Waterford

Find your future

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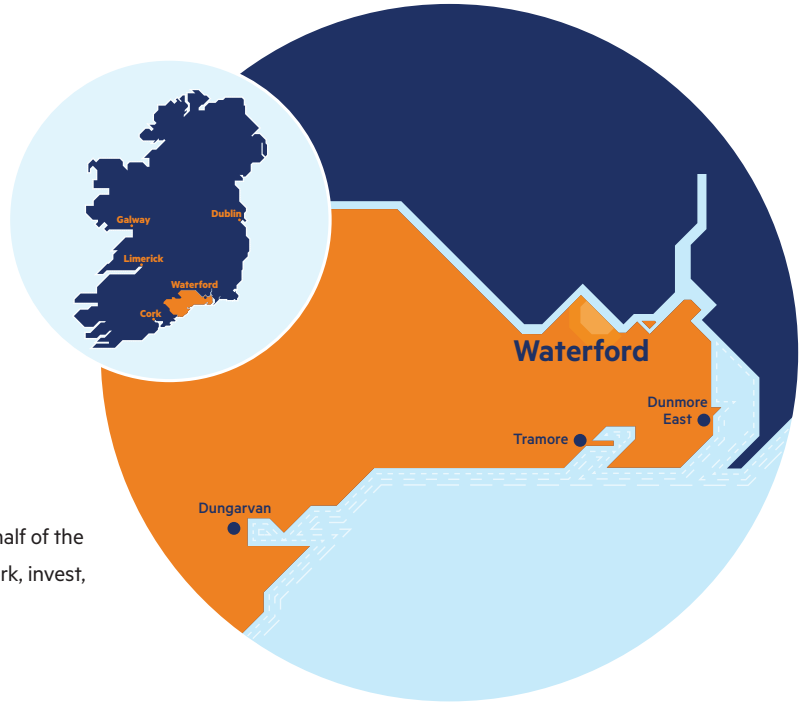
This is Waterford

The economic capital of the South East region



A city of scale and significance, driving regional growth and prosperity and realising its full potential on behalf of the region. A sustainable, dynamic and resourceful City where people, as a matter of choice, will seek to live, work, invest, experience and socialise.

Waterford is Ireland's first City identified as a Decarbonising Zone under Ireland's Climate Action Plan with plans to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2040 through a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures.

- Information and advice on doing business in Waterford
- Strategic market intelligence on your specific industry
- Site visits
- National and local economic development agencies who can help you access local opportunities, networks and supports
- Key contacts in private industry, academia, government agencies

Contact the team at:

Economic Development Team,
35 The Mall,
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business@waterfordcouncil.ie
www.waterford2040.com

The Invest in Waterford Team offers tailored and confidential services that make it easier for companies like yours to choose Waterford for your next business expansion.

10 REASONS
to invest in Waterford

Largest City Catchment outside of Dublin with a population of 603,902 within a 60 minute drive. Ref: *UrbiStat*

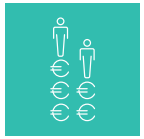
Ireland's fastest growing city region where GVA per capita growth has increased by 74% since 2000. The 7th fastest growing region in the EU in terms of GVA per capita.

Waterford City is Ireland's first City identified as a Decarbonising Zone under Ireland's Climate Action Plan with plans to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2040

Waterford City population to grow by 60% to 83,000 by 2040 with a projected 30% regional population growth to 804,000 population by 2040. Ref: *Project Ireland 2040*

Irelands Livability Index places Waterford as the top ranked place to live in Ireland.

Waterford City Region will see €500 million investment in Ireland's only regional Strategic Development Zone site outside Dublin.



Waterford City Region offers a competitive cost base where companies can realise a 33% cost saving per employee, as compared to Dublin region.

Waterford City Region is home to Ireland's lead Institute of Technology attracting more EU Horizon (H2020) funding than any other Institute of Technology and 2nd only to UCD.

The Port of Waterford is a deepwater port connected to global shipping hubs, providing access to the European, American and Asian markets.

Waterford City Region has one of the most vibrant, structured, cohesive and collaborative innovation ecosystems in Ireland.

