



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE &
PLANNING

LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement

Prepared for:
Wexford County Council (WCC)



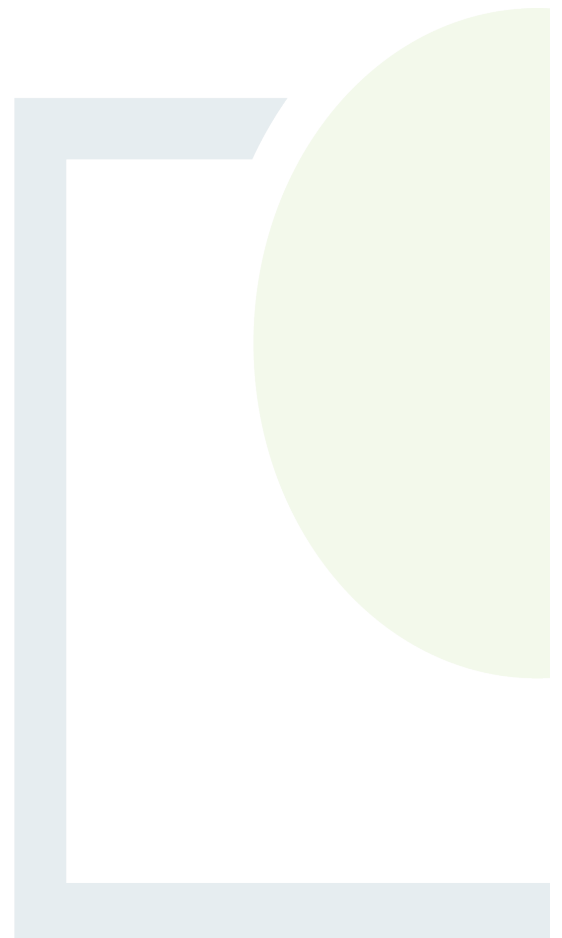
Date: February 2024

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773, Ireland

T: +353 21 496 4133 | E: info@ftco.ie

CORK | DUBLIN | CARLOW

www.fehilytimoney.ie



Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

User is responsible for Checking the Revision Status of This Document

Rev. No.	Description of Changes	Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:	Date:
1	Final	RD/AMW/MG	RD	BG	15/02/2024

Client: Wexford County Council

Keywords: Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment, SEA Statement, SEA Scoping, SEA Environmental Report, Local Authority Climate Action Plan.

Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement for the Wexford Local Authority Climate Action Plan to Wexford for publication alongside the Plan. This Statement provided information on the decision in accordance with Article 16 of S.I. No. 435/2004 - European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Background.....	1
1.2	Legislative Context	1
2.	HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS WERE INTEGRATED INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024 - 2029	3
2.1	SEA Scoping	3
2.2	Environmental Assessment and Mitigation	7
2.2.1	Mitigation through consideration of alternatives	7
2.2.2	Mitigation through integration of environmental considerations into the LACAP	7
2.2.3	Mitigation through consideration of development management standards/environmental protection objectives contained in the CDP	14
2.3	Appropriate Assessment	14
2.4	Consultation on SEA Environmental Report.....	15
2.5	SEA and Plan Modifications.....	30
3.	CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES	34
3.1	Introduction.....	34
3.2	Approach to Developing Reasonable Alternatives.....	34
3.3	Identification and Description of Reasonable Alternatives.....	35
3.4	Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives and Reasons for Choosing the Preferred Plan	37
4.	SEA CONCLUSION	38
5.	SEA MONITORING	39

LIST OF FIGURES

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 3-1: 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model for framing alternatives - Adapted from Figure 4.3 Developing and Assessing Alternatives in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process (EPA, 2015).....	35

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1: Summary Detail on Scoping Consultation Submissions Received from Environmental Authorities	4
Table 2-2: Proposed Environmental Mitigation Measures - Additional text included in Plan actions relating to environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities	8
Table 2-3: Proposed Environmental Mitigation Measures - Environmental Governance Principles included in the plan	14
Table 2-4: Responses to Consultation Submissions	16
Table 2-5: Plan Action Modifications	30
Table 3-1: Reasonable Alternatives to the LACAP	36
Table 5-1: SEA Monitoring Programme	40



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Wexford County Council (WCC) have adopted the Wexford Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) 2024 - 2029. This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement for the LACAP. This SEA Statement provides information on the following:

1. How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the LACAP.
2. How the SEA Environmental Report and consultation submissions and observations on it have been taken into account during the preparation of the LACAP
3. The reasons for choosing the LACAP as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives considered.
4. The measures decided concerning monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the LACAP.

The EPA in their Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statements and Monitoring (2023) succinctly summarize the role SEA Statement have under the SEA process, as follows: *'SEA Statements have the potential to play a central role in summarising the effectiveness of the SEA process. They can capture how environmental considerations have shaped the plan/programme (e.g., through policy wordings, revisited zonings and other measures) and how the process has contributed to making the plan or programme more sustainable'*.

1.2 Legislative Context

SEA is required under the EU Council Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (the SEA Directive)¹. The SEA Directive requires that an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The overarching objective of the SEA Directive is *'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans....with a view to promoting sustainable development'*²

SEA is described within the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government's (2004) Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities on the Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) as the *'formal systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme'*.

¹ Transposing Irish Regulations: S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011). S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).

² Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2004)



Article 16 of S.I. No. 435/2004 - European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended) requires that a competent authority provide information on the decision to approve a Plan that has been subject to SEA. Article 16(2)(b) requires that a statement is produced summarized, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme subject to SEA.



2. HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS WERE INTEGRATED INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024 - 2029

2.1 SEA Scoping

The first stage of the SEA process was to carry out SEA Screening to determine the requirement for SEA of the LACAP. It was determined the LACAP was a statutory Plan and had the potential to give rise to likely significant environmental effects and therefore SEA is required for the Plan.

The second stage of the SEA process was carrying out SEA Scoping. The purpose of SEA Scoping is to establish the spatial and temporal scope of the SEA and a decision-making framework that can be used to evaluate impacts of the LACAP. A SEA Scoping Report was produced to document the scoping process. The SEA Scoping Report outlined information on the emerging LACAP, including the need for the LACAP, its temporal and geographical area and overall objectives. It facilitated scoping the Environmental Components and understanding the environmental issues to be considered under the SEA process.

A copy of this report was made available to the statutory Environmental Authorities. Environmental Authorities made scoping submissions on the SEA Scoping Report. The SEA Scoping Report was finalized in light of these submissions. The SEA Scoping Report, along with SEA scoping consultation submissions and consideration of these submissions by the SEA process, helped communicate and define the scope of the environmental issues which are to be dealt with by the SEA, the methods which will be used to address these issues, and the level of detail required to address these issues, as per the SEA Guidelines³. Summary detail on the scoping consultation submissions received from Environmental Authorities and how these were taken into account during the SEA process is presented in Table 2-1.

³ Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2004), Page 18: "It is recommended that at the end of the scoping procedure, the plan-making authority should prepare a brief scoping report of its conclusions as to what information is to be included in the environmental report, taking account of any recommendations from the environmental authorities."



Table 2-1: Summary Detail on Scoping Consultation Submissions Received from Environmental Authorities

Environmental Authority	Summary on the Scoping Consultation Submission	How was this submission taken into account during the SEA?
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	<p>An overview on how climate resilience could be promoted in agriculture setting was provided (e.g., maintaining a fodder reserve, measures to promote biodiversity and carbon sequestration, measures to improve soil structure and function).</p> <p>An overview on invasive species risk associated with climate change and the need for appropriate need to promote resilience was provided</p>	<p>The content of this submission served to inform the focus of the environmental assessment of agriculture related action defined in the LACAP. It informed the nature and focus of mitigation measures defined for related climate mitigation and adaptation action defined in the LACAP. A number of Environmental Governance principles defined in the LACAP specifically reflect the recommendations contained in this submission.</p>
EPA	<p>An overview of the nature of climate change challenges was provided. The EPA acknowledged the nature, focus and goals of the emerging LACAP was made. It was advised the SEA should seek to maximize climate action co-benefits for air quality, human health, biodiversity, water quality and other interrelated areas (i.e. win-win solutions).</p> <p>Other measures advised on which were relevant to the SEA included: the need to consider the Plan influence on Greenhouse Gas (GHG emissions) the need to manage climate change influenced invasive species spread, the need to have regard to the receiving water quality and air quality environment during the plan-making process.</p> <p>In relation to the SEA specifically, commentary was provided on the approach to mitigation, and on how the plan should consider impacts on air and water quality, water resource, soils/geology, landscape and material assets.</p> <p>The EPA recommended integrating the environmental mitigation defined under the SEA into the Plan, and advised on other interrelated plans and programmes to consider during plan-making and SEA processes.</p>	<p>The recommendation to ensure climate action defined in the Plan created co-benefits underpinned the SEA process and the defined mitigation measures. Where relevant, mitigation measures ultimately defined serve to holistically maximize environmental benefits. The promotion of climate action co-benefits is embedded into the Environmental Governance Principle framework defined for the Plan.</p> <p>Appropriate regard was had to the need to consider the climate change influenced invasive species spread. This was considered when shaping defined climate action and also within the Environmental Governance principle framework defined under the Plan.</p> <p>The receiving water and air quality environmental were appropriately considered and evaluated during the SEA process, in light of the EPA's commentary on baseline water quality and air quality data and information.</p> <p>The nature, focus and level of mitigation measures defined in the SEA Environmental Report were informed by the EPA's commentary. All mitigation measures defined were integrated into the Plan itself. The wording of climate action defined in the Plan was shaped having regard to relevant environmental considerations. A set of Environmental Governance Principles were included in the Plan.</p>
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications	<p>Background information on the Geological Survey of Ireland was provided initially in this submission. An overview of county-level geoheritage and groundwater assets and databases was provided. Information was provided on geological, geotechnical, geothermal, natural resources, geochemistry and geophysical data sources.</p>	<p>Appropriate regard was had to these baseline geological and hydrogeological data sources and considerations during the preparation of the SEA Environmental Report for the LACAP.</p>



