



## **Strategic Environment Assessment of the New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan 2011-2017**



## **SEA Statement**





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## **List of Acronyms**

AA	Appropriate Assessment
DoCENR	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
DoEHLG	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPO	Environmental Protection Objective
HSE	Health Service Executive
NSS	National Spatial Strategy
OPW	Office of Public Works
RPGs	Regional Planning Guidelines
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SERA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

## **Section 1 Introduction**

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### **Introduction**

This document is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement for the New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan 2011-2017, as required under Article 9(1) of the SEA Directive and in accordance with section 13(I)(1) of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004. This document identifies how the SEA process was taken into account in the preparation of the Development Plan and how it influenced the decision-making process.

### **Purpose of SEA Statement**

The main purpose of the SEA Statement is to document how environmental considerations, the views of statutory consultees and other submissions received during the consultation phases have been taken into account in the adopted Plan and the arrangements put in place for monitoring. The SEA Statement provides transparency and accountability, by informing the public of how environmental effects were considered in the decision-making process. It must be sent to the prescribed authorities with a copy of the Plan as adopted and be made available to the public.

The SEA Statement includes the following information:

- Summary of how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
- Summary of how the Environmental Report and submissions/observations received during consultation have been taken into account in the Plan;
- Reasons for choosing the plan, as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives considered; and

- Measures that are to be undertaken to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

### **Background to SEA**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2001, the European Council adopted Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (the SEA Directive) which took effect in member states on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2004. The Directive was transposed into Irish Law through two sets of Regulations as follows;

- European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004); and
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436 of 2004).

The Directive requires all European Union member States to systematically evaluate the likely significant effects of implementing a plan or programme prior to its adoption. Land-use plans are assessed in accordance with the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436 of 2004).

### **Summary of SEA Process**

The New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan 2011-2017 has been subject to a process of SEA which included the following key stages:

#### **1. Scoping and Statutory Consultation**

Scoping involves an initial assessment of the relevant environmental issues requiring a more detailed assessment and consideration in the preparation of the Plan. By highlighting the issues at an early stage it ensures that the issues are firmly to the forefront when considering each of the Plan's policies and objectives and reduces the possibility of relevant issues not being addressed.

Initial scoping took place in May 2009. A scoping document was circulated to the Environmental Authorities affording each an opportunity to comment on the highlighted issues and the proposed methodology. They included:

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG); and
- The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DoCENR).

Two submissions were received from the EPA and DoEHLG regarding the information to be contained in the Environmental Report. The points raised in the submissions were factored into the Environmental Report where appropriate.

## **2. Preparation of Environmental Report**

The preparation of an Environmental Report on the likely significant effects on the environment of the Plan included documenting the following:

- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the Plan, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;
- A description of relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the evolution of the environment without implementation of the Plan;
- A description of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;
- Identification of any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the Plan, particularly those relating to European protected sites;
- A list of the environmental protection objectives at international, EU and national level, which are relevant to the Plan and a description of how they have been taken into account in the formulation of the Plan;
- A description of the likely significant effects on the environment (biodiversity, human health, cultural heritage, air, soil, water etc);

- Mitigation measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment caused by implementing the Plan;
- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives considered and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties;
- A description of proposed monitoring measures;
- A non-technical summary of the above information.

The purpose of the Environmental Report is to document the likely environmental implications or consequences of decisions regarding the future accommodation of growth in the plan area. The Environmental Report is presented as an appendix to the Plan.

### **3. Statutory Consultation on the Draft Plan and Environmental Report**

The Draft New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan and Environmental Report were sent to the prescribed authorities and placed on public display for a ten-week period from the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010 to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010. During this time submissions/observations were invited from the Environmental Authorities, the Prescribed Bodies and the general public. 40 submissions and observations were received.

Following consultation on the Draft Plan the submissions were reviewed and recorded in a Manager's Report, which discussed the main issues in each submission; proposed a response to the issues raised; and made a recommendation to the Elected Members for amendments to the Draft Plan and the Environmental Report. The proposed amendments were screened in accordance with the SEA Regulations. The screening process concluded that the proposed amendments would not have any likely significant effects in addition to those already identified in the Environmental Report. This screening report was presented to the Elected Members along with the Manager's Report



and the Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening report. The Members approved the amendments generally in accordance with the Manager's recommendations.

