



**REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE &  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE**

**TO MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEES**

**Quarterly Report to END of April 2017**

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE & TOURISM.**

**(A) ON THE OPERATION / PROGRESS OF BOTH COUNTY LEO's –  
AGGREGATED FOR SOUTH CORK and NORTH & WEST CORK LEO's**

<b>Financial Assistance/Grant Aid</b>	
No. of Grants Approved to End April	18
Value of Grants Approved	€331,316
Value of Grants Paid to date	€138,205
<b>Training</b>	
No. of Programmes/Events held to End April	78
No. of Participants	1430
<b>On-Line</b>	
No. of Trading On-Line Vouchers Issued	16
Value of TOV's issued	€34,135
<b>Enterprise Portfolio &amp; Jobs Created</b>	
No. of Enterprises in Portfolio	428
Employment	2,040
Net Gains in 2016	297

**\* Explanatory Memorandum:**

All numbers are aggregated for both County LEO's.

Please note grant aid is self-explanatory but as the grantee has 9/12 months to draw down the grant there is often a drag between approval amounts and payment amounts.

The training programmes vary from 'Start Your Own Business' programmes to 'Social Media for Business' and 'Improving Your Cash Flow'. It will also include Networking and Information sessions.

Trading on Line Vouchers are small grants (max €2.5k) to encourage small businesses to develop/expand their e-commerce capabilities.

The last set of numbers refer to the enterprises that both County LEO's are working with, showing healthy gains in 2016 – these are the most recent figures available, finalised earlier in 2017.

**(B) ON THE OPERATION / PROGRESS OF CORK COUNTY COUNCIL'S INFRASTRUCTURE**

**(i) Industrial Estates & Business Parks**

Cork County Council provides a range of property options across the county to support economic development initiatives for existing and emerging enterprises and appropriately zoned lands which are available to respond to new opportunities as and when they arise. These are located as set out below:

Towns	Industrial Units	Food Units	Serviced Sites	Development Land	Incubation Kitchens
Ballincollig	✓	✓			
Blarney				✓	
Carrigaline	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carrigtwohill				✓	
Glanmire				✓	
Midleton				✓	
Mallow			✓	✓	
Bandon	✓	✓	✓		
Fermoy	✓	✓			
Macroom	✓		✓		
Buttervant			✓		
Charleville			✓		
Mitchelstown	✓	✓	✓		
Newmarket			✓		
Bantry	✓			✓	
Schull	✓	✓			
Skibbereen	✓	✓	✓		
Killeagh				✓	

**Occupancy of Units:**

Occupancy levels are very good with only 5 units vacant at present. 3 of which were very recently vacated in Carrigaline.

**(ii) Food Production and Marketing**

- Upgrading of existing Industrial Units to Food Grade standard.**  
Nineteen industrial units have been converted to Food Grade standard providing food producing or processing businesses with cost effective production space.
- Provision of two shared fully equipped Food Grade Commercial Kitchens to facilitate producers.**  
The facility is now operational and provides food start up businesses with state of the art facilities with flexible and affordable letting arrangements. The Council has

procured the services of a professional external operator to manage the project and bookings are completed through an online booking website. The official launch was held in October 2016. While a slow burner in terms of occupancy in 2016, this has improved significantly in the first 3 months of 2017 aided by a focus on marketing and linking to other bodies having dealt with the food safety issues in 2016.

- **Organisation of local and international food events and other export led initiatives.**

Cork County Council in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Offices facilitated participation of a number of export ready food businesses at the International Food Event in London in 2017. The businesses undertook a Food Export Training Programme in preparation for the event, which provided access to over 29,000 attendees and worldwide buyers. This will be the fifth successive year which has been supported by Cork County Council and the Local Enterprise Offices.

*(iii) Hot Desking and Training Facilities*

Cork County Council provides Hot Desking facilities, own door offices and training / meeting rooms in our E-Centres throughout the County. Cork County Council supports the E Centre project both through direct provision in Bantry and Fermoy and in conjunction with bona fide community organisations in other centres across the County. The table below outlines the current occupancy levels and we will ultimately review the offerings in light of the demand for own door offices in preference to hot desks, in certain locations. Whilst take up in some locations is not as significant as was anticipated, it should be kept in mind that the project was set up to serve as a socio-economic driver.

