





DIGITAL MEATH

USING TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE LIFE BETTER & EASIER

6TH

HIGHEST HIGH SPEED BROADBAND PENETRATION IN IRELAND



24.7%

OF MEATH'S POPULATION DO NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS

78.9%

MEATH HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST ONLINE PAYMENTS OF MOTOR TAX



3.5%



OF MEATH'S POPULATION HAVE A COMPUTER SCIENCE DEGREE

1.1% OF MEATH'S

POPULATION HAVE A 3RD LEVEL QUALIFICATION IN COMPUTER USE

37% OF IRISH SME'S PROMOTE THEIR BUSINESS ONLINE



& MOST HAVE STATIC WEBSITES LACKING ANY FUNCTIONALITY

21% OF SME'S IDENTIFIED THAT THEY LACK THE KNOWLEDGE TO GO ONLINE



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Foreword



As Chief Executive of Meath County Council it gives me great pleasure to present the Meath Digital Strategy- A Connected County. This strategy builds on Meath's strategic location with historic links across the country and far beyond. It seeks to build on the county's existing strengths and access to high speed internet back haul networks which has yielded benefits for international organisations. The strategy will leverage the opportunities that high speed internet provides to bring these benefits to all parts of our county.

This strategy is built on the input of the community and key stakeholders who have contributed to our understanding of the current challenges that we face and the opportunities that are already available.

Meath has a dispersed population leading to long commuting distances for its residents. Poor public transport contributes to isolated communities made up of disadvantaged groups and unemployed youth. Having access to digital technologies and skills could benefit these communities significantly giving them new opportunities to learn, work and engage with society.

Digital is not just for the young. As member of the Meath Age Friendly Alliance, I am acutely aware that as life expectancy increases, the need to ensure that our county becomes an even greater place in which to grow old in is increasing too. Having the skills to use the digital technologies that exist can support more older persons to live in their own homes and communities for longer, and continue to lead healthy and active lives.

The fact that 54% of the County's working population is commuting to work outside of the county is being addressed by our Economic Development Strategy. Co-working, improved broadband speeds to homes and the development of digital hubs will support residents to improve their own quality of life by working closer to home and reducing the significant environmental impact of over 100 thousand car journeys daily through the County.

Hence our vision for this strategy is to "deliver ways to make use of digital technology to make life better and easier for people."

I thank all who have contributed to the development of this Digital Strategy and our partners for their commitment to help in its delivery.

Jackie Maguire, Chief Executive, Meath County Council

Introduction

What is a Digital Strategy?

Digital is the nearly instant, free and flawless ability to connect people, devices, physical objects and information anywhere.

This Digital Strategy will set out Meath County Council's ambitions to meet the needs and aspirations of the people of County Meath enabling them to benefit from digital technologies and infrastructure throughout the county.

The Digital Strategy is about delivering better informed people, better business, better jobs and opportunities, better education, better private sector services and public services, and a better experience for visitors and investors.

The 2020 Digital Strategy seeks to bring together the critical stakeholders to develop and deliver on actions that will enable Meath to improve on;

- the levels of Digital Skills among its citizens,
- the Digital Infrastructure which will enhance the opportunities for businesses and residents within the County,
- the Digital Economy and opportunities for businesses and employees to benefit from the digital revolution.
- the level of Digital Services provided by Meath County Council for all residents, businesses and visitors to the County.

Background to the Digital Strategy

An EU wide initiative

The Digital Agenda is one of seven flagship initiatives under the Europe 2020 strategy¹. It focuses on modern technologies and online services that will allow Europe to create jobs and promote economic prosperity. It aims to improve the daily lives of EU citizens and businesses in a variety of ways.

Successful delivery and implementation of The Digital Agenda in Ireland is a Government priority. The overall aim of The Digital Agenda is "to deliver sustainable economic and social benefits from a digital single market based on fast and ultrafast internet and interoperable applications."

Ireland is going through a rapid change and upgrading of its fixed-wired telecommunications infrastructure driven by the National Broadband Plan (NBP). The Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce² is delivering significant changes within the wireless sector and digital strategies are being introduced across the public sector.

The Department of the Taoiseach is currently developing the new Digital Strategy for Ireland. The key building blocks of the National Strategy, with associated ambitious actions and a robust implementation strategy, will be based on the following pillars³:

- Foundations encompassing connectivity including 5G, cyber-security, open data
- Well-Being including digital skills training to improve the basic digital skills of the population, action against online harm and inclusion measures centred around local libraries
- Government govt services transformed through use of digital technology
- Economy –individuals adapting to labour market changes and firms becoming more productive through new technologies; develop new ways of working (co-working, remote)

In Meath, significant improvements have been made to the digital infrastructure throughout the county by commercial operators. Mobile phone blackspots are being addressed with the installation of new antenna sites and the county is already leading the way in innovative programmes to deliver improved digital skills and the adoption of digital tools.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/europe-2020-strategy

² https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/215136-mobile-phone-and-broadband-taskforce/

³ Information provided by Department of the Taoiseach, August 2019

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/desi

Measuring performance

In order to ensure the effective adoption of digital, the strategy will seek to improve key performance indicators to reflect its progress. A number of resources have been used to create a baseline on which to build measurable targets for the Digital Strategy. This information came from International, National and Local research to provide information on how Ireland and Meath are performing in the Digital world.

Europe's Digital Economy and Society Index 2019⁴ tracks the progress made by EU Member States in terms of their digitisation, combining quantitive evidence from the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) and qualitative information on country specific policies. This provides an over view of Ireland's Digital Maturity.

The DESI looks at five measures on how a country is performing; its level of connectivity, human capital, use of the internet, integration of digital technologies and digital public services.

Overall Ireland ranks 7th in the DESI 2019 compared to other countries in Europe. The country is identified as leading in the number of STEM graduates and the use of ecommerce by SME's is supported by the relatively high availability and growing use of fast internet. The report does identify issues such as, low levels of rural broadband, low take up of fixed broadband and a lack of basic digital skills in 48% of the population which leaves a lot of room for improvement.

In January 2018 Indecon International Economic Consultants carried out digital assessments of each local authority area⁵. Indecon provided research using the Digital Readiness Assessment (DRA) tool to provide a measure of Meath's Digital Maturity (Figure 2). The DRA measured quantitive and qualitative data on County Meath from a wide range of sources including Central Statistics Office and internal surveys. The County's performance was compared with a peer group of counties (Figure 1.) with a similar urban rural population division and against the Country as a whole.



Figure 2. DRA Peer Groups

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/desi

⁵ The Indecon DRA was commissioned by the Department of Rural & Community Development on behalf of the Local Authorities to give an independent comparative measure.

