



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



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Mayo Maritime Strategy 2040



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Foreword

Cllr. Seán Carey, Cathaoirleach, Mayo County Council

As someone who was born and raised on the Mullet Peninsula, I have always felt a deep connection to the sea. It shapes our daily lives, our livelihoods, and our sense of place. The ocean is part of who we are in Mayo—ever-changing, powerful, and full of opportunity. It has sustained generations before us, and with vision and care, it will continue to sustain generations to come.



The Mayo Maritime Strategy 2040 – Five-Year Implementation Plan (2025–2030) captures that vision. It recognises the immense potential of our coastline—not just as a source of natural beauty, but as a foundation for innovation, enterprise, and community wellbeing. From the harbours of Ballina and Westport to the islands off the west coast, this plan charts a course for a sustainable Blue Economy that reflects our values and ambitions.

This is a strategy grounded in pride and possibility. It builds on our traditions while looking firmly to the future—supporting renewable energy, marine research, tourism, and local enterprise in ways that protect our pristine environment. It reminds us that the sea connects us not only to one another, but to the wider world.

What makes this plan truly special is the spirit of collaboration behind it. Communities, businesses, and public bodies across Mayo have come together to shape a shared vision for our maritime future. That spirit of partnership is the key to success.

As Cathaoirleach, I am proud to see Mayo leading the way in shaping Ireland’s Blue Economy from the west coast outward. I believe this plan will strengthen our communities, create new opportunities for our young people, and ensure that our maritime heritage continues to inspire and sustain us.

On behalf of Mayo County Council, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed their time, knowledge, and passion to this work. Together, we are building a future where Mayo’s relationship with the sea remains strong, respectful, and full of promise.

Cllr. Seán Carey

Cathaoirleach

Mayo County Council

November 2025

Foreword

Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive, Mayo County Council

It gives me great pleasure to present the Mayo Maritime Strategy 2040 – Five-Year Implementation Plan (2025–2030). This plan represents a major milestone in our ongoing work to unlock the full potential of Mayo’s coastline—one of the county’s most valuable natural, cultural, and economic assets.



Mayo’s maritime identity runs deep. From our historic harbours and proud island communities to our pioneering efforts in renewable energy, aquaculture, and marine research, the sea has always shaped our story. Today, as Ireland and the wider world embrace the opportunities of the Blue Economy, Mayo stands ready to play a leading role on the Atlantic seaboard.

This implementation plan turns the vision of the Mayo Maritime Strategy 2040 into concrete actions for the next five years. It sets out how we will strengthen coastal infrastructure, support innovation and enterprise, and protect the pristine marine environment that defines our county. At its heart is a commitment to sustainability, inclusion, and collaboration—ensuring that the benefits of maritime development are shared across our communities while safeguarding the natural heritage that sustains them.

The success of this strategy will depend on partnership. Through the Caibleadh Mhaigh Eo network, and in close cooperation with national agencies, local enterprises, academia, and our coastal and island communities, Mayo County Council will act as a convener and enabler. Together, we will deliver a balanced approach—one that promotes opportunity while upholding environmental stewardship and cultural integrity.

As we move forward, we do so with optimism and determination. The actions set out in this plan will help secure a thriving and resilient maritime economy—one that supports livelihoods, strengthens communities, and preserves our connection with the sea for generations to come.

On behalf of Mayo County Council, I extend my sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to this important work. Together, we can ensure that Mayo’s maritime future is as inspiring, prosperous, and enduring as its past.

Kevin Kelly

Chief Executive

Mayo County Council

November 2025

Introduction

The Mayo Maritime Strategy represents a significant step toward harnessing the immense potential of County Mayo's coastline to foster a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive maritime economy. Positioned on Ireland's western seaboard, Mayo possesses the longest coastline in the country, uniquely characterised by its pristine ecosystems, strategic location along transatlantic routes, and a deeply rooted maritime heritage. With emerging opportunities in renewable energy, Food, biotechnology, and coastal tourism, the region stands poised to significantly impact the development of Ireland's Blue Economy.

The Strategy manifests the comprehensive strategic vision developed by Mayo County Council, which recognises the need to balance environmental stewardship with economic development. Guided by the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and national frameworks such as the National Marine Planning Framework, this plan adopts a collaborative, plan-led, and stakeholder-driven approach to realise Mayo's maritime potential.

By strategically building on local assets, nurturing smart specialisation, and addressing infrastructural deficits, this plan aims to catalyse transformation in Mayo's coastal communities—empowering them to sustain their livelihoods while contributing to broader national and European climate, economic, and social objectives.

Executive Summary

Anchored in sustainability, innovation, and community inclusion, the strategy sets forth an integrated framework designed to:

- **Advance Sustainable Blue Economy Sectors:** Through the promotion of renewable onshore to offshore energy, climate research, marine biotechnology, and data infrastructure, the plan supports diversification and innovation in traditional and emerging maritime sectors.
- **Strengthen Coastal Infrastructure:** Influencing emerging government capital programmes will address critical gaps in infrastructure, ferry access, and coastal protection, enabling safer and more efficient marine activities while enhancing connectivity among communities and with global markets.
- **Support Community Wellbeing and Livelihoods:** By integrating health, recreation, and education objectives, the plan ensures that coastal development aligns with local values, preserves cultural heritage, and enhances quality of life. Initiatives such as Blue way and Greenway expansions, coastal amenity upgrades, and local enterprise support will foster vibrant, inclusive coastal communities.
- **Enable Governance and Collaborative Leadership:** Through the establishment of the Mayo Maritime network and coordination with national bodies, the plan promotes coherent governance, stakeholder engagement, and integrated marine spatial planning—including informing Designated Maritime Area Planning.
- **Embed Climate and Environmental Resilience:** As climate change increasingly affects the coast, the strategy prioritises low-impact development, marine biodiversity protection, and climate-sensitive infrastructure to future-proof communities and ecosystems.

- **Cost Neutral Implementation**

The strategy is designed to be cost-neutral for Mayo County Council by leveraging existing national and EU funding streams, and stakeholder-led initiatives. The Council's role focuses on coordination, governance, and facilitation—ensuring strategic alignment and community benefit without requiring significant direct financial outlay.

The strategic horizon to 2040 speaks to the long-term nature of maritime development. The bracketed five-year Implementation Plans provide a dynamic yet structured timeframe for aligning national and European policy objectives with local aspirations. Through continuous evaluation, stakeholder engagement, and adaptive implementation, the plan will foster a balanced, forward-looking maritime region that is both rooted in tradition and primed for the future.