Environmental Authority	Summary on the Scoping Consultation Submission	How was this submission taken into account during the SEA?
	<p>Specific advice on geological/hydrogeological considerations that needed to be taken into account during the making of the Plan was provided, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposed developments need to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general. 2. Geohazards should be considered during the Plan-making and development processes. 3. Sustainable development of our natural resources should be an integral part of all development plans from a national to regional to local level to ensure that the materials required for our society are available when required. 	
<p>Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage</p>	<p>The Department welcomed various approaches to the SEA for the LACAP e.g. various SEOs defined for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna; the proposal to carefully examine the impacts of linear projects on biodiversity; the proposal to consider potential for invasive species spread.</p> <p>The Department made recommendations in relation to the wording and focus of a number of Biodiversity related SEOs (promoting better alignment with the National Biodiversity Action Plan).</p> <p>The Department recommended clarifying and confirming some baseline biodiversity related information contained in the Scoping Report during the production of the SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>The Department advised on various other impact assessment related matters, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The potential impact linear infrastructure, including active travel and green infrastructure projects, may have on biodiversity and the water environment. - The potential impact of development or activities that may cause nitrogen deposition. - Utilizing Nature Based Solutions for the management of rainwater and surface water runoff. <p>The Department advised that monitoring indicators should be linked back to environmental effects and proposed mitigation measures. They stated that 'SEA monitoring should reflect the nature and level of detail of the LACAP. Monitoring of local-level plans should focus on both local issues (e.g. habitat</p>	<p>Biodiversity related SEOs have been updated and shaped to reflect the observations of the Department, where appropriate. For example, SEO B5 has been reworded to the following text - 'No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration in response to the biodiversity emergency' - which is more measurable and defined and incorporates the idea of compensation for negative impacts to biodiversity which is sometimes unavoidable. Similarly, SEO B4 was updated to consider potential effects of the Plan on non-designated locally important sites (the indicators and targets for this SEO were also updated appropriately).</p> <p>All advice with respect to the potential impacts of the LACAP was considered during the environmental assessment process. The need to assess and mitigated the effects of infrastructure supported by the Plan was one aspect that underpinned the SEA. With the adoption of the proposed mitigation, including the Environmental Governance Principles, the LACAP does not support the carrying out of activity that would result in nitrogen deposition. Climate action co-benefits including opportunities for utilizing nature-based solutions in development projects were promoted through the environmental mitigation measures defined in the SEA and AA.</p> <p>The SEOs indicators and targets defined in the LACAP SEA Monitoring Programme were shaped to ensure they were appropriately reflective of potential environmental effects (positive and negative) that may arise in the local authority functional area due to the implementation of the Plan.</p>



Environmental Authority	Summary on the Scoping Consultation Submission	How was this submission taken into account during the SEA?
	<p>loss) and particular aspects of larger scale problems that are relevant to the LACAP area.'</p> <p>They advised that on biodiversity related considerations that must be taken into account during the planning of renewable energy projects.</p> <p>They advised that the Flora (Protection) Order 2015, as referenced in the Scoping Report, has been superseded by the Flora (Protection) Order 2022 (Statutory Instrument (S.I) No. 235 of 2022).</p> <p>They advised the Plan should be Screened for AA and subject to full AA if necessary. They also recommended consulting AA related guidelines, as appropriate.</p> <p>They recommended that cumulative effects must be considered n within SEA and AA processes.</p> <p>Finally, the Department advised on other biodiversity guidelines to considered during the plan-making process.</p>	<p>The latest statutory instrument for Flora Protection Orders was referenced in the Environmental Report in light of the Department’s feedback in relation to this (i.e. Flora (Protection) Order 2022 (Statutory Instrument (S.I) No. 235 of 2022)).</p> <p>The Plan was subject to AA Screening which determined full AA was required. Full AA was undertaken in parallel with the SEA (using an Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Approach). The suite of environmental mitigation measures defined for the Plan will also serve to prevent significant adverse effects on European sites.</p> <p>Cumulative effects associated with the Plan were evaluated under both the SEA and AA carried out.</p> <p>All relevant biodiversity related plans, policies, objectives and guidelines were considered during the carrying out of the SEA.</p>



2.2 Environmental Assessment and Mitigation

Taking into account the scope detailed in the SEA Scoping Report which was produced for the initial draft version on the LACAP, the environmental effects associated with the implementation of the LACAP were identified, evaluated and described in a SEA Environmental Report.

This report defined mitigation measures to prevent adverse environmental effects due to the implementation of the LACAP. The following forms of mitigation have been adopted to ameliorate the negative environments of the LACAP and maximize potential positive effects of the plan:

- Mitigation through consideration of alternatives.
- Mitigation through integration of environmental considerations into the LACAP.
- Mitigation through consideration of development management standards/environmental protection objectives contained in the CDP.

2.2.1 Mitigation through consideration of alternatives

A number of alternatives were considered at an early stage in the process. The environmental effects of these alternatives were evaluated during the SEA process. Detail on how Plan alternatives and their environmental effects were considered during plan-making is provided in Section 3.

2.2.2 Mitigation through integration of environmental considerations into the LACAP

The plan making process was carried out in parallel with the SEA and AA processes. Regular communication and interaction took place between the environmental assessment team and the plan making team. Environmental considerations that came to light during the SEA and AA processes, including consultation processes, were regularly communicated to the plan making team during the plan making process. As necessary, environmental mitigation measures to ameliorate the potential negative environmental effects of implementing the LACAP were developed and then integrated into the LACAP. Much of the environmental mitigation was embedded in the plan early on in the process as a result of this. This process was carried out in an iterative manner to ensure optimal plan making and environmental outcomes. Environmental considerations were also integrated into the plan so as to facilitate maximizing identified positive environmental effects of the LACAP.

Mitigation measures were suggested that maximize the co-benefits of climate action for other environmental components such local air quality, human health, biodiversity, water quality and other interrelated areas (i.e., win-win solutions).

Additional text clarifying environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities has been attached to a variety of defined actions in the plan. This text has been shaped to ensure that environmental considerations are appropriately taken into account during plan implementation. This text has also been shaped to ensure plan implementation generates the minimum level of negative environmental effects and the maximum level of positive environmental effects. These text additions are presented in Table 2-2.

Several environmental governance principles were established to ensure plan implementation generates the minimum level of negative environmental effects and the maximum level of positive environmental effects. These environmental governance principles shall underpin and guide plan implementation and shall apply to and be integrated into all actions/activities which result due to the implementation of the plan. These principles are defined in Table 2-3. The principles were incorporated into the plan itself.



These environmental mitigation measures were integrated into the LACAP and will prevent negative effects and maximize positive effects associated with the LACAP.

Table 2-2: Proposed Environmental Mitigation Measures - Additional text included in Plan actions relating to environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities

LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
GL5	Wexford County Council (WCC) commits to a reduction in fossil fuel based travel by 25% by 2029, to be achieved by a combined increased in online technology, sustainable transport options together with a concerted effort to reduce travel.	Attach the following text to the action: while ensuring sustainability criteria is appropriately considered during procurement processes and appropriate end-of-life vehicle management practices are in place.
GL10	In line with Strategic Objective 2 of the South east Regional Enterprise Plan 2024, continue the work to establish the South East as a leader in Off-shore renewable Energy	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure supported projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
BET1	Identification and completion of energy efficiency and upgrade projects related to council facilities as identified in the Pathfinder Energy Register of Opportunities and other funding streams	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, protected species, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures.
BET2	Continue to work with OPW Flood Defence section to progress all County Wexford Flood Relief Schemes e.g., Wexford Town, Enniscorthy, Rosslare Strand	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
BET3	Reduce WCC fossil fuel emissions across the fleet through: a) Maximising the EV fleet and continuing to upgrade existing older fleet to modern efficient vehicles. b) Assessing the feasibility of moving to renewable or low emission fuels for fleet vehicles and marine vessels and piloting the roll out of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil fuel. c) Promote & encourage fuel saving measures such as eco driving & speed limiters, etc. d) Increase the tonnage carrying capacity of fleet lorries which will reduce the number of trips. Quantify and verify the GHG emission reductions achieved by adopting this action	Attach the following text to the action: Whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced, and appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for Electric Vehicles.
BET4	Maximise WCC's delivery of upgraded properties under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme in line with department targets per annum.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
		appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations.
BET5	Continue to support the roll out of the Public lighting retrofit Programme.	Attach the following text to the action: while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity.
BET6	Preparation of the Wexford Town Local Transport Plan to inform the future planning of Wexford Town and to inform the preparation of the Wexford Town Local Area Plan	Attach the following text to the action: whilst ensuring this plan are: - Designed to mitigate potential environmental impacts associated with supported active travel infrastructure. - Support the carrying out of environmental/biodiversity enhancement during the active travel development process.
BET7	Revise & update Wexford County Council (WCC) Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy to take account of national guidance and work with ZEVI to facilitate the EV Charging Infrastructure within the public realm of County Wexford for Cars, buses & coaches having due regard to ensuring disabled access to EV charging, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to ensuring disabled access to EV charging, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage.
BET8	Work with Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management Programme to prioritise projects to reduce flood risk and provide for detailed mapping of areas prone to fluvial and tidal flood risk. The National Indicative Fluvial Mapping (NIFM) and the National Coastal Hazard Flood Mapping are published and will help inform the implementation of this plan having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
BET9	Support the roll out Active travel initiatives and promote a modal shift to more sustainable travel through: a) Pathfinder projects - 3 interconnecting schemes - Newtown Road, Beech Lawns/Clonard and Roxborough, Wexford Town. b) Safer Routes to schools schemes across County Wexford. Twenty six schools in conjunction with the National Transport Authority and An Taisce. c) Installation of segregated cycle path	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
	and footpath as part of Oaklands to Kents Cross New Ross Active Travel Scheme	
BET12	Develop New Designed Road Schemes (that involves more than resurfacing) by securing specific improvement grants that encompass urban realm planned improvements, such as natural drainage, cycle tracks, green spaces, led lights, restricting cars etc.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage.
BET13	Develop projects to promote adaptive reuse of historic structures using exemplar retrofitting projects and carbon budgets to demonstrate climate value	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species."
BET14	Facilitate and support the use and occupation of vacant housing stock through the administration of the vacant property Refurbishment Grant under the Government of Ireland Housing for All Plan (Croí Cónaithe)	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
BET15	Build climate resilience of archaeological and architectural heritage in public and private ownership through schemes such as BHIS HSF HTI IWTN and CMF	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species.
BET17	Promote reuse/repurposing of existing buildings rather than the construction of new buildings through various funding streams including Urban Regeneration Development Fund and Rural Regeneration Development Fund e.g. New Ross Enterprise Centre and Gorey Market House	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species.
BET18	Continue to progress the roll out of an integrated network of Greenways, Blueways and key trails within County Wexford and across the South east region	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to opportunities to enhance tourism, recreation and cultural heritage value associated with routes, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites, and cultural heritage related sensitivities.
BET19	Engage with Rosslare Europort stakeholders to progress the development of Rosslare as a renewable energy hub.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage
BET20	Through the planning process, promote the target of 100% electricity consumption in the county from renewable sources by 2027	Attach the following text to the action: where it is confirmed through appropriate environmental assessment that associated renewable energy development will not have any significant environmental effect.
BET21	Incorporate Sustainable Urban drainage (SUDs) in proposed designs and Raise awareness and provide training to staff	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring all SuDS related construction works are designed and implemented in a manner that does not result in the occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
BET23	In accordance with the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028, and all future Local Area Plans/Settlement Plans, require the provision of electric vehicle charging point infrastructure in residential, commercial and mixed use developments	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to ensuring disabled access to EV charging, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage.
BET24	Support and facilitate Iarnród Éireann in delivering appropriate improvements in the rail network and improved connectivity for Wexford, in particular those identified for the South east region and Wexford as outlined in the Department of Transport and Department for Infrastructure All-Island Strategic Rail Review	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
BET30	Replace all network equipment (Switches, Routers, Hubs) with most energy efficient models on the market	Attach the following text to the action: whilst ensuring WEEE generated as a result of this action is appropriately managed.
BET32	Liaise with the ESB Networks to examine the potential of exporting electricity generated from renewables to the grid	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
NEGI2	Wexford County Council (WCC) will develop and progress suitable coastal protection measures, as identified through the monitoring and inspection programmes for vulnerable areas of coast and existing public coastal defences subject to funding, statutory consent and national policies and guidelines, including schemes such as Rosslare, Courtown and Seaview.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value
NEGI3	Undertake a Monitoring and Maintenance programme on existing public coastal defences and develop suitable protection measures.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value
NEGI10	Implement Chapter 12 Coastal Zone Management and Marine Spatial Planning in Volume 1 of the County Development Plan. Ensure collaborations with Waterford and Wicklow County Councils in relation to integrated Coastal Zone management	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value
NEGI12	Work through the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme to improve access to public water services to reduce pollution and vulnerability to water scarcity as a result of climate change	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and amenity value.
NEGI16	Promote climate action projects that support and protect habitats such as wetlands and floodzones which contribute to green infrastructure.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and amenity value.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
NEGI22	Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and amenity value.
CRT13	Promotion of the Rural Water programme in providing support to rural communities for private well grant improvements and Group Schemes	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence and control, as appropriate, to ensure such projects are designed and planned properly and do not cause unintended negative environmental effects.
Decarbonising Zone		
DZ GL4	Maximise WCC's delivery of upgraded properties within Enniscorthy DZ, under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme in line with department targets, to a minimum of a B2 BER rating. All properties being let shall include a BER	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations.
DZ BET1	Work with Special Projects, the Active Travel Team and the people of Enniscorthy on the Enniscorthy Town Centre Regeneration Plan (TCRP)	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations.
DZ BET3	Production of the Enniscorthy Area Local Transport Plan and identification of measures for implementation	Attach the following text to the action: whilst ensuring the plan is: - Designed to mitigate potential environmental impacts associated with supported active travel infrastructure. - Support the carrying out of environmental/biodiversity enhancement during the active travel development process.
DZ BET5	Produce a feasibility study on the provision of Park and Ride in Enniscorthy	Attach the following text to the action: whilst having appropriate regard to traffic and transport, planning and environmental constraints and considerations.
DZ BET6	Investigate the feasibility of adding bus stops to existing services, at a number of locations including Enniscorthy quays for all north bound coaches/buses and at the R772 north of Blackstoops roundabout.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites, cultural heritage.
DZ BET8	Active Travel Project at St. Aidan's National School, based on the Safe Routes to School Scheme	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage.
DZ BET9	Investigate the viability of an outdoor escalator on streets with steep gradients	Attach the following text to the action: while having due regard to planning, environmental and cultural heritage considerations
DZ BET12	Liaise with the District Heating Steering Group on the possible identification of	Reword the action to the following: Liaise with the sustainable District Heating Steering Group on the possible identification of potential sites for a Sustainable District Heating