"Waterford institute of Technology is one of Ireland's leading research-led Instituites of Technology with over 8,000 students. We are committed to forming creative and innovative citizens. The institute is defined by its culture of innovative collaboration with industrial, commercial and social partners in the knowledge creation and exploitation process. We embrace our role as an international academic leader as defined by its global networks of excellence in teaching, research and innovation resulting in the flow of state-of-the-art knowledge and highly qualified graduates to the region."

Professor Willie Donnelly,
President, Waterford Institute of Technology

SANOFI

BAUSCH + LOMB

Sun Life Financial

teva

Routematch by Uber

Kinetic Labs
From Laboratory to Market

NearForm

VR IMMERSIVE EDUCATION
LEARN THROUGH EXPERIENCE

Verizon

Red Hat

sedicii

StitcherAds

Scurri

Infosys

Schivo

MEDITE SMARTPLY
INNOVATIVE TIMBER PRODUCTS

Garrett
ADVANCING MOTION

Keltech

PPS MATERIALS, INC.

West
By your side
for a healthier world™

gsk

UPMC
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EIRGEN PHARMA

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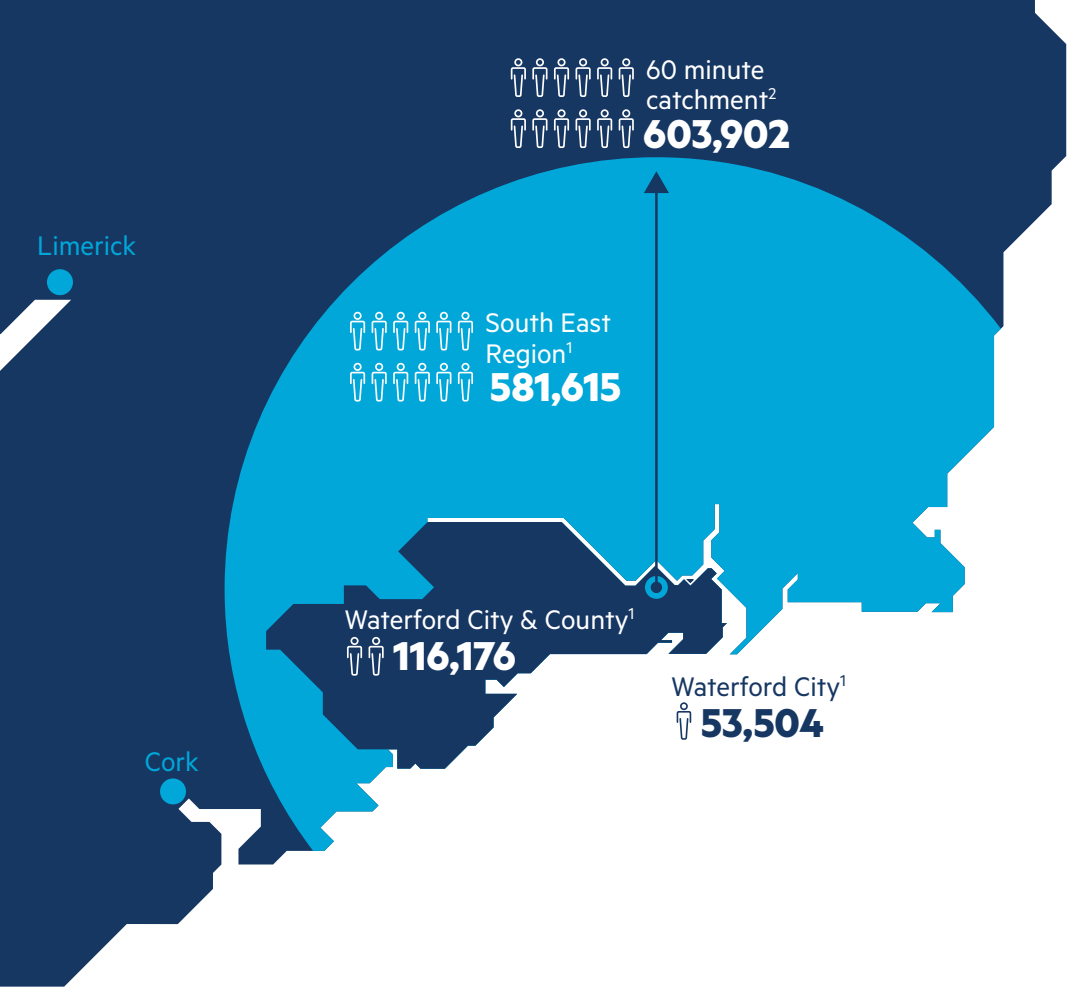
Find Your Opportunity

