



Letterkenny
Chamber
Advancing business together

Letterkenny Chamber Local Government Manifesto 2024

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About Letterkenny Chamber

Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce is the premier business membership organisation in Donegal working for the interests of the business community while also promoting economic development in the region. It represents over 300 members employing over 10,000 people across the North West Region.

Working with a range of partners and key stakeholders Letterkenny Chamber lobbies on behalf of members and provides networking and promotion opportunities for member companies whilst striving to create the best environment for local business to succeed.

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- Donegal's only full time Chamber, affiliated to Chambers Ireland.
- 300 members.
- Representing 10,000 employees.
- Voice of business in Donegal with members from all sectors and sizes.
- Our approach is always positive, collaborative and strategic.

Letterkenny Chamber is the only official Chamber in Donegal affiliated to Chambers Ireland, the largest Irish business network, with a geographic reach and membership base that spans cities, towns, and communities nationwide. As such we represent our members at both a national and local level. Our membership spans the region and includes many of the larger employers and organisations in the County.

The 38 member chambers represent a wide cross-section of industries and activities, from individual sole traders right through to large multinational companies. This means together we are uniquely positioned to represent the views of businesses and understand their concerns in every Local Authority area across the country.

Introduction

This manifesto outlines several critical points for the future of Letterkenny and the wider North West Region.

Looking back over the last five years in Ireland, Local Authorities have been at the forefront in navigating challenging social and economic headwinds.

During this last local government term, we acknowledge the absolutely important and pivotal role that the Council played in the Covid-19 crisis. The collaboration and responsiveness that we and our members felt was a testament to good leadership and dedicated staff. It highlights to us how all stakeholders working together toward a common goal is fundamental to the success of the region.

This urgency, responsiveness and open collaboration with different stakeholders in delivering a unified community strategy are characteristics that will be needed more than ever in the next Local Government.

Our reason for developing this manifesto is that it is very important that candidates running for local election demonstrate ambition and understand pressing issues.

Each year we carry out member surveys that highlight the main issues affecting our membership. This forms the basis of our policy and lobbying activity locally and nationally. While infrastructure always ranks highly, the housing issue has over this past year taken over as the key concern. This affects not just existing employees but the capacity for the company to attract employees from elsewhere.

Infrastructure remains one of our biggest issues. We continue to stress the need to address the infrastructure deficits that we have for so long endured. This is primarily road connectivity, the TenT network and the A5 among other things, but we also have major concerns about Water and Wastewater networks that do not match the ambitious growth targets that have been set for the county.

Housing has now become the biggest issue cited by members over all our recent surveys. While there are some impediments for private developers in terms of return on investment, we urge the local council to endeavour to surpass social housing targets not just meet them, so as to free up some private rental capacity. The defective blocks crisis affecting so many families in the County is of course another added pressure on the housing market, so we urge all candidates to look at the housing crisis with urgency, enthusiasm and action.

In 2024, running for election to represent our county requires councillors that are ambitious, understand the pressing policy issues that are facing Donegal and Ireland, and are committed to improving local communities, the economy and the environment.

This ambition needs to be complemented by rapid action and sustained pace of change. For too many years, there has been slow and insufficient progress in developing key infrastructure, including housing, transport, water and grid connections, and green energy.

As we know only too well this has created infrastructure deficits that directly impact the vibrancy of towns and villages across the county.

On a national level we call for increased accountability and transparency from Local Authorities on the future delivery of essential infrastructure projects, as communities have a vested interest in ensuring their elected representatives are driving meaningful, timely and sustainable change.

Recognising our ambitions transcend the purview of Local Councillors alone, we call for collective engagement and support from a spectrum of community stakeholders, the Government, in particular the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Department of Rural and Community Development; An Garda Síochána; An Bord Pleanála; the Courts system; and many other community stakeholders. This manifesto serves as a catalyst for dialogue, fostering engagement and driving progress across all relevant actors.

This Manifesto sets out the Chamber's priorities and our high-level ambitions and vision for Ireland's future social, economic and environmental development, which has a direct impact on business growth and competitiveness across the county. We call on elected councillors to work with the Chamber network and with businesses in their constituencies in progressing these goals and objectives over the next five year term.

Claire McDonough, President

Toni Forrester, Chief Executive

Priorities

In drafting this Local Election Manifesto, Letterkenny Chamber is reflecting members key priorities and is informed by our regular surveys, but it also charts a course for the broader future for Ireland and our social, economic and environmental security and prosperity.

