

# KILDARE

## LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN

### 2016 - 2021



## SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATEMENT

JULY 2015



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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AIRO</b>	All-Island Research Observatory (Maynooth University)
<b>CEDRA</b>	Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas
<b>EMRA</b>	Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly
<b>ESRI</b>	Economic and Social Research Institute
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment
<b>GDA</b>	Greater Dublin Area
<b>KCC</b>	Kildare County Council
<b>LCDC</b>	Local Community Development Committee
<b>LECP</b>	Local Economic and Community Plan
<b>LEO</b>	Local Enterprise Office
<b>MD's</b>	Municipal Districts
<b>NIRSA</b>	National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (Maynooth University)
<b>NEET</b>	Not in employment, education or training
<b>NESC</b>	National Economic & Social Council
<b>SEAI</b>	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
<b>SME</b>	Small and medium sized enterprise
<b>SPC</b>	Strategic Planning Committee

## INTRODUCTION

Following on from initial background work and organisational reviews, the statutory process for the Kildare LECP officially commenced in March 2015.

The first phase in the process of preparing the Kildare LECP 2015, the baseline research, is now complete, with the following research and reports being used to produce the 12 “High Level Goals” set out in this Socio-Economic Statement:

### 1. Baseline Research Report (AIRO, Maynooth University & KCC team)

Kildare Local Authorities engaged the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) at Maynooth University to collate and analyse sources of information to provide a detailed overview of the socio-economic characteristics of the county.

The outputs of this task will act as the starting point for the entire Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) process and provide a very detailed baseline from where the LECP can identify areas of concern and strengths within the county to inform the consultation process and to help formulate goals and objectives that will be progressed throughout the life time of the LECP.

The report and data sets centre around the 12 High Level Goals set out in this Socio-Economic Statement.

### 2. Policy Review Framework Plan (NIRSA, Maynooth University & KCC team)

Kildare County Council and the LECP team have engaged Andrew McClelland, NIRSA, University Maynooth to carry out a Policy Review that is intended to assist in the process of formulating the LECP for the county. The final report will also inform Phase 2 (Consultation) of the LECP plan making process, particularly in terms of stakeholder engagement.

The review complements the data analysis and baseline research undertaken by the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) by using the 12 High Level Goals as a framework and drawing out salient issues and trends relevant to Kildare from a range of key cross-cutting and sectoral policy documents in Ireland.

In addition to the high-level themes, the final section briefly addresses several significant cross-cutting issues and trends identified in the documents pertaining to policy and service implementation and governance. Certain relevant funding opportunities are also highlighted, as they may be critical to enabling implementation of various programmes, policies, plans and projects.