A copy of the proposed amendments, the SEA screening report and the AA screening report were sent to the prescribed authorities and placed on public display for a further five-week period from 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2010 to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011. During this period ten submissions were received on the proposed amendments. The submissions were documented in a Manager's Report which discussed the main issues in each submission; proposed a response to the issues raised; and made a recommendation to the Elected Members. No further (material) amendments/modifications were recommended. Following consideration of the Manager's Report the Members decided to make the Development Plan with the proposed amendments, with the exception of proposed amendment no. 10 which referred to a proposed protected structure.

At each stage of the process the Elected Members were required by legislation to take into account the Environmental Report before the adoption of the Plan. The Environmental Report will form an appendix to the New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan 2011-2017, as adopted by New Ross Town Council on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011 and by Wexford County Council on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The Plan comes into effect on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

#### **4. Preparation of SEA Statement**

An SEA Statement is required to be prepared following the adoption of the Plan. This provides information on how the Environmental Report and submissions/consultations were taken into account in the decision-making process. It also includes a summary of the measures which will put in place to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.



## **Section 2 Summary of how environmental considerations and the Environmental Report were factored into the Plan**

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The environment has been a key consideration throughout the preparation of the Plan. Initial scoping took place to determine the environmental issues relevant to the plan area. A number of key environmental issues were identified at the scoping stage and these required particular attention in the Plan. The issues raised were:

- Biodiversity
- Flooding / Climatic Factors
- Wastewater Treatment Capacity
- Human Health
- Cultural Heritage
- Housing
- Roads and Transport Infrastructure

As a result of the issues raised, the Councils formulated specific policies and objectives in the Plan. The Environmental Report and AA were used to evaluate these policies and objectives in order to maximise potential positive impacts and reduce potential negative impacts on the environment.

The Environmental Report includes a set of Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs) which were developed from international, national and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection. The EPOs were used as standards against which the policies and objectives of the Plan were evaluated in order to highlight those with the potential for environmental impact. Each of the three development alternatives considered (as summarised in Section 4 of this Statement) were evaluated to determine how they would likely affect the status of the EPOs. This evaluation was carried out in matrix format as shown in Table 1

below. The preferred alternative, Alternative Scenario 3, was shown to be the most sustainable option and is consistent with national and regional policy. This scenario formed the basis for the development strategy contained in the Plan.

**Table 1: Summary of Alternatives Assessed Against EPOs**

	<b>No Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potential Positive Impact</b>	<b>Potential Negative Impact</b>	<b>Uncertain Impact</b>
<b>Alternative Scenario 1</b>	P2, W4, M1, M2, C1, L1	W1	B1, B2, P1, P3, S2, A1	S1, W2, W3
<b>Alternative Scenario 2</b>	P2, W4, M1, M2, C1, L1	P1, W1	B1, B2, P3, S2, A1	S1, W2, W3
<b>Alternative Scenario 3</b>	B1, B2, S1, W2, M1	P1, P3, S2, W1, W4, A1, M2, L1	P2	W3, C1

After deciding on the preferred development strategy a number of mitigation measures were subsequently outlined in the Environmental Report. Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the Plan. The mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan and the policies and objectives refined and refocused where necessary. Table 2 below identifies the policies in the Plan which have been influenced by the mitigation measures contained in the Environmental Report.

Some changes were made to the EPOs and the mitigation measures contained in the Environmental report following consultation on the Draft Plan. These changes have been incorporated into the final Plan and Environmental Report and the policies and objectives of the Plan have been redefined where appropriate.

**Table 2: Incorporation of Mitigation Measures in the Development Plan**

<b>Environmental Topic</b>	<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	<b>Relevant Development Plan Policy</b>
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	MM1	NH05
	MM2	Zoning Map and Land Use Zoning Matrix contained in Section 13.2
Population & Human Health	MM3	SW01, SW03, SW04, SW05
	MM4	TM01, TM03, TM05, TM06, TM07, TM10
Soil	MM5	WM01, WM02, WM04
	MM6	WM02
	MM7	OPS01, R04
Water	MM8	WS01, WS04, WW02, NH07
	MM9	NH06
	MM10	WS03
	MM11	Zoning Map and Land Use Zoning Matrix contained in Section 13.2 SW01, SW02, SW03, SW05
	MM12	SW02, SW05
	MM13	SW04
	MM14	SW05
	MM15	SW03
Air & Climatic Factors	MM16	RE01, RE02
	MM17	EN01, EN0, EN03, EN04, EN05
Material Assets	MM18	SW05
Cultural Heritage	MM19	UF01, UF02, TW02, GY01, AH01, AH02, AH03, AH04, AH05, AH06, AH07, AH08, BH01, BH02, BH07, BH08, BH11, ACA02, NH01, NH02, NH03
Landscape	MM20	L01, L04, PV01



