



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

What can we do for your Community?





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Minister's Foreward



I am honoured to lead the Department of Rural and Community Development which was established by the Government in 2017 to promote rural and community development and to help build vibrant, sustainable communities across the country. Part of my Department's remit is to make Ireland an even better place in which to live and work by creating new opportunities, improving

connectivity, and by protecting and enhancing services in the community.

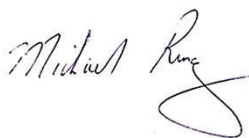
The information provided in this brochure details the diverse range of key supports available through my Department which communities can access to improve their quality of life economically and socially.

Supports available through my Department which are making a positive difference to people's lives include: funding to support the regeneration of Towns and Villages throughout Ireland, to facilitate the recreational use of the countryside through the Walks scheme, to improve the roads systems in remote rural areas and to improve the services in depopulated CLÁR areas. My Department also provides a range of supports for the Local Government System including funding and capacity building supports for Local Community Development Committees and Libraries. Of significance also is that my Department is responsible for the allocation of the new Project Ireland 2040 €1bn Rural Regeneration and Development Fund which will provide a

significant level of funding to support the sustainable development of rural communities over the next 10 years.

In addition, through the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme the Department seeks to support individuals to participate fully in society and through the Community Services Programme supports local initiatives that ensure social cohesion and the maintenance of community spirit. Organisations such as Volunteer Ireland and the Public Participation Networks that work with communities to increase participation and involvement at a local level also benefit from support from my Department.

You will find all the information that you need in this brochure to seek advice on accessing these and other supports from my Department. I am confident that through continued engagement with communities on their needs and access to the supports available my Department will succeed in its aim to make Ireland an even better place in which to live and work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Ring". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Michael Ring, T.D.

Minister for Rural and Community Development

Introduction

Department of Rural and Community Development Mission Statement

“To promote rural and community development and to support vibrant, inclusive and sustainable communities throughout Ireland”

As outlined above the Department’s mission is to ensure that all communities have the opportunity to grow and develop economically and socially.

The Department delivers its mission statement through:

- a) Working collaboratively across Government with the objective of ensuring that Government policy takes a holistic approach that considers all communities, regardless of location or demographics.

- b) Directly funding and supporting a number of policy initiatives and actions that improve the economic development of both rural and urban areas and address gaps in meeting the social needs of those areas.

This booklet summarises the policy, funding and support programmes in place through the Department to facilitate the sustainable development of rural and urban communities. The booklet contains information about all these initiatives as well as the contact details for the relevant sections in the

Department. General contact details for the Department can be found below:

Department of Rural and Community Development,
Trinity Point,
10-11 Leinster Street South,
Dublin 2,
D02 EF85

Tel: (076) 106 4900

Web: www.drcd.gov.ie

Twitter: @DeptRCD

1. Policy/Strategic Frameworks

1.1 Project Ireland 2040: Building Ireland's Future

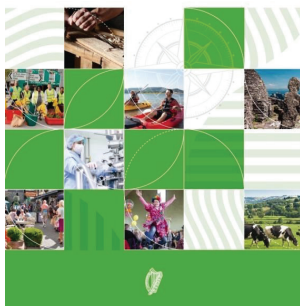
Project Ireland 2040 is the Government's overarching policy initiative to make Ireland a better country for all of us, a country that reflects the best of who we are and what we aspire to be. Informed by the *Programme for a Partnership Government 2016*, which recognises that economic and social progress go hand in hand, Project Ireland is made up of the *National Planning Framework to 2040* and the *National Development Plan 2018-2027*.

Wellbeing, equality and opportunity represent the core, interdependent themes of Project Ireland 2040. Without equality we cannot have wellbeing; without opportunity we cannot have equality. The objective of Project Ireland 2040 is to provide a comprehensive social, economic and cultural infrastructure for all our people to flourish, so that together we can create a better society.

Project Ireland 2040 details 10 strategic outcomes (see below) that will support the sustainable development of all communities to 2040. The Department of Rural and Community Development is committed to supporting the achievement of these outcomes and particularly Outcome No. 3 - *Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities* - through the policy frameworks and funding programmes detailed in this booklet.