Conclusion

The implementation of Mayo's Maritime Strategy over the next five years represents an ambitious, necessary, and transformative journey for the county's coastal communities. Grounded in a deep appreciation of Mayo's natural, cultural, and geographic endowments, this plan seeks to shape a maritime future that is sustainable, prosperous, and resilient.

Through strategic investment, integrated planning, and collective action, Mayo can assert its position as a national leader in Blue Economy development—demonstrating how a peripheral coastal region can drive inclusive growth, foster environmental stewardship, and realise global connections. The five-year roadmap is not merely a blueprint for economic advancement but a call to reimagine the county's relationship with the sea—preserving its legacy while charting a new course toward long-term vitality.

Mayo County Council, together with its stakeholders and communities, stands committed to delivering on this vision with clarity, resolve, and shared purpose.

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Mayo County Council



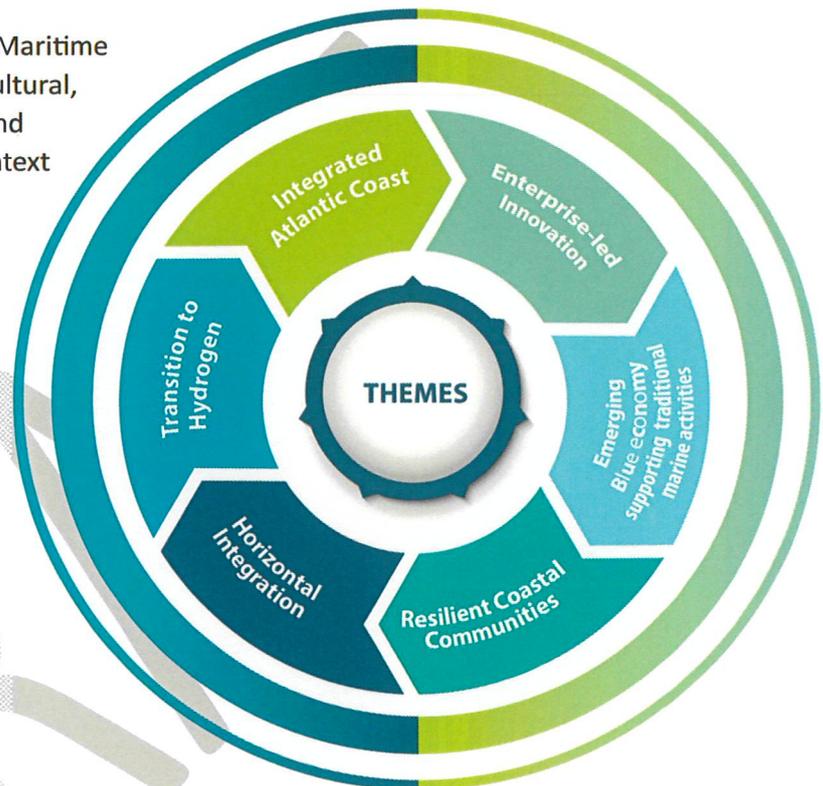
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Mayo Maritime Strategy 2040

Chapter One: Introduction

County Mayo's extensive and varied coastline—from Ballina and the Moy Estuary to Westport and Clew Bay—has long been integral to its identity, economy, and community life. Maritime tourism, food, and offshore energy potential are central to this legacy. This strategy initiates a dialogue on optimising Mayo's Blue Economy to harmonise economic growth, environmental protection, and community wellbeing. It is grounded in Mayo County Council's commitment to integrated planning under the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, which empowers local authorities to lead sustainable coastal development through a plan-led framework focused on balancing conservation with offshore renewable development.

This chapter sets the stage for Mayo's Maritime Strategy by exploring its geographic, cultural, and economic connection to the sea and introducing the evolving legislative context driving maritime planning.



Geographic Overview

- Mayo has Ireland's longest coastline, stretching from Ballina and the Moy Estuary in the north to Westport and Clew Bay in the south.
- Belmullet and the Erris Peninsula form the rugged central portion of this coastal corridor.
- Iconic maritime areas include Clew Bay, with a strong leisure and aquaculture sector, and Ballina, which links to the River Moy and aims to become Ireland's greenest town.

Cultural and Economic Heritage

- The county's maritime legacy is steeped in history, from the tales of pirate queen Grainne Mhaol to today's sustainable seafood and energy sectors.
- Belmullet is now home to AMETS, an Atlantic marine energy test site, symbolising Mayo's transition into a modern Blue Economy Hub.

Strategic Rationale

- Mayo County Council, through the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, gains a formal role in marine spatial planning and development consent for activities up to 5km from shore.
- The plan-led approach ensures alignment between economic ambitions, environmental protection, and community values.

Aims of the Strategy

- Engage local communities in a dialogue on the future of Mayo's maritime assets.
- Use integrated planning to support balanced development.
- Align local initiatives with national marine strategies and global sustainability goals.

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Chapter Two: Mayo Context

Mayo's geographic position on Ireland's western seaboard provides unmatched access to a vast Exclusive Economic Zone, placing it at the heart of the nation's Blue Economy potential. The area's rich marine biodiversity, offshore renewable energy capacity, and strategic Atlantic location offer unique growth opportunities. However, infrastructural deficits, environmental sensitivities, and geographic remoteness pose development challenges. The region's success in the Blue Economy will depend on careful planning, sustainable use of marine resources, and targeted investment in maritime infrastructure between Galway and Donegal to unlock its full potential.

This chapter outlines the economic and geographic context for Mayo's maritime development, highlighting its coastal assets and infrastructural challenges.

Strategic Coastal Assets

Mayo's coastline is home to:

- **Major estuaries** Clew Bay, Killala Bay, Killary Harbour
- **Offshore islands** Achill, Clare Island, Inishturk, Inishkea Islands
- **Marine biodiversity hotspots and protected areas** 19 SACs and 13 SPAs
- **Key infrastructure** including Roonagh Pier, Ballyglass Pier, Westport Quay, Ballina Quay, Cloughmore, Frenchport, Blacksod Pier, Killala Killcumman and Purteen Harbour
- **Transatlantic data cable landings** Killala and Oldhead

These assets support a wide range of activities including aquaculture, fishing, renewable energy testing, tourism, and marine research.

Blue Economy Opportunity

Mayo's position on the Atlantic shelf offers:

- **Unmatched renewable energy potential** wave, wind, tidal
- **High-value aquaculture and seafood exports**
- **Marine biotechnology and field research opportunities**
- **Data infrastructure and digital connectivity via transatlantic cables**

The **Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site (AMETS)** near Belmullet and the **RWE airborne wind energy test site** in Bangor Erris are flagship projects that position Mayo as a leader in offshore energy innovation.

