

The LAG composition;

FORUM currently has a Board of Directors of 19 (up to 24 members set out in the guidelines) and is comprised of voluntary and community and statutory sectors, Local Authority representatives and the four Pillars. The voluntary and community sector representatives include community networks, groups representative of older people, young people, persons with disabilities and women. Other members include four County Councillors and the County Manager's nominee. The four Pillars - IFA, IBEC, Trade Unions and Environmental nominated their representatives and the statutory organisations include the GRETB and Teagasc.

The LAG area;

The FORUM LDS covers an extensive catchment area that extends from Lough Corrib on the outskirts of Galway City to Clifden on the edge of the Atlantic coast and from Killary Harbour which borders with County Mayo to Lettermullen on the South at the entrance to Galway Bay. It also has four inhabited off-shore islands Inishmore, Inishmaan, Inisheer and Inishbofin, a 35km border with County Mayo and a coastline which stretches from Leenane to na Forbacha, just west of Galway City. Another important feature is that the region contains the largest Gaeltacht area in the State (see Figure 5, and Appendix XII for a full list of Electoral Divisions). The territory is an innate functional area and corresponds naturally with the administrative area of the Municipal District of Connemara (here after referred to as Connemara). It has a surface area of 2050Sq/Km and a population of 39,238 (CSO, 2011). Clifden with a population of 2,613 is the main town in the area. It acts as a market town and service centre for the wider Connemara region and is an important focal point for tourism activities. The area also has a significant peri-urban area that stretches from the outskirts of Galway City to Oughterard-Moycullen and south towards Spiddal, Barna and Furbo. This area displays the characteristics of a burgeoning conurbation which is curtailed by Lough Corrib to the north and Galway bay to the south. Other population centres include Carna, Ros Muc, Indrebhán, Carraroe, Roundstone, Ballyconneely, Letterfrack, Leenane, Cornamona, Clonbur and the Island settlements.

Total available funding;

Total LDS budget €4,540,033.00

Projects budget €3,405,024.80

The key local objectives;

1. New and Enhanced Services and Products Deliver Connemara's Tourism Potential
2. Pathways and Opportunities for Employment and Economic Growth through Partnership and Innovation
3. Rural Town, Village and Countryside Enhancement
4. Increasing Opportunities and Hotspot Services to Connect Connemara
5. Services and Engagement in Community Life Contributes to Community Renewal and Wellbeing
6. Personal Development and New Opportunities Ensures a Future in Connemara
7. Community Catchment Care Protects and Utilises Connemara's Inland Waterways
8. Protecting and realising the High Nature Value of Connemara as a Living Landscape
9. Piloting the Use of Connemara Renewables

Summary of strategic actions and anticipated outputs/targets.

