

Offaly Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028

High Level Goals and Socio Economic Statement

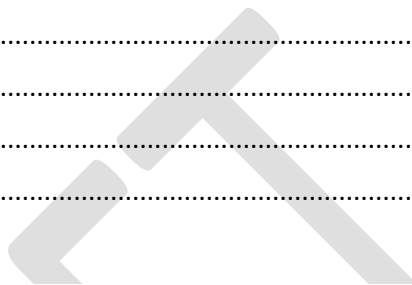


Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council



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Introduction

Offaly Local Community Development Committee has commenced the process of preparing a new Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). This will build upon and replace the previous Plan, which covered the period 2016 – 2021.

The new LECP will set out, for the period 2023 – 2028, the objectives and actions which are needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of County Offaly. The LECP is the primary mechanism at local level to transfer relevant actions arising from EU, national, regional and local strategies and policies to a County Offaly context.

The LECP is developed and implemented in partnership between Offaly Council and other economic and community stakeholders and therefore, provides an enabling framework that supports collaborative working between the economic and community sectors and across all stakeholders to the communities themselves. It therefore helps to bring community and economic stakeholders together, to strategically align and work towards shared goals in a collaborative way.

Key players in preparing the LECP:

The key players in preparing and making the LECP include the following:

- **Advisory Steering Group:** An Advisory Steering Group was established in May 2022 to assist in the preparation, drafting and adoption of the plan. This ensures proper co-ordination, avoids duplication and maximizes the use of available resources. Once the plan is adopted, this Advisory Steering Group takes the role of advising and assisting on implementation and monitoring arrangements.
- **Offaly Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)** prepares the Community Plan. With a defined role as per the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the LCDC maintain a responsibility in monitoring and implementing the LECP.
- **The Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)** for Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning prepares the Economic Plan.
- **Local Authority:** The role of the Local Authority is to formally adopt the integrated LECP.

Background and Legislative Context

The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

LECPs support the sustainable development of our counties. First described in Putting People First: Action Plan for Effective Local Government and then given effect in the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014, they form the local element of the national development framework, and they seek to support collaboration to increase the quality of life in our communities.

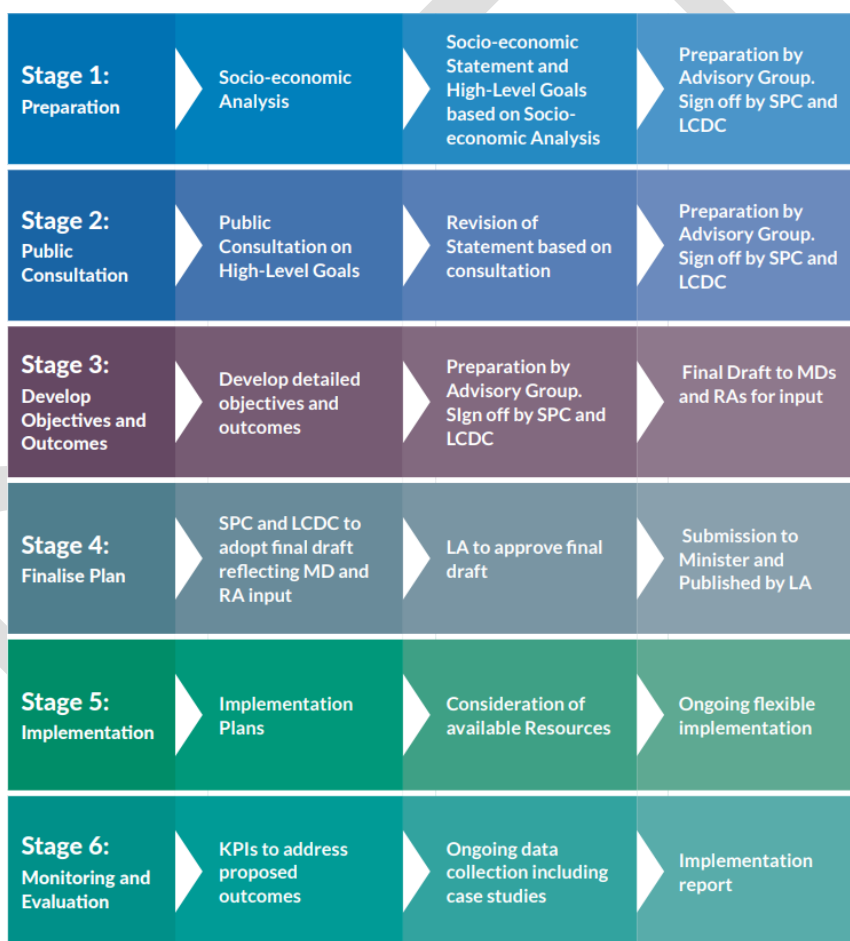
Local authorities published their first LECPs in 2016/2017, and the process to develop a new LECP now provides the opportunity to reflect on the experiences of all stakeholders in the intervening period. The process to support the development of a new LECP is described in the Guidelines (Local Economic and Community Plans

– Guidelines 2021¹), prepared by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), and it should be fully informed by the learning and experiences of all relevant stakeholders through both internal and public consultation - to ensure a robust LECP for the next 6-year period.

