



# Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029

**2 Year Progress, Implementation and Monitoring Report**

February 2025

Forward Planning Team



## Table of Contents

<b>1.0 Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.0 Legislative and Policy Context – Two Year Progress Report .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).....	5
2.2 Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) .....	5
2.3 Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2022 .....	5
2.4 Implementation and Monitoring of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029.	6
2.5 Office of the Planning Regulator Review of KCC, 2022 .....	7
<b>3.0 Relevant Legislative, Policy and Guidance Changes.....</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1 Census 2022 Results.....	8
3.2 Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines for Planning Authorities .....	8
3.3 Planning and Development Act 2024.....	9
3.4 First Revision to the National Planning Framework.....	9
<b>4.0 Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 Volume 1 .....</b>	<b>10</b>
4.1 Chapter 2 – Core Strategy & Settlement Strategy .....	11
4.2 Chapter 3 – Housing .....	13
4.3 Chapter 4 – Resilient Economy & Job Creation.....	15
4.4 Chapter 5 – Sustainable Mobility & Transport.....	17
4.5 Chapter 6 – Infrastructure and Environmental Services.....	19
4.6 Chapter 7 – Energy & Communications .....	21
4.7 Chapter 8 – Urban Centres & Retail.....	22
4.8 Chapter 9 – Our Rural Economy.....	23
4.9 Chapter 10 – Community Infrastructure & Creative Places.....	24
4.10 Chapter 11 – Built & Cultural Heritage .....	26
4.11 Chapter 12 – Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure .....	27
4.12 Chapter 13 – Landscape, Recreation & Amenity .....	28
4.13 Chapter 14 – Urban Design, Placemaking & Regeneration .....	30
<b>5.0 Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 – Volume 2.....</b>	<b>31</b>
5.1 Small Towns.....	31
5.2 Ladytown Environs & Blessington Environs .....	32
5.3 Villages .....	33
5.4 Rural Settlements.....	34

<b>6.0 Conclusion &amp; Next Steps .....</b>	<b>35</b>
6.1 Variations to Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 .....	36
<b>Appendix 1: KCDP Volume 1 – Objectives, Actions and Targets.....</b>	<b>37</b>
A1.1 Chapter 2 - Core Strategy & Settlement Strategy.....	38
A1.2 Chapter 3 - Housing .....	48
A1.3 Chapter 4 – Resilient Economy and Job Creation .....	72
A1.4 Chapter 5 – Sustainable Mobility & Transport .....	127
A1.4.1 Chapter 5 – Priority Roads and Bridge Projects.....	190
A1.4.2 Chapter 5 – Regional Roads for Improvement .....	194
A1.5 Chapter 6 – Infrastructure & Environmental Services.....	197
A1.6 Chapter 7 – Energy and Communications .....	219
A1.7 Chapter 8 – Urban Centres and Retail .....	248
A1.8 Chapter 9 – Our Rural Economy .....	273
A1.9 Chapter 10 – Community Infrastructure & Creative Places .....	289
A1.10 Chapter 11 – Built & Cultural Heritage .....	330
A1.11 Chapter 12 – Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure.....	357
A1.12 Chapter 13 – Landscape, Recreation & Amenity .....	390
A1.13 Chapter 14 – Urban Design, Placemaking and Regeneration.....	433
A1.14 – Chapter 16 – Monitoring and Implementation .....	441
<b>Appendix 2: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Monitoring Report.....</b>	<b>444</b>

## 1.0 Introduction

This Two-Year Progress Report, Implementation and Monitoring Report has been prepared by the Chief Executive of Kildare County Council to detail the progress achieved in securing the objectives of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (*the County Development Plan / KCDP*).

The County Development Plan was adopted by the elected members of Kildare County Council on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and came into effect on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

The County Development Plan contains a total of **1,687** objectives, actions and targets across two volumes and was subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Since the adoption of the KCDP, Kildare County Council has proactively sought to continuously progress the delivery of its key objectives, actions and targets as resources allow. This report sets out the progress made at the two-year review milestone.

This Report is structured as follows:

**Section 2:** An overview of the legislative and policy context regarding the preparation of this Two-Year Progress Report;

**Section 3:** An overview of the relevant contextual, legislative and planning policy changes that have occurred since the adoption of the KCDP;

**Section 4:** The key achievements of the Council in the implementation of the objectives in each chapter of Volume 1 of the County Development Plan;

**Section 5:** The key achievements of the Council in the implementation of the objectives of Volume 2 of the County Development Plan; and,

**Section 6:** The next steps to be undertaken by the Council in furthering the objectives of the County Development Plan.

The report should be read in conjunction with the attached appendices:

**Appendix 1** provides individual updates on the status of each of the 1,270 objectives/actions/targets contained in Volume 1 of the County Development Plan.

**Appendix 2** contains the *‘Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Monitoring of Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029’* Report prepared by ARUPS.

This Report covers the 2023 and 2024 calendar years (January 2023 - December 2024).

## 2.0 Legislative and Policy Context – Two Year Progress Report

### 2.1 Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

Section 15(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), hereafter referred to as *'the 2000 Act'*, states that *'it shall be the duty of a planning authority to take such steps within its powers as may be necessary for securing the objectives of the Development Plan'*.

Section 15(2) of the 2000 Act requires the Chief Executive to give a report to the members of the local authority on the progress achieved in securing the objectives of the Development Plan. This Progress Report is to be provided to the members no later than two years after the making of the Development Plan.

Section 95(3)(a) of the 2000 Act also requires the Two-Year Progress Report to include a review of the progress achieved in implementing the housing strategy of the Development Plan. The Chief Executive may recommend that the Development Plan be varied to adjust the housing strategy, where new or revised housing needs have been identified.

### 2.2 Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

Article 13J (1) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and hereafter referred to as *'the 2001 Regulations'*, provides that the planning authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the Development Plan.

In this regard, Article 13J (2) of the 2001 Regulations requires that the Two-Year Progress Report prepared under Section 15(2) of the 2000 Act include information, and the results of, monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementing the Development Plan.

Appendix 2 of this Report contains the *'Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Monitoring of Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029'* Report by ARUPS. This appended report provides the relevant information and monitoring results on the significant environmental effects of implementing the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

### 2.3 Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2022

This Report has been prepared having regard to the *'Development Plans Guidelines for Planning Authorities'* (2022), hereafter referenced as *'the Guidelines'*. The Guidelines provide that planning authorities need to establish frequent, reliable and ongoing monitoring and reporting systems to assess the implementation of Development Plan(s). The Guidelines provide for three formal reporting mechanisms, as follows:

- (i) **Core Strategy Monitoring** to occur on an **annual** basis, resulting in the preparation of an Annual Development Plan Monitoring Report;
- (ii) **Plan Objectives Monitoring** to occur every **two years**, generally in line with the preparation of the **Two-Year Progress Report** by the Chief Executive of the local authority - in accordance with Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

- (iii) A **Baseline Report** prepared and published as the evidence base for commencing the review procedure for the Development Plan, not later than **four years** after its adoption.

Section 10.4 of the Guidelines outline that the Two-Year Progress Report should include the following:

- i) Analysis of the annual plan monitoring data;
- ii) The progress towards achieving identified Development Plan objectives; and,
- iii) Information on the progress on, and the results of, monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Development Plan, including through Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) monitoring results.

The first [Annual Monitoring Report of the County Development Plan](#) was published in May 2024. The Annual Monitoring Report focused on the nature and pattern of development occurring in the County and assessed development trends for consistency with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy of the KCDP. The results of the annual monitoring data for 2023 and 2024 have been provided as responses to the relevant objectives/actions/targets of the County Development Plan.

## 2.4 Implementation and Monitoring of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029

Chapter 16 (Implementation and Monitoring) of the KCDP commits to an *'all of council'* approach, together with significant and sustained collaboration with all key stakeholders and actors, to progress the **1,687** objectives, actions and targets of the KCDP.

Some objectives are supported by related *'actions'* or specific *'targets'* to provide additional measurable indicators of progress. However, some objectives of the KCDP are longstanding in nature and have been designed to be implemented across continuous development plan cycles.

In addition, the KCDP recognises the importance of routine monitoring, assessment and reporting to ensure that continuous progress is made in the implementation of its objectives. Accordingly, Appendix 12 of the KCDP (Implementation and Monitoring Framework) relates to the objectives/actions/targets of Volume 1 and provides a set of potential metrics for the monitoring of each objective/action/target; identifies the relevant section of the Council and other key stakeholders responsible for realising each objective/action/target; and provides indicative timeframe estimates for each objective/action/target.

Section 4 of this Report provides an overview of the key achievements of the Council in implementing the objectives/actions/targets contained in Chapters 2-14 of Volume 1 of the KCDP. This section should be read in conjunction with Appendix 1, which provides an update to each of the 1,270 objectives/actions/targets contained in Volume 1.

Volume 2 of the KCDP provides the planning framework for 5 small towns and 2 environs areas not subject to local area plans (Castledermot, Derrinturn, Kill, Prosperous, Rathangan, Ladytown Environs and Blessington Environs), together with the 17 villages and 20 rural settlements across the County. Accordingly, Section 5 of this Report provides an overview of the key achievements of the Council in relation to the sustainable development of these settlements and environs areas, since the coming into effect of the KCDP.

#### 2.5 Office of the Planning Regulator Review of KCC, 2022

The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) published its review of Kildare County Council in July 2022 and concluded that the key statutory functions of the planning department are delivered on an effective basis. In particular, the review noted that the forward planning function of the department was being delivered in a highly effective manner.

However, the review highlighted that the planning department of Kildare County Council operates in a dynamic and demanding environment. The complex nature and the range of services delivered by the department places a high degree of pressure on its staff and limited resources. In this regard, the first recommendation of the OPR review called for an overarching focus on staff retention and recruitment to strengthen the capacity of the planning department. Such capacity challenges in the planning sector are further recognised in the Ministerial Action Plan on Planning Resources, published in October 2024.

Notwithstanding the significant progress made by Kildare County Council in addressing the OPR review recommendations, resource availability and staff capacity is a pre-eminent consideration in the context of this two-year review of the KCDP. Accordingly, this review has identified several challenges in the ongoing delivery of the KCDP in an effective and efficient manner, including the following:

- (a) The substantive number of objectives/actions/targets in the KCDP (1,687), together with associated monitoring requirements;
- (b) The overlap between objectives within the chapters of the KCDP, and/or the duplication of intended outcomes across various objectives of the KCDP;
- (c) A proportion of the objectives of the KCDP are not sufficiently SMART (Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic and Time Related) to ensure short term delivery and efficient monitoring.

The above factors place a significant administrative and workload burden on the limited resources of all Council departments and will be considered in full during the next review of the KCDP. As such, Kildare County Council has appropriately sought to prioritise the delivery of key objectives contained within the KCDP, as functional and resource capacities allow, in addition to the continuous delivery of its other statutory functions.

### 3.0 Relevant Legislative, Policy and Guidance Changes

This section outlines relevant contextual changes that have occurred since the KCDP was adopted on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

#### 3.1 Census 2022 Results

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the undertaking of the 2021 Census was postponed until April 2022. The KCDP utilises the datasets available at the time of its preparation and adoption including the 2016 Census results and the preliminary results of the 2022 Census, released in June 2022. The preliminary results of the 2022 Census did not include datasets on individual settlements for analysis during the preparation or at the adoption of the KCDP on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

The verified results of the 2022 Census, including datasets on individual settlements, were published by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) between May and December 2023. In this regard, Kildare County Council commissioned the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) of Maynooth University to prepare a series of reports to analyse the 2022 Census results, including the following:

- A county level [Socio-Economic Profile Report](#) used in the preparation of the Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029; and
- A Kildare Settlement Profile Report which was used in and appended to the [KCDP Annual Monitoring Report 2023](#).

#### 3.2 Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines for Planning Authorities

Section 28(1) of the 2000 Act provides that the Minister may, at any time, issue guidelines to planning authorities regarding any of their functions under the Act and planning authorities shall have regard to those guidelines in the performance of their functions. In this regard, Appendix 8 of the KCDP provides a statement of compliance with the Section 28 guidelines issued under the 2000 Act.

Changes to Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines since the adoption of the KCDP include the following:

- The **'Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments'** guidelines were amended in December 2022 and July 2023 in relation to Build-To-Rent (BTR) developments.
- The **'Regulation of Commercial Institutional Investment in Housing'** guidelines were amended in July 2023 in relation to BTR developments.
- The **'Interim Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Statutory Plans, Renewable Energy and Climate Change (2017)'** were revoked by the Minister on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022.
- The **'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements'** guidelines were published in January 2024 and replace the revoked **'Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas'** guidelines.



- The ***'Residential Zoned Land Tax: Change in zoning of lands subject to existing economic activity'*** guidelines were published in December 2024.

The implications of these new Guidelines which include policy changes on the current County Development Plan are discussed further in Section 6 of this Report, i.e. the Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments Guidelines and the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines.

### 3.3 Planning and Development Act 2024

The Planning and Development Act 2024 ('the 2024 Act') was signed into law on the 17th of October 2024, however, has yet to be fully enacted. Once fully enacted, the 2024 Act will replace the existing Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

A significant implication of the new Act is that Local Area Plans will no longer be required for settlements of a prescribed size. Settlement Plans more specifically land use zonings will be required to be integrated into Volume 2 of the County Development Plan to replace current local area plans when reviewed. This is discussed further in Section 6 of this report.

### 3.4 First Revision to the National Planning Framework

The National Planning Framework (NPF) was published in February 2018 as the overall spatial planning and development strategy for Ireland. The NPF and the National Development Plan 2021 combine to form Project Ireland 2040, the overarching policy and planning framework for the social, economic and cultural development of Ireland.

On 20th June 2023, the Government formally approved the commencement of the process for the First Revision to the NPF, in accordance with Section 20C (5) of the 2000 Act. The Draft First Revision to the NPF was published on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 for public consultation. An updated version of the Draft First Revision, incorporating amendments arising from the public consultation process, was published on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The Government will be required to approve the final Revised NPF following the conclusion of the environmental assessments, which Local Authorities anticipate will be at some stage in the near future.

The Draft First Revision to the NPF takes into account the results of the 2022 Census, the latest research and modelling in relation to housing targets and changes to government policy since its initial publication.

The implications of the foregoing changes in census data, ministerial guidelines, planning legislation and the National Planning Framework are discussed further in Section 6 of this report.

## 4.0 Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 Volume 1

Volume 1 of the County Development Plan contains 14 chapters (see note below re chapters 1, 15, 16 and 17) and provides the strategic vision, development management standards, overarching policies, and objectives (including associated actions and targets) for the sustainable development of County Kildare over the 6-year statutory timeframe of the Plan.

Volume 1 includes a total of 1,270 objectives/actions/targets across 14 chapters of the KCDP, noting that chapters 1 (Introduction & Strategic Context), 15 (Development Management Standards) and 17 (Infrastructural Assessment) do not contain objectives. Chapter 16 relates to the monitoring and implementation of the KCDP and has informed the preparation of this Report.

### Implementation Innovation – KCC Planning Department

Three new teams were established within the Planning Department across 2023 and 2024:

- The **County Development Plan Implementation Team** – established to deliver key objectives of the KCDP in relation to guidelines, strategies/studies and masterplans.
- The **Heritage and Nature Unit** – comprising of a Heritage Officer, Biodiversity Officer, Ecology Officer and Architectural Conservation Officer (position currently vacant).
- The **County Development Plan Review and Policy Research Team** - established to proactively address and plan for changes to planning legislation and policy in Ireland as it relates to Kildare.

These teams are progressing key long term forward planning priorities and objectives of the County Development Plan:

- A **Planning Data Collection and Collation System (PDCCS)** was established in 2024 and informs annual monitoring and reporting.
- The Heritage and Nature Unit have completed preparatory work for an online **Heritage Hub** to be delivered in 2025.
- The Implementation Team have published a series of guidelines and strategies:

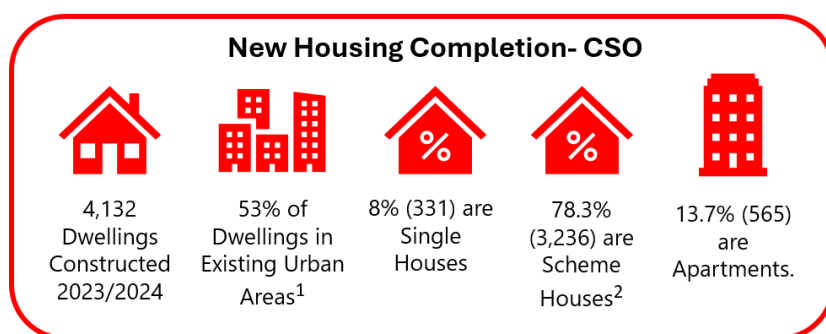


This section highlights the key achievements of the Council in the implementation of Chapters 2-14 of the KCDP. Appendix 1 of this report provides a commentary on progress for each of the individual objectives/actions/targets contained in Volume 1.

#### 4.1 Chapter 2 – Core Strategy & Settlement Strategy

The aim of Chapter 2 of the KCDP is to *‘provide for the delivery of an additional 9,144 housing units to accommodate an additional 25,146 people by the end of the Plan period, and to continue to create the environment to retain existing and attract new employers to locate in County Kildare through the delivery of sustainable, compact settlements supported by a commensurate level of physical, social and green infrastructure to mitigate against climate change and enhance the quality of life for residents’.*

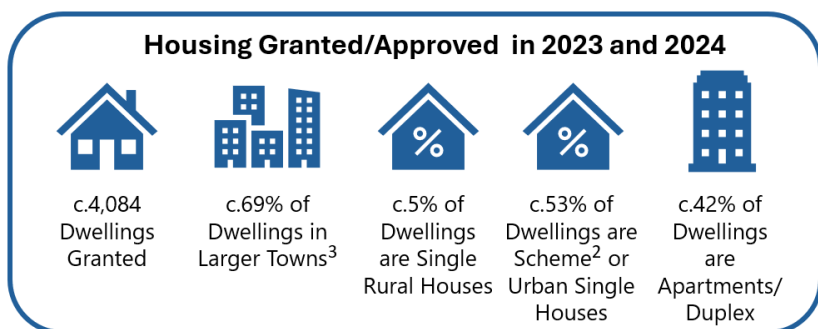
Some of the key progress indicators from 2023 and 2024 are detailed below:



**53% of new completed dwellings in Kildare are within the built up area of existing settlements as defined by the CSO.**

**Kildare far exceeds the target for 30% of new homes to be delivered within the existing built-up footprints of settlements (other than Cities), as stated in National Policy Objective 3c of the National Planning Framework.**

**KCC has met and exceed the pro rata Core Strategy allocation for 2023 and 2024 based on an annual delivery of 1,524 units (3,048 combined).**

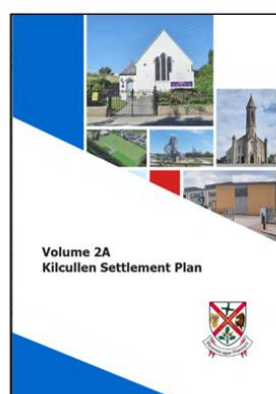
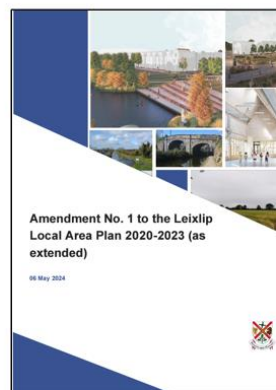
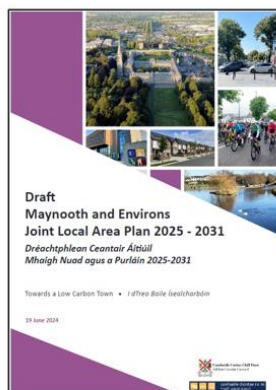
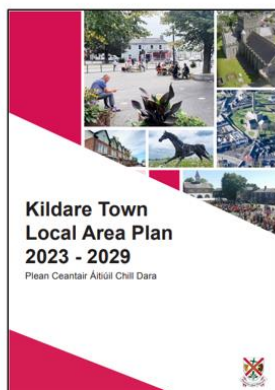


<sup>1</sup>For the purposes of this infographic, ‘Existing Urban Areas’ are the Built-Up Areas as defined by the Central Statistic Office (CSO) in Kildare.

<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this infographic, ‘Scheme Houses’ are houses that form part of a multi-unit development of two or more houses as defined by the CSO.

