

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination**

**under the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended) and Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended) for:**

**Chief Executive's Recommendations for Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 1 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028**

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening determination as to whether Chief Executive's Recommendations for Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 1 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 is likely to have significant effects on the environment is being made by Wexford County Council under Section 58 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended) and the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (as amended).

In making the determination, the information contained in the accompanying Screening for SEA Report (including information provided by environmental authorities and an examination of the need to undertake SEA against relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A '*Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment*' of the above Regulations) is being taken into account. That information has been carefully considered and its reasoning and conclusion agreed with and adopted – allowing a determination to be made that the Chief Executive's Recommendations for Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 1 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

The Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 was subject to full SEA, which identified the likely significant environmental effects, if unmitigated, of implementing the County Development Plan, and facilitated the integration of measures into the County Development Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of the environment with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply. The Proposed Variation, which is being subject to full SEA, requires compliance with these measures and includes additional such measures that must be complied with.

Taking into account the measures that have been integrated into both the Proposed Variation and the existing County Development Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, any potential effects arising from the Chief Executive's Recommendations for Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 1, would either: be present already (beneficial) and would be further contributed towards, but not to a significant extent; and/or would be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse).

Taking into account all of the above, the Chief Executive's Recommendations for Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 1 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects and it is determined that SEA would not be required to be undertaken on such Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation.

Signatory:   
Eddie Taaffe  
Chief executive

Date: 1/4/26.

**SCREENING  
FOR  
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
REPORT**

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**FOR  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR  
PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS  
TO  
PROPOSED VARIATION No. 1  
TO THE  
WEXFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
2022-2028**

**for: Wexford County Council**



**by: CAAS Ltd.**



**MARCH 2026**

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# Section 1 Introduction and Background

## 1.1 Introduction and Legislative Requirements

This is a Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Report that examines Chief Executive's Recommendations for Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 1. to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028, referred to hereafter as 'Proposed Material Alterations'.

SEA is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, or variation to a plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt it. The SEA Directive<sup>1</sup> requires, inter alia, that SEA is undertaken for certain plans and programmes. Screening is the process for determining whether a particular plan- or variation to a plan -, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA.

Under Section 58 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended) and the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (as amended), Wexford County Council is required to determine whether any Proposed Material Alteration to the Proposed Variation needs to be subject to SEA.

The purpose of this report is to inform whether or not to undertake SEA on any Proposed Material Alteration to Proposed Variation No. 1. This report should be read in conjunction with the documents cited within, including:

- Proposed Variation No. 1;
- SEA Environmental Report for Proposed Variation No. 1;
- AA Natura Impact Report for Proposed Variation No. 1;
- Chief Executive's Recommendations for Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 1; and
- Screening for AA Report for Chief Executive's Recommendations for Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 1.

## 1.2 Proposed Variation No. 1 and associated Proposed Material Alterations

Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 came into effect in July 2022. The plan was informed by the first iteration of the National Planning Framework and the population targets that were contained in the Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework published in July 2018. The housing targets in the Plan were informed by the Ministerial Guidelines Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning issued in 2020.

The First Revision of the National Planning Framework was approved and published in April 2025. It identified the need to plan for approximately 50,000 additional households per annum to 2040 at national level. Arising from this, the Government issued Guidelines entitled NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act (2000 as amended) to implement and interpret the national targets at county level.

In order to implement the objectives of these guidelines, including increased housing targets for County Wexford, it is necessary to vary the County Development Plan 2022-2028 to revise the Core Strategy contained in Chapter three of the plan and increase the quantum of land zoned for

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27<sup>th</sup> June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

residential purposes. Proposed Variation No. 1 also contains associated changes to the text of Chapters three and four that are necessary to facilitate the revised targets.

In order to increase the quantum of land zoned available for residential purposes in accordance with the requirements of the Guidelines, the variation also contains interim land use zoning for residential use and necessary supporting objectives for Enniscorthy Town and New Ross Town. The variation also provides for other land use zoning categories for these towns as the respective plans expired upon adoption of the County Development Plan in 2022. This is to ensure the orderly and supported development of residential, economic, social and community uses, the protection of natural heritage and the environment, and to provide for climate action and flood risk. The Variation also includes a number of objectives for each town which are required to support the development of zoned land and to facilitate the development of key infrastructure to accommodate their growth and enable them to prosper. These objectives are interim objectives until Settlement Plans and/or Urban Area Plans are prepared for these towns.

The Variation also contains an updated policy on developments subject to the Major Accident Directive (Major Accidents or Seveso Sites) to ensure that a precautionary approach is applied to the location of new Major Accidents sites, modifications to existing sites and to control development in the vicinity of such sites.

This Variation represents the first stage 1 in a series of variations to the County Development Plan 2022-2028 to increase the quantum of land zoned for residential purposes in County Wexford to facilitate the implementation of the Guidelines.

Proposed Variation No. 1 and associated SEA and AA documents were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Submissions are responded to in a Chief Executive's Report within which recommendations are made for Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation. These recommendations are the subject of this report. The Alterations propose a number of text and map-based changes to the Proposed Variation. For further detail, the Chief Executive's Recommendations for Proposed Material Alterations should be referred to.

## Section 2 SEA Screening

### 2.1 Introduction

The section examines whether the Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 1 would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

This examination takes account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A '*Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment*' of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended (see Section 2.5).

### 2.2 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) is an impact assessment process concerning *Natura 2000*, or *European*, sites - these sites have been designated or proposed for designation by virtue of their ecological importance. The Habitats Directive<sup>2</sup> and the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended) provide the requirement to screen for likely significant effects on European Sites. If the effects are deemed to be *significant, potentially significant or uncertain* then Stage 2 AA must be undertaken.

The Proposed Material Alterations are being subject to a screening for AA process in order to establish whether or not AA must be undertaken. The accompanying Screening for AA Report identifies that the Proposed Material Alterations are not likely to result in significant effects on European sites; consequently Stage 2 AA is demonstrated as not being required.

### 2.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Considerations

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken as part of the preparation of the Proposed Variation. Requirements in relation to SFRA are provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. The SFRA has informed both the land use zoning and the written provisions of the Proposed Variation. The Proposed Material Alterations have been confirmed as being in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.

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<sup>2</sup> Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

## 2.4 SEA Screening Analysis

The analysis of Proposed Material Alterations is undertaken considering interactions Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Table 2.1). Table 2.2 examines whether each part of the Proposed Material Alterations would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

Table 2.2 is supplemented by Table 2.3 which provides details on:

- Likely significant effects of implementing the Proposed Variation, if unmitigated;
- Key mitigation measure(s) that are already contained within the Proposed Variation and associated existing Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028; and
- Likely residual non-significant adverse effects arising from the Proposed Variation.

Effects encompass the full range of effects<sup>3</sup>, including those arising cumulatively – such as those potentially arising as a result of interactions with other plans and programmes.

The examination of Proposed Material Alterations also takes into account relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A 'Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment' of the SEA Regulations, as amended, (see Section 2.5).

**Table 2.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives**

Environmental Component	Guiding Principle	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<b>BFF</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve, protect, maintain and where appropriate, restore the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, of international, EU and nationally designated sites, protected species and habitats.</li> <li>• Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, regarding its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function.</li> <li>• Maintain and where appropriate, enhance the biodiversity value of local designated and non-designated ecological and heritage areas, which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.</li> <li>• Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets.</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<b>PHH1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide high quality residential, community, working and recreational environments with access to sustainable transport options.</li> <li>• Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection.</li> <li>• Ensure that existing population and planned growth is linked with the required infrastructure and the services.</li> <li>• Protect human health and well-being from environment-related pressures.</li> </ul>
<b>Soil (and Land)</b>	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<b>S</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource</li> <li>• Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield</li> <li>• Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<b>W</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive</li> <li>• Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments</li> <li>• Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion</li> <li>• Integrate appropriate flood risk management measures and sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> These include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects

Environmental Component	Guiding Principle	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<b>Material Assets</b>	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<b>MA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make best use of existing infrastructure, promote the sustainable development of new infrastructure and protect existing assets, to meet the needs of the county and Wexford's population.</li> <li>• Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies.</li> <li>• Ensure there is adequate sewerage, water and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development</li> <li>• Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of transport modes and active travel.</li> </ul>
<b>Air</b>	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture</li> <li>• Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency</li> <li>• Promote continuing improvement in air quality</li> <li>• Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution</li> <li>• Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive</li> <li>• Significantly decrease noise pollution and move closer to WHO recommended levels</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic Factors</b>	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise contribution to Climate Change by adopting mitigation and adaptation measures.</li> <li>• Integrate sustainable design solutions into the county's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure).</li> <li>• Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets.</li> <li>• Encourage and promote development resilient to the effects of climate change.</li> <li>• Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport and active travel.</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	<b>CH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological and / or architectural heritage.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	Protect and enhance the landscape character	<b>L</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To implement the Development Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention.</li> </ul>

**Table 2.2 SEA Screening Analysis of Proposed Material Alterations<sup>4</sup>**

Ref	SEA Screening Consideration
1	This alteration would further contribute towards provisions related to this sector/topic that are already contained within the Proposed Variation. Considering the measures that have been already integrated into the Proposed Variation and the existing County Development Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; and/or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
2	The update to terminology/language/wording/mapping/supporting documentation would not change the effects arising from the Proposed Variation. As such, this alteration would not be considered as being likely to result in significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
3	This alteration relates to Proposed Variation text that sets the context for, summarises and/or provides clarification to Proposed Variation provisions. It does not interact with existing Proposed Variation provisions to an extent that it would have additional significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
4	This alteration adds more detail but would not have the potential to result in significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
5	This alteration provides consistency with other parts of the Proposed Variation and/or with the wider planning and policy framework. It would not interact with Proposed Variation provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
6	Removal of this provision/text would remove the potential for any environmental effects; however, removal of the provision/text would not be likely to result in any environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>

Proposed Material Alteration No.	SEA Screening Consideration Reference
1	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
2	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
3	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
4	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
5	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
6	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
7	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
8	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
9	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
10	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
11	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
12	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
13	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
14	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
15	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
16	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
17	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
18	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
19	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
20	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
21	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
22	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
23	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
24	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
25	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
26	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
27	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
28	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
29	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
30	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
31	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
32	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
33	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required

<sup>4</sup> For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

Proposed Material Alteration No.	SEA Screening Consideration Reference
34	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
35	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
36	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
37	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
38	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
39	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required

**Table 2.3 Details of environmental effects with respect to Proposed Variation No. 1 in combination with the wider planning framework**

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework		Proposed Variation mitigation measures <sup>5</sup> , including:		Existing Wexford County Development Plan mitigation measures, including:
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Adverse Significant Effects	Residual Non-Significant Effects	
<b>Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to locations within town centre areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats.</li> <li>Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors</li> </ul>	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;</li> <li>Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and</li> <li>Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> <li>Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation).</li> </ul>	<p>Objective E20 Maximise the potential of the River Slaney for tourism and recreational purposes by improving public access to the river, including and extending the provision of a linear parks (in conjunction with the relevant statutory authorities) and subject to appropriate environmental and ecological assessments.</p> <p>Objective E21 To ensure that where, as part of the planning process, an assessment of the potential impacts to European sites is required, consideration is given to the potential impact of an increase in visitor pressures to European sites that may result from the implementation of housing projects, and any associated active travel infrastructure such as cycleways, blue ways or greenways. Where likely significant impacts on European site(s) due to visitor pressures are identified, a visitor management plan will be developed for the proposed project, which also takes into account cumulative pressures from existing visitor levels to the relevant European site(s).</p> <p>Objective E05 To ensure an integrated approach is taken to the development of this site. The following shall be submitted with any application for the development of the site for mixed uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A phasing programme which details how critical infrastructure will be delivered either prior to, or in tandem with any residential and commercial development.</li> <li>A Design Statement prepared in accordance with Section 2.3 of Volume 2 Development Management Manual which outlines the evolution of the design process for the proposed development. An emphasis on exemplar sustainable design and aesthetic quality shall be required. A Design Statement for residential or mixed-use development proposals with a residential element will be required to address the mix of dwelling types.</li> <li>A Retail Impact Assessment prepared in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines (2012) and Volume 8 Retail Strategy (if appropriate).</li> <li>A comprehensive landscaping scheme which includes landscape, open space and amenities and Green Infrastructure measures to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the area.</li> <li>An Ecological Assessment. The development will be required to be designed to ensure net ecological gain and the details shall be incorporated into the Landscape plan for the site.</li> <li>A surface water management scheme which focuses on</li> </ul>	<p>Objective EM02 To ensure that planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal that, either individually or in combination with existing and/or proposed plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on a European sites, or where such a development proposal is likely or might have such a significant effect (either alone or in combination), the planning authority will, as required by law, carry out an appropriate assessment as per requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC of the 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, as transposed into Irish legislation. Only after having ascertained that the development proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site, will the planning authority agree to the development and impose appropriate mitigation measures in the form of planning conditions. A development proposal which could adversely affect the integrity of a European site may only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive as transposed into Irish legislation.</p> <p>Objective EM04 To ensure that plans, including land use plans, will only be adopted, if they either individually or in combination with existing and/or proposed plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on a European, or where such a plan is likely or might have such a significant effect (either alone or in combination), Wexford County Council will, as required by law, carry out an appropriate assessment as per requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC of the 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, as transposed into Irish legislation. Only after having ascertained that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site, will Wexford County Council adopt the plan, incorporating any necessary mitigation measures. A plan which could adversely affect the integrity of a European site may only be adopted in exceptional circumstances, as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive as transposed into Irish legislation.</p> <p>Objective NH02 To protect and enhance the rich qualities of our natural heritage in a manner that is appropriate to its significance.</p> <p>Objective NH03 To promote biodiversity protection, restoration and habitat connectivity both within protected areas and in the landscape through promoting the integration of green infrastructure and ecosystem services, including landscape, heritage and biodiversity and management of invasive and alien species in the plan making and development management processes.</p> <p>NH04 To protect the integrity of sites designated for their habitat and species importance and prohibit development which would damage or threaten the integrity of these sites. Such sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and candidate SACs, Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed NHAs, Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna and RAMSAR sites. To protect protected species wherever they occur.</p> <p>Objective NH11 To protect trees or groups of trees and woodlands of particular amenity and nature conservation value and make tree preservation orders where</p>

<sup>5</sup> Such measures may be subject to update at adoption to take account of proposed material alterations and/or any further modifications.

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	<p>of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.</p>			<p>nature-based solutions (NBS) that provide both ecological and hydrometric benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A statement detailing climate proofing measures that demonstrates consistency with the provisions of Wexford County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. Consideration shall be given in the design of the scheme to facilitate and utilise district heating.</li> </ul> <p>Objective NRT05</p> <p>To ensure an integrated approach is taken to any significant redevelopment of this site and to ensure it positively addresses the South-East Greenway. The following shall be submitted with any application for the significant redevelopment of the site for mixed uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A phasing programme which details how critical infrastructure will be delivered either prior to, or in tandem with any residential and commercial development.</li> <li>• A Design Statement prepared in accordance with Section 2.3 of Volume 2 Development Management Manual which outlines the evolution of the design process for the proposed development. An emphasis on exemplar sustainable design and aesthetic quality shall be required. A Design Statement for residential or mixed-use development proposals with a residential element will be required to address the mix of dwelling types.</li> <li>• A Retail Impact Assessment prepared in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines (2012) and Volume 8 Retail Strategy.</li> <li>• A comprehensive landscaping scheme which includes landscape, open space and amenities and Green Infrastructure measures to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the area.</li> <li>• An Ecological Assessment. The development will be required to be designed to ensure net ecological gain and the details shall be incorporated into the Landscape plan for the site.</li> <li>• A surface water management scheme which focuses on nature-based solutions (NBS) that provide both ecological and hydrometric benefits.</li> <li>• A statement detailing climate proofing measures that demonstrates consistency with the provisions of Wexford County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. Consideration shall be given in the design of the scheme to facilitate and utilise district heating.</li> </ul> <p>Objective NRT30</p> <p>To ensure that where, as part of the planning process, an assessment of the potential impacts to European sites is required, consideration is given to the potential impact of an increase in visitor pressures to European sites that may result from the implementation of housing projects, and any associated active travel infrastructure such as cycleways, blue ways or greenways. Where likely significant impacts on European site(s) due to visitor pressures are identified, a visitor management plan will be developed for the proposed project, which also takes into account cumulative pressures from existing visitor levels to the relevant European site(s).</p>	<p>appropriate.</p> <p>Objective NH14 To work with local communities, groups, landowners, National Parks and Wildlife Service and other relevant parties to identify, protect, manage and, where appropriate, enhance and promote sites of local biodiversity value.</p> <p>Objective NH16 To support the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of marine ecosystems in any existing or future Marine Protected Area which may be designated during the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>Objective NH17 To support any targeted programmes or projects which will be required to improve and restore the status of the large sedimentary lagoons of Wexford.</p> <p>Objective NH18 To provide support for communities in the application of EU funded programmes such as the Roseate Tern Recovery Project, the Blackstairs Farming Futures (BFF) Sustainable farming project and other LIFE and European Innovation Partnership programmes which aim to achieve the objectives of the Habitats and Birds Directives.</p> <p>Objective NH19 To implement the requirements of EU Regulations 1143/2014 on the Prevention and Management of the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Alien Species and Regulation 49 and 50 of the EU (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011(S.I. No. 477/2011), as amended.</p> <p>Objective NH22 To promote best practice in the control of invasive species and support measures for the prevention and/or eradication of invasive species as appropriate and as opportunities and resources allow.</p> <p>Objective EL02 To ensure that external lighting and lighting schemes are designed so that light spillage is minimised thereby protecting the amenities of nearby properties and wildlife, including protected species.</p> <p>Objective GI02 To identify, protect, enhance and manage Green Infrastructure in all Local Area Plans in an integrated and coherent manner. This will include the mapping of existing and proposed green infrastructure and connections at a suitable scale.</p> <p>Objective GI09 To promote the re-opening of existing culverts to daylight streams as part of a wider biodiversity restoration plan. This will require a multi-stakeholder approach including the OPW, Inland Fisheries, LAWPRO and NPWS. Consent, if necessary, should be obtained from OPW to make these amendments of under the Arterial Drainage Scheme.</p> <p>Objective CZM02 To prepare a County Coastal Strategy, which will be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and compliance with the Habitats Directive, to provide the framework to sustainably manage our coastal areas, in particular, those areas at risk of coastal erosion and coastal flooding, and to have regard to the Strategy when preparing land use plans and assessing planning applications.</p> <p>Objective CZM45 To maintain, conserve and restore marine ecosystems in existing and future designated Marine Protected Areas in order to achieve or maintain good environmental status of the maritime area.</p> <p>Objective CS26 To promote the protection, restoration and enhancement of biodiversity and green infrastructure in all settlements and in the open countryside.</p>
<p><b>Population and Human Health</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects arising from flood events.</li> <li>• Potential interactions with human health if</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>Proposed Variation to provisions under Section 10.9 Major Accidents Directive.</p> <p>Objective NRT24</p> <p>To consult with the Health and Safety Authority for all development within the consultation zone for Nitrofert Ltd, Major</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>Objective CS02 To ensure that new residential development in all settlements complies with the population and housing allocation targets and the principles set out in the Core Strategy and Settlement Development Strategy, in so far as practicable.</p> <p>Objective CS03 To ensure that sufficient zoned lands are available to satisfy the</p>