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
	potential sites for a District Heating System in Enniscorthy	System in Enniscorthy, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure the project is suitably located having regard to planning and environmental constraints and considerations.
DZ BET13	Estimate the solar potential within Enniscorthy DZ and the associated costs	Attach the following text to the action: having appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations, including potential glint and glare impacts.
DZ BET14	Liaise with the Schools within the DZ in relation to solar PV installation	Attach the following text to the action: having appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations, including potential glint and glare impacts.
DZ BET15	Investigate the feasibility of small scale renewable energy projects such as solar and wind	Attach the following text to the action: whilst ensuring the study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection constraints and considerations.
DZ BET16	Work with the Heritage Section and Enniscorthy Municipal District to repurpose and reuse existing vacant buildings and investigate the possibility of using new sustainable insulation products within existing Enniscorthy Heritage Buildings	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations.
DZ BET17	Investigate the feasibility of companies cofounding a high speed electric vehicle charger for use by companies within their own industrial estate	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage.
DZ BET18	LED replacement for council street lights within Enniscorthy DZ	Attach the following text to the action: while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity.
DZ NEGI1	Work with the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) on the Slaney Pilot catchment Management Plan and Catchment Fora to facilitate greater public participation in water management, under the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027	Attach the following text to the action: and support the implementation of all relevant remediation and mitigation measures required to maintain or achieve good or high quality water status in the County.
DZ NEGI3	Expand and promote Enniscorthy Recycling Centre to become a re-use circular economy hub	Attach the following text to the action: whilst ensuring activities at the facility are carried out in accordance with the Waste Management Act and the environmental management and protection related conditions contained in the waste facility permit for the facility.



Table 2-3: Proposed Environmental Mitigation Measures - Environmental Governance Principles included in the plan

Promote climate action projects that support and maximise environmental co-benefits, such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.
Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions.
Ensure all development underpinned or supported by climate action is planned and implemented in a manner that appropriately considers the potential for environmental co-benefits, potential environmental impacts and environmental protection requirements. No climate action related development project that is likely to have a significant negative effect on the receiving environment shall be supported.
Support opportunities to improve ecological connectivity of non-designated habitats and sites to improve overall ecosystem resilience and functioning while supporting climate action within the county.
Promote and encourage use of sustainable transport modes on all journeys undertaken as part of work by council personnel, as well as ensure that the journey is necessary.

2.2.3 Mitigation through consideration of development management standards/environmental protection objectives contained in the CDP

In addition to the environmental mitigation measures integrated into the LACAP, the development management standards and environmental protection measures defined in the CDP will serve to mitigate the environmental effects of any development proposals supported by the LACAP. These development management standards/environmental protection measures have been defined for the express purpose of ensuring proper planning and sustainable development in the County. The CDP has been subject to its own SEA and AA. The LACAP has been prepared having appropriate regard to the policies and objectives contained in the County Development Plan.

2.3 Appropriate Assessment

The environmental assessment for the Plan undertaken was carried out in accordance with an Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment based methodology in accordance with EPA's guidance document entitled '*Final Report: Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment, Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes. Best Practice Guidance.*' (2012).

The methodology employed facilitated the integration of SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes relating to biodiversity impact assessment to ensure the effective and streamlined assessment of biodiversity impacts. The plan-making, SEA and AA processes - including scoping, baseline evaluation, impact assessment and mitigation/monitoring measure development processes - were carried out concurrently to facilitate holistic and complete assessment of biodiversity impacts. The effective communication and integration of scientific knowledge and analysis between assessments took place. The SEA was suitably informed by the analysis and conclusions in AA.



2.4 Consultation on SEA Environmental Report

A draft version of the SEA Environmental Report accompanied a draft version of the LACAP on public display as part of the statutory public consultation required under Article 13 of S.I. No. 435/2004 - European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004. A draft version of the Natura Impact Report (NIR) produced under the AA process for the Draft LACAP also accompanied the Draft LACAP on public display. Environmental Authorities, relevant interested stakeholder and members of the public were notified of the Draft LACAP being placed on display and the opportunity to make consultation submissions in relation to the Draft LACAP. Members of public were made aware of the Draft LACAP and associated environmental reports through a notification published by the local authority on its website. Environmental Authorities and interested stakeholders were notified through notification correspondence.

Various parties made consultation submissions and observations on the Draft LACAP and associated environmental reports. Detail on submissions received relevant to SEA and AA issues and documentation, responses to these submissions, and any changes made to SEA Environmental Report (ER) and NIR documents on foot of these submissions, is provided in Table 2-4. Updates were made to the SEA and AA documentation where relevant following on from receipt and consideration of the consultation submissions.



Table 2-4: Responses to Consultation Submissions

Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
Sea Fisheries coordination DAFM	Ireland's seafood industry (fishing and aquaculture) is one of the key stakeholders operating in the marine area and plays a vital role in the sustainability of our coastal communities. Over 15,000 people are employed around our coast both directly and indirectly. Many of these communities have very limited alternative employment and economic activity options. It is therefore essential that the socio-economic reliance on the seafood sector is fully recognised and is factored into any Climate Change Action plan. Fishing and food security is key a part of Government Policy. Food Vision 2030 recognises and values the role of primary food producers.	Noted.	None	None.
	The Seafood industry is experiencing a period of difficult change, arising from the ongoing consequences of the EU UK Trade and Co-operation agreement which are specific and impactful on Ireland's seafood sector. There is now ever-increasing demand for marine space from Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE), Marine Spatial Planning, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and other environmental measures.	Noted.	None	None.
	Our coastal communities and maritime sectors will continue to play a significant role in contributing to our climate goals and will continue to be consulted and supported in the transition to carbon neutrality. The seafood industry, through both the Sectoral Adaptation Plan (Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan) and the annual Climate Action Plan (CAP23) continue to support initiatives to improve understanding of our marine area and ensure sustainable resource use, including through bio and circular economy initiatives. These plans require consideration in the SEA process.	The National Climate Action Plan (2023) and Sectoral Adaptation Plans have been considered in the SEA Process. The relationship of the Plan with other relevant Plans and Programmes has been defined in Appendix 1 of the SEA. Inter-plan cumulative effects have been evaluated in Section 7 of the SEA ER.	None	None.
	Also for consideration in the SEA process is the European Commission's Communication on the energy transition of	This commentary was noted. Local authorities in Ireland do not have a direct remit over the fisheries	Reference was made to the European Commission's	Reference was made to the European Commission's



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	the fisheries and aquaculture sector as part of its Fisheries Policy Package. This proposes the establishment of an Energy Transition Partnership (ETP) to develop a roadmap for the energy transition of the sector towards climate neutrality by 2050. The roadmap will set out investment needs, sector initiatives and inform policy decisions to help achieve this transition. The ETP is a multi-stakeholder platform intended to promote co-operation, knowledge sharing and dialogue between private and public stakeholders in order to accelerate the energy transition in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. This Partnership will help to shape the development of future transitional actions for Ireland's seafood sector. Local authorities should include relevant steps to support a Just Transition for the sea fisheries and aquaculture sectors in their Climate Action Plans.	and aquaculture sector. The actions defined in the Plan are however mutually symbiotic and harmonious with the vision and measures defined in European Commission's Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. As far as the local authority's remit extends, the plan supports the protection and enhancement of the marine environment. The climate action defined in the plan has the potential to generate multiple climate action benefits, and co-benefits for the water and biodiversity environments and by extension the marine environment (i.e., biodiversity conservation and enhancement, coastal protection, water quality protection and improvements etc.).	Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Section 3.4 - <i>In-combination effects with Other Plans and Programmes</i> , and Appendix 2 - <i>Relationship with other plans and programmes</i> , as appropriate.	Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Section 7.3 - <i>Potential Cumulative Effect of the LACAP in combination with other Plans and Projects</i> , and Appendix 1 - <i>Relationship of the Plan with other relevant Plans and Programmes</i> , as appropriate.
EPA	The SEA should also assist in identifying ways to maximise the potential co-benefits of climate-related measures for air quality, human health, biodiversity, water quality and other interrelated areas (i.e., win-win solutions).	Noted and agreed. It was noted that the SEA Environmental Report (ER) has defined Environmental Governance Principles and action amendment suggestions to ensure climate action co-benefit opportunities are maximized. Various defined mitigation measures serve to promote win-win solutions.	None.	None.
	We recommend that the findings of the SEA ER and NIS are fully reflected in the Plan, to ensure that the relevant recommendations are fully considered and integrated as appropriate.	Noted and agreed. Environmental mitigation measures in the form of Environmental Governance Principles and climate action amendment suggestions have been fully integrated into the Plan itself.	None	None
	Environmental Authorities Under the SEA Regulations, you should consult with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency; • Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; • Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications; • Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. If you have any queries or need further information in relation to this submission, please contact me directly at	Noted. All listed Environmental Authorities have been consulted with as part of the SEA process. It was recommended the Council confirm receipt of this submission with Cian O' Mahony if this has not been done already.	None	None