How the LECP will be developed

The LECP will build on the learnings and achievements of the previous LECP, and it will seek to provide a strategic vision and framework for integrated and sustainable economic and community development across the county over the next six years.

The plan will be evidence based and informed by extensive research and stakeholder consultation that takes place over the period April 2023 to June 2023. In line with the government Guidelines², Offaly County Council is pursuing a 6-stage approach, as outlined in the following diagram. We are currently at Stage 2: Public Consultation.



In advance of embarking on this process, Offaly County Council:

- Completed a review of the previous LECP (2016-2021)
- Established an LECP Advisory Steering Group

¹ Government of Ireland (2021) Local Economic and Community Plans Guidelines 2021

The Review of the LECP was completed by Offaly LCDC in autumn 2021. The Review identified a number of key learnings from the implementation of the previous Plan which will be incorporated under the new LECP and will help to refine its strategic approach:

- The LECP needs to be key part of linked national, regional and local plans
- Other strategies such as Age Friendly, Healthy Offaly, etc must be complementary to LECP
- LECP needs to identify and include key local priorities
- Identify existing mechanism for interagency implementation of actions
- Keep implementation simple – with no duplication of reporting
- Develop goals which are directional rather than aspirational
- Ensure relevance of actions for implementing agency – must have capacity to implement it
- Reduce high number of goals – 261 goals in Offaly LECP 2016-2021
- Ensure goals are relevant for full term of the LECP
- Where possible achieve greater integration of community and economic goals

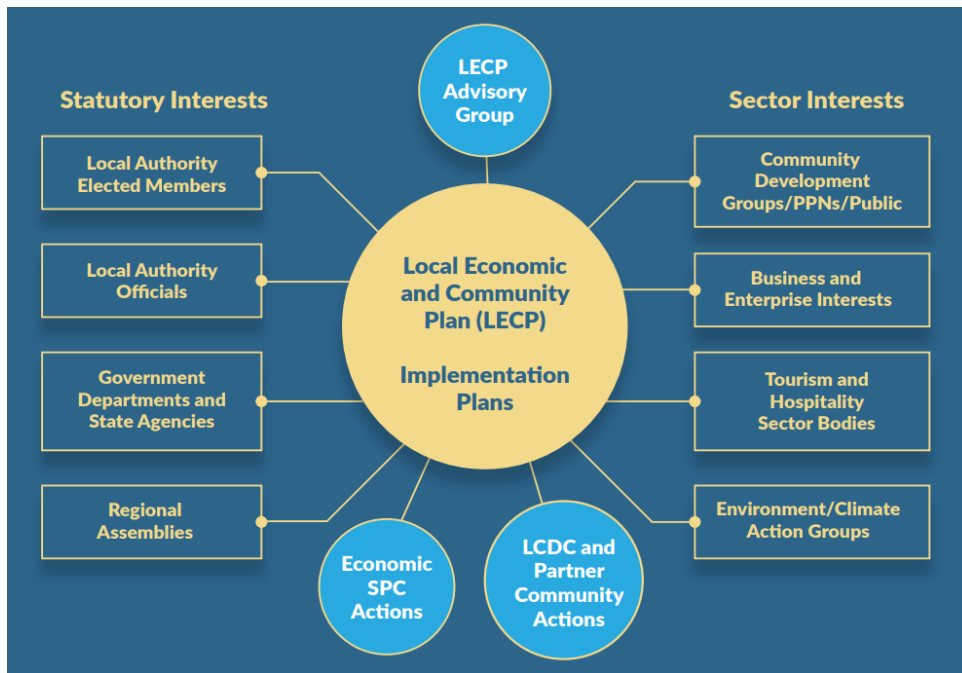
The LECP Advisory Steering Group includes representatives from the local authority and the key agencies and organisations that are most directly responsible for the LECP’s formulation and implementation.

Stages in preparation of LECP Plan

Stage 1	Prepare: A socio-economic statement is prepared, describing the social and economic situation and outlining high level goals.
Stage 2	Public consultation. The public and key organisations are invited to give their views on the Socio-Economic Statement and the high-level goals.
Stage 3	Objectives & outcomes. Clear, measurable actions are developed to achieve the community, social and economic priorities identified for the next six years.
Stage 4	Finalise. Feedback from the public and interested organisations are reviewed and the plan is updated accordingly.
Stage 5	Implement. The LECP is launched, and work is begun on the agreed upon actions.
Stage 6	Review. The implementation plan will be reviewed regularly.

Stage 1 of the LECP-formulation process focuses on preparation, evidence-building and data collation. We have prepared a Socio-Economic Profile of County Offaly that provides key data based on the latest available Census data (2016) and other sources and which is available on the www.offaly.ie website. The Profile includes some preliminary data from the 2022 Census of Population and this Census data will be revised at a later date once the full 2022 Census data is released in the autumn of 2023. The profile also incorporates current data on relevant socio-economic features, including housing, deprivation, education, etc.

Where possible, we have benchmarked County Offaly values against national values. It represents a significant body of objective data and information to enable the LECP Advisory Group to undertake a SWOT analysis, identify needs, potential and priorities and to formulate High-Level Goals.



