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Roscommon County Council

Europe's Rural Future - Responding to rural priorities through integrated national and regional strategies and LEADER

Local Government Structures in Ireland



Ensuring effective design of integrated rural strategies at national and regional levels

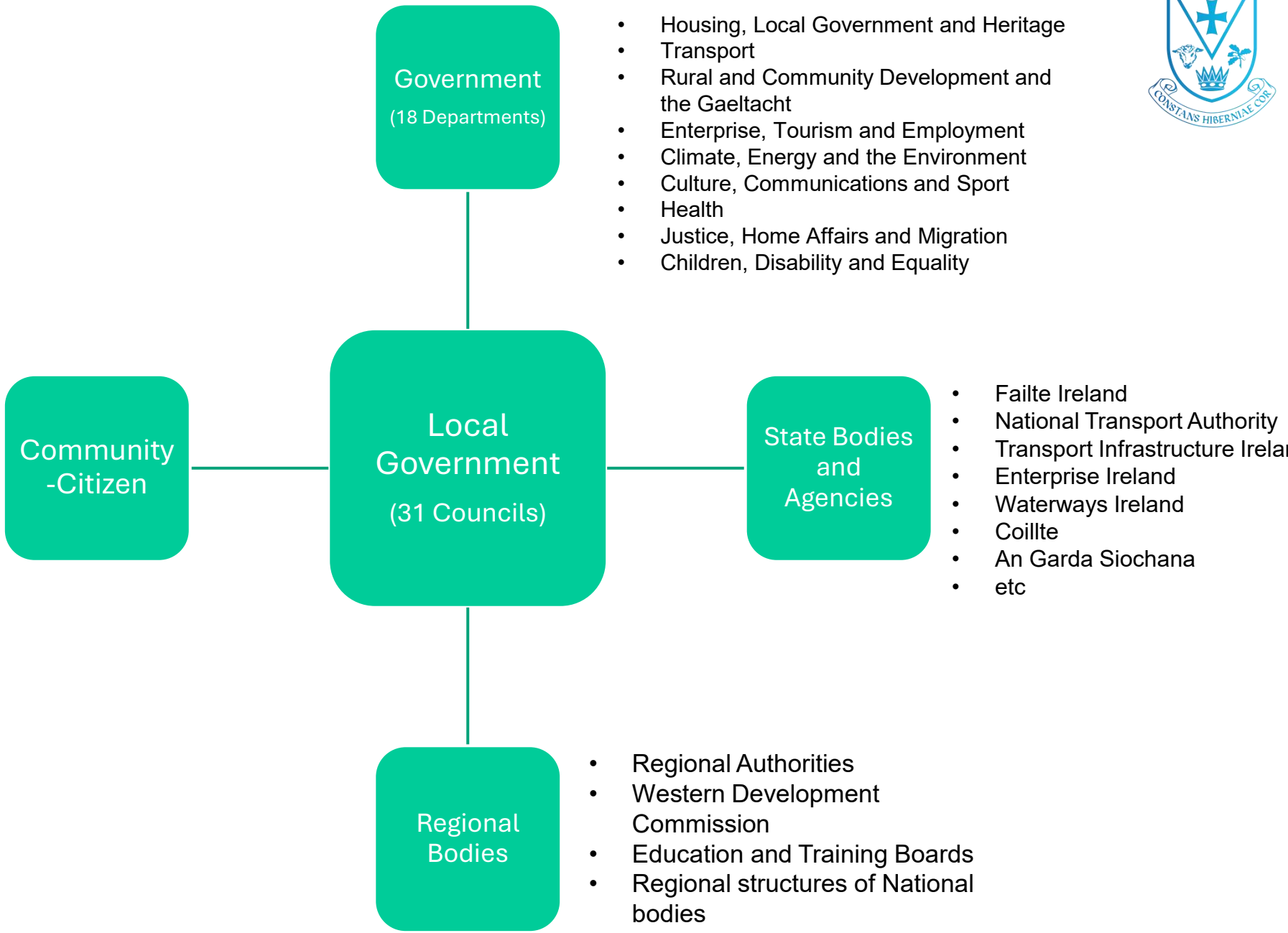
Group 3 - Structures to engage rural communities and civil society with decision makers and build capacities

Shane Tiernan

Chief Executive, Roscommon County Council

3 Nov 2026

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Policy Flow

National/EU to Local to Community/ Citizen

EU-National

- EU Legislation, Policy, Funding (Directives, EU Budget, National and Regional Partnership Plan (NRPP), CAP, LEADER, etc
- National Policy (PFG, National Planning Framework, National Development Plan)
- Our Rural Future
- Town Centre First

