



Rialtas  
na hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Ár dTodhchaí  
Tuaithe  
Our Rural  
Future



# Our Rural Future

## 2022 Work Programme

Prepared by the Department of  
Rural and Community Development

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## Introduction

*Our Rural Future*, Ireland's national rural development policy provides a blueprint for sustainable rural development over the period to 2025.

The policy's ambitious vision, which recognises the crucial role played by rural communities in Ireland's national economic, social, environmental and cultural development, has the potential to have a transformational impact on the quality of life in rural areas.

The publication of *Our Rural Future* in March 2021 instigated a huge level of activity across Government, as implementation commenced on the measures contained in the policy. Details of the initial period of delivery, to the end of 2021, can be found in the 2021 Work Programme and First Progress Report.

These documents outlined a total of 216 actions to be undertaken last year, with just under 80% of those marked for delivery by the end of that period completed.

It is important that the momentum created by the policy's launch and the level of implementation in 2021 be maintained, and this year's Work Programme seeks to build on progress made to date through the inclusion of 318 new and continuing actions to be progressed and delivered across Government in 2022.

This includes actions carried over and reported as delayed in the first Progress Report for *Our Rural Future* which was published earlier this year. These actions have been given revised deadlines for delivery in this Work Programme.

This figure also includes 23 actions proposed under 10 new policy measures, adding to the 152 originally contained in *Our Rural Future*. This reflects continued efforts to meet the level of ambition in the policy and seeks to address the emerging challenges and opportunities facing rural communities.

Further Progress Reports will provide updates on delivery of this Work Programme following the midpoint and the end of the year.

## Ukraine

The Government is committed to delivering a humanitarian response to welcome people fleeing the war in Ukraine and seeking protection in Ireland as part of the EU response. Rural areas, which are welcoming Ukrainian citizens into their communities will be affected in the short and medium term.

At the time of the collation and subsequent publication of this Work Programme, the full effects have yet to become clear. This is a rapidly evolving situation which is being

addressed through a coordinated response across Government, and this is reflected in Measure 153.

As the situation develops, further iterations of *Our Rural Future* Work Programmes and Progress Reports will be updated and amended as appropriate.

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## Glossary

<b>AA</b>	Appropriate Assessment
<b>BCP</b>	Broadband Connection Point
<b>CAP</b>	Common Agricultural Policy
<b>CLÁR</b>	Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais
<b>CSP</b>	CAP Strategic Plan
<b>CSO</b>	Central Statistics Office
<b>DAFM</b>	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
<b>DCEDIY</b>	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
<b>DETE</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
<b>DECC</b>	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
<b>D/Education</b>	Department of Education
<b>DFHERIS</b>	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
<b>D/Finance</b>	Department of Finance
<b>D/Health</b>	Department of Health
<b>DHLGH</b>	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
<b>D/Justice</b>	Department of Justice
<b>DPER</b>	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
<b>DRCD</b>	Department of Rural and Community Development
<b>DSP</b>	Department of Social Protection
<b>DTCAGSM</b>	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
<b>D/Transport</b>	Department of Transport
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency
<b>ESB</b>	Electricity Supply Board
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EV</b>	Electric Vehicle
<b>FLAG</b>	Fisheries Local Area Group
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>HE</b>	Higher Education
<b>IDA</b>	Industrial Development Agency
<b>IT</b>	Institute of Technology
<b>LCDC</b>	Local Community Development Committee
<b>LECP</b>	Local Economic and Community Plan
<b>LEO</b>	Local Enterprise Office
<b>LGBTI+</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
<b>LGMA</b>	Local Government Management Agency
<b>MAP</b>	Maritime Area Planning
<b>NBI</b>	National Broadband Ireland
<b>NMPF</b>	National Marine Planning Framework
<b>NPF</b>	National Planning Framework
<b>NPWS</b>	National Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>NTA</b>	National Transport Authority
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>OGP</b>	Office of Government Procurement
<b>OPW</b>	Office of Public Works
<b>ORESS</b>	Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme
<b>ORIS</b>	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme
<b>PESTLE</b>	Political, Economic, Sociological, Technological, Legal and Environmental

<b>PPN</b>	Public Participation Network
<b>REDF</b>	Regional Enterprise Development Fund
<b>RRDF</b>	Rural Regeneration and Development Fund
<b>RTP</b>	Regional Tourism Plan
<b>SEA</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment
<b>SICAP</b>	Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
<b>SWOT</b>	Strength Weakness Opportunity Threat
<b>TU</b>	Technological University
<b>URDF</b>	Urban Regeneration and Development Fund
<b>WDC</b>	Western Development Commission

# Optimising Digital Connectivity

<b>Measure 1</b> Invest up to €2.7 billion in the rollout of the National Broadband Plan and explore how the initiative can be accelerated to deliver connectivity as soon as possible in rural areas.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> National Broadband Ireland under contract to DECC		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
1.1	Continue rollout of the National Broadband Plan, with construction continuing in a majority of counties.	Ongoing
1.3	Complete work with NBI on the potential to accelerate the National Broadband Plan and bring forward comprehensive proposals for approval.	Q4 2022
1.6	Continuation of the accelerated programme for the provision of high speed broadband to primary schools across the intervention area.	Ongoing
1.7	Finalise and implement measures to mitigate COVID impacts on 2022 delivery.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 3</b> Introduce legislation in 2021 to provide employees with the right to request remote work.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DETE		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
3.1	Following public consultation period in May 2021, draft heads of Bill are anticipated by Q3 2021.	Q1 2022
3.2	Obtain Government approval for the priority drafting of the Right to Request Remote Working Bill 2022.	Q1 2022
3.3	Complete pre-legislative scrutiny of the General Scheme by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Enterprise, Trade and Employment.	Q2 2022
3.4	Complete passage of the legislation through the houses of the Oireachtas.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 4</b>		
<b>Map and publish a comprehensive picture of remote working facilities across the country, and the various facilities available in each, to ensure that future hubs are developed in a strategic way that meets demand and maximises utilisation in key locations.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD, Western Development Commission		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
4.1	Data gathering to establish extent of remote working hubs across country.	Ongoing
4.3	Engage with stakeholders (Central Statistics Office and DETE) to ensure data and maps are incorporated into wider data gathering on remote working demand and supply as part of Making Remote Work.	Ongoing
4.4	Initiate research into the impact of remote working hubs and BCPs on communities to capture qualitative data and community needs / priorities (including climate mitigation impact).	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 5</b>		
<b>Establish a comprehensive and integrated national network of 400 Remote Working Hubs throughout the country, with shared back-office services and a central booking platform for users.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD, Western Development Commission		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
5.1	Building on the strong uptake in year 1, reach a target of 300 hubs onboarded to the ConnectedHubs.ie platform and the National Hubs Network.	Q4 2022
5.2	Development of the Connectedhubs.ie platform to improve accessibility and functionality to include corporate booking functionality, recording of capacity and usage figures.	Ongoing



<b>Measure 6</b> <b>Invest significantly in remote working facilities to support the retention of skilled people in rural communities and attract mobile talent to rural areas.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
6.4	Announce successful applicants under the 2022 Connected Hubs Fund The Fund will support capital works to increase capacity and impact of existing hubs and Broadband Connection Points, as well as support the development of the National Hub Network.	Q2 2022
6.5	Launch a targeted incentive to encourage the usage of remote working hubs in rural areas.	Q2 2022
6.6	Make funding available to Local Authorities to run innovative marketing campaigns targeted at attracting remote workers and mobile talent under 2022 Town and Village Scheme.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 7</b> <b>Provide financial support to Local Authorities to bring vacant properties in town centres back into use as Remote Working Hubs.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
7.2	Projects that address vacancy and dereliction and ensure the re-use of heritage and other existing buildings to provide the necessary appropriately-scaled facilities and infrastructure in rural areas, including remote working facilities, will be supported under the fourth call to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund and the 2022 Town and Village Renewal Scheme.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 8</b> <b>Develop national data on the incidence and frequency of remote work, to provide an evidence base for future policy.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: CSO</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
8.1	Inclusion of specific question in the 2022 Census of Population on whether persons at work ever work from home. If a respondent indicates that they work from home, then a follow-up question is asked on the number of days usually worked from home. Information will be available at detailed geographic level in 2023.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 10</b>		
<b>Mandate public sector employers, colleges, and other public bodies to move to 20% home and remote working in 2021, with further annual increases over the lifetime of this policy.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DPER		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
10.1	Publication of the Remote Working Framework.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 11</b>		
<b>Pilot co-working or hot-desking for civil servants in a small number of towns initially, to support the objective of a move to 20% home or remote working.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DPER		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
11.1	Conduct a scoping exercise across the civil service to ascertain any current ongoing initiatives that could be incorporated into a pilot programme.	Q4 2022
11.2	Publish Blended Working Policy Framework for Civil Service to provide an overarching framework to inform Civil Service organisations when developing blended working policies and other related initiatives.	Q1 2022

<b>Measure 12</b>		
<b>Through IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta, promote and enable the uptake of remote working across their client base to support regional job creation.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DETE, DTCAGSM		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
12.3	Enterprise Ireland will continue to drive job creation in the regions through implementation of the Enterprise Ireland Strategy 2022-2024. This will include a strong focus on remote working opportunities.	Ongoing
12.4	The IDA will continue to highlight remote working opportunities across its client base (both existing and new client companies), through the promotion of the availability of Ireland's network of hubs and collaboration with regional stakeholders to drive greater	Ongoing

	take up of remote working opportunities by IDA Ireland client companies.	
12.5	Údarás na Gaeltacha to bring the number of digital hubs in operation in the Gaeltacht to 33.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 14</b> Provide grants to retail businesses in rural towns and villages to establish or develop their online presence to complement traditional footfall trade.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DETE, LEOs		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
14.1	Continue delivery of the Trading Online Voucher Scheme which offers a voucher of up to €2,500 (50% co-funded by the applicant) to help businesses develop their online trading capability.	Ongoing
14.2	Provide further funding under the Online Retail Scheme.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 15</b> Develop Local Digital Strategies in each Local Authority area, to maximise the potential of improved rural digital connectivity for businesses and communities.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
15.1	Provide support and assistance to Local Authorities to produce local digital strategies to drive regional digital development.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 16</b> Expand the provision of free-to-use wireless internet connectivity in rural areas through the rollout of Broadband Connection Points and other initiatives such as the WiFi4EU public wi-fi networks and the Digital Innovation Programme.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
16.4	Publication of the BCP Network's development strategy. The strategy will consider the option of including additional BCP sites, development and awareness raising activities.	Q4 2022

