unemployment rates. Interventions are even more clearly needed in peripheral Kerry, and therefore investment in the infrastructural fabric of smaller towns and villages is to be prioritised. Ensuring their vibrancy through infrastructural developments will also support the previous priority areas of rural tourism and enterprise, as this is a very important factor in the appeal of Kerry to international & domestic visitors. The LDS should address the need for continued and increased investment in our rural towns and villages to maintain and improve key community infrastructure, facilities and local amenities and strengthen the capacity of key actors to collaborate and increase the beneficial economic, community and environmental impacts of their efforts.

3.3.12 The deficiency of **broadband** is one of the most pressing issues facing the county. Consultation, analysis, reports, etc., all point to the fact that without the communication highway that is broadband, our communities continue to face a major barrier to the further economic

development of these areas. In social terms also the lack of reliable broadband inhibits rural people's access to education, training, social interaction, health services, etc., and therefore compounds issues arising from rural peripherality and physical remoteness. Therefore, the need for capacity building supports to increase ICT infrastructure, uptake and usage by all rural citizens, is a priority of LEADER 2014-2020 in Kerry.

3.3.13 The categorisation of Basic Services and Youth under the theme of **Social Inclusion** is a welcome development, as it facilitates an understanding of inclusion that permeates the whole community and informs the local development approach that has been so successful in Ireland to date. The need for this has been evident in the consultation at all levels from the bottom-up through to the facilitated discussions among the LAG, and is further evidenced through analysis of statistics and relevant documentation. Inclusion in its correct application addresses issues of:

- a) Contribution to society (e.g. home and caring duties, volunteering, employment);
- b) Income (e.g. through enterprise, employment, welfare payments);
- c) Networking (e.g. family, communities of place or interest); and
- d) Decision-making (e.g. independent living, involvement in local bodies, voting).

3.3.14 The loss of **basic services** throughout the country over the past decade or so is having negative social consequences and is compounding isolation and peripherality, with low population densities, distance from urban centres, declining population levels from out-migration and emigration being used as excuses for reducing service provision. As a result many communities highlighted the need for supports to enable them recruit and retain volunteers and develop more inclusive community planning processes as well as community facilities.

3.3.15 Through analysis consultation the need for more facilities, activities and attractions for all ages, but specifically for our **young people**, was highlighted again and again, as the patterns of out-migration and emigration are resulting in higher than average age dependency, with the long-term knock-on issues that such developments will hasten. The necessity to involve young people and those who work with young people (e.g. parents, community leaders) in local and community development activity was also highlighted during the consultation process. The need for supports to attract and retain active youth involvement in discussions and responses for both economic and social opportunities was such that this area is a strong priority for Co.Kerry.

3.3.16 County Kerry's green and clean **Environment** is one of its most valuable resources. 30% of the county has either an SAC or SPA designation. Each and every consultation and document highlights the need to protect, value and utilise this treasure to maximise the quality of life for the people of the county and our many and varied visitors. Protecting our environment and rural landscapes are important as they underpin our tourism and food businesses and are important in providing high quality recreational experiences for visitors and locals alike.

3.3.17 In relation to our **water resources** these range from our valuable and precious freshwater rivers and lakes, through the transitional water to the largely untapped coastal and marine environment. Again these water resources compliment all the other strategies but the focus on their protection and sustainable use was highlighted as a priority for this LEADER LDS, which is in a unique position to ensure a holistic approach involving all stakeholders. It is imperative that all are mindful of the range of relevant environmental policies and designations including SAC, SPA and their associated designated habitats and species etc. (See Appendices 11.2.2 – 11.2.4. for SAC's, SPA's & NHA's).

3.3.18 The **protection and improvement of local biodiversity** has proven to be an issue raised throughout the county as communities become more aware of our environment and it's richness in habitats and species. The unique variety of inland, coastal, island areas and landscapes of County Kerry is much treasured by the people, and all stressed that prioritising this strategic area was imperative. The interconnectedness and indeed interdependence between the people and our

environment must be considered and this biodiversity is recognised as needed for our quality of life, indeed our very survival.

3.3.19 Renewable energy has been a large part of the most recent LEADER Programme, and this developmental approach has ensured that it is once again a priority for LEADER 2014-2020. An increased level of community participation, via CLLD methodologies, in renewable energy projects will ensure that communities benefit from local renewable energy projects. Furthermore, investment in renewable energy infrastructure projects and capacity building actions will support the cross cutting objectives of innovation, environment and climate change, raising awareness of, and protecting the environment, reducing Ireland's greenhouse gases, while piloting innovative ideas and improved technology. The county has a Renewable Energy Strategy that forms part of the Kerry County Development Plan (2015-2021) which will guide Renewable energy projects.

3.3.20 Arising from the area profile along with community and stakeholder consultation meetings the Kerry LAG proposed the LEADER theme based priorities for the LDS (See Appendices 11.3.4, 11.3.5 & 11.3.6: Tables).

3.3.21 Conclusion: Through in-depth analysis, consultation and research, this LDS has been developed in response to the opportunities to address many of the rural development needs of Co.Kerry. While it covers all the sub-themes of the LEADER 2014-2020 programme the emphasis, as referred to above, is reflected in the allocations agreed for each of those sub-themes. The allocations also reflect the development approach required to animate, build capacity and implement the strategic actions over the life of the programme.

4.0 SECTION 4: LDS Action Plan

4.1 Action Plan

4.1.1 Overall Vision:

The overall vision of the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 in Co.Kerry will be to improve the quality of life of the people of the county and to diversify the rural economy of the area.

4.1.2 Context: Our socio-economic and area profiles illustrate that Co.Kerry generally ranks lower than the rest of Ireland on a number of key areas. The recent recession exacerbated this situation and indicates the need for new economic and social opportunities through the next round of LEADER Programme Funding which will address issues illustrated in the socio-economic and quality of life profiles. The LAG, by working with all communities, agencies, sectors and relevant groups on various themes, will implement this Local Development Strategy.

4.1.3 Our vision is to continue to enhance our community-led local development partnership approach ensuring a vibrant self-sustaining rural area, characterised by:

- involvement and interaction of our citizens;
- high quality services and amenities;
- a strong and enterprising business sector; and
- a protected clean natural environment.

4.1.4 Objectives & Strategies:

4.1.5 Rural Tourism – Local Objective 1.1

Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation Rural Tourism – Local Objective 1.1

Local Objective:

To support the development of Rural Tourism in Kerry by leveraging our scenic landscapes, pristine natural environment, rich culture, language, heritage & traditions, strengthening the vibrancy and increasing the capacity of our rural communities and businesses to maximise local opportunities & outcomes, enhancing the visitor offering & experience, in order to sustainably increase the economic and community impact of rural tourism.

Rationale for the Objective:

Tourism is vitally important to the economy of County Kerry with the accommodation and hospitality sectors a key driver of employment. Tourism also delivers substantial social and community benefits, as a significant number of tourism businesses in Kerry are micro-enterprises that are embedded in rural communities. Kerry's diverse and rugged landscape, its pristine natural environment, traditional culture & heritage and vibrant towns & villages are important factors in the appeal of Kerry as a tourism destination. Consultation with local communities and tourism interests has identified the opportunities of further leveraging our rich cultural, social and environmental assets in order to grow visitor numbers to rural parts of the county, increase the length of stay and visitor spend and address the seasonality issues which affect rural tourism in Kerry. The seasonality of tourism in Kerry is highlighted by Fáilte Ireland in their 'Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme 2015-2019' where it is noted that '*Donegal, Kerry & Mayo are particularly affected by a very short season, 60% and more of overseas tourists visit these counties between June and September, mainly concentrated in the months of July & August*'. The SWOT analysis identifies the diversification and further development of tourism, such as Eco & Marine Tourism, Astro-Tourism, Adventure Tourism & Activities, Festivals and Events as further opportunities to be pursued. Local tourism businesses and communities have identified the need for animation, training and investment to enable them enhance and better align their product offering to complement and optimise on opportunities, such as those presented by the Wild Atlantic Way. This objective and the associated strategic actions are in alignment with the

strategic themes of The Kerry County Tourism Strategy (an integral part of the LECP 2015 - 2021) which is currently being prepared.

Financial Allocation: €2,029,694.00

No. of Strategic Actions: Two

4.1.6 Rural Tourism – Strategic Action 1.1.a

Rural Tourism – Strategic Action 1.1.a

Animation, Capacity Building, Analysis & Development, Training & Mentoring

Brief Description of Strategic Action:

To animate and develop the capacity of rural communities, businesses and individuals to maximise the rural tourism potential in the LDS area through a wide range of animation and capacity building initiatives. These will include, organising community, sectoral and business events to promote and highlight the tourism supports under the RDP programme. Advertising campaigns will be undertaken through social and print media.

Idea generation workshops focusing on specific tourism areas such as Astro-tourism, Nature and Eco-Tourism, Marine Tourism, Activity & Adventure Tourism, Festivals & Events etc. These will inform promoters of best practice locally, nationally and internationally. Follow up on the recommendations from (i) reports commissioned under the last LEADER programme e.g. (Rural Recreation Strategy), (ii) Kerry County Development Plan (2015-2021) and (iii) Kerry County Tourism Strategy, 2016-2020.

To provide initial advice and guidance to promoters wishing to establish new tourism businesses and / or develop / expand existing initiatives.

Tailored training and mentoring supports will be provided to stakeholders in the tourism sector to foster and support new and existing initiatives and to up-skill promoters to benefit from new market development opportunities and new e-technologies. Supports will also be provided for the development of new and existing tourism networks and clusters as well as collective marketing.

Primary Target Group:

Local Entrepreneurs, Tourism Businesses, Community groups, Walks Committees, Farmers, Tourism Networks & Cluster Groups, Culture and Heritage groups.

Geographic Area:

Co.Kerry - (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).

Organisation who will deliver Action:

This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.

Collaborating Organisations:

Kerry County Council, Fáilte Ireland, Forestry Service, Coillte, Go Kerry, Destination Kerry, LAG member organisations and agencies.

Timeframe for Delivery of Action:

Q2 2016 - Q4 2020

Programme Indicators & Targets:

Projected Outputs / Indicators & targets:	Projects funded	New		65		Existing		42	
	Jobs created	FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Jobs sustained	FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A	N/A	N/A
Projected number of each type of initiative funded:	Activity / Adventure	20		Marine & water based				12	
	Culture & Heritage	17		Agri-tourism				8	
	Rural recreation	20		Cluster / network				10	
	Eco tourism	5		Promotion of area as a				10	

	Health & Wellness	5	destination	
Number & (value) of funding:	Capital	N/A		N/A
	Training	32		€170,624.00
	Marketing	N/A		N/A
	Animation	75		€47,656.00
Projected number of visitors per annum:		N/A		

4.1.7 Rural Tourism – Strategic Action 1.1.b

Rural Tourism – Strategic Action 1.1.b

Capital & Marketing.

Brief Description of Strategic Action:

This action will provide Rural Communities and businesses with capital and marketing supports to enhance the rural tourism infrastructure in a sustainable manner, develop new tourism products and services and support entrepreneurship and business development. It is underpinned by the aim that all supports envisaged under this strategic action will ultimately seek to protect the natural environment.

Recreation and Amenity Tourism: Support for the development of marine tourism and water based activities, walks and cycling trails, camping and camper parks at appropriate locations. Seek to have Government and EU support for a 'farmer's dividend' under the REPS or similar schemes for landowners who provide free access to their lands for walking and cycling.

Festivals and Events: Maintain and develop community festivals and events and support collective marketing of smaller festivals.

Culture and Heritage Tourism: Development of heritage trails and craft and food trails at appropriate locations.

Eco Tourism: Support existing and new tourism providers develop their product into Eco Tourism businesses and develop eco based tourism products such as angling, bird watching, whale and dolphin spotting.

Wild Atlantic Way: Provide a range of supports including capital and marketing for communities and businesses to develop and enhance their product offering and develop new ideas that will optimise on opportunities presented by the Wild Atlantic Way and enable communities grow jobs locally.

Astro-Tourism: Support for ongoing development of the International Dark Sky Reserve and optimising spin-off opportunities for the development of local businesses.

Agri-Tourism: Encourage and support the development of on-farm agri-tourism based projects.

Tourism Networks & Clusters: Provide a range of marketing supports to local tourism clusters/networks to support and further develop the marketing, branding, promotion and destination building of their regions.

Primary Target Group:

Local Entrepreneurs, Tourism Businesses, Community groups, Walks Committees, Farmers, Tourism Networks & Cluster Groups, Culture and Heritage groups.

Geographic Area:

Co. Kerry - (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).

Organisation who will deliver Action:

This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.

Collaborating Organisations:

Kerry County Council, Fáilte Ireland, Forestry Service, Coillte, Go Kerry, Destination Kerry, LAG member organisations and agencies, Local tourism networks & clusters.

Timeframe for Delivery of Action:

Q2 2016 - Q4 2020

Programme Indicators & Targets:

Projected Outputs / Indicators & targets:	Projects funded		New	82	Existing	45
	Jobs created		FT	40	PT	30
	Jobs sustained		FT	20	PT	10
Projected number of each type of initiative funded:	Activity / Adventure		20	Marine & water based		20
	Culture & Heritage		30	Agri-tourism		12
	Rural recreation		20	Cluster / network		10
	Eco tourism		5	Promotion of area as		5
	Health & Wellness		5	destination		
Number & (value) of funding:	Capital	95			€1,629,512.00	
	Training	N/A			N/A	
	Marketing	32			€181,902.00	
	Animation	N/A			N/A	
Projected number of visitors per annum:		120,000				

4.1.8 Enterprise Development – Local Objective 1.2

Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation Enterprise Development – Local Objective 1.2

Local Objective:

To support the sustainable development of both social & private enterprise, by supporting communities to identify and optimise on social enterprise opportunities, exploiting new technologies, encouraging entrepreneurship, providing networking opportunities, increasing the capacity of enterprises to establish and expand in order to strengthen and diversify the rural economic base of County Kerry, growing sustainable business and employment opportunities.

Rationale for the Objective:

Micro, small and medium enterprises are the backbone of the economy of Rural County Kerry. An economic analysis of the County reveals that over 90% of the active enterprises in the South West & Kerry employ less than 10 people while small and medium enterprises provide most of the employment opportunities. In many rural peripheral parts of the county, micro, small and medium enterprises face additional challenges over their urban counterparts, such as poor connectivity, lack of proximity and access to markets, lack of access to adequate financing facilities for expansion, lack of business support networks and challenges in terms of achieving sufficient scale to ensure the viability of their businesses. Feedback from the consultations and from meetings with business interests have clearly emphasised the need for increased investment in order to sustain existing enterprises, foster the development of new enterprises and support the expansion of enterprises seeking to expand their operations and grow local employment opportunities. The need for enhanced supports for economic development and enterprise growth in rural Kerry has been loudly articulated by many rural communities during the consultation process. These areas need a renewed focus on economic development, diversifying the economic base, focusing on potential growth areas (as identified in the Kerry draft LECP) of tourism, food, engineering & manufacturing, renewable energy, ICT, services, creative sector, Arts, sports & cultural activities. Many communities have suffered badly from out-migration and emigration, with the result of significant declines in population which have undermined their economic development potential. The development of Social Enterprises, providing important services to the populations in these areas, can also play a significant role in addressing the challenges of unemployment, lack of job opportunities, and diminished services as a result of the contraction/withdrawal of public services in these areas. Drawing on the best practice principles as articulated in the OECD Study 'Job Creation and Local Economic Development' (2014), and targeting the areas identified in the recent socio-economic study of the County (Meredith & O'Keeffe, 2015), namely Iveragh, Duhallow-Sliabh Luachra and Iraghticonor, the Rural Development Programme will enable communities to become increasingly enterprising as they turn structural weaknesses in to opportunities for the parallel sustainable development of the local

economy and the provision of bespoke social services.

Financial Allocation: €1,066,454.00

No. of Strategic Actions: Two

4.1.9 Enterprise Development – Strategic Action 1.2.a

Enterprise Development – Strategic Action 1.2.a

Animation, Capacity Building, Analysis & Development, Training & Mentoring

Brief Description of Strategic Action:

Animation and capacity building will be undertaken through a number of actions including: information seminars for promoters highlighting supports available under the new LEADER programme. Idea generation workshops will be organised with keynote speakers showcasing new business opportunities and practices. Provide initial guidance and advice to promoters with new business ideas. Collective marketing opportunities will be supported by utilising existing and new networks. Analysis and Development supports will be provided to businesses to develop new products, services and technologies and to examine the feasibility of new business ideas. Mentoring support will be provided for clients at different stages of their business development. These mentoring supports will also inform further training, workshops and initiatives.

Primary Target Group:

New and existing enterprises, Social Enterprises, entrepreneurs, Business and enterprise networks and farmers.

Geographic Area:

Co.Kerry - (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).

Organisation who will deliver Action:

This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.

Collaborating Organisations:

Local Enterprise Offices, Enterprise Ireland, Kerry County Council, CEED (Centre for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development), Innovate Kerry, Kerry ETB, Institute of Technology Tralee, LAG Member organisations and agencies.

Timeframe for Delivery of Action:

Q2 2016 - Q4 2020

Programme Indicators & Targets:

Projected Outputs / Indicators & targets:	Enterprises funded		New		30		Existing		30	
	Jobs created		FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A		
	Jobs sustained		FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A		
Projected number of each type of initiative funded:	Agricultural diversification		8	Creative Industry					15	
				Social Enterprise					10	
	Food & beverage		8	Hospitality					5	
	Marine Diversification		5	ICT					9	
Number & (value) of funding:	Capital		N/A				N/A			
	Training		40				€148,118.00			
	Marketing		N/A				N/A			
	Animation		20				€29,624.00			

4.1.10 Enterprise Development – Strategic Action 1.2.b

Enterprise Development – Strategic Action 1.2.b

Capital & Marketing

Brief Description of Strategic Action:

Capital and Marketing supports will be provided to further the development of new and existing indigenous and social enterprises. Supports will be provided for particular growth area such as tourism, food, craft, engineering & manufacturing, ICT services, social enterprises, creative sector, agricultural diversification, and renewable energy with emphasis on maximising the economic potential and development of natural resources in a sustainable manner whilst ensuring the protection of the natural environment.

Primary Target Group:

New and existing enterprises, Social Enterprises, entrepreneurs, Business and enterprise networks and farmers

Geographic Area:

Co. Kerry - (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).

Organisation who will deliver Action:

This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.

Collaborating Organisations:

Local Enterprise Offices, Enterprise Ireland, Kerry County Council, CEED (Centre for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development), Innovate Kerry, LAG Member Organisations & Agencies.

Timeframe for Delivery of Action:

Q2 2016 - Q4 2020

Programme Indicators & Targets:

Projected Outputs / Indicators & targets:	Enterprises funded		New			Existing		
			FT	46	PT	30	SL	0
	Jobs sustained		FT	25	PT	15	SL	0
Projected number of each type of initiative funded:	Agricultural diversification		10	Creative Industry				19
				Social Enterprise				10
	Food & beverage		12	Hospitality				5
	Marine Diversification		6	ICT				11
Number & (value) of funding:	Capital		50	€788,593.00				
	Training		N/A	N/A				
	Marketing		23	€100,119.00				
	Animation		N/A	N/A				

4.1.11 Rural Towns – Local Objective 1.3

Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation

Rural Towns – Local Objective 1.3

Local Objective:

To support the sustainable development of vibrant rural towns, villages and their hinterlands throughout County Kerry to enhance their economic, social, environmental and built attractiveness, making them better places in which to live, work, do business and visit.

Rationale for the Objective:

The CEDRA (2014) report outlines how many rural towns felt the impact of the economic downturn more acutely than urban areas and the experience in County Kerry is no different. Many of Kerry's towns and villages, particularly those in peripheral, rural areas, most distant from larger centres of population have been very adversely affected by the economic downturn, exacerbated by the recent sharp fall in agricultural income with increased business closures, decreases in employment levels and increases in unemployment rates.

The 2015 profile of the County (Meredith & O'Keeffe.) notes, "spatial analysis of the LFPR (Labour Force Participation Rate) reveals that connectivity and accessibility to urban-based

employment remained key determinants of the distribution of Kerry's labour force." Thus, outside of the Tralee - Killarney - Killorglin triangle in the core of the county, labour force participation rates and levels of educational attainment are much lower. Therefore, interventions are clearly needed in peripheral Kerry, so as to eliminate discrimination by geography and to empower individuals and communities. Thus, investment in the infrastructural fabric of smaller towns and villages is integral to local and regional competitiveness. Moreover, this investment strategy, by virtue of its focus on multiple centres and particularly by prioritising those in peripheral locations, is consistent with, and echoes the principles of the European Spatial Development Perspective and several studies by ESPON (European Spatial Planning Observation Network), which advocate urban-rural partnership and polycentric (i.e. multi-centre and collaborative) approaches to the promotion of territorial competitiveness. Indeed, the 2015 (Meredith & O'Keeffe.) study advocated that in addition to investing in the fabric, amenities and services in rural towns and villages, such towns ought to be developed from the outside-in, whereby towns are strengthened by building up the economic capacity and restoring the purchasing power of the adjacent rural communities.

The economic deterioration of many of Kerry's rural towns & villages impacts negatively on their vibrancy. Ensuring the vibrancy of Kerry's towns & villages is not only important for local residents, many of Kerry's towns & villages are located on the route of the Wild Atlantic Way and are an important factor in the appeal of Kerry to international & domestic visitors. Feedback from the consultation process with many community groups and residents of these rural towns & villages have highlighted the need for continuing investment in the sustainable development of community & recreational infrastructure, local amenities & civic areas, improved signage, enhancing the built environment of these villages & towns improving their aesthetic appearance, supporting the efforts of local tidy towns groups and local festival event committees in developing their local festivals & events, which are important contributors to local economic development efforts. The need to develop new, and strengthen the capacity of existing business networks to coordinate local efforts and collaborate with local authority and other statutory enterprise agencies in attracting inward investment in their towns and villages was also strongly emphasised during the consultation process. This objective is underpinned by both sustainable Economic and Community Objectives and associated actions in the draft LECF.

Financial Allocation: €1,284,624.00

No. of Strategic Actions: Two

4.1.12 Rural Towns – Strategic Action 1.3.a

Rural Towns – Strategic Action 1.3.a

Animation, Capacity Building, Analysis & Development, Training & Mentoring

Brief Description of Strategic Action:

This action will support community and voluntary organisations and business networks. Animation and capacity building supports will be undertaken to increase their capacity to develop and implement more inclusive plans for their towns and villages to include women, young people and the elderly. It will also focus on developing improved collaboration with local authority and statutory and enterprise agencies to focus efforts on enhancing both local and inward investment in their towns and villages.

It will provide Training and Technical supports to enable groups develop and implement area, tidy towns and socio-economic plans.

This action will focus on fostering all-inclusive participation and engagement by encouraging all community and sectors to participate. It will further develop the capacity of existing and new groups, structures and networks to develop tailored responses and make applications for funding. It will also provide specific project development, implementation and promotional support.

Primary Target Group:

Community groups, Business networks, residents associations, tidy towns groups, festivals committees, community facility management organisations and farmers markets.

Geographic Area: Co.Kerry - (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).							
Organisation who will deliver Action: This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.							
Collaborating Organisations: Kerry County Council, Kerry ETB, TUS programme, RSS Programme, Local Community and Voluntary groups, Business Networks, LAG member organisations and agencies.							
Timeframe for Delivery of Action: Q2 2016 - Q4 2020							
Programme Indicators & Targets:							
Projected Outputs / Indicators & targets:	Projects funded	New	44				
	Jobs created	FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A
	Jobs sustained	FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A
Projected number of each type of projects funded:	Streetscape Enhancement	5	Development of recreation spaces			4	
	Tidy towns	15	Development of markets			4	
	Town Maintenance / restoration / upgrading	5	Development of festivals			11	
Number & value of funding:	Capital	N/A			N/A		
	Training	30			€178,420.00		
	Marketing	N/A			N/A		
	Animation	14			€35,684.00		
Population in towns receiving funding:		65,897					

4.1.13 Rural Towns – Strategic Action 1.3.b

Rural Towns – Strategic Action 1.3.b Capital & Marketing	
<p>Brief Description of Strategic Action: Capital support will be provided to bring to fruition and help implement recommendations from all Village, Tidy Town, Local Area, Biodiversity, Socio Economic and Heritage Plans by enhancing the built and natural environment and creating a welcoming atmosphere and improving the aesthetic appearance of our Rural Towns and Villages. Many towns and villages in Kerry are on the Wild Atlantic Way and thus have the potential to provide quality experiences and services to visitors and enabling communities to grow jobs locally This will be achieved by providing capital supports for initiatives such as renovating underutilised and derelict buildings, encouragement of take up of empty enterprise space, provision of street furniture and other tidy town initiatives, such projects that promote urban biodiversity and green and/ or blue infrastructure initiatives. Capital support will also be provided for the continued development of community and recreational infrastructure, local amenity and civic areas, providing appropriate signage and encourage the upgrading and development of parks and civil areas at appropriate locations. Again, these projects will be underpinned by measures that aim to protect the natural environment. Collective marketing initiatives will be supported to attract new businesses and promote existing business services and amenities thus helping create a positive image of our Rural Towns and Villages. Marketing and capital supports will also be provided to local festival committees to market and develop their festivals and events.</p>	
<p>Primary Target Group: Community groups, Business networks, residents associations, tidy towns groups, festivals committees, community facility management organisations and farmers markets.</p>	

Geographic Area:							
Co.Kerry - (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).							
Organisation who will deliver Action:							
This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.							
Collaborating Organisations:							
Kerry County Council, TUS programme, RSS Programme, Local Community and Voluntary groups, Business Networks, LAG member organisations and agencies.							
Timeframe for Delivery of Action:							
Q2 2016 - Q4 2020							
Programme Indicators & Targets:							
Projected Outputs / Indicators & targets:	Projects funded	New	57				
	Jobs created	FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A
	Jobs sustained	FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A
Projected No. of each type of projects funded:	Streetscape Enhancement	15	Development of recreation spaces			5	
	Tidy towns	15	Development of markets			2	
	Town Maintenance / restoration / upgrading	10	Development of festivals			10	
Number & value of funding:	Capital	47				€972,100.00	
	Training	N/A				N/A	
	Marketing	10				€98,420.00	
	Animation	N/A				N/A	
Population in towns receiving funding:		65,897					

4.1.14 Broadband – Local Objective 1.4

Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation Broadband – Local Objective 1.4	
Local Objective: To increase access by rural communities and businesses to high speed reliable broadband, Wi-Fi and 4G coverage in order to enhance the economic potential and social benefits for rural communities, by supporting investment by community and business interests in small scale broadband infrastructure & technology, increasing uptake & usage and developing the capacity of rural dwellers to optimise on the social, community & economic benefits from improved high speed broadband.	
Rationale for the Objective: <i>'There is a deficit of high quality telecommunication and broadband infrastructure and this is one of the most pressing infrastructural issues facing the county. The quality of broadband in many rural areas is poor' (Draft Kerry Local Economic & Community Plan – Socio Economic Statement and higher level goals' 2015).</i> The SWOT analysis notes as a weakness the poor mobile and broadband connectivity in the county. As well as being identified as an urgent issue to be addressed in the draft LECP, feedback received from numerous rural communities during the consultation process identified the absence of high speed reliable broadband as a major barrier to the further economic development of these areas. It was also identified as a significant negative impact on the quality of life for many rural citizens, as with so many social and economic services moving online, from private retail, travel, banking, educational programmes and government services, lack of access to reliable broadband inhibits rural citizen's ability to access these services and compounds the access issues arising from rural peripherally and physical remoteness. Dr Caroline Crowley & Dr Brendan O'Keeffe, commenting on the spatial patterns of households with no access to the internet in an area profile of South Kerry in 2014, noted that	

'The spatial patterns reveal that some households already disadvantaged by virtue of their physically remote locations are now also experiencing isolation from a modern society and economy increasingly dependent on ICT' (South Kerry Territorial Assessment - Dr. Caroline Crowley & Dr Brendan O'Keeffe 2014). The 2015 countywide profile (Meredith & O'Keeffe.) makes very similar observations in respect of other parts of Kerry, particularly Duhallow-Sliabh Luachra and rural areas around Listowel. The need to invest in broadband infrastructure was clearly identified from the consultation process, supporting communities with small scale investment in broadband infrastructure as well as facilitating investment by private broadband operators in their broadband network, to enhance reliable broadband coverage in rural areas. The need for capacity building supports to increase the ICT uptake and usage by certain cohorts of rural citizens, particularly older people was also identified.

Financial Allocation: €151,018.00

No. of Strategic Actions: Two

4.1.15 Broadband – Strategic Action 1.4.a

Broadband – Strategic Action 1.4.a

Animation, Capacity Building, Analysis & Development, Training & Mentoring

Brief Description of Strategic Action:

This action will facilitate meetings between existing providers, communities and businesses in the LDS areas, by using existing networks, to inform them on the resources available under the RDP LEADER Programme and opportunities to exploit this potential. It will organise workshops and seminars showcasing best practice on community broadband and organise field trips. Analysis and Development supports will be provided to enable groups undertake feasibility studies in relation to the potential development of community broadband schemes, and small-scale infrastructural works.

We will raise awareness in the LDS area by providing Training and Educational Programmes on the benefits of high quality telecommunications and broadband infrastructure showcasing the potential of e-commerce, social media, home-working and other developments. Through this action we will highlight the importance to communities and businesses of having a comprehensive online presence.

Support will be provided to up skill communities, businesses and individuals by working with the main training agencies in the provision of ICT courses to enable rural dwellers optimise on the social community and economic benefits from improved high speed broadband.

Primary Target Group:

Businesses, Community Groups and Individuals.

Geographic Area:

Co.Kerry - (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).

Organisation who will deliver Action:

This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.

Collaborating Organisations:

Broadband Providers, Mobile Phone providers, Kerry County Council, Business Networks, LAG member organisations and agencies.

