

# Chapter

## *Ongoing Actions*

# 4



# Agriculture, the Rural Economy and Natural Resources



## Objective 1

Ensure that agricultural production throughout the county is economically viable while sustaining the environment

- |              |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|
| <b>1.1.1</b> | Analyse viable and sustainable growth options for farm businesses through the implementation of the Planning Post Fischer (PPF) Programme                      | Teagasc  |
| <b>1.1.2</b> | Develop measures that enable farmers to improve their efficiency levels  | Teagasc  |
| <b>1.1.4</b> | Encourage greater participation in REPS  | Teagasc  |
| <b>1.1.5</b> | Establish discussion groups across all agricultural sectors  | Teagasc  |
| <b>1.1.6</b> | As part of the implementation of the Shannon River Basin Project, investigate methods to regulate agricultural practices in identified areas of high pollution | Environmental and Emergency Services Directorate |

## Objective 2

Stimulate demand for local produce in both domestic and international niche markets, thereby contributing to growth of the rural economy

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|--------------------------|--|---|
| <b>1.2.1 &amp; 1.2.2</b> | Develop supports for producers to market their produce by increasing the level of 'Clare Produce' in retail outlets throughout Clare | RRD   |
| <b>1.2.3</b>             | Examine the potential of co-ordinating producer groups on a regional basis   | Clare County Council - Community & Enterprise |

## Objective 3

Improve training and career advice aimed at farmers and their spouses enabling them to remain either in full-time farming or to supplement their incomes

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|--------------|--|----------------------|
| <b>1.3.1</b> | Conduct an audit to identify the training requirements of farmers, and their spouses           | Teagasc              |
| <b>1.3.2</b> | Develop responsive, flexible, and accessible training programmes for farmers and their spouses | Teagasc              |
| <b>1.3.3</b> | Identify and develop a database of off-farm employers  | Farm Relief Services |
| <b>1.3.5</b> | Highlight the employment opportunities in agriculture  | Teagasc              |
| <b>1.3.6</b> | Promotional activity to encourage people to participate in programmes available from agencies  | Teagasc              |

## Objective

## 4

**Develop an integrated and sustainable aquaculture sector in Clare**

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|--------------|---|-----|
| <b>1.4.1</b> | Prepare a county-wide Business Development strategy for the sustainable growth of aquaculture that ensures the co-ordination of relevant plans (local, Clams, Sacs etc) | BIM |
| <b>1.4.2</b> | Promote training in aquaculture management  | BIM |
| <b>1.4.3</b> | Develop and implement a quality assurance scheme for aquaculture  | BIM |

## Objective

## 5

**Ensure high yields in forestry through the production of quality timber in Clare**

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|--------------|--|---------|
| <b>1.5.1</b> | Design and implement education and training programmes on forestry management  | Teagasc |
| <b>1.5.2</b> | Develop supports to enable farmers to access forestry markets (Establish a Forestry Development Centre which will promote farm forestry) | RRD     |

## Objective

## 6

**Investigate the potential of organic farming as part of the agricultural produce of Clare**

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|--------------|--|---|
| <b>1.6.1</b> | Develop a county-wide strategy to explore the potential of organic farming   | Clare County Council - Community & Enterprise |
| <b>1.6.2</b> | Develop a network to provide advice and guidance for farmers on organic farming especially on technical issues and quality standards | Teagasc                                       |
| <b>1.6.3</b> | Implement training programmes on organic farming   | Teagasc                                       |

## Objective

## 7

**Increase the contribution of fishing to the economy of Clare**

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|--------------|--|--|
| <b>1.7.2</b> | Identify coastal fishing facilities that require upgrading (for example, fishing ports) as part of the implementation of the tourism and coastal management strategies | Shannon Development & Clare County Council - Planning & Economic Development |
|--------------|--|--|

# Economic Development, Innovation and Skills Capacity



## Objective 1

Develop and implement an integrated, innovative and inclusive Lifelong Learning (LLL) Strategy in the county

- 2.1.2** Develop an Integrated Strategy for Lifelong Learning County Clare VEC
- 2.1.3** Develop an evaluation template for all education and training programmes County Clare VEC

## Objective 2

Identify the training needs of the labour market of County Clare and develop and maintain the skills of the labour market to the highest international standards