16.5	Bring number of operational Wifi4EU hotspots to approximately 1,000 nationwide, providing free public wi-fi services in areas of community life, such as town squares, libraries and other public buildings.	Q4 2022
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<b>Measure 17</b>		
<b>Under the Schools Broadband Programme, review on an ongoing basis the availability of broadband services and upgrade schools broadband connectivity, including within the State intervention area where possible.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: D/Education</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
17.1	Continue to work with DECC to upgrade broadband connectivity to primary schools through the National Broadband Plan Intervention Area implementation, including the Schools Broadband Connection Points Programme.	Ongoing
17.3	Implement the Department's upgrade programme for those primary schools outside of the NBP Intervention Area and commercial provision, up to 990 schools total. Funding secured through Ireland's National Recovery and Resilience Programme, leveraging the NextGenerationEU programme.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 18</b>		
<b>Increase the capacity for remote and blended learning to enable young people, in particular, in rural areas to access further and higher education courses through online learning while living in their local communities.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DFHERIS</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
18.1	Increase remote and blended learning to improve access to further and higher education.	Ongoing

# Supporting Employment and Careers in Rural Areas

<b>Measure 21</b>			<b>Develop and implement a set of nine new Regional Enterprise Plans to support enterprise development and jobs growth in the regions.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DETE			
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
21.2	Publish and launch the nine Regional Enterprise Plans to 2024.		Q1 2022
21.3	Regional Steering Committees confirmed and established to drive implementation of the Plans.		Q2 2022
21.4	Develop and launch regional enterprise funding schemes to develop and implement collaborative and innovative enterprise projects.		Q4 2022

<b>Measure 22</b>			<b>Target 400 IDA investments up to 2024 for regional locations and deliver 19 Advanced Technology Buildings in regional locations in line with the National Planning Framework.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> IDA Ireland			
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
22.1	IDA Ireland's half-year results to be announced in July 2022 to include relevant updates.		Q3 2022
22.2	Deliver 19 Advanced Technology Buildings in regional locations.		Ongoing

<b>Measure 23</b>			<b>Deliver ambitious job creation and enterprise development targets for the indigenous sector in the strategies of Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta and the Local Enterprise Offices to embed jobs growth more deeply within the regions.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta, LEOs			
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
23.1	Enterprise Ireland will continue to drive job creation in the regions through implementation of the Enterprise Ireland Strategy 2022-2024. The LEOs will continue to promote employment growth		Ongoing

	across the 31 Local Authorities and are engage with REDF projects in each of the regions.	
23.3	Launch mid-term review of Uíbh Ráthach Task Force.	Q2 2022
23.4	500 jobs to be created in client companies/enterprises of Údarás na Gaeltachta.	Q4 2022
23.5	Support the network of 33 Gaeltacht community development organisations funded through Údarás na Gaeltachta in delivering annual actions plans that take into account community-specific social issues.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 25</b>		
<b>Promote awareness and the use of remote working hubs and enterprise centres across the country to support remote working and encourage local enterprise start-ups.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD, DETE		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
25.2	Launch of the Connected Hubs national promotional campaign.	Q1 2022
25.3	Develop collaborative strategies with key stakeholders to promote hubs to diverse markets (SMEs, workers, etc.).	Ongoing
25.4	Publication of the National Hubs Network development strategy.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 26</b>		
<b>Maximise our resources and strengths in the Green Economy to support employment opportunities for rural communities in areas such as renewable energy, sustainable tourism, energy retrofitting, the Bioeconomy and the Circular Economy.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM, DECC		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
26.1	Hold regular cross-government bioeconomy policy implementation group meetings.	Ongoing
26.3	Offer bioeconomy research opportunities by multiple funders including the Irish Research Council, EPA, DAFM, etc.	Ongoing
26.4	Hold annual awareness raising event on bioeconomy in Ireland known as Bioeconomy Ireland Week (October 17-23 in 2022).	Ongoing
26.6	Implement Bioeconomy Forum work programme and prepare report for Bioeconomy policy implementation.	Q2 2022

26.7	Funding mechanisms for bioeconomy innovation at demonstration level will be explored across a range of funding programmes.	Q4 2022
26.8	Development of a Bioeconomy Action Plan.	Q4 2022
26.9	Launch the national retrofitting scheme to drive demand and grow the home energy upgrade market.	Q1 2022
26.10	Introduce a system of registration for retrofit One-Stop Shops.	Q1 2022

<b>Measure 27</b>		
<b>Roll out the development of the Technological University model to help support regional growth through the education and training sector and to act as an anchor for regional economic development, research and investment.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DFHERIS</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
27.2	Establishment of Atlantic Technological University.	Q2 2022
27.3	Establishment of South East Technological University.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 28</b>		
<b>Develop an overarching Clustering Policy and Framework to advance strong and effective clustering and links between SMEs, multinational corporations and the third-level sector.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DETE</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
28.3	Finalise consultancy report and recommendations from the National Cluster Policy Steering Group to inform a national cluster policy and framework.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 29</b>		
<b>Examine, and take forward as appropriate, the recommendations of the SME Growth Plan to map out an ambitious long-term strategic blueprint for all SMEs, including rurally-based businesses.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DETE		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
29.2	<p>Bring to Government a report on actions taken to implement 10 key recommendations within the SME and Entrepreneurship Growth Plan that were identified for priority delivery by the SME and Entrepreneurship Implementation Group.</p> <p>These cover: access to finance; digital transformation; increasing first time exporters; enhanced assistance for high-potential businesses; clustering and networks; SME management skills; reducing the regulatory burden on SMEs; delivery of a single portal for business information and assistance; ensuring comprehensive enterprise agency coverage for SMEs; and promoting SME participation in public procurement.</p>	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 30</b>		
<b>Deliver a suite of new measures to support the development of Social Enterprises in rural areas to increase their social, economic and environmental impact and contribute to job creation locally.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
30.2	Include a focus on rural social enterprise in support programmes for social enterprises.	Ongoing
30.3	Approval of additional organisations and employment opportunities for specific disadvantaged individuals under the Community Services Programme which provides local social, economic and environmental services through a social enterprise model.	Q2 2022
30.4	Launch the Gaeltacht Social Enterprise Development fund, to complement Údarás na Gaeltachta's Gaeltacht Social Enterprise fund. The fund will help community organisations develop an idea and business plan for a social enterprise so they may be in a position to develop their business model and apply for other supports.	Q3 2022



**Measure 31**      **Expand the use of socially responsible public procurement contracts, where feasible, which will incentivise the engagement of social enterprises and Circular Economy organisations.**

**Lead Delivery Body:** All Departments

<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
31.1	The Office of Government Procurement (OGP) will continue to incorporate socially responsible measures in its procurement solutions, including in the areas of energy provision, paper and print services, and electric vehicles. Each framework will be assessed through a prism of green and social considerations when planning next generation frameworks.	Ongoing
31.2	The Strategic Procurement Advisory Group will continue to meet regularly. This group brings together officials from policy departments with public procurement practitioners to share best practice and to facilitate public bodies in the process of incorporating social and environmental considerations into public procurement.	Ongoing
31.4	In line with Action 8 of the 'Working to Change' strategy, D/Justice will build on initial engagements with OGP and DPER to progress the development of guidance notes to facilitate the use of social considerations in Criminal Justice Sector contracts which can be used by other Government departments. These engagements will be incorporated into the development of a cross-departmental Buy Social Movement in Ireland. (D/Justice)	Q4 2022
31.5	Under Action 9 of the 'Working to Change' strategy, D/Justice, the Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service will continue to review procurements which are new or due for renewal to see how social criteria / clauses may be included, in pursuit of meeting the pledged target of 10% of all Criminal Justice Sector procurement contracts for the provision of goods and services to include social considerations. (D/Justice)	Ongoing
31.6	Inclusion of social clause in the tender process for the Social Enterprise Data Gathering Exercise. (DRCD)	Q1 2022

<b>Measure 32</b>		
<b>Further develop the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands, and Ireland’s Ancient East as regional tourism offerings and further diversify tourism opportunities by strengthening Ireland’s image as an outdoor activity holiday destination to the domestic and international markets.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> Fáilte Ireland		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
32.4	Develop Regional Tourism Strategies (RTPs) for each of Fáilte Ireland's brand regions.  In 2022, the Strategies will undergo Strategic Environmental Assessment and will then go to public consultation before launch.	Ongoing
32.5	Extend and resource partnership with DRCD on the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund (ORIS) for the period 2022-2024 to support new and enhanced trail developments and linkages to existing infrastructure and visitor activities.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 33</b>		
<b>Strengthen the identity and branding of the Gaeltacht regions and develop a Tourism Strategy for the Gaeltacht areas.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DTCAGSM		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
33.1	Continue development of “Gaeltacht na hÉireann” branding across businesses, organisations, language planning groups and Gaeltacht organisations in a range of different contexts. Work will also continue, in partnership with other key stakeholders, in further developing the Gaeltacht’s unique potential in the realm of cultural tourism.	Ongoing
33.2	Tender and complete review of the Gaeltacht na hÉireann brand, ensuring that it is fit for purpose and accordingly in a position to be adopted across a wide range of Gaeltacht sectors.	Q3 2022

<b>Measure 35</b>		
<b>Publish and implement a new National Outdoor Recreation Strategy, through Comhairle na Tuaithe, to support access to, and responsible use of, outdoor recreational and leisure facilities for people of all ages, and increase employment opportunities in rural areas.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
35.1	Publication of the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy.	Q3 2022
35.2	Review the Mountain Access Project, an initiative which seeks to secure the voluntary agreement of landowners in a defined mountain area to allow recreational access to their lands.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 36</b>		
<b>Invest in greenways, blueways, walking trails and other outdoor recreation infrastructure to support the growth in outdoor recreational tourism.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Transport, DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
36.1	<p>The exchequer capital funding available for greenways in 2022 is €60 million. Work is continuing on nine greenways currently under construction, with a total of 40 greenways scheduled for completion by 2024.</p> <p>In 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three further sections of the Grand Canal Greenway, phase one of Midleton to Youghal Greenway and two sections of the North Kerry Greenway will be completed.</li> <li>• Construction will continue on Athlone Bridge ahead of completion in 2023.</li> <li>• Construction will commence on two further sections of the Grand Canal Greenway and on the Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway.</li> <li>• Planning approval will be sought for four further projects: Grand Canal: Sallins to Clonkeen, Blessington to Blessington Lake Loop, North Kerry: Tralee to Listowel, and Suir Blueway: Gas House Bridge to Suir Island.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
36.2	Continue delivery of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) to support the development of natural amenities such as our mountains, lakes, beaches, bogs, walkways, greenways, blueways and other outdoor recreation infrastructure. Funding allocation for 2022 is €15 million.	Ongoing