There are three key priority areas included in the Manifesto with recommendations outlined in each section:

- Infrastructure for the Future
- Vibrant Towns and Cities
- Green Ambition

Infrastructure for the Future

Infrastructure at a Local Authority level in Ireland is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, it supports economic development by providing essential services like housing, public transport and utilities that facilitate business activities and attract investment. Secondly, it enhances the quality of life for residents by ensuring access to healthcare, education and recreational facilities. Thirdly, infrastructure contributes to public safety and improves overall community resilience. Additionally, well-maintained infrastructure can support environmental sustainability and social inclusion. Overall, investing in local infrastructure is vital for fostering economic growth, social well-being and sustainable development within communities across Ireland.

The development and successful deployment of key infrastructure is going to be essential in ensuring our long-term competitiveness. Our collective ambitions for housing, energy, transport, utilities and the environment all depend on swift, efficient and streamlined planning decisions. We need a fit-for-purpose planning system in Ireland and incoming Councillors should be ready to tackle this issue constructively as an immediate priority.

Vibrant Towns and Villages

This section reflects the importance of fostering thriving and inclusive towns and villages that are attractive places for our growing population to live, work, visit and invest. We want to highlight the issues that are currently facing our towns and cities, as we call on Local Councillors to address these needs and work with the local communities on a shared vision and ambition for the socioeconomic development and cultural vitality of their town and county.

Vibrant towns are vital for economic growth, serving as centres for businesses, innovation and employment. They facilitate cultural exchange, social interaction and community engagement, contributing to a sense of identity and belonging. Additionally, they attract tourists, supporting local businesses and boosting the tourism industry.

Providing essential infrastructure and services like transport, healthcare, education and entertainment, they enhance the quality of life for residents. Concentrating development in urban areas also promotes efficient land use, reduces urban sprawl and supports environmental sustainability.

Green Ambition

Ireland's green energy potential represents an enormous opportunity for the country. If we can make the most of the abundance of natural resources on our doorstep, we will reduce our reliance on imported fossil fuels in the first instance, thereby enhancing energy security and reducing vulnerability to price fluctuations in global markets. Investing in green energy will also be crucial in mitigating climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with our international commitments. At a local level, renewable energy will also create jobs and stimulate economic growth.

We call on Local Councillors to recognise and promote the opportunities associated with the green transition within their county, towns and villages, so that we can increase our competitiveness in a global market, position Ireland as a leader in clean energy innovation, and build a more resilient, sustainable and prosperous future.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Chambers Ireland was appointed as a national Sustainable Development Goals Champion as part of the 2023-2024 SDG Champions Programme. The programme has been developed by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications to raise public awareness of the SDGs and to demonstrate that everyone in society can contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Chambers Ireland is the only business representative organisation appointed to be a champion and, in this capacity, its role is to act as an advocate and promoter of the SDGs and to help businesses realise the opportunities these Goals create. By showcasing the opportunities, it aims to instil confidence in businesses to integrate the SDGs into their work and activities in order to achieve meaningful results.

Chambers Ireland and ICC Ireland, together with its nationwide network of affiliated Chambers have unanimously pledged to support the Goals. We have worked with our Network and our Sustainable Business Council to help to educate the 9,000 businesses we represent about the Goals.

All of our policy outputs, including this Local Government Manifesto, are aligned with our selected Sustainable Development Goals and seek to help our members address the challenges of an increasingly 'shock prone' world.

Infrastructure for the future – SDG 8, 9, 11

Building homes for growth

The National Planning Framework targets have not been ambitious enough to meet the needs of our communities and economy. It is clear from the housing needs estimates that have emerged from the Housing Commission and the ESRI, which have centred on an average annual housing development need of approximately 50,000 from now out to 2050, that our housing crisis has been compounding over the last council cycle.

Our members have long said that our national targets were not sufficient to meet the needs of our communities and although the proposed revision is welcomed, we are concerned about the capacity of the political and administrative system to address these needs, as well as capacity constraints within the building sector. Current housing delivery numbers put us at an increased shortfall in housing of about 150k homes by the end of the decade.

In order to reasonably address these needs housing delivery needs to more than double by 2027. The slower the ramp up to these increased delivery targets, then the higher the annual output will need to be if it is to make up for the growing deficit.