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	c.omahony@epa.ie. I would be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: sea@epa.ie.			
	<p>Non-Technical Summary</p> <p>You should ensure that the Non-Technical Summary includes the relevant information as required under Schedule 2 of S.I No. 434 Of 2004, as amended.</p>	<p>It was assumed that SI No. 434 is a typo and SI No. 435 is what was intended to be addressed with this statement.</p> <p>The requirements of Schedule 2 of SI No 435 have been noted and amendments to the NTS will be made as appropriate.</p>	None	Updated the NTS to reflect the relevant information as required under Schedule 2 of SI No 435 of 2004 as amended.
	<p>Relationship with other plans and programmes</p> <p>We acknowledge that the Plan has been prepared taking account of the key National plans including the National Climate Action Plan 2023. We also acknowledge that the Plan sets out the key plans, programmes and policies considered in preparing the SEA.</p> <p>The Plan should include a commitment to remain aligned with high level plans and programmes, Guidelines, and legislation over its lifetime. The Climate Action Plan 2024 is currently being prepared and work will be commencing on the review of the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies also. Any relevant updates of these plans/strategies should be integrated as appropriate into the Plan as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>The Plan should include a commitment to consider any relevant updated actions, measures or recommendations that may arise in updates to the National Climate Action Plan (or the National Planning Framework) over the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. It was noted that this is in reference to the LACAP and not the SEA ER or AA NIR documentation.</p> <p>It was recommended the Council includes a commitment in the Plan to remain aligned with high level plans and programmes if this is not the case already.</p> <p>It was recommended the plan includes a commitment in the Plan to consider and appropriately integrate relevant updates to the national Climate Action Plan and National Planning Framework over the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	None	None
	<p>Strategic Environmental Objectives</p> <p>We recommend that in considering strategic environmental objectives, they should where possible reflect the plan being prepared, rather than use more generic environmental objectives. This will help both in considering more specific monitoring and mitigation measures, when required.</p>	<p>Noted. The Strategic Environmental Objectives defined have been very specifically defined to reflect the themes, goals, objectives and climate action contained in the plan and in light of the potential environmental effects associated with Plan implementation.</p>	None	None



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>Alternatives We note the alternatives considered in the SEA and acknowledge the preferred option selected</p>	Noted.	None	None.
	<p>Mitigation Measures Where the potential for likely significant effects has been identified, you should provide appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or minimise these. You should also ensure that the Plan includes clear commitments to implement the relevant mitigation measures.</p>	<p>The SEA produced recommended a suite of mitigation measures in response to climate actions considered to have potentially significant environmental effects.</p> <p>Environmental Governance Principles have been defined for the purpose of underpinning and framing the defined climate actions. All activities and development supported by the defined climate actions shall be undertaken or influenced by the local authority, as appropriate, in accordance with these Environmental Governance Principles.</p> <p>Mitigation has also been achieved by the integration of environmental considerations into the defined LACAP climate actions.</p> <p>These mitigation measures have been wholly integrated into the LACAPs.</p> <p>Section 8 of the SEA ER provides full detail of these environmental mitigation measures.</p> <p>It was recommended the Plan provides a clear commitment to implement these mitigation measures if this is not the case already.</p>	None	None.
	<p>Monitoring, Implementation & Reporting The Monitoring Programme should be flexible to take account of specific environmental issues and unforeseen adverse impacts should they arise. It should consider and deal with the possibility of cumulative effects. Monitoring of both positive and negative effects should be considered. The monitoring programme should set out the various data sources, monitoring frequencies and responsibilities.</p> <p>If the monitoring identifies adverse impacts during the implementation of the Plan, then you should ensure that suitable and effective remedial action is taken.</p>	<p>The SEA Monitoring Programme established for the LACAP is contained in the SEA ER. This monitoring programme has been developed in accordance with EPA guidelines entitled '<i>Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring</i>' (2020).</p> <p>The monitoring programme is multi-faceted, broad in scope and has been designed to allow for a flexible and adaptive approach to SEA monitoring during Plan implementation.</p>	None	<p>Update the SEA monitoring programme to ensure SEOs PHH1, L1, AQN2, TR1 accommodate the monitoring of positive effects arising due to plan implementation, where appropriate.</p> <p>Provide additional detail on monitoring programme data sources</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>Guidance on SEA-related monitoring is available on the EPA website at https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/06695-EPA-SEA-Statements-and-Monitoring-Report.pdf</p>	<p>The monitoring programme has been designed to inherently measure cumulative effects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>This plan considers both positive and negative effects, as per the following statement from the SEA text:</p> <p><i>'Where monitoring identifies that the implementation of the LACAP is having a significant negative environmental effect, an in-depth review of the LACAP should take place and the LACAP should be updated in a manner that satisfactorily mitigates these environmental effects (i.e., through the adoption of additional environmental mitigation measures.). Similarly, where monitoring indicates that potential positive environmental effects associated with LACAP implementation are not being adequately realized, the LACAP should be reviewed and updated in a manner that supports the realization of all potential positive environmental effects, having regard to the overall vision and high-level objectives of the plan.'</i></p> <p>It was noted however that additional opportunities exist in relation to monitoring the positive environmental effects of defined climate action – in connection with SEOs PHH1, L1, AQN2, TR1. The SEA monitoring programme will be updated to ensure SEOs PHH1, L1, AQN2, TR1 accommodate the monitoring of positive effects arising due to plan implementation, where appropriate.</p> <p>The monitoring programme includes detail on the indicators, targets and data sources to be used to monitor and measure progress. Some additional detail on data sources has however been provided to better guide the SEA monitoring to be carried out across plan implementation.</p> <p>A commitment to remedial action in the event SEA monitoring shows the implementation of the Plan is having adverse environmental effects has been made in the SEA.</p>		



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>EPA State of the Environment Report</p> <p>Our State of Environment Report, Ireland’s Environment - An Integrated Assessment 2020 (SOER2020) identifies thirteen ‘Key Messages for Ireland’. Delivering Ireland’s long term sustainable development and environmental objectives will involve many different stakeholders to address these key actions. The report recognises the need for full implementation of existing environmental legislation and review of governance/coordination on environmental protection across public bodies.</p> <p>The EPA are currently preparing the next iteration of the SOER report, which will be published in 2024. We recommend that a commitment is made in the Plan, to take account of any relevant recommendations in the SOER 2024 report, once published, in implementing the Plan over its lifetime.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>It was recommended the Council make a commitment to take account of any relevant recommendations in the SOER 2024 report, once published, in implementing the Plan over its lifetime.</p>	None	None
	<p>SEA Statement – “Information on the Decision”</p> <p>Once the Plan is adopted, you should prepare an SEA Statement that summarises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan; • How the Environmental Report, submissions, observations and consultations have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan; • The reasons for choosing the Plan adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and, • The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan. <p>You should send a copy of the SEA Statement with the above information to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process.</p>	<p>Noted. An SEA statement will be produced and circulated to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process.</p>	None	None
	<p>Future Amendments to the Plan</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	None	None



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	You should screen any future amendments to the Plan for likely significant effects, using the same method of assessment applied in the “environmental assessment” of the Plan			
The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	<p>Archaeology</p> <p>The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage welcomes the publication of a local authority draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. The Department draws your attention to the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage (2019) prepared as part of the National Adaptation Framework. The Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan (CCSAP) <u>identifies the priority impacts for the built and archaeological heritage based on current climate change projections.</u></p>	Noted.	Reference was made to the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage (2019) in Section 3.4 - <i>In-combination effects with Other Plans and Programmes</i> , and Appendix 2 - <i>Relationship with other plans and programmes</i> , as appropriate.	Reference was made to the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage (2019) in Section 7.3 - <i>Potential Cumulative Effect of the LACAP in combination with other Plans and Projects</i> , and Appendix 1 - <i>Relationship of the Plan with other relevant Plans and Programmes</i> , as appropriate.
	The Heritage Division of the Department (National Monuments Service and National Built Heritage Service) is engaged with the local authorities through the departmental Climate Change Advisory Group and established Working Groups to ensure a consistent approach to protection and adaptation of heritage assets across the country and an alignment of policies, plans and actions across national, regional and local climate action. The Department anticipates ongoing engagement with the local authorities throughout the implementation of current and future sectoral adaptation plans.	Noted.	None.	None.
	In the preparation and implementation of the local authority adaptation strategy, there are a number of issues regarding protection of built and archaeological heritage that the Department recommends be taken into account to identify the heritage assets at risk in its area, assess their vulnerability to climate change, increase their resilience and develop disaster risk reduction policies for direct and indirect risks.	Noted.	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	For example, it was recommended that the strategies should consider:			
	Identifying the built and archaeological heritage assets in the local authority area including, but not restricted to, structures and sites subject to statutory protection under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014, or the Planning and Development Acts.	The SEA scoping report and SEA Environmental Report identify the built and archaeological heritage assets in the LA including structures and sites subject to statutory protection under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014, and the Planning and Development Act (as amended). Exhaustive detail on built and archaeological heritage is held on record by the local authority and provided in the Country Development Plan already.	None.	None.
	Including objectives to carry out climate change risk assessments, including condition assessments, for the historic structures and sites in its area	This was noted. Several climate resilience related actions have been defined in the plan that may benefit architectural and archaeological heritage protection. It was recommended the local authority consider the inclusion of action to carry out climate change risk assessment of historic sites and structures within its remit.	None.	None.
	Including objectives to develop disaster-risk reduction policies addressing direct and indirect risks to the built and archaeological heritage in its area	Noted. The Plan defines actions that will serve to minimize and manage climate related disaster risk (e.g., flood risk) and improve the climate resilience of architectural and archaeological heritage.	None.	None.
	Including objectives to develop resilience and adaptation strategies for the built and archaeological heritage in its area.	Noted. The Plan defines actions that will improve the climate resilience of architectural and archaeological heritage.	None.	None.
	Developing the skills capacity within the local authority to address adaptation/mitigation/emergency management issues affecting heritage assets in order to avoid inadvertent loss or damage in the course of climate change adaptation or mitigation works.	Noted. It was recommended that the local authority consider this as appropriate.	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	The Department will shortly be publishing a new guidance document Improving Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings. This guidance will assist retrofitting installers and specifiers in how best to choose and apply energy efficiency measures to the historic building stock. The guidance is also intended to assist building owners and occupants in making decisions about upgrading their buildings, many of which are of architectural heritage significance. It was recommended that all proposed retrofitting projects undertaken or supported by the local authority to buildings of traditional construction should follow the principles and practice set out in that guidance	Noted. It was recommended that the local authority consider this as appropriate. The SEA Environmental Report has defined mitigation measures within the plan to ensure that any retrofitting of buildings including protected structures is carried out in a manner that does not impinge on built heritage or protected structures.	None.	None
	Finally, it was recommended that, where such officers are employed, the Architectural Conservation Officer, Heritage Officer and Archaeologist should be included in the local authority's Adaptation Steering Group.	Noted. It was recommended that the LA consider this as appropriate.	None.	None.
	You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at: referrals@npws.gov.ie	Noted. It was recommended that the LA consider this as appropriate.	None.	None.
Courtown Community Council	Built Environment and Transport B1, B2, B4, B7, B8, B9, B10, B11, B12, B14, B18, B19, B23 having due regard to environmental sensitivities, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, mature trees, European and NHA sites, local air quality and cultural heritage sensitivities.	It was not appropriate to attach this text collectively to these actions, having regard to the unique nature of the individual actions. Environmental considerations have been appropriately integrated into each of the Built Environment and Transport related climate actions defined in the Plan, having regard to the specific intent and scope of the actions and the potential character and magnitude of environmental effects associated with the implementation of each action. It should be noted that the listed 'environmental sensitivities' in the Plan are non-exhaustive in nature. Climate action defined in the plan supports biodiversity protection and enhancement, as appropriate; with the term 'biodiversity' extensively referring to all aspects of the receiving biodiversity environment, including	None	None