36.3	Develop Interpretation Plans for new greenways and blueways in collaboration with local authorities to ensure infrastructure developed as best in class visitor experiences. Six plans will be completed in 2022. (DTCAGSM)	Q4 2022
36.4	Begin the development of the Seanamhach Walking/Cycling trail, funded through ORIS. (DTCAGSM)	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 37</b> <b>Develop a pilot bicycle up-cycling initiative to support employment creation, to harness the potential of investment in greenways and to support the development of the social enterprise business model.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
37.1	During 2022 DRCD, in collaboration with Pobal, will continue this three-year scheme by providing funding to support the roll out of five bicycle projects. This will include modification of their premises into workshops for the upcycling of bikes and for the development, upgrade and delivery of bike mechanic training modules, with a particular focus on employment progression opportunities for the CSP Target Groups, which will in turn reduce the number of bikes going to landfill sites and increase the number of bikes brought back into use.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 38</b> <b>Expand the Walks Scheme to achieve a target of at least 80 trails, doubling the number from 2018.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
38.1	10 new trails will become operational under the Walks Scheme, with 283 new participants covering 174.2 kms. Nine trails were completed in 2021, a tenth trail will become operational in Q2.	Q2 2022
38.4	Progress the 31 new trails who received ‘approval in principle’ under the Scheme in 2021 – 15 of the trails expected to receive participant payments under the Scheme in 2022.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 39 Explore the potential for the development of further tourist trails, including cross-border trails and initiatives.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DTCAGSM</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
39.2	Explore methodology and route options for the Irish Sea Way and Wild Atlantic Way Coast Path.	Q4 2022
39.3	Delivery of eight new blueways in line with Blueways Ireland criteria.	Q4 2022
39.4	<p>Progress the delivery of the restoration of the Ulster Canal, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commencement of construction on Phase 2 of the Ulster Canal restoration project from Clones to Clonfad, which includes the canal basin in Clones, access bridges and amenity areas.</li> <li>• Continue engineering feasibility and pre-construction stages of Phase 3 of the restoration (from Castle Saunderson to Clonfad), with the completion of these pre-construction stages envisaged by 2023.</li> </ul> <p>(DHLGH/Waterways Ireland)</p>	<p>Q3 2022</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
39.5	Completion of Beara Breifne Way Trail Audit SEA.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 40 Develop a Dark Skies Strategy for Ireland, with a focus on the opportunities it can create for rural communities and employment creation.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
40.3	Carry out further engagement with relevant stakeholders.	Q3 2022
40.4	Establishment of Dark Skies Strategy Steering Group made up of key stakeholders.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 41</b> <b>Implement a new National Heritage Plan, Heritage Ireland 2030, to identify priority actions in the heritage area.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DHLGH		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
41.1	Publication of Heritage Ireland 2030.	Q1 2022

<b>Measure 42</b> <b>Identify opportunities for the Creative Industries in Ireland and maximise their potential to support employment in rural areas through the development of a roadmap to support the sector.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DTCAGSM		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
42.1	Appoint an artist in residence for the gteic Gaeltacht digital hub network.	Q1 2022
42.2	Review training and development supports provided for the Gaeltacht audio-visual sector to ensure this evolving sector is fit for purpose.	Q3 2022
42.3	Develop a roadmap for the creative industries targeting design-based, digital creative and content creation sectors, and building on existing strengths in film, animation, a burgeoning games industry and on the potential of our design-based industries.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 44</b> <b>Through a new Pathways to Work Strategy 2021-2025, support people to upskill, reskill and find employment through increased capacity and intensive activation and training.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DSP		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
44.2	A report on 2021 progress on the implementation of the Pathways to Work Strategy will be prepared by the Labour Market Advisory Council. The report will be forwarded to Government and to the Joint Oireachtas Committee and published on the department's website.	Q4 2022

**Measure 45** Through the National Disability Inclusion Strategy, develop initiatives to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities living in rural areas, including through remote working options.

**Lead Delivery Body:** DCEDIY

**2022 Actions**

**Timetable for delivery**

45.1 In 2022, the Open Doors Initiative to operate an Employer Information Service – “Employers for Change” – will continue to be funded and an employer-focused awareness campaign will be developed and rolled out.

Q4 2022

## Revitalising Rural Towns and Villages

<p><b>Measure 46</b> Deliver a range of strategic investment programmes over the lifetime of this policy that meet the needs of differentiated rural areas, including through the €1 billion Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, and an enhanced Town and Village Renewal Scheme.</p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD</p>		
<p><b>2022 Actions</b></p>		<p><b>Timetable for delivery</b></p>
46.3	Enhanced Grant Aid of up to €500,000 available for projects under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme to contribute to key targets and outcomes in Our Rural Future.	Ongoing
46.4	Announcement of successful projects under the fourth call for Category 1 applications to the RRDF (launched Q4 2021), tailored to contribute to key targets and outcomes of Our Rural Future, in addition to existing objectives in the National Planning Framework and National Development Plan.	Q3 2022
46.5	Complete a Focused Policy Assessment of the RRDF which will inform the future strategic direction of the programme, including as regards the scale of projects funded and the approach to funding predevelopment work under Category 2.	Q3 2022

<p><b>Measure 47</b> Prioritise rural development programmes to focus on supporting rural towns and villages to recover from the impact of COVID-19 in the short-to-medium term.</p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD</p>		
<p><b>2022 Actions</b></p>		<p><b>Timetable for delivery</b></p>
47.1	Support initiatives through Town and Village Renewal Scheme and CLÁR Programme to support rural towns and villages.	Ongoing
47.4	Commence implementation of An Cheathrú Rua Action Plan, supporting economic renewal of Ireland's largest Gaeltacht village. (DTCAGSM)	Q1 2022



<b>Measure 48</b> Provide funding to support the upgrade and enhancement of shopfronts and street facades in towns and villages.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD, DHLGH		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
48.1	Funding will again be provided to support shopfront and streetscape enhancement improvements through a Streetscape Enhancement Measure under TVRS 2022.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 50</b> Deliver major regeneration projects in towns with a population of over 10,000 which play an important role as key hubs in rural areas, through the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
50.1	To date there have been two calls for proposals under the URDF with a total of almost €1.6bn allocated so far in respect of the 132 projects countrywide. €159m has been made available to support the URDF programme in 2022. Another call for proposals under the URDF will be arranged later this year which will have a specific focus on the town centre first agenda.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 51</b> Develop and deliver a collaborative Town Centre First approach to put town centres at the heart of decision-making where appropriate.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH, DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
51.2	Establishment of a National Town Centre First office to drive policy delivery and implementation of the TCF actions, and to co-ordinate stakeholder engagement at a national level.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 52</b> As part of the Town Centre First approach, provide and resource dedicated Local Authority staff to support town centre renewal.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
52.1	Provide funding for the appointment of Town Regeneration Officers in 26 local authorities to support the establishment and ongoing work of Town Teams, ensuring development and delivery on the Town Centre First Plans.	Q3 2022

<b>Measure 53</b> Enhance the powers of Local Authorities to offer commercial rates-based incentives for businesses, targeting the re-use of vacant commercial units.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
53.1	<p>The preparation and commencement of regulations under sections 9 and 15 of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 9 provides that a local authority may make schemes for the abatement of rates in respect of vacant properties.</li> <li>Section 15 of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019 provides that a local authority may make rates waiver schemes to support the implementation of the National Spatial Strategy, Development Plans, Local Area Plans or Local Economic and Community Plans.</li> </ul>	Q3 2022

<b>Measure 54</b> Examine the feasibility of introducing 'meanwhile use' legislation so that empty buildings and shopfronts on main streets can be brought back into compatible use on a short-term, temporary basis as pop up shops, street markets, exhibitions spaces and other purposes in accordance with Town Centre First policies.		
Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
54.1	Engage with DETE to examine the scope of the measure, further to the publication of Town Centre First.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 55</b>			<b>As part of the Town Centre First approach, provide seed capital to local authorities to provide serviced sites at cost in towns and villages, to allow individuals and families to build homes in rural centres.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH</b>			
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
55.1	Launch the Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund on a pilot basis to assist the provision of sites for self-builders and to bring vacant and derelict properties into residential use. The initiative will be delivered by local authorities to support homeownership by making available serviced sites for housing at a reduced cost to people to build their own homes and providing a grant to support the refurbishment of vacant properties where the level of vacancy/dereliction is high.		Q2 2022

<b>Measure 56</b>			<b>Engage the Approved Housing Bodies with responsibility for housing for older people to develop accommodation in town centres more suited for those with reduced mobility.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH</b>			
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
56.1	Develop a Geographic Information System (GIS) Decision Support Tool for use by the Department, Local Authorities, approved housing bodies and developers which would score available sites on their appropriateness for housing developments for older people in line with Action 2.3 and Action 5.9 set out in "Housing Options for Our Ageing Population", published in 2019.		Q2 2022

<b>Measure 57</b>			<b>Expand the Town and Village Renewal Scheme as an enabler to bring vacant and derelict buildings and sites back into use as multi-purpose spaces and for residential occupancy.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>			
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
57.1	The 2022 Town and Village Renewal Scheme will prioritise projects that bring vacant and derelict buildings and sites back into use as multi-purpose spaces and/or for residential occupancy. Grant aid for individual projects under the scheme has been increased to a maximum of €500,000.		Q4 2022

<b>Measure 58</b>			<b>Encourage greater use of the Buy and Renew Scheme and the Repair and Lease Scheme to combat vacancy and dereliction.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH</b>					
<b>2022 Actions</b>					<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
58.1	<p>Housing for All committed to placing a renewed focus on the Repair and Leasing Scheme (RLS), as one of the delivery options in Pathway 4 – Pathway to Addressing Vacancy and Efficient Use of Existing Stock.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding of €12 million has been secured for this scheme for 2022; this will be targeted at bringing back into use 120 homes and to provide funding for Vacant Homes Officers in each local authority. A 20% increase in funding to a total of €60,000 is available for each local authority for Vacant Homes Officers in 2022 / 2023, contingent on the role being made full time.</li> </ul>				Ongoing

