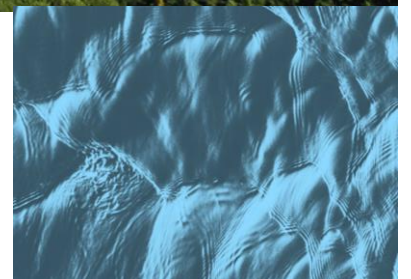




**SHANNON  
ESTUARY  
ECONOMIC  
TASKFORCE  
REPORT**

**Implementation Update**

**December 2023**



## Introduction

The independent Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce was established in response to a Programme for Government commitment to support the region in devising an economic development plan based on the Shannon Estuary's comparative strategic advantages.

*....we will consider the potential of the Shannon Estuary in terms of regional economic development across transport and logistics, manufacturing, renewable energy and tourism, and develop a strategy to achieve this potential...*

The Final Report of the independent Taskforce was launched on 8th July 2023 and includes an action plan with recommendations. While the Taskforce's objective was to identify economic development opportunities for the Shannon Estuary Region and make specific recommendations to Government, the Taskforce considered several national policy measures which if implemented, would enable development in the Region. The Taskforce Report therefore includes actions on both national policy and region-specific initiatives. Government undertook to consider the Taskforce's action plan and implementation proposals in detail.

The Taskforce recommended that implementation updates be issued on a bi-annual basis.

This report and annex of actions is the first such 6-monthly update.

## Overview of Response to Taskforce Report

The proposed action owners were invited to consider the recommendations assigned to them by the Taskforce, as detailed in the attached annex of actions. Initial responses from Departments and Agencies indicate that the majority of recommended actions have been or will be implemented either as proposed by the Taskforce, or through existing or alternative measures which can achieve the same objective. Several recommendations are still under consideration and are contingent on the outcome of ongoing policy development and are unlikely to be delivered within the timeframes proposed by the Taskforce.

A number of recommended national policy developments, including the establishment of the [Maritime Area Regulatory Authority \(MARA\)](#), the publication of a [National Hydrogen Strategy](#), an [Electricity Interconnection Policy](#), and the publication of an [Energy Security Strategy](#) have been actioned by Government since the Taskforce finalised its Report. In addition, a [National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind](#) is being developed by DETE, as proposed by the Taskforce, with an initial set of measures due to be published in Q1 2024 to coincide with the Department of Environment, Climate, and Communication's (DECC) *Future Framework for Offshore Wind*. The Future Framework will set-out the post-2030 roadmap for the delivery of 37GW of offshore wind energy by 2050.

A core objective of the Taskforce's Report was to create the conditions to allow for the accelerated delivery of floating offshore wind energy at scale in the Atlantic by 2030. The Taskforce recommended that a Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) for the West Coast be initiated as a priority, reflecting their view that a West Coast DMAP is required to enable

preparation for the deployment of Offshore Wind through the Shannon Estuary. In consideration of this recommendation, Government will now assess the potential for accelerating the development of a West Coast DMAP and examine the cost and viability of initiating floating offshore wind projects in this DMAP as Ireland seeks to support the development of this sector. DECC is due to publish a forward-looking perspective on the location of future DMAPs shortly.

Several region-specific initiatives have been accepted, including:

- A feasibility study for a national logistics hub in the Shannon Estuary;
- An undertaking from the Department of Transport that the mid-term review of the Regional Airports Programme will include a consideration of supports for Shannon Airport;
- The establishment of a Working Group to develop sustainable cruising at Foynes, following a Fáilte Ireland assessment of the feasibility and value of sustainable green cruise tourism;
- A commitment from Iarnród Éireann to assess the case for the provision of passenger rail services on the Limerick to Foynes rail line, including facilitating tourism/cruise ship related demand;
- The further development of greenways and segregated cycle routes around the Estuary.

A small number of actions appear unfeasible. For example, Fáilte Ireland advise that current business tourism data suggests there may not be a business case to support the proposal for a new Conference and Events Centre in the Shannon Estuary at present. However, Fáilte Ireland does have a grant scheme in place for Gala Dinner Venues.

The annex of actions provides further detail on all national policy and region-specific recommendations.

## **Continued Engagement on Implementation**

Several recommendations on national policy are still under consideration by the relevant Departments and are contingent on the outcome of ongoing policy development. These recommendations will be the subject of future implementation updates.

The attached annex of actions sets out the current position of each action in relation to the Taskforce's recommendations.



