

5th December 2023

DO: GACH BALL DE CHOMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
TO: EACH MEMBER OF WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Re: **Waterford Local Economic & Community Plan 2023 - 2029**

The preparation of the Waterford Local Economic & Community Plan 2023 – 2029 was completed in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The plan was completed over a number of stages.

Baseline Analysis – The first step in developing the plan was the initial collation and analysis of socioeconomic data from national databases and other sources as well as an initial policy review to identify key themes that a draft vision and high-level goals could be built around.

Socio-Economic Statement – This stage consisted of the development of the draft Socio-Economic Statement which included an initial summary analysis of key socio-economic data identified and the development of the vision and high-level goals. The socio-economic statement informed public consultation.

Stakeholder Consultation – During this stage, an extensive range of stakeholder consultation was conducted including focus groups, written submissions, community survey, and key stakeholder interviews.

Development of the Sustainable Objectives and Actions – This stage saw the development of sustainable objectives and actions. The objectives and actions were developed in collaboration with key stakeholders and included the identification of lead owners and supporting agencies/groups for each action. Specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were also identified and an approach for monitoring and evaluation of progress on implementation was also developed.

Draft Plan – A draft plan was subsequently developed. This was put forward to the LECP Advisory Steering Group, Economic Development & Enterprise SPC, Housing, Community, Libraries and Culture SPC, the LCDC, and in workshop to members of Waterford City & County Council. The Southern Regional Assembly also considered the draft plan to ensure compliance with National and Regional policies. A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening report and Appropriate Assessment Screening report were also conducted following completion of the draft plan.

Finalisation of Plan - Following feedback on the draft Waterford Local Economic & Community Plan 2023 – 2029 the plan was finalised and it is recommended that the plan be adopted by Council.

M. Quinn
Director of Economic Development