Local Government

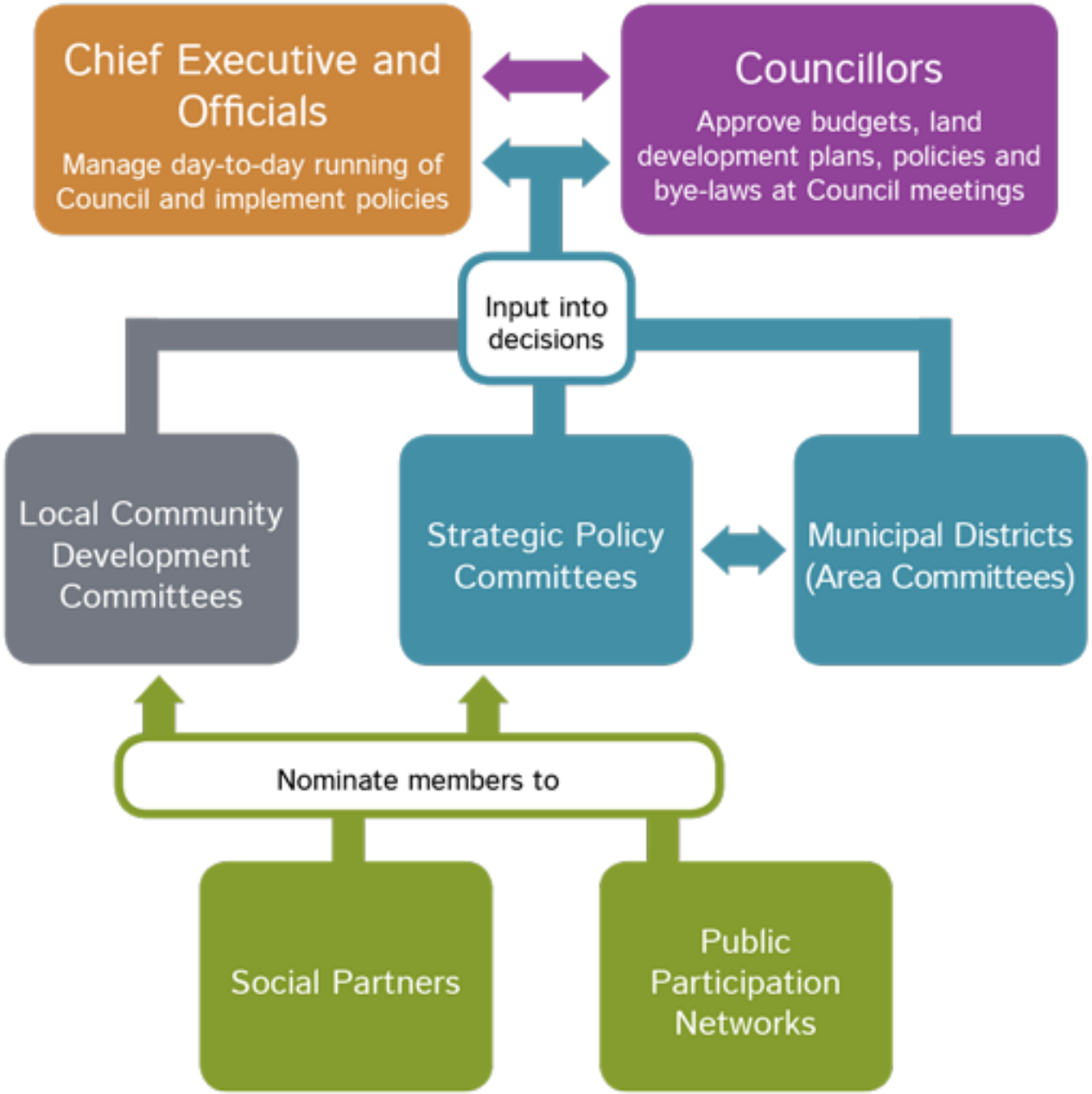
- Regional Spatial and Economic Plans
- County Development Plan
- Local Economic and Community Plan
- Implementation of National Policy and Funding Programmes
- Rural Regeneration and Development, THRIVE, URDF, LEADER, SICAP

Community-Citizen

- Town/ Village Economic and Community Development Plans
- Town Centre First Plans
- Local Elected Reps, PPN, Town Team – input to Local Plans, Policies, Funding Decisions, Projects, etc