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	<p>protection and management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to locations within town centre areas) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond</li> <li>Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to locations within town centre areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, such as air and water.</li> </ul>	<p>effects arise from environmental vectors.</p>	<p>under "Soil", "Water" and "Air and Climatic Factors" below.</p>	<p>Accidents site and have regard to the technical land use advice provided and to control development in the vicinity of the site to ensure the prevention of major accidents limiting the consequences for human health and the environment of such accidents</p> <p>Objective NRT25</p> <p>In the assessment of planning applications and in local authority own works the Council will, in respect of modifications to existing establishments, new establishments and development in the vicinity of establishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consult with and have regard to the technical land use planning advice (TLUP) of the Health and Safety Authority. The Council will have regard to the consultation distances (CD) and any updated versions of these zones issued by the HSA.</li> <li>have regard to the HSA's Guidance on Technical Land-use Planning Advice for Planning Authorities and COMAH Establishments Operators (Version 2 Updated February 2023)</li> <li>restrict new Major Accident Sites to low risk locations. There will be a presumption against their development in proximity to housing, sensitive commercial uses and workplaces, areas of regular and substantial public congregation/use, designated sites, areas of environmental sensitivity and adjacent to environmental vectors including flood zones.</li> <li>assess societal and environmental risk as part as part of development management processes</li> <li>attach to the grant of planning permission for planning applications for warehouses or similar industrial buildings, a condition to exclude the use/storage of chemicals which would come under the Major Accidents Directive (unless it is expressly permitted by a planning application).</li> </ul>	<p>planned population and housing growth in those settlements over the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>Objective CS08 To prepare Local Transport Plans for the Key Towns and Large Towns which focus on the development of town bus networks, rail services, the development of inter-modal transport hubs, improvements to cycling and walking infrastructure and rural transport services into towns and seek investments for the sustainable transport measures set out in these plans.</p> <p>Objective CS16 To strengthen the viability of our rural towns and villages and to support the retention of essential rural services such as post offices, shops and medical facilities.</p> <p>Objective CS23 To work with public infrastructure providers such as Irish Water and local communities to provide serviced sites with appropriate infrastructure to attract people to build their own homes and live in the designated Large Villages and Small Villages in the county subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the proper planning and sustainable development of the county.</p> <p>Objective SH01 To ensure that new residential developments contribute to and represent sustainable neighbourhoods which are inclusive and responsive to the physical or cultural needs of those who use them, are well-located relative to the social, community, commercial and administrative services and are integrated with the community within which they will be located.</p> <p>Objective SH18 To implement and monitor the objectives in the County Wexford Housing Strategy 2021- 2027 and Housing Need Demand Assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and any relevant guidelines published.</p> <p>Objective ED06 To work with infrastructure providers to ensure that economic development land and employment related uses are effectively serviced by all infrastructures and that new and existing uses are accessible by sustainable transport modes.</p> <p>Objective ED44 To support the development of remote working hubs in settlements.</p> <p>Objective EM03 To ensure that proposed plans and programmes comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, as transposed into Irish law under national legislation.</p> <p>Objective EM05 To implement the provisions of EU and National legislation and other relevant legislative requirements on protecting and improving surface and ground water quality, air quality and climate, and on reducing adverse noise and light nuisance, as appropriate and in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders in the interests of the protection of the environment, public health and the sustainable development of the county.</p> <p>Objective TV02 To promote a healthy County by improving physical and social environments to create vibrant, accessible, healthy and sustainable places to live work and relax.</p> <p>Objective IS05 To provide water treatment facilities to safeguard public health.</p> <p>Objective SC01 To facilitate the development of healthy sustainable communities where people can live, work and enjoy access to a wide range of community, health and educational facilities suitable for all ages, needs and abilities.</p> <p>Objective SC06 To support the entitlement of all members of the community to enjoy a high quality living environment and to support local communities, the Health Authorities and other bodies involved in the provision of facilities for groups with specific design/ planning needs.</p> <p>Objective ROS01 To support the implementation of the National Sports Plan 2018-2027, Get Ireland Active the National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland 2015-2020, Sport Ireland Policy on Sport and Physical Activity in the Outdoors, the Wexford Healthy County Plan 2022-2022, the Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 and the Sports Active Wexford Strategic Plan 2017-2022 and any updated version of these plans as a means of promoting physical</p>
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					<p>activity and active living in order to enhance health, wellbeing and social inclusion subject to the objectives of the County Development Plan.</p> <p>Objective ROS08 To support investment in the on-going maintenance and enhancement of existing public open space facilities, and support the provision of new public parks, green space corridors, pollinator projects, native planting and wild areas and rewilding projects and other public open spaces in tandem with planned population growth to create green, biodiversity rich and healthy settlements throughout the county.</p> <p>Objective ROS21 To ensure that a range of play opportunities will be available for all children, particularly children who are marginalised, disadvantaged or who have special needs.</p> <p>Objective ROS37 To facilitate sustainable outdoor recreation in the form of walking and cycling at appropriate locations in the county and maximise the recreational and tourist potential of walking and cycling routes subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive, the protection of natural heritage, the character of rural areas, the amenities of host communities and normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>Provisions under Section 10.9 Major Accidents Directive</p>
<b>Soil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards the protection of soils and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to locations within town centre areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.</li> <li>Potential for riverbank erosion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> <li>Coastal and riverbank erosion will continue to occur naturally over time and is likely to be enhanced by climate change.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>Objective NRT26 Ensure the completion of the required future assessments of the Historic Landfill site at Marshmeadows including monitoring for gas and leachate emissions. The site shall maintain its open character and no buildings will be permitted on the site.</p> <p>Objective NRT27 To require an assessment of the suitability and stability of the land identified on Map 9 for any future development prior to any development being permitted on the site. The assessment shall be carried out by a suitably qualified person and shall be submitted with the planning application.</p> <p>Objective NRT28 Maximise the potential of the River Barrow for tourism and recreational purposes by improving public access to the river, including and extending the provision of a linear park (in conjunction with the relevant statutory authorities) and subject to appropriate environmental and ecological assessments.</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>Objective HLO2 To implement remediation plans for the identified historic landfills in the county.</p> <p>Objective ED111 To ensure that applications for horticulture related development include adequate measures to mitigate impacts on soil water contamination, adopt sustainable practices in terms of soil and peat use and the use and management of pesticides and insecticides and adopt sustainable practices for the sustainable management of water from roofs by incorporating sustainable drainage systems and retention areas within the developments.</p> <p>Objective NH06 To recognise the importance of recommended Geological Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas and County Geological Sites and protect the character and integrity of these sites where appropriate. The Council will consult Geological Survey Ireland where a development is proposed that may impact on geological sites.</p> <p>Objective NH07 To have regard to any particular management or sensitivity, contained within the individual site reports within The Geological Heritage of County Wexford: An audit of County Geological Sites in County Wexford 2018, in the assessment of planning applications located within Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas and County Geological Sites.</p> <p>Objective EM01 To ensure that proposed projects/developments comply with the requirements of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, and as transposed into Irish law under national legislation, including in Schedule 5 Part 1 and Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). In accordance with Article 3 of Directive 2014/52/EU, where EIA is required the environmental impact assessments presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, the direct, indirect and cumulative significant effects of a project on the following factors: population and human health; biodiversity (with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC); land, soil, water, air and climate, material assets, cultural heritage, and the landscape, and the interaction between the foregoing factors.</p> <p>Objective EM05 To implement the provisions of EU and National legislation and other relevant legislative requirements on protecting and improving surface and ground water quality, air quality and climate, and on reducing adverse noise and light nuisance, as appropriate and in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders in the interests of the protection of the environment, public health and the sustainable development of the county.</p>

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<p><b>Water</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to locations within town centre areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>• Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations.</li> <li>• Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>• Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any increased loadings as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</li> <li>• Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Proposed Variation.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p>Various Flood Risk Management provisions</p> <p>Objective E18</p> <p>To ensure riparian buffer zones are provided on the lands zoned Natural Amenity and/or Open Space and Amenity along watercourses in the plan area, and to require, where deemed necessary, that additional lands be set aside for riparian buffer zones. The width of the required riparian zones will be dependent on the width and characteristics of the watercourse and the nature of the site and will be determined having regard to the requirements of the 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' (Inlands Fisheries Ireland 2020) and any updated version of these guidelines.</p> <p>Objective E19</p> <p>To ensure that development briefs, design statements and masterplans and planning applications identify existing watercourses, ditches and rainfall conveyance routes and ensure that they are maintained and incorporated into design proposals. The application shall include detailed proposals to provide for an appropriate riparian zones having regard to the requirements of the 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' (Inlands Fisheries Ireland 2020) and any updated version of these guidelines. Development proposals shall fully incorporate nature-based solutions to rainwater management which maximize benefits to biodiversity and amenity.</p> <p>Objective NRT22</p> <p>To ensure riparian buffer zones are provided on the lands zoned Natural Amenity and/or Open Space and Amenity along watercourses in the plan area, and to require, where deemed necessary, that additional lands be set aside for riparian buffer zones. The width of the required riparian zones will be dependent on the width and characteristics of the watercourse and the nature of the site and will be determined having regard to the requirements of the 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' (Inlands Fisheries Ireland 2020) and any updated version of these guidelines.</p> <p>Objective NRT23</p> <p>To ensure that development briefs, design statements and masterplans and planning applications identify existing watercourses, ditches and rainfall conveyance routes and ensure that they are maintained and incorporated into design proposals. The application shall include detailed proposals to provide for an appropriate riparian zones having regard to the requirements of the 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' (Inlands Fisheries Ireland 2020) and any updated version of these guidelines. Development proposals shall fully incorporate nature-based solutions to rainwater management which maximize benefits to biodiversity and amenity.</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p>Objective WS01 To work with all stakeholders to protect existing and potential water resources for the county and to reduce the level of treatment required in the production of drinking water, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 and any updated version, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated shellfish waters, the National Biodiversity Plan 2017-2021, the provisions of the county Groundwater Protection Scheme and any other protection plans including the National Water Resources Plan and Drinking Water Protection Plans, for water supply resources.</p> <p>Objective WM11 To protect and maintain the excellent quality of 'High' status water bodies and to raise awareness and provide support for land owners in these areas under the Blue Dot Catchment Programme established by the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021.</p> <p>Objective WQ01 To protect existing and potential water resources for the county, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/ EC), the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and any updated version, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated shellfish waters, the provisions of a Groundwater Protection Scheme for the county and any other protection plans for water supply sources, with an aim to improving all water quality.</p> <p>Objective WQ02 To promote compliance with the European Communities (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 and the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 and any other relevant legislations.</p> <p>Objective WQ04 To work with the Local Authority Waters Programme and other relevant State agencies to develop and implement the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and any future river basin management plan subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective WQ05 To strive to achieve and maintain at least 'Good' status except where more stringent obligations are required, and no deterioration of status for all water bodies including protected areas, under the Marine Strategy Framework and its programme of measures, the Water Framework Directive and the Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>Objective WQ07 To screen planning applications according to their Water Framework Directive status and have regard to their status and objectives to achieve 'good' status or protect and improve 'high or good status'.</p> <p>Objective WQ12 To protect and enhance heavily modified water bodies and artificial water bodies in order to achieve good ecological potential and good chemical status for those water bodies and to progressively reduce pollution from priority substances and cease or phase out emissions, discharges and losses of priority hazardous substances into surface waters.</p> <p>Objective IS01 To ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development requirements and a cleaner environment.</p> <p>Objective WW01 To require that all wastewater generated is collected, treated and discharged after treatment in a safe and sustainable manner, having regard to the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance and subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and any updated version during the lifetime of the Plan, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters, Urban Wastewater Water Directive and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective FRM02 To implement and comply fully with the recommendations of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment prepared as part of the Wexford County Development Plan.</p> <p>Objective EM01 To ensure that proposed projects/developments comply with the requirements of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the</p>
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<p><b>Air and Climatic Factors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to locations within town centre areas) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential conflict between development under the Plan as varied and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.</li> <li>Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality<sup>6</sup>.</li> <li>Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors<sup>7</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Proposed Variation, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility.</li> <li>Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Proposed Variation to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be</li> </ul>	<p>Objective E07 To support the implementation of active travel measures and promote the development of new linkages which improve permeability by walking and cycling.</p> <p>Objective E08 To secure the provision in tandem with new developments, or provide subject to available resources, the new Arterial and Link roads at the locations indicated on Map 7. These link roads shall be designed in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) and the road category profiles set out in Section 6.1 of Volume 2 Development Management Manual.</p> <p>Objective E09 To facilitate the provision of a new road bridge and the replacement of the existing Seamus Rafter bridge with a new pedestrian bridge as indicated on Map 7, subject to Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>Objective E10 To carry out, or require in tandem with new development, the road upgrades at the locations indicated on Map 7.</p> <p>Objective E11 To provide junction improvements at the locations indicated on Map 7.</p> <p>Objective E12 To upgrade the R744 and R772 approach roads at Clonhaston and Blackstoops as indicated on Map 7 to ensure a high standard of road quality and safety in accordance with the requirements of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) or any subsequent guidelines. The roads shall be redesigned as arterial routes as shown in Figure 6-1 in Volume 2 Development</p>	<p>Also refer to the overall approach to compact development and sustainability provided by the Plan.</p> <p>Objective TS01 To implement the principles and objectives of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Street (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Department of the Environment Community and Local Government, 2013 and 2019) and the Spatial Planning and National Roads, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, 2012) and the National Sustainable Mobility Policy 2022 and the other guidance listed in Section 8.3 above and any updated version of these documents.</p> <p>Objective TS02 To minimise the generation of greenhouse gases by the transport sector using the avoid-shift-improve principle and by effectively integrating land use and transport planning through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Core and Settlement Strategy of the Plan;</li> <li>Implementation of the 10 Minute Town concept;</li> <li>Prioritising the development of lands within or contiguous to the existing urban areas, which are, or will be, most accessible by walking, cycling and public;</li> <li>Directing larger scale trip intensive developments, such as offices and retail, into central locations which are highly accessible by sustainable transport modes; and</li> <li>Consolidating and intensifying residential and employment development in a manner which renders it serviceable by public transport and ensures that it is highly accessible by walking, cycling and public transport.</li> </ul> <p>Objective TS05 To develop and support the development of enhanced multimodal transport infrastructure and services, including rail, on the Eastern Economic Corridor, which runs from Belfast to Rosslare Europort via Dublin, Gorey, Enniscorthy and Wexford Town and has strong links to the Southern Region and the Atlantic Economic Corridor via New Ross.</p> <p>Objective TS09 To seek to achieve a modal shift from greenhouse gas generating vehicles to sustainable modes in accordance with the targets in Table 8-1 to 8-10. These targets will be further developed in the local area plans and</p>

<sup>6</sup> Although road transport interventions would be likely to result in an overall reduction in traffic flows and associated interactions with air, noise and human health, there would be potential for displacement of traffic to lead to localised increases traffic flows and associated localised potential impacts in terms of increased population exposure to air pollutants and/or elevated noise levels, both within and beyond Enniscorthy, New Ross and the wider County.

<sup>7</sup> Although road transport interventions would be likely to result in an overall reduction in traffic flows and associated interactions with air, noise and human health, there would be potential for displacement of traffic to lead to localised increases traffic flows and associated localised potential impacts in terms of increased population exposure to air pollutants and/or elevated noise levels, both within and beyond Enniscorthy, New Ross and the wider County.