Timeframe for Delivery of Action:

Q2 2016 – Q4 2020

Programme Indicators & Targets:

Number of small scale equipment projects funded	N/A
Population benefiting from enhanced broadband as a result of equipment funding	N/A
Number of capacity building / training / information projects funded	9
Number of individuals participating in capacity building / training / information activities in relation to broadband	100

Number of new jobs created	FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A
Number of existing jobs sustained	FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A

4.1.16 Broadband – Strategic Action 1.4.b

Broadband – Strategic Action 1.4.b Capital & Marketing:						
Brief Description of Strategic Action: Capital support will be provided to communities and businesses for small scale broadband infrastructure, such as boosters, at appropriate locations. Small scale capital and marketing support will also be provided to private providers to invest in their broadband networks.						
Primary Target Group: Businesses, Community Groups and Individuals.						
Geographic Area: Co.Kerry - (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).						
Organisation who will deliver Action: This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.						
Collaborating Organisations: Broadband Providers, Kerry County Council, Business Networks, LAG member organisations and agencies.						
Timeframe for Delivery of Action: Q2 2016 – Q4 2020						
Programme Indicators & Targets:						
Number of small scale equipment projects funded					9	
Population benefiting from enhanced broadband as a result of equipment funding					540	
Number of capacity building / training / information projects funded					N/A	
Number of individuals participating in capacity building / training / information activities in relation to broadband					N/A	
Number of new jobs created	FT	4	PT	2	SL	N/A
Number of existing jobs sustained	FT	6	PT	4	SL	N/A

4.1.17 Provision of Basic Services (Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities) – Local Objective 2.1

Social Inclusion Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities – Local Objective 2.1
Local Objective: To promote more inclusive sustainable rural areas by supporting the capacity of rural communities to develop and enhance appropriate needs based Community infrastructure, and to sustain, improve and provide new Community, Social, Cultural and Recreational services.
Rationale for the Objective: <i>'The findings reveal that levels of service provision in most communities fall below the targets set by government under the National Spatial Strategy in 2002. In fact over the last decade public service provision has been reduced and the closure of some vital services, the downgrading of others and the under-funding of many are adversely affecting the vibrancy of rural communities....The loss of services is also having negative social consequences and is compounding isolation and peripherality' (Rural Vibrancy in North-West Europe – The case of South Kerry - Dr. Brendan O'Keeffe 2015). Dr Brendan O'Keeffe's findings as part of a study of</i>

rural vibrancy in South Kerry are applicable to many other rural areas of the County. The structural weaknesses in the rural economy associated with low population densities, distance from urban centres, declining population levels from out-migration and emigration are compounded by the contraction and withdrawal of many key services, as the practices in the State sector have become determined more by the austerity agenda than by traditional models of local and public service delivery. As the countywide profile records, *“rural Kerry exhibits an increased level of deprivation, while the peri-urban commuter zones have generally been less affected by the recession and austerity... (Meredith & O’Keeffe, 2015).* Deprived neighbourhoods are also concentrated in peninsular Kerry, Sliabh Luachra/Western Duhallow and North Kerry east of Castleisland and north of Listowel. Reduction and loss of service provision impacts negatively on the quality of life of rural citizens and also inhibits the vibrancy of their communities. Inability by rural residents to access services compounds their experience of isolation and peripherality. Walsh and Harvey (2013, in a study commissioned by Pobal) echo the recommendations of several bodies such as Social Justice Ireland and a number of NGOs in stating that in tackling disadvantage and social exclusion there is need to move away from a focus on income poverty *“towards a greater emphasis on processes, policies and the multiple dimensions of poverty... such as isolation, distance from services, flanking policies such as transport and being on the periphery of decision-making” (2013: 15).* They also note that areas of inequality linked to social exclusion include *“educational achievement, employment, health, and social care, housing and communities, participation in public life and prejudice” (ibid.).* Feedback from the community consultations highlighted growing deficits in service provision in many rural parts of the county and some communities emphasised the need for new community facilities and services whilst others sought support to enable them maintain and improve existing community infrastructure & service provision. Many communities’ highlighted supports required to enable them attract, and retain a broader range of volunteers and develop more inclusive community planning processes.

Financial Allocation: €1,956,476.00

No. of Strategic Actions: Two

4.1.18 Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities – Strategic Action 2.1.a

Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities – Strategic Action 2.1.a

Community Animation, Capacity Building, Analysis & Development, Training & Mentoring.

Brief Description of Strategic Action:

This strategic action will support a broad range of local community based organisations with a community, cultural, social, recreation & education / training, environmental and heritage focus. This action will animate and develop the capacity of these groups to develop innovative & more inclusive approaches to sustaining existing and developing new services and facilities to respond to the community, social, cultural, training environmental & recreational needs of their rural areas. Animation & capacity building supports, complemented by the provision of mentoring, training and technical assistance will empower and enable rural communities to undertake more inclusive community planning processes, enhance community engagement and participation, and to develop more holistic, responsive and sustainable solutions to local service provision and consumption. A community led local development approach will be utilised to engage and support rural communities. Supports provided may include awareness raising activities, facilitating local community group meetings, provision of general advice & guidance with regard to group governance and operations, project development supports, assistance with the preparation of project applications, group training & mentoring to develop group capacity & technical assistance to support the preparation of feasibility studies and group plans.

Primary Target Group:

This action will engage community & voluntary organisations, including community councils, local development associations, youth groups, care of the elderly groups, tidy towns and active retired groups, social, environmental and cultural groups, local organisations engaged in the maintenance

and management of community facilities, sport, leisure & recreational organisations, local education & training groups, disability groups, and people living in remote and less accessible rural parts of the county, self employed, unemployed & underemployed people and small holder farm families.										
Geographic Area:										
The action will cover communities across the LAG area, with a particular focus on more remote & peripheral rural areas. (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).										
Organisation who will deliver Action:										
This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.										
Collaborating Organisations:										
Community & voluntary organisations, LAG member organisations & agencies and the Dept. of Social Protection.										
Timeframe for Delivery of Action:										
Q2 2016 – Q4 2020										
Programme Indicators & Targets:										
Projected Outputs / Indicators & targets:	Projects funded		New		17		Existing		23	
	Jobs created		FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A		
	Jobs sustained		FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A		
Number of projects funded per type of service:	Transport		0	Education				2		
	Health		2	Personal support services				2		
	Social amenities		8	Retail / financial services				2		
	Recreational / physical amenities		20	Bereavement / suicide – prevention services				2		
Nature of services provided:	To provide a service that isn't there								20	
	To enhance access to a service that is not in the locality								10	
	To enhance participation / outcomes of a service (through tailored supports for marginalised groups)								10	
Number of projects funded that have the following as primary (P) or secondary (S) target groups:	Older people		P	12		S		6		
	People with disability		P	10		S		8		
	Children		P	5		S		3		
	Young people		P	10		S		5		
	Travellers		P	5		S		4		
	Migrants / new communities		P	5		S		2		
	Unemployed people		P	8		S		1		
	People living alone		P	4		S		5		
Number of people availing of the services provided (by type of service):	Transport		N/A	Education				N/A		
	Health		N/A	Personal support services				N/A		
	Social amenities		N/A	Retail / financial services				N/A		
	Recreational / physical amenities		N/A	Bereavement / suicide – prevention services				N/A		
Number & (value) of funding:	Capital		N/A			N/A				
	Training		25			€121, 332.00				
	Marketing		N/A			N/A				
	Animation		15			€54,347.00				

4.1.19 Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities – Strategic Action 2.1.b

Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities – Strategic Action 2.1.b

Community Capital & Services Support

Brief Description of Strategic Action:

This action will support the provision of appropriate needs based community infrastructure & services on the community, social, recreational, cultural and education / training spectrum. Local community & voluntary organisations, in rural communities suffering the negative impacts of rurality, peripherality and isolation will be supported to:

- Refurbish, upgrade, equip and enhance existing community infrastructure to ensure that rural dwellers can continue to access appropriate community facilities & amenities.
- Develop new inclusive community facilities to address identified gaps and enable rural dwellers access high quality community facilities that would otherwise be unavailable.
- Improve existing community services, and support communities to take ownership and manage local assets/resources for the benefit of the community.
- Establish new inclusive community services to address the deficits in community service provision identified during the consultation process.

This investment in community infrastructure and services will support the sustainable development of these rural communities and will improve the quality of life of their rural residents.

Primary Target Group:

This action will engage community & voluntary organisations, including community councils, local development associations, youth groups, care of the elderly and active retired groups, tidy towns groups, Social, environment focused and cultural groups, local organisations engaged in the maintenance and management of community facilities, sport, leisure & recreational organisations, Local education & training groups, disability groups, and people living in remote and less accessible rural parts of the county, self employed, unemployed & underemployed people and small holder farm families.

Geographic Area:

The action will cover communities across the LAG area, with a particular focus on more remote & peripheral rural areas. (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).

Organisation who will deliver Action:

This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.

Collaborating Organisations:

Community & voluntary organisations, LAG member organisations & agencies, Dept. of Social Protection and Adult Education Centres

Timeframe for Delivery of Action:

Q2, 2016 – Q4 2020

Programme Indicators & Targets:

Projected Outputs / Indicators & targets:	Projects funded		New		26		Existing		32	
	Jobs created		FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A		
	Jobs sustained		FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A		
Number of projects funded per type of service:	Transport	0	Education					5		
	Health	6	Personal support services					3		
	Social amenities	20	Retail / financial services					2		
	Recreational / physical amenities	20	Bereavement / suicide – prevention services					2		
Nature of services provided:	To provide a service that isn't there							20		
	To enhance access to a service that is not in the locality							20		
	To enhance participation / outcomes of a service (through tailored supports for marginalised groups)							18		
Number of projects	Older people	P	10	S		0				

funded that have the following as primary (P) or secondary (S) target groups:	People with disability	P	6	S	2
	Children	P	0	S	4
	Young people	P	4	S	6
	Travellers	P	2	S	6
	Migrants / new communities	P	3	S	1
	Unemployed people	P	3	S	6
	People living alone	P	2	S	2
Number of people availing of the services provided (by type of service):	Transport	0	Education		60
	Health	120	Personal support services		50
	Social amenities	400	Retail / financial services		4
	Recreational / physical amenities	400	Bereavement / suicide – prevention services		20
Number & (value) of funding:	Capital	55	€1,749,065.00		
	Training	N/A	N/A		
	Marketing	5	€31,732.00		
	Animation	N/A	N/A		

4.1.20 Rural Youth – Local Objective 2.2

Social Inclusion

Rural Youth – Local Objective 2.2

Local Objective:

To improve the economic, community involvement & social opportunities for young people in rural communities by developing the youth and community organisations capacity to actively engage, support investment and maximise opportunities for their participation in economic, community, environmental & social activities.

Rationale for the Objective:

The CSO census of population (2011) shows that county Kerry has 36,777 individuals (25% of the overall population for the County) in the 15 to 34 age cohort. A comparison of the population structure of Kerry with that of the state shows that the proportion of those in the 20-34 age cohorts is noticeable lower in Kerry than that of the state reflecting the resurgence of economic emigration by young adults and a tendency by young adults and couples at the pre-family stage to live closer to jobs and higher education centres in urban areas. The SWOT analysis for the county notes as a threat the fact that '*High aged dependency has social and economic implications*'. In their feedback during the consultation process many rural communities highlighted the negative impact, in terms of rural sustainability, of the loss due to the out-migration and emigration of significant cohorts of their young people and all rural communities underscored the need to retain their existing youth populations to ensure the economic and social sustainability of their rural areas with one notable exception, Rathmore, the lack of involvement and difficulties of engaging young people in community development activity and in civil society generally was also highlighted during the consultation process. Community groups pointed to the need for supports to enable them attract and retain active youth involvement in their activities and to support the retention of young people in their rural communities by providing them with economic and social opportunities.

Financial Allocation: €395,545.00

No. of Strategic Actions: Two

4.1.21 Rural Youth – Strategic Action 2.2.a

Rural Youth – Strategic Action 2.2.a

Animation, Capacity Building, Analysis & Development, Training & Mentoring.

Brief Description of Strategic Action:

This action will support young people, youth groups, and a broad range of local community & voluntary organisations. Through animation & capacity building supports, complemented by the provision of training and mentoring, this action will:

- Support the engagement and active participation of young people in community & voluntary activity.
- Promote greater collaboration between youth groups and other community organisations.
- Strengthen the capacity of young people and youth groups to engage with and meaningfully contribute to their community's efforts to promote local economic & community development.
- Increase opportunities for their participation in economic and social opportunities.

A community led local development approach will be utilised to encourage and engage the participation of young people, youth groups and local community & voluntary organisations. Supports provided may include awareness raising activities, facilitating local community group meetings, provision of general advice & guidance with regard to group structures, governance and operations, specific project development supports, assistance with the preparation of project applications, the provision of training & mentoring supports to youth groups and local community & voluntary organisations, the provision of youth development & youth entrepreneurship training & mentoring programmes, technical assistance funding to examine the feasibility of youth led infrastructural projects.

Primary Target Group:

Community & Voluntary Groups, Youth Groups & Young People aged 15-35

Geographic Area:

The action will cover the entire LAG area, with a particular focus on more peripheral rural areas. (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).

Organisation who will deliver Action:

This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.

Collaborating Organisations:

Community & voluntary organisations, LAG member organisations & agencies, Local Youth groups, Secondary schools, Macra Na Feirme, Kerry Diocesan Youth Service (KDYS). Comhairle na nÓg.

Timeframe for Delivery of Action:

Q 2 2016 – Q 4 2020

Programme Indicators & Targets:

Projected Outputs / Indicators & targets:	Projects funded		15
Number of projects funded by type of initiative:	Youth clubs / cafes	6	Arts 1
	Youth entrepreneurship	3	Youth development 5
	Sport / recreation	2	
Nature of services provided:	To provide a service that isn't there		6
	To enhance access to a service that is not in the locality		4
	To enhance participation / outcomes of a service (through tailored supports to young people in disadvantaged areas etc)		5
No's of young people directly participating (by type of initiative):	Youth clubs / cafes	250	Arts 150
	Youth entrepreneurship	250	Youth development 150
	Sport / recreation	250	

Number & (value) of funding:	Capital	N/A	N/A
	Training	7	€54,937.00
	Marketing	N/A	N/A
	Animation	8	€10,987.00

4.1.22 Rural Youth – Strategic Action 2.2.b

Rural Youth – Strategic Action 2.2.b				
Capital Supports				
Brief Description of Strategic Action:				
This action will support the development of youth-focused infrastructure and facilities in rural communities. Local community & voluntary organisations and youth groups will be provided with capital supports to:				
a) Refurbish, upgrade and enhance existing community-based youth infrastructure and facilities to ensure that young people living in rural communities can continue to access appropriate social, recreational and sporting infrastructure and facilities.				
b) Develop new community-based youth infrastructure and facilities at appropriate locations to address identified gaps and enable young people in rural communities to access high-quality social, recreational and sporting infrastructure and facilities that would otherwise be unavailable.				
c) Organise and deliver youth focused artistic, cultural and environmental events.				
d) Development of youth led social enterprises and support entrepreneurial young people to start up their own businesses.				
This investment in youth infrastructure and facilities will support the retention of young people in their rural communities by providing them with increased economic, recreational, sporting and social opportunities.				
Primary Target Group:				
Community & Voluntary Groups, Youth Groups & Young People aged 15-35				
Geographic Area:				
The action will cover the entire LAG area, with a particular focus on more peripheral rural areas. (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).				
Organisation who will deliver Action:				
This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.				
Collaborating Organisations:				
Community & voluntary organisations, LAG member organisations & agencies, Local Youth groups, Secondary schools, Macra Na Feirme, Kerry Diocesan Youth Service (KDYS) and Foróige.				
Timeframe for Delivery of Action:				
Q 2 2016 – Q 4 2020				
Programme Indicators & Targets:				
Projected Outputs / Indicators & targets:		Projects funded		18
No. of projects funded by type of initiative:	Youth clubs / cafes	10	Arts	4
	Youth entrepreneurship	0	Youth development	0
	Sport / recreation	4		
Nature of services provided:	To provide a service that isn't there			10
	To enhance access to a service that is not in the locality			4
	To enhance participation / outcomes of a service (through tailored supports to young people in disadvantaged areas etc)			4
Numbers of young	Youth clubs / cafes	300	Arts	150

people directly participating:	Youth entrepreneurship	N/A	Youth development	0
	Sport / recreation	160		
Number & (value) of funding:	Capital	18		€329,621.00
	Training	N/A		N/A
	Marketing	N/A		N/A
	Animation	N/A		N/A

4.1.23 Protection & Sustainable Use of Water Resources – Local Objective 3.1

Rural Environment Protection & Sustainable Use of Water Resources - Local Objective 3.1	
Local Objective: To sustainably manage the natural resource potential of the Freshwater, Estuarine and main water bodies in County Kerry through an integrated programme of initiatives and measures following international best practices to deliver on Ireland's commitment under the Water Framework Directive and other European Directives (e.g., Marine Strategy Framework Directive). This will include the promotion of sustainable water based activity, citizen science and community engagement, community based bottom up approaches to water conservation and protection including designated annexed habitats and species listed under the EU Habitats Directive.	
Rationale for the Objective: The water resource of Co.Kerry is not only of regional but is also of national importance. The Co. Kerry water resource ranges from freshwater rivers and lakes, transitional water to the marine. Some water bodies occur within areas of International significance (e.g., Killarney National Park is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve). Tourist angling provision, freshwater and marine recreational angling, together with commercial fishing are important sectors providing significant local employment. Aquaculture (especially shellfish) is also an industry of importance for the County. Other water based activities are also becoming more prominent including kayaking, surfing and sub-aqua diving. Managing our water is essential to support life and protect our ecosystems. The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) (EUROPA, 2003) governs water management in Ireland. Its regulations forms the basis for standardising water quality measurements across catchments and remind member states that they should be seeking to achieve and maintain good water quality status. Governments are required to take a holistic approach to the management of water bodies, and to encourage the involvement of interested parties and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in water quality issues. They must facilitate access to the information for the preparation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) (EEA 2014). A number of rivers e.g., Kenmare River, Kerry Blackwater, River Feale, Laune and Caragh River catchments are designated individually or occur within Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) for a range of Annex II species listed under the EU Habitats Directive. Designated fish species include Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> and <i>Twaite shad Alosa fallax</i> . Killarney National Park is home to a unique form of <i>Twaite shad</i> known as the Goureen or Killarney <i>shad Alosa killarneyensis</i> which is endemic to the area. Local communities are key stakeholders as well as consumers of water and hold an important role in the sustainable management of water quality and quantity.	
Financial Allocation: €172,176.00	
No. of Strategic Actions: Two	

4.1.24 Protection & Sustainable Use of Water Resources – Strategic Action 3.1.a

Protection & Sustainable Use of Water Resources – Strategic Action 3.1.a Animation, Capacity Building, Analysis & Development, Training & Mentoring.
Brief Description of Strategic Action: Local communities are key stakeholders as well as consumers of water and hold an important

role in the sustainable management of water quality and quantity. The engagement of communities together with other key stakeholders such as industry in water management will lead to greater sustainable use. Communities will be supported to identify the important issues effecting water management at the local level and develop a vision for water management in their area for present and future sustainable usage. Through the consultations a range of initiatives that individuals and communities can undertake have been identified to improve sustainable water use in Co.Kerry and also protect water as a resource for recreation, environmental education, heritage and tourism, including fishing stands, stiles, car parks, fishing access, boat slips and moorings, greenways, trails and biodiversity corridors.

This will include the promotion of sustainable water based activity, citizen science and community engagement, community based bottom-up approaches to water conservation and protection including designated annexed habitats and species listed under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives. Supports will be provided to:

- Facilitate Information meetings, community and one-to-one meetings, work-shops on water management including conservation, sources of pollutants ranging from nutrients to micro-plastics, educational lectures, river field trips, angling engagement events, water bug bio diversity initiatives and raising awareness and demand for retro-fitting water harvesting measures to homes, business premises and community buildings.
- Co-ordinate the development of the River Catchment management and restoration plans.
- To develop river restoration plans in parallel with the Integrated Catchment Management process to address a range of biological and ecological needs of the rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters in Co. Kerry. Pressures on these water bodies include river bank erosion, invasive species, exploitation, water abstraction, pollution including excessive diffuse run-off from farms, private dwellings and other economic units.
- To support sustainable water management and conservation information initiatives, Analysis and Development, Feasibility Studies, general awareness raising including media, Audiovisual and stakeholder group outreach programmes.
- Develop Integrated Catchment Initiatives for sub-catchments in the relevant hydrometric areas in the sub region. These would build on the lessons learnt through the River Allow Catchment Management Initiative, the IRD Duhallow LIFE projects, Kerry LIFE and LEADER Initiatives.
- Support the development of an integrated coastal zone management initiative.

Primary Target Group:

Community groups, farmers, fishermen and coastal communities, anglers and businesses, individuals and tourism interests, and interest groups.

Geographic Area:

Co.Kerry - (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).

Organisation who will deliver Action:

This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.

Collaborating Organisations:

Community Groups, landowners and local farmers, Farming Organisations, Teagasc, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Kerry County Council, EPA, Coillte, SWAN, Tralee Institute of Technology, volunteers, BIM, Marine Institute, Inland Fisheries Ireland, DAFF, DOELG, Irish Water, EPA and National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Timeframe for Delivery of Action:

Q 2 2016 – Q 4 2020

Programme Indicators & Targets:

Projected Outputs / Indicators & targets:	Projects funded		New		Existing	
	Jobs created		FT	N/A	PT	N/A
	Jobs sustained		FT	N/A	PT	N/A
Type of project	Wind energy		0	Local coordination initiatives		2

funded:	Solar Energy	0	Technical / scientific cooperation	2
	Other Energy	0	Nature conservation initiatives	0
	Education & awareness	4	Recycling	0
	Impact assessment	3		
Number & value of funding:	Capital	N/A	N/A	
	Training	5	€23,913.00	
	Marketing	N/A	N/A	
	Animation	6	€4,783.00	

4.1.25 Protection & Sustainable Use of Water Resources – Strategic Action 3.1.b

Protection & Sustainable Use of Water Resources – Strategic Action 3.1.b

Capital & Marketing

Brief Description of Strategic Action:

To contribute to sustainable water management a range of capital projects will be supported. These projects will aim to not only enhance the habitats and water quality for aquatic species but will also help with the appreciation of the amenity value of water bodies. Techniques for water harvesting and to reduce water consumption will be supported focusing on good practice, protection of the environment and where appropriate innovation.

Capital supports will be provided for:

- Measures to restore degraded river habitats, projects to enhance fishing, marine and ecotourism associated with rivers and coastal areas including canoe trails, river bird watching, and natural flood prevention measures (e.g. constructed wetlands).
- Fitting or retrofitting of rainwater harvesting to community and other buildings for water conservation together with other sustainable solutions including recycling of grey water for buildings and farms/businesses.
- River restoration and coastal areas projects including rivers and coastal areas, angling projects, protection of Natura 2000 sites, fishing stands, styles, car parks, fishing access, boat slips and moorings.
- Ensuring that all projects proposed, in themselves will follow best practice in the protection of the environment and not adversely affect the environment / Natura 2000 sites.
- Where supports to the coastal fishing communities cannot be provided by other programmes such as the FLAG, BIM, etc., the LAG will endeavour to provide LEADER 2014-2020 project support where possible (e.g. food, innovation, etc.).

Primary Target Group:

Communities, SME's, young people, hard to reach communities including coastal communities, anglers, tourism operators, farmers and forestry interests.

Geographic Area:

Co.Kerry - (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).

Organisation who will deliver Action:

This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.

Collaborating Organisations:

Inland Fisheries Ireland, NPWS, EPA, Kerry County Council, and angling clubs.

Timeframe for Delivery of Action:

Q 2 2016 – Q 4 2020

Programme Indicators & Targets:

Projected Outputs / Indicators &	Projects funded	New	9	Existing	5
	Jobs created	FT	3	PT	4
				SL	

targets:	Jobs sustained	FT	2	PT	1	SL	
Type of project funded:	Wind energy	0	Local coordination initiatives				2
	Solar Energy	0	Technical / scientific cooperation				5
	Other Energy	0	Nature conservation initiatives				7
	Education & awareness	0	Recycling				0
	Impact assessment	0					
Number & value of funding:	Capital	10					€119,567.00
	Training	N/A					N/A
	Marketing	4					€23,913.00
	Animation	N/A					N/A

4.1.26 Protection & Improvement of Local Bio-diversity – Local Objective 3.2

Rural Environment

Protection & Improvement of Local Bio-diversity – Local Objective 3.2

Local Objective:

To improve the status of annexed habitats and species (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protected Areas) and locally important biodiversity sites (high nature value sites, e.g., Natural Heritage Areas) in inland, coastal and island areas of County Kerry through community engagement and facilitation projects, on the ground restoration at appropriate locations and promotion of innovative techniques to incorporate biodiversity into Village Plans and retrofit measures into existing town and farm buildings to accommodate greater biodiversity 2015-2020.

Rationale for the Objective:

Kerry is famous for its biodiversity due to the occurrence of certain Lusitanian (i.e., more typical of Spain and Portugal) species which have an Irish distribution, although not exclusively, centred on Kerry. Examples include; the Kerry slug *Geomalacus maculosus*, Natterjack Toad *Epidalea calamita* and the Strawberry Tree *Arbutus unedo*. Biodiversity is not however only confined to rare or threatened species but also includes more common species that are widespread. The habitats where they live often have biological aspects forming important ecosystems which are important in their own right. Therefore when considering biodiversity and its conservation, the interconnectedness and indeed interdependence between organisms must be considered. As humans, we form part of the biodiversity make up and many activities, especially the food industry; farming, forestry, recreational and tourist based activities are underpinned by healthy biodiversity. Scientists recognise the need to maintain biodiversity for our survival. These services include pollination, carbon sequestration, food production, even climate amelioration. Human induced climate change will not only result in increasing global temperatures, but also more severe weather events including increased flooding. Biodiversity can help reduce risk to these factors and increase our ability to mitigate against climate change effects. A cross cutting theme is the promotion of the value of ecosystem services to the public and the practical application of this concept to the wider community including the agriculture and forestry sector. Consultations have highlighted that it is important that more people reconnect with the environment, not only from the point of nature conservation but also as a necessity as we enter a period of greater climate change. A range of community based environmental projects have been identified to support awareness, education and conservation across locally important biodiversity sites.

Financial Allocation: €262,885.00

No. of Strategic Actions: Two

4.1.27 Protection & Improvement of Local Biodiversity – Strategic Action 3.2.a

Protection & Improvement of Local Biodiversity – Strategic Action 3.2.a

Animation, Capacity Building, Analysis & Development, Training & Mentoring.

Brief Description of Strategic Action:

An aim of the LDS is to make biodiversity more accessible to local stakeholders. Ultimately these stakeholders are crucial in influencing successful outcomes for the conservation of biodiversity in the county. This action will also seek to address this deficit, to establish base-line knowledge of biodiversity and its importance through animation. In parallel with this, will be the demystifying of the EU Habitats Directives for local communities, who view these EU Directives negatively and as an imposition onto their way of life.

Critical to this, will be engagement with people of all ages across Co.Kerry including schools. Bringing biodiversity concepts from general awareness to more positive action requires a good understanding of what the biodiversity issues are and what realistically can be done at the community level. Training such as habitat mapping and species identification are important tools which must be mastered before the evaluation of any biodiversity programme can be undertaken. Engaging communities through a network of "citizen scientists" brings about multifunctional data bases providing immense data sets against which improvements (or dis-improvements) can be measured. Furthermore, by engaging citizens through citizen science, a heightened awareness of biodiversity issues can be realised as hands-on learning is far more powerful than passive forms of learning. Other relevant issues affecting biodiversity such as water conservation, land management, persecution of protected species and invasive species can be tackled through the heightened awareness and peer learning associated with citizen science. Mentoring for focus groups such as Tidy Towns and Fishing and Farming interests are extremely important also as it provides the vehicle for positive actions rather than what can sometimes be well meant but destructive initiatives. Mentoring for Young people will also be an important part of this action.

Supports will be provided for:

- Biodiversity information initiatives, community engagement in the field and citizen science, general awareness raising - including media, audiovisual and stakeholder group outreach programmes.
- Works shops, educational lectures, training, field trips, biodiversity day and bio blitz's,
- Support to baseline studies, biodiversity action plans, habitat mapping, species identification, education and awareness projects and initiatives and the development of collaborative initiatives to create green corridors.
- Coastline studies and development and support of best practice initiatives (e.g., dolphin watching, marine tourism and angling). Support community and special interest groups to include bee keeping for cross pollination.

Primary Target Group:

Individuals, Landowners, Farmers, Fishermen, Forestry interests, SME's, Community Groups and Young People.

Geographic Area:

Co.Kerry - (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).

Organisation who will deliver Action:

This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.

Collaborating Organisations:

Individuals, Landowners, Farmers, Coillte, Community Groups, Kerry County Council, Farm Organisations, Tidy Towns Groups, Coillte, Teagasc, Science Foundation Ireland and Biodiversity Data Centre.

Timeframe for Delivery of Action:

Q 2 2016 – Q 4 2020

Programme Indicators & Targets:

Projected Outputs / Indicators & targets:	Projects funded		New		Existing	
	Jobs created	FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL
	Jobs sustained	FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL

Type of project funded:	Wind energy	0	Local coordination initiatives	5
	Solar Energy	0	Technical / scientific cooperation	0
	Other Energy	0	Nature conservation initiatives	4
	Education & awareness	2	Recycling	0
	Impact assessment	3		
Number & value of funding:	Capital	N/A	N/A	
	Training	6	€36,512.00	
	Marketing	N/A	N/A	
	Animation	6	€7,302.00	

4.1.28 Protection & Improvement of Local Biodiversity – Strategic Action 3.2.b

Protection & Improvement of Local Biodiversity – Strategic Action 3.2.b Capital & Marketing

Brief Description of Strategic Action:

Targeted capital supports can dramatically improve the quality of biodiversity in an area. These supports can include more traditional good practices such as placement of bird nest boxes, coastal sign posted walks, hedgerow management, and wildflower planting. More recently the value of combining biodiversity with other environmental objectives is seen as bringing a multiplier effect to nature conservation. It presents a win-win scenario, even for people not fully engaged in nature conservation. Examples include rain water harvesting, planting of arable crop field margins with wild flower to increase not only plant biodiversity but also increased crop production through increased pollination. In urban environmental retrofitting buildings with a range of nature conservation measures (from bat boxes to bird boxes and feeders to grass roofs) in an integrated fashion can bring nature to everybody's doorstep, increasing the range of species in decline. Capital supports will be provided for:

- Practical project measures to address Raptors in the area including monitoring (including sea eagle and hen harrier).
- Measures to increase wildlife in coastal communities, village and town areas through restoring, enhancing or creating habitats at appropriate locations.
- Measures to improve biodiversity of farmland, forestry, hedgerow and road sides.
- Measures to improve aquatic biodiversity.
- Measures to target issues affecting the conservation status of Natura 2000 sites.
- Measures to address more common species to increase community access to biodiversity
- Removal of invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed.
- Support for small-scale Bee Keeping and pollination projects.
- Support for 'Grow Your Own' initiatives and Community Gardens.

