

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNUAL REPORT

2025 in Review



DEIS Schools Competition winners:

Presentation NS, Sexton St.

BENEVOLENCE & ADVOCACY

ENTERPRISE

EDUCATION & UPSKILLING

Doing nothing
is not our way

Our community is at the heart of
everything we do, and our collaborators
are critical to our success.

Our purpose

***To be a catalyst for
positive change in Limerick.***

A Limerick
solution to
a Limerick
challenge.



Every person, every place has the potential to be more.

But potential needs a catalyst.

A spark that moves potential from something that might be, to something that is.

LEDP is that spark.

A mission to help people see potential and realise it.

To help Limerick help itself.

To improve lives and futures.

LEDP is vision, support, and the spark of action to find the potential within,

And move it forward.

Potential moves us

About us

Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP) is an organisation synonymous with Limerick's transformation over the past 25 years. Established as a not-for-profit, independently funded charity in response to the devastating closure of the famous Krups factory in 1998, (Southill, Limerick) with the immediate loss of over 650 direct jobs, it purchased the facility to create a new and unique operating model. LEDP lets the property and uses 100% of its revenue to invest in impactful community projects across Limerick's most disadvantaged communities. As a multi-stakeholder local partnership, LEDP provides a critical mass of economic activity and community-based services on its 16,000sq. m. Campus to support social inclusion on top of its direct financial investment in the community. The partnership is a European best in class example of a community-led development¹ and is unique in an Irish context.

And LEDP is more than a funder; it plays a significant advocacy role in advancing social, economic, and physical regeneration across Limerick, particularly within communities experiencing long-term disadvantage. Through sustained, evidence-based advocacy, LEDP works to ensure that the needs, priorities, and lived experiences of local communities are reflected in policy, funding decisions, and public investment strategies. LEDP is as a trusted intermediary between communities, statutory bodies, and government, using its position and credibility to influence decision-making at local, regional, and national levels.

LEDP is an organisation which on our own cannot eradicate societal problems, but we can be the spark in curtailing and minimising their impact. We can be a facilitator and catalyst of positive change by empowering people to be the change they want to see in their community.

Mission, Vision, Purpose

Mission

LEDP's mission is 'connecting people to opportunities through enterprise, education and upskilling, benevolence, and advocacy'.

Vision

Our vision is one of 'realising the full potential of the people of Limerick'.

Purpose

'To be a catalyst for positive change in Limerick'.

LEDP funds itself and, fuels the potential in our community. Doing nothing is not our way.

¹ 50 examples of good practice in urban development supported by the European Regional Development Fund during the 2007-2013 programming period (by AEIDL)

Our Strategic Priorities to 2026



1.
Be relevant

Objectives

- 1. To raise LEDP's profile as an approachable body within our communities and with our collaborators, with a track record of delivering
- 2. To be recognised amongst our peer group as a leader in Limerick's ongoing transformation
- 3. To listen, and remain deeply connected with evolving community issues



2.
Have a meaningful impact

Objectives

- 1. To increase our enterprise and employment creation activities
- 2. To focus our resources solely on projects which advance our purpose, avoiding mission drift
- 3. To provide the spark to connect people and stakeholders to mutual opportunities



3.
A sustainable operating model

Objectives

- 1. To ensure LEDP's future is secure far beyond the lifetime of this Strategy
- 2. To embrace the UN Sustainable Development Goals to proactively meet our environmental responsibilities
- 3. To enable our communities' advance environmental solutions with LEDP leadership



4.
Be organisationally excellent

Objectives

- 1. To ensure LEDP maintains the highest standards of governance
- 2. To ensure LEDP's actions reflect its stated values in all its activities

Dear Board and Members,

As Chief Executive of Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP) CLG, I am pleased to present our Annual Report for 2025. Over the past year, we have continued to strengthen our role in supporting charities, community organisations and social enterprises across Limerick. Through our work, LEDP remains committed to acting as a catalyst for opportunity, partnership and social inclusion within the communities we remain active.

For over a quarter of a century, LEDP has played a central role in supporting community development and social inclusion across Limerick. During that time, our work has been guided by a simple but powerful belief: that strong communities and inclusive opportunities are the foundation of a thriving region. As we reflect on the past year, it is clear that the need for collaboration, innovation and social leadership has never been greater. Through our work, we continue to provide the space, support and partnerships that enable organisations to grow their impact and deliver meaningful change in the communities they serve. We continue to work passionately with a diverse range of community based groups. These organisations are at the heart of addressing many of the most pressing social challenges facing our communities – from social inclusion and education, to employment pathways and wellbeing. By providing accessible funding, collaborative opportunities and organisational support, we aim to create an environment where these organisations can focus on delivering positive outcomes for those most in need.

