



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Mid-Term Progress Report

## Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024



An initiative of the Department of  
Enterprise, Trade and Employment

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## Minister's Foreword

I am pleased to provide this update on the implementation of the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan, an initiative launched in 2022 to catalyse economic growth, foster innovation, and elevate the overall prosperity of the Mid-East region of Ireland.

The Mid-East, encompassing the counties of Kildare, Meath, and Wicklow, is a tapestry of historical significance, diverse landscapes, and dynamic communities. Since the inception of the Plan, the focus has been on unlocking the potential of the region by building on the Mid-East's sectoral strengths.

Strategic sectors, including equine, creative, agri-food, and low carbon, have been at the heart of the Plan. Through investment, innovative programmes, and collaborative engagements with key stakeholders, the Plan has endeavoured to strengthen the competitiveness of these sectors, driving innovation and fostering sustainable employment opportunities throughout the Mid-East.

Innovation has been woven into the approach; initiatives such as innovation hubs, research partnerships, and skills development programmes seek to propel the region to the forefront of high-value industries, thus contributing not only to local prosperity but also supporting Ireland's global competitiveness.

Collaboration is at the core of the Regional Enterprise Plans. The partnership between government agencies, local authorities, businesses, educational institutions, and others has been a crucial in overcoming challenges and seizing opportunities. The Mid-East has embraced a collective approach, pooling knowledge, wisdom and resources to address regional challenges, ensuring that economic progress is sustainable.

To assist with the implementation of Regional Enterprise Plans, my department has secured up to €145 million in funding for the Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme, co-funded under the European Regional Development Fund, which will support projects aligned to the Regional Enterprise Plans. The first call of €35 million was announced in October 2023 with subsequent calls expected in the coming years.

This funding complements the aims and objectives of the Regional Enterprise Plans and with continued collaboration, the Mid-East is well positioned to compete for current and future funding calls to drive enterprise development in the region.

As we reflect on the achievements outlined in this report, it is evident that the Mid-East is charting its own course toward sustained growth and prosperity. Challenges persist, but the progress made so far is a testament to the resilience, innovation, and collaboration of stakeholders involved.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Chair Owen Brennan, the regional Steering Committee, and all the regional stakeholders who have played a pivotal role in progressing implementation of the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan. Their commitment, expertise, and

collaborative spirit have been crucial in realising the successes highlighted in this Progress Report.

**Neale Richmond TD**

**Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail**

## Chair's Introduction

I am very pleased to present this progress report for the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024. This Report sets out the progress made by the Steering Committee in meeting the five strategic objectives set out in the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan. I am delighted to say that we are making great headway in meeting our objectives. The ambition of the Plan includes supporting agri-food, the screen content creation sector, the equine sector and the transition to a low carbon economy.

Successful projects which benefitted from the Department's Regional Enterprise Development Fund, which are linked to the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan, are coming to fruition. Minister Simon Coveney officially opened the Clermont Enterprise Screen Hub on 26 October 2023. The Clermont hub is currently at full capacity with television production companies and supports this Plan's objective of developing the region as a hub for the screen content creation sector. The opening of the Boyne Valley Food Hub by Minister Neale Richmond supports the strategic objective to position the Mid-East as the primary location for the development of the agri-food hubs and completes action 1.1. of the Plan.

There have been many other achievements since the Plan was launched in early 2022. Funding of €5.2 million from the Department of Rural and Community Development to the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub will convert the Model School in Athy into a centre for educational and entrepreneurial excellence for the food sector.

Progressing all actions within this Plan has been challenging without the support of a full-time Programme Manager for the region. A particular thanks to Jacqui McNabb, Kildare Head of Enterprise and Economic Development, Vibeke Delahunt, Head of the Wicklow LEO, and Joe English, Head of LEO in Meath for their continued commitment and dedication to enterprise development across the Mid-East region.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the steering committee and wider network of regional stakeholders who are working to strengthen the enterprise ecosystem in the Mid-East and who are contributing to delivering on this Plan. I am confident that we will continue to build on the achievements to date.