## **Section 3 Summary of how submissions/consultations were taken into account**

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### **Submissions and Observations**

The Draft Plan and Environmental Report were placed on public display from the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010 to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010. At this stage of the process a total of 40 submissions were received. Each of the submissions/observations was assessed and a detailed consideration of the submissions was carried out, culminating in the development of the Manager's Report. A number of amendments were proposed in the Manager's Report. These amendments were screened to determine if they would have likely significant effects on the environment which were not previously addressed in the Environmental Report. Of the 40 submissions received there were significant contributions from the following which resulted in amendments to the Plan:

#### **1. Environmental Protection Agency**

The EPA made a comprehensive submission and raised a number of issues relating to the both the Draft Development Plan and Environmental Report. Arising from a detailed review of this submission, a number of amendments were proposed and included in the final Plan and Environmental Report.

#### **Development Plan:**

The following policies and objectives were amended to ensure mitigation of potential negative impacts and maximisation of potential positive effects:

- Policy ED02: To ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure such as roads, sanitary services, housing, telecommunications, energy supply and generation and the clearance of derelict land where feasible to facilitate new enterprises and existing enterprises wishing to expand. The Councils shall seek to ensure the provision of adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment, water supply, surface and storm water drainage, transport,

waste management, community services and amenities on a planned and phased basis in advance of new development where feasible.

- Policy NH07: Implement the Programme of Measures and strive to achieve the objectives of the South-Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 to achieve high water quality status for the River Barrow River Nore SAC and to support the favourable conservation status of habitats and species contained within the designated site.
- Policy NH08: To ensure the continued reduction in pollution of the New Ross Port and Barrow Nore Estuary Upper waterbodies, through the Pollution Reduction Programme, to improve water quality in this area of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and ensure protection of the designated Waterford Harbour Shellfish Area downstream of New Ross through compliance with the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006.
- Policy NH04: To protect riparian zones and natural land drains by maintaining an appropriately sized buffer zone (minimum 5-10m) along all watercourses and land drains, with no infilling or removal of vegetation within these buffer zones.
- Policy T02: To work with Fáilte Ireland, the County Wexford Tourist Board, the Arts Council and other relevant bodies to promote the sustainable development of the arts and tourism sector in New Ross.
- Policy T09: To encourage the sustainable redevelopment of under-utilised and derelict sites in the town centre and to create an attractive public realm.
- Policy T12: To promote the sustainable development of eco-tourism and other leisure activities in the environs of New Ross Town, outside the proposed urban edge (development limit boundary), such as equestrian centres, outdoor recreational centres, bird watching and boating clubs.



The following additional policies and objectives were included in the Plan:

- Policy TM12: To support the implementation of the National Climate Change Strategy and any Regional Climate Change Action Plan or Climate Change Strategy adopted for the County.
- Policy RE05: To support the implementation of the South-East Region Bio-Energy Implementation Plan 2008-2013.
- Policy NH09: To ensure full compliance with the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment and the associated Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004.

An additional section (Section 15.25 Environmental Impact Assessment) was inserted in the development management section of the Plan highlighting the need for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out for certain projects which are likely to have significant environmental effects.

#### **Environmental Report:**

A number of amendments were also made to the Environmental Report arising from consultation with the EPA. The main changes are outlined as follows:

- An additional section (Section 8.3.10 Cumulative and Indirect Impacts) was included in the Environmental Report which documents how the cumulative/in-combination effects have been assessed, with particular regard to cumulative/in-combination effects in relation to other Plans/Programmes/Strategies/Projects.
- An additional paragraph was inserted in the baseline data in Section 5.6 of the Environmental Report (Air & Climatic Factors) identifying New Ross as a High Radon Area.
- An additional EPO A2 was included to promote energy conservation and the development of renewable energy sources in the plan area. The matrix

was also amended to include this objective and the policies and objectives of the Plan were evaluated against this EPO.

- Two additional mitigation measures were included: MM16 - Facilitate the development of renewable energy sources and supply within the plan area; and MM17 - Require all new building developments to meet low energy performance targets.
- Mitigation Measure MM8 was amended to include reference to the Waterford Harbour Pollution Reduction Programme.