We urge our Local Authority to view the 2040 targets not as limits but as minimum standards. Given the recognition that a massive increase in Housing output is needed, Local Authorities will need to ensure the next round of Local Area Plans reflect the future need.

Doubling the delivery of current housing provision per annum by 2027 and maintaining it at that level out to 2030 will only see the housing situation stabilise but not improve. To remedy the housing crisis within the next decade will require expanding housing delivery to circa 80,000 units per annum by 2030 and then reducing it to a longer-term delivery figure of 50,000 per annum. Such a level of delivery will see us build almost 1.5 million homes by 2050.

Locally elected representatives need to look at the following:

a. Availability

The housing issue is a national one and this is compounded in Donegal due to the defective blocks issue. Many businesses, due to lack of skills availability, are looking overseas for employees. However, there are major challenges with finding places to live either rental or purchase. This results in undue stress for the recruit, pushing out start dates or results in potential recruits turning down roles.

Even self-build is difficult as there are very few available builders due to the defective blocks crisis. This is limiting growth plans within the indigenous and multinational business sectors. Some workers will be hired remotely which means the overall local economy in the county/region is affected as there are jobs “counted” for the region but not physically located here.

Our companies are working hard to ensure that Letterkenny is seen as an attractive location, but more and more people are being put off with the housing crisis and in a world where we are finding it difficult to hire locally, this adds a bigger burden on companies.

b. Cost

As referenced above the supply of housing is severely restricted. In terms of rental properties, the costs are spiralling. There are not enough rental properties at a reasonable rate for employees, families or students.

c. Defective Blocks/MICA

We have referenced defective blocks above. We are firstly concerned about our members affected and their employees. This is having a serious impact on families causing stress and longer-term money problems.

Some are already on the journey through the scheme, however building costs are spiralling, there are very few options for places to live during re-build and there are very few available builders.

There is also the commercial aspect of MICA where no scheme is in place. While families are our main concern, we would urge elected representatives to speak out about the longer term affect on commercial properties.

▪ **Housing that meets community needs**

- Water and Wastewater projects need to be prioritised immediately across the country to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to meet the needs of the increased housing delivery targets. It seems that there is no forward thinking strategy and that Uisce Eireann are not tasked with developing a future proofed strategy. The population targets in the National Planning Framework need to be matched with critical infrastructure.
- Councils need to ensure that their purchases of new housing from developers, as well as existing housing stock does not inadvertently reduce the availability of housing on the private market – it is essential that such housing is in addition to the housing supply that would otherwise be built as Local Authorities are both inflating the cost of housing and creating market inefficiencies with such purchases.
- In the next 5 to 10 years, Local Authorities should encourage and promote modern methods of construction as a viable means of increasing the housing stock in their area. This will incentivise development, improve construction efficiencies and minimise capacity constraints in the construction sector.
- Local Authorities should advocate for affordable housing targets.
- Local Authorities need to work with communities, developers and utility providers in identifying suitable land to rezone for housing.

Innovative and effective planning

Resourcing our Local Authorities' planning departments is vital. Supporting the increase in housing developments will require a major acceleration in the delivery of National Development Plan projects. This will require continued capacity development within the Local Authorities and An Bord Pleanála, along with an increase in public engagement resources for projects that are in the planning pipeline to ensure that there is sufficient local support to ensure their early completion.

▪ **Resourcing of planning departments:**

- Strengthen and resource the planning professionals in Local Authorities and other relevant State agencies. We need multidisciplinary teams that are capable of making comprehensive decisions that can withstand scrutiny. This should be an immediate priority for the next Local Government term in order to see meaningful change over the coming five years.
- Address the disconnect between utility providers such as Irish Water, planners and developers to make for more efficient process from planning to completion.
- National Development Plan supporting projects including major transport investments need to be rapidly advanced.
- Ensure pre-planning meetings are facilitated in a timely fashion where requested by a developer, as such meetings are crucial in negating potential delays further down the line in the planning process.

Vibrant Towns and Cities – SDG 5, 8, 11

Fostering thriving local communities

Letterkenny Chamber has supported and promoted the Town Centre First since its initial inception. We have however always said that this programme was not ambitious enough to deliver on its goals and that both have been implemented in ways that limit their effectiveness.