<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of this infographic ‘Larger Towns’ are Naas, Maynooth, Newbridge, Leixlip, Kildare Town, Athy, Celbridge, Kilcock, Monasterevin and Clane.

## Local Area Plans and Settlement Plans



**Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 was adopted in October 2023.**

**Maynooth & Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 was adopted in February 2025.**

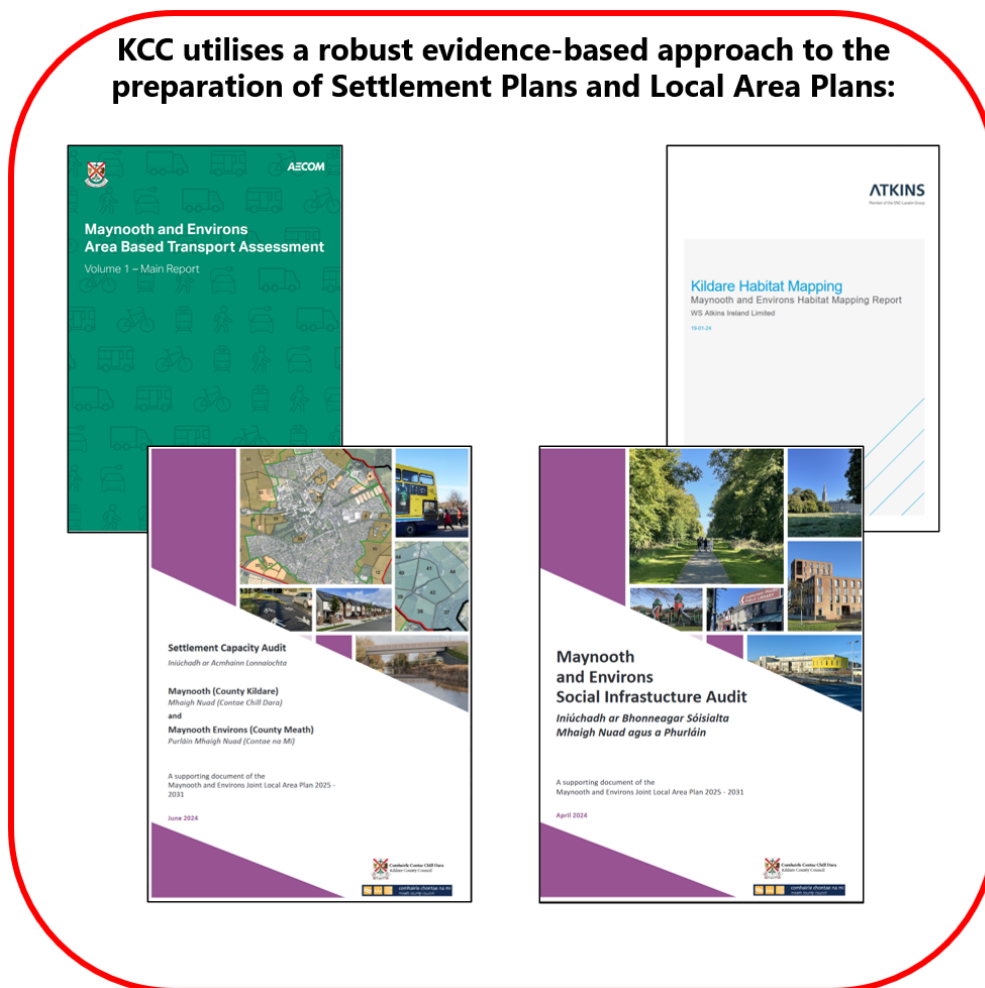
**The Leixlip Local Area Plan was extended by 3 years to 2026 and amended to include the Confey Masterplan in 2024.**

**The Draft Kilcullen Settlement Plan was published as a Variation to Volume 2 of the KCDP in 2024 – anticipated to be adopted in 2025.**

**The Draft Newbridge Local Area Plan 2025-2031 will be published in March 2025.**

**The Draft Monasterevin Settlement Plan is anticipated to be published in 2025.**

**KCC utilises a robust evidence-based approach to the preparation of Settlement Plans and Local Area Plans:**



Detailed responses to each of the objectives contained in Chapter 2 of the KCDP are contained in Appendix A1.1 of this report.

**4.2 Chapter 3 – Housing**

The aim of Chapter 3 of the KCDP is to illustrate how *‘the Plan intends to accommodate the full range of current and future housing needs of all members of society throughout the county while giving clear guidance on making provision for specialised housing requirements and providing for the needs of communities in order to deliver sustainable residential communities across the county’*.

In this regard, the KCDP seeks to build on the policies of the previous development plan and implement the Core Strategy by providing the right quantity of appropriate and diverse housing in the right locations, supporting the implementation of Local Area Plans and engaging in active land management. In addition, the KCDP seeks to ensure that applications for significant developments are accompanied by social and community infrastructure audits and, if necessary, also accompanied by implementation and phasing programmes for the timely and co-ordinated provision of needed social and community infrastructure.

Some of the key highlights from 2023 and 2024 are detailed in the infographics below:

### Housing Trends

The total of c.4,084 residential units granted permission includes **c.1,427 granted in 2023** and **c. 2657 granted in 2024**.

The total of c.4,084 residential units granted permission includes **341 KCC social and affordable** units approved through the Part 8 process.



**16.6%** of approved/granted residential units in 2023 and 2024 are **1 beds**, **30.7% are 2 beds**, **39% are 3 beds** and **13.7% are 4 bed + units**.



**c. 26%** (88 of the 341) of the social and affordable units approved through Part 8 in 2023 and 2024 are universally designed and suited for older/disabled persons.

KCC approved **2 no. new nursing homes** in Straffan and Athy, together with **32 no. older persons** units by Clúid Housing in Athy.

**A total of 2,111 social and affordable units** were secured by KCC across **2023 and 2024** in all delivery streams (including new builds, Part V, acquisitions, RAS and HAP). This exceeds the combined forecast need for such units in the Housing Need and Demand Assessment & the Housing Strategy.

### Housing Trends

The **4,132 units completed in Kildare** in 2023 and 2024 represents approximately **7% of all housing units constructed in Ireland** (62,855) during this period.

KCC exceeded the 89-unit target for **the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024** by delivering **95 units**.



KCC was allocated **€9.2 million for the Housing Adaption, Mobility Aid and Housing Aid Grants** across 2023 and 2024. The **Age Friendly Kildare County Strategy** was published in August 2023.



A new **Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan 2024-2026** was approved by the Council in March 2024.

**215** social housing units secured by KCC in 2023 and 2024 are **Part V** units.

The **County Kildare Serviced Sites Scheme** was published in 2023 and a pilot project for 7 serviced sites was launched in Clogherinkoe / Clogherinka in September 2024.

A total of **215 rural dwellings** were granted between 2023 and 2024.

Furthermore, KCC actively seeks to minimise vacancies in existing local authority housing stock through a continuous refurbishment/retrofitting/maintenance programme and through the work of the Vacant Homes Officer. Council owned units continue to be upgraded through the Disabled Persons Grant to ensure that local authority stock meets the needs of all residents. A total of **€2.6 million was received for the Disabled Persons Grant** across 2023 and 2024, with €177,325 being transferred from the Self-Help Grant as additional funding in 2023.

KCC also proactively utilises acquisition powers or leasing schemes to facilitate the continued use or renewed use of dwellings following refurbishment/retrofitting of existing as appropriate housing. The **Town Regeneration Team** was allocated additional resources in 2024 to refurbish vacant properties acquired through compulsory acquisition, funded by the Buy and Renew Scheme.

Detailed responses to each of the objectives contained in Chapter 3 of the KCDP are provided in Appendix A1.2 of this Report.

#### 4.3 Chapter 4 – Resilient Economy & Job Creation

The aim of Chapter 4 of the KCDP is *‘to provide for the future well-being of the residents of the county by creating a strong and resilient economic base, providing expanded opportunities for employment and facilitating a good quality of life within vibrant and attractive places to live, work, visit and invest’*.

Some of the key achievements of Kildare County Council in progressing the objectives, actions and targets of Chapter 4 of the KCDP include the following:

- **Planning permission** has been granted for approximately **360,000 sqm of commercial floorspace in 2023 and 2024** across the towns, villages, existing employment areas and rural areas of the county. Most of this additional commercial/employment floorspace is situated in the higher order settlements (Key, Self-Sustaining Growth and Self-Sustaining Towns) and key employment locations of the county.
- The County Development Plan Implementation Team are in the process of preparing a **Strategic Employment Lands Study** which covers the entire county. This Study will be informed by the results of and an **audit of business/enterprise/industrial parks** undertaken in 2024. It is anticipated that this Study will be published in Q3 2025.
- The **Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029 (LECP)** and associated Implementation Plan 2024-2026 was approved by KCC in April 2024. These plans were informed by up-to-date socio-economic data (incl. Census 2022) and a comprehensive public and stakeholder consultation process. KCC, in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) will endeavour to deliver on the actions outlined the LECP, subject to the availability of funding and resources.

- Through the **Kildare Hubs Strategy 2022 - 2025** there are **15 no. enterprise, innovation and creativity / incubator hubs** located in Kildare. These hubs have been developed through KCC and the LEO, or through private initiatives with the support of KCC/LEO.
- Developed or developing hubs in 2023 and 2024 include the **MERITS** tech and innovation hub (official opening 2023) in Naas; the **Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub** at the former Model School (under construction); the **Monasterevin Fashion and Textiles Design Hub** at the former Bank of Ireland site (Part 8); and the **National Equine Innovation Centre** at the National Stud.
- An initial tranche of **funding has been secured** by the Local Enterprise Office to progress the **Circular Economy Centre project** at the former Christian Brothers School in Athy. This project will be progressed into 2025 and may contain a Paint Reuse Facility following the success of a pilot scheme undertaken in 2024.
- KCC and the Local Enterprise Office are progressing the delivery of a **Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub at the Kildare Town Courthouse**, as provided for in the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029. This builds upon the success of the temporary craft retail unit (GATHER) in Kildare Village which hosted a collective of 24 makers / designers.
- The Local Enterprise Office established the **Kildare Economic Forum**, comprising key stakeholders in supporting the economic development of the county. The forum meets on a quarterly basis and includes *inter alia* the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, Chamber of Commerce, the Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board and Maynooth University.
- KCC appointed a **Just Transition Fund Tourism Activator** in April 2024 to support private and community based small and medium enterprises in developing proposals and grant applications through Failte Ireland's EU JT Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme. One local enterprise has applied for funding for design and planning of a new peatland regenerative tourism amenity and is awaiting a decision.
- Approximately **236 no. tourist accommodation bedrooms** (including glamping pods, hotel rooms, guest rooms etc) were **granted in Kildare across 2023 and 2024**.
- KCC issued **4 no. outdoor event licences** for larger events and **funded 217 festival applications** under the Community Festival Grant scheme and Local Property Tax (combined total funding of €732,000).
- **320 entrepreneurs** participated in the '**Start Your Own Business**' course run by the Local Enterprise Office in 2024.

Detailed responses to each of the objectives, actions and targets contained in Chapter 4 of the KCDP are provided in Appendix A1.3 of this Report.



#### 4.4 Chapter 5 – Sustainable Mobility & Transport

The aim of Chapter 5 of the KCDP is *'to promote and facilitate ease of movement within and through County Kildare, by integrating sustainable land use planning and a high-quality integrated transport system; and to support and prioritise investment in more sustainable modes of travel, the transition to a lower carbon transport system, and the development of a safer, efficient, inclusive, and connected transport system'*.

Some of the key achievements in progressing the objectives, actions and targets of Chapter 5 of the KCDP include the following:

- The Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department of KCC is committed to the delivery of a programme of detailed and robust Area Based Transport Assessments (ABTA) / Local Transport Plans or Strategies to inform the preparation of statutory land use plans. Examples since the adoption of the KCDP include the **Maynooth ABTA** to inform the preparation of the Maynooth Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 and the **Draft Newbridge ABTA** to inform the upcoming Draft Newbridge Local Area Plan 2025-2031.
- The County Development Plan Implementation Team published the **'Reimagining Permeability in Kildare Reconnecting our Communities': Permeability Guidelines** in 2024. Local permeability measures within settlements are identified in preparation of Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies and subject to the Local Area Plan process. Delivery of identified permeability measures are progressed through the development management process (planning permission for new development), Part 8 procedures or through Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 - as detailed in the Permeability Guidelines issued by KCC in April 2024. The planning and delivery of permeability measures in Kildare are to be informed by these guidelines.
- **Railway Orders** were **granted** by An Bord Pleanála in relation to the delivery of **Dart+ West (serving Dublin-Leixlip-Maynooth)** and **Dart+ South-West (Dublin to Hazelhatch/Celbridge)** in July and November 2024 respectively. The future delivery of these rail infrastructure and capacity upgrades have informed the future development and growth strategies for Maynooth, Celbridge and Leixlip - as defined in the KCDP and their respective Local Area Plans. In this regard, **Transport Oriented Developments (TODs)** are provided for within the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 (at **Maynooth West**) and in the Leixlip Local Area Plan 2000 -2026 (at **Confey**).
- The eastbound element of the **M4 Bus Corridor project** between Maynooth and Leixlip is at an advanced stage of construction and consultants have been appointed (September 2024) as technical advisor for the design and consenting process of the westbound element.
- **Revised bus networks** serving the north-east of the County (Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge) under the **Bus Connects programme** include the C3, C4, C5, C6, W6, X25,

X26, X27, X28, X31, X32, L54, L58 and L59. Most of these routes commenced under Phase 2 (November 2021) of the Bus Connects programme, with the W6 route commencing under Phase 5A in June 2023.

- **Revised bus networks** serving the County under the **Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Programme**, introduced since the coming into effect of the KCDP, include the **129, 139, 880, 800/885, 880, 888 and 892**. These routes are in addition to existing, revised and additional routes operating under the TFI Local Link Kildare South Dublin.
- TFI Local Link Kildare South Dublin announced details of a **Social Transport Fund 2023 (July - December)** to assist community and voluntary groups in facilitating trips to engage in activities. This fund was **boosted by the County Kildare LEADER partnership**.
- **KCC**, in consultation with the NTA and other service providers, continues to **provide improved bus shelters throughout the County** in accordance with an annual delivery programme.
- The canal road in Naas was reallocated as a priority corridor for pedestrian and cycle use as part of the **Naas to Sallins Greenway** project in 2024, following the implementation of a weekend only pilot project.
- The **Royal Canal Greenway Project** is substantially complete between Maynooth and Leixlip.
- The **Grand Canal Greenway Project** is complete to Sallins, with the Sallins-Clonkeen section representing Phase 2 of the project. A Part 8 proposal for associated works in Sallins were agreed in 2024.
- The **Barrow Blueway** is substantially complete with some works at Monasterevin ongoing. Tenders have been issued to secure engineering consultants in relation to drainage for the Barrow Blueway Trailhead project.
- Consultants have been commissioned by the County Development Plan Implementation Team to undertake a feasibility study in relation to a potential recreational project along the **Corbally Canal** between Naas Harbour, Corbally Harbour and the River Liffey.
- KCC received **€9.965 million in 2023** for 32 projects and **€10.385 million** in 2024 for 22 projects under the National Transport Agency 'Sustainable Transport Measures Grants' programme. In this regard, the **Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme** was delivered in 2024 and further active travel schemes (at construction or planned) currently being progressed include Green Lane, Mill Street, Sallins Village, Craddockstown Road, Celbridge Road, Monread Road, Dublin Road, Monasterevin and the Newbridge Road Scheme.
- Planning permission was granted in 2024 (Ref. 2360047) for development which includes the provision of a **new pedestrian and cycle overpass across the M4** to connect **The Wonderful Barn to the Kildare Innovation Campus**.

- Between 2023 and 2024 a total of **€410,000** in funding has been received for the **Safe Routes to School** programme. Two Kildare schools were listed in November 2024 to benefit from Round 3 of the programme - Kilkea National School and Scoil an Linbh Iosa, Prosperous.
- The **DeBurgh Woodland Gardens (Oldtown Demense)** in Naas opened for public access (on a ticketed basis) in 2024.
- The **Athy Southern Distributor Road** opened in Oct 2023.
- Part 8 approval has been secured for the **Maynooth Eastern Ring Road (MEER)** and the associated Compulsory Purchase Order has been granted by An Bord Pleanála with negotiations currently ongoing. A tender for the MERR issued in Q4 2024.
- The **Inner Relief Road in Clane** from the R403 to the R407 is under construction and anticipated to be completed in 2025.
- **Improvement works along the Athgarvan Road (R146)** are expected to progress to construction stage in 2025.
- Planning permission was granted for a **new bridge over the River Liffey and road connection in Newbridge** from the R146 to Old Connell. A preliminary business case for Department of Transport funding for this crossing is currently in preparation. In addition, an **Inner Relief Road** was delivered in **Newbridge** from Naas Road to Great Connell Road.
- Part 8 approval is in place and **detailed design works are ongoing for the delivery of an upgrade to the existing bridge in Celbridge** to provide enhanced Vulnerable Road User (VDU) infrastructure.
- The **Junction Improvement Project (Phase 1)** is ongoing and encompasses 10 no. junctions throughout the county. Design option selection reports have been received for certain junctions. Detailed design work is ongoing in relation to Allenwood and for Phase 1 works at Dag Welds.
- The **KCC Public Lighting Upgrade Programme** is ongoing following commencement of survey works (Phase 1) in February 2024.

Detailed responses to each of the objectives, actions and targets contained in Chapter 5 of the KCDP are provided in Appendix A1.4, A1.4.1 and A1.4.2 of this Report.

#### 4.5 Chapter 6 – Infrastructure and Environmental Services

The aim of Chapter 6 of the KCDP is *‘to create an environment characterised by high quality infrastructure networks and environmental services that complement the overall settlement and economic strategy and ensures the health and wellbeing of those who live and work in the County, also securing the economic future of the County’.*

Some of the key achievements in progressing the objectives, actions and targets of Chapter 6 of the KCDP include the following:

- The County Development Plan Implementation Team, in conjunction with the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department, managed the preparation and subsequent publication of KCC's '**Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Guidelines**' in 2024.
- The **Draft Noise Action Plan 2024-2028** was published by the Transport, Mobility & Open Spaces Department in Q4 2024.
- KCC appointed an **Environmental Awareness Officer** in 2024.
- The Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department is currently supporting the delivery of the **Morrell, Naas and Athy Flood Relief Schemes** with the OPW.
- **Strategic Flood Risk Assessments** have been prepared to inform the preparation of Local Area Plans for Maynooth and Kildare Town.
- The **Eastern and Midlands Regions Water Supply Project** received Government approval in June 2024 and a planning application (SID) to An Bord Pleanála is anticipated in 2025.
- The **Barrow Water Supply Scheme Area Extension Project** has seen substantial works carried out and commissioning works are underway.
- Kildare County Council engaged with the Local Authority Waters Programme and the Department of Housing and Local Government in the preparation of the **Nature Based Management of Urban Rainwater and Urban Surface Water Discharges, A National Strategy**, published in 2024.
- Upgrade projects for Derrinturn and Timolin under **the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme** by Uisce Éireann are at Stage 3 (Final Business Case, incorporating detailed design, statutory approvals and tender).
- In September 2024, An Bord Pleanála granted permission to Bord na Mona to extend and amend the **Drehid Waste Management Facility** to accept up to 400,000 tonnes of waste.
- A revised **Litter Management Plan** is currently being prepared for the county and is anticipated to be published for consultation in 2025.
- KCC is currently investigating the potential for the provision of a 3<sup>rd</sup> **Civic Amenity Site** in the county in addition to Silliot Hill and Gallows Hill. In addition, there are now approximately 41 no. bring/bottle banks in the county.
- KCC conducted **50 good agricultural practice** inspections and over **40 enforcement actions** in 2023. KCC received a Strong or Excellent Result from the Enforcement Performance Report 2023 by the EPA across all National Enforcement Priorities. The final inspection and enforcement count for 2024 are currently being finalised for reporting to the EPA in Q1 2025.

- The Eastern and Midlands Regions Water Supply Project received Government approval in June 2024 and a planning application (SID) to An Bord Pleanála is anticipated in 2025. The **Barrow Water Supply Scheme Area Extension Project** has seen substantial works carried out and commissioning works are underway.

Detailed responses to each of the objectives, actions and targets contained in Chapter 6 of the KCDP are provided in Appendix A1.5 of this Report.

