



Leitrim LCDC

The Leitrim Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) in Summary

1. What This Is

Leitrim's first Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is about joining up our approaches to Economic and Community development at our local County level. It's based on a strong, evidence-based assessment of Leitrim's economic and community needs and aspirations and sets out a range of tangible Actions that will address those needs and realize those aspirations.

Many people across Leitrim have made major contributions to the LECP. Several hundred have been involved in the consultation and planning processes whilst others in the County Council and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) have worked tirelessly to make sure the Plan is worthy of our County and the people and communities in it.

2. The Vision for Leitrim

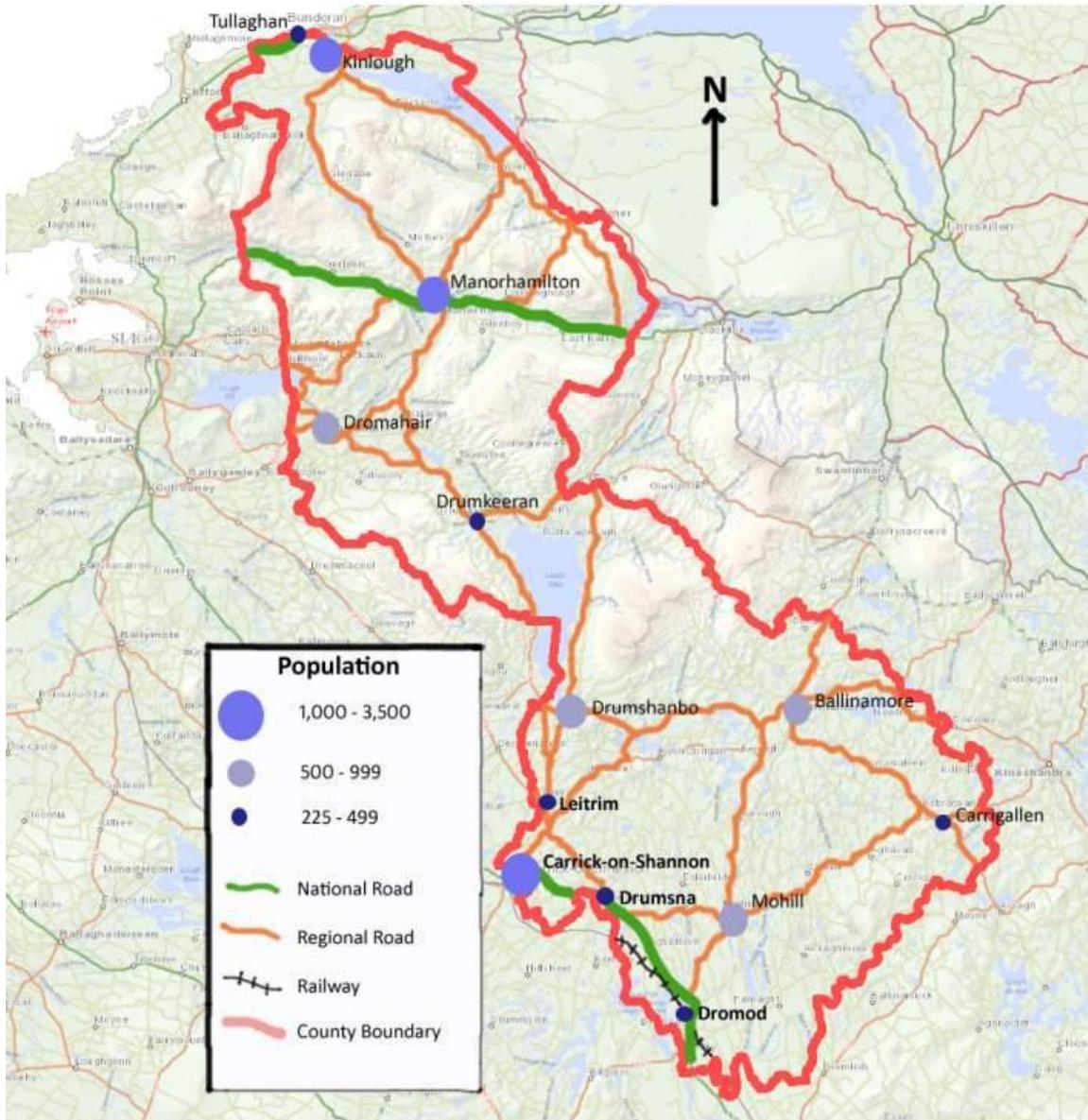
Leitrim, A Vibrant County with Big Ambition ... where our communities are safe and healthy, our resources and heritage are sustained and our economy is thriving

3. Leitrim: The Place, The People and Its Story

Leitrim is Ireland's seventh smallest County by area, enjoying both a strategic geographic location within Ireland and a rich and varied natural and man-made heritage bringing together history, culture, spectacular landscapes, waterways, forests and uplands. Crucially, Leitrim is now a growing County following a decline set in place by the Great Famine: its population fell from 155,297 in 1841 to 25,799

in 2002 but has since risen dramatically to 31,798 in 2011. Out-migration persists as an issue for Leitrim however. The County remains largely rural with low population densities and more young and more old people than the national averages.