<b>Measure 60</b>			<b>Review and extend the regulations which exempt certain vacant commercial premises, such as “over the shop” type spaces, from requiring planning permission for change of use for residential purposes in accordance with housing activation and Town Centre First policies.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH</b>					
<b>2022 Actions</b>					<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
60.1	<p>The planning regulations, introduced by SI 30 of 2018, which exempted certain vacant commercial premises, including vacant areas above ground floor commercial premises, from requiring planning permission to change to residential are extended until 2025. The extension of the 2018 legislation, which was introduced by the Planning and Development Act (Exempted Development) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 75 of 2022), provides an immediate and seamless continuance of the previous exemption regulations. In addition, the scope of the exemption was also extended to include an extra class of use, that of public houses.</p>				Q1 2022

<b>Measure 61</b> <b>Prioritise the siting of new State agencies, Departments and enterprises in towns and cities outside of Dublin, to support the Government’s regional development objectives.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DPER		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
61.1	Identify if any appropriate avenues exist in the current business case or appraisal mechanisms to facilitate this action.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 62</b> <b>Identify potential State owned properties in rural towns and villages which can be used for community purposes.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> OPW		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
62.2	Following engagement with relevant local authorities, the OPW is progressing leases on four properties in the Leitrim and Roscommon areas.	Q4 2022
62.3	The OPW is engaging directly with community groups who have expressed an interest in licensing two former Garda stations and one other site.	Q4 2022
62.4	The Town and Village Renewal Scheme will continue to support projects which bring State-owned properties into use as multi-purpose spaces. (DRCD)	Ongoing

<b>Measure 63</b> <b>Examine the establishment of a Community Ownership Fund to help community groups and social enterprises buy or take over local community assets at risk of being lost, to run as community-owned businesses.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
63.1	Through an enhanced Town and Village Renewal Scheme, support the purchase of flagship buildings such as former banks so that these can be converted for community use and public good.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 64</b>			<b>Invest in infrastructure, including water and wastewater infrastructure, to support the development of rural towns and villages.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DHLGH			
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
64.1	Finalise proposals to support the waste water collection and treatment needs of villages/settlements that do not have access to these public waste water services.		Q2 2022
64.2	Commence roll-out of new €50million scheme to improve wastewater infrastructure in rural towns and villages.		Q2 2022

<b>Measure 65</b>			<b>Support the take-up of Irish Water’s Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme 2020-2024, which will provide water and waste water growth capacity in smaller settlements that would otherwise not be provided for in Irish Water’s capital investment plan.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DHLGH			
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
65.2	Progress the list of 36 waste water treatment projects announced by Irish Water in September 2021 through Preliminary Business Case stage to Final Business Case stage (detailed design and tender).		Ongoing

<b>Measure 66</b>			<b>Review the situation in relation to water services for towns and villages that are not currently on the Irish Water network.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DHLGH			
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
66.1	Prepare report on waste water requirements in villages and similar settlements that do not have public waste water infrastructure.		Q2 2022

**Measure 67**

**Bring forward proposals for the development of a Policy on the Night Time Economy which will support the revitalisation of our rural towns, as well as our larger urban centres and cities, in the post-COVID recovery.**

**Lead Delivery Body:** DTCAGSM

**2022 Actions****Timetable for delivery**

67.1

Establish an Implementation Body which will oversee the progress of the 36 actions contained within the Report of the Night-Time Economy Taskforce which supports the development of a vibrant, diverse and inclusive Night-Time Economy and supports the revitalisation of rural towns and cities.

Q1 2022

67.2

Continue to work in partnership with key departments, agencies and stakeholders to drive the progress of the 36 actions contained in the Report of the Night-Time Economy Taskforce and where possible to ensure that the Night-Time Economy is included as a target policy area for any relevant existing or new capital scheme interventions.

Ongoing

# Enhancing Participation, Leadership and Resilience in Rural Communities

<b>Measure 69</b> Refine and build on a range of programmes to support communities, voluntary organisations, social enterprises and charities to build their resilience and enhance their impact in the aftermath of COVID-19.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
69.2	Commencement of the new iteration of the Scheme to Support National Organisations 2022-2025.	Q3 2022

<b>Measure 70</b> Implement the National Volunteering Strategy 2021-2025, which will support both volunteers and community-based organisations in rural areas and nationwide		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
70.1	Publication of Annual Update 2021 on the delivery and progress of actions under the National Volunteering Strategy.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 71</b> Establish a permanent volunteer reserve in local areas which can be called on by community and voluntary organisations and Local Authorities as required.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
71.2	Roll out of Phase Two of the Community Volunteer Programme, providing a service to 11 counties to respond to local need beyond emergencies, such as local and national events. This will bring the total amount to 21 counties that will provide the full service.	Q3 2022



<b>Measure 72</b>		
<b>Hold a regular series of Rural Ideas Fora to engage with rural dwellers to enable them to input on an ongoing basis to issues which impact on them and their communities, and to encourage their ongoing contribution to national rural policy innovation.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
72.1	The ongoing series of Rural Ideas Fora events will continue in 2022.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 73</b>		
<b>Establish an annual Rural Youth Assembly to allow young people living in rural Ireland to make an on-going contribution to identifying and influencing policy issues that impact on them and their future.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
73.2	The Rural Youth Assembly will become an annual element of the National Youth Assembly. DRCD will collaborate with DCEDIY and youth organisations to hold the event in 2022.	Q3 2022

<b>Measure 74</b>		
<b>Build capacity for community development through provision of mentoring/training for community development leaders, with a particular focus on young people between the ages of 18 and 25.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
74.2	The assessment of training needs in the Community and Voluntary sector, taking place as part of the Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities Strategy, will continue with Project Two and Project Three assessments into the training needs of trustees of voluntary boards and smaller community and voluntary organisations.	Q4 2022
74.3	The proposed PEACE PLUS Programme 2021-2027, managed by the Special EU Programmes body and including the six border counties, will be agreed with the European Commission. The new programme will provide for a range of activities, including a Youth Development Programme which seeks to develop new community leaders and enhance the capacity of existing community leaders and volunteers to promote and facilitate peace and reconciliations over the lifetime of the programme.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 76</b>			<b>Develop a single information portal to provide a funding roadmap on the range of programmes and schemes available across Government for rural and community development.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD			
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
76.1	Preparation, by Pobal, of a scoping paper on the development of a central grantee database for the community and voluntary sector. This database has potential to be scaled up for use by all relevant programmes and schemes available across Government for rural and community development.		Q2 2022

<b>Measure 77</b>			<b>Implement a €70 million Transitional LEADER Programme for community-led rural development for the period 2021-2022, and develop and deliver a new LEADER programme to commence in 2023, in line with the next EU funding framework.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD			
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
77.2	Engage with stakeholders on the next LEADER Programme, in order to finalise the development of the new LEADER programme for roll out in 2023.		Ongoing
77.3	Full allocation of project budgets by Local Action Groups by end 2022 under the Transitional Programme.		Q4 2022

<b>Measure 78</b>			<b>Deliver the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) to the end of 2022, and develop a new SICAP programme to commence in 2023, following a review and consultation with stakeholders.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD			
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
78.2	Continue delivery of SICAP in 2022, resulting in funding of €43 million being used to assist over 2,200 community groups and over 23,000 individuals.		Q4 2022
78.3	Conduct review and consultation to inform next SICAP programme.		Q3 2022

<b>Measure 79</b> <b>Increase the number of places on the Rural Social Scheme, TÚS and Community Employment Scheme to support rural communities.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DSP		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
79.2	Review the eligibility criteria for TÚS and Community Employment in view of the tightening Labour Market to ensure these programmes, which are vital for rural communities, continue to attract and attain participants.	Q3 2022
79.3	Commence internal review of Rural Social Scheme.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 80</b> <b>Support the development of social innovation as a means of addressing pressing social challenges.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
80.1	Support organisations promoting the development of social innovation as a means of addressing pressing social challenges.	Ongoing
80.3	<p>The PEACE IV Programme, which is managed by the Special EU Programmes body and includes the six border counties, includes a Future Innovators project to supports communities to develop local solutions to social problems during the period 1 July 2021 – 31 March 2023.</p> <p>The Future Innovators projects aims to incorporate new technology with the on the ground local engagement to ensure everyone in the community has the ability to use their voice in the decisions made that affect their lives and where they live, engaging up to 500 individuals over the lifetime of the project.</p>	Ongoing

<b>Measure 81</b>			<b>Provide investment for multi-purpose spaces in the community (e.g. community centres, libraries, and sports clubs) for a variety of activities, including leisure, community, cultural and services provision.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>			
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
81.2	The Small Scale Capital Works programme will continue to support refurbishments in public libraries. 28 of the 30 local authorities are expected to have completed ongoing projects in 2022.		Ongoing
81.3	The CLÁR 2022 Programme includes a new Measure 1 to support Community Facilities and Amenities. Successful projects will be announced in Q3.		Ongoing
81.4	Support the development of sporting facilities through the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme. (DTCAGSM)		Ongoing
81.5	The new Community Centres Investment Fund will deliver a budget of €15 million to support capital funding for the upgrade and refurbishment of existing community centres and parish halls in urban and rural areas.		Q4 2022
81.6	Complete delivery of the 2021 Community Activities Fund which is providing funding of €9 million to support groups in disadvantage areas with their non-pay running costs and funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvement to their facilities.		Q3 2022
81.7	Issue a new call for the provision of the My Open Library Service in a number of public libraries during 2022.		Q2 2022

<b>Measure 82</b>			<b>Further enhance the Public Participation Network and Local Community Development Committee structures to ensure that local communities are fully involved in, and contribute to, decisions affecting their local areas.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>			
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
82.2	Complete structural review of Public Participation Networks.		Q2 2022
82.5	Consider recommendations arising from the training needs assessment conducted by Pobal and devise an implementation plan.		Q4 2022
82.6	Progress the Dormant Accounts Funded pilot, working with a number of pilot LCDCs on the engagement and participation of marginalised communities in the LECP process with a view to		Q4 2022

	sharing learnings with all LCDCs on successful engagement strategies.	
82.7	Oversee preparation, delivery and completion of PPN awareness campaign and related communication measures.	Q4 2022
82.8	Develop, agree and commence implementation of roadmap for PPNs.	Q4 2022
82.9	Support remaining PPNs in the development of their Community Wellbeing Statements.	Q4 2022