Above: Stakeholder Interaction in LECP process

The figure above sets out how the various stakeholders interact and collaborate to produce the final LECP. This Statement document sets out draft High Level Goals below which have been prepared by the ASG and agreed by the LCDC. We are looking to achieve these Goals through this LECP. The Goals recognise the wider social and economic challenges that we have faced over recent years, and will continue to face over the lifetime of the new LECP.

Stage 2 is currently underway and includes: Virtual and in-person workshops; A county wide online survey; and Wider engagement with stakeholders.

Following consultation we will then take time to collate and review the feedback we have received. This will be used to refine our High-Level Goals and Objectives within a draft version of our LECP. The draft LECP will be presented to both the Municipal Districts and the Regional Assemblies to ensure consistency with their Plans and Strategies. A final version will be prepared responding to comments through this process and presented to the Local Authority for approval.

On approval we will develop an Implementation Plan that will set out actions to deliver against the agreed Goals, objectives and outcomes. This in turn will be subjected to a process of internal audit and review before being agreed.

It is currently anticipated that the LECP framework will be launched publicly in Q3 2023, with this timetable designed to maximise the process of engagement and to incorporate developments under the emerging Just Transition Fund in Offaly. The LECP will be kept under review through detailed monitoring. This will ensure that it stays alive to changing economic and societal changes as well as wider national agendas and insight provided through the constant release of new data and information.

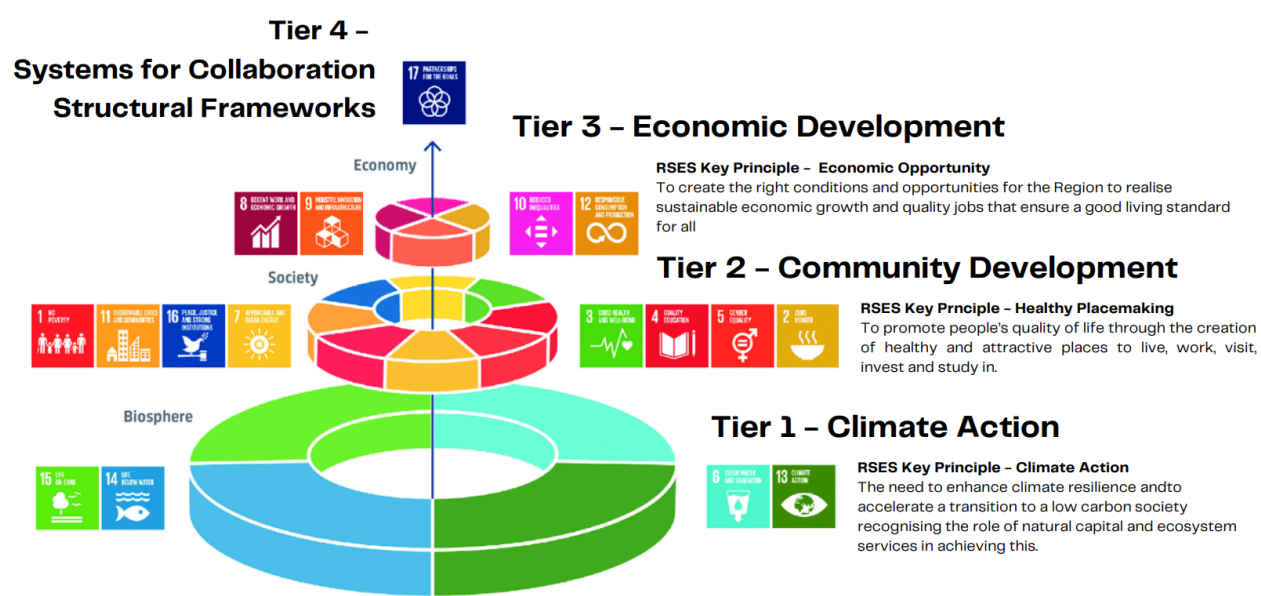
It is important that the Goals we set ourselves are focussed, locally relevant, realistic but aspirational. We invite your feedback and views on these Goals. Your insight will be vital in ensuring that they reflect these aims, resulting in a Plan which can have a meaningful impact in allowing representatives from the Council, communities and businesses to work together so that our investments support an improved quality of life for people living and working in the County.

Sustainable Development Goals



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are a principal element of the LECP. Since 2015, Ireland has been a signatory for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and which frame national agendas and policies to 2030. The UN have set seventeen goals as set out below. SDG recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go together with strategies that improve health, education, reduce inequality and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Green Offaly has produced the following schematic which reflects how the LECP Goals, Targets & Indicators are interconnected via the SDG's.



CAP21 follows the Climate Act 2021 committing Ireland to a legally binding target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2050, and a reduction of 51% by 2030. The Government is also committed to reducing emissions by an average 7% per annum by 2030. The sectoral reduction targets will be finalised in Climate Action Plan 2022. Climate policy at global, national, regional and local level is driven by the need to reduce GHG emissions. Some areas of the EMRA show zero to negative CO2 emissions – these areas represent carbon sinks, or areas which can remove CO2 from the atmosphere, such as bogs and large areas of forestry; some of

the largest sinks occur in the Slieve Bloom Mountains, as well as in pockets throughout the Midlands. The main emissions sources which are relevant to the EMRA Region include electricity, built environment, the transport sector and agriculture.