The ambition for Town Centre First needs to be radically increased. It cannot deliver for the country at its current scale. A parallel track needs to be created to address the needs of our towns which are larger than 10,000 people and this needs to be integrated with the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.

Creating safe, welcoming and thriving public realm spaces ensures that our city-centres and town-centres are appealing to anyone wishing to live, work, visit or invest. The most effective way of doing this is through investing in attractive and appropriate urban built environment developments. Public amenities have an important role to play in creating safe, social spaces for community engagement, which in turn can have very positive results in promoting regional growth, boosting tourism, reducing anti-social behaviour and improving local economies.

▪ **Greater policy ambition for city and town centres:**

- More funding is needed for Town Centre teams in the immediate short-term if Donegal County Council are to be effective and responsive to community and business needs. The council area is large and encompasses a number of town centres that are at different stages of regeneration. To make an impact in all these towns more resources need to be allocated.
- There needs to be better collaboration and communication between Local Authorities and the Departments of Rural and Community Development and Housing, Local Government and Heritage in pushing for change to national policy initiatives including Town Centre First that have a direct impact on towns and local communities.
- Urgent action is needed from the outset of the new Local Government term to fully implement and activate the goals and objectives of the Town Centre First initiative. Progress to date has been too slow in realising the full potential of the programme of reforms for the current towns that fall within scope.
- Reforms to the Urban and Rural Regeneration and Development Funds are needed to ensure that they are effective and focused on the Town Centre First goals and methodologies.
- High street retail/commercial zones should be allocated with supports in place to protect and support physical shops operating in town and city centres.

▪ **Safe and thriving public realm spaces and amenities:**

- Donegal County Council has been successful in attracting funding that includes improved public realm spaces, which are vital in attracting people to live, work and visit our town and city centres. These projects will change the look and feel of a

town centre, however they need to progress with more pace than has been the case.

- Planning and investing in better lighting in urban areas, better siting of transport hubs and places for nature within our urban settings are key to making people choose to spend more time in our towns.

Letterkenny Chamber reflects that Donegal County Council has been very successful in attracting URDF funding and in making the commitment to match fund for town centre development sites, transport hub and projects that will be transformational to Letterkenny and other towns in the County.

However the amount of time passing between the consultation, community engagement and starting the project is much too long and results in increased project costs and importantly a negative view from the community. With such a long delay, more town centre businesses close while waiting for improvements.

We would like to see these funded projects fast tracked and delivered with urgency.

The impact of urban decay

We are not alone in experiencing the long-term costs of sub-optimal government social and economic policies. This has created overlapping problems that impact the quality of life for those that are living and working in our cities and towns. Decades of dereliction severely damage entire streets within our urban cores. Vacancies detract from the economic vibrance of locations and discourage footfall. Voids become foci for dumping, littering and social problems. Derelict buildings often directly damage properties on adjacent sites. Every vacant, unused or derelict site in an urban area is a demonstrable market failure that imposes severe externality costs on the surrounding community, businesses and Local Government.

A concerning trend over recent years arising from this neglect of urban centres has been a significant increase in anti-social behaviour and crime. Our membership is being significantly impacted, both directly in terms of theft and other criminal activity and indirectly in terms of reduced footfall and business traffic. At a community level, the increase in crime erodes community confidence in the safety and security of town centres, which can result in a decline in community cohesion and public engagement. At an economic level, it can deter investment and diminish the attractiveness of an area for residents and visitors alike. Overall, crime and anti-social behaviour create a cycle of decline in towns and cities, affecting residents' quality of life, damaging the local economy and undermining the social fabric of the community. Addressing these issues should be a key priority for each Local Government Authority.

Correspondingly, the lack of Garda resources and a reduction in community policing has led to a dislocation of Gardaí from the communities they serve which neglects the crimes that directly impact communities. We are frequently told by our members that they do not report crimes because the time they spend awaiting a response from Gardaí is often better applied within their business.

Active Travel - While our members support the aims of the National Planning Framework and recognise the need for our communities to adapt if we are to live in a more sustainable way. This will require a radical change in how we use our urban spaces. The active travel plans are seeking to create the 10-minute town so that people can rely on public and active transportation, however

while this is a laudable ambition, there are few alternatives to get around Letterkenny or to get in and out of Letterkenny from other parts of the County and region.

A town bus service that serves citizens, students and visitors is long overdue and once implemented will take time to be adopted and accepted by users.

