



South West Region
First Progress Report:
Actions to June 2016

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MINISTER'S FOREWORD



The Regional Action Plans for Jobs initiative is a key element in supporting the delivery of balanced regional development, which is a key priority of Government. The Programme for a Partnership Government sets a goal to help create 200,000 additional jobs by 2020. Importantly, 135,000 of those jobs are to be in the regions outside Dublin.

The Action Plan for Jobs for the South West region, covering the counties of Cork and Kerry, aims to build on the unique strengths of the region to support businesses to start up, grow and generate exports.

While much emphasis is placed on multi-nationals, we remain for the most part, an economy dependent on small, family business. Across the towns and villages of our regions, employment is heavily based on the SME sector. Ensuring these SMEs have access to both supports and market opportunities is vital to ensuring consistent and real recovery across the country. No matter what part of the country you are in, developing an idea with the support of the Local Enterprise Office or Enterprise Ireland and growing to scale is something we want to see happening more and more in every county. The LEO network is a great asset and my firm view is that it offers great potential to support job creation and help entrepreneurs and small businesses start up and grow.

Overall what these reports demonstrate is that we are making progress on the Government ambition to ensure all regions reach their economic potential. We are nowhere near our endpoint, but we are getting better and enhancing both the employment and economic potential of the South West.

From a low of 264,600 in 2011, employment levels have now reached 299,100 in this region – an increase of 13%. The QNHS shows that there is positive jobs growth across a range of sectors, including Industry, Construction, Agriculture, and Administrative and Support Services.

In tandem with strong jobs growth, the unemployment rate has reduced from a high of 14.3% in 2012 to 6.4% in Q3 2016. This represents real progress for the South West. Every job created has a real effect on men, women and children and the wider community. That is why we cannot be complacent about job creation but I am happy to see that we continue to move in the right direction.

Contrary to popular belief, employment recovery is not confined to Dublin – in fact over 72% of the new jobs created over the last twelve months have gone to people from outside Dublin. As was the case with all regions, the downturn in employment hit the South West heavily in 2008 but there is potential to improve that and grow sustainable jobs in the region, based on the sectoral strengths, skills profile and innovative capacity within this region.

Every day, world-leading companies based in the South West such as Eli Lilly, JRI America, and Voxpro, all of which recently announced new jobs in the region, are showing that by investing in

people and talent, global opportunities are possible regardless of the location. What we need to do is enhance the job-potential environment and ensure companies based in Cork and Kerry have access to global market opportunities. What this report demonstrates is that in regions like the South West, with the right environment, world-leading companies, both Irish and foreign owned, co-exist and create a dynamic enterprise base. Our enterprise agencies are available to provide assistance to companies at all stages of their journey, whether as start ups, companies that are scaling or exporting or companies seeking to invest in Ireland.

Government does not create jobs, but is an enabler of jobs. This region has rich potential in High-Tech Manufacturing, IT and Global Business Services, Agri-Tech, and Tourism and Hospitality. We have responded to the crash, but now is the time to build resilience in the economy with a global competitive business offering.

There is no doubt but that Brexit will test our economic resilience. Many companies in the South West will have some exposure to the UK. Although there is still a lack of clarity as to the extent to which Brexit will impact on the businesses in the area, Enterprise Ireland, IDA and the LEOs are working with these companies to focus on talent, innovation, competitiveness and investing in people. This remains the best way to build resilience in a company.

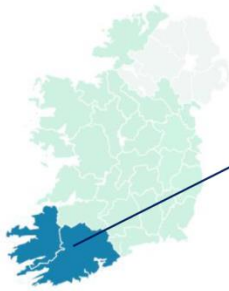
Of course the Regional Action Plans themselves will not solve everything. A full recovery requires more than just jobs. These Plans will be complemented by other programmes the Government is working on at national level, including the Action Plan for Rural Development, infrastructure projects, the Action Plan for Jobs, skills strategies and the Action Plan for Housing.

Employment recovery is a critical element of a wider social recovery. Now is not the time for complacency. Despite global uncertainty, the goal of full employment in the lifetime of this Government is within reach. This employment will be sustainable, built on the back of talent and innovation – something the South West, with its excellent skills and talent base and strong education and research infrastructure, has in abundance.

I would also like to pay tribute to Bob Savage, the Chairman, the Enterprise Champions and all members of the Implementation Committee for their ongoing commitment to the South West Regional Action Plan, to job creation within the region and in helping to drive the ambition of the Plan. The input which you bring to the process creates a real step-up in the level of innovation and jobs impact of this process. This is a genuine public service which will make a real impact to the South West region.



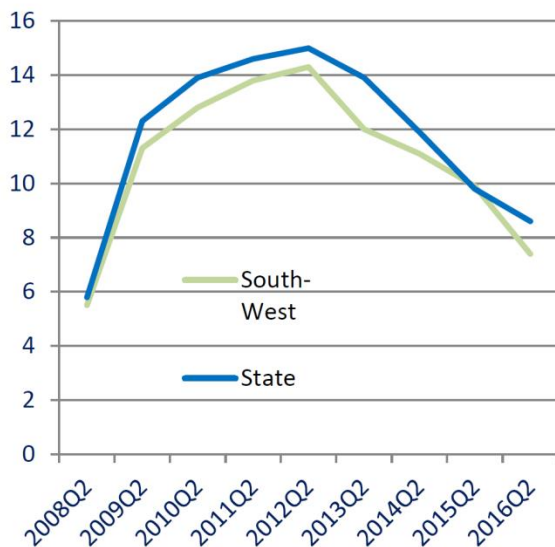
Mary Mitchell O'Connor, TD
Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation



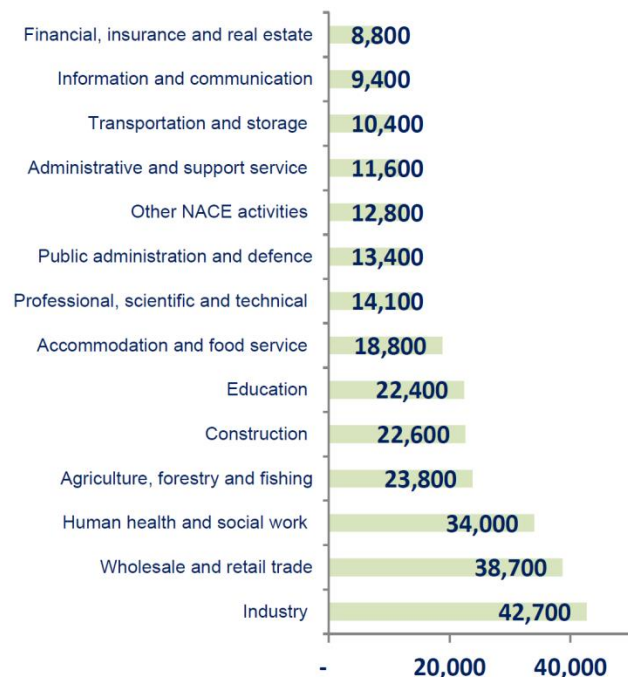
EMPLOYMENT SNAPSHOT: SOUTH WEST

	2015 Q1	2016 Q1	2016 Q2
Persons aged 15 years and over in Employment (,000)	283	285.4	285.4
Unemployed Persons aged 15 years and over (,000)	30.9	23.7	22.7
Persons aged 15 years and over in Labour Force (,000)	313.9	309.1	308
ILO Unemployment Rate (15 - 74 years) (%)	9.9	7.7	7.4
ILO Participation Rate (15 years and over) (%)	59.5	58.4	58.3

ILO Unemployment Rate (15 - 74 years) (%) by NUTS 3 Regions and Quarter



Sectoral Breakdown of Employment: South West Q2 2016



South West Employment/Unemployment Trends

(see graph above)

- The Unemployment rate in the West currently stands at 7.4%, compared to the State Unemployment Rate of 8.6%; this is the second lowest Unemployment Rate in the State (after the Mid East at 6.9%)
- From Q1 2015 to Q2 2016, 7,600 additional people have entered employment, while the number of unemployed persons has declined by 7,000
- Employment in Q2 2016 has been relatively stable, with no change to the numbers in employment, a small decrease (down 1000) in numbers unemployed accompanied by similar decreases in labour force (down 1,100) and participation rates (down 300)

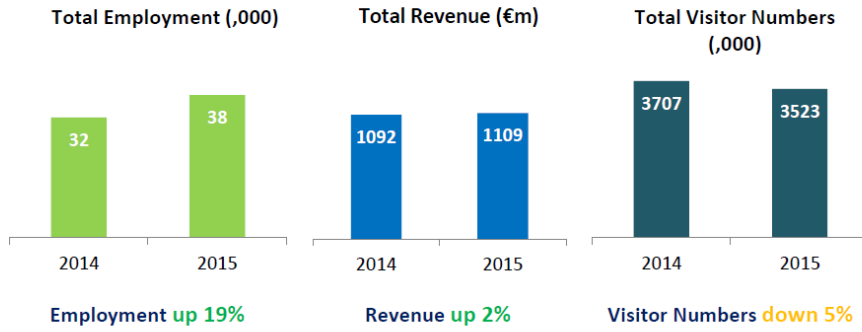
Sectoral Breakdown of Employment

(see chart above)

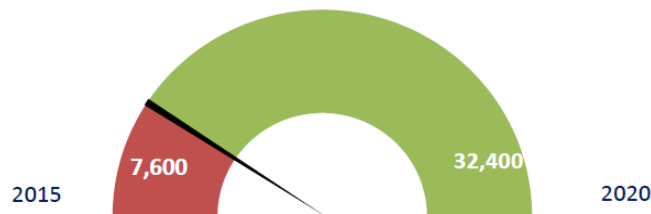
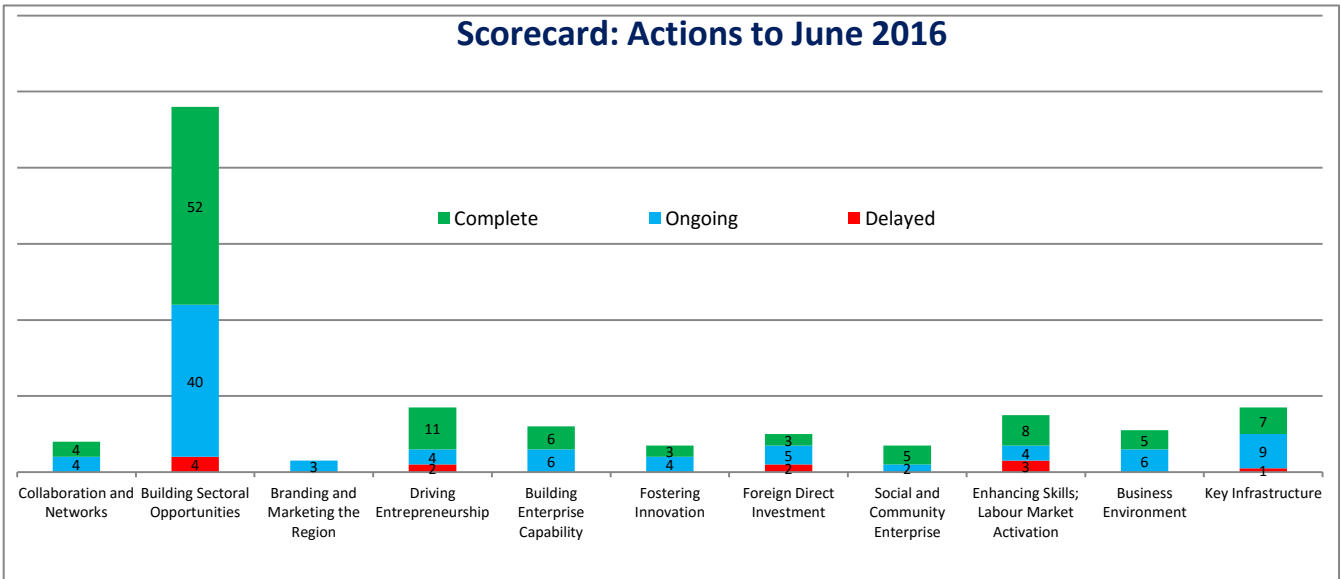
- There were 285,400 people in employment in the South West region in Q2 2016
- **Industry**, employing 42,700, was the largest sector, making up 15% of the workforce
- **Wholesale & retail**, employing 38,700, was the second largest sector; however this sector has seen the largest decrease in numbers employed (down 2,600) since Q1 2015
- The largest increases in employment since Q1 2015 have been seen in **Construction** (up 4,100), **Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing** (up 2,900) and **Industry** (up 2,300)

Source: CSO QNHS Q2 2016: Persons aged 15 and over in employment (ILO) classified by sex, region and NACE Rev. 2 Economic Sector

Tourism in the South West 2014 -2015



Scorecard: Actions to June 2016



**Jobs Target for 2020-
APJ South West Region Q1 2015 to Q2 2016**

ACTIONS DUE BY JUNE 2016

By the first half of 2016, Departments and Agencies have already delivered, or are on track for delivering, on time, 192 of the 205 actions due to be delivered by June 2016. 11 actions are delayed for this reporting period; 2 actions have been deemed no longer relevant.

OPENING COMMENTARY

This is the first Progress Report from the Implementation Committee established by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation to oversee and monitor implementation of the measures outlined in the South West Action Plan for Jobs 2015- 2017. The report details progress made on measures due for completion up to and including the first half of 2016, as well as measures that are ongoing during the full lifetime of the Plan.

The South West Action Plan was launched on the 3rd July 2015, to help progress a key priority for Government – to deliver local jobs and ensure that every region achieves its economic potential. This will be achieved through the delivery of 261 collaborative actions focused on increasing the number of start-ups as well as developing the capacity of existing enterprises, with actions focused on targeting key sectors for the region such as agri-food, tourism, life sciences, manufacturing and ICT, as well as high-potential emerging sectors like multimedia/content, the green economy, energy and marine.

Each Plan is driven and overseen by an Implementation Committee, made up of representatives from the Enterprise Sector, Local Authorities, Enterprise Agencies, and other public bodies in the region. The South West Implementation Committee is chaired by Mr Bob Savage, General Manager, EMEA Centres of Excellence for Dell EMC.

The overarching objective of the Plan is to support the creation of an extra 40,000 jobs across Cork and Kerry. This represents an important step towards the Government's ambition of creating 200,000 jobs across the State by 2020, with 135,000 of these to be outside Dublin.

As with all regions in the State, the South West suffered during the recession, losing 37,600 jobs from 2007 to Q1 2012. At its highest in Q2 2012, the unemployment rate was 14.3%. Since the start of 2012 however, the region has seen a steady growth in employment, with an increase of 18,800 in numbers employed to Q2 2016. In Q2 2016 the South West had the second lowest unemployment rate in the State (after the Mid East) at 7.4%, over 1 percentage point lower than the Q2 State average of 8.6%. The largest sectors of employment in the region are Industry, and Wholesale and Retail Trade.

Preliminary results from Census 2016 show that both counties have experienced population growth, albeit at different levels, since 2011, with Kerry growing by 1.4% and Cork by 4.2%. Cork City is among the fastest growing areas during this period, growing at a faster rate than the surrounding county in common with Dublin, Limerick, Galway and Waterford. In order to build on the South West's strong employment performance, focus will be needed on ensuring the sustainability of jobs created in the region, and that the South West continues to drive development in line with its own sectoral strengths and areas of potential opportunity.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



In December 2015, Enterprise Ireland launched a **Competitive Feasibility Fund of €200k** for Kerry and Mid West Start-ups (action 138)



The new 10,000 square foot Ludgate Digital Hub building opened this year, providing up to 75 desks, training and meeting room space, and a state of the art telepresence suite. The building has 1000MB of connectivity due to a joint venture between Vodafone and ESB (action 84)



In January 2016, **the successful bidder to host the national Health Innovation Hub was announced as a consortium of UCC, CIT, NUIG, and TCD**. The aim is to drive collaboration between the health service and enterprise leading to development of new technologies, products and services (action 126)



The South-West Regional Skills Forum has been established with representation from education and training providers, statutory agencies, and business organisations. A Forum manager has been appointed to design and oversee the implementation of annual operational plans. (action 202)



Planning Permission was granted by Kerry County Council in February 2016 for an **IDA Advance Technology Building in Tralee**. Building commenced in August 2016 with expected completion May 2017 (action 187)



A successful EI/IDA Trade Mission was held in the South West in October 2015, to help Irish companies win more business from foreign owned multinationals in Ireland. Networking events also took place in the region, giving Irish companies the opportunity to engage directly with procurement teams from multinational companies across a wide range of sectors (action 73)



Kerry County Council has secured joint funding of €91,500 from CEDRA under the Agri-Tourism initiative, to target this sector and optimise linkages between tourism and food. Partners include Udarás na Gaeltachta, Kerry County Council, CEDRA and Taste Kerry (action 14)



Cork County Council & Cork City Council jointly commissioned the development of the first ever five year Tourism Strategy for Cork, to develop a vision and action plan which would give cohesive direction to the future growth of tourism in the county. (action 38)



Tyndall has secured €35m in Horizon2020 funding for Ireland with €10m of this to Irish Industry (action 180)



In 2015 the South West LEOs approved €2.14m to 131 projects for priming, feasibility and business expansion grants, hosted 467 participants on 32 Start Your Own Business (SYOB) courses, and saw gross job gains of 1021 among client companies over the year (action 132)



Enterprise Ireland has approved funding of a revised New Frontiers programme for 2016-2020, with **€2m investment approved for the South West to fund New Frontiers in ITT and CIT for the next 5 years** (action 144)

Enterprise Ireland Competitive Calls

€50 million is being made available to the 8 regions out to 2020 through three competitive calls administered by Enterprise Ireland. These calls are being targeted at innovative and collaborative approaches to support job creation across the regions. On June 1st 2016, the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mary Mitchell O'Connor T.D., announced an initial allocation of €5m in competitive funding for local and regional initiatives under the LEO Competitive Fund and the Community Enterprise Initiative.

Among projects allocated funding to date, Cork North And West, Cork South, Cork City, and Kerry LEOs have been successful in securing funding to develop a Graduate Programme, placing high performing graduates in micro enterprises for a 12 month accredited assignment in order to support the accelerated growth of the hosting business. The placement will form part of existing Masters Programmes and will span a range of disciplines.

Further funding calls will be announced in early 2017.

Local Enterprise Offices

The Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) in Cork and Kerry play an important role in job creation. They are an excellent example of a collaborative partnership between the LEOs, Enterprise Ireland, Local Authorities and their parent Departments, in delivering supports and signposting to start ups, microenterprise and small businesses nationwide. Through the efforts of the South West LEOs, a total of 1012 jobs (gross) were created in the region in 2015.

Regional Skills Forum

The Department of Education and Skills has established a network of 9 Regional Skills Fora to foster greater engagement between the education and training system, employers and other enterprise stakeholders in building the skills of each region.

The Regional Skills Fora provide a vehicle for close co-operation at regional level between education and training providers and enterprise, between different education and training providers themselves, and also provide a local link with the implementation of other strategies such as the Regional Action Plan for Jobs and Pathways to Work.

The Regional Skills Forum for the South West is comprised of: University College Cork, Cork & Tralee Institutes of Technology, Cork & Kerry Education & Training Boards, Skillnets; Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Cork City & County Council, Cork & Kerry LEOs, Intreo, Failte Ireland; IBEC, Cork Business Association, Tralee Chamber Alliance, Cork Chamber of Commerce, and Kerry Business Network.

National Broadband Plan (Progress to June 2016)

The National Broadband Plan (NBP) aims to deliver high speed services to every city, town, village and individual premises in Ireland. The Programme for a Partnership Government commits to the

delivery of the NBP as a matter of priority. This is being achieved through private investment by commercial telecommunications companies and through a State intervention in areas where commercial investment is not forthcoming.

The procurement process formally commenced in December 2015 with the publication of the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire and Project Information Memorandum. Five responses were received from prospective bidders to this stage of the competitive procurement process by the deadline of 31 March 2016. These responses have been evaluated by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources from a technical, financial and legal compliance perspective. A number of companies have qualified to proceed to the next stage of the procurement process, in which qualified bidders will be invited to formally dialogue with the Department, based on detailed schedules drawn up by the Department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pilz Ireland: Operating in Ireland since 1998, in June 2016 Automation Technology company Pilz Ireland finalised the purchase of a site adjacent to its existing facility from the IDA in the Cork Business & Technology Park, Model Farm Road, Cork. Pilz Ireland is the Irish subsidiary of Pilz GmbH & Co KG, a leading international automation technology company providing safe manufacturing and process automation solutions. The company is planning to begin construction on the site of a new facility to accommodate the Software Product Research and Development Centre, a global centre of excellence to configure and program intelligent automation systems.

iDirect: VT iDirect, Inc. (iDirect), a world leader in satellite-based IP communications technology and a company of Vision Technologies Systems, Inc. (VT Systems), announced in June 2016 it will establish an Engineering and Innovation Centre in Killarney, Ireland. The facility will help to create new engineering jobs in a technology-rich region of the world. iDirect is a world leader in satellite-based IP communications technology. The new engineering roles that will be created at the facility will focus on software, firmware, hardware, radio frequency and systems engineering technologies.

Eli Lilly and Company: Eli Lilly and Company plans to develop cutting-edge technology for use in the manufacture of new wave of active pharmaceutical ingredients at Kinsale. Dr. John C. Lechleiter, Chairman, President, and CEO, Eli Lilly and Company, announced in April 2016 that the company is set to invest €35 million in delivering a new high-tech manufacturing facility at its Kinsale campus, using pioneering technology that has the potential to transform how medicines are made in the future. The project will apply “Continuous Manufacturing Technology” to carry out the development and commercialisation of a number of Lilly’s small molecule pipeline products that are currently undergoing late-stage clinical trials. This development will see the Kinsale site becoming the centre of excellence for continuous manufacturing for Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) for Lilly worldwide.

Newsweaver: In December 2015, it was announced that one of Ireland’s most innovative high-tech companies is to create 60 new jobs to support the expansion of its global customer base.

Newsweaver will see its workforce grow from 80 to 140 over the next two years, with a concentration on high-value jobs in research and development at its Cork HQ. As part of this project, the company is to double the number of developers it employs as it grows its international customer base and confirms its reputation as the market leader in Internal Communications (IC), providing some of the world's biggest corporations with pioneering solutions to complex employee communications challenges.

JRI America Inc, Tralee: JRI America Inc, who established a Software Development Operation in Tralee, Co. Kerry in 2011 are gearing up for the next phase of growth in Tralee with a move to new, larger premises at Kerry Technology Park in the town. The new premises were officially opened in January 2016. JRI America, Inc., is a subsidiary of the Japanese IT financial services company Japan Research Institute Ltd. They offer a broad range of financial services, primarily banking related. The team in Tralee has grown to almost 70 staff since the initial announcement in late 2011 with the staff employed there providing support for a broad range of functions including Software Development, Quality Assurance, Network Support, Data Centre Support and Technical Customer Service activities. The move to the new 14,000 sq. ft. premises is part of its strategic plan to position the company for growth into the future in Tralee.

PMD Solutions receives €4.2 million in EU funding for innovative respiratory device to tackle in-hospital respiratory compromise: In November 2015, PMD Solutions, an SME based in Cork, announced it was to receive €4.2 million in funding from the latest round of Horizon 2020 SME Instrument (Phase 2) to commercialise a new respiratory monitoring device to improve patient outcomes. PMD, currently employing 10 individuals, plans to increase its team by a further 11 people to grow its core functions - marketing and innovation. At each stage, PMD leveraged the expertise of Enterprise Ireland's H2020 National Support Office, Cork Institute of Technology (CAPPA) centre, and Tyndall National Institute.

400 new jobs at Voxpro: In November 2015, An Taoiseach and the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation announced 400 new jobs at Voxpro, Ireland's largest, international provider of customer experience and technical support solutions to iconic global brands, increasing Voxpro's employee numbers to more than 1,400. Voxpro's international and indigenous partners include iconic brands that are truly changing the world such as Google, Airbnb, Nest, Etsy, Stripe, Red Bubble and Weebly. Voxpro operates successfully from three purpose built facilities in Cork, as well as offices in Dublin, San Francisco and Folsom, with major global expansion plans over the coming years.

Dairymaster innovation rewarded at National Ploughing Championships: In September 2015, the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, announced the winners of the Enterprise Ireland Toplink.ie Innovation Arena Awards at the National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska, Co. Laois. With a competition structure that supports Irish innovation and ingenuity at all levels, the Awards recognise and reward outstanding innovation in the agricultural sector. 2015's competition attracted 170 entries – 54 were shortlisted as 2015 finalists and invited to exhibit in the Innovation Arena. The overall winner of the Innovation Arena Award was Dairymaster's Swiftflo Commander. Based in Tralee, Co. Kerry, Dairymaster received a top prize worth €15,000 from Enterprise Ireland

and The Irish Farmers Journal which includes advertising and PR support, mentoring and a cash prize of €5,000.

Leading Irish companies announce contracts in France valued at over €5m: In September 2015, Enterprise Ireland announced contracts by two Irish companies responding to opportunities in the highly competitive French Cleantech and Construction sectors. Tricel (Killarney, Co. Kerry) and Wood Energy Solutions (Cahir, Co. Tipperary), announced contracts totalling over €5m with French companies at a Business Breakfast in Lyon attended by the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD as part of his official visit to France. Tricel, Europe's leading manufacturer of wastewater treatment systems, signed a contract with Rhone Alpes Assainissement, the leading supplier of environmental products in their region. Tricel are market leaders of solutions for the wastewater industry in France. These contracts reflect Enterprise Ireland's strategy to scale Irish exports to established markets like France. Exports of Irish-owned companies to France grew by 5% in 2014, reflecting the demand for the world-class goods and services which Irish companies have to offer.

