



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Our Rural Future

## 2021 Work Programme

Prepared by the Department of  
Rural and Community Development

# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Glossary</b>	<b>5</b>
Optimising Digital Connectivity	7
Supporting Employment and Careers in Rural Areas	14
Revitalising Rural Towns and Villages	24
Enhancing Participation, Leadership and Resilience in Rural Communities	29
Enhancing Public Services in Rural Areas	36
Transitioning to a Climate Neutral Society	42
Supporting the Sustainability of Agriculture, the Marine and Forestry	49
Supporting the Sustainability of our Islands and Coastal Communities	55
Implementation of the Policy	59

## Introduction

*Our Rural Future 2021-2025*, Ireland's new national rural development policy, was launched on 29 March 2021, and provides a blueprint for sustainable rural development over the next five years.

The Policy articulates a new, ambitious vision for rural Ireland, which recognises its integral role in ensuring Ireland thrives economically, socially and culturally.

It contains a range of commitments for delivery over the lifetime of the policy, and delivery of these measures will take place right across Government. A key component in the implementation of *Our Rural Future* is the commitment to produce Annual Work Programmes each year, which will detail the actions being undertaken and associated annual progress timelines, towards the implementation of the commitments in the policy.

This first Work Programme outlines measures and actions for delivery in 2021. It has been developed in conjunction with Departments and agencies responsible for delivering on the ambition contained in *Our Rural Future*.

**The 2021 Work Programme contains a wide portfolio of actions that will contribute to the implementation of 128 of the 152 Policy Measures set out in *Our Rural Future*.**

The policy also commits to regular Progress Reports to provide an update on delivery of the Policy, the first of which will be published at the end of 2021, with subsequent Progress Reports to follow every six months. Already, many of the actions identified for 2021 are underway or substantially advanced. These include:

- Launch of the €5 million Connected Hubs initiative which will support capacity building in existing remote working hubs and broadband connection points (Measure 6.1)
- Approval of the Athlone IT/Limerick IT application for designation as a Technological University (Measure 27.1)
- Launch of a three-year pilot scheme for upcycling of bikes and ebikes for those on low incomes and/or marginalised or disadvantaged (Measure 37.1)
- Publication of a new Action Plan for Apprenticeship 2021-2025 (Measure 43.1)
- Approval of €1.3 billion in funding for 45 projects under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (Measure 50.1)
- Launch of the €70 million LEADER Transitional Programme (Measure 77.1)

- Announcement of €72.8 million for 340 active travel projects in 19 Local Authorities (Measure 102.1)

Other headline actions outlined for progression this year:

- Completion of delivery of the Broadband Connection Point initiative (Measure 1.4)
- The introduction of legislation to provide employees with the right to request remote work (Measure 3.1)
- Development of Regional Tourism Plans for each of Fáilte Ireland's brand regions (Measure 32.3)
- Publication of Ireland's first National Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Measure 35.1)
- Delivery of eight new blueways in line with Blueways Ireland criteria (Measure 39.3)
- Launch of the Town Centre First Framework (Measure 51.1)
- The establishment of Ireland's first National Social Innovation Competency Centre (Measure 80.2)
- Preparation of updated Rural Housing Guidelines (Measure 90.1)
- Enactment of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill (Measure 107.1)
- Launch of a Microgeneration Support Scheme to allow for the sale of excess renewable energy back to the grid (Measure 111.1)
- The restoration of up to 2,500ha of protected raised bog in the Midlands (Measure 117b.1)
- Publication of a new Agri-food Strategy (Measure 121.1)
- The allocation of €2 million in funding to circa 45 rural towns for the development of Master Plans (Measure 147.1)

In order to maximise the impact of *Our Rural Future* and to maintain a continuous feedback loop with rural communities, the Department of Rural and Community Development will be rolling out a range of stakeholder engagement events in 2021, and on an ongoing basis thereafter, including Rural Ideas Fora, a Rural Youth Assembly and the establishment of a Higher Education and Research Network.

*Our Rural Future* complements a wide range of Government policies, and taken together with the National Economic Recovery Plan, the reviewed National Development Plan, and the future Common Agricultural Policy, *Our Rural Future* has the potential to transform rural Ireland into a more vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive place for everyone.

## Glossary

<b>AA</b>	Appropriate Assessment
<b>CAP</b>	Common Agricultural Policy
<b>CLÁR</b>	Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais
<b>CSP</b>	CAP Strategic Plan
<b>CSO</b>	Central Statistics Office
<b>DAFM</b>	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
<b>DCEDIY</b>	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
<b>DETE</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
<b>DECC</b>	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
<b>D/Education</b>	Department of Education
<b>DFHERIS</b>	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
<b>D/Finance</b>	Department of Finance
<b>D/Health</b>	Department of Health
<b>DHLGH</b>	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
<b>D/Justice</b>	Department of Justice
<b>DPER</b>	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
<b>DRCD</b>	Department of Rural and Community Development
<b>DSP</b>	Department of Social Protection
<b>DTCAGSM</b>	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
<b>D/Transport</b>	Department of Transport
<b>ESB</b>	Electricity Supply Board
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EV</b>	Electric Vehicle
<b>FLAG</b>	Fisheries Local Area Group
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>HE</b>	Higher Education
<b>IDA</b>	Industrial Development Agency
<b>IT</b>	Institute of Technology
<b>LCDC</b>	Local Community Development Committee
<b>LECP</b>	Local Economic and Community Plan
<b>LEO</b>	Local Enterprise Office
<b>LGBTI+</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
<b>LGMA</b>	Local Government Management Agency
<b>MAP</b>	Maritime Area Planning
<b>NBI</b>	National Broadband Ireland
<b>NMPF</b>	National Marine Planning Framework
<b>NPF</b>	National Planning Framework

<b>NPWS</b>	National Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>NTA</b>	National Transport Authority
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>OGP</b>	Office of Government Procurement
<b>OPW</b>	Office of Public Works
<b>ORESS</b>	Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme
<b>ORIS</b>	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme
<b>PESTLE</b>	Political, Economic, Sociological, Technological, Legal and Environmental
<b>PPN</b>	Public Participation Network
<b>REDF</b>	Regional Enterprise Development Fund
<b>RRDF</b>	Rural Regeneration and Development Fund
<b>RTP</b>	Regional Tourism Plan
<b>SEA</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment
<b>SICAP</b>	Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
<b>SWOT</b>	Strength Weakness Opportunity Threat
<b>TU</b>	Technological University
<b>URDF</b>	Urban Regeneration and Development Fund
<b>WDC</b>	Western Development Commission

## Optimising Digital Connectivity

<b>Measure 1</b> Invest up to €2.7 billion in the rollout of the National Broadband Plan and explore how the initiative can be accelerated to deliver connectivity as soon as possible in rural areas.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> National Broadband Ireland under contract to DECC		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
1.1	Continue roll out of the National Broadband Plan with construction commenced in majority of counties by the end of 2021.	Q4 2021
1.2	Finalise and implement measures to mitigate COVID impacts on 2020/2021 delivery.	Q4 2021
1.3	Complete work with NBI on the potential to accelerate the National Broadband Plan and bring forward comprehensive proposals for approval.	Q4 2021
1.4	Finish delivery of the Broadband Connection Point Initiative.	Q4 2021
1.5	Commencement of the accelerated programme for the provision of high speed broadband to primary schools across the intervention area by end of 2022.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 2</b> Implement the National Remote Work Strategy to facilitate employees in working from home, or from co-working spaces, which will support the retention of skilled people in rural areas.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DETE		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
2.1	Convene regular meetings of the Remote Work Strategy Inter Departmental Group to ensure that there is cross-departmental alignment to support the wider goals of the State.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 3</b>			<b>Introduce legislation in 2021 to provide employees with the right to request remote work.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DETE			
<b>2021 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
3.1	Following public consultation period in May 2021, draft heads of Bill are anticipated by Q3 2021.		Q3 2021