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
		<p>flora, fauna, mature trees, important habitats and NHA sites.</p> <p>Further to this, several Environmental Governance Principles (EGPs) defined in the plan will underpin defined climate action. These EGPs support extensive biodiversity protection and enhancement.</p> <p>A robust set of environmental mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan in its current form.</p>		
	<p>Natural Environment and Green infrastructure C1</p> <p>Reference the National Climate Change Management Strategy https://www.gov.ie/en/pressrelease/1ac6a-report-on-national-coastal-change-management-strategy-sets-out-long-termblueprint-to-deal-with-future-coastal-change/# C2, C3, C10</p> <p>having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and sustainable Drainage Systems and environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, sensitive dune systems, European and NHA sites.</p>	<p>The inter-relationship between the Plan and the National Climate Change Management Strategy should be addressed in the environmental reports.</p>	<p>Reference should be made to the National Climate Change Management Strategy in Section 3.4 - <i>In-combination effects with Other Plans and Programmes</i>, and Appendix 2 - <i>Relationship with other plans and programmes</i>, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Reference should be made to the National Climate Change Management Strategy in Section 7.3 - <i>Potential Cumulative Effect of the LACAP in combination with other Plans and Projects</i>, and Appendix 1 - <i>Relationship of the Plan with other relevant Plans and Programmes</i>, as appropriate.</p>
	<p>C5</p> <p>To identify, protect and manage green infrastructure in future local area plans having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as, mature trees, sensitive dune systems, national monuments, protected structures, European and NHA sites, biodiversity, and amenity value.</p>	<p>It should be noted that the listed 'environmental sensitivities' in the Plan are non-exhaustive in nature.</p> <p>Climate action defined in the plan supports biodiversity protection and enhancement, as appropriate; with the term 'biodiversity' extensively referring to all aspects of the receiving biodiversity environment, including flora, fauna, mature trees, important habitats and NHA sites.</p> <p>A robust set of environmental mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan in its current form.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>C6, C12, C16</p> <p>Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as mature trees, European and NHA sites, biodiversity and amenity value.</p>	<p>It should be noted that the listed 'environmental sensitivities' in the Plan are non-exhaustive in nature.</p> <p>Climate action defined in the plan supports biodiversity protection and enhancement, as appropriate; with the term 'biodiversity' extensively referring to all aspects of the receiving biodiversity environment, including flora, fauna, mature trees, important habitats and NHA sites.</p> <p>A robust set of environmental mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan in its current form.</p>	None	None
	<p>C9</p> <p>Reference the National Climate Change Management Strategy and include a recommendation for a 500m Buffer zone around European and NHA sites</p>	<p>The Plan does not provide a framework for land use in the local authority functional area. This action only supports the objectives of the County Development Plan. The intention of the action/objectives is to reduce the risk of development being impacted by climate influenced flood events.</p> <p>Environmental considerations, including European and NHA site protection related considerations, have been appropriately integrated into climate action defined in the Plan. The term 'biodiversity' in the Plan should be understood to extensively refer to all aspects of the biodiversity environment. EGPs have also been defined in support of biodiversity protection and enhancement.</p> <p>It should be noted that the SEA Monitoring Framework defines several Biodiversity enhancement related Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs), some examples of which are shown below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Climate Action does not conflict with biodiversity protection, restoration and rehabilitation. • Ensure compliance with Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to protection of 	None	None



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
		<p>European Sites and Annexed habitats and species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid or minimise significant impacts on semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated national sites and to comply with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2012 with regard to listed species. <p>A robust set of environmental mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan in its current form.</p>		
	C13 Notably areas vulnerable to coastal erosion.	Noted. It was recommended the local authority consider including this text in the wording of Plan action C13, as appropriate. Amending this action to include this text will not result in the introduction of any additional adverse environmental effects not already considered and mitigated under SEA and AA processes.	None	None
	C19 Liaise & collaborate with Teagasc to influence and advocate towards more sustainable agricultural and forestry practices including the Teagasc signpost programme and the Teagasc NeighbourWood Scheme.	Noted. It was recommended the local authority consider including this text in the wording of Plan action C19, as appropriate. Amending this action to include this text will not result in the introduction of any additional adverse environmental effects not already considered and mitigated under SEA and AA processes.	None	None
	C21 Agriculture and Forestry	Noted. It was recommended the local authority consider including this text in the wording of Plan action C21, as appropriate. Amending this action to include this text will not result in the introduction of any additional adverse environmental effects not already considered and mitigated under SEA and AA processes.	None	None
	C22 Improving flood resistance and coastal erosion by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of	Noted. It was recommended the local authority consider including 'coastal erosion' related text the wording of Plan action C22, as appropriate. Amending	None	None



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>GHG sequestration associated with land use functions having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as mature trees, European and NHA sites, biodiversity and amenity value</p>	<p>this action to include this text will not result in the introduction of any additional adverse environmental effects not already considered and mitigated under SEA and AA processes.</p> <p>It should be noted that the listed 'environmental sensitivities' in the Plan are non-exhaustive in nature.</p> <p>Climate action defined in the plan supports biodiversity protection and enhancement, as appropriate; with the term 'biodiversity' extensively referring to all aspects of the receiving biodiversity environment, including flora, fauna, mature trees, important habitats and NHA sites.</p> <p>Further to this, several Environmental Governance Principles (EGPs) defined in the plan will underpin defined climate action. These EGPs support extensive biodiversity protection and enhancement.</p> <p>A robust set of environmental mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan in its current form.</p>		
<p>Ambrose Dowling</p>	<p>Suitable neighborhoods are places where people want to live. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents and are sensitive to their environment and contribute to a high quality of life. There are lots of estates like these around the towns and villages of county Wexford. There are many small cul de sacs with a green area which is what attracted the homeowners to buy there. These are safe areas for children to play in. Many such residents have developed these areas into environmentally friendly places, which are used by many in the locality. This plan seeks to change these areas, destroying these small communities and areas by opening them up with walkways and cycleways under the guise of climate action. This is in direct contrast to other county councils, who are now closing these lanes as they have attracted antisocial behaviour. Why is the council not learning from others' experience?</p>	<p>Noted. The Plan in its current form supports the carrying of climate action related development in a manner that accords with relevant planning and environmental protection criteria.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	This plan does not guarantee consultation with residents of these affected areas. Cars and cyclists have coexisted safely, in these areas, for generations. In towns, bringing in policies that create traffic jams is more harmful to the environment.	Noted. The Plan in its current form supports the carrying of climate action related development in a manner that accords with relevant planning and environmental protection criteria, including transport planning criteria.	None	None
	This plan lacks detail for future traffic management in the Wexford area. A good plan would allow people to reach their destination in a realistic environmentally friendly way by car, bike or bus. An option would be to investigate the provision of a transport hub at Ballyellin Service area on the N11, which would bene-t all the southeast coast and beyond. This has all the infrastructure required. This hub could have local, regional, and regular bus services.	Noted. It was recommended the local authority consider this commentary appropriate.	None	None



2.5 SEA and Plan Modifications

WCC prepared a Chief Executive (CE) Report responding to consultation submissions from Environmental Authorities, interested stakeholders and members of the public.

The CE Report recommended Plan modifications in light of the consultations submissions received in relation to the Plan and associated environmental reports and subsequent consideration of these submissions. The CE Report was appropriately informed by recommendations made by the SEA (and AA) team on foot of their review of consultation submissions relating to SEA (and AA) issues and documentation. Recommendations were taken on board by the plan-making team as appropriate.

Plan modifications made were screened for SEA and AA. All Plan modifications made during the plan-making process were determined to be non-material and did not introduce any additional environmental effects not previously considered and mitigated during the SEA and AA processes.

An earlier draft version of the SEA Environmental Report was finalized having appropriate regard to the consultation submissions made during the SEA consultation period, recommendations made in the CE Report on consultation submissions, and the modifications made to the original draft version of the LACAP that was put on display for consultation. The updates made to the report were clerical or minor and non-material in nature and did not materially change the parameters of the environmental assessment undertaken or the environmental mitigation defined.

The CE Report on consultation submissions received on the Plan and associated environmental reports accompany the adopted Plan and this SEA Statement and provides exact detail on how consultation submissions were considered by the local authority during the plan-making process. This CE Report also documents the Plan modifications made by the local authority following its consideration of consultation submissions relating to both the content, focus and goals of the Plan and the environmental assessment of the Plan presented in the associated SEA and AA documentation. All Plan Action modifications are presented in Table 2-5. No further modifications affecting the SEA and AA processes were made upon Plan Adoption.