The DRA was measured under seven pillars that were identified from international digital strategies and the themes of the Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs) across the Country (Table 1).

1.	Digital Skills	an assessment of the digital skills of the population- the Human Capital within the LA Area. This covers both formal skills as well as the skills needed to engage in the digital society.
2.	Infrastructure	the fundamental facilities in each LA that enable digital activity i.e. the use of digital tools (Appendix A), the connectivity of the county, the level of mobile and fixed internet penetration, broadband penetration, and the cost/speed of these services.
3.	Innovation & Entrepreneurship	considers measures of digital initiative and risk, and creation of new ideas or processes. It includes the formalised partnerships and the adoption of digital tools by businesses.
4.	Digital Economy and Employment	include the number of persons employed in ICT areas as a proportion of the local labour force, the utilisation of digital tools by businesses and supports for business to develop in the digital economy.
5.	Digital Services	relates to the level and take-up of services through the internet. (Appendix B)
6.	Community & Culture	concerns the level of digital integration that is present in the LA in relation to these areas. Measures include the level of community engagement, partnerships and the development of a common language on digital issues.
7.	Transitioning to Digital	measures based on a weighted average of the performance in the above areas, importantly to include rates of change, as well as the LAs supports to drive digital change.

Table 1. The Seven Pillars of the Digital Readiness Assessments

The LA's were identified at their Transformational Level of Readiness for each pillar as a representation of their progress (Table 2).

Level 1 - Formative:	Minimal take-up of digital technologies; focussed on LA's own service provision; resource levels and commitment of organisation low and conducted in the absence of an explicit strong strategy.
Level 2 - Emerging:	Take-up of digital technologies is evident across a number of LA services but not in others; take-up variable; Limited out-reach to wider community; resource levels dedicated low, though commitment to long-term strategy; strategy being formed.
Level 3 - Developed:	Take-up of digital technologies is the most important channel across a number of LA services; active out-reach to wider community though limited actual change in behaviours being achieved; resource levels to promote digital strategy strong and in line with published long-term strategy.
Level 4 – Highly Developed:	Ambitious programme of adaption of digital technologies; programmes to promote digital engagement in the wider community; explicit published digital strategy which is an integrated element of the Local Authorities overall planning.
Level 5 - Transformational:	World-leading adaption of digital technologies both in terms of own processes; impactful engagement in the wider community; explicit digital strategy which is a core, integrated element of the Local Authorities overall planning.

Table 2. Transformational Levels of Readiness for the DRA

Meath County Council performed well under the Digital Services and Digital Infrastructure pillars but there is scope for improvement. Meath does need to make improvements in Digital Skills, Digital Transition and Community & Culture.

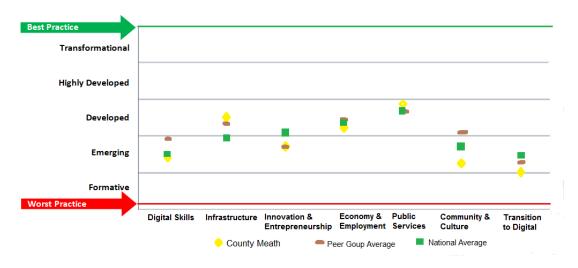


Figure 3. Digital Readiness Assessment of County Meath (Jan 2018)

Identifying Our Priorities

In March 2019 a wide ranging stakeholder engagement process was carried out. This included an online public survey and detailed stakeholder interviews.

These contributions were then brought to a stakeholder workshop held on the 30th April 2019 from which the County's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats were examined (Figure 2). The priorities for the county were then explored in 3 subgroups. These sub groups looked at the key areas of Digital Skills, Digital Enterprise and Economy and Digital Public Services. A fourth pillar- Digital Infrastructure is also necessary to deliver the basic communications networks to be able to effectively deliver on the other pillars.

STRENGTHS

- · Location (GDA, Airport, Ports)
- Workforce
- Young Educated Population
- Committed Local Authority (innovative, leader)
- Skilled L.A. Staff
- Transport Infrastructure
- Tourism & Culture World Heritage Sites
- Low Set Up Costs
- Quality of Life
- Retail Experience (Branding, Artisan Foods)

WEAKNESSESS

- Infrastructure (Broadband)
- Jobs in Dublin (IT skills/ Language skills)
 Leakage c. 5K+ ICT outbound Commuters
- Lack of Confidence- more outward looking
- Lack of high quality office spaces
- Perception Meath seems "Far Away" (outside M50)
- · Competition want to work in Dublin
- Lack of loyalty to the County, lack of community spirit, not from area & don't engage
- Loss of trained staff/corporate knowledge- lack of key resources into key areas
- Low level of funding compared to other LAs, not all the same

OPPORTUNITIES

- Third level opportunities (Proximity to large 3rd level facilities)
- Proximity to Airport & Port Tunnel
- Linkages with county and national strategies to deliver better services & cost savings
- · Vibrant community sector

THREATS

- Competition between LAs
- Continued Dominance of Dublin
- Cyber security
- Economic Instability/cyclical economy
- · Obsolescence of technology
- Protecting the Environment/Climate change- managing major event etc.
- Dependent on investment decisions by central government
- Social exclusion- sections of community being left behind
- Fractured communities- people not engaging in community life

Figure 3. SWOT Analysis on Co. Meath

Meath- A Connected County

Meath has been a centre of public life for over 5000 years with connections across Ireland and beyond. Today Meath is one of the most connected Counties in Ireland with extensive networks traversing the county. Four of Ireland's Motorways pass through Meath with an estimated up to 167 thousand Average Daily Traffic journeys⁶.

The county is already served by high speed back haul networks connecting Dublin to Co. Antrim and the UK, to Co. Derry and on to the UK, Canada and the US, to Lecavey, Co. Mayo and on to Denmark, Norway and New Jersey, Killala, Co. Mayo and New York and Norway.

Its ideal location has welcomed the likes of Alltech, BT – Emergency Call Answering Service, Facebook, Generali and Takeda Pharmecuticals (Shire) as well as being home to home grown international enterprises such as Epicom Food Ltd., Kepak, eCOMM Merchant Solutions and Timoney Mobility Systems. All companies who have recognised Meath's key strategic location.

This Digital Strategy seeks to transform this international connectedness into tangible benefits for Meath's businesses and residents. Ultimately this strategy has the vision:

"We will deliver ways to make use of digital technology to make life better and easier for people"

This vision statement encapsulates our desire to bring the County's successes at attracting national and international companies and telecommunications infrastructure to those who need it.

Our vision is to:

- enable improvements in the digital infrastructure to connect local businesses, residents and visitors to Meath to connect the World;
- provide residents with the skills to exploit this technology;
- enable businesses, entrepreneurs and workers to improve how they operate and engage with the Council; and
- to make Meath County Council's services more effective for all.