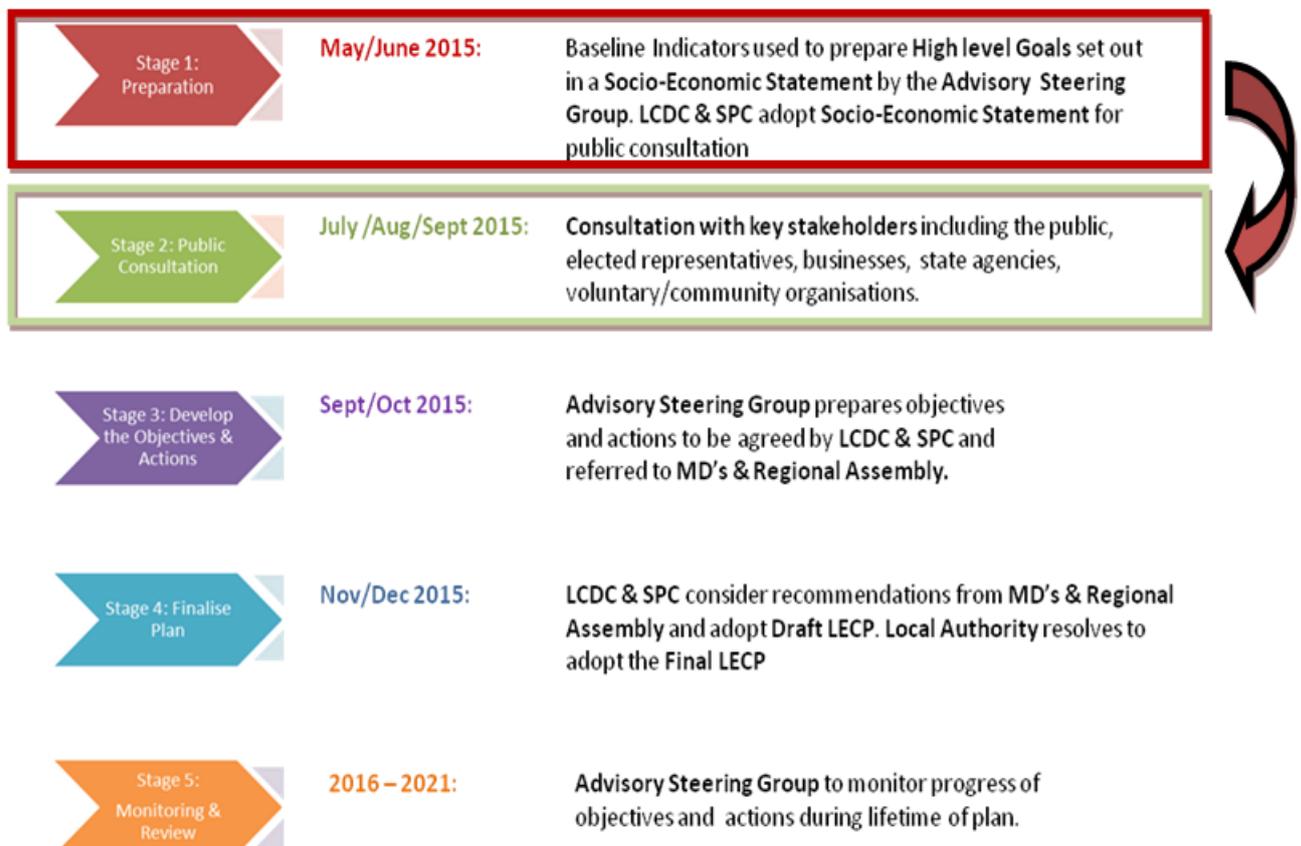
### 3. Consultation Framework Plan (KCC team)

A Consultation Framework Plan has been prepared to shape the extensive public and stakeholder consultation being undertaken as part of the preparation of the Kildare LECP 2015. This consultation is currently underway.

The baseline research forms the core of stage one of the process and as such has informed the structure of the overall plan. Following analysis of the data produced by AIRO, the KCC team have developed a set of major themes, with associated sub themes, that have been used to frame the policy review and inform the public consultation process (stage 2). The consultation phase will be used to generate input and feedback from the general public, stakeholders and working groups developing the LECP to fully inform the development of the subsequent Kildare LECP 2015.

A clear timeline is set out for the delivery of the Kildare LECP 2015 (figure 2), with Stage 2 now commencing with the publication of this Socio-Economic Statement.

Figure 1: *Timeframe for the Delivery of the Kildare LECP 2015*



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Kildare LECP is being developed in accordance with seven “Guiding Principles”. These principles were the focus of discussion at the inaugural meeting of the Advisory Steering Committee, the LCDC and the SPC:

1. To make a positive difference by creating an imaginative and ambitious plan, based on the evidenced needs of Kildare.
2. To “Build Society in Kildare” by creating sustainable, coherent, inclusive communities and a sustainable economic environment.
3. To have a collective and accessible vision that is owned by people across the county.
4. To implement, facilitate and encourage changes in the way agencies and structures work in Kildare, by linking initiatives, maximising return and by changing our expectation of how we work together.
5. To create a framework for a range of other statutory, collaborative and local development plans to align with.
6. To maximise the ability of Kildare to lever additional resources for an appropriate and fair level of services and economic opportunities
7. To provide a working plan with opportunities to reflect and to plan ahead
8. To create a plan in accordance with the principles of sustainable development

## GOVERNING THOUGHT

The Guiding Principles have now been captured in a “Governing Thought” which attempts to capture what the essence of the LECP project is all about:

*“Working in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders across civil society, striving to build stronger businesses and communities, based upon economic achievement, sustainable development and social inclusion.”*

## BASELINE RESEARCH - MAJOR TRENDS

The All- Ireland Research Observatory (AIRO), University Maynooth have been engaged to carry out a baseline research report to inform the Kildare LECP. There are a number of overriding trends that have emerged from the analysis of the baseline data. These trends cross-cut the majority of the data sets analysed for the county and are emphasised within each of the key themes and sub themes that form the High Level Goals:

### 1. A Diverse County

- Kildare is a unique county with both urban and rural characteristics. The spatial variation of its population makes Kildare neither distinctly urban nor distinctly rural.
- Urban Kildare has a high number and diverse range of towns, villages and rural settlements. Rural Kildare is a regionally important agricultural base, is spatially diverse with a dispersed household, population and settlement pattern.