Table 2-5: Plan Action Modifications

Action	Summary of Modification
GL3	<p>The words "Facilities Manager" have been added to the following action:</p> <p>Appointment of a dedicated Energy Officer, Facilities Manager and a Biodiversity Officer (in addition to the existing Heritage Officer) and the continued commitment to the three positions of a Climate Action Coordinator, a Climate Action Officer and a Community Climate Action Officer.</p> <p>The words "Facilities Manager" have been added to the KPI of this action:</p> <p>Appointment of Biodiversity Officer, Facilities Manager & Energy Officer.</p> <p>Role commitment for the three dedicated roles within the Climate Action team.</p> <p>"Corporate Services" has been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>
GL4	<p>The following action has been reworded:</p> <p>Wexford County Council (WCC) will continue to develop emergency response coordination, including severe weather plan, flood plan, and major emergency plan and adverse weather Emergency Housing protocol to increase staff and public awareness, highlight potential risk to safety and to ensure all people staff travel, only in safe conditions and design and document a process in providing a severe weather event incident logging system.</p> <p>Lead Dept & Partners have been included:</p> <p>An Garda Síochána Housing Section Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU)</p>



Action	Summary of Modification
	Voluntary Groups
GL6	The KPI "increase in awareness" has been deleted from this action. Environmental Section, PPN and IFA have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
GL8	The KPI of this action has been updated from "Wexford and Waterford Education and Training Board data" to "No of Training events and No of attendees".
GL9	The KPI "Number of groups within organisation where climate action is included on agenda" has been added to this action. PPN have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
GL12	The words "or citizen science projects" have been added to the following action: Identify research and collaborative opportunities with third level institutes on climate & sustainability projects/initiatives e.g. SETU and Maynooth University or citizen science projects. "PPN and 3rd Level Institutions" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
GL13	The following KPI has been added to this action "No. of referrals to/from agencies".
GL14	The following KPI has been added to this action, replacing the previous one "To prepare a climate proofing matrix".
BET3	The following KPI has been deleted from this action "Procure an additional Environment Warden electric van for Environment use".
BET4	The following words have been added to the KPI of this action "Department targets per annum": Number of upgrades of Social Housing in line with Department targets per annum.
BET5	The following KPI has been deleted from this action "Percentage of Public Lighting completed".
BET6	PPN have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
BET7	The words "charging infrastructure" and "facilitate" have been added to the following action: Revise & update Wexford County Council (WCC) Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy to take account of national guidance and work with ZEV1 to facilitate the EV Charging Infrastructure within the public realm of County Wexford for Cars, buses & coaches having due regard to ensuring disabled access to EV charging, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage. "Completion of revised Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy for County Wexford in line with Department of Transport National Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022 – 2025" has been added as KPI of this action. "County Council Yearly comparison of EV Charging Infrastructure within the county" has been deleted from KPI column.
BET10	"Percentage increase in walking routes" has been added as KPI of this action. "Percentage of facilities that are multi-user accessible Sports Active - increased number of programmes Active Travel" has been deleted from KPI column.
BET11	"Amount of CO2 saved" has been added as KPI of this action. "scheme on a trial basis and potential roll out of the scheme on a wider basis to reach a wider population" has been deleted from KPI column.
BET14	"within Croí Cónaithe " has been added to the KPI of this action: Record the number of grant applications. Record the Number of vacant houses reoccupied within Croí Cónaithe. "CO2 savings calculated on reoccupation versus a new build" has been deleted from KPI column.
BET15	The words "Carry out Climate Risk assessment of historic sites and structures and" have been added to the following action: Carry out Climate Risk assessment of historic sites and structures and build climate resilience of archaeological and architectural heritage in public and private ownership through schemes such as at the Built Heritage Scheme, Historic Towns Initiative, Irish Walled Towns Network, Community Monuments Fund and Historic Structures Fund having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species.



Action	Summary of Modification
	"Number of Risk Assessments Completed." has been added as KPI of this action.
BET18	"Progress on stages of Greenways/Blueways/ Trails developed" has been added as KPI of this action.
BET19	"Progress on Renewable Energy Hub through various stages of planning, funding and delivery " has been added as KPI of this action. "Number of engagement meetings" has been deleted from KPI column.
BET23	The following KPI has been added to this action, replacing the previous one: "This requirement will be implemented through planning applications. All relevant planning applications will be required to meet the standards in the County Development Plan."
BET28	Energy Officer have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
BET6	Bus Eireann, Wexford Bus and Local Link have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
BET29	"Development of the proofing Index" has been added as KPI of this action. "Score of the social and environmental value of a residential development" has been deleted from KPI column.
NEGI 9	"Number of planning applications that include climate change mitigation/adaptation measures" has been added as KPI of this action.
NEGI 15	The following KPI has been added to this action, replacing the previous one: "This requirement will be implemented as a condition of planning permission on 100% of planning application for single houses in rural areas."
NEGI17	"Number of" has been added to the KPI of this action: Number of farm inspections in line with EU Water Framework Directive 3rd cycle data.
NEGI18	The words "and businesses" have been added to the following action: Promote Water Conservation in the community and businesses by liaising with Uisce Eireann Stewardship programme and the Local Enterprise Office as well a Public Participation Network. The following KPI has been added to the action: Number of trainees attending Stewardship events. "Local Enterprise Office and PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
NEGI19	The words "other advisors" and "Forestry Schemes" have been added to the following action: Liaise & collaborate with Teagasc and other advisors to influence and advocate towards more sustainable agricultural and forestry practices including signpost programmes and Forestry Schemes. The following words "attending farming sustainability" have been added to this action's KPI: Number of people attending farming sustainability events. "Uisce Éireann" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
NEGI20	"Uisce Éireann" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
NEGI21	The words "and forestry" have been added to the following action: Implement a collaboration project with a series of "champion farmer" events around the county to showcase what agriculture and forestry is doing for climate change, water quality and biodiversity. "PPN and Uisce Éireann" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
NEGI22	"Environment" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
NEGI23	"BIM" and "Seal Sanctuary" have been removed and replaced with "Biodiversity Officer and Farmers" in the Lead Dept & Partners Column.
NEGI25	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.



Action	Summary of Modification
CRT1	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
CRT2	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
CRT3	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
CRT5	<p>The words "communities and" and "allotments to support local food/vegetable production" have been added to the following action:</p> <p>Engage with communities and residents' association about the part they can play to combat climate change in their shared & individual gardens\allotments to support local food/vegetable production.</p> <p>The following KPIs have been added to this action:</p> <p>Completion of a community garden/allotment needs assessment</p> <p>Percentage Increase in number of gardens/allotments</p> <p>Number of entries in Keep Wexford Beautiful under the following categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Best Community Environment Initiative 2. Best Community Project that tackles and reduces the impacts of Climate Change 3. Best Community Project to Improve Accessibility in Gardens/Parks <p>"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>
CRT15	<p>The following new action to be included in the Communities, Resilience & Transition section of the Plan:</p> <p>Explore and develop just transition opportunities, particularly in sectors vulnerable to the effects of climate mitigation and climate Adaptation such as skills training, and energy poverty reduction measures.</p>
SRM1	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
SRM3	<p>The words "(where possible) and promoting sustainable travel through park & ride/active travel" have been added to the following action:</p> <p>Promotion of the Fleadh Ceoil in Wexford as a sustainable event, aiming to reduce single use plastics (where possible) and promoting sustainable travel through park & ride/active travel and encourage circular economy through awareness initiatives and apply lessons learned to future events.</p> <p>"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>
SRM4	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
DZ GL1	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
DZ NEG13	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
DZ SRM2	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.



3. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

3.1 Introduction

Article 5(1) of the SEA Directive states that: *'Where an environmental assessment is required under Article 3(1), an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated.'*

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternative means of achieving the strategic goals of the LACAP (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of a plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Such reasonable alternative must be realistic and capable of implementation.

Reasonable alternatives to the LACAP were initially explored and examined during the SEA Scoping stage of the SEA process, having regard to the scope, function and strategic aims and main objectives of the LACAP, as defined in the Local Authority Climate Action Plan. This process facilitated the accurate identification of reasonable alternatives to the LACAP and also suitably informed the plan-making process, ensuring optimal environmental outcomes.

Reasonable alternatives were assessed against the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) established for the aspects of the baseline environment which are likely to be significantly affected by the LACAP.

3.2 Approach to Developing Reasonable Alternatives

A range of alternatives to the LACAP were considered during the plan-making process. The approach for identifying reasonable alternatives to the LACAP is defined below:

1. Iterative communication was held between the plan-making and environmental assessment teams to identify the various alternative approaches and options being considered to achieve the vision of the plan - the reduction of GHG emissions at Local Authority organizational level and within the Community in support of Climate Action policy. This communication commenced early on during the plan-making process.
2. Reasonable alternatives considered were identified. For an alternative to be considered reasonable, it must be practical/functional, realistic and implementable. An evaluation of whether each alternative was practical/functional, reasonable and implementable took place. This evaluation considered the following factors:
 - 2.1. The vision of high-level objectives of the LACAP.
 - 2.2. The geographic scope of the LACAP.
 - 2.3. The actual powers and functions of the Local Authority.
 - 2.4. The climate action merits of the alternative.
 - 2.5. The genuine ability of the alternative to achieve the plan vision and high-level objectives.
 - 2.6. The technical feasibility of the alternative.
 - 2.7. The availability of resources, including financial resources to deliver the plan within the required timeframe.
 - 2.8. The policy hierarchy and the parameters placed around the LACAP by higher-level policy.
 - 2.9. The legislative context and the parameters placed around the DLACAP by climate action and environmental related legislation.



The toolkit contained in the EPA's guidelines entitled 'Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment Good Practice Guidance' (2015) was utilized when identifying reasonable alternatives. The 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model defined in the guidelines were used when framing reasonable alternatives, as shown in Figure 3-1.

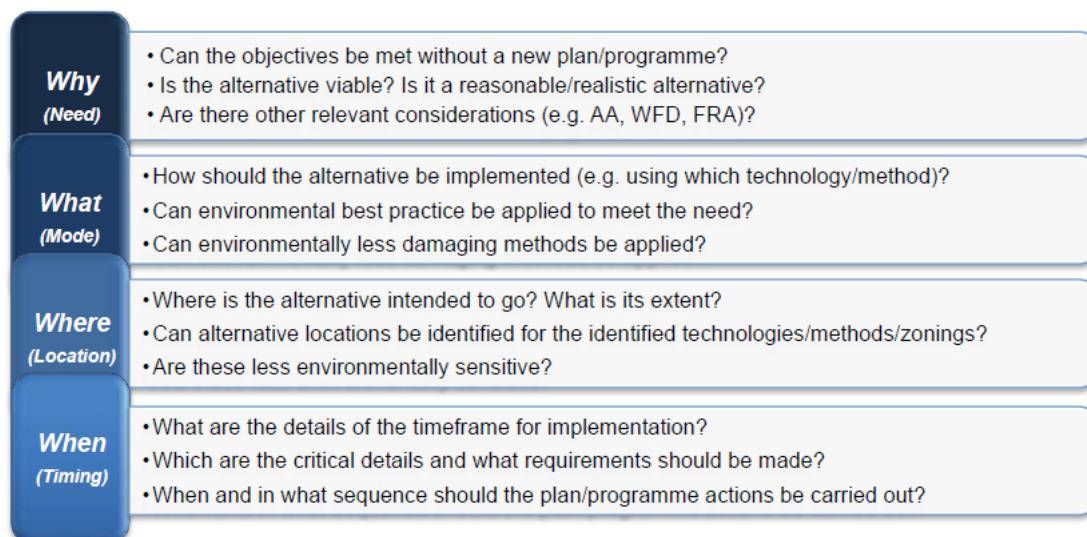


Figure 3-1: 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model for framing alternatives - Adapted from Figure 4.3 Developing and Assessing Alternatives in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process (EPA, 2015).