**Owen Brennan**

**Chair of the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee**



## Mid-East Highlights

- The Boyne Valley Food Hub was officially opened in May 2023 and a Development Manager for the Boyne Valley Culinary Centre of Excellence was recruited in September 2023. The culinary centre concept has grown from the success of the Boyne Valley Food Hub and Boyne Valley Flavours initiatives and will provide a centre of excellence in the region.
- Meath County Council are participating in a pan European programme to determine circular economy best practices for small businesses. Meath County Council have partners in rural communities in Germany, Croatia, Italy, Spain and Greece as part of this programme.
- Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Simon Coveney TD, officially opened Clermont Screen Hub on 26 October 2023 which provides office solutions and business supports to individuals and businesses in the Content and CreaTech industries.
- The National Talent Academy: Film and TV Crew Academy East, one of five academies across the country funded by Screen Ireland, is now in its second year of providing crew upskilling and training for the screen sector in the Mid-East.
- The National Equine Innovation Centre was established in Kildare with programmes and training courses being developed to support the equine sector.
- A Skills Task Force for County Wicklow has been set up and a skills strategy is being developed.
- Funding of €5.2 million was awarded under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund for the development of the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub.
- The Offshore Renewable Energy Business Network has been established to provide meeting opportunities for businesses in this sector and to explore opportunities for the region due to the number of large offshore wind developments in the pipeline of the Mid-East coast.

## Smart Specialisation

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment published Ireland's *National Smart Specialisation Strategy for Innovation 2022-2027 (S3)* in July 2022, which embraces a regional approach to addressing Ireland's Research, Development and Innovation (RD&I) challenges. It provides a bridge between regional and national innovation strategy building and decision making, bringing coherence to RD&I planning for the benefit of enterprise, and advancing the RD&I agenda regionally and nationally.

Smart Specialisation is a key component of the economic element of each of the three Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies for delivering balanced regional development in Ireland aligned with the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. S3 is also fundamental to developing smarter more competitive regions, one of the key strategic outcomes under Ireland's European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Programmes 2021-2027.

The Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme has a very particular focus on supporting the Regional Enterprise Plans. It aims to accelerate economic growth in all regions by working with regional stakeholders to deliver on their potential regional enterprise strengths and opportunities, and by strengthening the regional enterprise innovation system. The scheme opened for applications on 12 October 2023.

Each of the Regional Assemblies sit on the National S3 Implementation Group which has overall responsibility for the delivery of S3 national and regional strategic priorities. In ensuring delivery of regional priorities, the Regional Assemblies also sit on the Steering Committees for the REPs. Working with the REPs is an important vehicle in translating S3 into regional and local impact.

### Smart Specialisation in the Mid-East Region

At NUTS 2 level the Mid-East region is part of Ireland's Eastern and Midlands region.

The Eastern and Midlands region has well established and growing activity in a number of sectors such as ICT and advanced manufacturing, agrifood including food technology and innovation and an established screen creation sector.

In particular, the creative industries, food and agri tech, the marine and offshore renewable energy sectors are amongst the main sectors with high employment and innovation capability identified in the S3 for the Mid-East region.

Through alignment with the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan, these key sectors of strength are being progressed to across the following objectives:

- Strategic Objective 1, the development of food and agrifood
- Strategic Objective 2, the creative and content creation sector
- Strategic Objective 3, the expansion of the equine sector
- Strategic Objective 4, transitioning to a low carbon economy.

This progress report documents implementation to end of Q3 2023 and has been prepared and signed off by the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee.

### Action Status Key

**Action complete:** The Steering Committee has deemed that these actions have been fully completed.

**Action on target:** The Steering Committee has deemed that these actions are on target for completion by the deadline.

**Action not on target:** The Steering Committee notes that delivery of these actions has been delayed but is still being progressed.

**Action discontinued:** The Steering Committee has agreed that these actions are no longer being pursued.

**New /Amended action:** The Steering Committee has agreed to create a new action or revise an existing action.



## Strategic Objective 1: Position the Mid-East as the primary location for the development of agri food hubs

### Action 1.1: The completion of the Boyne Valley Food Hub (Phase 1) and the development of the Digital Innovation Smart Agri Hub (Phase 2)

**Action Leader:** Meath County Council, Meath Enterprise, and Boyne Valley Food Innovation District

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q4 2024

**Status:** Action on target

#### Action Update:

Phase 1 - The Boyne Valley Food Hub is now complete and was officially launched by Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail Neale Richmond on 19 May 2023. The Hub represents approximately €2.4 million in investment by Enterprise Ireland and Meath County Council. In August 2022, the Irish Digital Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing (IDEAM) Cluster delivered the Digi Manufacturing 2.0 project in collaboration with Manufacturing NI and Intertrade Ireland to establish collaborations between members to drive the digital and green transitions. To date IDEAM has supported over 40 industry collaborative projects with a combined value of over €8 million.