Challenges and Constraints

Despite its potential, Mayo faces:

- **Infrastructural deficits** between Ros an Mhíl and Killybegs
- **Geographic remoteness** from major commercial Hubs
- **Environmental sensitivities** that limit large-scale development

However, these constraints also preserve Mayo's **pristine coastal ecosystems**, which are increasingly valuable for **eco-tourism, climate research, and sustainable development**.

Strategic Vision

Mayo's maritime future is envisioned through:

- **Smart Specialisation:** focusing on niche, high-value sectors like hydrogen energy, marine data, and environmental services.
- **Cluster development:** fostering collaboration between enterprise, academia, and government.
- **Community resilience:** empowering coastal communities through inclusive planning and sustainable livelihoods.

This context underpins the implementation of Mayo's Maritime Strategy and informs the county's ambition as a key influencer to developing Ireland's **Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP)**.

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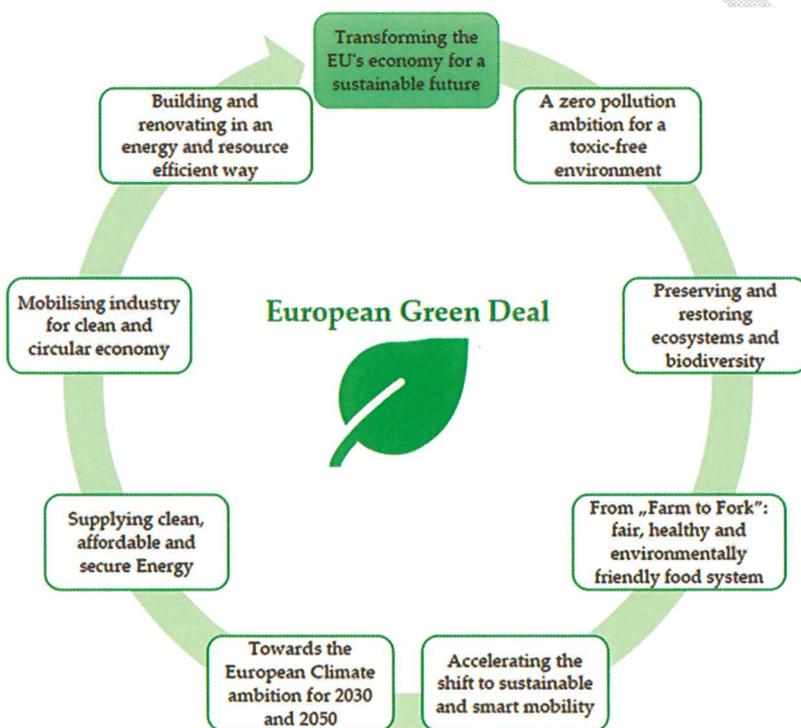
Chapter Three: Climate Context

Climate change presents both a challenge and opportunity for Mayo's maritime region. The interdependence of climate, community, and coastal landscape is central to this strategy. Rising sea levels, shifting ecosystems, and more frequent extreme weather events necessitate climate-resilient planning and infrastructure. At the same time, Mayo's offshore environment offers solutions through renewable energy and carbon capture. Embracing a low-carbon, nature-based approach is essential for long-term sustainability. Monitoring ecological indicators, like salmon populations and machair systems, can help measure the health of broader changing marine ecosystem and guide adaptive policy responses.

This chapter connects Mayo's maritime future with the need for climate resilience, ecological stewardship, and low-carbon development.



Interdependent Systems



- Mayo's communities, coastal landscapes, and climate are fundamentally interconnected.
- Sea level rise, coastal erosion, and biodiversity loss pose existential threats to marine and human ecosystems.

Climate Opportunities

- Mayo lies within one of the world's richest marine ecosystems and has some of the most accessible renewable energy resources in Europe.
- Wave and wind energy offer long-term economic and environmental value if developed sustainably.

Natural Indicators

- The health of salmonid populations and machair systems (coastal dune habitats) are proposed as environmental indicators of climate change impacts.

Strategic Imperatives

- Develop a maritime strategy that supports:
 - **Nature-based solutions** for coastal protection.
 - **Carbon sequestration** initiatives in marine and coastal systems.
 - **Climate-adaptive infrastructure** to protect vulnerable communities and ecosystems.

Call to Action

- Consolidate onshore wind renewables with a view to expanding offshore activity.
- Harness offshore renewables.
- Align with national and EU climate strategies.
- Embed ecosystem-based management in planning.

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Chapter Four: Health & Wellbeing Perspective

The marine environment contributes significantly to human health—offering clean air, food, recreation, and potential in marine biotechnology. Yet, pollution, climate change, and unregulated activities threaten these benefits. A holistic, interdisciplinary approach is required to understand the full relationship between the sea and public health. Opportunities for mental health improvement through coastal engagement, and innovation in marine-based medicines, must be balanced against the need to protect vulnerable ecosystems. The strategy envisions Mayo's coastline as a driver of community wellness, resilience, and economic security.

This chapter emphasises the direct and indirect links between Mayo's marine environment and human wellbeing.



Health Benefits of the Marine Environment

- Provides clean air, nutritious food, and supports physical and mental health through recreation and social engagement.
- Opportunities in marine biotechnology for medical research and therapeutics are expanding.
- Enhanced Mental Wellbeing: Regular interaction with coastal and marine environments has been shown to reduce stress, improve mood, and support mental health through restorative experiences, physical activity, and a stronger sense of place and community belonging.

Threats to Health

- Marine degradation from pollution, overfishing, and climate events negatively impacts both ecosystems and human health.
- Knowledge gaps remain due to the fragmented nature of marine and health governance systems.

Holistic Policy Approach

- Adopt an interdisciplinary framework that integrates:
 - Public health.
 - Marine biology.
 - Social sciences.
 - Environmental economics.

Societal Vision for Mayo

- Create coastal communities that are desirable to live in, with:
 - High quality of life.
 - Affordable living.
 - Access to education and healthcare.

Link to National Policy

- Align with Project Ireland 2040 and the National Marine Planning Framework to promote sustainable coastal living.
- Leverage Blue Economy development to reduce historical socio-economic regional imbalances.

