



KILKENNY
LEADER
PARTNERSHIP



KILKENNY LEADER PARTNERSHIP

LEADER: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2023 - 2027

Rural Development Programme

Introduction

Kilkenny LEADER Partnership (KLP) is the Local Action Group delivering the European Union's flagship programme for rural development: LEADER.

KLP continues to focus on retaining the bottom up and innovative projects we have always championed. Consultations on the design and focus of the new Local Development Strategy took place around the county earlier in the year, with community groups, small businesses, local partners and company stakeholders. These meetings garnered valuable information that reflects the needs and priorities of the local area.

The consultations empowered communities and stakeholders to shape the LEADER development process. It also, contributed to finding new and creative solutions to local challenges and assisted with the development of the new LEADER programme strategy.

As a result of the consultations and the information gathered, KLP has structured the themes and strategies for the new LEADER programme .

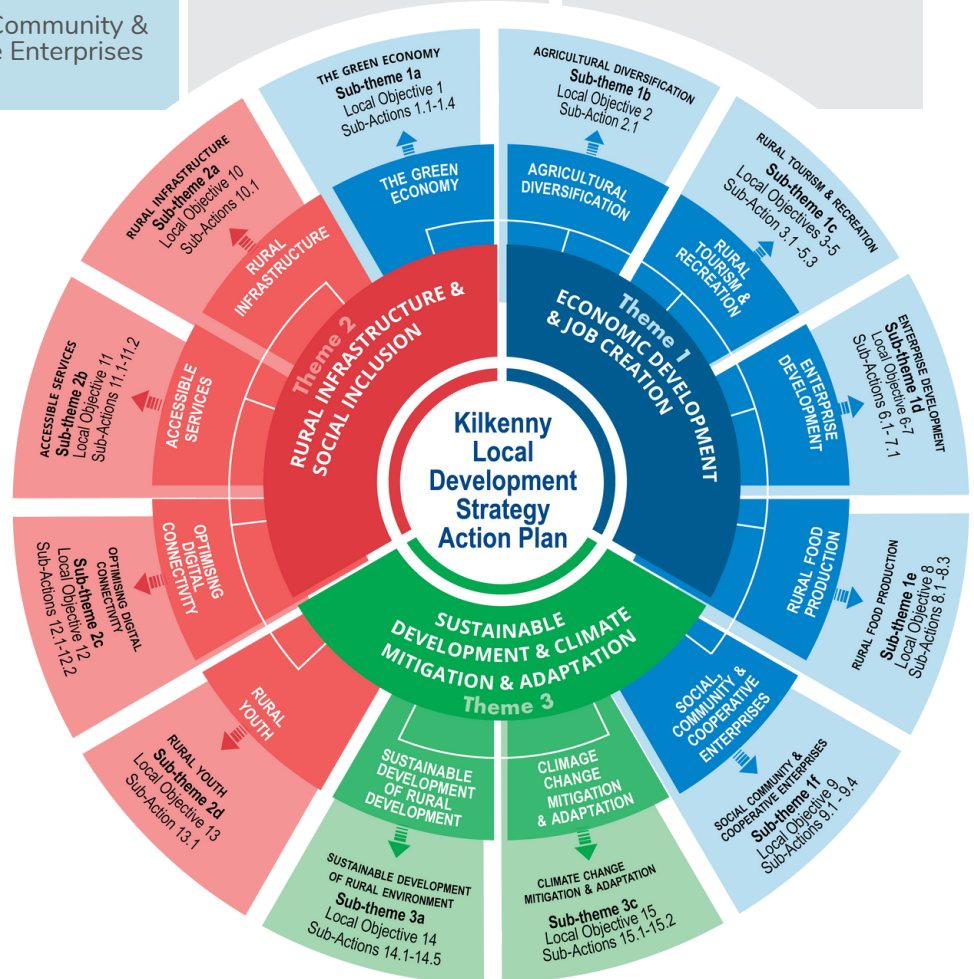
The 2023– 2027 LEADER Programme has a significantly reduced budget of €180 million for the country. County Kilkenny has been allocated €6.1 million in total from this national allocation. The Local Development Strategy has been assigned a provisional budget for the upcoming five-year period.



Theme and Strategies Overview

Themes	Economic Development and Job Creation	Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion	Sustainable Development and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
Sub themes	(1a) The Green Economy	(2a) Rural Infrastructure	(3a) Sustainable Development of Rural Environment
	(1b) Agricultural Diversification	(2b) Accessible Services	(3c) Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
	(1c) Rural Tourism and Recreation	(2c) Optimising Digital Connectivity	
	(1d) Enterprise Development	(2d) Rural Youth	
	(1e) Rural Food Production		
	(1f) Social, Community & Cooperative Enterprises		

Outlines the Themes and Sub-themes of the new LEADER Programme 2023- 2027.