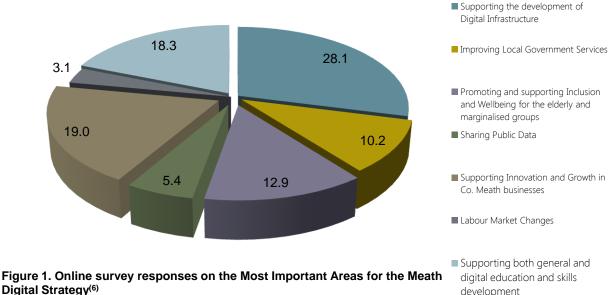
⁶ Estimated from TII, Average Daily Traffic 2017 https://www.tii.ie/tii-library/strategic-planning/nra-road-network-indicators/TII-National-Roads-Network-Indicators-2017.pdf

Pillar A- Digital Infrastructure:

The Need

Survey Respondents⁷ identified that the availability of High Speed Broadband (HSB) is critical (28.1%). As without this rural and urban businesses are severely impacted. The call to bring "broadband to all areas in Meath" was clearly identified as one of the biggest challenges that Meath residents face.

The issue is not purely a rural/urban divide one. Although many in rural areas still struggle with slow or no broadband, residents in many urban housing estates built during the late 1970s and 1980s have inadequate infrastructure to deliver HSB. Residents in some newly built estates are waiting significant periods of time before they are able to get broadband services.



Digital Strategy⁽⁶⁾

⁷ From online public survey through consult.meath.ie in February - March 2019

National Solutions to National Problems

The National Broadband Plan⁸ is a combination of private commercial

investment coupled with State intervention in those areas where commercial operators acting alone will not provide this essential service. The contract to deliver the State intervention network is expected to be signed by the end of 2019. This will support the delivery of high speed broadband to rural areas. Deployment will start as soon as possible once the contract is signed and will take up to seven years to complete. The new network will connect the majority of homes and businesses with a fibre connection. A small percentage of remote or difficult to connect premises will be connected with alternative technology such as fixed wireless connections.



The DRA identifies that Meath's Broadband Infrastructure is above average but it is concentrated in the major county towns.



Depending on location, residents and businesses can avail of several broadband solutions. Fixed line solutions such as Fibre-to-the-Cabinet (FTTC with speeds up to 100Mbs), Coaxial Cable (speeds from 360 up to 1,000 Mbs) and Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP with speeds up to 1000Mbs) are available. In some areas services have been delivered via direct buried cables or on the facade of buildings presenting challenges for upgrading services in these areas. Particular attention needs to be given to ensuring future connectivity to these premises to not only ensure that the architectural heritage of the buildings and the streetscape is maintained but to also ensure that residents and businesses continue to find Meath's towns as a viable location to live and work.

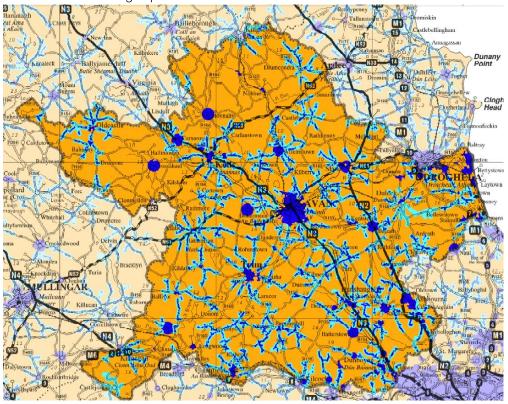
The latest DCCAE Broadband map⁷ (Map 1) illustrates the premises in Co. Meath that are currently able to access high speed broadband. A further 1 % of premises have already been connected as part of Open Eir's planned commercial rural deployment leaving 24% of the premises requiring government

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⁸ https://www.broadband.gov.ie

intervention to get access.

There will be approximately 21,000 predominantly rural premises who have been identified on the map as not being commercially viable and therefore requiring the support of the NBP Intervention Strategy to receive access to a high speed broadband connection⁸.



Map 1. NBP Map for Quarter 2 2019 Co. Meath9

⁹ https://www.dccae.gov.ie/documents/NBP_MAP_COUNTY_Meath.pdf [Accessed 13 Sept 2019]

Bridging the gap

Supporting Fibre Network Development

Through its work with the network operators, Meath County Council has developed clear procedures and policies for the development of infrastructure in roads. Meath County Council will continue to work proactively to support the continued rollout of commercial and public investment in high speed broadband infrastructure.

Meath currently has the 6th highest high speed broadband access in Ireland. To ensure that Meath remains as one of the fastest counties in Ireland. Meath County Council will continue to actively engage with telecom infrastructure providers to ensure the continued rollout of fibre networks across the county.

The 2013- 2019 County Development Plan introduced the requirement for telecommunications ducting to be installed during construction. Meath County Council will **encourage the development of open access networks in all new developments**. This will include the development of shared duct and chamber networks in new housing and commercial developments to minimise the cost of infrastructure development and provide the maximum connectivity opportunities for residents.

All new multi dwelling units (MDUs) will be required to install common shared access ducting to each premises and ensure that all providers will have equal access to deliver services to all occupants.

To support the NBP public investment in infrastructure, Meath County Council will seek to minimise the administrative costs of the project by **providing streamlined Road Opening Licence processing** and will **facilitate cross municipal district T2¹ licence applications**. This will enable cross Municipal District licencing, common conditions and standards across the county with efficient licence approval and signoff.

Our success will be measured by recording the total Kilometres of fibre delivered across the County and the number and percentage of premises connected to FTTH networks across all providers.

Support Mobile Network Development

The NBP Public investment will take up to seven years to deliver its network. As rural residents await the NBP deployment, wireless connectivity is a potential option for short term connection to HSB.

Progress has been made on identifying and remedying mobile phone blackspots across the county however there is an on-going need for further development and densification as the population of the County increases.

To support continued mobile network development Meath County Council will continue to proactively engage with mobile operators to identify and remedy blackspots. Where suitable the Council will support the use of public infrastructure to improve coverage. As newer slim-line monopole and street lamp mounted antennae are developed Meath County Council will develop clear policies and procedures to support suitable developments.

Our success will be measured by recording the average percentage of the population and the percentage of Meath's geographic area covered by 3G, 4G and 5G technologies across all providers.

Providing Access

To support rural communities over the duration of the rollout funding will also be provided for the development of Broadband Connection Points (BCP) in community facilities across the county. Many of these BCPs will be supported to become Community & Local Enterprise (CLE) Hubs to facilitate co-working.