- The training facilities are utilised by CorkCoCo and LEO Clients. In Bantry the facility also provides a cost efficient backup for the 30 remote workers employed by Amazon. This level of redundancy provides a security for those jobs than just the occupancy levels.

**Brookpark, Dunmanway**

Construction has progressed on the development of the community enterprise centre in Dunmanway in conjunction with the local community, EI, Cork County Council and Clann Credo. This will result in 3 units of enterprise space and office and hotdesking facilities on a site supplied by Cork County Council.

*(iv) Sale of Sites*

Over the last 7-8 years the level of interest in sites in our business parks was very low due to the economic situation. These sites are, however, a long term investment by the Council and an asset for the local community. In recent months interest has risen significantly and the Council has advertised the availability of the sites, in March 2017, which generated a reasonable level of interest. Following an assessment of the various proposals, it is considered that as many as 5 sales may occur over the coming months, with the subsequent construction and businesses leading to increased employment.

(v) **BEACON Initiative**

The Beacon retail programme has been rolled out in 18 towns across the County and has assisted over 260 businesses. The Beacon Retail programme's primary aim was to bring in outside Retail Experts to work with Retailers in our towns throughout the County over a 4 month period and help them build a 12 to 18 month strategic growth plan for their businesses. To date the Council and its teams of Retail Consultants have worked with over 260 Retail businesses across the County with significant results being achieved. Unfortunately our most recent effort at running a programme in Clonakilty failed to attract the required numbers to run the programme but it is planned to return there in the future. Next on the agenda will be a programme in Douglas south city environs.

It is proposed to run a pilot for a next generation **Beacon Accelerator** programme building on the lessons learned from the original retail programme, with a particular emphasis on online elements and digital marketing, which was found to be lacking in many of our retail businesses. The pilot will be launched in May and commence in the East Cork Municipal District.

**(C) ON THE OPERATION / PROGRESS OF CORK COUNTY COUNCIL'S CO-FUNDING INITIATIVES**

(i) **Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ)**

REDZ operates on the principle that a rural economic zone exists around all centres of population and the zone is an economic driver in its own right. REDZ grants provide 75% of the project value and the balance was made up of 15% cash cofounded by Cork County Council and 10% as Benefit In Kind from the promoter.

**2017**

<b>location and title</b>	<b>Details of project</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Grant (75%)</b>
Beara Bridleway Phase II	An extension to Phase I of the Horse Trail to Eyeries village, development of a loop around Allihies and a further extension of the trail towards Castletownbere to create a 5 day trail. Works will include track improvements, signage, bridle gates, wiring and fencing, drainage works and linking to services along the trail. Promotion of the trial will be done in conjunction with the British Horse Society, Cork County Council and Fáilte Ireland.	Cork CoCo, Beara Tourism	€58,000

<b>location and title</b>	<b>Details of project</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Grant (75%)</b>
Blueway Feasibility Study	Undertake a North Cork Blueway Feasibility Assessment and Related Implementation Plan. This plan will include the necessary planning documentation, fully costed implementable recommendations facilitating safe, sustainable and increased access to the River Blackwater for water based activities; recommendations for related tourist focused recreation activities and supporting measures / products to promote the area and enhance visitor experience of any proposed facilities.	Cork CoCo, Avondhu Blackwater and Ballyhoura Development	€40,000
Inniscarra Lake Development	Inter alia, repair of storm damaged areas, prevention of further erosion by the placement of rock armour over a length of approximately 820m; provision of 6 no. additional parking bays along the course and extension of the eastern turning area; provision of open-air exercise machines at two locations, provision of additional seating and signage; surfacing of car parking area along public road, the creation of a website and the production of brochures, map and trail guides.	Cork CoCo, Inniscarra Lake Tourism Development Ltd.	€150,000
Munster Vales	Research, feasibility studies, infrastructural development and the assignment of tourism marketing expertise to create and maximise tourism business opportunities, stimulate alternative farm enterprise, provide supplementary income opportunities and ultimately maximise the Munster Vales tourism value proposition.	The Munster Vales Board consists of Tipperary County Council, Waterford City and County Council, Limerick City & County Council, Tipperary County Council and Cork County Council.	TBC
Charleville/ Kilmallock Engineering Cluster	TBC	TBC	TBC

(ii) *Other – China*

A Work Programme for 2017 is being finalised with the Nanjing Foreign Affairs Office. The Work Programme will reflect the growing level of engagement between Cork and Nanjing and will be aligned with our commitments to promote cooperation in the areas of Economic Development, Education, Culture and the Arts during 2017.