Opening of €53.2m DePuy state-of-the-art manufacturing facility: In June 2015, the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation together with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine officially opened a new €53.2 million 320,000 square foot state-of-the-art plant expansion for DePuy Synthes Companies of Johnson & Johnson, a global leader in orthopaedic and neurological solutions, that is expected to bring an additional 80 new jobs to the estimated 800 positions already at the site in Cork. In addition, the new state-of-the-art facility will feature a Medical Device Test Methods Center of Excellence laboratory to advance quality testing methods across the Johnson & Johnson family of medical device companies while also creating potential expansion opportunities for other J&J companies. Johnson & Johnson is one of the world's largest manufacturers of medical devices, with 2014 medical device sales of \$27.5 billion.

Tricel: In May 2015, it was announced that 100 new jobs were to be created by Killarney based manufacturing and engineering group Tricel with 40 of these to be situated in the company's headquarters in Killarney. The new jobs, including graduate positions, aim to bolster the existing workforce of 250 based in Ireland, UK and France over 18 months and strengthen operations in management, engineering, R&D, product development, marketing and manufacturing. The 40 new jobs in the Killarney HQ will be worth an extra €2.4m to the local economy. This project is supported by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation through Enterprise Ireland. Tricel is a European leader in the development and manufacture of advanced and specialised composite products, from water storage tanks and wastewater treatment systems to construction and building products.

BREXIT (Position at end-June 2016)

The UK decision will not take effect for some time and the precise implications of the referendum result will now depend on the period of negotiation ahead, involving the UK and our EU partners.

Government has a clear plan in place to respond to the referendum outcome and has a Contingency Framework which maps the key issues that will be most important to Ireland in the coming weeks, months and years, including the future changing trading relationship between the UK and Ireland,

and the protection of jobs here, both of which are of course interlinked. The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation is fully engaged in the risk analysis and contingency planning work that is being undertaken at cross-Government level, led by the Department of the Taoiseach.

The Government, the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the enterprise agencies are fully committed to supporting business in this period of heightened uncertainty; however, this is being done against the background of a strong economy and a highly competitive enterprise sector.

There have been multiple contacts already between IDA and Enterprise Ireland and their respective senior business clients. Enterprise Ireland, has already set up a helpline and email address to provide assistance to its clients, and will implement a range of plans to assist Irish exporters. In addition, EI will fine-tune existing support tools to address new UK market conditions. The IDA will continue to market Ireland across the globe as the number one location for foreign direct investment.

ACTIONS NOT DELIVERED/CHANGED

Action 13: Wording of action changed. Action published as “Develop co-ordinated campaigns to push locally based product”; changed to “Work with retailers to increase shelf space for local produce”, to better reflect action needed in this area.

Action 15: Wording of action changed. Action published as “Encourage collaboration between small manufacturing companies and larger agri-food companies for distribution and market access”; changed to “Target an increase in the number of participants on the Food Academy programme and progress a number of companies in the region to the next level – Food Academy Advance”

Action 22: Wording of action changed to better reflect Bord Bia strategy. Published as “Build on the successful initiatives of LAs and LEO’s in the region in supporting indigenous food and beverage SME’s in accessing international markets through their attendance and participation at international food trade events”; changed to “Support local indigenous food and beverage SMEs in accessing international markets through Bord Bia’s Market Study Visits”.

Action 31: Merged with action 13 due to similarity of objectives

Action 94 & Action 220: Actions deemed not viable/no longer relevant

Actions 16, 55, 83, 133, 157, 193, 194, 207, 214, 216 & 239 have been delayed; updates will be provided in the next progress report

ACTION UPDATES

COLLABORATION AND BUILDING BUSINESS NETWORKS

Action 1:

Measure: Develop and strengthen the Regional Chamber of Commerce Network in the South West to provide a cohesive approach to business support and development across counties Cork and Kerry.

Status: Ongoing

Cork Chamber engages with the regional Chambers across the Cork region on an ongoing basis, via the Cork Regional Chambers network, of which Cork Chamber are secretariat and organisers. This regional Chambers network meets regularly to discuss issues of common interest and to develop actions to advance the sustainable economic development of the region. Throughout 2016, Cork Chamber has met with Chambers in Kerry to discuss common strategies that are aimed at promoting and enhancing the South West region as a progressive location for investment and continues these working relationships to evolve complimentary strategies.

Kerry County Council has encouraged and supported the development of Chamber Alliances in a number of towns in the county over the past year. Chamber Alliances have been established or are in the process of being formed in Killorglin, Castleisland, Caherciveen, Dingle, Kenmare & Listowel as well as the two major towns of Tralee & Killarney. Work is continuing in developing cooperation between these centres.

Action 2: Ibec

Measure: Strengthen existing Ibec networks across the SW region by developing additional Ibec development and best practice networks in the region including in PharmaChem and medtech and food and drink sectors, together with Leadership Forums.

Status: Ongoing

IMDA (Irish Medical Devices Association)/PCI (PharmaChem Ireland) hosted a joint drug delivery forum in Cork on 5th May of 2016, and plan to host a further joint forum in 2017. Approximately 80 companies participated in the event from across both sectors.

Action 3:

Measure: Build the reputation of the South West region as an international centre of expertise, knowledge and collaboration for the ICT sector, strengthening the effective work to date in linking effectively the multinational, SME and research base in the region.

Status: Complete

Promotion has taken place through the work of the European Technology Cluster, which represents the region from an IT Perspective on a number of levels through specific events, conferences, and meetings for potential FDI opportunities. Half-day conferences, Skillnets events, breakfast seminars, networking lunches and evening events have taken place throughout the year, while a 'Leaders

Awards Dinner' and 'Technology in Business Conference' are run annually.

Action 4:

Measure: Develop and promote existing networks across the region to take advantage of LEO EEN (Enterprise Europe Network) status to ensure we maximise the export opportunities that this now offers for small business across the South West region.

Status: Complete

The Enterprise Europe Network is an information source on internationally available new technologies. EEN comprises over 600 partner organisations in more than 50 countries in Europe and beyond. The Network has a total reach of 25 million SMEs. Enterprise Ireland co-ordinates the Enterprise Europe Network in Ireland in partnership with the Local Enterprise Offices and the Chambers in the South West. A series of events and initiatives by EI, LEOs and Chambers are underway across the South West Region to promote the EEN Network.

Kerry LEO is engaged in the EEN process, and a staff member received training in September 2015 and July 2016. A specific EEN event has been scheduled for Q3 2016 to advise local businesses of EU networking opportunities, website trading linkages and potential for export.

EEN activities through Cork Chamber are ongoing, with the Chamber LEO supporting EEN events, helping with online promotion and attending in some cases, as well as speaking at Kerry LEO's first EEN event.

Enterprise Ireland's Potential Exporters Division also deliver a wide range of initiatives focussed on helping companies export more. The 'Get Export Ready' awareness programme includes practical measures for early exporters focusing on export readiness, the importance of research, developing a value proposition and the skills of export selling. It will support and help prepare companies interested in targeting international markets to confront the challenges that any company faces as it prepares to export. EI has participated and presented at a series of events in the South West to advise SMEs on their get export ready strategy during Q3 & Q4 2015.

Action 5:

Measure: Establish an SME 'Advocates for Success' panel of local business leaders, entrepreneurs and enterprise role models that will champion entrepreneurship in the SW region.

Status: Ongoing

Kerry LEO mentor panel is in place and providing services to businesses. Cork Chamber is a member of the Cork Innovates steering group, along with EI, the Higher Education Institutions and LEOs, and activity is ongoing in relation to engaging local business leaders to support and advise on entrepreneurship initiatives in the region. Cork Innovates Partnership has undertaken several initiatives in 2015/2016 to champion entrepreneurship in the region, including together with Startup Ireland securing the bid to host the Startup Nations Summit 2016.

Action 6:

Measure: Develop a Creative & Design Forum for the Region, based around LEO/LA founded successful Cork & Kerry Food Forum Model already established supporting over 400 food producers in the region.

Status: Ongoing

Kerry County Council LEO hosted a meeting with LEOs from South Cork, North and West Cork and Cork City to explore options. A full day workshop was held on 4th December, 2015 to discuss this and other joint options. This led to the delivery of a FUSE Workshop in May 2016 in collaboration with the Craft & Design Council of Ireland allowing craft workers to attend presentations in design, retailing, e commerce, trade shows, merchandising, branding, trends and 1-1 clinics. There has been ongoing support towards the administrative costs of the Kerry Craft network "Original Kerry". "Original Kerry" continues to operate new retail outlets in Tralee, Castlegregory and Dingle.

Cork County Council have held internal discussions and begun early stage planning. Further action will be undertaken in Q3. The Local Authorities and LEOs in Cork continue to build on the already established Cork Art & Design Month and will follow up with follow up with Cork County Council and Cork & Kerry LEOs regarding a joint event.

Action 7:

Measure: Strengthen public and private collaboration in existing industry cluster groups in the Region, including Energy Cork, IT@Cork, CEIA and IMERC

Status: Complete

The various technology clusters in Cork, with the support and encouragement of organisations such as Cork Chamber have further developed their cooperation and collaboration in the recent period. Energy Cork has participated in Cork Chamber led initiatives with IT@Cork and has had very fruitful collaboration with IMERC (Irish Maritime and Energy Resource Cluster), including one major conference on the importance of and opportunities for Cork Harbour, as well as co-hosted visits for international energy sector executives. The School of Business at Cork IT has also been very proactive in improving the visibility and shared, best-practice vision for Cluster activities in Cork.

Action 8:

Measure: Provide a co-ordinated support mechanism and linkage to assist existing and new rural/community enterprise groups

Status: Complete

Cork County Council are finalising an implementation model. This will form part of actions with the Local Economic and Community Plan, which is close to final consultation stage. The Community Enterprise Centre at Ballyvolane has been rebranded as the 'Northside for Business' campus and is now being managed by Plato and supported by the Local Enterprise Office. Kerry County Council operates as a "first stop shop" for local enterprises, through its LEO office. All queries from enterprises are dealt with and directed to appropriate agencies. New office move to Kerry County

Council County Buildings continues to reinforce this role.

BUILDING SECTORAL OPPORTUNITIES, CLUSTERS AND ECOSYSTEMS

Action 9:

Measure: Evaluate the efficacy of establishing a National Agri-Tech centre of excellence in the South West. This centre of excellence would have a particular focus on technology across the agri-sector, building on ITT's and MTU's leadership in mechatronics, RFID and agricultural technology research and education.

Status: Ongoing

After engaging with each of the key stakeholders around the efficacy of establishing a National Agri-Tech centre of excellence, ITT believe it is evident that such a centre should be established. The proposed centre should provide a "fully functional test-bed" facility for new service and product innovations, working through the full product lifecycle from idea generation to commercialisation. Work completed to date includes:

- Engaged with key Agri-Tech industry stakeholders regarding the development of such a centre of excellence.
- Engaged with Enterprise Ireland regarding the development of an Agri-Tech cluster within the EI Technology Gateway program and the establishment of an Agri-Tech centre of excellence.
- Have had engagement with Harper Adams University in the UK, and Massey University in New Zealand who are two international examples of best practise of centres of excellence in agri-education and research in the agri-tech sector, with a view to benchmarking the proposed development within the region.
- Engaged with the Agri-Tech champion regarding the establishment of the centre, who also suggested that the centre of excellence would include market analysis, market sharing and business modelling, and could engage with the proposed "Hub for Design and Innovation" – see Action Item 87.
- Other regions have identified the need for such a centre, we are suggesting that a joint approach should be taken by all regions in the development of such a centre of excellence.
- Agreed with the Agri-Tech champion that a networking event would be hosted in Tralee towards the end of Q4, 2016.

Action 10:

Measure: Enterprise Ireland will target food companies in the South West to scale, innovate and develop international markets in line with National Policy.

Status: Ongoing

EI food division is working closely with clients nationally to develop scale and innovation for international market growth. The South West has a strong cohort of food and beverages companies that are involved in this engagement. Some of the ongoing initiatives include:

- Promotion of the “Food Works” Programme for the South West in 2014/2015 and new 2016 programme ongoing
- Strategic Innovation Partnership have been approved for the Dairy Sector to look for additional value added opportunities
- Ongoing engagement with the beverage sector in developing a cluster that will assist companies to scale growth internationally

Action 12:

Measure: In line with national policy, promote the key strengths of the region as a food and beverage producer through co-ordinated marketing campaigns by key subsectors in the South West region

Status: Ongoing

Kerry County Council is engaging in ongoing collaborations with Taste Kerry, the Kingdom Food Network, and the Institute of Technology. The Cork Kerry Food Forum was delivered in June 2016 through the cooperative efforts of Cork and City Councils, Kerry County Council and the regional Local Enterprise offices. A Taste Kerry Food Expo was held in Tralee on 21st August 2016 which saw strong attendance. The Taste Kerry website (www.tastekerry.ie) has also been launched with associated strong social media marketing through Facebook and Twitter.

Cork Chamber, via EEN, has run several events focused on the food sector, and has promoted the South West’s regional strengths via these events. Cork Chamber have contributed feedback and supported both Taste Cork and the County Council proposal for the AgriFood Cluster, as members of the steering/advisory

Action 13:

Measure: Work with retailers to increase shelf space for local produce

Status: Complete

Four companies from the South West participated in the Food Academy Advance programme run in conjunction with SuperValu, which gives them exposure to the entire national network of stores.

Kerry County Council continues to work closely with Supervalu on the Food Academy Programme, with two programmes and 15 participants involved in training and product placement. Farmer’s

markets have been supported in the main towns and work is ongoing in this area.

Action 14:

Measure: Optimise the linkage with tourism for attracting visitors to the region for food and beverage related activities.

Status: Complete

Kerry County Council submitted an application to CEDRA under the Agri-Tourism initiative and joint funding €91,500 has been secured for an initiative which will target the sector. Partners include Udarás na Gaeltachta, Kerry County Council, CEDRA and Taste Kerry. A project implementation group has been formed with representation from Kerry County Council Tourism Dept., LEO, ITT and food producers. Work is advancing well.

Action 15:

Measure: Target an increase in the number of participants on the Food Academy programme and progress a number of companies in the region to the next level – Food Academy Advance

Status: Complete

LEOs have promoted and run the annual Food Academy Programme in line with agreed National MoUs/ Protocols with Bord Bia and Musgraves. Four companies from the South West participated in the Food Academy Advance programme run in conjunction with SuperValu, which gives them exposure to the entire national network of stores. The businesses on the programme have received one-to-one mentoring and specialist training, helping them to understand their market and customer better. Sustaining the pipeline of food businesses will be a key issue into the future.

Action 16:

Measure: Create a business innovation network in the region involving dairy companies, Moorepark Technology, research institutes, incubators and small businesses focusing on food, health and nutrition and consider how best to meet the future innovation capacity needs of the sector as part of the successor to Harvest 2020.

Status: Delayed

This action is delayed for reporting in H1 2016; an update will be provided in the second progress report.

Action 17:

Measure: Progress the implementation of the Cork and Kerry Food Strategies developed by LAs and LEOs and build on and support the work of the Food Co-Ordinator position.

Status: Complete

A Food Coordinator for Cork City and County Councils has been appointed and is in place. A draft food strategy for Cork has been produced. Stakeholder engagement is underway, which is reviewing the draft strategy. Work is also being undertaken on a food cluster for the region. Taste Cork Strategy has been launched and wider engagement group will now progress.

Kerry County Council has ongoing strong engagement with food producers in the region. Initial work has commenced on a formal food strategy. The Kerry Food Network has been supported through funding applied for through CEDRA and a number of strong initiatives are underway such as Taste Kerry website development (www.tastekerry.ie) and the launch of a county food directory. Kerry LEO has delivered the Food Academy programmes in 2015/2016 respectively with strong follow on and placement of product within the Super Valu stores.

Action 18:

Measure: Support the further development of the Cork and Kerry international food event promotions and presence.

Status: Complete

A food strategy for Kerry is in development. A Food Coordinator for Cork City and County Councils has been appointed, and a draft food strategy for Cork has been produced. The Cork Kerry Food Forum was delivered in June 2016 with strong attendance and trade buyer engagement.

The Taste Kerry website (www.tastekerry.ie) has also been launched with associated strong social media marketing through Facebook and Twitter. Taste Kerry through the CEDRA funding initiative has run a series of events publicising and promoting Kerry Food including Rose of Tralee promotion and food fairs.

Food Cluster work is also underway with Cork County Council, UCC & the LEOs. Early stage engagement is underway with Welsh Partners, and the group will look at ways to offer something unique to target Chinese market (in a way that the New Zealand food cluster has achieved under an umbrella group) and to do this over the course of the Cluster project.

Action 19:

Measure: Support the further development of the “Taste Cork” and “Taste Kerry” brands as key initiatives which have the potential to underpin significant internationalisation of the regions’ food SMEs.

Status: Complete

The Kerry and Cork LEOs are working closely together on the delivery of regional events. There is ongoing strong engagement with food producers in the region. A formal food strategy for Kerry is being developed. The Kerry Food Network has been supported through funding applied for through CEDRA by Kerry County Council and a number of strong initiatives are underway such as website development and food directories with strong linkages to the tourism sector.

Action 21:

Measure: Ibec to examine how best the whiskey industry might deliver its growth potential and deliver jobs to the region.

Status: Complete

The Alcohol & Beverage Federation of Ireland (ABFI) and Whiskey Industry Ireland (WII) is preparing plans to build on existing industry experience and is seeking to launch a pilot mentoring programme which will look to support both new entrants and High Potential Start Ups by partnering them with an experienced distiller within the industry.

Action 22: Bord Bia

Measure: Support local indigenous food and beverage SMEs in accessing international markets through Bord Bia's Market Study Visits

Status: Complete

Bord Bia has also supported local indigenous food and beverage SMEs in accessing international markets through their 'Market Study Visits'. Each year, Bord Bia arranges a series of short Market Study Visits providing client companies with an excellent insight into European markets. The Visits allow clients to visit the maximum number of retailers or foodservice operators in a market in the most cost-efficient way possible, with the added benefit of a local market overview and insights from Bord Bia's local representatives.

In addition, Kerry County Council continues to support the food sector through its LEO office with participation in the SHOP Tradefair, Food and Hospitality 2016 and the National Ploughing Championship. The Cork Kerry Food Forum was delivered in June 2016 with strong attendance and trade buyer engagement.

Action 24

Measure: Develop effective measures to attract additional landings into ports in the south west and continue to invest significantly in necessary infrastructure at the Fishery Harbour Centres in the region.

Status: Ongoing

BIM is working in partnership with an international fisheries consultant to engage with stakeholders

in Ireland, France, Spain and the UK to gain perspectives on the current status, opportunities, barriers and enablers regarding foreign landings

Action 25

Measure: Develop a national strategy to deliver scale in the key seafood sectors, including food ingredients, while also including elements to upskill personnel across the sector in the key areas.

Status: Ongoing

BIM's Seafood Innovation Academy aims to increase the innovation and NPD capability of seafood processing companies on their development journey from product concept to launch of value-added products. The first workshop held in May focused on understanding the innovation process and how to develop a pipeline of good products from idea generation.

Action 26

Measure: In line with the new 2025 agri-food strategy, develop a national strategic plan with practical and implementable actions to significantly increase the quantity of seafood added value across all main species groups. The aim will be to reduce the level of national produce sold in commodity form from 70% to below 50%.

Status: Ongoing

BIM are developing a Strategic Innovation Plan with a vision for the role of innovation across Irish seafood sector. The strategy will include a focus on R&D based bio ingredients nutrients from underutilised species and fish by-product in the human health and pet food area.

Action 28:

Measure: Work to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible (> 66% by volume), seafood exports in the South West region will be verified Origin Green by 2020.

Status: Complete

Origin Green has been successfully used to promote Irish farm produce in the export markets but uptake of Origin Green by the seafood sector has been much more limited and the potential for exporting seafood not fully reached. BIM and Bord Bia are working together in 2016 to prioritise the bringing of wild caught fish under Bord Bia's Origin Green programme using BIM's responsible fishing standards as an entry point as recommended by Food Wise 2025. To oversee the implementation of this recommendation, as a first step, BIM and Bord Bia have established a Market Advisory Group comprising fishermen, co-operatives, processors and exporters.

The initial focus will be on bringing catches of crab, prawns and monkfish under Origin Green. These three species form a substantial part of the seafood exports originating from the South West region. The coordinated approach being pursued by BIM and Bord Bia will contribute to reaching the export target set for the South West region.

Action 29:

Measure: Run SeaFest festival which showcases Ireland's abundant maritime resources.

Status: Complete

SeaFest is intended to contribute to the third goal of Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth, the government's Integrated Maritime Plan. The three goals are 1) a thriving maritime economy, 2) health ecosystems; and 3) engagement with the sea. The event is an initiative of the inter-departmental Marine Coordination Group (MCG), and is organised on the MCG's behalf by the Marine Institute in conjunction with a range of other agencies. SeaFest consists of a range of public, business and policy related events and is timed to coincide with the annual Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth Conference.

The 2015 SeaFest event was held in Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork and was attended by in excess of 10,000 people with a conference attendance of 500. The second 2016 SeaFest event was held in Galway, with in excess of 60,000 people attending the public events and over 1000 delegates attending the Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth, BIM Seafood Conference and a Digital Ocean Conference. The 2017 event will return to Galway, on the basis that a second year at the same location will provide the scope to grow the event even further.

Action 30:

Measure: To ensure a good quality pipeline of food entrepreneurs, run pre Food Works clinics in the region in 2015 and 2016.

Status: Complete

Food Works Programme 2016 is an intensive accelerator programme structured to support, challenge, drive and accelerate food and beverage start-ups. Food Works are committed to supporting the next generation of food entrepreneurs to launch innovative products that can be scaled for export. It is a collaboration between EI, Bord Bia and Teagasc; see www.foodworksireland.ie for more information. Meetings with the Food Works Team for interested participants were held in Cork on 23rd February 2016. The programme commenced on 14th June 2016 and runs through to December 2016.

Action 31:

Measure: Work with retailers to increase shelf space for local produce.

Status: Complete [Merged with Action 13]

Action 32:

Measure: Bord Bia to work with LEOs to assist South West food and drink companies be Included in this year's Tesco Taste Bud programme.

Status: Complete

Five companies from the South West had participated in the programme which was completed by the end of 2015.

The Tesco Taste Bud programme is an annual seven month programme that supports participants to develop the necessary skills required to secure, grow and maintain a listing with Tesco in Ireland and overseas. The programme includes three levels to cater for suppliers at various stages of their development from local, in up to 9 stores, to export level with a view to securing a listing in Tesco global markets.

Action 33:

Measure: Using the Cork English Market as a good template, South West Local Authorities to consider replicating this model in other parts of the region.

Status: Ongoing

Cork County Council & LEO are currently looking at options for development of such facilities in rural towns. In Kerry the effort has been concentrated on the development of Farmer's Markets throughout the county and linking these markets to the tourism offering in the various settlements. The provision of appropriate sites for these markets, providing training in governance and marketing are key to their success. It is hoped that these markets will be strengthened through ongoing support. Taste Kerry through the CEDRA funding initiative runs a series of events publicising and promoting Kerry Food e.g. Rose of Tralee promotion, National Ploughing Championship and local food fairs.

Cork City Council in conjunction with the LEOs and TasteCork are investigating the potential for establishing in the city centre a food hub retail facility which is complementary to the English Market with a focus on "food to go" market for innovative and new food products. It is proposed to undertake a feasibility report in Q1 2017, subject to available funding. The LEO and Council are currently successfully trialling this model for food start ups in a small number of stalls in the English Market.

Action 35:

Measure: Develop FET programmes for new entrants to the Hospitality and Tourism sector as well as upskilling CPD programmes for those currently engaged.

Status: Complete

Following a consultative process with industry representatives an Industry relevant traineeship has been developed and commenced in Kerry ETB and one due to commence in Cork in Q4. A series of short Specific Skills courses have been developed for employee upskilling within the sector.

Action 37:

Measure: Develop initiatives to cultivate ICT technologies which can positively impact the tourism experience.

Status: Complete

Tyndall is a lead player in the Cork Smart Gateway consortium which is working on securing EU H2020 Smart City status for Cork. A number of the programs such as smart mobility will enhance tourist experience of the city. Tyndall participates in public outreach and access through Culture night. Kerry County Council is also presently working with the ITT on a Pilot Tourism Ambassador Programme involving technologies such as app development.

Action 38:

Measure: Develop Cork as a gateway destination and deliver clarity around the Cork brand and a cohesive 5 year tourism plan.

Status: Complete

Cork County Council & Cork City Council jointly commissioned the development of the first ever five year Tourism Strategy for Cork led by a high level Tourism Strategy Group to develop a vision and action plan which would give cohesive direction to the future growth of tourism in Cork. This tourism strategy, known as “Growing Tourism In Cork – A Collective Strategy”, was supported by Failte Ireland, Tourism Ireland and relevant Industry Stakeholders and was launched in January, 2016.