Chapter Five: Policy Perspective

Ireland's traditional foreshore management, governed by outdated legislation, has evolved with the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021. This Act introduces a structured, plan-led regime that separates property rights from development consent, improves transparency, and empowers local authorities like Mayo County Council. The strategy aligns local planning with the National Marine Planning Framework, emphasising sustainable development within 5km of the shore. Local maritime plans will guide development consent processes, ensuring alignment with conservation goals and enabling Mayo to effectively manage coastal and marine assets within a clear national policy context.

This chapter provides a legislative overview, tracing the evolution from outdated foreshore management to modern marine spatial planning.

Historical Context

- The Foreshore Act (1933) governed property and development in marine areas up to 12 nautical miles from shore.
- Dual role: The Minister issued leases and consents to development often in a single, opaque process.

Modernisation via the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021

- Separates property Management from planning consent.
- Establishes a new governance framework with the Marine Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).
- Introduces Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs) for strategic development zones.

Local Government Role

- Mayo County Council now has a clearly defined mandate:
 - Planning consent for developments within 5km of the shore.
 - Coordination of local maritime spatial plans.
 - Advocacy and engagement with national marine planning structures.

Zoning and Consent

- Two types of projects in the 5km zone:
 - Local authority-led (subject to internal or An Bord Pleanála review).
 - Private/public proposals (processed under local development plans).

Strategic Integration

- DMAPs to provide a policy-aligned, place-specific blueprint for development.
- National and regional planning hierarchies guide.
- Coherent marine and terrestrial integration.

Chapter Six: Maritime Activities and Infrastructure

This chapter outlines the variety and scope of maritime activities in Mayo and the infrastructure supporting them, recognising the need for modernisation and coordination to fully realise the potential of the Blue Economy. It explores the breadth of maritime activities in Mayo, including fishing, aquaculture, marine energy, tourism, and leisure and it identifies critical infrastructure needs. While traditional sectors like fishing and aquaculture remain vital, emerging areas such as renewable energy and marine research are expanding. However, port and pier facilities are underdeveloped. Strategic investment in piers, marinas, energy Hubs, and digital infrastructure is essential to support sustainable growth and improve community access.

Core Maritime Sectors

- **Fishing:** Traditional inshore fishing remains vital, with piers and slipways supporting local fleets. Expansion of pier facilities is required to accommodate safety and sector diversification.
- **Aquaculture:** Clew Bay and Blacksod Bay host significant aquaculture operations. Innovations in sustainable practices and CLAMS (Coordinated Local Aquaculture Management Systems) are encouraged.
- **Energy:** The Corrib gas field and AMETS test site are central to Mayo's transition toward renewable marine energy (wave, wind, hydrogen).
- **Leisure & Tourism:** Growth in kayaking, diving, sailing, and surfing—especially along the Mayo Blue Corridor—demands improved marina and amenity infrastructure.
- **Cruise and Ferry Traffic:** Increased cruise visits to Clew Bay, Achill, and Killala highlight potential for international connectivity.

Infrastructure Priorities

- Upgrade small piers for safety and multi-use access.
- Maintain and continue to assess marine services provided by Mayo County Council.
- Develop data interconnection (Killala) and renewable energy substations.
- Enhance emergency response Hubs and coastal access roads.
- Introduce low-impact seasonal pontoons and other amenity facilities at key tourist sites.

Strategic Need

- A regional marine infrastructure framework is essential to support offshore energy, research, and tourism.
- Seek to align infrastructure development with conservation and climate resilience goals.

Chapter Seven: Strategic Approach

This chapter details the planning philosophy behind the strategy—a blend of deterministic policy and adaptive, stakeholder-driven processes designed to manage complexity and seize emerging opportunities. The strategy adopts a hybrid planning model that combines data-driven analysis with community-led participation. It promotes a Balanced Scorecard approach to ensure development aligns with sustainability, innovation, and community wellbeing. Key strengths (marine resources, global connectivity) and weaknesses (infrastructure gaps, remoteness) are analysed, and opportunities in renewable energy, biotech, and tourism are emphasised. Strategic action will be driven by a network of stakeholders operating under shared goals.

Strategic Planning Principles

- **Multi-Level Engagement:** Balances top-down national policy with bottom-up local consultation.
- **Learning Orientation:** Strategy is dynamic, iterative, and shaped by continuous review and feedback.
- **Data-Driven Decision-Making:** Anchored in robust analysis of environmental, social, and economic data.

Strengths Identified

- Rich marine biodiversity, pristine coastline.
- Strong local branding and tourism assets.
- Presence of Ireland West Airport and multinationals.
- High educational attainment and community resilience.

Weaknesses

- Poor supply chain development.
- Inadequate port facilities.
- Infrastructure and housing shortages.
- Isolation from core commercial Hubs.

Opportunities

- Offshore renewable energy leadership.
- Marine biotech development.
- Expansion of marine tourism and field research.
- Strengthening data and energy interconnections.

Approach

- Use a **balanced scorecard** framework to track promotion, sustainability, innovation, and community impact.
- Empower stakeholder clusters to lead specialised initiatives.

Chapter Eight: Governance and Leadership

Local government plays a central role in delivering the strategy. Mayo County Council is positioned as a convener and enabler, coordinating across sectors and scales. Through structures like **Caibleadh Mhaigh Eo group** (voices from the sea), the Council leads local implementation while aligning with national marine planning frameworks. Governance is designed to be inclusive, collaborative, and adaptive, ensuring local communities have a voice in shaping the maritime future. This chapter underscores the transformative role of Mayo County Council and its evolving leadership in regional marine planning.



Role of Mayo County Council

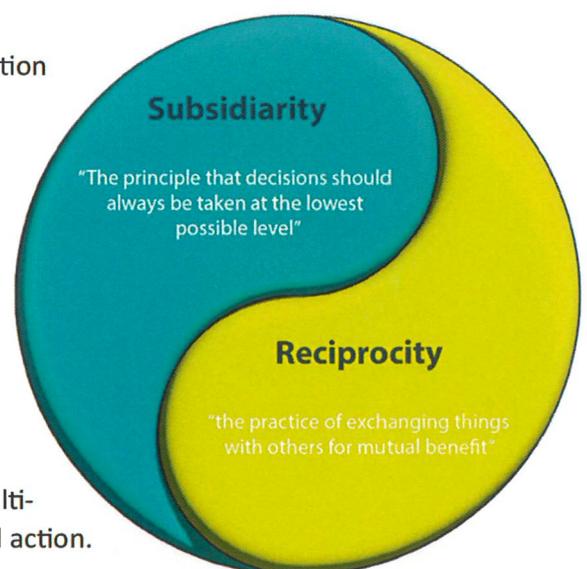
- Anchored by their local democratic mandate, the Council promotes wellbeing, quality of life, and local attractiveness.
- Local government is the bridge between public service delivery and democratic representation.
- Mayo's leadership is formalised through its stewardship of the **Caibleadh Mhaigh Eo** maritime group.