Ireland emissions target reductions by 2030:

- Electricity - 62-81%
- Transport - 42-50%
- Buildings - 44-56%
- Industry or Enterprise - 29-41%
- Agriculture - 22-30% reduction
- Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF): 37-58%

Vision

The LECP will have the same vision for Offaly as is outlined in the Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027, where it states:

“To create a sustainable and competitive county that supports the health and wellbeing of our people and places, from urban to rural, with access to employment opportunities supported by high quality housing and physical, social and community infrastructure for all, in a climate resilient manner and with respect for our biodiversity.”³

Economic and Community SWOT Analysis

This section identifies key Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) relevant to the development of Offaly over the next 6 years. This has been prepared following the development of a detailed socio-economic analysis of the county, a review of recently published documents and strategies (County Development Plan, Economic Development Strategy) and an analysis of the last LECP for Offaly.

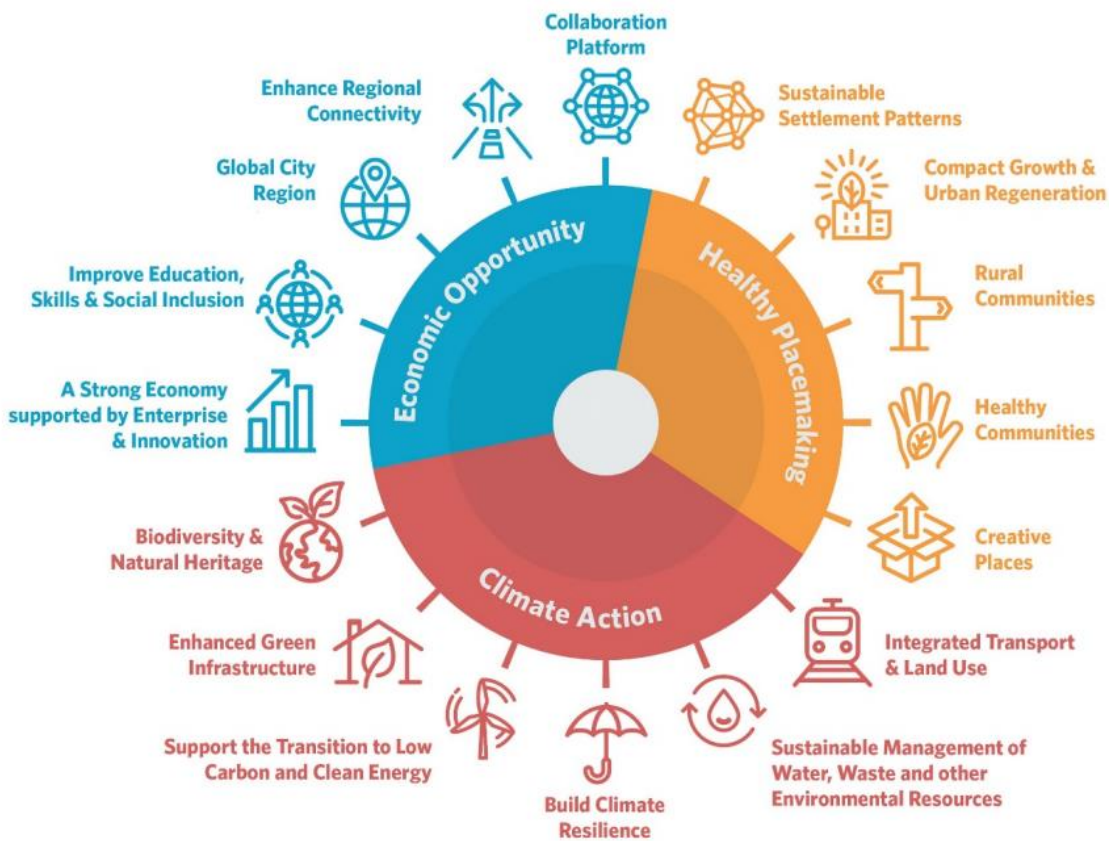
Strength or Opportunity	Weakness or Threat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breadth and depth of natural assets • Cultural hub – history, heritage • Central location • History of science and discovery • People and sense of community • Natural assets (bogs waterways etc.) • Walking and Cycling routes • Resourceful volunteers • Community led energy initiatives • Green economy • Local business and innovation • Remote working • Digitalisation • Just Transition • Regeneration of towns and villages • The future – clean energy, energy storage, new industries extended from old • Tourism assets , MAN, I-LOFAR, some co-working hubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No third level institution in the county • Accommodation (both personal dwellings and tourism) • Economic resilience • Low diversity in employment • Skillbase / FDI • Bord Na Mona / ESB (dependency) • Dependency rates • Missing middle • Community distrust • Transport • Derelict buildings • Unemployment • No economic resilience • Two counties in one • Fragmented governance and structures • No confidence • Too many agencies with different plans and strategies • County seems to have two personalities

³ [Volume 1 Written Statement Full Copy .pdf \(offaly.ie\)](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispersal of offices to locations where cost time and quality meet • Diaspora willingness to help on enterprise development if asked • Opportunity to reconnect with science base and produce new value added industries • Changing nature of universities and how they can be engaged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued disconnect between parts of Offaly • Fundamentally needs tighter co-ordination for new plans to work • No economic resilience • Lack of opportunities for young adults
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Regional Strategic Outcomes

The principal statutory purpose of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) is to support the implementation of Project Ireland 2040 and the economic policies and objectives of the Government by providing a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the development of the Eastern and Midland Region. The future development of the county will be shaped by the Regional Policy Objectives (RPOs) and the Settlement Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region.