1.	Compact Growth
2.	Enhanced Regional Accessibility
3.	Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities
4.	Sustainable Mobility
5.	A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills
6.	High-Quality International Connectivity
7.	Enhanced Amenity and Heritage
8.	Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society
9.	Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources
10.	Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services

1.2 Action Plan for Rural Development



Realising our Rural Potential, the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development, was launched in January 2017. The Action Plan contains 277 actions for delivery across Government, State agencies and other bodies over a three year period to support the economic and social progress of rural Ireland.

The actions are broken down across 5 thematic Pillars as follows:

Pillar 1: Supporting Sustainable Communities

Pillar 2: Supporting Enterprise and Employment

Pillar 3: Maximising our Rural Tourism and Recreation Potential

Pillar 4: Fostering Culture and Creativity in rural communities

Pillar 5: Improving Rural Infrastructure and Connectivity

Each action has been assigned to a lead body which is responsible for implementation of the action. Progress on the implementation of the actions is overseen by a Monitoring Committee which includes senior representatives of relevant Government Departments and key rural stakeholder interests.

1.3 Framework Policy for Local and Community Development in Ireland (2015)

Our Communities: A Framework Policy for Local and Community Development (2015) was approved by Government on 15 December 2015.

The Framework Policy will be implemented on a cross-government basis and will seek to secure a joined-up, collaborative and participative approach to local and community development at local level. The development and implementation of policies, programmes and other interventions will be carried out by central and local government in line with the Framework Policy's five core objectives detailed below.

1. Engaging with Communities;
2. Working with Partners;
3. Planning for Local and Community Development;
4. Delivering; and
5. Evaluating, Monitoring and Reviewing.

The Inter-Departmental Group on Local and Community Development will oversee and monitor the implementation of the Framework Policy, developing an implementation plan to advance the measures associated with each of the five core objectives.

Further details and information regarding the Framework Policy can be found on our website. www.drcd.gov.ie/community/framework-policy-for-local-and-community-development-in-ireland-2015/.

1.4 The Atlantic Economic Corridor

The Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) initiative is an important component of regional and rural development. The aim of the Atlantic Economic Corridor is to deliver effective national development by creating sufficient scale in the west of Ireland, through an economic corridor, to match other areas of the country in developing infrastructure, attracting Irish and multinational investment, and growing jobs and wealth in vibrant local communities.

A multi-stakeholder Taskforce, involving the business community, Government Departments, the Regional Assemblies, the County and City

Management Association, other public bodies and community interests is chaired by the Minister of State at the Department for Rural and Community Development to progress the proposal and develop a clearly articulated roadmap for delivery of the AEC objectives.

The Atlantic Economic Corridor Taskforce has, to date, progressed areas of work relating to enterprise space, infrastructure, EU funding and communications. In March 2018, co-funding was announced for each of the 10 City and County Councils along the corridor to support the designation of Atlantic Economic Corridor Officers who will support the work of the Taskforce. For further information see www.atlanticeconomiccorridor.ie.



1.5 National Broadband Plan

The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is a Government policy initiative which aims to deliver high-speed broadband to every citizen and business in Ireland. The National Broadband Plan's ambition is to achieve 100% coverage of high-speed broadband across Ireland. This is being achieved through a combination of accelerated commercial investment by telecoms operators, together with a State intervention to deliver access to high-speed broadband to those parts of the country where the commercial sector will not invest.

Role of this Department

The Department of Rural and Community Development has been tasked with ensuring there are no local barriers to deployment of the National Broadband Plan and also with identifying priority areas for rollout, which will in turn, feed into the procurement process and rollout schedule for the winning bidder for the delivery of the State intervention element of the NBP.

In this context, the Department, in conjunction with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, oversees the implementation of the recommendations of the Report of the Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce which identified actions which can be taken in the short-to-medium term to improve mobile phone and broadband services.

Local Authority Broadband Officers

The Department has co-funded the appointment of a Broadband Officer in each Local Authority. The Broadband Officers act as a single point of contact, ensure consistency in engagement with operators and assist in the rollout of telecommunications infrastructure.

Broadband Action Group

A Broadband Action Group, consisting of the Broadband Officers and relevant officials from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, meets monthly to accelerate the broadband network build in rural Ireland.

Digital Strategies

The Department is also assisting Local Authorities in the development of local digital strategies, which will seek to ensure the benefits of high-speed broadband are fully realised in their regions.

Broadband Hubs

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD), in consultation with Local Authority Broadband Officers and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE), have identified a network of 275 Broadband Hubs which will provide free Wi-Fi to communities in advance of high-speed broadband being rolled out in their area. These hubs will be prioritised during rollout of the National Broadband Plan, the aim of which is for them to be connected within the first 12 months. The cost of connecting these locations will be shared between both Departments.