Primary Target Group:

Individuals, Landowners, Farmers, Fishermen, Forestry interests, Community Groups and Young People, SME's and hard to reach communities.

Geographic Area:

Co.Kerry - (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).

Organisation who will deliver Action:

This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.

Collaborating Organisations:

Individuals, Landowners, Farmers, Coillte, Community Groups, Kerry County Council, Farm Organisations, Tidy Towns Groups, Teagasc, Science Foundation Ireland and Biodiversity Data Centre.

Timeframe for Delivery of Action:							
Q 2 2016 – Q 4 2020							
Programme Indicators & Targets:							
Projected Outputs / Indicators & targets:	Projects funded	New	12		Existing	6	
	Jobs created	FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A
	Jobs sustained	FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A
Type of project funded:	Wind energy	0	Local coordination initiatives				4
	Solar Energy	0	Technical / scientific cooperation				5
	Other Energy	0	Nature conservation initiatives				9
	Education & awareness	0	Recycling				0
	Impact assessment	0					
Number & value of funding:	Capital	14					€182,559.00
	Training	N/A					N/A
	Marketing	4					€36,512.00
	Animation	N/A					N/A

4.1.29 Development of Renewable Energy – Local Objective 3.3

Rural Environment

Development of Renewable Energy – Local Objective 3.3

Local Objective:

To promote environmentally and socially complimentary renewable energy initiatives, which enhance communities, reduce the carbon foot print, address fuel poverty through sustainable resource use, increase energy efficiency (insulation and other energy saving measures) thereby reducing fossil fuel consumption by rural homes and SME's. On a wider landscape scale an increase in carbon sequestration will be promoted thereby increasing County Kerry's resilience to climate change between 2015-2020.

Rationale for the Objective:

Approximately 90% of energy utilised in County Kerry is obtained from non-renewable resources, which include fossil fuels such as oil and coal. In addition all such resources are imported, which means that energy expenditure in Kerry represents a constant drain on local resources. In contrast renewable energy resources such as wind and bio-power are in abundant supply locally and they represent a reliable, recession-proof supply opportunity potentially involving locally managed resources. Where large-scale renewable energy projects - excluding the construction phase have traditionally been of only marginal value to local development, small projects, finely-tuned to meet their specific local needs represent a far more beneficial approach.

The key approach within the Co. Kerry LDS area is a focus on environmental sustainability across all operations and projects delivered. There is an opportunity to realise significant commercial sustainable activity through the generation of greater renewable energy for power, heating and transport fuel, while simultaneously decreasing use through energy reduction measures.

Research highlights that it is the transport sector which showed the greatest energy consumption increase and CO₂ emissions, while energy consumption in buildings also accounts for a large percentage of all energy consumption in the area. Currently the main source of renewable energy creation is wind. Consultations and research to date have highlighted that Co. Kerry is well suited for the production of renewable energy opportunities to develop a strong bio-energy presence particularly through anaerobic digestion, bio-fuels, supply chain management and ESCO's.

The actions identified through the consultations and research focus on reducing carbon emissions in line with national targets through energy reduction initiatives, creating sustainable employment through locally-based energy generation activities and supporting community based energy conservation initiatives, including insulation, that lead to more resilient local economies.

An increased level of community participation, via CLLD methodologies, in renewable energy projects will ensure that communities benefit from local renewable energy projects. Furthermore, investment in renewable energy infrastructure projects and capacity building actions will support the cross cutting objectives of innovation, environment and climate change, raising awareness of, and protecting the environment, reducing Ireland's greenhouse gases, while piloting innovative ideas and improved technology.

Financial Allocation: €332,030.00

No. of Strategic Actions: Two

4.1.30 Development of Renewable Energy – Strategic Action 3.3.a

Development of Renewable Energy – Strategic Action 3.3.a

Animation, Capacity Building, Analysis & Development, Training & Mentoring

Brief Description of Strategic Action:

Animation will be an on-going strategic component of the LDS to increase participation in all sectors and organisations across community, economy and society throughout Co.Kerry. CLLD methodologies will be adopted to encourage participation and engagement in local issues and organisations in the adoption and sustainable development of renewable energy and in reducing energy demand. This may include facilitation of local community meetings, newsletter articles, social media, awareness raising, intensive group supports, tailored project development supports, project development officer support and preparation of project applications. These supports will mobilise communities, people living in rural areas, villages and towns and SME's to engage in the delivery of innovation driven renewable energy services, networks, research and infrastructure, informed via local engagement, participative planning and the bottom-up ethos. Animation actions will support community development, improved quality of life, protection and improvement of the environment, economic growth and the creation of rural jobs. This strategic action is also designed to support and manage a cohesive and research / best practice approach to the implementation and management of renewable energy as a viable alternative to conventional energy technology and to implement conservation measures, utilising the bottom-up approach.

The LAG recognises that community based initiatives will play a key role in realising national and EU environmental targets and a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions through renewable energy infrastructure. However, this requires considerable capacity building and up-skilling among community representatives and local SME's including key co-ordination and co-operation actions that link key local drivers. Support will be provided for the:

- a) Animation of community groups, small and micro enterprises and social enterprises in preparation for training, mentoring, technical support and capital projects relating to renewable energy and conservation.
- b) Development of local networks, community groups / small and micro enterprises through one-to-one animation supports, community meetings, publications, awareness raising and media to increase participation at all levels
- c) Community organisations / small, medium and micro enterprises supported to avail of advice and support, R&D, training, and mentoring for innovative renewable energy production and conservation.
- d) Technical support for the development and testing of new products and ideas aimed at rural job creation in the renewable energy sector.
- e) Co-ordination / networking of groups through capacity building measures focusing on the installation and use of renewable energy technologies and energy conservation measures.
- f) Co-operation project supported to share best practice through inter-territorial and trans-national cooperation projects.
- g) Renewable energy projects that adhere to County Kerry's Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) as contained in the Kerry County Development Plan (2015-2021).

Primary Target Group:

All community groups / organisations, SME's (including agriculture and social enterprises)

throughout Co. Kerry							
Geographic Area: Co.Kerry - (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).							
Organisation who will deliver Action: This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.							
Collaborating Organisations: Local Authority, Teagasc, SEAI, Chambers, Coillte, Tralee IT, Energy Companies, Local Businesses, Community Groups and Co-ops.							
Timeframe for Delivery of Action: Q 2 2016 – Q 4 2020							
Programme Indicators & Targets:							
Projected Outputs / Indicators & targets:	Projects funded	New	7		Existing	6	
	Jobs created	FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A
	Jobs sustained	FT	N/A	PT	N/A	SL	N/A
Type of project funded:	Wind energy	2	Local coordination initiatives				2
	Solar Energy	2	Technical / scientific cooperation				0
	Other Energy	2	Nature conservation initiatives				0
	Education & awareness	3	Recycling				2
	Impact assessment	0					
Number & value of funding:	Capital	N/A			€		
	Training	7			€46,115.00		
	Marketing	N/A			€		
	Animation	6			€9,223.00		

4.1.31 Development of Renewable Energy – Strategic Action 3.3.b

Development of Renewable Energy – Strategic Action 3.3.b Capital & Marketing	
Brief Description of Strategic Action: The LDS will support communities and small and micro enterprises to invest in local sustainable energy production, with lower environmental impacts. The action will focus on creation of micro generation using waste, wood, water and solar and community based approaches to anaerobic digestion, supply chain management and ESCO's cooperative energy reduction measures, waste reduction measures, greater building efficiencies, tackling fuel poverty and increasing uptake of local energy supply solutions. Capital support will be provided for the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Development of low energy / carbon community initiatives. Support for collaborative waste reuse and reduction initiatives. Establishment of renewable energy consumer Co-ops. Support for greater building efficiencies, tackling fuel poverty and increasing uptake of local energy supply solutions. Support for sustainable energy production projects. Renewable energy projects that adhere to County Kerry's Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) as contained in the Kerry County Development Plan (2015-2021). 	
Primary Target Group: All community groups / organisations, SME's (including agriculture and social enterprises) throughout Co.Kerry.	
Geographic Area: Co.Kerry - (See also 4.1.32 - 4.1.36).	

Organisation who will deliver Action:							
This strategic action will be delivered by the LAG implementing partners, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd and IRD Duhallow. Each implementing partner will deliver the action in their respective geographic areas.							
Collaborating Organisations:							
Local Authority, Teagasc, SEAI, Chambers, Coillte, Tralee IT, Energy Companies, Local Businesses, Community Groups and energy supply companies.							
Timeframe for Delivery of Action:							
Q 2 2016 – Q 4 2020							
Programme Indicators & Targets:							
Projected Outputs / Indicators & targets:	Projects funded	New	15	Existing	5		
	Jobs created	FT	4	PT	10	SL	0
	Jobs sustained	FT	3	PT	2	SL	0
Type of project funded:	Wind energy	3	Local coordination initiatives				2
	Solar Energy	4	Technical / scientific cooperation				3
	Other Energy	4	Nature conservation initiatives				0
	Education & awareness	0	Recycling				4
	Impact assessment	0					
Number & value of funding:	Capital	15			€230,575.00		
	Training	N/A			N/A		
	Marketing	5			€46,115.00		
	Animation	N/A			N/A		

4.1.32 Geographic location

The County Kerry Socio Economic Profile makes reference to three specific regions, the Iveragh Peninsula, North Kerry and rural areas outside the influence of Tralee, Killarney, Kilorglin, Dingle and Kenmare. While these areas will be targeted with intensive animation and capacity building the LAG has decided that LEADER 2014 -2020 should be available throughout the county.

4.1.33 County Kerry has no major urban or peri-urban regions in that the main town of Tralee is a largely rural market town therefore all towns and villages will be considered under our rural tourism actions.

4.1.34 **Tourism** on the other hand is well developed in Killarney especially with regard to accommodation therefore the rural tourism initiative will mainly target the other regions and will have regards for National Strategies such as the Wild Atlantic Way.

4.1.35 **Enterprise development** will not be confined geographically as calls for proposals will determine where projects come from. The roll out of REDZ will be taken into consideration in making project decisions.

4.1.36 **Environment;** This plan was screened under both the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive and the Habitats Directive by Kerry County Council. The renewable energy measure will take account of the District Heating Project which was already developed between the existing LAGs and Kerry County Council. The Biodiversity as well as water resources actions will take account of the two EU Life projects which are being implemented in the South East and North East of the County.

5.0 SECTION 5: Strategic Integration

5.1 Cross Cutting Objectives

5.1.1 Innovation: Planning Promotion & Implementation

The Kerry LAG has an innovative approach to the planning, promotion and implementation of LEADER 2014-2020. It will develop and deliver on innovative ways of addressing and alleviating the disadvantage associated with its rural areas as identified earlier in this LDS. The LAG will work with all sectors of the community, including farming and non-farming, community groups based on area or interest, businesses and networks through the community-led local development approach.

5.1.2 The LAG and the implementing partners will ensure that innovation is an ongoing and continuous process and there will be a particular focus on local innovation. While there is a culture and track record of local innovation in development projects, this will be further enhanced through the animation process, including networking, facilitation, information provision, promotion, etc.

5.1.3 The Kerry LDS will be innovative in terms of the development, enhancement and application of services, technologies, systems and products, which will improve quality of life and improve the diversity of our rural society and economy.

5.1.4 Therefore the strategic actions of the Kerry LDS will ensure the continued development of a sustainable and innovative economy in Co.Kerry.

5.1.5 Innovations provided for in the plan include:

- a) Piloting new products and technologies to enhance businesses and community / social services.
- b) Innovative use of existing resources for youth work, tourism, etc.
- c) Developing and supporting new markets for local produce, etc.
- d) Innovative application of strategic actions across sub-themes.
- e) Developing innovative responses to supply goods and services where there are gaps and opportunities.

5.1.6 Environment: Planning Promotion & Implementation

The Kerry LAG recognises the valuable asset that is our environment, and equally accepts the responsibility which that brings. As our analysis details, the Co.Kerry environment is also a fantastic, rich and varied resource base that, if treated in a sustainable manner, will continue to enrich the quality of life of dwellers and visitors alike for many years to come. The strategic actions will improve the general understanding and awareness of the need to protect, conserve and enhance our environment, and details actions designed to ensure the efficient and sustainable use of our natural resources. The actions seek to value, protect, preserve and enhance the unique natural and built environment of Kerry, thereby promoting a high quality of life for our citizens and communities.

5.1.7 Our environmental focus is aligned to and consistent with the provisions of the Kerry Local Economic and Community Plan. Importantly, the LAG and its implementation partners commit to working alongside all relevant agencies for the conservation, protection and enhancement of the environment, and will seek to ensure that the principles of environmental good practice apply to its work with individuals and community groups.

5.1.8 Climate Change: Planning Promotion & Implementation

Minimising the impact and effects of climate change is a guiding principle of the Kerry LDS and informs the strategic actions to promote sustainable methods while making better use of existing resources. Support will be provided for opportunities to be developed across all relevant actions that seek to reduce the carbon footprint in the community and local industry.

5.1.9 The Kerry LAG is confident that this cross-cutting objective is fully complementary with the SWOT analysis, building on the strengths of the area to avail of opportunities many of which are linked with our environment and landscape. Furthermore the LAG is committed to ensuring that the strategic actions proposed will contribute to climate change mitigation, sustainable growth and development of an economy that is built on our valuable and precious assets.

5.2 Policy Context

5.2.1 This Local Development Strategy (LDS) is one of a number of strategies targeted at local and county-wide levels, and is situated in the context of a changed approach by central government to development programmes. However, the integrity of bottom-up planning and implementation and community-led local development is protected through the approach taken by the LAG in its planning, development and implementation of this LDS. The LDS is therefore situated within a policy framework (See Chart 5.2.1 & Appendix 11.5.1 – 11.5.3) that encompasses both the top-down and bottom-up approaches and must be read in that context. This is particularly the case when examining the range of LEADER 2014-2020 themes and sub-themes which are diverse but complementary, and are aligned with the other relevant policy documents and positions at local, national, EU and international levels.

Chart 5.2.1: Policy Context



5.2.2 This wider policy context has been taken into account in developing the Kerry LDS and a strong consistency has been achieved with policies at all levels. The complementarities of the various policies and programmes will ensure successful implementation of the LDS up to 2020 and will enhance the quality of life of people in the county well beyond this. While the Kerry LDS has specifically addressed the relevance and influence of 10 policy documents, additional Plans & Strategies which have informed this LDS are referred to in Appendix 11.5.4.

5.2.3 LOCAL STRATEGIES & PLANS:

In a local context the LDS is consistent with the following plans and their objectives;

5.2.4 (1) Kerry Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2015 – 2021.

The purpose of the LECP 2015 - 2021, is to set out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and local and community development of the local authority area, by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. The overarching aim of the LECP is “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities”. The LECP involves two elements - Economic and Community. The LECP is being prepared in parallel with the preparation of the LDS and is due for completion at the end of 2015. However a clear structure to the LECP is evolving based on the Higher Level Goals within the areas of Economic Development & Job Creation, Quality of Life and

Community & Social Inclusion. (See also Appendix 11.5.4). The broad framework areas are defined as follows:

- a) **Economic Development & Job Creation:** To promote a robust and diverse economy, supported by well-developed education and training models, enabling a sustainable population and vibrant communities throughout the county.
- b) **Quality Of Life:** To promote a high quality of life, based around a clean natural environment, good quality local services, a strong sense of place and culture and meaningful participation in decision making.
- c) **Community & Social Inclusion:** To promote social and economic inclusion and reduction of social inequalities, particularly targeting area and communities in Kerry experiencing social disadvantage, marginalised groups or those at risk of exclusion.

5.2.5 (2) Kerry Tourism Strategy

Kerry County Council is currently engaged in an ongoing process of consultation for the development of a countywide Tourism Strategy. Kerry County Council's overarching strategic themes include the following:

- a) To protect and enhance Kerry's natural environment.
- b) To provide a world class experience for the visitor.
- c) The Tourism Sector, local communities and the State Agencies working together.
- d) Embracing new up-to-date technologies for both the visitor and research purposes.
- e) To ensure the continued success of the Tourism Sector for the county.

5.2.6 Kerry's tourist product is generally associated within the small niche market of rural based holiday activities. The importance of tourism to rural economies is growing and in some instances is critical to the economy of these areas. Kerry's Tourism Strategy will aim to capitalise on the opportunities presented by growing niche markets which includes the diversification of farm activity. There is significant potential for rural communities across the county to develop their tourism economies with an emphasis within the Tourism Strategy on the following areas:

- a) Adventure Tourism
- b) Natural & Cultural Heritage
- c) Education
- d) Branding & Marketing
- e) Community Tourism, Events & Festivals
- f) Infrastructure
- g) Enterprise

5.2.7 (3) Kerry County Development Plan (2015-2021) (KCDP) (including the Kerry Renewable Energy Strategy (RES)).

The KCDP including the RES outlines the aims, objectives, policies and guidelines to provide for the proper planning and sustainable development of the county. It is a spatial planning framework that gives effect to the delivery of sustainable and planned economic and social development in a manner consistent with higher National plans and strategies. The KCDP has seven main objectives:

- a) To attract inward investment and people into the County and stem outward migration from the County,
- b) To promote the growth of a sustainable economy,
- c) To adopt 'green principles' that promote a high quality of life,
- d) To promote the creation of attractive vibrant settlements that provide a high quality of life for our citizens,
- e) To maintain and provide additional services for our citizens, investors and visitors,
- f) To protect and enhance the natural and built environment, and
- g) Actively strive to secure the financial resources to achieve policies and objectives contained in the KCDP .

5.2.8 The content of the plan is prescribed by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and specifically focuses on physical development and land-use and how both can help achieve the sustainable economic and social development of the County. The plan is presented in five volumes; Volume 1 in particular outlines a number of Integrated Strategies with each Strategy including policies and objectives to assist in achieving the aforementioned objectives over its 6 year life cycle. Several of these strategies overlap with the policy objectives of the LDS including economic development and employment; tourism and recreation; social infrastructure and community development and protection of the natural, built and cultural heritage.

5.2.9 The County's RES also forms part of the KCDP. Adopted in 2012, the RES sets out the development criteria, development management standards and objectives for the development of Renewable Energy in the County and is used in the assessment of planning applications for such development. It was drafted in cognisance of Climate Change and the demands Nationally for Ireland to meet its 2020 targets (EU Directive on Promotion of the Use of Energy for Renewable Sources) in the 20% cutting of greenhouse gas emissions, 20% increase in energy from RE sources and 20% increase in energy efficiency. Further to recent changes in the Planning and Development Act the recently adopted KCDP had to address Climate Change in the context of its role as a sectoral plan that guides sustainable development and settlement patterns. Again this shows a clear overlap with the LDS which is underpinned by the cross-compliance objective of Climate Change.

5.2.10 The KCDP is therefore a strategic document in the physical development of the County to meet social and economic needs. It is underpinned by the key principle of sustainability and drafted within a context that is now being influenced by the effects of Climate Change. Clearly the objectives of the LDS are strategically aligned with the above approach. The LDS with its emphasis on community led rural development initiatives ties in with the overarching objectives of the KCDP which in turn will guide any developments/projects that may flow from the LDS.

5.2.11 REGIONAL STRATEGIES & PLANS:

In a regional context the LDS will be consistent with the plans, guidelines and objectives contained in the following;

5.2.12 (4) Regional Planning Guidelines (RPG) 2010-2022 & Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES's), which will be prepared by the Regional Assemblies:

Many of the over-arching objectives of the RPG's are very much consistent with both the themes of the LEADER 2014-2020 programme and the strategic actions emerging from the bottom-up approach in the Kerry LDS. This consistency is most relevant especially in the following areas:

- a) Sustainable economic development: growth in sectors where the region enjoys Competitive advantage; protect existing tourism assets in the region; develop additional sustainable facilities for activity holidays, urban and rural tourism; develop region's marine and coastal assets; further development of the primary resource based sectors (water, land and air) – food, food processing, fishing, aquaculture, forestry; rural diversification; local entrepreneurial activity.
- b) Quality of Life: walking and cycling; culture and heritage: local area traditions; Gaeltacht and Island areas; broadband services; essential service provision in rural areas; protect and enhance public open space and recreational facilities.
- c) Environment: renewable energy (tidal, wave and pumped storage, bio-energy); biodiversity; natural heritage (habitats, species, landscapes and geological); urban wildlife corridors and sites of nature conservation importance.

5.2.13 National strategies & plans:

The LDS will contribute to Ireland's National Reform Programme, which sets out the broad macro-economic context and provides updates on Ireland's progress including through the following key national policies and programmes:

5.2.14 (5) Pathways to Work & Action Plans for Jobs:

Pathways to Work (PTW) was first launched in 2012, with subsequent strategies in 2013 and 2015. The Pathways to Work strategy is designed to ensure that no one is left behind in the recovery, and in particular that as many as possible of the new jobs are taken up by unemployed people from the Live Register. It provides for enhanced engagement services and additional activation measures to jobseekers while the recovery takes hold. It was initiated in response to the dramatic rise in the numbers of unemployed jobseekers on the Live Register that took place during the Great Recession. The most recent Pathways to Work 2015 included a greater focus on the long-term unemployed and young unemployed and the Department of Social Protection (DSP) is currently developing policy actions to inform the new Pathways to Work 2016-2020 Strategy.

5.2.15 Action Plan for Jobs (APJ) (2015): At national level the Government is committed to seeing full employment of 2.1million people in 2018 and an Action Plan for Jobs is published every year, setting out clear actions and targets to help create positive conditions for job creation. Overall the Action Plan for Job's Five Strategic Ambitions are:

- a) To support 100,000 additional jobs by 2016
- b) To get Ireland back to a top-five ranking in international competitiveness
- c) To stimulate the domestic economy and generate employment in locally traded sector
- d) To build an indigenous engine of growth that drives up the export market share of Irish companies
- e) To build world-class clusters in key sectors of opportunity

5.2.16 Southwest Action Plan for Jobs: At South West level the Regional APJ will build on the strategic resources that the Region already has and sets out specific actions to be delivered over the next two years, towards our 2018 ambition. Some of the higher South West Action Plan For Jobs profile projects and actions that are supported by the Kerry LDS and will drive increased employment over the coming years are:

- a) Talent for Enterprise: +100% workforce training and development activity.
- b) World Class Sector Ecosystem Development: +20 % in export-led jobs to 2020.
- c) Supporting Entrepreneurship: + 40-50% start-ups.
- d) Agri-Cluster Development: +40% output to 2020
- e) Realising Tourism and Hospitality Potential: +33% overseas tourist numbers and +40% in overseas revenue.
- f) Research collaboration and commercialisation: +50% enterprise-research collaborations.
- g) Diaspora promoting Trade, Investment and Entrepreneurship.
- h) Accelerated roll-out of advanced broadband services.

5.2.17 (6) Forfas – Social Enterprise in Ireland Sectoral Opportunities & Policy Issues:

In Ireland, there are four main types of social enterprise, and often social enterprises may overlap in these goals:

- a) Commercial opportunities that are established to create a social return;
- b) Creating employment opportunities for marginalised groups;
- c) Economic and community development organisations; and,
- d) Deliver services.

The recommendations of the report are:

- a) Policy Development for the Social Enterprise Sector
- b) Capacity Building in the Sector.
- c) Public procurement can be used to influence social outcomes
- d) Funding and Finance Social enterprises
- e) Developing Leaders and Harnessing Community
- f) Governance

5.2.18 (7) People, Place and Policy: Growing Tourism to 2025:

The overall tourism goal of Government is that by 2025, revenue from overseas visitors, excluding carrier receipts, will increase to €5 billion in real terms (i.e. excluding the effects of inflation). The targets associated with this are:

- a) Employment in the tourism sector will be 250,000 by 2025, compared with around 200,000 at present.
- b) There will be 10 million visits to Ireland annually by 2025.

5.2.19 In order to achieve these targets, the Government will place tourism as a key element of its economic strategy, with development in the tourism sector reflecting the highest standards of environmental and economic sustainability, and the role of tourism in promoting peace and political co-operation on the island of Ireland will continue to be recognised and encouraged.

5.2.20 In keeping with the above strategy Fáilte Ireland has developed and implemented the truly exciting and already highly successful Wild Atlantic Way (WAW). The WAW encompasses the coastline and hinterland of the nine coastal counties of the West of Ireland, including Kerry, and stretches for almost 2,500km. The route itself is already a magnet having got the attention of the international visitor since its launch in 2014. The WAW covers an extensive geographical area, but in order to facilitate visitors in experiencing its variety specific areas have been identified to amplify different sections of the Way. The consultation process in its development and implementation phases and the success of the Way in its inception, have encouraged a community-led approach to tourism, and indeed builds on the momentum and belief created in such communities through the year of the Gathering in 2013. The Kerry LDS will complement the WAW through many of the strategic actions especially in the economic and environmental sub-themes.

5.2.21 (8) Energising Ireland's Rural Economy – Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA).

The Terms of Reference of CEDRA were to develop a set of recommendations:

- a) To encourage job creation and sustainable enterprise development
- b) To be recognised as a modern, fair, socially inclusive and equal society supported by a productive and prosperous economy
- c) To facilitate where possible export led growth,

5.2.22 CEDRA's vision for Rural Ireland is that it "will become a dynamic, adaptable and outward looking multi-sectoral economy supporting vibrant, resilient and diverse communities experiencing a high quality of life with an energised relationship between rural and urban Ireland which will contribute to its sustainability for the benefit of society as a whole".

5.2.23 The Kerry LDS reflects many of the 36 recommendations of the CEDRA Report, and seeks to implement relevant actions in a strategic community-led approach, which will complement other approaches such as the National Broadband Plan, etc.

5.2.24 EU STRATEGIES & PLANS:

The LDS will contribute to the EU 2020 Strategy which sets out the approach and targets required to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and will be cognisant of the following.

5.2.25 (9) EU environmental legislation as transposed into Irish legislation including the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Directive/Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Habitats Directive and Water Framework Directive.

EU Directives underpin key environmental legislation implemented at a National level in Ireland. Although not exhaustive in the context of the LDS the above mentioned Directives are seen as particularly relevant in the context of protection of the natural and built/cultural heritage of the county. The SEA/EIA Directives ensure that strategic plans/programmes and projects are assessed for the potential to significantly effect the environment. They are seen as key Directives

in the EU's focus on sustainable development with the integration of environmental considerations into decision making. There is a specific focus on consultation with the community in both directives. Similarly the WFD requires considerable community consultation in the cyclical drafting of Water Basin Management Plans and the implementation of measures on the ground. By placing greater emphasis on environmental objectives within a participatory approach to decision-making more sustainable development outcomes is a natural occurrence. These objectives are clearly aligned with the LDS where community led initiatives are pivotal to the LDS implementation.

5.2.26 The Habitats Directive relates more specifically to the Natura 2000 network and aims to ensure the protection of rare and vulnerable species/habitats across Europe. In Kerry almost 50% of the County is designated as part of the Natura 2000 network. Such sites are predominately found in rural areas. As the LDS is underpinned by protection of the natural environment, it is clearly aligned with the objectives of the Habitats Directive.

5.2.27 (10) EU's Europe 2020 Strategy

The *Europe 2020 Strategy* is the European Union's ten-year jobs and growth strategy. It was launched in 2010 to create the conditions for smart - through more effective investments in education, research and innovation; sustainable - a decisive move towards a low-carbon economy and inclusive, with a strong emphasis on job creation and poverty reduction. The strategy is focused on five ambitious goals in the areas of employment, innovation, education, poverty reduction and climate/energy to be achieved by the end of 2020.

5.2.28 All Member States have committed to the Europe 2020 strategy. However, each country has different economic circumstances and translates the overall EU objectives into national targets in its National Reform Programme (NRP) – a document which presents the country's policies and measures to sustain growth and jobs and to reach the Europe 2020 targets.

5.2.29 For Ireland among the priorities the Government has set for itself in the latest NRP (2015) are strengthening the domestic economy and prioritising new jobs for the unemployed; delivering better working and living standards; and responsible and sustainable management of the public finances. These priorities guide and underpin the work set out in the NRP (2015). The NRP details proposed targets for Ireland in order to meet its obligations under the Europe 2020 strategy. Those of relevance to the LDS include:

- a) Employment - increasing employment rates with a specific focus on young people,
- b) Climate Change and energy - ensuring compliance with obligations under 20:20:20
- c) Education - increasing access to education and training with a particular focus on young people
- d) Poverty - reduction in poverty and social isolation.

5.2.30 In particular several key Country Specific Recommendations (CSR) are outlined that show clear relevance and strategic alignment with the LDS including:

- a) CSR3 - Labour Market Activation, including Long-term Unemployment, Youth Guarantee and Reform of Further Education and Training,
- b) CSR4 - Low Work Intensity Households, Child Poverty and Childcare and
- c) CSR5 - Supports for SME's, including Access to Finance.

6.0 SECTION 6: National Networking & Co-operation

6.1 Networking

6.1.1 Participation overview – Local:

The three designated Implementing Partners in Kerry; - IRD Duhallow, NEWKD and SKDP - have demonstrated a strong commitment to engaging in networking throughout the previous LEADER programmes, and it is anticipated that this will continue during the Programme period 2014-2020. This activity is an important aspect of the LEADER methodology, supporting both the LAG and Project Promoters to engage with their counterparts by exchanging knowledge and understanding, leading to best practise being developed and adopted, and collaborative actions identified and animated. Networking takes place at various levels and an outline of this is provided below.

6.1.2 The LAG recognises the value and benefits that can accrue from the dissemination of learning and information, as well as the sharing of good practice. There are a number of ways in which networking takes place at local level and The Kerry LAG intends to maximise the impact of these for the benefit of County Kerry.