<b>Measure 4</b>			<b>Map and publish a comprehensive picture of remote working facilities across the country, and the various facilities available in each, to ensure that future hubs are developed in a strategic way that meets demand and maximises utilisation in key locations.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD, Western Development Commission			
<b>2021 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
4.1	Data gathering to establish extent of remote working hubs across country.		Ongoing
4.2	Surveying of identified hubs to develop a comprehensive dataset of services and capacity, followed by mapping of these assets into a single, iterative, ArcGIS map published via the WDC. The first iteration is expected to include in excess of 200 hubs.		Q2 2021
4.3	Engage with stakeholders (Central Statistics Office and DETE) to ensure data and maps are incorporated into wider data gathering on remote working demand and supply as part of Making Remote Work.		Q3 2021

<b>Measure 5</b>			<b>Establish a comprehensive and integrated national network of 400 Remote Working Hubs throughout the country, with shared back-office services and a central booking platform for users.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD, Western Development Commission			
<b>2021 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
5.1	Engagement with and onboarding of identified hubs to the National Hub Network and development of online platform.		Ongoing

<b>Measure 6</b>			<b>Invest significantly in remote working facilities to support the retention of skilled people in rural communities and attract mobile talent to rural areas.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>			
<b>2021 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
6.1	A €5m Connected Hubs Fund will be launched to support small capital works to increase capacity and impact of existing hubs and Broadband Connection Points, as well as support the development of the National Hub Network.		Q2 2021
6.2	Make funding available to Local Authorities to run innovative marketing campaigns targeted at attracting remote workers and mobile talent under 2021 Town and Village Scheme.		Q4 2021
6.3	As part of Budget 2022, examine the potential to introduce specific incentives to encourage remote workers to relocate to rural areas.		Q4 2021

<b>Measure 7</b>			<b>Provide financial support to Local Authorities to bring vacant properties in town centres back into use as Remote Working Hubs.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>			
<b>2021 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
7.1	Projects supporting the roll-out of remote working facilities will supported under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, and will be a priority area of funding under the 2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme.		Q4 2021

<b>Measure 9</b>		
<b>Establish a centralised cross-departmental knowledge base on the costs and benefits associated with the increased adoption of remote working to understand impacts on areas such as employment, transport, carbon emissions, broadband, and equality.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DETE</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
9.1	Establish a consensus on the requirements of a knowledge base.	Q2 2021
9.2	Develop accessible online knowledge base.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 10</b>		
<b>Mandate public sector employers, colleges, and other public bodies to move to 20% home and remote working in 2021, with further annual increases over the lifetime of this policy.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DPER</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
10.1	Publication of the Remote Working Framework.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 12</b>		
<b>Through IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta, promote and enable the uptake of remote working across their client base to support regional job creation.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DETE, DTCAGSM</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
12.1	Enterprise Ireland's next 5 year Strategy is currently being developed and this will be incorporated into that strategy. The IDA, in delivering their 'Driving Recovery and Sustainable Growth 2021-2024' Strategy, will develop a value proposition on remote working and assist the preparation of a directory of remote working hubs.	Ongoing
12.2	Údarás na Gaeltachta is in the process of developing 10 digital hubs (in addition to existing 20) and is also progressing a range of strategic capital projects across the Gaeltacht.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 13</b>		
<b>Through the Tax Strategy Group, review the current tax arrangements for remote working in respect of (i) employees and (ii) employers, and assess the merits of further enhancements for consideration in the context of Budget 2022.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Finance		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
13.1	The Tax Strategy Group will review current tax arrangements for remote working in respect of both employees and employers. The Group will take account of the economic, financial and organisational implications arising from the experience of remote working during the pandemic, and assess the merits of further enhancements for consideration in the context of Budget 2022.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 14</b>		
<b>Provide grants to retail businesses in rural towns and villages to establish an online presence to complement traditional footfall trade.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DETE, LEOs		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
14.1	Delivery of the Trading Online Voucher Scheme which offers a voucher of up to €2,500 (50% co-funded by the applicant) to help businesses develop their online trading capability.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 15</b>		
<b>Develop Local Digital Strategies in each Local Authority area, to maximise the potential of improved rural digital connectivity for businesses and communities.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
15.1	Provide support and assistance to Local Authorities to produce local digital strategies to drive regional digital development.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 16</b>		
<b>Expand the provision of free-to-use wireless internet connectivity in rural areas through the rollout of Broadband Connection Points and other initiatives such as the WiFi4EU public wi-fi networks and the Digital Innovation Programme.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
16.1	Establish a national network of approximately 300 community Broadband Connection Points in areas with poor connectivity.	Q4 2021
16.2	Bring number of operational Wifi4EU hotspots to approximately 500, providing free public wi-fi services in areas of community life, such as town squares, libraries and other public buildings.	Q4 2021
16.3	Launch 2021 Digital Innovation Programme to encourage and facilitate Local Authority-led digital innovation projects to improve connectivity, trial new technologies or undertake new research.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 17</b>		
<b>Under the Schools Broadband Programme, review on an ongoing basis the availability of broadband services and upgrade schools broadband connectivity, including within the State intervention area where possible.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: D/Education</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
17.1	Work with Department of Environment, Climate and Communications for the provision of improved broadband connectivity to primary schools as identified under the National Broadband Plan Broadband Connection Point Programme.	Q4 2021
17.2	Develop a broadband upgrade programme for Primary Schools not within the National Broadband Plan Intervention Area, or to receive enhanced connectivity through industry provision (year 1 of 2 year programme).	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 18</b>		
<b>Increase the capacity for remote and blended learning to enable young people, in particular, in rural areas to access further and higher education courses through online learning while living in their local communities.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DFHERIS</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
18.1	Increase remote and blended learning to improve access to further and higher education	Ongoing

<b>Measure 19</b>		
<b>Develop and implement a new 10-year Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy strategy so that everybody, regardless of age, can capitalise on the connectivity and opportunities presented by high-speed broadband.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: Solas, DFHERIS</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
19.1	Publication of 10-Year Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy Strategy.	Q2 2021

<b>Measure 20</b>		
<b>Upskill and reskill workers in sectors undergoing transformational technological change to adapt to new roles and new ways of working.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DFHERIS</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
20.1	Implement July Jobs Stimulus and Budget 2021 measures through the SOLAS Skills to Complete initiative, retrofitting training, additional upskilling and reskilling places on Skillnet Ireland and Springboard courses and new innovative postgraduate and modular programmes in higher education.	Q4 2021
20.2	Expansion of Skills to Advance programme.	Ongoing

## Supporting Employment and Careers in Rural Areas

<b>Measure 21</b> <b>Develop and implement a set of nine new Regional Enterprise Plans to support enterprise development and jobs growth in the regions.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DETE		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
21.1	Process set up for nine Regional Steering Committees to appoint Project Delivery Teams to oversee the development and drafting of the new Regional Enterprise Plans to 2024.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 22</b> <b>Target 400 IDA investments up to 2024 for regional locations and deliver 19 Advanced Technology Buildings in regional locations in line with the National Planning Framework.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> IDA Ireland		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
22.1	IDA Ireland's half-year results to be announced in July 2021 to include relevant updates.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 23</b> <b>Deliver ambitious job creation and enterprise development targets for the indigenous sector in the strategies of Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta and the Local Enterprise Offices to embed jobs growth more deeply within the regions.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta, LEOs		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
23.1	Enterprise Ireland's next 5 year Strategy is currently being developed and this will be incorporated into that strategy. The Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) have an ongoing strategy to promote employment growth across the 31 Local Authorities and are engaged with REDF Projects in each of the regions.	Ongoing