Further information on the proposed locations for your area can be found by contacting the Broadband Officer in your Local Authority.

2. Rural Development

2.1 Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

As part of Project Ireland 2040, the Government has committed to providing an additional €1 billion for a new Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (“the Fund”) over the period 2019 to 2027. The Fund will provide investment to support rural renewal for suitable projects in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas. It will be administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The new Fund provides an unprecedented opportunity to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland, to make a significant and sustainable impact on rural communities, and to address de-population in small rural towns, villages and rural areas. It will be a key instrument to support the objectives of the National Planning Framework, and in particular to achieve Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities – one of the National Strategic Outcomes of the NPF. Initial funding of €315 million is being allocated to the Fund on a phased basis over the period 2019 to 2022.

The objective of the new Fund is to support coordinated and integrated projects between Government Departments, State agencies, Local Authorities, other public bodies, communities and, where appropriate, philanthropic funders and/or the private sector, which will have an impact on sustainable economic and social development in rural areas.

Funding will be awarded through a competitive bid process, based on delivering the objectives for rural Ireland in the National Planning Framework.

The Fund will support ambitious and strategic projects which contribute to sustainable rural regeneration and development. It will support investments of scale which would not otherwise be delivered without the additionality provided by the Fund, and projects that are outside the scope of existing schemes. In this context, projects are likely to be multi-annual and multi-faceted, involving a number of elements or phases as part of a broad strategic plan.

Key outcomes will be to support sustainable community and economic development in rural Ireland, including through regenerating smaller towns and villages and encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation to support job creation in rural areas.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Rural Regeneration and Development Fund Department of Rural and Community Development Trinity Point, 10-11 South Leinster Street, Dublin 2 D02 EF85
Telephone Number	(076) 100 6846
Email Address	rrdf@drcd.gov.ie

2.2 LEADER



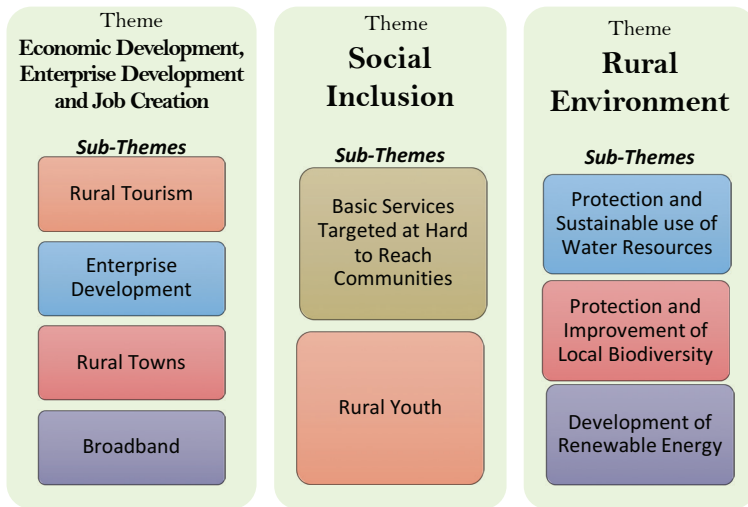
LEADER is a multi-annual programme co-funded by the EU to support rural development. A total of €250 million will be provided to rural communities under

the LEADER programme over the period 2014-2020.

Most of the programme funding is divided between 28 sub-regional areas, which are mostly aligned with county boundaries, and administered by Local Action Groups (LAGs). These LAGs are partnerships of both public and private entities from each county. They are responsible for selecting and approving projects in their respective areas in accordance with local development strategies developed specifically for their area.

The LEADER Programme is open to applicants from both Community Groups and Private Entities.

Rural Development (LEADER) Programme funding for the period 2014 – 2020 will focus on themes and sub-thematic areas as follows:



By August 2018, more than 1,200 local development projects had been approved for LEADER funding of over €36.5 million towards enterprise development, job creation and the development of sustainable community infrastructure across rural Ireland.