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	<p>quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Sustainable compact growth;</li> <li>o Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;</li> <li>o Drainage, flood risk management and resilience; and</li> <li>o Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.</li> </ul>	<p>minimised.</p>	<p>Management Manual in so far as possible. The design shall ensure that speed is controlled.</p> <p>Objective E13 To secure the provision in tandem with new developments, or provide subject to available resources, footpaths at the locations indicated on Map 7.</p> <p>Objective E14 To review the requirement for new lighting at the locations indicated on Map 7 and, where appropriate, secure the provision in tandem with new developments, or provide subject to available resources, the required lighting.</p> <p>Objective NRT07 To support the implementation of active travel measures and promote the development of new linkages which improve permeability by walking and cycling.</p> <p>Objective NRT08 To provide an Active Travel route along the R723 from Kents Cross Roundabout to Oaklands Roundabout as indicated on Map 9.</p> <p>Objective NRT09 To secure the provision in tandem with new development, or provide subject to available resources, the new Arterial and Link roads at the locations as indicated on Map 9. These roads shall be designed in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) and the road category profiles set out in Section 6.1 of Volume 2 Development Management Manual.</p> <p>Objective NRT10 To carry out, or require in tandem with new developments, road upgrades at the locations on Map 9.</p> <p>Objective NRT11 To provide junction improvements at the junction of the R700/L8043/R723 Kents Cross Roundabout and the junction of the L8042 and the R723 as indicated on Map 9.</p> <p>Objective NRT12 To upgrade the R723 approach road to Kents Cross Roundabout at Porterlands as indicated on Map 9, to ensure a high standard of road quality and safety in accordance with the requirements of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) or any subsequent guidelines. The road shall be redesigned as an arterial route as shown in Figure 6-1 in Volume 2 Development Management Manual. The design shall ensure that speed is controlled.</p> <p>Objective NRT13 To secure the provision in tandem with new developments, or provide subject to available resources, footpaths at the locations indicated on Map 9.</p> <p>NRT14 To review pedestrian arrangement in this area.</p> <p>Objective NRT15 To secure the provision in tandem with new developments, or provide subject to available resources, street lighting at the locations indicated on Map 9.</p> <p>Objective E05 To ensure an integrated approach is taken to the development of this site. The following shall be submitted with any application for the development of the site for mixed uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A phasing programme which details how critical infrastructure will be delivered either prior to, or in tandem with any residential</li> </ul>	<p>local transport plans for Wexford, Gorey, Enniscorthy and New Ross towns. The Council will monitor and review these targets over the lifetime of the County Development Plan.</p> <p>Objective TS21 To ensure that new transport infrastructure developed by the Council incorporates appropriate green infrastructure and functions as a biodiversity corridor and ensure that these elements are integrated into the proposals of other transport network providers.</p> <p>Objective TS23 To prepare a Cycling Strategy for the county to inform the development and co-ordination of the necessary infrastructure to facilitate and encourage more cycling for both everyday transport and leisure purposes.</p> <p>Objective TS29 To provide cycling and walking routes as resources allow within and between settlements, and between settlements and rural trip generators (including places of employment, sports facilities, tourism assets including greenways and other amenities). The Council will provide a cycle way between County Wicklow, Gorey, Camolin, Ferns and Enniscorthy, with a view to extending this cycleway towards Rosslare Europort and New Ross. The provision of such cycling and walking routes shall be subject to the protection of habitats, environment, amenity and heritage and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the requirement of the EU Habitats Directive to ensure the protection and preservation of all designated SACs and SPAs. Green infrastructure and sustainable drainage shall be designed into such routes where possible.</p> <p>Objective TS30 To support the work of schools and community groups in the development of initiatives which facilitate and encourage walking and cycling.</p> <p>Objective TS31 To support and promote bus, rail and taxi public transport services in the county in line with existing and emerging Government policy.</p> <p>Objective TS41 To examine the feasibility of reopening the disused Rosslare Europort to Waterford Railway as a sustainable transport corridor which would accommodate a reopened passenger and freight line and a greenway for active travel and amenity use. The Council will seek appropriate funding to facilitate the development of this important corridor between Rosslare Europort and Belview and Waterford MASP.</p> <p>Objective AQ01 To have regard to the Air Quality Standards Regulation 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011) when assessing planning applications for development which may have effects on air quality.</p> <p>Objective AQ02 To encourage sustainable industrial developments by promoting the use of cleaner technologies and production techniques, reducing waste production, conservation and recycling of materials.</p> <p>Objective AQ05 To promote a modal change from private car use to other types of travel and to promote the use of public transport as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality.</p> <p>Objective EM01 To ensure that proposed projects/developments comply with the requirements of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, and as transposed into Irish law under national legislation, including in Schedule 5 Part 1 and Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). In accordance with Article 3 of Directive 2014/52/EU, where EIA is required the environmental impact assessments presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, the direct indirect and cumulative significant effects of a project on the following factors: population and human health; biodiversity (with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC); land, soil, water, air and climate, material assets, cultural heritage, and the landscape, and the interaction between the foregoing factors.</p> <p>Objective EM03 To ensure that proposed plans and programmes comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans</p>
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			<p>and commercial development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Design Statement prepared in accordance with Section 2.3 of Volume 2 Development Management Manual which outlines the evolution of the design process for the proposed development. An emphasis on exemplar sustainable design and aesthetic quality shall be required. A Design Statement for residential or mixed-use development proposals with a residential element will be required to address the mix of dwelling types.</li> <li>• A Retail Impact Assessment prepared in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines (2012) and Volume 8 Retail Strategy (if appropriate).</li> <li>• A comprehensive landscaping scheme which includes landscape, open space and amenities and Green Infrastructure measures to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the area.</li> <li>• An Ecological Assessment. The development will be required to be designed to ensure net ecological gain and the details shall be incorporated into the Landscape plan for the site.</li> <li>• A surface water management scheme which focuses on nature-based solutions (NBS) that provide both ecological and hydrometric benefits.</li> <li>• A statement detailing climate proofing measures that demonstrates consistency with the provisions of Wexford County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. Consideration shall be given in the design of the scheme to facilitate and utilise district heating.</li> </ul> <p>Objective NRT05 To ensure an integrated approach is taken to any significant redevelopment of this site and to ensure it positively addresses the South-East Greenway. The following shall be submitted with any application for the significant redevelopment of the site for mixed uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A phasing programme which details how critical infrastructure will be delivered either prior to, or in tandem with any residential and commercial development.</li> <li>• A Design Statement prepared in accordance with Section 2.3 of Volume 2 Development Management Manual which outlines the evolution of the design process for the proposed development. An emphasis on exemplar sustainable design and aesthetic quality shall be required. A Design Statement for residential or mixed-use development proposals with a residential element will be required to address the mix of dwelling types.</li> <li>• A Retail Impact Assessment prepared in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines (2012) and Volume 8 Retail Strategy.</li> <li>• A comprehensive landscaping scheme which includes landscape, open space and amenities and Green Infrastructure measures to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the area.</li> <li>• An Ecological Assessment. The development will be required to be designed to ensure net ecological gain and the details shall be incorporated into the Landscape plan for the site.</li> <li>• A surface water management scheme which focuses on nature-based solutions (NBS) that provide both ecological and hydrometric benefits.</li> <li>• A statement detailing climate proofing measures that demonstrates consistency with the provisions of Wexford County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. Consideration shall be given in the design of the scheme to facilitate and utilise district heating.</li> </ul>	<p>and programmes on the environment, as transposed into Irish law under national legislation.</p> <p>Objective EM05 To implement the provisions of EU and National legislation and other relevant legislative requirements on protecting and improving surface and ground water quality, air quality and climate, and on reducing adverse noise and light nuisance, as appropriate and in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders in the interests of the protection of the environment, public health and the sustainable development of the county.</p> <p>Objective WT03 To ensure that the local transport plan prepared provides the framework to integrate land use, accessibility requirements and transportation, prioritise sustainable transport modes including walking, cycling and public transport and identifies the necessary infrastructure required to facilitate implementation.</p> <p>Objective N01 To promote the pro-active management of noise where it is likely to have significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life and support the aims of the Environmental Noise Regulations through national planning guidance and Noise Actions Plans.</p> <p>Objective N02 To have regard to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003 and the Environmental Protection Agency Act (Noise) Regulations 1994 when assessing planning applications.</p> <p>Objective N03 To have regard to the Wexford County Council Noise Action Plan 2019-2023, in particular Appendix B Roadways Qualified for Noise Mapping, Appendix C Strategic Noise Maps and Appendix D Potential Noise Hotspots, in the preparation of future local area plans and to ensure that planning applications comply with the provisions and requirements of that plan, and any future revisions/update to it.</p> <p>Objective N04 To incorporate the aims of the present and future noise action plans into local area plans and in the assessment of planning applications to protect larger areas from road noise.</p> <p>Objective N09 To minimise noise from traffic by promoting development patterns that combine walking, cycling and public transport.</p> <p>Objective CA02: To implement the National Adaptation Framework through the strategies and objectives of the County Development Plan and in future local area plans.</p> <p>Objective CA03 To implement the County Wexford Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 and any Wexford County Council Local Climate Action Plan in future local area plans and the assessment of planning applications.</p> <p>Objective CA06 To continue to reduce energy related CO2 emissions of Wexford County Council, to improve energy efficiencies and to achieve the commitment under the European Climate Alliance to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10% every five years.</p> <p>Objective CA09 To utilise the Climate Action Fund established under the National Development Plan to facilitate public and private climate mitigation and adaptation projects in line with criteria set out by the Fund at that time.</p> <p>Objective CA11 To support measures to build resilience to climate change including adaptive capacity, awareness and providing for nature-based solutions and emergency planning and to raise awareness of the role of spatial planning in climate change mitigation and adaptation through the forward planning and development management functions of the Planning Authority.</p> <p>Objective CA15 To support the decarbonisation of the energy sector by supporting the implementation of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan and investment in initiatives to improve energy efficiency and future proof the county's residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and public building stock, including retrofitting in urban and rural areas and reduction in fuel poverty. The Council will encourage developments to achieve certification under systems such as the Home Performance Index and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.</p> <p>Objective CA16 To support change across business, public and residential sectors to achieve reduced greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with current and</p>
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					<p>future national targets, improve energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy source across the key sectors of electricity supply, heating, transport and agriculture.</p> <p>Objective CA21 To ensure that spatial planning is fully embedded in and contributes to achieving the targets set for the Decarbonising Zone in the county by facilitating sustainable transport, energy efficient buildings, appropriate renewable energy developments, waste management developments that promote the circular economy, measures to improve air quality, and restoration and enhancement of biodiversity and green infrastructure in the Decarbonising Zone.</p> <p>Objective GN02 To promote renewable gas leading to carbon emission reduction in agriculture, industry, heating and transport as well as sustainable local employment opportunities and support the transition of the gas network to a "carbon neutral" gas network by 2050.</p> <p>Objective ED85 To develop the county as a leading innovator in the green economy in areas such as sustainable agriculture, sustainable construction, the production of renewable energy and the bio-economy, and to support development of enterprises and technologies that employ green technologies and support a low carbon economy.</p> <p>Objective FRM04 To ensure that climate change is fully embedded in future flood risk management in land use planning and flood risk management activities in the county, providing for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the County Wexford Climate Action Plan 2019-2025 and the OPW Climate Change Adaptation Plan Flood Risk Management applicable at the time and in accordance with the County Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in Volume 11.</p> <p>Objective EM01 To ensure that proposed projects/developments comply with the requirements of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, and as transposed into Irish law under national legislation, including in Schedule 5 Part 1 and Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). In accordance with Article 3 of Directive 2014/52/EU, where EIA is required the environmental impact assessments presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, the direct, indirect and cumulative significant effects of a project on the following factors: population and human health; biodiversity (with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC); land, soil, water, air and climate, material assets, cultural heritage, and the landscape, and the interaction between the foregoing factors.</p> <p>Objective EM03 To ensure that proposed plans and programmes comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, as transposed into Irish law under national legislation.</p> <p>Objective EM05 To implement the provisions of EU and National legislation and other relevant legislative requirements on protecting and improving surface and ground water quality, air quality and climate, and on reducing adverse noise and light nuisance, as appropriate and in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders in the interests of the protection of the environment, public health and the sustainable development of the county.</p>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however, such</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and Climatic Factors provisions.</p> <p>Objective E01 To ensure that the infrastructure identified in Table 1 of Appendix 2 (Serviced Land Assessment) is provided in advance or in tandem with new residential development.</p> <p>Objective E02</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and Climatic Factors provisions.</p> <p>Objective WS01 To work with all stakeholders to protect existing and potential water resources for the county and to reduce the level of treatment required in the production of drinking water, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 and any updated version, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for</p>

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	<p>(including those within and adjacent to locations within town centre areas) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies.</li> <li>• Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments.</li> <li>• Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>• Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>• Increases in waste levels.</li> <li>• Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<p>risks will be mitigated by: measures, including those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies.</li> <li>• Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework.</li> </ul>	<p>To facilitate the upgrade of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and wastewater network infrastructure to accommodate future population and employment growth. New development which exceeds the capacity of the current plant will not be permitted.</p> <p>Objective E03 To ensure adequate capacity in water sources and that the extraction of water to serve development does not impact on the hydrological regime, ecology or the environment.</p> <p>Objective E04 To facilitate the upgrade of the Water Treatment Plant and water network infrastructure to accommodate future population and employment growth. New development which exceeds the capacity of the current plant will not be permitted.</p> <p>Objective E05 To ensure an integrated approach is taken to the development of this site. The following shall be submitted with any application for the development of the site for mixed uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A phasing programme which details how critical infrastructure will be delivered either prior to, or in tandem with any residential and commercial development.</li> <li>• A Design Statement prepared in accordance with Section 2.3 of Volume 2 Development Management Manual which outlines the evolution of the design process for the proposed development. An emphasis on exemplar sustainable design and aesthetic quality shall be required. A Design Statement for residential or mixed-use development proposals with a residential element will be required to address the mix of dwelling types.</li> <li>• A Retail Impact Assessment prepared in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines (2012) and Volume 8 Retail Strategy (if appropriate).</li> <li>• A comprehensive landscaping scheme which includes landscape, open space and amenities and Green Infrastructure measures to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the area.</li> <li>• An Ecological Assessment. The development will be required to be designed to ensure net ecological gain and the details shall be incorporated into the Landscape plan for the site.</li> <li>• A surface water management scheme which focuses on nature-based solutions (NBS) that provide both ecological and hydrometric benefits.</li> <li>• A statement detailing climate proofing measures that demonstrates consistency with the provisions of Wexford County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. Consideration shall be given in the design of the scheme to facilitate and utilise district heating.</li> </ul> <p>Objective E06 To have regard to the Enniscorthy Town Centre First Plan and prioritise the regeneration of the brownfield and under-utilised sites identified on Map 7.</p> <p>Objective NRT01 To ensure that the infrastructure identified in Table 3 of Appendix 2 (Serviced Land Assessment) is provided in advance or in tandem with new residential development.</p> <p>Objective NRT02 To facilitate the upgrade of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and wastewater network infrastructure to accommodate future population and employment growth. New development which exceeds the capacity of the current plant will not be permitted.</p> <p>Objective NRT03</p>	<p>designated shellfish waters, the National Biodiversity Plan 2017-2021, the provisions of the county Groundwater Protection Scheme and any other protection plans including the National Water Resources Plan and Drinking Water Protection Plans for water supply resources.</p> <p>Objective WW01 To require that all wastewater generated is collected, treated and discharged after treatment in a safe and sustainable manner, having regard to the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance and subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and any updated version during the lifetime of the Plan, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters, Urban Wastewater Water Directive and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective WW03 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Settlement Strategy and the Economic Development Strategy, the Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan and Capital Investment Plan, to ensure the provision of sufficient wastewater capacity to serve all lands zoned for development and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of strategic wastewater treatment plant upgrades and any other smaller, localised wastewater treatment plant upgrades required during the lifetime of the plan.</p> <p>Objective WW13 To protect existing wastewater infrastructure, including way leaves and buffer zones, from inappropriate development and zoning.</p> <p>Objective WW14 To facilitate the provision of appropriate sites for public water infrastructure, as required and to protect those sites and associated wayleaves and buffer zones, from inappropriate development and zoning.</p> <p>Objective WM01 To sustainably manage waste generation, support the investment in different types of waste treatment and support circular economy principles, prioritising prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery, to support a sustainable and healthy environment, economy and society.</p> <p>Objective WM02 To implement the provisions of the Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021, and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan, subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive and normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>Objective CA04 To implement the Energy Strategy contained in Volume 10 of the Wexford County Development Plan to facilitate the transition to a low carbon county.</p> <p>Objective PT02 To support, subject to the objectives of this section and Volume 10 Energy Strategy, connecting infrastructure for the integration of low carbon and renewable energy generation projects including community scaled projects with power transmission infrastructure.</p> <p>Objective CZM51 To support, within the context of the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA) and its successors, the development of Ireland's offshore renewable energy potential, including domestic and international grid connectivity enhancements subject to compliance with the objectives of this County Development Plan, the protection of the scenic amenity and coastal views associated with coastal areas and the marine area which is crucial to the tourism industry, the protection of the amenity, livelihood and cultural well-being of coastal communities, the protection of coastal features, habitats and species and compliance with the Habitats Directive and normal planning and environmental criteria and proper planning and sustainable development.</p> <p>Objective ED116 To require extractive and processing industries to be appropriately sited, designed and managed to avoid significant adverse impacts on their surrounding environment, amenities, road/public safety, and built and natural heritage. The Council will have regard to 'Quarries and Ancillary Activities' (DEHLG, 2004) in its considerations on quarrying (as may be updated in the lifetime of this Plan).</p> <p>Objective FRM01 To carry out flood risk assessments when implementing the forward planning and development management functions of the Council for the</p>
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The following shall be submitted with any application for the significant redevelopment of the site for mixed uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A phasing programme which details how critical infrastructure will be delivered either prior to, or in tandem with any residential and commercial development.</li> <li>• A Design Statement prepared in accordance with Section 2.3 of Volume 2 Development Management Manual which outlines the evolution of the design process for the proposed development. An emphasis on exemplar sustainable design and aesthetic quality shall be required. A Design Statement for residential or mixed-use development proposals with a residential element will be required to address the mix of dwelling types.</li> <li>• A Retail Impact Assessment prepared in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines (2012) and Volume 8 Retail Strategy.</li> <li>• A comprehensive landscaping scheme which includes landscape, open space and amenities and Green Infrastructure measures to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the area.</li> <li>• An Ecological Assessment. The development will be required to be designed to ensure net ecological gain and the details shall be incorporated into the Landscape plan for the site.</li> <li>• A surface water management scheme which focuses on nature-based solutions (NBS) that provide both ecological and hydrometric benefits.</li> <li>• A statement detailing climate proofing measures that demonstrates consistency with the provisions of Wexford County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. Consideration shall be given in the design of the scheme to facilitate and utilise district heating.</li> </ul> <p>Objective NRT06 To have regard to the New Ross Town Centre First Plan and the sites identified in the Retail Strategy contained in Volume 8 of the CDP and prioritise the regeneration of brownfield and under-utilised sites identified on Map 9.</p> <p>Objective NRT29 Support the continued development of the South-East Greenway identified on Map 9 and associated infrastructure including parking to serve the greenway.</p>	<p>purposes of regulating, restricting and controlling development in areas at risk of flooding, and to minimise the level of risk to people, business, infrastructure and the environment through the identification and management of existing and potential future flood risk.</p> <p>Objective SWM01 To require the application of SuDS in accordance with the CIRIA SuDS Manual 2015 and any future update of this guidance, or other best practice guidance as may be specified or required by the Council. The application of SuDS should prioritise the use of appropriate nature-based solutions where possible. All proposals should include a commensurate drainage assessment used to design the surface water management system for the site, and this assessment should outline the drainage design considerations/strategy in line with the flood risk, surface water management and climate change requirements and objectives of the County Development Plan and the County Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in Volume 11.</p> <p>Objective GN01 To support the extension of the gas network throughout County Wexford, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>Objective PT03 To support the upgrading of existing electricity networks and the reuse of existing power line routes.</p> <p>Objective CZM49 To support energy transmission proposals that maintain or improve the security and diversity of Ireland's energy supply, including interconnectors, while ensuring that the development is informed by consideration of space required for other activities of national importance described in the National Marine Planning Framework and subject to CZM46 complying with all relevant safety, health and environmental requirements.</p> <p>Objective TC01 To facilitate the delivery of high-speed, high capacity digital and mobile infrastructure at appropriate locations in the county and facilitate the continued roll out of the National Broadband Plan as a means for developing further opportunities for enterprise, employment, education, innovation and skills development for those who live and work in urban and rural areas in the county and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Volume 2.</p> <p>Objective CZM47 To support the development of vibrant fisheries and aquaculture sectors that produce high quality foods, protects and enhances the social and economic fabric of rural coastal communities and conserves biodiversity around our coastline, and ensures good marine litter management and to support the development of associated landside infrastructure subject to compliance with Objective CZM46 and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</p> <p>Objective ED84 To ensure that the highest environmental standards and controls are maintained in dealing with proposals relating to the extraction of marine aggregates and the mining sector and protects the amenities of local communities.</p> <p>Objective EM01 To ensure that proposed projects/developments comply with the requirements of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, and as transposed into Irish law under national legislation, including in Schedule 5 Part 1 and Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). In accordance with Article 3 of Directive 2014/52/EU, where EIA is required the environmental impact assessments presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, the direct, indirect and cumulative significant effects of a project on the following factors: population and human health; biodiversity (with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC); land, soil, water, air and climate, material assets, cultural heritage, and the landscape, and the interaction between the foregoing factors.</p> <p>Objective EM03 To ensure that proposed plans and programmes comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and</p>
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					<p>of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, as transposed into Irish law under national legislation.</p>
<p><b>Cultural Heritage</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere by facilitating development within settlements.</li> <li>• Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within settlements, by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation.</li> </ul>	<p>Objective E22 To promote and initiate the values and principles of the New European Bauhaus in new developments where feasible, and in particular projects which include the regeneration and renovation of cultural and heritage buildings and places which give access to the public.</p> <p>Objective NRT31 To promote and initiate the values and principles of the New European Bauhaus in new developments where feasible, and in particular projects which include the regeneration and renovation of cultural and heritage buildings and places which give access to the public.</p>	<p>Objective TV21 To ensure that all new development is designed to respect, enhance and respond to its natural, built, cultural and social context and add to character and sense of place.</p> <p>Objective TV24 To encourage and participate in heritage led regeneration, including consideration of the potential to participate in the Heritage Council's Historic Towns Initiative, and to adopt a Town first approach to the revitalisation of historic urban centres which focuses on the repair and upgrade of existing historic buildings and their adaptation to new uses with regard to their architectural character and significance.</p> <p>Objective CH01 To support the sustainable development and promotion of our cultural heritage and the associated infrastructure subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Volume 2.</p> <p>Objective CH02 To safeguard the cultural heritage of the county and facilitate the expansion and development of appropriate facilities suitably located adjacent to points of interest subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Volume 2.</p> <p>Objective AH01 To conserve and protect archaeological sites, monuments (including their settings), underwater archaeology and objects including those listed or scheduled for inclusion on the Record of Monuments and Places and/or the Register of Historic Monuments or newly discovered sub-surface archaeological remains.</p> <p>Objective AH02 To recognise the importance of monuments and sites and protect the character and integrity of these monuments and sites where appropriate. The Council will consult the National Monuments Service where a development is proposed that may impact on an archaeological monument and/or site.</p> <p>Objective AH03 To protect the heritage of groups of important archaeological sites and monuments, inclusive of their contextual setting and interpretation, in the operation of development management.</p> <p>Objective BH01 To protect the architectural heritage of County Wexford and to include structures considered to be of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest in the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>Objective BH02 To support targeted investment in the built heritage of our region including the Built Heritage Scheme and Historic Structures Fund to assist owners to maintain our built heritage assets.</p> <p>Objective BH04 To consider, in the preparation of future local area plans, a Town first approach to the revitalisation of historic urban centres, which focuses on the repair and upgrade of existing historic buildings and their adaptation to new uses with regard to their architectural character and significance.</p> <p>Objective BH05 To protect our Architectural Heritage in the form of Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and identify important groups of buildings/localities suitable for designation as Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). Wexford County Council will also endeavour to undertake monitoring and review of the RPS and ACA's which may result in recommendations for additions or deletions and enlist measures to prevent dereliction and to support re-use of built heritage.</p> <p>Objective BH06 To protect the curtilage of Protected Structures or proposed Protected Structures from any works which would cause loss of, or damage to, the special character of the structure and loss of or damage to, any structures of heritage value within the curtilage or attendant grounds of the structure.</p> <p>Objective ACA02 To review current Architectural Conservation Areas during the preparation of subsequent local area plans, in conjunction with owners and occupiers and interest groups, with a view to preparing a Management Scheme</p>