- Nine food grade units available for start-up and scaling food businesses.
- A food specific co-working and knowledge lab to create higher levels of connectivity, collaboration and innovation in the food and drink sector.
- A food innovation and research lab.
- An onsite food technologist.
- An onsite food sector business development manager.
- Food innovation programmes.
- Active promotion to potential users is currently underway.

Phase 2 – The development of the new Digital Innovation Smart Agri Hub is in progress.

- Planning permission was secured with Meath County Council in Q1 2022, though this is currently under appeal with An Bord Pleanála.
- An Enterprise Ireland-funded feasibility study is almost complete and is expected to be published by Meath Enterprise in Q1 2024.

- An application under the forthcoming ERDF regional enterprise scheme will be prepared and submitted in Q1 2024.

To date throughout 2023, agri-food hub developments in the Mid-East have been actively promoted to potential users.

### **Action 1.2: The development of the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub**

**Action Leader:** Kildare County Council and Kildare Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q4 2023

**Status:** Action on target

**Action Update:**

- The Athy Food Hub has been awarded a total of €5.2 million from the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).
- The project will go to tender for the refurbishment and construction of the old Model School in Athy into a food, drinks and agri tech innovation hub, in Q4 2023 with the timeframe for construction expected to be 18 months from award in Q1 2024.

### **Action 1.3: The development of food incubation development hub in County Wicklow**

**Action Leader:** Wicklow County Council

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q4 2024

**Status:** Action not on target

**Action Update:**

The development of this hub has been delayed due to difficulties recruiting a project manager within the funding timeframe. A project manager is critical to driving this project forward. Notwithstanding this, activity has continued to the extent possible, including:

- The 'Wicklow Naturally' Food and Drinks Producers Network continues to be promoted and developed.
- Work is underway to appoint an architect team to produce a detailed design for the Food Incubation Centre.
- Once the masterplan for the Wicklow County Campus is published in Q4 2023 with suitable sites identified, a detailed design of the Centre can progress. Critical foul sewage

infrastructure development on the campus is required prior to the development of such a food centre.

### **Action 1.4: The creation of the Boyne Valley Culinary Centre of Excellence**

**Action Leader:** Meath County Council and Boyne Valley Flavours

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q4 2024

**Status:** Action on target

**Action Update:**

- The Development Manager for the Boyne Valley Culinary Centre of Excellence (Centre of Food Culture) was recruited in September 2023 and will commence work in October 2023.
- The Boyne Valley Culinary Centre of Excellence as set up as a guaranteed company in 2022 with annual returns completed. The next step will be to apply for charitable registration.
- Members of the Boyne Valley Flavours committee have undertaken a familiarisation trip to the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Pollenzo, Italy, to gather learnings that may apply to the new Culinary Centre of Excellence.
- Meath and Louth County Councils have agreed to jointly fund the Development Manager position for 2024.

## **Strategic Objective 2: Develop the Mid-East as a hub for the screen content creation sector**

### **Action 2.1: Develop and operate a Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew**

**Action Leader:** Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q4 2024

**\*Original timeframe for delivery extended**

**Status:** Action on target

#### **Action Update:**

- This action experienced some delays resulting from the COVID-19 lockdown such as procurement delays, in addition to the construction delays due to several personnel changes by the construction company. Several unforeseen additional works during construction and supply delays also affected the timeline of construction.
- A hub manager was appointed and is in place since January 2023 and a soft opening of the Hub took place in July 2023.
- Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Simon Coveney TD, officially opened Clermont Screen Hub on 26 October 2023.
- Four tenants have moved into the Hub and it is expected to reach full capacity by the end of 2023.
- Work is continuing to develop activities in the Hub including an industry showcase event, establishment of a Screen Network and sector-specific business supports.