Governance Vision

- Move from stakeholder to facilitator, fostering integration across local, regional, and national actors.
- Serve as a strategic convener, guiding public, private, academic, and civil society input.

Institutional Framework

- **Putting People First (2014)** and the Local Government Reform Act establish local authorities as central agents in economic and community development.
- Mayo's governance model is designed to embrace multi-sector collaboration, ensuring alignment of policy and action.





Chapter Nine: Envisioning Our Maritime Future

This vision-focused chapter outlines Mayo's long-term goal: to become a global exemplar in sustainable coastal development by 2040. It highlights the county's potential to lead in areas like wave energy, marine data, and eco-tourism. Strategic priorities include reducing carbon reliance, building innovative marine ecosystems, and enhancing coastal community resilience. The vision is built on leveraging Mayo's pristine environment and Atlantic-facing geography.

Vision

By 2040 Mayo will be renowned as a place enriched by the ocean. Harnessing the Sea locally in unique and innovative ways driving Prosperity and Wellbeing. Sustained by a valued and pristine Natural Marine Environment.

Challenges Identified

- Climate change, biodiversity loss, and demographic decline in coastal communities.
- Economic isolation and fragmented regional infrastructure.

Opportunities

- High-capacity transatlantic cables in Clew Bay and Killala.
- Offshore renewable energy development off North Mayo (e.g., AMETS).
- Synergies across food, tourism, data, and clean energy.

Strategic Priorities for Realisation

- Foster a shift from carbon to hydrogen-based marine economies.
- Invest in future-focused infrastructure and field research.
- Build resilient, thriving maritime communities integrated into national and global systems.

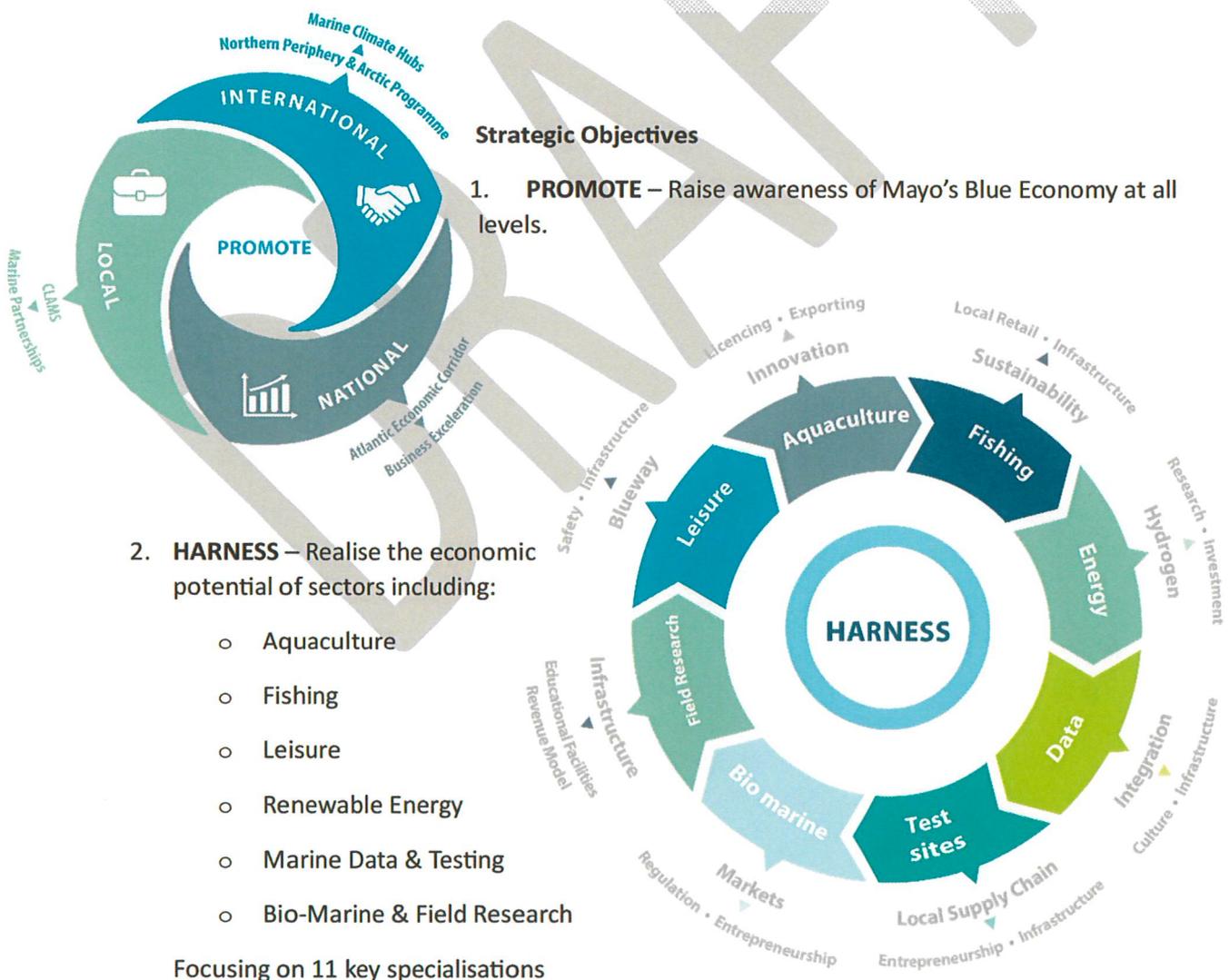
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Chapter Ten: Strategic Framework

This chapter defines the mission, objectives, and values guiding the strategy. Four strategic objectives—Promote, Harness, Enrich, and Value—are supported by five themes: Pristine, Smart, Thriving, Established, and Harness. The framework integrates economic growth with social equity and environmental protection. A Balanced Scorecard model ensures performance is measured across immediate and long-term goals, providing a roadmap for action and accountability.