#### 4.6 Chapter 7 – Energy & Communications

The aim of Chapter 7 of the KCDP is *‘to encourage and support energy and communications efficiency and to achieve a reasonable balance between responding to EU and National Policies on climate change, renewable energy and communications and enabling resources to be harnessed in a manner consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the county’.*

Some of the key achievements in progressing the objectives, actions and targets of Chapter 7 of the KCDP include the following:

- The **Kildare Climate Action Plan 2024-2029** was adopted by Kildare County Council in December 2023. Maynooth was identified as the inaugural **Decarbonisation Zone** for the county.
- Planning permission has been granted for **566 Megawatts of renewable solar energy** during 2023 and 2024. This figure includes a total of 561 Megawatts from **7 no. permitted solar farms** across the county and at **7 no. existing premises** - the Monread Shopping Centre, Clongowes College, the Newbridge Business Park, the Kildare Innovation Campus, the Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant and the Osberstown Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- No planning applications for wind farm developments were received by Kildare County Council in 2023 or 2024.
- Planning permission was granted for a **biogas and biofertiliser facility** in 2023 at Lackaghmore, Monasterevin.
- The **Mid-East Energy Unit** was established in 2023 in collaboration with other local authorities.
- The Climate Action Team of KCC provides financial support to approx. 30 **Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) groups** to prepare energy masterplans. **7 SECs have been funded since 2023**. The Maynooth SEC was awarded funding in Q4 2024 under the Climate Innovation Fund to carry out a **feasibility study in relation to excess renewable energy storage**.
- KCC commenced the preparation of the **Naas District Heating Feasibility Study** in 2024.
- KCC is assessing tenders for the undertaking of a **Maynooth District Heating Feasibility Study** as part of the **Town Centre Masterplan including Harbour Fields**.

- The 2023 and 2024 targets for the **Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme** are on track for delivery in Q2 2025.
- Planning permission was granted for **1 no. data centre** in 2024 at the Kildare Innovation Campus, Barnhall.
- Planning permission was granted to **Bord Na Mona** for the construction of a **new headquarters building** in Newbridge in March 2023.
- A Strategic Infrastructure Development application has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála by Eirgrid (Ref ABP 316372) for the **Kildare Meath Grid Upgrade**.
- **7 no. planning applications** have been granted in 2023 and 2024 to ESB or other service providers in relation to **upgrades to the electrical infrastructure** in County Kildare.
- As of November 2024, approx. **12,300 premises** in Co Kildare can avail of a high-speed **broadband connection** arising from the rollout of the **National Broadband Plan**.
- Kildare's Digital Strategy '**Kildare Konnected**' was adopted in June 2023.

Detailed responses to each of the objectives, actions and targets contained in Chapter 7 of the KCDP are provided in Appendix A1.6 of this Report.

#### 4.7 Chapter 8 – Urban Centres & Retail

The aim of Chapter 8 of the KCDP is *'to continue to promote and encourage town centres as our primary retail centres, at the heart of our communities so that they play a vital role in ensuring these areas remain attractive, universally accessible and liveable places and to make provision for additional retail, at appropriate locations and quantum's'*.

Some of the key achievements in progressing the objectives, actions and targets of Chapter 8 of the KCDP include the following:

- **Settlement Consolidation Sites** have been identified through the Local Area Plan process in accordance with Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines to promote targeted urban regeneration - the **Former Magee Barracks** (Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029) and the **Maynooth Central Settlement Consolidation Site** (Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031). Development on both consolidation sites are currently ongoing:
  - A mixed-use housing development is under construction and a new school has been permitted (February 2025) at the Former Magee Barracks.
  - Planning permission has been granted for a mix of residential, commercial, social/community (childcare) and student accommodation uses on a significant portion of the Central Settlement Consolidation Site in Maynooth. Construction of the student accommodation element has commenced.
- The Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team have progressed **Town and Village Renewal Masterplans** for Monasterevin, Johnstownbridge, Straffan, Derrinturn,

Ardclough, Castledermot, Athgarvan, Leixlip, Kildare Town, Celbridge, Coill Dubh / Cooleragh, Robertstown, Kilmeague and Allenwood since the coming into effect of the KCDP. Further Town Renewal Masterplans will be prepared and published in 2025.

- KCC published a **Conservation Management Plan for the Cassidy Distillery Building** in 2024 which assesses the history, cultural significance, threats and viable reuse of a large cluster of industrial structures, collectively known as Cassidy's Complex.
- The Enterprise and Economic Development Department is preparing a **Markets Strategy** for County Kildare in 2025.
- In 2023 and 2024, the Local Enterprise Office awarded **188 no. grants** to independent business owners across the County under the **Shop Front Improvement, Accessibility and Age Friendly Grant Scheme**.
- Planning permission was granted in 2023 for works to provide a new entrance plaza to the unfinished **Naas Shopping Centre** from South Main Street. This permission has been implemented.
- The **Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub** will be home to County Kildare's growing food and drink sector and will support entrepreneurs in developing innovative products and methods. This project of the Local Enterprise Office is under construction and due to open in 2026.
- Various **town centre improvement works** are being progressed by Kildare County Council in a range of settlements across the county. For example, town centre improvement works in Newbridge include the future provision of an enhanced County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre (Part 8 secured), the redevelopment of St Conleth's Park (completed 2024) and the delivery of a natural play area in the Liffey Valley Park (completed 2024).

Detailed responses to each of the objectives, actions and targets contained in Chapter 8 of the KCDP are provided in Appendix A1.7 of this Report.

#### 4.8 Chapter 9 – Our Rural Economy

The aim of Chapter 9 of the KCDP is *'to support and enable the provision of high-quality rural environments with an increased emphasis on the regeneration and renewal of our smaller rural towns and villages, sustaining the livelihoods of rural communities and promoting the development of the wider rural economy, all within the context of sustainable management of land and resources'*.

Some of the key achievements in relation to Chapter 9 of the KCDP include the following:

- In 2023 and 2024, approximately 102 no. planning permissions were granted for development relating to **agriculture, equine/bloodstock or horticulture**.

- In 2023 and 2024, 10 no. planning permissions were granted in **relation to extractive industries** - including for the infilling/remediation of quarries, the continuation of the use of existing quarries or the expansion of quarries.
- Two peatland sites that are not managed by Bord na Móna have joined the **Tóchar re-wetting scheme** with the NPWS.

Detailed responses to each of the objectives, actions and targets contained in Chapter 9 of the KCDP are provided in Appendix A1.8 of this Report.

#### 4.9 Chapter 10 – Community Infrastructure & Creative Places

The aim of Chapter 10 of the KCDP is *‘to provide for and facilitate the development of healthy, sustainable, socially inclusive communities integrated with the timely delivery of a wide range of community, social, educational, recreational, and cultural facilities that are accessible and promote social inclusion, ensuring County Kildare develops as a location with an enhanced quality of life for its citizens and visitors alike’.*

Some of the key achievements in progressing the objectives, actions and targets of Chapter 10 of the KCDP include the following:

- The **Allotment and Community Garden Strategy** was published by KCC in December 2024 and includes a commitment to developing a pilot program of allotment and community garden projects, subject to the availability of funding and resources.
- The Community Section of KCC undertakes an **annual maintenance programme** for the 25-no. community use buildings situated throughout the county.
- **New community centres / community use buildings** established since the adoption of the KCDP include the Kilcock Community Centre, the Carbury Community Centre (former HSE Dispensary Site), Allenwood Community Centre (former Credit Union) and the Anne Street Community House (Prosperous).
- Grant schemes administered by KCC for the restoration of community halls and centres include the **Community Grant Scheme, the Our Rural Future: Community Recognition Fund, the Drehid Grant Scheme** and the **Local Enhancement Programme**. The **improvement works to the Council Hall in Monasterevin** is an example of the works undertaken with allocated funding.
- The Maynooth Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 provides for a **community hub on Leinster Street in Maynooth** on the lands of the current fire station.
- The **Confey Masterplan**, incorporated into the Leixlip Local Area Plan 2020-2023 (extended to 2026), includes a community hub character area that will provide for a mix of uses including a civic/community building. A feasibility study for such a civic/community space is to be undertaken as part of the first phase of development at Confey.
- KCC is assisting in the delivery of the **Robertstown Eco-Park** and the **Johnstown Village Community Garden**.



- Planning permission was granted to the Monasterevin Development Association for the development of a **Water Sports Hub** in February 2024.
- KCC welcomed the **Swim Ireland Pop-Up Pool** to Leixlip for a 6-month period in 2023.
- KCC continues to advance plans for **2 no. swimming pools** in the north of the county (Maynooth and Leixlip).
- A site for a **Municipal Sporting Facility** has been identified at Crewhill in the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031.
- A **community park and playground** was opened in **Allenwood** in May 2024.
- A **natural play area** was opened in the **Liffey Linear Park** in Newbridge in December 2024.
- Consultants have been appointed to complete the installation of a **hangout area at The Slip in Celbridge**. Project to be progressed into 2025.
- KCC is investigating the feasibility of providing a playground in Ballymore Eustace.
- The development of a **new playground at the Leixlip Amenities Centre** is ongoing (Part 8 Ref. P82023.03).
- KCC is currently in the process of securing the **Celbridge Parochial House** and lands with the intention of redeveloping this significant building and site on the Main Street for community uses.
- Sites for the **future provision of playgrounds** have been identified in Town Renewal Plans for **Kilmeague, Coill Dubh / Cooleragh, Ardclough and Johnstownbridge**.
- **Outdoor gyms** provided over 2023 and 2024 include the Celbridge Abbey Car Park and the Allenwood Community Park.
- In March 2023, a fully accessible '**Changing Places**' facility for people with complex disabilities located in **Newbridge Sports Centre** was opened.
- The **Age Friendly Kildare County Strategy 2023-2027** was published through Age Friendly Ireland and the Kildare LCDC in August 2023. **Ballymore Eustace** is working towards becoming an **age friendly village**, **Celbridge** is working towards becoming an **age friendly town** and the **Naas Racecourse** has been accredited as being age friendly.
- Library projects progressed since the adoption of the KCDP include the **Naas Library and Cultural Centre** (opened January 2024), the **Kildare Town Community Library Refurbishment** project, the **Clane Library** (Part 8 approval Ref. P82023.01), the **Newbridge Library, County Archives and Cultural Centre** (Part 8 approval Ref. P82022.21 with funding secured for progression) and a **new mobile library** (funding secured with tender to issue in Q1 2025). Initial plans for new libraries in Celbridge and Maynooth are at an early stage of consideration.
- **Public art** provided since the adoption of the KCDP includes '**The Stones of the Hollow Hill**' by James Winnett at Kerdiffstown Park, Naas and '**Pobal Le Chéile, Ag**

**Foghlaim Le Chéile, Níos Fearr Le Chéile'** by Peter Martin at the Naas Library and Cultural Centre.

- Cill Dara le Gaeilge launched its **Irish Language Plan for County Kildare 2024-2030** in Q4 2024.
- Site development works are progressing at the **Shackleton Museum** in Athy.
- The preparation of a **Masterplan for the Dominican Lands** is ongoing, pending the outcome of the Athy Flood Relief Scheme.
- Planning permission was granted for approximately **20 no. new childcare facilities** in Kildare over 2023-2024.
- A **new fire station in Maynooth** (Part 8 Ref. P82022.13) is currently under construction with completion expected in 2025.
- **Burial ground expansions** have recently occurred at Allen Cemetery, Rathangan (St Patricks) Cemetery and at Staplestown Cemetery. Construction of a **new private cemetery** adjoining the existing Bodenstown Cemetery has commenced. Additional land has been zoned for a cemetery extension in the Maynooth Joint LAP.
- **Columbarium Walls** are currently in place in Maynooth Cemetery, Naas Cemetery, Rathangan Cemetery, Churchtown Cemetery and Crookstown Cemetery. Works are ongoing for the delivery of Columbarium Walls at Athy, Newbridge and Leixlip.
- Community Festival Grants and Local Property Tax was used to fund small and large events such as St Patrick's Day festivities, Junefest, HOLI- Festival of Colour and the Naas Wild Foods festival. **St Brigids festival** included events across the county and local artists and community groups received €500,000 of funding through the Brigid 1500 Grant scheme.
- KCC has commenced preparation of the **County Kildare Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, the County Kildare Outdoor Recreation Plan and the County Kildare Local Sports Plan**. A survey was conducted in September/October 2024 to inform these plans. It is anticipated that the Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Sports Plan will to be published in 2025.
- The **LEADER programme** is run by the County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) and overseen by the Community Department. During 2023 and 2024, approx. €2m of LEADER funds were allocated to initiatives in Kildare.

Detailed responses to each of the objectives, actions and targets contained in Chapter 10 of the KCDP are provided in Appendix A1.9 of this Report.

#### 4.10 Chapter 11 – Built & Cultural Heritage

The aim of Chapter 11 of the KCDP is *'to protect, conserve and sensitively manage the built and cultural heritage of County Kildare and to encourage sensitive sustainable development so as to ensure its survival and maintenance for future generations'*.

Some of the key achievements in progressing the objectives, actions and targets of Chapter 11 of the KCDP include the following:

- The **Curragh Plains Conservation Management Plan** and the **Curragh Plains Interpretation, Branding and Wayfinding Strategy** was published in December 2024.
- KCC administers funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage via the **Historic Structures Fund (HSF)** and the **Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS)**. During 2023 and 2024, the total amount administered by KCC under these funds were €377,000 and €282,500 respectively.
- **Dun Ailinne** has been included in the 2022 UNESCO tentative list under the Royal Sites of Ireland as the first step in the nomination process. Further progress can take a number of years to complete (c.4-6 years).
- A Part 8 Proposal for the **redevelopment of the Wonderful Barn** was approved by in October 2024. The development seeks to protect and enhance the architectural heritage and amenity value of the site through the provision of an **integrated public amenity park and tourism destination**, incorporating a conservation led design approach.
- A Thatch Cottage at Derryoughter East was added to the **Record of Protected Structures** in July 2023 under Section 55 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) following the adoption of the KCDP.
- KCC announced the purchase of **Donaghcumper House** and approximately 26.3 hectares of surrounding lands in July 2024. KCC has subsequently transferred ownership of Donaghcumper House including circa 7 hectares of land to the OPW to facilitate the appropriate conservation of the historic built asset. It is anticipated that a framework plan for the lands will be prepared in the future.

Detailed responses to each of the objectives, actions and targets contained in Chapter 11 of the KCDP are provided in Appendix A1.10 of this Report.

#### 4.11 Chapter 12 – Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure

The aim of Chapter 12 of the KCDP is *‘to protect, manage and enhance the County’s biodiversity for future generations, including sites designated at national and EU level, protected species and habitats outside of designated sites and to promote the development of an integrated Green Infrastructure network in order to improve our resilience to climate change and to enable the role of Green Infrastructure in delivering sustainable communities’*.

Some of the key achievements in progressing the objectives, actions and targets of Chapter 12 of the KCDP include the following:

- KCC appointed its **Biodiversity Officer** in May 2023 through the Heritage Council Pilot Biodiversity Officer Programme.
- Kildare’s first **Biodiversity Conference** was held in October 2023 and a subsequent conference in October 2024.

- In 2023, Kildare County Council acquired a **50-acre site in Feighcullen** with a view to creating a protected biodiversity habitat, incorporating native tree planting under the Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme.
- KCC has commenced preparation of the new **County Biodiversity Action Plan** and this new plan is anticipated to be published in 2025.
- An additional **13 Local Biodiversity Action Plans** have been prepared/funded through KCC in conjunction with local community groups since the first 10 plans were published in 2021. It is anticipated that the 2021 action plans will be reviewed following the publication of the new County Biodiversity Action Plan.
- The Biodiversity Officer of KCC has delivered 2 no. training events on **Invasive Alien Species** to local community groups based along the River Liffey. These training events focused on the safe management, removal and eradication of Himalayan Balsam.
- **Habitat/Green Infrastructure Mapping** has been carried out to inform the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029, the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031, the Draft Kilcullen Settlement Plan and for the forthcoming Draft Newbridge Local Area Plan 2025-2031.
- KCC is currently engaged with the Heritage Council, via the Biodiversity Officer Programme, to support a co-ordinated national approach to identifying and recognising **locally important biodiversity sites**.
- The **County Kildare Hedgerow Appraisal Survey** was completed and published in 2022. In addition, a survey of townland hedgerows across the Municipal District of Celbridge/Leixlip was carried out in May 2024.
- KCC commissioned and launched a booklet entitled '**County Kildare's Wonderful Wetlands**' in 2024. KCC supports 'World Wetlands Day' annually through facilitating talks and presentations at council properties.
- KCC's **2023 tree planting programme** established 475 semi mature trees and 1,800 sapling and hedging plants throughout the county.
- Two peatland sites that are not managed by Bord na Móna have joined the **Tóchar re-wetting scheme** with the NPWS.

Detailed responses to each of the objectives, actions and targets contained in Chapter 12 of the KCDP are provided in Appendix A1.11 of this Report.

#### 4.12 Chapter 13 – Landscape, Recreation & Amenity

The aim of Chapter 13 of the KCDP is *'to provide for the protection, management, and enhancement of the landscape of Kildare to ensure that development does not disproportionately impact on the unique landscape character areas, scenic routes or protected views; and to support the provision of high quality and accessible recreational facilities, amenities and open spaces for residents and visitors to the County, in recognition of the contribution of all forms of recreation to quality of life, personal health and wellbeing.'*

Some of the key achievements in progressing the objectives, actions and targets of Chapter 13 of the KCDP include the following:

- The County Development Plan Implementation Team is currently progressing the preparation of a new **Landscape Character Assessment** for the County. This Landscape Character Assessment is anticipated to be published in 2025/2026 and will also address historic landscape characterisation, scenic views and scenic routes.
- KCC has commenced preparation of the **County Kildare Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, the County Kildare Outdoor Recreation Plan and the County Kildare Local Sports Plan**. A survey was conducted in September/October 2024 to inform these plans. It is anticipated that the Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Sports Plan will to be published in 2025.
- The County Development Plan Implementation Team has commenced a feasibility study regarding a **Liffey Valley Park** from Celbridge to Leixlip. It is anticipated that this project could form the first phase in the delivery of a wider Liffey Valley Park envisaged in the Liffey Valley Park Strategy (2006).
- KCC have appointed consultants to conduct a feasibility study in relation to connecting the **Barrow Blueway / Monasterevin to Portarlington**.
- Consultants have been commissioned by the County Development Plan Implementation Team to undertake a feasibility study in relation to a potential recreational project along the **Corbally Canal** between Naas Harbour, Corbally Harbour and the River Liffey. This feasibility study is anticipated to be completed in 2025.
- The Heritage and Nature Unit of KCC is involved with a steering group for the development of a feasibility study for the **Turas Columbanus** trail from Wexford, through Kildare, to Bangor.
- **Kerdiffstown Park**, incorporating a range of recreational and sporting facilities and infrastructure opened in October 2024.
- The **Sallins Amenity Lands** (Part 8 proposal Ref. P82022.01) are currently at detailed design stage with tender for the delivery of the first phase anticipated to be issued in 2025.
- A tender was issued in December 2024 for the detailed design of Phase 1 of the **Cherry Avenue Public Park**.
- Planning permissions have been granted for the delivery of a **public parkland along the River Liffey at Clane** under Refs. 2360433 and 22889.

Detailed responses to each of the objectives, actions and targets contained in Chapter 13 of the KCDP are provided in Appendix A1.12 of this Report.

#### 4.13 Chapter 14 – Urban Design, Placemaking & Regeneration

The aims of Chapter 14 of the KCDP are:

*‘To create vibrant and bustling towns and villages with a diverse mix of activities where residents benefit from inclusive, attractive, connected, vibrant and well-functioning places to live, work, visit, socialise and invest in.*

*To deliver improved urban design and healthy placemaking outcomes across Kildare’s network of settlements through the implementation of the principles people-centred and design-led planning, including the 10-minute Settlement concept.*

*To continue to pursue a Town Centre First approach to planning, renewing, and developing the historic cores of County Kildare’s towns and villages.’*

Some of the key achievements in progressing the objectives, actions and targets of Chapter 14 of the KCDP include the following:

- A **Town Regeneration Team** have been established. 18 no. compulsory purchase orders have commenced and over 100 properties have entered into the programme. Funding has been approved for 56 properties in Kildare in 2024.
- 14 no. **Town Renewal Masterplans** have been published with additional to be progressed through 2025 - including the Dominican Lands (Athy), the Maynooth Town Centre, Rathangan, Newbridge, Sallins and Naas.
- The County Development Plan Implementation Team have commenced the preparation of **masterplans for the Northwest Quadrant and the Canal Quarter in Naas**.
- The **Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team** continue to undertake a range of projects to improve the public realm of towns and villages across the county, utilising funding from a range of sources including the Urban/Rural Regeneration and Development Funds (over €12 million received for ongoing projects), the Town & Village Renewal Scheme, the EU Just Transition Fund, Failte Ireland Grants etc. Examples of the projects undertaken include the following:
  - The regeneration of **Emily Square** in Athy (construction stage);
  - **Kilcullen Square** (complete);
  - **Rathangan Market Square** Improvement Works (detailed design / tender);
  - **Kildare Market Square** (Phase 1 planning complete + Phase 2 planning underway) with the potential for the delivery of infrastructure for market stalls; and,
  - **Monasterevin Square** (preliminary design).

