

# Chapter

## *Completed Actions*

# 5



# *Agriculture, the Rural Economy and Natural Resources*



Objective

1

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

1.1.3

Create an electronic network of advisors/mentors

Teagasc

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

1.3.4

Conduct a study into the feasibility of IT opportunities (for example, teleworking) in rural communities

RRD

Objective

7

Increase the contribution of fishing to the economy of Clare

1.7.1

Prepare updated integrated plans for the development and management of the main fishing lakes and rivers in Clare

Shannon Regional Fisheries Board

# Economic Development, Innovation and Skills Capacity



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

**2.2.1** Conduct a skills audit to identify the training requirements of the labour market of County Clare FÁS

Objective  
**3** Develop a comprehensive database of businesses in the county

**2.3.1** Develop a database of all businesses in the county, which examines the location, structure and sectors, including employment levels Shannon Development and Clare County Council - Community & Enterprise

Objective  
**4** Provide upskilling and learning through accessible educational delivery systems

**2.4.3** Pilot different modes of training provision that incorporate elements of distance education, online learning and other forms of ICT Shannon Development

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

**2.6.1** Conduct a pilot survey of the use of IT in target locations in County Clare. Clare County Enterprise Board

**2.6.3** Develop a network of mentors to advise companies how to effectively maximise the use of their IT resources and skills 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

**2.8.1** Evaluate existing business start-up programmes Clare County Council - Community & Enterprise

## Objective

## 9

## Improve support to existing businesses via an enhanced mentoring system

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|--------------|--|--|
| <b>2.9.1</b> | Evaluate the existing mentoring system   | Clare County Council -<br>Community & Enterprise         |
| <b>2.9.2</b> | In light of review, improve mentoring system in the county by developing recruitment criteria for mentors, producing a database of mentors, etc. | Clare County Enterprise Board                            |
| <b>2.9.3</b> | Investigate the potential of developing a pool of voluntary mentors  | Clare County Enterprise Board<br>and RRD                 |
| <b>2.9.5</b> | Develop a 'Get Back into Business' programme for those who have previously been unsuccessful in a business venture.                              | Clare County Enterprise Board                            |
| <b>2.9.6</b> | Develop feedback mechanism for regular review of unsuccessful applicants for business grants   | Shannon Development and<br>Clare County Enterprise Board |

## Objective

## 11

## Stimulate growth in the crafts sector by developing a unique marketing channel in the county

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|---------------|---|----------------------|
| <b>2.11.4</b> | That the Tulla Stables project be developed as a pilot by the Craft Sector. | Clare County Council |
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## Objective

## 12

## Improve access to seed and venture capital funds for developing business

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| <b>2.12.1</b> | Research the potential of a venture capital fund for SME's which would be co-ordinated by the agencies involved with existing SME's with the objective of fast tracking companies into employment growth and innovation. | Clare County Council -<br>Community & Enterprise |
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## Objective

## 13

## Stimulate the growth of and support for indigenous companies

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| <b>2.13.1</b> | Design and implement a database "matching" service to facilitate links between indigenous companies in County Clare and other companies throughout Ireland, including multinationals, to facilitate subcontracting | Shannon Development |
| <b>2.13.2</b> | Develop a strategic approach to assist indigenous companies in marketing their produce to national and international markets   | 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>2.14.1</b> | Clare County Council to identify infrastructural deficits  | Clare County Council - Community & Enterprise                         |
| <b>2.14.2</b> | Assist development agencies in marketing the county as an ideal location for investment                          | Clare County Council - Community & Enterprise and Shannon Development |
| <b>2.14.4</b> | Identify the core strengths of the 6 growth towns, in line with the forthcoming Spatial Strategy for the county. | Clare County Council - Community & Enterprise                         |

Objective  
**16**

Develop a partnership company for all parts of County Clare not currently covered by ADM companies

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|---------------|---|---|
| <b>2.16.1</b> | Prepare and submit a business plan to ADM based on the needs of parts of Clare not currently covered by ADM companies | Clare County Council - Community & Enterprise |
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# Social Inclusion Measures (SIM)



Objective 1 **Develop and attain county-wide integration and co-ordination in the planning and delivery of the CDB Social Inclusion Strategy for Clare**

- 3.1.1** Establish a fully representative Social Inclusion Forum (SIF) Clare County Council - Community & Enterprise
- 3.1.2** Develop a model for the effective running of the Social Inclusion Forum ADMs: EIRI Corca Baiscinn, Obair Newmarket-on-Fergus Ltd, Ennis West Partners

Objective 3 **Improve access to social welfare entitlements**

- 3.3.1** A co-ordinated programme will be put in place to maximise the dissemination of information on benefits and entitlements in all parts of the county CIC

Objective 7 **Continue to provide additional supports for the unemployed, travellers and lone parents to bring them to a level of job readiness so that they can compete successfully in the job market**

- 3.7.3** Conduct a study of Community Employment in County Clare and make recommendations to support and enhance Community Employment in County Clare Clare County Council - Community & Enterprise

Objective 9 **Reduce the numbers of early school leavers throughout the county**

- 3.9.2** Develop action programmes for all parts of the county that provide an integrated service for early school leavers County Clare VEC