The objective of the strategy is to maximise the economic return from tourism in Cork in terms of increasing domestic and overseas visitor numbers from the current 2.3m to 2.8m and to have an associated increase in visitor spend from the current €700m to €865m. Cork currently accounts for 17.5% of all overseas visitors to Ireland which it is hoped to increase to 25% during the lifetime of the strategy.

This will be achieved by maximising Cork’s potential as a tourism destination within Failte Ireland’s national tourism brands of the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland’s Ancient East working in conjunction with all tourism stakeholders and providing clarity and awareness of what Cork has to offer the visitor.

Actions contained in the strategy will be delivered through Visit Cork, a new leisure tourism organisation set up under Promoting Cork which will be complementary to existing Tourism Organisations. Each action has a lead partner supported by key partners who collectively will be responsible for successfully implementing the actions.

The strategy contains a total of 28 actions under 4 key pillar as follows:

- Realising an ownable proposition for Cork to position itself as a compelling tourism destination within Ireland Ancient East and the Wild Atlantic Way Delivery of visitor centric experiences that are sustainable, beneficial to the local economy and support the “Maritime Paradise” proposition
- Generate awareness and consideration of Cork amongst visitors as a tourism destination and

support business development

- Facilitate and enrich the visitor journey with integrated tourism infrastructure and destination experience enablers

A Tourism Destination Manager and Sales & Marketing Manager have recently been appointed to ensure that the actions contained in the strategy are realised. The Tourism Destination Manager will lead and manage the implementation of the strategy whilst the Sales & Marketing Manager will manage the development and implementation of sales and marketing strategies.

Action 40:

Measure: Work with Fáilte Ireland to further develop and promote market-focussed visitor experiences and appropriate brand content along the SW section of the Wild Atlantic Way in line with the objectives of the project plan and brand guidelines.

Status: Ongoing

This year the Wild Atlantic Way team are working on a new “season extension” initiative: this is being undertaken in six communities along the Wild Atlantic way to encourage clusters of businesses to remain open for an initial two week period. Fáilte Ireland is putting in place supports and promotions to ensure these initiatives are well promoted domestically but also through international distribution channels with the ability to encourage short off season breaks. Working with Clonakilty, Bantry/Kenmare and Ballybunion. Failte Ireland are working with the Chambers in each of the areas.

The Wild Atlantic Way team has commenced work on developing a suite of *Signature Visitor Experience Plans*. These will adopt either a “geographic” or “thematic” approach. It is intended that the plans will be tangible actions plans to be implemented over a 2-3 year period and will be developed with a “hero” tourism product at the heart of each plan. The first Signature Visitor Experience Plan is near completion for the Skellig Coast Visitor Experience Development Plan. This is done in conjunction with Kerry County Council, SKPD, LEO, Udaras, ITT, and Tourism Groups.

Action 42:

Measure: Work with Fáilte Ireland to develop Ireland’s Ancient East, which will help in scaling up the asset base in areas of Cork and achieve international “stand-out” for the area based on its comparative advantage in built and cultural heritage.

Status: Ongoing

Development of The Maritime Heritage of Cork City and Harbour to deliver a story-rich signature visitor experience. Fáilte Ireland is putting in place financial and business supports and promotions to deliver a world class experience that will attract incremental overseas visitors. To date four attractions have been funded under the New Ideas in Ancient Spaces Small Capital Grants programme. A comprehensive orientation signage programme is currently in progress.

Action 44:

Measure: Develop a central investment plan for water based / coastal infrastructure to support business and job creation.

Status: Ongoing

The Coastal Management and Flood Projects Section of Cork County Council have prepared a 3 year draft budget (2016-2018) having regard to the recommendations of the Marine Leisure Infrastructure Strategies prepared for West and South Cork and current Council priorities.

Action 45:

Measure: Develop and pilot a water based transport strategy in the SW to determine measures necessary to unlock and grow water based visitor transportation (integrated)

Status: Complete

Cork County Council: Landing point provision at a number of locations in the lower harbour has been completed or is underway and an overall strategy for harbour transport will be examined in the context of an overview of harbour attractions, visitor numbers and potential commuting routes.

Cork City Council: A Cork Harbour based system is included in the Local economic and Community Plan

Kerry County Council: Blueway discussions commenced with inland fisheries to develop a pilot in Waterville. Kerry County Council and South Kerry Development Partnership are working in partnership on the project.

Action 46:

Measure: Develop a plan to improve the visitor experience and business capability of water activity providers (SMEs) active in tourism in coastal areas considered key to delivering on the objectives of both Failte Ireland's Experience Development strategy and the DAFM's marine strategy Harvesting Our Ocean Wealth (HOOW).

Status: Ongoing

Failte Ireland is working with FLAG (Fisheries Local Action Groups) in Cork & Kerry to identify key tourism projects that will help the fishing industry and coastal communities adapt to changing conditions in the sector and become economically resilient and ecologically sustainable.

'Growing Tourism in Cork: a collective strategy' has identified Cork's tourism proposition as Ireland's Maritime Paradise. Failte Ireland is working with "Visit Cork" to leverage Cork Harbour and its tourism potential. A Season Extension initiative in West Cork is identifying a Whale and Dolphin trail that will be promoted through international distribution channels and domestically with the ability to encourage short off-season breaks.

One of the stories identified through the Skellig Coast Visitor Experience Development Plan was “Ocean meets Sea at the Edge of the World”; Failte Ireland is working with the communities and businesses that deliver water sports, snorkelling, diving, tours and beach/coastal walks where visitors can learn more about the extraordinary marine environment and the influence of the Gulf Stream.

Action 47:

Measure: Prepare a plan to develop the Angling Economy along the South West (inland and coastal)

Status: Complete

The recently launched ‘Growing Tourism in Cork: a collective strategy’ has identified Cork’s tourism proposition as Ireland’s Maritime Paradise, with experiences in maritime and outdoor leisure activities, such as angling, as key supporting experiences within this proposition. The Council are currently in the process of appointing a co-ordinator to oversee the implementation of this strategy.

Action 48:

Measure: Develop the Cool Route Project

Status: Ongoing

The Cool Route project began in April 2015 and runs until April 2018 and investigates all aspects of the practical logistics and business potential to establish a cruising route along the offshore areas of the Northern Periphery Area, stretching from the South of Ireland, to the UK (Northern Ireland and Western Scotland) on onwards to Norway, thereby promoting all of the cruising areas on the western coastline of Europe.

The Cool Route is seen as an important project in helping to remove barriers in peripheral areas which do not generally enjoy great access to clients. As the main product of the project it is estimated that a total of 55 service providers, some existing and some new, will provide direct services to the route, on a coordinated transnational basis. The route will assist in the creation/sustainability of these enterprises and in turn create and/or sustain jobs in related areas.

Action 49:

Measure: Optimise opportunities presented by the emerging ‘National Cruise Tourism Strategy’ (end 2015) to ensure Cruise ports in the region are winning a greater share of a growing international cruise business, by having a clear implementation plan for the region.

Status: Complete

In January 2016, Cork County Council launched ‘Growing tourism in Cork: a collective strategy’ creating a new tourism proposition for Cork as Ireland’s Maritime Paradise and identifying key priorities in each business sector and actions that enhance the visitor experience. Action 8 of Plan 2 of the Implementation Framework identifies the need to “identify and develop an experience portfolio to cater for Cruise tourism”. Recruitment of a Destination Manager to oversee the

implementation of the strategy, as well as a Marketing Manager, is underway and appointments to these positions are imminent.

Action 50:

Measure: Optimise opportunities presented by the emerging 'National English Language Learning Tourism Strategy (end 2015) to ensure Cruise ports in the region are winning a greater share of a growing international learning tourism sector, by having a clear cross-agency implementation plan for the region.

Status: Project deemed not viable/no longer relevant

Consumer demand for international learning tourism in Cork has not been sufficient to justify creation of new programmes in this category. In 2015 extensive discussions were held between UCC's Adult & Continuing Education office, UCC's International Office, representatives of Kerry County Council plus the Kerry International Dark Star Reserve and the Derrynane Group, regarding creating an eco-learning programme marketed at parents of UCC international students. After extensive review, the group concluded that the project was not financially or logistically viable.

Action 52

Measure: Undertake further work on route options and feasibility studies for potential development of Greenways in the region, in line with national Greenways guidelines.

Status: Ongoing

75 rural recreation projects are now being funded by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs through the first round of allocations under the 2016 Rural Recreation Scheme. These projects cover a broad spectrum, and range from Walking Trails to Greenways and feature a number of water based initiatives covering Blueways and Angling activities. From this fund, 8 projects in Cork received a total of €365,970; 6 projects in Kerry received a total of €232,101.

Action 53:

Measure: Develop a plan to link the potential to link walking trails, greenways and marine ways developing a Camino type offering for the SW region.

Status: Complete

Kerry County Council has submitted applications for funding to Fáilte Ireland under the major Grants Scheme for the South Kerry Greenway, the Tralee-Fenit Greenway, the Great Southern Trail (Abbeyfeale to Listowel) and the Lough Leane Loop. The CPO for the South Kerry Greenway will be launched in January 2017. The recently launched tourism strategy outlines detailed plans for the implementation of an integrated Greenway strategy and resources have been assigned to develop this.

Action 54:

Measure: Promote and incentivise greater business links between tourism and food sectors, promoting use of local produce by the local hospitality sector.

Status: Ongoing

Fáilte Ireland ran a conference on 12/13 September called “Food Connect”. Food Connect explored the role of food in tourism, put a spotlight on the latest trends, taught how leading destinations position themselves in the global marketplace, and examined how food is presented to visitors in Ireland’s Ancient East, Dublin – a breath of fresh air, and on the Wild Atlantic Way. With visitors spending some €2 billion on food a year, local food has an unmatched ability to connect them with the heritage and culture of a region, the soul of its people and the rhythm of daily life. Food puts place on a plate, and is driving tourism like never before. Key representative bodies: RAI, Bord Bia, VFI, Taste Council, Teagasc, Taste Cork, Taste Kerry, Donegal Food Coast.

Action 55:

Measure: Údarás na Gaeltachta will run a pilot project in the South West region to build capacity in the tourism related enterprises under its remit.

Status: Delayed

This action was delayed due to staffing resources. In June ÚnaG appointed a new manager with specific responsibility for development of the tourism sector in the Gaeltacht areas including the South West region and it is envisaged that this appointment will enable ÚnaG to focus on the above action in the coming months.

Action 56:

Measure: Promote the advantages and potential of the region for Business Services.

Status: Ongoing

Marketing of the South West Region is ongoing as a location for business services for new companies and encouraging existing base of companies to expand their mandate.

Action 57:

Measure: Enterprise Ireland and IDA will implement their joint BPO strategy to grow the BPO sector in Ireland

Status: Complete

Since the creation of this strategy, the cluster initiative ‘The Crios Group’ was established with one mission: ‘The Crios Group will actively promote and develop the BPO and Customer Experience sector in Ireland’. The group is a member led cluster supported by EI who are committed to multiple objectives to promote, grow and influence the sector in accordance with the strategy. Of the

members, 5 are South West based. In January 2016, EI hired a senior Development Advisor who has over 12 years BPO experience in Ireland and strong sector knowledge to lead this strategy for EI and work closely with client companies to develop opportunities and initiatives.

In June 2016, as part of EI's ongoing work with IDA on the BPO Strategy, EI organized for a number of member companies from the Crios Group to present on their work to IDA and how they can support job growth. There are a number of IDA clients already working with Crios group members at present and it was felt it would be useful for some of the members to come in and talk about ways that they are helping grow clients, while also helping IDA's agenda.

Action 59:

Measure: Develop and market a value proposition based in the South West region in partnership with communities and stakeholders to offer the option of homeworking by IDA and EI client companies in order to provide new employment opportunities in regional locations which have the necessary broadband.

Status: Ongoing

IDA Ireland has successfully piloted Homeworking offerings to companies in conjunction with local communities along the Wild Atlantic Way. This was first piloted in Sneem and Dingle in 2015. Starwood Hotels and Resorts established a Hub working team initially in Sneem/Kenmare. There is continued focus on exploring additional opportunities for Homeworking (or Hubworking) in locations that can demonstrate that the relevant skills exist to meet client needs and that have the necessary broadband.

Action 61:

Measure: Develop FinTech educational programmes and appropriate apprenticeship models.

Status: Complete

Cork University Business School (CUBS) UCC has launched a global first in terms of Fintech education and research by teaming up with State Street Bank and Zhejiang University. Under this initiative CUBS will have twenty research students undertaking research into cryptocurrency and the use of advanced technology and modelling to improve investor education. It is anticipated that this will help the South West to develop as a preferred location for technology centres and operations of financial services companies.

Action 64:

Measure: Assess the potential to develop the South West region as a European hub of excellence for global regulation and compliance management for global operations, drawing on the expertise in the SW region in ICT and pharmachem.

Status: Ongoing

UCC has a number of initiatives in Regulatory Compliance and Governance for financial services of

which the largest is the GRC technology Centre, funded by EI/IDA. The work to date of the centre has resulted in one of the projects being put forward for commercialisation.

Action 65:

Measure: Promote the transfer of technologies to enterprises of the technologies being developed at the Sustainable Building Zero2020 activities at CIT and the greater use of the energy and heating testbeds at CIT.

Status: Ongoing

The Mechanical and Energy Systems Simulation group (MeSSO) (based in CIT's Zero2020 building) is leading an International Energy Agency project relating to ventilative cooling in buildings. Dissemination activities included a seminar for industry attended by 60 professional practitioners from the Cork region. Dissemination content includes new KPIs for ventilative cooling in international standards, a new ventilative cooling design guidebook, a component and system sourcebook and an exemplary case study book.

MeSSO is specialising in areas such as marine renewable energy technology, agricultural systems and building energy technologies. Technology transfer activities include dairy processing control and demand side management optimisation. They also carry out research on thermal comfort models in low energy environments, using Zero2020 as a test bed. A project with Cork City Council is developing a technique to quickly assess the energy efficiency of the Council's housing stock.

In addition, CIT continues to utilise its range of energy test-beds, i.e. the Nimbus smart building energy testbed, the district heating test-bed and the Zero2020 testbed in partnership with Irish-based and international industry partners. This includes Irish industry partners United Technologies Research Centre Ireland (direct funded and H2020 project E2District), IBM Smarter Cities Lab (H2020 TOPAs project) and a host of international industry partners. The testbeds are also available through collaboration with Irish industry under the Enterprise Ireland funded 'International Energy Research Centre' Technology Centre.

CIT also uses the testbeds actively in seeking funding opportunities in Horizon 2020. Specifically in the societal challenge on 'Secure, clean and efficient energy' and the industry leadership area of 'Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, and Biotechnology'

CIT uses the testbeds also for PhD student projects as well as in selected undergraduate curricula for project work and as examples of energy efficiency measures in taught classes to contribute to the human resource development in the energy space for Ireland.

Action 66:

Measure: Set out a plan for residential development in the region and provide the infrastructure necessary to open up development land in a sustainable manner consistent with Development Plans.

Status: Complete

Cork County Council has identified, through its Development Plan, a need for an additional 58,005 new housing units within the county for the period 2011-2022. Zoned land is available to deliver 73,462 units but additional infrastructure is required to facilitate delivery of some of these units. The Council is working with Irish Water, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and other stakeholders to prioritise delivery of key infrastructure in a number of priority locations and is exploring options in relation to potential sources of funding for investment in infrastructure. The Council has also commenced a review of its Local Area Plans, providing the opportunity to reassess the availability of additional lands within the metropolitan area which may be capable of development for housing in the short term.

The Council are providing new residential development through traditional means (own build on Council owned lands) and by engaging with the private sector to provide turn-key housing. The Council is also providing new units within private developments in accordance with Part V of the Planning & Development Act (as amended). The Council is also supporting the National Development Finance Agency in the delivery of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) housing schemes by making lands available under licence, for delivery in the national PPP Project.

Kerry County Council's Core strategy identified the need for an additional 3,118 units over the period to 2021. There is sufficient zoned land within the urban areas to provide for this level of development. The Council is currently reviewing the residential zoning within the former three town council areas with a view to bringing them into line with the core strategy. Capacity shortages where these exist have been highlighted.

Cork City Council has identified capacity for 16,000 units (9,000 of which will need additional infrastructure). An audit of all sites with potential for residential development in the city has been completed and contact has been made with owners and agents to ascertain their plans for the sites and their view on barriers to development. Work is also progressing on establishing which sites need infrastructure to facilitate development. This will be delivered through the Action Plan for Housing and funding support will be sought through the Local Infrastructure Investment Fund recently proposed by Government. On the Social housing side a target of 434 new build houses (excluding voids and refurbishments) is being proposed to be constructed under the plan by 2018. There are 1,262 potential units on sites in the private sector which do not require infrastructure and of which approximately 250 units are being delivered by 2018. The City Council advertised a contract notice to identify suitable candidates to deliver part of its social housing programme for Cork city, and a competitive dialogue process is currently underway. It anticipated that construction will commence on some of the selected sites by Q3 2016, subject to the normal planning and funding approvals.

Action 67: Local Authorities

Measure: Use viaFulcrum to exploit the potential for greater collaboration in the built environment by developing an R&D cluster to develop technology as this sector becomes more technology driven.

Status: Ongoing

This initiative is being led by Cork City Council. The Hub is now employing one full time administrator and continues to develop sales leads in UK. Participating in LEO Cork City Accelerator Programme. Have achieved sales of €1.5m to date and pipeline of €3m being developed.

Action 68:

Measure: ETBs to increase, as appropriate, capacity for training of apprentices for manufacturing, engineering and construction as the sector recovers, together with addressing the continued need for upskilling of craft persons and training for the unemployed.

Status: Complete

The Training centre is currently at full capacity in the trades where SOLAS have sought additional provision. There is scope to provide further class provision in construction trades when demand arises. At this time, capacity is meeting demand.

Action 69:

Measure: Promote apprenticeship participation to relevant industry.

Status: Ongoing

The promotion and associated administration of the existing craft apprenticeship and the newly released apprenticeships are being promoted on an ongoing basis by dedicated apprenticeship staff.

Action 70:

Measure: Develop a showcase of the region's manufacturing base, with a particular focus on attracting young people to careers in manufacturing. The skills demand is for a mix of apprenticeships and third/fourth level qualifications. This will include a pilot a video roadshow to show to primary students' robotics in school. Manufacturing companies to promote more STEM participation in primary and secondary schools.

Status: Complete

UCC has established the Boole2School initiative (<http://georgeboole.com/boole2school/>) and the Steam initiative (<http://steam-ed.ie/>) to promote STEM+Arts participation at primary school level. UCC has an established programme for secondary schools through the College of Science, Engineering and Food Science through its outreach activities and its Eureka Labs; see <http://www.ucc.ie/en/sefs/outreach/>.

CIT has been a partner/supporter/host organisation for many promotional initiatives including 'SAM's Curiosity Den' (Sense About Maths) aimed at raising awareness of the importance of mathematics among primary school children and their parents (<http://senseaboutmaths.com/signup2.html>), the 'iWish' initiative aimed at encouraging girls to become involved in STEM careers (<http://www.iwish.ie/>), the "Engineering Your Future" programme which welcomes Transition Years to CIT to sample a wide range of engineering disciplines during a full week on campus (<http://www.cit.ie/currentnews?id=985>), and the "Science and Engineering Roadshow" which brings information on STEM careers to venues across the region (<http://www.cit.ie/currentnews?id=1048>).

CIT has hosted the VEX Robotics schools finals in association with EMC in 2015 and 2016, and hosts a

range of programmes and activities for primary and second level children during Science Week. CIT's Blackrock Castle, with its portable SkyDome, is a more permanent, widely-visited outreach facility.

Action 71:

Measure: Develop an initiative to support 3D printer and other digital tools access at primary and post primary level. Roll out pilot of introducing 3D prints / work stations for schools in Cork and Kerry. There is also a need to upskill students on CAD and CNC.

Status: Complete

ITT will host a STEM festival from 13th to 20th November 2016. The festival will have a number of STEM events taking place around the county with a big event scheduled for the 19th of November in ITT. As part of this STEM festival a 3D printing and training competition will be developed for a number of primary and post primary students within Cork and Kerry. Students will be asked to submit a 3D CAD model of a specific object and the winners of the competition will have their objects printed on a colour 3D printer in ITT. Following this CIT/ITT will evaluate rolling out a more formal 3D prints/work stations initiative for primary and post primary students in Cork and Kerry.

Action 72:

Measure: Build global services base around manufacturing base already in the region (MNCs). Share best practice, grow opportunity e.g. finance, supply chain, HR and procurement.

Status: Complete

IDA explores these opportunities with its client base on a 1:1 basis. IDA also hosts the Shared Services Forum nationally to allow for knowledge sharing of best practice across different functions for our client companies. IDA assists clients in bidding for additional functions, and supports them through introductions to other clients who have already established global business services as well as encouraging them to attend the forum where they can network and learn from others.

Action 73:

Measure: As part of its Global Sourcing initiative and the drive to foster SME supply opportunities into MNCs, Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland will embark on a major Trade Mission to Cork.

Status: Complete

This initiative is organised by Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland as part of a joint Global Sourcing initiative. The objective is to maximise sales opportunities for Irish companies with multinational companies based in Ireland, as well as large indigenous Irish companies. A successful EI/IDA Trade Mission was held in Cork in October 2015, building on the previous event held in April 2014. The objective of the trade mission was to help Irish companies win more business from foreign owned multinationals in Ireland, helping Irish companies to grow and create more jobs in Ireland.

In the South West networking events also took place in October 2015, giving Irish companies the opportunity to engage directly with procurement teams from multinational companies across a wide

range of sectors including ICT, Web 2.0, Pharma, Biotech, Medical Devices, Consumer, Security and Engineering. Most of the Irish companies participating on this mission already have a successful track record of supplying multinational companies across the globe. EI are now working to increase the number of Irish suppliers to the MNC base in Ireland and the South West - helping local companies grow and create more jobs in the region.

Action 74: Local Enterprise Offices

Measure: Promote the move to ecommerce and double the number of on-line vouchers drawn down by retailers in the region

Status: Ongoing

In 2015, Cork and Kerry LEOs approved 281 Trading Online Vouchers, to a total value of €542,494. In the first half of 2016, 125 Vouchers have been approved to a total value of €234,266. A further update on the total number of vouchers approved in 2016 will be provided in the second progress report.

Action 75:

Measure: Assess options for Urban Renewal Schemes and incorporate social and community development aspects.

Status: Complete

Kerry County Council successfully applied for €1.5m of ERDF money for €3.2m Tralee Town Centre West (Denny Site) Urban Renewal Scheme, and is now at the initial stages of planning the Denny Site demolition and formulating a masterplan team.

Cork County Council Planning Directorate, Community Development Unit and Economic Development Retail Support Team continue to assess all options for Urban Renewal Schemes and incorporate social and community development aspects in conjunction with Local Area Plans and Local Economic and Community Plans. Town Development funding raised locally is being applied to provide public realm improvements in conjunction with Retail Development supports.

The Cork City Centre Strategy Implementation Plan was launched in 2015 and is currently on schedule. The Cork City Centre Partnership is in Place, as is the City Council's Implementation Team. A City Centre Co-ordinator commenced work in October 2015. A Director of Services has joined the Department's new Urban Renewal Task Force.

Action 76:

Measure: Bring forward development proposals to enhance the consumer experience and attractiveness of town centres for shopping and to develop world class Retail supports for both individual retailers and for retail centres throughout the region

Status: Complete

Kerry County Council will deliver a pilot Retail programme in Listowel in October 2016. The programme outline has been developed and tendering has been completed. Programme recruitment is presently underway. It is anticipated that this programme will be delivered in other Municipal Districts in the County in 2017. Retailers participating in the Retail Programme receive advice and mentoring from consultants who specialise in the retail sector. The programme guides the participants through the development and implementation of a 12 to 18 month strategic plan for their business.

In 2013 Cork County Council introduced the Beacon Retail Programme for the retail sector in the county. The Beacon Programme, supported by the Economic Development Fund, helps raise the capacity of the retail sector throughout the county. Retailers participating in the Beacon Retail Programme receive advice and mentoring from consultants who specialise in the retail sector. The programme guides the participants through the development and implementation of a 12 to 18 month strategic plan for their business. The duration of the programme is approximately four months long and it is being delivered on a town by town basis across the county. To date the programme has been completed in 15 towns.

In recent months, Cork County Council have developed a draft proposal for the expansion of the Beacon Retail initiative to include two elements:

- (i) A programme of Continuous Development for those retailers who have already taken part in the Beacon Programme in their town, and
- (ii) the setting up of Town Teams, by the application of a methodology (nine steps) to guide the drafting and implementation of a Town Team Plan to attract footfall, encourage both the community and visitors to linger and ultimately to help retain money in the local communities by promoting safe, clean, vibrant and welcoming town centres that have something for everyone and are places where the young and old, male or female, families and children in the community and visitors can enjoy at any time.

This proposal is currently being considered by Senior Management.

Cork City Council LEO have are undertaking ongoing training with retailers, and Cork City Council are currently seeking consultants to market the city centre specifically.

Action 77:

Measure: Local Authorities and Retail Associations to develop collaborations to support the regeneration/development of their town and city centres through Town Centre Strategic Development Plans.