23.2	Launch of Údarás na Gaeltachta's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan which sets out a range of aims and objectives in overall support of the ongoing development of the Gaeltacht particularly in the realms of enterprise, community development and language planning.	Q4 2021
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<b>Measure 25</b>		
<b>Promote awareness and the use of remote working hubs and enterprise centres across the country to support remote working and encourage local enterprise start-ups.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD, DETE		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
25.1	Develop a shared brand identity for the National Hub Network leveraged through the online applications.	Q2 2021
25.2	Launch of Network coinciding with promotional campaign.	Q2 2021
25.3	Develop collaborative strategies with key stakeholders to promote hubs to diverse markets (SMEs, workers, etc.).	Ongoing
25.4	Enterprise Ireland's next 5 year Strategy is currently being developed and this will be incorporated into that strategy. Local Enterprise Offices will promote the availability of remote working hubs and enterprise centres where available and appropriate.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 26</b>		
<b>Maximise our resources and strengths in the Green Economy to support employment opportunities for rural communities in areas such as renewable energy, sustainable tourism, energy retrofitting, the Bioeconomy and the Circular Economy.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM, DECC		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
26.1	Hold regular cross-government bioeconomy policy implementation group meetings in 2021.	Ongoing
26.2	Hold first meeting of the Bioeconomy Forum.	Q2 2021
26.3	Offer bioeconomy research opportunities by multiple funders including the Irish Research Council, EPA, DAFM, etc.	Ongoing

26.4	Hold annual awareness raising event on bioeconomy in Ireland known as Bioeconomy Ireland Week 2021 (October 18-22).	Q4 2021
26.5	Offer opportunities for engagement by rural communities in bioeconomy through events held by bioeconomy clusters such as the Innovation Sprint Challenge being held by the Circular Bioeconomy South West Cluster in Q2 2021.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 27</b>		
<b>Roll out the development of the Technological University model to help support regional growth through the education and training sector and to act as an anchor for regional economic development, research and investment.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DFERIS</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
27.1	Approve Athlone IT/Limerick IT application for Technological University (TU) designation. Further applications to be considered upon submission.	Q2 2021

<b>Measure 28</b>		
<b>Develop an overarching Clustering Policy and Framework to advance strong and effective clustering and links between SMEs, multinational corporations and the third-level sector.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DETE</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
28.1	Establish Steering Group to oversee development of the National Clustering Policy.	Q2 2021
28.2	Appoint Consultants to provide research and analysis to support development of the National Clustering Policy.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 29</b> Examine, and take forward as appropriate, the recommendations of the SME Growth Plan to map out an ambitious long-term strategic blueprint for all SMEs, including rurally-based businesses.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DETE		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
29.1	Establish Ministerial-led SME and Entrepreneurship Implementation Group to take recommendations forward, in conjunction with relevant Departments and Agencies.	Q1 2021

<b>Measure 30</b> Deliver a suite of new measures to support the development of Social Enterprises in rural areas to increase their social, economic and environmental impact and contribute to job creation locally.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
30.1	Host a webinar/event on contribution of social enterprises to rural development	Q4 2021
30.2	Include a focus on rural social enterprise in support programmes for social enterprises.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 31</b> Expand the use of socially responsible public procurement contracts, where feasible, which will incentivise the engagement of social enterprises and Circular Economy organisations.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> All Departments		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
31.1	The Office of Government Procurement (OGP) incorporates socially responsible measures in its procurement solutions, including in the areas of energy provision, paper and print services, and electric vehicles. Each framework is assessed through a prism of green and social considerations when planning next generation frameworks.	Ongoing

31.2	The Strategic Procurement Advisory Group will continue to meet regularly. This group brings together officials from policy Departments with public procurement practitioners to share best practice and to facilitate public bodies in the process of incorporating social and environmental considerations into public procurement.	Ongoing
31.3	Action 9 of the D/Justice <i>Social Enterprise and Employment Strategy: Working to Change</i> commits the Department to open up supply chains to Social Enterprises and pledges a target of 10% of all Criminal Justice Sector procurement contracts for the provision of goods and services include social considerations. Action 8 commits the Department to work with the OGP to develop guidance notes to facilitate the use of social considerations in relevant Criminal Justice Sector contracts.	Actions commenced by Q2 2021

<b>Measure 32</b>		
<b>Further develop the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, and Ireland's Ancient East as regional tourism offerings and further diversify tourism opportunities by strengthening Ireland's image as an outdoor activity holiday destination to the domestic and international markets.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: Fáilte Ireland</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
32.1	Launch of funding awards under Stage 2 of Platforms for Growth for Activity Facility Centres at 22 locations nationally to enhance the visitor experience for water-based activities.	Q2 2021
32.2	Support visitor attractions through significant funding awards under the Platforms for Growth Investment Grants Scheme for Immersive Heritage and Cultural Attractions.	Q2 2021
32.3	Launch of the Shannon Navigation Tourism Masterplan.	Q1 2021
32.4	Develop Regional Tourism Plans (RTPs) for each of Fáilte Ireland's brand regions.	Q4 2021
32.5	Continue partnership with Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (DRCD) to support new and enhanced trail development and linkages to existing infrastructure and visitor attractions.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 33</b>		
<b>Strengthen the identity and branding of the Gaeltacht regions and develop a Tourism Strategy for the Gaeltacht areas.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DTCAGSM		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
33.1	Continue development of “Gaeltacht na hÉireann” branding across businesses, organisations, language planning groups and Gaeltacht organisations in a range of different contexts. Work will also continue, in partnership with other key stakeholders, in further developing the Gaeltacht’s unique potential in the realm of cultural tourism.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 34</b>		
<b>Publish an interim Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism which will identify actions which can be taken in the short- term to promote sustainable tourism.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DTCAGSM		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
34.1	Publication of an interim Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 35</b>		
<b>Publish and implement a new National Outdoor Recreation Strategy, through Comhairle na Tuaithe, to support access to, and responsible use of, outdoor recreational and leisure facilities for people of all ages, and increase employment opportunities in rural areas.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
35.1	Publication of the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 36 Invest in greenways, blueways, walking trails and other outdoor recreation infrastructure to support the growth in outdoor recreational tourism.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Transport, DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
36.1	€50m has been allocated for greenways in 2021, this is the highest single year allocation ever. Work is continuing on nine greenways scheduled for completion in 2021, however, COVID has impacted progress on these projects, so it is likely to be 2022 and 2023 when these open to the public.	Q4 2021
36.2	The 2021 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme will provide funding of €14m for greenways, blueways, walking trails and other outdoor recreation infrastructure.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 37 Develop a pilot bicycle up-cycling initiative to support employment creation, to harness the potential of investment in greenways and to support the development of the social enterprise business model.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
37.1	Launch of three-year joint pilot scheme for upcycling of bikes and ebikes for those on low incomes and/or marginalised or disadvantaged, with possibility of further organisations to be included in initiative in 2022. Funding of €3m to be provided by D/Transport for this initiative which will be delivered by DRCD via the Community Services Programme.	Q2 2021

<b>Measure 38 Expand the Walks Scheme to achieve a target of at least 80 trails, doubling the number from 2018.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
38.1	10 new trails will become operational under the Walks Scheme, with 283 new participants covering 174.2 kms.	Q4 2021
38.2	Complete and publish independent review of the Walks Scheme, featuring an Action Plan developed to implement recommendations of review.	Q4 2021
38.3	Announce significant further addition of new trails to the Walks Scheme.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 39 Explore the potential for the development of further tourist trails, including cross-border trails and initiatives.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DTCAGSM</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
39.1	Complete trail audit and route identification for Beara Breifne Way.	Q4 2021
39.2	Explore methodology and route options for the Irish Sea Way and Wild Atlantic Way Coast Path.	Q4 2021
39.3	Delivery of eight new blueways in line with Blueways Ireland criteria.	Q4 2021
39.4	Progress the delivery of Phase 2 of the restoration of the Ulster Canal from Clones to Clonfad and continue the planning and design of Phase 3, from Clonfad to Castle Saunderson (DHLGH/Waterways Ireland)	Ongoing

<b>Measure 40</b>			<b>Develop a Dark Skies Strategy for Ireland, with a focus on the opportunities it can create for rural communities and employment creation.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD			
<b>2021 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
40.1	Research and engagement with key stakeholders.		Q3 2021
40.2	Initiate consultation mechanism in respect of the development of the Dark Skies Strategy.		Q4 2021