# Annex of Actions

Action	Owner	Due Date	Lead Entity Comments
<b>Offshore Wind Energy</b>			
1 Through a combination of a Green Industrial Policy and a Phase Three/Future Framework for Offshore Wind Policy, we recommend that clarity be provided on how Ireland will facilitate both the harvesting of Atlantic wind energy and the use of it in Ireland and Europe, as soon as possible	DETE in consultation with DECC	Q1 2024	The Future Framework policy, led by DECC will align essential policy for ORE including industrial strategy, interconnection, renewable hydrogen development, private wires, storage, demand side management and technology innovation. The industrial policy will be led by DETE with departments working in close alignment.
2 Assign an Assistant Secretary General at Department of An Taoiseach (or National Plan Delivery), to oversee a 'whole of Government' approach, via the Senior Officials Group, to accelerate progress on floating offshore wind to a sustained pace similar to other EU countries	Dept of Taoiseach	Q1 2024	Oversight of delivering Ireland's offshore wind ambition (including FLOW) is led through the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and its cross-Government Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce. Therefore, the role of the Senior Officials Group on the Economy and Investment, Chaired by the Department of the Taoiseach at Assistant Secretary level, in this context is to review the cross-Government response to the totality of the Taskforce's recommendations.
3 Create an Economic Development Agency for Floating Offshore Wind whose focus is engaging with developers and government to meet and exceed 2040 and 2050 targets, at cost-competitive rates. Base that Agency close to customers, in the Mid-West, close to manufacturing on the Estuary, central to all 3 offshore wind areas and Dublin	DETE	Q2 2024	For consideration as part of the National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind.
4 Publish the 'Phase Three'/'Future Framework' for Offshore Wind policy that delivers the critical path actions proposed by SEETF for the Climate Action Plan of 2GW and provides clarity on the roadmap post-2030	DECC	Q1 2024	Actions included in national Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce Action Plan, which was approved by Government Decision, i.e. Draft Phase Three/Future Framework policy to be published by end-23; Final Policy to be published by Q2 24.
5 The current offshore wind delivery taskforce should be co-chaired by DETE, and with greatly increased industry representation (either as members or as part of an advisory council). The UK's Offshore Industry Council model, the Catapult Centre partnership and other international examples should be explored for best practice examples of how the public and private sector can work together to deliver	DECC	Q3 2023	Concerted efforts of several key Departments, including DETE, are required to realise offshore wind. However, the OWDT requires a single lead which will remain DECC. Through the OWDT and structures established by DETE there is extensive engagement with industry to provide for a cohesive public and private working relationship.
6 DMAP for 'Mid-West (Shannon/Foynes area)' to be commenced to encompass existing projects in development and an extension of the maximum depth to 100m+ (up to 200m). DMAP should be completed within a 12-month period. OREDP II and future plans to recognise the Estuary advantages of proximity to offshore wind resource, suitable grid connections, wet storage, port facilities, zoned industrial land, etc.	DECC/DHLGH	Q3 2023	DECC has been designated as the sole competent authority for ORE for the Irish maritime area, including DMAPs. A forward looking perspective on the location of DMAPs is due to be published by DECC in 2024. An assessment of the potential for accelerating the development of a West Coast DMAP will be carried out to include an examination of the cost and viability of initiating floating offshore wind projects in this DMAP.
7 MAC applications open for projects within the Mid-West DMAP, with maximum 90-day processing time as per the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021	MARA	Q3 2024	Dependent on DMAP process being completed.
8 Renewable energy projects, enabling infrastructure and green industrial development in the wider Shannon Estuary Region to be prioritised utilising all available EU and national policies and directives with suitable projects identified as being of 'overriding public interest'.	DETE in consultation with DECC	Q2 2025	To be examined as part of the forthcoming National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind.
9 Develop a Green Industrial Strategy that supports and contributes to the requirements of the EU 'Green Deal' through leveraging Ireland's inherent advantages	DETE	Q2 2024	A National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind is under development with the objective to maximise the economic development opportunities arising from OWE, leveraging Ireland's current strengths and identifying future growth areas. The White Paper on Enterprise 2021-2030 also has an overarching focus on the green transition.
10 Eirgrid to provide clarity on the domestic and interconnection grid infrastructure planned to enable 37 GW by 2050 offshore wind targets, and the estimated budget required to deliver these	Eirgrid, DECC	Q3 2023	EirGrid is developing the next phase of its scenario-based planning approach, called Tomorrows Energy Scenarios (TES) 2023. The TES includes scenarios with very high levels of offshore wind by 2040 and 2050. After the TES has been published in early 2024, a system needs analysis will be carried out to assess the reinforcement needs for the onshore transmission network to accommodate this offshore wind or other developments.
11 Hybrid Grid Connection policy statement alongside update of Eirgrid's SOEF to acknowledge the role of existing transmission infrastructure at Tarbert and Moneypoint	Eirgrid, DECC	Q3 2023	For onshore Hybrid Connections the CRU is in the process of developing the appropriate connection policy. With respect to offshore developments, EirGrid will be considering how hybrid interconnections can be used to maximise the connection to other jurisdictions while capturing the offshore potential. Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF) v1.1 is the current roadmap to meet the government targets for decarbonising the electricity sector in 2030. In this Roadmap the Moneypoint transmission substation was identified as a candidate for the connection point for further interconnection to France, and further assessments with the French TSO, Rte are required. In due course, Eirgrid will move to developing a detailed plan for the Grid to beyond 2030 which will include consideration of all existing transmission stations around the coast including Moneypoint and Tarbert.
12 Update of Eirgrid's SOEF to approve the identified cable corridors identified in the SFPC Vision 2041 Strategic Review	Eirgrid, DECC	Q4 2024	SOEF v1.1 was published in July 2023. The proposed cable corridor route shown in the SFPC Vision 2041 Strategic Review aligns with access routes from the ocean to the major existing onshore transmission substations in the estuary area. The corridor route also aligns with the indicative route of the candidate second Ireland-France interconnector shown in SOEF v1.1. When the network design is under way and Eirgrid are planning the grid build-out this corridor will be considered. Future cable routes for connection of offshore wind will align with the DMAP area when that is specified by the Marine Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).
13 Provide delivery of 'Private Wire' legislation to enable onshore 'non-grid' use of the 2 GW target for floating offshore wind	DECC	Q2 2024	Contingent on the outcome of Private Wires consultation.
14 Provide permitting for developers to build networks from offshore turbines to land as part of the initial project construction	DECC	Q3 2023	Contingent on the outcome of Private Wires consultation.
15 Provide clarity on the design criteria and eventual ownership of offshore grid. Confirmation from Eirgrid/DECC as to whether they propose to provide a grid node or nodes in the water for the Mid-West DMAP area to facilitate the delivery of Phase three projects	Eirgrid, DECC	Q3 2023	The government policy statement on the Framework for Ireland's Offshore Electricity Transmission System in May 2021 sets out that EirGrid will be the owner and operator of the offshore transmission network assets and EirGrid will lead on all the design criteria for physical assets. The design criteria and functional specifications required for Phase 1 offshore installations have been developed and have been shared with industry and changes to the Grid Code are also being progressed. From phase 2 onwards EirGrid will be responsible for defining all offshore connection points. The plans for the Shannon Estuary will be covered in phase 3 and subsequent enduring policies.