THEME 1

Economic Development and Job Creation



Sub-theme (1 a): The Green Economy

Local Objective 1: Building community capacity to develop and sustain a local circular economy and support initiatives towards community benefit from renewable energy.

STRATEGIC ACTION 1.1

Renewable Energy Initiatives: Support the development of sustainable and renewable energy initiatives in County Kilkenny

STRATEGIC ACTION 1.2

Energy Town Expansion: The expansion and network support of the Kilkenny Energy Town model.

STRATEGIC ACTION 1.3

Circular Economy Cooperation: Cooperating with Irish partners LAGs on the development of Circular Economy initiatives.

STRATEGIC ACTION 1.4

Enterprise Environmental Initiatives: Support rural enterprises to adopt new technologies or engage in environmental initiatives.

THEME 1 continued

Sub-theme (1 b) Agricultural Diversification

Local Objective 2: Creation of more economically and socially sustainable value chains for the sale of farm products, by encouraging 'coopetition' between stakeholders

STRATEGIC ACTION 2.1

Wool Value Chain Development: Cooperating with other LDCs in localising 'high-quality wool' sheep breeds, and the wool-supply and woven products value chain for craft textiles.

Sub-theme (1 c): Rural Tourism and Recreation

Local Objective 3: Optimise the tourism and recreation opportunities that County Kilkenny's landscape assets offer to visitors and residents.

STRATEGIC ACTION 3.1

Walking Route Development: Development of off-road walking trails, close to towns and villages.

STRATEGIC ACTION 3.2

Greenway Linkage: Expand and develop linkages to greenways to increase the reach and connectivity of Kilkenny as a tourism offering.

STRATEGIC ACTION 3.3

Outdoor & Adventure Amenities: Development of outdoor and adventure recreational amenities.

STRATEGIC ACTION 3.4

Barrow- Blackstairs Development: Cooperation project to develop the Barrow Valley & Blackstairs tourism as an integrated tourism region.

STRATEGIC ACTION 3.5

Town Boating Amenities & Culture: Developing recreational and boating amenities on key towns and rivers, including cultural events.

STRATEGIC ACTION 3.6

Open Water Swimming Amenities: Develop the potential of dedicated urban-based, open-water swimming amenities at appropriate sites in County Kilkenny.

Local Objective 4: Expanding visitor accommodation capacity through a wider range of innovative and complementary offerings to the range of accommodation in rural Kilkenny.

STRATEGIC ACTION 4.1

Dispersed Hotels: Develop the concept of 'Dispersed Hotels' in rural regions of County Kilkenny where multi-site accommodation offerings are integrated under one 'Umbrella Brand'.

STRATEGIC ACTION 4.2

Hostel & Campervan: Support the development of quality accommodation focusing on hostel and campervan facilities aimed at tourists and other visitors in selected rural areas of Kilkenny.

Local Objective 5: Realising the social and economic potential of Kilkenny's unique cultural heritage and hidden histories.

STRATEGIC ACTION 5.1

Local History Archive: Explore the capacity to develop a Kilkenny Local History Archive to collect, conserve and share historical documents, maps and artefacts unique to Kilkenny.

STRATEGIC ACTION 5.2

Heritage & Tourism: Promote the sensitive utilisation of selected heritage sites as a driver of tourism in Ireland's Ancient East.

STRATEGIC ACTION 5.3

Recording Local History: Support communities to sustainably record and celebrate their local history and shared experiences.

THEME 1 continued

Sub-theme (1 d): Enterprise Development

Local Objective 6: Support the potential to achieve economies of scale and scope through the development of regional clusters of expertise in specialities based in Kilkenny and the South-East Region.

STRATEGIC ACTION 6.1

Support Local Enterprise Specialities: Development of a South-East enterprise cluster of expertise and manufacturing in the cement and engineering specialities of Kilkenny and the South-East Region.

Local Objective 7: Harnessing Kilkenny's international accreditation as a world craft council 'Craft City & Region' to support enterprise development and tourism potential in the indigenous crafts and wider creative sectors.

STRATEGIC ACTION 7.1

Innovative Enterprise Support: Adding value to new or innovative enterprises with strategic potential to create significant employment.

Sub-theme (1 e): Rural Food Production

Local Objective 8: Expanding the range and capacity of local food enterprises in Kilkenny.