- 2.2.2** Develop targeted and flexible education and training initiatives in response to the skills audit and produce regular labour market reviews County Clare VEC & FÁS

## Objective 4

Provide upskilling and learning through accessible educational delivery systems

- 2.4.1** Provide learning in mixed mode outreach centres with appropriate crèche and transport facilities County Clare VEC

## Objective 5

Provide Clare with improved local access to third level education and training

- 2.5.1** Develop a third level facility in Ennis which enables people from all parts of the county to access courses through distance learning. This institute will prioritise courses relevant to Clare's economy i.e. Culture, Tourism, Forestry, Maritime and Agriculture. County Clare VEC & Community and Enterprise, Clare County Council
- 2.5.2** Develop Partnerships with other third level institutes to provide local access to courses County Clare VEC

## Objective 6

Ensure that businesses in Clare are using IT and e-commerce in the most profitable and effective manner possible

- 2.6.2** Develop IT training programmes that meet the needs of all businesses particularly SMEs Clare County Enterprise Board

Objective  
7**Cultivate and develop an enterprise and innovation culture throughout the county**

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|--------------|---|---|
| <b>2.7.1</b> | Provide training for teachers involved in Enterprise Development Programmes in primary and secondary schools  | Clare County Enterprise Board                       |
| <b>2.7.3</b> | Implementation of Bí Gnothach programme on Enterprise in primary schools on a pilot basis.  | Clare County Enterprise Board                       |
| <b>2.7.4</b> | Develop and implement a co-ordinated strategy to encourage potential entrepreneurs to start their own business to include a promotion campaign to celebrate "Role Models of Innovation and Entrepreneurship". | Shannon Development & Clare County Enterprise Board |

Objective  
8**Ensure that programmes for new start-up and existing businesses are appropriate to the needs of entrepreneurs, provide adequate support, are accessible and exploit the potential of ICTs**

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|--------------|--|----------------------|
| <b>2.8.2</b> | Create a network of enterprise information points (using proposed County Council one-stop shops) | Clare County Council |
|--------------|--|----------------------|

Objective  
9**Improve support for existing businesses via an enhanced mentoring system**

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|--------------|---|---------------------|
| <b>2.9.4</b> | Increase the availability of incubation units in strategic locations in the county. | Shannon Development |
|--------------|---|---------------------|

Objective  
10**Ensure that businesses in Clare have access to the latest R&D in product development, food research and service delivery through linkages with third level institutes**

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|---------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>2.10.1</b> | Establish a Technology Park in Ennis which ensures that there are strong links between businesses based therein and regional centres of Third Level innovation in development and training | Shannon Development |
|---------------|--|---------------------|

Objective  
14**Promote Clare as a prime location for inward investment with particular emphasis given to a more equitable spread of economic development**

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|---------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>2.14.3</b> | Increase the number of visits by potential investors in Clare | Shannon Development and IDA Ireland |
|---------------|---|-------------------------------------|

# Social Inclusion Measures (SIM)



Objective 2 Establish a local consultative process to deliver a 'bottom-up' approach to integrated service delivery in areas of multiple deprivation in Clare

**3.2.1** Establish an Integrated Service Delivery Plan (ISDP) in selected areas of multiple disadvantage in County Clare.

Clare County Council - Housing & Social Policy

Objective 4 Ensure equality of access for all to public services including the elderly and persons with disabilities

**3.4.3** Monitor compliance in new buildings to disabled access

Clare County Council - Planning & Economic Development

Objective 5 Users of public services in Clare are treated with respect and dignity and are not discriminated against

**3.5.3** Develop a network of Local Authority Residents Associations in County Clare

Clare County Council - Housing & Social Policy

Objective 6 Mainstream and integrate all local area-based active labour market programmes

**3.6.1** Conduct profile of learning needs and barriers to accessing education and training initiatives

County Clare VEC

Objective 8 Prevent and reduce the risk of early educational disadvantage throughout the county

**3.8.1** Implement a survey of primary schools to determine the level of resources required to support the development of those children most at risk of educational disadvantage