<b>Measure 41</b>			<b>Implement a new National Heritage Plan, Heritage Ireland 2030, to identify priority actions in the heritage area.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DHLGH			
<b>2021 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
41.1	Publication of Heritage Ireland 2030.		Q3 2021
41.2	The National Parks and Wildlife Service will be leading on the drafting of the fourth National Biodiversity Action Plan as part of Heritage 2030. NPWS will be shortly inviting tenders for the provision of support to draft the new Plan.		Q3 2021

<b>Measure 43</b>			<b>Publish a new Action Plan for Apprenticeship 2021-2025 to ensure that we have a modern and responsive apprenticeship programme with a strong regional footprint which meets the needs of a changing economy.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DFERIS			
<b>2021 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
43.1	Publication of Action Plan in April 2021.		Q2 2021

<b>Measure 44</b> Through a new Pathways to Work Strategy 2021-2025, support people to upskill, reskill and find employment through increased capacity and intensive activation and training.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DSP		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
44.1	Publication of Pathways to Work Strategy.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 45</b> Through the National Disability Inclusion Strategy, develop initiatives to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities living in rural areas, including through remote working options.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DCEDIY		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
45.1	Under the Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities, DCEDIY is responsible for an Employer Awareness Campaign that will develop a multi-faceted programme to promote awareness, among employers and other key stakeholders, of the opportunities represented by employees with disabilities. This includes funding the Open Doors Initiative to operate an Employer Information Service that provides an information and support service that helps remove the barriers encountered or perceived in the employment of people with disabilities.	Q1 2021

## Revitalising Rural Towns and Villages

<b>Measure 46</b>			<b>Deliver a range of strategic investment programmes over the lifetime of this policy that meet the needs of differentiated rural areas, including through the €1 billion Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, and an enhanced Town and Village Renewal Scheme.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>			
<b>2021 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
46.1	Announcement of €81m in funding for successful projects under Category 1 of the RRDF.		Q1 2021
46.2	Announcement of successful projects under third call for Category 2 applications to the RRDF (launched in Q2 2021), tailored to contribute to key targets and outcomes of Our Rural Future, in addition to existing objectives in the National Planning Framework and National Development Plan.		Q4 2021
46.3	Announcement of successful projects under the 2021 Town & Village Renewal Scheme to contribute to key targets and outcomes in Our Rural Future (indicative funding of €15 million).		Q4 2021

<b>Measure 47</b>			<b>Prioritise rural development programmes to focus on supporting rural towns and villages to recover from the impact of COVID-19 in the short-to-medium term.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>			
<b>2021 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
47.1	Support initiatives through Town and Village Renewal Scheme and CLÁR Programme to support rural towns and villages.		Q4 2021
47.2	Support economic activity in towns and villages through a €17m programme to develop outdoor dining capacity nationwide. (DTCAGSM)		Q4 2021
47.3	Provide additional support to Local Authorities to enhance outdoor spaces and cycling/walking infrastructure through the Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund. (D/Transport)		Q3 2021

<b>Measure 48</b> Provide funding to support the upgrade and enhancement of shopfronts and street facades in towns and villages.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD, DHLGH		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
48.1	Supports for shopfronts and streetscapes will be a priority area of funding under 2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 49</b> Fund Local Authorities to adapt and improve outdoor public spaces for cultural events and activities all-year round, and support the recovery of the creative, cultural, entertainment and events sector.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DTCAGSM		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
49.1	Delivery of the Outdoor Public Space Scheme 2021 which was launched in Q1 2021 and will fund capital projects for outdoor spaces which are flexible, innovative and facilitate year-round use. Projects will respond to the challenges associated with COVID-19 and support the recovery of the creative, cultural, entertainment and events sector as well as being future-proofed from a health and safety perspective.	Q2 2021

<b>Measure 50</b> Deliver major regeneration projects in towns with a population of over 10,000 which play an important role as key hubs in rural areas, through the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DHLGH		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
50.1	45 proposals were approved for a total of €1.3 billion in funding support under Call 2 of the URDF in March 2021. This second tranche of URDF-supported projects builds on the existing pipeline of projects from Call 1, and ultimately will contribute significantly to the transformative regeneration and development of large towns and cities, and to the achievement of NPF and Project Ireland 2040 objectives. €150m has been provided for 2021 to support the advancement of this programme.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 51</b> Develop and deliver a collaborative Town Centre First approach to put town centres at the heart of decision-making where appropriate.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DHLGH, DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
51.1	Launch of Town Centre First Framework setting out actions to deliver Town Centre First Approach.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 56</b> Engage the Approved Housing Bodies with responsibility for housing for older people to develop accommodation in town centres more suited for those with reduced mobility.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DHLGH		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
56.1	Develop a Geographic Information System (GIS) Decision Support Tool for use by the Department, Local Authorities, approved housing bodies and developers which would score available sites on their appropriateness for housing developments for older people in line with Action 2.3 and Action 5.9 set out in "Housing Options for Our Ageing Population", published in 2019.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 59</b> As part of Budget 2022, examine the scope to introduce new supports and incentives for the refurbishment of vacant properties to increase town centre living based on the report of the pilot Town Centre Living initiative.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD, DHLGH		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
59.1	The scope to introduce new supports and incentives will be examined through the Town Centre Framework process with a view to a commitment being considered under Budget 2022.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 62</b> Identify potential State owned properties in rural towns and villages which can be used for community purposes.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> OPW		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
62.1	Identification of vacant properties in the ownership of the OPW that Local Authorities might wish to consider for future community use.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 65</b> Support the take-up of Irish Water’s Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme 2020-2024, which will provide water and waste water growth capacity in smaller settlements that would otherwise not be provided for in Irish Water’s capital investment plan.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DHLGH		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
65.1	Irish Water will announce its initial selection of projects to advance to detailed design and project costings.	Commence Q2 2021

<b>Measure 66</b>		
<b>Review the situation in relation to water services for towns and villages that are not currently on the Irish Water network.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
66.1	Prepare report on waste water requirements in villages and similar settlements that do not have public waste water infrastructure.	Q2 2021

## Enhancing Participation, Leadership and Resilience in Rural Communities

<b>Measure 69</b> Refine and build on a range of programmes to support communities, voluntary organisations, social enterprises and charities to build their resilience and enhance their impact in the aftermath of COVID-19.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
69.1	Emergency funding of €10 million will be provided to community and voluntary organisations, social enterprises and charities through the 2021 COVID-19 Stability Fund, enabling these organisations to continue to provide critical front-line services in the face of reduced fundraising and trading opportunities resulting from COVID-19 restrictions.	Q3 2021
69.2	Conduct a review of the Scheme to Support National Organisations that will put forward recommendations for consideration in development of the next iteration of the programme in 2022.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 70</b> Implement the National Volunteering Strategy 2021-2025, which will support both volunteers and community-based organisations in rural areas and nationwide		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
70.1	Establish an Implementation Group and relevant Subgroups with representation from key Government Departments, State Agencies and Sectoral Stakeholders to oversee, monitor and measure progress in delivery of the Strategy.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 71</b>			<b>Establish a permanent volunteer reserve in local areas which can be called on by community and voluntary organisations and Local Authorities as required.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD			
<b>2021 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
71.1	Roll-out of Phase One of the Community Volunteers Programme, providing a service in 10 counties to respond to local needs beyond emergencies, such as festivals.		Q4 2021

<b>Measure 72</b>			<b>Hold a regular series of Rural Ideas Fora to engage with rural dwellers to enable them to input on an ongoing basis to issues which impact on them and their communities, and to encourage their ongoing contribution to national rural policy innovation.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD			
<b>2021 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
72.1	Three Rural Ideas Fora events will be held on themes such as Climate, Sustainability and Just Transition, Revitalising Town and Villages, and Digital Connectivity and the Future of Work in rural Ireland.		Q4 2021