Leitrim: The 'Lie of the Land'



Leitrim has a strong private sector economy which is dominated by micro-businesses but which also includes a number of major employers. Public sector jobs are also important and the County experiences a significant daily inward-and-outward commuting to work. Incomes however tend to be below the national average whilst educational attainment levels are slightly higher.

A whole range of existing plans and strategies at national, regional and local level affect Leitrim and its people and these have been factored into the LECP.

Leitrim: A Summary SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats)

Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing, youthful and diverse population • Strong entrepreneurial spirit • Vibrant small businesses • Strategic location in Ireland • Network of attractive towns and villages • Strong community infrastructure • Low levels of crime • Strong attachment-to-place • Outstanding environments • National road and rail network links • Strong presence of public jobs • Strong creative/cultural sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small 'critical mass' of population • Ongoing emigration • Poorer internal roads • Low density populations • Many people living alone • Town and village centres struggling • Poor quality land • Low manufacturing/industry base • Below average economic output • High dependency ratios • No Third Level education facility • Unemployment/underemployment • Housing vacancy rate • Poor Broadband/ mobile coverage
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of Leitrim • Tourism especially Eco-tourism • Development of natural resources • Existing community infrastructure • Renewable energy possibilities • Creative industries base • Rich cultural heritage • More joined-up working • New uses for empty buildings • Retired people with disposable incomes • Home-working • E-learning/Third Level outreach • Leitrim Diaspora • Ireland West Airport • EU and other funding possibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing public service retraction • Reductions in public/EU spending • Declining rural transport provision • Leitrim/its people a low priority for central government • Growing bureaucracy/red-tape • Global economic factors • Loss of major employer(s) • Reliance on 'seasonal/low-wage' tourism • Growing scarcity/cost of fossil fuels • Growing cost of Third level education • Third Level education elsewhere draining Leitrim of young people

4. The Leitrim LECP Logical Model

The LECP's Goals, Objectives, Targets and Results/Actions are set out according to this logical model:



LECP Goals

The LECP is built around a number of Goals looking at Strategic and Economic and Community development in the County.

Strategic Goal

- Leitrim, a County that's recognised, admired and sustainable

Economic Goals

- A County maximizing opportunities to promote economic development and build on its indigenous spirit of entrepreneurship
- A County that's an attractive, innovative location for growth in and investment from different sectors
- A County where the travel, transport, utilities, communications and ICT infrastructure meet current and future needs
- A County of vibrant town and village centers which are attractive to visit and shop in
- An exemplar County for addressing and responding to climate change
- A vibrant rural economy driven by value-added agriculture and food
- A County building on the positivity of existing companies to sell itself as a prime business location

- A County with a vibrant creative sector driven by practitioners, activities and opportunities of the highest calibre
- A County renowned as an authentic, friendly tourist destination.
- A County with a vibrant women-in-business sector which encourages more women to consider business as a career option

Community Goals

- A sustainable, clean and attractive County which values and harnesses its heritage, environment and people
- A County of well-trained, well-educated and well-skilled people who are ready and fit for work and social involvement
- A County with a strong, mixed and sustainable economy based on its strengths, entrepreneurial spirit and well-trained, well-educated and well-skilled people who are ready and fit for work and social involvement
- A County that's welcoming and comfortable as a place to live in, to work in and to visit
- Leitrim, a County with a strong, mixed and sustainable economy based on its strengths, entrepreneurial spirit and well-trained, well-educated and well-skilled people who are ready and fit for work and social involvement

5. The LECP Objectives

The Plan sets out to deliver a number of Objectives have been identified, again under the Strategic, Economic and Social headings:

Strategic Objectives (SOs)

SO 1:

Have a clearly-understood, standout and positive identity for County Leitrim

SO 2:

Achieve an ongoing, balanced population growth across the County

SO 3:

Avail of EU, national and regional development advice and supports

Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDOs)

SEDO 1:

Leitrim will be a visionary leader in a region which is innovative and competitive, with a high quality environment, first class infrastructure and a quality of life that is among the highest in the world

SEDO 2:

Facilitate and encourage existing and new businesses to sustain and grow their business so that new sustainable jobs are created across a variety of sectors within the County and region, thereby increasing the availability of quality and diverse employment for residents and inbound commuters

SEDO 3:

Support and facilitate the development and maintenance of an infrastructure across Leitrim which will meet current and projected economic, social, community and sustainability needs

SEDO 4:

Strengthen the fabric of our towns and villages by developing strong 'place-related' economic activities and support for community development initiatives, all building on an area's particular strengths

SEDO 5:

Enhance the potential for economic development in individual sectors based on the Leitrim's physical, social, environmental and cultural character and quality

SEDO 5A:

Enhance the potential for economic development in the Energy and Green Economy sector so that Leitrim will be an exemplar county for addressing Climate Change

SEDO 5B:

Enhance the potential for economic development in the Agriculture and Food sector by developing a vibrant rural economy driven by value-added agriculture and small food business

SEDO 5C:

Enhance the potential for economic development in the Services, Manufacturing and ICT Sectors by building on the positivity of existing companies to sell Leitrim as a prime business location

SEDO 5D:

Enhance the potential for economic development in the Creative, Arts and Culture Sector by raising awareness of the culturally rich and artistically vibrant offering and services in Leitrim

SEDO 5E:

Enhance the potential for economic development in the Tourism Sector by ensuring a united cohesive approach by the tourism trade and agencies in the county

SEDO 6:

Enhance the role played by Leitrim Business Women in the economic development of the County

Sustainable Community Objectives (SCOs)

SCO1:

Maintain Leitrim as a safe and attractive place to live in, work in and to visit

SCO2:

Support initiatives to tackle climate change

SCO3:

Sustain and develop the County's robust 'community activity-related' infrastructure, experience, knowledge and know-how, including improving transport and mobility options for people and communities

SCO4:

Create a culture of lifelong learning and continue to improve the County's educational performance levels

SCO 5:

Improve the job prospects of target groups by upskilling people to meet the needs of existing and growth sectors and by sustaining and developing social enterprises in these roles

SCO6:

Improve the opportunities for and capacity of target groups and communities to take part in economic and civic society, including progressing peace-building in Leitrim

6. The 'Leitrim Dash-Board': Strategic Indicators and Targets

The indicators and targets below have been extracted from the Plan to form a high level 'dash-board' which will show at-a-glance how Leitrim as a County is performing:

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Data Source
Population	County population of 31,798 in 2011	A County population of over 35,000 by 2022	CSO
	38% of population aged 15-44 in 2011	42% aged 15-44 by 2021 (national average was 44% in 2011)	CSO
Health and well-being	87% believed their health to be Good or Very Good in 2011	National average (which was 88% in 2011) reached or bettered by 2021	CSO
Community Activity		30 groups engaged in SICAP activity	SICAP
	At least 10 community festivals in place in 2015	10 community festivals continuing for at least three years	LCC
	1,000 participants in	1,100 participants in LSP	LSP

	LSP Women in Sport programmes 2010-14	Women in Sport programmes 2014-17	
	6 Post-Primary Schools and 684 participants in the Girls Active Programme	6 Schools pa and 750 participants over 4 years	LSP
Arts, Culture and Creativity	4.4% of working population employed in the Creative Sector (619 FTE)	1,000 FTE employed in the Creative Sector	Creative Frame
	73 arts-related professional development workshops/events	150 professional development workshops/events	LCC
	No recurring international arts-related events	1 recurring event of international significance	Arts Office
	2 international artists supported to work in Leitrim	10 international artists supported to work in Leitrim	LCC
	16 supported Creative Sector workspaces in Leitrim	40 supported Creative Sector workspaces in Leitrim	LCC
Community safety	Recorded violent crime rate of 308 per 100,000 population in 2012	Held at 75% or below of the national rate (which was 404 per 100,000 in 2012)	Garda
	Recorded burglary rate of 408 per 100,000 population in 2012-13	Held at 65% or below of the national rate (which was 613 per 100,000 in 2012-13)	Garda
	No of Public Order Offences in the County town between 11.00pm and 5.00am: 2011=110, 2012=78, 2013=86, 2014=84	Ongoing reduction in numbers	Garda
	Zero road traffic deaths in 2012; 2 in 2013	Secure and maintain zero road traffic deaths	Garda
	N/A	'Purple Flag' status maintained for Carrick-on-Shannon	LCC
Education and training	18% of population in 2011 had not progressed beyond Primary Education level	National average (which was 15% in 2011) reached or exceeded by 2021	CSO
	20% of the Over 15	National average (which	CSO

	population in 2011 whose education had ceased had attained a Third Level qualification	was 25% in 2011) reached or exceeded by 2021	
Working	Labour Force Participation rate of 60% in 2011	National rate (which was 62% in 2011) equalled or bettered by 2021	CSO
	2,989 people on the Live Register in May 2014	Numbers reduced	CSO
	8,042 jobs in the County in 2011	1,500 new jobs created by 2021	CSO
	N/A	20 new businesses headed by women in place by 2021	LEO
Tourism	144,000 visitors pa currently	Visitor numbers doubled to 296,000 pa by 2021	LTGA
Business Growth	N/A	10 new food businesses and five new service/manufacturing businesses employing >20 people in place by 2021	LEO
Towns and Villages	N/A	20 shops availing of Town Centre Incentive Schemes by 2020	LCC
Climate Change	1,363 homes improved via Warmer Homes scheme between 2006 and 2014	Energy efficiency of 150 homes improved pa	LDC
	Three public buildings heated from renewable sources	Three additional public buildings heated from renewable sources by 2021	LCC
Inclusion	162 community groups/organisations registered with Leitrim Public Participation Network (PPN) in 2015	40% increase in the number of groups registered with the PPN	PPN

7. Proofing the LECP

Finally, the Plan has been proofed against the Leitrim County Development Plan as well as against Equality, Inclusion and Anti-Poverty, Sustainability and Rural criteria and its strategic fit with a series of other plans and strategies checked.