Detailed responses to each of the objectives, actions and targets contained in Chapter 14 of the KCDP are provided in Appendix A1.13 of this Report.

## 5.0 Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 – Volume 2

Volume 2 of the County Development Plan provides the settlement planning framework for 5 towns, 2 environs areas, 17 villages and 20 rural settlements across the county. This section provides an overview of the key achievements of the Council in relation to the sustainable development of these settlements and environs areas, since the coming into effect of the KCDP.

It is noted that the towns of Sallins and Kilcullen are not currently included in Volume 2 of the KCDP as they are subject to specific Local Area Plans. In this regard, Variation 1 of the KCDP went on display for public consultation on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2022 and seeks to provide an additional settlement plan for Kilcullen in Volume 2 of the KCDP. This settlement plan will replace the Kilcullen Local Area Plan 2014-2020.

### 5.1 Small Towns

**Castledermot:** Key developments in Castledermot in 2023 and 2024 include the following:

- The Housing Department secured Part 8 approval for 2 residential units at Skenagun in Castledermot in July 2024.
- A Village Renewal Masterplan was finalised by the SPPR Team during this period.
- No significant planning permissions are noted for 2023 or 2024.

**Derrinturn:** Key developments in Derrinturn in 2023 and 2024 include the following:

- Permission granted in 2024 for the completion of 15 dwellings in Cluain Dara - a small residential development that was originally permitted in 2006.
- Grace's Park was taken in charge by KCC in April 2023.
- A Town Renewal Master Plan was finalised by KCC during this period.

**Kill:** Key developments in Kill in 2023 and 2024 include the following:

- Permission granted for a creche to cater for 55 children in the Lagan Homes development at Earl's Court.
- Permission granted for a small scheme of 7 no. residential units to Cavan Developments Holding Ltd in 2024,
- 2 no. additional units were granted at the Pavement Homes Ltd. development at Marsville House, Main Street (total 25 units).

**Prosperous:** Key developments in Prosperous in 2023 and 2024 include the following:

- Permission granted for 25 additional creche places at Tots Creche and Daycare nursery;
- Permission granted for 40 additional places at Little Scholars childcare;
- Permission granted for a gym at Dowling's Licensed Premises;
- Permission granted for a new Care Facility at the former Credit Union building.
- Permission granted for 8 no. dwellings within the curtilage of Villa House;

- Permission granted for a total of 62 no. dwellings between 3 different sites in Curryhills;
- Permission granted for improvement works at St. Farnan's Park including an extension to the clubhouse.
- Rathview, Curryhills and Rathwood, Blacksticks estates were taken in charge, and a community board was installed at the town park between 2023 and 2024.

**Rathangan:** Key developments in Rathangan in 2023 and 2024 include the following:

- Permission granted for 28 houses at Newtown;
- Permission granted for a new 429sqm industrial building at Rathangan Industrial Estate;
- Permission granted for 4 new dwellings at Millview Demesne;
- Permission granted for 2 no. tourism accommodation pods at The Old Lock House.
- Permission granted for a scheme of 69 dwellings and a creche at Millview Demesne,
- Permission granted for 100 childcare places on the Kildare Road (former garage);
- Permission granted for 17 dwellings on the Kildare Road;
- A Part 8 proposal for 24 residential units at St John's Convent, New Street was approved in July 2024.
- A Part 8 proposal for 32 residential units at St Patricks Road was approved in July 2024.
- Woodview and Yellow Lough were taken in charge by KCC in March 2024.
- A Town Renewal Master Plan was finalised by KCC during this period.

## 5.2 Ladytown Environs & Blessington Environs

**Ladytown:** Key developments in Ladytown in 2023 and 2024 include the following:

- Permission granted for 8,521 sqm of warehouse and logistic space (in two separate permissions for 7721sqm and 800sqm) in 2023.
- Permission granted for a combined total of 49,060 sqm of warehouse/industrial and logistics space in 2024 under 5 separate applications for 8 units (2471sqm; 8564sqm; 17,244sqm; 1843sqm; 18,938sqm).
- Permission granted for a Multi-Use Games Area for employees and visitors of Momentum Logistics Park, and for a change of use of an industrial unit to a gym in 2024.

**Blessington:** No major permissions or development in Blessington (Environs) in 2023 or 2024.



### 5.3 Villages

**Allenwood:** KCC opened a new playpark (3000sqm) including a playground, MUGA and pump track in May 2024. A new wastewater treatment system permitted for the Allenwood Community Development Association CLG. The former Credit Union building was acquired by the Community Section of KCC during this period also and plans are being prepared for its conversion to community use. The SPPR Team completed a Village Renewal Scheme for Allenwood during this period.

**Athgarvan:** In 2024, planning permission was granted for improvement works to the GAA Club including a new juvenile pitch, for alterations to the permitted residential scheme at Blackrath Vale for an additional 5 dwellings, and for change of use in Millers Square from medical suites to 2 apartments. No significant permissions in 2023. The SPPR Team finalised the Athgarvan Town Renewal Masterplan during this period.

**Ballitore:** In 2023, planning permission was granted for 16 dwellings at Fuller's Court Road, and for demolition of 19 no. redundant grain silos at Glanbia. In 2024, planning permission was granted to Kestorra Ltd. for 29 dwellings in the village.

**Ballymore Eustace:** In 2023, planning permission was granted for a community hall (1205sqm) on the Naas Road. In 2024, permission was granted for 11 apartments with one retail unit on Main Street, a 2 no. classroom extension to the Scoil Mhuire National School, and 4 individual / infill houses within the village.

**Caragh:** In 2024, planning permission was granted to O'Flynn Construction for a mixed-use scheme of 36 residential units and 2 retail/office units. No significant permissions in 2023.

**Coill Dubh / Cooleragh:** In 2023, planning permission was granted for the re-development of the petrol service station building in Cooleragh to comprise of a new service station, 1 shop, 2 offices, 12 apartments and 1 additional dwelling. In 2024, permission was granted to Coill Dubh Hurling Club for a new hurling wall and associated works, and to TMC Siteworks Ltd. For 22 dwellings in Cooleragh. The SPPR Team finalised a Village Renewal Masterplan for Coill Dubh/Cooleragh during this period.

**Crookstown:** No significant planning permissions noted for 2023 or 2024.

**Johnstown:** No significant planning permissions are noted in 2023. In 2024, permission was granted at the former Johnstown Garden Centre site for a public amenity play area with community canteen, shed and storage, and permission was also granted for a 1318sqm extension to the Johnstown Garden Centre building including extended restaurant area.

**Johnstownbridge:** No significant permissions granted in 2023. In 2024, permission was granted for 68 residential units with a retail/café unit on the corner site of R402 and the Johnstown Road. The SPPR Team finalised a Town Renewal Masterplan for Johnstownbridge during this period.

**Kildangan:** In 2023, planning permission was granted for retention of health centre use at Kilbeg. In 2024, permission was granted for 46 no. residential units at Kilbeg; and for 2 no.

new classrooms and an external play area at Kildangan National School. A Part 8 scheme brought forward by the Housing Department is underway for 1 dwelling at Castle Park.

**Kilmeague:** In 2023, planning permission granted for change of use at Kilmeague Health Centre for a day care service centre and meals on wheels hub. In 2024, permission was granted for a change of use from betting office to café at Gregg Court. The SPPR Team finalised a Village Renewal Scheme for Kilmeague during this period.

**Moone:** No significant planning permissions noted in 2023 or 2024.

**Narraghmore:** No significant planning permissions noted in 2023 or 2024.

**Robertstown:** In 2023, planning permission was granted for a community amenity area and pedestrian link to the Grand Canal at Robertstown National School; one individual infill house; and for a takeaway/restaurant use at Main Street. In 2024, permission was granted to extend the duration of a permission for 4 dwellings at Robertstown East. The SPPR Team finalised a Village Renewal Scheme for Robertstown during this period.

**Straffan:** In 2023, planning permission was granted for 19 dwellings at Glebe House; a 91-bedroom nursing facility (4572sqm) on the Barberstown Road; and for a mobile coffee and snack truck at Straffan GAA. In 2024, permission was granted for 24 no. staff bedrooms at the permitted nursing home on the Barberstown Road. The SPPR Team finalised a Village Scheme for Straffan during this period.

**Suncroft:** In 2023, planning permission granted for 41 residential units at Eascanrath Brook; and new floodlighting at Suncroft AFC. No significant permissions noted for 2024.

**Timolin:** No significant planning permissions noted in 2023 or 2024.

#### 5.4 Rural Settlements

**Allen:** The Allen Graveyard was extended by the Environment Section of KCC during the period. No significant permissions granted in 2023 or 2024.

**Ardclough:** A communications tower was permitted at Ardclough GAA in 2024. No significant permissions in 2023. The SPPR Team finalised a Village Renewal Scheme for Ardclough during this period.

**Ballyshannon:** An extension to the Ballyshannon National School was permitted in 2024. No significant permissions in 2023.

**Brannockstown:** No significant permissions granted in 2023 or 2024.

**Broadford:** No significant permissions granted in 2023 or 2024.

**Brownstown:** Permission granted in 2023 for: 2 dwellings; 3 dwellings on the Suncroft Road; and a TUSLA residential care use in The Grove. Brownstown manor was taken in charge by KCC in 2024.

**Calverstown:** Permission granted in 2024 for completion of 11 houses at Cluain Aoibhinn. No significant permissions in 2023. Burrow Manor and Carrighill were taken in charge by KCC in 2024.

**Clogherinka:** No significant permissions granted in 2023 or 2024. The Serviced Sites Pilot Project at Clogherinka was launched during this period, which offered 7 no. serviced sites for sale.

**Cutbush:** Permission granted for 3 dwellings at Lis na Dara in 2024. No significant permissions in 2023.

**Kilberry:** No significant permissions granted in 2023 or 2024.

**Kilkea:** Permissions granted in 2024 at Kilkea Castle Demesne for alterations to the Gate Lodge, alterations to staff accommodation building and roof extensions to 23 golf lodges. No significant permissions in 2023. Castlewood was taken in charge by KCC in 2024.

**Kilmead:** No significant permissions granted in 2023 or 2024.

**Kilteel:** Permission granted for two individual dwellings in 2023. Permission granted in 2024 for one infill dwelling.

**Lackagh/Mountrice:** No significant permissions in 2023.

**Maganey/Levitstown:** Permission granted in 2024 for at King's Service Station for retention of works to retail building, stores, alterations to forecourt, and permission to upgrade car parking spaces. No significant permissions in 2023.

**Milltown:** Permission granted in 2024 for two dwellings at Clongownagh. No significant permissions in 2023.

**Nurney:** Permission granted in 2023 for two no. 1 bed apartments at Walterstown, Nurney. No permissions in 2024.

**Rathcoffey:** Permission granted in 2024 for alterations to car parking at Rathcoffey Parish Church. No significant permissions in 2023.

**Staplestown:** 7 planning permissions granted on sites in Blackwater Park for change of house types, inclusion of garages and alterations to house designs. No significant permissions in 2023.

**Two Mile House:** One infill dwelling permitted in 2024. No significant permissions in 2023.

## 6.0 Conclusion & Next Steps

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (KCDP) includes a significant number of objectives for the plan period up to 2029 and beyond, ranging from short, to medium and long term in nature. Within the first two years of the County Development Plan, significant progress has been made by many Departments within KCC to achieve and progress these objectives.

As outlined in Section 3 of this report, there have been some significant changes in national planning policy and guidance since the County Development Plan was made. To ensure the Plan remains consistent with the policy and guidance hierarchy, a series of Variations to the KCDP 2023-2029 will be required to achieve this. These are set out in Section 6.1 below.

A significant implication of the new Planning and Development Act 2024 (which will be enacted in 2025) is that Local Area Plans will no longer be required or supported by legislation. Towns that heretofore required a Local Area Plan will be integrated into Volume II of the CDP as 'Settlement Plans', similar to that recently conducted for Kilcullen<sup>4</sup>, unless determined in the upcoming CDP to require an alternative settlement plan type<sup>5</sup>.

### 6.1 Variations to Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029

The required Variations to the KCDP will relate to the topics listed below. Variations will be progressed as resources allow and may be published individually or grouped together. Each Variation will include consultation with the public and prescribed authorities.

- Variation to align the KCDP with the National Planning Framework Review (including new housing targets) and to incorporate Census 2022 updates. The timeline for this Variation will depend on the finalisation of the NPF Review and instruction from the Department of Housing. This may also be dependent on the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy being reviewed in the interim.
- Variation to align the KCDP with new Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines as follows:
  - The Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments (2023) Guidelines as they relate to Build-To-Rent (BTR) developments.
  - The Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlement Guidelines (2024) as they provide for residential densities to facilitate compact growth.
- Variation to integrate a new Settlement Plan for Monasterevin into Volume 2 of the KCDP, to replace the current Local Area Plan.
- Variation to integrate a new Settlement Plan for Sallins into Volume 2 of the KCDP, to replace the current Local Area Plan.
- Variation to integrate a new Settlement Plan for Kilcock into Volume 2 of the KCDP, to replace the current Local Area Plan.
- Variation to integrate Strategic Employment Study (SELS).
- Variation to integrate new Landscape Character Assessment.

---

<sup>4</sup> Variation No. 1 to Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 which includes Settlement Plan for Kilcullen in Volume II.

<sup>5</sup> The Planning and Development Act 2024 provides legislative requirements for Urban Area Plan, Priority Area Plans and Coordinated Area Plans.

## Appendix 1:

### KCDP Volume 1 – Objectives, Actions and Targets

A1.1 Chapter 2 - Core Strategy & Settlement Strategy

Policy Objective	Timeframe	CE Comments
<p><b>CS O1</b> - Ensure that the future growth and spatial development of County Kildare is in accordance with the population and housing allocations contained in the Core Strategy which aligns with the regional growth strategy as set out in the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region and further specified in the 'Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning'.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Population and housing allocations contained in the Core Strategy fundamentally guide plan-making at the settlement level, as illustrated in the Local Area Plans and Settlement Plans progressed since the KCDP came into effect (see CS O9 below) and the settlement plans in Volume 2.</p> <p>The Forward Planning Section of KCC monitors permissions granted for new dwellings and CSO housing completions data on an annual basis, as contained in the KCDP Annual Monitoring Report 2023 and in this Report.</p> <p>The combined housing target of the Core Strategy for 2023 and 2024 equates to 3,048 units based on a provision of 1,524 units per annum. A total of 4,132 housing units were constructed in Kildare in 2023 and 2024 according to the CSO New Dwelling Completion Database. A gross total of approximately 4,084 housing units were granted or approved in Kildare between 2023 and 2024. This includes 3,743 units granted planning permission and 341 units approved through the Part 8 process.</p>
<p><b>CS O2</b> - Ensure that the future growth and spatial development of County Kildare provides for a county that is resilient to climate change, enables the decarbonisation of the county's economy and reduces the county's carbon footprint in support of national targets for climate mitigation and adaption objectives as well as targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Implementation of this objective is ongoing through the influence of the spatial strategy, policies, objectives and actions of the KCDP in the preparation of other statutory / non-statutory land use plans, strategies and guidelines.</p> <p>The KCDP directs demographic and economic growth to the existing settlements and employment areas of the county, promotes compact development supported by sustainable mobility and appropriate infrastructure and supports the growth of appropriate renewable energy sources.</p> <p>The following achievements and development trends have occurred in the 2 years since the adoption of the KCDP:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 53% of new dwellings built in County Kildare have been constructed within the urban footprint of existing settlements, <b>significantly more than the 30% target provided in the National Planning Framework.</b></li> <li>• Planning permission has been granted for 566 Megawatts of renewable solar energy. This figure includes 561 Megawatts at 9 no. permitted solar farms across the county and 5.1 Megawatts at 7 no. existing large scale commercial or infrastructural premises.</li> <li>• Planning permission has been granted for 1 biogas development.</li> <li>• Maynooth has been designated as the inaugural Decarbonising Zone in County Kildare, through the County Climate Action Plan and the Maynooth Joint Local Area Plan is entitled “Towards a Low Carbon Town”.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the KCDP seeks to facilitate the appropriate development of the countryside and rural areas through the creation of vibrant rural communities based on a series of smaller villages and rural settlements, sustainable agricultural practices and diversified employment opportunities into green sectors.</p>
<p><b>CS O3</b> - Actively engage with the Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly during the mid-term review of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and to inform the consideration of how urban settlements, regional growth centres and the retail hierarchy are designated within the region.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>KCC is committed to engagement with Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly when the review of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy commences.</p>
<p><b>CS O4</b> - Ensure that sufficient zoned and adequately serviced lands are available to meet the planned population and housing growth of settlements throughout the</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The servicing of land is considered in detail in the Settlement Capacity Audits prepared to inform Local Area Plans and to assist the Elected Members when zoning land for residential and employment uses. KCC liaises with the relevant service providers in this regard, including Uisce Éireann.</p>

<p>county in line with the Core Strategy and the Settlement Hierarchy.</p>		
<p><b>CS O5</b> - Promote compact growth and the renewal of towns and villages through the development of underutilised town centres and brownfield sites, and where appropriate, pursue through active land management measures a co-ordinated planned approach to developing appropriately zoned lands at key locations, including regeneration areas, vacant sites and under-utilised areas in cooperation with state agencies, while also maintaining a 'live' baseline dataset to monitor the delivery of population growth on existing zoned and serviced lands to achieve the sustainable compact growth targets of 30% of all new housing within the existing urban footprint of settlements.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of other KCC departments on brownfield, regeneration and infill sites across the towns, villages and rural settlements of the county. The Planning Department has established a Planning Data Collection and Collation System (PDCCS) that records all permissions granted to monitor the development of land.</p> <p>A total of 4,132 housing units were constructed in Kildare in 2023 and 2024 according to the CSO New Dwelling Completion Database. 53% of these dwellings were constructed within the Built Urban Areas of existing settlements in Kildare as defined by the CSO.</p> <p>Settlement Consolidation Sites have been identified through the Local Area Plan process in accordance with Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines to promote targeted urban regeneration, such as the Former Magee Barracks (Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029) and the Maynooth Central Settlement Consolidation Site (Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031).</p> <p>Construction of the mixed use and housing development permitted in October 2019 (An Bord Pleanála Ref. TA09.305007) is ongoing at the Former Magee Barracks. In addition, a new post-primary school was granted planning permission on the former barracks in October 2024 by KCC (Ref. 2360321) and upheld by An Bord Pleanála in February 2025. In relation to Maynooth, planning permission has been granted in 2023 and 2024 for a mix of residential, commercial, social/community (childcare) and student accommodation uses on a significant portion of the Central Settlement Consolidation Site.</p> <p>Examples of further efforts progressed by the council include the preparation of Town Renewal Masterplans (14 finalised to date) and the re-development of vacant town centre properties (see response to CS O6 below).</p>



<p><b>CS 06</b> - Promote, and initiate where feasible, measures to reduce vacancy and the underutilisation of existing building stock and support initiatives that promote the reuse, refurbishment and retrofitting of existing buildings within settlements throughout the county.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of other KCC departments across the county. The Town Regeneration Team has been established and proactively pursues the acquisition of vacant properties for conversion to residential use.</p> <p>Regeneration strategies and Settlement Consolidation Sites are included in Local Area Plans and settlement plans, where appropriate.</p> <p>KCC actively progresses projects to refurbish and reuse existing building stock for community benefit. Examples during the last two years include Athy Food Drink and Skills Innovation Hub (under construction), the Monasterevin Fashion and Textiles Design Hub in the former Bank of Ireland (Part 8), the Naas Library and Cultural Centre in the former Town Hall (opened 2024), the Shackleton Museum, Athy (under construction); the Newbridge Library and Cultural Centre (Part 8), the Clane Library (Part 8), the new Carbury Community Centre at the former HSE Dispensary Site (open) and the refurbishment of the Allenwood Credit Union for community use.</p>
<p><b>CS 07</b> – Promote and facilitate the development of sustainable and socially integrated communities through, a planned approach that is informed by settlement capacity audits and social infrastructure audits by providing for land use zoning designations capable of accommodating employment, environmental education, community, leisure, education campuses, childcare, recreational and cultural facilities having regard to the quality of the receiving environment, and any landscape character,</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Settlement capacity Audits (SCA) and Social Infrastructure Audits (SIA) have been prepared to inform all Local Area Plans progressed since the KCDP came into effect.</p> <p>The SCA refers to the serviceability of land for residential and employment uses.</p> <p>The SIA refers to existing social infrastructure provision and the additional provision required to facilitate the population growth planned in the core strategy. The provision of sustainable communities is a cornerstone of KCC plan making, embodied by the 10-minute settlement principle. This evidenced based approach assists the Elected Members when zoning land and adopting plans in this regard.</p>

archaeological and architectural heritage sensitivities.		
<b>CS 08</b> - Support the implementation of Kildare’s Climate Change Adaptation Plan in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders	Ongoing	KCC's Kildare Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 adopted by the Elected Members in 2024.
<b>CS 09</b> - Review and prepare on an ongoing basis a portfolio of Local Area Plans (LAPs) for the mandatory LAP settlements (and environs, where appropriate) of Naas, Maynooth, Newbridge, Leixlip, Kildare, Athy, Celbridge, Kilcock, Monasterevin, Sallins, Clane and Kilcullen in accordance with the objectives of the County Development Plan and all relevant Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines.	Ongoing	<p>Since the adoption of the KCDP the following Local Area Plans (LAP) have progressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kildare Town LAP 2023-2029 was adopted in Q4 2023;</li> <li>• Leixlip Local Area Plan was extended (to 2026) and amended to include the Confey Masterplan in 2024.</li> <li>• Maynooth and Environs Joint LAP 2025-2031 was adopted in Q1 2025;</li> <li>• Draft Kilcullen Settlement Plan was published in Q4 2024 as a Variation to the KCDP and is anticipated to be adopted in Q2 2025.</li> <li>• Pre-draft consultation completed for Monasterevin Local Area Plan / Settlement Plan review in 2024.</li> <li>• Draft Newbridge Local Area Plan 2025-2031 anticipated to be published in Q1 2025.</li> </ul>
<b>CS 010</b> - Prepare a Joint Local Area Plan for Maynooth and Environs in conjunction with Meath County Council.	Short Term	The Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 was adopted in February 2025 and will come into effect in April 2025.
<b>CS 011</b> - Inform and engage with the preparation of the emerging Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for the county which will promote and support the economic and community development of Kildare.	Short Term	The Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029 was approved by the Elected Members in 2024.