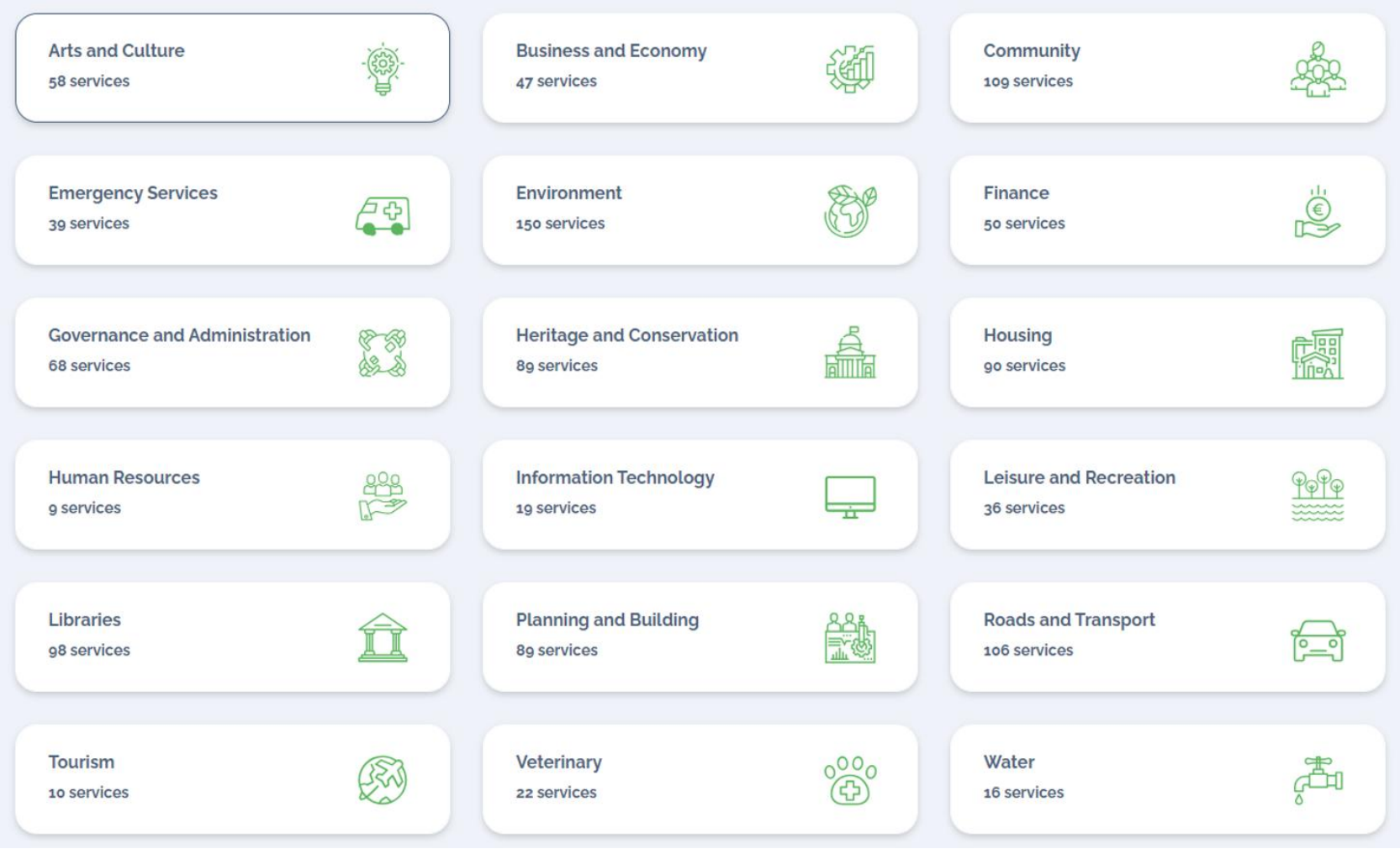
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How Local Government Formally make Decisions



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Local Government Ireland – 1105 Services over 18 Categories



The Local Community Development Committee: Connecting national priorities and local voices

A multi-stakeholder committee supported by the local authority, with an independent statutory role

RURAL COMMUNITIES

Community & voluntary, social inclusion and environmental interests

Voice through the PPN

→

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

19 members

including 5 PPN community representatives

9 public/statutory interests · 10 private/non-statutory interests

←

NATIONAL / EU

Policy frameworks, programmes and funding streams

National–local alignment

CORE TASKS Community elements of Local Economic & Community Plan • SICAP oversight • Supports LEADER through a separately constituted Local Action Group (LAG)• Relevant sub committees

From community voice to practical capability

The Public Participation Network (PPN) is the formal mechanism through which community and voluntary, social inclusion, and environmental groups can influence local authority decision-making and contribute to local policy development.

500+

PPN member groups

Milestone reached in March 2026

30 representatives

Serving on 11 local committees / bodies

FORMAL ROUTE INTO LOCAL DECISIONS

ORGANISE

Community, social inclusion and environmental groups

→

REPRESENT

Elect nominees to the LCDC and other bodies

→

INFLUENCE

Contribute to local policy and consultations

2026 EXAMPLE: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TOOLKIT

Roscommon PPN, Healthy Roscommon and LCDC collaboration; won a national LAMA award in 2026. Case Study in Governments new 5 -year Strategy "Ar Scáth a Chéile"- Promoting, sustaining, inclusive and Empowered communities

SICAP 2026 TO DATE: 95 community organisations and 1,052 individuals engaged

LEADER: turning local priorities into action

A separately constituted LEADER Local Action Group takes funding decisions; Roscommon Integrated Development Company implements the programme.