- Population and Workforce
- Cost Competitiveness
- Connectivity
- Sustainability
- Business Innovation

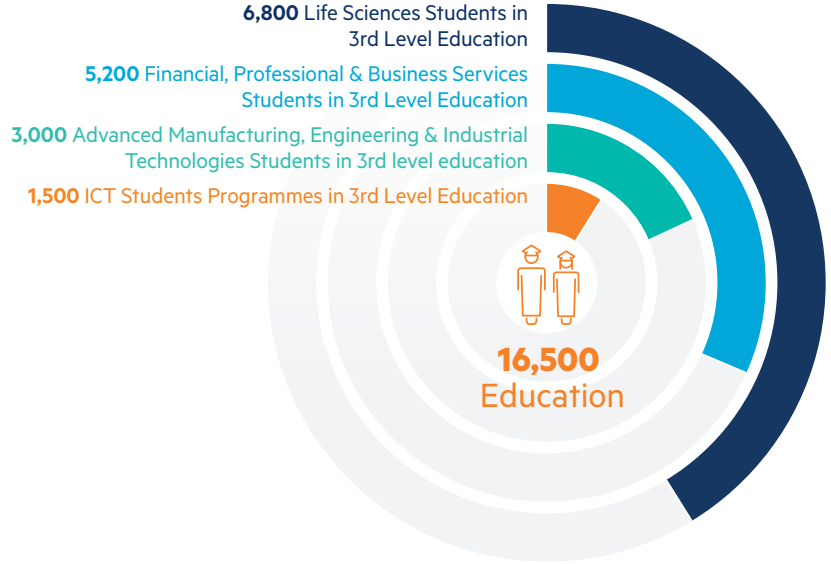


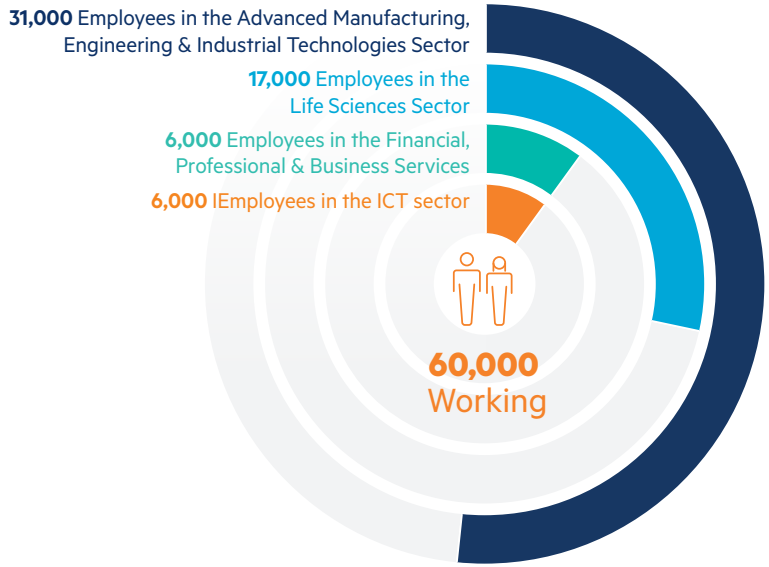
Population and Workforce

An experienced, well-educated, talented, highly skilled, multilingual and adaptable workforce offers all of the specialist skills that companies need to compete globally. The Waterford City Region's workforce is one of our strongest assets showing a creativity and agility and with 33% of Ireland's population aged under 25 years old; we represent the youngest workforce in the EU. With national population growth targeted for a 60% City increase, Waterford 2040 projections anticipate the creation of 17,000 jobs in the City and 83,000 across the Waterford City Region in the next 20 years[3].

[1]CSO 2016, [2]Urbistat, [3]Rikon 2040 Projections

Waterford City Region Talent Pipeline





Education

In addition to being home to Ireland's lead Institute of Technology, Waterford City Region has 15,000 students and 5,000 graduating annually with a strong focus on STEM, Waterford City Region has a talent pipeline that is broad, deep and exceptionally versatile. Waterford City has an exceptional record in primary and secondary education with Waterford schools achieving 89% progression rates to 3rd Level[4]. Early years education is of an exceptional quality with costs significantly lower than Dublin.