Shannon Curriculum Centre, Department of Education



Objective  
**9**

**Reduce the numbers of early school leavers throughout the county**

**3.9.1** Develop and implement a proactive education strategy designed to reduce early school leaving

County Clare VEC, Second Level Schools, Ennis West and Shannon Curriculum Centre

Objective  
**10**

**Promote acceptance and respect for cultural diversity throughout the county**

**3.10.1** Implement a dedicated public awareness campaign to increase awareness of cultural diversity in terms of non-nationals in Clare based on promoting tolerance and mutual respect

Irish Council for Refugees

**3.10.2** Incorporate a 'cultural diversity' module in school curricula

Shannon Curriculum Centre

Objective  
**11**

**Provide culturally appropriate housing and accommodation for all groups accessing social housing in particular, travellers, refugees and asylum seekers and homeless persons**

**3.11.1** Implementation of Clare housing strategy ensures an increase in the supply of social and affordable housing

Clare County Council - Housing & Social Policy

**3.11.2** Implement and review the traveller accommodation programme on a regular basis in consultation with the relevant target group

Clare County Council - Housing & Social Policy

**3.11.3** Monitor Homeless Action Plan for Clare and conduct regular basis in consultation with relevant target group

Clare County Council - Housing & Social Policy

**3.11.4** Ensure the provision of quality LA accommodation through improved standards in housing maintenance, repair and implementation of estate management in selected areas

Clare County Council - Housing & Social Policy

**3.11.5** Increase inspection and regulation of dwelling conditions to ensure a minimum level of quality for private rented housing

Clare County Council - Housing & Social Policy



## Objective

## 12

## Develop a co-ordinated, comprehensive strategy

- 3.12.1** Identify and develop a proactive strategy to reducing the level of crime, which will have the following elements: An Garda Síochana
- Maximise available resources to increase presence of Gardai in identified areas
  - Development of proactive strategies in areas of disadvantage
  - Increase assistance for Victim Support
  - Increase the role for Junior Liaison Gardai as part of the implementation of Child Care Bill
  - Increase number of Department of Justice funded projects that provide supports to young people at risk of involvement in crime
  - Increase support in Neighbourhood Watch
  - Increase the role of Community Policing in identified areas
  - Continue implementation of campaign to reduce level of traffic accidents
  - Increased support for services dealing with victims of domestic violence

## Objective

## 13

## Ensure the co-ordinated development of quality services via the integrated effort of a well-financed and supported community and voluntary sector

- 3.13.3** Promotion campaign for volunteering and community involvement Clare Community Forum
- 3.13.6** Increase level of information for training of volunteers and community organisations Clare Community Forum

# Health and Social Services



## Objective

### 1

**Provide the co-ordinated delivery of quality acute hospital services in County Clare**

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|--------------|---|---------------|
| <b>4.1.1</b> | Establish a Consultant-led A and E service  | HSE; Mid-West |
| <b>4.1.2</b> | Provide a new Out-patients Dept at Ennis General Hospital   | HSE; Mid-West |
| <b>4.1.3</b> | Develop and implement an action plan to increase the number of day procedures at Ennis General Hospital | HSE; Mid-West |
| <b>4.1.4</b> | Establish a new Radiology Dept in Ennis General Hospital  | HSE; Mid-West |

## Objective

### 2

**Provide a community care service that empowers people to remain in their community**

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|--------------|--|---------------|
| <b>4.2.1</b> | Establish a Learning Information Network consisting of representatives from all service providers in the County  | HSE; Mid-West |
| <b>4.2.2</b> | Develop an Integrated Community Care Plan for Clare focusing on the healthcare, needs of the elderly, people with disabilities, children and minority groups | HSE; Mid-West |

## Objective

### 3

**Ensure that all users of mental health services have access to the necessary supports that enable them to participate fully in their communities and develop community mental health services**

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|--------------|--|--|
| <b>4.3.1</b> | Increase the provision of supported housing and home based treatment programmes                                | HSE; Mid-West & Clare County Council - Housing & Social Policy |
| <b>4.3.2</b> | Ensure county-wide access to both elderly and psychiatric day hospitals and appropriate residential care       | HSE; Mid-West  |
| <b>4.3.3</b> | Implement a public awareness raising campaign of those users of mental health services                         | HSE; Mid-West  |
| <b>4.3.4</b> | Identify the needs of users of mental health services in the forthcoming Community Care Plan (see objective 2) | HSE; Mid-West  |
| <b>4.3.5</b> | Implement a comprehensive community mental health strategy   | HSE; Mid-West  |