<b>Measure 73</b>			<b>Establish an annual Rural Youth Assembly to allow young people living in rural Ireland to make an on-going contribution to identifying and influencing policy issues that impact on them and their future.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD			
<b>2021 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
73.1	Hold inaugural national Rural Youth Assembly event, to be developed in conjunction with Comhairle na nÓg and DCEDIY.		Q4 2021

<b>Measure 74</b>			<b>Build capacity for community development through provision of mentoring/training for community development leaders, with a particular focus on young people between the ages of 18 and 25.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>			
<b>2021 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
74.1	An assessment of training needs in the Community and Voluntary sector is underway as part of the Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities Strategy. Phase 1 of this assessment, which involves the Local Community Development Committees in preparation for Local Economic Community Planning process, began in December 2020, and an initial report will be provided. This will be followed by similar assessments for Voluntary Boards and then smaller Community and Voluntary groups. The resulting reports will provide recommendations on how to address identified skills gaps.		Q3 2021 (Phase1)

<b>Measure 75</b>			<b>Provide additional supports to assist community and voluntary groups to develop projects and access available funds – including by streamlining of grant applications.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>			
<b>2021 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
75.1	A new CLÁR Innovation Measure will be targeted at piloting new ideas which address specific challenges faced by communities in rural CLÁR areas.		Q4 2021

<b>Measure 77</b>			<b>Implement a €70 million Transitional LEADER Programme for community-led rural development for the period 2021-2022, and develop and deliver a new LEADER programme to commence in 2023, in line with the next EU funding framework.</b>
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>			
<b>2021 Actions</b>			<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
77.1	Launch of Transitional Programme which was opened to applications from April 2021.		Q2 2021
77.2	Engage with stakeholders on the next LEADER Programme and draft LEADER intervention.		Q2 2021

<b>Measure 78</b> <b>Deliver the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) to the end of 2022, and develop a new SICAP programme to commence in 2023, following a review and consultation with stakeholders.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
78.1	Continue delivery of SICAP In 2021, resulting in funding of €39 million being used to assist over 2,200 community groups and over 23,000 individuals.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 79</b> <b>Increase the number of places on the Rural Social Scheme, TÚS and Community Employment Scheme to support rural communities.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DSP		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
79.1	Identify the provincial allocation of the 3,000 additional places on TÚS and Community Employment Scheme announced as part of the July Jobs Stimulus.	Q3 2021
79.2	Continue to monitor the Rural Social Scheme to establish if the demand for places exceeds the number of places available.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 80</b> <b>Support the development of social innovation as a means of addressing pressing social challenges.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
80.1	Support innovative approaches to addressing social challenges through support for organisations such as Young Social Innovators and Rethink Ireland.	Ongoing
80.2	Contribute to the establishment of Ireland's first National Social Innovation Competency Centre.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 81</b>		
<b>Provide investment for multi-purpose spaces in the community (e.g. community centres, libraries, and sports clubs) for a variety of activities, including leisure, community, cultural and services provision.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
81.1	The 2021 Community Enhancement Programme will provide funding of €4.5 million small grants to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas.	Q2 2021
81.2	The Small Scale Capital Works programme will support refurbishments in public libraries and the continued rollout of the My Open Library service.	Q4 2021
81.3	The CLÁR 2021 programme will include supports for Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities and a new measure to support Community Gardens and Allotments.	Q4 2021
81.4	Support the development of sporting facilities through the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme. (DTCAGSM)	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 82</b>		
<b>Further enhance the Public Participation Network and Local Community Development Committee structures to ensure that local communities are fully involved in, and contribute to, decisions affecting their local areas.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
82.1	Scoping by Pobal of the training needs of LCDC members, with recommendations on the development of a training and support package for LCDC Chief Officers, LCDC members and Local Authority staff which may include an LCDC membership manual and relevant guidelines.	Q4 2021
82.2	Complete structural review of Public Participation Networks.	Q4 2021
82.3	Commence development of a communications campaign to raise public awareness of the functions and work of PPNs.	Q4 2021
82.4	Continue roll-out of national training programme for PPNs/Stakeholders so that all PPNs have participated in at least one cohort of training programme.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 83</b>		
<b>Work in consultation with local community and voluntary groups and with local decision-making structures to help welcome and integrate newcomers to rural towns and villages and to support cohesion more broadly.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DCEDIY</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
83.1	Comhairle na nÓg across the 31 Local Authorities are available for consultation on welcoming and integrating young newcomers to rural towns and villages and on supporting cohesion. Individual Comhairlí at local levels have developed specific actions on a voluntary basis in relation to welcoming migrants and other groups.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 84</b>		
<b>Implement Culture and Creative Strategies in each Local Authority area, including “Culture Days”, to showcase local cultural heritage.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DTCAGSM</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
84.1	The Culture and Creativity Strategies in all 31 Local Authorities are currently being funded and implemented to support wellbeing, social cohesion and economic development of the creative sector.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 85</b>		
<b>Empower local communities and enhance community health and wellbeing by supporting heritage, arts, cultural activities and other activities to tackle social issues such as cohesion, rural isolation and mental health.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DTCAGSM</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
85.1	In addition to the Culture and Creativity Strategies (Action 84.1), the Creative Ireland Programme will continue to provide support to local communities to tackle social issues, e.g. Creativity in Older Age Scheme to tackle social isolation amongst older people during COVID.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 86</b>			<b>Introduce a TidyTowns Special Award for the involvement of young people (aged 16-25 years) in TidyTowns projects</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD					
<b>2021 Actions</b>					<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
86.1	This award will be introduced for the 2021 SuperValu TidyTowns Competition.				Q4 2021

<b>Measure 88</b>			<b>Undertake research to inform the particular needs of women, girls, LGBTI+, Travellers, Roma, migrants and those of migrant origin living in rural areas.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DCEDIY					
<b>2021 Actions</b>					<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
88.1	Publication of LGBTI+ Youth in Ireland and across Europe: A two-phased Landscape and Research Gap Analysis in May 2021. Policy seminars, with stakeholders and policy-makers, will inform a LGBTI+ research needs analysis, based on the research gaps identified.				Q2 2021

## Enhancing Public Services in Rural Areas

<b>Measure 90</b> Update the Rural Housing Guidelines for planning authorities, to address rural housing in a broader rural development and settlement context.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DHLGH		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
90.1	Prepare updated Rural Housing Planning Guidelines that will continue to allow for the development of homes in rural areas while also highlighting the need to manage certain areas around cities and towns in order to avoid over-development of those areas.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 91a</b> Provide improved rural public transport services and pilot new transport initiatives for people of all ages and abilities living in rural areas, through: <b>a) Developing and implementing a Sustainable Rural Mobility Plan to ensure all settlements over a certain size in terms of population have a service connecting them to the national public transport system.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Transport, National Transport Authority		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
91a.1	In Q4 2020, the NTA commenced consultations on its “Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan”. This stakeholder engagement which commenced with Local and Regional Authorities is being followed by a wider stakeholder engagement during Q2/Q3 2021. A public consultation is planned to commence in Q3/Q4 2021.	Q4 2021
<b>Measure 91b</b> <b>b) Delivering expanded Local Link services and further integrating Local Link services with other existing public transport services through the roll out of the NTA Connecting Ireland Plan.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Transport, National Transport Authority		

2021 Actions		Timetable for delivery
91b.1	Announcement of additional services for Dingle Daingean Uí Chúis and Surrounding Areas.	Q2 2021
<b>Measure 91d</b> <b>d) Developing and trialling a grant-aided Community Transport Service Scheme through Local Link to support otherwise unsustainable community services.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Transport, National Transport Authority		
2021 Actions		Timetable for delivery
91d.1	Complete existing pilot scheme (extended due to COVID). A review will then take place in 2022.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 92</b> <b>Build on the work already undertaken to ensure that public transport services in rural and regional areas are accessible to persons with disabilities.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Transport, National Transport Authority		
2021 Actions		Timetable for delivery
92.1	The NTA has set a target of having wheelchair accessible bus stops (one stop in each direction) in 43 towns with a population over 5,000. This would mean 50% of main towns would have a wheelchair accessible bus stop (1 in each direction). Engagement with Local Authorities and Bus Éireann is ongoing.	Ongoing
92.2	Purchase of additional low floor buses, for Public Service Obligation regional commuter routes up to 50km, to enable wheelchair users to board with normal ramp access and have a dedicated wheelchair space.	Q4 2021
92.3	The NTA will continue to manage the upgrading of existing and older infrastructure and facilities, such as Victorian-era rail infrastructure.	Ongoing
92.4	Irish Rail is rolling out Customer Service Officers (CSOs) on all Inter-city routes which will eliminate the advance notice requirement on such services. COVID delayed the hiring of the full complement of 120 new CSOs but it will continue during 2021, in line with public health advice.	Ongoing