WIT

Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) is a research-led Institute, recognised for its distinctive, high quality centres of research. WIT is investing in Centres of Excellences and areas of knowledge-intensive industrial development in Waterford, which are driving the region's global impacts.

- WIT's research expertise in ICT, Advanced Manufacturing and Life Sciences drives innovation and development in these industries in the Waterford City Region.
- WIT hosts three technology gateways, a €23m investment by the National Enterprise Agency, Enterprise Ireland to create South East Applied Materials (SEAM) Research Centre, Pharmaceutical and Molecular Biotechnology Research Centre (PMBRC), and the TSSG Technology Gateway which is part of the internationally renowned Walton Institute for Information and Communication System Science (formerly TSSG).
- NDRC@ArcLabs Start-up Accelerator supporting the development of new digital enterprises Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) is a research-led Institute, recognised for its distinctive, high quality centres of research.

University City

The development of a Technological University for the South East of Ireland (TUSEI) is a bold step building on the existing institutional strengths at WIT and will create a distinctive, modern, innovative, high-impact education and research organisation. The impact of a university of scale in the Waterford City Region with an anticipated 18,000 students and 1,300 staff is transformative and will retain the regions talent in the South East. The development in Waterford of a university quarter that will function as a landmark development will be an indispensable anchor for the city of Waterford and the South East region performing a central role in regional and national economic, cultural and social development as set out in Ireland 2040.

[4]source: Irish Times Progression rates 2020.

Cost Competitiveness

Salaries

Wage costs in the Waterford City Region are sustainable and represent a cost saving to employers and a significant low level of staff turnover is a feature for the region. 95% of people surveyed say they have better work/life balance since relocating to the SouthEast[5]. Employees living in the Waterford City region have 40% more disposable income compared to living in Dublin.

Low Cost Environment

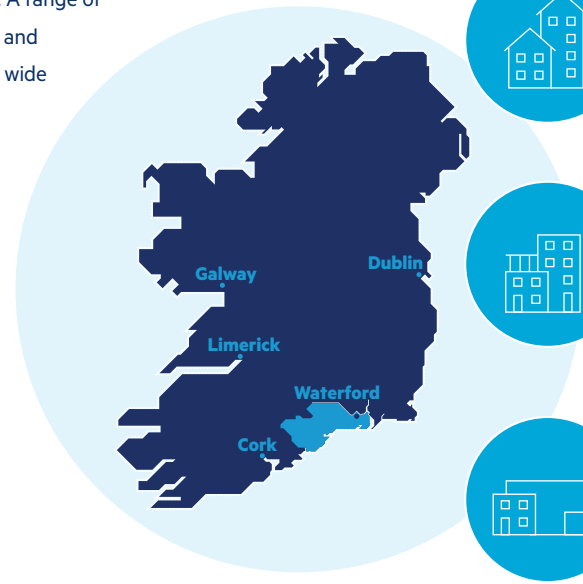
Waterford benefits from Ireland's tax regime making the region is one of the most attractive regions for global investment. The 12.5% Corporate Tax Rate alongside the 25.5% Research and Development tax credit represents a favourable "package of supports" which is complimented by IDA Ireland supports which include employment, capital, R&D, environmental and training financial supports.