The regeneration plan and NPF calls for denser communities within town centres. Letterkenny is still a long way off from this and a significant number of people still have to use the car to travel in to work and use services every day.

For businesses, higher density living means that more customers are reachable more easily. Better public transport means that people will have a higher disposable income which allows for more economic opportunities and density increases the number of potential workers, with a wider range of skills, for businesses that are trying to expand. For individuals, density makes for less commuting, better access to higher quality social services and a wider range of higher-quality jobs. We can see the benefits, but the decades long neglect of our urban centres is standing in our way.

Local Authorities face the burden of servicing the local consequences of this national neglect. They are responsible for local emergency housing, for littering, for taking challenging dereliction orders, for investing in the built environment, for planning decisions and for transport infrastructure.

▪ **Vacancy and dereliction:**

- Resource Local Authorities to implement planning department one-stop-shops in every growth city and town to streamline planning and fire-certification for change-of-use construction projects and above-the-shop conversions. This should be an immediate priority for the next Local Government term in order to see meaningful change over the coming five years.
- Expand and strengthen the powers of Local Authorities to acquire vacant sites through purchase orders or to force their sale through a compulsory sales order.
- Having reviewed the vacancy rates, the Department of Housing should set vacancy reduction targets for Local Authorities at the electoral district level that are measurable annually.
- Substantially increase the capital spending for housing and regeneration in urban areas identified by the National Planning Framework.

▪ **Crime and Garda resourcing:**

While local authorities cannot resource the Gardai, the role of the Council in the JPC is fundamental in ensuring that the local Superintendent understands the pressures faced by the community in terms of crime. Councillors should use their influence to keep the pressure on Garda management to ensure resources are allocated where needed.

Garda visibility has a direct correlation to crime figures and anti-social behaviour that affects towns and villages across the country.

▪ **Tackling homelessness:**

- More resourcing at the Local Authority level is needed immediately to provide stable accommodation for those that are unhoused.

- A longer-term focus on a Housing-First model needs to be applied to reduce the impact of people with a high level of needs on their wider community. A strategic plan to provide better support services for those that are experiencing addiction across a wider range of towns and cities should be adopted over the next 5 year Local Authority term.

Nurturing growth

Fostering thriving local economies is contingent on supporting local employment. SMEs are the backbone of communities right across the country. Not only do they provide essential services and produce goods for consumption, but they also employ seventy percent of the active workforce. Ireland's employment rate is currently at a record high with over 2.6 million people working across the country. This has made it more difficult to recruit and retain staff and competition for talent has impacted the growth and expansion of businesses across the country. Therefore, Local Authorities need to promote pro-business policies that stimulate growth, create jobs and foster entrepreneurship and innovation.

In many areas across the country, Local Authority income is heavily dependent on business rates, which can fluctuate and vary significantly over periods of time. Operating with such a narrow tax base creates risk and uncertainty. Letterkenny Chamber and our colleagues in Chambers Ireland have advocated for a number of years for Local Authorities to rebalance their accounts with more stable forms of income, such as local property taxes. We acknowledge that Donegal County Council does apply increases to the Local Property Tax, and we would encourage this. However, we will also continue to lobby government to improve the Local Authority funding model. Local Authorities have a lot of areas of responsibility with limited sources of funding.

Local Authorities should ensure that they are supportive of local enterprises and limit the obstacles to their successful trade and operations in the area.

Ensuring access and affordability of childcare, running targeted upskilling and reskilling programmes, supporting flexible working, and creating pathways to employment for vulnerable or marginalised groups will ensure more people in a locality can take up work that suits their circumstances.

▪ Supporting businesses and employment:

- Create more stable revenue models in urban areas by ending the over reliance on business rates and incrementally increasing the proportion of the Local Authority income that comes from local property taxes (LPT).
- Protect and support childcare facilities to open and operate in local areas, as such services are crucial in ensuring parents can return to work This should be an ongoing commitment by Local Authorities, as our members have expressed concerns.

Green Ambition – SDG 8, 9, 11, 13

Transportation

Local Authorities have a bigger impact on individuals than any other part of the State. In the first instance, decision making at the Local Authority level shapes where we can live. From there, those decisions made by Local Government define where we can work and where we can study by determining where we can travel. Getting transportation correct determines whether our areas and communities can be successful.