The European Commission wishes to promote free Wi-Fi connectivity for citizens and visitors in public spaces¹⁰. To support this, the EU's WIFI4EU Initiative matched by Department of Rural & Community Development funding will provide the equipment and installation costs of internet access points across the county. Meath County Council will use this funding to provide free public Wi-Fi in urban centres and community facilities throughout the county.

To demonstrate our continued commitment we will be measured on the number of BCPs and Hubs delivered, the number of Free Public Wi-Fi Access Points Connected and the number of users using these facilities.

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https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/policies/wifi4eu-free-wi-fi-europeans

Pillar B- Enhancing Digital Skills:

The digital skills of the population, the Human Capital within the LA Area cover both formal skills (such as technical IT skills) as well as the skills needed to engage in the digital society (e.g. access and use of the internet).

Ireland ranks 11th among EU countries in the DESI 2019 on Digital Skills⁽³⁾, above the EU average regarding Human Capital, but is still lagging behind the highest performing countries.

Although Ireland performs well on ICT Graduates and ICT specialists employed in the Country, it lags behind EU averages on the skill levels of Internet Users such as Individuals with Basic Digital Skills, Individuals with Basic Software Skills and Individuals with above basic Digital Skills⁽³⁾.

The DRA identified the Digital Skills level in Co. Meath as "Emerging" with only 3.5% of Meath's population having a computer science degree and 1.1% of the population of Meath have 3rd level qualification in computer use.

This strategy seeks to deliver supports to enhance the digital skills across all groups, from getting more people online, to increasing the available training opportunities for more experienced users.

Across the county 69% of the population have a PC and 75% have internet access showing a high level of uptake on digital tools¹¹. However rural areas lag significantly behind urban centres like Ratoath which has 81% of homes with PCs.

There are several initiatives to up skill and improve the digital literacy of the disadvantaged sectors of society such as the Digital Skills for Citizens programme, peer-2-peer and Schools Digital Champion programmes. However, the DESI identified that there is no coordinated and targeted national strategy specifically for digital skills, which would cover all the different levels of skills and different stages of life, and which would provide a specific roadmap to close the digital skills gap with the rest of the EU.

¹¹ Census 2016 Broadband and Car Ownership data secured from the CSO June 2019

Access to Digital Technology and Physical Infrastructure

With as much as 75% of the homes in some rural areas lacking broadband⁽¹¹⁾, the County cannot achieve its objectives without improved connectivity and access to digital equipment to enable people to up skill.

Meath County Council hosts the Age Friendly National Office and has supported the development of Age Friendly Technologies. Through the Age Friendly National Office we will promote the use of age friendly technologies and skills development programmes.



The full deployment of the NBP State intervention network will take up to seven years. DCCAE and DRCD intend to ensure an early connection to high speed broadband in specific key locations in rural communities. These key locations in rural communities will be connected with high speed broadband in Year 1 of the NBP State intervention deployment while waiting for the wider deployment to reach their area. These locations are called Broadband Connection Points (BCPs).

The BCPs will provide both an interim solution and a community resource, Meath County Council, Meath Partnership and other voluntary organisations will support the development and promote utilisation of BCPs as community hubs for education and shared skills development. Funding for these and additional hub facilities is available and we will promote these funding streams to complement the NBP BCPs.

Digital Skills development provides great opportunities for local communities of all ages and abilities. Meath County Library Services provides accessibility for disadvantaged groups to services, training opportunities and the internet. It is now improving access to new technologies such as 3D printers, smart tables, Tablets, VR headsets and digital tools for use by members¹². The library service will continue to improve on its **provision of technology for all levels and the development of IT learning centres** across the county.

¹² Some facilities and equipment are already installed in Navan and Trim Open Library, WIFI available in all libraries.

Education & Training

There are already a host of training programmes available across the county. Actions through this strategy we will link existing training service providers to avoid duplication of services, this will enable us to create partnerships on digital skills programmes and provide sustainable training development for all ages and levels of ability. We will also work with partner organisations to explore funding opportunities for new digital

programmes such as the VEX Robotics

initiative in schools.

The Meath County Library Service will increase its outreach services and promote library training services such as digital skills training, e-learning and e-magazines.

Supporting Participation, Inclusion and Access

24.7 percent of Meath's population do not have internet access (11), partner organisations have identified that engaging the "hard to reach" is getting more difficult. It is necessary for us to improve our communications with community groups and individuals to



encourage them to benefit from the supports. To do this action we will improve communications through the PPN to relevant organisations and use other channels to communicate directly with citizens across the County.

Several organisations are providing supports for these sectors and it is essential that we **build on existing forums to co-ordinate service provision** across the County. These organisations and citizens at large will be encouraged to **make use of existing services and facilities** such as the Unity Centre, Library services and age friendly programme locations as well as the new CLE Hubs.

To provide a wider range of opportunities for citizens to engage in digital tools and services we will seek to **develop online cultural resources** expanding on previous Arts and Heritage initiatives such as oral histories, grave records, field name projects and the archiving of Local Authority records and collections.

Specific programmes will be examined to **improve the skill levels among Travellers** and encourage their continued educational attainment.

We will measure our performance in improving the digital skills based on the number of programmes delivered, the number of locations and the number of participants across the County. We will also be measured on the number of community hubs delivered and their usage, the grants drawn down to deliver these hubs.

Our performance will also be measured based on the added funding for digital skills programmes across the County. The library will continue to record their level of engagement, utilisation of e-learning and e-magazine services and outreach activities. It will also be measured on its improvement in digital across the County.

Pillar C- Stimulating the Digital Economy:

An Online Nation

Ireland ranks strongly in the Integration of digital technology into enterprises according to the DESI².

		Ireland				
	DESI 2017	DESI 2018	DESI	2019	DESI 2019	
	value	value	value	rank	value	
4a1 Electronic information sharing	25%	28%	28%	19	34%	
% enterprises	2015	2017	2017		2017	
4a2 Social media	36%	36%	36%	4	21%	
% enterprises	2016	2017	2017		2017	
4a3 Big data	NA	NA	20%	4	12%	
% enterprises	2016	2016	2018		2018	
4a4 Cloud	24%	NA	33%	5	18%	
% enterprises	2016	2017	2018		2018	
4b1 SMEs selling online	30%	30%	30%	2	17%	
% SMEs	2016	2017	2018		2018	
4b2 e-Commerce turnover	22%	23%	26%	1	10%	
% SME turnover	2016	2017	2018		2018	
4b3 Selling online cross-border	16%	17%	17%	1	8%	
% SMEs	2015	2017	2017		2017	

Table 3. Abridged Ireland's Integration of Digital Technology²

The overall size of the digital economy in Ireland in 2017 was estimated at €30 billion or 13% of the total Irish economy GDP. It was estimated to reach €44 billion by 2020¹³. Ireland's digitally intensive sectors employ 212,000 (10.6%) of Ireland's workers⁽¹²⁾.