<b>Measure 93</b>		
<b>Work with An Post to identify the scope to channel additional services through the post office network.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DECC</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
93.1	Subgroup on offline service to report to Government on deliberations regarding one-stop-shop approach for Government services.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 94</b>		
<b>Explore the potential to develop a pilot scheme to support the use of rural pubs as community spaces and hubs for local services.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DRCD</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
94.1	Work to begin on the scoping and approval to begin operation of a pilot programme for the use of rural pubs as community spaces.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 95</b>		
<b>Undertake research on early learning and care, and school-age childcare needs of parents who work atypical hours or live in rural communities, and develop recommendations for future action.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DCEDIY</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
95.1	Commission research on the needs of parents who work atypical hours or live in rural communities.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 98</b> <b>Introduce a new Policing and Community Safety Bill to redefine the functions of An Garda Síochána to include community safety.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Justice		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
98.1	Publication of the General Scheme for the Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill.	Q2 2021

<b>Measure 99</b> <b>Roll out a Local Community Safety Partnership Pilot in a rural location.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Justice		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
99.1	Establish Local Community Safety Partnership Pilot in Waterford City and County as the intermediate population density pilot. Local Community Safety Partnership Pilot in Longford County as the low population density pilot.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 100</b> <b>Review and enhance the effectiveness and availability of community-based alert and property-marking schemes in partnership with rural stakeholders.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Justice		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
100.1	These reviews will take place on a phased basis under the aegis of the Rural Safety Forum. The first element – a review of options for a retail alert scheme – has commenced and will be completed in Q3.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 101</b> Provide greater clarity for Local Authorities and local communities, through a revised legislative framework, on how local CCTV schemes can be established while enhancing community safety and data protection safeguards.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Justice		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
101.1	Publication of the general scheme of amending legislation. There will also be a parallel review to address any remaining issues. Consultation with Local Authority interest via the LGMA has taken place and further discussions will be arranged as part of the additional review.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 102</b> Invest in high-quality walking and cycling infrastructure specifically targeted at towns and villages across the country.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Transport		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
102.1	Funding of €72.8m for 340 active travel projects in 19 local authorities was announced in March 2021. The funding will be allocated to the Local Authorities through the NTA.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 103</b> Ensure that the Local Improvement Scheme is funded into the future.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
103.1	Deliver €10.5 million of funding for upgrade and maintenance of non-public rural roads and laneways through the Local Improvement Scheme in 2021.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 104</b>		
<b>Adopt a whole-of-Government approach to the protection and promotion of the Irish language, in implementing the 20-year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030 and Action Plan, and enacting the Official Language Amendment Bill.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DTCAGSM		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
104.1	The second annual progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Irish Language will be published.	Q2 2021

<b>Measure 105</b>		
<b>Approve and implement an Irish language plan for each of the 26 Gaeltacht districts to strengthen Irish language usage by individuals, community, and businesses in these areas.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DTCAGSM		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
105.1	Approve the final six language plans for language planning areas.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 106</b>		
<b>Develop Gaeltacht Service Towns situated in or adjacent to Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas which will play a significant role in providing public services, recreational, social and commercial facilities for those areas.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DTCAGSM		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
106.1	Approve six language plans for Gaeltacht Service Towns.	Q4 2021

## Transitioning to a Climate Neutral Society

<b>Measure 107</b> Enact and implement the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill and set five-year carbon budgets to contribute to meeting Ireland's target of net zero emissions by 2050.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
107.1	Enact the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill.	Q3 2021
107.2	Prepare recommendation on carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings for Government approval.	Q3 2021
107.3	Adopt the first three five-year carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 108</b> Publish a new Climate Action Plan in 2021 and update on an annual basis.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
108.1	Finalise evaluation report from public consultation.	Q2 2021
108.2	Publication of the 2021 Climate Action Plan.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 109</b> <b>Develop new models of engagement with individuals, sectors, and regions on a structured dialogue basis so that the whole of society can contribute to the climate action process.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DECC</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
109.1	Hold a national Stakeholder Engagement Forum to provide feedback from annual Climate Action Plan consultation, and discuss and showcase local engagement opportunities which will lead to mobilisation.	Q3 2021
109.2	Conduct a national baseline study on Irish behaviours and attitudes around climate change awareness, engagement and activation of public.	Q4 2021
109.3	Establish an Interdepartmental Working Group to explore critical barriers and/or enablers that will support a new National Dialogue on Climate Action engagement model and annual Climate Action Plan consultations.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 110</b> <b>Enable community energy to play a role in reaching the target of generating at least 70% of electricity through renewables by 2030, through supports such as a Community Benefit fund and a community category within the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DECC</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
110.1	Publish Good Practice Principles Handbook for Community Benefit Funds.	Q3 2021
110.2	Establish national register of Community Benefit Funds in Renewable Energy Support Scheme.	Q3 2021
110.3	Rollout of trusted intermediary services to support the development of community electricity projects.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 111</b> Prioritise the development of microgeneration of renewable electricity, allowing people sell excess power back to the grid, through the establishment of a Microgeneration Support Scheme.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
111.1	Launch of Microgeneration Support Scheme.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 112</b> Expand the Sustainable Energy Communities Network from 500 to 1,500 by 2030, to support local communities to be directly involved in energy projects.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
112.1	Increase the number of Sustainable Energy Communities to 590 by end 2021 (i.e. an increase of 100 this year).	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 113</b> Launch further calls for projects to be supported from the Climate Action Fund.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
113.1	Launch further support from the Climate Action Fund through a community climate action programme.	Q3 2021

<p><b>Measure 114a</b> Continue to develop Ireland’s approach to a Just Transition away from fossil fuels, including by:</p> <p><b>a) Preparing a Territorial Just Transition Plan for Ireland for the EU Just Transition Fund.</b></p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC</p>		
<p><b>2021 Actions</b></p>		<p><b>Timetable for delivery</b></p>
114a.1	<p>Preparation of report to support the development of the Territorial Just Transition Plan by consultants appointed by the European Commission (DG REFORM). This includes engagement with relevant stakeholders e.g. Government Departments and Agencies, the Midlands Regional Transition Team, the Just Transition Commissioner, Local Authorities, Regional Assemblies, Bord na Móna and the ESB, and the project Steering Committee.</p>	<p>Q4 2021</p>
<p><b>Measure 114b</b> <b>b) Commissioning additional research on Just Transition to consider future priorities and spatial and sectoral impacts.</b></p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC</p>		
<p><b>2021 Actions</b></p>		<p><b>Timetable for delivery</b></p>
114b.1	<p>Review recommendations contained in the reports of the Just Transition Commissioner and preparation of a Just Transition chapter in the 2021 Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Measure 114c</b> <b>c) Supporting projects under the National Just Transition Fund.</b></p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC</p>		
<p><b>2021 Actions</b></p>		<p><b>Timetable for delivery</b></p>
114c.1	<p>Finalise funding agreements with all successful projects through the Fund and ongoing engagement with successful projects.</p>	<p>Q3 2021</p>