16	Publication of National Hydrogen Strategy	DECC	Q3 2023	National Hydrogen Strategy has been published.
17	Publication of National Energy Storage Strategy to include support for large-scale battery storage and pumped storage projects such as Silvermines Hydro	DECC	Q3 2024	Under the Climate Action Plan 2023, DECC committed to developing a National Electricity Storage Policy Framework. This policy is due to be published in Q2 2024 and will address barriers currently facing storage projects, including long duration storage. Separately, DECC supported the Silvermines application for placement on the 6th PCI list and supported its successful bid for funding through the CEF (Connecting Europe Facility).
18	Electricity Interconnection Policy	DECC	Q3 2023	Interconnection Policy has been published.
19	Financial and permitting supports (as per EU Green Deal policy) for the proposed developments at Foynes and Moneypoint to enable the efficient production of floating wind turbines at scale, with facilities completed by Q4 2028. This should include Government funding support for the construction of Foynes Island. Financing: Revised National Ports Policy to consider a sovereign debt model (or alternative funding mechanisms or debt models) for prescribed port enabling FLOW infrastructure on the Shannon Estuary	DoT, MARA	Q4 2023	DoT is facilitating port engagement and working to resolve barriers to the delivery of ORE port infrastructure through the National Offshore Wind Energy Taskforce, including exploring the availability of funding streams to support the delivery of ORE port projects. The revised National Ports Policy will not consider a sovereign debt model (or alternative funding mechanisms or debt models) for prescribed ports.
20	MARA (once operational) should provide MACs for Foynes Island and Moneypoint projects once applications are made in accordance with the MAP Act 2021 and relevant policy directions. Future applications for wet storage should also be prioritised. SFPC has commenced pre-planning discussions in accordance with its Vision 2041 Strategic Review and is awaiting the opportunity to apply for a MAC	MARA	Q3 2023	MAC application process is fully operational in line with prioritisation framework set by Government.
21	Prompt commencement of operations of the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority	DHLGH	Q3 2023	MARA was legally established on 17 July 2023.
22	Government commitment to a streamlined consenting and planning system to provide clarity and reduce risk for Atlantic FLOW projects	DECC, DHLGH	Q4 2023	The National Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce Action Plan, which was approved by Government Decision, includes actions on this i.e. Workstreams 1 (Consenting) and 8 (Skills and Workforce). MAP Act 2021 and the forthcoming Planning and Development Bill, due in 2024, both address this. In addition, the EU Renewable Energy Directive III (RED III) includes Articles referencing reduced administrative burdens and therefore transposition of this directive also bears relevance to this recommendation. It is proposed that 2024 is a more realistic due date for this action.
23	Increased resourcing of state agencies such as MARA and An Bord Pleanála to deliver critical infrastructure projects, such as those planned for the Shannon Estuary and offshore, in a more efficient and timely manner	ABP/MARA	Q4 2023	Recruitment at ABP under way to increase resources in line with Government sanction. Action under consideration by MARA.
24	FLOW projects, including enabling infrastructure such as grid and port infrastructure, should be considered for designation as IROPI by the Government in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. Until such time as IROPI designation is provided we recommend the prioritisation of renewable projects and supporting infrastructure at all stages of the planning process as per European Directives. The required environmental investigations including AA and SEA should also be prioritised	DHLGH	Q1 2024	1. The forthcoming Marine Planning Policy Statement will prioritise ORE projects, as per suggested action. This is due in Q2 2024. 2. IROPI is a separate and complex process currently being considered by DHLGH planning division. DHLGH caution that it may not prove possible to designate projects as IROPI given the criteria for same can be both complex and site-specific.
25	Re-establishment and resourcing of the Shannon Estuary Strategic Integrated Framework Plan Steering Committee to recommence preparatory planning and environmental activities for current and potential new SDLs, with adequate support and centrally resourced. Local Authorities to consider collective planning designation for the Shannon Estuary region (potential SDZ or similar) to provide for streamlined and coordinated planning procedures that can meet the industrial and societal needs of the region.	Limerick City & County Council, Clare County Council, Kerry County Council, Shannon Foynes Port Company, DHLGH	Q3 2023	In relation to the Shannon Estuary Strategic plan the Local Authority sector is agreeable to leading out on a regional basis to establish an overall Integrated Masterplan for the Shannon Estuary Region. The structures that subsequently emerge will be assessed at that stage and should not be presupposed at this stage. Dedicated resources will be required as part of this overall masterplanning process. Other partners may need to be included as part of the process.
26	Shannon Estuary region, leading out on the creation of a national 'Atlantic Green Digital Corridor' already has significant amounts of land zoned industrial, both along the Estuary and inland. SEETF seeks funding to: » identify these sites and the infrastructure needed to get them 'shovel ready'; » enable Agencies of Government to purchase these sites and carry out that work; » identify new sites and the infrastructure needed to get them ready for the next 2 decades (under the guidance of Shannon Integrated Framework Plan Steering Committee)	DETE	Q2 2024	Local Authorities: In relation to the Shannon Estuary Strategic plan the Local Authority sector is agreeable to leading out on a regional basis to establish an overall Integrated Masterplan for the Shannon Estuary Region. The structures that subsequently emerge will be assessed at that stage and should not be presupposed at this stage. Dedicated resources will be required as part of this overall masterplanning process. Other partners may need to be included as part of the process.  DETE: Measures to align industrial development with OWE production & RD&I will be considered under the National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind.
27	The industrial strategy for offshore wind to make recommendations about mandating innovation/ research and development criteria within offshore wind projects	DETE	Q1 2024	To be examined as part of the forthcoming National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind.
28	The industrial strategy for offshore wind to make recommendations about the phasing of requirements for local supply chain for future projects in line with best international practice	DETE	Q1 2024	To be examined as part of the forthcoming National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind.
29	Fund a Feasibility Study to build a US – EU Collaboration Ecosystem in the Estuary region: » digital technologies; » material science and manufacturing technologies	DETE	Q4 2023	To be considered by in the context of the forthcoming National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind.
30	Develop RD&I zones in close proximity to industrial activity. These zones should consider: wind turbine blade innovation, substructure manufacturing, platform assembly, transport through the Estuary, onshore flexible demand integration for fuels, and sustainable materials manufacturing to complement offshore windfarm locations	DETE / DFHERIS	Ongoing	To be considered as part of the development of the National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind.
31	Accelerate knowledge building by identifying companies within the region that are already active or wish to engage in the international offshore wind sector, and promote their growth, e.g. through Enterprise Ireland's Gael Offshore Network and equivalent (European and strategic investors)	DETE	Q4 2023	Measures to promote the development of Irish companies in the OWE supply chain are being considered as part of the development of the National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind. In addition, Enterprise Ireland's Gael Offshore Network was established to bring together and grow expertise in Offshore Wind in Ireland, and currently includes c.90 companies.
32	Promote and grow the sector regionally by developing an offshore wind supply chain cluster in the region bringing together developers, supply chain, ports, academia, and the public sector	DETE	Q4 2023	This will be addressed by the forthcoming National Cluster Policy and the National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind.
33	Develop a start-up/scaleup accelerator for floating offshore wind development and renewable energy related activities, such as the development of green hydrogen, digital services for offshore wind, autonomous O&M activities, etc.	DETE	Q4 2024	Measures to promote and scale-up Irish companies' participation in the Offshore Wind supply chain are under consideration as part of the development of the National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind.