## **2. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government**

The DoEHLG made a comprehensive submission and raised a number of issues relating to the Draft Plan. Following consideration of the Department's submission it was decided to remove 17ha. of land zoned for residential use and 3.2 ha. of land zoned for commercial use. Another 2 ha. of land was rezoned from commercial use to residential and Light Industry and Office. Section 3 of the Plan (Core Strategy) was also amended to demonstrate a link to the population targets for the County as set out in the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs), while Section 1.7 was amended to include a general framework for the monitoring and implementation of the Plan.

The following additional policies and objectives were included in the Plan:

- Objective OPS01: Planning applications for office developments on lands zoned for Commercial and Light Industry and Office shall be accompanied by a sequential appraisal which clearly demonstrates that there are no alternative/suitable sites available for the proposed development in the Town Centre.
- Policy NH10: To work with the relevant authorities in developing and implementing any Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the protection of the River Barrow, designated areas and the general environment.

Appendix VIII (Statement on how the plan complies with Ministerial Guidelines) was also amended to document how the Plan complies with the Spatial Planning and National Roads (Consultation Draft): Guidelines for Planning Authorities.

### **3. Office of Public Works**

The Office of Public Works (OPW) made a comprehensive submission in relation to the Draft Plan and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). In order to ensure the points raised in their submission were appropriately addressed a meeting was held with the OPW in October 2010. The meeting was attended by officials from the DoEHLG and Wexford County Council. Arising from this consultation it was agreed that the zoning at Marshmeadows would be restricted to Port-Related Activities and that any application on these lands for development that is vulnerable to flooding will be subject to a detailed Flood Risk Assessment and will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that the proposal would not exacerbate or cause flooding elsewhere.

The zoning objective at Marshmeadows was subsequently amended from 'Industrial' to 'Port-Related Activities'. An additional policy was also included in the Plan (Policy SW06) requiring a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment to accompany applications for new development that is vulnerable to flooding on lands zoned for Port-Related Activities at Marshmeadows. Appendix V (Strategic Flood Risk Assessment) was also amended to provide accountability in the justification for zoning lands at Marshmeadows. This included reference to the existing development and multi-million euro industries operating at Marshmeadows, as well as the regional policy to develop New Ross Port. Reference was also made to lands in the jurisdiction of Kilkenny County Council, the vast majority of which are already developed.

### **4. South-East Regional Authority (SERA)**

The SERA made a comprehensive submission and raised a number of issues relating to the both the Draft Plan and Environmental Report. Arising from a

detailed review of this submission, a number of amendments were proposed and included in the final Plan and Environmental Report.

### **Development Plan:**

The following policies and objectives in the Draft Plan were amended:

- Policy WS04 was amended to ensure consistency with the objectives of the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015.
- Policies IN05, TM09, WS01, SW04, OS02 and Objectives TM09 and OS04 were reworded to ensure consistency with policy PPO 5.17 of the RPGs in relation to the requirement for Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

### **Environmental Report:**

A number of amendments were also made to the Environmental Report arising from consultation with the SERA. The main changes as outlined as follows:

- An additional section (Section 9.10 Incorporation of Mitigation Measures in the Development Plan) was inserted in the Environmental Report. This includes a table showing how each of the mitigation measure has been incorporated into the Plan.
- In the monitoring programme the following indicators and targets were amended: Indicator B1 - Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive; Target B1 - Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation; Indicator C1 - Implementation of New Ross Town Walls Conservation Plan and Management Plan.

## **5. Health Service Executive**

The Health Service Executive (HSE) made a comprehensive submission which includes comments on specific environmental health areas. In light of this submission a number of amendments were proposed and included in the final Plan and Environmental Report.

### **Development Plan:**

The Draft Plan was amended as follows:

- Additional text was included in Section 2 of the Plan identifying New Ross as a disadvantaged area in terms of social/occupational class composition, level of education, level of unemployment, proportion of lone parents and other socio-economic factors with reference to the latest available census data. An additional opportunity for the town was subsequently identified - Build strong, inclusive communities that have a sense of place and belonging, with adequate provision of, and access to, education, health, community support services and amenities for all members of the community.
- Section 8.4.3 of the Plan was amended to encourage Universal Design and Lifetime Housing within the plan area.