### **Action 2.2: Establish a Crew Development Hub to develop and nurture new and diverse talent from across the region**

**Action Leader:** Wicklow County Council, Wicklow LEO, Wexford LEO, Wicklow Film Office, Screen Wexford

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q4 2024

**Status:** Action on target

#### **Action Update:**

- This project has changed name since the inception of this Plan and is now called The National Talent Academy: Film & TV Crew Academy East.

- Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG, the non-for-profit company set up to run and manage Clermont Screen Hub, has been approved funding by Screen Ireland to offer screen skills training courses and work placements under the Film & TV Crew Academy East Initiative.
- A Film and TV Crew Academy Manager has been in place since May 2022.
- The Academy provides crew training and upskilling for the East region, encompassing 16 counties. 20 short training courses on diverse topics including, passport to production, set etiquette, first aid and hair design, have taken place and were well received by the participants composed of both new entrants and existing crew:
  - Over 405 people participated in training in the first half of 2023.
  - A further 15 participants completed work placements on set.
- A dedicated [Crew Academy](#) website is now live.

### **Action 2.3: Implement the Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy to support the growth of the industry across the region**

**Action Leader:** Wicklow LEO, Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Screen Office

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q4 2024

**Status:** Action on target

#### **Action Update:**

The Wicklow Screen Office, part of Wicklow County Council, offers a free service assisting film makers with acquiring permits to film in public places in County Wicklow. The Wicklow Screen Office is tasked with realising the recommendations in the Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy in addition to being a one stop shop for Irish and international film makers.

The Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy is being implemented with several key actions completed, including:

- Wicklow Film Commission has been rebranded to Screen Wicklow with the Screen Wicklow section on Wicklow.ie updated accordingly.
- Integration of Screen Ireland's location database for County Wicklow has been completed.
- 37 separate productions of varying sizes were filmed in County Wicklow to date in 2023 (excluding Bray MD).
- A film induced tourism product is in development.
- Landing offices for international productions at the Screen Hub are being promoted.

- In partnership with the County Wicklow Arts Office, a film bursary to support and prime local film making talent is in development. The bursary will assist film makers in using short films as a teaser for new and bigger projects and funding.



## **Strategic Objective 3. Enable the development and expansion of equine businesses across the Mid-East**

### **Action 3.1: Establish the first National Equine Innovation Centre in Ireland**

**Action Leader:** Kildare County Council

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q1 2022

**Status:** Action Complete

**Action Update:**

- The National Equine Innovation Centre (NEIC) was officially opened at the Irish National Stud in Kildare in Q1 2022. The NEIC is a first of its kind for the equine sector in Ireland; it facilitates and promotes enterprise, innovation, applied research, commercialisation and learning.
- The centre is at 90% capacity in terms of available workspace with five equine tech companies currently in place.

### **Action 3.2: The development of programmes and training to support the equine sector**

**Action Leader:** Kildare Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q4 2024

**Status:** Action on target

**Action Update:**

- In collaboration with the Irish National Stud, Kildare County Council LEO has provided a Management Development Programme for equine businesses across the county.
- Liveries, riding schools and instructors, trainers, freelance grooms, equine nutritionists and equine-tech entrepreneurs are taking part in this course.
- The programme will be further rolled out across the region and more programmes and training will continue to be developed during the course of the plan.

### **Action 3.3: Conduct a feasibility study to examine the expansion of the National Equine Innovation Centre**

**Action Leader:** Kildare County Council

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q4 2022

**Status:** Action complete

**Action Update:**

- Following receipt of Enterprise Ireland Feasibility funding, a study was carried out to assess the future viability of an expansion of the NEIC.
- The report was completed in Q3 2023 and identified two options, an extension to the first floor of the existing building or alternatively, a green field site. However primary research into the extent of demand would indicate that neither are commercially viable in the current environment.

## **Strategic Objective 4: Ensure that the Mid-East Region accelerates the transition to a low carbon economy**

### **Action 4.1: Conduct a feasibility study for the development of a regional green technology enterprise hub**

#### **Amended Action 4.1: Conduct feasibility studies into the viability of industrial Green Zones.**

**Action Leader:** Kildare County Council, Kildare Local Enterprise Office (LEO), Meath LEO and Wicklow LEO

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q4 2024

**\*Original timeframe for delivery extended**

**Status:** Action on target

#### **Action Update:**

This action has been amended due to the need to pivot the focus of research. The original land bank is no longer available.

