

This will enable a set of reliable and realistic indicators to be developed and enable the limitations of the indicators to be acknowledged. It would also allow in the case of where the basic data that was required to be identified and, where it wasn't currently published, to develop mechanisms for acquiring it at appropriate levels and intervals either through the partner organisations on the County Development Board or by direct survey.

7. Proofing

It was expected that the process would include processes for proofing against a number of different criteria. These included proofing for equality, gender, rural issues, and sustainability. A formal proofing procedure for each of these areas would have involved a series of major processes that the Board had neither the time nor the resources to pursue. The strategy does not, therefore, contain formal proofing of this nature. Despite this, however, these processes were taken into account by the Board and its sub-groups as it carried out its work. It is, therefore, reasonable to say that an informal proofing process has taken place during the preparation of the strategy.

It is acknowledged that further proofing of actions will be required and it is proposed that this proofing take place during the implementation process. The Board will develop mechanisms by which this can be done and will ensure that the implementation and task groups use these mechanisms to assess the effects of any action prior to or during their implementation. In the event of any action failing the proofing test it will be the remit of the Board to re-consider the action and amend or abandon where appropriate.

8. Conclusion

This strategy is designed to address the social, economic and cultural development of the county. It has been prepared in a participatory and inclusive manner through the use of a series of participatory and consultative mechanisms.

The strategy is based on the assessment by the Board of the principal issues that face the county and on reviews by expert working groups of the elements that need to be addressed under each heading. These elements have been expressed as visions (goals) and strategic objectives and actions have been identified in respect of each objective.