More information about applying for LEADER funding can be obtained directly from dedicated development officers in each of the Local Action Groups, contact details for which are available on the LEADER pages of the Department's website.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	LEADER Unit Department of Rural and Community Development Government Buildings, Ballina, Co. Mayo F26 E8N6
Telephone Number	(076) 106 4900
Email Address	RDP1420@dracd.gov.ie

2.3 Town and Village Renewal Scheme



The Town and Village Renewal Scheme was introduced in the second half of 2016 to support the revitalisation of rural towns and villages in order to improve their living and working environment and increase their potential to support increased economic activity. The scheme is specifically focused on rural towns and villages with populations under 10,000.

Since 2016, the Department of Rural and Community Development has invested €31.6 million in over 450 projects in rural towns and villages across

rural Ireland. Successful projects include activities which have clear positive economic impact on their town or village. These projects demonstrate close collaboration between local communities and business interests in their design and delivery and must have the support of the relevant Local Authority.

A further funding round was launched in April 2018 with an allocation of at least €15 million.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Department of Rural and Community Development Government Buildings, Brook Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo F26 E8N6
Telephone Number	(076) 100 6922
Email Address	townandvillage@dracd.gov.ie

2.4 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme



The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme is part of the Government’s Action Plan for Rural Development and provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure or the necessary maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas across Ireland. Over €20 million has been allocated to 370 projects under this scheme since 2016 to improve walking trails, greenways and other recreational amenities. This investment helps to attract additional visitor numbers and opens new employment opportunities for local people. Facilities such as the Great Western Greenway in Mayo and the Boardwalk at Acres Lake (pictured) in Drumshambo are proving increasingly popular with local users and visitors alike.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme Department of Rural and Community Development Government Buildings, Brook Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo F26 E8N6
Telephone Number	(076) 100 6833
Email Address	cnat@dracd.gov.ie

2.5 The Walks Scheme



The Walks Scheme is in operation since 2008 and has been rolled out to cover 39 trails. This is a national scheme involving all landholders on National Waymarked Ways, Looped Walking Routes and Heritage Routes, along with

other trails that have been approved by the National Trails Office. The scheme will only operate where there is agreement on the entire walk and will not be available for part of a walk.

The scheme ensures that National Waymarked Ways and priority walks that traverse public and private lands are maintained and accessible. Participants in the Walks Scheme undertake to complete the enhancement and maintenance of the trails.

12 Rural Recreation Officers (RROs) are employed with Local Development Companies and implement the Walks Scheme on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development. The National Trails Office at the Irish Sports Council, Fáilte Ireland, Coillte, local walking management committees and Local Authorities, have also assisted the Department in the roll out of the scheme.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Department of Rural and Community Development Government Buildings, Brook Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo F26 E8N6
Telephone Number	(076) 100 6833
Email Address	cnat@drccd.gov.ie

2.6 Leave No Trace Ireland

Leave No Trace is a member driven organisation supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The organisation teaches people of all ages how to enjoy the outdoors responsibly, and is the most widely accepted outdoor ethics programme in Ireland. Through relevant and targeted education, research and outreach, Leave No Trace Ireland ensures the long-term health of our natural world. In its simplest form, Leave No Trace Ireland is about making good decisions to protect the world around you - the world we all enjoy. Do your part to pass our nation's heritage of outdoor recreation to future generations by joining Leave No Trace Ireland.



Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Leave No Trace Ireland Altamont Street, Westport, Co. Mayo
Telephone Number	(01) 905 9009
Email Address	info@leavenotraceireland.org
Web	www.leavenotraceireland.org

2.7 The CLÁR Programme



The CLÁR programme (*Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais*) is a targeted investment programme which provides funding for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered the greatest levels of population decline. The aim of CLÁR is to support the sustainable development of identified CLÁR areas by encouraging people to live and

work there. The funding works in conjunction with local funding and on the basis of locally identified priorities.

The type of measures which have been funded since 2016 under CLÁR include safety measures in the vicinity of schools and community facilities, the provision of play areas, the upgrading of community infrastructure, and support for First Responders in rural areas. Over 1,000 projects have been approved for funding under CLÁR since the programme was re-launched in the second half of 2016.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	CLÁR Programme Department of Rural and Community Development Government Buildings, Brook Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo F26 E8N6
Telephone Number	(076) 100 6833
Email Address	clar@drcd.gov.ie

2.8 Local Improvement Scheme

The Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) is a scheme for carrying out improvement works on private/non-public roads. Often these roads lead to multiple residences, parcels of land that support agricultural activity or amenities such as lakes, rivers or beaches. It is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development in conjunction with the County Councils who administer the scheme and carry out the works. Applications are submitted to the County Councils who prioritise projects within their allocation and forward them to the Department for final approval.