^{13 &}lt;a href="https://www.frontier-economics.com/media/1118/20171204">https://www.frontier-economics.com/media/1118/20171204 <a href="https://www.frontier-economics.com/media/1118/2017

There is significant scope to improve the level of electronic file sharing being done by companies[®]. Opportunities also exist to make further improvements in the number of businesses using Social Media and cloud services.

However, while Irish Small, Medium and Large Enterprises have benefitted from the adoption of digital technologies and ecommerce, micro-enterprises have not yet benefitted to the same extent¹⁴.

The EU definition of a small enterprise is those with 10-49 employees. In Ireland 92% of all enterprises are micro businesses which are not captured in the DESI research. IEDR research finds only 30% of SME's (including Micro-enterprises) with websites can process payments or take sales orders online¹⁵. While 89% of

SMEs recognise the importance of their website, only 37% promote their businesses online and most have static websites lacking any functionality¹⁴.

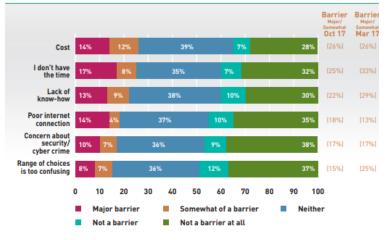
The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) in Meath is the primary business support agency for start up and micro enterprises. To improve their digital presence and to begin to do business online the LEO offers supports to micro and small businesses through the Trading Online Vouchers¹⁶. The LEOs also provide social media and online business skills training.

Connected Businesses

"Poor internet connection" is cited as a barrier for 18% of SMEs¹⁴ (see figure 4). It is therefore essential that businesses are able to connect to high speed broadband.

Barriers to online activity

Using a scale of 1-5, where 5 is not a barrier and 1 is a major barrier, please rate each of the following statements on whether you believe them to be a barrier towards your business going online.



Base 170: All companies without a website - October 2017

Figure 4. The main barriers that prevent SME's getting online 14

https://www.localenterprise.ie/Meath/Financial-Supports/Trading-Online-Vouchers/ [Accessed 5 Sept 2019]

¹⁴ https://www.iedr.ie/uploads/IEDR-Digital-Health-Index-Q417.pdf [Accessed 5 Sept 2019]

https://www.iedr.ie/uploads/IE-Domain-Registry-SME-Digital-Health-Index-2018.pdf [Accessed 5 Sept 2019]

We will develop guidance to support businesses to connect to broadband solutions and advise them on the best options available.

A process by which businesses can report issues will be established that will enable us to **identify rural and urban blackspot areas** and where possible work with the telecom providers to deliver solutions.

The BCPs and the CLE Hubs will help businesses based in rural areas. The strategy will **provide access to local hubs** providing opportunities for co-working and for entrepreneurs to get online locally and to link with LEO Meath and Meath Enterprise supports. Stakeholders will be engaged to ensure that these facilities are attractive to remote workers and their employers as work locations.

An enterprise centre and hub development strategy will be developed to enable co-workers and entrepreneurs at all levels to find the best solutions as their needs change over time.

Our performance will be measured through the delivery of guidance for businesses, the number of premises passed and hubs made available to local entrepreneurs.

Stimulating Engagement

19% of Irish SMEs have no digital assets at all¹⁴. 29% of these enterprises have 1-2 employees. 66% have a website and the numbers using Facebook has risen to 62%¹⁷.

Research¹⁵ has shown that where possible Irish SMEs are integrating the full range of e-commerce and research tools into their digital and overall business plans.

Slow adoption is limiting business's ability to utilise digital tools, to improve online trading by Small and Micro enterprises and operate more efficiently. To address this we will develop an engagement strategy to promote broadband uptake, identify demand hotspots and stimulate digital opportunities.

To improve business's ability to do business with the Council, we will **optimise the Meath County Council** website to integrate with LEO Meath and Meath Enterprise sites and enable efficient engagement and communication with the council.

http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/statire/SelectVarVal/Define.asp?maintable=ICA64&PLanguage=0

Performance on stimulating engagement will be measured based on the delivery of the engagement strategy and usage of the hubs and take up of services. Downloads, level of functionality, and use of the Council website will be used as a measure of the effectiveness of this strategy and the online tools available.

Digital Transformation

However, efforts still need to be made to ensure that online SMEs have access to resources to understand and exploit these technologies, either through training initiatives or investment schemes.

21% of businesses identified that they lack the knowledge to go online⁽¹⁴⁾. Working with our partner organisations we will **identify skills gaps and collaborate on digital skills development programmes.** To do this effectively we will need to **continually review and co-ordinate training offerings from training organisations (LEO, LMETB, Meath Partnership)** to provide accessible training opportunities such as briefings and online bite-sized learning resources. It will also be necessary to **identify and secure funding streams to support initiatives** to enable businesses to benefit from digital technologies.

We will measure our performance to improve digital skills of the business sectors based on the number of programmes delivered, the number of locations and the number of participants across the County. We will also be measured on the value of funding secured to deliver supports for digital initiatives.

Pillar D- Digital Services:

The European Digital Single Market

The European Commission has placed "digital" at the core of its strategic development¹⁸. This strategy aims to open up digital opportunities for people and business and enhance Europe's position as a world leader in the digital economy.

The Commission sees effective eGovernment as providing a wide variety of benefits including more efficiency and savings for governments and businesses,



increased transparency, and greater participation of citizens in political life.

The DESI 2019⁽³⁾ identified that on Digital Public Services shows that Ireland is performing relatively well. However, the report identifies three areas which are where Meath County Council can contribute to improvements: e-Government Users, Pre-filled Form and Online Service Completion. National initiatives are required to improve utilisation of e-health and e-prescriptions. The Public Service Data Strategy 2019-2023⁽⁹⁾ aims to promote the reuse of data, where possible, so that citizens and businesses do not have to provide the same information over and over again.

Meath County Council has already developed a strong digital services infrastructure with good levels of online engagement including one of the highest online payments of Motor tax at 78.9%. The new Meath.ie website and online consultation platform are facilitating increased service provision.

Excellence in Customer Services

In 2019, Meath County Council launched its new website with enhanced functionality and a better user interface. This will now enable the Council to engage in proactive external communications through its

¹⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities_en [Accessed 5th Sept 2019]

¹⁹ https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/e1744b-minister-of-state-odonovan-launches-the-public-service-data-strategy/ [Accessed 5th Sept 2019]

website, social media and interactive maps, further developing the functionality and integration with our social media, public consultation and planning platforms.