The following policies and objectives were amended:

- Objective TM06: To improve and expand coach/bus parking facilities adjacent to the town centre and provide parking for buses including disabled access.
- Policy HS13 and C08: To require the provision of Childcare Facilities in new residential developments in accordance with Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2001 and We Like This Place: Guidelines for Best Practice in the Design of Childcare Facilities 2005. The

indicative standard is one childcare facility, accommodating 20 children, for approximately 75 dwellings. This standard may be modified in any particular case where there are significant reasons for doing so. Criteria that may be taken into account in such an assessment include the existing geographical distribution of childcare facilities and the emerging demographic profile of the area.

The following policy was also included in the Plan:

- Policy C08: To promote and encourage Universal Design and Lifetime Housing in all new developments in accordance with the policies and principles contained in Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its companion document Urban Design Manual (DoEHLG, 2008).

#### **Other amendments arising from submissions on the Draft Plan:**

Additional policies and objectives were included in the Plan as follows:

- Objective OS06: To facilitate the development of a Skate Park at an appropriate location in the town.
- Objective T07: To promote and develop the Norman Heritage of the town.
- Policy R09: To encourage and facilitate the use of unoccupied retail outlets in the town centre as Retail Incubation Centres.
- Policy RE05: To support the implementation of the South-East Region Bio-Energy Implementation Plan 2008-2013.
- Objective TM13: To improve cycling facilities in the town to enable New Ross to be linked to the National Cycle Network.
- A number of amendments were made to the Record of Protected Structures

## **Section 4 Reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives considered**

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### **Consideration of Alternatives**

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. As part of the development plan process three alternatives were considered and are detailed in section 7 the Environmental Report. The Development Plan is framed in the policy context of the RPGs and the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) and, as such, strategic options are limited. Hence the alternatives considered generally focus on the location of new development.

### **Alternative Scenario 1 – Develop Lands to South of N25**

The first option considered would see lands to the south of the N25 being zoned for residential and commercial uses which would spread the town in a more dispersed manner. Development of these lands would only be considered following the completion of the New Ross Bypass or the implementation of an acceptable traffic management plan on the N25 and the provision of necessary infrastructure in advance of, or in tandem with, new development. This scenario would not be consistent with the NSS or RPG framework. In the absence of a timeframe for the implementation of the New Ross Bypass future residents in this area would be physically and socially segregated from the town by a heavily trafficked national primary route.



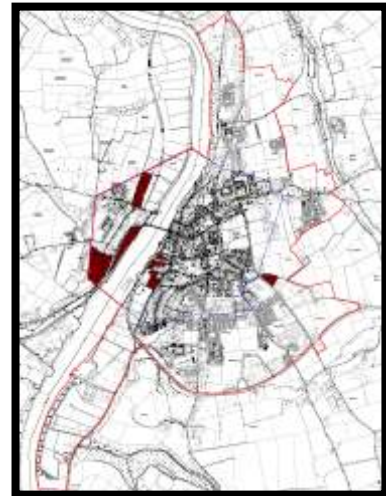
### **Alternative Scenario 2 – Develop Lands to East**

The second scenario considered would see lands to the east of the town being zoned for residential and commercial uses, subject to the development of a compact urban core and the provision of appropriate infrastructure. These lands are serviceable and are located close to existing amenities, retail areas and employment centres. This scenario would utilise the existing structure with its series of radials and somewhat circular compact character and refine or consolidate this structure to increase efficiency and balance development.



### **Alternative Scenario 3 – Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites**

The third scenario considered involves the redevelopment and renewal of brownfield sites within the town centre and surrounding area. The existing development boundary would not be altered. This is considered the most sustainable development strategy for the town and environs. It is consistent with national and regional guidelines and promotes the efficient use of infrastructure and services. It also targets derelict sites and aims to improve the overall townscape. This strategy promotes the development of a compact urban form that will maximise the efficient use of land while promoting a mix of uses to make best use of proximity to transport and services.





## **Preferred Alternative**

A matrix was used to evaluate each of the development alternatives against the EPOs, in order to determine how the alternatives are likely to affect the status of the EPOs. It was considered that Scenario 3, the most sustainable option, would not provide sufficient lands to accommodate the projected growth during the plan period. The preferred development strategy for the Draft Development Plan was therefore a combination of Scenarios 2 and 3. This combined strategy gave preference to the development of brownfield sites but where these were considered unsuitable, or were unavailable for development, the strategy allowed for the sequential development of greenfield lands to the east of the town subject to the provision of appropriate infrastructure.