Status: Ongoing

Work is ongoing for Kerry County Council in relation to linkages with the retail sector and this will be further strengthened following the roll out of retail programmes, online trading vouchers and other innovative approaches to the retail sector. These activities will be strengthened through LECP (Local Economic and Community Plan) targeted measures and inclusion in the Municipal District and Town Development Plans. Close contact will be maintained with the Chamber Alliances.

As outlined above, a draft proposal is under consideration by Senior Management of the Cork County Council for the expansion of the Beacon Retail Programme to include the setting up of Town Teams, by the application of a methodology (nine steps) to guide the drafting and implementation of a Town Team Plan to attract footfall, encourage both the community and visitors to linger and ultimately to help retain money in the local communities by promoting safe, clean, vibrant and welcoming town centres that have something for everyone and are places that the community and visitors can enjoy at any time. If this approach is approved, it would involve forming a Town Team, led by the Municipal District Officer, consisting of representatives from the local stakeholders in the community, including, inter alia, the Community Association, Business Association, Retail Association, Tidy Towns, An Garda etc.

Cork County Council has also commenced the process of preparing eight Municipal District Local Area Plans for the County, replacing the existing Electoral Area Local Area Plans. It is intended, subject to enabling legislation, that these new plans will replace the existing Town Development Plans adopted by former Town Councils of Cobh, Clonakilty, Fermoy, Kinsale, Macroom, Mallow, Middleton, Skibbereen and Youghal. Going forward, the planning policy for all towns will be contained within the relevant Municipal District Local Area Plan within which the town is located and will include objectives for the town centre.

The Cork City Centre Strategy Implementation Plan was launched in 2015 and is currently on schedule. The Cork City Centre Partnership (involving the Chamber and City centre Business Association (CBA), Gardai, Bus Eireann and others) is in place along with the City Council's Implementation Team. The partnership launched as 'CORE', and a city centre coordinator was appointed. The Director of Services at the last Implementation Plan meeting offered to discuss this model with the other Local Authorities in the region. Preparations for the review of the South Docks Local Area Plan are ongoing.

Action 78:

Measure: In the Life Sciences area, IDA will expand the Life Science Value Proposition for the South West Region to attract investment from new companies.

Status: Ongoing

IDA Ireland continues to actively promote locations across the South West Region for Life Sciences based on the availability of property solutions with the required utilities and infrastructure as well as clear evidence of skills availability. The recent announcement (Sept 2016) by GE Healthcare of their plans to invest €150m in developing a Biopark on an IDA strategic site in Ringaskiddy is an example of where IDA has delivered on this.

Action 79:

Measure: Further exploit the potential for BioInnovate, headquartered in NUIG, but with centres in UCC as a means for innovation and job creation in the medical devices sector

Status: Ongoing

BioInnovate Ireland was established as a forum which combines resources to catalyse and Lead

Medical Innovation by:

- Delivering the next generation of specially trained Fellows and skilled graduates to the Med Tech market place
- Identifying new product development opportunities
- Providing, developing and proposing commercial opportunities to move an identified clinical need forward
- Providing research opportunities and spin-out companies in collaboration with clinicians and partnering companies
- Building a Med Tech innovation ecosystem that can deliver internationally

BiInnovate Ireland has achieved unparalleled access to Ireland's leading academic researchers, clinicians, and industry experts while the activity is underpinned by world class facilities available through the support network. BiInnovate offer two core programmes of activity - The Fellowship Programme and the Industry Training Workshops. This is an ongoing activity.

Action 80:

Measure: Develop a longer term strategy that will identify the requirements for cluster development and cross-sectoral and cross-regional collaboration over the next decade so as to sustain the region as a leading location for investment.

Status: Complete

The South West region is home to over 50 FDI technology companies and is showing positive employment growth in 2015. IDA Ireland has developed tailored Value Propositions for Cybersecurity and Internet of Things (IoT) as part of its marketing effort to promote the sector. The Irish Medical Devices Association (IMDA) published its strategy to 2020, "The Global MedTech Hub", in February 2016. There are four strategic objectives, two of which speak to cluster development and cross-sectoral collaboration, namely "achieving the full potential of the cluster" and "maximising technology innovation across sectors to improve patient outcomes". The strategy will be implemented over the course of the next four years.

Action 81:

Measure: Promote opportunities to integrate ICT across all industries (for example Agri-Food and Tourism).

Status: Complete

IT@Cork Skillnet have been continuing to develop new programs and training to target a range of sectors and levels of competency. Training courses include Social Media Training for Business Users, for individuals in any sector looking to get the most out of social media opportunities for their business; Introduction to Project Management in the IT Sector; and Web Application Development.

Action 83:

Measure: IT@Cork to appoint a cluster manager to develop the emerging ICT cluster in the South West region. Their role will be to boost job creation by exploiting growth opportunities in this sector.

Status: **Delayed**

Resource issues have led to delay in moving this action forward. A further update will be provided in H2 2016.

Action 84:

Measure: Open and grow the Ludgate Digital Media Hub Ludgate in Skibbereen

Status: **Complete**

The new 10,000 square foot Ludgate Digital Hub building, opened earlier this year, provides up to 75 desks, training and meeting room space, a state of the art telepresence suite, and canteen and break-out facilities. The building has 1000MB of connectivity due to a joint venture between Vodafone and ESB, suitable for any digital enabled business. Skibbereen will have internet speeds that will surpass nearly every urban area in Ireland. The Digital Hub will provide the resources necessary to innovators and entrepreneurs who want to operate in West Cork. The Ludgate Hub building was made available to the project by local business man John Field.

The initiative is the result of the efforts of a group of entrepreneurs, digital ambassadors and local business owners, who were brought together by West Cork resident and Glen Dimplex Group President, Seán O'Driscoll. The group operates as a non-profit company and has worked on a pro-bono basis over the last two years to bring the initiative to life. The board secured €1 million in investment to kickstart the project and create a digital blueprint for the town of Skibbereen. The group aim to put the town on the map as a beacon of innovation and to provide start-ups with the environment and mentoring support required to research and commercialise opportunities to compete on a global scale.

The Ludgate Hub are also the proud organisers of National Digital Week, a highly successful series of digital events. The previously sold out event which last year brought 1,600 attendees through the door and world class speakers from the US, Europe and Ireland, is due to be held again this year in Skibbereen. Workshops, presentations and panel discussions will take place to debate the future of digital technologies.

Action 85:

Measure: Establish the region as an acknowledged centre for the interaction and integration of creativity, music, arts, photography, video, multimedia, culture and technology

Status: **Complete**

In 2016 Cork County Council has proceeded with the development of the North Cork Regional Arts

Centre. This development will add significantly to the cultural infrastructure of North Cork as this is the only area of the County not served by a professionally managed Arts and Cultural Centre. This project is 50% match funded under the Designated Urban Grant Scheme and will see the redevelopment of Mallow Town Hall as a new dedicated arts venue with a 200 seat theatre, art gallery, workshop and studio spaces. In 2016 Cork County Council introduced a new grant scheme to promote the Arts through the new County Municipal Districts structures. The Creative Communities Award Scheme is designed to encourage and support new opportunities for engagement and participation in the Arts in the Municipal District areas of County Cork. This Scheme will provide substantial one-off funding to enable local groups, artists and arts organisations to come together to plan and deliver a sustainable project that will make a significant difference to arts and cultural life in local areas.

Cork City Council supports arts and cultural organisations and artists across a range of funding programmes through the Arts Office to ensure that quality projects are nurtured and accessible to its citizenship. Grant and revenue support for 2016 has been extended to a range of organisations and individuals across a number of streams to ensure focused and developed support. Cork City Council invests in a strong festival offering across the city that creates positive citizen engagement, builds pride of place, and offers creative opportunities for all. The Council supports a number of festivals across a number of directorates. Key funded arts and cultural festivals for Cork City Council include: Cork Midsummer Festival, Cork Film Festival, Cork Jazz Festival, Cork French Film Festival, Cork Folk Festival, Cork International Short Story Festival, Cork Spring Poetry Festival, Cork International Choral Festival, The Dragon of Shandon, Cork Singers Club Festival, Finbarre's Festival, Indie Film Festival, Soul Festival, Cork Culture Night, Quarter Block Festival, Visegrad Film Festival, World Book Festival, Mother Jones Festival, Cork St. Patricks Festival, and GLOW Festival.

In addition Cork City Council supports a range of festivals with creativity at their core, which include: Lifelong Learning Festival, Cork Harbour Festival, Ocean to City Maritime Festival, Cork Pride Festival, Discovery Science Festival, and Cork Comedy Festival. Cork City Council Arts Office supports and develops a number of specific programmes to ensure integration and access to targeted groups where barriers to accessing creativity and arts experiences and practice is recognised, in partnership with other agencies to ensure integration and strategic focus.

Action 87:

Measure: The HDI Centre – Hub for Design and Innovation will be developed to create a space to facilitate growth in research and development in the region and subsequent job creation through the generation of innovative solutions in product/service design and delivery. The cross sector disciplinary environment of the hub will build and share models of best practice reducing lead time to market for new and existing businesses. Facilities will be made available which will foster:

- Innovative design thinking in product/service idea generation
- Prototype development
- Product/service design testing

It would provide innovative model solutions for different elements of the business process from concept evaluation, to manufacturing/service design, supply chain to business models, market rollout and the crunching of the key financials.

Status: Complete

UCC has established a new Technology Transfer consortium with IT Tralee, joining with the existing UTC (UCC, Teagasc, CIT) 'Bridge' Consortium, and under Technology Transfer Strengthening Initiative (TTSI3) funding to achieve the objective above.

Action 90:

Measure: Maintain accessible database of Film Sector resources including locations, personnel, equipment and available covered spaces such as warehouses available for short term use

Status: Complete

Kerry County Council Arts Office hosts www.kerryfilm.ie, which carries information on useful contacts, key locations, available staff, etc. The Arts Office links with all sections of the Local Authority as well as external agencies to respond in an effective manner to all incoming queries with regard to locations for film in Kerry. The director and arts officer also met with an Irish Film Board recommended Film Location Manger (OCMS) with regard to setting out a scoping document to research the potential use of suitable buildings as a film studio in Kerry. This is underway, and the Council are awaiting the initial document from OCMS.

Film in Cork, an initiative of Cork City Council and Cork County Council, provides production, location and training support services to those working in film, television, and animation. It also serves to promote and market the Cork region locally, nationally and internationally as a wonderful place to work. As part of this function Film In Cork maintains an extensive on-line database of film locations on its publicly searchable website www.filmincork.com. Film In Cork also maintains an off-line database of crew, including CVs, which is forwarded upon request to productions interested in hiring crew in the Cork region. Film In Cork conducted a property audit in 2015 of large available covered spaces, (with details on square footage, ceiling height, etc) as well as contact details for all relevant property owners, agents and managers now listed in a database off-line.

Action 91:

Measure: Develop Business Support Network comprised of local authorities and others to ensure that productions can be made with coordinated service provision by all in a timely and cost effective manner

Status: Complete

Cork County and City Councils' engagement with the Film sector is underway. The initial ask is for the LEO to develop a bespoke MDP for the sector, and development work in this regard is underway with the focus group. As a result of a recent enquiry from a Dublin-based feature film (Feb/March), 'Film In Cork' is now liaising with Plato Cork, the Small Business Development and Support Network, about office space to facilitate incoming productions. Film In Cork is actively exploring other office space facilities under the management of Cork County Council with a view to offering these as an incentive for productions to locate to the Cork region going forward. Achievements of Film in Cork in 2015/16 include:

- Maze Film – Co production with Maze Films DAC and Swedish company with Tom Vaughan-Lawlor. Funding was given by Cork City and County Council to realise this film, and support for office accommodation.

- Holland Submarine Project www.dearcanmedia.com. Support was given from the Council, contingent on an English language version being developed, and also to link Cork prominently to the story.
- Standing Up – OldTeam Productions. Cork City Council is in support of OldTeam Productions in their plans to develop *Standing Up* as Cork's first television series. Cork City Council is aware that to further this goal, OldTeam Productions are seeking assistance from the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, and Cork City Council has agreed to match funding. Cork City Council requests that positive images of Cork are included in the opening and closing sequences, ideally featuring many landmark locations that the city boasts. Cork City Council also seeks agreement that these clips can be used by Cork City Council as promotional tools for the city.
- The Doctors Sword. The Doctor's Sword was nominated for an IFTA award in the Best Documentary category. Funding from Cork City Council helped realise this documentary around WW2 doctor.

Kerry County Council Arts Office hosts www.kerryfilm.ie which carries information on useful contacts, key locations, available staff etc. The Arts Office links with all sections of the Local Authority as well as external agencies to respond in an effective manner to all incoming queries with regard to locations for film in Kerry. Productions with sizeable budgets usually only have specific requests for assistance – usually with regard to identifying specific locations and permissions for same. Smaller productions are assisted with permission and identification of locations. They often are seeking assistance with costs and reduced rates on accommodation and other necessities.

Action 92:

Measure: Promote the region's potential as a base for international film and media production. Promote and encourage the creative industry through the development of physical workspace and retail opportunity.

Status: Complete

In 2015 Cork County Council in partnership with Cork City Council launched Film in Cork, an agency charged with supporting indigenous film making and promoting the City and County as a location for incoming film production. The initial programme will run until the end of 2017 and will lay the foundations for further work to support the audio visual and digital creative industries in the County. In 2016 Cork County Council through its Economic Development Section has assisted the county's professional craft producers network, Cork Craft and Design, to source and develop a larger retail premises in the Douglas area. The Council's Arts Office is also supporting the sector through provision of temporary gallery space at County Hall, Kinsale and Macroom for Cork Craft Month taking place in August.

Action 93:

Measure: Roll out design thinking modules as elective in HEIs, Design thinking can be applied to business models as well as to products and services

Status: Ongoing

Design Thinking workshops have been held in CIT as part of Innovation Week (March 2016), with a view to establishing a more formal delivery model in the future.

Action 94:

Measure: Promote the Ireland's Best Young Designer and other design competitions and initiatives to encourage and identify young people in education showing great propensity towards industrial and product design (red dot award for young designers)

Status: Project deemed not viable/no longer relevant

Action 95:

Measure: Demonstrate the role 'facilitated industrial symbiosis networks' play in achieving green economic growth and improving productivity in SME's through more efficient resource management.

Status: Complete

SMILE Resource Exchange, supported by Cork County Council and other partners, is the Irish Industrial Symbiosis programme that supports and encourages a move towards the circular economy. Potential synergies can be identified through an online exchange platform, or more recently, through facilitated technical support assistance. SMILE undertake extensive communications activity to promote the benefits of industrial symbiosis to all levels of business from multi-national to sole traders and start-ups, including the publication of a new brochure and social media activity. SMILE also provides the secretariat for the National Industrial Symbiosis Working Group. In collaboration with the Local Enterprise Offices, SMILE have made an application for funding under the Regional Action Plan for Jobs to further develop the technical support offering that was piloted in 2015, recognising that industrial symbiosis can contribute to the development of the green economy and job creation.

Action 96:

Measure: Develop the Irish Maritime and Energy Resource Cluster (IMERC) as a research and commercial cluster of world standing in collaboration with CIT and the Irish Naval Service.

Status: Ongoing

Progress in Q3 included:

- The successful delivery of the 2016 Mechathon – Build a Marine Robot Competition with Enterprise Ireland
- The successful launch of the European Space Agency Space Solutions Centre Ireland. This €2.5m initiative includes IMERC as one of four consortium members, focused on delivering opportunities for start-ups where space technology is deployed in the marine environment
- A bid to Enterprise Ireland to develop a Blue technology Accelerator was unsuccessful during the same period.

Action 97:

Measure: Complete the construction of the UCC Beaufort Laboratory on the IMERC site by end of 2015. Industry suites, incubation units and enterprise centres developed and operational by end of 2016.

Status: Complete

The construction of the UCC Beaufort Laboratory on the IMERC site was completed and the building was officially opened by the Taoiseach on 13 July 2015. The Entrepreneur Ship incubator is fully occupied with a programme of supports for enterprise underway, including access to naval test bed facilities for start-up companies.

Action 98:

Measure: Develop linkages with Cork City, Cork County and Kerry County to build on the 'UCC: A Green University' programme and explore how it could be expanded across, and integrated into, the region and how, in turn, it could support the branding of the South West Region for 'green tourism', 'green food' and 'green education'.

Status: Complete

In early to mid-2016, UCC's Vice President for Teaching & Learning (and UCC's senior sponsor of the Green University Programme) travelled to and had several dedicated meetings with the Chief Executives of Cork City Council, Cork County Council and Kerry County Council where the above, and related matters such as 'green' energy, were discussed and are being progressed through appropriate contacts and channels. UCC's 'Green Flag' status was renewed by An Taisce in June 2016 and members of the local Councils were invited to the flag-raising ceremony where UCC's new Sustainability Strategy June 2016 was launched along with UCC's Green Tour app.

UCC in 2015/16 developed and delivered a no-fee, non-accredited, pilot module entitled 'Education for Sustainability' that was delivered on-campus and online over 16 evenings by volunteer UCC lecturers. Members of the public were invited to participate and it proved a great networking opportunity for the 83 participants who came from the local staff and student population, from small and large regional businesses, from a range of NGOs in Ireland and abroad. It was a multi-disciplinary module with lectures/talks spanning a range of 'green' matters from law, to engineering, to food/nutrition, to built heritage.

Action 99:

Measure: Establish a working group for renewable energy comprising relevant stakeholders. Promote various alternative power pilots underway in the region.

Status: Complete

Kerry County Council is a Partner in a European funded renewable district heating project entitled SmartReflex. A joint meeting of the SmartReflex task force and a workshop on Local Authority

Renewable Energy Strategy took place in Kerry County Council Chamber on 11th March. In addition, a site visit of SEAI staff to Tobar Naofa Biomass District Heating plant took place on 9th March. During this trip SEAI also visited Astellas to learn about the Coillte supply chain to the local biomass plant.

Cork City and County Councils are pursuing this action through engagement with and support of Energy Cork, the energy industry cluster for the Cork Region. Cork County Council's Director of Services for the Environment sits on the Steering Group of Energy Cork, along with Cork City Council Energy Agency and Engineers. Energy Cork, supported by both Councils, is actively engaged in performing this important role in Cork and is ideally placed given its membership, especially the membership of its Energy Supply Sub-Group.

In 2015 Energy Cork events addressed a range of renewable energy sub sectors, including solar photovoltaics, onshore wind, biogas and biomethane, biofuels, and marine renewables. In January 2016, Energy Cork hosted the "Ireland's Solar Energy Future" conference (<http://www.energycork.ie/sites/default/files/IRELANDS%20SOLAR%20ENERGY%20FUTURE.pdf>) in Cork. Energy Cork has also hosted a smaller (breakfast) event focussing on liquid biofuels for the transport sector in 2016. Energy Cork continues to seek Ireland's first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) public bus fleet to be deployed in Cork. The initiative has the potential to unlock the advantages of renewable biogas in transport. A meeting in May with DTTAS and NTA has moved this initiative to a new phase of activity which seeks to align the bus technology case with local public transport and movement strategies in Cork. See <http://www.energycork.ie/greenestbus> for more.

Energy Cork's Supply Sub-Group has also been encouraging interest in Ireland's Energy Hub at Whitegate County Cork which has the potential to host a major energy/renewable energy development to complement the existing energy infrastructure and encourage local and regional sustainable development. Energy Cork's approach to promoting renewable energy penetration covers heat, transport and electricity. Currently Ireland is a little over half-way (9% of 16% target) to meeting its 2020 renewable energy target. Energy Cork emphasises the importance of striving to meet these heat and transport targets – not least because of the significant job creation potential inherent in these sectors.

Action 100:

Measure: Promote and assist the delivery costs savings through energy efficiency programmes and training for businesses and public sector organisations in the region

Status: Ongoing

SEAI is assisting local and regional businesses and Public Sector Organisations to make energy efficiency savings. The Public Sector Report for 2015 has been published by DCCAE in Q4 and this work is supported by SEAI. The SEAI energy efficiency programmes for business are also continuing to make major savings in all areas and the Minister for DCCAE has provided additional budget for 2017 to advance these programmes further.

Action 101:

Measure: Work with SEAI to develop and promote Sustainable Energy Communities model in the region and identify willing early adopter community to act as exemplars.

Status: Ongoing

A national Sustainable Energy Community network is now up and running with over 60 members from all regions. The Network had their first national meeting in Q4 in Longford on the 26th November with over 70 attendees; this was attended by Minister Denis Naughten and the CEO of SEAI Jim Gannon.

Action 102:

Measure: Complete a regional renewable energy analysis to examine the potential for biomass district heat in towns in the south western region.

Status: Ongoing

A comprehensive energy study of the larger energy users have been carried out in the towns of Tralee and Killarney. It is proposed to replicate these in the other larger towns of the South West region when resources become available. One of the goals of Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) is to assist in carrying out energy audits on all larger energy users to identify their heat and energy demand, to Local Authority Renewable Energy.

Cork City Council Energy Agency undertook a renewable heat study in conjunction with the Southern and Western Regional Assembly in 2012/13. The Energy Agency in conjunction with Energy Cork proposes to undertake an Energy Plan with the assistance of the SEAI through their SEC project. Cork City Council is applying to join the Covenant of Mayors which will require the undertaking of a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) by the Energy Agency.

Action 103:

Measure: Promote sustainable enterprise-led energy initiatives which help to reduce costs and sustain jobs, such as the wind turbine cooperative initiative in Ringaskiddy.

Status: Complete

Kerry County Council Energy Section are supporting the newly established Kerry Sustainable Energy Co-op (KSEC). The main aims of the Co-op are:

- Local production of clean energy
- Local retailing of clean energy
- Developing local business based on a clean energy, utilising both local and national expertise
- Developing Kerry as a prime location for the testing of new prototype sustainable technologies
- Increasing awareness with citizens and within communities of the need and benefits of renewable energy and energy conservation
- Engaging with other co-operatives to remove regulative and legislative barriers to developing local energy co-op

- Highlighting the benefits of local renewable energy to help tackle fuel poverty

Kerry County Council is also an associate partner in an EU project application compiled by South Kerry Development Partnership and a consortium of 7 other EU partners. The project, titled 'Community Energy Energising Communities' (CEEC), aims to innovatively create new scalable community co-operative structures to open up new renewable energy supplies and implement Green House Gas (GHG) reduction solutions particularly in rural areas. The project duration is 48 months and aims to target the Interreg North West Europe funding programme's 'Low Carbon priority' and address the specific objective of facilitating the implementation of low-carbon, energy and climate protection strategies to reduce GHG emissions in North West Europe.

The Transport Sub-group of Energy Cork (energy cluster in Cork), chaired by Cork County Council and including representation from Cork City Council, is spearheading an initiative to promote use of low-carbon vehicles on the public bus fleet in Cork. Support has been forthcoming from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in establishing a 'Green Bus Fund' to help offset the cost differential between conventional diesel buses and low-carbon alternatives. While the work of the group is ongoing, a meeting with the National Transport Authority in May of this year established their support for the concept, with the possibility of green technology options being included in future tenders later in the year. An additional workstream has been identified, focusing on promoting greater uptake of public transport in Cork and work has now commenced on this element in tandem with the workstream on promoting green technology.

'Energy Champion' is a concept being developed by Energy Cork and its stakeholders and is a tentative step towards this measure. The concept is to promote and facilitate positive investment decisions by industry, in particular SMEs, in sustainable energy projects. These projects will include energy conservation measures, energy efficiency and retrofitting, and on-site renewable energy generation. Energy Champion will seek to de-risk and standardise investment decisions in the sustainable energy space and increase project activity.

Action 104:

Measure: Engage in a feasibility study to Investigate the possibility of creating a sustainable ecological education and research hub in Kerry where tourists including education tourists, students both national and international can to experience and appreciate one of the most interesting ecological environments in the world.

Status: Ongoing

A pilot research project is being undertaken. 'Imagining Iveragh', Kerry County Council and other stakeholders including the community have partnered with the George Brown College Toronto; the faculty and students are presently working with the Council and a steering group in scoping out projects aimed at promoting economic development and creating jobs while drawing on the natural assets of the environment. Year of Design and REDZ funding was applied for and granted for the research stage of the project.

Action 106:

Measure: Ensure that the electricity transmission grid in the region is strengthened to enable maximum investment by industries that rely on large energy consumption.

Status: Ongoing

EirGrid are carrying out ongoing grid strengthening initiatives in the area. This includes, where required, the upgrade and refurbishment of the existing transmission network, including both line and station improvements. These ongoing works will ensure that the region has a secure and reliable supply of electricity in order to maximise the potential for investment in the region.

Action 108:

Measure: Continue to support Cork's ambition to be a low-carbon vehicle hub.

Status: Complete

Work is ongoing to promote Cork as a low carbon vehicle hub, including: Electric Vehicles (EV's) for personal transport under Drive4Zero (<http://www.energycork.ie/index.php/portfolio/drive4zero>) and; Compressed Natural Gas Vehicles (CNGV's) for public and fleet transport under the Ireland's Greenest Bus Fleet (IGBF) initiative (<http://www.energycork.ie/index.php/portfolio/irelands-greenest-bus-fleet>). Achievements to date:

- Uptake of EV's in Cork up to Q3 2016 is running at 6 times the national average
- Energy Cork have worked extensively with NTA and DTTAS throughout 2016 on establishing and developing the business case for the deployment of CNGV green bus technology on the Cork lower harbour bus route. NTA have confirmed that they will include green technology buses in a tender in Q4 2016.