### 2. A Contrasting County

- Kildare has a young and growing population contrasting with a weak service base.
- It is home to both internationally important businesses and is also a regionally important agricultural producer.
- The county is performing economically well as a whole but is economically and socially vulnerable at sub county level.
- Kildare is a commuting county, being both a significant importer of jobs and a net exporting employee base.
- The county is relatively well serviced by public transportation infrastructure but with unsustainable transportation patterns.

### 3. A Weak Service Base

- The picture of Kildare as a homogenous, wealthy and well serviced county with a wide range of economic opportunities and community services is a false one.
- Kildare is a rapidly growing county. With a total of 210,312 persons living in the county in 2011, Kildare has seen a 72% growth in population base since 1991.
- This growth has not been matched by investment in the community service base or notable elements of the infrastructure base.
- The County has exceptionally low levels of health services, Garda numbers and pre-school facilities.

### 4. An Inward/Outward Economic Base

- Kildare's economic base shows a very clear trend of inward investment in small local companies (less than 10 employees) and an outward trend of comparatively high dependence on a small number of FDI's and foreign owned companies.
- Kildare has a notably high number of active workers living in the county, with a comparatively high proportion going to work outside the county.
- Kildare also has high levels of in migration of workers from outside the county, particular within the FDI and foreign owned companies located here.

## HIGH LEVEL GOALS

There are twelve themes that form the High Level Goals (Figure 2). Three overriding principles, “Sustainability” “Equality” and “Quality of Life”, are integrated into each of the twelve themes.

The Socio-Economic Statement (Figure 3) details these High Level Goals in the context of County Kildare and also includes emerging objectives for each.

Figure 2: HIGH LEVEL GOALS



**FIGURE 3: HIGH LEVEL GOALS**

	<b>HIGH LEVEL GOALS</b>	<b>COUNTY KILDARE CONTEXT</b>	<b>DRAFT EMERGING OBJECTIVES</b>
<b>G1</b>	<p><b>Population</b></p> <p><i>Kildare will build on and respond to the opportunities and challenges presented by significant population growth, notably at younger levels, increasing ethnic diversity and an increasingly urbanised county.</i></p>	<p>Kildare has 5% of the States total population, and is larger than other familiar urban centres such as Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown, Cork City, Waterford and Limerick.</p> <p>The County has grown by more than 71% in the last 20 years and now has the third youngest population in the State. Kildare’s older population (+65) has grown by 30% since 2006.</p> <p>The county’s population density is currently five times higher in the northeast, centring on Celbridge, Leixlip, Maynooth and Kilcock.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To increase the opportunities, services and supports available to Kildare’s young population while future proofing for the needs of teenagers.</li> <li>▪ To identify and strengthen the key urban centres to create sustainable and high quality towns with clear identities.</li> <li>▪ To recognise and build on the strengths of rural Kildare by providing key services and infrastructure, while protecting its distinctive character.</li> </ul>
<b>G2</b>	<p><b>Urban/Rural Mix in the GDA</b></p> <p><i>Recognise the diversity and contrasting nature of the County’s environmental, social and economic profile and to identify strengthen and enhance the service levels, employment and educational opportunities within the GDA and in urban and</i></p>	<p>Kildare’s urban population (72%) lives on 5% of the total land area within the county, with the rural population (28%) living on the remaining 95%.</p> <p>Over 60% of Kildare’s population live in the ten largest towns (+5,000 pop), with no towns with a +25,000 pop.</p> <p>There are three times more rental households in urban Kildare than in rural Kildare. There</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To actively promote Kildare as a unique county with both an urban and rural identify neither of which is clearly defined</li> <li>▪ To understand and build on the diversity of Kildare’s urban centres which provide their own individual social and economic characteristics</li> <li>▪ To recognise and facilitate rural Kildare as an economic driver in its own right, particularly recognising the significance of agricultural</li> </ul>