These roads are not under the normal maintenance of the Local Authorities but are vital arteries for people living in rural areas which are required to enable rural Ireland to function well.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Rural Schemes Unit Department of Rural and Community Development Government Buildings, Brook Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo F26 E8N6
Telephone Number	(076) 100 6849

2.9 Western Development Commission



The Western Development Commission (WDC) is a statutory body promoting economic and social development in counties Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway and Clare.

The WDCs strategic goals are:

- Contribute to balanced regional development by ensuring that the Western Region maximises its full potential for economic and social development.
- Promote the benefits of living, working and doing business in the Western Region through the www.Lookwest.ie website.
- Support the sustainable economic and social development of the rural economy.
- Manage the €32 million Western Investment Fund (WIF) which provides loans and venture capital to SME's, Micro and Community Enterprises in the Western Region on a commercial basis.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Western Development Commission (WDC) Dillon House, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon
Telephone Number	(094) 986 1441
Email Address	info@wdc.ie
Web	www.wdc.ie

2.10 Tidy Towns

Since 1958 TidyTowns committees have been making Ireland a more attractive place to live, work and do business in. The TidyTowns competition was established as Ireland emerged from an economic depression and focused on improving the aspect of our towns and villages to attract tourists and to encourage economic activity. The voluntary effort of committees, who work together to make their area a better place, helps to make our society stronger and more responsible. While the founding principles of attracting tourists to the winning towns of the competition are still as important as ever, the competition has now evolved to create an awareness of the important role which local communities can play in improving their local

environment in different ways. The competition encourages local communities to fulfil that role by providing a forum through which towns and villages around the country compete for a wide range of awards. This voluntary effort and the consequent pride of living in a place where local efforts have improved surroundings is what drives people to be part of TidyTowns.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Department of Rural and Community Development Government Buildings, Brook Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo F26 E8N6
Telephone Number	(076) 100 6938
Email Address	tidytowns@dracd.gov.ie
Web	www.tidytowns.ie

3 Community

3.1 SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) 2018-2022



SICAP aims to reduce disadvantage and poverty in Ireland. It provides national funding for actions at local level to promote social inclusion and to strengthen communities. SICAP works with individuals

coming from target groups such as those experiencing disadvantage, lone parents, low income workers and households, refugees and asylum seekers, people with disabilities, Travellers, Roma and the unemployed. The Programme also works with local community groups to support them to address issues that affect them. There is no upper age limit on those who wish to access services under the Programme.

SICAP helps achieve key Government priorities by assisting disadvantaged people and communities overcome poverty and disadvantage, and by giving flexibility to Local Community Development Committees to address key issues in their area. The Department of Rural and Community Development funds SICAP, and engages Pobal to assist in overseeing the Programme. The Programme receives co-financing support under the European Social Fund (ESF) Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL 2014-2020).



Further Information and Contact details	
Address	SICAP Unit Department of Rural and Community Development Government Buildings, Brook Street, Ballina, Co Mayo F26 E8N6
Telephone Number	(076) 100 6862 / 100 6878
Email Address	sicap@drctd.gov.ie

3.2 Community Enhancement Programme



After launching the 2018 Community Enhancement Programme in May, Minister Michael Ring visited projects in Ardnacassa, Longford which benefitted from RAPID funding in 2017. Picture Courtesy of Changing Ireland

The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) will provide €4.5 million of grant funding in 2018 towards enhancing the facilities available to communities. The CEP replaces and builds on two existing schemes (Communities Facilities Scheme and RAPID). Combining the schemes makes a more flexible, streamlined and targeted approach to providing funding to those

communities most in need. The new Programme will continue to enhance communities, address disadvantage and improve social cohesion at local level and to provide capital to small scale infrastructure projects of a regenerative nature in disadvantaged areas.

The Programme will provide capital funding to communities across Ireland to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas. Some funding is ring-fenced for smaller projects, from lawnmowers and IT equipment to minor renovations to buildings. The CEP also provides funding towards larger projects in disadvantaged areas. Typical enhancements under the programme could include the renovation of community centres, community amenities, improvements to town parks, common areas and spaces, CCTV equipment and energy efficiency-type projects.