<p><b>Measure 83</b> Work in consultation with local community and voluntary groups and with local decision-making structures to help welcome and integrate newcomers to rural towns and villages and to support cohesion more broadly.</p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DCEDIY</p>		
<p><b>2022 Actions</b></p>		<p><b>Timetable for delivery</b></p>
83.1	<p>Comhairle na nÓg across the 31 Local Authorities are available for consultation on welcoming and integrating young newcomers to rural towns and villages and on supporting cohesion. Individual Comhairlí at local levels have developed specific actions on a voluntary basis in relation to welcoming migrants and other groups.</p> <p>Under the Comhairle na nÓg Five Year Development Plan all local Comhairlí have made commitments to include seldom-heard, minority and migrant young people in their Comhairle and in Comhairle na nÓg activities.</p>	Ongoing
83.2	<p>UBU Your Place Your Space is a national targeted youth service funding scheme based on service requirements identified from a needs analysis conducted locally by the ETB that involves all relevant stakeholders. Target groups under the scheme may include Young People Experiencing Marginalisation (e.g. Travellers/Roma, migrants, LGBTI+) and Young People who are at risk of not flourishing (including young people experiencing rural isolation).</p> <p>New areas selected for inclusion in 2022 are West Donegal; Cavan town; Bagenalstown, Co Carlow; Clonmel, Co Tipperary; South Sligo; rural North Kerry; rural Clare and Dungarvan/West Waterford.</p>	Ongoing
83.3	The Local Youth Club Grant Scheme, administered by local Education and Training Boards, supports volunteer-led youth clubs	Q4 2022

across the country, and are particularly important in rural areas. The funding increased to this scheme by 10% in 2022, giving a total fund of €2.5 million.
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<b>Measure 84</b> Implement Culture and Creative Strategies in each Local Authority area, including “Culture Days”, to showcase local cultural heritage.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DTCAGSM		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
84.1	The Culture and Creativity Strategies in all 31 Local Authorities are currently being funded and implemented to support wellbeing, social cohesion and economic development of the creative sector.	Ongoing
84.2	Individual bilateral meetings between the Creative Ireland Programme and Culture and Creativity Teams in the 31 local authorities in relation to strategic direction of the Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027.	Q2 2022
84.3	Hold Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of creativity for children and young people led by the Creative Ireland Programme, in partnership with 31 local authorities.	Q2 2022
84.4	Support Údarás na Gaeltachta’s arts and culture subsidiary, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, in commencing the design of its new five-year strategy.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 85</b> Empower local communities and enhance community health and wellbeing by supporting heritage, arts, cultural activities and other activities to tackle social issues such as cohesion, rural isolation and mental health.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DTCAGSM		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
85.1	Support the wellbeing of older people through Creativity in Older Age Scheme 2022 and through a regional programme co-designed with Older People’s Councils; Traveller health and wellbeing through a programme developed in partnership with the HSE and the Arts Council and co-designed by Travellers; the mental wellbeing of young people coping with disabilities.	Ongoing
85.2	Creative Youth will provide enhanced access for seldom heard or marginalised children and young people to engage with and	Ongoing

	experience creative activities, supported by programmes such as the Local Creative Youth Partnerships (LCYP).	
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<b>Measure 87</b> <b>Commission research on the experiences and outcomes of children and young people in rural Ireland, building on the Growing Up In Ireland and other relevant datasets</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
87.1	Examine feasibility of developing research project in conjunction with DCEDIY based on Growing Up in Ireland longitudinal dataset and other relevant datasets.	Q3 2022

<b>Measure 88</b> <b>Undertake research to inform the particular needs of women, girls, LGBTI+, Travellers, Roma, migrants and those of migrant origin living in rural areas.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DCEDIY		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
88.2	The review of implementation of the LGBTI+ Youth Strategy will be completed in 2022 and used to inform any future strategy.	Q4 2022

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## Enhancing Public Services in Rural Areas

<b>Measure 89</b> <b>Increase the residential occupancy of rural towns and villages while enabling the Irish countryside to continue to be a lived-in landscape by adopting a balanced approach to planning, in line with relevant national planning policy and guidelines, while avoiding unsustainable ribbon and over-spill development from urban areas.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DHLGH		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
89.1	Action #26 of the Town Centre First Policy provides for the development of the Croí Cónaithe (Towns) scheme to deliver serviced sites and adaptive re-use grants to encourage new housing within towns. This scheme will be progressed through a call for proposals to the local authorities.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 90</b> <b>Update the Rural Housing Guidelines for planning authorities, to address rural housing in a broader rural development and settlement context.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DHLGH		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
90.1	<p>Prepare updated Rural Housing Planning Guidelines that will continue to allow for the development of homes in rural areas while also highlighting the need to manage certain areas around cities and towns in order to avoid over-development of those areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The update to the rural housing guidelines is at an advanced stage. Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment (AA) is underway. Following the completion of the environmental assessments, the draft guidelines will be placed on display for a focused period of public consultation, with guidelines to be finalized in Q3 2022, subject to environmental assessment timelines.</li></ul>	Q2 2022



<p><b>Provide improved rural public transport services and pilot new transport initiatives for people of all ages and abilities living in rural areas, through:</b></p>		
<p><b>Measure 91a</b> a) Developing and implementing a Sustainable Rural Mobility Plan to ensure all settlements over a certain size in terms of population have a service connecting them to the national public transport system.</p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Transport, National Transport Authority</p>		
<p><b>2022 Actions</b></p>		<p><b>Timetable for delivery</b></p>
91a.2	<p>D/Transport will support the NTA’s implementation of the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan to increase public transport connectivity outside major cities and towns in rural Ireland</p> <p>In 2022, the NTA will issue a report on public consultations commenced in 2021 on the Plan, and will finalise proposals to roll out a network of new and improved services planned on a phased basis from 2022 to 2025.</p>	Ongoing
91a.3	<p>Additional funding has been allocated for the starting of New Town Services in key rural towns across Ireland. Starting with Carlow Town, the NTA will finalise plans and run tender competitions for bus services.</p>	Q1 2022
<p><b>Measure 91b</b> b) Delivering expanded Local Link services and further integrating Local Link services with other existing public transport services through the roll out of the NTA Connecting Ireland Plan.</p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Transport, National Transport Authority</p>		
<p><b>2022 Actions</b></p>		<p><b>Timetable for delivery</b></p>
91b.2	<p>Identify the potential for integration of non-emergency health transport services with Local Link services managed by the NTA by conducting and monitoring a pilot project in Co. Leitrim, which will run until 2024, to deliver non-emergency health transport services.</p>	Ongoing
91b.3	<p>Transition PSO Local Link bus services to low-/zero-emission bus fleets – deploy two electric vehicle buses on the Dingle peninsula, Co. Kerry.</p>	Q3 2022
<p><b>Measure 91c</b> c) Developing a subsidised Local Area Hackney Scheme in designated areas of rural Ireland which are too small or remote to support a full- time taxi or hackney service.</p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Transport, National Transport Authority</p>		

2022 Actions		Timetable for delivery
91c.1	The Advisory Committee on Subsidised Public Service Vehicles (SPSVs) will complete drafting its advices to NTA and the Minister, on foot of presentations provided by NTA on rural services nationally and internationally.	Q2 2022
91c.2	NTA will review the Local Area Hackney (LAH) Scheme and processes and develop a LAH initiative in line with the Connecting Ireland programme for a Community Car Scheme (SPSV regulation exempted scheme).	Q3 2022
91c.3	Assessment of viable designated areas will commence with reference to the transport gaps highlighted by Connecting Ireland and follow up local knowledge visits.	Q4 2022
<p><b>Measure 91d</b>      <b>d) Developing and trialling a grant-aided Community Transport Service Scheme through Local Link to support otherwise unsustainable community services.</b></p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Transport, National Transport Authority</p>		
2022 Actions		Timetable for delivery
91d.2	Complete review to consider the expansion of the Community Transport Scheme beyond the car sharing website and voluntary car schemes that currently exist and share findings.	Q1 2022
<p><b>Measure 91e</b>      <b>e) Running a pilot, after COVID-19 has abated, to examine the potential for ride-hailing services to improve rural connectivity.</b></p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Transport, National Transport Authority</p>		
2022 Actions		Timetable for delivery
91e.1	Following receipt of advice from the Advisory Committee on SPSVs on the potential for ride-hailing services to improve rural connectivity, NTA will consider the viability of such a scheme in the regulated environment.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 92</b> <b>Build on the work already undertaken to ensure that public transport services in rural and regional areas are accessible to persons with disabilities.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Transport, National Transport Authority		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
92.1	The NTA has set a target of having wheelchair accessible bus stops (one stop in each direction) in 43 towns with a population over 5,000. This would mean 50% of main towns would have a wheelchair accessible bus stop (one in each direction). Engagement with Local Authorities and Bus Éireann is ongoing.	Ongoing
92.2	Purchase of additional low floor buses, for Public Service Obligation regional commuter routes up to 50km, to enable wheelchair users to board with normal ramp access and have a dedicated wheelchair space.	Ongoing
92.3	The NTA will continue to manage the upgrading of existing and older infrastructure and facilities, such as Victorian-era rail infrastructure via the Department of Transport's dedicated, ringfenced Accessibility Retrofit Programme funding.	Ongoing
92.4	Irish Rail is rolling out Customer Service Officers (CSOs) on all Inter-city routes to assist passengers, towards a target of 120 Customer Service Agents. This will eliminate the advance notice requirement on such services.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 93</b> <b>Work with An Post to identify the scope to channel additional services through the post office network.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
93.1	Subgroup on offline service to report to Government on deliberations regarding one-stop-shop approach for Government services.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 94</b> Explore the potential to develop a pilot scheme to support the use of rural pubs as community spaces and hubs for local services.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
94.2	A pilot programme will be launched involving five rural public houses, driven by local community groups and co-ordinated by the Vintners Federation of Ireland, to tackle rural isolation and focus on the use of pubs as community spaces.	Q1 2022

<b>Measure 95</b> Undertake research on early learning and care, and school-age childcare needs of parents who work atypical hours or live in rural communities, and develop recommendations for future action.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DCEDIY		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
95.2	This research is underway in partnership with DRCD and DETE, and is expected to be completed in autumn 2022 and published by the end of the year. The project comprises two complementary phases; a phone poll of 500 households, and a qualitative focus group study.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 96</b> Establish 96 new Community Healthcare Networks throughout the country to re-shape how community healthcare services will be delivered and support people to live more independently in their community.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Health		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
96.1	Continue the roll-out of 96 Community Health Networks across the country to support the local delivery of integrated care at the appropriate level of complexity.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 97</b> Through the Healthy Ireland programme, support improved health and wellbeing of rural communities in collaboration with Local Authorities and local stakeholders and partners.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Health		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
97.1	Deliver the Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme, which empowers local authorities to identify local needs and align their policies to meet the Healthy Ireland objectives for the local population.	Ongoing
97.2	Strengthen the Healthy Cities and Counties infrastructure to deliver on the Healthy Cities and Counties goals.	Ongoing
97.3	Round 4 of the Healthy Ireland Fund will, subject to the ongoing budgetary process, commence on 1 June 2022 and is expected to run until 31 December 2025. This will include funding for each local authority to recruit a new Healthy City/County Coordinator.	Q2 2022
97.4	Conduct review of the National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP) which is due to conclude in 2022.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 98</b> Introduce a new Policing and Community Safety Bill to redefine the functions of An Garda Síochána to include community safety.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Justice		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
98.2	Complete drafting of the Bill for submission to Government for approval to publish. This is subject to the conclusion of pre legislative scrutiny by the Joint Justice Committee.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 99</b> Roll out a Local Community Safety Partnership Pilot in a rural location.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Justice		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
99.2	Commence implementation of the Local Community Safety Plans for the Local Community Safety Partnerships in Waterford and Longford.	Q3 2022