	<i>rural Kildare.</i>	are three times more non-Irish nationals in urban Kildare than in rural Kildare. One in four residents in urban Kildare and one in five residents in rural Kildare work in 'wholesale, retail or trade'. One in ten rural Kildare residents work in 'agriculture, forestry or fishing'.	economic activity within the region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To support rural communities in Kildare to become stronger and more sustainable</li> </ul>
<b>G3</b>	<p><b>Economic &amp; Employment Profile</b></p> <p><i>Actively promote, support and enable economic activity, business development and employment in Kildare building on its' core strengths while responding to identified challenges.</i></p>	<p>In 2012 there were 7,774 active enterprises in Kildare. Less than 2% (14 enterprises) are large scale employers (+ 250 employees), with 92% (7,160 enterprises) being small scale (&lt; 10 employees). However, the 14 largest enterprises employ 27% of total workforce in Kildare, with the smallest firms employing only 31%.</p> <p>In 2011, Kildare had the second highest rate of foreign owned companies in the State. Kildare's labour force participation rate in 2011 was 66%, the third highest rate in the State, with the highest proportion employed in the Wholesale, Retail, Transportation, and Food Service sectors (25%)</p> <p>In May 2015, the Live Register recorded 15,126 unemployed persons in Kildare, with 14% under 25 years of age. Less than 4% of population aged 15 and over in Kildare are unable to work due to illness or disability, being the sixth lowest in the state.</p>	<p>economic activity within the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To support "Brand Kildare" and ensure it achieves "cut through" in terms of national and international recognition, and so attract business, jobs, and revenues into the county, strengthening its potential as a national employment hub in a sustainable manner.</li> <li>▪ To work actively with national level agencies and industry partners to ensure that Kildare is a priority area of focus for inward investment and employment creation.</li> <li>▪ To provide the infrastructural development and physical planning services necessary to support economic activity, business development, and employment in Kildare. To do so in consultation with business stakeholders, and in a manner that is timely and consistent with stakeholder needs</li> <li>▪ To support the further development of indigenous firms in key sectors (construction, equine, tourism, retail, and leisure) and introduce a Key Account Management (KAM) structure to facilitate information exchange between these firms and KCC.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To develop a Microenterprise Support Framework (MSF) programme to work with and support the 7,000 micro-enterprises active in Kildare. To provide support in skills development, access to specialist advice, access to working capital, and support in product quality standards and certification.</li>   <li>▪ To recognise and support the role that the rural economy plays in the economic development of the county.</li>   <li>▪ To work with knowledge organisations in Kildare (businesses and centres of learning) to understand and harness the next wave of knowledge-intensive product/service development, and associated job growth. To develop a strategy to integrate existing strengths in this area, and to position Kildare at the front of next generation activity.</li>   <li>▪ To create a business environment with support networks that utilise the counties strategic location and strong economic, social and infrastructural base.</li>   <li>▪ To future proof the Kildare as an employment hub, by recognising and engaging with the new business in the fringe economy.</li>   <li>▪ To create a high quality living environment and a clear sense of place that encourages a high quality and diverse employment and employee base</li> </ul>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To actively engage in and facilitate the development of Kildare's tourism industry based on its unique heritage, culture and natural landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>G4</b>	<p><b>Housing</b></p> <p><i>Clearly identify and plan responses related to a range of housing issues experienced in Kildare to strengthen the economic and community development of the county.</i></p>	<p>Over a third of the current housing stock in Kildare was built between 2001-2011, the majority being conventional five room houses. Kildare is currently the third most expensive county in the State to buy a house and has the third highest private rental cost. The county experienced the highest rate of rent increase in the state between 2014-2015.</p> <p>Housing tenure is dominated by owner occupiers (74%), with the third highest rate of owner occupiers with a mortgage in the State. Kildare has relatively low levels of people living in social housing but high numbers of people on the social housing list (6,585 applicants representing 16,506 people).</p> <p>The numbers on the social housing waiting list increased 20% (1,130) from 2013-2015. Only Dublin and Cork have higher numbers of people in receipt of rent supplement. Over 67% of the 4,135 people from Kildare in receipt of rent supplement are long term recipients.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To proactively facilitate, deliver and encourage an affordable and sustainable housing market in the county</li> <li>▪ To clearly identify and plan responses to issues experienced by home owners struggling to repay mortgages</li> <li>▪ To create sustainable communities by facilitating and encouraging a greater housing mix, to house a wider range of family types and sizes.</li> <li>▪ To respond to the social housing shortage through a comprehensive social housing strategy</li> <li>▪ To manage and encourage an increase in social housing in appropriate locations and in a manner that enhances the development of new communities.</li> <li>▪ To develop our systems and responses to prevent long term homelessness, particularly amongst young people or families with children</li> <li>▪ To plan a diverse range of housing types, based on housing needs which is linked to the</li> </ul>