6.1.3 Community Area Fora:

Communities typically engage in networking in two ways, (i) a geographic basis and (ii) a thematic basis. At a geographic level, communities in Kerry have been organised into sub county units through the Local Development Companies to facilitate communication between Community Groups and Organisations. These networks meet between 4 and 5 times each year and provide a forum for nominated reps from each community in the area to network, to exchange information, to be informed about funding opportunities and to examine models of best practice within their local areas. These community networks are facilitated by the Local Development Companies.

6.1.4 Thematic Networks:

Working on a thematic basis, various specific interest themes are identified and relevant groups and organisations brought together to share experiences and develop collaborative actions. Examples of such thematic networks the Implementing Partners facilitate include: Agriculture and Enterprise working groups, Community Networks, Heritage, Culture and Environment sub-committees, Social Inclusion Networks, Village Renewal Network, Youth, Recreation and Tourism. It is planned that these and other thematic networks would continue to be supported and developed over the course of the LEADER 2014-2020 period.

6.1.6 Public Participation Network:

The recently established Public Participation Network will form a new part of the Community Infrastructure at County Level, the successor to the former Community and Voluntary Forum, by providing a structured forum to engage with registered Community Groups and organisations across County Kerry.

6.1.7 Participation overview – National:

The National Rural Network (NRN) has provided support for networking over the course of the LEADER Programme. It has yet to be determined who will deliver the NRN contract for this Programme period. However, it is expected that structured networking events including Seminars, Thematic workshops, online fora will form part of this contract, and that the Implementing Partner Local Development Companies will engage proactively, participating in such events and contributing where appropriate.

6.1.8 ILDN:

Irish Local Development Network (ILDN) - the network of Local Development Companies, has played an important role in facilitating networking between LAG's at both a Regional and National level while also facilitating International Exchanges, in co-operation with the European Network for Rural Development. The ILDN Regional structure has provided a network for the exchange of

knowledge and information within the Region. SKDP, NEWKD and IRD Duhallow are members of ILDN and play an active role in the network activities, development of policy and position papers.

6.1.9 Department:

The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government has facilitated a number of events involving the Local Action Groups over the course of the last Programme, focusing on particular themes and administrative aspects of the Programme. The LAG and the implementing LDC's will participate in future events as appropriate.

6.1.10 Inter-territorial Project Partners:

In delivering previous LEADER Programmes, IRD Duhallow, NEWKD and SKDP have been involved in a wide range of inter-territorial projects involving Partners throughout Ireland. These projects are designed around specific initiatives or sectors, involving local Project Promoters from Kerry interacting with counterparts in similar situations elsewhere across the country. This networking proves an invaluable resource.

6.1.11 Participation overview – International:

- a) **ENRD:** As with the National Rural Network at national level, there has also in the past been a European Rural Development Network (ENRD) established to facilitate networking in parallel with the Programming period. Kerry LAG will engage with networking activities at this level on a needs basis where opportunities exist to gain a deeper understanding of the opportunities and trends at European and international level.
- b) **ELARD:** ELARD stands for European LEADER Association of Rural Development and is an international non-profit making association set up to improve the quality of life in rural areas and to maintain their population through sustainable, integrated local development. ELARD is a Network of 1,075 LAGS from 23 countries and is based in Brussels. Irish LAGs are represented on ELARD by a member of ILDN.

6.1.12 Transnational Project Partners:

Similar to the Inter-territorial projects, over the past 20 years there have been a wide range of Transnational projects undertaken by IRD Duhallow, NEWKD and SKDP building up a range of connections and contacts throughout Europe and beyond giving rise to formal and informal networking opportunities. Examples include:

- a) SKDP visit to Cornwall to explore further common training needs in local government representation, democracy building and development of community centres.
- b) SKDP visit to Antrim to explore possibilities for joint training initiative on tackling substance abuse at community level.
- c) South Kerry Music Festivals participation in Sliabh Luachra Festival in Boston to collectively promote music festivals and events in South Kerry.
- d) SKDP – pre development visit to Albania to explore further common training needs in gender mainstreaming, leadership and economic empowerment.
- e) (NEWKD) – visit to Wales to explore successful initiatives and best practice in developing community initiatives, facilities and services especially focusing on community centres.
- f) (NEWKD) visit to Northern Spain to explore the importance of flexibility and adaptability in the use of resources for the overall benefit of the community such as making school buildings available after hours, co-operation and co-ordination in organising transport facilities and identifying and responding to pupil needs .

6.1.13 As referenced above, the LDC's are also involved in a wide range of networks at local level that give rise to opportunities to contribute to and influence policy across a wide range of sectors and topics.

6.1.14 Local Community Development Committee:

The LAG, through its representatives from various state agencies and community and voluntary sector organisations and engagement with Local Government, will have the opportunity to influence national policy by engaging in rural development policy creation through policy submissions and interdepartmental working groups.

6.1.15 Details of the LAG's successful networking participation:

The LAG structure offers the immediate benefit of fostering very close and pro-active working relationships, coordination, and integration across multiple community and economic stakeholders – both public and private. This serves to underpin a robust joined up approach to policy development and implementation of community led local development in the Kerry area. In addition, the LAG would intend to participate in LEADER network structures in Ireland.

6.1.16 The LAG recognises the value and benefits that can accrue from the dissemination of learning and information, as well as the sharing of good practice. At a local level, there are 3 LAG Sub Regions in County Kerry. The strategy proposes a close and constructive working relationship across these sub-regions.

6.2 Co-operation

6.2.1 Outline of LAG proposals for co-operation projects:

Co-operation projects are viewed as an important aspect of the LEADER methodology and in preparing this Local Development Strategy it is intended that Kerry will develop proposals for a range of co-operation projects over the lifetime of the programme. Drawing on the experience of administering previous programmes and the socio economic profile of the sub-region there are a number of potential co-operation proposals being explored. Based on the experience of working on these strategic co-operation projects, the following indicative actions are being proposed:

6.2.2 Transnational:

- a) Cultural Exchanges with Northern Ireland, and Canada based on Sliabh Luachra culture.
- b) Biodiversity themed exchanges with the UK and France around Raptor Conservation.
- c) The eradication of invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed with Wales and England.
- d) Duhallow Day of the Regions to capitalise on tourism potential with Dumfries and Galloway in Scotland.
- e) Promoting the LEADER methodology with Co.Kerry and other EU countries eg. The Czech Republic.
- f) Development and promotion of the Duhallow Outdoor Classroom Project. Link to biodiversity, water, tourism and rural towns sub themes.
- g) Development of collaboration networks to support social and community enterprise initiatives.

6.2.3 Inter-territorial:

- a) Development and promotion of outdoor recreation across Co. Kerry and North Cork. Link to tourism, rural towns, enterprise and biodiversity sub themes.
- b) Blackwater river with Kerry, Cork and Waterford. Link to water biodiversity, tourism and rural towns sub themes.
- c) Development and promotion of the Ireland Reaching Out Diaspora Project across Co. Kerry and North Cork. Link to rural towns, tourism and enterprise sub theme.
- d) Hen harrier Conservation Project with Co.Kerry, Co.Cork and Co.Limerick. Link to biodiversity and tourism sub-theme.
- e) Kerry Social Farming Project with Co.L Leitrim and other border counties.
- f) Development of Greenway between Co.Kerry and Co.Limerick.

- g) Development of and support for outlets, marketing strategies and diversification projects for the increasing number of artisan food producers.

6.2.4 Outline of Co-operation projects matching broader LDS vision:

Co-operation projects form an integral part of our proposal to implement the Local Development Strategy. Where key initiatives are developed, at either sub region or County levels, which have the potential to contribute to, or benefit from, participating in a wider Co-operation Project, these opportunities will be pursued. Based on previous experience, there must be a mutual benefit from participating in co-operation projects for them to prove successful, and this will be key assessment criteria for determining whether or not to proceed with future projects. Additional projects will emerge from pre-development exploration, research and analysis undertaken that could benefit from inter-territorial and transnational cooperation across the 2015-2020 period.

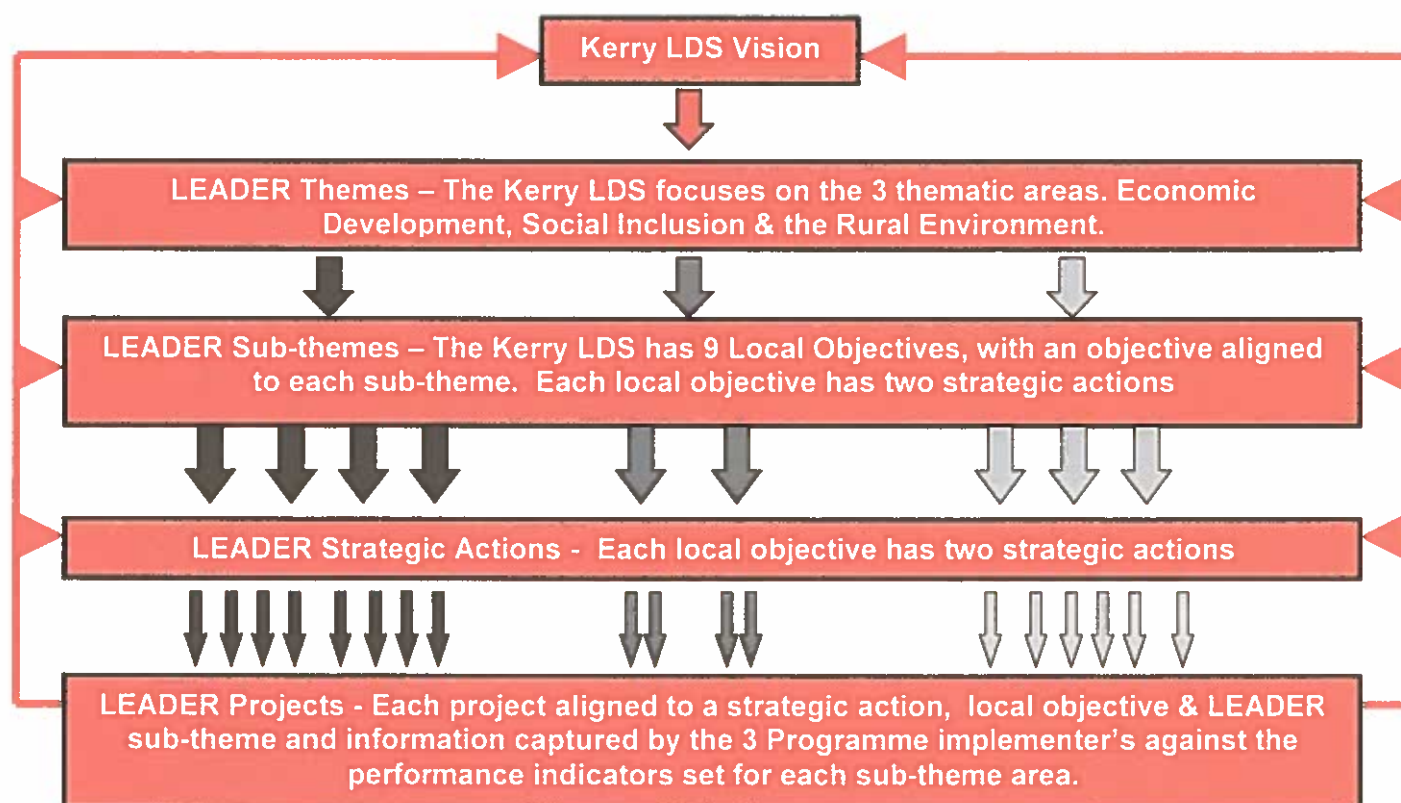
7.0 SECTION 7: Monitoring, Review & Evaluation

7.1 Monitoring & Review

7.1.1 The Local Action Group recognises the importance of robust & thorough systems & processes for the monitoring, review & evaluation of the Local Development strategy. It is understood that the monitoring, review and evaluation of LEADER interventions is a mandatory task for LAGS and are integral parts of programme delivery providing a link between planning and implementation. Monitoring focuses on the activities and outputs, evaluation focuses on the outcome and achievement of objectives. Evaluation is a critical process to enable the LAG to assess the actual impact of LEADER programme interventions.

7.1.2 The framework the Kerry LAG will utilise to monitor and review the Kerry LDS is as set out in chapter 4 and Appendix 1 of the DECLG's guidance document 'Overview of stage 2 Invitation to Submit a Local Development Strategy' (See Table 7.1.1).

Table 7.1.1: The Kerry LAG Framework



7.1.3 The Kerry LAG has set nine strategic objectives to realise its vision for its sub-regional area, with each objective aligning to a sub-theme of the programme. Common indicators for each sub-thematic area have been provided by the Dept. and these indicators (subject to any further revisions by the Dept.) will be utilised by the LAG against which project level data will be captured. Local projects will be linked to one of the LDS's overall nine strategic objectives and information for each project will be captured against the relevant thematic programme indicators. Information can then be rolled up to local objective level (sub-thematic level) & programme thematic level.

7.1.4 Sources of data & frequency of collection for each programme indicator

The programme implementers, South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd & IRD Duhallow will be responsible for the collection of project level data in each of their respective geographic areas (See Table 7.1.2).

Table 7.1.2: Data Sources utilised by the programme implementers.

Data Source	Frequency of Collection	Information Collected
Applications received from Project promoters. The application form will be designed to ensure that information on the project promoter & basic project information will be captured.	Data collected at application stage. This will be on a rolling basis for those project applications falling outside the 40% time bound call for proposals and will be tied to specific dates set for receipt of applications pursuant to time bound calls for proposals	Basic project information will be captured on the LEADER ICT system at the point of application, including Promoter's name, address, Entity type, applicable sub-thematic area & local objective, type of funding sought, amount applied, etc.
LAG & Programme Implementer's own records (from Financial systems & internally generated documentation – i.e. project officers assessment reports, inspection reports etc. Reports (interim, Final & post completion reports) & supporting documentation (invoices, receipts etc.) received from project promoters.	At project approval stage and at periodic stages after project approval, coinciding with key project development milestones including contract stage, project implementation stage, project completion & payment stage.	Amount of funding approved, type of funding approved, amount of funding drawdown, type of activity/project funded etc. Additional information collected will depend on the thematic area to which the project is assigned.
	During project implementation stage, at project completion stage & at periodic intervals post completion as required. (Dependant on the size, complexity & nature of the project funded. For smaller projects – final reports only)	Inputs, outputs & outcomes collected for each LEADER funded intervention.

7.1.5 Data will be collected for each programme indicator at key stages in the project development process, to include initiation stage, application, project implementation stage, completion stage and post completion. Project level data will therefore be captured and recorded on an on-going basis.

7.1.6 Whilst the collection of data will coincide with key development stages in the project life-cycle from initiation to completion, it is recognised that data on project outputs & outcomes will require to be captured from project promoters at periodic intervals post project completion stage as information relating to some outputs will not be available immediately upon completion of the project.

7.1.7 In some instances – full data against a specific sub-thematic indicator may not be available for some period of time (e.g. 6 to 12 months) post completion of the project. Obtaining post completion reports from project promoters will be important in ensuring the completeness of data captured for the relevant performance indicator and thus ensuring that the LAG obtains a holistic view of the outputs and outcomes of LEADER funded interventions.

7.1.8 Process for data collection from local projects in relation to the programme indicators set.

The Kerry LAG and its three programme implementers will be responsible for the collection of data for LEADER funded interventions in Kerry. The process of data collection from local projects will be undertaken by each of the programme implementers for LEADER funded interventions in their

respective geographic areas. A hardcopy LEADER project file will be opened and maintained by the implementing partner's LEADER staff (Development officers) for LEADER funded interventions in their geographic areas.

7.1.9 Data will be captured and recorded by the development officer on the relevant LEADER file utilising the data sources and with the frequency of collection as described above. All relevant project level information will be recorded manually on the LEADER hardcopy file, including the application and all supporting documentation, internally generated information such as project development officer assessment reports, information pertaining to the project implementation (i.e. interim reports etc.), project completion (i.e. promoters & project development officer's final reports) and project post completion reports. In addition to maintaining hardcopy LEADER files, a file for each LEADER intervention will also be created on the LEADER ICT system. Data extracted from the hardcopy files will be inputted in the LEADER ICT system.

7.1.10 To support programme reporting requirements and provide more qualitative information on LEADER funded interventions a number of case studies will be undertaken by the programme implementers annually covering a number of the LEADER sub-themes. The number of case studies and sub-thematic areas to be covered will be agreed by the LAG having regard to local priorities and Dept. reporting requirements. The case studies will include information on the following aspects of the selected projects:

- a) Promoter background/Description.
- b) Project/Business description.
- c) Products/Facilities/Services.
- d) Financial Information (previous funding / other sources of funding).
- e) Employment (current and potential).
- f) Compatibility with LAG's / LDS / overall LEADER themes and cross-cutting objectives.
- g) Benefit to the community.

7.1.11 Who in the LAG is responsible for the review and collation of data and its maintenance? How will the data be controlled for quality to ensure accuracy?

The three programme implementing partners in Kerry will have responsibility for the collection; recording and maintenance of project level data for LEADER funded interventions in their respective geographic areas. As outlined above, detailed hardcopy files for individual LEADER projects will be maintained by programme implementers, which will contain project level data captured against the relevant performance indicators set.

7.1.12 LEADER programme development officers in each implementing partner will have responsibility for ensuring that the required project level data is fully recorded on the hard copy files. Programme development officers will work closely with project promoters to encourage and facilitate them in providing high quality project level data. The importance of data reporting will be emphasised to project promoters and contractual documentation will set out clearly their reporting responsibilities and obligations. The format of programme documentation such as application forms, project officer assessment reports and promoter's reports will be designed to accommodate the capture of key project level data.

7.1.13 Each LEADER project file will be reviewed by the LEADER programme manager to ensure compliance with programme requirements. This review will involve checking that the required monitoring data is properly recorded on the file. This quality control check is important in ensuring the accuracy of the data recorded. Data extracted from the hardcopy project files will be inputted in the LEADER ICT system by designated programme staff within each programme implementer. Programme Implementer staff have vast experience in this regard from the current LEADER ICT system and other programme monitoring systems. To ensure the accuracy of data recorded on the LEADER ICT system, periodic checks will be undertaken by senior programme personnel to verify

that the project level data recorded in the LEADER ICT system is consistent with the data in the hardcopy project files.

7.1.14 The collation and review of aggregated data for the LAG sub-regional area will be the responsibility of the Kerry LAG. Designated staff within the financial partner – Kerry County Council will undertake this task supported by the three programme implementing partners.

7.1.15 Data collection compliance:

It is recognised and understood by the Kerry LAG that personal and sensitive data will be provided by project applicants in applying for LEADER funding. All data collection, recording and reporting systems and processes must be cognisant of the Data Protection Acts. The three programme implementing partners have vast experience and strict policies and procedures in place with regard to the capture, the handling and reporting of personal & sensitive data.

7.1.16 Hardcopy records containing personal & sensitive data will be tightly controlled and stored in secure locations when not in use (usually locked filing cabinets), with access restricted to relevant personnel only. When in use, files containing personal/sensitive data will not be left unattended in open plan/public areas of the offices to avoid the possibility of sensitive & personal data being viewed by non-authorised personnel, other project promoters or members of the public. ICT records will be protected by passwords, known only to the user with passwords changed regularly. The storage of personal/sensitive data on laptop computers/other portable devices will be avoided, to eliminate the possibility of personal/sensitive data being lost due to the theft or loss in transit of these portable devices.

7.1.17 LDS and annual implementation review process outline:

The review of the Kerry LDS will be a function of the LAG and the process will be led by the Kerry LAG supported by all members. The purpose of the review will be to ensure that the objectives and strategic actions remain appropriate to the needs of the area and implementation of the strategic actions is impacting as required on the sub-regional area. The timing of the mid-term review will be determined by the LAG and will have regard to the timelines of any national programme review, LAG annual reporting requirements and timelines for the completion of annual implementation plans.

7.1.18 Ideally the review of the LDS should also have regard to the timelines of any LECP review. In reviewing the Kerry LDS, the LAG will utilise data collected by the programme implementing partners pursuant to the programme monitoring requirements, information provided as part of the annual reporting requirement. This data will be supplemented with case studies on selected programme thematic areas which will provide important qualitative data. Focus group meetings/workshops with key stakeholders and direct consultation with a sample of programme beneficiaries under selected programme thematic areas may also be utilised in an effort to glean additional qualitative information.

7.2 Evaluation

7.2.1 LAG's objectives for LDS evaluation:

The primary objective of the Kerry LAG for the LDS evaluation is to assess the impact of LEADER funded interventions in its sub-regional area. The evaluation will also:

- a) Facilitate assessment of the appropriateness of the LDS local objectives and strategic actions in addressing the development challenges of the sub-regional area having regard to recommendations/learning's from the LDS review and any changes in internal & external factors impacting on the sub-regional area.
- b) Provide a critical analysis of the LDS achievements, highlighting development interventions/approaches that have worked well, areas in need of improvement and any interventions/approaches that did not achieve their objectives.

- c) Afford an opportunity to LAG member & partner organisations and other key stakeholders to input their views on the effectiveness of LEADER funded interventions.

7.2.2 Governance & Coordination arrangements:

The Kerry LAG will be the body responsible for the governance and coordination arrangements for managing the process. The LAG will be supported by the three programme implementing partners in ensuring the delivery of a high quality programme evaluation that meets its objectives as set out in its terms of reference. The LAG supported by the programme implementing partners will develop a comprehensive terms of reference for the evaluation which will set out the evaluation objectives, scope, timeframe, format, implementation methodology, key stakeholders to be engaged in the process, outputs and potential costs (if external evaluator engaged) and process for acceptance and sign off.

7.2.3 LDS or LEADER themes evaluated:

The Kerry LAG has determined that the three programme thematic areas are relevant to addressing the development challenges facing its sub-regional area. In developing local objectives to realise its LDS vision, the Kerry LAG has set nine local objectives with each objective aligning to a sub-thematic area of the programme. In keeping with the holistic approach adopted by the Kerry LAG, it is envisaged that any evaluation of the programme will be cognisant of this approach and will seek to ascertain the impact of LEADER funded interventions across the three programme thematic areas. Having regard to the priorities assigned to the programme thematic areas in investment terms, it is likely that the evaluation focus on programme thematic and sub-thematic areas will be reflective of these weightings.

7.2.4 Data requirements for evaluation:

The Kerry LAG will utilise information provided by the programme monitoring system and this will draw on data collected and recorded by the programme implementing partners on hard copy LEADER project files and data entered in the LEADER ICT system. This will provide a substantial amount of quantitative data but the Kerry LAG recognises that it will need to be supplemented with additional qualitative data to support a thorough programme evaluation. To capture the more qualitative aspects around programme outcomes and impacts a number of case studies will be undertaken on a sample number of projects across programme thematic and sub-thematic areas. Direct engagement and consultation with key stakeholders, including programme implementing partners, key LAG partner organisations, particular sectoral groups (depending on the sub-thematic area being further investigated), particular communities in certain geographic areas, and direct programme beneficiaries will be undertaken and may utilise workshops, focus groups, surveys and individual consultation/interviews.

7.2.5 Evaluation tools:

A number of different tools and methods will be deployed by the Kerry LAG in an effort to capture both quantitative and in particular additional qualitative aspects of LEADER programme delivery. The mix of tools and methods utilised (some of which have been referenced above) will be dependent on the budget resources available for the evaluation, the particular thematic/sub thematic areas or specific LDS topics to be further explored and the stakeholders to be engaged. In preparing terms of reference for the evaluation, the Kerry LAG will have regard to these issues and will also determine whether an external evaluator will be engaged to lend additional objectivity to the evaluation process.

7.2.6 Evaluation methodology:

Timelines for the evaluation will have regard to the scheduling and requirements for evaluation of the national LEADER programme. An indicative timeline for preparation of a programme evaluation is 2020 – a final evaluation of the LDS in County Kerry. Depending on resource availability up to three thematic evaluations are envisaged. Ongoing evaluation working with participative research methods with identified local communities/target groups, commencing in 2016 and recording

processes from the beginning of the initiative and progress over time. Mid term evaluation – focusing on thematic evaluations of shorter duration and final evaluation – again focused on thematic evaluations of shorter duration at the conclusion of the programme.

7.2.7 Proposed method of disseminating activities and findings:

Approaches to the dissemination of evaluation activities and findings will be covered in the evaluation terms of reference which will be drawn up and approved by the Kerry LAG. It is envisaged however that evaluation activities/findings will be communicated to:

- a) LAG member organisations and LAG partner organisations.
- b) Other statutory and voluntary organisations involved in the delivery of local economic and community development supports and services to rural communities in the LAG's sub-regional area.
- c) Those stakeholders who have participated in the evaluation processes including programme beneficiaries.
- d) Policy makers, academic institutions, and Government Depts.

7.2.8 Resources required:

The resources required will be addressed by the Kerry LAG in finalising the evaluation terms of reference. The level of resources required will be impacted by decisions as to whether the evaluation will be conducted internally by LAG members or externally to lend more objectivity to the process. Some level of financial resources will be sourced from the programme budget with additional funding being sourced from the Kerry LCDC. The possibility of partnering with an academic institution as part of a research project (as has been done by some LDC's in the LAG area) will also be explored. Staff of the three programme implementing partners, given their significant experience in undertaking LEADER programme evaluations, will provide a valuable resource to support any evaluation undertaken.

8.0 Section 8: Financial Plan – (See Appendix 11.8)

9.0 Section 9: Additional Information as required

9.1 Environmental Assessments

As the LDS evolved it was assessed under both the SEA Directive and Habitats Directive. This was to ascertain if significant effects on the environment and/or Natura 2000 sites was considered likely from the implementation of the LDS. Further to the SEA screening it was determined that significant effects on the environment were not likely and a SEA was not required. A Habitats Directive Assessment concluded that the LDS was not likely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was not required.

10.0 Section 10: Declaration & Disclaimer (See Appendix 11.10)

11.0 Section 11: Appendix

11.1 Section 1 Appendix: The LAG / Governance Model

11.1.1 Table LAG Membership

No.	Title	First	Last	Sector	Organisation
1	Cllr.	Norma	Moriarty (Chair)	Public Sector Local Government	Kerry County Council
2	Cllr.	Pa	Daly	Public Sector Local Government	Kerry County Council
3	Cllr.	Aoife	Thornton	Public Sector Local Government	Kerry County Council
4	Cllr.	Niall	Kelleher	Public Sector Local Government	Kerry County Council
5	Ms.	Moirá	Murrell	Public Sector Local Government	Kerry County Council
6	Mr.	Tomás	Hayes	Public Sector Local Government	Kerry Local Enterprise Office
7	Ms.	Hilary	Scanlan	Public Sector State Agencies	HSE
8	Ms.	Ann	O' Dwyer	Public Sector State Agencies	Kerry Education & Training Board
9	Ms.	Fionnán	Ó hÓgáin	Public Sector State Agencies	Údarás na Gaeltachta
10	Mr	Eamonn	O'Reilly	Private Sector Local & Community Development	NEWKD
11	Ms.	Sheila	Casey	Private Sector Local & Community Development	SKDP
12	Mr.	Bill	Morrell	Private Sector Social Economic & Community Interests	PPN Community & Voluntary Forum Interests
13	Mr.	Charlie	Farrelly	Private Sector Social Economic & Community Interests	PPN Social Inclusion Interests
14	Ms.	Maura	Fitzgerald	Private Sector Social Economic & Community Interests	PPN Community & Voluntary Forum Interests
15	Ms.	Mary	Grandfield	Private Sector Social Economic & Community Interests	PPN Social Inclusion Interests
16	Mr.	Padraig	Hanrahan	Private Sector Social Economic & Community Interests	Tourism - Destination Kerry Forum
17	Ms.	Catherine	McMullin	Private Sector Social Economic & Community Interests	Environment - An Taisce
18	Mr.	James	McCarthy	Private Sector Social Economic & Community Interests	Agriculture / Fishing / IFA
19	Mr.	Kieran	Ruttledge	Private Sector Social Economic & Community Interests	Business - Tralee Chamber Alliance
20	Ms.	Maura	Walsh	Private Sector Local & Community Development	IRD Duhallow

11.1.2 Governance of the LAG

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides a legislative underpinning for the establishment of the Kerry Local Community Development Committee. The main provisions relating to the Kerry LCDC are contained in Section 36 of the Act, which inserts a new section 49A and new sections 128A to 128F in the Local Government Act 2001. Section 36 provides for:

- Establishment of the LCDCs by resolution of the local authority (section 49A),
- Functions of the LCDCs (section 128B),
- LCDC Membership (section 128C),
- Support for LCDCs by local authorities (section 128D),
- Co-operation with work of LCDCs (section 128F).

11.1.3 Section 36 of the Act also provides for the making of Ministerial regulations and the issuing of policy guidelines relating to the governance and work of the LCDCs. The Kerry LCDC is the combined membership in session of the LCDC.

11.1.4 The LAG is the LCDC along with the Local Authority (Kerry County Council) as financial partner and Local Development Companies as Implementing Partners. The LDC's in the Kerry LAG area are North, East & West Kerry Development, South Kerry Development Partnership and IRD Duhallow.

11.1.5 The Leader Operating Rules - Version 1.4 27.10.15 specifically addresses the area of governance which guides the management of the LAG and mitigation for areas of conflicts of interest amongst the LAG membership. The framework for the implementation of the LEADER programme is defined in the Kerry Heads of Agreement.

11.1.6 Kerry Heads of Agreement (Signed 29th July 2015): On proposed implementation framework for LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 in Co.Kerry where the LCDC is LAG. This is to be developed for consideration by the LCDC and Local Development Companies as sole Implementing Partners.

The Kerry Local Community Development Committee hereafter called the LCDC is the combined membership in session of the LCDC.

Local Development Company hereafter called the LDC is the body corporate of the 3 LDC's in the Kerry LCDC area — North, East & West Kerry Development, South Kerry Development Partnership and IRD Duhallow.