34	Following completion of detailed assessment of skills and workforce required allocate funding as required via key stakeholders (ETBs, SOLAS, HEIs, FEIs, Greentech Skillnet, Industry) for dedicated programme provision in relation to onshore and offshore renewable energy development	DFHERIS	Q1 2024	Action included as part of Workstream 8 of the Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce (OWDT), which is co-led by DFHERIS and DECC. It is more appropriate that the intended outcomes of the SEETF's proposed action be captured through the reporting structures of the OWEF. In particular it should be noted that any future funding required for the delivery of future programme provision in offshore wind will be dependent upon analysis of skills needs, including through a detailed skills assessment report being undertaken by Workstream 8 of the OWDT, competing funding requirements, and the outcomes of the annual estimates process. This may include the stakeholders listed in SEETF's proposed action, dependent upon requirements and need.
35	Leverage existing onshore wind turbine expertise at Kerry ETB to develop new programmes and increase the local talent base for offshore projects	KETB	Q4 2024	KETB accepts the action.
36	Establish a Maritime Training Centre of Excellence in Kilrush by 2025, with funding supported by government through existing funding routes	Clare County Council	Q4 2024	Accepted in principle - timeline to be extended to end of 2025.
37	Create a real-time talent market profile for the region. This interactive online tool (dashboard or similar) can be used by industry, investment agencies and education and training providers to track the regional talent pipeline and to drive regional investment. This can act as a pilot for other regions.	DFHERIS	Q4 2024	DFHERIS is not in a position to accept this action. However, DFHERIS would be supportive if industry were to take the lead on such an initiative, and DFHERIS structures, including Regional Skills Fora and the local Regional Skills Manager, may be able to assist.
<b>Onshore Renewable Energy</b>				
38	Publish the National Biomethane Strategy to ensure clarity for the sector and reduce market risks for potential investors	DAFM, DECC	Q3 2023	The National Biomethane Strategy is now in the final stages of drafting with the intention of submitting to Government shortly.
39	Set up a biomethane pilot programme in the region, leveraging the existing industrial demand, regional gas network and rich sources of biogas that are readily available	DAFM, DECC	Q3 2023	DECC Propose to establish an AD/Biomethane advisory unit to oversee exploration of potential pilot programme to improve the maturity of AD projects, providing links to key research, Innovation Funding opportunities, sustainability assessments, integration of technologies alongside AD such as biorefining and support cooperative developments, with a Q3 2024 delivery date.
40	6 monthly forecasting of the carbon intensity of electricity supply	DECC	Q3 2023	Action under consideration by DECC.
41	Clarity on how the Climate Action Plan targets for onshore wind, solar and offshore wind will be delivered by year until 2030	DECC	Q3 2023	The Climate Action Plan sets out actions for the delivery of targets, and the Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce (OWDT) and the Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce are working to ensure we reach those targets. OWDT publishes Key Actions annually, and its implementation plan is agreed at Government-level.
42	Clarity on the deployment of EU Green Deal policies with respect to planning permission/permitting process timelines of not more than 12 months for such renewables;	DECC	Q3 2023	The forthcoming Planning and Development Bill 2023, led by DHLGH and due to be enacted early 2024, will consider this.
43	Clarity on risk mitigation for all key factors	DECC	Q3 2023	Action under consideration by DECC.
44	Provide ongoing clarity and communication on supports available for companies who wish to invest in technology upgrades that will reduce their carbon emissions	DETE	Q4 2023	The Green Transition Fund ( <a href="https://globalambition.ie/green-transition-fund/">https://globalambition.ie/green-transition-fund/</a> ) is part of Ireland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP). The total budget for the fund is split into two streams, the Enterprise Emissions Reduction Investment Fund (€30m) and the Climate Planning Fund for Business (€25m) which will both run from 2022 to 2025. In addition, the Climate Toolkit 4 Business ( <a href="https://www.climatekit4business.gov.ie/">https://www.climatekit4business.gov.ie/</a> ) assists SMEs to generate a personalised action plan and points to relevant supports to help each business reduce their carbon footprint and energy costs. There are also a range of supports available through the SEAI including an Energy Audit voucher ( <a href="https://www.seai.ie/business-and-public-sector/small-and-medium-business/supports/energy-audits/">https://www.seai.ie/business-and-public-sector/small-and-medium-business/supports/energy-audits/</a> ) and the Non-Domestic Microgen Scheme ( <a href="https://www.seai.ie/business-and-public-sector/business-grants-and-supports/commercial-solar-pv/">https://www.seai.ie/business-and-public-sector/business-grants-and-supports/commercial-solar-pv/</a> ) with funding ranging from €2,700 to €162,600 to support businesses to switch to solar.
45	Detailed regional grid capacity roadmaps, showing current and future availability, to enable such renewable energy developments	DECC	Q4 2024	ESB Networks publish capacity data which can be accessed here: <a href="https://www.esbnetworks.ie/new-connections/generator-connections-group/availability-capacity-map">https://www.esbnetworks.ie/new-connections/generator-connections-group/availability-capacity-map</a> . Grid capacity statements and data are a national issue.
46	District heating supports required to enable project development aligned with demand/supply opportunities	DECC	Q2 2024	The District Heating Steering Group Report was approved by Government in July 2023. It makes recommendations with regard to the provision of supports for the development of district heating projects. Recommendations from the Steering Group Report are now being implemented. In that light the Steering Group has been reconstituted as the District Heating Working Group and will, inter alia, examine the issue of supports for district heating  The Heat and Built Environment Taskforce has been established to accelerate and drive delivery in relation to retrofitting, renewable heat, district heat and decarbonisation of the building stock. The District Heating Working Group will report directly to the Heat and Built Environment Taskforce.
47	Detailed regional plan highlighting the key zones where future project development can occur, thus providing certainty to project developers	DECC	Q3 2024	The Regional Assemblies will be completing Regional Renewable Electricity Strategies in 2024 which will provide more detail on where and how the onshore wind and solar generation capacity targets can be best achieved within each Regional Assembly. These strategies will support the identification of the sufficient preferred locations by Local Authorities and a consistent regional approach to facilitate additional power capacity and associated supporting infrastructure in line with our 2030 renewable electricity targets, as set out in the Climate Action Plan 2023.
48	Accelerate the engagement of SMEs with current and future supports to deploy and implement cost-effective decarbonisation plans	DETE	Q4 2023	DETE has been engaging with SMEs through their representative bodies on the development of a commercial built environment roadmap and industrial heat roadmap which are due to be published shortly, and will inform SMEs of the supports available to help them to decarbonise. See comment on Action #44 for details of existing supports.
49	Support the establishment of a Regional Energy Agency, by expanding the resources and technical capabilities of Tipperary Energy Agency to assist business, agriculture sector and communities in the wider region to assess, develop and deploy a 2030 decarbonisation programme	Kerry County Council	Q1 2024	Action accepted with revised delivery date of end 2025.