			<p>economic and community development of the county</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To increase supported accommodation provision for women experiencing domestic violence and transitional housing to respond to specific needs.</li> </ul>
<b>G5</b>	<p><b>Education</b></p> <p><i>Actively plan, facilitate and encourage the development of opportunities for participation in continuous education at all life cycle stages.</i></p>	<p>Kildare has a relatively well educated population, with 38% having a third level degree or higher, the fifth highest rate in the State. Rates are highest in the main urban centres of Maynooth (Maynooth University), Naas, Newbridge and Celbridge with much lower rates in the west and south-west of the county.</p> <p>Most Kildare students study in Dublin (54%), followed by Kildare/Maynooth (22%) and Carlow (10%). The 'Social Sciences, Business and Law' category is the main field of study of Kildare residents (15%), with 'Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction' (11%) also relatively high.</p> <p>There are 105 Primary schools in Kildare (28,344 students), primarily of a Catholic ethos (89) with the remainder being Church of Ireland (7) and Multidenominational (9). Kildare has a high average class size, the ninth highest in the State, with 25% of primary-school students in class sizes of &gt;30 students.</p> <p>DEIS designated schools provide additional learning supports for children at risk of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To support the work of the Children and Young Persons Services Committee who are working to respond to co-ordinate responses to early school leaving, childcare, absenteeism</li> <li>▪ To build on collaborative work to identify and plan for demands on school places</li> <li>▪ To work with key stakeholders to highlight the gaps in additional services experienced by schools in Kildare, particularly those in the North of the county</li> <li>▪ To work with Maynooth University to increase the opportunities available to those returning to third level education To facilitate and actively encourage the development of Maynooth University as a leading centre for international, national and local "lifelong learning and development".</li> <li>▪ To develop continuous networks and working relationships with Maynooth University and other educational centres of importance to the county.</li> </ul>

		educational disadvantage. Kildare has 10 DEIS post primary designated schools, the seventh lowest in the State.	
<b>G6</b>	<p><b>A Commuting County</b></p> <p><i>Actively plan, facilitate and encourage more sustainable transport patterns, from a local to a national perspective, both within and through the county.</i></p>	<p>Almost 40% of the total workforce living in Kildare work outside the county, mostly in Dublin (73% of all commuters). The county is also a significant employment destination, with 17% of its total jobs undertaken by inbound commuters.</p> <p>Kildare has the third highest level of commuting times in the state, with 15% of all workers having a daily return commute of &gt;2 hrs and 47% having a daily return commute of &gt;1 hr.</p> <p>The nature of this commuting is increasingly unsustainable with 66% of Kildare residents using private transport and only 16% walking or cycling to work, school or college.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To develop a planning, land use and transportation strategies for the county that seek to increase the numbers living and working in their communities.</li> <li>▪ Reflecting Kildare’s role as an access point to Dublin, to facilitate and provide for the highest standards of national transportation links which also benefit local communities and wider strategic national linkages.</li> <li>▪ To provide the infrastructural development and physical planning services necessary to support economic activity and employment and build and strengthen sustainable communities in Kildare.</li> <li>▪ To provide, facilitate and actively encourage the development of sustainable transportation links that sustain and enhance rural communities and towns across Kildare.</li> <li>▪ To provides, facilitate and actively encourage the further development and use of Green Modes of transport (cycle/walk) throughout the county.</li> </ul>
<b>G7</b>	<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	In 2011, the population of Kildare was relatively healthy with over 90% of every	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To work with stakeholders to increase current, and plan for additional health services across the county</li> </ul>