With the shift towards a decarbonised economy transport planning is becoming increasingly important if we are to deliver on our CO₂ emission targets. According to the SEAI transport emissions accounted for almost 40% of our total emissions in 2022. If we are to move towards being low emissions by the 2030s and net zero emissions by 2050, we need to make enormous changes to how we move around in and between our cities and towns.

For this to be possible, people need to have lower carbon and no-carbon options which are available to them. Whether they do will be determined during our next Council term. A failure to deliver sustainable transport options will result in it being impossible for individuals to alter behaviour.

Public transport, active transport or electrically powered transport will need to be made available for all existing residences and all new housing developments will need to be built around long-term high-capacity transport options that are sustainable.

- **Green travel:**
 - Ensure that Transport Orientated Development principles form the core of all new developments.
 - A longer-term vision for our towns and cities requires traffic reduction measures to be prioritised, while expanding local active travel and public transport options.
 - Cycling infrastructure is being implemented in the County, however the local authority needs to invest in shared cycling schemes that have the potential of getting people out of cars for town centre journeys.
 - Local Authorities should create an EV charging framework for the future development of charging infrastructure in their county/city.

Energy and Climate Resilience

Our members have suffered tremendous shocks arising from geopolitics and the international energy markets. Ireland is almost unique within the EU in having the Green Transition as being almost entirely win-win. We do not have large legacy industries which are dependent on particular fossil fuel feedstocks or extraction industries, but we do have enormous, untapped, green energy resources that can be used to facilitate not only becoming energy independent but also allow us to become net energy exporters (and so help our EU peers and neighbours decarbonise).

Local Authorities should be encouraging the transition to a cleaner electricity supply. More green energy production is needed in every local authority area, and local areas need to be linked together by our national grid to ensure that they have resilient supplies of energy regardless of the political or environmental climate.

Further work is needed so that Local Authorities begin building climate resilience. Urban areas need to see an increase in tree planting so that when temperatures rise there will be sufficient shade to ensure that we limit the impact of urban heat islands and maintain comfortable conditions for people who live and work there.

The proposed development of a Cross Border Energy Agency if successful in attracting funding could see the county and region as leading the way in terms of energy & climate resilience. We have potential to be a net exporter of green energy and we cannot wait for Eirgrid to respond.

▪ **Green transition:**

- Local Authorities should be strong advocates for wind, solar and biomass energy creation in their areas. This should involve regular engagement with constituents on the benefits and opportunities of such developments.
- Local Authorities should promote the retrofitting of buildings in their locality by ensuring a programme of retrofitting public buildings is initiated and signposting is available to individuals on supports and initiatives that are available.
- Support for increased grid connectivity throughout the country should be promoted at a local level with support for grid infrastructure projects.
- Local Authorities need to do more in planning and implementing climate adaptation and mitigation measures that will protect communities in the long run against the unknown impacts of climate change.
- Local Authorities should create biodiversity preservation plans for the long-term sustainable recovery and growth the natural environment.
- To address some aspects of Climate, change some thought should be given to resourcing of Tidy Towns groups. They are increasingly taking on climate change projects with extremely limited resources and yet they are a critical stakeholder in keeping towns and villages clean and ensuring the community and business community are engaged in this process.

Closing

Letterkenny Chamber encourages all potential councillors to do everything in their power to ensure that the deficits outlined above are addressed. Our members and the wider business community work hard to create a vibrant business environment. Their commitment to Donegal has created many jobs and opportunities.

We know that Donegal offers a quality of life that is the envy of other counties and is attracting visitors in greater numbers than ever before. We, together with Donegal County Council and other key stakeholders share ambitious growth targets for the next 20 years where we see the population grow substantially.

To summarise we call on elected members to:

- Deliver on the ambitions set out in Local Area Plans and LK2040 with commitment, enthusiasm and urgency.
- Endeavour to exceed social housing targets.
- Work collaboratively with developers, utility providers and key stakeholders to make the delivery of private housing developments possible.
- Work collectively to deliver on key infrastructure projects in an efficient and timely manner.
- Be a catalyst for dialogue to ensure the decades of underinvestment in Donegal is addressed. The business community want to play a part in the ambitious growth targets, and they will support calls for enabling investment.

Achieving these targets will need significant Government investment and follow up to the commitments made in the National Planning Framework. We hope with your support we can see our ambitions realised and create a County that can create opportunities for our young people, be more attractive to investors and retain talent and expertise.