<b>Measure 100</b> <b>Review and enhance the effectiveness and availability of community-based alert and property-marking schemes in partnership with rural stakeholders.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Justice		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
100.2	Draft report on the retail alert scheme to be considered by the Rural Safety Forum.	Q2 2022
100.3	Commence review of property marking schemes.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 101</b> <b>Provide greater clarity for Local Authorities and local communities, through a revised legislative framework, on how local CCTV schemes can be established while enhancing community safety and data protection safeguards.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Justice		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
101.2	Publication of the Garda Síochána (Digital Recording) Bill 2022 which will provide a new legislative basis for Community CCTV schemes.	Q2 2022
101.3	Enactment of the Garda Síochána (Digital Recording) Bill.	Q3 2022

<b>Measure 102</b> <b>Invest in high-quality walking and cycling infrastructure specifically targeted at towns and villages across the country.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Transport		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
102.1	Continue the roll out of 340 Active Travel Projects in 19 rural local authorities, to be completed by 2025.	Ongoing
102.2	Support expansion of walking and cycling facilities across the country through the creation of up to 248 posts in local authorities dedicated to delivering and promoting active travel in Ireland.	Ongoing
102.3	Publish the National Cycle Network and Implementation Plan. (Transport Infrastructure Ireland)	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 103</b> <b>Ensure that the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) is funded into the future.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
103.1	The Local Improvement Scheme will fund the upgrade and maintenance of non-public rural roads and laneways. The 2022 Scheme will see €11 million allocated to local authorities.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 104</b> <b>Adopt a whole-of-Government approach to the protection and promotion of the Irish language, in implementing the 20-year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030 and Action Plan, and enacting the Official Language Amendment Bill.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DTCAGSM		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
104.2	The third annual progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Irish Language will be published.	Q3 2022
104.3	Under the Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme, which has been extended to 2024, continue to provide supports to schools in the Scheme to strengthen the provision of high quality Irish-medium education in the Gaeltacht. (D/Education)	Ongoing
104.4	Explore options, based on demand and available resources, to extend the range of subject provision through the medium of Irish for Gaeltacht post-primary schools via the e-Hub project. (D/Education)	Ongoing

<b>Measure 105</b> <b>Approve and implement an Irish language plan for each of the 26 Gaeltacht districts to strengthen Irish language usage by individuals, community, and businesses in these areas.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DTCAGSM		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
105.1	Approve the final language plan relating to a Gaeltacht Language Planning Area under the language planning process.	Q1 2022
105.2	Commence implementation phase across 26 Gaeltacht language plans.	Q3 2022

<b>Measure 106</b>	<b>Develop Gaeltacht Service Towns situated in or adjacent to Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas which will play a significant role in providing public services, recreational, social and commercial facilities for those areas.</b>	
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DTCAGSM</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
106.1	Approve six language plans for Gaeltacht Service Towns.	Q4 2022



# Transitioning to a Climate Neutral Society

<b>Measure 107</b> <b>Enact and implement the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill and set five-year carbon budgets to contribute to meeting Ireland’s target of net zero emissions by 2050.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
107.3	Adopt the first three five-year carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.	Q1 2022

<b>Measure 108</b> <b>Publish a new Climate Action Plan in 2021 and update on an annual basis.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
108.3	Undertake a public consultation to capture views, observations and other inputs from the public to inform the development of the 2022 Climate Action Plan.	Q3 2022
108.4	Finalise report from public consultation to inform the development of the 2022 Climate Action Plan.	Q3 2022
108.5	Publication of 2022 Climate Action Plan.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 109</b> <b>Develop new models of engagement with individuals, sectors, and regions on a structured dialogue basis so that the whole of society can contribute to the climate action process.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
109.1	Hold a national Stakeholder Engagement Forum to provide feedback from annual Climate Action Plan consultation, and discuss and showcase local engagement opportunities which will lead to mobilisation.	Q2 2022

109.2	<p>Conduct a national baseline study on Irish behaviours and attitudes around climate change awareness, engagement and activation of public.</p> <p>The Climate in the Irish Minds Study was published in December 2021 followed by sectoral and regional reports which will be published in Q2 2022.</p>	Q2 2022
109.3	<p>Establish an Interdepartmental Working Group to explore critical barriers and/or enablers that will support a new National Dialogue on Climate Action engagement model and annual Climate Action Plan consultations.</p>	Q1 2022

<p><b>Measure 110</b>      <b>Enable community energy to play a role in reaching the target of generating at least 70% of electricity through renewables by 2030, through supports such as a Community Benefit fund and a community category within the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme.</b></p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body: DECC</b></p>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
110.4	<p>Rollout of trusted advisory service to support the development of community electricity projects. The service will provide expert financial, grid and planning advice, and financial enabling grant supports.</p>	Q2 2022
110.5	<p>Rollout of enabling grants to support the development of community electricity projects.</p>	Q2 2022
110.6	<p>Rollout of next three toolkits in the Community Energy Resource Toolkit.</p>	Q3 2022

<p><b>Measure 111</b>      <b>Prioritise the development of microgeneration of renewable electricity, allowing people sell excess power back to the grid, through the establishment of a Microgeneration Support Scheme.</b></p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body: DECC</b></p>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
111.1	<p>Launch of Microgeneration Support Scheme.</p>	Q1 2022
111.2	<p>SEAI to extend the Microgeneration Support Scheme to the non-domestic sector, framework for payment of tariff for electricity export to the grid.</p>	Q2 2022

111.3	SEAI to assess the extension of the MSS grant scheme to include other technologies beyond solar.	Q3 2022
111.4	CRU to consult on an Implementation Plan for a support tariff for new micro-generators between 6 kW and 50 kW.	Q3 2022

<b>Measure 112</b> <b>Expand the Sustainable Energy Communities Network from 500 to 1,500 by 2030, to support local communities to be directly involved in energy projects.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
112.2	Increase the number of Sustainable Energy Communities to 680 by end 2022.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 113</b> <b>Launch further calls for projects to be supported from the Climate Action Fund.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
113.2	Climate Action Fund Community Climate Action Programme – Strand 2: Projects arising from open call run by Pobal to be approved and commence.	Q2 2022
113.3	Climate Action Fund Community Climate Action Programme – Strand 1: Local authority/community partnership projects to be approved and commence.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 114a</b> <b>Continue to develop Ireland’s approach to a Just Transition away from fossil fuels, including by:</b>		
<b>a) Preparing a Territorial Just Transition Plan for Ireland for the EU Just Transition Fund.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
114a.2	Finalisation of a Territorial Just Transition Plan for Ireland for the EU Just Transition Fund.	Q3 2022

<b>Measure 114b    b) Commissioning additional research on Just Transition to consider future priorities and spatial and sectoral impacts.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DECC</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
114b.2	Establish a Just Transition Working Group to coordinate the provision of strategic advice and research to the proposed Just Transition Commission.	Q2 2022
<b>Measure 114c    c) Supporting projects under the National Just Transition Fund.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DECC</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
114c.2	Issue funding agreements to successful projects and finalise arrangements for delegated management of the National Just Transition Fund.	Q1 2022

<b>Measure 115    Retrofit 500,000 homes and install 400,000 heat pumps across the country up to 2030, contributing to employment opportunities in rural areas.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DECC</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
115.1	Following further evaluation of a potential new Community Activation Scheme, a targeted and more streamlined strand of the Communities Grant Scheme focused on smaller projects for retrofitting homes will be instead be introduced.	Q2 2022
115.3	Launch a new SEAI National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme (One Stop Shop Service) to drive the delivery of B2 retrofits with heat pumps and facilitate year-round working.	Q1 2022
115.4	Introduce a system of registration for retrofit One-Stop Shops.	Q1 2022

<p><b>Bring investment and job opportunities to coastal communities by developing the offshore renewable energy sector, including through:</b></p> <p><b>Measure 116a</b></p> <p><b>a) The finalisation of the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill.</b></p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH</b></p>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
116a.2	Formation of secondary legislation working group with Marine Legislation unit, DECC and MARA establishment team.	Q1 2022
116a.3	Co-ordination of preparation of MAP Act regulations.	Q4 2022
116a.4	Development of Guidance materials.	Q4 2022
<p><b>Measure 116b</b>    <b>b) The development of a new consenting regime for offshore energy.</b></p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body: DECC</b></p>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
116b.1	Design of Maritime Area Consent processes and guidance documents. MAC applications for first batch of offshore renewable energy projects will be submitted for assessment.	Q1 2022
116b.2	Consultation on the Maritime Area Consent Assessment assessment criteria for first Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) projects.	Q1 2022
116b.3	Opening of the Maritime Area Consent Application Window for first ORE projects.	Q2 2022
116b.4	Issue of Maritime Area Consent for Successful Applicants.	Q3 2022
<p><b>Measure 116c</b>    <b>c) The development of an offshore transmission grid.</b></p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body: DECC</b></p>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
116c.2	Publication of offshore grid regulatory framework by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities.	Q1 2022
116c.3	EirGrid to issue Grid Connection Assessments.	Q3 2022

**Measure 116d d) Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme auctions.**

**Lead Delivery Body:** DECC

**2022 Actions**

**Timetable for delivery**

116d.2 Government approval of final Terms and Conditions for the first Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme.

Q2 2022

**Rehabilitate peatlands to contribute to reduced carbon emissions, carbon sequestration and enhanced biodiversity, including through:**

**Measure 117a**

**a) Funding investment of €108 million to repurpose 80,000 acres of bog in the Midlands as part of a major peatlands restoration plan.**

**Lead Delivery Body:** DECC

**2022 Actions**

**Timetable for delivery**

117a.3 Complete six monthly report on progress.

Q2 2022

117a.4 A further 21 rehabilitation plans for peatlands from Bord na Móna to be approved by the Regulator (NPWS).