## **(D) ON THE OPERATION / PROGRESS OF SOUTH WEST ACTION PLAN FOR JOBS**

### **➤ *Progress at the level of Individual Actions***

2015 – 2017: 261 Collaborative Actions

Up to June 2016 – 104 Complete, 88 Ongoing, 11 Delayed (First Progress Report)  
Second Progress Report Under Development (Actions due end of 2016) – currently **monitoring and reporting** in progress of 144 Actions (43 Actions due end of 2016, in addition to 91 ongoing and 10 delayed from end June 2016).

Current plan concludes end of 2017 – DJEI to confirm process and timeline regarding the development of the next iteration of Regional Action Plan 2018 – 2020

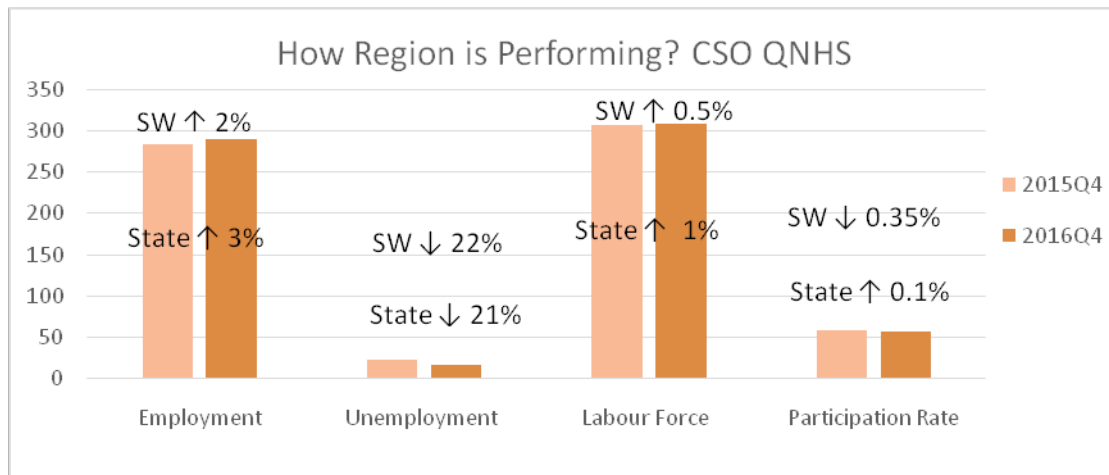
### **➤ *Communications***

**New website** <http://www.regionalapj.ie/> under development by DJEI for the Action Plan for Jobs which will house webpages for each of the 8 Regions. This will have the capacity to host press releases, news items, positive regional economic news specific to the South West region, in addition to the economic profile of the region.

**A South West Action Plan for Jobs Twitter account** has been set up @APJSouthWest and promotes economic developments, including tourism and positive news stories within the South West #APJSouthWest #Jobs #Cork #Kerry including key news items from SW Implementation Committee Members.

### **➤ *Jobs Numbers – How is the South West Region Performing?***

- **From a low of 264.600 in 2011, employment levels have now reached 290K (Q4 2016 QNHS CSO) – an increase of 9.6%**
- **In tandem with strong jobs growth, the unemployment rate has reduced from a high of 14.3% in 2012 to 5.7% in Q4 2016. This represents real progress for the South West.**
- **QNHS shows that there is positive jobs growth** across a range of sectors, including Industry, Construction, Wholesale and Retail, Education and Administrative and Support Services.
- **Our regional unemployment rate currently stands at 5.7%** (1% below the national state average of 6.7% and second lowest regional unemployment rate of all 8 regions after the mid East which stands at 5.3%).



➤ **Regional Competitive Fund**

The Regional Competitive Fund 2015 – 2017 has been increased from €40 million to €50 million. No clarity regarding timelines around the call have been received. The Programme Manager continues to meet with regional stakeholders regarding their project ideas/proposals for funding. A communications and engagement strategy around the launch of the call is being developed.