Action 109:

Measure: Explore ways of utilising micro-algae for production of energy, nutrition, animal feed and bio-pharma products.

Status: Ongoing

Research is on-going in the Environmental Research Institute at UCC. Research collaboration is also under way at UCC with a number of niche companies in this area.

Action 110:

Measure: Increase uptake and delivery of energy efficiency technology - meeting Ireland's climate change targets, reducing energy use, construction industry jobs. Develop links with international consortia doing likewise, especially the Investor Confidence Project.

Status: Complete

In line with SI 426 of 2014 Kerry County Council have energy savings of 25.8% since the baseline set in 2006. The Council is above the glide path and are in line to hit the 33% target for 2020, and has also committed to implementing a certified ISO50001 Energy Management System across the organisation which will manage and monitor energy consumption while targeting savings. Kerry County Council is a partner in a European project called SmartReflex which aims at increasing the diffusion of smart and flexible district heating and cooling (DHC) systems, basing on high shares of renewable energy sources (RES), in European cities. This project includes a consortium of members from 6 regions, 5 countries (Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Spain and Germany) will implement legislative and organisational measures for promoting high-RES District Heating and Cooling, also benefiting from the know-how transfer by Denmark, district heating experts.

Kerry County Council Energy Section has engaged with Codema, the Dublin Energy Agency, who are being funded by the SEAI Energy Research, Development and Demonstration programme to deliver a project called "District Heating in Ireland", who will carry out a short technical and economic assessment of District Heating Network for the commercial consumer including the Hotels in Killarney. The project will also profile the positive impact of existing DH schemes in Ireland. The completion deadline for this project is October 2016. This report will give guidance on the current figures on the feasibility of such a project in Killarney.

Through the connection and working relationships formed by Kerry County Council in the SmartReflex project, the Council were invited to be a partner in a European project called Hotmaps. The aim of this project is to deliver an open source, user friendly tool which supports the mapping and planning of heating and cooling at a regional level. The tool will be easy to deploy and aims to address the need for planning of heating and cooling to become a mainstream practice for public authorities and economic actors. The challenge is to moderate demand for heating and cooling, to increase energy efficiency in supply, to maximise the use of renewable energy and to reduce the cost of heating and cooling to affordable levels for all.

Kerry County Council Energy Section are supporting the newly established Kerry Sustainable Energy Co-op (KSEC), the main aims of the Co-op being:

- Local production of clean energy
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- Developing local business based on a clean energy, utilising both local and national expertise
- Developing Kerry as a prime location for the testing of new prototype sustainable technologies
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- Engage with other co-operatives to remove regulative and legislative barriers to developing local energy co-op
- Highlight the benefits of local renewable energy to help tackle fuel poverty

Kerry County Council is also an associate partner in an EU project application compiled by South Kerry Development Partnership and a consortium of 7 other EU partners. The project, titled Community Energy Energising Communities (CEEC), aims to innovatively create new scalable community co-operative structures to open up new renewable energy supplies and implement Green House Gas (GHG) reduction solutions particularly in rural areas. The project duration is 48 months and aims to target the Interreg North West Europe funding programmes 'Low Carbon priority' and address the specific objective of facilitating the implementation of low-carbon, energy and climate protection strategies to reduce GHG emissions in North West Europe. Kerry County Council is a member of the SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities Network.

Energy conservation measures are a fundamental focal point of Kerry County Council which will have several benefits, which assist in bringing energy efficiency standards in line with national policies. It also assists in dealing with issues of fuel poverty in the community. In promotion of energy conservation the Council has engaged with 12 different groups including local businesses, community centres, GAA clubs, local charities, and local parishes in the compilation of the 2016 SEAI Better Energy Communities grant application. The grant application included LED lighting upgrade to Cahersiveen Marine in line with Dark Skies specification. The application has secured over €750,000 in grant aid funding from SEAI and will see the completion of over €1.7m worth of energy projects to the facilities of the participating groups including Council premises, Council owned houses and privately owned houses.

As part of the Mitchel's/Boherbee Community Regeneration Project, Kerry County Council has developed a sustainable energy zone. Housing and amenities in this area have their heating and hot water supplied through wood-chip biomass district heating system. All public lighting in the regeneration area has been upgraded to low energy LED. All housing in the area has a minimum BER of C with any new builds achieving A3 or better.

In line with the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2009–2020, Energy Cork is striving to promote energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy in Cork and across the 3 main usage categories i.e. Heat, Transport and Electricity. In 2016, Energy Cork has held 2 Breakfast Briefing events on energy efficiency measures in the built environment. One focussed on the use of natural building materials for energy efficient construction, and the other took an industry perspective on Part L of the Building Regulations which governs energy performance of buildings. This educational role is an important one as construction standards and practice is a fundamental aspect of driving energy efficiency standards in the built environment. On the Transport front, Energy Cork has helped to design and deliver Drive4Zero to encourage electric car uptake in Cork, as well as proposing and building consensus around the deployment of Compressed Natural Gas buses in Cork as part of "Ireland's Greenest Bus Fleet". Both initiatives have the potential to improve greenhouse gas emissions from transport as well as particulate and other emissions.

Cork County Council has become the first Local Authority in Ireland to be fully certified to ISO50001, the international standard for energy management, and in achieving this certification it has now reached its legislative requirements under the EU Energy Efficiency Regulations 2014 ahead of schedule. Cork County Council through its Public Lighting Maintenance Contractor, SSE Airtricity Utility Solutions, has undertaken a project which has upgraded the public lighting infrastructure on all of the seven inhabited islands off the County Cork coastline to the most up to date technology in public lighting, LED lighting. The installation of LED lighting will offer long-term benefits to island

residents, by providing suitable lighting and reducing the frequency of maintenance interventions, as LED lights are more enduring than the traditional lighting types. It will also help to reduce the carbon footprint of the islands by improving their energy efficiency as these lights use approximately half of the energy of the lights they replaced. The upgrades have been completed on Bere Island, Cape Clear Island, Heir Island, Long Island, Sherkin Island, Dursey Island and Whiddy Island. Cork County Council this year has a total of over 20 energy saving projects in its 2016 plan. These vary from lighting upgrades of libraries and Civic Amenity sites, to lift upgrades, solar thermal heating and Combined Heat and Power upgrade to a swimming pool. In total there is over half a million kWh planned energy to be saved in 2016.

Cork County Council is Vice Presidents of Energy Cities, a pan European network of Local Authorities of over 1000 cities and towns. They are also signatories of the Covenant of Mayors which has over 6,000 members and is heralded as the “world’s biggest urban climate and energy initiative” by Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete. The Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy brings together thousands of local and regional authorities voluntarily committed to implementing EU climate and energy objectives on their territory.

Action 111:

Measure: Identify the specific HR requirements of active energy trading companies in Cork (e.g. Bord Gáis Energy, Brookfield Renewable Energy Group) to meet their demand for energy traders. Encourage HEIs to deliver necessary training via existing courses

Status: Complete

Energy Cork has continued to highlight the importance of energy trading, as a niche, but high-value aspect of Cork’s energy sector. It hosts an annual ‘Energy Prices Briefing’ (in October each year) and has hosted a Briefing on I-SEM, the new wholesale market arrangements for electricity trading in Ireland. Matching the employment needs of energy trading companies in Cork with the courses offered by HEIs continues to be pursued. To date, no clear gaps have been identified in what the HEIs offer.

Action 112:

Measure: CIT to develop and deliver energy efficient retrofitting training for building professionals and site operatives

Status: Ongoing

From September 2016, the Centre for Advanced Manufacturing and Management Systems (CAMMS) will launch a 15 credit Level 8 Special Purpose Award on ‘Building Energy Analysis’ in response to identified high demand from the industry.

Action 113:

Measure: Develop a programme to promote circular-economy expertise across region and that would enhance overall sustainability

Status: Ongoing

Cork City Council have developed a number of programmes in the circular economy based on the resource efficiency objectives of the Southern Waste Region Management Plan, including the Boomerang Initiative relating to mattress recovery and recycling which is now located in the Northside for Business campus. The Council (and the Southern region) are now due to commence a project in the area of used paint, which has been identified as another problem waste product in the Plan.

Action 114:

Measure: Pursue the opportunity to be a leader in minimising packaging and establishing a deadline within which all packaging must be recyclable.

Status: Ongoing

The EPA provides financial support for Repak's Packaging Waste Prevention Programme 'Repak Prevent & Save'. Repak's Packaging Waste Prevention Programme aims to assist Irish businesses with positive and practical ways to reduce packaging and to promote those achievements to a wider audience. The Prevent and Save Programme has received financial support from the EPA, and is also supported by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. The initiative started in 2007 and has been running since then under the guidance of a steering group representing both industry and the government.

Initiatives include:

- On-going on-site packaging audit programme of Repak member's, carried out by Repak Packaging Technologists to identify ways to reduce or optimise packaging and to assist with specific technical projects. Clients in 2015 included packaging manufacturers, pharmaceutical companies, hotels and large retailers.
- Repak's Packaging Technologists also deal with members packaging queries on a one-to-one basis. Subjects include pack formats, packaging materials, packaging legislation, symbols and identifiers and cost reduction opportunities.
- The Pakman award for 'Waste Prevention in Business'. In 2015 this was presented to the Sandymount Hotel for their integrated waste management and prevention programme. Waste prevention is also a factor in the other Pakman awards.

The EPA compiles national statistics on waste packaging generation and reporting on an annual basis. All Member States have obligations under the EU Packaging Directive to recover and recycle packaging waste. Ireland has been compliant with all statutory waste packaging recovery and recycling targets since 2001. A recovery rate of 88% was reported for 2013, exceeding the 2011 EU target of 60%. See EPA's website at www.wastereport.ie for information on Ireland's progress to meeting EU waste targets.

Action 115:

Measure: Promote the Clean Technology Centre in CIT and foster the opportunities that the circular economy/industrial symbiosis presents for companies in the region.

Status: Complete

The Clean Technology Centre has been connected with over 50 companies based at the Rubicon Centre at CIT during 2015; some companies are already using their services. This is in addition to the many companies and government organisations nationally and internationally using the services of the Clean Technology Centre at CIT, including the EPA. CIT has appointed a member of the Clean Technology Centre to the Advisory Board of the Ballyhoura Leader programme, given the emphasis on sustainable environment and tourism initiatives in this region.

Action 116:

Measure: Promote the potential for commercialisation of natural products/extracts from the natural resources in the region, on land and in the sea ('blue-tech') through greater collaboration between agriculture, aquaculture research and business.

Status: Ongoing

This is an ongoing activity under the scope of the UCC, Teagasc, CIT, IT Tralee Technology Transfer Consortium ("Bridge" Consortium) and under IMERC (Irish Maritime and Energy Resource Cluster – a partnership between UCC, CIT and the Irish Naval Service).

Action 117:

Measure: Examine with National Energy Efficiency fund managers/NTMA the feasibility of a large scale renewable District Heating plant and network for Tralee and develop and Pilot the Biomass Resource District Heating in the Towns of Tralee and Killarney thus creating the potential for significant associated job creation within County Kerry subject to funding.

Status: Ongoing

An initial investigation was carried out by the NTMA, looking at Kerry County Council's financial model for the Tralee District Heating Project. This concluded that while the project looked viable, in order to reduce risk more specific onsite energy information is required through onsite metering to establish the energy usage profile for the larger energy users. The introduction of a Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), will make the project more bankable. A report by the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources on the benefits and the introduction of the RHI is due out at the end of 2016. The Council is continually working with SEAI to formulate a grant through the Exemplar programme, to the value of 75% of €50,000 towards the cost of installing meters to establish an energy profile of the larger energy users. A stakeholder meeting is being organised between the Killarney Hotel Group and the Council's Energy Section to further explore the financial model for the proposed Killarney DH system.

Action 118:

Measure: Commence pilot upgrade of public lighting by replacing the existing LA stock of sodium lamps with high efficiency LED units to reduce energy consumption costs and also to reduce lamp maintenance costs.

Status: Complete

Cork City Council has initiated a Public Lighting Renewal & Replacement programme based on the procurement of LED and white light sources to deliver significant energy savings and the essential replacement of degraded steel columns & brackets. The Roads & Transportation Directorate is actively participating on the National Public Lighting Strategy devised by the SEAI/CCMA/TII partnership which is seeking to identify possible sources of EU funding to support the deployment of new lanterns to deliver on 2020 commitments to reduce CO2 emissions. The estimated cost will be €20 million+ for Cork City. It is anticipated that public lighting upgrade projects could be implemented regionally in order to deliver economies of scale.

Cork County Council has a project underway as an Action in the E-map 2016 programme with support from the Public Lighting Section. A draft public lighting policy has been developed for consideration by Kerry County Council.

Action 119:

Measure: IDA will support the development of this sector through site visits by companies, marketing of the Beaufort Research Centre, National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI) and supporting infrastructure of Cork harbour, Fenit and other relevant infrastructure in the SW and the Irish Naval service to attract non-traditional FDI opportunities.

Status: Complete

IDA Ireland is actively engaged with all the relevant partners and has put in place additional dedicated resources focused on New Forms of FDI opportunities including the marine and renewables sector which is a sector identified in IDA Ireland's current strategy. The team have built up a strong knowledge of the Cork Harbour offering and is actively focusing on opportunities to win and support investments in this area.

Action 120:

Measure: Undertake a feasibility study of the case for the creation of a Technical Marine and Marine Sciences education, training and research centre in Kerry.

Status: Ongoing

An application of Expression of Interest has been submitted to Enterprise Ireland under the Marine Campus Incubation Call. IT Tralee is the lead agency. The outcome of the expression of interest evaluation is awaited.

Action 123:

Measure: Assess the economic potential of forestry and job creation

Status: Complete

This assessment is complete. It is estimated by Coford that for every 15,000 hectares planted in a year, approximately 490 new jobs are created. These jobs would be required to establish, manage, harvest and process the timber. The majority of these jobs would be based in the rural economy.

Action 124:

Measure: Rollout 'Smart Region' infrastructure in the region, drawing together the major urban centres in Cork and Kerry. This would include the deployment of Wi-Fi, I-beams and smart sensors for traffic and utility management etc, which would underpin the promotion of the SW as a technologically advanced region and develop the Cork smart gateway project.

Status: Complete

Kerry County Council supports the rural digital hub which will assist the 'home working' and rural incubation centres. Kerry County Council has engaged at a local level in funding an Internet of Things (IoT) project in Cahersiveen. Specific hardware has now been placed and is presently being commissioned. Linkages will be strengthened between the proposed Dingle IoT network and Skibbereen. Kerry County Council is involved in Smarter Travel Tralee initiative but that is focused on non-technology based interventions in the current phase. Kerry County Council will also be engaged with Cork City Council and regional research interests to learn appropriate Smart City design and implementation strategies based on their experiences as a 'Follower City' in the EU GrowSmarter H2020 initiative.

The Cork Smart Gateway initiative, developed by Cork County Council, Cork City Council, NIMBUS Research Centre and Tyndall National Institute, was officially launched on 4th May 2016. A full time Program Manager has been appointed, and is based in City Hall. In March, Mallow became the first town in the County to offer free public Wi-Fi. The FREE Wi-Fi initiative which is a partnership approach between Cork County Council and CIT is available to the general public on a pilot basis from Market Square down to the new Civic Plaza. Free access is for 60 minutes duration.

A new Digital hub has been established in Skibbereen with the opening of the Ludgate Digital Hub earlier this year. The new 10,000 square foot Ludgate Hub building provides for up to 75 desks, training and meeting room space, a state of the art telepresence suite, and canteen and break out facilities. The building has 1000MB of connectivity due to a joint venture between Vodafone and ESB, suitable for any digital enabled business. Skibbereen will have internet speeds that will surpass nearly every urban area in Ireland. The Digital Hub will provide the resources necessary to innovators and entrepreneurs who want to operate in West Cork.

Cork County and City Councils, as part of the Cork Smart Gateway, are preparing a potential use case for deployment under the Pervasive Nation rollout. Pervasive Nation is a new, Ireland-wide, wireless network which will support Internet of Things research and innovation. Designed and managed by the CONNECT Centre, Pervasive Nation will allow new IoT concepts, business models and devices to

be developed and tested. The network will initially be rolled out across ten third-level campuses, and will eventually cover urban, suburban and rural environments, making Ireland the first country in the world with full, IoT network coverage.

Cork City Council have developed an online platform for publishing relevant city information obtained from a number of various sources including information derived from sensors, submissions and surveys. The Cork City Council Open Data Repository is available to view via the following link <http://data.corkcity.ie/index.html>. There are currently three data sources available to view on the portal including real time parking availability information in seven car parks across the city, water levels at the Anglers Rest and Lee Road on the River Lee and planning applications.

Cork City Council currently has an Electric Vehicle fleet which includes three EV vans, a Nissan Leaf and three Pedicels. Cork City Council's EV and Pedicel fleet has been part funded through the Green eMotion EU Project. This project has supported the procurement of a Renault Kangoo EV for the City Fire Brigade. A large number of the public streets and open spaces in the city centre now offer free WiFi. These include Paul Street, French Church Street, Careys Lane, St. Patrick Street, Grand Parade, Bishop Lucy Park, Emmet Place, The Boardwalk and Cornmarket Street. Provided by Bit Buzz, you can sign up for free twenty minute sessions. Other locations include the train station, bus station, public libraries, city hotels, pubs, bars and cafés.

Action 125:

Measure: Develop two pilot “living labs” to test bed software and hardware for a Smart region, building on the initiatives underway in Mallow in Cork and in Kerry.

Status: Ongoing

The expansion of existing Living Labs in the region by Cork County Council is ongoing. Mallow has benefited by the recent rollout of Wi-Fi in the town, and CIT continue to engage with North Cork industry to develop innovations and promote STEM. In addition, Mallow's Living Lab has supported new technology trialling within the past six months. Relevant industry in Ireland are still unaware of what is being achieved in Mallow and this lack of awareness is currently being addressed by the Nimbus Centre, CIT.

Pervasive Nation is a Science Foundation Ireland funded national project that will realise a rollout of wireless network infrastructure to support IoT (Internet of Things). This project will be an essential driver in realising the impossible when it comes to supporting Living Labs. The project is being delivered through the CONNECT cluster which actively involves academics from UCC, CIT and Tyndall Institute. It is envisaged that the Cork region will experience an instance of Pervasive Nation in 2017. An additional driver is the rollout of LoRa (Long Range Wireless) networks across Cork Harbour. Spearheaded by Dingle based telecommunications company Net Feasa, Cork Harbour may soon enjoy LoRa infrastructure that will support a wide variety of IoT sensors.

These drivers are necessary for Living Labs to thrive and grow. Cork City region is undergoing a planning phase for the rollout of such technologies. Once operational it is envisaged that the harbour area will in itself become a Living Lab for low power sensors, low power data transmission and a demonstrator site for LoRa and IoT solutions. CIT are currently deploying a LoRa network on their Bishopstown campus as a testbed. It is envisaged that other testbeds of a similar nature will

emerge across the region.

Cork City Council and the Cork Smart Gateway will work to identify a smart district/street over Q3 and Q4 2016. Cork City Council has already engaged with companies and research centres to discuss the use of public buildings/public areas as testbeds to trial new technologies.

Work is continuing by Kerry County Council on developing the “living lab” concept in Cahersiveen and the installation of hardware in the town. Further work is now required in marketing the concept. Several wireless technologies have been deployed throughout the town. This includes LoRa, WiFi, ibeacon and eddystone beacons. The IoT living lab has been built to be accessible to all academic institutions and for all company types, from SMEs to large multinationals. A marketing website has also been developed (www.iot.livinglab.ie)

Action 126:

Measure: Develop a Health Technology & Innovation Cluster Strategy, centred at Cork University Hospital to place innovative teaching and research at the heart of healthcare delivery by providing facilities to promote collaborative working and develop and implement new solutions for healthcare challenges. Build on the success of the demonstrator Health Innovation Hub at UCC’s Western Gateway Building linked with the HSE South Hospital Group Region (includes Tralee, Cork and Waterford) and the Clinical Research Facility at the Mercy Hospital. Industry engagement and promotion of this initiative is critical in raising Ireland’s reputation as a centre of excellence in translation of research. By combining the needs of clinicians, scientists, engineers, researchers and teachers and creating a cluster in a single facility, daily professional interaction will focus on improvements in patient care.

Status: Complete

The proposal to build a Health Technology and Innovation Cluster was always envisaged to comprise a number of integrated clinical, academic and research initiatives which would benefit from being located on the campus of the largest hospital in the region. A key element of this proposed building is a clinical medical school and funding of €12 million for this project has now been secured from the European Investment Bank. The clinical medical school will provide 3,000 sq. m space for educational initiatives on the CUH campus. This visible presence will result in better staff and student experience with education being placed at the centre of hospital activity. The clinical medical school marks the first phase in the development of the Health Technology and Innovation Cluster. The timeline for completion of this first module is five years.

The demonstrator Health Innovation Hub has been successful in proving their ability to facilitate and accelerate the commercialisation of innovative healthcare solutions. This has resulted in the concept being implemented on a national basis as Health Innovation Hub Ireland. Funding of €5 million over five years has been secured to aid this implementation with the activity being led from UCC with their partners CIT, NUIG, TCD and their associated hospital groups. 27 companies have been involved to date and their products have been tested in clinical healthcare situations; 19 pharmacies, 2 Primary Care Centres and 4 stand alone GPs. The demonstrator hub has worked with 19 clinicians and their teams in 7 hospitals. Notable successes include the completion of 2 electronic prescribing trials and resultant reports submitted to the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the HSE to aid

in the formation of the ePrescribing strategy. Also, a Cork based company, Lincor, has fitted out the new respiratory ward in CUH with 20 bedside screens and these are being used as patient education devices and will also be used for clinical data access.

Action 127:

Measure: Strengthen collaboration to fully exploit the success of the pilot Health Innovation Hub.

Status: Ongoing

In January 2016, the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the Minister for Health made a joint announcement on the successful bidder to host the national Health Innovation Hub - a consortium involving University College Cork (UCC), Cork Institute of Technology (CIT), the National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG) & Trinity College Dublin (TCD).

The Health Innovation Hub was included as a Disruptive Reform in the Action Plan for Jobs 2013 and 2014 as a joint initiative of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the Department of Health. The aim of the initiative is to drive collaboration between the health service and the enterprise sector leading to the development and commercialisation of new healthcare technologies, products and services emerging from within the health service and/or the enterprise sector. The objectives behind the development of a Health Innovation Hub are:

- to allow healthcare companies to deliver commercial products and services more quickly by giving them appropriate access to the health service in order to test and validate and refine products in a real life environment,
- to allow the health service to find efficiencies and improvements (including to services and patient outcomes) by facilitating the HSE and hospitals to engage with innovative companies creating solutions to problems they face, and
- to support the adoption/commercialisation of new innovations developed by healthcare practitioners inside the healthcare service.

A Demonstrator (pilot) project was established in 2012, based in University College Cork, in order to test the Hub model. Following a positive evaluation of the pilot, Government agreed to establish the Hub at a national level. Following a competitive call operated by Enterprise Ireland a consortium involving UCC, CIT, NUIG & TCD was selected as the successful bidder on the basis of a unanimous recommendation of an expert independent panel.

The consortium is highly complementary, with each collaborator offering unique capabilities and access to key stakeholders. This will enable delivery of projects on the ground at multiple locations in Ireland, while directing and centralising all activities through the Hub Operations Centre based in UCC and avoiding duplication of effort. UCC will lead the National Hub central operations, project design, methodology, operation and healthcare economics. CIT brings expertise in regulatory and quality processes in product design and development and has the capacity to support design and prototyping through MEDIC, its Medical Engineering Design and Innovation Centre. NUIG will lead Concept Assessment activities through a dedicated Concept Evaluation Specialist, using the process already developed and validated through the BioInnovate Programme. TCD will lead Business Development support and will develop a Business Impact Evaluation Team to support this activity. The consortium is part of a wider health infrastructure including the major Hospital Groups (South/South West, Dublin Midlands and Saolta University Healthcare Group), and Community Health Organisations. The consortium is also closely linked with HRB funded Clinical Research.

Facilities are located on hospital campuses in Cork, Galway and Dublin.

Action 128:

Measure: Develop specific projects for local authority cooperation, enterprise cluster collaboration and educational exchange between the South West region and key provinces of China, in particular Shanghai and Lower Yangtze River region to promote exports and trade.

Status: Ongoing

Food Cluster work is underway with Cork County Council, UCC & the LEOs. Early stage engagement is underway with Welsh Partners, and the group will look at ways to offer something unique to target Chinese market (in a way that the New Zealand food cluster has achieved under an umbrella group) and to do this over the course of the Cluster project.

The LEOs have made significant inroads into second level enterprise education and could develop innovative Cork/China online relationships between schools with an emphasis on joint creation of enterprise projects between the regions.

Cork City celebrated the 10th anniversary of its Sister City Agreement with Shanghai in October 2015. It also has signed Memoranda of Understanding with Hangzhou, Wuxi and Shenzhen. Two officials from Shanghai will spend eight weeks working in Cork City Council in 2016; one official each from Hangzhou, Wuxi and Shenzhen will spend four weeks in Cork City Council. A Cork City Council delegation will visit China in autumn 2016. Cork City Council also contributes €10,000 to support the 30 volunteer teachers from the UCC Confucius Institute who teach Chinese in schools throughout the South West. The City Council expects to receive 30 delegations from China in 2016. In addition, the City Council will support the Asia Summit in Cork (June 2016) with local partners. The City Council continues to support local SMEs in China through its well-established networks. Preparations are underway for a School exchange programme in the Autumn.