Throughout this report, you will read about the support we gave to the nonprofit sector through the diverse range of programmes and projects that we fund in marginalised communities around the Limerick.

Some thanks

Firstly, I would like to thank to acknowledge the invaluable work of our board and subcommittees who are entirely voluntary and donate their valuable time and expertise to LEDP and our mission. The Board of Directors commitment and oversight ensures that the organisation continues to operate to the highest standards. I would particularly like to thank Elaine MacGrath who resigns from the board after a distinguished service to LEDP. Elaine's contribution to the experience and work of the board was highly valuable, and I look forward to continuing to work with Elaine in some of our collaborations including the Limerick Food Partnership.

I would like to thank the staff team for their tremendous work throughout the year. The work of our staff and their commitment to serving the community and our member organisations is much appreciated by me and the board. My final thanks are to you, our member organisations. Without your support, LEDP simply would not exist, and it's been a privilege. I wish you all continued success in the coming year.

Our work in 2025

A particular highlight of 2025 has been the continued growth of our 'Impact Fund'. The Fund has become an important focal point for collaboration, bringing together organisations that share a common commitment to social impact as we do. By fostering connections between community groups, social enterprises and public agencies, we are helping to strengthen the social economy in the Mid-West and create new opportunities for innovation and partnership. This has never been as important as today with the formal winding down of The Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) by 2028, a critical state instrument that has helped address disadvantage in Limerick City over the past 15 years. Equally, the addition of the No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) has presented an exciting opportunity to deepen our impact and reach more individuals and families who need support most. As demand increases, we are in a strong position to expand access to fair, affordable credit, helping to reduce reliance on high-cost lending and promote financial inclusion. This growth not only strengthens our role within the community but also allows us to build lasting relationships, empower people to take control of their finances, and contribute to more resilient and sustainable local economies.

A key priority for LEDP during the year was strengthening our role as a catalyst for social and economic participation. The organisation provided workspace, mentoring, and networking opportunities for many community organisations, including hosting careers fairs on site. By fostering collaboration between the voluntary sector, local communities, and public bodies, LEDP helped to create an environment where ideas aimed at addressing social challenges could be explored and implemented. We have also continued to invest in the development of our facilities and infrastructure to ensure that we can meet the evolving needs of the organisations we support on site at LEDP, including Family Tree Crèche. Maintaining high-quality, accessible and affordable space for community and social enterprise activity on the LEDP Campus remains central to our work, and we are actively progressing opportunities to enhance and improve our building so they can continue to serve the sector for many years to come.

UL AccessCampus at LEDP has continued to play a critical role in creating meaningful pathways to education for individuals who may have previously faced barriers to participation. Through strong collaboration and a clear commitment to inclusion, the programme has supported learners to build confidence, develop skills, and progress into further and higher education. Its success is reflected not only in participation numbers, but in the real and lasting change experienced by individuals and the wider community.

Partnership remained a defining feature of LEDP's work in 2025. The organisation worked closely with member and community organisations to maximise impact. Overall, 2025 was a year of consolidation and forward planning for LEDP. By strengthening facilities, commencing a future-fit organisation plan, supporting social inclusion, and building partnerships across sectors, the organisation continued to position itself as a driver of opportunity and inclusion in the Mid-West, helping communities to develop solutions that create lasting social and economic benefits.

Looking ahead, we remain ambitious for the role we can continue to play in supporting social inclusion and community development in Limerick and the wider Mid-West. In the coming year, we will also place emphasis on developing what our next strategic roadmap will look like to 2030 and beyond. Of course, central to this model is organisational sustainability, which can only be realised with a commitment from the state and partners to co-fund our roof refurbishment project.

Our Core Activities

The LEDP Campus: a multidisciplinary building hosting charities, state training bodies, and vital community service providers. Facilitating local employment for over 600 people, a best-in-class model of community regeneration and a catalyst for social inclusion. We use our voice and advocate for those communities who reach out to us. For social inclusion, for pathways to opportunities and for a sustainable future.



No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS): Inherited from Good Shepherd Ireland in 2026, NILS provides small, manageable loans interest free to those in most need of short-term financial support, enabling people on low incomes the opportunity to purchase significant/essential household items, or a service, that improves their quality of life.



UL AccessCampus: The UL AccessCampus partnership at LEDP, established in 2003, represents a strategic collaboration between LEDP and UL to widen access to education and address long-standing educational disadvantage in communities across Limerick.



Markets Field Stadium: Ireland's most iconic football ground, LEDP purchased the dilapidated Stadium in 2011 with support from partners to secure a home for senior soccer in Limerick. LEDP redeveloped the Stadium with UEFA Category Two status. Currently home to Treaty Utd FC.