<b>Measure 115</b> Retrofit 500,000 homes and install 400,000 heat pumps across the country up to 2030, contributing to employment opportunities in rural areas.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
115.1	Develop and launch a new Community Activation Scheme.	Q3 2021
115.2	Publication of a National Retrofit Plan.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 116a</b> Bring investment and job opportunities to coastal communities by developing the offshore renewable energy sector, including through:  a) The finalisation of the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DHLGH		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
116a.1	Maritime Area Planning Bill to be approved by Government and enacted.	Q4 2021
<b>Measure 116b</b> b) The development of a new consenting regime for offshore energy.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
116b.1	Design of Maritime Area Consent processes and guidance documents. MAC applications for first batch of offshore renewable energy projects will be submitted for assessment.	Q4 2021
<b>Measure 116c</b> c) The development of an offshore transmission grid.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DECC		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
116c.1	Approval by Government of offshore grid policy framework.	Q2 2021

116c.2	Publication of offshore grid regulatory framework by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities.	Q4 2021
<b>Measure 116d d) Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme auctions.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DECC</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
116d.1	Hold public consultation on draft terms and conditions for first Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme auction, ORESS-1, followed by approval by Government of final Terms and Conditions.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 117a</b>		
<p><b>Rehabilitate peatlands to contribute to reduced carbon emissions, carbon sequestration and enhanced biodiversity, including through:</b></p> <p><b>a) Funding investment of €108 million to repurpose 80,000 acres of bog in the Midlands as part of a major peatlands restoration plan.</b></p>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DECC</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
117a.1	19 rehabilitation plans for peatlands from Bord na Móna to be approved by the Regulator (NPWS).	Q2 2021
117a.2	Rehabilitation works to commence on approved peatlands by Bord na Móna.	Q3 2021
117a.3	Complete six monthly report on progress.	Q4 2021
<b>Measure 117b b) The national raised bog designated sites restoration programme to restore in the region of 25,000 hectares of raised bog.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
117b.1	Funding in 2020 enabled the commencement of peatland restoration measures on almost 1,900 hectares of raised bog on up to nine raised bog designated sites in the midlands region. With the funding provided in 2021, it is proposed to restore up to a further 2,500 hectares of protected raised bog.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 118</b> <b>Develop a national policy on coastal erosion and flooding and maintain a multi-annual investment programme in flood relief measures to protect impacted communities.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> OPW, DHLGH		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
118.1	€89.9m allocated in 2021 to provide for Flood Relief Schemes to continue to progress as well as work on the review of flood maps to be updated and the Voluntary Homeowners Relocation Scheme to progress. The allocation also provides funding for the Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Scheme which provides 90% of the costs to Local Authorities, as a demand-led scheme, to address localised flooding problems within their areas.	Q4 2021
118.2	An additional €18 million is allocated in 2021 for the maintenance and repair of river channels and embankments.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 119</b> <b>Carry out a comprehensive review of Public Participation Networks and Local Economic and Community Plans, to ensure that they are fit for purpose for climate action.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
119.1	Guidelines for the implementation and monitoring of LECs will be issued in line with the recommendations in the LCDC Review. These will include full consideration of Climate Action.	Q2 2021
119.2	The review of PPN structures (Action 82.2) will ensure that PPNs provide communities with a voice regarding climate action policy.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 120</b> <b>Consider the needs of rural areas in the development of an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy which will seek to ensure that charging infrastructure stays ahead of demand.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Transport		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
120.1	Publish national infrastructure strategy for electric vehicles.	Q4 2021

## Supporting the Sustainability of Agriculture, the Marine and Forestry

<b>Measure 121</b> <b>Develop and Implement a new Agri-Food Strategy to 2030, building on the success of the previous strategies.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
121.1	Publication of the new Agri-Food Strategy, and the setting up of a High Level Implementation Committee to oversee delivery of the Strategy.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 123</b> <b>Support farm diversification, including through the provision of the Options programme managed by Teagasc.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
123.1	Deliver a series of Farm Business Options webinars covering a range of diversification and renewable/energy options.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 124</b> <b>Support research and development in areas such as agri-food, bio-based systems, smart agriculture and precision agriculture to promote and encourage innovation.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM, DETE		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
124.1	DAFM to commit new grant award funding on a number of institutional-led research projects in Technology Readiness Level range 2-6 covering all of these areas on foot of (a) DAFM National Call 2021, and (b) DAFM co-funding nationally with other funders such as the Environmental Protection Agency, and	Q4 2021

	internationally via Calls operated with other EU Member States and/or under the US-Irl R&D Partnership Programme.	
124.2	DAFM to undertake National Delegate and National Contact Point functions for Cluster 6 of the new EU Horizon Europe Framework Research Programme to promote Irish researcher participation in applications relevant to these areas in the 2021 HEU Research Call.	Ongoing
124.3	<p>The following Enterprise Ireland programmes will continue to support this measure:</p> <p>1) Commercialisation Fund Programme which funds the development of innovations at all stages of the commercial pipeline to the point where they can be commercialised as new products, services and/or companies</p> <p>2) Innovation Partnership Programme which encourages Irish-based companies to work with Irish research institutes resulting in mutually beneficial co-operation and interaction.</p> <p>3) In-Company RD&amp;I Fund which supports the development of new or improved products, services or processes which will add a competitive advantage to the company.</p> <p>Enterprise Ireland will report on projects approved in the aforementioned areas at the end of the 2021.</p>	Ongoing
124.4	Establishment of the Timber Sector Leadership Group to establish the needs and requirements of the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) infrastructure for the sector from 2020 to 2030. Completion of report to assist Enterprise Ireland and DAFM to develop a business case with industry for funding an Industry Led Sustainable Timber Sector Innovation Facility.	Q3 2021

<p><b>Measure 125</b> Explore the potential application of Living Labs in an Irish context, establishing innovation networks to identify and pilot tailored place-based initiatives for primary production, food and bio-based systems.</p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM</p>		
<p><b>2021 Actions</b></p>		<p><b>Timetable for delivery</b></p>
125.1	Explore opportunity under the Common Agricultural Policy Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems development.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 126 Implement Ag Climatise – A Roadmap towards Climate Neutrality for the agri-food sector.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DAFM</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
126.1	Ag Climatise consists of 29 actions across a number of different theme areas for implementation over the decade. The immediate priority is the establishment of implementation groups to deliver on priority actions.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 127 Pilot a results-based agri-environment scheme to reward farmers for adapting to more sustainable methods of farming with a view to the development of a new agri-environment scheme capable of delivering broad environmental and biodiversity benefits that will align financial supports with climate objectives.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DAFM</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
127.1	Launch of the Results Based Environment Agri Pilot Project (REAP).	Q2 2021

<b>Measure 128 Publish a successor forestry programme to deliver an ambitious afforestation plan, to achieve an afforestation target of 8,000 ha/year, with a particular focus on an increased farmer participation and habitat creation.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DAFM</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
128.1	Carry out SWOT and PESTLE analysis for new Forestry Strategy, including consultation process with relevant stakeholders.	Q3 2021
128.2	Implement the co-creation and engagement strategy and establish a shared vision for forestry.	Q4 2021

<p><b>Measure 129</b> Provide ongoing support for the development of the knowledge and skills base of the agriculture and forestry sectors by the Teagasc Advisory and Education Services.</p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM</p>		
<p><b>2021 Actions</b></p>		<p><b>Timetable for delivery</b></p>
129.1	<p>Teagasc Education Service:</p> <p>Teagasc will maximise intake into its Level 5 and 6 Green Cert programmes with a target enrolment of up to 2,500 in 2021. Teagasc will also deliver Level 5 and 6 forestry programmes, support collaborative arrangements with the higher education sector, and progress land sector apprenticeship opportunities.</p>	Q4 2021
129.2	<p>Teagasc Advisory Service:</p> <p>Teagasc will continue through its advisory service to provide a comprehensive advisory and support service to its clients across a range of areas, roll out initiatives such as Signpost Farms, discussion groups, and Options courses, and enhance its virtual services to farmers.</p>	Q4 2021