STRATEGIC ACTION 8.1

Kilkenny Food Strategy: Progressing Kilkenny Food Strategy 2020-2025 through the development and/or expansion of local food enterprises

STRATEGIC ACTION 8.2

Food Hub: Developing a regional food hub for research, incubation, development, training and cooperation.

STRATEGIC ACTION 8.3

Online Trading System: Cooperation on developing an online food verification & trading system with other regional and likeminded LDC partners to grow the market for local food produce.

Sub-theme (1 f): Social, Community & Cooperative Enterprises

Local Objective 9: Developing the capacity of local communities to plan for their future in a sustainable and 'Smart' mannerBuilding the sustainable capacity of local communities to plan for their future in a 'Smart' manner.

STRATEGIC ACTION 9.1

Smart Village Cooperation Project - The Next Stage: 'Smarter & Stronger Together'.

STRATEGIC ACTION 9.2

Town Ecologies: Expanding and embedding coherent, community-led, participatory planning (such as KLP's 'Town Ecologies' model) with formal planning processes.

STRATEGIC ACTION 9.3

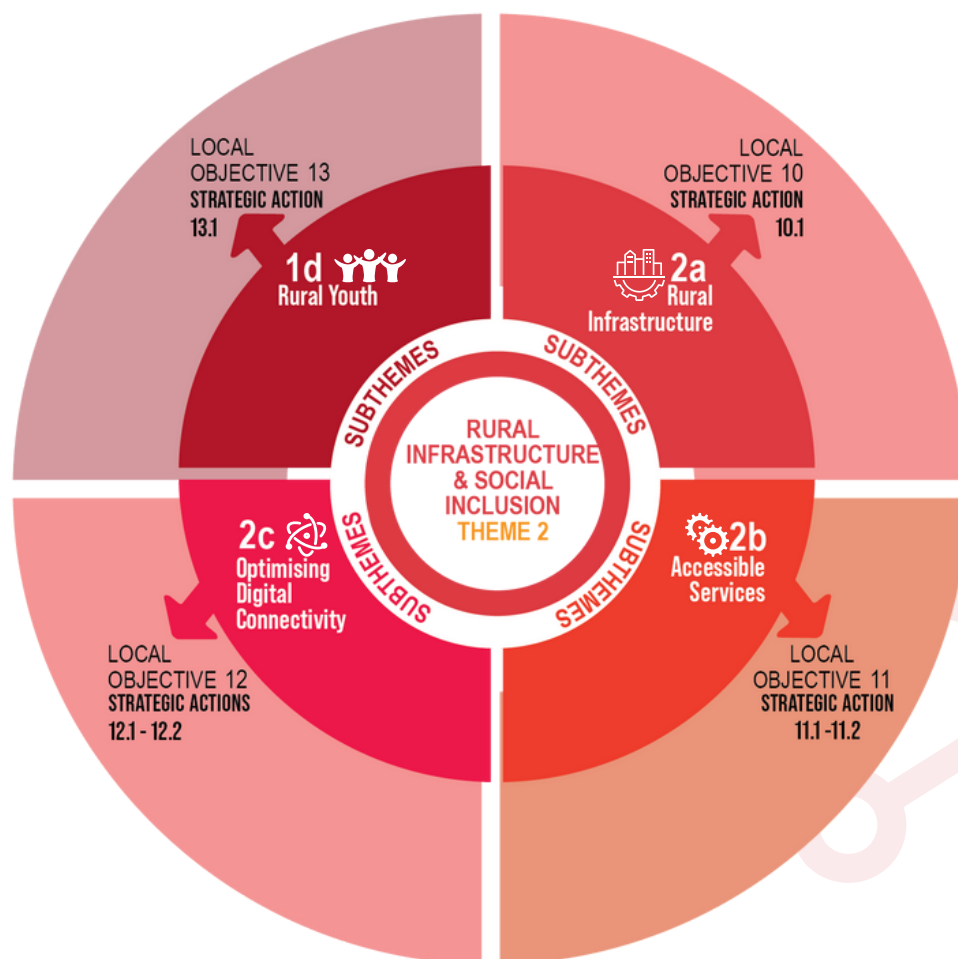
Peer Mentoring Training: Sharing successful practices in community development through the 'Community Champion' Peer Mentoring and Training Programme.

STRATEGIC ACTION 9.4

Social Enterprises: Support the development of community and social enterprises that respond to the needs and interests of their communities.

THEME 2

Rural Infrastructure & Social Inclusion



Sub-theme (2 a): Rural Infrastructure

Local Objective 10: Optimise opportunities for development in peripheral regions of the county by cooperation and partnership with neighbouring LDCs and other stakeholders.