Regional Strategic Outcomes of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region (Source EMRA)

Public Sector Duty

As part of the development of the High Level Goals Offaly County Council must have regard to the need to:

- (i) Eliminate discrimination
- (ii) Promote equality of opportunity and treatment of its staff and the persons whom it provides services, and
- (iii) Protect the human rights of its members, staff, and the persons to whom it provides services

In developing goals, we need to consider:

- ✓ Are the proposed goals/activities free from any form of discrimination under all the nine-grounds identified in the equality legislation?
- ✓ Do the proposed goals/activities contribute to achieving equality for groups and their individual members who experience inequality?
- ✓ Are there potential barriers or problems under the equality grounds associated with the proposed goals/activities?
- ✓ Do we need to seek further input to targeted consultation to achieve equality in the goal/activities?
- ✓ Who needs to be involved in the proposed activities to support the participation of equality interest?
- ✓ Consider how to measure the impact of goals/activities on individuals/groups under the nine grounds?

Introducing Offaly

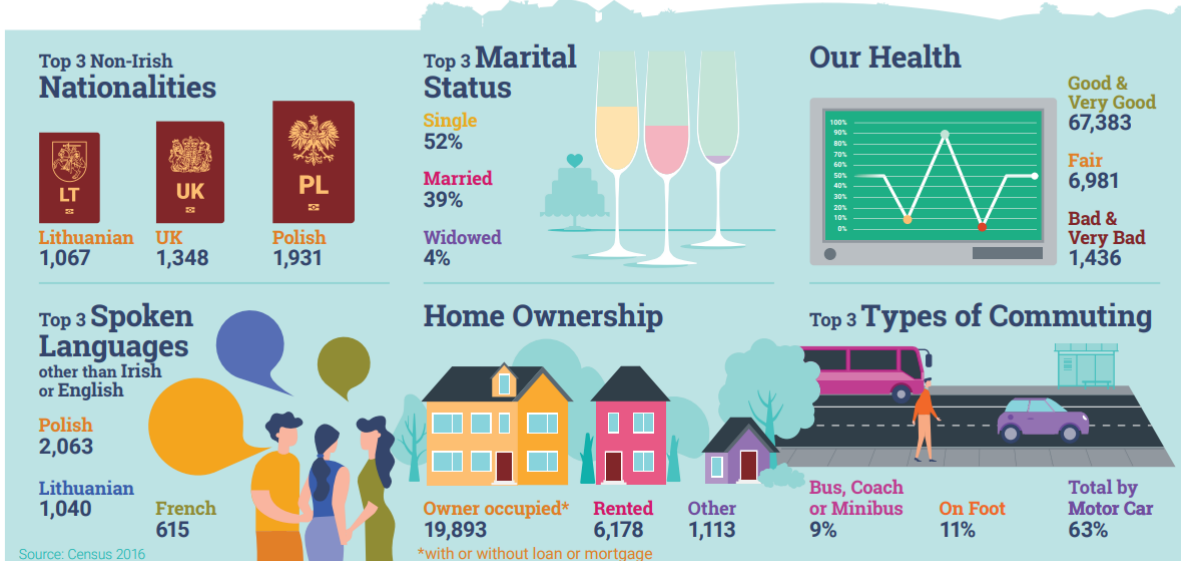
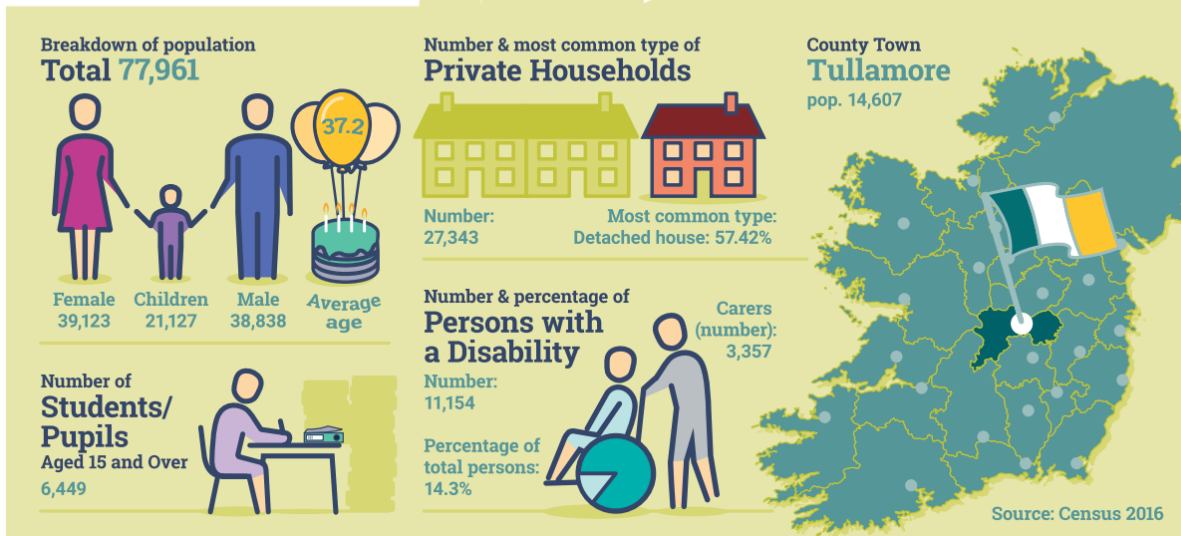
County Offaly is located strategically within the centre of Ireland and within the province of Leinster and shares boundaries with counties Meath, Kildare, Laois, Tipperary, Galway, Roscommon and Westmeath. Tullamore is the county town and the administrative centre of Co. Offaly.