The CEP is now closed to applications for 2018.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	SICU Unit Department of Rural and Community Development Government Buildings, Brook Street, Ballina, Co Mayo F26 E8N6
Telephone Number	(076) 100 6855
Email Address	cep@dracd.gov.ie

3.3 Community Services Programme (CSP)

The CSP supports social enterprises to provide local services and create employment opportunities for disadvantaged people including the unemployed, people with disabilities, Travellers, people recovering from drug misuse and ex-prisoners.

A funding contribution is provided towards the costs of employing a manager and a specified number of full time employees.

There are three main types of projects funded under the programme:

- community halls and facilities available for community use which enable the day-to-day operation of community infrastructure;
- community services for disadvantaged people; and
- community enterprises which tend to have an emphasis on employing people far from labour market.

In general, applicants must be not-for-profit social enterprises or community businesses with sufficient capacity to undertake service delivery and the management of staff. They must also have sufficient financial resources and opportunity to generate revenue to maintain the proposed service, and where necessary, prepare a business plan acceptable to the Programme.

The Department continues to accept expressions of interest under the programme via the following link:

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Libraries Development and Community Policy Department of Rural and Community Development Government Offices, Brook Street, Ballina, Co Mayo F26 E8N6
Telephone Number	(076) 100 6934
Email Address	csp@drccd.gov.ie

3.4 PEACE IV – Programme for Peace and Reconciliation 2014-2020

PEACE IV is a cross-border Programme co-financed through the European Union's European Regional Development Fund. It supports peace and reconciliation through actions that promote social and economic stability in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo).

The PEACE IV Programme is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) on behalf of the Irish and UK Governments. The Department of Rural and Community Development is a designated Accountable Department under the programme for the following themes:

- Shared Spaces and Services,
- Building Positive Relations, and
- Children and Young People.

Applications can be submitted to the SEUPB via www.seupb.com

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Libraries Development and Community Policy Department of Rural and Community Development Government Offices, Brook Street, Ballina, Co Mayo F26 E8N6
Telephone Number	(076) 100 6934
Email Address	peace@drccd.gov.ie

3.5 Seniors Alert Scheme



The objective of the Seniors Alert Scheme (SAS) is to encourage community support for vulnerable older people in our communities. The SAS provides personal monitored alarms to enable older persons of limited means to continue to live securely in their homes with confidence, independence and peace of mind.

Funding is available under the scheme towards the purchase of equipment (i.e. personal alarm and pendant with one year's monitoring) by a registered organisation. The subsequent associated monitoring and service charges must be paid by the participant. The equipment is funded by Pobal on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development and made available through community, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations registered with Pobal under the SAS.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Department of Rural and Community Development Trinity Point, 10-11 Leinster Street South, Dublin 2 D02 EF85
Telephone Number	(076) 106 4900
Email Address	C&VSupports@drcd.gov.ie

3.6 Irish Water Safety



Irish Water Safety is the statutory body established to promote water safety in Ireland. Its role is to educate people in water safety best practices. It develops public awareness campaigns to promote necessary attitudes, rescue skills and behaviour to prevent drownings and water related accidents.

The principal functions of Irish Water Safety are:

- promote public awareness of water safety;
- promote measures, including the advancement of education, related to the prevention of accidents in water;

- provide instruction in water safety, rescue, swimming, resuscitation and recovery drills;
- promote efficiency and standardisation of the lifeguard service;
- establish national standards for lifeguards, lifesaving and water safety; and
- such other services relating to water safety as the Minister may from time to time require, direct or determine.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Department of Rural and Community Development Trinity Point, 10-11 Leinster Street South, Dublin 2 D02 EF85
Telephone Number	(076) 106 4900
Email Address	C&VSupports@drcd.gov.ie
Web	www.iws.ie

3.7 Charities Regulator



The Charities Regulator is Ireland's national statutory regulator for charitable organisations. The Charities Regulator is an independent authority which was established on 16 October 2014 under the *Charities Act 2009* and now comes under the aegis of the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The key functions of the Regulator are to establish and maintain a public register of charitable organisations operating in Ireland and ensure their compliance with the Charities Acts. The Regulator also engages in the provision of services to charities including the authorisation of appointments of new charitable trustees, the framing of schemes of incorporation, authorisation of Cy-Près schemes and disposition of lands held upon charitable trusts.