	<p><i>Strengthen the capacity of Kildare to respond to current and future health needs and to provide opportunities for healthy communities across the county</i></p>	<p>Census respondent stating that their general health was either 'Good' or 'Very Good'. There are 24,369 of people in Kildare with a disability, being the 7th highest number in the state and the third lowest relative to population size.</p> <p>There are 70 GP Surgeries in Kildare, a rate of 0.47 GP surgeries for 1,000 of population. This is marginally higher than the State (0.41), with significant variations within the county, the highest rate in Naas (1.74) and the lowest in Kilcock (0.18). There are 39 Dental Practices in Kildare, a rate of 0.19 surgeries for 1,000 of population, with the highest rate in Naas and Kilcullen (0.58) and the lowest in Athy (0.1). There are 23 Nursing Homes in Kildare, equal to 1.4 facilities per 1,000 of the population aged 65 or over.</p> <p>In 2013, there were 23 deaths by suicide in Kildare and 397 residents of the county presented themselves to hospitals as a result of self harm. Over 34% of the Kildare/Wicklow (combined) population have a medical card, the second lowest figure in the state. There were almost 500 people from the Kildare/West Wicklow region on methadone treatment programmes in 2014. There is currently no methadone maintenance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To increase mental health supports and services in Kildare</li> <li>▪ To support South West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force to implement their recently published strategic plan</li> <li>▪ To work with key stakeholders to ensure that communities are equipped with the infrastructure facilities and training to promote and support healthy communities across Kildare.</li> </ul>
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		treatment centre in Kildare.	
<b>G8</b>	<p><b>Safe Communities</b></p> <p><i>Facilitate and support state agencies, communities and organisations to make Kildare a safer place to live and run businesses</i></p>	<p>There are 15 Garda stations in full time operation in Kildare, the second lowest rate of Garda Stations (per 10,000 of the population) nationally. Kildare also has the lowest rate of Gardai in the country (15.01 Gardai per 10,000 people) with no Community Gardai.</p> <p>There were 8,117 recorded crimes in Kildare between Q3, 2013 and Q2, 2014. This crime rate is in line the national average, being the 9th highest rate of recorded crime of the 21 Garda Divisions nationally.</p> <p>There were ten road fatalities per year from 2011-2013, being higher than the state average. Injuries caused by traffic collisions are low in Kildare, being the second lowest annual rate in the state from 2011-2013.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To support the Joint Policing Committee in their work</li> <li>▪ To work with key stakeholders to increase the number of Gardai allocated to Kildare</li> <li>▪ To support initiatives that are collaborative initiatives between An Garda Siochana and local communities to promote and support safer communities</li> </ul>
<b>G9</b>	<p><b>Children and Young People</b></p> <p><i>Strengthen the growth and development of children and young people across the county particularly those that are most vulnerable</i></p>	<p>Over 37% of Kildare total population (77,832) are aged '0-24' year. This is the highest rate in the State and is also considerably higher than the average for the Eastern &amp; Midlands Region. The county's birth rate is the second highest nationally.</p> <p>The majority of children in Kildare grow up in two parent households, with the county also home to 9,264 lone parent families with children under 15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To support the Children and Young Persons Services Committee in their work to co-ordinate services for children and young people. Their recent plan focuses on implementing actions in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Domestic Violence</li> <li>- Homelessness</li> <li>- Disability</li> <li>- Substance Misuse</li> <li>- Family Support</li> <li>- Mental Health</li> <li>- Early School Leaving</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<p>years.</p> <p>The relatively high rates of children currently in the 0-12 age cohort in Kildare, points to increasing numbers of teenagers living in the county in the near future. Investment by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in Kildare 2011 was the third lowest per capita in the State, at €13.55 per young person.</p> <p>There are currently over 2,000 young people 18-24 on the live register in the county, with the highest levels in Athy Social Welfare Office.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poverty and Unemployment</li> <li>- Youth Facilities and Activities</li> <li>- Direct Provision</li> <li>- Youth Participation</li> </ul>
<b>G10</b>	<p><b>Community, Recreation, Arts &amp; Culture</b></p> <p><i>Stimulate, support and activate a diverse range of community, recreation, arts and cultural experiences</i></p>	<p>There is a wide range of publicly accessible community, sports and arts facilities across Kildare, with nearly two-thirds of these facilities within the urban areas of the county.</p> <p>There is a higher level of facilities in rural areas (per head of population), being primarily driven by the higher number of rural based sports clubs and facilities (GAA, etc).</p> <p>Kildare has a wide range of library and arts facilities spread around the county, with 14 libraries, 2 cinema's, 11 galleries, 10 theatres, and 6 museums.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To support the work of Kildare Sports Partnership who work collaboratively to promote participation in sports and physical activity</li> <li>▪ To support the development of collaborative approaches to community development identifying and implementing agreed social inclusion, rural development, town development and targeted supports for local communities across Kildare</li> <li>▪ To support the implementation of the Kildare Library Services Plan 2015-2019</li> <li>▪ To capitalise on Kildare's strength as a home to national and international festivals and sporting events by promoting, encouraging and facilitating further development of the social economy and</li> </ul>