Q4 2022

117a.5 Rehabilitation works to commence on approved peatlands by Bord na Móna.

Q4 2022

**Measure 117b b) The national raised bog designated sites restoration programme to restore in the region of 25,000 hectares of raised bog.**

**Lead Delivery Body:** DHLGH

**2022 Actions**

**Timetable for delivery**

117b.1 Work will continue in 2022 on the restoration and revitalisation of protected raised bogs Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Natural Heritage Areas (NHA), predominately in the midlands region.

Ongoing

<b>Measure 118</b> <b>Develop a national policy on coastal erosion and flooding and maintain a multi-annual investment programme in flood relief measures to protect impacted communities.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> OPW, DHLGH		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
118.3	A total of €96 million is allocated in 2022 to provide for Flood Relief Schemes, allowing work on the review of flood maps to be updated and the Voluntary Homeowners Relocation Scheme to progress. The allocation will also provide funding to local authorities for the Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Scheme to address localised flooding problems within their areas.	Q4 2022
118.4	An additional €19.3m will be provided for the maintenance and repair of river channels and embankments.	Q4 2022
118.5	The Interdepartmental Group on Coastal Change Management Strategy will finalise and submit its report to Government with options and recommendations for managing the projected impact of coastal change to our coastal communities, economies, heritage, culture and environment.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 119</b> <b>Carry out a comprehensive review of Public Participation Networks and Local Economic and Community Plans, to ensure that they are fit for purpose for climate action.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
119.2	The review of PPN structures (Action 82.2) will ensure that PPNs provide communities with a voice regarding climate action policy.	Q2 2022
119.3	DRCD, in collaboration with DHLGH, will continue to support the development of the LECPs through a series of events designed to equip all LCDCs with the necessary knowledge and skills needed to develop and implement their LECP. These events will include full consideration of emerging needs including climate action.	Q2 2022

**Measure 120** Consider the needs of rural areas in the development of an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy which will seek to ensure that charging infrastructure stays ahead of demand.

**Lead Delivery Body:** D/Transport

**2022 Actions**

**Timetable for delivery**

120.1 | Publish national infrastructure strategy for electric vehicles.

Q1 2022



# Supporting the Sustainability of Agriculture, the Marine and Forestry

<b>Measure 121</b> <b>Develop and Implement a new Agri-Food Strategy to 2030, building on the success of the previous strategies.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
121.2	Progress implementation of Food Vision 2030, with updates provided through Annual Report to be published in Q3 2022.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 122</b> <b>Encourage and support Local Authorities to expand the number of farmers' markets, farm shops and food emporiums, and support the formation of community-owned markets in all towns, showcasing local food produce from local farmers, growers, and food producers.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
122.1	Engagement with DRCD to scope potential involvement of Local Community Development Committees in the implementation of this measure.	Q4 2022
122.2	Establish a cross Departmental forum to gather information with a view to developing an agreed strategy to deliver this commitment and similar commitments regarding support for local producers.	Q2 2022
122.3	Provision of supports of €500,000 to progress this and other similar Programme for Government commitments addressing local supply chains.	Q4 2022
122.4	Bord Bia to provide training resources online to food entrepreneurs wishing to develop improved routes to market.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 123</b>		
<b>Support farm diversification, including through the provision of the Options programme managed by Teagasc.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
123.2	Pilot a new approach to the Farm Business Options programme in collaboration with Roscommon LEO.	Q1 2022
123.3	Adopting this collaborative approach, deliver a series of Farm Business Options workshops throughout Teagasc Advisory Regions.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 124</b>		
<b>Support research and development in areas such as agri-food, bio-based systems, smart agriculture and precision agriculture to promote and encourage innovation.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM, DETE		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
124.3	<p>The following Enterprise Ireland programmes will continue to support this measure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Commercialisation Fund Programme which funds the development of innovations at all stages of the commercial pipeline to the point where they can be commercialised as new products, services and/or companies.</li> <li>2) Innovation Partnership Programme which encourages Irish-based companies to work with Irish research institutes resulting in mutually beneficial co-operation and interaction.</li> <li>3) In-Company RD&amp;I Fund which supports the development of new or improved products, services or processes which will add a competitive advantage to the company.</li> </ol> <p>Enterprise Ireland will report on projects approved in the aforementioned areas at the end of the 2022.</p>	Ongoing
124.5	DAFM will award funding to 13 additional projects that, following a meeting of the DAFM Competitive Research Committee, were placed on a 2021 Reserve list pending budget availability.	Q2 2022
124.6	DAFM will continue co-funding arrangements with other funders across both national and international initiatives.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 125</b> Explore the potential application of Living Labs in an Irish context, establishing innovation networks to identify and pilot tailored place-based initiatives for primary production, food and bio-based systems.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
125.2	An Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) Coordination Group will be established.	Q1 2022
125.3	Support will be provided by the Bioeconomy Implementation Group secretariat to the Cill Ulta organisation to facilitate the development of the Northwest Bioeconomy Hub, including the potential development of a Living Lab approach.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 126</b> Implement Ag Climatise – A Roadmap towards Climate Neutrality for the agri-food sector.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
126.2	Ag Climatise will be updated in 2022 to take account of the increased ambition set out in Climate Action Plan 2021.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 127</b> Pilot a results-based agri-environment scheme to reward farmers for adapting to more sustainable methods of farming with a view to the development of a new agri-environment scheme capable of delivering broad environmental and biodiversity benefits that will align financial supports with climate objectives.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
127.2	Complete the Results Based Environment Agri Pilot Project (REAP) and issue payments to participants	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 128</b>			<b>Publish a successor forestry programme to deliver an ambitious afforestation plan, to achieve an afforestation target of 8,000 ha/year, with a particular focus on an increased farmer participation and habitat creation.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM			
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
128.2	Implement the co-creation and engagement strategy and establish a shared vision for forestry. The new Forestry Strategy is now expected to be completed by Q3 2022.		Q3 2022
128.3	Completion of report on a study conducted by Irish Rural Link with communities and interest groups on the role of forests in communities.		Q1 2022
128.4	Completion of report on a survey conducted by research agency Behaviour and Attitudes on attitudes to afforestation in Ireland.		Q1 2022

<b>Measure 129</b>			<b>Provide ongoing support for the development of the knowledge and skills base of the agriculture and forestry sectors by the Teagasc Advisory and Education Services.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM			
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
129.2	Teagasc Advisory Service:  Teagasc will continue through its advisory service to provide a comprehensive advisory and environmental support service to its clients across a range of areas, roll out AETS one day environment courses, bring derogation farmers up to the new nitrates standards, run events on Signpost Farms, run discussion groups, and Options courses, and enhance its virtual services to farmers.		Ongoing
129.3	Teagasc Education Service will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote college/regional courses via open days, information events and an online campaign.</li> <li>Submit three apprenticeships to QQI for validation (Horticulturist, Farm Technician, Farm Manager).</li> <li>Enrol students for the new Sportsturf Technician apprenticeship.</li> <li>Continue to support current programmes to allow c. 4,500 learners to successfully graduate from in process programmes.</li> </ul>		Q1 2022 Q3 2022 Q3 2022 Q4 2022

<b>Measure 130</b>		
<b>Develop the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan for the period 2023-2027, which will address existing and emerging challenges including climate action, environmental protection, generational renewal, viable farm incomes, and sustain vibrant rural areas.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DAFM</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
130.3	Engage as appropriate with the Commission to ensure the approval of the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 131</b>		
<b>Support generational renewal, including young farmers and women in agriculture, through measures including the CAP, taxation measures and access to finance initiatives.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DAFM</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
131.4	Provide input to policy development on generational renewal and gender equality in the CAP Strategic Plan in line with the EU Commission's approval process.	Ongoing
131.5	Progress actions on gender equality set out in Food Vision 2030, the new stakeholder-led strategy for the Irish agri-food sector, including a national dialogue on women in agriculture.	Ongoing
131.6	Monitor agri-taxation measures in consultation with stakeholders and the Department of Finance in advance of Budget 2023.	Q4 2022
131.7	Monitor access to finance for the agri-food sector.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 132</b>		
<b>Increase awareness and outreach across the farming community of programmes and initiatives to support the safety, health and wellbeing of farmers.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DAFM</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
132.1	Support the roll out of the On Farm Ground programme, to train 800 farm advisors in relation to farmer health and wellbeing. The target for 2022 is 510.	Ongoing

132.4	Media campaign to promote uptake of the Accelerated Capital Allowances Scheme.	Q2 2022
132.5	Support the extension of the On Farm Ground programme to Private Veterinary Practitioners and agri-sales staff.	Q4 2022
132.6	Assess the impact of the Farm Health and Safety and Wellbeing European Innovation Partnership projects.	Q4 2022
132.7	Launch booklet on Farmer Health and run advertising campaign on farm safety.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 133</b> <b>Conduct a review of the means test for Farm Assist to ensure farmers receive the appropriate level of support through this scheme.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DSP		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
133.2	Following the review of the means test disregards for Farm Assist, the Social Welfare Act 2021 extended the list of agri-environmental schemes which attract a disregard, and this measure will be implemented from June 2022.	Q2 2022

# Supporting the Sustainability of our Islands and Coastal Communities

<b>Measure 135</b> Publish and implement a new cross-Departmental Policy for Island Development and associated action plans to ensure delivery of the policy, including in areas such as housing, health, energy, utilities, waste management, climate change, education, digital connectivity, employment, infrastructure and transport.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
135.1	Publication of draft policy and agreement of action plans with participating Government Departments.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 136</b> Progress vital infrastructure development for our island communities.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
136.1	Funding to be delivered to local authorities for the delivery of the minor capital works programme, with works completed by year end. These works comprise road improvements and marine works but also can include other small construction projects such as helipads, recycling facilities, slipway repairs, etc.	Ongoing
136.3	Progress the Inis Oírr Pier development to tender stage in association with Galway County Council.	Q4 2022
136.3	Following submission of business case for the Inis Meáin development by Galway County Council, sanction will be given for the retention of consultants to acquire relevant permissions and licences for the development.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 137</b> <b>Establish a forum for ongoing dialogue between Local Authorities, relevant policy Departments and island communities.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
137.2	Establish inter-agency forums in association with the relevant local authorities in Donegal, Sligo, Mayo and Galway to support the new islands policy. These will be based on the West Cork inter-agency model.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 138</b> <b>Establish gteic enterprise hubs on the islands under the remit of Údarás na Gaeltachta to support employment opportunities.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> Údarás na Gaeltachta		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
138.1	Completion of three further island gteic enterprise hubs bringing the total number of operational island hubs to seven.  When the full programme is completed, gteic hubs on eight islands will provide approximately 100 workspaces on Gaeltacht islands.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 139</b> <b>Explore the potential for community-based enterprise hubs on islands not under the remit of Údarás na Gaeltachta.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
139.1	Local development companies to explore the potential for community-based enterprise hubs as part of their annual work programmes to achieve their community support targets. Financial support has been approved for this to take place in 2022.	Q1 2022