To support development of a regional green technology enterprise hub, and linked to work under the EU Just Transition Fund, Kildare County Council is carrying out feasibility studies on two potential sites for a green park and hub:

- 30 acres in Athy
- 30 acres in Kilcock

### **Action 4.2: The development of a green investment and enterprise zone in Allenwood, County Kildare**

**Action Leader:** Allenwood Community Development Association

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q4 2022

**Status:** Action discontinued

#### **Action Update:**

Following receipt of funding under the initial round of the EU Just Transition Fund, a project team was appointed to assess the suitability and viability of the enterprise zone.

- This assessment determined that the project was not viable.
- The project team are currently in discussions with the Just Transition Team on next steps for the project.

### **Action 4.3: The establishment of marine enterprise facilities in the Mid-East**

**Action Leader:** Wicklow County Council and Wicklow LEO

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q4 2024

**Status:** Action not on target

**Action Update:**

- Funding applications have been prepared for Wicklow Harbour zone development under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF).
- A suitable site has been identified, negotiations are ongoing and funding options are being explored.

### **Action 4.4: The establishment of marine training facilities in the Mid-East.**

**Action Leader:** Wicklow County Council, Wicklow LEO

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q4 2024

**Status:** Action not on target

**Action Update:**

Due to the lack of availability of resources, this action has not progressed as initially planned however considerable work has been done to achieve the action outcomes.

Wicklow County Council has identified the renewable energy sector as a key area of economic growth in County Wicklow. A supply of skilled labour is likely required to adequately meet the future needs of employers in this sector. To address this:

- Wicklow County Council has set up a Skills Task Force which brings together education and training providers and industry to ensure relevant training is available.
- A consultant has been appointed to undertake a detailed analysis of the skills and talent requirements across the county over the medium-term and produce a skills strategy for County Wicklow due in Q4 2023.
- Discussions are ongoing with Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) to develop a marine training facility at Wicklow County Campus. KWETB is working to design the facility and seek funding.
- Wicklow County Council and Wicklow LEO have facilitated the development of a business network for the offshore renewable energy sector, including representatives from the education sector from the South-East Technological University (SETU) and the local Chamber of Commerce.

- The network aims to address three key issues: ports infrastructure investment, education and skills development, and supply chain development.

### **Action 4.5: The creation of a circular economy cluster for the Mid-East Region**

**Action Leader:** Kildare LEO, Wicklow LEO and Meath LEO

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q4 2024

**Status:** Action on target

**Action Update:**

- Analyses are underway to understand the circular economy and the implications for small business in particular.
- Meath County Council is currently participating in a pan-European programme to collect best practice business developments in the circular economy. Meath County Council have partner rural communities in Germany, Croatia, Italy, Spain and Greece as part of this programme. This programme aims to promote the transfer of innovative circular economy knowledge and the development of new circular economy business models to support entrepreneurs in rural Europe.
- Awareness raising materials (print, video and animations) are being developed to promote circular economy investment in local action plans.
- Training programmes for roll-out of circular economy innovations are also under development.
- Further work is required to build on the understanding of the sector gained so far and to apply it to development of a cluster.

## **Strategic Objective 5: Support the continued development of a positive enterprise ecosystem in the Mid-East**

### **Action 5.1: Deliver upon multi stakeholder initiatives that will support start-ups, SMEs and microbusiness across the region**

**Action Leader:** Kildare LEO, Meath LEO and Wicklow LEO

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q4 2024

**Status:** Action on target

#### **Action Update:**

Projects have been delivered to provide innovation and collaboration supports to wide range of businesses and related stakeholders.

- The LEOs have formed close links with educational providers in the region, including Maynooth University, Dundalk Institute of Technology, Louth and Meath Education and Training Board, Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB), SETU and Skillnet Ireland, to support economic development in the region.
- The LEOs and partners have rolled out lean, green and digitalisation programmes to micro businesses across the region. These programmes are accessible to all sectors.
- Growth and export programmes for microbusinesses in the region have been developed e.g. the Innovate-Accelerate cross-border programme to tackle Brexit-related issues.
- The three LEO's have worked in collaboration with Trinity College to develop and deploy an Innovation Diploma. During the 2022/2023 academic year, 12 companies participated from across the region.