3.3 Identification and Description of Reasonable Alternatives

Reasonable alternatives to the LACAP were identified. A description of these reasonable alternatives and the reasons for selecting these reasonable alternatives are presented in Table 3-1.

A 'Do Nothing' or 'Do Minimum' alternative was not a reasonable alternative in this instance as the preparation of an effective LACAP is a statutory requirement under Section 16 of the Climate Act.



Table 3-1: Reasonable Alternatives to the LACAP

Reasonable Alternative	Description of Reasonable Alternative	Reasoning for selecting this Reasonable Alternative
<p>Alternative 1 - The Pareto Approach: Prioritize reducing GHG emissions from largest GHG emitting sectors to mitigate against climate change impacts.</p>	<p>This alternative involved developing a LACAP that primarily focusses on climate mitigation and reducing GHG emissions associated with the largest GHG emitting sectors in the County that a local authority can reasonable influence having regard to the functions of a local authority - the Residential and Transport sectors.</p>	<p>This was a viable alternative that could achieve a significant reduction in GHG emissions by prioritizing and supporting climate mitigation related action for the Residential and Transport sectors. The alternative would cover the period from 2024 to 2029 (the duration of the prospective LACAP).</p>
<p>Alternative 2 - The Holistic Approach: Adopt a multi-pronged approach and focus on a range of priority areas to mitigate against and adapt to climate change impacts.</p>	<p>This alternative involved developing a LACAP that has a balanced focus on both climate mitigation and adaptation across several theme areas and all socio-economic sectors.</p>	<p>This was a viable alternative that would have enhanced potential to reduce GHG emissions across multiple sectors, potential to offset GHG emissions, and greater potential to protect the local community and the environment from climate change related risks. Climate mitigation and adaptation actions across a wide breath of theme areas would be supported by the LACAP. The alternative would cover the period from 2024 to 2029 (the duration of the prospective LACAP).</p>
<p>Alternative 3 - The Holistic and Participatory Approach (Current LACAP): Adopt a multi-pronged approach - that has a strong community engagement emphasis - and focus on a range of priority areas to mitigate against and adapt to climate change impacts.</p>	<p>This alternative involved developing a LACAP that has a balanced focus on both climate mitigation and adaptation across several theme areas and all socio-economic sectors, and which has a strong community engagement emphasis, which underpins, supports and drives the climate action contained in the plan.</p>	<p>This was a viable alternative that would have enhanced potential to reduce GHG emissions across multiple sectors, potential to offset GHG emissions, and greater potential to protect the local community and the environment from climate change related risks. Climate mitigation and adaptation actions across a wide breath of theme areas would be supported by the LACAP. The range of climate mitigation and adaptation actions defined in the LACAP is likely to have better community level and organizational support given its strong community engagement emphasis. The alternative would cover the period from 2024 to 2029 (the duration of the prospective LACAP).</p>



3.4 Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives and Reasons for Choosing the Preferred Plan

An evaluation of the potential effects of the reasonable alternatives on the baseline environment was carried out in accordance with the SEA Directive and best practice guidelines. This evaluation is documented in the SEA Environmental Report for the LACAP. A summary of this evaluation and the reason for choosing the preferred Plan is presented below.

Alternative 1 - The Pareto Approach - would lead to some positive environmental effects and would have resulted in the reduction of GHG emissions in the sectors that the local authority can control or exert substantial influence on that contribute most in terms of GHG emission in the County - the Residential and Transport sectors. It is less likely that this alternative would have delivered the wide-ranging climate mitigation and offsetting related action required to fully realize GHG emission reduction potential in the County. It is also less likely this alternative would have defined a wide range of climate adaptation measures that would fully protect biodiversity, heritage resources, environmental receptors and people from climate change risks. This alternative approach may have generated several negative environmental effects, which would not be counterbalanced by the positive environmental effects associated with Alternatives 2 and 3.

Alternative 2 - The Holistic Approach - and Alternative 3 - The Holistic and Participatory Approach - would have both broadly delivered suitably wide ranging and effective climate action. These alternatives have the potential to generate multiple positive environmental effects, including a reduction in GHG emissions at organizational, community and sectoral levels, in addition to a variety of other environmental benefits. These alternatives would have placed a balanced emphasis on both climate mitigation and adaptation action, ensuring climate change related environmental risks are adequately understood and managed at community level.

Alternative 3 had the best potential to deliver effective climate action given its holistic, wide encompassing nature; and given its strong community engagement emphasis, which supports better participation in climate action at community level. Alternative 3 had better potential therefore to fully realize potential environmental effects than Alternative 2.

Reasonable Alternative 3 - The Holistic and Participatory Approach - therefore constituted the preferred alternative or preferred plan.



4. SEA CONCLUSION

The reasonable alternative evaluation presented in the preceding section resulted in the development of a LACAP that achieves the best environmental outcomes in comparison to other reasonable alternative considered.

The adoption of the mitigation measures to be integrated into the LACAP, in combination with the continued adoption of the development planning and control related environmental protection measures defined in the CDP will prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any potential negative environmental effects due to the implementation of the LACAP. No further mitigation measures are required for the LACAP.

With the adoption of the defined mitigation measures, the implementation of the adopted LACAP will not result in any likely, significant, adverse environmental effects.



5. SEA MONITORING

The SEA Directive requires that the environmental effects of the implementation of a plan are monitored in order 'to identify at an early stage unforeseen effect, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.'

A series of indicators and targets were established for identified SEOs to enable ongoing monitoring and measurement of LACAP implementation performance, the environmental effects of the implementation of the LACAP and the efficacy of environmental mitigation measures. Such monitoring will be carried out regularly to support plan implementation.

SEO indicators are simple and effective quantifiable indicators used to measure the environmental effects of implementing the LACAP and the progress of SEO objectives and targets. SEO targets set focussed, measurable aims and thresholds that the LACAP can support the achievement of.

WCC are responsible for implementation of the SEA monitoring programme. The environmental effects (including positive, negative and cumulative effects) of LACAP implementation will be monitored once every year over the course of the plan's five-year lifetime. This monitoring will be carried out by the Environment and Climate Change section of Wexford County Council (WCC) who will report on progress and performance to the relevant SPC annually. A monitoring report will be prepared to document monitoring outcomes. This report shall be made available for public inspection.

Where monitoring identifies that the implementation of the LACAP is having a significant negative environmental effect, an in-depth review of the LACAP should take place and the LACAP should be updated in a manner that satisfactorily mitigates these environmental effects (i.e., through the adoption of additional environmental mitigation measures.). Similarly, where monitoring indicates that potential positive environmental effects associated with LACAP implementation are not being adequately realized, the LACAP should be reviewed and updated in a manner that supports the realization of all potential positive environmental effects, having regard to the overall vision and high-level objectives of the plan.

The SEA Monitoring Programme established for the LACAP is contained in Table 5-1. This monitoring programme has been developed in accordance with EPA guidelines entitled 'Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring' (2020). The monitoring programme includes detail on the indicators, targets and data sources used to monitor and measure progress.

A stand-alone monitoring report on the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan will be prepared in advance of the plan review process. The Council is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of remedial action.



Table 5-1: SEA Monitoring Programme

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
Overall	O1	Ensure, where appropriate, that lower-level plans and projects contribute to overall environmental monitoring processes within the County.	Lower-level plan and project accordance with the plan.	Require all lower-level plans and projects have appropriate regard to and appropriately support all action and development proposals defined in the Plan. Ensure planning policy and climate action policy is aligned.	Review of Local Area Plans. Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Review of lower-level plan SEA documentation.
Population & Human Health	PHH1	Avoid or, minimise impacts to population and human health.	Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan.	No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan.	Consultation with the Health Service Executive (HSE)/Health Atlas Ireland and the EPA.
	PHH2	Ensure the Decarbonising Zone avoids and minimises impacts to the existing economic activities within the area and does not compromise/conflict with existing land use objectives.	Compliance of action and development supported by the plan with policies and land use objectives protective/supportive of economic development in the county defined in the County Development Plan (CDP) or County Local Area Plans.	No contravention of policies and land use objectives protective/supportive of economic development in the county defined in the CDP or County Local Area Plans. Planning consent for development proposals supported by the plan only to be granted where development complies with policies protective/supportive of economic development.	Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives. Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	B1	Ensure Climate Action does not conflict with biodiversity protection, restoration and rehabilitation.	Compliance of action and development supported by the plan with policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the CDP. Condition of habitats impacted by climate change (Area km ² /length metres). Number and geographical distribution of Species or Species population trends impacted by climate change. Compliance of action and development supported by the plan with policies	No contravention of policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the CDP. Ensure no habitats are impacted by the effects of climate change. Ensure no reduction in the number of geographic distribution of species as a result of climate change effects. No contravention of policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan.	Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives. Internal monitoring of compliance with the County Biodiversity Action Plan. Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
			providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan.	Planning consent for development proposals supported by the plan only to be granted where development complies with policy supporting biodiversity protection and enhancement.	
	B2	Ensure compliance with Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species ⁴ .	Condition of European Sites and annexed species.	No adverse impacts on the condition of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species as a result of plan implementation.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Consultation with the NPWS. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the Birds Directive under Article 12. Review of NPWS publications regarding the status of European sites.
	B3	Support Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.	Condition of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. Linear meters of riparian corridors enhanced with native planting. Fragmentation or breaks in continuity of habitats and loss of wildlife corridors, stepping stones and connectivity (km ²).	No adverse impacts on the condition of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as a result of plan implementation. Increase linear metres of riparian corridor enhanced with native planting. Reduce habitat fragmentation or breaks.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Mapping of LR important habitats and species as part of the County Biodiversity Action Plan.