					<p>and guidance on the treatment of structures and the public realm.</p> <p>Objective ACA03 To ensure that all proposed developments are carried out to the highest architectural and urban design standards within the Architectural Conservation Areas.</p> <p>Objective TM09 To deliver the Ireland’s Ancient East Programme and facilitate the phased rollout of the branding strategy, orientation signage and the enhancement of the visitor experience at the chosen programme sites.</p> <p>Objective HT01 On adoption of the National Heritage Plan “Heritage 2030” to commence the preparation of a County Heritage Plan to assist the management and promotion of our valuable heritage in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>Objective TM01 To protect and sustain the natural, built and cultural features that form the basis of the county’s tourism industry including landscapes, historic buildings and structures, habitats, species and areas of natural heritage value and water quality.</p> <p>Objective TM03 To facilitate the development of a sustainable diversified tourism industry at appropriate locations and at a suitable scale, subject to compliance with the objectives of this chapter and normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>Objective EM01 To ensure that proposed projects/developments comply with the requirements of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, and as transposed into Irish law under national legislation, including in Schedule 5 Part 1 and Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). In accordance with Article 3 of Directive 2014/52/EU, where EIA is required the environmental impact assessments presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, the direct, and indirect and cumulative significant effects of a project on the following factors: population and human health; biodiversity (with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC); land, soil, water, air and climate, material assets, cultural heritage, and the landscape, and the interaction between the foregoing factors.</p> <p>Objective EM03 To ensure that proposed plans and programmes comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, as transposed in Irish law under national legislation.</p>
<p><b>Landscape</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within settlements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the Development Plan’s landscape protection measures.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Objective E05</p> <p>To ensure an integrated approach is taken to the development of this site. The following shall be submitted with any application for the development of the site for mixed uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A phasing programme which details how critical infrastructure will be delivered either prior to, or in tandem with any residential and commercial development.</li> <li>• A Design Statement prepared in accordance with Section 2.3 of Volume 2 Development Management Manual which outlines the evolution of the design process for the proposed development. An emphasis on exemplar sustainable design and aesthetic quality shall be required. A Design Statement for residential or mixed-use development proposals with a residential element will be required to address the mix of dwelling types.</li> <li>• A Retail Impact Assessment prepared in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines (2012) and Volume 8 Retail Strategy (if appropriate).</li> <li>• A comprehensive landscaping scheme which includes landscape, open space and amenities and Green Infrastructure</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Objective L01 To have regard to the Landscape Character Units and their assigned Landscape Sensitivity, the Draft Landscape and Landscape Assessment-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2000) and any updated versions of these guidelines published during the lifetime of the Plan, and any National Landscape Character Assessment prepared when assessing planning applications or when carrying out local authority own development.</p> <p>Objective L02 To review the Landscape Character Assessment and the landscape objectives in the Plan, after the publication of future Landscape Assessment Guidelines issued by a Minister of the Government with respect to landscape. The revised Landscape Character Assessment will address historic and cultural landscape and seascape character analysis.</p> <p>Objective L03 To carry out landscape characterisation and sensitivity analysis to inform local area plans.</p> <p>Objective L06 To ensure that developments are not unduly visually obtrusive in the landscape, in particular, in or adjacent to the Upland, River Valley, Coastal or Distinctive Landscape Character Units.</p> <p>Objective L08 To encourage appropriate development which would enhance an existing degraded landscape and/or which would enhance views to or from an Upland, River Valley, Coastal or Distinctive Landscape Character Unit from public</p>

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				<p>measures to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Ecological Assessment. The development will be required to be designed to ensure net ecological gain and the details shall be incorporated into the Landscape plan for the site.</li> <li>• A surface water management scheme which focuses on nature-based solutions (NBS) that provide both ecological and hydrometric benefits.</li> <li>• A statement detailing climate proofing measures that demonstrates consistency with the provisions of Wexford County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. Consideration shall be given in the design of the scheme to facilitate and utilise district heating.</li> </ul> <p>Objective NRT05 To ensure an integrated approach is taken to any significant redevelopment of this site and to ensure it positively addresses the South-East Greenway. The following shall be submitted with any application for the significant redevelopment of the site for mixed uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A phasing programme which details how critical infrastructure will be delivered either prior to, or in tandem with any residential and commercial development.</li> <li>• A Design Statement prepared in accordance with Section 2.3 of Volume 2 Development Management Manual which outlines the evolution of the design process for the proposed development. An emphasis on exemplar sustainable design and aesthetic quality shall be required. A Design Statement for residential or mixed-use development proposals with a residential element will be required to address the mix of dwelling types.</li> <li>• A Retail Impact Assessment prepared in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines (2012) and Volume 8 Retail Strategy.</li> <li>• A comprehensive landscaping scheme which includes landscape, open space and amenities and Green Infrastructure measures to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the area.</li> <li>• An Ecological Assessment. The development will be required to be designed to ensure net ecological gain and the details shall be incorporated into the Landscape plan for the site.</li> <li>• A surface water management scheme which focuses on nature-based solutions (NBS) that provide both ecological and hydrometric benefits.</li> <li>• A statement detailing climate proofing measures that demonstrates consistency with the provisions of Wexford County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. Consideration shall be given in the design of the scheme to facilitate and utilise district heating.</li> </ul>	<p>viewpoints.</p> <p>Objective L11 To protect views worthy of protection, including views to and from the sea, rivers, landscape features, mountains, tourism sites and landmark structures such as bridges and urban settlements from inappropriate development that by virtue of design, scale, character or cumulative impact would block or detract from such views.</p> <p>Objective CZM01 To ensure the sustainable development of the county's coastal areas and the maritime area for the long term benefit of coastal communities, and the economic well-being of these areas and the county whilst protecting and enhancing environmental quality and managing and restoring biodiversity.</p> <p>Objective AH08 To include archaeological landscapes, battlefields and historic landscapes as part of the updated Landscape Character Assessment of the County to be prepared following the publication of a National Landscape Character Assessment.</p> <p>Objective EM01 To ensure that proposed projects/developments comply with the requirements of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, and as transposed into Irish law under national legislation, including in Schedule 5 Part 1 and Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). In accordance with Article 3 of Directive 2014/52/EU, where EIA is required the environmental impact assessments presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, the direct, indirect and cumulative significant effects of a project on the following factors: population and human health; biodiversity (with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC); land, soil, water, air and climate, material assets, cultural heritage, and the landscape, and the interaction between the foregoing factors.</p> <p>Objective EM03 To ensure that proposed plans and programmes comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, as transposed in Irish law under national legislation.</p>
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## 2.5 Schedule 2A

### PART 1

#### **1. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources***

Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 came into effect in July 2022. The plan was informed by the first iteration of the National Planning Framework and the population targets that were contained in the Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework published in July 2018. The housing targets in the Plan were informed by the Ministerial Guidelines Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning issued in 2020.

The First Revision of the National Planning Framework was approved and published in April 2025. It identified the need to plan for approximately 50,000 additional households per annum to 2040 at national level. Arising from this, the Government issued Guidelines entitled NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act (2000 as amended) to implement and interpret the national targets at county level.

In order to implement the objectives of these guidelines, including increased housing targets for County Wexford, it is necessary to vary the County Development Plan 2022-2028 to revise the Core Strategy contained in Chapter three of the plan and increase the quantum of land zoned for residential purposes. Proposed Variation No. 1 also contains associated changes to the text of Chapters three and four that are necessary to facilitate the revised targets.

In order to increase the quantum of land zoned available for residential purposes in accordance with the requirements of the Guidelines, the variation also contains interim land use zoning for residential use and necessary supporting objectives for Enniscorthy Town and New Ross Town. The variation also provides for other land use zoning categories for these towns as the respective plans expired upon adoption of the County Development Plan in 2022. This is to ensure the orderly and supported development of residential, economic, social and community uses, the protection of natural heritage and the environment, and to provide for climate action and flood risk. The Variation also includes a number of objectives for each town which are required to support the development of zoned land and to facilitate the development of key infrastructure to accommodate their growth and enable them to prosper. These objectives are interim objectives until Settlement Plans and/or Urban Area Plans are prepared for these towns.

The Variation also contains an updated policy on developments subject to the Major Accident Directive (Major Accidents or Seveso Sites) to ensure that a precautionary approach is applied to the location of new Major Accidents sites, modifications to existing sites and to control development in the vicinity of such sites.

This Variation represents the first stage 1 in a series of variations to the County Development Plan 2022-2028 to increase the quantum of land zoned for residential purposes in County Wexford to facilitate the implementation of the Guidelines.

The Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 was subject to full SEA, which identified the likely significant environmental effects, if unmitigated, of implementing the County Development Plan, and facilitated the integration of measures into the County Development Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of the environment with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply. The Proposed Variation, which is being subject to full SEA, requires compliance with these measures and includes additional such measures that must be complied with.

Taking into account the measures that have been integrated into both the Proposed Variation and the existing County Development Plan (as varied) that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, any potential effects arising from the Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 1, would either: be present already (beneficial) and would be further contributed towards, but not to a significant extent; and/or would be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse).

Taking the above and the information provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which Proposed Variation No. 1 (and associated Proposed Material Alterations) to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 sets a framework for projects and other activities, the Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

**2. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy***

Variation No. 2 is proposed to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028. The County Development Plan is influenced by higher-level legislation, plans and programmes and influences lower-tier plans. Any future development under the County Development Plan, as varied, would have to comply with the various provisions of the existing Plan that relate to sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment – see Table 2.4.

Taking the above and the information provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which Proposed Variation No. 1 (and associated Proposed Material Alterations) and the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 influence other plans, the Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

**3. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development***

The Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 was subject to full SEA, which identified the likely significant environmental effects, if unmitigated, of implementing the County Development Plan, and facilitated the integration of measures into the County Development Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of the environment with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply. The Proposed Variation, which is being subject to full SEA, requires compliance with these measures and includes additional such measures that must be complied with.

Taking the above and the information provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4 into account, arising from the relevance of Proposed Variation No. 1 (and associated Proposed Material Alterations) and the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development, the Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

**4. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme***

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and legislative targets. Through its provisions relating to environmental protection and management, the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028, to which the Proposed Variation and associated Proposed Material Alterations relate, contributes towards ensuring that environmental conditions do not get worse and, where possible, it contributes towards its amelioration.

Taking the above and the information provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4 into account, arising from environmental problems relevant to Proposed Variation No. 1 (and associated Proposed Material Alterations) and associated Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028, the Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

**5. The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)**

The Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 to which Proposed Variation No. 1 and associated Proposed Material Alterations relate includes various provisions that would contribute towards the implementation of European legislation on the environment. Some of these provisions are identified within Table 2.4. The Proposed Variation, which itself is being subject to full SEA, requires compliance with the measures from the existing County Development Plan and includes additional such measures that must be complied with.

Taking the above and the information provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4 into account, arising from relevance of Proposed Variation No. 1 (and associated Proposed Material Alterations) and associated Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment, the Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

## **PART 2**

**1. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects**

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the information provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4).

**2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the cumulative nature of the effects**

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the information provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4).

**3. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the transboundary nature of the effects**

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the information provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4).

**4. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)**

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the information provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4).

**5. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)**

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the information provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4.

**6. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:**

**a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;**

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the information provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4.

**b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, and;**

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the information provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4.

**c) intensive land-use.**

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the information provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4.

**7. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status**

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the information provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4.

## Section 3 Screening for SEA Concluding Advice

Screening is the process for deciding whether a particular plan - or variation to a plan -, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA. The purpose of this report is to provide the findings of the evaluation of the requirement for SEA to be undertaken on the Chief Executive's Recommendations for Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 1 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The Executive's Recommendations for Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation have been examined, including against relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A '*Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment*' of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004), as amended by the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 201 of 2011). This SEA Screening Report provides the findings of this examination.

The Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 was subject to full SEA, which identified the likely significant environmental effects, if unmitigated, of implementing the County Development Plan, and facilitated the integration of measures into the County Development Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of the environment with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply. The Proposed Variation, which is being subject to full SEA, requires compliance with these measures and includes additional such measures that must be complied with.

Taking into account the measures that have been integrated into both the Proposed Variation and the existing County Development Plan (as varied) that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, any potential effects arising from the Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 1, would either: be present already (beneficial) and would be further contributed towards, but not to a significant extent; and/or would be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse).

Taking into account all of the above, the Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 1 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects. Consequently, it is advised that SEA is not required.

This report will be updated following agreement on Proposed Material Alterations by the Members of Wexford County Council and will then be used in order to inform the making of a Screening for SEA determination in advance of public display of the Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation.