**(E) ON THE OPERATION / PROGRESS OF THE LEADER Rural Development Programme  
Expressions of Interest to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017.**

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>No. EOI's</b>	<b>Finance Available</b>	<b>Finance Sought</b>
Avondhu Blackwater Partnership CLG.	North	<u>Targeted Call 1</u> Basic Services Targeted at hard to reach Communities. Feb 2017.  <u>Targeted Call 2</u> Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation. Feb 2017.	<u>Targeted Call 1</u> 41 EOIs 17 deemed ineligible.  <u>Targeted Call 2</u> 10 EOI's 2 deemed ineligible.	€627,144	€2,895,507
Avondhu Blackwater Partnership CLG.	South	<u>Targeted Call 1</u> Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities. Feb 2017.	<u>Targeted Call 1</u> 12 EOIs all deemed eligible.	€261,060	€1,038,252
Avondhu Blackwater Partnership CLG.	West	<u>Targeted Call 1</u> Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities. Feb 2017.	<u>Targeted Call 1</u> 9 No. EOIs 1 deemed ineligible.	€188,209	€509,000
Ballyhoura Development Group CLG.	North	<u>Targeted Call 1</u> Community Services & Facilities. Feb 2017.  <u>Targeted Call 2</u> Community Economic Infrastructure & Services. Feb 2017.	<u>Targeted Call 1</u> 42 EOIs- 3 deemed ineligible.  <u>Targeted Call 2</u> 27 EOIs 14 deemed ineligible.  <u>Rolling Call 1</u>	€752,031.50	€2,693,841.50

		<u>Rolling Call 1</u> Technical Assistance.	5 EOIs all deemed eligible.		
		<u>Rolling Call 2</u> Environmentally sustainable Communities.	<u>Rolling Call 2</u> 1 EOI deemed eligible.		
		<u>In house projects</u> 4 No. EOIs. March 2017.			
Comhar Na nOileán Teo.	West	<u>Targeted Call 1</u> Rural Tourism, Animation & Technical Assistance.	<u>Targeted Call 1</u> 6 EOIs 2 deemed ineligible	€846,404	€2,205,175
		<u>Targeted Call 2</u> Rural Tourism, Capacity Building, Training & Mentoring.	<u>Targeted Call 2</u> 9 No. EOIs all deemed eligible.		
		<u>Targeted Call 3</u> Enterprise Dev, Animation & Technical Assistance.	<u>Targeted Call 3</u> 2 EOIs all deemed eligible.		
		<u>Targeted Call 4</u> Enterprise Dev, Capacity Building, Training & Mentoring.	<u>Targeted Call 4</u> 2 EOIs all deemed eligible.		
		<u>Targeted Call 5</u> Rural Towns, Animation & Technical Assistance.	<u>Targeted Call 5</u> 2 EOIs all deemed eligible.		
		<u>Targeted Call 6</u> Rural Towns, Capacity Building, Training & Mentoring.	<u>Targeted Call 6</u> 5 EOIs all deemed eligible.		

	<p><u>Targeted Call 7</u> Basic Services, Animation &amp; Technical Assistance.</p> <p><u>Targeted Call 8</u> Basic Services, Capacity Building, Training &amp; Mentoring.</p> <p><u>Targeted Call 9</u> Basic Services, Capital &amp; Collaborative Investments.</p> <p><u>Targeted Call 10</u> Rural Youth, Capacity Building, Training &amp; Mentoring.</p> <p><u>Targeted Call 11</u> Rural Youth, Capital &amp; Collaborative Investments.</p> <p><u>Rolling Call 1</u> Enterprise Development, Capital &amp; Collaborative Investments.</p> <p><u>Rolling Call 2</u> Rural Tourism, Capital &amp; Collaborative Investments</p> <p><u>Rolling Call 3</u> Rural Towns, Capital &amp; Collaborative Investments</p> <p><u>Rolling Call 4</u> Broadband, Animation &amp; Technical Assistance.</p>	<p><u>Targeted Call 7</u> 2 No. EOIs all deemed eligible.</p> <p><u>Targeted Call 8</u> 6 EOIs all deemed eligible.</p> <p><u>Targeted Call 9</u> 29 EOIs all deemed eligible.</p> <p><u>Targeted Call 10</u> 4 EOIs all deemed eligible.</p> <p><u>Targeted Call 11</u> 6 EOIs all deemed eligible.</p> <p><u>Rolling Call 1</u> 12 EOIs all deemed eligible.</p> <p><u>Rolling Call 2</u> 17 No. EOIs all deemed eligible.</p> <p><u>Rolling Call 3</u> 4 EOIs 1 deemed ineligible.</p> <p><u>Rolling Call 4</u> 1 EOI, deemed ineligible.</p>	<p>Rolling Calls: €338,558</p>	<p>Rolling Calls: €1,519,506</p>
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IRD Duhallow CLG.	North.	<p><u>Targeted Call 1</u> Rural Towns March 2017.</p> <p><u>Targeted Call 2</u> Enterprise Development March 2017.</p> <p><u>Rolling Call 1</u> Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities. March 2017.</p> <p><u>Rolling Call 2</u> Rural Tourism and Rural Youth. March 2017.</p> <p><u>Rolling Call 3</u> Rural Youth March 2017.</p> <p><u>Rolling Call 4</u> Protection &amp; Improvement of Local Biodiversity. March 2017.</p> <p><u>In House Projects</u> 9 No. EOI's. March 2017.</p>	<p><u>Targeted Call 1</u> 12 EOIs all deemed eligible.</p> <p><u>Targeted Call 2</u> 11 EOIs, all deemed eligible.</p> <p><u>Rolling Call 1:</u> 14 EOIs all deemed eligible.</p> <p><u>Rolling Call 2:</u> 16 EOIs 2 deemed ineligible.</p> <p><u>Rolling Call 3:</u> 8 EOIs all deemed eligible.</p> <p><u>Rolling Call 4:</u> 3 EOIs all deemed eligible.</p>	<p>Targeted Calls: €343,699</p> <p>Rolling Calls: €378,070</p>	<p>Targeted Calls: €658,364</p> <p>Rolling Calls: €1,601,912</p>
IRD Duhallow CLG.	South.	<p><u>Targeted Call 1</u> Social Inclusion March 2017.</p>	<p><u>Targeted Call 1</u> 1 EOI, deemed eligible.</p>	<p>€110,750</p>	<p>€259,330</p>