This matter is ongoing for Kerry County Council. A MOU has been signed with the Zhejiang province to develop further our relationship. Educational links have been developed to further the relationship with the Zhejiang province both at second and third level. A delegation from Kerry County Council and the IT Tralee visited Zhejiang in May 2016.

BRANDING AND MARKETING THE SOUTH WEST REGION

Action 129:

Measure: Develop an overarching brand and value proposition for the South West, building on the strengths of the Cork and Kerry brands to reinforce each other and build awareness of all that the connected region has to offer.

Status: Ongoing

Kerry branding is currently being developed by 'Designworks' and a local steering committee. Cork City and County Council have set up a Steering Group has been set up with the key regional stakeholders. Terms of reference are finalised for the procurement of a consultant, which will be completed over the next 2/3 months, to assist with Strategic Branding and Messaging for the Cork region.

Action 130:

Measure: Further develop Diaspora networks in both Cork and Kerry with clear objectives and deliverables in the areas of trade promotion, attracting investment and advice and support to entrepreneurs.

Status: Ongoing

Cork County Council sees itself having a leadership role in developing a formal diaspora strategy for County Cork and becoming the centre point of all information and networks. This strategy will build on existing networks and partnerships in the County and the Council will become a co-ordinator and facilitator to deepen connections with the global County Cork community. It will do this in conjunction and consultation with the community.

Cork City Council are visiting San Francisco in H2 2016 with a specific focus on diaspora, Start-ups and co-working. Start-up Ireland (recently subsumed by Connect Ireland) and Cork innovates are hosting the Start-up Nations Summit in Cork in November which was launched in July at Cork Airport.

Kerry County Council has developed a Diaspora Plan for the county and have made a submission for funding; work is ongoing. Kerry Airport promotion and advertisement placement is taking place from December 2015 to December 2016. A submission has been made to National Local Diaspora Toolkit Launch. Meetings have been held with Listowel and Tralee business groups, Kerry County Football Boards, Local Development Companies and Tralee Chamber CEO. Information is also being drafted by Connect Ireland for dissemination.

Action 131:

Measure: Aligned with the proposed value proposition initiative, tailor 'quality of life' communications directed primarily at our Diaspora to equip them with up-to-date information to 'sell' the region as a good place to live and work.

Status: Ongoing

Cork County Council has recently established an International & Diaspora Affairs Committee and one of the functions of this Committee will be to oversee the development of the County Cork Diaspora Strategy. The Council will also engage with the recently established Cork County Public Participation Network (PPN) which is the main vehicle through which community and voluntary groups can interact with Cork County Council and participate in policy making structures. The Council has applied to the Department of the Taoiseach for funding under the Local Diaspora Strategy Development Fund. Quality of Life survey carried out in Cork County as part of public consultation for LECP.

Cork City Council & Cork County Council: this action will form part of the proposed Branding and Messaging project for the region. Cork Innovates have also undertaken a specific project relating to the Diaspora.

Kerry County Council is developing and growing membership of a LinkedIn group through ongoing contacts and social media activity.

DRIVING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Action 132:

Measure: Each of the Local Enterprise Offices in the South West region will aim to increase employment in its baseline through increased startups and scaling of existing clients. Annual Business Plans setting out clear targets and objectives across a range of services and for 2015 these include:

- €2.098 million will be available in grant assistance and enterprise development supports;
- 33 Start Your Own Business courses run, for up to 470 participants;
- 305 one-to-one mentoring assignments will be arranged;
- 33 MicroFinance Ireland applications;
- Over 1,400 female entrepreneurs to avail of LEO training and soft support programmes;
- 88 schools to engage with the Student Enterprise Programme, with over 3,260 participants.

Status: Complete

In 2015, the following were provided / delivered by the South West LEOs:

- €2.14m was approved to 131 projects for priming, feasibility and business expansion grants.
- 467 participants in 32 Start Your Own Business (SYOB) courses.
- 1,164 participants in mentoring assignments.
- 47 submissions to MicroFinance Ireland (MFI) with 21 approvals.
- Over 1,950 female participants in 276 training programmes.
- Nearly 4,000 students participated in Student Entrepreneurship programmes from 109 schools.

LEO	2015 No of LEO Clients	2015 Client All Jobs Total (FT & PT)*	2015 Gross All Job Gains (FT & PT)	2015 Net All Job Gains (FT & PT)
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Cork City	119	696	138	45
Cork North & West	229	1,274	263	45
Cork South	179	847	215	131
Kerry	462	1,881	396	130
TOTAL	989	4698	1012	351

Action 133:

Measure: Enterprise Ireland will agree and implement a Services Level Agreement with all Business Innovation Centres (BIC) including with Cork BIC to ensure their interaction with startups in the South West region is deepened and the value maximised.

Status: **Delayed**

Enterprise Ireland is currently drafting a Services Level Agreement with the Business Innovation Centres. This process requires significant consultation with DJEI and the individual BICs in advance of the final Service Level Agreement being presented for sign-off with respective stakeholders. Given the level of consultation required, it is envisaged that the Service Level Agreement will be delivered by Q2 2016. The Monitoring Group will be kept informed on progress relating to this action.

Action 135:

Measure: Promote the Startup Week in Cork and Kerry Enterprise Month as a regional event for the South West, with the key objective of bringing entrepreneurs and startups to together to develop contacts.

Status: **Complete**

Kerry Enterprise Month is now entering its fourth year in March 2017. The month is a collaborative initiative between IT Tralee (led by the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development), Kerry County Council, Enterprise, Kerry Local Enterprise Office, IDA, Udaras na Gaeltachta, and Leader companies. The month aims to support all stages and levels of business through a series of month long county wide events. Work completed to date includes:

- The inaugural Cantillon Entrepreneur Award initiated
- Increased engagement with business sector in the region
- Engagement with business sector in the region in relation to Corporate Sponsorship
- Celebration and acknowledgement of all the effort of companies setting up or growing through the Kerry LEO county enterprise awards and the ITT Enterprise Showcase day.
- Support of Social Innovation, Social Entrepreneurship and Community Enterprise by all partners
- A close of the loop of encouraging entrepreneurship and critical thinking across all levels of the education spectrum with Design Thinking being established at Primary School level, the Kerry LEO second level enterprise programme; the ITT third level Discover ITT programme for undergraduate and postgraduate level

- Events right across the county targeting different sectors technology, food, tourism, retail, community, public and private sectors and more

Action 138:

Measure: Enterprise Ireland will run a Competitive Feasibility Fund for Kerry as part of a regional call in 2015

Status: Complete

A Competitive Feasibility Fund of €200k was launched for Kerry and Mid West Start-ups in December 2015, the aim of which is to assist new start-up companies/entrepreneurs to investigate the viability of a new growth-oriented business proposition which has the potential to become a High Growth Potential Start-up.

Action 140:

Measure: Údarás na Gaeltachta will develop annual enterprise development plans for each Gaeltacht area setting out targets to support entrepreneurship, enterprise growth and job creation.

Status: Complete

The annual enterprise development plan for each Gaeltacht region has been completed and their implementation is ongoing. With respect to employment creation projects the targets for the Cork and Kerry Gaeltacht regions were reached for Q1 and Q2.

Action 141:

Measure: Údarás na Gaeltachta will implement measures to support early stage business with a particular focus on regional competitive advantage in specific sectors, including cultural tourism, audio-visual and digital technology, marine resources, niche manufacturing, food beverages and creative language-based services.

Status: Ongoing

Through its mentor support scheme Údarás na Gaeltachta has assisted 12 early stage entrepreneurs to research and develop their business concepts; through employment support schemes has supported a nascent cultural tourism based enterprise, and through provision of fitted out food units, capital and training grant aid has assisted in the support of 3 food/beverage enterprises. Údarás na Gaeltachta has also provided additional property solutions to 10 enterprises in Q1 and Q2.

Action 144:

Measure: Enterprise Ireland will implement the findings from the review of the New Frontiers Entrepreneurial Development Programme in (subject to approval) order to evolve the programme to maximise its positive impacts on entrepreneurship in the region. Both CIT and IT Tralee are leaders in the provision of the Programme. EI will to work closely with both. Actively promote Ignite, Gateway UCC and Rubicon and New Frontier programmes supports for startups.

Status: Complete

New Frontiers is Enterprise Ireland's national entrepreneur development programme for innovative, early-stage start-ups. It is a three-phased programme, based in 14 campus incubation centres across the country. Each year, New Frontiers funds 150 companies nationally. Enterprise Ireland's Board has now approved the funding of a revised New Frontiers programme for the period 2016-2020. €2m investment has been approved by EI for the South West to fund New Frontiers in IT Tralee and CIT for the next 5 years.

Action 148:

Measure: Enterprise Ireland will run one "Startup Open Days & Clinics" in the South West where newly registered Startups in Manufacturing and Internationally Traded Services from the region are targeted and invited to open-days "clinics" (EI Regions/HPSU/Local LEO). At these events companies can be signposted to the various supports available regionally and nationally.

Status: Complete

Significant engagement is under way with new start-ups across the region. EI and LEOs actively engage with new start-ups to provide support and advice. Several initiatives underway include:

- Project Assessment Days
- Open Clinics at Incubator and Enterprise Centres across the South West
- Competitive Funds Seminars;
- New Frontiers Phase 1
- Start-Up Gathering Events;
- Enterprise Week Events
- Potential Exporters workshops and seminars;
- Market Research Centre visits to EI Offices in the South West.

Action 149:

Measure: Financial institutions to work with EI and LEOs on startup seminars with a sectoral focus. This should be a type of roadshow event travelling to different locations within the region. These seminars will incorporate various elements e.g. finance, marketing, showcasing synergies and success stories, potential for collaboration, sectoral supports and current opportunities.

Status: Complete

Enterprise Ireland and South West LEOs have been involved in a series of start-up seminars and financial road shows in partnership with financial institutions and accountancy institutes during H1 2016. Examples of events organised / presented at / invited Clients to included:

- Finance for Growth Events (Feb / March / April),
- LEO & EI Funding Supports Presentation made to Chartered Accountants Ireland Cork members and AIB Staff (April),
- Irish Strategic Innovation Fund Cork Market Engagement Event (June 1st)
- LEO & EI involved with New start-up Ideas in UCC in conjunction with BOI (April)
- Listowel bankers briefing

EI & LEOs will be also engaging with financial institutions in conjunction with clients during H2 2016 particularly in relation to the potential volatility over the short-term in the value of sterling, following the UK's recent vote to leave the EU. More information can be found at: <https://enterprise-ireland.com/en/Publications/Reports-Published-Strategies/Information-guide-for-Irish-exporters-to-the-UK.pdf>

Action 150:

Measure: Develop a strategy for Female Entrepreneurship in STEM programme based on the evaluation of the pilot run in CIT and extend the programme to include IT Tralee

Status: Ongoing

Exxcel is a part time programme designed for females who have a business idea with high growth and export potential. Ideas can include ventures that are Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) related.

CIT commissioned the Hincks Centre for Entrepreneurship Excellence to conduct an independent evaluation of the Exxcel female entrepreneurship programme provided by the Rubicon Centre in Cork Institute of Technology in 2015. The purpose of this evaluation was to verify that the programme responded to the needs of the target group, to assess the impact and the effectiveness of the course, to explore areas of improvement for the course, and to gain insight into the needs of participants on completion of the programme.

Overall, the majority rated the programme as either good or excellent. The main *strengths* of the course related to the development of a caring and encouraging support network of participants, trainers, mentors and Rubicon staff. Participants also feel they are coming away from the programme with definite action points to implement in relation to their own business. *Areas for improvement* fall under the headings of delivery schedule, preparation for training and integration of learning. The vast majority of participants were aged between 30 and 50, and had completed undergraduate qualifications (> 30%) or postgraduate qualifications (> 65%).

Over half of the participants went on to seek and secure further funding from other sources to develop and grow their businesses. In addition, a survey of 40 (from a possible 70) previous PINC participants yielded very positive feedback, and review of both the PINC and the Exxcel has led to CIT:

- Continuing the offering of Exxcel for a second cohort in CIT;
- Liaising with the Cork County LEOs in relation to the possible delivery of a PINC-equivalent female entrepreneurship programme elsewhere in the region.

CIT is developing an overall strategy for entrepreneurship which is due to be completed by the end of 2016.

Action 151:

Measure: Expand the PINC Programme for female entrepreneurship which, since 2011 has facilitated the creation of 99 jobs across Cork City and County.

Status: Ongoing

CIT is no longer delivering this programme, due to resourcing issues. However CIT is working with other partners in County Cork (LEO, SECAD) to support the delivery of the programme elsewhere.

Action 152:

Measure: Enterprise Ireland will hold an International Female Entrepreneurship conference in the region to coincide with the Rose of Tralee Festival

Status: Complete

Enterprise Ireland held an International Female Entrepreneurship conference in the region to coincide with the Rose of Tralee Festival. This took place on 17 August 2015 with over 250 delegates attending.

Action 153:

Measure: 88 secondary schools in the region to be engaged in an active way on entrepreneurship over 2015 / 2016 academic year.

Status: Complete

The South West LEOs engaged nearly 4,000 students in Student Entrepreneurship programmes from 109 schools in 2015.

Action 154:

Measure: Develop more co-working spaces in the region, using community and other enterprise facilities.

Status: Complete

Cork County Council operates and supports a number of enterprise centres where shared meeting facilities and service spaces provide for networking opportunities. The Council is evaluating options to expand the existing network of E Centres & Community Enterprise Centres with potential stakeholders.

Cork City Council currently supports a Community Enterprise Centre based in Ballyvolane. City Hall space is being investigated for providing space for LEO clients. Northside for Business campus at Ballyvolane is being upgraded and managed by Plato to facilitate co-working. Parnell Place is due to be put to the market for redevelopment in the next quarter. Stapleton House has been recently

purchased with a view to possible co-working space being made available. BuiltInCork, an entrepreneurial organisation set up in Cork in recent times, in collaboration with experienced entrepreneurs and sponsorship, propose to open up a 12,000 sq ft coworking space in the South Mall on a purely commercial basis in September.

Kerry County Council LEO has supported the submission process, disseminated information and provided mentoring support where required to assist groups applying to Enterprise Ireland under the CEI scheme. Applications were submitted under the Community Enterprise Initiative by 5/6 groups. Meetings have been held with a number of community groups regarding submissions for funding under the Community Enterprise Scheme. A number of other prospects are ongoing. Work is ongoing in a number of centres in Kerry. Sneem 'homeworking' is looking to identify site for permanent home. Work is ongoing in Dingle. Co-working space has been developed in the KTI Killarney and Valentia Island. Additional funding proposals have been submitted (private and public) by the Kerry Innovation Centre (Tom Crean Centre) and Killarney Technology Innovation Ltd. Firies Food Hub is completed and clients are actively being sought.

Action 155:

Measure: Enterprise Ireland will roll out nationally the €5 million Community Enterprise Initiative Scheme launched in May 2015 and will highlight to key stakeholders in areas where the Initiative might have a significant potential Impact or where there are gaps in the provision of CECs.

Status: Complete

Incubation space for start-ups and entrepreneurs is a key piece of the start-up ecosystem. In mid-2015 Enterprise Ireland launched the Community Enterprise Initiative. The scheme focused on three elements - Collaboration Initiatives; Renovation Projects; and support for Business Development Managers. A further call will issue in early 2017 to support collaborative approaches to job creation in the regions.

Action 156:

Measure: Promote the potential for greater use of non-urban incubator space and examine synergies with the region's accelerator programmes

Status: Ongoing

Cork County Council are currently undertaking an audit of incubator space as part of a wider review of property assets and this work will provide valuable background to any further work on this action. Kerry County Council are engaged in ongoing discussions with an Enterprise Group in Sneem with the objective of renovating a local centre for incubator space. Cork City Council has also joined in a proposal with CorkBIC submitted to Enterprise Ireland's Accelerator Development Scheme (2015 - 2017).

Action 157:

Measure: Network the Community Enterprise Centre assets of the region with the Incubator and Accelerator Programmes within the region, to both allow greater numbers of participants engage

with these programmes and to encourage placement of these innovative ideas throughout the region and not just in the higher population centred facilities.

Status: Delayed

Networking, joint initiatives and introductions between the Community Enterprise Centres and Incubators across the region continues. Following the announcement of CEI approvals, EI plans to organise a meeting of key stakeholders in the region to discuss further innovative and collaborative opportunities for the centres.

BUILDING ENTERPRISE CAPABILITY AND CONNECTIONS

Action 159:

Measure: Expand peer-to-peer groups of owners of family businesses/SMEs to develop alternative management structures/ownership models for the next stage of growth.

Status: Complete

A tender was approved by South Cork LEO in 2015 to develop a new peer to peer group. Under the auspices of the new Northside for Business Campus Cork City LEO has identified specific targeted actions to be undertaken as part of the NFB programme for 2016/17.

Action 160:

Measure: Support the development of early-stage ICT businesses by establishing mentorship and support programmes involving more established entities. Launch two Dealstart initiatives to provide a platform for SME's to get that first deal or reference site from MNCs.

Status: Complete

These services have been provided through DealBroker events. DealBroker is an initiative involving ten or more early stage tech companies presenting their product offering to MNCs and large indigenous companies. The forerunner of DealBroker was DealStart which was run as a pilot project. Following consultation with the MNC and startup companies who participated in the pilot – the initiative underwent some changes based on the very valuable feedback received. DealBroker is not just for startups; scaling tech companies who may be a bit beyond the startup phase and want to engage with the global tech community are also invited.

Applications for DealBroker 2016 opened in August. DealBroker 2015 took place in Cork in September 2015.

Action 161:

Measure: Cork Institute of Technology will host cluster development managers from ACCIÓ (Catalan Agency for Competitiveness) and Business Upper Austria (Linz, Austria) to run four targeted workshops which focus on the needs and requirements of each of the elements of the triple helix;

Status: Complete

CIT hosted this event in September 2015, with four targeted workshops held as follows:

1. Individual SMEs and MNCs across the South West region seeking to develop collaborative linkages in Spain and Austria.
2. Existing and emerging cluster organisations development needs.
3. Local government, policy makers and the development organisations.
4. Academic practitioners of clustering theory.

The purpose of these workshops was to perform an internal analysis of the structures and resources required to develop thematic clusters where the South West has strengths to support job creation in the region.

Action 162:

Measure: Implement the National Mentoring Strategy through the provision of one-to-one mentoring services and support for peer and voluntary networks as part of the regional Competitive call for proposals for Community Enterprise Initiatives

Status: Ongoing

A Mentor Network event took place as part of the StartUp Gathering 2015 on 6 October in Cork. The rollout of mentor assignments with the LEOs continues.

Enterprise Ireland is working closely with DJEI to implement the National Mentoring Strategy, with key areas of focus currently being (1) merging of EI and LEO mentor panels, (2) setting up a volunteer mentoring portal and (3) delivering the current Microsoft Volunteer Mentoring Pilot with EI and LEO clients.

In addition, Enterprise Ireland continues to work with a panel of mentors from the South region who collectively cover areas of business competency, such as, Finance, HR, Marketing, Production, Strategic Planning, Design and R&D.

Action 163:

Measure: IMDA to expand its HPSU and cross sectorial lean mentoring programmes established in 2014 and 2015 respectively, aimed at raising the bar with respect to manufacturing.

Status: Complete

Phase 2 of the joint IMDA and Enterprise Ireland mentoring programme was launched in December 2015. Another four High Potential Start-ups (HPSUs) have been partnered with experienced professionals across the industry.

Action 164:

Measure: Promote the use of EI 'hotdesk' facilities in overseas markets to businesses in the region.

Status: Complete

Enterprise Ireland's international office network has access to more than 60 countries around the world, through which Enterprise Ireland can support companies to increase their sales in the global market. Enterprise Ireland's overseas offices have experienced business personnel with a wide network of in-market contacts and access to the most up-to-date market information. Enterprise Ireland also have their own and / or existing relationships to in-market office facilities and incubator units. EI overseas offices continue to promote the use of their facilities (subject to booking) for companies to use while in the region for meeting customers, hot desking and short term incubator office lease (where available). Enterprise Ireland also operate a network of consultants who can support a company's market development needs in markets where EI do not have offices. EI is also currently developing a map of available office space across its overseas network which will be promoted through all existing channels.

Action 165:

Measure: Increase use of Enterprise Ireland's main Market Research Centre and each of its regionally based "Market Research Hubs" including those located in Tralee and Cork for pre-exporting regionally based companies seeking to research new international markets locally.

Status: Complete

The Enterprise Ireland Market Research Centre offers client companies access to market intelligence in the form of company, sector, market and country information needed to explore opportunities and compete in international markets. Enterprise Ireland's Market Research Centre has seen the number of companies using the Research Hubs in the South West increase by 48% in 2015.

Action 166:

Measure: Develop export market networking groups to learn from peer-to-peer exchanges in key markets, including emerging markets and promote awareness of export networks of businesses.

Status: Ongoing

The (Enterprise Europe Network) EEN events run by the Chamber provide a forum for local business to network and learn from one another regarding exporting. The Chamber also provides an information and enquiry service and acts as a conduit to other local export networks, including signposting businesses to Ibec, IEA and EI where relevant and promoting their events.

Action 167:

Measure: InterTrade Ireland will promote its Acumen and Elevate programmes providing financial assistance to local companies to investigate and pursue export opportunities in Northern Ireland.

Status: Ongoing

InterTradeIreland made contact in March with all the LEOs in the region to promote the Acumen and Elevate programmes and trade opportunities in general in Northern Ireland. A follow up face to face meeting was held with all 4 Cork LEOs and the Kerry LEO in April 2016 to discuss potential collaborative opportunities. Information was provided to help them advise their clients on trade and public procurement opportunities. InterTradeIreland also have an On the Ground consultant based in Cork whose role is to promote the ITI trade programmes in the Munster region.

Action 169:

Measure: InterTrade Ireland will promote cross border trade opportunities to small business in the region.

Status: Ongoing

InterTradeIreland in collaboration with the 4 Local Enterprise Offices in Cork gave 16 companies the opportunity to visit the Lisburn and Castlereagh Council Region in Northern Ireland to explore new trade opportunities in October 2016. Each company received a tailored programme of meetings with 4-5 potential customers. The outcomes of these visits will be monitored and further collaboration and trade links will be developed with the region in 2017.

Action 170:

Measure: Through its Trade Accelerator Voucher scheme InterTrade Ireland will help companies to identify and break down barriers to trade leading to new export opportunities in Northern Ireland.

Status: Ongoing

As part of the discussions held with the LEOs in the region in April 2016 the Trade Accelerator Voucher Scheme was promoted as part of the overall suite of Trade Programmes offered by InterTradeIreland to help small companies overcome trade barriers.

Action 171:

Measure: As part of the new EI/IDA Global Sourcing initiative in the South West region, the agencies ensure all new investors are aware of the supply strengths in the region and targeted programmes with large multinationals in the region. The objective is to increase collaboration between existing EI and IDA clients with a focus on increasing local and global sourcing opportunities for indigenous firms and to encourage SMEs and MNCs to collaborate to supply imported products and services.

Status: Ongoing

In the South West networking events took place in October 2015, giving Irish companies the opportunity to engage directly with procurement teams from multinational companies across a wide range of sectors including ICT, Web 2.0, Pharma, Biotech, Medical Devices, Consumer, Security and Engineering. Most of the Irish companies participating on this mission already have a successful track record of supplying multinational companies across the globe. EI are now working to increase the number of Irish suppliers to the MNC base in Ireland and the South West - helping local companies grow and create more jobs in the region.

There is ongoing EI/IDA engagement in South West to engage and share knowledge and investigate further collaboration opportunities through Initiatives such as DealBroker.

FOSTERING INNOVATION**Action 172:**

Measure: Increase university/IoT commercialisation of research - translating it into jobs on the ground supporting the partnering with entrepreneurs/business championing and building strong business teams to succeed.

Status: Ongoing

This is an ongoing activity under the scope of the UCC, Teagasc, CIT, IT Tralee Technology Transfer Consortium ("Bridge" Consortium). UCC commercialisation of research increases the competitive advantage of its partner companies through access to new proprietary IP and expertise. The

university is also actively increasing the number of job creators by incentivising and supporting entrepreneurs in the region. In this period UCC provided 21 new technologies to companies in Ireland and abroad for commercial purposes in each of 2013/14 and 2014/15. This exceeded any previous year since the establishment of the office and exceeded targets in both years.

- 8 of those licenses were to Irish SMEs: 4 in the southern region
- 6 further licenses were to Multinational companies with bases in the southern region

UCC has established 6 spin-out companies in the 24 months prior to q2 2016. Of these 5 are based here in UCC. 3 of these companies have raised significant investment either from corporate partners or from VCs to grow and establish their business as employers of high value jobs.

An important support for supporting and partnering entrepreneurs and building strong teams is UCC Incubation Centre, GatewayUCC. GatewayUCC has, over the years, supported 40 start-up companies which now employ 240 fulltime jobs and is currently home to 16 dynamic start-up companies. GatewayUCC companies have 80 people employed on the UCC Campus.