# Appendix I Relationship with Legislation and Other Plans and Programmes

This appendix is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of EU Directives, the transposing regulations or the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The information is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the relevant document to become familiar with the full details of each.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
<b>European Level</b> <b>SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</li> <li>Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission.</li> <li>Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects.</li> <li>Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme.</li> <li>Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive.</li> <li>Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> <li>Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA.</li> <li>For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III.</li> <li>The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest.</li> <li>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species.</li> <li>Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.</li> <li>Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present.</li> <li>Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats.</li> <li>Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation.</li> <li>The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1.</li> <li>Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas).</li> <li>Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes.</li> <li>Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<p><b>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)</b></p>	<p>It aims to reduce water pollution from nitrates used for agricultural purposes and prevent any further pollution. It forms an integral part of the water framework directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) of the European Union and is closely linked to other EU policies that address air quality, climate change and agriculture.</p>	<p>EU Member States must do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate as vulnerable zones all those draining into waters that are or could be affected by high nitrate levels and eutrophication. The designation is reviewed and possibly revised at least every 4 years to take account of any changes that have occurred.</li> <li>• Establish mandatory action programmes for these areas, taking into account available scientific and technical data and overall environmental conditions.</li> <li>• Monitor the effectiveness of the action programmes.</li> <li>• Test the nitrate concentration in fresh ground and surface water at sampling stations, at least monthly and more frequently during flooding.</li> <li>• Carry out a comprehensive monitoring programme and submit – every 4 years – a detailed report on the directive’s implementation. The report includes information on nitrate-vulnerable zones, results of water monitoring and a summary of the relevant aspects of codes of good agricultural practices and action programmes.</li> <li>• Draw up a code of good agricultural practices, which farmers apply on a voluntary basis. It sets out various good practices, such as when fertiliser use is inappropriate.</li> <li>• Provide training and information for farmers, where appropriate.</li> </ul> <p>The European Commission provides a report every 4 years on the basis of the national information it has received.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) (2008/105/EC)</b></p>	<p>It sets out environmental quality standards (EQSs) for the presence in surface water of certain substances or groups of substances identified as priority pollutants because of the significant risk they pose to or via the aquatic environment. These standards are in line with the strategy and objectives of the European Union (EU)’s water framework directive (Directive 2000/60/EC). It repeals Directives 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC, 84/491/EEC and 86/280/EEC with effect from 22 December 2012.</p>	<p>The directive sets EQSs for priority substances and eight other pollutants. These substances include: the metals cadmium, lead, mercury and nickel, and their compounds; benzene; polyaromatic hydrocarbons; and several pesticides. Several of these priority substances are classed as hazardous. The EQSs in Directive 2008/105/EC are limits on the concentration of the priority substances and eight other pollutants in water (or biota), i.e. thresholds which must not be exceeded if a good chemical status is to be met. There are two types of water standard. A threshold for the average concentration of the substance concerned calculated from measurements over a 1-year period. The purpose of this standard is to ensure protection against long-term exposure to pollutants in the aquatic environment. A maximum allowable concentration of the substance concerned, i.e. the maximum for any single measurement. The purpose of this standard is to ensure protection against short-term exposure, i.e. pollution peaks. The EQSs are different for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inland surface waters (rivers and lakes);</li> <li>• other surface waters (transitional, coastal and territorial waters).</li> <li>• EU Member States must ensure compliance with the EQSs. They must also take measures to ensure that the concentrations of substances that tend to accumulate in sediment and/or biota do not increase significantly.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) –IED Directive (2010/75/EU)</b></p>	<p>It is aimed at achieving significant benefits to the environment and human health by reducing harmful industrial emissions across the EU, in particular through better application of Best Available Techniques (BAT).</p> <p>The IED is based on the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an integrated approach (focusing on the installation being permitted rather than separately on different environmental media such as air, water or soil);</li> <li>• best available techniques;</li> <li>• flexibility;</li> <li>• inspections;</li> <li>• public participation.</li> </ul> <p>The IED combines seven separate existing Directives related to industrial emissions: With effect from 7 January 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directive 78/176/EEC of 20 February 1978 on waste from the titanium dioxide industry;</li> <li>• Directive 82/883/EEC on the surveillance and monitoring of titanium dioxide waste;</li> <li>• Directive 92/112/EEC on the reduction of titanium dioxide industrial waste;</li> <li>• Directive 1999/13/EC on reducing emissions of volatile organic compounds;</li> <li>• Directive 2000/76/EC on waste incineration (Waste Incineration Directive);</li> <li>• Directive 2008/1/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC Directive);</li> </ul> <p>With effect from 1st January 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directive 2001/80/EC on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants from large combustion plants (LCP Directive).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The IED aspires to reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate pollution arising from industrial activities. It seeks to achieve this by providing a general framework for the control of the industries with the highest pollution potential in order to prevent the shifting of pollution from one environmental medium (or industry) to another. The overall intention is to provide an integrated approach to the prevention and control of emissions into the various environmental media such as, air, water and soil while striking a commercial balance for businesses.</li> <li>• The IED aims to increase the effectiveness of the legislation by supporting Member States in implementing BAT-based permitting. The IED aims to improve and clarify the concept and use of BAT and increases transparency by requiring that the use of flexibility must be justified and documented leading to a more coherent and EU-wide application of BAT.</li> <li>• The IED also strengthens existing minimum requirements in certain sectors (such as large combustion plants, waste incineration, etc.) so as to ensure the achievement of objectives of the Commission’s Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution.</li> <li>• The IED aims to further increase the effectiveness of the legislation by strengthening provisions on environmental improvement and enforcement, while stimulating innovation. The IED introduces minimum requirements as regards the environmental inspections of installations, the review and update of permits, and reporting on compliance. It also provides incentives for the development and promotion of environment-friendly technologies.</li> <li>• The IED aims to cut all identified unnecessary administrative burdens and simplify current legislation. The IED tackles the shortcomings of current EU legislation on industrial emissions by overhauling the seven existing pieces of legislation on industrial emissions. This has improved the clarity and coherence of the legislation and should reduce the administrative burden through combined requirements on granting permits and streamlined reporting.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC</b></p>	<p>The Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment.</p>	<p>This Directive is limited to the essential requirements with which machinery for pesticide application must comply before being placed on the market and/or put into service, while the European standardisation organisations are responsible for drawing up harmonised standards providing detailed specifications for the various categories of such machinery in order to enable manufacturers to comply with those requirements.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED) 2023/2413</b>  - amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652</p>	<p>The Renewable Energy Directive is the legal framework for the development of clean energy across all sectors of the EU economy, supporting cooperation between EU countries towards this goal. The revised Directive introduces stronger measures to ensure that all possibilities for the further development and uptake of renewables are fully utilised. This will be key to achieving the EU's objective of climate neutrality by 2050 and to strengthen Europe's security of energy supply. In addition to double the existing share of renewable energy sources, a strong policy framework will facilitate electrification in different sectors, with new increased sector-specific targets for renewables in heating and cooling, transport, industry, buildings and district heating/cooling, but also with a framework promoting electric vehicles and smart recharging.</p>	<p>The revised Directive sets an overall renewable energy target of at least 42.5% binding at EU level by 2030 - but aiming for 45%. The amended RED contains revised targets for renewable energy consumption in transport, of 29% energy share (known as the 'RES-T') or a 14.5% GHG reduction by 2030.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD))</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption.</li> <li>The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor.</li> <li>Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive;</li> <li>Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014;</li> <li>Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels;</li> <li>Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR) - (Regulation (EU) 2023/1804 on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure, and repealing Directive 2014/94/EU)</b></p>	<p>The regulation sets mandatory national targets for European Union Member States to deploy publicly accessible alternative fuels infrastructure (in particular for electricity and hydrogen) for road vehicles, vessels moored at the quayside and stationary aircraft, with a specific focus on the trans-European networks. The regulation also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• common rules for user information, data provision and payment requirements;</li> <li>• a mandate for the Commission to adopt delegated acts to ensure interoperability of infrastructure by mandating technical specifications on the basis of European standards; and</li> <li>• planning and reporting requirements for Member States.</li> </ul>	<p>Recharging infrastructure for electric cars and vans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member States must ensure that publicly accessible recharging stations are set up in proportion to the number of registered vehicles, as follows:</li> <li>• for each registered electric vehicle, a total power output of at least 1.3 kilowatts (kW); for each registered plug-in hybrid vehicle, a total power output of at least 0.80 kW.</li> <li>• Member States must also ensure the deployment of publicly accessible recharging stations along the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) road network.</li> </ul> <p>Recharging infrastructure for electric heavy-duty vehicles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member States must ensure a minimum coverage of recharging points for heavy-duty electric vehicles.</li> </ul> <p>Hydrogen infrastructure for road vehicles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 31 December 2030, Member States must ensure that publicly accessible hydrogen refuelling stations with a total capacity of at least 1 tonne per day are deployed at least every 200 km along the TEN-T core network. At least one refuelling station must be deployed in each urban node.</li> </ul> <p>Liquefied methane for road transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Until 31 December 2024, Member States must ensure that an appropriate number of publicly accessible refuelling points for liquefied methane are set up, at least along the TEN-T core network, where there is demand, unless the costs are disproportionate to the benefits, including environmental benefits.</li> </ul> <p>Electricity supply in maritime ports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 31 December 2029, there must be sufficient shoreside electricity for ships moored at the quayside at TEN-T core and TEN-T comprehensive maritime ports to serve at least 90% of all container and passenger vessels above 5,000 gross tonnage.</li> </ul> <p>Electricity for stationary aircraft:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 31 December 2024, all airports of the TEN-T core and comprehensive network must provide electricity to stationary aircraft used for commercial air transport operations at aircraft contact stands, and by 31 December 2029 at all remote stands.</li> </ul> <p>Railway infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member States must assess the development of alternative fuel technologies and propulsion systems (including hydrogen and battery power) for rail infrastructure that cannot be fully electrified for technical or cost-efficiency reasons.</li> </ul> <p>Payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users of electric and hydrogen vehicles must be able to pay easily at recharging and hydrogen refuelling points (with payment cards and without subscriptions). Prices, including all of their components and specific to the recharging session, must be communicated clearly to end users before the start of a recharging session.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020.</li> <li>• Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures</li> <li>• EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs</li> <li>• The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services</li> <li>• Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy</li> <li>• Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering</li> <li>• National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits</li> <li>• Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it</li> <li>• Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</b></p>	<p>This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.</p>	<p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals;</li> <li>• The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism;</li> <li>• The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure;</li> <li>• Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law;</li> <li>• Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>EU Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR) 2018 (as amended in 2023)</b></p>	<p>The ESR establishes binding annual greenhouse gas emission targets for Member States from 2021 to 2030. It is part of a set of policies and measures to reduce the EU's emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. This is a crucial milestone to deliver the European Green Deal and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The ESR is also part of the Energy Union strategy and the EU's implementation of the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>The national targets concern emissions from the following sectors: domestic transport (excluding aviation), buildings, agriculture, small industry, and waste. These sectors account for almost 60% of emissions in the EU. The ESR assigns each Member State with an emission reduction target for 2030, a set of annual emission allocations for each year from 2021 to 2030, and flexibilities to deal with annual fluctuations in greenhouse gas emissions due to weather or economic conditions. The amended legislation increases the emissions reduction target for the targeted sectors including transport, from 29% to 40% by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>The Energy Union Strategy (COM/2015/080) (2015) and the EU "Clean energy for all Europeans" package (2019)</b></p>	<p>The Energy Union Strategy aims at building an energy union that gives EU consumers - households and businesses - secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy. Since its launch in 2015, the EC has published several packages of measures and regular progress reports, which monitor the implementation of this key priority, to ensure that the energy union strategy is achieved.</p> <p>The package aims to help to decarbonise EU's energy system in line with the European Green Deal objectives. The ESR transforms the targets of the Clean Energy Package into binding annual climate targets for each Member State for the period 2021–2030. The "Clean energy for all Europeans" package – marked a significant step towards implementing the Energy Union Strategy.</p>	<p>The Energy Union Strategy builds five closely related and mutually reinforcing dimensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security, solidarity and trust - diversifying Europe's sources of energy and ensuring energy security through solidarity and cooperation between EU countries.</li> <li>• A fully integrated internal energy market - enabling the free flow of energy through the EU through adequate infrastructure and without technical or regulatory barriers.</li> <li>• Energy efficiency - improved energy efficiency will reduce dependence on energy imports, lower emissions, and drive jobs and growth.</li> <li>• Climate action, decarbonising the economy - the EU is committed to a quick ratification of the Paris Agreement and to retaining its leadership in the area of renewable energy.</li> <li>• Research, innovation and competitiveness - supporting breakthroughs in low-carbon and clean energy technologies by prioritising research and innovation to drive the energy transition and improve competitiveness.</li> </ul> <p>Based on Commission proposals published in 2016, the Clean Energy package consists of 8 new laws. Following political agreement by the EU Council and the European Parliament (finalised in May 2019) and the entry into force of the different EU rules, EU countries have 1-2 years to convert the new directives into national law.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe 2024/EC</b></p> <p><b>recast: Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe Directive 2008/50/EC and Fourth Daughter Directive 2004/107/EC</b></p>	<p>This new directive simplifies EU rules on ambient air quality by merging the two existing EU directives into one. Its goal is to bring quality standards in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations.</p> <p>The new directive introduces stricter limits on key air pollutants, aligning EU standards more closely with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.</p>	<p>Air quality is assessed using common methods and criteria across the EU, and the revised directive brings further improvements to air quality monitoring and modelling.</p> <p>The revised directive will also ensure early action, with air quality roadmaps that need to be prepared ahead of 2030 if there is a risk that the new standards will not be attained by that date. The air quality standards will be reviewed regularly in line with latest scientific evidence to assess whether they continue to be appropriate.</p> <p>The revised directive prioritises the health of EU citizens: it sets new air quality standards for pollutants to be reached by 2030 which are more closely aligned with the WHO air quality guidelines. Those pollutants include, among others, particulate matter PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide, all known to cause respiratory problems. Member states may request that the 2030 deadline be postponed if specific conditions are met.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package</b></p>	<p>Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.</p>	<p>The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Emissions Ceilings (NEC) Directive 2016/2284/EU on the reduction of certain atmospheric pollutants</b></p>	<p>It aims to reduce the health risks and environmental impact of air pollution by establishing national emission reduction commitments. The Directive also aligns emission reduction commitments under EU law with international commitments (following the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol in 2012). The legislation was proposed as part of the EU's 2013 Clean Air Policy Package, which included a Clean Air Programme for Europe.</p>	<p>The Directive covers 5 air pollutants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sulphur dioxide;</li> <li>• nitrogen oxides;</li> <li>• non-methane volatile organic compounds;</li> <li>• ammonia; and</li> <li>• fine particulate matter.</li> </ul> <p>The Directive sets emission reduction commitments per pollutant for each EU country to be attained by 2020 and 2030. The emission reduction commitments for each pollutant that will apply each year from 2020 to 2029 are the same as those which the EU countries are already committed to under the revised Gothenburg protocol. New stricter reductions have been agreed from 2030 onwards.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979)</b></p>	<p>The first international treaty to deal with air pollution on a broad regional basis. The Convention entered into force in 1983, laying down the general principles of international cooperation for air pollution abatement and setting up an institutional framework which has since brought together research and policy.</p>	<p>The Convention has substantially contributed to the development of international environmental law and has created the essential framework for controlling and reducing the damage to human health and the environment caused by transboundary air pollution.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Directive on arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and PAH in ambient air (2004/107/EC), as amended</b></p>	<p>Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.</p>	<p>The objective of this Directive is to establish a target value for the concentration of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and benzo(a)pyrene in ambient air so as to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons on human health and the environment as a whole. It determines common methods and criteria for the assessment of concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air as well as of the deposition of such substances.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Medium Combustion Plants (MCP) Directive (2015/2193)</b></p>	<p>Directive (EU) 2015/2193 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants.</p>	<p>This Directive lays down rules to control emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and dust into the air from medium combustion plants, as well as to monitor emissions of carbon monoxide (CO). The aim is to reduce emissions to air and the potential risks to human health and the environment from such emissions. As regards the scope, Article 2 identifies the types of combustion plants to which these rules apply. Emission limits values are set out in Annex II.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive 2023/1791 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 (recast)</b></p>	<p>The revised Energy Efficiency Directive significantly raises the EU's ambition on energy efficiency. It establishes 'energy efficiency first' as a fundamental principle of EU energy policy, giving it legal-standing for the first time. The Commission has published a series of recommendations, including guidelines for EU countries related to the revised directive, to help countries transpose its different elements into national law.</p>	<p>The revised Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• raises the EU energy efficiency target, making it binding for EU countries to collectively ensure an additional 11.7% reduction in energy consumption by 2030, compared to the projections of the EU reference scenario 2020;</li> <li>• more than doubles the annual energy savings obligation (Article 8) by 2028, this is one of the key policy instruments of the directive to meet the headline target and to drive energy savings in end-use sectors, such as buildings, industry and transport;</li> <li>• puts a stronger focus on alleviating energy poverty, it aims at empowering consumers through stronger requirements for EU countries to raise awareness and provide information on energy efficiency;</li> <li>• it includes improved regulations to identify and remove barriers related to split incentives for energy efficiency renovations between tenants and owners or among multiple owners;</li> <li>• introduces an obligation for the monitoring and reporting of the energy performance of data centres;</li> <li>• expands the scope of energy audit obligations to include all those companies, regardless of their size, which are consuming energy above a certain threshold;</li> <li>• mandates EU countries to report on energy efficiency investments, including energy performance contracts, as part of the Governance Regulation, ensuring transparency and accountability;</li> <li>• establishes project development assistance mechanisms at national, regional, and local levels to support energy efficiency investments and facilitate the attainment of the EU's ambitious energy efficiency targets.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</b></p>	<p>The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.</p>	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels;</li> <li>• Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and</li> <li>• Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.</li> </ul> <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks</li> <li>• Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3.</li> <li>• Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above.</li> <li>• Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats.</li> <li>• Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies.</li> <li>• Promote sustainable water usage.</li> <li>• The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive</li> <li>○ Sampling Drinking Water Directive</li> <li>○ Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive</li> <li>○ Shellfish Directive</li> <li>○ Freshwater Fish Directive</li> <li>○ Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive</li> <li>○ Dangerous Substances Directive</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>• Achieve "good status" for all waters.</li> <li>• Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts.</li> <li>• Involve the public and streamline legislation.</li> <li>• Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas.</li> <li>• Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas.</li> <li>• Recover costs for water services.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect, control and conserve groundwater.</li> <li>• Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.</li> <li>• Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive.</li> <li>• Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Drinking Water Directive - Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean, and to improve access to water intended for human consumption.</li> </ul>	<p>For purposes of the Directive, 'water intended for human consumption' means:</p> <p>a) all water, either in its original state or after treatment, intended for drinking, cooking, food preparation or other domestic purposes in both public and private premises, regardless of its origin and whether it is supplied from a distribution network, supplied from a tanker or put into bottles or containers, including spring waters;</p> <p>b) all water used in any food business for the manufacture, processing, preservation or marketing of products or substances intended for human consumption.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive</b> - Directive (EU) 2024/3019 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 concerning urban wastewater treatment (recast)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect the environment and human health from adverse effects of urban wastewater discharges while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy efficiency in the sector.</li> </ul>	<p>The Directive establishes a detailed framework covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirements for collection and treatment of urban wastewater in agglomerations above 1,000 population equivalent (p.e.)</li> <li>Standards for secondary, tertiary and new quaternary treatment of wastewater</li> <li>Extended producer responsibility for pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies to cover costs of removing micropollutants</li> <li>Energy neutrality targets for treatment plants</li> <li>Requirements for monitoring, reporting and public access to information</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Water Reuse Regulation (2020/741)</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this Regulation is to facilitate the uptake of water reuse whenever it is appropriate and cost-efficient, thereby creating an enabling framework for those Member States who wish or need to practise water reuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation (EU) 2020/741 of the European Parliament and of the Council on minimum requirements for water reuse. This Regulation lays down minimum requirements for water quality and monitoring and provisions on risk management, for the safe use of reclaimed water in the context of integrated water management.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</b></p>	<p>The overall aim of the ELD is to prevent and fully remedy damaged natural resources and their services to the condition that would have existed if no damage had occurred.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent.</li> <li>Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures.</li> <li>Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7.</li> <li>The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive.</li> <li>The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator.</li> <li>The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met.</li> <li>The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Sewage Sludge Directive</b> (Council Directive 86/278/EEC of 12 June 1986 on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture)</p>	<p>The purpose of this Directive is to regulate the use of sewage sludge in agriculture in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man, thereby encouraging the correct use of such sewage sludge. Member States shall prohibit the use of sludge where the concentration of one or more heavy metals in the soil exceeds the limit values which they lay down in accordance with Annex I A and shall take the necessary steps to ensure that those limit values are not exceeded as a result of the use of sludge. The aims of the Sewage Sludge Directive are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to protect humans, animals, plants and the environment by ensuring that heavy metals in soil and sludge do not exceed set limits</li> <li>to increase the amount of sewage sludge used in agriculture</li> </ul>	<p>The Directive also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sets limits for the concentration of seven heavy metals in sewage sludge intended for agricultural use and in sludge-treated soils (cadmium, copper, nickel, lead, zinc, mercury, chromium)</li> <li>bans the use of sewage sludge that results in concentrations of these heavy metals in soil exceeding these limit values</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Bathing Waters Directive</b></p> <p><b>(Directive 2006/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the management of bathing water quality and repealing Directive 76/160/EEC)</b></p>	<p>With a view to preserving, protecting and improving human health and the environment, within the legal framework of Directive 2000/60/EC, the present Directive establishes provisions for: (a) the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; (b) the management of bathing water quality; and (c) the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality. Member States are required to annually identify all bathing waters and define the length of the bathing season.