



Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce - Terms of Reference

The Programme for Government committed to supporting the Shannon Estuary and surrounding area through the establishment of a Taskforce to evaluate the potential of the area and determining how this potential can be realised. Specifically, the Programme for Government states:

“We will ensure that local development plans are developed to stimulate economic activity for those areas that were expecting economic development arising from new fossil-fuel infrastructure. As part of this, we will consider the potential of the Shannon Estuary in terms of regional economic development across transport and logistics, manufacturing, renewable energy and tourism, and develop a strategy to achieve this potential, with support from the Exchequer.”

Core Task and Functions

To fulfil the commitment in the Programme for Government, the Terms of Reference for the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce are to:

1. Assess the strategic strengths and comparative advantages of the Shannon Estuary from an investment and enterprise development perspective, in a national and international context;
2. Scope potential areas of opportunity for the Shannon Estuary and specify policy and investment requirements to exploit those areas of potential;
3. Assess the current connectivity of the region and make recommendations as to how this could be enhanced;
4. Specify the actions required from national and local government, as well as from other stakeholders, to exploit those areas of potential; and
5. Produce a Report and associated Action Plan with specific steps in areas of potential.

The Taskforce Report will be presented to the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment. It will subsequently be considered by Government. There will be a programme of engagement with the relevant local authorities as part of the Taskforce's work.

Membership

The membership will be selected through an open expression of interest process which will include the position of Chair of the Taskforce. The taskforce will also be supported by senior officials from relevant Government Departments and agencies.

Additional experts may be invited to attend meetings of the Taskforce from time to time, where they have a particular contribution to make in an area under discussion.

Membership of the Taskforce shall be on an unpaid basis. Members may have reasonable vouched expenses reimbursed if they incur transport costs relating to their attendance at meetings.

Timeline

It is expected that the Group will provide a final report by October 2022.

**Indigenous Enterprise, SMEs and Entrepreneurship Division,
February 2022**