<b>Measure 140</b> <b>Maximise the potential to utilise the islands as test-beds for innovative technologies (e.g. eHealth, micro-generation of renewable energy).</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
140.1	The potential for such projects will be discussed with relevant departments, and action points will be identified for inclusion in the action plan for the islands that will be published in conjunction with the Islands Policy.	Q3 2022
140.2	The Small Scale Capital Works programme will explore the potential for installation of technology which facilitates public library collections and returns in island communities.	Q4 2022
140.3	Trial telemedicine / eHealth solutions on offshore islands. These trials will test the viability, demand and efficacy of using connectivity and digital technologies to support the provision of health services to isolated communities.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 142</b> <b>Publish Ireland’s first ever Marine Spatial Planning policy, setting out a clear vision for the future development of our marine planning system.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DHLGH		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
142.2	Draft Marine Planning Policy Statement to be developed, following public consultation and analysis, with formal establishment expected in 2023’.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 143</b> <b>Following completion of the Marine Spatial Planning policy, bring forward Ireland’s first National Marine Planning Framework which will introduce a planning system for managing the development of Ireland’s maritime area in the same way that the National Planning Framework fulfils this function on land.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DHLGH		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
143.1	Supporting Reform of Marine Management in Ireland (SRMMI) Project – DG REFORM funded cross-Government project identifying the changes needed, including specifying digital systems and tools,	Q3 2022

	to put in place plan-led marine management in Ireland as detailed in the MAP Act.	
143.2	In partnership with the Marine Institute, establish a monitoring approach for the NMPF, identifying implementation progress indicators.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 144</b>	<b>Establish a marine planning oversight delivery board, Project Ireland Marine 2040, to provide leadership and oversight to the implementation of the National Marine Planning Framework, and implement the long-term overarching strategy to manage Ireland's seas for the benefit of all its people.</b>	
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
144.2	Project Marine – the cross-Government NMPF implementation group – to establish meeting pattern and develop action plan.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 145</b>	<b>Explore the potential for Coastal Partnership Groups to bring together the local coastal communities to address issues of concern, share best practice and resources, and facilitate communication between stakeholders.</b>	
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
145.2	Establish pilot coastal partnership agreement with selected local authority by year end.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 146</b>	<b>Continue to invest in coastal communities through the Fisheries Local Area Group (FLAG) scheme, providing support for investments by micro seafood enterprises and projects in the area of marine tourism and leisure and the wider marine sector.</b>	
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DAFM</b>		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
146.2	Calls for expression of interest in the community-led local development under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund 2021-2027 Operational Programme will be issued.	Q2 2022
146.3	Consider Seafood Task Force recommendation for Brexit Adjustment Reserve-funded community led local development	Q3 2022

scheme implemented via FLAGs to mitigate Brexit impacts on coastal communities through support for entrepreneurial initiatives in the blue economy.

## Implementation of the Policy

<b>Measure 147</b> Support rural communities to develop long-term cohesive Master Plans for their areas, to support an integrated place-based approach to rural development (aligned with Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, County Development Plans, Local Development Plans, and relevant national, regional and local policy objectives).		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
147.2	Following the initial 2021 allocation to 26 towns, a further allocation in 2022 will enable additional towns develop their respective Town Centre First Plans.	Q3 2022

<b>Measure 148</b> Develop an effective rural proofing model to ensure the needs of rural communities are considered in the development of Government policies.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
148.2	Following completion of commissioned report into rural proofing, consultation with key stakeholders will take place, through the ORF Implementation Advisory Group and other engagement structures.	Q2 2022
148.3	Develop an initial draft rural proofing model, based on research recommendations and consultation process, for further consideration by departments	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 149</b> Support new research into rural development priorities, including in collaboration with Higher Education Institutions and other research funders and research organisations.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
149.1	Provide support to the North Atlantic Forum to enable holding of event on Sustainable Livelihoods.	Q4 2022

149.2	Establish a new postdoctoral research fellowship on rural development which will further understanding of economic and social development issues in rural areas and the needs of rural communities.	Q2 2022
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<b>Measure 150</b> <b>Establish a Higher Education Institutions Network on rural development to ensure ongoing engagement with rural development experts over the lifetime of this policy.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
150.1	Ongoing engagement with rural development experts over the lifetime of this policy will continue through meetings of the Our Rural Future Higher Education and Research Network.	Ongoing
150.2	Support the NUI in hosting the Rural Voices Seminar series.	Q1 2022



<b>Measure 151</b> <b>Enhance the sharing of information and best practice on rural development policy on a North-South basis and identify areas for further cooperation.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
151.1	Ongoing engagement between representatives of DRCD and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland will continue through biannual meetings of the North-South Rural Policy Forum.	Ongoing
151.2	Hold Shared Island Dialogue event on Rural Development and Social Enterprise.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 152</b> <b>Deepen engagement at international level on policy relating to rural development matters through increased participation, including at OECD and EU level.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
152.1	Participate in OECD Working Party on Rural Policy and relevant EU networks.	Ongoing



152.2	Ireland will host the 13 <sup>th</sup> OECD Rural Development Conference, titled 'Building Sustainable, Resilient and Thriving Rural Places'.	Q3 2022



# New Measures for 2022

<b>Measure 153</b>		<b>Support rural communities following the arrival of citizens of Ukraine.</b>	
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> All Departments			
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>	
153.1	Implement a number of infrastructural and community initiatives to support rural communities dealing with the challenges and opportunities arising from the arrival of Ukrainian refugees.	Ongoing	

<b>Measure 154</b>		<b>Review of School Transport Scheme, including provision of school transport in rural communities.</b>	 
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Education			
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>	
154.1	Complete the review of the School Transport Scheme (which encompasses the School Transport Scheme for Children with Special Educational Needs and the Primary and Post-Primary School Transport Schemes) with a view to ensuring that it serves students and their families appropriately. The review will consider issues such as climate action, school transport in rural areas, and promoting where possible initiatives that encourage walking and cycling to school.	Q2 2022	


<b>Measure 155</b>		<b>Provide supports to small schools to facilitate a sustainable future for schools in communities of lower population density.</b>	 
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Education			
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>	
155.1	Advance an action research project examining new ways of supporting small schools through the Primary Education Forum.	Q4 2022	
155.2	Continue to facilitate amalgamations of schools where a decision to amalgamate has been made by the Patrons/Trustees.	Ongoing	



<b>Measure 156</b>		<b>Delivery of actions in the Sustainable Tourism Interim Action Plan to support and promote sustainable tourism in rural areas.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DTCAGSM				
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>	
156.1	Develop a roadmap for the delivery of e-charging infrastructure to support e-car touring and sustainable travel.		Q3 2022	
156.2	Roll out a Carbon Calculator for tourism businesses and visitors.		Q4 2022	



<b>Measure 157</b>		<b>Development of strategic Gaeltacht tourism initiatives.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> Údarás na Gaeltachta, Fáilte Ireland				
<b>2022 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>	
157.1	<p>Formation of strategic partnership between Fáilte Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta committed to making the Gaeltacht experience appealing, accessible and relevant to visitors.</p> <p>The organisations will work together across a number of priority areas for tourism development including capital projects, building capacity within the tourism industry and supporting the development of tourism products to showcase the unique cultural offering of Ireland's Gaeltacht regions.</p>		Q1 2022	
157.2	Initiate tendering process to deliver three visitor experiences in the Connemara Gaeltacht.		Q2 2022	
157.3	Údarás na Gaeltachta to undertake a pilot programme to develop and promote language holidays for select target demographics.		Q2 2022	
157.4	Údarás na Gaeltachta to undertake an audit of existing greenways & cycle trails in the Gaeltacht and agree a 10-year roadmap for future development.		Q2 2022	
157.5	Complete the South Conamara Outdoor Recreation Hub report.		Q4 2022	




<b>Measure 158</b> <b>Development and implementation of An Gaeltacht Ghlas strategy, which will look to create a sustainability strategy for the Gaeltacht, taking into account economic, community and social sectors.</b>		  
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> Údarás na Gaeltachta		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
158.1	Publication of An Gaeltacht Ghlas Strategy.	Q3 2022
158.2	Lead discussions on the development of Ros an Mhíl as a strategic port in the support of offshore renewable energy development with other State Departments and Agencies.	Q4 2022
158.3	Development plans to be finalised for a 100% community-owned renewable energy project, through a Photo Voltaic Park being proposed on lands belonging to Údarás na Gaeltachta with a view to provide electricity to the local community.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 159</b> <b>Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the forestry licensing system to support measures aiming to achieve an afforestation target of 8,000 ha/year.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
159.1	Proposed amendment to the Forestry Act (2014) to allow for small scale planting (up to 1ha) of native trees without requirement for a forestry licence.	Q1 2022
159.2	Conduct pre-application consultation pilot for forestry licensing processes.	Q1 2022
159.3	Undertake legal and regulatory review evaluating the possibility of single consent scheme within the current legal and regulatory framework.	Q1 2022
159.4	Development of communications strategy and customer charter.	Q2 2022
159.5	Produce a report on Training Needs Analysis.	Q2 2022

<b>Measure 160</b> <b>Co-develop and implement rural development elements of the new PEACE PLUS programme 2021-2027.</b>		 
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD, SEUPB		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
160.1	Agreement of the proposed PEACE PLUS Programme 2021-2027 by the European Commission, following which the programme will be launched. The Programme will include a range of initiatives to enable and empower local community partnerships, led by local authorities, to select and deliver priority projects on a cross-community basis which will result in shared and inclusive local services, facilities and spaces; and make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation.	Q4 2022

<b>Measure 161</b> <b>Establish dedicated funding streams specific to the islands within existing funding programmes.</b>		 
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
161.1	Establish an islands-only stream within the CLÁR programme.	Q1 2022
161.2	Establish a new scheme under the Minor Works Programme where funding is provided for non-county roads on the islands.	Q1 2022

<b>Measure 162</b> <b>Support the National Women’s Council of Ireland (NWCI) to host a Rural Women’s Conference in 2022.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2022 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
162.1	Provide supports to the NWCI to host a National Rural Women’s Conference.	Q4 2022