</p> <p>The EU aims to protect the environment and the health of Europeans by attaining good bathing water quality throughout the EU. More specifically, it aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide better and earlier information to citizens about the quality of their bathing waters, including logos</li> <li>• move from simple sampling and monitoring of bathing waters to bathing quality management</li> <li>• integrate into other EU measures protecting the quality of all our waters (rivers, lakes, ground waters and coastal waters) through the Water Framework Directive</li> </ul>	<p>The Bathing Water Directive requires Member States to monitor and assess bathing water. It ensures timely information is given to the public during the bathing season and requires Member States to disseminate information on bathing water quality actively and promptly. In particular, notices banning or advising against bathing should be rapidly and easily identifiable. The Directive applies to all surface waters that can be used for bathing, except for swimming pools and spa pools, confined waters subject to treatment or used for therapeutic purposes and confined waters artificially separated from surface water and groundwater. Decision establishing a symbol for information to the public on bathing water classification and any bathing prohibition. View the symbols for informing the public on bathing water prohibition, advice against bathing and bathing water classification.</p> <p>The implementation of the Bathing Water Directive is supported by a broad EU framework of water legislation, including the Water Framework Directive, the Environmental Quality Standards Directive, the Groundwater Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (2009/128/EC)</b></p> <p><b>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115</b></p>	<p>The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD) establishes a framework for European Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides by setting minimum rules to reduce the risks to human health and the environment that are associated with pesticide use.</p> <p>The Directive aims to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides in the EU by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and of alternative approaches or techniques, such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides. EU countries have drawn up National Action Plans to implement the range of actions set out in the Directive.</p>	<p>The main actions relate to training of users, advisors and distributors of pesticides, inspection of pesticide application equipment, the prohibition of aerial spraying, limitation of pesticide use in sensitive areas, and information and awareness raising about pesticide risks. EU countries must also promote Integrated Pest Management, for which, general principles are laid down in Annex III to the Directive.</p> <p>The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a new Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products, including EU wide targets to reduce by 50% the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 2030, in line with the EU's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. The proposal, adopted on 22 June 2022, is part of a package of measures to reduce the environmental footprint of the EU's food system and help mitigate the economic losses that we are already suffering due to climate change and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>The proposal transforms the existing Directive into a Regulation which will be directly binding and uniformly applicable to all Member States. It overhauls the existing rules on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (see Directive 2009/128/EC) to bring them in line with the ambitions set in the EU Green Deal, Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies. The proposals must be approved by Member States in the Council and the European Parliament, under the normal legislative procedure.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) (1962)</b></p> <p><b>CAP 2023-2027</b></p>	<p>The CAP is a partnership between society and agriculture that ensures a stable supply of food, safeguards farmers' income, protects the environment and keeps rural areas vibrant. It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support farmers and improve agricultural productivity, ensuring a stable supply of affordable food;</li> <li>• safeguard European Union farmers to make a reasonable living;</li> <li>• help tackle climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>• maintain rural areas and landscapes across the EU;</li> <li>• keep the rural economy alive by promoting jobs in farming, agri-food industries and associated sectors.</li> </ul>	<p>The CAP 2023-2027 entered into force on 1 January 2023. Support for farmers and rural stakeholders across the 27 EU countries is based on the CAP 2023-2027 legal framework and the choices detailed in the CAP Strategic Plans, approved by the Commission. The approved Plans are designed to make a significant contribution to the ambitions of the European Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006), as amended</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this Regulation is to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment, including the promotion of alternative methods for assessment of hazards of substances, as well as the free circulation of substances on the internal market while enhancing competitiveness and innovation.</p>	<p>This Regulation lays down provisions on hazardous substances and mixtures and specification of hazard classes; general obligations of manufacturers, importers and downstream users to classify, label and package the substances and mixtures; identification and examination of available information on substances and mixtures; evaluation of hazard information and decision on classification; establishment of a classification and labelling inventory in the form of a database; and the manufacture, placing on the market and use of chemical substances and preparations, pursuant to the precautionary principle.</p> <p>The Regulation sets forth the framework concerning the registration of such substances and preparations as well as the granting of authorizations. Furthermore, it sets up the European Chemicals Agency for the purposes of managing and carrying out the technical, scientific and administrative aspects of this Regulation. This Regulation sets out eight annexes attached. Annex I sets out the criteria for classification and labelling requirements for hazardous substances and mixtures. Annex II lays down special rules for labelling and packaging of certain classified substances and mixtures.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>UN Sustainable Development Goals</b></p>	<p>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which reflect the need for all countries to urgently act as a global partnership.</p>	<p>Sustainable transport is mainstreamed across several SDGs and targets, especially those related to food security, health, energy, economic growth, infrastructure, and cities and human settlements.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Commission’s “Forging a climate-resilient Europe - the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change” (2021)</b></p>	<p>The Strategy sets out how the European Union can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050.</p>	<p>The Strategy has four principal objectives: to make adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic, and to step up international action on adaptation to climate change.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Environment Agency’s European Climate Risk Assessment (2024)</b></p>	<p>This assessment identifies 36 climate risks with potentially severe consequences across Europe.</p>	<p>The risks are evaluated in the contexts of risk severity, policy horizon (lead time and decision horizon), policy readiness and risk ownership. It further identifies priorities for EU policy action, based on a structured risk assessment united with qualitative aspects, such as considering social justice.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>UN Kyoto Protocol (2<sup>nd</sup> Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</b></p>	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol. At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and in line with recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) take steps “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels”.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II).</li> <li>EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP.</li> </ul> <p>Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Green Deal (2019) and “Fit for 55” legislation (2021)</b></p>	<p>The European Green Deal provides a roadmap for making the EU’s economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across all policy areas and making the transition just and inclusive for all. The “Fit for 55” legislative package is a central part of the European Green Deal.</p>	<p>The European Green Deal covers all sectors of the economy, notably transport, energy, agriculture, buildings, and industries such as steel, cement, ICT, textiles and chemicals. It outlines investments needed and financing tools available, and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.</p> <p>The 'Fit for 55' package responds to the requirements in the EU Climate Law to reduce Europe's net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. It was updated when the Commission proposed increased ambition on renewable energy and energy efficiency in the REPowerEU plan to respond to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and boost Europe's energy security. The final legislative package is expected to reduce EU net greenhouse gas emissions by 57% by 2030. For transport, the package is primarily focused on reducing fossil fuel dependency and increasing the availability of, and infrastructure for, renewable alternatives.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020</b></p>	<p>Political leaders (including Taoiseach Michael Martin) participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 75 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.</p>	<p>As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation;</li> <li>• Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs;</li> <li>• Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and</li> <li>• Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)</b></p>	<p>The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.</p> <p>Aims to build resilience to future threats such as the impacts of climate change, forest fires, food insecurity, disease outbreaks and protecting wildlife and fighting illegal wildlife trade.</p>	<p>The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea;</li> <li>• Launching an EU nature restoration plan;</li> <li>• Introducing measures to enable the necessary transformative stage; and</li> <li>• Introducing measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013)</b></p>	<p>Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas.</li> <li>• Supporting EU-level GI projects.</li> <li>• Improving access to finance for GI projects.</li> <li>• Improving information and promoting innovation.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)</b></p>	<p>The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.</p>	<p>The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')</b></p>	<p>It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values;</li> <li>• (II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes;</li> <li>• (III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and</li> <li>• (IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 1995)</b></p>	<p>The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties.</li> <li>• The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro, 2005)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.</li> <li>• A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</li> <li>• Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage.</li> <li>• Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal.</li> <li>• Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society.</li> <li>• Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)</b></p>	<p>The European Landscape Convention introduced a Europe-wide concept centring on the quality of landscape protection, management and planning and covering the entire territory, not just outstanding landscapes. Through its ground-breaking approach and its broader scope, it complements the Council of Europe's and UNESCO's heritage conventions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes.</li> <li>• Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>The Eight Environmental Action Programme (2021–2030)</b></p>	<p>The 8th Environmental Action Programme (8th EAP) 2021–2030 sets the EU's legally binding environmental policy framework anchored in the European Green Deal. It establishes a long-term vision out to 2050 and specific targets for 2030.</p>	<p>By 2050, the goal is for Europeans to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Live well, within planetary boundaries"</li> <li>• Thrive in a well-being economy where nothing is wasted and growth is regenerative</li> <li>• Achieve climate neutrality</li> <li>• Substantially reduce inequalities</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats) (1979)</b></p>	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats</li> <li>• to promote cooperation between states</li> <li>• to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species</li> </ul>	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control.</li> <li>• Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucas.</li> <li>• Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies.</li> <li>• Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon.</li> <li>• Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations.</li> <li>• Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Bali Road Map (2007)</b></p>	<p>The Bali Road Map includes the Bali Action Plan, which charts the course for a new negotiating process designed to tackle climate change. The Bali Action Plan is a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012, in order to reach an agreed outcome and adopt a decision.</p>	<p>The Bali Action Plan is divided into five main categories: shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing. The shared vision refers to a long-term vision for action on climate change, including a long-term goal for emission reductions.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Cancun Agreements (2010)</b></p>	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010, which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation</li> <li>• Transparency of actions</li> <li>• Technology</li> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Adaptation</li> <li>• Forests</li> <li>• Capacity building</li> </ul>	<p>Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Doha Climate Gateway (2012)</b></p>	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.</p>	<p>Among the many decisions taken, governments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened their resolve and set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015, which will come into effect in 2020.</li> <li>• Streamlined the negotiations, completing the work under the Bali Action Plan to concentrate on the new work towards a 2015 agreement under a single negotiating stream in the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.</li> <li>• Emphasized the need to increase their ambition to cut greenhouse gases and to help vulnerable countries to adapt.</li> <li>• Launched a new commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, thereby ensuring that this treaty's important legal and accounting models remain in place and underlining the principle that developed countries lead mandated action to cut greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>• Made further progress towards establishing the financial and technology support and new institutions to enable clean energy investments and sustainable growth in developing countries.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (2001)</b></p>	<p>The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment. The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention</li> <li>• Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention</li> <li>• Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention</li> <li>• Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner</li> <li>• Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Ramsar Convention (1971)</b></p>	<p>The Convention's mission is <i>"the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world"</i>.</p>	<p>Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;</li> <li>• Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management;</li> <li>• Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>OSPAR Convention (1992)</b></p>	<p>The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.</p>	<p>OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy</li> <li>• Eutrophication Strategy</li> <li>• Hazardous Substances Strategy</li> <li>• Offshore Industry Strategy</li> <li>• Radioactive Substances Strategy</li> <li>• Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme</li> </ul> <p>These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Level</b></p>			
<p><b>The National Planning Framework (first revision 2025) and associated National Development Plan Review (2025)</b></p>	<p>The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040.</p> <p>The new 2025 Framework is revised and updated to take account of changes that have occurred since it was published in 2018 and to build on the framework that is in place. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for the people, and to protect and enhance the environment.</p> <p>The National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan form a single vision for Ireland under Project Ireland 2040. The implementation of the National Planning Framework will continue to be fully supported by the Government's investment strategy for public capital investment and investment by the State sector in general, with the National Development Plan detailing key projects.</p>	<p>The ambition is to create a single vision, a shared set of goals for every community across the country. These goals are expressed in the Framework as National Strategic Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compact Growth</li> <li>2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility</li> <li>3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</li> <li>4. High-Quality International Connectivity</li> <li>5. Sustainable Mobility</li> <li>6. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</li> <li>7. Enhanced Amenities and Heritage</li> <li>8. Transition to a Carbon Neutral and Climate-Resilient Society</li> <li>9. Sustainable Management of Environmental Resources</li> <li>10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</li> </ol>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</b></p>	<p>An Act to consolidate and revise the law relating to planning and development; to provide for proper planning and sustainable development in the interests of the common good; to provide for the licensing of events and control of funfairs; for those purposes to repeal and replace the Planning and Development Act 2000; to amend certain other enactments; and to provide for matters connected therewith.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas.</li> <li>• There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission.</li> <li>• Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects.</li> <li>• Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended)</b></p>	<p>An Act to consolidate and revise the law relating to planning and development; to provide for proper planning and sustainable development in the interests of the common good; to provide for the licensing of events and control of funfairs; for those purposes to repeal and replace the Planning and Development Act 2000 and amend certain other enactments; for purposes unrelated to the foregoing, to amend the Residential Tenancies Act 2004, the Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Act 2019, the Land Development Agency Act 2021 and the National Asset Management Agency Act 2009; and to provide for matters connected therewith.</p>	<p>Key reforms included in the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The introduction of statutory timelines for all consenting processes, to give confidence and certainty to applicants;</li> <li>• A significant reorganisation of An Bord Pleanála, to be known as An Coimisiún Pleanála;</li> <li>• Greater mandatory alignment of all tiers of planning, improving consistency;</li> <li>• Improvements to the planning judicial review processes;</li> <li>• Clearer, more consistent policies and guidance;</li> <li>• Longer term, more strategic, ten-year plans for Local Authorities;</li> <li>• More agile local implementation, through the introduction of Urban and Priority Area Plans, including new bespoke plans for Gaeltacht and Island communities;</li> <li>• Creation of Urban Development Zones, which will facilitate a more plan-led approach to development, increasing certainty at the master-planning stage;</li> <li>• Provisions to deter abuse of planning processes through spurious planning submissions and appeals, as well as a ban on requesting payment for not opposing development and;</li> <li>• Ability to suspend the duration of a permission while subject to judicial review proceedings, so as not to lose any time available for completing the development.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended</b></p>	<p>The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning.</li> <li>These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning.</li> <li>Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011), as amended</b></p>	<p>These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites.</li> <li>The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)</b></p>	<p>The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997).</li> <li>Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives.</li> <li>Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended</b></p>	<p>To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.</p>	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution.</li> <li>Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values.</li> <li>Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 722 of 2003)</b>  <b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 350 of 2014)</b>  <b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (S.I. 272 of 2009)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation.</li> <li>Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water.</li> <li>Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans.</li> <li>Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs.</li> <li>Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies.</li> <li>Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body.</li> <li>Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances.</li> <li>Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater.</li> <li>Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies.</li> <li>Outlines surface water quality standards.</li> <li>Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</b></p>	<p>The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.</p>	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosecute for water pollution offences.</li> <li>• Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters.</li> <li>• Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution.</li> <li>• issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices;</li> <li>• Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects.</li> <li>• Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Water Services Act 2007 (No. 30 of 2007)</b>  <b>Water Services Act 2013 (No. 6 of 2013)</b>  <b>Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 (No. 50 of 2013)</b>  <b>Water Services Act 2017 (No. 29 of 2017)</b>  <b>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2022 (No. 39 of 2022)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides the water services infrastructure.</li> <li>• Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services.</li> <li>• Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply.</li> </ul> <p>Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.</p>	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring Uisce Éireann delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector.</li> <li>• Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced.</li> <li>• Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards</li> <li>• Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024</b></p>	<p>This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.</p> <p>The Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 is Uisce Éireann investment plan for water and wastewater assets and infrastructure for the next 5 years. The Capital Investment Plan sets out where to prioritise investment to deliver the most urgently needed improvements in drinking water quality, leakage reduction, water availability, wastewater compliance, efficiencies and customer service.</p>	<p>The Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 is made up of investment in individual projects such as building new or upgrading existing water and wastewater treatment plants and upgrading existing networks, and national programmes where activities are being delivered in a consistent and efficient manner across the country. Some examples of these programmes are the Leakage Reduction Programme, the National Disinfection Programme, the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme, and the National Certification Authorisation Programme.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Ireland's Forest Strategy 2023-2030 and associated Implementation Plan including the National Forestry Programme 2023-2027</b></p>	<p>The Implementation Plan will facilitate the initial steps in the implementation of the Strategy on the road to achieving the Shared Vision for 2050. The Implementation Plan includes the new Forestry Programme (2023 – 2027), which will be the primary implementation mechanism for the Forest Strategy. The Plan also includes a list of actions that will be funded and enabled by mechanisms outside of the Forestry Programme.</p>	<p>The Forestry Programme 2023-2027 was created in alignment with Ireland's Forest Strategy and is designed to provide lasting benefits for many key areas including climate change, biodiversity, wood production, and employment alongside enhancing societal benefits. The Forestry Programme will provide incentives for farmers and other landowners and will provide farm families with the opportunity to increase and diversify their income streams.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Water Action Plan 2024: River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 (3rd Cycle) (2024)</b></p>	<p>The Water Action Plan 2024 is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it outlines the measures the Government and other sectors are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters, and provide sustainable management of our water resources (as specified under SDG 6). This Water Action Plan enhances and builds upon the work of the first and second-cycle plans. Where necessary, this plan addresses the shortcomings experienced during the implementation of previous plans.</p>	<p>The responses to shortcomings addressed include, for example, strengthen the incorporation of the integrated catchment management approach, improving the environmental ambition, improving the evidence base for 'targeting the right measures in the right place' and securing dedicated resources to deliver these, increasing environmental enforcement and compliance, and strengthening the governance structures.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Ireland's National Water Quality Monitoring Programme 2022-2027</b></p>	<p>The main purpose of Ireland's National Water Quality Monitoring Programme 2022-2027 is to provide a comprehensive national overview of the ecological and chemical status of surface waters and the quantitative and chemical status of groundwaters. The information is used to track progress towards the achievement of the environmental objectives required by the Water Framework Directive, and those set out in the River Basin Management Plan.</p>	<p>The programme is comprised of 2,899 surface and groundwater bodies representing 60% of the total number of national water bodies, covering 2,429 river water bodies, 224 lakes, 80 transitional water bodies, 45 coastal waters, 16 canals and 121 groundwater bodies. The programme is operated by the Environmental Protection Agency, Marine Institute, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Waterways Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Local Authorities.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Water Resources Plan (NWRP) – Framework Plan (2021)</b></p>	<p>The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.</p> <p>The preparation of the plan has been divided into two distinct phases, the combination of which will become the final NWRP. Phase 1 was carried out in 2021 and the NWRP Framework has been adopted. In Phase 2 of the NWRP, Uisce Éireann summarised the needs across the 539 individual water supplies and identified the solutions to address these needs. Due to the large number of supplies in Ireland, Phase 2 was delivered as four Regional Water Resources Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Water Resources Plan: North West (RWRP NW)</li> <li>• Regional Water Resources Plan: South West (RWRP SW)</li> <li>• Regional Water Resources Plan: South East (RWRP SE)</li> <li>• Regional Water Resources Plan: Eastern and Midlands (RWRP EM)</li> </ul>	<p>The key objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions</li> <li>• Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry</li> <li>• Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources</li> <li>• Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events</li> <li>• Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water</li> <li>• Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030</b></p>	<p>The national plans are intended to inform investment priorities for aquaculture under Member States' operational programmes under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund. They are also intended to identify measures to reduce the administrative burden on operators, to secure sustainable development and growth of aquaculture through coordinated spatial planning, to enhance the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector and to promote a level playing field for EU operators by exploiting their competitive advantages. Ireland's National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development was finalised following public consultation earlier in 2022. The Plan was adopted by the European Commission in 2022.</p>	<p>The National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development proposes 58 actions to be implemented over the period up to 2030.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997) Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4 Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (40/2001) Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006)</b></p>	<p>The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.</p>	<p>The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>• to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>• to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011</b></p>	<p>The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act.</p>	<p>Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal. In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) (2024)</b></p>	<p>The NMPF details how marine activities will interact with each other in an ocean space that is under increasing spatial pressure, ensuring the sustainable use of Ireland's marine resources to 2040.</p> <p>The NMPF has been prepared with an ecosystem-based approach and informed by best available knowledge.</p>	<p>The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) brings together all marine-based human activities for the first time, outlining the Government's vision, objectives and marine planning policies for each marine activity. The NMPF is intended as the marine equivalent to the National Planning Framework. This approach will enable the Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• set a clear direction for managing our seas</li> <li>• clarify objectives and priorities</li> <li>• direct decision makers, users and stakeholders towards strategic, plan-led, and efficient use of our marine resources</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Seafood Development Programme 2021-2027</b></p>	<p>Based on the challenges identified for the seafood sector and coastal communities and the policy context, Ireland's Programme requires an ambitious vision to: "To support a resilient, climate smart, environmentally sustainable and profitable Irish seafood sector in order to maximise its contribution to jobs and growth and maintain the economic and social activities of our most vibrant and sustainable coastal communities"</p>	<p>The Programme details the vision and key missions to be achieved by the implementation of the programme. It also demonstrates how the strategic objectives of the EMFAP fund (specified in Regulation (EU) 2021/1139) will be employed in fulfilling the Programme.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012</b></p>	<p>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for our marine affairs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable economic growth of marine/ maritime sectors;</li> <li>• Increase the contribution to the national GDP;</li> <li>• Deliver a business friendly yet robust governance, policy and planning framework;</li> <li>• Protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems;</li> <li>• Manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem;</li> <li>• Implement and comply with environmental legislation;</li> <li>• Building on our maritime heritage, strengthen our maritime identity;</li> <li>• Increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits; and</li> <li>• Engagement and participation by all.