Under the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy, Tullamore is designated as a Key Town. The county's population was 82,688 in the 2022 census, having increased from 77,961 persons in at the 2016 census. In 2016 there were 35,294 persons residing in urban Offaly, and 42,667 in rural Offaly.

This equates to a 45% urban 55% rural split. 79% of the rural population (33,506 persons) resided in the open countryside or small settlement. The County Council has Municipal Districts in Birr, Tullamore and Edenderry.

Offaly's land extent is approximately 493,985 acres (199,981 hectares). It is primarily a county of flat and undulating lands, with the exception of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. Approximately one fifth of the county comprises peatlands and the majority of the remainder of the land is in agricultural or forestry use. Peatlands have traditionally been a significant asset to Offaly in terms of an energy resource and a source of employment, but in recent years as an amenity, tourism attraction and educational resource.

County Offaly also has a well-developed network of towns and villages. The county is well served by strategic road access and a rail line with stations in Tullamore, Clara and Portarlington. Offaly's central location, good connectivity and quality of life make it a great place to live and work. Offaly welcomes visitors to vast tracts of wilderness, expanses of peatlands, esker hills and rivers including the majestic Shannon to the west and the Slieve Bloom Mountains which rise up in the east. It has a wealth of attractions including the Grand Canal, Durrow, Croghan Hill, Clonmacnoise, Birr Castle, Gardens and Science Centre, Tullamore D.E.W. Visitor Centre and Lough Boora Discovery Park.



Source: [Offaly County Council Corporate Plan.indd](#)

Socio Economic Highlights

Migration	Ireland's population increase between 2016 and 2022 was attributed to 47.4% from natural increase and 52.6% from net migration. In Co. Offaly, net migration was responsible for only 42.37% of the population increase with the remainder attributed to natural increase. According to Census 2022, Monaghan (+1,353), Kilkenny (+1,756) and Offaly (+2,003) were the three counties that experienced the lowest inward migration. In 2023 the situation has changed with 1,131 refugees and asylum seekers living in the county in April 2023.
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Population Pyramid	The population pyramid for Co. Offaly shows a noticeable inversion in the population pyramid for the age categories between 20 – 29 years. This suggests young people have migrated to other settlements in Ireland or further afield in order to obtain a higher level education and / or to secure employment opportunities.
Elderly dependency	Co. Offaly (0.33) has a slightly higher elderly dependency ratio in comparison to the national average (0.30). A growing elderly dependency ratio implies a higher proportion of dependents relying on those who are economically active within society.
Foreign nationals	In 2016 Co. Offaly had a lower proportion (8.53%) of foreign nationals in comparison to the Midlands region (10.71%); and Ireland (11.42%).
Irish Travellers	In 2016 there is a higher proportion of white Irish travellers living in Co. Offaly (1.16%) in comparison to the national average (0.66%). However, the spatial concentration is uneven within the county with a higher proportion in the Tullamore (1.58%) and Birr (1.53%) Municipal Districts in comparison to the Edenderry (0.24%) Municipal District.
Housing tenure	In 2016 a higher proportion of households own their home with mortgage / loan in Co. Offaly (40.17%) in comparison to the national average (36.04%). The proportion of home ownership is very significant in the Birr Municipal District (46.74%). Furthermore, an additional 33% of homes in Co. Offaly are owned with a mortgage / loan.
Age of housing stock	Currently, there are 34,426 people living in 13,733 houses built prior to 1990. If these homes have not been retrofitted, this means that these homes are underperforming with respect to energy conservation. Therefore, these homes are more expensive to maintain and are contributing to Co. Offaly's carbon footprint.
Turf use	In Co. Offaly, there is a very strong reliance by households on peat (37.86%) as a fuel source. The proportion of households using peat / turf in the Midlands (23.6%) and Ireland (5.3%) is considerably lower.
School enrolments	Co. Offaly witnessed a decline in enrolments in primary school (-0.2%) between 2011 and 2021. For the academic year 2021 / 2022, there were 9,311 students enrolled in primary schools in Co. Offaly. Co. Offaly recorded a significant increase in enrolments at post-primary schools (16.9%) between 2011 and 2021.w
Deprivation Index	Co. Offaly has been classified as marginally below average (-4.58). The relative deprivation rate for Co. Offaly has increased from -4.61 in 2011 and -3.17 in 2006.
Household Income	In 2020, the total income person in Co. Offaly was €24,671.99. This was lower than the Ireland total income per person average (€32,967.97).
Access to services	In 2019, 49.85% of the Offaly population must travel in excess of 20Km in order to reach the nearest adult emergency department, whilst only 38.42% of the Irish population have to travel the equivalent distance. In 2016, 12.16% of households did not possess a motor car in Offaly, lower than the national average (15.17%).
Broadband	In 2016 a higher proportion of households in Co. Offaly (24.67%) do not have internet access in comparison to the Midlands (22.79%) and Ireland (18.43%).
Disability	The percentage of people with a disability is higher for males and females in Co. Offaly in comparison to the Midlands and Ireland.
Unemployment	In 2016 the unemployment rate for males (15.98%) and females (15.89%) in Co. Offaly was higher than the national rate of 12.91%.
New car registrations	In 2022 1,285 new private cars were registered with the local authority, most were either petrol (26.53%; n = 341) or diesel (34.47%; n = 443), with (11.28%; n =145) electric private cars registered.