Objective

4

**Ensure that all elderly persons in Clare have access to a range of services that meet their social and health needs**

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|--------------|--|--|
| <b>4.4.1</b> | Increase the provision of the following services under the Community Care Plan; Public Health Nursing; G.P. Services; Home Help Services; Paramedical; Social Work Services; Day Care Services | HSE; Mid-West  |
| <b>4.4.2</b> | Provide a range of support to carers   | HSE; Mid-West  |
| <b>4.4.3</b> | Develop an accessible transport programme for the elderly  | HSE; Mid-West / Transport Forum                                |
| <b>4.4.4</b> | Develop affordable and appropriate residential care options  | HSE; Mid-West & Clare County Council - Housing & Social Policy |
| <b>4.4.5</b> | Develop networks for the elderly   | HSE; Mid-West  |
| <b>4.4.6</b> | Promote mutual understanding between elderly and young people through joint activities and examples of good practice   | Shannon Curriculum Development Centre                          |

Objective

5

**Ensure that persons with physical, sensory and intellectual disabilities are guaranteed access to the best quality health care**

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|--------------|---|---------------------------|
| <b>4.5.1</b> | Develop a holistic plan to provide services for people with disabilities in Clare, which is proofed against best practice models as developed by the Disability Authority | HSE; Mid-West             |
| <b>4.5.2</b> | Provide a comprehensive recruitment and advice service and training opportunities for people with disabilities  | FÁS / Brothers of Charity |

Objective

6

**Implement a strategic approach to the provision of childcare facilities in County Clare and to the protection of children and youth at risk**

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|--------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>4.6.1</b> | Ensure the availability of affordable, high quality childcare for all parents in the County via the implementation of the County Childcare Committee Strategy                 | Clare County Childcare Committee |
| <b>4.6.2</b> | Improve the range of services for children and young people who are at risk of abuse or neglect, focussing on foster parents, residential accommodation and advocacy services | HSE; Mid-West                    |



Objective **7** Support and encourage the pursuit of a healthy lifestyle by all the people of Clare via education and improved access to services

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|--------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>4.7.1</b> | Develop an integrated programme to promote a healthy life-style by building upon existing strategies with respect to: Mental Health, Elderly care, Child Health, Health promotion programme. These elements will be implemented as part of Objective 2 | HSE; Mid-West            |
| <b>4.7.2</b> | Implement the Sports Strategy for County Clare   | Clare Sports Partnership |
| <b>4.7.3</b> | Develop and implement drug and alcohol treatment services and prevention programmes throughout the county  | HSE; Mid-West            |

Objective **8** Ensure the co-ordinated provision of quality services via the integrated effort of a well-financed and supported c and v sector

- |              |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| <b>4.8.1</b> | Develop a network for carers and organisations which supports carers  | HSE; Mid-West / Caring for Carers             |
| <b>4.8.2</b> | Increase long-term funding for the community and voluntary sector which is delivered on the basis of accountability, long-term partnerships and agreed objectives of service delivery | Clare County Council - Community & Enterprise |

# Infrastructure, Planning, Spatial Development and the Environment

## Objective 1

### Develop, where appropriate, the potential of alternative energy as an economic resource for County Clare

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|--------------|---|---|
| <b>5.1.1</b> | Develop an agreed integrated policy based on models of good practice, between all stakeholders on technical and planning requirements for wind farms                | Clare County Council - Planning & Economic Development  |
| <b>5.1.5</b> | Develop a policy and subsequent plan to promote the potential of other alternative renewable energies, for example, biomass, anaerobic digestion, solar, wave power | Clare County Council - Environment & Emergency Services |

## Objective 2

### Enhance the role of Shannon Airport

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|--------------|---|--|
| <b>5.2.1</b> | Develop a strategy for the long-term development of Shannon Airport as a location for Europe and North America            | Shannon Airport Authority                              |
| <b>5.2.2</b> | Improve the frequency and timing of flights to Dublin from Shannon to meet the needs of businesses and the general public | Shannon Airport Authority                              |
| <b>5.2.3</b> | Continuous assessment of the infrastructure needs for the improvement of access to Shannon Airport                        | Clare County Council - Transportation & Infrastructure |