### **Action 5.2: Commission a regional strategy that will adopt an evidence-based approach to co-working hub and innovation space development and investment for the Mid-East.**

**Action Leader:** Kildare County Council, Wicklow County Council and Meath County Council

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q4 2022

**Status:** Action discontinued

#### **Action Update:**

It has been decided that this action will be discontinued as its objective has been overtaken by the development of the Government's forthcoming National Hub Strategy.



### **New Action 5.3: Progress the acquisition of tech innovation enterprise space in Greystones from Cairn**

**Action Leader:** Wicklow County Council

**Timeframe for delivery:** Q4 2024

**Status:** Action on target

**Action Update:**

Wicklow County Council Economic Development Unit are working to progress the provision of tech innovation enterprise space in Greystones from Cairn. Activities include:

- The acquisition of an enterprise building of 1,356 square metres over two floors with ancillary car park spaces and bike park spaces.
- The next stage is the furniture and equipment fit out.
- Wicklow County Council has assumed ownership of the building and has issued tenders for management and operational solutions.

## Action Status Table by Strategic Objectives

\*Updated timeframe agreed by Steering Committee

<b>Strategic Objective 1:</b> Position the Mid-East as the primary location for the development of the agri food hubs.	<b>Status</b>	<b>For completion by</b>
<b>Action 1.1:</b> The completion of the Boyne Valley Food Hub (Phase 1) and the development of the Digital Innovation Smart Agri Hub (Phase 2).	Action on target	Q4 2024
<b>Action 1.2:</b> The development of the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub.	Action on target	Q4 2023
<b>Action 1.3:</b> The development of food incubation development hub in County Wicklow.	Action not on target	Q4 2024
<b>Action 1.4:</b> The creation of the Boyne Valley Culinary Centre of Excellence.	Action on target	Q4 2024

<b>Strategic Objective 2:</b> Develop the Mid-East as a hub for the screen content creation sector.	<b>Status</b>	<b>For completion by</b>
<b>Action 2.1:</b> Develop and operate a Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew.	Action on target	Q4 2024*
<b>Action 2.2:</b> Collaborate with strategic stakeholders to establish a Crew Development Hub to develop and nurture new and diverse talent from across the region.	Action on target	Q4 2024
<b>Action 2.3:</b> Implement the Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy to support the growth of the industry across the region.	Action on target	Q4 2024

<b>Strategic Objective 3:</b> Enable the development and expansion of equine businesses across the Mid-East.	<b>Status</b>	<b>For completion by</b>
<b>Action 3.1:</b> Establish the first National Equine Innovation Centre in Ireland.	Action complete	Q1 2022
<b>Action 3.2:</b> The development of programmes and training to support the growth of the equine sector.	Action on target	Q4 2024
<b>Action 3.3:</b> Conduct a feasibility study to examine the expansion of the National Equine Innovation Centre.	Action complete	Q4 2022

<b>Strategic Objective 4:</b> Develop key projects that facilitates the job creation opportunities that result in the transition to a low carbon economy.	<b>Status</b>	<b>For completion by</b>
<b>Action 4.1:</b> Conduct feasibility studies into the viability of industrial Green Zones. [Amended].	Action on target	Q4 2024*
<b>Action 4.2:</b> The development of a Green investment and enterprise zone in Allenwood, County Kildare.	Action discontinued	Q4 2022
<b>Action 4.3:</b> The establishment of Marine Enterprise Facilities in the Mid-East.	Action not on target	Q4 2024
<b>Action 4.4:</b> The establishment of a Marine Education and Training facility for the Mid-East.	Action not on target	Q4 2024
<b>Action 4.5:</b> The creation of a circular economy cluster for the Mid-East.	Action on target	Q4 2024

<b>Strategic Objective 5:</b> Support the continued development of a positive enterprise ecosystem in the Mid-East.	<b>Status</b>	<b>For completion by</b>
<b>Action 5.1:</b> Deliver upon multi stakeholder initiatives that will support the competitiveness of Start Ups, SMEs and microbusiness across the region.	Action on target	Q4 2024
<b>Action 5.2:</b> Commission a regional strategy that will adopt an evidence-based approach to co-working hub and innovation space development and investment for the Mid-East.	Action discontinued	Q4 2022
<b>Action 5.3:</b> Progress the acquisition of tech innovation enterprise space in Greystones from Cairn [ <b>New</b> ]	Action on target	Q4 2024