

Impact Report Local Enterprise Office Carlow 2022 Update



Oifig
Fiontair
Áitiúil

Local
Enterprise
Office

Making It Happen



Plan

Start

Grow

LocalEnterprise.ie/Carlow



Rialtas na hÉireann
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Local Enterprise Office Carlow is the 'first stop shop' for anyone thinking about starting or growing a business in Carlow. The Local Enterprise Office has been an integral part of Carlow County Council since its establishment in 2014

and has been to the forefront of our efforts to provide new and existing small businesses with the expert advice, tailored training and financial supports they need to help them thrive.

Last year we published a report which examined the impact the Local Enterprise Office has had in the Carlow enterprise ecosystem from 2014 to 2021. We are now bringing the story forward to acknowledge what was achieved in 2022.

The Local Enterprise Office has a unique place in the support of enterprise, being both the key local player in the delivery of national enterprise strategies in Carlow and also the first point of contact and support for local businesses who plan to establish or grow in Carlow. LEO Carlow engages local businesses every day to deliver valuable supports and innovates to meet the ever-changing needs of its clients.

The Local Enterprise Office, as part of its wider role in Economic Development & Special Project Development, has also ensured that Carlow County Council has actively responded to funding opportunities for County Carlow in the form of National and International Funding.

As we reflect on our achievements in 2022, we know that they will give us the ambition and drive to continue to deliver for our business community in 2023 through a variety of key projects and supports working in partnership with our key stakeholders at local, national and international level.

Michael Rainey
Interim Chief Executive
Carlow County Council

2022 In Numbers!

- **1101 jobs** in 219 LEO supported businesses - a net gain of **56 jobs** in 1 year! **9th** consecutive year of jobs growth
- **€341,737.83** in Business Expansion Grants awarded to **12** businesses trading for more than **18** months
- **€142,021.72** in Priming Grants awarded to **7** start-up businesses trading for less than **18** months
- **€50,700.00** in Feasibility Grants awarded to **5** businesses exploring new business opportunities or products
- **€18,033.73** in Micro-Exporter Grants awarded to **11** businesses exploring overseas trading opportunities
- **€97,409.64** in Trading Online Vouchers awarded to **45** businesses developing online trading platforms
- **1,160 clients** took part in **54** training & networking events
- **361 clients** received expert 1-to-1 mentoring
- **12 businesses** awarded 'Lean for Micro' vouchers
- **14 businesses** awarded 'Green for Micro' vouchers
- **6 businesses** awarded 'Digital Start' vouchers

Output Highlights 2014 - 2022



Some Highlights from 2022!

EXPORT TO LIVERPOOL PROGRAMME

5 Local Enterprise Office client businesses took part in a trade development programme which supported them to win new customers in the Merseyside region.



COUNTY CARLOW WEB AWARDS

Huge level of entries for the first ever County Carlow Web Awards which acknowledged and promoted SMEs based in County Carlow who had developed their digital and web marketing platforms as part of their product offering. The Blg Idea House won the overall prize.

DIGITAL START

Over 100 businesses took part in a specialist seminar on introducing digitalisation to business processes as part of our delivery of the new 'Digital Start' programme.

CARLOW COMPANY WINS AT NATIONAL ENTERPRISE AWARDS

FeedAlpha, a social media content platform business based in Enterprise House on O'Brien Road, took home the South East Regional award at the National Enterprise Awards held in the Mansion House in June.



POWERHOUSE - WOMEN IN BUSINESS NETWORK

The first Powerhouse Picnic was held in June with Lucy Kennedy as MC and over 160 businesswomen in attendance. The year ended with the first Powerhouse Awards for businesswomen in County Carlow. There were 24 finalists shortlisted with the 9 category winners sharing €5,000 worth of investment in their business development.



STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARDS

Cian Campion from "Campion Cutz" at St. Mary's Knockbeg College was awarded Best Endeavour Award in the senior category at the Student Enterprise Programme National Finals.

LAUNCH OF INCARLOW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS SUPPORT STRATEGY

Carlow County Council published the inCarlow Economic Development & Business Support Strategy 2022-2027 which demonstrates how agencies and industry can collectively develop County Carlow's economy, through an extensive programme of activities intended to stimulate and support local growth.

NEW EUROPEAN PROGRAMME - ATHENA

The Local Enterprise Office secured funding to participate in a new EU programme - Athena - which aims to develop the digital skills of female entrepreneurs.

INTERNATIONAL LEARNINGS!

The Local Enterprise Office brought 10 representatives of the Carlow engineering sector to the Mach convention in Birmingham in April and 9 representatives of the food and drinks sector in Co. Carlow on a trade educational visit to a series of 6 major trade exhibitions in the Excel Arena, London in October.



THE EXCHANGE OPENS

'The Exchange', Carlow County Council's new multi-functional events space on Potato Market was officially opened on Friday 23rd September 2022. The Exchange was developed by Carlow County Council with funding provided under the Town & Village Accelerate Scheme and Failte Ireland's Open Public Spaces Scheme and is on one of the most central sites in Carlow town.

CRAFT HUB

Carlow hosted two residencies which saw crafters from all around Europe attend to network with their Carlow counterparts and develop their skillsets through collaboration.



LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE WINS NATIONAL AWARD

The Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards showcase best practice in local government and recognise the skills, and innovation of local authorities. The Local Enterprise Office were awarded the 'Initiatives through the Municipal Districts' Award for the Ru:rbán Project at the 2022 Awards Ceremony.

