

LEADER Programme in Co. Clare

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LAG Composition:

Local Government Pillar

County Councillors

Gabriel Keating
Tom Mc Namara
P.J. Ryan

National Social Partners Pillar

Business

Niall Garvey (Chairperson)
Mary Heeran White

ICMSA

Martin Mc Mahon

IFA

Seamus Murphy

Trade Unions

Tommy Guilfoyle

Community and Voluntary Pillar

Michael Foley
Willie Hanrahan
Dermot Hayes
Damian Heaney (Secretary)
Mike Hogan

Pauline Mc Namara
Oliver Moylan
Stephen Walsh

State Agency Pillar

Teagasc

Martin Feerick

Limerick & Clare Education & Training Board

Des Murphy

Shannon Heritage

Brian Nevin

Environment Pillar

Anny Wise

LAG Area: The LAG Area is Co. Clare.

Total Available Funding: €8,920,225

Key Local Objectives:

- Local Objective 1: To develop the profile of key rural tourism destinations through animation, capacity building, networking, shared learning, mentoring and training.
- Local Objective 2: To develop innovative rural tourism products through the provision of a range of supports.
- Local Objective 3: To provide employment opportunities in rural areas through support for enterprise start-up and expansion.
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- Local Objective 4: To increase the level of economic activity in the market towns of Ennistymon, Kilrush and Scariff.
- Local Objective 5: To increase access to and use of high speed broadband in rural areas.
- Local Objective 6: To build strong, effective, resilient and inclusive communities through capacity building, training, area based planning and capital supports.
- Local Objective 7: To build capacity and empower young people to participate in community activities and explore pathways to entrepreneurship.
- Local Objective 8: To protect and enhance the County's biodiversity through improved local knowledge and the implementation of practical locally led actions.
- Local Objective 9: To harness the environmental and economic potential of the county's renewable energy resources through support for private and community renewable energy initiatives which support the growth of low carbon communities.

Summary of Strategic Actions and Anticipated Outputs/Targets:

Local Objective 1: To develop the profile of key rural tourism destinations through animation, capacity building, networking, shared learning, mentoring and training.

Action 1 Provide a range of training and mentoring supports in branding and marketing for key rural tourism destinations:

- Priority Area 1: Lough Derg / Lough Graney / Sliabh Aughty
- Priority Area 2: Loop Head / Shannon Estuary
- Priority Area 3: Burren

Budget: €260,000

Outputs/Targets: 3 projects X promotion of areas as a destination

3 projects X Cluster/ Network of Tourism Businesses

Action 2 Provide grant aid for branding and marketing for destination tourism.

- Priority Area 1: Lough Derg / Lough Graney / Sliabh Aughty
- Priority Area 2: Loop Head / Shannon Estuary
- Priority Area 3: Burren
- Priority Area 4: Other, niche, small scale destinations to be identified and developed

Budget: €300,000
Outputs/Targets: 6 X marketing project
12 niche destinations

Local Objective 2: **To develop innovative rural tourism products through the provision of a range of supports.**

Action 1 Provide a range of soft supports for the development of innovative rural tourism products.

Support for the development of new and existing tourism products through animation, mentoring, training, networking and capacity building. These supports will be provided for the following sectors:

- Rural recreation and activity tourism
- Culture & heritage tourism
- Artisan food, arts, craft and design tourism
- Innovative accommodation products

Budget: €100,000
Outputs/Targets: 4 X training, capacity building and mentoring programmes

Action 2 Provide capital support for the development of innovative rural tourism products.

Linked to Action 1, CLDC will deliver a number of themed, time-limited calls for capital grant supports for product development in the following:

- Rural recreation and activity tourism
- Culture & heritage tourism
- Artisan food, arts, craft and design tourism
- Innovative accommodation products
- Supports for wheelchair accessible tourism facilities/amenities

Budget: €900,000
Outputs/Targets: 30 X capital projects

Local Objective 3: **To provide employment opportunities in rural areas through support for enterprise start-up and expansion.**

Action 1 The provision of a range of soft supports for new and existing rural entrepreneurs.

Provide animation, mentoring, training, networking and capacity building supports to new and existing businesses in the following sectors:

- Digital technology
- Green economy
- Services to and in agriculture, forestry and equine sectors
- Artisan food, arts, craft and design
- Social enterprise

Budget: €150,000

Outputs/Targets: 2 X 2year mentoring, training, capacity building programmes

Action 2

The provision of soft and capital supports for the establishment and development of groups of enterprises in rural areas.

A range of soft supports to encourage businesses to network, provide peer support and learn from each other. Support for the establishment of two new business/producer groups to be established. Project funding for group marketing initiatives. Target groups:

- #DigitalClare
- Creative Clare
- Clare Timber Producers' Group
- Two new networks / producer groups to be established

Budget: €100,000

Outputs/Targets: 5 networks

Local Objective 3: To provide employment opportunities in rural areas through support for enterprise start-up and expansion.