STRATEGIC ACTION 10.1

'A Bigger Splash': maximising socio-economic spill-over in North-West Kilkenny from the 'Just Transition' in the Midlands.

Sub-theme (2 b): Accessible Services

Local Objective 11: Supporting the development of an inclusive mobility strategy for rural Kilkenny, including linkage to regional and national services, and helping communities to optimise active travel options.

STRATEGIC ACTION 11.1

Public Transport Integration: Integration of public transport systems in Kilkenny to enhance connectivity and accessibility.

STRATEGIC ACTION 11.2

Active Travel: Support the development of community-led local travel Initiatives based on the principles of the 'Active Travel' principles.

THEME 2 continued

Sub-theme (2 c): Optimising Digital Connectivity

Local Objective 12: Optimising the digital connectivity of Kilkenny's rural communities, visitors and enterprises, and enhancing heritage site.

STRATEGIC ACTION 12.1

Community Digital Services: Sustaining rural populations and enterprise development through community-owned and future-proofed digital services.

STRATEGIC ACTION 12.2

Digital for Heritage Interpretation: The expansion of heritage site interpretation using digital tools.

Sub-theme (2 d): Rural Youth

Local Objective 13: Youth Initiatives: Sustaining rural populations through supporting programmes and initiatives for rural young people.

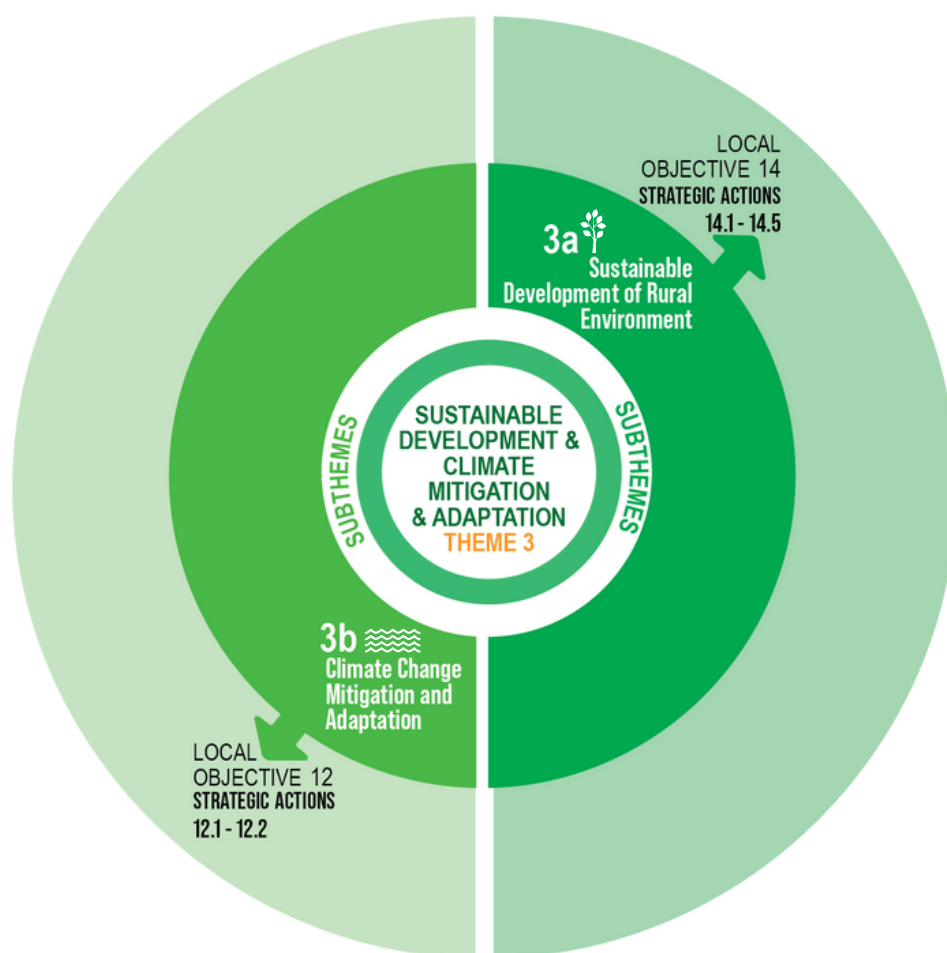
STRATEGIC ACTION 13.1

Youth for Climate Action: Supporting rural young people to engage with community development with a focus on a 'care for nature' and climate action.



THEME 3

Sustainable Development and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation



Sub-theme (3 a): Sustainable Development of Rural Environment

Building informed practice among communities in the conservation and celebration of natural and cultural heritage.