MISSION

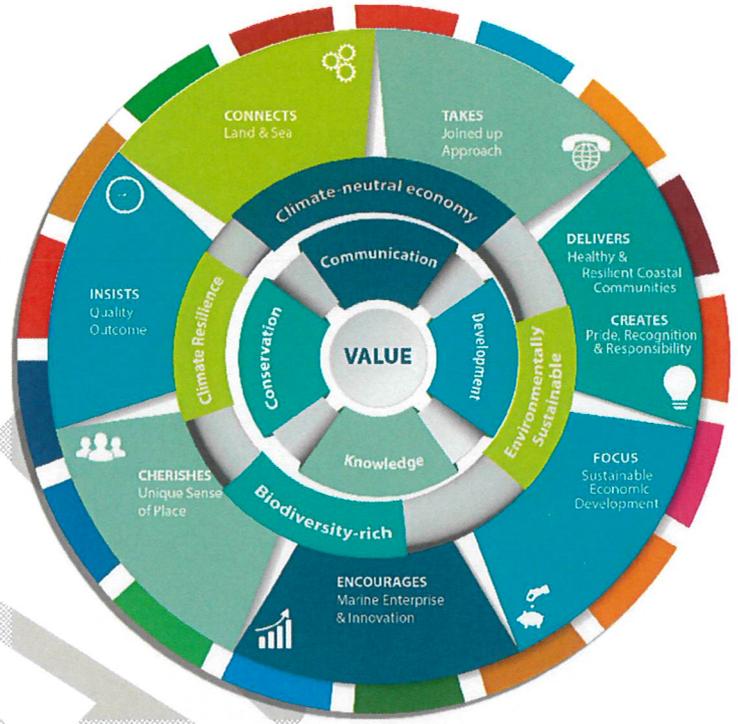
Mayo County Council will use its local leadership mandate to give voice to and shape the relationships the people of Mayo have with the sea





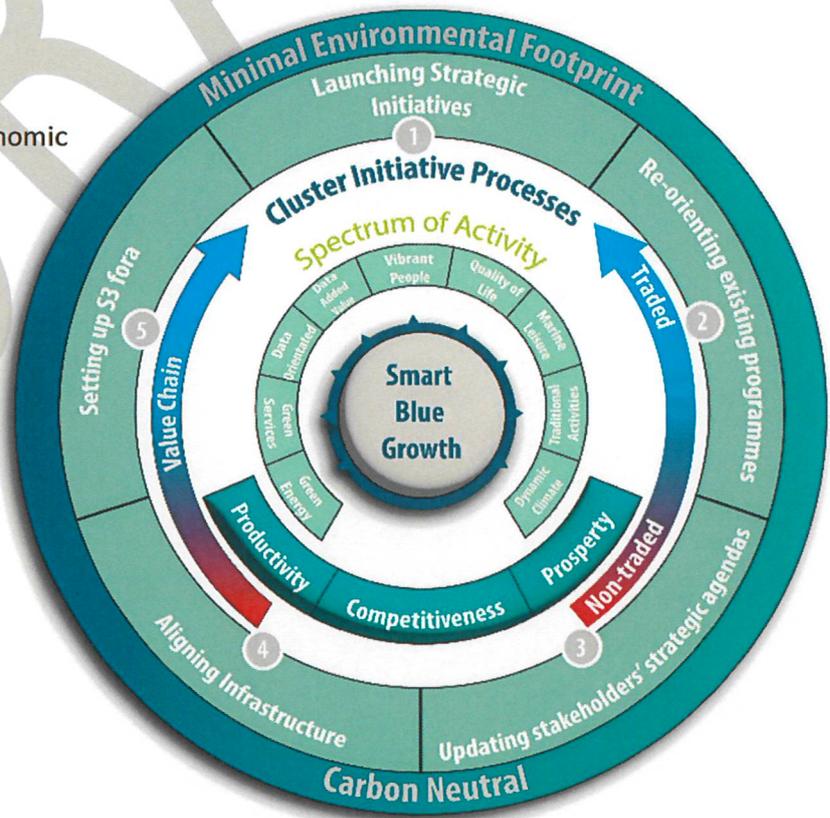
3. **ENRICH** – Improve coastal life quality and visitor experience via safe leisure, community engagement, and coastal amenities.

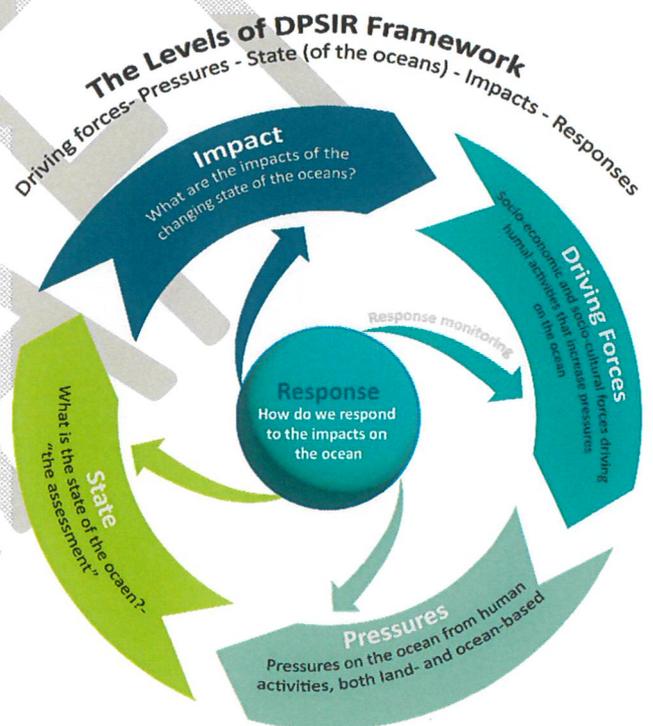
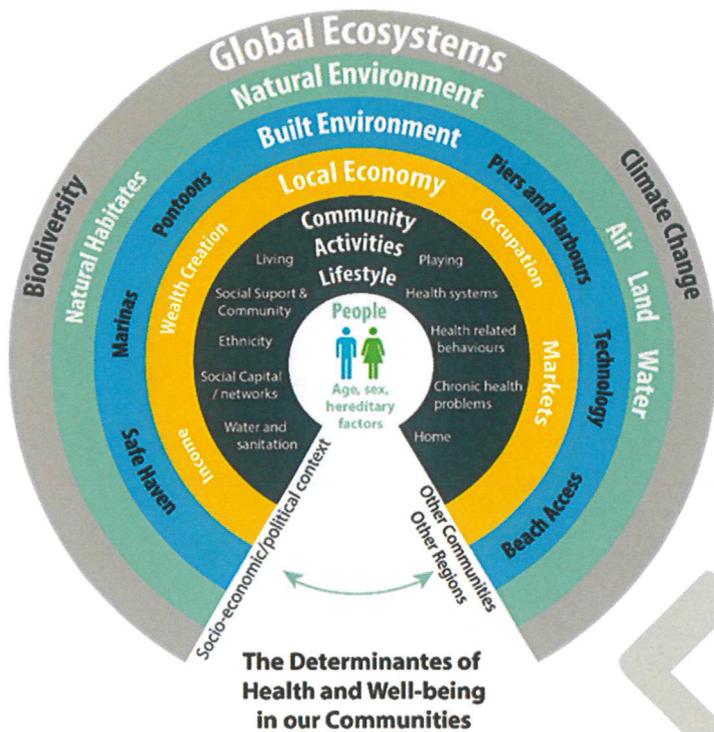
4. **VALUE** – Ensure environmental, social, and cultural values are upheld across all development.