<p><b>CS O12</b> - Continue to implement the Council's programme of regeneration and renewal projects and actively seek funding from relevant agencies and Government sources including the Rural/Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF/URDF) in order to ensure the equitable delivery of projects across County Kildare and endeavour to ensure that such project proposals are, where possible, fully prepared in advance of funding announcements and to have resources allocated to focus on undeveloped projects or match funded opportunities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>A total of €12,055,915 has been awarded to Kildare County Council under URDF and RRDF since the KCDP came into effect for a range of projects led by the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The redevelopment of the Shackleton Museum (Status: works progressing);</li> <li>• Development of the Barrow Blueway (Status: Monasterevin (Irish Rail) works nearing completion).</li> <li>• Athy Dominican Lands Masterplan (Status: On hold pending decision and outcome of Athy Flood Relief Scheme).</li> <li>• Maynooth Town Centre Masterplan including Harbour Fields and District Heating Feasibility Study (Status: Part 8 approved, tender assessed and report to be finalised).</li> <li>• Naas Town Renewal Masterplan (Status: Tender assessed and report to be finalised).</li> <li>• Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan (Status: Ongoing).</li> </ul>
<p><b>CS O13</b> - Require that the design of future development complies with the 10minute settlement principle through the creation of a safe, attractive, permeable, and universally accessible environment for all, including permeability to existing estates to require public consultation which maximises the potential for active modes of travel along with accessibility to both present and planned public transport options and to advocate for increased public transport options to meet this goal where none are in place.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The 10-minute settlement principle has been adopted as a fundamental cornerstone of the Local Area Plan process. Local Transport Plans, prepared to inform LAPs, address sustainable movement with an emphasis on facilitating active travel (walking and cycling) and improved access to public transport infrastructure. A suite of measures is included in the LAPs pertaining to walking, cycling and public transport, as well as for parking and roads, to create permeable and accessible environments. This approach has been adopted in all LAPs progressed since the adoption of the KCDP.</p>

<p><b>CS O14</b> - Engage with public infrastructure providers including Irish Water and local communities to provide serviced sites with appropriate infrastructure for people to build their own homes in designated towns and villages, subject to all relevant planning and environmental criteria as a sustainable alternative to one off housing.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The County Development Plan Implementation team published the County Kildare Serviced Sites Scheme in May 2023. A pilot project in Clogherinka of 7 no. affordable serviced sites available from KCC was advertised September 2024. KCC is working to progress further serviced sites following review of Clogherinka pilot project and as resources allow.</p>
<p><b>CS O15</b> - Monitor the take up of available employment related land use zonings throughout the county every two years following the adoption of the Plan in order to determine if further lands are required to be zoned for employment purposes at particular locations.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The County Development Plan Implementation Team, in conjunction with other stakeholders, are in the process of preparing a Strategic Employment Lands Study which covers the entire county. It is anticipated that the Study will be published in Q3 2025.</p>
<p><b>CS O16</b> - Review the existing quantum of employment related land use zonings in each of the Local Area Plan (LAP) towns as part of the review of each of the LAPs. Additional lands may be zoned for employment purposes, as necessary and appropriate in accordance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>This is an ongoing function of the Forward Planning Section. Settlement Capacity Audits (SCA) have been prepared to inform all Local Area Plans made since the KCDP came into effect and to advise the Elected Members when considering the zoning of land for employment uses.</p>
<p><b>CS O17</b> - Continue to work with key stakeholders to identify ways of attracting investors and employers to Kildare in partnership with the Kildare Chamber of</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Local Enterprise Office meets with the IDA quarterly per annum. The LEO is establishing a new economic forum in 2025 involving a range of stakeholders including IDA, Enterprise Ireland, Universities, KWETB and the Kildare Chamber of Commerce.</p>

<p>Commerce, the Kildare Local Enterprise Office and the IDA.</p>		
<p><b>CS O18</b> - Continue to work with the educational institutions throughout the county and Solas, in order to further enhance the already existing highly skilled labour force in Kildare and to encourage improvements in the labour force to include the development of specific apprenticeships in the technology, tourism, youth and childcare sectors during the lifetime of the plan to enhance and develop the agility of the workforces in those sectors.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In 2024, the Local Enterprise Office procured consultants to undertake a Skills Audit for County Kildare. It is anticipated that a final report will be circulated to the Elected Members in Q1 2025.</p>
<p><b>CS O19</b> – Align the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029, with the up-to date population from Census 2022 where there are verified material population differentials at settlement level to those in Table 2.8 of the Plan, by way of a statutory variation/ review pursuant to Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).</p>		<p>The publication of Census 2022 data in 2023 did not highlight material population differentials at settlement level to require a statutory variation to the Plan at that time.</p>
<p><b>CS O20</b> – Prepare a Local Transport Plan, Settlement Capacity Audit and Social Infrastructure Audit for each local area plan, in order to facilitate the integration of land use and transportation, to apply a</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Local Transport Plans (including Area Based Transport Assessments where relevant), Settlement Capacity Audits and Social Infrastructure Audits have been prepared for each LAP reviewed since adoption of the KCDP, informing a tiered approach to zoning, the integration of land use and transportation, and the plan led delivery of infrastructure in</p>

<p>tiered approach to zoning and to identify deficiencies in social infrastructure provision, all in order to provide a sustainable growth strategy for each town. (footnote 15)</p> <p>15. Detailed infrastructure assessments, consistent with NPO 72 and the methodology for a Tiered Approach to Zoning under Appendix 3 of the NPF, and Settlement Capacity Audits under Appendix A of the Development Plans, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2022) will continue to be prepared to inform the development strategy for future Local Area Plans in the county.</p>		<p>conjunction with population growth. This provides an evidence-based approach to plan making and delivering sustainable communities.</p>
<p><b>CS O21</b> – Monitor the delivery of new housing units and facilitating infrastructure (i.e., Irish Water Capital Investment Programme, Irish Rail DART + Programmes etc.) across County Kildare (footnote 16) on an annual basis to ensure general compliance with the County Development Plan Core Strategy and housing supply targets to inform possible redistribution if/where appropriate.</p> <p>16. In accordance with the CSO Housing Completion data.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The County Development Plan Implementation Team has established a Planning Data Collection and Collation System (PDCCS) database for recording and monitoring all planning permissions granted annually. This database is used to inform the Annual Monitoring Report which illustrates the number of <i>inter alia</i> new housing permitted, on a settlement basis and in rural areas. CSO completions data confirms the number of houses constructed on a quarterly basis at the County level. The number of dwellings constructed in County Kildare in 2023 was 2,720 and in 2024 was 1,412 (total 4,132).</p> <p>Note: The Railway Order for Maynooth West was permitted by An Bord Pleánála in 2024, and this informs an integral part of the development strategy and phased growth for Maynooth, provided for in the Joint LAP.</p>

<p><b>CS O22</b> – Ensure that all sustainable urban extensions to settlements along high-capacity public transport routes (Dart+ services, Bus Connects routes and any designated bus only/ bus priority route) are considered in the appropriate Local Area Plan process, in conjunction with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy to support new distributed growth in County Kildare during the life of this Plan and to inform the next County Development Plan, LAPs, UDZs and or any other plans or variation.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In County Kildare, sustainable urban extensions have been planned at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maynooth West: The Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan provides for the long-term phased development of lands as a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) at Maynooth West subject to the delivery of DART + West.</li> <li>• Confey: The Leixlip Local Area Plan 2000-2026 was varied to include the Confey Masterplan.</li> <li>• Northwest Quadrant, Naas: Preparatory work including public consultation is underway regarding the preparation of a masterplan which will form an amendment (or relevant successor to same under the forthcoming legislation) to the Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027 to facilitate an urban extension accompanied by greater public transport provision.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CS O23</b> – Support the implementation of LEADER Programmes equally across all areas which aim to deliver a range of rural enterprise, social inclusion and community development initiatives in County Kildare.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The LEADER programme is run by the County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) and overseen by the Community Department. During 2023 and 2024, approx. €2m of LEADER funds were allocated to initiatives in County Kildare.</p>
<p><b>CS O24</b> – Consider any proposal for a Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) in County Kildare on its merits, having regard to the characteristics of the proposed area and the ability of the receiving environment to absorb new development of the level proposed.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>No proposals for SDZ's in the County have emerged to date.</p>

A1.2 Chapter 3 - Housing

Policy Objective	Timeframe	CE Comments
<b>Housing Strategy</b>		
<p><b>HO 01</b> - To secure the implementation of the Kildare County Housing Strategy in accordance with the provisions of national legislation and relevant policies and standards.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>A gross total of approximately 4,084 housing units were granted or approved in Kildare between 2023 and 2024 (3,743 granted planning permission and 341 Part 8 approval).</p> <p>The Housing and Regeneration Department of KCC secured 2,111 social and affordable housing units across 2023 and 2024 in all delivery streams (including new builds, Part V, acquisitions, RAS and HAP). This is more than the combined forecast housing need in 2023 and 2024. KCC exceeded the target of the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2019 - 2024, providing 95 units (89 target).</p> <p>Grant schemes for older and disabled persons administered by the Housing and Regeneration Department include the Housing Adaption Grant, the Mobility Aids Grant and the Housing Aid Grant. €5.4 million (up from an initial allocation of €3.2 million) was received in 2023 for these grants. €3.8 million was received for these grants in 2024, with 60% of funding ringfenced for the Housing Adaption Grant.</p> <p>Council owned units continue to be upgraded through the Disabled Persons Grant - €1.5 million and €1.1 million received in 2023 and 2024 respectively. €177,325 was transferred from the Self-Help Grant as additional funding in 2023.</p> <p>A new Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan 2024- 2026 was approved by the council in March 2024. Ongoing monitoring of the identified actions and targets in the plan is undertaken by the council and the Homelessness Forum. Key achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family hubs operate in Athy (7 units) and Prosperous (4 units), supported temporary accommodation operates in 3 towns (cold weather initiative operated in Newbridge and Kerdiffstown) and transitional shared accommodation in place in Naas and Athy;</li> <li>• Tenancy sustainment service (85 cases supported) in place and homeless outreach clinics operate throughout the county;</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homeless HAP Placefinder with 257 tenancies currently in place and 1,707 active HAP tenancies in place;</li> <li>• 31 tenants in situ acquisitions completed in 2024 with additional in progress (c.51)</li> <li>• Exits from emergency accommodation are ongoing (194 in 2023 and c.150 in 2024)</li> </ul>
<b>Housing Supply</b>		
<b>HO 02</b> - Ensure that sufficient land is zoned at appropriate locations in compliance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy of the Development Plan, in order to meet the likely future housing demands identified in the Housing Strategy and HNDA.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward management function of KCC in the preparation of statutory land use plans (Local Area Plans/Settlement Plans), noting the statutory plans that have progressed in 2023 and 2024 as listed under CS O12 in Chapter 2 above.
<b>HO 03</b> - Co-operate with the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly in planning for new homes and meeting housing needs for the Dublin Metropolitan Area (which includes Maynooth, Leixlip, Celbridge, and Kilcock) through the implementation of the Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. The KCDP and all subsequent Local Area Plans are informed by and are consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region and the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan.
<b>Residential Density and Building Height</b>		
<b>HO 04</b> - Ensure appropriate densities are achieved in accordance with the Core Strategy in Chapter 2 of this Plan, and in accordance with the principles set out in Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Urban Development (Cities, Towns and Villages), DEHLG, 2009, Urban Design Manual: A Best Practice Guide,	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. The 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements' guidelines were published in January 2024 and replace the revoked 'Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas' Guidelines, the associated Urban Design Manual and Circular Letter NRUP 02/2021.

DEHLG, 2009; Urban Development and Building Height Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2018); and with reference to Circular Letter NRUP 02/2021 (April 2021).		
<b>HO 05</b> - Encourage increased densities that contribute to the enhancement of a town or village by reinforcing street patterns or assisting in redevelopment of backlands and centrally located brownfield sites.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>Protecting Existing Residential Amenity</b>		
<b>HO 06</b> - Ensure a balance between the protection of existing residential amenities, the established character of the area and the need to provide for sustainable residential development is achieved in all new developments.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>Regeneration, Compact Growth and Densification</b>		
<b>HO 07</b> - Promote, where appropriate and sensitive to the characteristics of the receiving environment, increased residential density as part of the Council's development management function and in accordance with the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas – Guidelines for Planning Authorities and the accompanying Urban Design Manual, DEHLG, May 2009.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.  The 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements' Guidelines were published in January 2024 and replaced the revoked 'Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas' Guidelines, the associated Urban Design Manual and Circular Letter NRUP 02/2021.
<b>HO 08</b> - Support new housing provision over the Plan period to deliver compact	Ongoing	A total of 4,132 housing units were constructed in Kildare in 2023 and 2024 according to the CSO New Dwelling Completion Database. 53% of these dwellings were constructed

<p>and sustainable growth in the towns and villages in the County, and supporting urban renewal, infill and brownfield site development and regeneration, to strengthen the roles and viability of the towns and villages, including the requirement that at least 30% of all new homes in settlements be delivered within the existing built- up footprint.</p>		<p>within the Built Urban Areas of existing settlements in Kildare as defined by the CSO, considerably more than the 30% requirement.</p>
<p><b>HO 09</b> - Promote the transformation of key brownfield sites and identified regeneration areas into successful socially integrated neighbourhoods and promote area regeneration in parts of the urban centres which require physical improvement and enhancement in terms of quality of life, housing and employment opportunities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p> <p>The Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 identifies a Settlement Consolidation Site at the Former Magee Barracks. Construction of the mixed use and housing development permitted in October 2019 (An Bord Pleanála Ref. TA09.305007) is ongoing. A new post-primary school was granted planning permission by An Bord Pleanála in February 2025 (Ref. ABP-321154-24).</p> <p>The Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 identifies a Settlement Consolidation Site to the north-west of the train station in the town centre. Planning permission has been granted in 2023 and 2024 for a mix of residential, commercial, social/community (childcare) and student accommodation uses on a significant portion of the Settlement Consolidation Site.</p> <p>Examples of further efforts progressed by the council include the preparation of Town Renewal Masterplans (14 finalised to date) and development on brownfield and regeneration sites including the Athy Food Drink and Skills Innovation Hub (under construction), the Monasterevin Fashion and Textiles Design Hub (Part 8), the Naas Library and Cultural Centre (opened 2024), the Newbridge Library and Cultural Centre (Part 8), the Clane Library (Part 8), the opening of a new Carbury Community Centre at the former HSE Dispensary Site, the refurbishment of the Allenwood Credit Union for community use, and</p>

		the refurbishment of a dwelling for community group(s) at Anne Street Community House in Prosperous.
<b>HO 010</b> - That the future development of institutional land be cognisant of the historical and cultural importance of the land including through, inter alia, the quantitative and qualitative provision of open space required under Section 15.6.6 (Chapter 15 – Development Management Standards) and the sensitive reuse of Protected Structures within the site.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>HO 011</b> - Support the revitalisation of the social and physical fabric of town and village centres by: a) Resisting, and where the opportunity arises, reversing the loss of residential use on upper floors. b) Supporting the use of the upper floors of existing town and village centre buildings for appropriate uses, including residential.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and through the projects of multiple KCC departments.
<b>HO 012</b> - Support and promote the renovation and re-use of obsolete, vacant and derelict homes, through the following measures: (i) Encourage the redevelopment and reuse, including energy retrofitting, of the existing housing stock. (ii) Support Government programmes and	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC in conjunction with the projects of various departments.  KCC supports the redevelopment and reuse of existing private dwellings, and/or the appropriate conversion of existing buildings for residential use subject to detailed assessment and in consideration of the proper planning and sustainable development of an area.

<p>incentives to bring empty homes into use through various means, including potential expansion of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme as referred to in the Government’s Rural Development Policy 2021-2025.</p> <p>(iii) Maximise the effective use of local authority housing stock and minimise local authority housing stock vacancy, including through effective refurbishment and retrofitting of older stock where appropriate.</p> <p>(iv) Promote the conversion of vacant properties into new social and affordable homes through schemes including the Repair and Leasing Scheme and the Buy and Renew Scheme. Kildare County Council will endeavour to promote these schemes and encourage owners of vacant properties to avail of these schemes, directly or in cooperation with Approved Housing Bodies.</p>		<p>KCC actively seeks to minimise vacancies in existing local authority housing stock by a continuous refurbishment/retrofitting/maintenance programme and through the work of the Vacant Homes Officer.</p> <p>KCC proactively utilises acquisition powers or leasing schemes to facilitate refurbishment/retrofitting of existing dwellings for reuse as appropriate housing - the Town Regeneration Team was allocated additional resources in 2024 to refurbish vacant properties acquired through compulsory acquisition, funded by the Buy and Renew Scheme. The Town Regeneration Team also administers the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant.</p> <p>23 units are scheduled to be refurbished in Part 8 schemes approved during 2023 and 2024.</p>
<p><b>HO 013</b> - Promote the design and delivery of environmentally sustainable and energy efficient housing, including through the refurbishment and upgrading of existing stock.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC in conjunction with the projects of various departments.</p> <p>KCC actively seeks to minimise vacancies in existing local authority housing stock by a continuous refurbishment/retrofitting/maintenance programme and through the work of the Vacancy Officer.</p> <p>KCC proactively utilises acquisition powers or leasing schemes to facilitate refurbishment/retrofitting of existing dwellings for reuse as appropriate housing - the Town</p>

		Regeneration Team was allocated additional resources in 2024 to refurbish vacant properties acquired through compulsory acquisition, funded by the Buy and Renew Scheme. The Town Regeneration Team also administers the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant.
<b>HO 014</b> - Address public safety and environmental / infrastructural issues within unfinished housing estates.	Ongoing	KCC maintains a list of legacy unfinished estates and legacy estates that have yet to be taken in charge. The Legacy Team in the Building Control Section proactively work to address issues and bring legacy estates to taking in charge standard. 43 legacy estates have been taken in charge since the coming into effect of the KCDP.
<b>Mix of Dwelling Types</b>		
<b>HO 015</b> - a) Require that new residential developments provide for a wide variety of housing types, sizes and tenures. b) Specify target housing mixes, as appropriate, for certain sites and settlements as part of the Local Area Plan process. c) Require the submission of a 'Statement of Housing Mix' with all applications for 10 or more residential units. d) Require that all new residential developments in excess of 5 residential units provide for a minimum of 20% universally designed units in accordance with the requirements of 'Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach' published by the National Disability Centre for Excellence in Universal Design.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC.  Statements of Housing Mix are required for all applications for 10 or more dwellings. It is a requirement of the development management section for 20% of new dwellings to be universally designed, in all new residential developments of 5 or more units.  88 of the 341 Part 8 units approved in 2023 and 2024 are universally designed dwellings that are suited for older/disabled persons (approx. 26%).  A gross total of approximately 4,084 housing units were granted or approved in Kildare between 2023 and 2024. This includes 3,743 units granted planning permission and 341 units approved through the Part 8 process (incl. 23 social housing units for refurbishment). The 4,084 units are comprised of approximately 2,354 houses (c.58%) and 1,730 apartments/duplexes/maisonettes (c.42%).  For the 2023 and 2024 period, approximately 16.6% of granted/approved dwellings were 1 bed units, 30.7% were 2 bed units, 39% were 3 bed units and 13.7% were 4 bed + units.