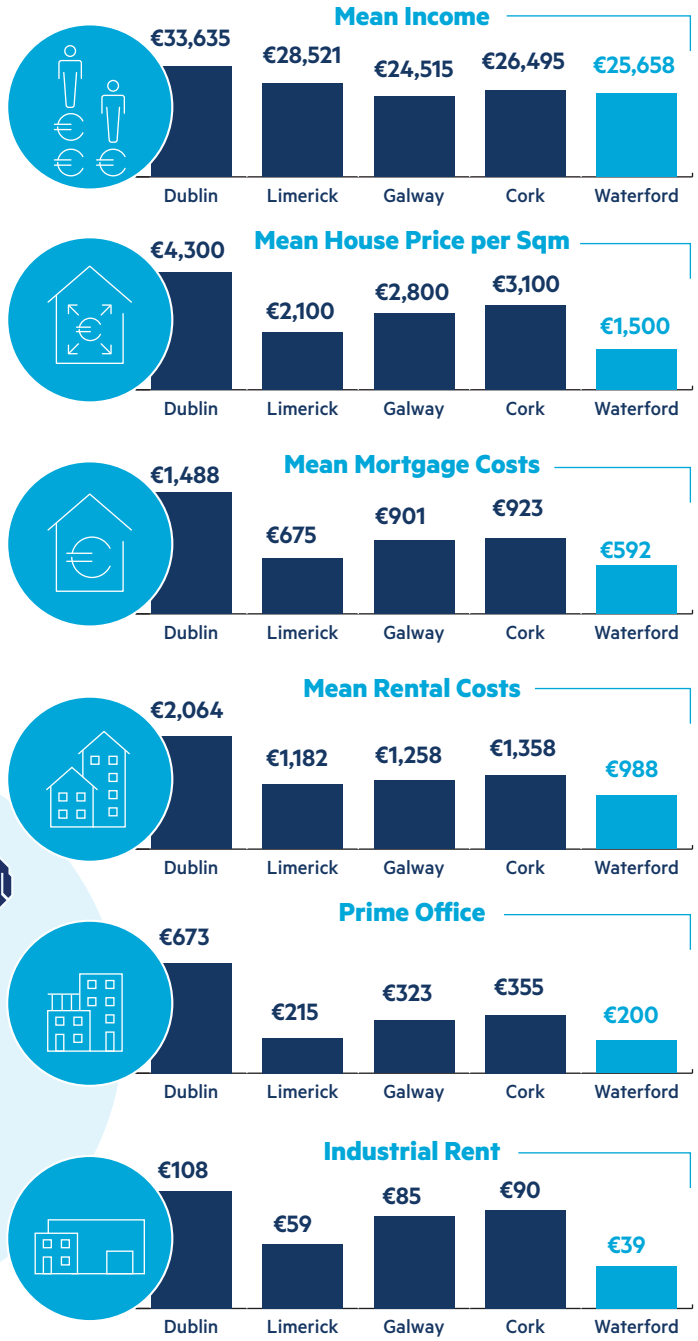
Property Prices

Waterford City offers a wide range of commercial property options at very competitive rates which compare favourably to other Irish city gateways. A range of options available include advance facility availability, design and build options, technology and business park premises and a wide range of exciting and innovative co-working spaces.

Property Solutions

Waterford has a range of property solutions on offer for new businesses locating in Waterford and a range of incentives are available. Team Waterford can provide you with information on supports and available opportunity sites suitable to your business. Waterford has everything from advance property solutions in high grade business parks, mixed use office space and quirky co-working spaces where innovations and collaboration are a way of life.