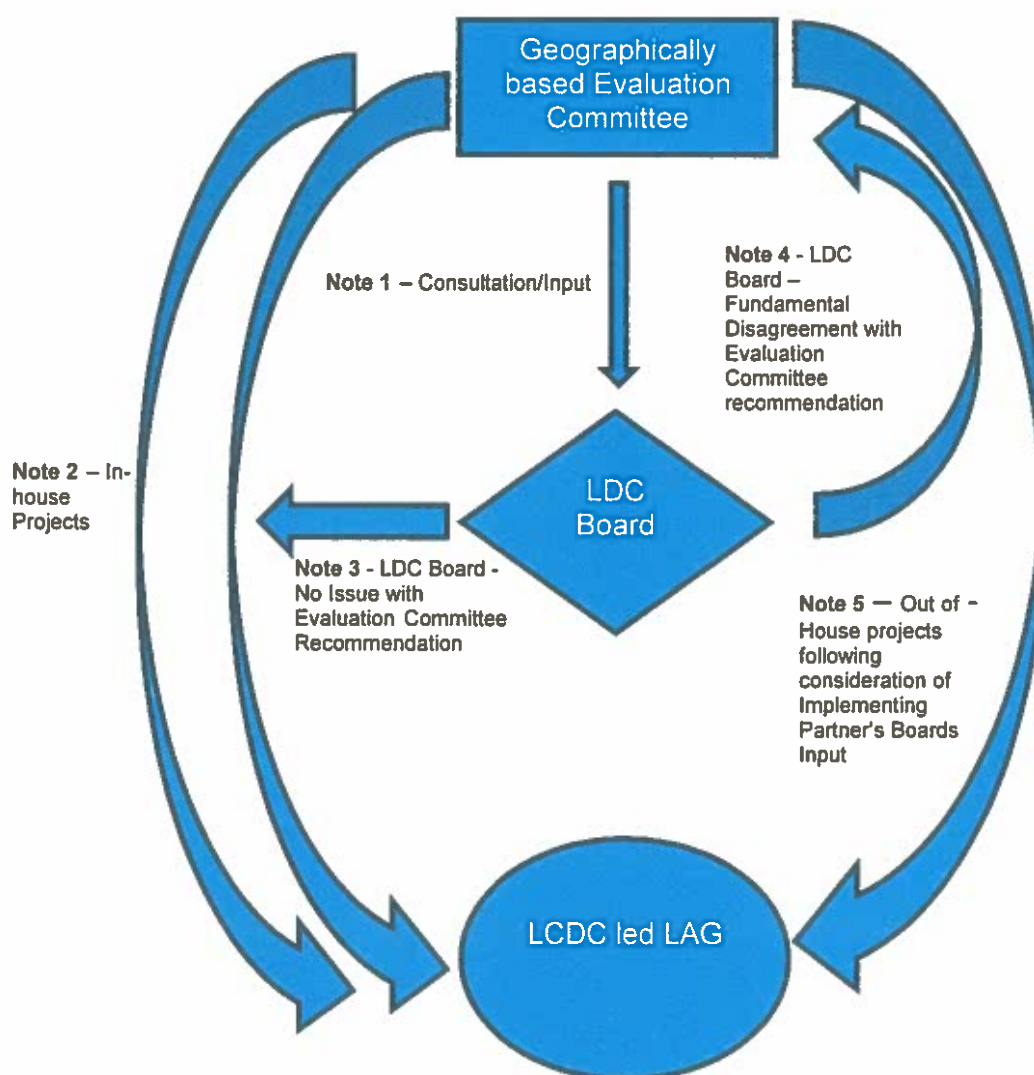
The LAG Role will be to:

1. Following input from the LDC's, set the overall strategic direction and agree the main Local Development Strategy priorities.
2. Seek to increase the membership of the LCDC to allow a representative from each LDC. Liaise with both executive and boards of the LDC's in the development and delivery of LEADER.
3. Delegation to relevant LDC the sole implementation roles.
4. Delegation to the Local Authority the financial partner role including responsibility for Article 48 checks, payment of funds and indemnification of the LAG and to an appropriate level the LDC's as designated implementing partners.
5. Monitor and review performance of the Local Development Companies as the implementation partners as per the Service Level Agreement to be agreed between the LAG and the Local Development Companies.
6. LAG will schedule a minimum of 10 meetings per calendar year to consider LEADER projects.
7. LAG will consider projects for final approval. Project files to be held by the LDC with a summary on an agreed template submitted to the LAG for consideration. Kerry County Council as financial partner has the right to request any file at the offices of the Council for inspection purposes.

Evaluation Committee Role:

Given the nature and geographical spread of the county and its relationship with adjoining functional areas it is deemed prudent to divide the independent Evaluation Committee into three geographical areas to assess and evaluate projects.

As part of the evaluation process the Evaluation Committees will consult with the Boards of the respective Local Development Companies and consider their input. The Evaluation Committees may accept or reject the input from the Local Development Boards. The final evaluation and recommendation of projects will issue directly from the Evaluation Committee to the LAG. The process of engagement with the Local Development Boards will not cause any undue delays in the determination of projects and meetings will be co-ordinated to achieve this. Appropriate induction and oversight by the LAG will ensure consistency of approach between the areas.



Note 1: Appraisal of out of house projects by the Evaluation Committee is sent to the Implementing Partner's Board for their observations/input.

Note 2: In-house projects appraised by the Evaluation Committee will be sent directly to the LAG for final decision.

Note 3: The Board of the Implementing Partner will review the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee. Where the Board have no fundamental issue/disagreement with the recommendation the project will be submitted by the Evaluation Committee to the LAG.

Note 4: Where the Board of the Implementing Partner has a fundamental issue/disagreement with the initial recommendation of the evaluation committee the project is referred back to the Evaluation Committee to consider the boards input.

Note 5: The Evaluation Committee will consider the Implementing Partner Board's Input and may accept (Amend its Initial Recommendation) or reject (Uphold its Initial Recommendation) this input. The project recommendation is then forwarded to the LAG without further input from the Implementing Partner's Board for final decision.

LDC Role in each of their regions will be:

1. To work collaboratively in drawing up a Local Development Strategy for the Co.Kerry area in line with the LECP, and with the LDC's drawing up sub-strategies for their respective areas, and in collating sub-strategies into a single overarching summary strategy to form the LDS.
2. LEADER Implementation:
 - a. Animation of all projects and related administration
 - b. Consultation with geographically based evaluation committee
 - c. Issuing Contracts
 - d. Collating and Issuing Project Payment Documentation to LA
3. Data Controller.
4. LDC will reserve all contact with communities and projects with respect to LEADER.
5. The LAG –will establish a code of practice around good governance in accordance with the operating rules.

Principles of the Partnership Approach within the LAG

The proposed arrangements will operate on the following basis —

1. The LCDC will ensure coherence with the community-led local development strategy when selecting operations by prioritising those project types/themes according to their contribution to meeting that strategy's objectives and targets; the local development companies will discharge their role under service level agreements with the LCDC.
2. The 3 existing local development companies' (NEWKD, SKDP and IRDD) roles will be as the sole implementing partners in their respective areas of the LCDC for the duration of the LEADER programming period, subject to continued compliance with the requirements of the Managing Authority (Department) and as per the service level agreements with the LCDC.
3. The implementing role will be assigned to the 3 existing local development companies' (NEWKD, SKDP and IRDD) for all project implementation elements of the programme i.e. there will be no fragmentation of the Leader programme delivery role and Leader funding among other local action group partners.

4. While the LDC's shall retain the right to decide the composition of and to appoint any sub structures, including their individual PAC's, LDC's shall accept 2 nominations from the LA in respect of each PAC.
5. Provision will be made in the local development strategy for three implementation partners i.e. relevant LDC's to cover their respective geographic areas within the local action group's boundary — the implementation role would be carried out by each local development company in its respective area. They will have responsibility and accountability for the delivery of the Local Development Strategy and the implementation of the programme actions in their respective areas.
6. In relation to RDP initiatives / schemes, where rolled out by the LCDC, these will be delivered by the LDC's as the implementing partners (relevant LDC's) such as provided for in the EU Regulations:- "some elements of smaller, locally focused agriculture schemes such as water quality / biodiversity / EIP groups (Section 4.2) and outcome based conservation projects (Section 1(c)) and artisan food cooperation measures (Section 5c) could also be delivered through local structures such as LEADER". This would also include the co-operation element of the LEADER Measure.
7. The LCDC will seek the maximum amount of the administration and animation Programme Budget available (25%) and this, where approved as part of the LDS selection process, will be allocated in full to the Local Development Companies as implementing partners for all elements of the Leader Programme 2014-2020 as outlined in the previous points. The Local Development Companies, as implementing partners will prepare, collate and submit files (% as set out by DECLG) to the appropriate body for Article 48 checks.
8. In the context of the RDP, the operating methodology will be based on the CLLD (Community Led Local Development) / LEADER specificities and will be proactive, flexible and responsive to local needs and opportunities.
9. A national online reporting system will support the administration of the programme, reducing the administration burden on the implementation and financial partners.
10. The terms and conditions of the draft Heads of Agreement will be provided in any Service Level Agreement entered into between the LCDC and the Implementing Partners (relevant LDC's) for the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, and those additional elements of the RDP Programme 2014-2020 referred to in Section 6 of the draft Heads of Agreement. This will be within EU regulations governing the programme.
11. LCDC respects that the LDC's are independent companies. LDC reserves the right to implement any other programmes that it may, from time to time, see as beneficial to its area of operation, either on its own or with other partners locally, nationally or internationally.
12. The LCDC respects the multi-annual nature of the programme and will facilitate administration / animation project allocation and expenditure to happen in a natural fashion including that all of the allocation may be completed before the programme end date.
13. In cases where the LCDC is the sole LAG in its sub-regional area, Kerry County Council commits to working with the LCDC to identify funding opportunities to deliver joint programmes and projects with the LDC's. These programmes and projects will be either co-funded projects with LEADER or programmes and projects in addition to LEADER. There is recognition that additional programmes and projects will require administration funding to support same. This will be examined on a project by project basis.
14. In granting final approval to LEADER projects, the LCDC's primary focus will be on ensuring compliance with technical programme requirements & consistency

- with the County wide LECP. As the final approval body the LCDC will require to be satisfied that projects are coherent with the Local Development Strategy.
15. The Local Authority Chief Executive will nominate an executive nominee from the LA on to the boards of the 3 LDC's.
 16. A number of LA elected representatives will be facilitated to take their seats on the boards of the 3 LDC's.
 17. No other programme implementers will be considered in relation to LEADER at any stage during the life of this agreement.
 18. Preparatory funding will be ring fenced for the programme implementers.

Table : a) Statements of Roles & responsibilities between LAG member organisations

Role / Task	Implemented by
Local Development Strategy Development	
(a) Preparation of Local Development Strategy including strategic priorities	Lead role by Local Development Companies in collaboration with the LCDC.
(b) Agreeing the Local Development Strategy and strategic priorities and overseeing the development of the strategy.	LCDC/ LDC's
(c) Final approval of the strategy prior to submission.	LCDC
(d) Approval of the Local Action Group partners role in the Implementation of the Local Development Strategy	LCDC to approve the relevant Local Development Companies as sole Implementing Partners and the local authority as the lead financial partner.

Table: b) LAG Project Selection Procedures for LEADER

Role / Task	Implemented by
Regulatory Framework 2015-2020 Tasks	
(a) building the capacity of local actors to develop and implement operations including fostering their project management capabilities;	Local Development Companies
(a) Specific Tasks	
Implementing, managing and co-ordinating animation activity in the Local Action Group's area	Local Development Companies
(b) drawing up a non-discriminatory and transparent selection procedure and objective criteria for the selection of operations, which avoid conflicts of interest, ensure that at least 50 % of the votes in selection decisions are cast by partners which are not public authorities, and allow selection by written procedure	LCDC in consultation with the Local Development Companies
(c) ensuring coherence with the community-led local development strategy when selecting operations, by prioritising those operations according to their contribution to meeting that strategy's objectives and targets;	Local Development Companies in consultation with the LCDC.
(d) preparing and publishing calls for proposals or an ongoing project submission procedure, including defining selection criteria;	Local Development Companies in consultation with the LCDC.

(d) Specific Tasks	
Approve generally calls for proposals in accordance with the priorities and objectives set out in the local development strategy	LCDC
Developing and issuing calls for proposals (rolling and defined)	Local Development Companies
Managing call for proposals processes	Local Development Companies
Managing open-call project application processes	Local Development Companies
Defining selection criteria	LCDC in consultation with the LDC's.
(e) receiving and assessing applications for support;	Local Development Companies
(e) Specific Tasks	
Developing funding proposals with project promoters	Local Development Companies
Receiving and processing funding applications	Local Development Companies
Project development, management and monitoring work with project promoters	Local Development Companies
Developing and implementing Local Development Company-led projects	Local Development Companies
(f) selecting operations and fixing the amount of support and, where relevant, presenting the proposals to the body responsible for final verification of eligibility before approval;	LCDC and Local Development Companies
(f) Specific Tasks	
Recommending the amount of supports.	LDC Board
Formal evaluation of projects including eligibility within programme guidelines and LDS, by the PAC (Evaluation Committee) of each LDC.	Local Development Companies.
Refer applications to PAC (Evaluation Committee) for further information and re-appraisal.	LDC Board.
Recommend applications to LCDC for final approval.	LDC Board
Submission of proposals to the LCDC to reject project applications for decision	LDC Board
Ultimate approval/rejection of Leader funded applications	LCDC
Preparing and issuing Letters of Offer and contracts with project promoters on behalf of the Local Action Group Appropriate Logos(EU, National, LCDC/LA, LDC)	Local Development Companies/Board
Preparing and collating documentation for Article 48 checks	Local Development Companies
General file management, audit compliance and administration related to above actions.	Local Development Companies
Submission of 5% of files to appropriate body for Article 48 checks	Local Development Companies
(g) Monitoring the implementation of the community-led local development strategy and the operations supported and carrying out specific evaluation activities linked to that strategy."	LCDC and Local Development Companies
(g) Specific Tasks	
Report at least twice per annum on the implementation activity to LCDC as the LAG	Local Development Companies
Report at least twice per annum on the LEADER financial activity to the LCDC as LAG	Kerry County Council (KCC) as financial partner.

Monitor and review performance of the local development companies as lead implementation partner for LEADER as per service level agreement between LCDC / KCC / LDC.	LCDC
Monitor and review on an ongoing basis progress under the local development strategy, and agree corrective action, where required	LCDC and Local Development Companies
Providing advance administration and animation funding to the implementation partners (local development companies)	KCC as Financial Partner.
Prepare documentation, including reports of project for submission to the Local Authority as finance partner for either phased or final payment.	LDC
Making payments to promoters on behalf of the local action group electronically. Payment advice and acknowledgement to have appropriate logos (EU, National, LCDC/KCC, LDC)	KCC as Financial Partner
Submitting a selection of project files to the appropriate body for Article 48 (EU regulations) prepayment administrative Checks.	LDC
Requesting quarterly drawdown of monies from DECLG.	KCC as Financial Partner
Additional tasks which may be assigned by the Managing Authority	To be determined by agreement between the LDC's and the LCDC where relevant.
Contracting Arrangements re. LEADER where the Kerry LCDC as LAG has had its LDS approved implementing partners and KCC as lead financial partner.	<p>The contract for the implementation of the LDS will be held by the LCDC. LCDC will sign the contract as the LAG</p> <p>KCC will co-sign the contract as Financial Partner.</p> <p>The LDC's will co-sign the contract as Implementation Partners.</p>
Service Level Agreement.	<p>LCDC will agree Heads of Agreement and put in place SLA that reflects same with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Implementation Partners - The Financial Partner.

11.1.6 Table d: Indicative Evaluation Committee Scoring Record

Indicative Evaluation Committee Scoring Record

Date: _____

Time: _____

Project Promoter: _____

Project Title: _____

Project Reference no: _____

Assessment Criteria	Objective	Issues raised by Evaluation Committee	Weighting	Score
Compatibility with Local Development strategy	Do the project proposals meet the criteria set out in the LAG business plan for the relevant measure?		20	
Innovation	Is the product innovative in its nature and does it displace existing enterprises?		15	
Promoter experience	Does the promoter have the Training/skills, track record or experience to deliver?		20	
Financial Viability	Are the project costs justifiable and is adequate funding available to co-fund the project?		20	
Sustainability	Is the project viable and will the service continue to be delivered?		10	
Requirement	Does the proposal target a specific need or address a specific gap in the market?		15	
Total			100	

N.B. Projects must receive a minimum score of 60% prior to being recommended for approval.

Recommendations of the Evaluation Committee:

Signature _____

Signature _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

11.1.7 Tables: Job descriptions for LEADER staff members, including experience, hours and remuneration.

b) North, East & West Kerry Development Relevant Experience.

Category	Jobs Description	North, East & West Kerry Development
CEO	Directly responsible for delivery of Company strategic priorities; Management & motivation of company staff; Ensuring compliance with Company Governance requirements – Financial, Administrative, Operational; Directly responsible for LEADER Programme Management, Programme Implementation & Monitoring.	FTE 0.5 17 Years of Service
Financial Administrator	Financial Management Financial Reporting	FTE 0.5 14 Years of Service
Programme Manager	LEADER Programme co-ordination. Responsible for the day to day management of the LEADER team. Project animation & development, Programme Monitoring, LEADER ICT system.	FTE 1 14 Years of Service
Leader Administrator	LEADER ICT updating, general administration & clerical duties	FTE 1.35 17 Years of Service
Project Development Workers	Responsible for Project animation, Project Development & Capacity Building, Project Administration & File maintenance	FTE 1.4 17 Years + combined service
Officer Administrator & HR	Human resource management	0.1 14 years of service
Payroll Administrator	Payroll	0.15 15 years of experience

c) South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd Relevant Experience.

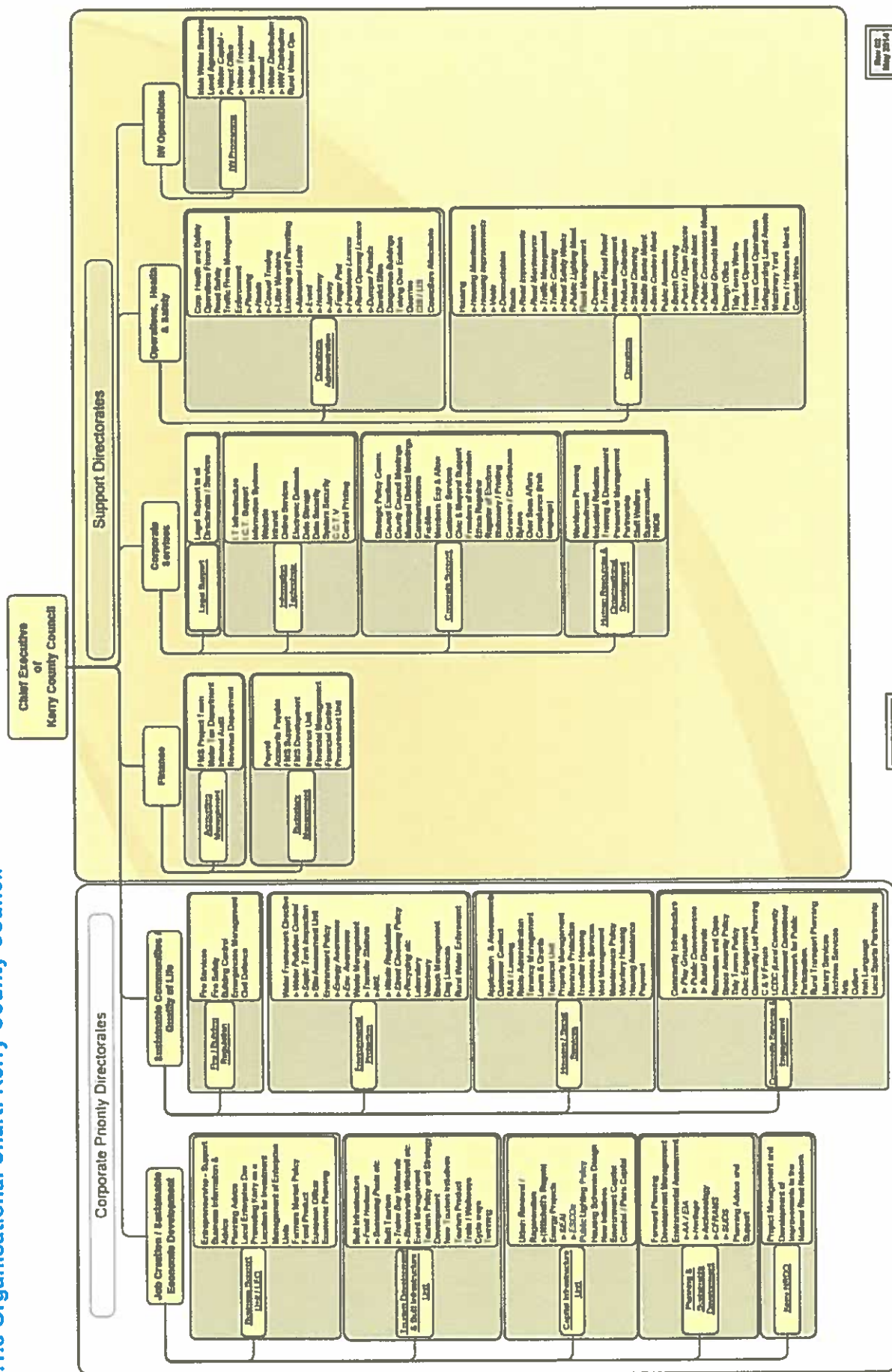
Category	Jobs Description	South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd
CEO	Directly responsible for delivery of Company strategic priorities , Management & motivation of company staff Ensuring compliance with Company Governance requirements – Financial, Administrative, Operational. Directly responsible for LEADER Programme Management, Programme Implementation & Monitoring	FTE 0.5 15 Years of Service
Financial Controller	Financial Management Financial Reporting	FTE 0.3 14 Years of Service

Programme Manager	LEADER Programme co-ordination. Responsible for the day to day management of the LEADER team. Project animation & development, Programme Monitoring, LEADER ICT system.	FTE 1 16 Years of Service
Administrator /Clerical Officer	LEADER ICT updating, general administration & clerical duties	FTE 0.3 10 Years of Service
Project Development Officers	Responsible for Project animation, Project Development & Capacity Building, Project Administration & File maintenance	FTE 2 10 Years + combined service

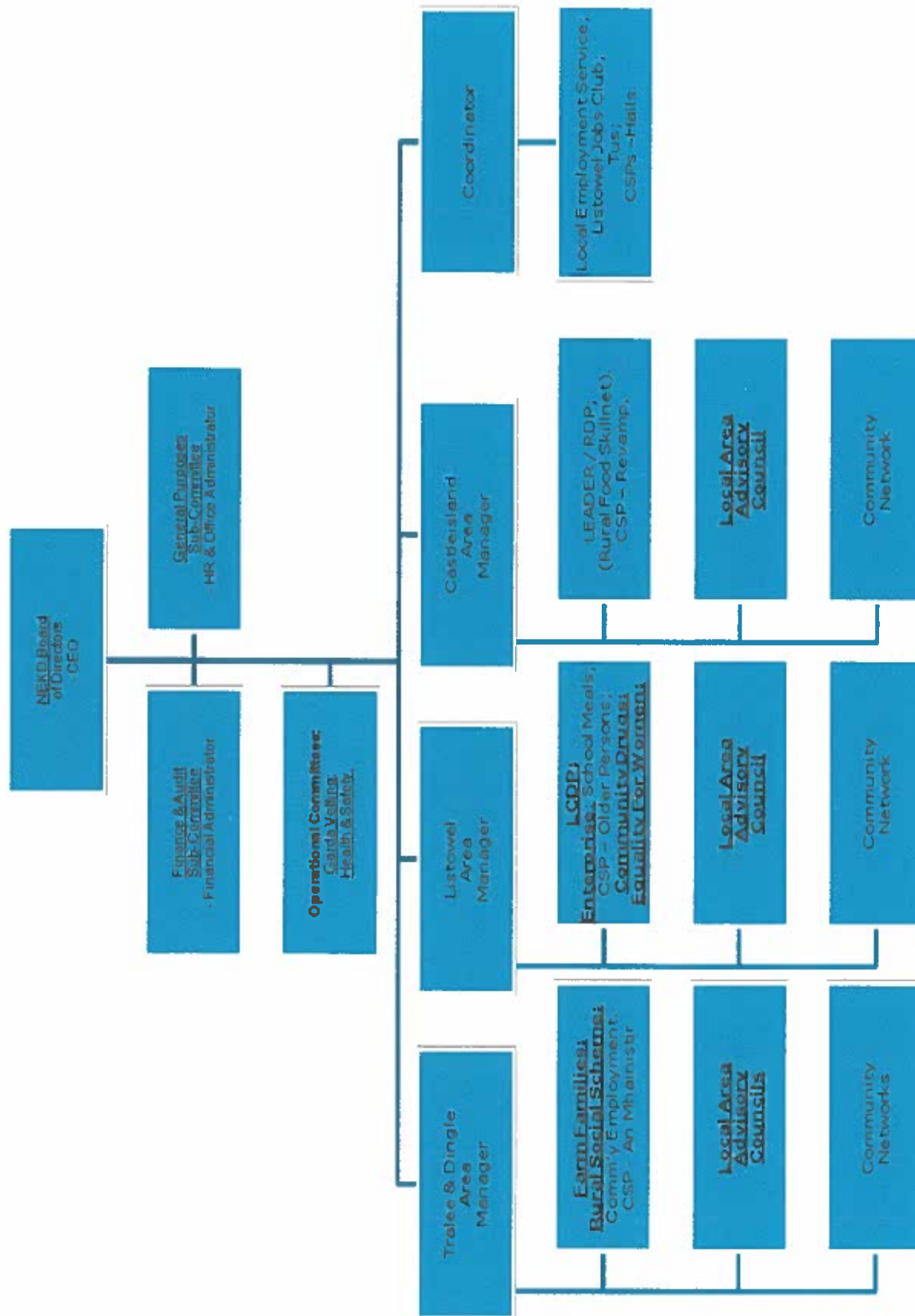
d) IRD Duhallow Ltd Relevant Experience.

Category	Jobs Description	IRD Duhallow
CEO	Directly responsible for delivery of Company strategic priorities , Management & motivation of company staff Ensuring compliance with Company Governance requirements – Financial, Administrative, Operational. Directly responsible for LEADER Programme Management, Programme Implementation & Monitoring	0.1 24 years of service
Financial Controller	Financial Management Financial Reporting	0.1 18 years of service
Programme Manager	LEADER Programme co-ordination. Responsible for the day to day management of the LEADER team. Project animation & development, Programme Monitoring, LEADER ICT system.	0.2 16 years of service
Administrator /Clerical Officer	LEADER ICT updating, general administration & clerical duties	0.2 10 years of service
Project Development Officers	Responsible for Project animation, Project Development & Capacity Building, Project Administration & File maintenance	0.5 9 years of service

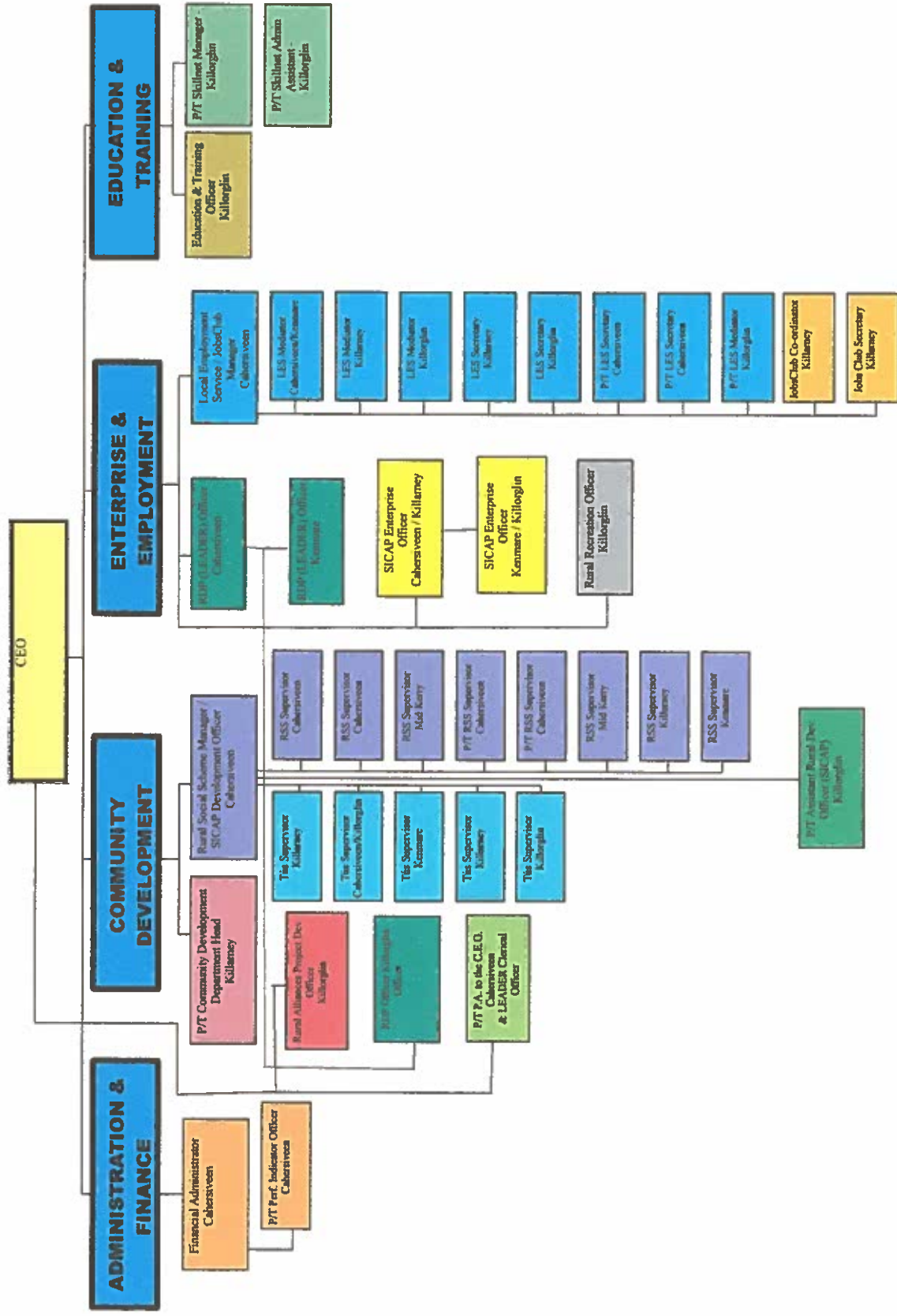
11.1.8 Organisational Chart: Kerry County Council



11.1.9 Organisational Chart: North, East & West Kerry Development



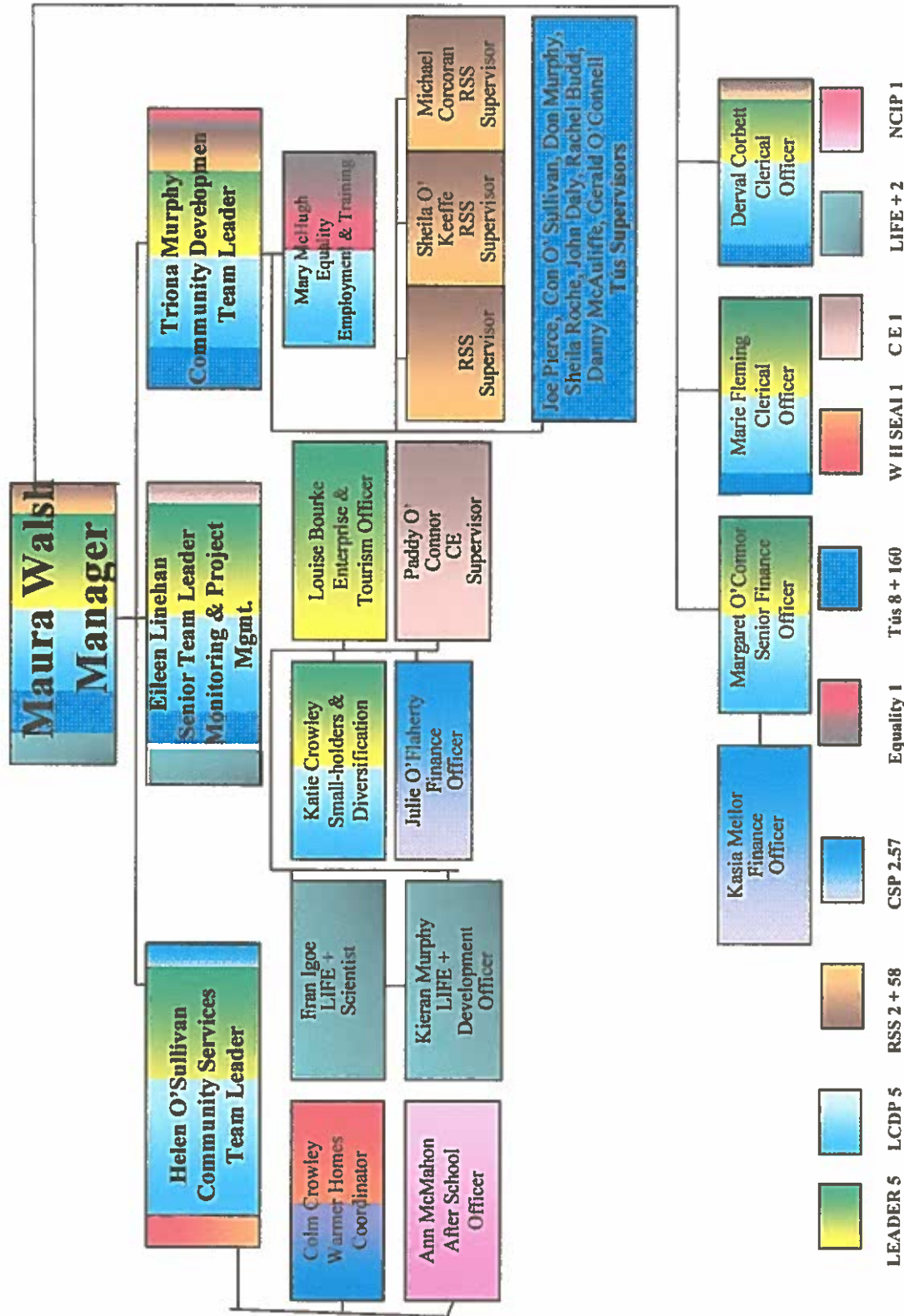
11.1.10 Organisational Chart: South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd.