Objective 13 **Ensure the co-ordinated development of quality services via the integrated effort of a well-financed and supported community and voluntary sector**

- 3.13.1** Preparation of Action Plan and appointment of a Development Officer for Clare Community Forum Clare Community Forum
- 3.13.5** Publish a comprehensive directory of the community and voluntary sector Clare County Council - Community & Enterprise
- 3.13.7** Investigate the possibility of a regular 'Community Development' slot on Clare FM 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>5.1.2</b> | Identify suitable areas, based on pre-determined agreed technical and planning criteria, for wind farms and other forms of alternative energy. | Clare County Council<br>- Planning & Economic<br>Development  |
| <b>5.1.3</b> | Investigate the potential of local ownership structures for wind farms i.e. co-ops   | RRD   |
| <b>5.1.4</b> | Establish an Energy Agency in County Clare to promote all energy issues, energy conservation and renewable energy within the county            | Clare County Council -<br>Environment & Emergency<br>Services |

## Objective 2

**Enhance the role of Shannon Airport**

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| <b>5.2.4</b> | Implement the new South East Corridor Plan | Clare County Council<br>- Planning & Economic<br>Development |
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## 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>5.3.1</b> | Complete the Rural Transport Audit  | Clare County Council -<br>Community & Enterprise |
| <b>5.3.7</b> | Increase frequency of trains between Dublin, Limerick and Ennis particularly during peak tourist season | Iarnród Éireann                                  |

## 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>5.5.2</b> | Implement the policies of the Clare County Development Plan to sustain rural population growth and encourage people to build new houses in villages and small towns | Clare County Council<br>- Planning & Economic<br>Development |
| <b>5.5.5</b> | Create a strategy to assist rural retail businesses   | Clare County Council<br>- Planning & Economic<br>Development |
| <b>5.5.6</b> | Devise and implement new Local Area Development Plans in all parts of the county  | Clare County Council<br>- Planning & Economic<br>Development |

## Objective

## 6

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

## 5.6.1

Establish an Environmental Forum consisting of representatives of all agencies and of the community/voluntary sector

Clare County Council -  
Environment & Emergency  
Services

## Objective

## 7

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

## 5.7.2

Ensure that all parts of the county have access to waste segregation, which facilitates recycling and composting, including an increase in the number of recycling centres based on the model in Scariff. Examine innovative approaches to waste collection such as pick up recycling initiatives in schools, etc.

Clare County Council -  
Environment & Emergency  
Services

## 5.7.4

Identify possible sources of funding for recycling projects on farms

Teagasc

## Objective

## 8

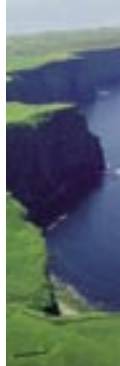
Make Clare a litter free county

## 5.8.1

Implement the Litter Management Plan for Clare

Clare County Council -  
Environment & Emergency  
Services

# 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>6.1.1</b> | Conduct an audit of tourism infrastructure, including rural areas  | Shannon Development / Clare County Council - Planning & Economic Development |
| <b>6.1.2</b> | Assess the impact of current promotional methods used  | Clare County Council - Community & Enterprise                                |
| <b>6.1.3</b> | Develop a County Tourism Program that focuses on the needs of small accommodation providers, and that includes community-based tourism initiatives, area-based management plans and rural spread | Clare Tourism Partnership  |
| <b>6.1.4</b> | Investigate the potential for a marketing and sales co-ordinator   | RRD  |
| <b>6.1.5</b> | Investigate the potential of creating an online network of tourism providers   | Shannon Development  |

## Objective 2

Develop long-term career opportunities in the tourism industry to enable retention and recruitment staff

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| <b>6.2.1</b> | Conduct a training needs analysis of tourism businesses to identify potential skills gaps. Develop and implement enhanced training programmes that fill the skills gaps identified by the Audit. | Clare County Enterprise Board |
| <b>6.2.2</b> | Develop and implement enhanced training programmes that fill the skills gaps identified by the Audit   | Clare County Enterprise Board |
| <b>6.2.3</b> | Develop and implement accessible and flexible training programmes for agri-tourism   | RRD                           |

## Objective 3

Develop the Off Peak Season Potential of Tourism in Clare

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| <b>6.3.1</b> | Evaluate the current off-peak product portfolio in the county  | Shannon Development |
| <b>6.3.2</b> | Develop Clare's portfolio of off-season packages based on research results and to include activity holidays and festivals in all parts of the county | Shannon Development |



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

- 6.4.1** Implement the County Arts Plan Clare County Council
- 6.4.3** Implement targeted arts programmes in areas of high disadvantage ADMs / Clare County Libraries / Clare County Council - Arts Office
- 6.4.4** Implement education initiatives in schools to generate awareness and stimulate interest in the arts and culture Clare County Council
- 6.4.5** Develop a cultural trail of county facilities and artworks, e.g. craft trail, gallery trail, theatre trail and sculpture trail Clare County Council - Arts Office

Objective 5 Increase the use of the Irish language in all aspects of life in the county

- 6.5.2** Create a full-time Irish Officer Clare County Council

Objective 8 Conserve and protect the county's national monuments

- 6.8.4** Investigate the potential of allocating grant aid to farmers and other private individuals to control access to heritage items on their land RRD