50	Complete assessment of appropriate structures and resource required to deliver/grow Regional Energy Agency supports by Q4 2023. Estimated funding requirements of €1.5 million to 2025 and €5 million to 2030 to scale up expertise and service delivery	Kerry County Council	Q4 2024	Action under consideration.
51	Local Authorities in the Region to support the deployment of measures targeted in the Climate Action Plan, in a manner that facilitates the sustainable and cost competitive decarbonisation of the Estuary Region's existing industrial base	Local Authorities	Ongoing	Local Authority Climate Action Plans primarily focus on delivery for the sector itself. The advocacy and influencing roles as identified in the Climate Action Plan will feature across the four Local Authority Climate Action Plans.
52	Conduct a study on options to support such developments in the region, including consideration of development charges, rates, and other means. This study to include consideration of best practice across Europe	Local Authorities	Q1 2024	This action would work best on a Regional basis (ie. regional consideration across the relevant counties of Development charges and constraints related to the Planning System etc.). The development of onshore renewable energy accelerating decarbonisation schemes would require the development of national policy and framework prior to the Local Authority sector consideration.
<b>Energy Security of Supply and Cost</b>				
53	Recommend that Eirgrid publishes a progress update, on a 6 monthly basis, until confidence is restored in the adequacy of the electricity system – for both power generation and the network to distribute it	CRU	Q3 2023	CRU (who are responsible for security of supply) regularly publish updates on their programme of actions for security of supply.
54	Recommend that the corresponding necessary grid infrastructure for this region is identified in the updated 'SOEF' report for implementation	DECC	Q3 2023	SOEF sets out the national transmission grid infrastructure necessary to meet Ireland's CAP targets and Carbon Budgets. National grid development is undertaken by Eirgrid on a national level.
55	Recommend that Eirgrid reports annually on what electricity generation and distribution capacity is available for existing industries to expand in, and for new industries to be attracted to the Shannon Estuary region. We understand other jurisdictions make this available and Ireland should replicate so that both power generators and large users can make informed investment decisions confident that grid is or will be available.	DECC	Q3 2023	ESB Networks publish capacity data which can be accessed here: <a href="https://www.esbnetworks.ie/new-connections/generator-connections-group/availability-capacity-map">https://www.esbnetworks.ie/new-connections/generator-connections-group/availability-capacity-map</a> . Grid capacity statement and data are a national issue.
56	Recommend that DECC clarify the Climate Action 2023 Policy for Large Electricity Users (EL/23/27) which states the need for 'demand side management' of up to 20% by 2025 and 30% by 2030, with LEUs 'expected to make a higher proportional contribution to the target'	CRU	Q3 2023	CRU have published a call for evidence on an Energy Demand Strategy including this action - <a href="https://www.cru.ie/publications/27531/">https://www.cru.ie/publications/27531/</a>
57	Recommend that final 'Security of Supply' report provides clarity on how security-of-supply for gas supplies into the Irish system will be achieved both in terms of supply and storage	DECC	Q3 2023	DECC published the Energy Security in Ireland 2030 Strategy in November 2023. This addresses the energy security challenges facing Ireland, with new and existing actions (focused on the period to 2030, but in the broader context of transitioning to a net-zero energy system up to 2050). This Energy Package brings work together on natural gas, electricity and oil supplies.
58	Recommend that Government should finalise and publish its position on LNG import and storage as a matter of urgency given the significance of this to our particular region	DECC	Q3 2023	The Government position Policy Statement on the Importation of Fracked Gas remains in place, which determines it would not be appropriate for the development of any LNG terminals in Ireland to be permitted or proceeded with.
59	Recommend that Government publishes a detailed roadmap of measures that return Irish electricity prices to at least the European average	DECC	Q3 2023	Electricity and gas retail markets in Ireland operate within a European regulatory regime wherein electricity and gas markets are commercial, liberalised, and competitive. Responsibility for the regulation of the electricity and gas markets is solely a matter for the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU). The CRU is held responsible by a Joint Committee of the Oireachtas. CRU ended its regulation of retail prices in the electricity market in 2011, and in the gas market in 2014. Price setting by electricity suppliers, including standing charges is a commercial and operational matter for the companies concerned.
60	Recommend that the government does not burden industry with the incremental costs of providing emergency electricity supplies that are to be provided in 2023/24	DECC	Q3 2023	The burden of these costs is allocated by the regulator CRU who are responsible for security of supply. They have published tariff decision papers outlining how these costs are distributed across all electricity customers.
<b>Transport, Logistics and Connectivity</b>				
61	Develop an Integrated Sustainable Transport Planning framework for the region which takes account of existing national policies and regional strategies across all modes of transport.	Regional Implementation Group	Q3 2024	This will be considered as part of the regional master planning process.
62	Funding to be provided under the National Development Plan to deliver on the immediate priorities identified by this process.	Department of Transport	Ongoing from Q1, 2024	Action under consideration. Local Authorities will continue to deliver on these key infrastructural projects aligned to the Department of Transport funding.  Government has approved the accelerated delivery of the Adare Bypass. TII and LCC are endeavouring to ensure that it will be in place for the Ryder Cup 2027. The project is expected to cost approx. €150m to deliver. The bypass will be a 7km segment of the planned Limerick to Foynes Project connecting Limerick to the port of Foynes.
63	Government support for an expanded network of routes connecting Shannon Airport to strategically important business hubs, as well as improved transport connectivity to and from the Airport.	Department of Transport	Q4, 2023	Government supports an expanded network of routes connecting Shannon Airport to strategically important business hubs, as well as improved transport connectivity to and from the Airport. Shannon Airport will be considered as part of the mid-term review of the Regional Airports Programme. Consideration also to be given to the development of a start-up aid scheme to incentivise airlines to create new routes from regional airports including Shannon Airport.
64	Establish a cross-departmental working group under the Green Hydrogen Strategy implementation structures to develop a National SAF Strategy, in consultation with industry.	Department of Transport	Q4, 2023	At the request of Minister of State Chambers, DoT has established a Task Force on Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) in Q4 of 2023. The main role of the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Task Force is to assist the Department of Transport in the development of a national SAF Policy Roadmap which will help guide policy development and identify the necessary actions to ensure Ireland can meet its regulatory obligations to decarbonise aviation.
65	RD&I funding to be provided for sustainable aviation demonstrator projects as a Living Lab at Shannon Airport, which, in partnership with international collaborative programmes, will lead to the commercialisation of net-zero aviation technology.	DETE	Ongoing from Q3, 2023	DETE is facilitating engagement between regional and national stakeholders with a view to advancing this action.
66	Undertake a feasibility study and develop a concept proposal for the development of a National Logistics Hub in the Shannon Estuary, as an input into the preparation of a 'Regional Freight Strategy' for the Limerick/Shannon region proposed in the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy, and in line with Action 23 for the development of strategies for sustainable freight distribution in the recently published Road Haulage Strategy.	NTA	Q3, 2024	The NTA have engaged a specialist adviser in the freight area who is currently assisting in framing the scope of a potential scheme for a logistics hub, following which it is intended that the NTA will tender for the undertaking of a feasibility study. The commencement of the study is now likely to be Q1 of 2024, and the other elements of the timeline will adjust accordingly.