11.1.11 Organisational Chart: IRD Duhallow Ltd.

IRD Duhallow Staff Structure 2015

Updated March 2015



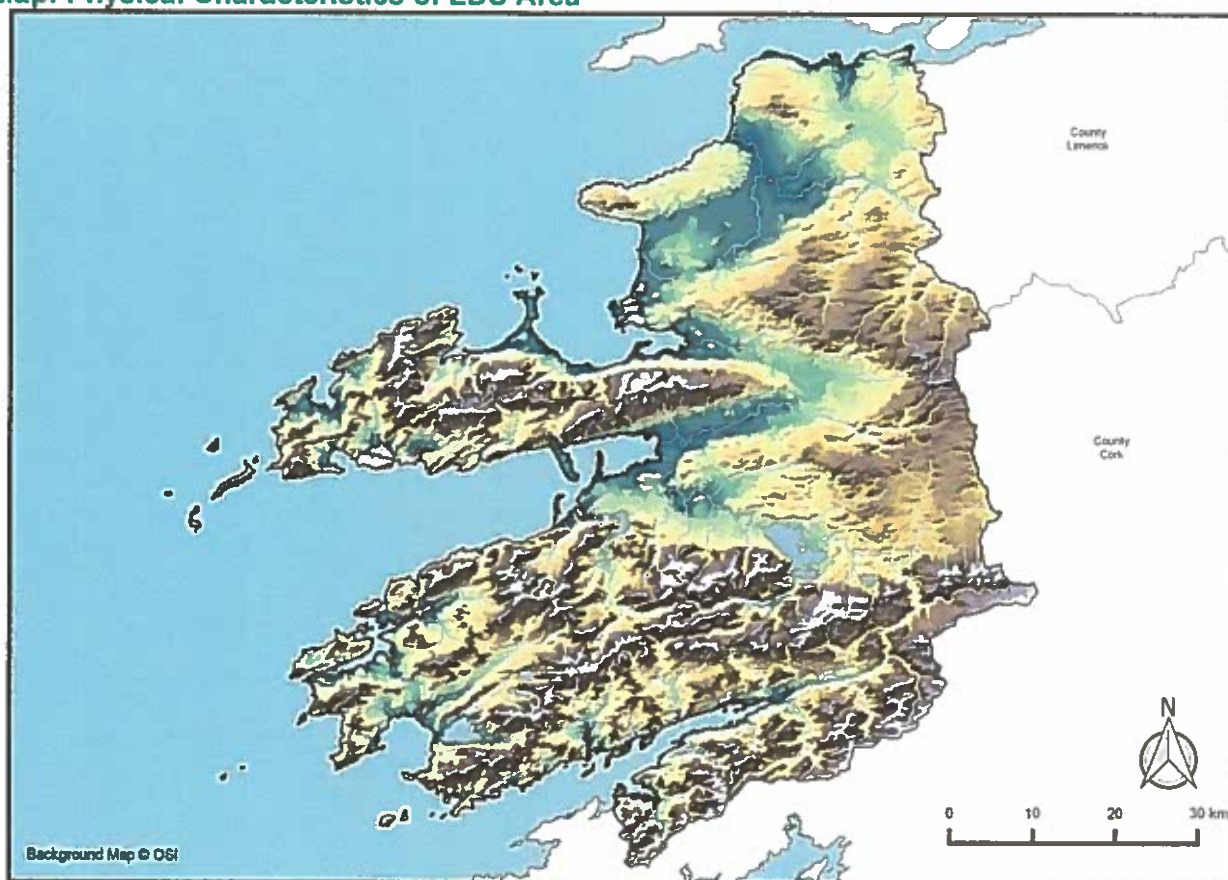
11.1.12 LAG members experience relevant to LEADER .

Member	Organisation	Programme oversight/ decision making	Legal and Governance	Public funding oversight	Leader/ RDP	CLLD
Cllr. Pa Daly	Kerry County Council	X	X	X		X
Cllr. Aoife Thornton	Kerry County Council	X	X	X		X
Cllr. Niall Kelliher	Kerry County Council	X		X	X	X
Ms. Moira Murrell	Chief Executive Officer, Kerry County Council	X	X	X	X	X
Mr. Tomás Hayes	Local Enterprise Office	X		X	X	
Ms. Hilary Scanlan	HSE, Community Section	X		X	X	
Ms. Ann O' Dwyer	Kerry Education & Training Board	X	X	X		
Mr. Fionnán Ó hÓgáin	Údarás na Gaeltachta	X	X	X	X	
Eamonn O' Reilly	NEKD	X	X	X	X	X
Maura Walsh	IRD Duhallow	X	X	X	X	X
Ms. Sheila Casey	SKDP	X	X	X	X	X
Mr. William Morrell	PPN Community & Voluntary Interests	X	X	X	X	X
Mr. Charlie Farrelly	PPN Social Inclusion Interests					X
Ms. Mary Grandfield	PPN Social Inclusion Interests			X		X
Ms. Maura FitzGerald	PPN Community & Voluntary Interests			X		X
Mr. Pádraig Hanrahan	Tourism – Destination Kerry Forum	X				X
Ms. Catherine McMullin	Environment – An Taisce		X			
Mr. James McCarthy	Agriculture/Fishing	X		X	X	
Mr. Kieran Rutledge	Business – Tralee Chamber Alliance	X	X			

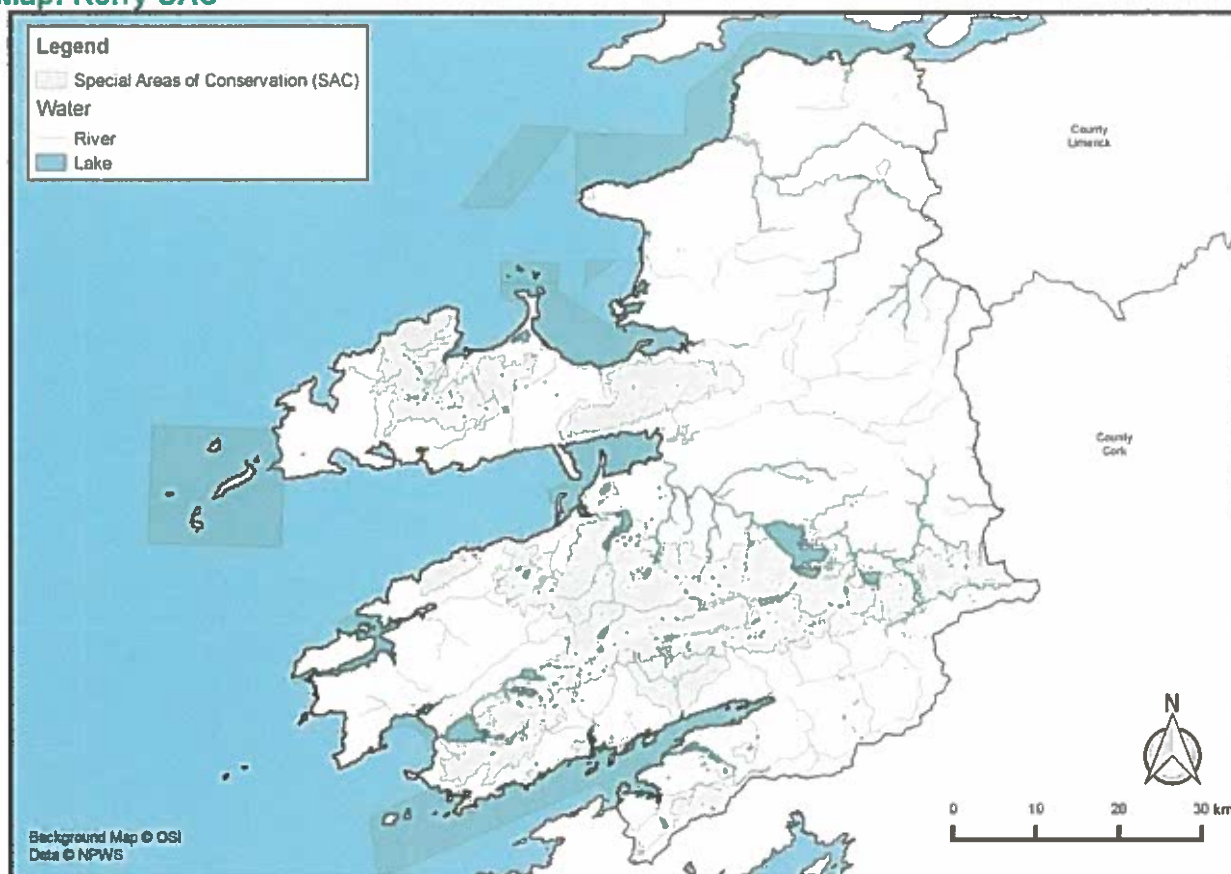
11.0 Section 11: Appendix

11.2 Section 2 Appendix: LDS Area Profile

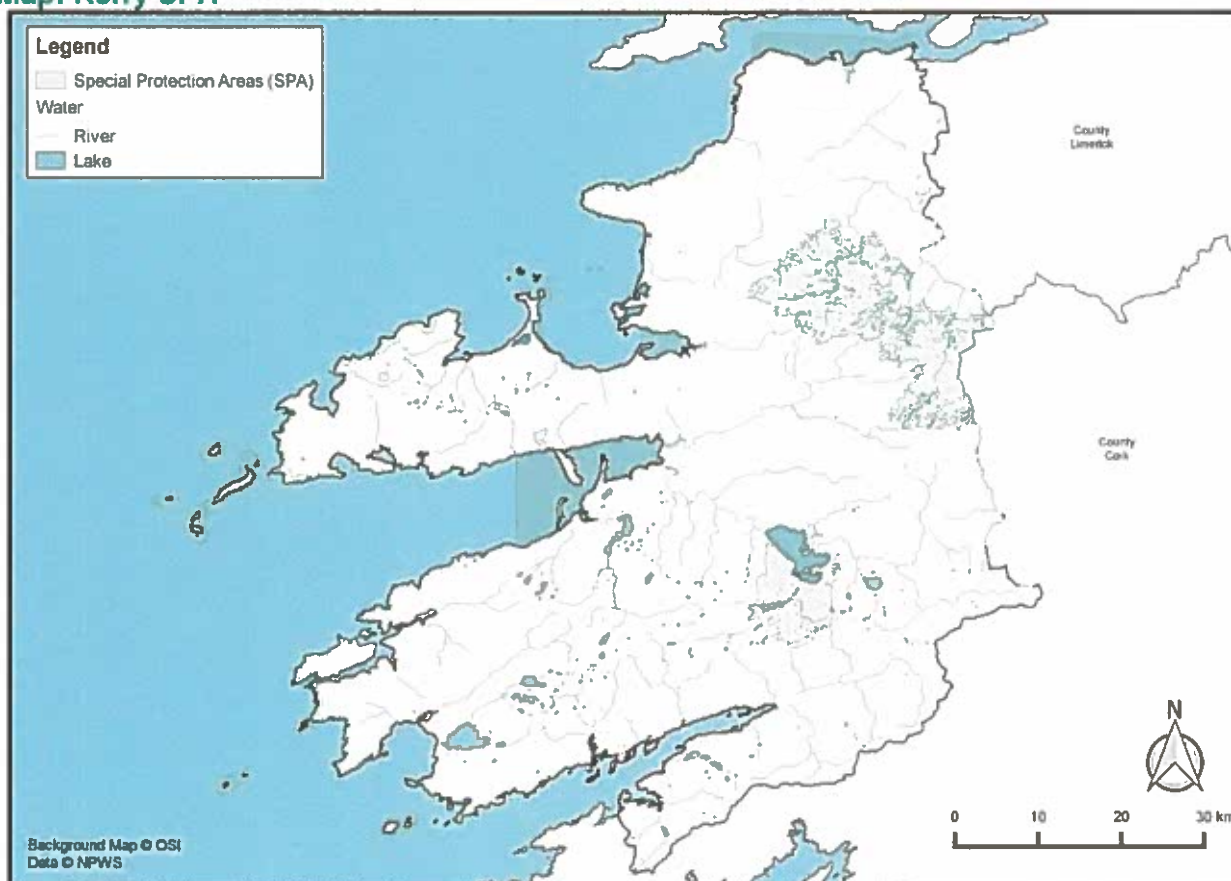
11.2.1 Map: Physical Characteristics of LDS Area



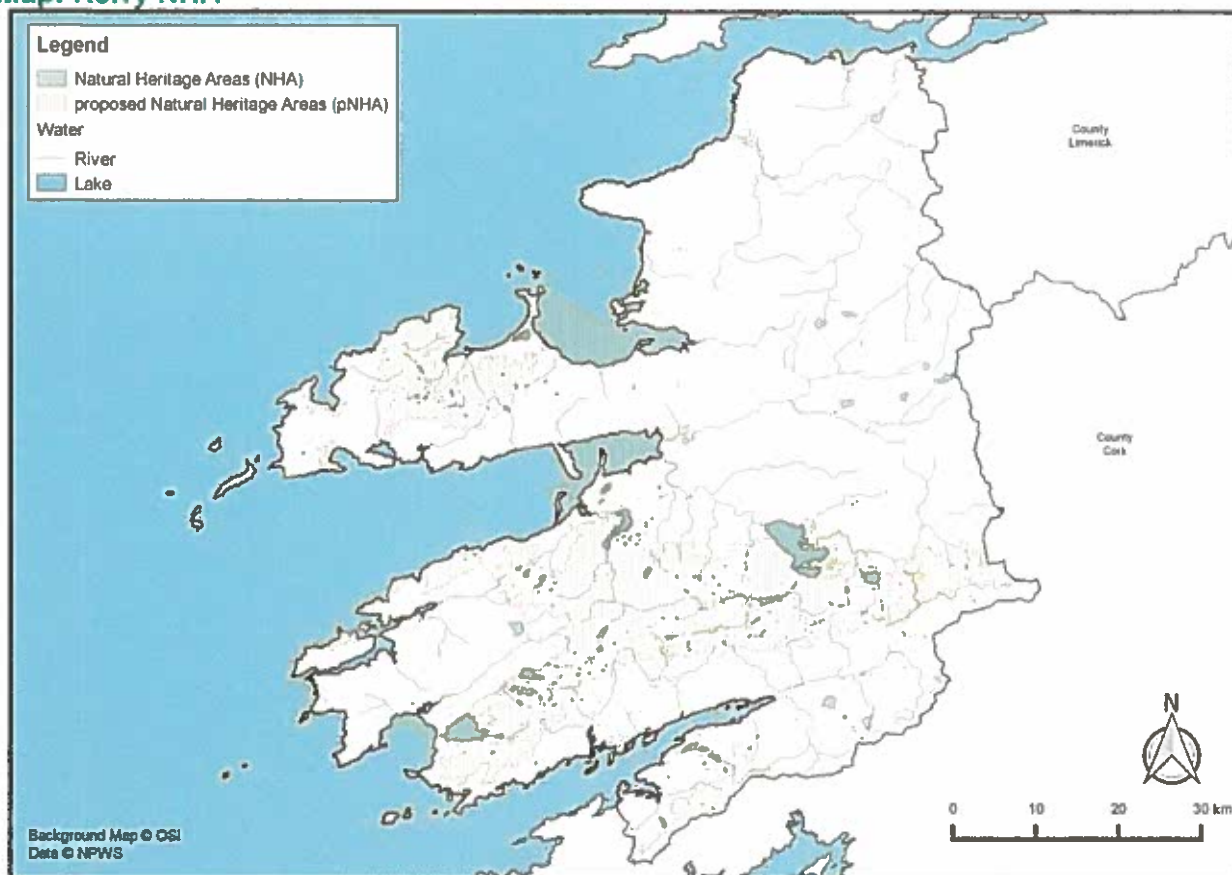
11.2.2 Map: Kerry SAC



11.2.3 Map: Kerry SPA



11.2.4 Map: Kerry NHA



11.2.5 Table: Settlement Hierarchy within LDS Area

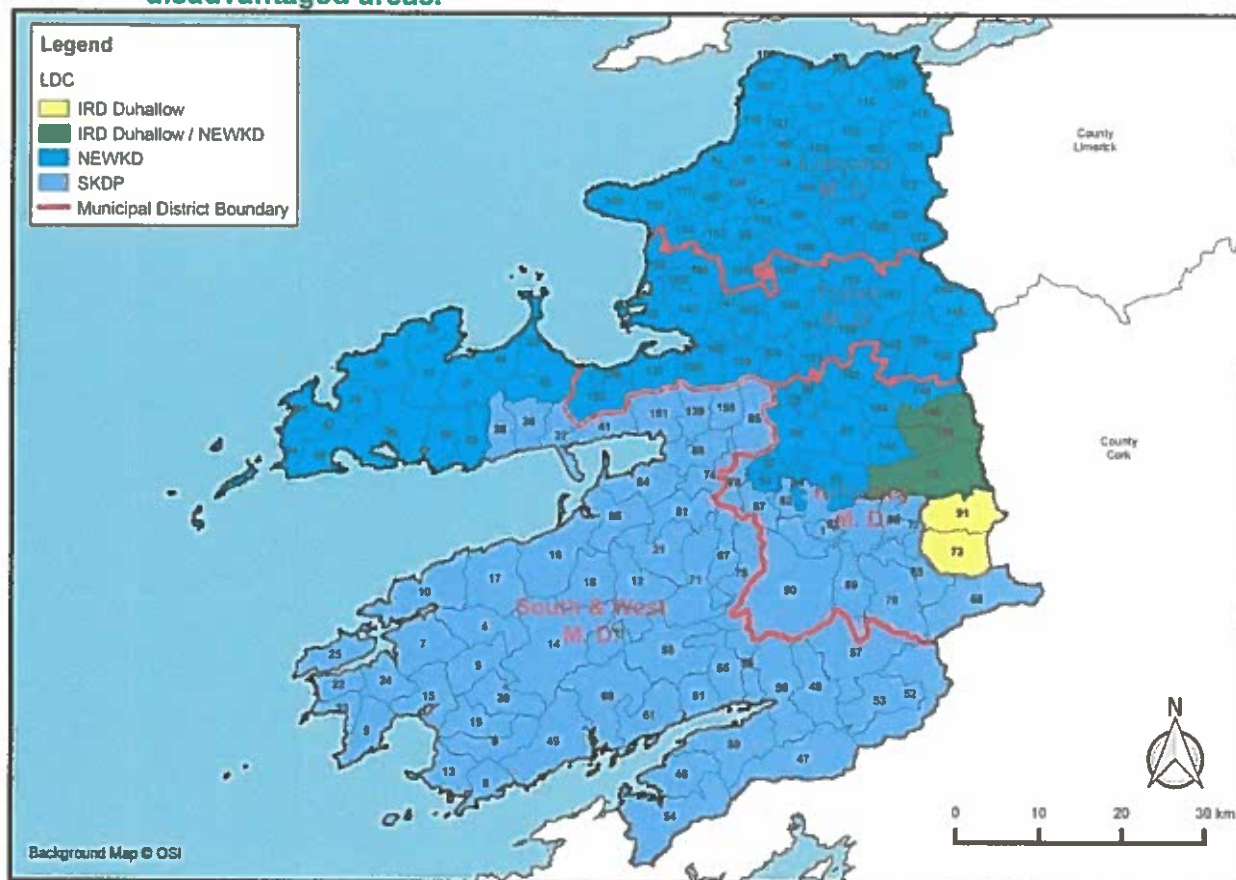
Hierarchy	Settlement	Function
Hub Towns	Tralee, Killarney	Key destination, economically active supporting surrounding area, located on multi-modal transportation corridor
Regional Towns	Cahersiveen, Castleisland, Dingle, Killorglin, Kenmare, Listowel	Smaller in scale than Hub towns but strong active growth towns and economically vibrant
District Towns	Ardfert, Ballybunion, Ballyheigue, Ballylongford, Barraduff, Castlemaine, Farranfore, Fries, Kilcummin, Milltown, Rathmore, Sneem, Tarbert, Waterville	Towns that serve rural hinterland as service centre and market towns.
Villages	Abbeydorney, Annascaul, Ballyduff, Beaufort, Causeway, Castlegregory, Ballyferriter, Brosna, Currow, Ceann Trá Duagh, Fenit, Fossa, Glenbeigh, Gneeveguilla, Kilflynn, Lixnaw, Kilgarvan, Knocknagoshel, Scartaglin, Knightstown, Moyvane, Portmagee	Serve smaller rural catchments; provide local services with some smaller scale rural enterprises in a number of such villages.
Small Villages	An Mhuirioch, Aughaclasla, Baile na nGall, Brandon, Boolteens, Camp, Caherdaniel, Cloghane, Dún Déagan, Castle Cove, Chapelstown, Cordal, Currow, Knockanure	Same as Villages
Development Nodes		Settlement nodes serving the rural communities

11.2.6 Table: Number of Community Groups in Kerry

Name	Group Numbers
Community Arts, Culture & the Irish Language	127
Community Centres & Facilities	132
Community Services	215
Young People	133
Sport & Leisure	222
Economic Development & Business Associations	20
Heritage & Environment Groups	128
Community Organisations / Associations	204
Housing & Residents Group	80
Community Groups promoting inclusion & equality	138
Groups promoting health, well being & care	79
Information, Advise & Support	35
Community Networks / Umbrella Organisation	24
Total Number :	1537

Numbers are approximate.

11.2.7 Map: LDS boundary area with a list of the ED's & SA's and reference to the disadvantaged areas.



11.2.8 Table: Electoral District List

No.	Electoral District	GEOGID
1	Killarney Urban	E19001
2	Listowel Urban	E19002
3	Tralee Urban	E19003
4	Na Beathacha	E19004
5	Baile an Sceilg	E19005
6	An Baile Breac	E19006
7	Caher	E19007
8	Cathair Dónall	E19008
9	Ceannúigh /	E19009
10	Castlequin	E19010
11	Cloon	E19011
12	Curraghbeg	E19012
13	Doire Fhionáin	E19013
14	Doire Ianna	E19014
15	An tImleach	E19015
16	Glanbehy	E19016
17	Killinane	E19017
18	Lickeen	E19018
19	Loch Luíoch	E19019
20	Máistir Gaoithe	E19020
21	Maum	E19021
22	Portmagee	E19022
23	Toghroinn Fhionáin	E19023
24	Teeranearyagh	E19024
25	Valencia	E19025
26	Ballinvoher	E19026
27	An Baile Dubh	E19027
28	Ballynacourty	E19028
29	Cé Bhréanainn	E19029
30	Castlegregory	E19030
31	An Clochán	E19031
32	Deelis	E19032
33	An Daingean Uí Chúis	E19033
34	Dún Chaoin	E19034
35	Dún Urlann	E19035
36	Na Gleannta	E19036
37	Inch	E19037
38	Cill Maoilchéadair	E19038
39	Cill Chuáin	E19039
40	Cinn Aird	E19040
41	Lack	E19041
42	Márthain	E19042
43	An Mhin Aird	E19043
44	An Sráidbhaile	E19044
45	Ceann Trá	E19045
46	Ardea	E19046
47	Banawn	E19047

48	Cappagh	E19048
49	Castlecove	E19049
50	Dawros	E19050
51	Dromore	E19051
52	Glanlee	E19052
53	Glanlough	E19053
54	Glanmore	E19054
55	Greenane	E19055
56	Kenmare	E19056
57	Kilgarvan	E19057
58	Loughbrin	E19058
59	Reen	E19059
60	Sneem	E19060
61	Tahilla	E19061
62	Aghadoe	E19062
63	Aglish	E19063
64	Ballyhar	E19064
65	Brewsterfield	E19065
66	Caragh	E19066
67	Churchtown	E19067
68	Clydagh	E19068
69	Coolies	E19069
70	Coom	E19070
71	Curraghmore	E19071
72	Curran	E19072
73	Doocarrig	E19073
74	Dromin	E19074
75	Dunloe	E19075
76	Flesk	E19076
77	Headfort	E19077
78	Kilbonane	E19078
79	Kilcummin	E19079
80	Kilfelim	E19080
81	Kilgobnet	E19081
82	Killarney Rural	E19082
83	Killeentierna	E19083
84	Killorglin	E19084
85	Kilnanare	E19085
86	Knocknahoe	E19086
87	Lahard	E19087
88	Milltown	E19088
89	Molahiffe	E19089
90	Muckcross	E19090
91	Rathmore	E19091
92	Rockfield	E19092
93	Ardagh	E19093
94	Astee	E19094
95	Ballincloher	E19095
96	Ballyconry	E19096

97	Ballyduff	E19097
98	Ballyegan	E19098
99	Ballyhorgan	E19099
100	Beal	E19100
101	Carrig	E19101
102	Causeway	E19102
103	Cloontubbrid	E19103
104	Drommartin	E19104
105	Duagh	E19105
106	Ennismore	E19106
107	Gullane	E19107
108	Gunsborough	E19108
109	Kilfeighny	E19109
110	Killehenry	E19110
111	Killury	E19111
112	Kilmeany	E19112
113	Kilshenane	E19113
114	Kiltomy	E19114
115	Leitrim	E19115
116	Lislaughtin	E19116
117	Lisselton	E19117
118	Listowel Rural	E19118
119	Lixnaw	E19119
120	Moynsha	E19120
121	Newtownsandes	E19121
122	Rathea	E19122
123	Shronowen	E19123
124	Tarbert	E19124
125	Tarmon	E19125
126	Trienearagh	E19126
127	Urlee	E19127
128	Abbeydorney	E19128
129	Arabela	E19129
130	Ardfert	E19130
131	Ballyegan	E19131
132	Ballyheige	E19132
133	Ballynahaglish	E19133
134	Ballynorig	E19134
135	Ballyseedy	E19135
136	Banna	E19136
137	Baurtregaum	E19137
138	Blennerville	E19138
139	Boolteens	E19139
140	Brosna	E19140
141	Carker	E19141
142	Castleisland	E19142
143	Clogherbrien	E19143
144	Cordal	E19144
145	Crinny	E19145

146	Derreen	E19146
147	Doon	E19147
148	Gneeves	E19148
149	Kerryhead	E19149
150	Kilflyn	E19150
151	Kilgarrylander	E19151
152	Kilgobban	E19152
153	Killahan	E19153
154	Kilmurry	E19154
155	Kiltallagh	E19155
156	Knockglass	E19156
157	Knocknagashel	E19157
158	Lackabaun	E19158
159	Millbrook	E19159
160	Mount Eagle	E19160
161	Nohaval	E19161
162	O'Brennan	E19162
163	Ratass	E19163
164	Scartaglin	E19164
165	Tralee Rural	E19165
166	Tubrid	E19166

11.0 Section 11: Appendix

11.3 Section 3 Appendix: Participative planning

11.3.1 LECP SWOT Economic

Economic Strengths	Economic Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Strong entrepreneurial spirit and impressive indigenous track record (e.g. Fexco/Kerry Group/Dairymaster) resulting in strong ambassadors for the county. b) Strong internationally recognisable Kerry brand, i.e. Kerry, Killarney, Ring of Kerry, Dingle, Rose of Tralee, Listowel Writers Week. c) Strong presence of global companies and longevity of FDI companies. d) Strong tradition of educational attainment. e) Reintroduction of Regional Aid. f) Strong tourism and arts sector. g) The Wild Atlantic Way in Kerry, a 450km scenic coastal drive. h) Lucrative dairying farming systems to be found in the north and east of the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Imbalanced growth within the County. b) Limited track record in emerging sectors (IT and high tech industries). c) Skills availability to support business needs (ICT skills, etc.) d) Gap between the County and the State in terms of third level attainment. e) High level of job losses in the inter-censal period 2006-2011 f) High dependency on traditional sectors such as wholesale, retail, tourism and agriculture. g) Predominance of low input/low output farming with two-thirds of farms in Kerry being dry stock beef or sheep farming.
Economic Opportunities	Economic Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Promotion of the clean and 'green' image associated with the County along with the development of a 'Brand Kerry' to promote the message that Kerry is a place to work, invest, live and visit. b) Build on and join up traditional sectors and add value, i.e. local food economy, dairy & tourism. c) Diversification and further development of tourism, for example exploring options such as eco-tourism, adventure tourism & activities, and experiential tourism; including arts & culture tourism. d) Kerry's natural resources which foster increased employment and enterprise opportunities in the area of: marine, energy, fishing, forestry, food and outdoor, leisure related activities etc. e) High levels of progression to third level among Kerry students. f) Identification and matching of skills to current and future labour market needs. g) Fostering links through networking with diasporas in an effort to entice people to relocate to Kerry (Promoting the quality of life offering in Kerry). h) Promote the supportive business environment in the County and existing Micro, SME and FDI businesses. i) Reinstatement of Regional Aid for Kerry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The lowest population growth in the Country compounded by trends of suburbanisation and expanding commuter zones and on-going rural decline. b) Economic pull factors of areas outside the county - leads to high out-migration and resulting in the lowering of the availability of certain skills in the employment market. c) Lack of scalability of certain sectors, e.g. ICT. d) Changing nature of FDI - shift to services activities/urban centres. e) The dairy industry is susceptible to global trends; volatile pricing in the dairy industry can lead to major losses.