<p>Further detail in respect of unit mix is set out in Chapter 15: Development Management Standards</p>		
<p><b>HO 016</b> - Promote the provision of high-quality apartments within sustainable neighbourhoods by achieving suitable levels of amenity within individual apartments, and within each apartment development, and ensuring that suitable social infrastructure and other support facilities are available in the neighbourhood. Apartment development must be designed in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15.2, 15.3 and 15.4 (Chapter 15), where relevant, to ensure a high standard of amenity for future residents.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>HO 017</b> - Require new apartment developments to comply with the Specific Planning Policy Requirements and standards set out in the Apartment Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of Housing, Environment and Local Government, 2020), where relevant particularly in relation to paragraph 3.8(a) of same which requires that the majority of all apartments in any proposed scheme of 10 or more apartments shall exceed the minimum floor area standard for any</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>combination of the relevant 1, 2 or 3 bedroom unit types, by a minimum of 10% (any studio apartments must be included in the total, but are not calculable as units that exceed the minimum by at least 10%).</p>		
<p><b>HO O18</b> - Support high-quality design in new housing and to promote housing that is attractive, safe, and adaptable to the needs of existing and future households. Kildare County Council will support innovative construction methods to deliver sustainable and adaptable housing.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>HO O19</b> - Support housing design that contributes to climate resilience and climate mitigation, including innovative low carbon construction methods and the reduction of embodied energy in newly built homes, in line with Goal 3 of the Kildare County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 – 2024.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of multiple departments of KCC.</p>
<p><b>Older People</b></p>		
<p><b>HO O20</b> - Support the delivery of housing options to meet the needs of older persons and support older persons to live independently in active retirement, where possible.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of multiple departments of KCC.</p> <p>It is a requirement of the development management section for 20% of new dwellings in residential developments (of 5 or more units) to be universally designed in accordance with HO O15 above.</p> <p>88 of the 341 Part 8 units approved in 2023 and 2024 are universally designed dwellings that are suited for older/disabled persons (approx. 26% of all units approved).</p>



<p><b>HO O21</b> - Meet the needs of older persons and people with a disability by requiring the provision of alternative accommodation, such as age- appropriate homes, independent and assisted living units, day-care facilities, nursing homes and specialised care units (e.g. dementia specific units) to meet the needs of older persons and to facilitate the provision of a range of housing options for older persons in central, convenient and easily accessible locations, integrating such housing with mainstream housing through the application of a location specific objective (Specific Local Objectives (SLO)) at appropriate and optimised strategic locations particularly on Council owned lands in mandatory Local Area Plans in County Kildare.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of multiple departments of KCC.</p> <p>Site specific objectives supporting the provision of purpose-built housing for older and disabled persons have been incorporated into the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 and the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031.</p> <p>In addition, planning permission was granted for the construction of the following developments in 2023 and 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 92-bed community nursing home with 2 no. dementia wards at St Vincents Hospital Athy (Ref. 22961);</li> <li>• 32 no. older persons units by Clúid Housing on the Dominican Lands in Athy (Ref. 22985); and,</li> <li>• A 91 bed nursing home in Straffan (Ref. 211758).</li> </ul>
<p><b>HO O22</b> - Support the provision of specific purpose-built accommodation, including assisted living units and lifetime housing and adaptation of existing properties, which will include opportunities for ‘downsizing’ or ‘right sizing’ within communities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of multiple departments of KCC. In addition, refer to responses above for HO O21 and HO O21.</p>

<p><b>HO O23</b> - Promote co-location of facilities (including childcare facilities and facilities for older persons) at sustainable locations where they can avail of existing and planned social and community infrastructure, in particular, and to examine a range of community facilities and to encourage meanwhile use in some cases.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The co-location of educational, community, social and sporting facilities is a priority for KCC and is ongoing through the land use zoning function of Local Area Plan / Settlement Plan process and through the development management function of KCC.</p> <p>Maximising the sustainable use of community, recreational, educational and sporting infrastructure / facilities forms a key element of the projects of multiple departments in KCC such as the Community Section, the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p> <p>Objectives supporting the co-location of social, community and educational facilities have been incorporated into the Local Area Plans adopted since the coming into effect of the KCDP - the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 and the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031.</p>
<p><b>HO O24</b> - Support the implementation of the Kildare Age Friendly County Strategy 2019-2021 (and any subsequent strategy), promoting the delivery of Lifetime Homes and to support the provision of housing that is adaptable for an ageing population. The Council will also support and promote, in a timely manner, the delivery of specialist accommodation appropriate to the specific needs and wishes of older persons in co-operation with the voluntary sector, AHBs, the HSE, and other relevant bodies.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC, in conjunction with the work programmes of other KCC Departments, including the Age Friendly Programme.</p> <p>The Age Friendly Kildare County Strategy 2023-2027 was published through Age Friendly Ireland and the Kildare LCDC in August 2023. Ballymore Eustace is working towards becoming an age friendly village, Celbridge is working towards becoming an age friendly town and the Naas Racecourse has been accredited as being age friendly. Castlefen was launched as the first Age Friendly housing estate in Ireland.</p> <p>Grant schemes for older and disabled persons administered by the Housing and Regeneration Department include the Housing Adaption Grant, the Mobility Aids Grant and the Housing Aid Grant.</p> <p>26% of all approved Part 8 units (88 of 341 units) are universally designed dwellings.</p> <p>Planning permission was granted for an additional 183 bedspaces in 1 no. nursing home and as an extension to the St Vincents Hospital Athy (including 2 dementia wards). Planning permission was also granted for 32 no. older persons units by Clúid Housing in Athy. Other</p>

		smaller scale and individual projects have been permitted through the planning process through 2023 and 2024.
<b>HO O25</b> - Engage and develop strategies with the Approved Housing Bodies with responsibility for housing for older persons to develop accommodation in town centres more suited to those with reduced mobility.	Ongoing	To be progressed subject to the availability of resources. The development of housing for older persons through approved bodies at any location is addressed through the development management function of KCC.
<b>HO A1</b> - Promote McAuley Place, Naas, as a national exemplar model of housing for older persons and will seek to identify further opportunities in towns in each MD throughout the County for the Council (and other appropriate bodies) to expand this supported housing market.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. Both the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 and the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 recognise McAuley Place as a model of excellence and include objectives to facilitate similar uses in both settlements.
<b>HO A2</b> - Undertake an evidence-based qualitative assessment to establish the demand for age-specific housing options, including 'right-sizing' within County Kildare.	Short Term	It is an action of the Kildare Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027 to develop a new Right-Sizing Policy to be led by the Kildare Age Friendly Alliance, Age Friendly Ireland and the Housing and Regeneration Department of KCC.  Objectives supporting the provision of purpose-built housing for older and disabled persons have been incorporated into the Local Area Plans adopted since the coming into effect of the KCDP, informed by detailed Social Infrastructural Audits and Settlement Capacity Audits.
<b>People with Disabilities</b>		
<b>HO O26</b> - Support access for people with disabilities, to the appropriate range of housing and related support services, delivered in an integrated, timely and sustainable manner, which promotes	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, supported by the policies and objectives of the KCDP and Local Area Plans and through the work programmes and projects of various KCC Departments.

<p>equality of opportunity, individual choice, and independent living.</p>		<p>Grant schemes for older and disabled persons administered by the Housing and Regeneration Department include the Housing Adaption Grant, the Mobility Aids Grant and the Housing Aid Grant.</p> <p>26% of all approved Part 8 units (88 of 341 units) are universally designed dwellings.</p> <p>Council owned units continue to be upgraded through the Disabled Persons Grant.</p>
<p><b>HO O27</b> - Support and direct funding into the provision of specific purpose-built accommodation, including assisted/ supported living units, lifetime housing, and adaptation of existing properties in a manner that would not cause any undue delay to the delivery of same</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>It is a requirement for 20% of new dwellings in residential developments (of 5 or more units) to be universally designed in accordance with HO O15 above.</p> <p>Grant schemes for older and disabled persons are administered by the Housing and Regeneration Department, 26% of all approved Part 8 units are universally designed and existing Council properties continue to be upgraded though the Disabled Persons Grant.</p>
<p><b>HO O28</b> - Support and provide housing that meets the diverse needs of disabled people and to implement the County Kildare Access Strategy - A Universal Access Approach 2020-2022 (and any subsequent reviews and plans). The Council will support and promote the principles of Universal Design in new and refurbished housing and in community buildings in the County.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, supported by the policies and objectives of the KCDP and Local Area Plans and through the work programmes and projects of various KCC Departments, including the Access Officer.</p> <p>It is a requirement of all KCC construction and improvement projects to seek accessibility for all.</p> <p>20% of new dwellings in residential developments (of 5 or more units) are to be universally designed in accordance with HO O15 above; grant schemes continue to be available to older and disabled persons for housing upgrades through the Council; 26% of all approved Part 7 units are universally designed; and existing Council properties continue to be upgraded though the Disabled Persons Grant.</p>
<p><b>HO A3</b> - Ensure that all Kildare County Council new build housing stock is in compliance with Part M of the Building Regulations.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the Building Control Section.</p>

<p><b>HO A4</b> - In line with the Objectives and Actions in respect of Accessible Housing contained in the 'County Kildare Access Strategy - A Universal Access Approach 2020-2022', to ensure, measure and monitor that 10% of acquired housing stock meets the needs of those with a disability and 12% of Kildare County Council new builds are universally designed, and have regard to any revised actions in updated versions of the Access Strategy.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Housing and Regeneration Department of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of multiple KCC departments.</p> <p>20% of new dwellings in residential developments (of 5 or more units) are to be universally designed in accordance with HO O15 above and 26% of approved Part 8 units are universally designed.</p>
<p><b>HO A5</b> - Monitor the number of housing acquisitions and new builds and ensure that they meet the needs of those with a disability.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Housing and Regeneration Department of KCC.</p> <p>2,111 social and affordable housing units were secured by KCC across 2023 and 2024 in all delivery streams (including new builds, Part V, acquisitions, RAS and HAP). The Housing and Regeneration Department actively seeks to ensure that social and affordable housing through all streams meet the needs of KCC, including for disabled and older persons. 20% of new dwellings in residential developments (of 5 or more units) are to be universally designed in accordance with HO O15 above and 26% of approved Part 8 units are universally designed.</p>
<p><b>HO A6</b> - Promote Ballymore Eustace as a national exemplar model of an age-friendly, universally accessible, climate-friendly village and seek to facilitate and support this model for other settlements.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC, in conjunction with the work programme of other KCC Departments.</p>
<p><b>Homeless</b></p>		
<p><b>HO O29</b> - Support means of preventing homelessness and provide tangible and</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>A new Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan 2024- 2026 was approved by the Council in March 2024. Ongoing monitoring of the identified actions and targets in the plan is</p>

timely pathways out of homelessness for households, working in co- operation with public and voluntary bodies and actively seeking solutions for same.		undertaken by the council and the Homelessness Forum. Refer to the key achievements in the response to Objective HO O1.
<b>Travellers</b>		
<b>HO O30</b> - Support the delivery of the Kildare County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 - 2024 (and any superseding programmes agreed by the Council) in accordance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.	Ongoing	KCC exceeded the target of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024, providing 95 units (89 target) over this period.  A Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 was published in August 2024.
<b>HO O31</b> – Implement the delivery targets, and to meet the delivery targets as a minimum, of the Kildare County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024, and identify and develop sites for Traveller specific group housing.	Ongoing	Refer to response to HO O30 above.
<b>HO O32</b> - Ensure that Traveller accommodation is located in proximity to key services including education, community, health, recreation and public transport facilities, and to support those communities in accessing Council services in their widest provision (including arts and culture).	Ongoing	Ongoing through the Traveller Accommodation Unit, supported by and in conjunction with the work programme and projects of multiple KCC Departments.
<b>HO O33</b> – Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Irish Human Rights & Equality Commission Equality	Ongoing	Ongoing through the Traveller Accommodation Unit, supported by and in conjunction with the work programme and projects of multiple KCC Departments.

Review on the provision of Traveller accommodation in Co. Kildare.		
<b>HO O34</b> - Recognise the separate identity, culture, tradition, and history of the Travelling people in order to reduce the levels of disadvantage that Travellers experience, consistent with UN Sustainable Development Goal No. 10 - 'Reduced Inequalities.	Ongoing	Ongoing through multiple KCC Departments.
<b>International Protection Applicants</b>		
<b>HO O35</b> - Continue to work with Central Government and relevant State Agencies to support the provision of housing for International Protection Applicants (asylum seekers/ refugees) in County Kildare, and to support those communities in accessing Council services in their widest provision (including arts and culture).	Ongoing	The Planning and Development (Exempted Development) Regulations 2023 - S.I. 376/2023 - of July 2023 provides exemptions for the temporary use by or on behalf of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to accommodate displaced persons or persons seeking international protection.
<b>Third Level Students</b>		
<b>HO O36</b> - Support the provision of purpose-built student accommodation in appropriate locations and of appropriate design (including adequate communal facilities and external communal space), to meet demand for student housing in accordance with the National Student Accommodation Strategy.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, supported by the policies and objectives of the KCDP and Local Area Plans. A bespoke ' <i>Student Accommodation</i> ' land use zoning has been included in the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031. 116 no. student accommodation bedspaces were granted in Maynooth in 2023 and none in 2024. Construction of permitted student accommodation developments in Maynooth at 2 no. sites are ongoing.
<b>HO O37</b> - Support increased supply of student accommodation in Maynooth,	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, supported by the policies and objectives of the KCDP and Local Area Plans. 116 no. student accommodation

<p>Kilcock, Leixlip and Celbridge to meet the anticipated student accommodation demand generated by Maynooth University. Applications for change of use from student housing to any other form of housing will be resisted without adequate demonstration that an over-provision of student housing exists.</p>		<p>bedspaces were granted in Maynooth in 2023 and none in 2024. Construction of student accommodation developments in Maynooth at 2 no. sites are ongoing.</p>
<p><b>HO O38</b> - To proactively facilitate and support Túsla, the Child and Family Agency, service providers and other relevant agencies in the provision of domestic violence refuges within each Municipal District in the county.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>Social, Affordable Purchase and Cost Rental Housing</b></p>		
<p><b>HO O39</b> - Meet the county's housing need for social housing provision through a range of mechanisms, including Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), a social housing building programme, acquisition, Repair and Lease Scheme, the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme, the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and the utilisation of existing housing stock.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Housing and Regeneration Department of KCC provided or secured a total of 2,111 social and affordable housing units across 2023 and 2024 in all delivery streams (including new builds, Part V, acquisitions, RAS and HAP). This is in excess of the combined forecast housing need for social and affordable homes in 2023 and 2024.</p>
<p><b>HO O40</b> - Support Government's affordable housing initiatives, including the Affordable Purchase Scheme and First Home / Share</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing as part of the work programme of the Housing and Regeneration Department of KCC.</p>



Equity Scheme, introduced by the Affordable Housing Act 2021.		
<b>HO 041</b> - Support local authorities, approved housing bodies and other sectoral agencies in the provision of a greater diversity of housing type and tenure, including social and affordable housing, new models of cost rental and affordable homeownership and co-operative housing.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function in conjunction with other departments in KCC. Refer to the response to Objective HO 039.
<b>HO 042</b> - Support and, where feasible, work in partnership with the Land Development Agency (LDA) in the provision of social and affordable housing in County Kildare.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function in conjunction with other departments in KCC. Construction of the LDA development at Devoy Barracks, Naas is ongoing.
<b>Compliance with the Rural Housing Requirements</b>		
<b>HO 043</b> - Require applicants to demonstrate that they do not own or have not been previously granted permission for a one-off rural dwelling in Kildare.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>HO 044</b> - Restrict residential development on a landholding, where there is a history of development through the speculative sale or development of sites to an unrelated third party.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>HO 045</b> - Restrict occupancy of the dwelling as a place of permanent residence for a period of ten years to the applicant	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

who complies with the relevant provisions of the local need criteria.		
<b>HO O46</b> - Recognise and promote the agricultural and landscape value of the rural area and prohibit the development of urban generated housing in the rural area.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>HO O47</b> - Recognise that exceptional health circumstances, supported by relevant documentation from a registered medical specialist, may require a person to live in a particular environment. Housing in such circumstances will generally be encouraged in areas close to existing services and facilities and in Rural Settlements. All planning permissions for such housing granted in rural areas shall be subject to a ten-year occupancy condition.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>HO O48</b> - Encourage the appropriate re-use and adaptation of the existing rural residential building stock as a sustainable alternative to new build.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>HO O49</b> - To consider favourably proposals to complete/renovate/refurbish one-off houses in rural areas which may be unfinished (for stated reasons outside the control of the original applicant) for a period in excess of 3 years, subject to an occupancy clause of 5 years where the applicant can demonstrate that they have	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p>lived and worked within 10km of the site for a period of not less than 3 years. The onus shall be on the applicant/occupant of the property (as appropriate) to satisfactorily demonstrate to the Planning Authority, full compliance with this policy.</p>		
<p><b>Siting and Design</b></p>		
<p><b>HO O50</b> - Require that new dwellings incorporate principles of sustainability and green principles in terms of design, services and amenities with careful consideration in the choice of materials, roof types (i.e. green roofs), taking advantage of solar gain/passive housing and the provision of lowcarbon and renewable energy technologies as appropriate to the scale of the development and to support microgeneration in all residential, commercial, agricultural and community development planning. Other sustainable principles could include the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (such as attenuation ponds and grass lined swales), the use of gravel or grasscrete rather than permanent paving/tarmac for driveways, landscaping and planting for biodiversity/pollinators and adequate waste segregation and storage space, as</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>set out in Section 15.4 of Chapter 15 (Development Management standards) and the Rural House Design Guide contained in Appendix 4.</p>		
<p><b>HO 051</b> - Require all applications to demonstrate the ability to provide safe vehicular access to the site without the necessity to remove extensive stretches of native hedgerow and trees All applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis, having regard to, the quality of the hedgerow, age and historical context, if an old town boundary hedgerow, species composition, site context and proposed mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>HO 052</b> - Recognise the biodiversity and ecosystem services value of established hedgerows within rural and urban settings and where hedgerow must be moved to achieve minimum sight lines, a corresponding length of hedgerow of similar species composition (native and of local provenance) shall be planted along the new boundary, while allowing occasional hedgerow trees to develop.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>HO 053</b> - Retain, sensitively manage and protect features that contribute to local culture heritage and distinctiveness including;</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- heritage and landscape features such as post boxes, pumps, jostle stones, etc.</li> <li>- hedgerows and trees,</li> <li>- historic and archaeological features and landscapes,</li> <li>- water bodies,</li> <li>- ridges and skylines,</li> <li>- topographical and geological features and</li> <li>- important scenic views and prospects.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>HO 054</b> - Protect and maintain all surface water drainage within the curtilage of the site. Where site works impact on surface water drainage effective remedial works will be instated.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>Providing a sustainable alternative to One Off Housing</b></p>		
<p><b>HO 055</b> – Identify a series of pilot project sites (private and local authority owned lands) for the initiation of a “County Kildare Serviced Sites Initiative” and progress their delivery.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>The County Development Plan Implementation team published the County Kildare Serviced Sites Scheme in May 2023. A pilot project in Clogherinka of 7 no. affordable serviced sites available from KCC has been advertised since September 2024 and is ongoing.</p>
<p><b>HO 056</b> – Ensure that any applicant for the provision of a dwelling unit on lands designated “Serviced Sites” complies in full with the local need criteria as set out in Table 3.4 which must be satisfactorily demonstrated through the submission of documentary evidence to illustrate compliance with all housing need requirements.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and the projects of the Housing and Regeneration Department.</p>