Objective or Action	Title	Outputs/Targets
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Local Objective	New and Enhanced Services and Products Deliver Connemara's Tourism Potential	
Strategic Action	Heritage and the Connemara Brand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connemara Pony show becomes major international event • Gaelic sports piloted as small but growing tourism product attracting >1500 • Number of projects funded 27 • Traditional music widely available in 20 venues throughout the region. Attracting 4000 tourists from 8 events per year • Numbers in tourism attendance in events over 50,000 • Jobs created 7 • Jobs secured 23
Strategic Action	Sustainable Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Aire Service locations, target overnights 2300 p/a • 1 electric car hire service, 20,000 users keeping additional 30,000 tourists in Connemara • 8 jobs created
Strategic Action	Adventure and Discovery Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map and report on old roads with implementation plan • Number of visitors using facilities 14,000 • Slí Connemara audit with actions to be implemented. Western Way enhanced and extended, with 2 looped walks. Mountain Access advanced within context of other local initiatives. 5 attractions/mountain hub facilities established as cluster/network • 1 app with trail maps will be designed and operational. 24 jobs created, 24 sustained
Strategic Action	Tourism Business Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 new tourism businesses/business expansions in rural recreation, eco tourism, marine/health and wellness etc. • 17 jobs created • 2000 visitors benefit
Strategic Action	Delivering Innovation and Partnership (Animation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 major strategic initiatives • 2 robust service/product networks • 120,000 tourist beneficiaries • 18 jobs • 1 major new trail network
Local Objective	Pathways and Opportunities for Employment and Economic Growth through Partnership and Innovation	
Strategic Action	The Threshold Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers trained - 100 • Numbers move to mainstream training - 60 • Number securing employment – 20
Strategic Action	Growing Business Capacity and Confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 people benefit from mentoring service • 10 Networking events or clusters with 3 sectors and 47 participating businesses
Strategic Action	Enterprise Connemara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of businesses supported – 40 • Jobs created 46 • Jobs secured 18
Strategic Action	Ensuring Opportunities for All(Animation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% take up on programmes • 70 long term unemployed/youth/underemployed recruited to programmes • Enterprise networking – cluster at a sector level with 47 businesses
Local Objective	Rural Town, Village and Countryside Enhancement	
Strategic Action	Vibrant Towns and Villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 villages/towns benefit from the programme • 40 festivals/events with 16,000 participants • Streetscape improvements in 7 towns/villages • Improved recreation facilities in 3 towns/villages with 400 beneficiaries • Connemara brand being used in 8 towns and villages
Local Objective	Increasing Opportunities and Hotspot Services to Connect Connemara	

Strategic Action	Connecting Connemara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in internet users of 40% • 5 broadband hotspots/hot desks established with 300 users • No. of training projects delivered 15 with 180 participants
Local Objective	Services and Engagement in Community Life Contributes to Community Renewal and Wellbeing	
Strategic Action	Essential Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 community centres improved facilities –kitchens, bathroom facilities/equipment etc. for activities that enhance quality of life for vulnerable people • 1 Therapeutic riding centre with 30 beneficiaries per year • 1 social car scheme servicing 130 people on outlying areas
Strategic Action	Health and Wellbeing in Connemara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 recreational/community well-being facilities • training for 120 people who provide services • 3 Men Shed/social farming projects • 1 Therapeutic riding service • 3 new services provided including potential social enterprises • sustainability of 5 existing services secured • 1 mental health project • Isolation reduced for 500 people
Strategic Action	Getting to the Hard to Reach – Adults (Animation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 600 beneficiaries • 5 partnerships built/strengthened • 1 new innovative approach to addressing need developed
Local Objective	Personal Development and New Opportunities Ensures a Future in Connemara	
Strategic Action	Support and Opportunities for Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Services and personal development programmes benefiting 280 youth
Strategic Action	Facilities for Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 youth cafes servicing 110 young people • 2 projects providing sports/cultural equipment and activities benefiting 300
Strategic Action	Getting to the Hard to Reach – Youth- (Animation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 new services provided • 180 targeted recruited to projects
Local Objective	Community Catchment Care Protects and Utilises Connemara's Inland Waterways	
Strategic Action	Connemara Catchment Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 infrastructure projects • 1 new service project • 2 angling clubs with 40 local beneficiaries • 3 community conservation projects build awareness and engagement 140 participants • Transition year programme in schools benefits 150 young people
Local Objective	Protecting and realising the High Nature Value of Connemara as a Living Landscape	
Strategic Action	Realising High Nature Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Geopark development project funded, benefiting the whole community of Connemara - 14000 people • 8 environmental education/interpretation projects, 100 participants • 3 seaweed training programme, 45 participants • 1 research and pilot into seaweed farming – 20 participants • 5 tradition and heritage workshops and training with 100 beneficiaries
Strategic Action	Collaboration, Community Engagement and Stewardship (Animation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread engagement and support for landscape valuation and plans for heritage/landscape management involving the community • 300 people engage in process
Local Objective	Piloting the Use of Connemara Renewables	
Strategic Action	Connemara Renewables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 major energy audits • 2 renewables projects funded (probably biomass – dependent on outcome of audit)