<p><b>Measure 130</b> Develop the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan for the period 2023-2027, which will address existing and emerging challenges including climate action, environmental protection, generational renewal, viable farm incomes, and sustain vibrant rural areas.</p>		
<p><b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM</p>		
<p><b>2021 Actions</b></p>		<p><b>Timetable for delivery</b></p>
130.1	<p>Draft CAP Strategic Plan and Draft Environmental Report to be issued for Public Consultation.</p>	Q3 2021
130.2	<p>Final CAP Strategic Plan and Environmental Report prepared for submission to the Commission by 1 January 2022.</p>	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 131 Support generational renewal, including young farmers and women in agriculture, through measures including the CAP, taxation measures and access to finance initiatives.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DAFM</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
131.1	Common Agricultural Policy development on generational renewal and gender equality is ongoing in line with the scheduled completion date for the CAP Strategic Plan. Existing policies to support young farmers, including through the National Reserve, the Young Farmer Scheme, TAMS II, Young Farmer Capital Investment Scheme and support for collaborative farming will continue as the CAP transitions to the new CAP in 2023. National initiatives such as the Succession Farm Partnership Scheme and education and advisory services also complement a suite of taxation and financial support measures to help young farmers.	Q4 2021
131.2	Development of agri-taxation measures in consultation with stakeholders for inclusion in Budget 2022 Submission.	Q3 2021
131.3	Access to Finance initiatives are progressing including oversight of existing schemes such as the Future Growth Loan Scheme. Work is ongoing to replace the Brexit Loan Scheme with a loan scheme under the European Guarantee Fund. The Brexit Impact Loan Scheme is scheduled for delivery in Q3 2021.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 132 Increase awareness and outreach across the farming community of programmes and initiatives to support the safety, health and wellbeing of farmers.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DAFM</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
132.1	Support the roll out of the On Feirm Ground programme, to train 800 farm advisors in relation to farmer health and wellbeing.	Q3 2021
132.2	Launch the Accelerated Capital Allowances Scheme for qualifying farm safety equipment to support farmers with disabilities.	Q2 2021
132.3	Assess Farm Health and Safety and Wellbeing European Innovation Partnership proposals and launch successful projects.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 133</b> <b>Conduct a review of the means test for Farm Assist to ensure farmers receive the appropriate level of support through this scheme.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DSP		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
133.1	Complete review of the means test disregards for the Farm Assist Scheme in line with commitment in the Programme for Government in time to feed into the 2022 Budgetary Process.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 134</b> <b>Enact legislation implementing revised Nursing Home Support Scheme (Fair Deal Scheme) provisions in respect of assets which are family-owned and operated farms and businesses.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> D/Health		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
134.1	The Nursing Homes Support Scheme (Amendment) Bill 2021 will be introduced to the Oireachtas in Q2 2021 with a view to enactment this year.	Q4 2021

## Supporting the Sustainability of our Islands and Coastal Communities

<b>Measure 135</b> Publish and implement a new cross-Departmental Policy for Island Development and associated action plans to ensure delivery of the policy, including in areas such as housing, health, energy, utilities, waste management, climate change, education, digital connectivity, employment, infrastructure and transport.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
135.1	Publication of draft policy and agreement of action plans with participating Government Departments.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 136</b> Progress vital infrastructure development for our island communities.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
136.1	Funding to be delivered to Local Authorities for the delivery of the minor capital works programme, with works completed by year end. These works comprise road improvements and marine works but also can include other small construction projects such as helipads, recycling facilities, slipway repairs, etc.	Q4 2021
136.2	Following approval of the Business Case for pier development at Inis Oírr, the Local Authority will develop tender documents for the project. The remaining projects are in an early stage of development. Other major capital works, such as piers at Inis Meáin and at Machaire Rabhartaigh, will also be advanced.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 137</b> Establish a forum for ongoing dialogue between Local Authorities, relevant policy Departments and island communities.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
137.1	Hold discussions with Local Authorities with a view to establishing inter-agency forum in each Local Authority. A similar format will be rolled out for the Donegal, Sligo, Mayo and Galway islands to support the new islands policy.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 139</b> Explore the potential for community-based enterprise hubs on islands not under the remit of Údarás na Gaeltachta.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
139.1	Development companies to explore the potential for community-based enterprise hubs as part of their programs to achieve their community support targets.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 140</b> Maximise the potential to utilise the islands as test-beds for innovative technologies (e.g. eHealth, micro-generation of renewable energy).		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
140.1	The potential for such projects will be discussed with relevant Departments, and driven as part of the development of the Islands Policy.	Q4 2021
140.2	The Small Scale Capital Works programme will explore the potential for installation of technology which facilitates public library collections and returns in island communities.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 142</b> <b>Publish Ireland’s first ever Marine Spatial Planning policy, setting out a clear vision for the future development of our marine planning system.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
142.1	The Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Bill is currently in development that will place the Marine Planning Policy Statement on a statutory footing.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 143</b> <b>Following completion of the Marine Spatial Planning policy, bring forward Ireland’s first National Marine Planning Framework which will introduce a planning system for managing the development of Ireland’s maritime area in the same way that the National Planning Framework fulfils this function on land.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
143.1	Put in place Ireland’s national marine plan, the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF).	Q2 2021

<b>Measure 144</b> <b>Establish a marine planning oversight delivery board, Project Ireland Marine 2040, to provide leadership and oversight to the implementation of the National Marine Planning Framework, and implement the long-term overarching strategy to manage Ireland’s seas for the benefit of all its people.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body: DHLGH</b>		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
144.1	This delivery board will be established by the end of 2021.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 145</b> Explore the potential for Coastal Partnership Groups to bring together the local coastal communities to address issues of concern, share best practice and resources, and facilitate communication between stakeholders.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DHLGH		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
145.1	Provision for sub-national marine spatial plans through a Designated Marine Area Plans (DMAPs) process is being put in place through the MAP Bill (Action 142.1). DMAP process will form the basis of a focus for Coastal Partnership Groups that will help development of sub-national marine plans. Expect potential Coastal Partnership Group members to begin being approached in before end of 2021.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 146</b> Continue to invest in coastal communities through the Fisheries Local Area Group (FLAG) scheme, providing support for investments by micro seafood enterprises and projects in the area of marine tourism and leisure and the wider marine sector.		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DAFM		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
146.1	Seven FLAGs to approve potential projects to the value of €1.6 million of European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in their areas.	Q4 2021
146.2	Calls for expression of interest in the community-led local development under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund 2021-2027 Operational Programme will be issued.	Q3 2021

## Implementation of the Policy

<b>Measure 147</b>		
Support rural communities to develop long-term cohesive Master Plans for their areas, to support an integrated place-based approach to rural development (aligned with Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, County Development Plans, Local Development Plans, and relevant national, regional and local policy objectives).		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
147.1	Funding of €2 million to be allocated to circa 45 towns for the development of Master Plans.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 148</b>		
Develop an effective rural proofing model to ensure the needs of rural communities are considered in the development of Government policies.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
148.1	Initiate a scoping exercise for the development of a rural-proofing mechanism.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 149</b>		
Support new research into rural development priorities, including in collaboration with Higher Education Institutions and other research funders and research organisations.		
Lead Delivery Body: DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
149.1	Provide support to the North Atlantic Forum to enable holding of event on Sustainable Livelihoods.	Q4 2021

<b>Measure 150</b> <b>Establish a Higher Education Institutions Network on rural development to ensure ongoing engagement with rural development experts over the lifetime of this policy.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
150.1	Establish a Higher Education Institutions Network on rural development to ensure ongoing engagement with rural development experts over the lifetime of this policy.	Q3 2021

<b>Measure 151</b> <b>Enhance the sharing of information and best practice on rural development policy on a North-South basis and identify areas for further cooperation.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
151.1	Establish North-South Rural Policy Forum consisting of representatives of DRCD and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland.	Q2 2021

<b>Measure 152</b> <b>Deepen engagement at international level on policy relating to rural development matters through increased participation, including at OECD and EU level.</b>		
<b>Lead Delivery Body:</b> DRCD		
<b>2021 Actions</b>		<b>Timetable for delivery</b>
152.1	Participate in OECD Rural Policy Working Party and relevant EU networks.	Ongoing