Balanced Scorecard Themes

- **Thriving** – Sustainable economic activity.
- **Pristine** – Environmental protection.
- **Established** – Recognised maritime brand.
- **Smart** – Innovation and learning.
- **Harness** – Strategic resource development.



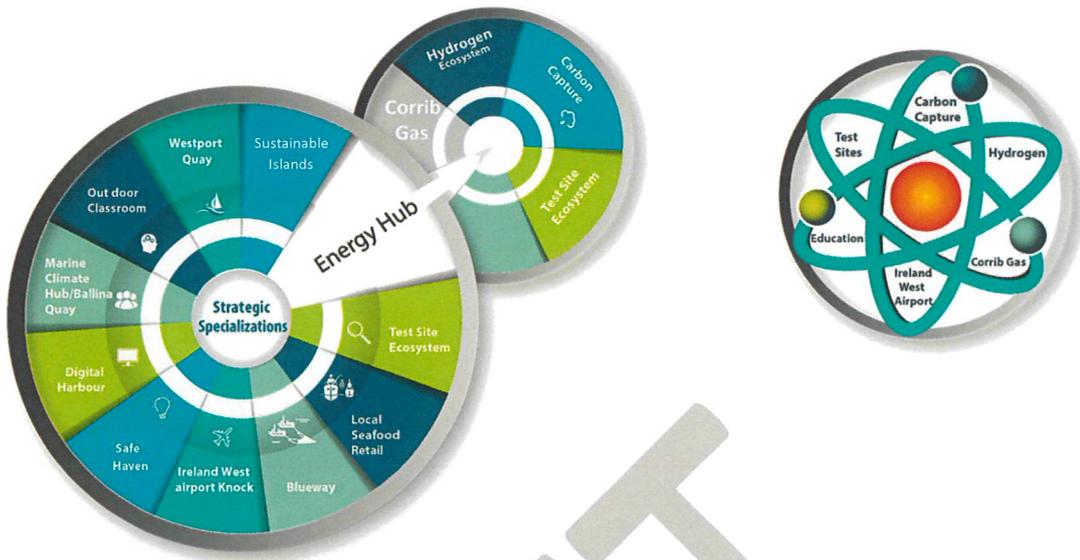


Execution Tools

- Phase-based delivery with periodic evaluation.
- Stakeholder-led action plans.
- Integration with national DMAP structures.

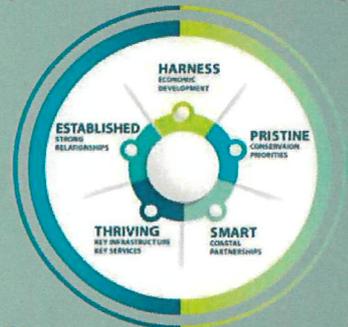
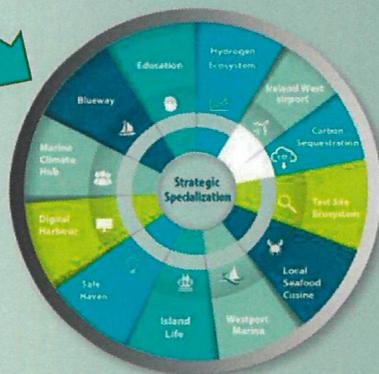
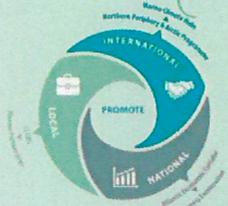
Strategic Specialisation Initiatives

- Ballina Quay
- Westport Quay
- Renewable energy Precinct
- Local Food to Fork
- Digital Harbour Killala
- Sustainable Offshore Islands
- Safe Haven Ballyglass
- Research and Development Hub
- North Mayo Blue Way
- Achill Maritime forum
- Ireland West Airport



Vision

By 2040 Mayo will be renowned as a place enriched by the ocean, Harnessing the Sea locally in unique and innovative ways driving Prosperity and Wellbeing. Sustained by a valued and pristine Natural Marine Environment.



Chapter Eleven: Performance and Evaluation

Effective delivery of the strategy depends on continuous monitoring and adaptive implementation. The plan will be rolled out in two phases: the first focuses on communication and stakeholder alignment; the second on infrastructure and funding. Progress will be evaluated using defined indicators, allowing for adjustments as needed. The **Caibleadh Mhaigh Eo** Maritime Group will oversee implementation, supported by data, feedback, and cross-sector collaboration to ensure impact and sustainability. This chapter details the evaluation mechanisms that will ensure the strategy remains adaptive, relevant, and aligned with its 2040 vision. It introduces a two-phase delivery structure and outlines a continuous cycle of performance review.

Strategy Delivery Overview

- Mayo County Council is the lead delivery agency, supported by the governance body **Caibleadh Mhaigh Eo**.
- The strategy will be rolled out in two phases, supported by thematic action plans and a **Balanced Scorecard** approach reviewed annually.

Phase 1: Communications & Maritime Network Development

- Objective: Build awareness, capacity, and local stakeholder cohesion.
- Key actions:
 - Establish a maritime collaboration network across sectors (public, private, community, academic).
 - Promote the strategy internally and externally.
 - Highlight and embed the value of the marine environment in planning and practice.
- Outcomes:
 - Define priorities aligned with the five Blue Economy pillars: **Pristine, Smart, Thriving, Established, Harness**.
 - Enable unique Mayo-focused deliverables.

Phase 2: Infrastructure and Funding Delivery

- Objective: Implement strategic infrastructure and investment programmes based on Phase 1 outcomes.
- Key actions:
 - Draft detailed, fundable action plans using the strategic toolbox.
 - Align all efforts with the Balanced Scorecard model to balance current needs and future ambitions.
- Role of Caibleadh Mhaigh Eo: Crucial in maintaining coherence, coordination, and monitoring delivery.