Family Tree Crèche: Owned and operated by LEDP, opened in 2005 in response to a lack of childcare preventing mothers entering the workforce, this facility predominantly cares for homeless children (via Focus Ireland), ethnic minorities and those from severe disadvantage.



Impact Fund: The LEDP Impact Fund is a crucial financial instrument providing operational funding in Limerick's most disadvantaged communities. The primary focus areas are Educational Access and Support, Employment Outreach and Mentoring, and Other Social Inclusion outcomes e.g., crisis interventions etc.



LEDP as a Training Centre of Excellence:

The LEDP campus functions as an accessible learning hub for LCETB – Hospitality and NZEB training, supporting engagement among learners who may not otherwise participate in education or training.



LEDP Eco-System: Campus Annual Social Outputs




Family Tree Crèche

- Employs 19 staff.
- Providing childcare to up to 55 children and up to 5 years old.



Irish Wheelchair Association

- Employs 10 full time and 57 part time staff.
- Supporting 130 clients with respite.



UL AccessCampus

- More than 50 students attended study clubs in 2025, from 15 schools.
- UL Student multidisciplinary placements.




Limerick & Clare ETB

- Hospitality and Green Building Training.
- Training more than 2,000 learners.




Cooperative Housing Ireland

- Approved housing body managing more than 400 social housing units across Ireland, from LEDP.



Engage in Education

- Supporting more than 200 Primary and 2nd Level pupils, and 100 Third and Adult education students.




Pobal

- Administering more than 30 social impact programmes annually.



Corlann

- Quality assessment training to all staff across the organisation (formerly Brothers of Charity).



Blue Box Creative Leaning Centre

- Delivering over 3,000 play therapy sessions to more than 200 children, annually.

LEDP Impact Fund Projects 25/26

Educational interventions

- UL AccessCampus partnership
- St. Mary's NS, Kings Island
- Presentation PS, Sexton St.
- Corpus Christi NS, Moyross
- Engage in Education CLG
- Southill After Schools Club
- Our Lady Queen of Peace NS, Janesboro
- Haven Hub
- Learning Hub
- Le Cheile NS



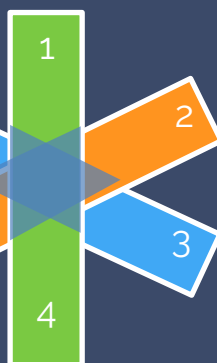
Mental wellbeing

- Phoenix Arts Therapy
- Saoirse Addiction Centre
- Dóchas Autism Centre
- Limerick MHA



Social integration

- Doras Migrant Outreach
- Beford Row Project



Helping the vulnerable

- St. Gabriels Foundation
- Narrative 4
- Community Law & Mediation



Catalyst to a better life

- No Interest Loan Scheme
- Inter-Agency Outreach to Employment Initiative
- Lilac Café and Microbakery

Social Impact

- Biodiversity investment
- Family Tree Crèche service
- Community Mentorship
- Limerick All Inclusive Sports Day



The culmination of our work

Twenty four projects from across Limericks' most disadvantaged areas spanning education, employment pathways, social inclusion and integration have been chosen as recipients for the 2025/26 Impact Fund. But LEDP is more than just a funder; it plays a significant role in partnering a number of strategic programmes in collaboration with LCCC, other state bodies, education institutions, charities and community groups including projects such as Outreach to Employment, AccessCampus and, the No Interest Loan Scheme.

In addition to the direct interventions undertaken by LEDP, the LEDP building is crucial in supporting our dedicated partners and on site community services, and the programmes that LEDP supports that make our Campus, and the social enterprise income generated from it, so impactful. We also continue to have an active presence in many community committees, including chairing the Southill Community Forum, member of Our Lady of Lourdes CSG in Ballinacurra/Weston, and the Moyross Equine Programme, amongst others. We continue to lend our expertise and guidance as a public private partnership to enable better outcomes and to strengthen community cohesion and communication.





"Over the past three years, you have proactively connected us with individuals and organisations that share our vision, opening doors that had previously remained closed. These introductions have led to meetings with councillors, politicians, and philanthropists, resulting in our school's challenges being raised in the Dáil, additional funding for projects, and new programmes delivered on site. Notably, your initial contact with associates of Minister for Special Education and Inclusion, Michael Moynihan, directly facilitated his visit to our school in September this year, a key milestone in securing greater departmental engagement with our strategic plan. Similarly, your introduction to the head of the University of Limerick's AccessCampus has led to the placement of dietetics and speech and language therapy students, providing direct support to our pupils and their families."

Mr. Shane Donoghue –

Deputy Principal, Le Chéile NS, Galvone.