Under Part IV of the *Charities Act 2009*, the Regulator has the power to conduct statutory investigations into any organisation believed to be non-compliant with the Charities Acts. Anyone with information of wrongdoing should contact the Regulator by e-mailing concerns@charitiesregulator.ie. All concerns raised will be dealt with in confidence.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Department of Rural and Community Development Trinity Point, 10-11 Leinster Street South, Dublin 2 D02 EF85
Telephone Number	(076) 106 4900
Email Address	C&VSupports@drccd.gov.ie

3.8 Burial Grounds

The Department has policy and legislative responsibility in respect of the regulation of Local Authority burial grounds, while the Local Authorities are responsible for the management, regulation and control of burial grounds in their functional areas.

The powers and duties of Local Authorities in relation to burial grounds are derived, in the first instance, from the *Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878* (Part III), as amended by the *Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1948* and, more recently, *the Local Government Act, 1994*. The main rules for burial grounds are set out in the Rules & Regulations for the Regulation of Burial Grounds 1888 and amendments made to these rules in 1919, 1929 and 2013.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Burial Grounds Unit Department of Rural and Community Development Government Buildings, Brook Street, Ballina, Co Mayo F26 E8N6
Telephone Number	(076) 100 6867
Email Address	sicap@dracd.gov.ie

3.9 Dog Control

The Department is responsible for Dog Control policy and legislation, and publishes annual statistics on the Local Authority Dog Warden service, strays and unwanted dogs, dog licences, enforcement action, operation of local authority dog pounds and dog breeding establishments.

Under the Control of Dogs Acts, local authorities have responsibility for operating and managing dog control and licensing services in their administrative areas, including the management of dog pounds or shelters.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Dog Control Unit Department of Rural and Community Development Government Buildings, Brook Street, Ballina, Co Mayo F26 E8N6
Telephone Number	(076) 100 6867 / 100 6936

3.10 Dormant Accounts

The *Unclaimed Life Assurance Policies Act 2003* and the *Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Acts 2005-2012*, provide a framework for the administration of unclaimed accounts in credit institutions (i.e. banks, building societies and An Post), and unclaimed life assurance policies in insurance undertakings. The Dormant Accounts Fund is managed by the National Treasury Management Agency.

The Dormant Accounts legislation guarantees the right of account holders to reclaim funds at any time. In addition, the legislation also provides for disbursements from the Fund for the purposes of programmes or projects to assist:

- the personal and social development of persons who are economically or socially disadvantaged;
- the educational development of persons who are educationally disadvantaged; or
- persons with a disability.

The Department of Rural and Community Development is responsible for coordinating the preparation of three-year Disbursement Schemes and annual Action Plans of programmes and projects to be funded from the Dormant Accounts Funds. Further details are available at <https://drcd.gov.ie/about/rural/dormant-accounts-fund/>.

3.11 Social Enterprise

The social enterprise sector in Ireland covers a wide spectrum of activities which are delivered by a range of organisations, from local community groups to companies operating on a fully commercial basis to achieve a social objective.

The Department of Rural and Community Development is developing a National Policy on Social Enterprise to provide a more co-ordinated approach to the sector in Ireland and to maximise its potential. The policy will identify priority needs for the further development of the sector.

3.12 Community Policy



The Community Policy Unit has general policy responsibility for cross-government coordination of local and community development supports. It provides guidance and support to Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) with training days, workshops and seminars. The Unit also provides funding to Local Authorities for staff resources to support the Authority's increasing responsibilities with regards to community and local development. The Unit's functions also include support to the Local Authorities for the design and implementation of Local Economic and Community Plan, which facilitates greater local community participation in planning, managing, and delivering funding in each Local Authority area.

Additionally, the Community Policy Unit developed and implements the *Framework Policy for Local and Community Development*. This Policy is formed on a cross-government basis, seeking to secure a joined-up, collaborative and participative approach to community development at a local level.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Community Policy Department of Rural & Community Development Government Buildings, Brook Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo F26 E8N6
Telephone Number	(076) 100 6851
Email Address	lcdev@dracd.gov.ie

3.13 Public Participation Networks

The Working Group on Citizen Engagement with Local Government was set up in September 2013. The Group made recommendations on more extensive and diverse input by citizens into the decision-making processes at local government level. It recommended that a Public Participation Network (PPN) be established in each Local Authority area to enable the public to take an active formal role in relevant policy making and oversight committees of the Local Authority. The Report of the Working Group was published in February 2014.

PPNs are now established in all Local Authority areas. Where community representation is provided on appropriate committees of the Local Authority,

such as Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)/LCDCs etc., these must be sourced through the PPN.