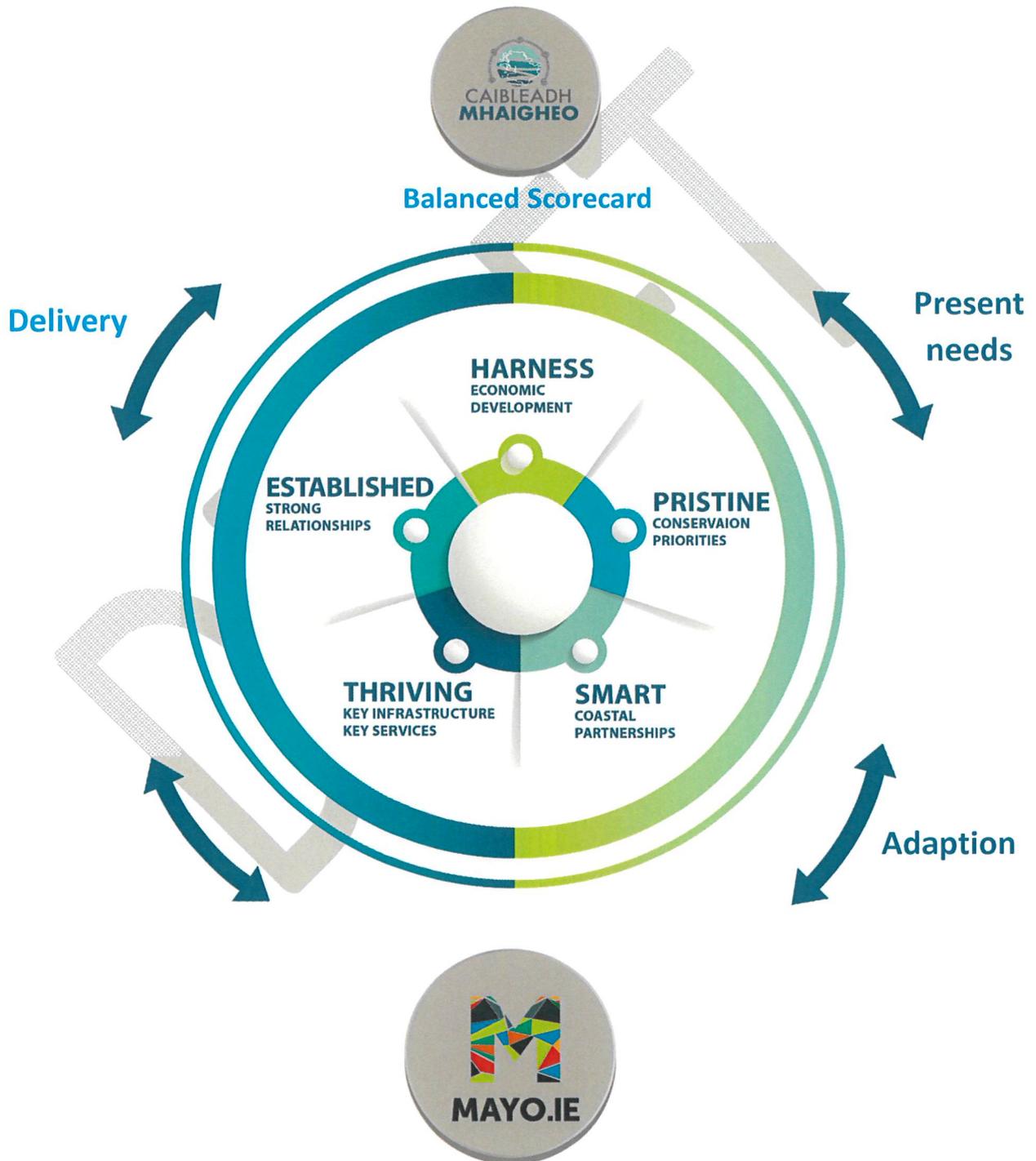
Evaluation Framework

- The strategy is dynamic and learning-based; deliverables evolve through regular assessment.
- **Evaluation steps:**
 - Assess progress against objectives and priorities.
 - Amend or refine priorities as needed.
 - Review effectiveness of Key performance Indicators and data collection mechanisms.
 - Reflect on gaps in delivery and incorporate learnings into future planning.

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Balanced Scorecard Dimensions

- **Present Needs** – Immediate actions and priorities.
- **Future Ambition** – Long-term vision setting.
- **Adaptation** – Flexibility in response to evolving external factors.
- **Delivery** – Effective implementation and real-world impact.



Chapter Twelve: Conclusion

The final chapter synthesises the vision and ambitions of the Mayo Maritime Strategy, calling for a united, strategic, and resilient approach to maritime development. The implementation of Mayo’s Maritime Strategy over the next five years represents an ambitious, necessary, and transformative journey for the county’s coastal communities. Grounded in a deep appreciation of Mayo’s natural, cultural, and geographic endowments, this plan seeks to shape a maritime future that is sustainable, prosperous, and resilient.

Through strategic investment, integrated planning, and collective action, Mayo can assert its position as a national leader in Blue Economy development—demonstrating how a peripheral coastal region can drive inclusive growth, foster environmental stewardship, and realise global connections. **This five-year roadmap is not merely a blueprint for economic advancement but a call to reimagine the county’s relationship with the sea—preserving its legacy while charting a new course toward long-term vitality.**

Mayo County Council, together with its stakeholders and communities, stands committed to delivering on this vision with clarity, resolve, and shared purpose.

Core Conclusion Themes

To Network

- Build a robust, inclusive maritime network across Mayo, namely Caibleadh Mhaigh Eo.
- Encourage collaboration between communities, stakeholders, industries, and governance bodies.
- Promote shared understanding of Mayo’s marine potential and distinct geographic advantages.



To Participate

- Enhance stakeholder engagement and ensure widespread participation in decision-making.
- Foster awareness and trust in Mayo’s marine opportunities.
- Work with education, enterprise, and research sectors to secure funding for innovation and capital investment.
- Build capabilities in new maritime sectors while preserving environmental integrity.

To Position



- Establish Mayo as a national leader in strategic marine planning and sustainable coastal development.
- Embed resilience in all marine activities—economic, environmental, and cultural.
- Champion Mayo as a pilot region under the Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) system.

Final Reflections

- Mayo's unique geographic and ecological assets position it as a key driver of Ireland's Blue Economy.
- The implementation of this strategy will help rebalance national development by strengthening the local and regional economic and environmental base.
- Mayo County Council's leadership, supported by cross-sector collaboration, is critical in unlocking the full power of the maritime realm.