STRATEGIC ACTION 14.1

'Green Miles': Optimising the habitat and biodiversity value of Kilkenny's hedgerows and townland boundaries.

STRATEGIC ACTION 14.2

Citizens Science Corps: Training and development of a Citizen Science Corps to support environmental and climate action goals.

STRATEGIC ACTION 14.3

Three Sisters River Trust: Developing an umbrella River Catchment Trust for shared interests across the 'Three Sisters' of the Barrow, Nore and Suir in Kilkenny in cooperation with neighbouring counties.

THEME 3 continued

STRATEGIC ACTION 14.4

Communities & Wetlands: Working in partnership with communities on wetland protection and creation.

STRATEGIC ACTION 14.5

Waterways College: Develop the Waterways College as a regional training resource.

Sub-theme (3 c): Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Local Objective 15: Enhance community led measures to mitigate adverse changes in an era of climate change and geopolitical uncertainty.

STRATEGIC ACTION 15.1

Climate Action Pride: Growing local civic pride, global citizenship and climate change capacity through community festivals.

STRATEGIC ACTION 15.2

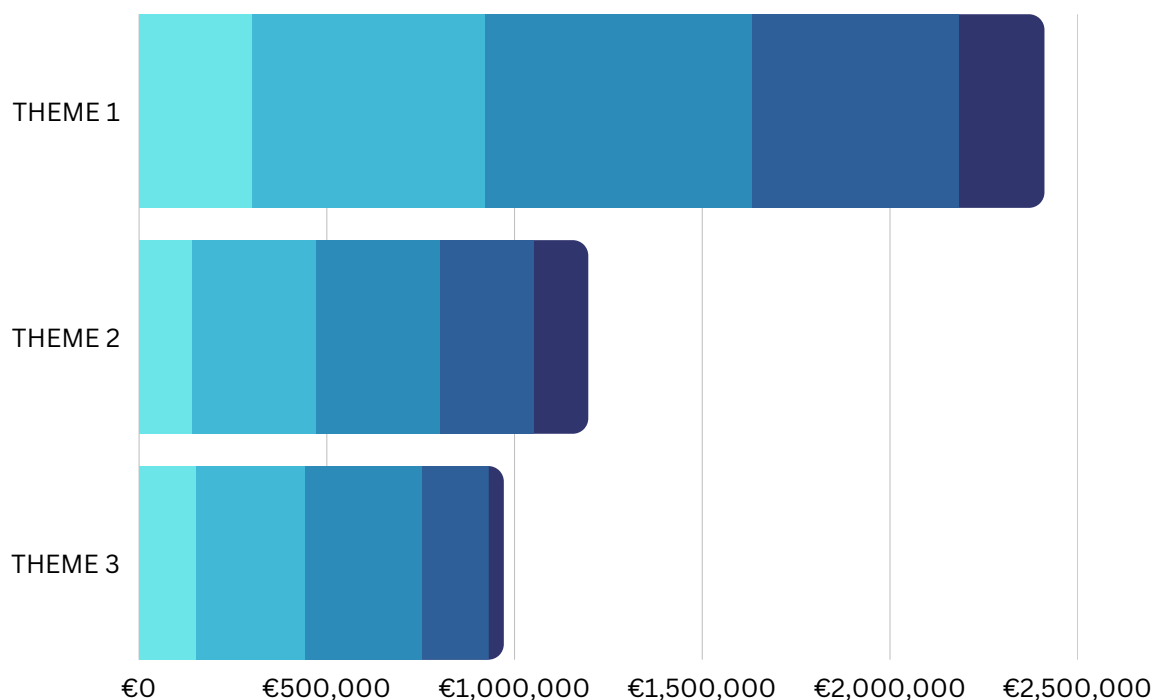
Natural Flood Defences: Nature-based solutions for urban water management and natural flood management in an era of climate change..



PROPOSED BUDGET

KLP has proposed a budget for the Local Development Strategy for 2023 - 2027

Total budgets for the LDS over 2023 - 2027



Theme 1 = Economic Development and Job Creation

Theme 2 = Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion

Theme 3 = Sustainable Development and Climate Change
Mitigation and Adaptation and Job Creation

● Year 2023 ● Year 2024 ● Year 2025 ● Year 2026 ● Year 2027

Proposed Total Budget

Economic Development
& Job Creation

€2,410,000.00

Proposed Total Budget

Rural Infrastructure &
Social Inclusion

€1,195,000.00

Proposed Total Budget

Sustainable Development
& Climate Change
Mitigation & Adaptation

€970,000.00

We thank you for your continued support

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