€6.8m

2023–27 LEADER ALLOCATION

€5.1m projects + €1.7m administration

53

PROJECTS APPROVED

Cumulative to 30 September 2026

€3.790m

GRANT VALUE APPROVED

Cumulative to 30 September 2026

TWO LOCAL LEADER EXAMPLES / APPROVED IN DIFFERENT PROGRAMME PERIODS

PRIOR LEADER PERIOD

€114,926

APPROVED IN 2022

MARGARET'S KITCHEN

Roscommon Town area

Cookery-school expansion; local food enterprise and traditional skills.

LEADER 2023–2027

€200,000

APPROVED IN 2025

BOYLE CELTIC FC

Boyle · Celtic Community Hub

Community function room planned for meetings, learning and local groups.

SEPARATELY: LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME 2026

85 Roscommon community groups awarded funding - €153,829.73

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Gov Policy

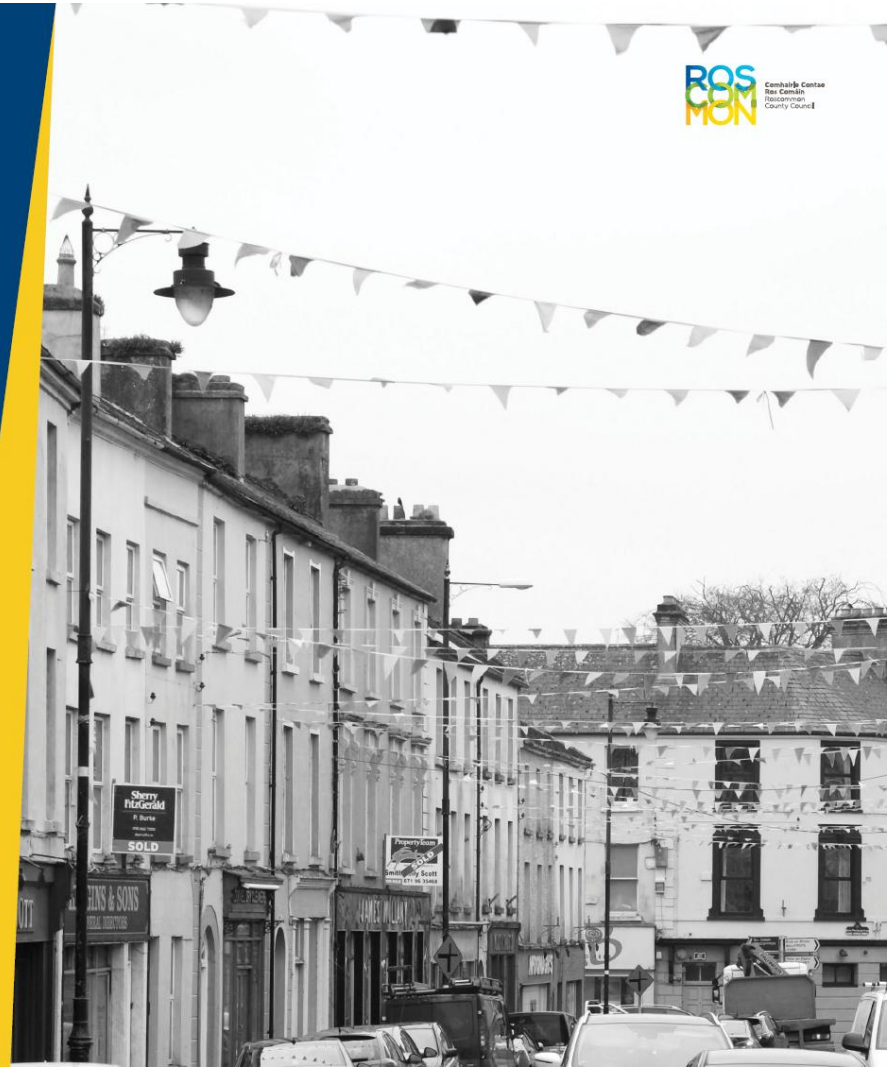
Local Authority, Town Team, Community Groups

Develop Plan

Seek Gov Funding

Produce Regenerated Town

BOYLE 2040



Town Centre Living Initiative
Boyle 2040 – Town Centre First Plan

AN RIOGA & PUBLIC REALM BOYLE



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AN RIOGA & PUBLIC REALM BOYLE



AN RIOGA – HOTEL FRONT





AN RIOGA – RIVERSIDE