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</b></p>	<p>The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.</p>	<p>CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017 – 2022 and a Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Area Network</b></p>	<p>The National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017 - 2022 sets out a roadmap for the long-term management, restoration and conservation of protected raised bogs in Ireland.</p>	<p>The Plan is part of the measures being implemented in response to the on-going infringement action against Ireland in relation to the implementation of the EU Habitats Directive, with regard to the regulation of turf cutting on the Special Areas of Conservation and on foot of the recommendation of Mr. Justice Quirke that a National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan be drawn up, arising from the Peatlands Forum (2012).</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</b></p>	<p>This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.</p>	<p>Objectives of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To give direction to Ireland’s approach to peatland management.</li> <li>To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils.</li> <li>To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions.</li> <li>To ensure that Ireland’s peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly.</li> <li>To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use.</li> <li>To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 113/2022)</b></p>	<p>The purpose of these Regulations is to give effect to Ireland’s Nitrates Action Programme pursuant to Council Directive 91/676/EEC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural source.</p>	<p>Part 2 concerns farmyard management. The Part requires an occupier of a holding shall take all such steps, as far as is practicable for the purposes of minimising the amount of soiled water produced on the holding; livestock manure and other organic fertilisers, soiled water and effluents from dungsteeds, farmyard manure pits, silage pits or silage clamps arising or produced in a building or yard on a holding shall, prior to its application to land or other treatment, be collected and held in a manner that prevents the run-off or seepage, directly or indirectly, into groundwaters or surface waters of such substances. The Regulations provides for general obligations related to capacity of storage facilities and then distinguishes among requirements for storage facilities of: effluents and soiled water; pig manure; poultry manure; manure from deer, goats and sheep; manure from cattle.</p> <p>Part 3 concerns nutrient management.</p> <p>Part 4 is focused on the prevention of water pollution from fertilizers and certain activities; this includes the distances from a water body and other issues requirements as to manner of application of fertilizers, soiled water etc; periods when application of fertilizers is prohibited; limits on the amount of livestock manure to be applied.</p> <p>Part 5 regulates general duty of occupier, such as keeping of records, etc. Offences and related matters.</p> <p>Part 6 is functions of the public authorities: certificates, exemptions, etc.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 565 of 2014)</b></p>	<p>These Regulations the European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-fisheries) Regulations 2013 so as to apply them to the regulation of sea-fishing activity in so far as the regulation of that activity is necessary to secure compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and the objectives of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries;</li> <li>Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required;</li> <li>Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation;</li> <li>Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan;</li> <li>Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan;</li> <li>Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment;</li> <li>Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities;</li> <li>Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and</li> <li>Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Wildlife Act of 1976</b> <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</b> <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023</b></p>	<p>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</p> <p>The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2023 introduced a new public sector duty on biodiversity. The legislation provides that every public body, as listed in the Act, is obliged to have regard to the objectives and targets in the National Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems</li> <li>Give statutory protection to NHAs</li> <li>Enhances wildlife species and their habitats</li> <li>Includes more species for protection</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Ireland's 4<sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030</b></p>	<p>Ireland's 4<sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Action Plan sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.</p>	<p>This National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 builds upon the achievements of the previous Plan. It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues:</p> <p>Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity          Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs          Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People          Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity          Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025</b></p>	<p>The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impacts on agriculture, and protect the health of the environment.          The main objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making farmland, public land and private land in Ireland pollinator friendly;</li> <li>• Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them;</li> <li>• Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers;</li> <li>• Expanding our knowledge of pollinators and pollination service; and</li> <li>• Collecting evidence to track change and measure success.</li> </ul>	<p>This voluntary Plan identified 81 actions, shared out between over 100 governmental and non-governmental organisations. A large focus of the Plan is to identify actions to improve the quality and amount of flower-rich habitat. Actions range from creating pollinator highways along our transport routes, to supporting pollinators on farmland, in gardens, businesses, and on public land.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (as amended)</b></p>	<p>An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.</p>	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective,</li> <li>• The policy of the Government on climate change,</li> <li>• Climate justice,</li> <li>• Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any</li> <li>• international agreement referred to in section 2; and</li> <li>• The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Climate Action Plans</b></p>	<p>The National Climate Action Plan 2023 provided a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan 2024 builds upon the 2023 Plan by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan 2025 is the third statutory annual update to the Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>The Climate Action Plans list the actions needed to deliver on Ireland's climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated periodically to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.</p> <p>Climate Action Plan 2025 lays out a roadmap of actions that are intended to lead to meeting the national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. It aligns with legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.</p> <p>Climate Action Plan 2025 builds upon the Climate Action Plan 2024 by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings and it should be read in conjunction with Climate Action Plan 2024. The Plan provides a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve Ireland's emissions by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2024 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</b></p>	<p>NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change.</li> <li>• Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions.</li> <li>• Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change.</li> <li>• Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>National Climate Mitigation Plan 2017</b></p>	<p>The Plan represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the deep decarbonisation required in Ireland by mid-century in line with the Government's policy objectives.</p>	<p>The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Action Policy Framework</li> <li>• Decarbonising Electricity Generation</li> <li>• Decarbonising the Built Environment</li> <li>• Decarbonising Transport</li> <li>• An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Climate Adaptation Sectoral Adaptation Plans</b></p>	<p>The Climate Act sets out the requirements for the preparation of Sectoral Adaptation Plans. The 12 priority sectors identified in the 2018 NAF were grouped into 9 such Plans and clustered into four themes covering natural and cultural capital, critical infrastructure, water resource and flood risk management, and public health. This approach aims to provide a structured and systematic approach to sectoral developments.</p>	<p>To support key national sectors in planning for climate change adaptation and according to the requirements of the National Adaptation Framework (2018), sectoral planning guidelines were developed as part of the Irish Climate Information Platform, Climate Ireland project . The guidelines aim to ensure that a coherent and consistent approach to adaptation planning is adopted at national and local levels. Since the guidelines' publication in May 2018, they have been successfully implemented by relevant Departments to develop Sectoral Adaptation Plans.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Sustainable Mobility Policy (SMP) (2022)</b></p>	<p>It sets out a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport journeys to help Ireland meet its climate obligations. It is framed around three key principles that will guide the delivery of sustainable mobility policy over the coming decade. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe and green mobility;</li> <li>• People focussed mobility; and</li> <li>• Better integrated mobility.</li> </ul>	<p>The SMP includes an Action Plan covering the period 2022-2025 with 91 actions, supporting behavioural change across a wide range of interventions including, among other things, public transport infrastructure and services, active travel promotion and supports, road safety initiatives, legislative measures, research, and public engagement. The Policy also supports the implementation of large-scale transport projects including MetroLink and DART+ in Dublin, BusConnects in the five cities, the Connecting Ireland scheme in rural areas, and an Active Travel Infrastructure Programme providing high-quality cycling infrastructure across the country.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025 and associated implementation plan</b></p>	<p>It sets out a pathway for the delivery of EV charge point infrastructure, including the rollout of EV infrastructure as required under the EU's Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR), where a 300% increase in the amount of public recharging infrastructure is targeted for delivery.</p>	<p>The strategy takes a people-first approach, focusing on the different transport needs across the country and is being informed by the piloting of different technologies and charging options in Ireland. An Implementation Plan has also been developed in conjunction with the strategy to provide an initial set of actions and deliverables to support the strategy's delivery. This includes the development the National Road Network EV Charging Plan and the Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Renewable Transport Fuel Policy 2023-2025</b></p>	<p>The Renewable Transport Fuel Policy, 2023 – 2025 sets out a pathway to incentivise the supply of renewable transport fuel through annual increases in the renewable transport fuel obligation rate to 2030.</p>	<p>The policy will underpin the shift to the Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP 23) biofuel targets of at least B20 (biodiesel equivalent) in diesel and E10 (Ethanol) in petrol by 2030 (with an interim B12/E10 by 2025 target).</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>National Energy Security Framework (2022)</b></p>	<p>National Energy Security Framework provides an overarching and comprehensive response to Ireland's energy security needs in the context of the war in Ukraine. The Framework outlines the structures which are in place within Government to monitor and manage our energy supplies. It sets out the plans which are in place to deal with energy security emergencies should they arise, and outlines out how these plans will be tested in light of the war in Ukraine.</p>	<p>The Framework sets out the government's action in response to these issues across three key themes:          - managing the impact on consumers and businesses, with a specific focus on financially vulnerable residential consumers in the short-term          - ensuring security of energy supply in the near term, with a focus on the period up to and including winter 2022/23          - reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels, in the context of the phasing out of Russian energy imports across the EU</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Ireland's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 (updated 2024)</b></p>	<p>National Energy and Climate Plans are the framework within which EU Member States must notify their climate and energy objectives, targets, policies, and measures to the European Commission and were established under Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action. Member States are required to develop NECPs on a ten-year rolling basis. The aim of the plans is to outline our energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and provide projections and ambitions towards 2050. Under the Regulation, Member States are also required to update their initial plans after 5 years, this is the first update of the initial NECP which was published in 2019. The NECP covers five dimensions of the Energy Union:          - Decarbonisation          - Energy Efficiency          - Energy Security          - Internal Energy Market          - Research, Innovation and Competitiveness          The NECP brings together the policies, targets, tools and associated material relating to our climate and energy obligations under various EU Regulations and Directives from across government bodies and departments into one document. It reflects our ambitions and provides certainty to investors and policymakers that we are committed to EU-wide targets and ambitions to move towards becoming a carbon-neutral society.</p>	<p>It outlines our department's energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and looks onwards to 2050. The NECP collates the policies, measures and actions related to energy and climate outlined in a range of government plans: such as the Climate Action Plan, the National Development Plan, and Project Ireland 2040, into one cohesive document. It also presents modelling that illustrates Ireland's current trajectories toward its three main European targets. The NECP reflects the ambitions set out in Climate Action Plan 2024. The NECP will act to identify gaps and areas that Ireland can improve on, which should be reflected in updated policies and measures in subsequent Climate Action Plans. The policies outlined in the NECP reflect the ambition of Climate Action Plan 2024.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024</b></p>	<p>It is the second National Implementation Plan for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals reviews the progress made towards each of the 17 Goals.</p>	<p>The Plan sets out five strategic objectives and 51 actions, with 119 individual measures to increase Ireland's ambition and strengthen implementation structures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also incorporates 23 external actions from four other National Plans or Strategies which contribute to and are complementary to the objectives of this Plan and which have been included for coherence and reporting purposes.          Strategic Objective 1: To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development          Strategic Objective 2: To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs          Strategic Objective 3: Greater partnerships for the Goals          Strategic Objective 4: To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms          Strategic Objective 5: Strong reporting mechanisms</p>	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040</b></p>	<p>The PLUTO takes account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies.</p>	<p>The PLUTO seeks to:          1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term;          2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and,          3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) (2021)</b></p>	<p>The high-level strategic framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network. This new framework is the Department of Transport's contribution to Project Ireland 2040, Government's long-term strategy for accommodating population growth in a sustainable manner and making Ireland a better country for all of its people. It has been developed to ensure that our transport sectoral strategy is underpinned by and supports the achievement of the spatial objectives and National Strategic Objectives set out in the National Planning Framework.</p>	<p>The framework establishes high-level investment priorities to efficiently and effectively address key transport challenges identified by the background analysis and to ensure that transport investment is aligned with and supports Government's overarching spatial and climate change objectives, as articulated in the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</b></p>	<p>SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.</p>	<p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition);</li> <li>• Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and</li> <li>• Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network.</li> </ul> <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts;</li> <li>• Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and</li> <li>• To the extent within the Authority' remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</b></p>	<p>€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</li> <li>• It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Energy Security in Ireland to 2030 ("Energy Security Package")</b></p>	<p>It outlines a new strategy to ensure energy security in Ireland for this decade, while ensuring a sustainable transition to a carbon neutral energy system by 2050.</p>	<p>The Energy Security Package includes a range of measures to implement this approach in the short and medium term by prioritising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced and Responsive Demand</li> <li>• A Renewables-Led System</li> <li>• More Resilient Systems</li> <li>• Robust Risk Governance</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</b></p>	<p>A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges. It aims at improving synergies and identifying and tackling policy gaps, policy conflicts and trade-offs as part of a coherent, joined-up approach to policy making on sustainable development.</p> <p>Ireland's Framework for Sustainable Development timeframe is to 2020 to tie in with other national and international frameworks, but a longer-term horizon to 2050 is also taken where appropriate, to provide a framework for guiding and reporting on long-term broad development trends such as on climate change.</p>	<p>The objectives of the Framework are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and prioritise policy areas and mechanisms where a sustainable development approach will add value and enable progress towards the strategy aims.</li> <li>• Highlight and promote existing sustainable practices that, with the correct support, can underpin sustainable development more generally.</li> <li>• Strengthen policy integration, coherence and co-ordination and bring a long term perspective to decision making.</li> <li>• Set out governance mechanisms which ensure effective participation within government and across all stakeholders.</li> <li>• Set out clear measures, responsibilities and timelines in an implementation plan.</li> <li>• Set out how progress is to be measured and reported on through the use of indicators.</li> <li>• Incorporate adequate and effective monitoring, learning and improvement into the Framework process.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020</b></p>	<p>Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. Sets out five key goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce overall travel demand.</li> <li>To maximise the efficiency of the transport network.</li> <li>To reduce reliance on fossil fuels.</li> <li>To reduce transport emissions.</li> <li>To improve accessibility to transport.</li> </ul>	<p>Others lower level aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment</li> <li>ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking</li> <li>improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies</li> <li>strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 – 2020</b></p>	<p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan vision: Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.</p>	<p>Three high-level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs.</li> <li>To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy.</li> <li>To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCAE) 2016</b></p>	<p>Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.</p>	<p>Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTAS) 2017-2030</b></p>	<p>This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.</p>	<p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFV forecasts</li> <li>Electricity targets</li> <li>Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>Hydrogen targets</li> <li>Biofuels targets</li> <li>LPG targets</li> <li>Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</b></p>	<p>Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland. Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed.</p>	<p>Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020. Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>National Cycle Network Plan Report 2023 (Transport Infrastructure Ireland, on behalf of the Department of Transport)</b></p>	<p>The planned National Cycle Network, presented below, links cities and towns of over 5,000 people with a safe, connected and inviting cycle network. One of the most ambitious and wide-reaching infrastructure plans in the history of the State, the proposed cycle network of approximately 3,500km will connect more than 200 settlements and 2.8m people.</p> <p>The National Cycle Network will link to destinations such as transport hubs, centres of education, centres of employment, leisure, and tourist destinations with the intention of facilitating greater cycling and walking amongst students, leisure users, tourists, and commuters alike.</p> <p>The NCN Plan complements other networks and establishes a core spine of infrastructure to encourage further development of cycling projects in the future, thereby optimising the potential for people to cycle as part of their daily activities, such as travel to work or education.</p>	<p>As well as contributing to Ireland's commitments to sustainability and decarbonisation, successful implementation of the NCN Plan will provide many benefits for cyclists and communities across Ireland, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring delivery of a high-quality cycle network which will promote safety, comfort and increased participation in cycling.</li> <li>• Improving sustainable connectivity nationally and providing links with other networks such as CycleConnects, EuroVelo and Northern Ireland networks.</li> <li>• Supporting both urban and rural economies through increased leisure and tourism cycling.</li> <li>• Improving public health through well documented benefits of active travel.</li> <li>• Guiding how local authorities prioritise exchequer-funded investments in cycle infrastructure.</li> <li>• Making use of existing infrastructure wherever possible including greenways, road infrastructure,</li> <li>• and declassified roads where safe and inviting cycle experiences can be provided.</li> <li>• The NCN aligns with the NTA's CycleConnects programme of urban and county-level cycle networks, as well as other cycle routes and networks in various stages of development, including the EuroVelo routes, national and regional greenways, and the Strategic Plan for Greenways in Northern Ireland.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</b></p>	<p>This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable.</p> <p>By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.</p>	<p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce overall travel demand</li> <li>• Maximise the efficiency of the transport network</li> <li>• Reduce reliance on fossil fuels</li> <li>• Reduce transport emissions</li> <li>• Improve accessibility to transport</li> </ul> <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland.</li> <li>• Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Security of Supply</li> <li>◦ Sustainability of Energy</li> <li>◦ Competitiveness of Energy Supply</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand</li> <li>• Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland</li> <li>• Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation</li> <li>• Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks</li> <li>• Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production</li> <li>• Being prepared for energy supply disruptions</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) (2010)</b></p>	<p>The National Renewable Energy Action Plan sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC. National Renewable Energy Action Plan.</p>	<p>The areas of intervention identified by the NREAP are heat, transport and electricity. Section 4 provides an overview of all policies and measures to promote the use of energy from renewable resources, these are: Biofuels Mineral Oil Tax Relief (MOTR) Schemes to increase production and use of biofuel; Greener Homes Scheme, financial facilitates to wider deployment of renewable-energy heating technologies in the residential sector; Grant support for the planting of perennial biomass crops (willow and miscanthus) – contributes to biomass needs of renewable energy sector; a policy that facilitates renewables by providing for grid connections outside the gate process for certain small, renewable, low carbon generators; new local and central authorities; etc.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2017 – 2020)</b></p>	<p>Article 24 of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive requires Member States to submit a National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) every three years. Ireland's 4th NEEAP was produced in early 2017.</p>	<p>It provides a comprehensive overview on the progress made towards the above targets the measures in place to ensure the targets are met the strategies and policies in place across the residential, commercial, transport and public sector.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>National Broadband Plan (2012)</b></p>	<p>The National Broadband Plan is the Government's initiative to deliver high speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. This will be delivered through investment by commercial enterprises coupled with intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have no plans to invest.</p>	<p>The Plan sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband.</li> <li>• Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered.</li> <li>• The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets.</li> <li>• A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Shaping Our Electricity Future 1.1 (EirGrid)</b></p>	<p>The main objective of the Shaping Our Electricity Future Roadmap Version 1.1 is to outline how we can make the grid ready so that 80% of Ireland's and Northern Ireland's electricity can come from renewable sources, like the wind and sun, by 2030. These targets, and new limits to carbon emissions, are the product of updates to climate change policy across the island in 2022.</p>	<p>Key goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the delivery of renewable electricity.</li> <li>• Find problems, gaps, opportunities, potential collaborations, or areas of duplication in the deployment of renewable electricity projects.</li> <li>• Help to find and resolve potential regulatory, administrative and/or legal barriers to the faster deployment of renewable electricity projects.</li> <li>• Increase alignment across the energy sector to support the delivery of renewable electricity generation projects.</li> <li>• Recommend appropriate investment conditions for electricity projects.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</b></p>	<p>The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strategic greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure;</li> <li>• Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity;</li> <li>• Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and</li> <li>• Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and</li> <li>• Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</b></p>	<p>Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.</p>	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong;</li> <li>• Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements;</li> <li>• The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects;</li> <li>• Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms;</li> <li>• Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety;</li> <li>• Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and</li> <li>• Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)</b></p>	<p>The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.</p>	<p>The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)</b></p>	<p>The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>"Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."</i></p>	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development;</li> <li>• Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape;</li> <li>• Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape;</li> <li>• Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended)</b></p>	<p>To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.</p>	<p>The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027</b></p>	<p>The EPA's National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NWHMP) covers a six-year period from 2021 to 2027. This is the fourth National Hazardous Waste Management Plan and is made under Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996. It sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the prevention and management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous revised plan, and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous revised plan was published. The purpose of this plan is to protect the environment and human health in Ireland through best-practice management of hazardous wastes.</p>	<p>The Plan's objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support and drive priority prevention actions by industry and the public to reduce the generation of hazardous waste;</li> <li>2. Support the identification of adequate and appropriate collection infrastructure for all hazardous wastes with a view to mitigating environmental and health impacts;</li> <li>3. Endorse the proximity principle such that hazardous wastes are treated as close to the point of production as possible – including within Ireland, taking into account the need for specialised installations for certain types of waste.</li> <li>4. Support effective regulation of the movement and management of hazardous wastes in line with national policy priorities;</li> <li>5. Promotion of safe reuse and recycling pathways in support of the circular economy.</li> </ol>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (2024)</b></p>	<p>The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, under the auspices of the County and City Management Association National Oversight Group, have co-ordinated the preparation of this plan which is the first National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. This Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.</p>	<p>The Plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b></p>	<p>The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.</p>	<p>The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025</b></p>	<p>The Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025 is a roadmap for building a healthier Ireland.</p>	<p>It is based around four key goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life</li> <li>• to reduce health inequalities</li> <li>• to protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing</li> <li>• to create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>S.I. 232/2018 - European Union (National Emission Ceilings) Regulations 2018</b></p>	<p>The Regulations require the Minister to ensure that emissions of the specified pollutants are limited in accordance with the ceilings set out in Schedule 2. Annex III part 2 includes a set of measures to reduce emissions from agriculture.