11.3.2 LECP SWOT Infrastructure

Infrastructure Strengths	Infrastructure Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Kerry Technology Park, a world class business environment of seamless integration of education and enterprise. b) Kerry is home to the Institute of Technology Tralee and within 100kms of four other higher level institutes, University of Limerick, Limerick Institute of Technology, University College Cork and Cork Institute of Technology. All having an impressive international reputation. c) Kerry Airport allows business executives and tourists to travel to Dublin, England and other European destinations. d) Key strategic development sites. e) Fenit, a deep water port is an important commercial asset providing a strategic transport link for the import and export of goods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Limited clean property solutions to support new manufacturing projects. b) Connectivity to main urban locations and main international airports still needs additional strengthening (N21 and N22) - Adare and Macroom/Ballyvourney. c) Need to strengthen mobile and broadband connectivity in the county. d) Lack of integrated transport network. e) Need for more affordable houses in suitable locations.
Infrastructure Opportunities	Infrastructure Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Potential of University Status third level institute in the County Kerry Technology Park. b) Provision of property solutions (manufacturing/services) to support FDI opportunities - advanced technology building. c) Development of key strategic sites in Kerry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Lack of suitable manufacturing properties. b) High levels of commercial and retail vacancies in the County. c) Lack of clarity on the future of LNG project. d) Challenging broadband and mobile connectivity especially outside urban areas.

11.3.3 LECP SWOT Quality of Life

Quality of Life Strengths	Quality of Life Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Strong quality of life offering in Kerry, giving the county a strong appeal in terms of attracting people to live and work in the county. b) Presence of strong interagency and community led work practices. c) Strong community based organisations working to improve quality of life in the county; i.e. Tidy Towns, Development & sporting organisations. d) Abundance of natural assets and a rich, clean, green environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) High aged dependency and economic dependency compared to the State and the South-West. b) The [housing] vacancy rate in Kerry is significantly higher than the State [housing] vacancy rate; such high vacancy rates hinder community viability. c) Societal changes have led to social isolation particularly in rural areas.
Quality of Life Opportunities	Quality of Life Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Development of support service enterprises for identified groups, e.g. older people. b) Improved retention rates of Leaving Certificate with almost 1,800 students in the County sitting the Leaving Certificate each year. c) Promoting the Gaeltacht region on a global scale to attract linguistic scholars. d) Promotion of Kerry's rich quality of life. e) Engage the community on local developments, leading to ownership, enhanced civic pride; a key factor in good 'place making'. f) Support the role of community based organisations in the county that already contribute to social and economic development including the strong community infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) High aged dependency has social and economic implications b) The number of essential services supporting vulnerable groups are delivered through voluntary effort. (Services for older people, vulnerable young people, etc.) c) Decline in language and tradition in Gaeltacht regions and throughout the county. d) Lack of integration of migrant and new communities due to language and culture barriers. e) Pressures to have adequate types of housing to support the aging economy-needs for adaptation of housing to suit requirements.

11.3.4 Table: Kerry LAG priorities - Rural Economic Development / Enterprise Development and Job Creation

Theme: Rural Economic Development / Enterprise Development and Job Creation
Sub Theme: Rural tourism
<p>Profile: Strong stock of natural, cultural and heritage communities, with potential for further expansion in activity tourism, sight-seeing and culture seeking. Capacity to capitalise Wild Atlantic Way, Dark Sky and Culture</p> <p>Strategic Response: Develop signature attractions, increase number of sites to see, upgrade outdoor activities. Destination Marketing - focusing on each segment and sector. Using Digital Technology to generate business and increase brand awareness.</p>
Sub Theme: Enterprise development
<p>Profile: Need for significant investment in rural economic diversification and support for youth entrepreneurship. Strong local work ethic and loyalty of SME sector. Fall-out from economic decline has most adversely affected rural areas, young males and those with low skill levels.</p> <p>Strategic Response: Build on the current LDC approaches, structures and relationships with entrepreneurs to ensure continuation and expansion of one-to-one supports, increased mentoring and more effective inter-business networking. Life Long Learning programmes and courses delivered locally. Support for growing number of artisan food producers: On-going supports through diversification projects, SME expansion, development of outlets and marketing strategies.</p>
Sub Theme: Rural towns
<p>Profile: Many of Kerry's towns and villages have suffered greatly from the economic downturn and drop in farm income. Those most distant from urban centres have increased business closures and unemployment.</p> <p>Strategic Response: Community Development and specific measures targeted at towns and villages. Rural-Proofing of all actions. Polycentric development of rural towns, through inter-community collaboration and by strengthening of rural communities and villages.</p>
Sub Theme: Broadband
<p>Profile: Levels of penetration and ICT connectivity are well below national and regional norms.</p> <p>Strategic Response: Training, promotion and up-skilling locally as well as supporting small scale installations, with relevant agencies providing the required infrastructure.</p>

11.3.5 Table: Kerry LAG priorities – Social Inclusion

Theme: Social Inclusion
Sub Theme: Basic Services targeted at hard to reach communities
<p>Profile: The levels of service provision in most communities fall below the targets set by Government under the NSS and has adversely affected the vibrancy of rural Kerry.</p> <p>Strategic Response: Work with all agencies to ensure the delivery of the targets on rural service provision specified in the NSS,</p>

and ensure their full incorporation into the National Planning Framework. Specific community development actions to target those most affected by social exclusion, including support groups, networking, training, confidence-building and support for entrepreneurship.

Sub Theme Rural Youth

Profile:

25% of Kerry's population is between 15 and 34 with those aged 20 to 34 noticeably lower than the national average. High levels of migration from rural parts of the county. Under-representation of young people in civil society bodies and decision-making structures and in business.

Strategic Response:

A community led approach to engage young people in civil society structures. Support youth entrepreneurship, cultural initiatives, training for community groups to embrace youth membership.

11.3.6 Table: Kerry LAG priority - Rural Environment

Theme: Rural Environment

Sub Theme: Protection & sustainable use of water resources

Profile:

Kerry has significant water resources with many of its rivers unmodified from source to sea. Several of its watercourses are of *high* status under the Water Framework Directive with 6 catchments designated for the sensitive freshwater dependent species Freshwater Pearl Mussel. The species is now extremely rare across Europe. Salmonid species are found in many of the County's catchments indicating high water quality. However, there are growing pressures on water resources from various sectors of the community from business, our towns and villages and agriculture.

Strategic Response:

To work with community groups and other stakeholders to help protect and sustainably manage our water resources. In particular the Water Framework Directive envisages a participatory response to the sustainable use of water by engaging local communities and all stakeholders. The LDS will build on this concept by working with groups to further the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. In particular, protection of key species such as Fresh Water Pearl Mussel and Salmonid species indirectly results in better water quality for society as a whole. This catchment approach to water protection, conservation and sustainable use through participation is a key objective of the LDS.

Sub Theme Protection & improvement of local biodiversity

Profile:

Kerry is famous for its biodiversity. Over half the county is designated as part of the Natura 2000 network for a range of habitats and species rare or vulnerable across Europe. The county's natural heritage also contributes to ecosystem services such as pollination, carbon sequestration and climate amelioration. While a portion of the community is naturally interested, a large cohort does not see its relevance. Natura sites signify state recognition of biodiversity, but approaches to conservation have been largely top-down and not "owned" by the community.

Strategic Response:

Further work with farmers and civil society to promote the value of the county's biodiversity and landscape valorisation. Greater Partnership approaches. On-going work with Schools and communities and agencies to promote responsible attitudes and behaviour. Support community-led initiatives and citizen science.

Sub Theme: Development of renewable energy

Profile:

Kerry relies strongly on imported energy, predominately oil, to meet its energy needs. Yet the county has significant natural resources that can be sustainably used and managed to help meet Ireland's

renewable energy targets. The County has already shown considerable innovation in community heating schemes using locally produced fuel by working with the forestry sector. There is potential to engage other communities in such initiatives and to look towards reducing a reliance on oil/fossil fuels and reducing fuel poverty.

Strategic Response:

Guided by the County's existing Renewable Energy Strategy, the LDS will aim to build on existing initiatives already underway in the county. It will also support new initiatives by community groups and/or other stakeholders that seek to use other forms of energy that move away from traditional oil/fossil fuels. Innovation in the energy sector is growing and with the recent targets set for challenging Climate Change in COP 21 exploring new forms of community led and run energy initiatives is timely.

11.3.7 Public Consultation (SKDP)

South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd. (SKDP Ltd.) in keeping with the Community Led Local Development (CLLD) approach of LEADER undertook a comprehensive consultation process at a local level to ensure that the Local Development Strategy was informed by the active engagement and participation of rural communities across South Kerry. The consultation approach utilised by SKDP was designed to ensure an inclusive and participative process, where rural communities actively identified the challenges and opportunities (economic, social & environmental) of their rural areas and identified actions to enable the sustainable development of their areas. Given the rurality of South Kerry and the peripherality of many of its communities, a targeted community outreach approach to the consultation process was adopted by SKDP to facilitate the inclusion of disadvantaged and harder to reach communities.

11.3.8 Community Consultation Process: (SKDP)

Over a 5-month period (from May to October 2015) SKDP Ltd. conducted an all-inclusive area based consultation process with 30 communities in the South Kerry area. The communities engaged in this process are as follows:

11.3.9 Table: SKDP Community Consultation Process 2015 Calendar

Consultation Meeting Date	Area	Consultation Meeting Date	Area	Consultation Meeting Date	Area
15/06/2015	Annascaul	26/08/2015	Foilmore	29/07/2015	Listry
03/09/2015	Ballinskelligs	14/09/2015	Glenbeigh	01/09/2015	Milltown
16/09/2015	Barraduff	07/09/2015	Glencar	20/08/2015	Muckross
01/07/2015	Black Valley	02/09/2015	Inch	19/08/2015	Portmagee
27/07/2015	Blackwater	09/07/2015	Keel	23/06/2015	Sneem
01/10/2015	Bonane	18/06/2015	Kells	20/07/2015	Templenoe
24/06/2015	Caherdaniel	23/09/2015	Kenmare	06/07/2015	Tuosist
17/08/2015	Cahersiveen	29/06/2015	Kilgarvan	17/06/2015	Valentia
09/09/2015	Cromane	17/09/2015	Killorglin	15/07/2015	Waterville
01/10/2015	Dromid	27/07/2015	Lauragh	10/11/2015	Castlemaine

11.3.10 SKDP Ltd. is cognisant that many of the communities targeted are smaller 'hard to reach' communities and to ensure that the needs of these minority communities in particular are represented in the plan active participation of these communities in the consultation process was encouraged.

11.3.11 The methodology used by SKDP Ltd. in selecting the communities for the consultations was a two-way approach. Firstly, in May 2015 letters were sent to 11 community groups informing them of the new Programme and inviting them to participate in LDS consultation meetings in their respective areas. These 11 groups had already participated in an 'animation of rural communities' project under the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme 2007 – 2013 in which communities were supported in identifying the tourism potential of their areas and developing an action plan to capitalise on this. The remaining 19 communities were identified geographically and also written to in early June inviting them to participate in

the consultation process to ensure that both the needs of their communities and development actions to be undertaken were reflected in and were coherent with the strategy for the area. The groups written to were asked to ensure that any other community and voluntary groups or organisations operating in their area were invited to attend so that a broad and inclusive representation across the community would be obtained and key stakeholders involved. Follow up telephone calls were made and a schedule of meetings was drafted.

11.3.12 Consultation meetings were held within the local communities at a time and date agreed with the groups. As the overall majority of these groups are run by members of the broader community on a voluntary basis most of these consultations were held in the evening or night-time outside of office hours. Three staff members from SKDP were in attendance at each of the consultations: Chief Executive Officer, Rural Development (LEADER) Programme Officer and SKDP Administrative Assistant. Community representatives from the SKDP board were also in attendance at the consultation meeting(s) from the area(s) in which they represent.

11.3.13 The format of the consultations was participatory in nature to promote meaningful engagement and to ensure the active participation of the local community in identifying the challenges and opportunities of the local area. The CEO gave an introduction on the new Rural Development (LEADER) Programme 2014 – 2020 and an update on the alignment process that has been completed with the Kerry County Council and the Local Community Development Committee for the county. The role of SKDP Ltd. in the new Rural Development (LEADER) Programme 2014 – 2020 was outlined in detail and changes in the rules and regulations of the programme were discussed. Past goals and objectives that groups had identified under the last programme (from the animation of rural communities project, tidy towns plans, area development plans etc.) were reviewed and new potential projects identified. The challenges and opportunities facing each of the individual communities were discussed in detail through open dialogue format throughout the meetings. The open dialogue format of the consultation meetings ensured meaningful engagement and active participation of all groups and individuals represented at the meetings.

11.3.14 A detailed review of each of the communities on-line / web presence was also carried out. Investigative research had been undertaken by SKDP Ltd. prior to meeting with the groups. The needs and challenges facing each of the communities in this sector were outlined and potential areas for development identified.

11.3.15 In total SKDP Ltd. held consultation meetings in 30 rural areas of South Kerry with attendance of community members reaching 232. A total of 95 community and voluntary groups were represented at these consultations which included local community representatives, relevant sector / interest groups and disadvantaged groups. The individuals and groups represented can be categorised as follows:

11.3.16 Table Consultation Groups (See also Section 3, Table: 3.1.3)

Community Development Organisations (Co-Ops, Community Councils etc.)	Community / Family Resource Centres
Community Centres	Tidy Towns
Women's Groups	Men's Shed
Preschool / Creche / Playgroup	Youth Groups
Playground / Community Field	Active Retired
Recreational Groups	Residents Associations
Community Alert	Heritage / Folklore
Health & Well Being / Social Care	Parish Magazine
Festivals	Graveyard / Grotto Committees
Tourism Groups	Disability Groups

11.3.17 A total of 187 potential community projects were identified from this direct community consultation process broken down as follow across the following thematic areas.

11.3.18 Table: Potential community projects (SKDP)

Economic Dev, Enterprise Dev & Job Creation	Social Inclusion	Rural Environment
143	35	9

11.3.19 Enterprise Consultation Process:

Enterprise consultations were held over 4 days in each of the sub regions of the south Kerry area: Cahersiveen, Killorglin, Kenmare and Killarney. A comprehensive promotional campaign was undertaken to ensure the harder to reach communities were informed and encouraged to actively participate in the consultation process and their needs and priorities represented in the Local Development Strategy for the South Kerry area. The promotional campaign included Radio Kerry / Radio na Gaeltachta advertising, SKDP website, Facebook and Local Employment Service Jobsheet, church parish newsletters, e-mail campaign to all communities, e-mail to participants of mentoring support under the last rural development programme, recommendations from SKDP area enterprise officers, posters in SKDP offices and posters in various outlets (banks, post offices, adult education centres etc.)

Support for Rural Enterprises

Rural Development (LEADER) Programme 2016 – 2020

- ◆ Are you an individual with a business idea?
- ◆ Are you an existing business wishing to expand?
- ◆ Do you see the potential for tourism activities in your area?
- ◆ Are you a farmer with fixed assets you could use for non-agricultural activities?

South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd. will implement a new round of Rural Development (LEADER) Programme funding in the South Kerry area. A core area of focus for the programme is on projects that support economic development, enterprise development & job creation.

Individuals, rural businesses and farm families may be eligible for enterprise support through Training, Capital Investment, Marketing Activities and Technical or Feasibility Studies.

To find out which supports may be available to you book your confidential, one-to-one information session with one of our officers now, by calling our **Cahersiveen Office on 066 9472724**


Sessions are strictly by appointment only, and will be held in:

- **KILLARNEY** Wednesday 30th September
SKDP Offices, 2nd Floor 37 High St., Killarney
- **KENMARE** Friday 2nd October
SKDP Offices, 1st Floor 21 Henry St., Kenmare
- **KILLORGLIN** Monday 5th October
SKDP Offices, Library Place, Killorglin
- **CAHERSIVEEN** Tuesday 8th October
ACARD Offices, The Marina, Cahersiveen

THE PROJECTS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPORT UNDER THIS PROGRAMME ARE:

CONVENTIONAL RETAIL OPERATIONS, REFINISHMENT OF PRIVATE PROPERTY, FISHING, HORTICULTURAL & AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS, REFINISHMENT OF PRIVATE PROPERTY, FISHING, HORTICULTURAL & AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS, REFINISHMENT OF PRIVATE PROPERTY, FISHING, HORTICULTURAL & AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS.

ANY PROJECT THAT WOULD DISPLACE AN EXISTING BUSINESS IS ALSO INELIGIBLE.



11.3.20 The Chief Executive Officer and the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme Officer met with 132 individuals / enterprises seeking support to discuss their enterprise proposals in detail which will assist SKDP Ltd. to inform key decision-making in relation to the Local Development Strategy for the area. Potential projects seeking support can be broken into the following sectors:

11.3.21 Table: LEADER Project Sectors

Food	Craft	ICT
Culture / Heritage	Agri / Farm Diversification	Health / Well-being
Tourism Accommodation	Festivals	Recreation
Marine Activities	Renewable Energy	Tour Guide
Camping / Glamping		

11.3.22 While all of these potential projects are eligible for support under the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme 2014 – 2020, SKDP Ltd. is aware of the need for a multi-sectoral approach involving co-ordination with relevant sectors (economic, social, cultural and environmental). Alternative funding streams which have the potential to provide complementary supports include the REDZ initiative, the Village and Town Renewal Scheme, National Lottery funding, Co-Operation Projects, Artisan Foods, Local Enterprise Offices etc. SKDP will work closely with these initiatives and funds in the implementation of the LDS.

11.3.23 In addition to the consultation process outlined above SKDP Ltd. considered information taken from broader consultation processes supported under the last Rural Development (LEADER) Programme 2007 – 2013. These included Tidy Towns / Village Enhancement Plans, Development and Support of Rural Enterprise Clusters in South Kerry, Strategic Development Studies, Impact Assessments (Bonane Heritage Park, South Kerry Greenway, Valentia Island Cable Station), Biodiversity / Ecological Plans, Community Tourism Plans, Angling tourism development.

11.3.24 Information gathered from this comprehensive public consultation process has provided SKDP Ltd. with an in-depth understanding of the needs and challenges facing rural communities in the South Kerry area. A total of 186 potential community projects are eligible for support under the new Rural Development (LEADER) Programme 2014 – 2020. Of these 186 potential community projects 142 fall under the theme of 'Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation', 35 under the theme 'Social Inclusion' and 9 under the theme 'Rural Environment'. Arising from the enterprise consultation campaign SKDP Ltd. has a database of 132 potential enterprise projects wishing to avail of support under the new Rural Development (LEADER) Programme 2014 – 2020 with the overall majority falling under the theme of 'Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation and 'Social Inclusion' and 'Rural Environment' themes on a lesser scale.

11.3.25 Action Research Project on the Issue of Rural Vibrancy

South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, through an EU Interreg Project called 'Rural Alliances' teamed up with its academic partner for the project, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick to undertake a comprehensive study on the issue of Rural Vibrancy in South Kerry. (O'Keeffe, B. (2015) *Rural Vibrancy in North-West Europe – The case of South Kerry*) The study, undertaken throughout 2013 & 2014, examined rural vibrancy in South Kerry from three dimensions:

- a) The activities, vibrancy & perspectives of Community & voluntary organisations from a detailed survey of over 104 community & voluntary organisations from across South Kerry. As part of their response to the questionnaire, Community & Voluntary groups were afforded the opportunity to identify the most significant issues facing their communities.
- b) South Kerry citizen's perspectives of rural vibrancy, as garnered from a survey of 1,000 South Kerry Citizens from all walks of life. The survey methodology utilised 15 indicators of economic vibrancy, 21 of Community Socio/Cultural and 6 of Environmental.
- c) Public service provision in South Kerry (As benchmarked against the minimum standards as set out by the Irish Government in the National Spatial Strategy 2002).

11.3.26 The study has provided South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd with a wealth of data and information on the issue of Rural Vibrancy in South Kerry, the challenges (both economic, social & environmental) facing communities as identified by 104 community & voluntary groups (with a combined membership in excess of 4,000) and 1,000 of its citizens from across South Kerry. The study also presents data on the level of public service provision in each community in South Kerry relative to national policy targets. The research findings have been utilised by SKDP in informing the development of this local development strategy.

11.3.27 'Imagine Iveragh Workshop'

In July 2015, staff from South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd participated in a public workshop, hosted in Waterville Co. Kerry by the 'Institute Without Boundaries' of George Brown College, Toronto Canada. The purpose of the workshop was to generate ideas to stimulate economic development and

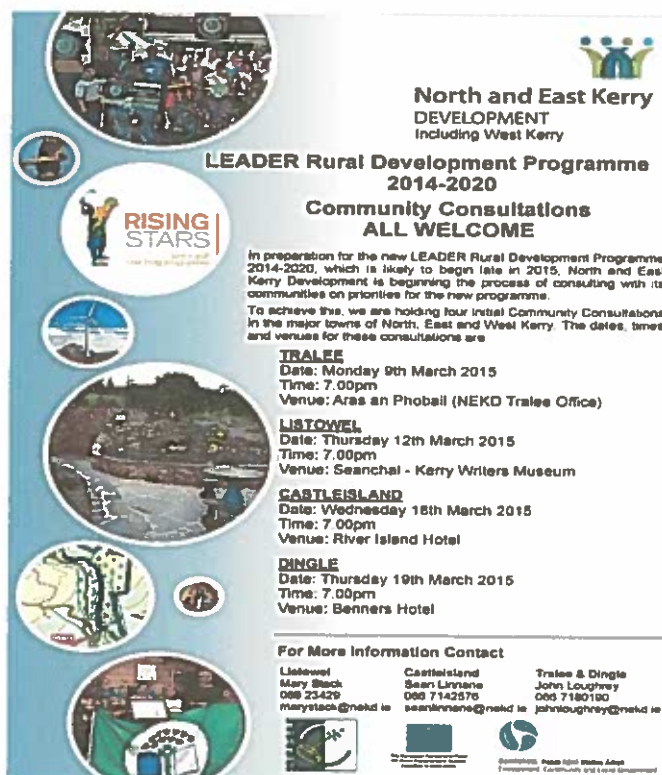
job opportunities in the Iveragh area of South Kerry. The workshop was attended by 54 participants, who represented a variety of different sectors, Community & Voluntary groups, Statutory Agencies, Academic institutions, Local Development, farmers, Local Authority, business & environmental interests. Based on the discussions, insights and key points that emerged from the workshop the following themes emerged:


- County Kerry as a destination -
- Science & Ecology in County Kerry
- Culture & Heritage in the Kingdom of Kerry
- Innovation & New Industry in Kerry

The outcomes of this workshop have been incorporated in the development of this local development strategy.

11.3.28 Public Consultation:

The consultation process for the 2014-2020 Programme was carried out by North East and West Kerry Development who actively sought to include views from all stakeholders in the preparation of this plan. In March 2015 North East and West Kerry Development began the initial formal consultation process with community groups and business interests in the areas of Listowel, Tralee, Castleisland and Dingle to inform and animate them of the imminent new Programme. These consultation meetings were well advertised through community networks and Local Area Councils, and representatives from various Community, Voluntary and business interests attended these meetings. Presentations were made highlighting the previous programme and showcasing projects funded. An introduction to the themes of the new programme and a broad overview of the new structures proposed for the development and delivery of the new LEADER programme was also provided. Round table facilitated discussions on idea generation then took place. In total 86 people attended the three consultation events.




**North and East Kerry
DEVELOPMENT**
 Including West Kerry

**LEADER Rural Development Programme
2014-2020**
**Community Consultations
ALL WELCOME**

In preparation for the new LEADER Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is likely to begin late in 2015, North and East Kerry Development is beginning the process of consulting with its communities on priorities for the new programme.
 To achieve this, we are holding four initial Community Consultations in the major towns of North, East and West Kerry. The dates, times and venues for these consultations are:

TRALEE
 Date: Monday 9th March 2015
 Time: 7.00pm
 Venue: Aras an Phobail (NEKD Tralee Office)


LISTOWEL
 Date: Thursday 12th March 2015
 Time: 7.00pm
 Venue: Seanchai - Kerry Writers Museum

CASTLEISLAND
 Date: Wednesday 18th March 2015
 Time: 7.00pm
 Venue: River Island Hotel

DINGLE
 Date: Thursday 19th March 2015
 Time: 7.00pm
 Venue: Benners Hotel

For More Information Contact

Listowel Mary Black 088 23429 maryblack@nekd.ie	Castleisland Sean Linnane 088 7142576 seanlinnane@nekd.ie	Tralee & Dingle John Loughrey 088 7180180 johnloughrey@nekd.ie
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11.3.29 Following on from the initial consultations NEWKD held meetings with each individual community from July 2015 until November 2015 to animate the Programme in local communities. The Rural Development Officers did a critique of all the plans, strategies, audits and reports that were done under the LEADER Programme 2007-2014 for each community and the findings/results/recommendations were presented at the relevant community meeting. These plans included Tidy Towns Plans, Village Enhancement Plans, Biodiversity Plans, Rural Recreational Strategy, Marine Tourism

Studies, Energy Audits on Community Buildings and feasibility studies. This method helped groups stay focused and helped promote meaningful engagement and participation from all groups represented at the meeting. As the Programme is primarily responsive in nature “bottom up approach” the two Development Officers also allowed flexibility and space to identify any new needs that were emerging. The Development Officers have entered all of these potential projects in a database and we currently have over 150 projects to the value of €5.2 million. They can be broken down as follows under the various themes:

11.3.30 Table: Potential community projects (NEWKD)

Economic Dev, Enterprise Dev & Job Creation	Social Inclusion	Rural Environment
86	50	15

11.3.31 The staff in North East and West Kerry Development Ltd were consulted during the process as they work on the ground and have huge interaction with sectoral groups and communities. A consultation day was set aside for all staff in the Company in July 2015 and this was facilitated by the CEO, and the Rural Development Officers and the RDP administration staff. The RDP co-ordinator gave an overview of the new RDP Programme 2014-2020 and the themes. This helped inform all staff on the new Programme. Meaningful discussion then followed and this was facilitated by the RDO's. This gave a comprehensive overview of the communities and helped to cohesive our vision, promote the new programme and inform our plan. In total 36 communities were consulted with a total attendance of 246.

11.3.32 NEWKD Community Consultation Process 2015 Calendar

Consultation Meeting Date	Area	Consultation Meeting Date	Area	Consultation Meeting Date	Area
Brosna	28/08/2015	Farranfore	3/09/2015	Camp	06/10/2015
Lyrecrompane	15/09/2015	Tralee	16/11/2015	Cloghane	20/10/2015
Knocknagoshel	13/10/2015	Fenit	08/10/2015	Ballydavid	15/10/2015
Scartaglin	01/10/2015	Ardfert	08/10/2015	Ballyferriter	15/10/2015
Currow	09/09/2015	Dingle	14/10/2015	Dunquin	15/10/2015
Currans	09/09/2015	Lispole	14/10/2015	Moyvane	29/07/2015
Ballyhar	3/09/2015	Ventry	14/10/2015	Tarbert	29/07/2015
Tarbert	29/07/2015	Ballylongford	14/09/2015	Listowel	20/10/2015
Asdee	09/09/2015	Ballybunion	21/10/2015	Lisselton	01/10/2015
Causeway	24/11/2015	Killflyn	24/11/2015	Castlegregory	06/10/2015
Ballyheigue	17/11/2015	Finigue	08/09/2015	Castleisland	29/09/2015
Abbeydorney	04/11/2015	Mountcoal	02/09/2015	Firies	3/09/2015
Kilcummin	3/09/2015				

11.3.33 The Local Area Advisory councils of NEWKD were also consulted in relation to the new programme. These are advisory councils to the board of NEWKD and are mainly composed of community and voluntary representatives.