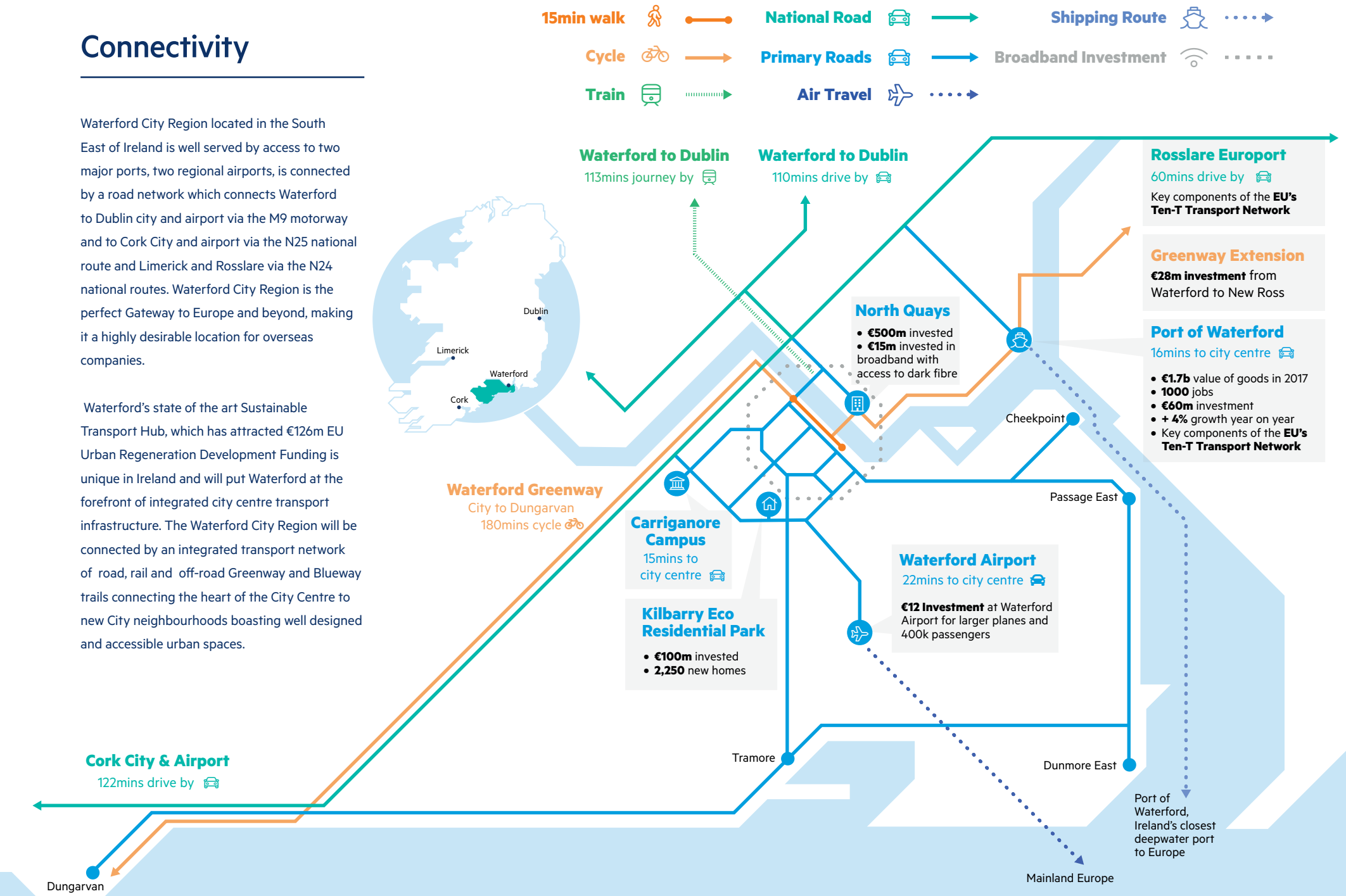
[5]SouthEast Relocation Survey (Collins McNicholas)

Daft, CSO, Cushman and Wakefield 2019

Connectivity

Waterford City Region located in the South East of Ireland is well served by access to two major ports, two regional airports, is connected by a road network which connects Waterford to Dublin city and airport via the M9 motorway and to Cork City and airport via the N25 national route and Limerick and Rosslare via the N24 national routes. Waterford City Region is the perfect Gateway to Europe and beyond, making it a highly desirable location for overseas companies.

Waterford's state of the art Sustainable Transport Hub, which has attracted €126m EU Urban Regeneration Development Funding is unique in Ireland and will put Waterford at the forefront of integrated city centre transport infrastructure. The Waterford City Region will be connected by an integrated transport network of road, rail and off-road Greenway and Blueway trails connecting the heart of the City Centre to new City neighbourhoods boasting well designed and accessible urban spaces.