## Objective 3

### Provide accessible and efficient public transport in all parts of County Clare via improved road and rail infrastructure

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|--------------|---|---|
| <b>5.3.2</b> | Establish a Transport Forum to develop a strategic approach to the transport requirements of County Clare | Clare County Council - Transportation & Infrastructure and Community & Enterprise |
| <b>5.3.3</b> | Extend public/private transport services in rural areas   | Bus Éireann   |
| <b>5.3.5</b> | Examine UK based models where the Councils have authority to purchase transport services in rural areas   | Clare County Council - Transportation & Infrastructure                            |
| <b>5.3.6</b> | Conduct a Technical Study into a high speed rail link to Shannon  | Clare County Council - Community & Enterprise                                     |
| <b>5.3.8</b> | Conduct a Technical Study into an upgrade of the Cork/Sligo line  | CDBs along the Western Corridor   |

## Objective

## 4

**Provide a comprehensive electricity and tele-communications infrastructure in County Clare**

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|--------------|---|---|
| <b>5.4.1</b> | Prepare a Strategy, which ensures that County Clare will have an electricity infrastructure that will meet all its residential and industrial needs       | ESB   |
| <b>5.4.2</b> | Develop an integrated tele-communications strategy for County Clare   | Shannon Broadband   |
| <b>5.4.3</b> | Explore the possibility of installing ISDN Lines and other systems (wireless/broadband) simultaneously with new rail and road infrastructure developments | Clare County Council -<br>Transportation & Infrastructure |

## Objective

## 5

**Ensure the balanced and equitable spread of development across the county to support the viability of rural populations**

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|--------------|---|--|
| <b>5.5.1</b> | Create a Spatial Development Policy, which will support the decentralisation of all public service agencies to identified growth centres, which are: Ennis, Kilrush, Ennistymon, Scariff, Shannon and Killaloe  | Clare County Council -<br>Community & Enterprise             |
| <b>5.5.3</b> | Maximise the use of special incentive schemes to designated towns in the county   | Clare County Council<br>- Planning & Economic<br>Development |
| <b>5.5.4</b> | Clare County Council, in addition to enforcing Part V of the Planning and Development Act (2000), will ensure the provision of social, affordable housing and affordable sites through the county on zoned land | Clare County Council -<br>Housing & Social Policy            |

## Objective

## 6

**Improve the water and air quality of County Clare to reach the optimum level as specified by EU and International standards**

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|--------------|--|---|
| <b>5.6.2</b> | Awareness campaign on proper installation, upgrading and management of septic tanks, both residential and commercial | Clare County Council -<br>Environment & Emergency<br>Services   |
| <b>5.6.3</b> | Maximum enforcement of pollution controls  | Clare County Council -<br>Environment & Emergency<br>Services and Shannon Regional<br>Fisheries Board |
| <b>5.6.4</b> | Implement Shannon Basin Management Plan for upgrading of ground water, rivers, lakes and coastal waters              | Clare County Council -<br>Environment & Emergency<br>Services   |
| <b>5.6.5</b> | Regular and appropriate monitoring of organisations issued with Discharge to Water Licenses                          | Clare County Council -<br>Environment & Emergency<br>Services   |
| <b>5.6.6</b> | Access to water and air quality results in the county  | Clare County Council -<br>Environment & Emergency<br>Services   |

Objective  
**7**

**Implement a sustainable waste management policy that caters for the needs of households and industry including agriculture and tourism**

**5.7.1** Implement the Waste Management Plan for County Clare

Clare County Council -  
Environment & Emergency  
Services

**5.7.3** Implement and develop training schemes to inform and educate all stakeholders on the benefits of recycling.

Clare County Council -  
Environment & Emergency  
Services

Objective  
**8**

**Make Clare a litter free county**

**5.8.3** Promote 'Green Schools Programme' to schools in Clare

Clare County Council -  
Environment & Emergency  
Services

Objective  
**9**

**Minimise the impact of flooding in County Clare**

**5.9.1** Accelerate investment in flood defences and drainage schemes

Clare County Council -  
Transportation & Infrastructure

**5.9.2** Ensure that funding is sought to implement surveys of all areas at risk of flooding and ensure that findings are implemented