</p>	<p>The Regulations provide that the Environment Protection Agency shall prepare an annual inventory report of emissions of 5 specified pollutants (sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), and in certain years a report on projections of emissions.</p> <p>The Regulations also require the preparation of a national air pollution control programme Referring, among other things, to the 1979 UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution), and the establishment of a network to monitor the negative impacts of air pollution upon ecosystems based on a network of monitoring sites that is representative of Ireland’s freshwater, natural and semi-natural habitats and forest ecosystem types. The Programme shall contain elements on the use of nitrogen fertilizer and soil protection. In fulfilling the requirements of subparagraph (b) the Minister shall ensure coordination with other monitoring programmes established pursuant to Union legislation including Directive 2008/50/EC, Directive 2000/60/EC and Council Directive 92/43/EEC and, if appropriate, the LRTAP Convention and, where appropriate, make use of data collected under those programmes.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Clean Air Strategy 2023</b></p>	<p>The Clean Air Strategy provides the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having a National Strategy provides a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation.</li> <li>• The Strategy should also help tackle climate change.</li> <li>• The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture.</li> <li>• In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people’s health is paramount and this is a theme of the Strategy.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Agri-Food Strategy 2030</b></p>	<p>The Food Vision 2030 Strategy is a new ten year Strategy for the Irish agri-food sector (taken to include primary agriculture, food and drink processing and manufacturing, fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing, forestry and forestry processing and the equine sector).</p>	<p>The Strategy consists of 22 Goals, grouped into four high-level “Missions” for the sector to work toward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector</li> <li>• Viable and Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Well-Being</li> <li>• Food Which is Safe, Nutritious And Appealing, Trusted And Valued at Home and Abroad</li> <li>• An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Agri-Food Sector, Driven by Technology And Talent</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Agricultural Schemes, including: Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS), Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS), Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS) and Results-based Environment-Agri Pilot Scheme (REAP)</b></p>	<p>Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. The REPS evolved to AEOS 1, 2 and 3 and currently the Green Low Carbon Agri-Environment (GLAS) Scheme is in place. The recently introduced REAP scheme in Ireland is a two year scheme in place for 2021 and 2022.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation.</li> <li>• Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats.</li> <li>• Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment.</li> <li>• Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans.</li> <li>• Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>National Rural Development Programme 2014-2022 (as amended)</b></p>	<p>The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas.</p>	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation;</li> <li>• Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and</li> <li>• Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025</b></p>	<p>The vision of this policy is for a thriving rural Ireland which is integral to our national economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing and development. Our Rural Future represents the Irish Government's blueprint for a post-COVID-19 recovery and development of rural Ireland over the next 5 years. It provides the framework to achieve the vision of transforming the quality of life and opportunity for people living in rural areas.</p>	<p>A set of policy measures aim to deliver wellbeing for all, and to support an aligned policy approach to rural development. It seeks to promote enhanced community participation, to prepare rural areas for technological, demographic and environmental change, and to address the diversity of challenges and opportunities facing rural areas, informed by analysis, data, and consultation.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)</b></p>	<p>Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.</p>	<p>Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 85% increase in exports to €19 billion.</li> <li>• 70% increase in value added to €13 billion.</li> <li>• 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion.</li> <li>• The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021</b></p>	<p>The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.</p>	<p>The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Context</li> <li>• Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination</li> <li>• Enhancing the Visitor Experience</li> <li>• Research in the Irish Tourism Sector</li> <li>• Supporting Local Communities in Tourism</li> <li>• Wider Government Policy</li> <li>• International Context</li> <li>• Co-ordination Structures</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</b></p>	<p>Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.</p> <p>The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.</p>	<p>The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year</li> <li>• net of inflation excluding carrier receipts;</li> <li>• 250,000 people employed in tourism; and</li> <li>• 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020</b></p>	<p>The Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan provides a strategic framework for the integration of built, natural and cultural heritage into the future management of waterways.</p> <p>The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations"</i>.</p>	<p>Four objectives of the Plan include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice.</li> <li>• Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement.</li> <li>• Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset.</li> <li>• Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Waterways Ireland "Reimagining Our Waterways" 10-Year Plan 2023</b></p>	<p>10-Year Plan is a visionary roadmap for reimagining historical waterways, greenways and blueways.</p> <p>Waterways Ireland's Vision is to be recognised as having enabled the creation of inspirational inland navigations and waterways experiences, through conservation and sustainable development for the benefit of all.</p>	<p>At the core of our 10-year plan is set of six strategic priorities. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation Development &amp; Governance</li> <li>• Sustainable Funding Model</li> <li>• Asset Portfolio Management</li> <li>• Participation and Reputation</li> <li>• Sustainable Development</li> <li>• Climate Action, Environment and Heritage</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)</b></p>	<p>This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.</p>	<p>The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience;</li> <li>• To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs;</li> <li>• To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and</li> <li>• To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998</b></p>	<p>The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires that each Housing Authority adopts a Traveller Accommodation Programme for its functional area.</p>	<p>This Act amended and extended the Housing Acts, 1966 to 1997, the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1998, the Local Government Act, 1991, to make provision for the accommodation needs of travellers, to provide for the appointment of a national traveller accommodation consultative committee and local traveller accommodation consultative committees and to provide for related matters.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlement Guidelines (DHLGH, 2024)</b></p>	<p>The Guidelines set out policy and guidance in relation to the planning and development of urban and rural settlements, with a focus on sustainable residential development and the creation of compact settlements. They are accompanied by a companion non-statutory Design Manual that illustrates best practice examples of how the policies and objectives of the Guidelines can be applied.</p>	<p>The Guidelines build on and update previous guidance to take account of current Government policy and economic, social and environmental considerations. There is a renewed focus in the Guidelines on the renewal of existing settlements and on the interaction between residential density, housing standards and quality urban design and placemaking to support sustainable and compact growth.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)</b></p>	<p>The Guidelines have five key policy objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that retail development is plan-led;</li> <li>• Promoting city/town centre vitality through a sequential approach to development;</li> <li>• Securing competitiveness in the retail sector by actively enabling good quality development proposals to come forward in suitable locations;</li> <li>• Facilitating a shift towards increased access to retailing by public transport, cycling and walking in accordance with the Smarter Travel strategy; and</li> <li>• Delivering quality urban design outcomes.</li> </ul>	<p>The aim of the Guidelines is to ensure that the planning system continues to play a key role in supporting competitiveness in the retail sector for the benefit of the consumer in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development. In addition, the planning system must promote and support the vitality and viability of city and town centres thereby contributing to a high standard of urban design and encouraging a greater use of sustainable transport.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Architectural Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)</b></p>	<p>Part 1 of these guidelines includes the criteria to be applied when selecting proposed protected structures for inclusion in the RPS. It also offers guidance to planning authorities on issuing a declaration on a protected structure and on determining planning applications in relation to a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA.</p>	<p>Part 2 contains supplementary detailed guidance to support planning authorities in their role to protect the architectural heritage when a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA is the subject of development proposals and when a declaration is sought in relation to a protected structure.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027</b></p>	<p>The primary objective of the strategy which is to facilitate disabled people to live independently with the appropriate choices and control over where, how and with whom they live, promoting their inclusion in the community.</p>	<p>This Strategy will build on the progress made under the previous strategy, The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability (NHSPWD) 2011 – 2016 (extended to 2021). The Strategy promotes a whole of community approach to housing for disabled people when planning the provision of housing, including infrastructure, transport, education, and employment.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Derelict Sites Act (1990)</b></p>	<p>An Act to make provision with respect to land to prevent it being or becoming a derelict site, to enable Local Authorities to require the taking of measures on derelict sites by the owners or occupiers and, in certain circumstances, to acquire derelict sites compulsorily, to establish registers of derelict sites, to enable the minister to give directions in relation to derelict sites, to provide for a derelict sites levy and to provide for other matters connected with the aforesaid and to repeal the Derelict Sites Act 1961.</p>	<p>Under the Act, local authorities can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosecute owners who do not comply with notices served</li> <li>• Make compulsory land purchases</li> <li>• Carry out necessary work themselves and charge the owners for the cost</li> </ul> <p>All local authorities must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain derelict sites register</li> <li>• Make the register available for public inspection - It can remove an entry from the Register when it is satisfied that improvement works have been carried out on the derelict site.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (as amended)</b></p>	<p>An Act to make provision with respect to land in areas in which housing is required and in areas which are in need of renewal to prevent it lying idle or remaining vacant, to establish a register of vacant sites in those areas, to provide for vacant sites levy, to amend the Derelict Sites Act 1990, to amend Parts II, III and V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, to amend the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and to provide for related matters.</p>	<p>This Revised Act is an administrative consolidation of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. It is prepared by the Law Reform Commission in accordance with its function under the Law Reform Commission Act 1975 (3/1975) to keep the law under review and to undertake revision and consolidation of statute law.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland</b></p>	<p>The government's overall objective is that every citizen in the State should have access to good quality homes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to purchase or rent at an affordable price</li> <li>built to a high standard and in the right place</li> <li>offering a high quality of life</li> </ul>	<p>The policy has four pathways to achieving housing for all:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>supporting home ownership and increasing affordability</li> <li>eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery and supporting social inclusion</li> <li>increasing new housing supply</li> <li>addressing vacancy and efficient use of existing stock</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Town Centre First Policy (2022)</b></p>	<p>The Town Centre First Policy is a major cross-government policy that aims to tackle vacancy, combat dereliction and breathe new life into town centres. It advocates for a holistic, place-based approach to sustainable rural development. The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the business, service, social and. cultural.</p>	<p>The Policy contains 33 actions which will give towns the tools and resources they need to become more viable and attractive places in which to live, work, socialise and run a business. This will focus on charting the future direction of their towns, address issues of vacancy and dereliction and add vibrancy to the town centre.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>IDA's Adapt Intelligently: A Strategy for Sustainable Growth and Innovation 2025-29 and associated developments</b></p>	<p>IDA Ireland's strategy 2025-29 is an ambitious and positive approach to a fast-changing world. Drawing on the opportunities for growth arising from the structural forces that are reshaping the global economy, it sets an ambition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Ireland to be a leading location for smart, sustainable manufacturing and intelligent, digitalised services</li> <li>To increase the number of companies undertaking cutting-edge research and innovation and the scope, scale and ambition of their Research, Development and Innovation activity</li> <li>To retain and enhance Ireland's position in key strategic value chains</li> <li>To grow the level of investment in sustainable business practices and processes and in developing new sustainability and energy-efficient technologies</li> <li>For Ireland to be a leading location for the world-class talent and skills needed to realise future growth opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p>In pursuit of the strategic objectives and targets, IDA Ireland will win 1,000 investments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure €7bn in new Research, Development and Innovation investment</li> <li>Deliver 550 regional investments</li> <li>Reduce IDA Ireland client carbon emissions by 35%</li> <li>Create 75,000 jobs</li> <li>Upskill 40,000 people.</li> <li>This in turn will support IDA Ireland client spend in Ireland of €250bn over the lifetime of the strategy on wages, Irish goods and services, and capital investment, providing further opportunity and economic impact across local supply chains.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Biodiversity Adaptation Plan 2025</b></p>	<p>The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Biodiversity Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2025 is the second Sectoral Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Ireland's Biodiversity Sector. It has been developed under the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and the National Adaptation Framework (Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, 2024). The 2025 Plan builds on the 2019 Plan and integrates the latest climate and ecological science, stakeholder engagement, and national and international strategies. The Plan is a national-scale plan that considers climate change impacts and risks across Ireland's terrestrial, freshwater, and marine biodiversity. It assesses sectoral consequences under two climate scenarios.</p>	<p>The Plan is aligned with the objectives of the 4<sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Action Plan and supports the overarching objectives of the Nature Restoration Regulation to put restoration measures in place to restore at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030 and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050. The Plan sets out three strategic goals supported by eight objectives and 22 new actions, alongside coordinated delivery of 43 existing actions from the 4<sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Action Plan. These actions range from strengthening the evidence base for adaptation, ecosystem restoration, and nature-based solutions to governance, monitoring, and public engagement. Each action is linked to delivery owners, timelines, and indicators to support implementation and alignment with Ireland's climate commitments. Governance and implementation are supported by a Monitoring, Reporting, Evaluation and Learning framework, annual progress reviews, and funding mechanisms. The Plan also recognises cross-sectoral interdependencies, highlighting how climate impacts and adaptation efforts in biodiversity influence and are influenced by sectors such as agriculture, water, health, energy, and infrastructure. Through this integrated and forward-looking approach, the Plan aims to mainstream climate adaptation and build long-term resilience across Ireland's ecosystems, ensuring that biodiversity continues to support climate regulation, human wellbeing, and sustainable development.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Heritage Ireland 2030 (2020)</b></p>	<p>The Vision from Heritage Ireland is: "Recognised for its contribution to society and well-being, Ireland's heritage will be valued, nurtured and protected and placed at the very centre of our decision"</p>	<p>Heritage Ireland 2030 is Ireland's new national heritage plan. It is built around a vision of our heritage – in all its forms – being at very centre of local and national discourse, valued by all and cared for and protected for future generations. At the heart of this framework are three themes: communities, leadership and partnerships. These themes reflect the importance of ongoing collaboration between government and communities, heritage organisations, individuals and local authorities in caring and planning for our shared heritage. Heritage Ireland 2030 suggests a series of structures under which all these stakeholders can come together to advance the protection of Ireland's heritage through over 150 actions. These structures will be established in Q1 and Q2 of 2022 ahead of the publication of an implementation plan in Q3 which will assign actions and timeframes to responsible stakeholders.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Emerging NTA CycleConnects: Ireland's Cycle Network</b></p>	<p>Aims to improve sustainable travel by providing the potential for more trips on a safe, accessible and convenient cycling network, connecting more people to more places.</p>	<p>Proposals for cycling links in key cities, towns and villages in each county are included in the plan, in addition to connections between the larger towns, villages and settlements. The plan also incorporates existing and planned cycle routes such as greenways and blueways.  The draft proposals envisage an extensive cycling network across the 22 counties, complementing the cycling plans already developed for the Greater Dublin Area (Meath, Kildare, Wicklow and Dublin). Together these plans will create an overall comprehensive cycle network for Ireland.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>The All-Island Strategic Rail Review</b></p>	<p>The All-Island Strategic Rail Review aims to enhance and expand the rail system across Ireland and Northern Ireland with 32 strategic recommendations for development up to 2050.</p>	<p>The All-Island Strategic Rail Review was jointly commissioned by the Department of Transport in Ireland and the Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland. Its primary goal is to create a strategic vision for the rail system that supports sustainable transport, enhances connectivity, and aligns with net carbon zero commitments in both jurisdictions. The review emphasizes the importance of rail as a backbone for a high-quality transport system that benefits communities and the economy.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>December 2013 the European parliament adopted Regulation (EU) No.315/2013 on Guidelines for the development of the Trans European Transport Network (Ten-T), (amended in 2014 to include supplementary maps (EU) No.473/2014)</b></p>	<p>The Guidelines set out that member states shall "take appropriate measures" to complete their core network by 2030; the maps associated with the Regulations show the core network corridors of the TEN-T extending from Dublin to Belfast, and Dublin to Cork only.</p>	<p>Nationally, as a result of the directive, parts of the N13 (including the Letterkenny to Bridgend section), N14 and N15 have also been identified as part of the TEN-T network</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Regional/ County/Local Level</b></p>			
<p><b>Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031</b></p>	<p>The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Southern Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.</p>	<p>The Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its 10 constituent local authorities: Cork City Council; Cork County Council; Clare County Council; Kerry County Council; Limerick City and County Council; Tipperary County Council; Waterford County Council; Carlow County Council; Kilkenny County Council; and Wexford County Council.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024</b></p>	<p>The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport.</p>	<p>The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus;</li> <li>• Light Rail;</li> <li>• Heavy Rail;</li> <li>• Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment;</li> <li>• Integrated Service Plan; and</li> <li>• Integration and Accessibility.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, strategies, and other policy documents – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs</b></p>	<p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site</li> <li>• To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest</li> <li>• To describe the site and its management</li> <li>• To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site</li> <li>• To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected.</li> <li>• These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Groundwater Protection Schemes</b></p>	<p>A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.</p>	<p>A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 and other Land Use Plans in force within County Wexford and in other adjoining planning authorities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline planning objectives for land use development.</li> <li>• Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies.</li> <li>• Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required.</li> <li>• Protect and enhances amenities and environment.</li> <li>• Guide planning authority in assessing proposals.</li> <li>• Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development.</li> <li>• Aim to promote sustainable development.</li> <li>• Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including Wexford LECP 2024-2029</b></p>	<p>The overarching vision for each LECP is: “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities.”</p>	<p>The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Town Centre First Plans</b></p>	<p>Town Centre First aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community.</p>	<p>Town Centre First (TFC) lays the foundation for each town to develop, at a local level, their own plan-led path forward. This will be expressed through a tailored TCF plan, which is underpinned by a clear diagnosis of local strengths and challenges. The TCF approach is centred on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration and communication – a collaborative process involving all relevant local stakeholders, represented by a collaborative Town Team, with good communication in respect of issues raised and the agreed direction.</li> <li>• Understanding the place – analysis and appraisal underpinned by a town audit/ data gathering -process.</li> <li>• Defining the place – shaping the plan around high-level objectives that are subsequently expressed through a series of actions.</li> <li>• Enabling the place– identifying a clear path to delivery of the Plan, cognisant that this will require actions of varying scale to be delivered by different partners.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>County Wexford Tourism Strategy and Tourism Strategies in adjoining local authorities</b></p>	<p>Local authority tourism strategies are six-year plans that identify opportunities and challenges for tourism in an area, outlining actions to grow the industry through marketing, events, and infrastructure development.</p>	<p>These strategies involve collaboration with local businesses and communities to preserve culture and resources while promoting sustainable growth, often resulting in the development of attractions, festivals, and improved visitor amenities.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy</b></p>	<p>The Strategy sets out the framework for the delivery of sustainable and renewable energies throughout the County.</p>	<p>The LARES outlines the potential for a range of renewable energy resources and developments and acknowledges the significant contribution that they can make to the county in terms of energy security, reduced reliance on traditional fossil fuels, enabling future energy exports, meeting assigned national targets and the transition to a low carbon economy.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Local Authority Climate Action Charter 2019</b></p>	<p>The Climate Action Charter is a key action in the Plan and will ensure every local authority embeds decarbonisation, sustainable development and climate resilience into every aspect of the work they do. This Plan will ensure to meet local authority's 2030 climate commitments, on a trajectory to be net-zero emissions by 2050.</p>	<p>The Charter commits Local Authorities to several actions that will ensure that they play a key leadership role locally and nationally in delivering effective climate action.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>County Wexford Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Assessment in adjoining local authorities</b></p>	<p>Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area.</li> <li>Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Emerging County Wexford Biodiversity Action Plan [in preparation]</b></p>	<p>Wexford County Council is actively developing a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for the county, building on its first plan, to provide a structured approach for conserving local wildlife, plants, and ecosystems, involving stakeholder input for issues and solutions, aiming to protect habitats like wetlands and hedgerows, and align with Ireland's national biodiversity goals.</p>	<p>The plan will focus on specific local actions, such as restoring lost wetlands, preserving critical hedgerow networks, and encouraging landowner involvement in conservation efforts, supported by potential funding.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Emerging County Wexford Heritage Plan [in preparation]</b></p>	<p>The aim of the Heritage Plan is to protect, conserve and where appropriate enhance the natural, built and cultural heritage of the county and to encourage all to appreciate, enjoy, understand and care for our heritage.</p>	<p>The Plan will detail actions and initiatives aimed at ensuring that heritage continues to make a significant contribution to quality of life and remains an important part of the social and cultural infrastructure of the County.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Wexford Noise Action Plan 2024-2028</b></p>	<p>Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.</p>	<p>The purpose of Noise Action Plans is to inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems. Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects. Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029</b></p>	<p>The Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 sets out mitigation, adaptation and other climate measures to create a low carbon and climate resilient County.</p>	<p>The Climate Action Plan sets out five action areas with strategic goals and objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built Environment and Transport - Reduce Wexford County Councils greenhouse gas emissions by 51% in our Built Environment and Transport and increase the resilience of our assets.</li> <li>• Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure - Wexford County Council will support and facilitate the protection, management, and enhancement of the natural environment of County Wexford.</li> <li>• Communities, Resilience and Transition - To identify what matters to communities and support communities in cocreating a vision for low carbon and climate resilience and empower them to follow through on meaningful and impactful climate action.</li> <li>• Sustainability and Resource Management - Embed sustainable resource management and the circular economy in all functions and services throughout the organisation and across the county.</li> <li>• Governance and Leadership - Wexford County Council will show leadership in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation through its structures, processes and policies.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan 2024-2030</b></p>	<p>The plan provides a pathway for the accelerated delivery of regional and local networks of public electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure at destination and neighbourhood areas, in line with both national and European ambitions for cleaner transportation. The plan ensures a cohesive and standardised approach. It will be led by local authorities, working together to develop regional and local strategies to promote a unified and efficient rollout of charging infrastructure and to facilitate the equitable transition to EVs.</p>	<p>The Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan provides a way forward for equitably delivering charging infrastructure at a national and local level to support the national and international efforts to reduce transport-related carbon emissions through the shift to zero emission vehicles for all users. The plan lays out a pathway, adhering to the fundamental principles below set out in the Infrastructure Strategy, to sustainably deliver charging infrastructure at destination and neighbourhood locations.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Local Neighbourhood and Destination Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategies</b></p>	<p>The Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan published for consultation by ZEVI (Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland) in 2024 sets out minimum charging capacity requirements for local authorities per geographical area.</p>	<p>By developing a comprehensive network of strategically located charging stations, the strategies are intended to support the growing number of EVs on Irish roads, ensuring that all areas are adequately served and help meet the climate action targets.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans and strategies, including those relating to "Ireland's Ancient East" including Destination Experience Development Plans and Regional Tourism Development Strategies</b></p>	<p>Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Ancient East and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence.</p> <p>The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes</b></p>	<p>These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.</p>	<p>These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>