A contributor to the aim of increasing entrepreneurs in the region is the establishment of the SPRINT programme at GatewayUCC, launched by Enterprise Ireland CEO Julie Sinnamon in Feb 2016. This programme is designed to support early stage start-up entrepreneurs with a focus on commercialising UCC generated technologies. The programme allows them to work with seasoned and successful business mentors and is delivered by serial entrepreneurs and business practitioners aiming to assist companies on all aspects of business start-up. SPRINT is funded by Enterprise Ireland, Cork City LEO and Bank of Ireland.

UCC has also launched the Blackstone LaunchPad in March 2016. Blackstone LaunchPad is a campus-based experiential entrepreneurship programme open to students, alumni, staff and faculty offering coaching, ideation and venture creation support. It is modelled on a successful programme originated at the University of Miami and was further developed and expanded by the Blackstone Charitable Foundation.

These initiatives complement UCC's IGNITE Graduate Business Innovation Programme, established in 2010. The IGNITE Graduate Business Innovation Programme is sponsored by Cork City Council, Cork County Council, the Local Enterprise Offices of Cork City, South Cork and North & West Cork, Bank of Ireland and University College Cork. The 57 businesses supported have involved over 70 founders and to date over 2/3rds are still trading based on the plans they developed in the Ignite Programme. 18 businesses have secured funding over and above IGNITE seed funds to develop and expand operations. In terms of employment at the end of Q2 2016 Ignite companies employed over 125 full and part time roles (mainly full time).

Action 174:

Measure: Enterprise Ireland will facilitate a Regional Innovation Forum to encourage peer to peer interactions and SME-HEI linkages to promote and showcase innovation (people, resources, training and research).

Status: Complete

Constant innovation - changes to products/services, processes or business models, can provide the

added value to a company's competitive edge. Often it is difficult to focus on innovation alongside the daily business operations. The follow up on the 2015 inaugural South West SME Innovation Forum, was held on Thursday March 10th 2016. This SME event, in partnership with South West HEIs, presented a series of SME case studies on innovation – where linking up with a local institute has helped company development. This event brings local EI SME clients together on the shared agenda of collaboration on innovation.

Action 177:

Measure: InterTrade Ireland will promote the Fusion Programme to SMEs in the region. InterTrade Ireland will provide access to the InterTrade Ireland Challenge programme whereby SMEs in the region will have the opportunity to learn how to develop a culture of innovation through the use of a sustainable and repeatable innovation process. Learning will take place by means of briefings, workshops and mentoring in the region.

Status: Ongoing

FUSION is promoted through a Managing Agent representative in the South West area. During H1 2016 nine FUSION projects have been supported in the region. Challenge is promoted online resulting in four companies from the region attending a recent Challenge event.

Action 179:

Measure: Develop a promotion and outreach programme to promote greater engagement at regional level by enterprises and research teams in collaborative research and to participate in EU Horizon 2020 projects.

Status: Ongoing

This is an ongoing activity across the HEIs, and such collaborative activities are measured by Knowledge Transfer Ireland through the targets agreed between each Higher Education Institution and the HEA via its Strategic Dialogue Compact. A number of support initiatives have been implemented by UCC Research Support Services (RSS) to drive increased H2020 engagement by the regional, innovation-focussed enterprise sector. These supports form a key part of UCC's Horizon 2020 Action Plan, which sets out a strategy to:

- (a) Augment and improve existing research supports;
- (b) Develop and implement new targeted supports;
- (c) Promote engagement with the enterprise sector;
- (d) Deliver competitive advantage to UCC researchers and their enterprise partners.

Recent evidence of successful engagement, both with the enterprise sector and with Horizon 2020 programmes, include the generation of €26.4 million of 2014/15 research income from non-exchequer sources. This represents a 48% increase in the last 5 years, and was primarily driven by a 78% increase in funding from Horizon 2020 and allied EU programmes (to €14.8 million) and a 22% increase in funding from the enterprise sector (to €6.2 million). Significantly, new award income secured from non-exchequer sources increased dramatically in 2014/2015 — compared to 2013/2014, the value of new awards from EU/Horizon 2020 sources increased by 32% (to €21.5 million) and the value of new awards from the enterprise sector increased by 134% (to €20.5

million).

Recently, UCC was included in Reuters' first-ever ranking of Europe's top 100 "innovative" universities, which recognises the innovative talent of UCC's research community and the embedded nature of enterprise engagement across the institution. In 2015, UCC transferred over 22 technologies to the commercial sector and 6 new companies have been launched in the last 12 months. 21 active spinouts are now using UCC intellectual property or expertise to drive economic growth.

A key initiative to promote "greater engagement at regional level by enterprises and research teams in collaborative research and to participate in EU Horizon 2020 projects" has been the establishment of the Project Research and Innovation Management Enterprise at UCC (PrimeUCC). PrimeUCC is a proposal development and project management service for UCC researchers and their external partners, including regional SMEs.

The objective of the PrimeUCC initiative is to support the UCC research community and regional SMEs in exploiting new research funding opportunities, in particular Horizon 2020, by reducing the administrative burden associated with managing complex and multi-partner research proposals and projects. This burden is a well-documented constraint that significantly impacts on SME engagement with EU funding programmes, including Horizon 2020 — PrimeUCC was established to address this need.

In addition, working closely with UCC RSS, PrimeUCC supports the development of competitive and Horizon 2020 (and related) funding applications, including proposals to specific Horizon 2020 SME programmes (eg. the SME instrument).

Working closely with external partners, UCC RSS have hosted a series of Workshops and Information Sessions targeted at supporting enterprise sector engagement with Horizon 2020 programmes. Events include:

1. Vision 2020 Workshop — March 2016

UCC is the founding Irish organization member of Vision 2020 – The Horizon Network, a networking platform that facilitates and supports collaboration between top research-performing organizations and companies collaborating in Horizon 2020 proposals and projects. Vision2020 acts as a hub to connect Horizon 2020 participants from excellent universities and innovative companies, and works to maximise the value and Horizon 2020 funding its members can obtain.

UCC is an active member of this initiative and is using their supports and activities to connect with regional SMEs in the context of Horizon 2020. In this regard, UCC RSS hosted an Information Workshop on Vision 2020 focused on the opportunities available for SME - University engagement. This session gave participants the opportunity to find out how they could engage with the network, in particular, using it to find the right partners to participate successfully with H-2020 funding programmes. The Workshop was presented by the Director of Vision2020, Abdul Rahim, and David O'Connell, Director, UCC RSS.

2. Researchers towards Industry Workshops — May 2016

UCC Research Support Services and Department of Human Resources, together with the Office of Student Development and Employability, launched the 'Researchers towards Industry' initiative as part of a wider suite of researcher career development supports. Working within the remit of the

Science Foundation Ireland Industry Fellowship Programme, the aim of this programme is to: (i) Facilitate researchers with directional movement from academia to industry, and (ii) to develop UCC strategic partnerships with industry encouraging industry-informed research and the fostering of academic- industry interactions. By engaging in this process, researchers are provided with the support to engage with industry and industry partners benefit from the expertise of our highly trained researchers and the cross pollination of ideas and connections. Information is provided on knowledge transfer, access to new technology pathways and tools to improve competitiveness in securing Horizon 2020 funding to enable close collaborate with industry.

3. South Regional SME Innovation Forum — March 2016

In conjunction with Enterprise Ireland, Cork Institute of Technology and Teagasc, UCC recently hosted the South SME Innovation Forum, which attracted almost 40 SMEs across a broad range of service and manufacturing sectors in the region. In addition to series of company Insights and Case Studies, the event featured a Round Table Discussion and Feedback on the topic of “Where does research happen in your company?” which also incorporated presentations on where SMEs can get support for Horizon 2020 participation (by Dr David O’Connell, Director, UCC Research Support Services). The event also included tours of the Tyndall National Institute and the UCC Food Technology Facilities and APC Microbiome Institute.

4. Horizon 2020 Opportunities for Irish Start-ups and Scale-ups: Workshop – October 2015

Hosted by UCC RSS, this workshop featured a seminar presented by Dr Sean McCarthy (Hyperion Ltd), a case-study of H2020 participation, and a seminar on UCC supports for SMEs presented by Dr David O’Connell (Director, UCC RSS). This event was part of the as part the nation-wide Startup Gathering Initiative that took place in October 2015.

Action 180:

Measure: Public research organisations and higher education institutions to work with enterprises, in particular SMEs in developing proposals for Horizon 2020 funding, with the objective of increasing participation and drawdown from EU programmes by SW businesses.

Status: Complete

H2020 program to date: Tyndall has secured €35m Euro for Ireland with €10m of this going to Irish Industry. In particular Tyndall has supported Irish SME in the SME instrument. PMD solutions in Cork was successful in achieving €4.2m funding in phase 2 of the SME instrument.

Action 181:

Measure: Develop a strategy to step-up the levels of research and commercialisation of added value product development for timber harvested in the region.

Status: Ongoing

This is an ongoing activity under the scope of the UCC, Teagasc, CIT, IT Tralee Technology Transfer Consortium (“Bridge” Consortium).

Action 183:

Measure: Roll out the first large-scale Industrial Internet Consortium (IIC)-approved industrial IoT innovation platform, called INFINITE, in Europe.

Status: Complete

This platform has now launched with very strong engagement to date. There are six large projects underway with participation from four MNCs (through their local operations) and two SMEs, in addition to three public sector organisations. These projects span many business verticals, and results are being shared in the IIC which are drawing broad international interest. The next step is to undertake larger projects which will incorporate an international user base with global partners in Europe and the US. Benefits to date include bringing specialist knowledge and skills to be applied locally; due to the international profile of the testbed, it is now leading to further collaborations between local and global players.

ATTRACTING AND EMBEDDING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT**Action 185:**

Measure: IDA Ireland will target a 30% - 40% increase in investments by overseas companies in the South West Region over the period 2015-2019. This will result in a minimum of 139 investments in the region over the period.

Status: Ongoing

IDA Ireland remains committed to delivering on this objective and target as part of its five year strategy.

Action 186:

Measure: IDA Ireland will drive Transformation with IDA client companies across the South West Region through increased client interaction with the established base of companies to sustain, support and grow their operations and support increased employment in the region. This is particularly relevant to manufacturing operations.

Status: Ongoing

All IDA Ireland client companies have a nominated Relationship Manager who engages with each IDA client company in the Region on a regular basis. This is an ongoing business development activity by IDA Ireland aimed at supporting clients to sustain and grow their operations across the South West region, and is reflected by the significant level of employment growth in the South West Region in 2015.

Action 187:

Measure: Build an Advance Technology Building in Tralee to provide a high quality property solution to attract new FDI to Kerry.

Status: Ongoing

Planning Permission was granted by Kerry County Council in February 2016 following a delay in site selection/land acquisition. Contracts were signed in July allowing construction of the c.2,322m² building on a c.1.0 hectare site at Kerry Technology Park (KTP) to proceed. Building work commenced in August 2016 and the building is expected to be constructed in nine months (May 2017).

Action 188:

Measure: IDA will convene a “FDI Forum” with Stakeholders and Industry representatives on an annual basis to ensure that that region is maximising its strengths and opportunities to attract additional FDI. Through its involvement in the South West APJ, IDA will work with the South West Regional stakeholders to enhance and differentiate the regions offerings for overseas companies.

Status: Complete

IDA South West Regional Office has ongoing engagements with clients and stakeholders via a number of fora including the South West APJ Implementation Committee, the South West Regional Skills Forum, Local Economic and Community Plans, Regional Assemblies, Cork Area Strategic Plan (CASP), Cork Development Forum, CASP Economic Committee, etc. In addition, IDA has established a Key Stakeholder agency group in Kerry (commenced Sept 2016) comprising IDA Ireland, EI, Kerry County Council, Kerry LEO and IT Tralee to advance initiatives to influence the winning of new FDI.

Action 189:

Measure: IDA will proactively market the SW region by building on the Cork brand proposition and Kerry brand development initiatives to market key business locations of scale in the region for FDI.

Status: Ongoing

‘Invest in Cork’ marketing material was completed and launched in 2015 (<http://connectandinvest.com/cork/>). Plans are underway for a marketing initiative for Kerry in conjunction with Stakeholders. The target date for completion is Q4 2016. A series of client testimonial videos have been developed and this work is ongoing.

Action 190:

Measure: Develop and implement an information/networking event across the South West region for IDA clients.

Status: Complete

IDA is engaged with every client company across the region on a one-to-one basis and via stakeholder events. A number of client engagement events have taken place at a sectoral level such as regular meetings of the Shared Services Forum some of which are held in Cork; national events focused on R&D opportunities such as Collaborative Robotics (Jan & April 2016); Implementing LEAN Event with IDA and EI clients (May 2016).

Action 191:

Measure: Growing on the successful strategy of providing property solutions, Údarás will continue a building and refurbishment programme to help support the attraction/expansion of Foreign Direct and Indigenous Investment in the South West Region.

Status: Complete

Udaras na Gaeltachta continues to upgrade its property portfolio in response to market demand and to incentivise and attract new investment to the Cork and Kerry Gaeltachtaí. Current building projects in Q1 and Q2 include the fit out of a unit in Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh in the West Cork Gaeltacht for a new contact centre, works to a factory building in Baile na Buaille, An Daingean for use by an expanding West Kerry craft business, the completion of works to a unit for a niche food manufacturer in An Daingean, the replacement of doors and windows to a vacant factory in West Kerry for a potential new client, the upgrading of two office units for a new client in An Daingean and the extension of a factory building in Baile an Sceilg in South Kerry for an existing client.

Action 192:

Measure: Develop a Regional ConnectIreland Plan that is integrated with the Local Authorities' enterprise development and job-creation activities. Formalise the name of a nominated officer from each county in the region for the roll-out of the Plan.

Status: Ongoing

ConnectIreland have been working extensively in the South West region, particularly individually with the counties in the region to create a diaspora focused business message. Work has been done with both counties in this region. The next step for this project will be to bring together local liaison offers to convert this county focus into an overall regional message. This is scheduled to take place between Q3- Q4 2016.

Action 193:

Measure: Announce and run the Connectivation competition, inviting Third Level students to share their ideas for the future development of the Succeed in Ireland initiative.

Status: **Delayed**

This competition has been postponed due to contractual issues; a further update will be provided in H2 2016.

Action 194:

Measure: Liaise with HEIs with a view to holding partnership events to create a network that will allow greater communication between the institution and its alumni.

Status: **Delayed**

Connect Ireland have been unable to commence this action in the region to date; a further update will be provided in H2 2016.

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE**Action 195:**

Measure: Community Enterprise Centres in the region to develop a combined strategy for promotion and management of available space so as to increase startups and entrepreneurship in the regions.

Status: **Complete**

In 2016 Cork City Council and the Local Enterprise Office, Cork City in conjunction with Plato Cork and Cork URBAN Enterprises Ltd. established the 'Northside for Business' Campus in Ballyvolane, Cork. The centre provides space by way of industrial units (10,000 sq.ft.), offices (1,800 sq.ft) and a shared working space (2,000 sq. ft.) for sole traders. Since the establishment of the Campus, 10 new businesses are operating from the centre, employing over 30 people. The centre also supports the activities of the businesses located on Cork's Northside with an on-site project manager and a programme of events aimed at business and management development as well as networking.

Cork City Council has also identified suitable city centre space which will be developed to provide a co-working space for micro-enterprises. This space will have capacity for over 30 businesses and will provide good quality affordable space for start-ups and fledgling companies seeking to work in a dynamic environment with the supports of Cork City Local Enterprise Office on site. Currently tenders are being issued for suitable candidates to manage this project, with the estimate that the project will be complete by Q3 2017.

Enterprise Ireland has also undertaken an initiative with the Community Enterprise Centres. NACEC (National Association of CEC Managers/Centres) and the 120 or so Community Enterprise Centres nationally, in partnership with the regional team in Enterprise Ireland have recently (Q3 2016) completed an on-line survey. The purpose of the study, and the survey underpinning it, is to:

- Identify the scale, scope and relevance of the CECs nationally.
- Identify their impact in jobs creation and the broader impact in their community.
- Understand the CECs role in their local economy and the reliance of their tenants and businesses in the broader community on them.
- Quantify the scope of services CECs offer.
- Understand the difficulties that CECs are facing and what may be done about them.
- Examine options facing CECs in the future.
- Inform policy considerations and options for the future including any potential funding supports.

This survey was targeted at the approximately 120 CEC's which have been funded since the original CEC scheme commenced in 1989. It is important for Enterprise Ireland and the Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation to understand the current issues, and scale of activity being undertaken by these centres in their communities. This will help inform policy and potential funding decisions going forward.

Action 196:

Measure: Evaluate the Boomerang Recycling initiative and explore potential for it to be rolled out nationally (1 per waste management region) and extended to other forms of reuse.

Status: Complete

Cork County Council & Cork City Council: Boomerang has been successful on a number of fronts. The project has succeeded in placing long term unemployed participants in full time jobs (up to 70% of those participating in the Boomerang scheme to date have gone on to secure full time employment in Cork). Collections have now extended to Tipperary & Waterford and currently, Boomerang is looking at operating additional shifts due to its success. Further work that has developed from Boomerang is a successful application to the EU for funds to develop a tool to map the location of mattresses so that efficiency can be built in route planning and collections. This is a pilot concept so that if proven, the tool can be deployed in any circumstance where there may be resources to collect across a region to both quantify the availability and to make logistics and collection efficient and smart with the ultimate goal of increasing re-use of materials. The LEO is also funding researching opportunities for the remaining materials that currently go to landfill after the Boomerang process is completed to establish if this can be converted to further re-use targeting zero waste to landfill from the project. The overall project is complete and an evaluation report has been drafted and outlines the need to replicate the project throughout the County.

Boomerang has begun to provide services in Tipperary, and the Southern Waste Region is now supporting the project with a view to raising awareness of and extending the service through the region.

Kerry County Council: the regional waste management office has been contacted with a view to delivering a workshop in Killorglin. A SMILE Programme Presentation will be facilitated.

Action 197:

Measure: Extend the social enterprise forum that has been piloted in Cork City to the SW region so as to provide a networking base, training, skills, research, mentoring and other supports for social enterprise.

Status: Complete

Cork County Council is in discussion with Macroom-E Enterprise Centre & other potential stakeholders to consider how this can be developed.

This action is a key theme of Cork City Council's Local Economic and Community Plan. The Northside for Business Social Enterprise Network comprises representatives of eight social enterprises and two group leaders. This peer to peer network focuses on supporting collaboration between social enterprise managers, enhancing their skills and improving management and organisational development. The group has now progressed to a level, where it could be an example/case study to other like-minded groups. The Social Enterprise Group reconvened in Q2; with further meetings arranged from September. The current agenda involves, along with dealing with the issues of the individual managers, looking at the new five year economic development plan with a view to identifying how the social enterprise manager's network concept could develop and perhaps be rolled out elsewhere in the city.

The supports outlined in this action are also available from Kerry County Council and work is ongoing with a number of social enterprise groups.

Action 198:

Measure: Promote the potential for upcycling initiatives in the region, for example in the areas of Furniture, Food and clothing.

Status: Complete

North, East and West Kerry Development Company has run a 'Revamp' programme, a furniture recycling community business which aims to provide employment for the Traveller Community based in Castleisland. It also aims to meet household furniture needs of low income families in Kerry, and to reduce the amount of large household waste being disposed of in landfill and provide a recycling alternative. West Cork Development Partnership have held a series of free workshops on the topics of Sustainable Waste and Resource Management—of particular interest to Tidy Towns groups or volunteers looking to increase their points in the area of Sustainable Waste and Resource Management.

Action 199:

Measure: Údarás na Gaeltachta will provide support and resourcing to 6 community cooperatives to implement a programme for economic, social and cultural development in the region.

Status: Complete

Two tranches of management grants have been paid to 6 community cooperatives based on agreed development programmes. These organisations provide important local services to local communities and generate economic activity in their localities. Examples include the provision of childcare facilities, services for the elderly, the organisation of training opportunities, the development of tourism products such as walking and other culturally based products such as festivals and events. Currently these organisations are working closely with UnaG on the development of integrated language plans for their communities in line with the Gaeltacht Act, 2012.

Action 200:

Measure: Develop collaborations with civic groups, NGOs and statutory bodies through the enhancement of existing community projects such as Community-Academic Research Links (CARL) and the initiation of new projects with the community sector. Enhance access to artistic citizenship through consolidation and development of arts-in-community projects, such as FUAIM Arts and Community.

Status: Ongoing

Community Academic Research Links (CARL) is an initiative in UCC which provides independent research support to Civil Society Organisations. CSOs are supported to submit a proposal to the CARL database and their proposal is on offer for student(s) to apply to undertake as a project as part of their academic requirement in partnership with the CSO. CARL has linked with 80 CSOs to date and 53 students have worked on CARL projects since 2012. CARL staff work are focussed on maintaining and extending the CARL network and are organising a networking event in December 2016 to greater extend CARL's links with CSOs, to strengthen existing relationships and co-develop project proposals that address societal concerns.

Action 201:

Measure: Promote the value of Social Enterprise as means of direct job creation and to contribute to a wide range of community and social services

Status: Ongoing

The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, through Pobal, will shortly be inviting applications for proposals for Social Enterprise projects to be funded under the Dormant Accounts Fund. Applications will be particularly welcomed from projects in rural communities.

Supporting the retention and expansion of existing social enterprises and the development of new social enterprises is also a key theme of Cork City Council's Local Economic and Community Plan. The Northside for Business Social Enterprise Network comprises representatives of eight social

enterprises and two group leaders. This peer to peer network is focusing on supporting collaboration between social enterprise managers, enhancing their skills and improving management and organisational development.

ENHANCING SKILLS AND LABOUR MARKET ACTIVATION

Action 202:

Measure: Establish an Employer and Education Skills Forum to anticipate and ensure education and training provision is meeting future skills needs of the region through greater employer input, better information for employers on the skills supply, for potential recruits on opportunities and career pathways and providing a mechanism to address barriers identified by employers and providers to collaboration.

Status: Complete

The South-West Regional Skills Forum has been established and includes representation from: education and training providers (UCC, CIT, ITT, Cork & Kerry Education & Training Boards and Skillnets); statutory agencies (IDA, EI, Cork City & County Council, Cork & Kerry LEOs, DSP, Failte Ireland); and business representative organisations (IBEC, Chambers, Network Ireland, Cork Business Association). A manager has been appointed to design and oversee the implementation of annual operational plans in association with the Forum and commenced work in this capacity in mid May 2016.

Direct engagement with the business community and strengthening structured proactive dialogue between industry and education and training providers at a regional level will be a core focus of the role. The Forum have agreed to focus on the design of sectoral groupings - with key industry and education & training providers – collectively teasing out and identifying skills development solutions in the ICT sector in the first instance, and then expanding out to other industry sectors where a regional skills demand exists.

Action 204:

Measure: UCC to provide remote (physical and online) teaching and learning to centres around the South West region in such a manner that both individuals and local community groups can avail of third level courses from high quality training facilities based in their local area and with support and accreditation by UCC. (Akin to ACE Credit Union Studies across Ireland)

Status: Complete

UCC continues to strengthen existing and grow new relationships with relevant stakeholders in the South West region, cognisant of its role in actively widening access to and participation in Higher Education. Over the past 12 months, UCC has met several times (both in Cork at UCC and in Kerry at the Caherciveen Library) with the senior executive team of Kerry County Council to discuss how best

the University can support educational development in the SW.

Some specific recent developments:

- UCC's Centre for Adult Continuing Education (ACE) now delivers several UCC/NUI-accredited programmes on-site in South and West Kerry (and Limerick) regions, including the Certificate in Mental Health in the Community (part-time, level 6, Tralee);; the Certificate/Diploma in Autism Studies (part-time, levels 6/7, Killarney); the Certificate/Diploma in Social Enterprises and Community Development Practice (part-time, levels 6/7, Killorglin); and in association with the local ETB, the Diploma in Women's Studies (part-time, level 7, Killarney).
- ACE also partnered with Kerry County Council's Tourism Unit and CIT/Blackrock Castle Observatory (BCO) to deliver in Valentia in February 2016 a hugely popular module in Astrotourism. Attendees came from all over the South West region, and later were presented in UCC with certification. See Kerry County Council's website for further details: <http://www.kerrycoco.ie/en/allservices/starpowerastronomycourse/>. A similar immersive programme, the "South Kerry Discovery Programme" was delivered by ACE in late 2015, exploring the culture, nature, history and archaeology of the region's Wild Atlantic Way.
- UCC continues to penetrate further the West Cork region, most recently developing in partnership with the Ludgate Hub in Skibbereen a coding module for delivery in 2016/17 to transition year students in the town's secondary school. The module content of the Certificate/Diploma in Social Enterprises and Community Development Practice (see above), is currently being translated into the Irish language and UCC will, in partnership with Údarás na Gaeltachta, deliver this in the Muscraí Gaeltacht area later in academic year 2016/17.
- UCC has had several meetings in late 2015 and early 2016 with the CEOs and other senior management of Cork City Council, Cork County Council and Kerry County Council on developing and delivering bespoke online programmes for residents in the SW region. ACE launched in January 2016 an entirely online part-time programme in Autism Studies that has proved immensely popular not just with residents in the South West region but from all over Ireland.