67	Funding is requested to commission a digital masterplan for the region bringing together expertise from the Local Authorities and expert stakeholders which will prioritise digital infrastructure needs and target support funding provided for under The Digital Ireland Framework and which will underpin sustainable economic growth across the region.	Regional Implementation Group	Q4, 2023	The resourcing, funding and policy direction under the Digital Ireland Framework will be a critical component and will need to be considered as part of the overall master planning process. Local Authority will engage. The implementation dates will require further consideration.
68	Funding and policy direction under the frame of The Digital Ireland Framework to be provided from central Government which will enable the Shannon Estuary Steering Committee, in cooperation with the Local Authorities, to deliver on the Digital Masterplan.	Regional Implementation Group	Comme ncing 2024	The resourcing, funding and policy direction under the Digital Ireland Framework will be a critical component and will need to be considered as part of the overall master planning process. Local Authority will engage. The implementation dates will require further consideration.
69	Funding requested to commission a feasibility study for a Global Net Zero Transhipment Hub at a suitable location in the Shannon Estuary that will leverage the availability of maritime efuel, sheltered deep water, landbanks, and our location of global maritime importance. Funding for such a study should be sought in conjunction with the forthcoming National Ports Policy Review	Department of Transport	Q4 2023	The Department of Transport advise that it is a matter for each commercial port to request funding for the commissioning of feasibility studies. This would not be led by the Department of Transport nor form part of the Review of the National Ports Policy.  Shannon Foynes Port Company are supportive of a future study, the timeframe for which being dependent on the development of offshore wind farms and subsequent development of eFuel facilities in the Estuary.
<b>Tourism</b>				
70	SEETF lends its support to Kerry County Council, Limerick City and County Council, and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to complete the Listowel to Fenit Greenway and extend it to University of Limerick via Limerick City	Transport Infrastructure Ireland	Q4 2024	Part of ongoing Local Authority development and delivery plans. Timelines need further consideration.
71	SEETF lends its support to Clare County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to complete the West Clare Railway Greenway	Clare County Council/Transport Infrastructure Ireland	Q2 2024	Section 1 of the West Clare Railway Greenway will be submitted for planning permission as part of the statutory process in Q2 2024.
72	TII to continue engagement with Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Kerry County Council, and Tipperary County Council in identifying further greenway routes to strengthen the tourism product offering and build greater connectivity. This work should also strengthen the Eurovelo offering which connects our cycling routes with Europe. Local road infrastructure which forms part of the Eurovelo should be assessed to ensure it meets safe cycling standards	Transport Infrastructure Ireland	Q4 2024	TII works with the Local Authorities through the Regional Management Structure. This includes consideration of new Greenways subject to capacity and funding constraints. The Department of Transport engages with Fáilte Ireland on a regular basis in relation to promoting Greenway schemes. Part of ongoing Local Authority development and delivery plans. Timelines need further consideration.
73	Clare County Council to engage with stakeholders to upgrade the facilities of Bunratty Castle and Folk Park and deliver a world-class visitor experience	Clare County Council	Q4 2024	Action accepted. Local Authority will engage with engage with Stakeholders. A plan will be developed by 2025.
74	Engage with Shannon Region Conference and Sports Bureau and the Local Authorities in respect of the development of a suitable conference and events centre	Fáilte Ireland	Q4 2024	Based on business tourism data Fáilte Ireland do not consider this action as a priority and are not in a position to support same. Fáilte Ireland operates a Gala Dinner Venue Scheme.
75	Work with ESB in assessing the potential for a landmark visitor centre at Ardnacrusha marking its contribution to the Irish State.	Fáilte Ireland	Q4 2024	Fáilte Ireland are not the lead on this project it is ESB and the action is underway. FI have already provided soft supports and will continue to do so. Should this project need funding it would need to apply under an open funding scheme.
76	Work with the Local Authorities in the region in assessing the potential for a Shannon 'Interpretive Centre' showcasing the river with its rich history and environmental importance	Fáilte Ireland	Q4 2024	This project is not something that would be initiated by Fáilte Ireland. It would need to be submitted under an open Large Capital Grant Scheme or developed in an existing attraction. Local Authorities will continue to work with Fáilte Ireland in accordance with Destination Experience Development Plans.