11.3.34 Enterprise Consultation

Enterprise consultations were also held as part of the initial public consultation events in the 4 areas in March 2015. Consultation meetings were also held with the business chambers in Castleisland and Tralee. A business enquiry questionnaire was sent to all promoters supported under the previous LEADER programme and also to businesses expressing an interest currently on our database.

11.0 Section 11: Appendix

11.4 Section 4 Appendix:

11.0 Section 11: Appendix

11.5 Section 5 Appendix: Strategic Integration

11.5.1 Table: LDS Policy Context; EU

Spatial Level: European Union

Strategic Policy: Europe 2020

Themes & Priorities:

"Europe 2020 is the European Union's ten-year jobs and growth strategy, launched in 2010. Key policy objectives are stated as delivering growth that is :

- "SMART", through more effective investments in education, research and innovation.
- "INCLUSIVE", by tackling job creation and poverty reduction.
- "SUSTAINABLE", through a move towards a low carbon economy.

Five headline targets have been agreed for the EU to achieve by the end of 2020. These cover employment; research and development; climate/energy; education; social inclusion and poverty reduction."

11.5.2 Table: LDS Policy Context; National

Spatial Level: National

Strategic Policy: National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020

Themes & Priorities:

The NSS identifies a number of avenues through which rural areas can drive the attainment of more balanced regional development. These include:

- Diversify rural employment & stabilise population
- Protecting landscape, water resources and habitats
- Develop and maintain cultural identities
- Enhancing environmental protection and the preservation and conservation of sensitive sites

The NSS also highlights that in order for rural areas to maintain their populations a range of strategic measures are needed such as:

- *Settlement policies* for areas with declining populations as well as policies to deal with areas in which there are overspill issues associated with proximity to urban centres.
- *Enhanced accessibility* must be linked with integrated settlement policy to revitalise rural communities.

Strategic Policy: Action Plan for Jobs

Themes & Priorities:

The Action Plan for Jobs was introduced in 2012, taking a whole of Government approach to support job creation.

The Action Plan for Job's Five Strategic Ambitions are:

1. To support 100,000 additional jobs by 2016
2. To get Ireland back to a top-five ranking in international competitiveness
3. To stimulate the domestic economy and generate employment in locally traded sector
4. To build an indigenous engine of growth that drives up the export market share of Irish companies
5. To build world-class clusters in key sectors of opportunity.

The Government's target under the Action Plan for Jobs is to achieve full employment of 2.1million people in 2018.

Strategic Policy: CEDRA Report

Themes & Priorities:

The report arising from the work of the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas sets out a blueprint for the economic development of Rural Areas with 34 specific recommendations for action across a wide range of spheres. Strengthening the rural economy: the need for an integrated approach to Rural Economic Development both at Governance and Co-ordination level, Facilitating Economic and Community Participation through targeting supports and adopting sectoral specific developments.

Strategic Policy: Food Harvest 2020

Themes & Priorities:

Food Harvest 2020 is the major national strategy for the development of the agriculture, agri-food, fisheries and forestry sector to 2020. Its central theme is the delivery of smart, green growth within the sector. Smart growth in the agriculture / agri-food / fisheries and forestry sector is required to dovetail with policies that aim to develop the wider smart economy, and involve "developing new working relationships in the food chain, piloting new product streams, targeting its resources at new markets, enhancing levels of productivity and competitiveness, and developing leadership positions across a range of sectors."

Green growth reflects Ireland's association with an unspoilt agricultural landscape and affirms the objective to minimise sectoral impacts on the environment and ensure growth is environmentally sustainable. Targets are established for specific action areas including: increasing the value-added in the agri-food, fisheries and wood products sector by €3 billion (a 40% increase compared to 2008); and achieving an export target of €12 billion for the sector (a 42% increase compared to the 2007-2009 average).

LEADER objectives contribute to this by supporting competitiveness, diversification, innovation, market development, and other processes that also need public support and promotion in order for "green" growth to take place.

Strategic Policy: Our Sustainable Future Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland

Themes & Priorities:

This National Policy adopted in 2012 sets out a comprehensive range of priorities for sustainable development in Ireland. The green economy and sustainable development agendas are identified as key elements of Ireland's economic recovery strategy and this Framework sets out the range of environmental, economic and social policy measures required to move these agendas forward from vision to reality. The priorities for action cut across many key challenges and include:

- An effective framework for transition to an innovative, low carbon and resource efficient society.
- Identifying and adopting policies that can help achieve a shift towards a green economy, while maintaining fiscal stability and ensuring and ensuring sustainable public finances into the future.
- Protecting and restoring our biodiversity and ecosystems so that benefits essential for all sectors of society will be delivered.
- Securing health and social well being to enable full participation in society and economic development.
- Effective governance arrangements to ensure delivery of sustainable development.
- A partnership approach to implementation of the strategy.
- Developing a set of indicators to measure and report on progress.

It is worth noting that the UN is currently in the process of finalising a set of Sustainable Development Goals which Ireland has signed up to in 2015. It is likely this will impact on future policy development and priorities in this area over the term of the LEADER Programme.

Strategic Policy: People, Place and Policy: Growing Tourism to 2025

Themes & Priorities:

The policy sets a framework for how Ireland by 2025 will have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country, is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable, helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector that people wish to work in. Overall targets are:

- a) By 2025, revenue from overseas visitors, excluding carrier receipts, will increase to €5 billion in real terms (i.e. excluding the effects of inflation).
- b) Employment in the tourism sector will be 250,000 by 2025, compared with around 200,000 at present. There will be 10 million visits to Ireland annually by 2025.

11.5.3 Table: LDS Policy Context; County

Spatial Level: County

Strategic Policy: Kerry County Development Plan (2015-2021)

Themes & Priorities:

The Kerry County Development Plan (2015-2021) is part of a systematic hierarchy of land use and spatial plans, including the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines. They are informed by the plans and strategies of Government and other public agencies in general. They have a very important influence on spatial aspects of economic activity, the residential settlement pattern and associated social, community and economic infrastructure; these include key physical access requirements associated with quality of life in local communities. Environmental sustainability - protection and enhancement of the natural and build environment - is an underlying priority.

Strategic Policy: Local Economic and Community Plan (2015 – 2021)

Themes & Priorities:

Economic Development & Job Creation: To promote a robust and diverse economy, supported by well developed education and training models, enabling a sustainable population and vibrant communities throughout the county.

Higher Level Goals:

- 1.1 Supporting Existing Business.
- 1.2 Attracting investment.
- 1.3 Sustainably maximising growth opportunities.
- 1.4 Diversifying the economy.
- 1.5 Marketing.
- 1.6 Skills development.
- 1.7 Smart technology.
- 1.8 Networking / Collaboration.
- 1.9 Natural resources.
- 1.10 Energy.
- 1.11 Connectivity.
- 1.12 Social enterprise.

Quality Of Life: To promote a high quality of life, based around a clean natural environment, good quality local services, a strong sense of place and culture and meaningful participation in decision making.

Higher Level Goals:

- 2.1 Natural Environment.
- 2.2 Communities of place.
- 2.3 Accessibility to services.
- 2.4 Engagement and participation.
- 2.5 Health and well being.
- 2.6 Culture and Heritage.

Community & Social Inclusion: To Promote social and economic inclusion and reduction of social inequalities, particularly targeting area and communities in Kerry experiencing social disadvantage, marginalised groups or those at risk of exclusion.

Higher Level Goals:

- 3.1 Social deprivation.
- 3.2 Education.
- 3.3 Unemployment.
- 3.4 Children and young people
- 3.5 Older people.
- 3.6 Marginalised communities.
- 3.7 People with disabilities.
- 3.8 Social and community infrastructure.
- 3.9 Regeneration.

11.5.4 Additional Plans & Strategies Referred To In Developing Kerry LDS:

- a) National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020 & The National Planning Framework 2015-2026
- b) Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures - The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020
- c) Healthy Ireland – A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025
- d) Pathways to Work (2013)
- e) National Women's Strategy 2007-2016
- f) Further Education and Training Strategy 2014-2019
- g) Food Harvest 2020
- h) The Wild Atlantic Way operational plan 2015-2019 - Fáilte Ireland.
- i) Kerry County Functional Area Plans
- j) The National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2009-2020
- k) Delivering our Green Potential – Government Policy Statement on Growth and Employment in the Green Economy
- l) Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP). National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016
- m) Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland (2012)
- n) National Countryside Recreation Strategy

11.0 Section 11: Appendix

11.6 Section 6 Appendix: Networking & Cooperation

11.0 Section 11: Appendix

11.7 Section 7 Appendix: Monitoring Review & Evaluation

11.0 Section 11: Appendix

11.8 Section 8 Appendix: LDS Financial Plan Template

11.8.1 Guidance Notes for Financial Plan

- 1 There are four sheets in the Financial Plan Template:
 - (i) Implementation of operations/projects under the LDS: these costs relate to the development of the LDS and the implementation of the strategy e.g. calls for projects and the award of funding to local promoters. This template must be consistent with the information provided in the LDS Action Plan (See Section 4 - Document 2: LDS Framework Guidelines).
 - (ii) Administration and Animation Costs: this template includes costs relating to animation of the LDS in the sub-regional area through promotion, stakeholder engagement and capacity building activities targeting project promoters and the wider community. It also includes all operational and management costs associated with implementing LEADER.
 - (iii) Staffing: this template provides a breakdown of the LAG's salary costs in relation to delivering the LDS.
 - (iv) Summary: this sheet is automatically populated by information entered in the other templates.
- 2 The financial plan covers the lifetime of the LEADER programme.
- 3 **N.B. The total administration and animation costs must not exceed 25% of the total budget cost.**
- 4 You are required to read the explanatory notes at the end of the sheet before completing the template.
- 5 Any cells that are white must be filled out. Shaded cells are automatically populated and are locked.
- 6 The template should not be altered in any way as this will render the template invalid.
- 7 All four sheets must be fully completed.

11.8.2 Guidance Notes for Implementation of Operations / Projects under the LDS: (Implementation of Operations / Projects Sheet: See Appendix 11.8.6)

Explanatory Notes

- 1 **Preparatory Support:** this cost relates to preparatory supports for the development of the LDS for 2015 as referenced in the Expression of Interest (Stage 1 of the LDS Selection Process).
- 2 **Sub-Themes:** LAGs are required to provide an estimated annual breakdown of expenditure against each LDS local objective, which is aligned to a sub-theme. NB: actual expenditure will not be monitored against this estimate. It is acknowledged that the financial estimates will change over the course of the programme.
- 3 The details provided under each Sub-Theme and Local Objective number above should correspond with the information provided in Appendix 1: LDS Action Plan Template (Document 2: LDS Framework Guidelines)
- 4 Please contact Pobal if an additional number of objectives are required.

11.8.3 Guidance Notes for Administration & Animation Costs: (Administration & Animation Costs Sheet - See Appendix 11.8.7)

Explanatory Notes

- 1 The total cost for animation and administration cannot exceed 25% of the Total Budget Cost. If administration and animation costs exceed 25%, the budget must be revised.
- 2 This sheet should be automatically filled in with figures from the other templates. Please contact Pobal directly if this is not the case.

11.8.4 Guidance Notes for Staffing Costs: (Staffing Costs Sheet - See Appendix 11.8.8)

Explanatory Notes

- 1 The total staffing costs outlined above must equal the staffing costs in the Administration/Animation Budget Sheet.
- 2 When including the salary costs, only include the amount of costs being allocated for work completed on Leader. i.e. if 0.6 of an FTE is being allocated to Leader only 60% of the total salary costs should be charged to the programme. The salary cost for each member of staff must include Employers' PRSI and any pension contributions.
- 3 The full-time equivalent is the actual time that funded staff will allocate to LEADER activities. This takes into account staff who may be funded to work part-time on LEADER and part-time on other programmes. Where staff time is apportioned to LEADER and other funding programmes, the amount of public funding cannot exceed 100% of the total salary cost. Please indicate the full-time equivalent as follows:
 - 5 day week = 1 FTE
 - 4 day week = 0.8 FTE
 - 3 day week = 0.6 FTE
 - 2 day week = 0.4 FTE
 - 1 day week = 0.2 FTE
- 4 As part of the LDS, a job description must be provided for each member of LEADER staff (see Section 1 of the LDS Framework).

11.8.5 Guidance Notes for Summary: (Summary Sheet - See Appendix 11.8.9)

Explanatory Notes

- 1 The total cost for animation and administration cannot exceed 25% of the Total Budget Cost. See Summary Sheet for validation.
- 2 Rent and Rates: This cost refers to the rental cost of LEADER office; electricity and heating costs; service charges; and any Local Authority rates.
- 3 Office Costs: This cost includes but is not confined to other overhead costs such as: postage and couriers, mobile, landline, fax, broadband, printing and office supplies, IT maintenance, repairs and maintenance, purchase / lease of equipment, sundry expenses.
- 4 Insurance: This cost covers insurance for both premises and staff.
- 5 Staffing: This covers the entire LEADER salary budget for each year including Employers PRSI and pension contributions. See staffing sheet for more information.
- 6 Communications/Publicity/Advertising: This includes the animation costs involved in raising awareness of the LDS strategy and other communication costs that relate to IFADFR.
- 7 Evaluation: This cost may include the fees of external evaluators and any other costs involved in the implementation of an evaluation strategy (e.g. data collection, surveys, focus groups)
- 8 Financial/Professional Fees: These costs include legal costs; audit and accountancy costs. NB: Bank interest or loan interest is not an eligible cost.
- 9 Travel & Subsistence: These costs refer to T&S incurred in the management or administration of LEADER by the staff of the LAG.
- 10 Animation Costs: These are any costs incurred in promoting the LDS in the sub-regional area such as capacity building and training and technical support for potential Project promoters. Costs may include venue hire, materials, sub-contractors with expertise in specific areas (e.g. facilitation, training, enterprise, economic development etc.). This cost does not include any salary costs relating to LEADER staff or any publicity / awareness raising costs. These are covered by other budget lines. Any costs associated with the preparation of the LDS is not to be included as animation costs.
- 11 Other: Provide details of any other costs that may be associated with the administration or animation of LEADER.

11.8.6 Implementation of Operations / Projects under the LDS

	2015 (€)	2016 (€)	2017 (€)	2018 (€)	2019 (€)	2020 (€)	Total €
Preparatory Costs for the LDS	€14,000						€14,000
Theme 1: Economic / Enterprise Development & Job Creation							
Rural Tourism - Local Objective 1.1		€304,854	€507,024	€607,308	€507,824	€102,685	€2,029,694
Enterprise Development - Local Objective 1.2		€161,568	€264,614	€319,136	€268,614	€52,523	€1,066,454
Rural Towns - Local Objective 1.3		€193,894	€317,156	€399,787	€311,156	€62,631	€1,284,624
Broadband - Local Objective 1.4		€22,853	€37,555	€44,905	€37,555	€8,151	€151,018
							€0
Sub-Total	€0	€683,169	€1,126,348	€1,371,137	€1,125,148	€225,990	€4,531,790
Theme 2: Social Inclusion							
Basic Services - Local Objective 2.1		€298,471	€484,119	€576,943	€484,119	€112,824	€1,956,476
Rural Youth - Local Objective 2.2		€59,132	€97,886	€116,264	€99,886	€22,377	€395,545
							€0
							€0
							€0
Sub-Total	€0	€357,603	€582,005	€693,206	€584,005	€135,201	€2,352,021
Theme 3: Rural Environment							
Water Resources - Local Objective 3.1		€25,606	€42,144	€51,613	€43,344	€9,469	€172,176
Biodiversity - Local Objective 3.2		€39,833	€66,921	€77,265	€63,721	€15,144	€262,885
Renewable Energy - Local Objective 3.3		€49,864	€82,947	€99,489	€82,947	€16,781	€332,030
							€0
							€0
Sub-Total	€0	€115,304	€192,013	€228,367	€190,013	€41,395	€767,090
Total Budget Cost	€14,000	€1,156,075	€1,900,365	€2,292,710	€1,899,165	€402,585	€7,664,901

11.0 Section 11: Appendix

11.9 Section 9 Appendix: Additional Information as required.

11.0 Section 11: Appendix

11.10 Section 10 Appendix: Declaration & Disclaimer

11.10.1 Declaration:

By submitting the Local Development Strategy (LDS), the Local Action Group (LAG) authorises the submission and declares that the information provided in relation to the organisation described in this LDS is true and complete to the best of its knowledge and belief.

The LAG acknowledges that any funds awarded must be used for the purpose stated and not used to replace existing funding. The LAG also understands that information supplied in, or accompanying this application may be made available on request under the Freedom of Information Acts 2014.

The LAG accepts, as a condition of the award of a grant, that it involves no commitment to any other grants from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government or Pobal. The LAG is agreeable to ongoing programme monitoring by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and/or its agents and to allowing access to premises and records, as necessary, for that purpose.

The LAG also accepts that Pobal may contact other public funding organisations or Government Departments to discuss this application and previous funding awarded, as part of the appraisal process.

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act

The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and Pobal wish to remind LAGs that the information contained in the LDS and supporting documentation may be released, on request, to third parties, in accordance with all obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

You are asked to consider if any of the information supplied by you in applying for funding under the LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020, should not be disclosed because of sensitivity. If this is the case, you should, when providing the information, identify same and specify the reasons for its sensitivity.

The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government/ Pobal will consult with you about sensitive information before making a decision on the release of such information. The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government/Pobal will release, on request, information to third parties, without further consultation with you, unless you identify the information as sensitive with supporting reasons.

If you consider that some of the information is sensitive, you are required to clearly identify such information when submitting your LDS.

If you do not identify any of the information supplied in the LDS and supporting documentation as being sensitive you are acknowledging that any, or all of the information supplied, will be released in response to a Freedom of Information request.

11.10.2 Disclaimer:

Please read carefully:

It will be a condition of any application for funding under the terms and conditions of the LEADER element of the RDP (2014-2020) that the Local Action Group (LAG) has read, understood and accepted the following:

- The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government/Pobal shall not be liable to the LAG or any other party in respect of any loss, damage or costs of any nature arising directly or indirectly from:
 - The Local Development Strategy or the subject matter of the Local Development Strategy;
 - The rejection, for any reason, of any application.
- The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, its servants or agents shall not at any time in any circumstances be held responsible or liable in relation to any matter whatsoever arising in connection with the development, planning, construction, operation, management and/or administration of individual projects.

By submitting this Local Development Strategy application the LAG acknowledges that it has read, understood and accepted the above points. The Declaration and Disclaimer should be signed by the Chairperson of the LAG.

Name (Print):	
Signature:	
Position:	
Date:	

11.10.3 Signed copy of the minutes for which all LAG members agreed to the content and submission of the LDS and Action Plan and Agenda of Meeting (30.11.15).

**Extract from Draft Minutes of the Kerry Local Community Development Committee
Meeting No. 8**

Date:	Monday, 30 th November 2015
Time:	2.30pm to 4.30pm
Location:	Conference Room, County Buildings
Convener:	Michael Scannell
Minute Taker:	Anne Marie FitzGerald

Present:

Cllr. Norma Moriarty, Kerry County Council (Chairperson)
Cllr. Pa Daly, Kerry County Council
Cllr. Aoife Thornton, Kerry County Council
Ms. Moira Murrell, Chief Executive, Kerry County Council
Ms. Hilary Scanlan, HSE
Ms. Sheila Casey, South Kerry Development Partnership
Ms. Catherine McMullin, Environment - An Taisce
Ms. Maura Fitzgerald, PPN Community & Voluntary Interests
Mr. Pádraig Hanrahan, Destination Kerry Forum
Cllr. Niall Kelleher, Kerry County Council
Mr. Fionnán Ó hÓgáin, Údarás na Gaeltachta
Ms. Ann O' Dwyer, Kerry Education & Training Board
Mr. Tomas Hayes, Kerry Local Enterprise Office
Mr. William Morrell, PPN Community & Voluntary Interests
Mr. Charlie Farrelly, PPN Social Inclusion Interests
Ms. Mary Grandfield, PPN Social Inclusion Interests

In Attendance:

Ms. Maura Walsh, CEO, IRD Duhallow
Mr. Eamonn O' Reilly, CEO, NEKD
Mr. Noel Spillane, CEO, SKDP
Mr. John Breen, Director, Kerry County Council
Mr. Michael Scannell, Chief Officer, Kerry LCDC
Mr. Brian Looney, Community Department, Kerry County Council
Ms. Siobhan Griffin, Community Dept., Kerry County Council
Ms. Noreen O' Connor, Community Dept., Kerry County Council
Ms. Anne Marie FitzGerald, Community Dept., Kerry County Council

Apologies:

Mr. James McCarthy, Agriculture – IFA
Mr. Kieran Rutledge, Business – Tralee Chamber Alliance

Item No./Uimhir:	Subject/Ábhar:	Action by:	Target Date
Item 1: Notice, Attendance, Apologies	The Chairperson welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were noted as above.		
Item 5: LEADER 2014-2020	<p>The three CEOs of the LDCs joined the meeting for Item 5: Ms. Maura Walsh, CEO, IRD Duhallow Mr. Eamonn O' Reilly, CEO, NEKD Mr. Noel Spillane, CEO, SKDP</p> <p>Expanding Kerry LCDC Local Action Group (LAG) membership to include IRD Duhallow Ltd to facilitate the development & implementation of the Local Development Strategy (LDS). The Chief Officer advised that currently the Local Development Companies (LDCs) have two representatives on the LCDC, one each from NEWKD and SKDP. The third LDC, IRD Duhallow is not represented on the LCDC, but for the purposes of LEADER will have an implementation role. Guidance and clarification were sought from the DECLG in respect of the LCDC incorporating additional membership for the purposes of developing and implementing the LEADER programme. Based on the guidance received, he advised that he was recommending that a formal invite be extended to IRD Duhallow to join the Local Action Group (LAG) for the purpose of fulfilling its role in relation to the development of the Local Development Strategy (LDS) and its subsequent implementation in its functional area.</p> <p>This was formally proposed by Cllr. Aoife Thornton & seconded by Fionnán O hÓgáin.</p> <p>Cllr. Niall Kelleher felt that this did not go far enough and proposed that the membership of the Kerry LCDC be increased to include IRD. The Chief Officer advised that membership would need to increase by 2 members. It was agreed that the increase in membership be included in the agenda for discussion at the next LCDC meeting.</p> <p>Adoption of draft Objectives and Actions for the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS) for County Kerry The Chief Officer referred to the report circulated to the members and gave an overview of the structure of the Leader LDS. He advised that the LDS must be developed and approved by the LAG prior to being submitted to Pobal.</p>		

Item No./Uimhir:	Subject/Ábhar:	Action by:	Target Date
	<p>The Chief Officer advised that both he and the Chief Executive will be meeting with the CEOs of the LDCs to agree the allocation of funds between the Programme Implementers (LDCs).</p> <p>He said that Leader has three prescribed themes, with 9 associated sub-themes. Kerry LDS proposes to include all the relevant themes as they are considered appropriate in the Kerry context. He advised the final allocations need to be agreed between objectives. The prioritisation of objectives is currently underway and the breakdown of funding under the three main themes is as follows: Economic Development (60%) Social Inclusion (30%) Rural Development (10%)</p> <p>The members approved the draft allocation of funding between objectives pending the final share out of funding among programme implementers. This was proposed by Sheila Casey and seconded by Cllr. Niall Kelleher. The final share out of funding will be agreed over the following days between the Chief Executive, Chief Officer and the LDCs.</p> <p>A general discussion ensued and it was noted that the Leader Strategy does not exist in isolation and that Leader is only one of the funding mechanisms. Rural Tourism will require support through Fáilte Ireland and there are Leader opportunities through REDZ & EU Grant Funding.</p> <p>Provision of Broadband was identified as a major issue within the county. It was noted that the programme will not roll out Broadband as it only applies to smaller capital projects. The role of Leader is very much associated with the softer development/mentoring/training aspects, with very limited small scale infrastructure. There is a need to support local providers and to tap into funds from other programmes e.g. the Rural Town and Village funding will be rolled out shortly. It was noted that as funding is decreasing it is absolutely necessary to maximise resources.</p> <p>The Chief Officer advised that he was looking for approval for the actions as set out in the document circulated prior to the meeting (Draft Sections 1-4). Work still needs to be done in finalising Sections 1-4 and in completing the remainder of the LDS, however, the remaining sections are of an administrative nature and will not impact on the</p>		

Item No./Uimhir:	Subject/Ábhar:	Action by:	Target Date
	<p>outputs of the strategy. He advised that the themes and actions are consistent with the County Development Plan and the draft Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP).</p> <p>The adoption of the Draft Leader Strategy was proposed by Bill Morrell and seconded by Sheila Casey and agreed by all.</p>		

Signed:

Cllr. Norma Moriarty
Chairperson

Mr. Michael Scannell
Chief Officer



Coiste Forbartha Pobail
Áitiúil Chiarraí
Kerry Local Community
Development Committee

Clár Oibre / Agenda

Cruinniú Coiste Forbartha Pobail Áitiúil Chiarraí
ag 2.30rn, Dé Luain, 30 Samhain, 2015

Kerry Local Community Development Committee Meeting
at 2.30 pm, Monday, 30 November, 2015

Uimhir Item No.	Mír Item
1.	Notice, Attendance, Apologies.
2.	Confirmation of minutes of LCDC meeting of 28 th September 2015 & Leader Workshop of 12 th October (copies enclosed)
3.(a)	SICAP – Mid Year Review Follow-Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on PI's response on targets and response received from DECLG on implementation issues raised by Kerry LCDC following Mid-Year Review (report attached)
3.(b)	SICAP – End of Year Review 2015 & Planning Process for 2016 Annual Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify LECP priorities for inclusion in 2016 Annual Plans (report attached)
3.(c)	SICAP – Noting engagement of sub-contractors for the following Lots: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19-1 North, East & West Kerry (report attached) 19-3 Killarney & South Kerry (report attached)
4.	Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider and adopt Draft Social Inclusion & Quality of Life Objectives and Actions for Local Economic & Community Plan (report attached)
5.	LEADER 2014 - 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider expanding Kerry LCDC Local Action Group (LAG) membership to include IRD Duhallow Ltd to facilitate the development & implementation of the LDS (report attached) Consider and adopt draft Objectives and Actions for the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS) for County Kerry (report attached)
6.	Proposed Schedule of Meetings for 2016 (attached) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date of next LCDC Meeting
7.	Correspondence
8.	AOB

11.0 Section 11: Appendix

11.11 Glossary of terms

ADAPT	Domestic Abuse Service
AFF	Agri-food, Fisheries and Forestry
BEWHS	Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme
BIM	Bord Iascaigh Mhara (Irish Sea Fisheries Board)
BTWEAS	Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme
CDP	County Development Plan (2015 -2021)
CEDRA	Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CEED	Centre for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development
CLLD	Community Led Local Development
CLÁR	Ceantair Laga Árd Riachtanaíú
Coillte	Forestry & renewable energy company
COP21	Conference of the Parties '21
CSC	Children Services Committee
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CSP	Community Services Programme
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
DECLG	Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
DJEI	Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation
DOELG	Department of Environment & Local Government
DSP	Department of Social Protection
EEA	European Economic Area
ED	Electoral District
EDR	Economic Dependency Ratio
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ELARD	European LEADER Association of Rural Development
ENRD	European Rural Development Network
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESCO	Energy Service Company
ESPON	European Spatial Planning Observation Network
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation
EWM	Equality for Women Measure
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
Forfás	Government Advisory Board for enterprise, trade, science, technology and innovation in Ireland
FRC	Family Resource Centre
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HSE	Health Service Executive
ICOS	Irish Co-operative Organisation Society
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IFA	Irish Farmers Association

ILDN	Irish Local Development Network
INTERREG	Financing instrument of European regional development
IRD	Integrated Resource Development
IRDD	IRD Duhallow
ISO	International Standardisation Organisation
ITT	Institute of Technology Tralee
KASI	Killarney Asylum Seekers Initiative
KBN	Kerry Businesswomen's Network
KCC	Kerry County Council
KCCC	Kerry County Childcare Committee
KCDP	Kerry County Development Plan (2015 -2021)
KCSC	Kerry Children Services Committee
KCT	Kerry Community Transport Ltd
KDYS	Kerry Diocesan Youth Service
KETB	Kerry Education and Training Board
KRSP	Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership
LA	Local Authority
LAG	Local Action Group
LAN	Local Area Network
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LDC	Local Development Company
LDS	Local Development Strategy
LEADER	Liaisons Entre Actions de Developement de l'Économie Rurale
LECP	Local Economic Community Plan
LEO	Local Enterprise Office
LIFE	EU funding programme for the environment
LFPR	Labour Force Participation Rate
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
MABS	Money Advice and Budgeting Service
MD	Municipal District
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
NEWKD	North, East & West Kerry Development Ltd.
NHA	Natural Heritage Areas
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPWS	National Parks & Wildlife Service
NRP	National Reform Programme
NRN	National Rural Network
NSS	National Spatial Strategy 2002 - 2020
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHSAS	Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Service
PAC	Projects Appraisal Committee
PLC	Post Leaving Certificate
PPN	Public Participation Network
PTW	Pathways to Work
QMS	Quality Management Systems
RAPID	Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development

RAPJ	Regional Action Plan for Jobs
Ramsar sites	Managed wetland areas
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RDP	Rural Development Programme
REDZ	Rural Economic Development Zone
RE	Renewable Energy
RES	Renewable Energy Strategy
REPS	Rural Environment Protection Scheme
RPG	Regional Planning Guidelines
RSS	Rural Social Scheme
SA	Small Area
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
SICAP	Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme
SKDP	South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd
SME's	Small & Medium Enterprises
Southdoc	After hours family doctor service
SPA	Special Protection Areas
SWAN	Sustainable Water Network (Ireland)
TCU	Transport Co-ordination Unit
Teagasc	Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority
TIRC	Tralee International Resource Centre
Tús	Citizens information
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WAN	Wide Area Network
WFD	Water Framework Directive

11.0 Section 11: Appendix

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