Digital Connectivity

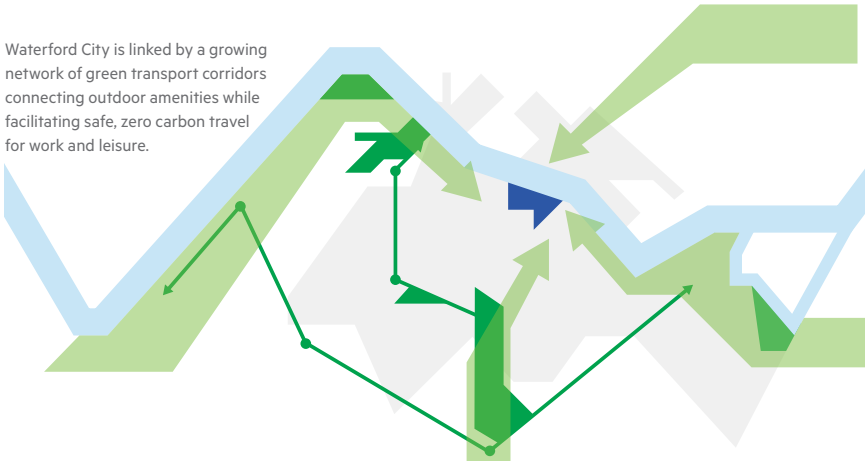
Waterford has faster broadband speeds than the national average and can match any major city allowing businesses to attract and service clients successfully on a global scale. Speeds up to 1,000 Mbps are now being achieved with €15m broadband network investment. It is therefore no surprise that the Waterford City Region is home to one of Ireland's most vibrant digital clusters which supports more than 6,000 employees. Free Wi-Fi is available across the City and Town centres of scale and broadband connection points (BCP's) are available creating a network of connected and enabled rural communities which are designated as remote working hubs in the Rural Development strategy.

Sustainability

Waterford City as the largest urban centre in the South East region is earning a reputation as a people centric city, a place where people are empowered to have a stake in their city and local community.

Waterford has a long history as a liveable place with significant investment over the past 20 years in a public realm offering which is unique in Ireland. Waterford's pedestrianised city centre creates a vibrant connection between the Viking Triangle and the Cultural Quarter and is soon to be the centre of a green transformation connecting the City to the South East region by a network of Greenways.

Waterford City has set an ambitious target to designate the entire City as a decarbonising zone with ambitious targets to eliminate carbon emissions in Waterford City by 2040. Waterford City and Environs as a decarbonising zone will be one of the lead cities in Europe through the development of the green economy, implementation of sustainable energy measures and through implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.



Waterford City is linked by a growing network of green transport corridors connecting outdoor amenities while facilitating safe, zero carbon travel for work and leisure.

Business Innovation

Waterford City Region has a global profile, unique heritage and capacity for innovation. Innovation is the common theme that brings together public, private and academic partners within the region and we have one of the most vibrant, structured, cohesive and collaborative innovation ecosystems in the country that supports international and indigenous companies in their innovation journey from inception to maturity to internationalisation.

We enable entrepreneurs, micro-enterprises, SMEs and global enterprises to engage with the necessary government and business supports such as funding, business incubators, accelerators, networking, mentoring and other relevant services to help them forge their future success in the region. A focus on commercialisation, with industrial partnerships is at the heart of all we do.

Find Your Team

- ICT
- Manufacturing
- Life Sciences
- Financial Services

ICT

The Waterford City Region is one of the most vibrant digital clusters in Ireland and the sector continues to build on its tech history, driving employment and innovation in the region. The sector supports over 6,000 employees and benefits from a talent pool of over 1,500 students in higher education. A new 12,800sqm Computing and Engineering building to be built on the Waterford Institute of Technology campus will allow the region to further consolidate its position as a leader in High-Tech Manufacturing and the Digital Economy.

The ICT ecosystem in the Waterford City Region is populated with a complete support network including the Walton Institute for Information and Communication System Science (formerly TSSG) research Centre of Excellence at WIT, Crystal Valley Tech cluster, Suir Capital Ventures, NDRC and ArcLabs.

There are now over 120 ICT companies in the region with ongoing global success including Nearform, developers of the largest global COVID19 Tracker app.

> *"Waterford, and Tramore in particular, is in our DNA. There's a really good tech community here, and some great talent with incredible graduates coming out of WIT, so choosing Waterford as our HQ has given us a base to build out our business with the ability to work and hire internationally."*

Cian Ó'Maidín
FOUNDER & CEO
NearForm

NearForm

Manufacturing

Manufacturing, Engineering and Industrial technologies have long since been a cornerstone of the Waterford City regional economy with over 31,000 employees which has ensured a vibrant and independent sector. Waterford City region has a deep pool of multi-disciplinary and highly skilled workforce with almost 20,000 in this sector educated to tertiary level.

Additionally, a strong pipeline of over 3,000 students in a region which embraces innovation in product development, is supported by Ireland's leading WIT Centre of Excellence at South-Eastern Applied Materials (SEAM), RIKON and by a industry led cluster group – Engineering the South East.