77	Work with Clare County Council, Kerry County Council, Tipperary County Council and Limerick City and County Council in identifying quality indoor attractions that will strengthen the tourism offering of the 4 DEDPs	Fáilte Ireland	Q4 2024	This action is being carried out where appropriate, feasible and where funding streams are available. Local Authorities will continue to work with Fáilte Ireland in accordance with Destination Experience Development Plans.
78	Establishment of a Working Group led by Fáilte Ireland to include Coillte, the Office of Public Works, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Limerick City and County Council, Kerry County Council, Tipperary County Council and Clare County Council to identify most appropriate site to develop plans for Forest Park along Shannon Estuary	Fáilte Ireland	Q3 2023	FI Liaising with Coillte on this and Curraghchase was under consideration however no immediate funding schemes available. Local Authorities will continue to work with Fáilte Ireland in accordance with Destination Experience Development Plans.
79	Working Group to identify most appropriate site to develop plans for Forest Park along Shannon Estuary	Fáilte Ireland	end 2024	There is a strategy partnership in place between Fáilte Ireland and Coillte Nationally that prioritises forest projects for funding. Local Authorities will continue to work with Fáilte Ireland in accordance with Destination Experience Development Plans.
80	Funding provided through Fáilte Ireland, Coillte and the relevant Local Authority to deliver on the project(s) with the ambition to be delivered in advance of the Ryder Cup 2027	Fáilte Ireland	2025	There are currently no funding streams available. Local Authorities will continue to work with Fáilte Ireland in accordance with Destination Experience Development Plans.
81	Support the actions within the Cliff Coast DEDP and the Shannon Tourism Masterplan	Fáilte Ireland	Q3 2023	Local Authorities will continue to work with Fáilte Ireland in accordance with Destination Experience Development Plans.
82	Convene a working group with relevant stakeholders such as the Shannon Foynes Port Company Harbour Master, Waterways Ireland, and Local Authorities in developing an overarching water strategy	Fáilte Ireland	Q2 2024	Propose that this be actioned via the Shannon Tourism Masterplan. Proposed revised action: 'Continue to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Shannon Tourism Masterplan through the existing Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Regional Tourism Steering Group, the membership of which includes Waterways Ireland and the ten relevant Local Authorities.' Local Authorities will continue to work with Fáilte Ireland in accordance with Destination Experience Development Plans.
83	Product development priorities on the estuary to be identified in the strategy and funding allocated	Fáilte Ireland	Q2 2024	Action accepted, where funding streams available. Local Authorities will continue to work with Fáilte Ireland in accordance with Destination Experience Development Plans.
84	Fáilte Ireland to convene a meeting with Local Authorities and event organisers to consider the coordinated timing of events across a lengthened tourist season. Launching a combined Shannon Estuary Events and Festivals calendar by Fáilte and the Local Authorities with an associated marketing budget	Fáilte Ireland	Q3 2023	Fáilte Ireland would not recommend this approach as festivals are usually scheduled based on a myriad of factor and while we encourage shoulder season festivals other than funding we have limited control over the timings. Local Authorities will continue to work with Fáilte Ireland in accordance with Destination Experience Development Plans.
85	Establishment of a working group led by Shannon Foynes Port Company with membership comprising Cruise Europe, Limerick City and County Council, Kerry County Council, Clare County Council, and The Shannon Airport Group to develop key targets for number of cruises docking at Shannon Estuary by 2027/2030 with actions identified to realise this target	Shannon Foynes Port Company	Q3 2023	SFPC accept the action. The Local Authority sector advise that in advance the benefits of any 'Green Cruise Tourism' would require an assessment by Fáilte Ireland. This would form the basis of the working group thereafter, as any working group should focus on the overall tourism potential around the Shannon region in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and the Shannon Foynes Port Company.
86	Working Group to develop key targets for number of cruises docking at Shannon Estuary by 2027/2030 with actions identified to realise this target	Shannon Foynes Port Company	Q1 2024	SFPC accept the action. The Local Authority sector advise that in advance the benefits of any 'Green Cruise Tourism' would require an assessment by Fáilte Ireland. This would form the basis of the working group thereafter, as any working group should focus on the overall tourism potential around the Shannon region in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and the Shannon Foynes Port Company.
87	Stakeholders such as Excursions Ireland to assist in developing a compelling product offering for cruise ship passengers that dock in Foynes	Shannon Foynes Port Company	Q1 2024	SFPC accept the action.