Following consultation with the DoEHLG on the Draft Development Plan, the adoption of the RPGs which include population targets for the county to 2016 and in light of the commencement of Section 7 of the Planning and Development Act 2010, which requires the Development Plan to contain a Core Strategy that is consistent with the NSS and RPGs, it was considered that the Draft Development Plan contained an overprovision of residential zoned land. The proposed amendments to the Draft Plan subsequently removed the zoned lands to the east of the town as shown in scenario 2 as these lands were identified as being unlikely to become available for development within the plan period.

The New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan 2011-2017, as adopted, is therefore based on alternative scenario 3 which involves the redevelopment and renewal of brownfield sites within the town centre and surrounding area. Limited greenfield development is facilitated to the south of the town at Chambersland and to the east/northeast of the town at Castlemoyle. These lands are located adjacent to a range of community facilities and are within easy reach of the town centre. The development of these lands will be considered on a planned and phased basis.



## **Section 5 Monitoring Measures**

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### **Introduction**

Article 10 of the SEA Directive requires that monitoring be carried out in order to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse effects due to the implementation of the Plan and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. Monitoring is a key element of the effective implementation of the New Ross Town & Environs Development Plan. Its purpose is to cross check significant effects which arise during the implementation stage of the Development Plan against those predicted during the plan preparation stage. The indicators are shown in Table 3 below.

Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 requires the Planning Authority to carry out a review of the achievement of the objectives of the Development Plan not more than two years after the making of the Plan. It is anticipated that the environmental indicators set out below will be used to monitor the predicted environmental impacts of implementing the Plan and will be presented in the context of the two-year plan review. Where existing monitoring is being carried out i.e. in relation to water and air quality, these data sets will be collated in the review.

**Table 3: List of Monitoring Indicators and Targets**

<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>			
<b>Environmental Objectives</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Monitoring Source</b>
B1: To avoid loss of habitats and flora and fauna in designated wildlife sites.	Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the habitats Directive.	Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation.	NPWS, WCC, NRTC
B2: To avoid significant adverse impacts, including direct, cumulative and indirect impacts, by development within and outside designated wildlife sites to habitats and flora and fauna within these sites.	Number of significant impacts by development within and outside designated wildlife sites to habitats and flora & fauna within these sites.	No significant impacts by development within and outside designated wildlife sites to habitats and flora and fauna within these sites during lifetime of the plan.	NPWS, WCC, NRTC
<b>Population and Human Health</b>			
<b>Environmental Objectives</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Monitoring Source</b>
P1: To ensure high quality residential, recreational and working environments for the town's population.	Provision of community facilities, amenities and infrastructure including safe walking routes, playgrounds, sports and recreational facilities, primary and secondary schools, and other such facilities.	Sites and/or facilities for new primary & secondary schools, safe walking routes, playgrounds and sports areas to be identified and secured or provided during lifetime of plan.	WCC, CDB, NRTC, DoES,
P2: To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment.	Properties at risk of flooding; New development in Flood Zones A and B, as defined in DoEHLG Guidelines on Planning and Flood Risk Management.	Reduction in incidents of flood damage to properties; No highly vulnerable development to be permitted in flood zones A and B or where such development is permitted, to be mitigated through siting, layout and design.	WCC, NRTC

P3: To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys.	Average daily motor vehicle flows; Proportion of travel by mode; Monetary investment in bus and rail travel, and walking routes.	Reduce road traffic in line with <i>Smarter Travel - A Sustainable Transport Future</i> ; Increased investment in walkways.	WCC, NRTC, NRA, CSO
<b>Soil</b>			
<b>Environmental Objectives</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Monitoring Source</b>
S1: To maintain the quality of soils.	Waste permit licences; Historic Landfills; Contaminated sites.	Filling of lands for development to be accompanied by waste permit licences where required; Historic landfill in Marshmeadows to be authorised by EPA and any necessary remedial actions to be carried out; Waste management plans to be carried out for large developments and/or demolition of structures which are likely to contain hazardous material.	EPA, WCC, NRTC
S2: To maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands and give preference to the re-use of brownfield lands, rather than developing greenfield lands.	Area of brownfield land available.	All brownfield land to be redeveloped by the end of the plan period.	WCC, NRTC