Funding of up to €50,000 is provided annually by the Department to each PPN, supplemented by €30,000 from the Local Authority. This provides much needed impetus for Local Authorities to fully embrace the new structures and allow for the employment of a resource worker in each Local Authority area to support the PPN secretariat and provide activities, training etc.

PPN National Advisory Group

The Department established a National PPN Advisory Group to aid in the further development of PPNs. The role of this group is to assess whether or not PPNs are achieving their overall purpose of facilitating engagement with the local authority and whether the structures, systems and processes are supporting the achievement of that purpose.

The Group includes one representative each from the Community and Voluntary, Environmental and Social Inclusion sectors, three PPN Volunteers – one each representing the three different sectors, three PPN resource workers and two Local Authority staff (one at Director of Service level and one directly supporting a PPN). The Group is chaired by a Principal Officer of the Department of Rural and Community Development and the secretariat is also provided by the Department.

PPN User Guide

A comprehensive PPN User Guide has been developed and circulated to all stakeholders. This will be reviewed regularly and updated where necessary to reflect emerging issues.

PPN Database

A Client Relationship Management database was rolled out to all PPNs in 2016 to assist in their activities. This system was funded by the Department. Further training of the system, funded also by the Department continued throughout 2017 and into 2018.

PPN Annual Report

The first national PPN Annual Report (in respect of 2016) was published in late 2017, and the 2017 report was published in September 2018.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Department of Rural and Community Development Trinity Point, 10-11 Leinster Street South, Dublin 2 D02 EF85
Telephone Number	(076) 106 4900
Email Address	ppn@dracd.gov.ie

3.14 Libraries Ireland



The Libraries Development Unit facilitates and supports the delivery of library services across local government. Your local library provides

access to:

- Free service for all 330 libraries
- Access to over 15 million titles countrywide
- Online services including e-books, e-audiobooks, e-newspapers, e-magazines, e-courses and e-languages
- PCs and Internet Access
- Events and activities for all
- Community and cultural hub
- Welcoming and friendly staff

If you would like to join this wonderful free service just visit your local library or access the following link <https://lgma.iii.com/selfreg>.



Further Information and Contact details	
Address	<p>Libraries Development and Community Policy Department of Rural and Community Development Government Offices, Brook Street, Ballina, Co Mayo F26 E8N6</p>
Telephone Number	(076) 100 6934
Email Address	lcdev@drzd.gov.ie

3.15 Volunteering

The Department's Community and Voluntary Supports and Programmes provide a cohesive framework of support for the community and voluntary sector. This supports volunteer centres and volunteer information services nationwide, as well as a number of national organisations such as Volunteer Ireland and Young Social Innovators.

The funding of all these organisations is designed to strengthen and foster volunteerism in Ireland, building a support structure for volunteering locally from the bottom up. This is key to the Department's citizen engagement objectives, and supports the spirit of participation in communities. The Department allocated €3.5m across these organisations in 2017 and 2018.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Department of Rural and Community Development Trinity Point, 10-11 Leinster Street South, Dublin 2 D02 EF85
Telephone Number	(076) 106 4900
Email Address	volunteer@drccd.gov.ie

3.16 Scheme to Support National Organisations

The Department has lead responsibility for developing the State's relationship with the community and voluntary sector, and for setting the policy framework. The Scheme to Support National Organisations (SSNO) in the Community and Voluntary Sector is a key element of the State's support for the role of the sector in contributing to the development of strong and vibrant civil society and in improving outcomes for those most disadvantaged.

The SSNO provides multi-annual funding towards core costs of national organisations in the sector, with a focus on organisations that provide supports to those who are disadvantaged. The current scheme began in 2016 and is due to run until 30 June 2019.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Department of Rural and Community Development Trinity Point, 10-11 Leinster Street South, Dublin 2 D02 EF85
Telephone Number	(076) 106 4900
Email Address	C&VSupports@dracd.gov.ie

3.17

POBAL



Pobal is an agency of the Department of Rural and Community Development and works on behalf of Government to manage and implement a number of publicly-funded programmes designed to improve outcomes for local communities, particularly those encountering social and economic disadvantage.

Further Information and Contact details	
Address	Pobal Holbrook House, Holles Street, Dublin 2 D02 EY84
Telephone Number	(01) 511 7000
Email Address	enquiries@pobal.ie

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An Roinn Forbartha
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Department of Rural and
Community Development

www.drccd.gov.ie