Over time, applications for council permits and grants are to be moved on to meath ie providing a streamlined process (online forms, FAQs, SOPS) and increase quality of service (reliability, completion).

To provide improved identity and confidence in Meath County Council communications and initiatives a new communications strategy with consistent branding will be rolled out across all mediums.

We are able to measure our performance through using the range of online tools such as Google analytics, the number of our followers and the level of engagement in the council's online services. We will also survey users and the market to optimise our performance.

Build influential partnerships with key stakeholders

Across the County, Meath County Council and its external partners have a wealth of tacit knowledge and experience. To improve performance they will **improve collaboration and communications** between stakeholders by exploiting digital tools such as Office 365 and Sharepoint, and make use of business cases and programme management tools.

Using these tools will support stakeholders to **identify and act on synergies** across the county and lead to **proactive engagement** on a wider range of projects.

We will know we are delivering on these actions through the number of collaborative projects being delivered and partnership opportunities developed.

Support culture of staff excellence

In line with Meath's corporate policy to deliver excellent services and support staff to work in ways that realise better and more efficient services for customers, other staff and stakeholders, we will continue to take measures to proactively attract, develop and retain staff. This in part will be delivered by supporting staff to identify skill gaps and provide training to enable all staff to flourish. The use of digital tools will encourage knowledge sharing across the organisation.

Meath County Council will demonstrate its commitment by internally reviewing its Human Resource procedures to maximise learning and identify opportunities to promote its culture and opportunities for personal development and shared learning through employment with Meath County Council.

Enabling the Strategy

Commitment and Structures

Meath County Council has several existing statutory and non statutory plans which this Digital Strategy will have to complement and support. In particular the County Development Plan and Local Economic and Community Plan will both direct the objectives of this strategy.

Delivery of Change

Key Performance Indicators have been identified for each of the Priorities and Action Points (Appendix C). Specific projects will be identified to support the improvement of these performance indicators. These projects will have quarterly reporting on progress with an annual review of the actions and performance indicators.

Appendix A- DRA Infrastructure Digital Technology Usage

Extent of Use of Following Digital Technologies in	Nationally			Peer C	Meath		
your Area	Provided by LA	Provided by Not by LA	Not Provided	Provided by LA	Provided by Not by	Not Provided	
To integrate real-time information on vehicle flows to manage traffic congestion	29%	19%	52%	50%	33%	17%	Not Provided
To maximise energy efficiency through smart grid technology	13%	16%	71%	0%	0%	100%	Not Provided
To support more effective/efficient waste management	26%	16%	58%	0%	17%	83%	Not Provided
To provide telehealth/telecare to improve citizens health	3%	26%	71%	17%	33%	50%	Provided But Not by LA
To provide virtual mechanisms to facilitate online co-working	19%	16%	65%	17%	17%	67%	Provided But Not by LA
To provide real time information on cultural activities	68%	10%	23%	50%	17%	33%	Provided by LA
To provide real time information to wider community and the public to assist them to make better choices	65%	10%	26%	33%	17%	50%	Provided by LA
To provide GIS data sharing	71%	0%	29%	50%	0%	50%	Not Provided
Real time information on floods and other natural disaster risks in the country	55%	23%	23%	33%	50%	17%	Provided But Not by LA
Centralised integrated digital dashboard providing real time information for citizens	26%	3%	71%	33%	0%	67%	Not Provided

Appendix B- Digital Services

	Nationally				Peer Group				
% of LAs who Support Digital Public Interaction with LA	Service Not	Service Not Available by Planned for Introduction in Next Year	Service Available but Usage Low	Service Available and Used Extensively	Service Not Available	Service Not Available by Planned for Introduction in Next Year	Service Available but Usage Low	Service Available and Used Extensively	Meath County Council
Community/Public Complaints	13%	6%	39%	42%	0%	0%	50%	50%	Extensive
Customer/Citizen Requests	10%	13%	29%	48%	0%	17%	17%	67%	Planned
Applications for Grant Funding	48%	32%	6%	13%	33%	50%	17%	0%	Not Available
Community Welfare Applications	84%	10%	6%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	Not Available
Infor on Enterprise Development	3%	6%	29%	61%	0%	0%	50%	50%	Usage Low
Participation in National Integrated Licence Applications	48%	26%	13%	13%	83%	0%	17%	0%	Usage Low
Road Opening Licences	16%	6%	10%	68%	17%	17%	17%	50%	Extensive
Scaffolding Licences	81%	3%	3%	13%	100%	0%	0%	0%	Not Available
Payment of Commercial Rates	35%	10%	23%	32%	33%	0%	50%	17%	Usage Low
Payments for Licences	29%	16%	26%	29%	33%	0%	50%	17%	Usage Low
Tender Notices	6%	0%	6%	87%	0%	0%	0%	100%	Extensive

	Nationally				Peer Group				
% of LAs who Support Digital Public Interaction with LA	Service Not Available	Service Not Available by Planned for Introduction in Next Year	Service Available but Usage Low	Service Available and Used Extensively	Service Not Available	Service Not Available by Planned for Introduction in Next Year	Service Available but Usage Low	Service Available and Used Extensively	Meath County Council
E-Procurement	10%	0%	23%	68%	0%	0%	33%	67%	Extensive
Access to Electoral Register	3%	0%	10%	87%	0%	0%	0%	100%	Extensive
Library Services	0%	0%	3%	97%	0%	0%	0%	100%	Extensive
Commercial Registrations	87%	3%	6%	3%	83%	0%	17%	0%	Not Available
Residential Planning Applications	32%	48%	0%	19%	50%	50%	0%	0%	Planned
Commercial Planning Applications	32%	48%	0%	19%	50%	50%	0%	0%	Planned
Payment for Planning Applications	48%	45%	0%	6%	50%	50%	0%	0%	Planned
Search Planning Applications	3%	3%	0%	94%	0%	0%	0%	100%	Extensive
E-Parking	55%	13%	3%	29%	33%	33%	0%	33%	Not Available
E-Access of Archiving LA Records	71%	10%	10%	10%	67%	0%	17%	17%	Not Available
E-Traffic Information	68%	10%	13%	10%	67%	0%	33%	0%	Not Available
Skip permits	90%	0%	3%	6%	100%	0%	0%	0%	Not Available