			associated spin offs in a sustainable manner.
<b>G11</b>	<p><b>Environmental Quality</b></p> <p><i>Enhance and protect Kildare's natural environment through active environmental management of our biodiversity and natural heritage and to ensure that steps are taken to address economic threats from climate change.</i></p>	<p>The 33 water bodies in Kildare (recognised by the EPA) enjoy a relatively good status, with 31 classified as 'Good' and 2 classified as 'Poor'. Over 84% of Kildare households are connected to the public water system and 73% connected to public sewerage system. All sources of recognised drinking water in the county are currently considered of good quality and safe to drink. Over 80% of settlements in Kildare currently have sufficient capacity in their waste water treatment systems. Kildare has the fourth lowest number of civic amenity centres/bring banks in the country, with each resident creating 320 kg's of collected waste per year. Nearly 78% of Kildare households are heated with oil or gas, with the fourth lowest level of renewable wind energy in the State. Over 54% of homes with BER certificates in the county have a high energy rating (a 'C-rating' or better).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promote and implement resource efficiencies and encourage environmental responsibility within the county.</li> <li>▪ Support and capitalise on the employment and enterprise potential of green economy.</li> <li>▪ Identify, protect and enhance Kildare's biodiversity for the benefit of the county's environmental, social and economic well being.</li> <li>▪ To actively engage and promote the use of an Energy Audit of Kildare as the driver for change to a more sustainable economy.</li> <li>▪ To actively engage in and facilitate the development of a broadband and fibre network for the county that meets or exceeds acceptable standards.</li> </ul>
<b>G12</b>	<p><b>A Sustainable County</b></p> <p><i>Actively plan, promote and facilitate the sustainable development of Kildare through growth and employment in a local green economy, promote energy efficiency, sustainable</i></p>	<p>The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) sets out the current national trends of energy demand and usage.</p> <p>Oil dominates as a fuel representing 45% of the total energy demand. Transport continues to be the largest of the end use sectors, accounting for 39% of total final energy consumption (TFC) in 2012.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Initial actions are being considered and will be scoped out at stage two (public consultation) of the LECP plan making process.</li> </ul>

	<p><i>renewable energy the circular economy by maximising resources and minimising waste.</i></p>	<p>Fossil fuels accounted for 91% of all energy used in Ireland in 2013. Demand for fossil fuels fell by 3% in 2013 and has fallen 20% since 2005. Oil continues to be the dominant energy source, increasing from a share of 47% in 1990 to a peak of 60% in 1999, but falling back to 47% in 2013. Natural gas use fell back to 29%. Coal use fell back to 9.9% of the total and Peat use fell to 5.4%.</p> <p>The overall share of renewables in primary energy stood at 6.8% in 2013 and increase of 7% on the previous year. Wind energy increased by 13.2%, biomass by 8.3% and other renewables by 5.9%. Hydro output was the lowest it had been in the last 36 year, due to the low level of rainfall in that year. Energy from non-renewable wastes increased by 32%.</p>	
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## WHAT NEXT?

### Next Steps

**Phase 1 (Baseline Research)** of the Kildare LECP 2015 plan making process is now completed. This has involved completion of the Baseline research report, the Policy Review Framework Plan and the Socio-Economic Statement in agreement with the Advisory Steering Group, the LCDC and the Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC.

**Phase 2 (Consultation)** will commence in July 2015, involving six weeks of public consultation, both with the general public and key stakeholders, as set out in the consultation framework plan.

**Phase 3 (Develop the Objectives and Actions)** will commence in September 2015 and will involve workshops with the Advisory Steering Group, LCDC and SPC and presentations to the MD's and Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly, in order to help shape the drafting of the LECP.

**Phase 4 (Finalise Plan)** will commence in November 2015 and involves preparing reports to update the LCDC and SPC to allow them to consider recommendations from the MD's and Regional Assembly in order to finalise the adoption of the Draft LECP. The Local Authority will then resolve to adopt the final LECP in November/December 2015.

**Phase 5 (Monitoring & Review)** will commence in January 2016 and will involve the Advisory Steering Group monitoring the progress on the actions contained in the Kildare LECP 2015 over its 6 year life span.