Clare County Council -  
Transportation & Infrastructure

**5.9.3** Continue to invest in flood alleviation measures

Clare County Council -  
Transportation & Infrastructure

**5.9.4** Identify harbours in need of development and implement measures

Clare County Council -  
Transportation & Infrastructure

Objective  
**10**

**Minimise the impact of coastal erosion and develop best practice models for coastal management in County Clare**

**5.10.1** Monitor implementation of coastal erosion priority protection programme

Clare County Council -  
Transportation & Infrastructure

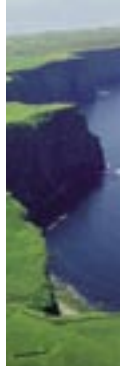
Objective  
**11**

**To improve water services in County Clare**

**5.11.2** Prepare and implement phase 2 of the Rural Water Strategic Plan

Clare County Council -  
Transportation & Infrastructure

# Tourism, Culture and Heritage



## Objective 1

Develop and deliver an integrated quality tourism product, ensuring that tourism growth is spread beyond established resorts and larger towns to rural areas

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|--------------|---|---|
| <b>6.1.6</b> | Examine the possibility of representation from the community/voluntary and tourism sectors on regional and county-wide tourism development bodies | Clare County Council - Community & Enterprise |
|--------------|---|---|

## Objective 3

Develop the Off Peak Season Potential of Tourism in Clare

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|--------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>6.3.3</b> | Designate specific areas of Shannon Estuary for specialised water sports/activities, to ensure maximum utilisation of the estuary | Shannon Foynes Port Authority |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------|

## Objective 4

Develop a vibrant arts sector, that is accessible to all, and highlights the importance of traditional arts, particularly music and dance, and Clare as an attractive place for artists to live

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| <b>6.4.2</b> | Develop and implement a traditional arts policy, which complements the County Arts Plan                                       | Clare County Council - Arts Office |
| <b>6.4.6</b> | Identify ways in which the international reputation of Clare as a centre for traditional music can be recognised and enhanced | Clare County Council - Arts Office |
| <b>6.4.7</b> | Develop a Culture Awareness campaign incorporating a variety of media   | Clare County Council               |

## Objective 5

Increase the use of the Irish language in all aspects of life in the County

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|--------------|---|----------------------|
| <b>6.5.1</b> | Implement the current guidelines on the use of Irish in the public services and develop innovative ways to support in use | Clare County Council |
| <b>6.5.3</b> | Incorporate a 'speak Irish day' within the working week and organise Irish classes for employees                          | Clare County Council |
| <b>6.5.4</b> | Develop an Irish language policy document for the general public and all public service agencies                          | Clare County Council |

Objective  
6

Ensure the retention and conversation of the natural, built and cultural heritage of Clare as a fundamental principle of all policy development

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|--------------|---|--|
| <b>6.6.1</b> | Preparation of the Heritage Plan  | Clare County Council<br>- Planning & Economic<br>Development |
| <b>6.6.2</b> | Develop and implement management plans to protect vulnerable eco systems including SAC's, for example, the Burren | NPWS (DEHLG)   |

Objective  
7

Communicate the strong heritage values of Clare to both its indigenous population and overseas visitors

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|--------------|--|---|
| <b>6.7.1</b> | Develop a targeted Awareness-raising Strategy for built and natural heritage with specific reference to heritage education initiatives in schools in Clare           | Dúchas / Clare County<br>Council - Planning & Economic<br>Development |
| <b>6.7.2</b> | Preserve folklore records in the county and establish networks to capture local knowledge regarding local sites and associated folklore and publish this information | Clare County Libraries  |

Objective  
8

Conserve and protect the county's national monuments

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|--------------|---|--------|
| <b>6.8.1</b> | Audit sites to ensure adequacy and appropriateness of facilities; identify average number of visitors and their attitudes | OPW    |
| <b>6.8.2</b> | Develop guidelines to ensure a baseline level of facilities at all heritage sites   | OPW    |
| <b>6.8.3</b> | Implement disability guidelines to facilitate access to sites   | OPW    |
| <b>6.8.5</b> | Develop a County Monument strategy which will ensure the protection and conservation of Clare's monuments                 | Dúchas |