		Nationally			Peer Grou		
% of LAs who Provide the Following Services	Service Not Available	Service Available But Low Usage	Service Available and Used Extensively	Service Not Available	Service Available But Low Usage	Service Available and Used Extensively	Meath County Council
LinkedIn profile	52%	39%	10%	33%	33%	33%	Extensive
YouTube channel	19%	68%	13%	17%	50%	33%	Low Usage
Video content on website	16%	58%	26%	17%	50%	33%	Low Usage
Internet access in Libraries	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	Extensive
Facebook page	6%	0%	94%	0%	0%	100%	Extensive
Twitter account	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	Extensive
Free Wi-Fi (in public places)	29%	16%	55%	0%	17%	83%	Extensive
Free Wi-Fi (for public) in council offices	6%	29%	65%	0%	17%	83%	Extensive
Website optimised for smartphone	13%	6%	81%	33%	0%	67%	Extensive
Self-service website	52%	23%	26%	50%	17%	33%	Low Usage
Local Authority smart phone app	71%	13%	16%	67%	0%	33%	Extensive
Ability to run data analysis on website	32%	13%	55%	50%	0%	50%	Extensive

Appendix C.- Actions and Milestones

Pillar A- Digital Infrastructure

Priority	Actions	2020 Milestones	Lead Partner	KPIs
1. Support commercial FTTP development	a. Work proactively to support continued roll out of broadband	Develop ROL Procedures Participate with national agencies and groups on the development and management of the ROL process from end to end. Develop business case for telecommunications Ducting Install LA ducting in areas with a demonstrated business case.	MCC-Transport MCC- Transport MCC-BBO	(i) No. of licences processed. (ii) Attendance at meetings
	b. Actively engage with telecoms Infrastructure Providers	Hold regular progress meetings with operators Provide roadworks programme to Telcos	MCC-BBO MCC-BBO	(i) Km of fibre delivered (ii) Number and % of premises connected
	c. encourage the development of open access networks in all new developments	Ensure CDP and Planning Conditions reflect best practice	MCC-Planning	
	d. provide streamlined ROL Processing and cross MD T2 ¹ applications	Centralised team managing ROLS	MCC- Transport	
2. Support Mobile network	Proactively engage with mobile operators to identify blackspots	Monitor COMREG Coverage Map Engage with operators to cover blackspots	MCC-BBO MCC-BBO	(i) % of population Coverage for 3, 4 & 5G (ii)% of geographic coverage for 3, 4 & 5G
development	b. Support the use of public infrastructure where possible to improve coverage	I. Identify any public infrastructure on OPW Map tool for use by Mobile operators	MCC-BBO	
	c. Develop a policies and procedures to support suitable developments	1. Develop & publish 254 Application procedure.	MCC-Planning	
3. Develop	a. Develop Broadband Connection Points in community facilities across Co. Meath	1. Deliver at least 8 BCPs	MCC-BBO	(i) Number of BCPs /hubs delivered
wireless connectivity	b. Provide free public WIFI in urban centres and community facilities	Deliver public WIFI in main population centres through the WIFI4EU Programme Identify and deliver added Hub locations depending on funding availability	MCC-BBO Meath Enterprise	(i) Number of APs delivered (ii) Number of users

Pillar B- Digital Skills

Dui - uita -	Tananat Antinana	0000 Miles (Lead	I/DI-
Priority	Target Actions	2020 Milestones	Partner	KPIs
1. Technical/	a. Promote Age friendly	Consult with older persons and stakeholders about the	MCC & National-	(i) Number of Programme Participants
physical	technologies & skills, utilising Age Friendly National Office as	technical and infrastructure	Age Friendly Office	(ii) Number of programmes delivered
infrastructure	a mechanism	development needs of older		
	a moonamom	persons	MCC-Community	
		Deliver & Promote online	& MCC Age	
		training programme on Age	friendly	
		Friendly & Public Realm		
		Development		
		3. Support the further	MCC- Libraries	
		development of Age Friendly		
		technology availability through	NATO	
		MCC Libraries 4. Develop information to	NAFO	
		highlight the benefits of e-		
		health and integrated care for		
		Aged Communities	MCC-Community	
		5. Mapping of Age friendly	,	
		Services and need.		
	b. support the development	1. Launch 8 No. Locations	MCC- BBO	(i) Number of community Hubs available
	and promotion of Broadband	across the county		(ii) Total number of hrs available
	Connection Points	2. Each launch to be covered in Local Media, communications		(iii)Number of users
		and social media		
	c. Promotion of funding	Support BCPs to access	MCC-BBO	(i) Number of Grants awarded
	streams (LEADER/RRDF) to	funding.		(ii) Total value of Grants Awarded (€)
	complement NBP BCPs			``
	d. Provision of technology	1. Identify opportunities to	MCC-Library	(i) number of digitally enabled libraries,
	for all levels, IT learning	improve on digital technologies		(ii) Number of open libraries,
	centres, 3D printers	across the library network		(iii) No of digital equipment bookings
		2. Deliver digital suite in	MCC-Library	(iv) Internet Bookings
		Ashbourne Library		(v) Wi-Fi Users (vi) uptake of digital magazines
				(vi) uptake of digital magazines (vil) research
				(viii) universal class
				(ix) language learning

Priority	Target Actions	2020 Milestones	Lead Partner	KPIs
2. Education/ Training	a. Outreach Library training services i.e. Mosney/roadshows to promote range of eservices: etraining/elearning/emaga zines	develop roadshow schedule Deliver roadshow in 6 locations	MCC-Library MCC-Library	(i) Number of roadshow locations, (ii) Numbers engaged in roadshows
	b. Link existing training service providers around event location (Google, 3 rd Age, LMETB, FB, Meath Partnership)- to avoid duplication of services	Arrange meeting with service providers to review offerings and opportunities for improvement	LMETB	
	c. Sustainable training for all ages/levels of ability/ongoing training	Catalogue of training opportunities	LMETB	(i) number of participants in training programmes
	d. Partnerships "Digital Skills for Citizens" (eg. 3rd Age & Meath Partnership)	I. Identify new Programme Locations 2. Deliver programme in new sites	Meath Partnership Meath Partnership/3 rd Age	(i) number of participants in Digital Skills for Citizens (ii) Number of venues for programme
	e. Explore funding for new digital programmes (eg VEX Robotics)	1. Identify programme opportunities & funding 2.Deliver Pilot programme in 2 locations	MCC-BBO MCC-BBO	(i) € secured(ii) programmes delivered
3. Participation /inclusion/ access	a. Improve communications through the PPN to relevant organisations and use other channels directly with citizens across the County	Survey PPN members on communications Devise a revised communications policy	MCC-PPN CO MCC-PPN CO	
	b. Build on existing Forums to co-ordinate service provision (NTD/ Prosper Meath/SICAP/LMETB) – no duplication of services	Organise workshop to review services and identify Gaps	LMETB	(i) annual meeting (LCDC)
	c. Encourage use of existing services and facilities by hard to reach communities - Unity centre/library services/ age friendly	Develop targeted programmes develop Communications strategy for hard to reach communities	Ed Forum (2b) MCC-DS Demand Stimulation Group	(i) number of distinct programmes/workshops (ii) Number of Venues utilised (iii) Number of participants on programmes

d. Develop online Cultural	 Develop hit list of potential 	MCC-	(i) number of Groups attending
resources e.g. oral histories,	projects for development	Tourism/Library	Workshops/Programmes
grave records, local history,	2. Deliver 2 new resources		(ii) number of resources available
field names project, Archiving of			
LA Records - existing groups			
e. Deliver Travellers	1. Skills gap analysis	Meath Travellers	(i) Number of participants
workshops to improve their skill	2. Identify new programmes for	Workshop	(ii) Number of workshops delivered
levels	Travellers		·
	3. Deliver 3 new workshops		