Action 3

The provision of capital supports for the establishment and expansion of rural enterprises.

Grants will be awarded to the following sectors through a number of time-limited calls:

- Digital technology
- Green economy
- Services to and in agriculture, forestry and equine sectors
- Artisan food, arts, craft and design
- Social enterprise

Budget: €900,000

Outputs/Targets: 34 capital projects

Local Objective 4: To increase the level of economic activity in the market towns of Ennistymon, Kilrush and Scariff.

Action 1

The development of area based strategies for Ennistymon, Kilrush and Scariff.

Community led, area based strategies will provide co-ordinated plans for the economic, social, cultural and environmental development of these towns.

Budget: €150,000

Outputs/Targets: 3 X 3 year area based plans

Action 2

Grant aid for projects arising from area based strategies developed in Action

1.
Projects might include revitalising the retail environment, streetscapes, enhancing community facilities and amenities, providing social, cultural or training facilities.
Budget: €350,000
Outputs/Targets: 12 X capital projects

Local Objective 5: To increase access to and use of high speed broadband in rural areas.

Action 1 The provision of a range of training and technical supports to increase access to and use of broadband by rural communities and businesses.

Budget: €90,000
Outputs/Targets: 20 X capacity building events

Action 2 Explore innovative opportunities arising from digital technologies. Set up think-tank to explore new digital solutions to commercial, agricultural, social, cultural and environmental problems facing householders, communities and businesses in Co. Clare.

Budget: €50,000
Outputs/Targets: 8 X capacity building events

Action 3 Capital grants for small-scale equipment to enhance access to broadband and broadband speeds in rural areas. Calls will be made for communities to apply for grant aid to enhance access to broadband and broadband speeds.

Budget: €100,000
Outputs/Targets: 12 X capital projects

Local Objective 6: To build strong, effective, resilient and inclusive communities through capacity building, training, area based planning and capital supports.

Action 1 Develop area based strategies for 50 geographic communities in Co. Clare. Provide multi-disciplinary teams with experts to support communities to develop strategies that tackle social, economic cultural and environmental needs of the community — including and addressing the needs of those who are facing particular challenges.

Budget: €150,000
Outputs/Targets: 50 X area based plans

Action 2 To develop community leadership and capacity through training and networking. Deliver training programmes, provide mentoring and capacity building supports to community groups that build capacity and support leadership.

Budget: €150,000
Outputs/Targets: 20 X training courses, 4 events aimed at celebrating community, 40 X capacity building events

Action 3 Capital grants for community infrastructure and services. Calls will be made for communities to apply for grant aid to enhance

facilities and services.
Budget: €1,000,000
Outputs/Targets: 35 X capital projects

Local Objective 7: **To build capacity and empower young people to participate in community activities and explore pathways to entrepreneurship.**

Action 1 Provide supports for the involvement of young people in mainstream community activities.
Deliver capacity building measure to young people and to community groups to facilitate greater participation by young people in community planning, decision making and projects.

Budget: €125,000
Outputs/Targets: 10 X training, capacity building and mentoring events and programmes

Action 2 Provide training and mentoring that supports young people to explore pathways to entrepreneurship.
Deliver training programmes, provide mentoring and capacity building supports to young people that build their curiosity to explore all enterprise sectors, but particularly those of interest, e.g. digital and environmental opportunities.

Budget: €100,000
Outputs/Targets: 4 training courses and 2 entrepreneurship animation programmes

Action 3 Provide capital grant aid for youth facilities, amenities and services.
Calls will be made for youth and community groups to apply for grant aid to enhance facilities and services.

Budget: €500,000
Outputs/Targets: 10 X capital projects

Local Objective 8: **To protect and enhance the County's biodiversity through improved local knowledge and the implementation of practical locally led actions.**

Action 1 Provide a range of supports to equip communities and landowners to protect and enhance biodiversity.
Deliver training for landowners and community groups that stimulates actions to protect and enhance vulnerable species and habitats.

Budget: €100,000
Outputs/Targets: 30 education and awareness programmes

Action 2 Provide grant aid for practical project aimed at protection and enhancing vulnerable species and habitats.
Fund projects that increase community understanding, protect and enhance habitats, community biodiversity projects.

Budget: €250,000
Outputs/Targets: 30 X capital projects

Local Objective 9: **To harness the environmental and economic potential of the county's**

renewable energy resources through support for private and community renewable energy initiatives which support the growth of low carbon communities.

Action 1

Provide training, mentoring and awareness raising actions that stimulate businesses and community groups to generate and use renewable energy. Training, networking and mentoring will be provided to support local, renewable, energy production including supply chain development and increasing consumer demand.

Budget: €100,000

Outputs/Targets: 20 training events

Action 2

Provide grant aid for the production of renewable energy. Grant aid for communities and businesses to test feasibility and, where feasibility is proven, install technology which utilises or produces renewable energy.

Budget: €720,000

Outputs/Targets: 20 X capital projects