High Level Goals

These goals provide the core aims of the LECP and represent how Offaly should grow over the lifetime of the plan. When we get to Stage 3 in the process each High-Level Goal will have several related objectives. Objectives are key priority areas within each High Level Goal, and they start to narrow the plan down from aspirational to practical.

(1) Healthy Place making

EMRA Regional Spatial and Economic Plan			2023-2028 LECP Framework
Healthy Place making Improve both physical and social infrastructure to create places that are healthy and attractive to live, work and invest in.			Sustainable Place Making Objectives (SPMO)
1.1	Strong Inclusive Communities	Ensure good access to health, education and services for all ages, abilities and backgrounds	Encourage inclusive and active sustainable communities based around a strong network of community facilities and amenities.(CDP xii)
1.2	Sense of Place	Promote arts, culture and heritage led regeneration as key to our identity and the character of places	Enhance and regenerate our towns and villages by improving streetscapes and public realm and creating attractive urban spaces to develop a sense of place (LLECP)
1.3	Public Realm	Promote good urban design to create vibrant urban centres and attractive safe and accessible public spaces	Support the renewal and regeneration of towns and villages by improving the attractiveness, quality, design, viability, vibrancy and liveability of the county's settlements.(CDP vi)
1.4	Physical Infrastructure	Provide good connectivity and infrastructure to attract investment and diversify local economies	Provide high quality housing of a sufficient scale, mix, tenure, sequence and density, located in optimum locations and aligned with adequate infrastructure, services and amenities. (CDP viii)
1.5	Sustainable Travel	Prioritise walking, cycling and sustainable travel in the planning, layout and design of places	Reduce car dependency, and increase the use of sustainable mobility such as walking, cycling and public transport through planning for and encouraging integrated transportation and land use. (CDP iv)
1.6	Recreation and Open Spaces	Provide access to nature and green spaces, play and active recreation opportunities	Provide and maintain outdoor spaces with free access for recreation, play and wellbeing for all. (LLECP)

KEY:	
TJTP: Territorial Just Transition Plan	RSES: Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy
MREP: Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan	CDP: County Development Plan
OEDS: Offaly Economic Development Strategy	CP: Corporate Plan
GLs: LECP Guidelines	EMRA: East & Midlands Regional Assembly
LLECP: Last LECP	SICAP: Social Inclusion Community Activation Prog
SSNS: Smart Specialisation National Strategy	LEADER: LEADER Rural Dev Programme

(2) Economic Opportunity

EMRA Regional Spatial and Economic Plan			2023-2028 LECP Framework
Economic Opportunity			High Level/ Sustainable Economic Development Objective (SEDO)
2.1	Smart Specialisation	Entrepreneurial discovery process for industry, enterprise agencies, HIEs, communities & stakeholders	Link third level educational institutions with industry and enterprise. Develop R&D and innovation capacity (MREP)(OEDS)
			Position Offaly for Smart Specialisation in one or more of the following– Advanced Manufacturing/Engineering, Audiovisual/Creative, Bioeconomy/Renewable Energy, Biopharma/Med Tech, Financial Services/Fintech, Food/AgriTech, ICT, (SSNS) (MREP)
2.2	Clustering	Create, maintain, or upgrade economic strongholds in a favourable business ecosystem	Support communities and enterprises to respond to the opportunities and challenges arising from decarbonisation of the economy and Just Transition (LEADER 2) (MREP)
			Support sectoral /cluster development including green energy, med-tech, ICT, tourism, craft & creative, food & drink. (LEADER 7) (MREP)(OEDS)
			Deliver and market a targeted visitor experience in Offaly – outdoor activity, nature, food trail, culture and learning (MREP)(LEADER)(OEDS)
			Develop a Smart Technologies Cluster around telecoms, augmented reality, data analytics (MREP)
2.3	Place-making	Creation of place for human capital, with Innovation, Infrastructure and Access to Trade	Promote and position Offaly as a community and location of choice based on its value proposition – low carbon, amenity, wellbeing, culture, community, quality of life (TJTP) (MREP)(OEDS)
			Promote the renewal and regeneration of Towns and Villages and create healthy place-making. (CDP vi)
2.4	Orderly Growth	Strategic employment locations aligned with growth strategy	Direct a significant proportion of the county’s development and population growth into Tullamore as a Key Town in order to build its critical mass and fulfil its role as a key growth driver for the county and the region.(CDP v)(LLECP)