"Waterford provides everything I need to enable my business to be successful. Schivo Medical now employs over 200 people in Waterford, with a further 130 in New York. The success of Schivo has enabled me to establish a separate business, workLAB.ie, which is a great workspace for anyone wishing to locate their business in Waterford City."

Seamus Kilgannon
FOUNDER & CEO
Schivo Medical & WorkLAB

Schivo

Life Sciences

The Waterford City region supports over 17,000 employees in pharmaceutical and medical device companies. The success of the Life Sciences sector in the Waterford City Region can be attributed in part to the enabling support infrastructure in place through IDA utility-rich strategic sites and the growth in specialist support and consultancy services, clean room providers, recruitment agencies and tailored educational programmes.

Waterford City Region has cutting-edge facilities including the WIT Centre of Excellence, the Pharmaceutical and Molecular Biotechnology Research Centre (PMBRC) which is a catalyst for research and innovation for the Life Sciences sector in the region.

"As General Manager at Teva Pharmaceuticals Ireland, I believe that Waterford as the largest urban area in the South East region, is well placed to deliver on the fantastic potential which exists here. Waterford has excellent infrastructure which acts as a significant support to industry with access to a skilled talent pool and an excellent quality of life."

Andy Crowley
GENERAL MANAGER
Teva Pharmaceuticals

teva

Financial Services

The Waterford City region has a strong reputation in banking, corporate finance, insurance, contact centre, shared services and has strong activity in the future growth of Fintech and the global payments sector. The sector is experiencing rapid growth with over 6,000 employees and the regions knowledge intensive businesses underpin and enable growth within the sector, offering vital services to businesses choosing to locate in Waterford.

With a strong talent pool of over 5,200 students gaining third level qualifications and extensive research collaboration between WIT and the industry cluster, there is significant opportunity for future growth.

"Our business established its HQ in Waterford in 2011 with an ambition to deliver excellence in service delivery. For over 10 years our employees have played a critical and integral role in helping us to remain leaders in consulting and technology. Our HQ talent, capability and experience leads the way in next-generation services."

Heather Reynolds
SENIOR DIRECTOR
Infosys

Infosys®

Find Your Adventure

- Waterford – Ireland's most liveable place
- Arts & Culture
- The Great Outdoors
- Food the Waterford Way

Waterford –Ireland's most Liveable Place

Voted Ireland's most liveable place in 2021, Waterford boasts a relaxed, modern lifestyle with pristine beaches, rugged mountains and vibrant urban centres. In Waterford you can finish work and be at the beach in 20 minutes, cycle Waterford Greenway, visit the UNESCO Copper Coast or dine in award winning restaurants across our stunning City and County.

The Great Outdoors

Waterford is home to an abundance of outdoor amenities and whether you are interested in golfing, fishing, swimming, water sports, cycling, walking, hiking there is truly an option for everyone. Waterford is home to a stunning 110km of coastline with access to Blue Flag beaches and numerous marked walkways, a 46km Greenway, two mountain ranges with marked walks to scenic highlights such as Ireland's finest example of a corrie lake at Coumshingaun and Green Flag amenities at Kilbarry Bog.

Food the Waterford Way

Waterford's burgeoning food scene is testament to the people and the passion behind Waterford Food. Casual dining sits alongside high-end, award-winning restaurants and street vendors.

Locally sourced ingredients are a regular feature on Waterford menus, and the farm-to-fork ethos continues to improve the food offering throughout the City & County, making Waterford the worthy winner of Ireland's Foodie Destination 2019. Waterford is also home to two distilleries and many brewing companies, all sourcing their ingredients from the local area giving you a real taste of Waterford.

IRELAND'S No.1 FOODIE DESTINATION
WATERFORD
Awarded in 2019
by the
Restaurants Association of Ireland

Arts & Culture

Waterford has a vibrant cultural arts, and social scene with a year round offering of festivals, exceptional theatre, arts, evening entertainment and music events.

The city is home to the world-renowned Spraoi Festival of International Street Theatre and is transformed into Irelands Christmas Capital each December with the Waterford Winterval festival. Waterford hosts one of Irelands largest summer gatherings, All Together Now in the stunning setting of Curraghmore Gardens.

Invest in Waterford

Economic Development Team

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