2025 SNAPSHOT



- LCCC Careers Fair held at LEDP.
- New lease agreed for Markets Field Stadium with Treaty Utd FC.
- Presentation PS; winners of 'Biodiversity in Your Community' comp.
- LEDP sponsored tree planting; our pledge to plant 26,000 by 2026.



Potential moves us

2025 SNAPSHOT



- LEDP 'Impact Fund' recipients, Dóchas Autism Centre, opens new café.
- Santa visits Family Tree Crèche.
- Installation of solar PV at Family Tree Crèche.
- Launch of 'Living Legends' by Narrative 4, a project funded by LEDP.



Potential moves us

Our Active Member Partnerships

The existing activities in progress in partnership with our member organisations can be summarised as follows:

- AccessCampus partnership
- UL Citizens Assembly Expert Group
- Supporting the integration of the HAPPEE project
- Supporting the Introduction of an Executive MA in Community and Social Economy



- 'Outreach to Employment Initiative' partnership
- Southill Hub 'Targeted Youth Employability' partnership
- Doras Migrant Outreach Clinic partnership
- Partnering the 'Make a Switch' competition



- Southill TASC Peoples Transition Project
- Doras Migrant Outreach Clinic partnership
- Limerick Food Partnership
- ABC Start Right – 'Little Voices' programme



- Chair of Outreach to Employment Steering Group
- Chair of ESIF Employability & Work Sub-Committee
- 'Outreach to Employment Initiative' partnership
- Careers Fairs venue provision
- WEEE Ireland Recycling venue provision



- DEIS National Schools supports
- NILS Good Shepherd transition
- Youth Leadership Programme
- Impact Fund supporting social inclusion and integration



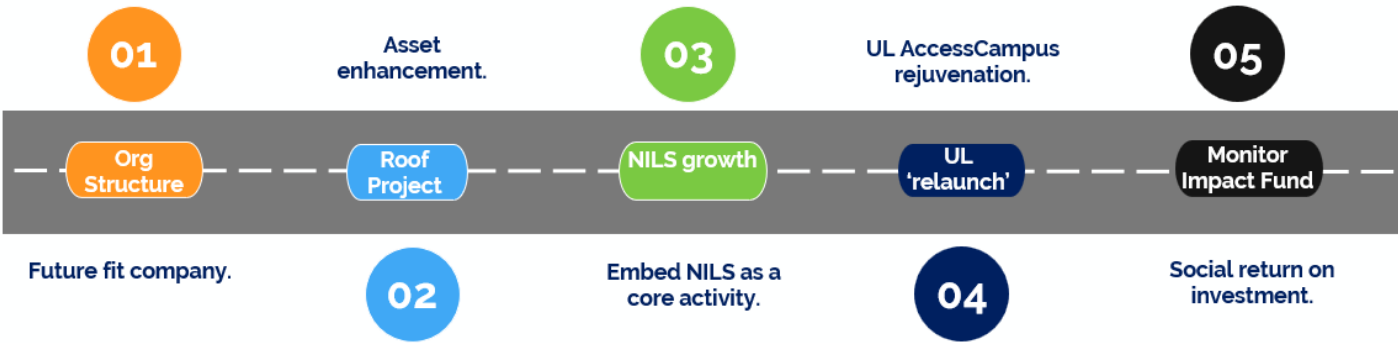
Positioned for growth in 2026

In closing, 2025 has positioned us strongly to move with confidence into 2026, where our focus will be on delivering the next phase of our strategy with clarity and purpose. We will prioritise deepening our impact in the communities we serve, advancing key capital project, and strengthening the sustainability of our organisation through completion of our future fit structure, and robust governance. Building on the progress achieved, 2026 will be a year of consolidation and growth—embedding what works, scaling what delivers impact, and remaining responsive to emerging needs. With the continued support and leadership of the Board, we are well placed to realise our strategic ambitions and further strengthen our role as a catalyst for inclusive development.

We will continue to pursue specific milestone projects in 2026 which will advance our strategic priorities. Whilst there will be many operational activities, new opportunities and unexpected challenges which undoubtedly will arise during the year, our course is set to remain steadfast in pursuit of our stated goals. The overarching themes of the identified strategic actions for 2025 can be defined as follows:

- Complete the organisational future fit structure,
- Continue to progress the capital plan for the LEDP Roof,
- Accelerate the No Interest Loan Scheme under LEDP's stewardship,
- Support UL's plans for AccessCampus rejuvenation, and
- Monitor effectively projects supported by the Impact Fund.

These specific items will provide the primary focus for board meetings throughout the year ahead.



Thank you.

Niall O'Callaghan



LIMERICK ENTERPRISE
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

*Potential
moves us.*