Action 205:

Measure: Develop teaching programmes to upskill in Food Science and processing and Food Business (CPD)

Status: **Complete**

The planned improved provision of programmes by Q2 2016 has been completed. UCC's Food CPD programmes are provided mainly through the UCC Food Industry Training Unit (see <https://www.ucc.ie/en/fitu/>). UCC launched the new Postgraduate Certificate In Dairy Technology and Innovation in Q2 2016.

UCC's Food Business CPD programmes are primarily postgraduate programmes. UCC has recently created the Cork University Business School (see <https://www.cubsucc.com>) and the provision of CPD food business programmes has been further developed through the Business School (see <https://www.cubsucc.com/programmes/postgraduate/>)

Action 206:

Measure: Double apprenticeships enrolment in the region as there is growing demand across key sectors of the economy from manufacturing to construction and there is significant spare capacity in the further and higher education systems

Status: **Complete**

The apprenticeship programme is employer lead in regard to this action; the number of apprentices submitted for registration is dependent upon employers providing apprenticeship opportunities. The ETBs role of promotion and facilitate of registration and training capacity provision is flexible to meet the demand as it occurs, and will continue to meet demand.

Action 207:

Measure: Establish a jobs-shop hub to provide a centralised source for alerting HE students of the availability of part-time and summer jobs in the region. Such a 'job shop' concept would bring small companies together and provide mentoring based on their needs.

Status: **Delayed**

CIT Students Union and Careers Service have agreed to collaborate on an initiative to establish a part-time and summer jobs advertising scheme through CIT, following an initial meeting in August 2016.

Aims:

- To support small and local businesses with the advertisement of part-time and summer jobs to CIT students, which will be a free service for businesses.
- To support students with CV preparation prior to applying to these advertised jobs.

Plans:

- Gather an initial database of small and local businesses. Link in with the Cork Chamber of Commerce and local business associations to promote the service.
- Communicate to these businesses through letter and/or email to advise them of the service available to them. Potential to mention this service on local radio.

Services to include:

- Advertise jobs through the "Summer/Part-time Jobs" section of the CIT Careers Service website, www.mycit.ie/careers
- Advertise roles through the various SU and Careers Service social media accounts.
- From October, SU and Careers Service members will hold monthly information clinics on campus to advise students about finding a summer/part-time job and assist with CV preparation.
- Currently in discussions with Jobbio to consider CIT partnering with the site in the advertisement of summer and part-time jobs to students.
- Engage with IT Tralee Students Union and Careers Service to discuss the opportunity for adopting this within their campus. Some initial discussions have already taken place.

Action 210:

Measure: Enhance the skills pipeline by actively promoting STEM as a career throughout schools and in particular change the perception of STEM among females through these initiatives.

Status: Complete

This action has been completed through initiatives such as I WISH (Inspiring Women in Stem) Cork conferences, supported by IT@Cork, designed to inspire, encourage and motivate young secondary school female students to pursue careers in STEM. The conference consists of workshops, daily keynote and engaging talks by women who are at the top of their field in STEM. The showcase event combines talks and interaction with female role models with interactive exhibition spaces where companies engage with the students directly with experiments and demonstrations of what they actually do.

I WISH 2016 took place in Cork in February; I WISH 2017 was launched on Thursday October 6th, with events scheduled for Cork on 9 and 10 February 2017.

Action 211:

Measure: Support SMEs demonstrating potential to grow with placement of high performing graduates for a 12 month accredited period of placement in order to support the accelerated growth opportunity for the business.

Status: Ongoing

UCC: Investigative meetings took place with Enterprise Ireland (with Martin Corkery) on 9th August 2016 and with the Local Enterprise Offices (Deirdre O'Mahony and Joe Burke) on 7th September 2016 to discuss and identify potential placement solutions for SMEs.

CIT (along with DIT) operated a pilot Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice during 2015/2016, developed and delivered with input and support from industry partners, and designed to enable graduates to obtain positions within industry while completing a relevant development programme. With the required support from industry this programme could be delivered on a mainstream basis.

Action 213:

Measure: PCI and IMDA to prepare a comprehensive plan to enhance the skills base in the region and to identify the infrastructural supports required to deliver same.

Status: Complete

IMDA have conducted a major skills needs analysis of the sector, findings of which will be published in December 2016. Currently IMDA Skillnet (now Irish MedTech Association Skillnet) run regional based skills forums; in 2016 these were hosted in Wexford, Waterford, Galway and Sligo. New networks in 2017 will include Athlone and Cork.

Action 214:

Measure: PCI and IMDA to deepen industry links with schools and third level institutions in the region including careers promotion, promotion of STEM and support for development of supporting promotional materials and outreach activities in STEM.

Status: **Delayed**

This action is delayed for reporting in H1 2016; an update will be provided in the second progress report.

Action 216:

Measure: PCI to develop an action plan with local universities and IOTs to support high end process development in the sector in such areas as continuous manufacturing, antibody drug conjugate development and biosimilars. This action plan would be developed in collaboration with SSPC 2 , PMTC and NIBRT

Status: **Delayed**

This action is delayed for reporting in H1 2016; an update will be provided in the second progress report.

Action 217:

Measure: Introduce a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) programme to all primary schools in the region, so as to differentiate the south region nationally and internationally through having a very strong pipeline of very skilled students in the STEAM subjects, in collaboration with business.

Status: **Ongoing**

The implementation of STEM (and STEAM) programmes are co-ordinated at a national level. The report of the STEM Education Review Group led by Prof Brian MacCraith, published recently (24th November), sets out a programme to deliver on the ambition of making Ireland a world-leader at providing STEM education. One of the report's recommendations focuses on STEAM, as follows:

- It is now well established that the intersection of these areas with the Arts (visual and performing) and Design offers great potential in terms of both cultural advancement and economic development opportunities. With this in mind, it is important that any future strategy for STEM in Ireland takes account of the STE(A)M hybrid, where A represents the Arts and Design (including design thinking). It is proposed, therefore, that the Royal Irish Academy play a formal role in advancing the thinking on this topic in the Irish context with a view to influencing future policy decisions regarding STEM Education.

Action 218:

Measure: Develop a cost neutral model for the extension of the Cork County Council funded, Mallow Development Partnership/ UL NCE-MSTL joint Schools Project to primary schools across the region

Status: Ongoing

The phase has been completed successfully involving 13 schools in the wider Mallow area with significant input from teachers and pupils involved. This project fed into the Munster Maths & Science Fair in October where all the schools showcased project work. Initial meetings have been held with Mary Immaculate College in Limerick who run the project and a detailed report of project and outcomes will be available shortly. This report will include proposals for the development of the project during 2017.

Action 220:

Measure: Expansion of STEM programme at primary level to all schools and consider how best to insource ICT graduates to assist/drive the delivery of STEM programmes

Status: Complete

The report of the STEM Education Review Group led by Prof Brian MacCraith, published recently (24th November), sets out a programme to deliver on the ambition of making Ireland a world-leader at providing STEM education. Its remit was to carry out a comprehensive review of STEM education in primary and post-primary schools in Ireland and to make recommendations that would address deficits and significantly enhance the quality of STEM education across the system. The Report is the result of extensive consultation with a wide range of education, scientific and enterprise stakeholders.

The recommendations (47 in total) proposed by the STEM Education Review Group will add significantly to the development of a STEM Education Policy Statement, which will be published in the first half of 2017. An implementation plan will also be devised but 21 priority actions have been identified to commence implementation immediately.

These priority actions include:

- All STEM teaching should be delivered by qualified STEM teachers.
- Introduce computer science, including coding, as a Leaving Certificate subject.
- Deliver improvements in continuing professional developments for teaching in STEM.
- Develop a means of recognising participation in extra-curricular STEM events and activities (e.g. Coder Dojo, BTYSE etc.) as part of STEM curriculum and assessment.
- Better marketing of STEM qualifications, including highlighting career possibilities for students and parents.
- Address gender imbalances in specific STEM disciplines

Action 221:

Measure: Encourage greater participation in transition year exchanges of students from the region and Erasmus programme participation to enhance linguistic skills and encourage overseas students to return to work in cork

Status: Ongoing

UCC and Cork IT are active participants in the Erasmus+ programme. The programme allows students registered at UCC to complete a study period/work placement at a partner institution/enterprise in the EU and to obtain full academic credit for so doing. Several Academic programmes at UCC provide for a compulsory study year abroad, while in a number of other degree programmes special provision may be made for students to avail of a semester abroad at a European university.

IT Tralee also offers and promotes to students opportunities to study and work abroad as part of the Erasmus programme. A number of programmes at IT Tralee incorporate a work based learning period and many students decide to choose an organisation in another country.

Feedback from returning students shows that the intellectual challenge of studying/working in a European environment is exceptionally rewarding and that language skills improve dramatically.

Action 222:

Provide increased numbers of internship and work placement opportunities in enterprise in the region, to enhance employability of graduates and the workforce resilience of our graduates. This will involve SMEs in a structured way to increase absorptive capacity in the region to augment the capacity provided by the strong base of MNCs engaged in internship programmes.

Status: Ongoing

The Regional Skills Forum will contribute to the identification of strategies to increase SME engagement in skills development programmes, including work based internships, over time as its structured engagement across industry sectors increases.

ENHANCING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Action 224:

Measure: Together with ISIF and the EIB pursue options for funding of start-up and other business and enterprise facilities throughout the Region

Status: Ongoing

Cork City Council is engaging with ISIF on a number of potential regeneration projects in the city. Kerry County Council has held an 'alternative sources of funding' seminar. Tomás Hayes, Head of Local Enterprise, delivered an 'alternative sources of funding' presentation to New Frontiers candidates in December 2015.

Action 228:

Measure: Licensing bodies to be among the first to adopt and promote the use of the new national Integrated Licensing Application System.

Status: Complete

Cork City Council is ready to commence using the An Post Licensing.ie online license application and processing solution, and stands ready to commence the implementation of this system as soon as its data protection and functional concerns are addressed.

Action 229:

Measure: Local authorities and other public bodies to promote greater SME engagement in public procurement.

Status: Complete

Cork City & County Council and the Local Enterprise Offices have delivered events on Public Procurement. LEOs in partnership with Enterprise Ireland and InterTradeIreland organised a 'Meet the Buyer' event in October to introduce SMEs to Public Procurement opportunities. LEOs are a local agency for the Enterprise Europe Network to develop international trade possibilities. The Kerry County Council Procurement Office has delivered a procurement seminar to SMEs supported by the Kerry County Council LEO.

Action 230:

Measure: InterTrade Ireland will promote public tendering opportunities to SME's in the region including cross border public sector opportunities, consortia building for larger contracts and below threshold contracts.

Status: Ongoing

An 'Introduction to Tendering' workshop was delivered in Tralee on 13th July attended by 18 participants. A further workshop was delivered in Cork, in conjunction with Cork LEO, on 2nd Nov.

Action 231:

Measure: InterTrade Ireland will explore organisation of regional public sector 'meet the buyer' event.

Status: Ongoing

The All Island Steering group delivered InterTradeIreland's first regional Meet the Buyer event on 19th October in Cork City Hall. The event was a success with over 250 delegates and 90 public sector buyers from across the island of Ireland in attendance. The event showcased sessions from key organisations such as Office of Government Procurement (OGP), Central Procurement Directorate (CPD), and Health Service Executive (HSE).

Action 232:

Measure: Promote the KCC shared services National Procurement Office. Increase the awareness of Kerry as the National Procurement Centre.

Status: Complete

A procurement seminar was held with over 150 attendees in 2015. Kerry County Council LEO has registered with www.supplygov.ie and tenders have been placed for a series of training programmes. The tendering process has been completed and used for a number of training programmes in the Kerry County Council LEO.

Action 233:

Measure: Promote participation by SMEs in MicroFinance Ireland, Loan Guarantee and SBCI funding.

Status: Complete

Promotion of participation in these supports is a core activity of the LEOs. Promotion of these has been taking place on the LEO websites, and directly to clients. In 2015, South West LEOs processed 47 submissions to MFI, with 21 approvals, and €2.14m was approved to 131 projects for priming, feasibility and business expansion grants.

Action 234:

Measure: Promote HBAN, the Halo Business Angel Network to offer local high growth potential companies the opportunity to pitch for funding from high network individuals and angel syndicates.

Status: Ongoing

Since inception in 2007, HBAN investments in the South West have continued to grow year on year, closing 66 deals and raising over €35million in investment for entrepreneurs across all sectors by the end of 2015. Of this, €16m was sourced from private equity business angels registered with CorkBIC & HBAN. Increasingly Angel investors are investing as part of a syndicate and CorkBIC supports the Boole Syndicate in Cork and the Irrus Syndicate in Limerick.

HBAN in the South West continue to sign up good quality Angels. There has been extensive PR coverage in 2015/2016 around the annual Entrepreneur Experience® event and the launch of the CorkBIC 2015 Annual Review and various investment deals during the year. The pipeline of companies HBAN are working with a present is a mixture of early stage companies and second round investment.

HBAN South West deals to date:

- 66 Deals – €16m Angel Investments - €35m Invested
- 2015 - 11 deals – €4.1m Angel Investment - €7.2m Invested

Action 235:

Measure: Develop the Business Angel ecosystem with particular reference to Regional Angel Syndicates

Status: Ongoing

HBAN are working very closely with Boole Syndicate in Cork and the Limerick based Irrus Syndicate to ensure regular and adequate flow of pitches by Investor Ready Companies, as well as being involved in recruiting new members to both Syndicates. HBAN are currently exploring possibility of setting up a new Kerry based syndicate. Registration of individual business angels continues.

Action 236:

Measure: EI will run two Finance for Growth Workshops in the region in the second half of 2015. The workshops will be aimed at EI clients (preferably that work within the finance function).

Status: Ongoing

Finance for Growth Workshops have been run by EI in the region during September 2015, November 2015 and February 2016. Further specific targeted finance workshops are planned in 2016. Average number of SMEs participating at each workshop is 25.

Action 238:

Measure: Promote the Seedcorn Competition to give HPSUs the opportunity to improve their investor readiness by taking them on a comprehensive mentoring journey and introducing them to investors.

Status: Complete

Three Seedcorn promotion workshops have been delivered in the region in 2016: UCC, 13 April; Rubicon Centre, Cork, 13 April; Tom Crean Centre, Tralee, 14 April

KEY INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT ENTERPRISE**Action 239:**

Measure: Local Authorities, through the CCMA and the NRA to work with DCENR, DTTS and TIF to facilitate the rollout of high speed broadband.

Status: Delayed

This is being dictated by the National Broadband Plan and the timelines in place following the current round of tenders. Kerry County Council has carried out a detailed needs Analysis and submission for funding.

Action 240:

Measure: Develop demonstration initiatives with operators to stimulate demand for broadband, such as the enterprise-led initiatives being proposed in Skibbereen.

Status: Ongoing

Cork City Council has been undertaking initiatives including seminars on the key requirements for data centres (high speed fibre access, power and suitable sites) and are engaging with the only current data centre in Cork (Cork internet Exchange) and IT@Cork to look at further initiatives to stimulate broadband demand through the development of data centres in the region and other key digital exchange infrastructure such as INEX (Internet Neutral Exchange) which is based in Dublin but which was launched in Cork in Q2 2016, being located at CIX in Hollyhill. This is INEX's first regional Internet exchange point. This reflects the growing Internet and digital economy in Cork and will provide a facility that will ensure that internet traffic is served locally in the region.

In March, Mallow became the first town in County Cork to offer free public Wi-Fi. The Free Wi-Fi initiative which is a partnership approach between Cork County Council and CIT is available to the general public on a pilot basis from Market Square down to the new Civic Plaza. Free access is for 60 minutes duration.

The roll-out of high-speed fibre optic broadband within the towns of Charleville and Kilmallock is a priority action of the Charleville-Kilmallock Rural Economic Development Zone project, which received government funding at the end of 2015, and is match funded by Cork County Council, Limerick City and County Council and a number of other stakeholders, including the Local Development Company, Chamber of Commerce and Community Council. As well as generating sustainable and permanent employment within sectors closely aligned to the knowledge economy, high-speed broadband will be very beneficial for retailers who wish to collaborate in the establishment and delivery of the proposed on-line shopping platform, 'My Main Street'. In order to progress this project, a comprehensive feasibility study has been funded. The feasibility study will focus on the best options of delivering high-speed broadband to the region. In addition to the feasibility study, work will be undertaken to ascertain the number of businesses and households willing to purchase high-speed broadband, as this is a crucial indicator for making the business case to any telecoms company.

A submission was made to Minister and DCENR by Kerry County Council in September 2015 stating the need to prioritise Kerry for broadband infrastructure. In 2016 Kerry County Council has been working with two Govt. departments (Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs) and with the Department of Communications Energy & Natural Resources - following Government level realignment of the National Broadband Plan and briefing to CCMA by Minister Humphreys (July 2016).

Action 241:

Measure: Complete delivery of two international cables to the South West region and progress plans to extend these to mainland Europe.

Status: Ongoing

One cable by Hibernian Atlantic has come ashore in 2015 from the USA. A second is in procurement by Ireland-France Subsea Cable from Cork to France. Evidence of the success of this connectivity and infrastructure is in a new major Data Centre in Cork being proposed at Little Island and is currently awaiting planning permission with further similar proposals in the region expected over the coming years. This reflects the growing Internet and digital economy in Cork and will provide a facility that will ensure that Internet traffic is served locally in the region, where possible.

Action 242:

Measure: Accelerate the take-up of ICT On-line Vouchers in the South West region, to build capabilities to exploit ecommerce and advanced broadband.

Status: Ongoing

In 2015, Cork and Kerry LEOs approved 281 Trading Online Vouchers, to a total value of €542,494.

Action 243:

Measure: Complete a targeted broadband needs analysis of the region targeting specific areas for shorter term economic gain.

Status: Ongoing

Cork County Council has been in close contact with DCENR to discuss appropriate actions in relation to the National Broadband Plan and the role of Cork County Council. Cork County Council has also confirmed to the Department that a broadband officer is now being selected for appointment and that the appointment will be made in the near future.

Kerry County Council has carried out detailed Needs Analysis, and made a submission for funding. A submission was also made to Minister and DCENR by Kerry County Council in September 2015 stating the need to prioritise Kerry for broadband infrastructure. In 2016 Kerry County Council working with two Govt. departments (Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs) and with Dept. of Communications Energy & Natural Resources - following government level realignment of the National Broadband Plan and briefing to CCMA by Minister Humphreys (July 2016).

An initial analysis for Cork City has been carried out by the Department of Communications for the National Broadband Plan. According to this analysis and as indicated in the Service provision mapping, Cork City is deemed to have both the infrastructure and services in place for the provision of broadband due to the existence of the Municipal Area Network (MAN) and the multiple broadband service providers.

Action 244:

Measure: Develop a plan to be the first movers in the National Broadband Plan (Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources) and to facilitate the rapid roll-out in priority areas in the region for investment, having regard to “double blackspot” status in certain areas.

Status: Ongoing

There are no double blackspots identified as yet in the Cork City area. Kerry County Council has carried out detailed needs analysis and submission for funding in regard to this action. The main urban areas will be the initial beneficiaries of the National Broadband Plan and rollout but any actions that the Local Authorities can take to ensure that some of the more rural areas are specifically targeted to ensure that they receive priority status in the roll out would be of great benefit in assuring communities throughout these rural areas that they will equally benefit from the plan. Proving that significant broadband will be available in rural areas will also allow for enterprise related planning to take place and make locating in such areas a real option for start-ups.

Action 246:

Measure: The continued development of the road infrastructure in the region remains a priority to improve the functioning of the region. Work with the DTTAS on the business case for the upgrade of Cork to Limerick route to motorway standard, as resources permit. The Macroom by-pass is also important for the connectivity of the South West region.

Status: Ongoing

The Macroom bypass has been included in the Government's Capital Investment Plan 2016-2021, as part of the N22 Macroom to Baile Bhuirne Scheme. The statutory processes are complete & Transportation Infrastructure Ireland (TII) has recently requested a scheme costing Timeframe Status. The M20 case is continuously being promoted but has not been included in the Capital Investment Plan 2016-2021. The N72/N73 Mallow bypass which is part of the overall plan has been included and a feasibility study is being funded by TII in 2016.

Action 248:

Measure: Progress plans for new and improved port infrastructure in Ringaskiddy.

Status: Ongoing

The main contractor is to be appointed in Q1 2017, and it is anticipated that the new port development will be operational by 2019.

Action 250:

Measure: Develop a strategy to target new areas of business including in the agri-food and offshore energy sectors.

Status: Ongoing

Meetings with agri-food business potential customers have taken place and are ongoing. A potential off shore tender opportunity is being progressed for 2017.

Action 251:

Measure: As part of the future strategy for the Port, fully exploit potential of sister seaport agreements between Port of Cork and Port Miami and the Port of Cork and Port of Shenzhen.

Status: Complete

Sister Port agreements have been signed and these relationships are now ongoing.

Action 252:

Measure: Explore the potential to expand the capacity of Dingle Fishery Harbour Centre

Status: Complete

This action has been explored. Work is now ongoing to facilitate the dredging of the harbour to assist larger boat berthage. Grant assistance has been sought to assist in the work.

Action 253:

Measure: Progress plans to expand Fenit Harbour and develop new business through the port. To drive the economic growth of the Region- the infrastructural development of Fenit Harbour- including a second Pier would enable existing companies to increase their production capacity significantly. As a first step, undertake a feasibility study to determine the suitability and added value of the required investment to other economic opportunities including Freight, Leisure (marina) and possible opportunity for cruise liners and ancillary port activities.

Status: Ongoing

Fenit port is an infrastructural priority in Kerry to facilitate heavy goods export such as Liebherr Cranes. Dredging of the port has taken place to facilitate berthing and additional funding has been sought from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. This dredging scheme included the removal of 132,300 tonnes of material which has accumulated near the head of the pier, the eastern breakwater, the commercial berth and approaches to the inner harbour. Work is ongoing to investigate additional commercial and economic opportunities.

Action 254:

Measure: Examine the needs for development of Castletownbere Harbour

Status: Complete

This harbour is run by a harbour authority, Castletownbere Fishery Harbour Centre, which is managed by the Department of Agriculture Food & Marine. The inner harbour is the location of the main piers and infrastructure and is divided into two areas: Dinish Island to the south and the town of Castletownbere to the north. A major development project was completed at Dinish Island in 2011 which provided a new 215 m continuous berthing wall, with an 8 m Chart Datum (C.D.) berthing basin extending approximately 70 m from the quay face. A 40 m wide approach channel dredged to 6 m C.D. provides a wide, deep and clear access to the inner harbour. Cork County Council is not aware of any additional development needs in the harbour.

Action 257:

Measure: The development of services from Cork, Kerry and Shannon airports is important for the region. Airport bodies need to continue to attract new services and improve timeliness of services and make full use of marketing and funding schemes.

Status: Complete

Cork Airport has delivered passenger growth of 8% in the first 6 months of the year on the back of new services and increased capacity. These new services are to Madrid, Dusseldorf, La Rochelle, Nantes, Southampton and Leeds Bradford together with increased capacity on 11 other routes. This has provided significant tourism and spending boost to the region and the proportion of inbound tourism/business traffic has increased also in the same period. Cork Airport works very closely with Tourism Ireland particularly to stimulate visitor traffic in source markets and contributes significant airport funding to collaborative tourism marketing campaigns internationally.

Action 258:

Measure: Complete a review of business and tourism air routes for SW region and their potential for development, in particular to connect to central Europe to meet business needs.

Status: Complete

Cork Airport delivered four new Continental European routes in 2016. In addition contracts have been signed with Norwegian Air International for transatlantic services to Boston and New York, and Cork Airport together with Cork Chamber and other partners have led a strong stakeholder campaign to unblock the delays in US licensing to enable the start up of this service as soon as possible. Cork Airport projects continued growth in 2017.

Action 259:

Measure: Develop options for use of the old airport terminal in Cork and how best to improve the competitiveness of the airport generally.

Status: Complete

Cork Airport's charges, at €8.63, are 8% cheaper than European peers and 17% cheaper than Dublin Airport charges. New routes are free in year one. Cork Airport operates on a wholly commercial basis and does not receive state subsidy or subvention. It operates to lean staffing levels which compare favourably to Irish and International peers. The airport has completed a substantial capital masterplan looking at all assets and their development potential. The site of the Old Terminal will be developed for aircraft parking in the medium term to cater for aviation growth. Cork Airport is looking also at broadening the income base. In that regard the development of a 40acre site in the Airport's ownership and currently zoned commercial is planned to occur in the medium term as a business park mixed use facility.

Action 261: Irish Water

Measure: Ensure that provision is made for water supply and waste water treatment to meet the requirements of development proposed under South West Local Authorities County and City Development Plans and the commercial and industrial demands arising from proposed job creation activities in the region.

Status: Complete

Irish Water has completed several water supply and waste water treatment projects in the region to meet demands, including:

- Kerry - Watermains Rehabilitation Project Phase 1 - Tralee Estates
- Ballylongford & Tarbert Wastewater Treatment Plants
- Cork City Water Conservation Advance Works at Kent Station
- Ballincollig Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade
- Blarney Tower Sewerage Scheme Network (Cloghroe)
- Riverstick Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade
- Water Conservation Advanced Mains Rehabilitation Works - Glantane Lombardstown
- Youghal Sewerage Scheme Network
- Carrigtohill Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade
- Conna Regional Water Supply Scheme Phase 1 Reservoir
- Doneraile Water Supply Scheme
- Cork Macroom Water Mains Rehabilitation
- West Cork Wastewater Treatment Plant