<p><b>HO 057</b> – Ensure that the development of any serviced sites;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adequately addresses infrastructural requirements, including water, wastewater and surface water drainage as well as footpaths and lighting which shall link with the respective town/village/rural settlement</li> <li>- Provide for small scale housing developments (no more than 10 units per hectare)</li> <li>- Include a Design Statement for the overall site to inform the design, mix and type of the proposed dwellings</li> <li>- Include a clear timeframe for the delivery of the required infrastructure to service the development proposed</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and the projects of the Housing and Regeneration Department.</p>
<p><b>HO 058</b> – Following the preparation and adoption of the ‘Kildare County Council Serviced Sites Scheme Policy Document’, the Council will consider varying the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (CDP) to incorporate additional serviced sites’ lands that are located within or adjacent to zoned or designated lands as identified in the CDP.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>The County Development Plan Implementation Team published the County Kildare Serviced Sites Scheme in May 2023. A pilot project in Clogherinka of 7 no. affordable serviced sites available from KCC has been advertised since September 2024 and is ongoing.</p>
<p><b>HO A7</b> – Engage with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to leverage funding through the ‘Croí</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Housing and Regeneration Department of KCC.</p>

<p>Cónaithe' (Towns) Fund to deliver serviced sites in towns and villages to cater for sustainable alternatives to one off housing in accordance with NPO 18b of the National Planning Framework</p>		
<p><b>HO A8</b> - Prepare, within 6 months of the adoption of this Plan, a Kildare County Council Serviced Sites Scheme Policy Document, for the agreement of the Elected Members, to guide the development of serviced sites. This policy document shall;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ensure that the delivery of 'serviced sites' be determined following close consultation with the relevant landowners, service providers and all other relevant stakeholders</li> <li>2) Consider how best to deliver the overall scheme whether by co-operative group(s) or otherwise</li> <li>3) Explore mechanisms to support the delivery of affordable homes and sites, including the provision of smaller homes and sites which would not compromise the overall quality of life for future occupants. All relevant and appropriate housing models will also be considered in order to support the delivery of affordable, high-quality homes, to support existing villages</li> </ol>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>The County Development Plan Implementation team published the County Kildare Serviced Sites Scheme in May 2023. A pilot project in Clogherinka of 7 no. affordable serviced sites available from KCC has been advertised since September 2024 and is ongoing.</p>

and cluster communities that are in decline or are experiencing low population growth.		
<b>Rural Residential Density</b>		
<b>HO O59</b> - Carefully manage Single Rural Dwelling Densities to ensure that the density of one-off housing does not exceed 30 units per square kilometre (footnote 11), unless the applicant is actively engaged in agriculture, or an occupation that is heavily dependent on the land and building on their own landholding. 11. The sq. km. shall, in all instances, be measured from the centre point of the application site.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC incorporating the use of the Rural Density Toolkit.
<b>HO A9</b> - Continue, in conjunction with All Island Research Observatory (AIRO), Maynooth University, to monitor and map the level and pattern of one- off housing in rural areas during the period of the Development Plan as a means of monitoring and informing the rural housing policy.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC in the preparation of County Development Plan Monitoring Reports. The first monitoring report for the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 was published in May 2024. This progress report is informed by the annual monitoring data for 2023 and 2024. A total of 215 rural dwellings were granted between 2023 and 2024.

A1.3 Chapter 4 – Resilient Economy and Job Creation

Policy Objective	Timeframe	CE Comments
<b>Kildare 2025 (Economic Development Strategy)</b>		



<p><b>RE O1</b> - Facilitate and support the growth of the economy in Kildare and the GDA in a sustainable manner, and in accordance with the RSES.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Planning permission has been granted for approximately 360,000 sqm of commercial floorspace in 2023 and 2024.</p> <p>The County Development Plan Implementation Team are in the process of preparing a Strategic Employment Lands Study which covers the entire county. It is anticipated that the Study will be published in Q3 2025.</p> <p>The Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029 (LECP) and associated Implementation Plan 2024-2026 was approved in April 2024. The preparation of these plans was informed by up-to-date socio-economic data (incl. Census 2022) and a comprehensive consultation process. KCC, in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) will endeavour to deliver on the actions outlined the LECP, subject to the availability of funding and resources.</p> <p>KCC and the LEO have promoted and/or progressed the provision of various hubs for enterprise, innovation and creativity throughout the county as detailed further below.</p>
<p><b>RE O2</b> - Promote Kildare, together with LEO and other national development agencies, as a strategically located economic and employment hub within the GDA; and support and facilitate an environment that fosters innovation, enterprise, entrepreneurship while maintaining a core focus on climate change and biodiversity.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is ongoing through the work programme of the Kildare Local Enterprise Office (LEO) in conjunction with the Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services Department and other Departments of KCC.</p> <p>KCC Planning Team and the LEO have promoted and/or progressed the provision of various locations for enterprise, innovation and creativity throughout the county.</p> <p>In addition, the County Development Plan Implementation Team are in the process of preparing a Strategic Employment Lands Study as noted under RE O1 above.</p>
<p><b>RE O3</b> - Encourage mixed-use settlement forms and sustainable centres, in which employment and residency are located in close proximity to each other and multi-</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, supported by the land use zoning, policies and objectives contained in the KCDP and Local Area Plans.</p>

modal transport corridors, and to reduce commuting and congestion.		
<b>RE O4</b> - Work with the business community and continue to develop, encourage and create an environment that supports innovation, enterprise, and entrepreneurship within the County.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the work programme of the economic/enterprise function of KCC and the Local Enterprise Office, in consultation with key stakeholders and supported by the forward planning function of KCC through the preparation of statutory and non-statutory land use plans.
<b>RE O5</b> - Ensure a high-quality living environment in Kildare to retain the indigenous skilled population and to attract additional high skilled labour, and seek to address any deficit in social infrastructure, which would act as an impediment to a high-quality living environment.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management, forward planning and enterprise/economic development function of KCC, together with the work programme and projects of multiple KCC Departments and the LEO in consultation or in partnership with relevant stakeholders.
<b>RE O6</b> - Support enterprises and industry, including employment-intensive international business and technology parks, SME and micro enterprise centres at appropriate locations throughout the county.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management, forward planning and enterprise/economic development function of KCC, together with the work programme and projects of multiple KCC Departments and the LEO in consultation or in partnership with relevant stakeholders.  The County Development Plan Implementation Team are in the process of preparing a Strategic Employment Lands Study which covers the entire county. It is anticipated that the Study will be published in Q3 2025.
<b>RE O7</b> - Support town centre locations for new service focused enterprises.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC.
<b>RE O8</b> - Consult with TII on an ongoing basis, particularly through the LAP process,	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning function and the development management function of KCC.

<p>in relation to motorway building lines and to ensure that zoning for employment uses are carried out in a manner that protects the capacity of and investment in the national road network.</p>		
<p><b>RE O9</b> - Ensure that any significant future employment developments in the vicinity of the strategic road network be accompanied by a mobility management plan.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O10</b> - Work with Irish Water, to support the provision of water, wastewater treatment and waste management facilities to accommodate the future economic growth of the county and to seek to reserve capacity in water services infrastructure for employment generating uses.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management, forward planning and enterprise/economic development function of KCC. Land use zoning for employment uses through the Local Area Plan process is informed by detailed Settlement Capacity Audits and consultation with key stakeholders, including Uisce Éireann. In addition, Uisce Éireann has provided water supply and waste-water treatment capacity registers to indicate the ability of treatment and production infrastructure to accommodate population and employment growth.</p>
<p><b>RE O11</b> - Facilitate the development of, and upgrade to, the broadband and fibre network of the county.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>National Broadband Ireland provides regular updates on their website regarding the ongoing roll out of the National Broadband Plan as it affects County Kildare. As of November 2024, approx. 12,300 premises in Co Kildare can avail of a high-speed connection in this regard.</p> <p>In addition, each local authority is required to develop and implement a Digital Strategy for the County. Following a comprehensive public consultation, KCC adopted its digital strategy document Kildare Konected in June 2023.</p>
<p><b>RE O12</b> - Acquire suitable land (subject to the availability of funding), including where</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Through the Kildare Hubs Strategy 2022 - 2025 there are 15 enterprise, innovation and creativity / incubator hubs located in Kildare, 6 of which have been developed through</p>

<p>appropriate, disused sites in State ownership and town centre sites, for creative and innovative entrepreneurial initiatives and the provision of clustered incubator units and digital hubs.</p>		<p>KCC/LEO and the remaining have been developed through private initiatives with the support of KCC/LEO.</p> <p>Developed or developing hubs in 2023 and 2024 include the MERITS tech and innovation hub (official opening 2023) in Naas, the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub at the former Model School (under construction); the Monasterevin Fashion and Textiles Design Hub at the former Bank of Ireland site (Part 8) and the National Equine Innovation Centre at the National Stud.</p>
<p><b>RE O13</b> - Support the provision of new postal facilities and enhancement of existing facilities, and to facilitate the provision of postal infrastructure at suitable locations in the County.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The provision of new postal services is an operational matter for An Post. KCC facilitates the provision of social and community infrastructure through the forward planning and development management function.</p>
<p><b>RE O14</b> - Work with EirGrid and ESB Networks to support the provision of a resilient electricity supply and distribution system to accommodate the future economic growth of the county and to facilitate the transition of heat and transport from fossil fuels to electricity.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. 7 no. planning applications have been granted in 2023 and 2024 to ESB or other service providers in relation to upgrades to the electrical infrastructure in County Kildare.</p>
<p><b>RE O15</b> – Ensure that economic development that is urban in nature should be located in urban areas and will not be permitted to re-locate to the countryside or to un-serviced rural areas.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>RE O16</b> - Support the implementation of the 'Local Just Transition Plan for West Kildare, 2022' a focus of which, through identified thematic actions, is to help communities benefit from new business, income and job creation opportunities in existing and emerging industries.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In April 2024, KCC appointed a Just Transition Fund Tourism Activator to support private and community based small and medium enterprises in developing proposals and grant applications through Failte Ireland's EU JT Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme.</p>
<p><b>RE A1</b> - Evidence-based assessment, together with the LEO, Enterprise Ireland and the IDA, to inform the location of strategic employment sites throughout Kildare. Assessment shall ensure that sufficient land is zoned for economic activity through the Development Plan and Local Area Plans, in accordance with the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and enterprise / economic function of the Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services Department, in collaboration with the LEO and other Departments.</p> <p>The implementation of this objective is being progressed through the Strategic Employment Lands Study currently in preparation and anticipated to be published in Q3 2025.</p>
<p><b>RE A2</b> - Undertake, within the first 2 years from the adoption of the Plan, an audit of business / enterprise / industrial parks in Kildare to identify the existing range of facilities, as well as infrastructural and service deficits, in order to plan for current and future needs.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>An audit of business/enterprise/industrial parks in Kildare has been completed and forms part of the forthcoming Strategic Employment Lands Study (SELS) by the County Development Plan Implementation Team. It is anticipated that the Study and appended audit will be published in Q3 2025.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Development Areas in the MASP</b></p>		

<p><b>RE O17</b> - Undertake, within the first 2 years from the adoption of the Plan, a Strategic Land Use, Employment and Transportation Study of north-east Kildare including the Dublin Metropolitan area towns of Leixlip, (and Collinstown), Maynooth, Celbridge and Kilcock. The study will have regard to existing and emerging local area plans and any evidence-based assessments associated with same. Where LAPs are prepared after the completion of the study, such plans shall have regard to any relevant recommendations set out therein. It is envisaged that the study will involve the participation of all strategic stakeholders.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>The preparation of a Strategic Land Use, Employment and Transportation Study of Northeast Kildare is a substantive resource and time intensive commitment by KCC and is not currently on the work programme.</p> <p>KCC are committed to the delivery of a range of substantive studies and projects related to north-east Kildare, including the ABTA to inform the Draft Maynooth Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 and the Strategic Employment Lands Study (which covers the entire county). The ongoing programme of detailed and robust Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies for settlements will include the remaining towns of north-east Kildare in due course.</p>
<p><b>Maynooth</b></p>		
<p><b>RE O18</b> - Support Maynooth as a Key Town to act as the economic driver for north Kildare and provide for strategic employment at key locations to improve the economic base of the town and provide for an increased number of local jobs.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 adopted in Q1 2025 supports the economic development of the town. The Plan provides an ambitious job ratio of 1:1 and focuses growth on the sectoral opportunities in locations to the west of the university and in the Maynooth Environs (Moygaddy, County Meath), as designated in the RSES. The location of new employment lands proximate to residential development within the town is also a key feature of the Plan. The continued expansion of Maynooth University which is also a key employment destination will be proactively supported.</p>
<p><b>RE O19</b> - Co-ordinate the delivery of strategic infrastructure subject to appropriate route option selection processes and environmental assessments</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 includes a number of Key Development Areas (KDAs) which require the phased delivery of new residential</p>

<p>including pedestrian and cycle linkages within Maynooth and the Royal Canal Greenway, DART expansion and road linkages forming part of the Maynooth Outer Orbital Route in a manner which supports future development and population growth.</p>		<p>developments in tandem with key infrastructure, including permeability/ cycling links, new roads and where relevant the delivery of DART+ West. In addition, the following is noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 8 planning permission was secured for the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road (MEER) and the Compulsory Purchase Order was granted by An Bord Pleanála (with negotiations currently ongoing). The tender for the MERR was issued in Q4 2024.</li> <li>• The LAP provides for the future phased provision of the Maynooth Outer Orbital Route (MOOR).</li> <li>• The Royal Canal Greenway Project improves the pedestrian and cycle connectivity between Leixlip/Confey to Maynooth and onwards to Kilcock. This includes local connection improvement works where feasible.</li> <li>• The Railway Order was granted by An Bord Pleanála for Dart+West (serving Dublin-Leixlip-Maynooth) in July 2024.</li> </ul>
<p><b>RE O20</b> - Further key linkages and partnerships with Maynooth University (MU) including the branding of the area as a centre of excellence in the knowledge-based economy.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the economic/employment support function of KCC in conjunction with the LEO, particularly through the 'Innovate Kildare' forum.</p>
<p><b>RE O21</b> - Develop the Key Town of Maynooth as an attractor for Life Sciences, High Tech, Bio Tech, ICT, Research &amp; Development employment. Kildare County Council will work with Irish Water and other agencies to ensure the delivery of key infrastructure to facilitate future development.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 provides for the further economic development of Maynooth with a focus on the synergies provided by the University. The preparation of the LAP was informed by a detailed Area Based Transport Assessment, Settlement Capacity Audit and Social Infrastructure Assessment in conjunction with public consultation and engagement with relevant stakeholders including service/infrastructure providers such as Uisce Éireann.</p>
<p><b>Naas</b></p>		

<p><b>RE O22</b> - Promote the Key Town of Naas as a primary centre of high-quality employment in the County so that its significant residential population will have employment opportunities within easy distance of their homes, thereby reducing outbound commuting.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. KCC has commenced the preparation of masterplans for the Northwest Quadrant and the Canal Quarter. These masterplans will be informed by detailed assessments, consultation with the public and key stakeholders and the objectives of the KCDP. Such masterplans will provide the preferred strategy for the delivery of sustainable communities in this part of Naas.</p>
<p><b>RE O23</b> - Strengthen and promote the local employment base through the development of MERITS (Mid-East Regional Innovation Thinkspace), Millennium Park in the North-West Quadrant and the regeneration of underutilised lands including industrial lands in the north-east of the town.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management, forward planning and economic/enterprise development function of KCC in conjunction with the LEO. The MERITS tech hub officially opened in 2023 and hosts many events and workshops of the LEO and KCC. KCC has commenced the preparation of a masterplan for the Northwest Quadrant.</p>
<p><b>RE O24</b> - Regenerate and consolidate the historic centre of Naas to improve the retail and commercial functions of the town core, with enhanced permeability and sustainable mobility within the town centre and improve links between the core and surrounding residential and employment areas through the further development of walking and cycling routes and improved public transport.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the work programme and projects of multiple KCC Departments. KCC has commenced the preparation of masterplans for the Northwest Quadrant and the Canal Quarter. KCC has also commenced the tender process for the preparation of the Naas Town Renewal Masterplan. These masterplans will seek to enhance the permeability and connectivity between neighbourhoods, services and employment areas throughout Naas. The Naas to Sallins Greenway (to Osberstown Bridge) and the Kilcullen Road Cycle Scheme were completed in 2024 in conjunction with a range of other minor improvement works in Naas. Other key projects being progressed include Active Travel Schemes at the Dublin Road, Monread Road and Newbridge Road.</p>



		Revised/enhanced bus networks serving Naas under the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Programme, introduced since the coming into effect of the KCDP, include the 139. This route is in addition to the routes operating in Naas through various service providers.
<b>RE O25</b> - Co-ordinate the delivery of strategic infrastructure including pedestrian and cycle linkages within Naas, in a manner which supports future development and population growth.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the work programme and projects of multiple KCC Departments informed by the Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027 and the Naas-Sallins Transport Strategy.  Phase 1 of the Naas to Sallins Greenway (to Osberstown Bridge) and the Kilcullen Road Cycle Scheme were completed in 2024 in conjunction with a range of other minor improvement works in Naas. Other key projects being progressed include Active Travel Schemes at the Dublin Road, Monread Road and Newbridge Road.
<b>Self-Sustaining Growth Towns</b>		
<b>RE O26</b> - Support and develop Newbridge and Leixlip as an attractor for Biotechnology, ICT, professional services, High-tech manufacturing and research employment. KCC will work with Irish Water and other agencies to ensure the delivery of key infrastructure to facilitate future development.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management, forward planning and economic/enterprise functions of KCC.  The Draft Newbridge Local Area Plan 2025-2031 is anticipated to be published in Q1 2025 and will address the future economic, demographic and spatial growth strategy for the town. The LAP will be subject to informed by a detailed Social Infrastructure Assessment, Settlement Capacity Audit (informed by consultation with Uisce Eireann) and Area Based Transport Assessment.  The Leixlip Local Area Plan 2020-2023 (as extended to 2026) supports the ongoing economic growth of the town, particularly in relation to the ongoing operations at the major employment campuses at Barnhall and Collinstown. The preparation of the LAP was subject to detailed assessments, public consultation and engagement with key stakeholders and service/infrastructure providers.
<b>RE O27</b> - Promote the town of Athy as a Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub and to support the regeneration and	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning, development management and enterprise/economic development function of KCC, in conjunction with the work programme and projects of multiple KCC Departments and the LEO.