Pillar C- Digital Economy

Priority	Actions	2020 Milestones	Lead Partner	KPIs
1. Broadband	a. develop guidance to support business to Broadband solutions	Monitor broadband rollout and provide support to enterprises	MCC-BBO	(i) Number of premises passed (ii) Number of premises connected
	b. Identify rural & urban blackspots areas	Record blackspot areas and support companies to find solutions. Work with Telcos to remediate blackspots	MCC-BB0	
	c. The development of hubs	1. Deliver 8 local BCPs	MCC-BBO	(i) Number of community Hubs available (ii) Total number of hrs available (iii)Number of users
2. Engagement	Engagement strategy to promote broadband availability, identify demand hotspots and stimulate digital opportunities	Develop engagement strategy	MCC-ED	(i) Strategy Developed (ii) Numbers engaged
	b. Meath Co. Co. optimised site/Microsite to engage and communicate with the council	i. identify requirements for MCC 2. Optimise Meath County Council Website to integrate with LEO and MakeltMeath sites. 3. Start the development of "Enterprising Meath" Site to promote and highlight businesses in Co. Meath business parks.	MCC-ED MCC-IS Meath Enterprise	(i)Time spent on MCC Sites (ii) Delivery of optimised site (iii) Development of the website
3. Digital Transformation	Identify Skills gaps and collaborate on Digital Skills Development	Carry out a Digital Skills Gap analysis Attend Digital Futures/Enterprise events to up skill stakeholders to understand the opportunities available.	RSF MCC-LEO/Meath Enterprise	(i) number of course participants
	b. Continually review and co- ordinate training offerings from training organisations (LEO, LMETB, Meath Partnership)	deliver a range of online training course for local enterprises & SMEs	MCC-LEO	(i) number of training programmes provided
	c. Identify and secure funding streams to support initiatives	Identify business needs for investment. Identify funding routes & pilot companies	MCC-LEO MCC-LEO	(i) value (€) of funding secured

Pillar D- Digital Services

Priority	Actions	2020 Milestones	Lead Partner	KPIs
1. Excellenc e in customer services	A. Proactive external communications (website, social media, interactive maps)	Communications & Branding Policy launched Social Media training for Staff Improve the Discover Meath & DiscoverBoyneValley Websites	1.MCC-Corporate 2. MCC-HR 3. MCC- Tourism	(i) Utilise Google Analytics measures (ii) Number of posts/communications made (iii) number of followers (iv) Number of engagements (reposts etc.) and goal conversions (v) User Surveys
	b. Streamline processes (online forms, FAQs, SOPS) and increase quality of service (reliability, completion)	Audit and prioritisation of services Deliver 5 FAQs and 3 Online forms	1. MCC-IS 2. MCC-IS	(i) number of forms available online (ii) Number of FAQ's online and updated (iii) Number of submissions online (iv) time spent from start to end of each process (v)User surveys
	c. Communications strategy with strong identity through consistent branding	Communications and Branding Policy launched	MCC-Corporate	(i)Marketing surveys
2. Build influential partnerships with key	a. Improve internal collaboration, efficient communications (365 & Sharepoint, business case, programme management)	1. Introduce Office 365 & Sharepoint to MCC	MCC-IS	(i)Staff survey before and after implementation
stakeholders	b. Identify and act on synergies across the organisation	Pilot new Cross organisation project briefing workshop Allocate budget for projects (e.g. Telecommunications Ducting)	Management Team	(i)Number of opportunities identified
	c. Proactive engagement with stakeholders	e.g Provide Communication Tools awareness programme (e.g. Jabber) to improve efficiencies	IS	(i)Number of opportunities identified (ii) Number of partnerships delivered
3. Support culture of staff excellence	a. Proactively attract, develop and retain staff	Exit interviews will be used to identify any opportunities for improvement Staff Partnership to be reenergised and promoted throughout the organisation.	MCC-HR MCC-HR	(i)Turnover of staff (ii)Average Stay (iii)Reasons for leaving through exit interviews
	b. Identify skill gaps and provide training	I. Identify specific skill requirements in relation to social media and online platforms for staff	MCC-HR MCC-HR	(i)Skills inventory of staff (ii) Number of staff attending digital training

	2. Examine opportunities to rollout CDP/PDP across the organisation.	
c. Encourage knowledge sharing	Pilot new Cross organisation project briefing workshop	(i) number of online resources (ii) Number of FAQ's in Knowledge bases (iii)Number of Cross-training sessions delivered

Appendix D.- Glossary of Terms

BBO Broadband Officer

CRO Company Registration Office

CSO Central Statistics Office

DCCAE Department of Communications Climate Action and Environment

DCU Dublin City University

DES Department of Education & Skills

DESI Digital Economy and Society Index

DHPLG Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

DRA Digital Readiness Assessment

DRCD Department of Rural and Community Development

DSL Digital Subscriber Line

EDPR Europe's Digital Progress Report

E U European Union

FTTP Fibre to the Premises

FWA Fixed Wireless Access

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GDPR General Data Protection Regulation

GEM Global Economic Monitor

HR Human Resources

ICT Information & Communication Technology

ITB Institute of Technology Blanchardstown

ISP Internet Service Provider

LA Local Authorities

LCDC Local Economic Development Committee

LECP Local Economic and Community Plan

LEO Local Enterprise Office

MANs Metropolitan Area Networks

MCC Meath County Council

MD Municipal District

MPBT Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce

NCCA National Council for Curriculum and Assessment

NBP National Broadband Plan

PPN Public Participation Network

PR Public Relations

RMO Roads Management Office

ROL Road Opening Licence

SMEs Small & Medium Enterprises

SPC Strategic Policy Committees

STEM Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Telcos Telecommunications Companies

TII Transport Infrastructure Ireland

VCC Virtual Community College

VDSL Very-high-bit-rate Digital Subscriber Line

VOIP Voice Over Internet Protocol