88	Development of passenger rail services between Foynes and Limerick City, to facilitate increased tourism footfall similar to increases in cruise ship passenger use of rail between Cobh and Cork City	Iarnród Éireann	Q1 2024	Iarnród Éireann will discuss an approach with the Department of Transport on how to assess the case for provision of passenger rail services on the line, including facilitating tourism/cruise ship related demand.
89	Fund a business case analysis for the provision of passenger rail services between Foynes and Limerick (line currently being brought back into use for freight services in support of port activities) linking to important residential/business areas on the line for overall economic benefit for the region	Iarnród Éireann	Q1 2024	Iarnród Éireann will discuss an approach with the Department of Transport on how to assess the case for provision of passenger rail services on the line, including facilitating tourism/cruise ship related demand.

# List of abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
AA	Appropriate Assessment
ABP	An Bord Pleanála
AD	Anaerobic Digestion
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CEF	Connecting Europe Facility
CRU	Commission for Regulation of Utilities
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
DECC	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
DEDP	Destination Experience Development Plans
DETE	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
DFHERIS	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DMAP	Designated Maritime Area Plan
DoT	Department of Transport
EI	Enterprise Ireland
ESB	Electricity Supply Board
ETB	Education and Training Board
FEI	Further Education Institute
FI	Fáilte Ireland
FLOW	Floating Offshore Wind
HEI	Higher Education Institution
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
KETB	Kerry Education and Training Board
LCC	Line Commutated Converters
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
MAC	Maritime Area Consent
MAP	Maritime Area Planning
MARA	Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NRRP	National Recovery and Resilience Plan
NTA	National Transport Authority
O&M	Operation & Maintenance
ORE	Offshore Renewable Energy
ORED II	Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan II
OWDT	Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce
OWE	Offshore Wind Energy
OWEP	Offshore Wind Energy Programme
PCI	Projects of Common Interest
RD&I	Research, Development & Innovation
RED III	EU Renewable Energy Directive III
SAF	Sustainable Aviation Fuel
SDL	Strategic Development Location
SDZ	Strategic Development Zones
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEETF	Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce
SFPC	Shannon Foynes Port Company
SME	Small and Medium Size Enterprise
SOEF	Shaping Our Electricity Future
SOLAS	Seirbhís Oideachais Leanúnaigh agus Scileanna (Further Education and Skills Service)
TES	Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios
TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
TSO	Transmission System Operator