2.5			Develop our towns as drivers of economic growth following Town Centre First principles. Manage urban generated growth in Rural Areas under strong urban influence and stronger rural areas.(CDP vi)(LLECP)
2.6	Future Proof	Develop a competitive and resilient economic base	Achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy. Realise Economic Opportunities from Climate Action (MREP) (CDP xi)
2.7			Attract substantial investment and new enterprise with significant employment, income and growth potential.(GLs p36)
2.8			Sustain / expand existing enterprise base, particularly in sectors with significant growth potential in international markets. (OEDS) (GLs p36)(LLECP)
2.9			Improve the quality and diversity of employment in the county. (GLs p36)
2.10			Develop additional co-working hubs in Offaly and support the hub network(MREP)
2.11			Establish sustainable farming practices and production methods. (RSES)

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(3) Sustainable Community Development

Community Supporting Sustainable, Inclusive, and Empowered Communities		2023-2028 LECP Framework
		LECP High Level Goal Sustainable Community Development Objective (SCDO)
3.1	Sustainable Communities	Support vibrant, sustainable, inclusive, empowered and self-determining communities.
3.2	Rural Offaly	Transform the quality of life and opportunity for people living in rural areas
3.3	Age Friendly Offaly	Make Offaly a great county in which to grow old
3.4	Public Participation	Support active participation and representation of the community & voluntary sector in decision-making.
3.5	Social Inclusion & Integration	Reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality.
3.6	Children and young people	Co-ordinate services for children and young people and ensure their participation in decision-making.
3.7	Healthy Offaly	Ensure everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential and where wellbeing is valued and supported
3.8	Sport & Recreation	Promote increased physical activity levels among communities across the county through implementation of the Sports Partnership Strategy.
3.9	Arts & Culture & Creative Ireland	Create pathways for communities and artists to unlock their creative potential. Inspire, Imagine, Involve.
3.10	Education	Ensure the people of Offaly are provided with the skills they need to achieve their full potential and contribute to the county's social, economic and cultural future.
3.11	Pathways to Work	Deliver vital employment supports to the unemployed to help them prepare for and secure employment.
3.12	Community & Social Enterprise	Create and sustain employment and self-employment opportunities with a particular focus on microenterprise, social enterprise and entrepreneurship.
3.13	Equality & Diversity	Achieve a fair, equal and inclusive society where rights are respected and where everyone can reach their potential
3.14	Support Volunteering	Encourage, facilitate and support volunteering in the county.

3.15	Policing & Security	Improve crime prevention and community safety.
3.16	Community Response	Support the interagency Community Response Forum to address specific needs as they arise.
3.17	Community Enhancement	Support communities to enhance their physical and social environment and amenities.
3.18	Heritage	Maintain, restore and upgrade our cultural and natural heritage
3.19	Community Climate Action	Support communities to address climate action and achieve a just transition
3.20	Digital Communities	Enhance community access to, and use of, digital resources.

KEY:	
AF – Age Friendly	PPN – Public Participation Network
CYPSC – Children and Young People’s Services Committee	CNN – Comhairle na nÓg
HI – Healthy Ireland	OLSP – Offaly Local Sports Partnership
CI – Creative Ireland	SICAP – Social Inclusion Community Activation Prog
SE – Social Enterprise	CEP – Community Enhancement Programme
LEADER – Leader Rural Development Programme	OVC – Offaly Volunteering Centre
JPC – Joint Policing Committee	CRF – Community Response Forum

(4) Climate Action

EMRA Regional Spatial and Economic Plan			2023-2028 LECP Framework
<p align="center">Climate Action</p> <p align="center">Reduce emissions by 40% by 2030 and support transition to a low carbon Region by 2050</p>			<p>Sustainable Climate Action Development Objective (SCADO)</p>
4.1	Built Environment	Promote sustainable settlement patterns to achieve compact urban development and low energy buildings	Consolidate settlements to avoid undesirable and inefficient sprawl. (CDP)
4.2	Green Infrastructure and ecosystem services	Integrate green infrastructure and ecosystem services into development and land-use plans	Respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by the transition to a low-carbon economy (CAP 2021) (CDP) (LEADER)
4.3	Flood resilience and water	Address flood risk to ensure resilience of critical infrastructure and water resources	Assess and manage flood risks. Protect and preserve water resources.(CDP)
4.4	Sustainable Mobility	Achieve modal shift towards public transport, walking and cycling and roll out EV charging infrastructure	Reduce car dependency and increase the use of sustainable mobility such as walking, cycling and public transport through planning for and encouraging integrated transportation and land use. (CDP iv)

KEY:	
CAP 2021: Climate Action Plan 2021	TJTP: Territorial Just Transition Plan
RSES: Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy	EMRA: East & Midlands Regional Assembly
MREP: Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan	CDP: County Development Plan
CP: Corporate Plan	OEDS: Offaly Economic Development Strategy
GLs: LECP Guidelines	LLECP: Last LECP
LEADER: LEADER Rural Dev Programme	