⁴ 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
			Number of developments permitted that have significant greenspace proposals.	Increase number of developments permitted that have significant greenspace proposals.	
	B4	To avoid or minimize significant impacts on semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features, or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation; and to comply with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2012 with regard to listed species.	Condition of semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation.	No adverse impacts on condition of semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation, as a result of plan implementation. No adverse impacts on listed species in the Wildlife Acts 1976 - 2012 as a result of plan implementation.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Mapping of LR important habitats and species as part of the County Biodiversity Action Plan.
	B5	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration in response to the biodiversity emergency.	Compliance of development supported by the plan with policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the CDP. No. of developments permitted that have significant greenspace proposals. Improved biodiversity areas (Area km ² /length metres). Compliance of development supported by the plan with policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan.	No contravention of policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the CDP. Increase number of developments permitted that have significant greenspace proposals. Increase quantum of improved biodiversity areas. No contravention of policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan. Planning consent for development proposals supported by the plan only to be granted where development complies with policy supportive of biodiversity protection and enhancement.	Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives. Internal monitoring of compliance with the County Biodiversity Action Plan. Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Mapping of LR important habitats and species as part of the County Biodiversity Action Plan.
Landscape, Seascape & Visual Amenity	L1	Avoid or, minimise impacts to statutory landscape designations defined in the CDP.	Status of Landscape Character Areas, the Seascape, High Amenity Zones, Historic Landscape Character Areas and Views and Prospects.	All action and development proposals supported by the plan must comply with policy objectives relating to the protection of Landscape Character Areas, the Seascape, High Amenity Zones,	Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives. Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
			Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse impacts on Landscape Character Areas, the Seascape, High Amenity Zones, Historic Landscape Character Areas and Views and Prospects.	Historic Landscape Character Areas and Views and Prospects defined in the CDP. No development supported by the plan should have an adverse impact on Landscape Character Areas, the Seascape, High Amenity Zones, Historic Landscape Character Areas and Views and Prospects.	Review of future iterations of the Landscape Character Assessment.
	L2	Avoid or minimise adverse visual effects on residential receptors or other sensitive visual receptors.	Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on residential receptors or other sensitive visual receptors.	No development supported by the plan should have a significant adverse visual impact on residential receptors or other sensitive visual receptors. All development supported by the plan should adhere to relevant Development Management Standards defined in the CDP, in particular standards defined in relation to physical and visual impacts.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Review of future iterations of the Landscape Character Assessment.
Cultural Heritage - Archaeology & Architectural	CH1	Avoid impacts upon archaeological heritage (including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)) and architectural heritage (including entries to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAHs)).	Percentage of features contained in the RMP (and, where relevant, the associated surrounding context) protected from adverse effects due to action and development occurring as a result of this plan. Percentage of features contained in the RPS and NIAH (and, where relevant, the associated surrounding context) protected from adverse effects due to action and development occurring as a result of this plan.	No features contained in the RMP (nor the associated surrounding context) should be significantly adversely affected as a result of the implementation of this plan. No features contained in the RPS and NIAH (nor the associated surrounding context) should be significantly adversely affected as a result of the implementation of this plan.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Consultation with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. Review of Heritage Plan environmental effect monitoring.
Soils	S1	Avoid or minimise effects on mineral resources or soils.	Number of instances of significant adverse impacts on mineral resources or soils occurring, including the pollution, loss or degradation of mineral resources or soils, as a result of action and development supported by the plan.	No instances of significant adverse impacts on mineral resources or soils occurring as a result of action and development supported by the plan.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Consultation with Geological Survey of Ireland and review of published data on the soils environment.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
Land Use	LU1	Avoid or minimise effects on existing land use.	Number of instances of significant adverse impacts on existing land use as a result of plan implementation.	No instances of significant adverse impacts on existing land use as a result of plan implementation.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Review of Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry related Greenhouse Gas emissions calculated in the Baseline Emission Inventory.
Air Quality and Noise	AQN1	Increase the number of people travelling to work or school via public transport or by non-mechanical means.	% change in modal split. Length of new sustainable transport routes developed.	Reduction in private car use. Extension and improvement of the sustainable transport network in the plan area.	Central Statistics Office (CSO) Population data - Commuting in Ireland. Internal monitoring of length of new sustainable transport routes developed.
	AQN2	Avoid or minimise effects on local air quality.	Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse air quality impacts on sensitive receptors. Number of exceedances of ambient air quality standards in the County, as monitored under the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network.	No development supported by the plan should have a significant adverse air quality impact on sensitive receptors. All development supported by the plan should adhere to relevant Development Management Standards defined in the CDP relating to the protection of air quality. Minimise ambient air quality standard exceedances in the County.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Consultation with the EPA. Review of EPA Air Quality Monitoring undertaken in the County. Review of EPA annual 'Air Quality in Ireland Report'.
	AQN3	Avoid or minimise adverse noise impacts.	Number of sensitive receptors exposed to noise nuisance.	No sensitive receptors exposed to nuisance noise in the County.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Monitoring of internal noise complaint investigations undertaken. Consultation with the EPA.
Water	W1	Maintain and/or improve, the quality and status of surface waters.	Status of surface water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Status of bathing waters as monitored under the Bathing Water Directive. Number of water bodies achieving High or Good Ecological Status as defined by the WFD within the life-cycle of the Climate Action Plan.	Number of Pollution Incidents detected due to poor bathing water quality results. Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status.' No deterioration in the status of any bathing waters, having appropriate regard to bathing water mandatory and	EPA surface water monitoring data and reports. EPA bathing water monitoring data and reports. Review of environmental quality data detailed in the EPA Maps Application.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
				<p>guidelines values defined in the Bathing Water Directive.</p> <p>Implementation of the objectives of the second cycle of the national River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>Increase in number of water bodies achieving High or Good Ecological Status as defined by the WFD within the life-cycle of the Climate Action Plan.</p>	
	W2	Maintain and/or improve, the chemical and quantitative status of groundwaters.	Status of groundwater bodies as reported by the EPA National Groundwater Monitoring Programme for the WFD.	No deterioration in the status of groundwater quality, having appropriate regard to Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values defined under Directive 2006/118/EC.	EPA groundwater monitoring data and reports. Review of environmental quality data detailed in the EPA Maps Application.
	W3	Prevent impact upon the WFD status of surface waters and groundwater in line with the requirements of the WFD.	<p>Number of instances of significant adverse impact on surface water or groundwater bodies resulting in a reduction in water quality or the ability of a water body to achieve 'good' water quality status.</p> <p>Number of water bodies achieving High or Good Ecological Status as defined by the WFD within the life-cycle of the Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>No instances of significant adverse impact on surface water or groundwater bodies resulting in a reduction in water quality or the ability of a water body to achieve 'good' water quality status.</p> <p>Increase in number of water bodies achieving High or Good Ecological Status as defined by the WFD within the life-cycle of the Climate Action Plan.</p>	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Consultation with the EPA.
	W4	Comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.	Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) permitted within flood risk areas.	Minimise developments (supported by the plan) granted consent on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk, having appropriate regard to the Flood Risk Management guidelines.	Internal monitoring of development projects granted planning consent.
	W5	Prevent impact upon drinking water quality	Number of non-compliances with Drinking Water Quality Standards defined in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023.	No non-compliances with Drinking Water Quality Standards defined in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023.	EPA Drinking Water Quality Reports. Review of environmental quality data detailed in the EPA Maps Application.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
Material Assets	MAI1	Avoid or minimise effects on built/amenity assets and infrastructure	Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) adversely affecting built/amenity assets and infrastructure.	No incompatible development (supported by the plan) adversely affecting built/amenity assets and infrastructure.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.
	MAI2	Avoid or minimise effects on effects upon existing and (where known) planned infrastructure.	Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) adversely affecting existing or planned infrastructure, including water supply, wastewater management, energy and transport infrastructure.	No incompatible development (supported by the plan) adversely affecting existing or planned material assets infrastructure.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects, including monitoring of effects on other future planned or committed material asset infrastructure projects. Consultation with Irish Water, Gas Networks Ireland, ESB Networks and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
	MAI3	Promote sustainable transportation.	% change in modal split. Kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Kilometres of permanent integrated cycling network. Number of Electric Vehicle charging points in the county. Total Area of road reallocated for sustainable alternatives (m ²).	Percentage increase in the number of public transport users in the County Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Increase number of Electric Vehicle charging points in the county. Increase Total Area of road reallocated for sustainable alternatives.	CSO Population data - Commuting in Ireland. Internal monitoring of length of new sustainable transport routes developed.
	MAI4	Promote sustainable waste management.	Tonnes of hazardous waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually. Tonnes of W.E.E. waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually. Tonnes of Bulky waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually. Tonnes of garden waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.	Increase waste recycling in the County. Reduce waste generation in the County.	EPA Waste Statistics. Consultation with the EPA.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	MAI5	Promote sustainable water use and drainage management.	Level of water use in the County. Compliance with Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) related development management standards defined in the CDP.	Reduced water use in the county. All development (supported by the plan) must comply with SuDS related development management standards defined in the CDP.	CSO water consumption data. Internal monitoring of flood risk associated with of development projects and development project compliance with relevant flood risk and management related development management standards.
Tourism & Recreation	TR1	Avoid or minimise effects upon tourism and recreation amenities.	Visitor trips to local authority functional area	Stable or increasing number of visitor trips to local authority functional area	Fáilte Ireland Data on Tourism Performance
Climate Change	CF1	Delivery of the necessary action to support the national target of 80% electricity from renewable sources by 2030.	Level of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in the County. Level of renewable energy infrastructure in the County.	Reduce GHG emissions associated with the Energy sector in the County. Increase the level of renewable energy infrastructure in the County.	EPA National Emission Inventory. Baseline Emission Inventory for the County. Megawatt hour (MWh) output from renewable energy infrastructure in the county.
	CF2	Actively support the delivery of all national climate policy as appropriate to the county with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures.	Level of GHG emissions in the County	Reduce GHG emissions for all sectors in the County.	EPA National Emission Inventory. Baseline Emission Inventory for the County.
	CF3	CF3: Assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels.	Level of GHG emissions in the County. Level of GHG emissions in the Decarbonising Zone. Net addition of tree cover added.	Reduce GHG emission in the County to Net Zero. Reduce Decarbonising Zone GHG emissions to Net Zero. Increase level of tree cover in the County.	EPA National Emission Inventory. Baseline Emission Inventory for the County. Baseline Emission Inventory for the Decarbonising Zone.
	CF4	Deliver a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) within the local authority area to act as a test bed for a range of climate mitigation and adaptation measures in a specifically defined area through the identification of projects and outcomes that will assist in the delivery of the National Climate Objective.	Level of GHG emissions in the Decarbonising Zone.	Reduce Decarbonising Zone GHG emissions to Net Zero.	Baseline Emission Inventory for the Decarbonising Zone.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
Inter-relationships	IR1	Maintain and improve the health of people, ecosystems and natural processes Actively seek to integrate opportunities for environmental enhancement during adaptation to climate change	Number of blue and green infrastructure measures included as part of development projects that have been granted planning consent.	Increase the number of blue and green infrastructure measures included as part of development projects that have been granted planning consent.	Review of granted planning consents.



**CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
& PLANNING**

www.fehilytimoney.ie

 **Cork**

 **Dublin**

 **Carlow**