Water			
Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets	Monitoring Source
<p>W1: To improve the quality of surface waters.</p> <p>W2: To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water.</p> <p>W3: To promote sustainable water use based on long-term protection of available water resources.</p>	<p>Water quality monitoring results by the EPA for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface Water</li> <li>• Ecological and Chemical Status.</li> <li>• Groundwater Quality.</li> <li>• Drinking Water Quality.</li> </ul> <p>Public Water Supplies on EPA Remedial Action List (Castlemoyle Water Treatment Plant);</p> <p>Number of Discharge Licences granted by WCC and the EPA;</p> <p>Ground Water Protection Scheme for County Wexford.</p>	<p>Protect and Restore areas identified in the River Basin Management Plan required to achieve “good” status i.e. 4+ for water quality by 2015, in line with the Water Framework Directive objectives.</p> <p>Improvement in levels of compliance with drinking water quality standards.</p>	EPA, GSI, WCC, NRTC
<p>W4: To mitigate the effects of floods and droughts.</p>	<p>Properties at risk of flooding;</p> <p>New development in Flood Zones A and B, as defined in DoEHLG Guidelines on Planning and Flood Risk Management.</p>	<p>Reduction in incidents of flood damage to properties;</p> <p>No highly vulnerable development to be permitted in flood zones A and B or where such development is permitted, to be mitigated through siting, layout and design.</p>	WCC, NRTC

Air & Climatic Factors			
Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets	Monitoring Source
A1: Reduce all forms of air pollution and reduce dependence on travel by private car.	Change in Air Quality; Average daily motor vehicle flows; Proportion of travel by mode; Monetary investment in bus and rail travel, and walking routes.	Maintain/improve air quality within Air Quality index bands; Reduce road traffic in line with <i>Smarter Travel - A Sustainable Transport Future</i> ; Increased investment in walkways.	EPA, WCC, NRTC, NRA, CSO
Material Assets			
Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets	Monitoring Source
M1: Maintain the quality of, and access to, assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure.	Access to public amenities.	Increased access to town walls; Increased usage of River Barrow for recreation and amenity.	WCC, NRTC, WI
M2: Alleviate risk of flooding through siting, design and layout of new development.	New development in Flood Zones A and B, as defined in DoEHLG Guidelines on Planning and Flood Risk Management.	New development in flood zones A and B to be mitigated through siting, layout and design.	WCC, NRTC
Cultural Heritage			
Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets	Monitoring Source
C1: To promote the protection and conservation of the cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage.	Number of protected structures in relation to Ministerial Recommendations arising from NIAH County Inventories; Number of planning applications for works to protected structures or structures located within an Architectural Conservation Area;	To increase the number of Protected Structures in line with ministerial recommendations arising from the NIAH survey for New Ross Town; To increase the number of ACAs to conserve the townscape;	WCC, NRTC, DoEHLG

	<p>Number of Monuments in the RMP and areas of archaeological potential which have been recorded or subject to exploration as a result of development;</p> <p>Number of protected structures or archaeological monuments damaged due to development.</p> <p>Implementation of New Ross Town Walls Conservation Plan and Management Plan.</p>	<p>To maintain and increase the number of archaeological features recorded and protected;</p> <p>No damage occurring to structures or monuments due to development.</p>	
<b>Landscape</b>			
<b>Environmental Objectives</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Monitoring Source</b>
L1: To conserve, maintain and enhance the status of the natural riverside landscape of New Ross as an attractive amenity, recreational and ecological resource.	Number of planning applications along riverside.	<p>No new development to be conspicuously located along the riverside;</p> <p>Brownfield sites along riverside to be redeveloped and enhanced.</p>	WCC, NRTC

**\*Monitoring Sources**

CDB – County Development Board

DoES – Department of Education and Science

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

NPWS – National Parks & Wildlife Service

NRTC – New Ross Town Council

WI - Waterways Ireland

CSO – Central Statistics Office

DoEHLG – Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

GSI – Geological Survey of Ireland

NRA – National Roads Authority

WCC – Wexford County Council



## **Section 6 Conclusion**

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The SEA carried out by Wexford County Council and New Ross Town Council during the preparation of the Development Plan has ensured that any potential significant environmental impacts of the Plan's implementation were identified and that they have been given consideration. Throughout the preparation of the New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan and Environmental Report consultation has taken place which has contributed to the final adopted Plan and enhanced its overall environmental protection dimension.

Although the Plan has now been adopted, the SEA process will continue with the monitoring of environmental impacts of the implementation of the Plan. This will include ongoing monitoring and publication of progress reports over the lifetime of the Plan.