		<p><u>Open Call 1</u> Rural Tourism.</p> <p><u>Open Call 2</u> Basic Services targeted at hard to reach communities.</p> <p><u>Open Call 3</u> Protection &amp; Improvement of local Biodiversity.</p> <p><u>Transnational Project</u> Rural Tourism Transnational cooperation project - Discover Duhallow A Day of the Region.</p>	<p><u>Open Call 1</u> 4 EOIs, 1 deemed ineligible.</p> <p><u>Open Call 2</u> 3 EOIs, all deemed eligible.</p> <p><u>Open Call 3</u> 1 EOI, deemed eligible.</p>	<p>Transnational IRD Duhallow CLG. €120,000.00 Udaras na Gaeltachta €80,000.</p>	
SECAD CLG.	South.	<p><u>Targeted Call 1</u> Basic Services and Rural Tourism (to support community led tourism events and festivals). January 2017.</p> <p><u>Targeted Call 2</u> Rural Tourism. January 2017.</p> <p><u>In House Projects</u> Basic Services &amp; Rural Towns 2 No. EOIs</p> <p>Transnational Projects Technical Assistance for: Project 1 – Development of an Eco-Education Centre in South Cork-Cork</p>	<p><u>Targeted Call 1</u> 31 EOIs, 2 deemed ineligible.</p> <p><u>Targeted Call 2</u> 22 EOIs, 12 deemed ineligible.</p>	<p>€172,000</p> <p>In house Projects €100,855</p> <p>Transnational €6,000 each for 2 No. EOIs to carry out</p>	€928,048

		Harbour Project 2 – Development of a Youth Arts Development Programme – Youth Film Project		preparatory work to ascertain viability of projects.	
SECAD CLG.	West.	<u>Targeted Call 1</u> Basic Services.  <u>Targeted Call 2</u> Rural Tourism(to support community led tourism events and festivals). January 2017.  <u>In House Projects</u> Basic Services & Rural Towns, 2 No. EOIs.  <u>Trans-National Co-operation Projects</u> Technical Assistance grant of €6,000 each for 2 No. EOIs to carry out preparatory work to ascertain viability of projects. Project 1 – Development of Agri-Tourism Clusters learning from European Experience Project 2 – Development of a Youth Arts Development Programme – Youth Film Project March 2017.	<u>Targeted Call 1</u> 23 EOIs, 2 deemed ineligible  <u>Targeted Call 2</u> 19 EOIs, 16 No. deemed ineligible.	€520,879   <u>Inhouse Projects</u> €100,855  <u>Transnational</u> €6,000 each for 2 No. EOIs to carry out preparatory work to ascertain viability of projects	€1,739,000