<p>development of Athy to ensure that it provides an enhanced role in delivering economic growth and promoting sectoral interests, including the development of tourism within the south of the county while recognising the historic importance of the food and drink industry in the town and potential for future development.</p>		<p>The Food, Drinks and Skills Innovation Hub at the Model School in Athy is currently under construction. The hub will be home to County Kildare’s growing food and drink sector and will support entrepreneurs in developing innovative products and methods. The hub’s development will also play a pivotal role in addressing unemployment by providing accessible and exciting further education pathways and training.</p> <p>Other key projects currently being progressed in Athy include the upgrade works to Emily Square and the Shackleton Museum.</p>
<p><b>RE O28</b> - Continue to develop Kildare Town as a bloodstock, tourism and manufacturing location.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 provides for the ongoing development of the town as a key centre for bloodstock, tourism and manufacturing based on its locational benefits.</p> <p>The Kildare Town Renewal Masterplan was published in 2024 and identifies a range of potential delivery projects to improve the public realm and functioning of the town. The Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team is progressing works for the Kildare Town Market Square (approved Part 8) and is liaising with the Kildare Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Rural and Community Development to progress the provision of infrastructure for market stalls in the town.</p> <p>The Curragh Plains Conservation Management Plan and the Interpretation, Branding and Wayfinding Strategy was also published in 2024.</p>
<p><b>RE O29</b> - Investigate the feasibility of proposals for the redevelopment of the Dry Dock along the River Barrow in Athy as a County Kildare tourism initiative, subject to environmental assessment.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources in conjunction with Waterways Ireland and the OPW. The Athy Dry Dock was discussed as part of a presentation to the Athy MD members by Waterways Ireland in 2024. The OPW have acknowledged the condition of the dry dock as an important asset on the canal network, subject to a number of issues being resolved.</p>
<p><b>RE O30</b> - Co-ordinate the delivery of strategic infrastructure including pedestrian and cycle linkages within Leixlip</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Projects currently being progressed in relation to this objective include:</p>

<p>and between Leixlip and the Greenway, Intel, Celbridge and Lucan in a manner which supports future development and population growth.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Royal Canal Greenway Project improves the pedestrian and cycle connectivity between Leixlip/Confey to Intel to Maynooth, and onwards to Kilcock. This includes local connection improvement works where feasible.</li> <li>• Planning permission was granted in January 2024 (Ref. 2360047) for development which includes the provision of a new pedestrian and cycle overpass across the M4 to connect The Wonderful Barn to the Kildare Innovation Campus.</li> <li>• The Confey Masterplan, incorporated into the Leixlip Local Area Plan 2020-2023 (extended to 2026), includes for the provision of improved pedestrian and cycle connectivity and infrastructure in the surrounding urban area to facilitate development.</li> <li>• The Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplan was published in March 2024 and includes for the provision of public realm improvement works and pedestrian infrastructure in the town centre, including improved pedestrian and cycle infrastructure between The Wonderful Barn and the town centre.</li> <li>• The Green Lane Cycle Scheme was approved under Part 8 Ref. P82022.05 in July 2022. It is intended that enabling works will be progressed in 2025.</li> <li>• KCC has commenced a feasibility study in relation to the provision of a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge to Leixlip.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Self-Sustaining Growth Towns</b></p>		
<p><b>RE O31</b> - Encourage job creation in the Self-Sustaining Towns of Celbridge, Monasterevin, Clane and Kilcock and with particular focus on the economic areas of biotechnology, digital enterprise, tourism, distilling and brewing industries and food and beverage products, in order for them to become more self-sustainable and balanced considering they have</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management, forward planning and economic/enterprise development function of KCC.</p> <p>Planning permission has been granted for approximately 360,000 sqm of commercial floorspace in 2023 and 2024 across the towns, villages, existing employment areas and rural areas of the county. Most of this additional commercial/employment floorspace is situated in the higher order settlements (Key, Self-Sustaining Growth and Self-Sustaining Towns) and key employment locations of the county.</p>

<p>experienced rapid population growth with high levels of commuter focused residential expansion without equivalent increases in jobs and services. Also, encourage new businesses to develop and embrace the diversity of opportunities that exist in these locations.</p>		
<p><b>Towns</b></p>		
<p><b>RE O32</b> - Encourage and promote small scale industry, diversification of the rural economy, new economic opportunities arising from digital connectivity and indigenous innovation and enterprise as well as more traditional natural and resource assets (e.g. food, energy, tourism) in these Towns. [Kilcullen, Kill, Athgarvan, Sallins, Prosperous, Rathangan, Castledermot and Derrinturn]</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management, forward planning and economic/enterprise development function of KCC.</p> <p>Planning permission has been granted for approximately 360,000 sqm of commercial floorspace in 2023 and 2024 across the towns, villages, existing employment areas and rural areas of the county.</p>
<p><b>Economic Clusters</b></p>		
<p><b>RE O33</b> - Promote and facilitate the development of the MASP Economic Cluster, encompassing the towns of Maynooth, Leixlip, Celbridge and Kilcock, by supporting identified key sectoral opportunities, including the development of synergies between Maynooth University, employers in the area, key</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management, forward planning and economic/enterprise development function of KCC.</p> <p>Planning permission has been granted for approximately 360,000 sqm of commercial floorspace in 2023 and 2024 across the towns, villages, existing employment areas and rural areas of the county. Most of this additional commercial/employment floorspace is situated in the higher order settlements (Key, Self-Sustaining Growth and Self-Sustaining Towns) and key employment locations of the county.</p>

<p>stakeholders and community leaders, along with the requisite targeted infrastructural investment, in accordance with the RSES.</p>		<p>The Local Area Plans for the Settlements of Maynooth, Leixlip, Celbridge and Kilcock support the ongoing economic growth of these towns, particularly through identified sectoral and locational opportunities. These LAP's are subject to detailed assessments, public consultation and engagement with key stakeholders and service/infrastructure providers.</p>
<p><b>RE O34</b> - Promote and facilitate the development of the Sallins-Naas-Newbridge Economic Cluster including the proposed Naas to Newbridge Strategic Economic and Employment Zone, by supporting identified key sectoral opportunities along with requisite targeted infrastructural investment, in accordance with the RSES.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management, forward planning and economic/enterprise development function of KCC.</p> <p>Planning permission has been granted for approximately 360,000 sqm of commercial floorspace in 2023 and 2024 across the towns, villages, existing employment areas and rural areas of the county.</p> <p>The further progression of this objective is to be informed by the results of the Strategic Employment Lands Study (anticipated to be published in Q3 2025), the ongoing preparation of the Newbridge Local Area Plan 2025-2031 and the preparation of the Naas Northwest Quadrant Masterplan.</p>
<p><b>RE A3</b> - Develop a strategy for the lands between the settlements of Naas and Newbridge, to consolidate existing development whilst also preventing the coalescence of these settlements.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>The progression of this objective is to be informed by the results of the Strategic Employment Lands Study (anticipated to be published in Q3 2025) and the ongoing preparation of the Newbridge Local Area Plan 2025-2031.</p>
<p><b>Urban Growth, Regeneration and Placemaking</b></p>		
<p><b>RE O35</b> - Ensure that there is a sufficient supply of zoned and serviced lands at suitable locations to accommodate a range of enterprise and employment development types and to promote compact growth by strengthening the</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The progression of this objective is ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC, to be informed by the results of the Strategic Employment Lands Study (anticipated to be published in Q3 2025).</p>

integration between employment, housing and transportation.		
<b>RE O36</b> - Address derelict sites in towns and villages by invoking the powers of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 (as amended) and by the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).	Ongoing	The Derelict Sites Register is maintained by the Housing Department and is an operational matter for KCC.
<b>RE O37</b> - Continue to promote the sustainable development of vacant residential and regeneration sites in towns that are the subject of a statutory Local Area Plan, through the application of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (as amended), Vacant Site Levy, on lands zoned for Town Centre, Regeneration and Residential uses.	Ongoing	The Local Areas Plans for Kildare Town and Maynooth and Environs both include objectives addressing vacancy and regeneration of town centre sites.
<b>RE O38</b> - Promote the 2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme (or any successor to same), which prioritises tackling vacancy in towns and villages, remote working and supporting town centre living.	Ongoing	The Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team actively pursue funding under the Town and Village Renewal Schemes in 2023 and 2024. Ongoing projects being funded (whole or part) through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme include the Kilcullen Market Square works (complete), Monasterevin Market Square works (ongoing) and the Robertstown Eco Park (ongoing).
<b>RE O39</b> - Encourage economic development that is urban in nature to locate on appropriately zoned lands within urban areas in the first instance.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC.
<b>RE O40</b> - (a) Promote the Shop Front Improvement, Accessibility and Age	Ongoing	In 2023 and 2024, the Local Enterprise Office awarded 188 no. grants to independent business owners across the County under this scheme to improve shop fronts and

<p>Friendly Grant Scheme, (b) Financially assist and support independent business owners to improve accessibility to commercial properties, (c) Promote use of Irish language signage through the above grant schemes, (d) promote signage displays in both English and Irish within and outside public buildings.</p>		<p>accessibility. Where planning permission is required for new signage, this is an ongoing function for the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O41</b> – Direct significant employment uses such as major office developments into appropriately zoned lands and close to the strategic public transport network for the region that is outlined in the Draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022-2042 and other Regional Plans.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O42</b> - Ensure that proposals to diversify or densify underutilised industrial lands support the overarching goals of placemaking, consolidating growth centres along public transport corridors in a planned and/or sequential basis, and ensure realisable, sustainable linkages with nearby services and amenities, that particularly includes walking and cycling.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O43</b> - Support the provision of ground floor work-live units as part of mixed-use and residential developments in appropriate locations, as a means of</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>enlivening streets as well as providing flexible accommodation for small businesses.</p>		
<p><b>RE O44</b> - Require that employment space provided as part of new mixed-use development is suitably designed to be a viable workspace to meet the needs of a broad range of different employment types and sizes, catering for a range of opportunities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O45</b> - Positively consider proposals and initiatives that seek to re-purpose and revitalise redundant or declining uses in important town centre locations and ensure that proposals for the reuse of buildings, introduces a greater diversity of daytime and night-time uses, while encouraging sustainable modes of transport/travel, and within the lifetime of the Plan, highlight the range of re-use achieved through the above proposals and initiatives.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O46</b> - Review the possibility of an inland port at the strategic rail junction of Cork, Limerick and Waterford railway routes at Cherryville junction in Kildare Town.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Not on the current work programme.</p>



<p><b>RE O47</b> - Support and prioritise the delivery of all projects funded under the Fáilte Ireland’s Destination Towns funding programme to enhance public spaces and projects.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and the work programmes of various Departments as projects are identified.</p>
<p><b>RE A4</b> - Engage with the Local Enterprise Office to undertake an audit of infrastructural deficits that may be impeding economic development within the County and engage directly with the relevant stakeholders to address these deficits.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>The Strategic Employment Land Study which is being undertaken by the County Development Plan Implementation Team, will identify infrastructural deficits in this regard. The study is anticipated to be published in 2025.</p>
<p><b>RE A5</b> - Proactively engage with the members of each Municipal District in devising and delivering plans and projects for regeneration.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Engagement with the Elected Members is a critical part of the plan making and project development processes and is ongoing for all Departments.</p>
<p><b>Remote Working / Co-Working Spaces / Digital Hubs</b></p>		
<p><b>RE O48</b> – Support remote working opportunities from designated hub/ co-working spaces, in the interests of mitigating long commuting times.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>There are 15 no. hubs in the K-Hub network, 6 of which have been provided by the Local Enterprise Office.</p>
<p><b>RE O49</b> – Support the role of the new Mid-Eastern Region Innovation Think Space (MERITS) in providing a co-working incubation and accelerator space for</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The MERITS building is fully operational.</p>

technology entrepreneurs and technology business.		
<b>RE O50</b> – Continue to develop North Kildare as a digital economic hub by building on an existing critical mass in the IT and digital sector and attracting further significant investment to further develop the sector to its maximum potential.	Ongoing	The IT and digital sectors are an ongoing key focus for the Economic Development Section of KCC.
<b>RE O51</b> – Support the development of the Equine Tech Hub and other appropriately located projects of this nature.	Ongoing	The National Equine Innovation Centre at the Irish National Stud is a partnership project between KCC, the LEO and the Irish Stud. It is supported in policy through the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029.
<b>Home Based Employment</b>		
<b>RE O52</b> – Co-operate with and facilitate Government agencies, and other bodies where feasible, in encouraging home-based employment including the provision of small-scale individual enterprises. Proposals which involve the change of use and/or new development for purposes of home-based employment will generally be considered favourably where it can be clearly demonstrated that a) the proposal is of an appropriate scale for its location; b) there are no adverse environmental, health and safety impacts, c) the proposal is without prejudice to residential amenity	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

and d) the proposal will not detract from the vitality and viability of town or village centres.		
<b>RE O53</b> – Encourage the provision of live-work units as part of mixed-use developments in appropriate locations (particularly at ground floor level) to provide accommodation for the creative sectors and small businesses and to facilitate homeworking. Such development should be of suitable design so as to protect the amenity of adjacent residents.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)</b>		
<b>RE O54</b> – Support existing FDI large industrial companies in sustaining and expanding their businesses at appropriate locations.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>RE O55</b> – Promote and develop key land banks and business parks in conjunction with IDA and Enterprise Ireland throughout the County, to build more sustainable communities, which target key priority business sectors.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning, development management and enterprise/economic development function of KCC, together with the LEO.  The further implementation of this objective will be informed by the forthcoming Strategic Employment Lands Study, anticipated to be published in Q3 2025.
<b>RE A6</b> – Work with and support the LEO to develop a “Kildare” brand, which outlines the strengths of Kildare for FDI.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the economic/employment function of KCC in conjunction with the LEO, particularly through the 'Innovate Kildare' brand.

<b>Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs)</b>		
<b>RE O56</b> – Support and promote proposals for SME business development in centres where existing infrastructural facilities are available or where they can be provided with services and good communications.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>RE O57</b> - Support start-up businesses and small-scale industrial enterprises, particularly those that have a creative and innovative dimension, and which promote environmentally sustainable jobs.	Ongoing	The LEO provides a Start Your Own Business course annually. In 2024, 320 people participated.
<b>RE O58</b> - Facilitate the development of SMEs at appropriate locations in urban/serviced rural areas in accordance with Government Policy “Our Rural Future; Rural Development Policy 2021-2025” (2021) and other relevant government agencies including the NTA and TII.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC.
<b>RE O59</b> - Only consider standalone coffee kiosks in limited circumstance where it can be demonstrated that; a) the proposal is of an appropriate scale for its location; b) there are no adverse visual, environmental and health and safety impacts, c) the proposal is without prejudice to residential amenity and d) the proposal will not	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

detract from the vitality and viability of town or village centres.		
<b>Knowledge Economy</b>		
<b>RE O60</b> - Support LEOs and local authorities to collaborate with the Regional Skills Fora managers, Higher Education Institutes, Education and Training Boards and local stakeholders to address skills shortages and life-long learning challenges.	Ongoing	Ongoing for the Local Enterprise Office. A Skills Audit was completed for the county in 2024 and it is anticipated that this will be published in 2025.
<b>RE O61</b> - Promote the development of a Technology and Innovation Park with Maynooth University subject to all relevant and cumulative environmental assessments and planning conditions within the Key Town of Maynooth, that will act as an anchor, supporting incubator, innovation and business development initiatives that are located to build upon research and technology activities in Maynooth University; with supporting transport infrastructure; broadband infrastructure; and a diverse local sectoral mix.	Ongoing	Further policy support, including the zoning of land, for a Technology and Innovation Park at Maynooth University is provided in the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031.
<b>RE O62</b> - Support the further development of Maynooth University as a leading third level research and educational facility, and work with Maynooth University and other	Ongoing	LEO established the Kildare Economic Forum which comprises of key stakeholders including <i>inter alia</i> the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, Chamber of Commerce, the KWETB and Maynooth University. The Forum meets quarterly each year.

<p>third level institutes (e.g. Tallaght and Carlow IT) to develop and improve linkages between the third level sector and relevant employment providers in the surrounding sub region and the county in general, particularly in the area of green technologies and social innovations.</p>		
<p><b>RE O63</b> - Support and facilitate the development of a Centre of Excellence, which provides courses that support green and sustainable industries.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>An initial tranche of funding has been secured from Pobal by the Local Enterprise Office to progress the Circular Economy Centre project at the former CBS in Athy. This project will progress into 2025. The hub will house the Paint Reuse Facility, following the success of the pilot scheme.</p>
<p><b>RE O64</b> - Encourage third level education in County Kildare through the provision of outreach / campus facilities for the accommodation of courses.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the LCDC forum and the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and other measures of KCC in supporting community outreach.</p>
<p><b>RE O65</b> - Support initiatives targeting unemployed people to access training, education and re-skilling that fits with business and employer needs.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the LEO, the LCDC forum and the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP).</p>
<p><b>RE O66</b> - Promote initiatives with relevant agencies, such as Solas and KWETB, to expand training and education services that will support business skills development in the county, such as 'Start your own business' courses.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Local Enterprise Office run Start Your Own Business courses annually.</p>
<p><b>RE O67</b> - Support UCD Lyons Farm as a centre of excellence and a third level</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>teaching and agricultural research facility and to facilitate the delivery of key infrastructure, as appropriate subject to planning and environmental considerations.</p>		
<p><b>Enterprise Development</b></p>		
<p><b>RE O68</b> – Support economic development, including business start-up companies, so as to maximise their business potential, and to promote a best practice enterprise culture that makes it easier to do business in Kildare.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Local Enterprise Office and the economic/enterprise development function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O69</b> - Provide supports, guidance and solutions (together with the LEO office) that equip entrepreneurs, owners and managers with the skills to identify and exploit business opportunities and compete successfully within a competitive business environment.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Local Enterprise Office and the economic/enterprise development function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O70</b> – Serve as a champion and advocate for the establishment of a best practice enterprise culture among start-ups, micro and small businesses, and promote enterprise and self-employment as a viable career option among the wider population, and particularly among school and college leavers. Also provide the skills</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Local Enterprise Office and the economic/enterprise development function of KCC.</p>

to identify and exploit business opportunities and compete successfully within a competitive business environment.		
<b>Data Centres</b>		
<b>RE O71</b> – Require that any application for a data centre will be subject to all relevant and cumulative environmental assessments and planning conditions and shall take account of the cumulative visual impact of the proposed connections of the data centre with electricity transmission, renewable energy and broadband infrastructure in the area.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>RE O72</b> – Require data centres to consider the use of sustainable renewable sources of energy to fuel their operations in whole in the first instance or in part (minimum of 30%) where this is not possible and where it has been satisfactorily demonstrated not to be possible, subject to all relevant and cumulative environmental assessments and planning conditions.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>Green / Circular Bio-Economy</b>		
<b>RE O73</b> – Ensure that climate action and sustainable development is central to economic development in the County	Ongoing	Ongoing for multiple KCC Departments through the publication of the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and the Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 - 2029 in 2024.



<p>through sustainable land use and orderly growth and a co-ordinated approach to the preparation and implementation of the Kildare County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2019-2024) and the Local Economic and Community Plan (2016-2021) and any successors thereof.</p>		
<p><b>RE O74</b> – Support the growth of business in the green and circular economy and use the European Green Deal as a roadmap, which promotes a sustainable framework for economic transition and development</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management, forward planning and economic/enterprise development function of KCC, in conjunction with the LEO and other KCC Departments.</p>
<p><b>RE O75</b> – Promote net zero-carbon and carbon reduction in economic development through innovative design, low-carbon technology, use of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and roll out of district heating and other renewable energy projects. All these actions are outlined within the National Climate Action Plan 2021.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. It is noted that a feasibility study is currently being prepared in relation to the potential for district heating for Naas.</p>
<p><b>RE O76</b> - Support the measures contained within Kildare’s Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2019-2024), or any superseding plan, to integrate the Circular Economy approach with economic development initiatives.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing for multiple KCC Departments, in particular through the publication of the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and the Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 - 2029 in 2024.</p>

<p><b>RE O77</b> - Support the promotion of skills, education and awareness raising in the energy efficiency sectors, promoting smart technologies and well-connected communities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Local Enterprise Office and the economic/enterprise development function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O78</b> - Support and promote sustainable rural based enterprises particularly those that help in achieving climate action goals, and to move away from fossil fuels in favour of low and zero-carbon sources including renewable energy and secondary heat sources and to support the development of green technologies.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O79</b> - Support Bord Na Mona with proposals for their headquarters at Newbridge to become a Green Energy Hub, which focuses on the higher order aspects of the renewable energy industry and a climate action training centre.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, noting that KCC granted permission for a new headquarters building in Newbridge in 2023 (Ref. 22802)</p>
<p><b>RE O80</b> - Support the Local Enterprise Office and specifically the 'Green for Micro' programme which officially launched in March 2021. The main objective of this free service is to help small businesses prepare for a low carbon, resource efficient future.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Local Enterprise Office.</p>

<p><b>RE O81</b> - Support the development of a skills programme in tackling the economic impact of the transition to a carbon neutral economy by 2050 on local communities in Kildare.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP), the LCDC forum and the work programmes the Local Enterprise Office.</p>
<p><b>RE O82</b> - Promote and facilitate Kildare as a viable location for the development of materials and technology, which support green industries (e.g. retrofitting materials/sustainable recycling industries etc.)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O83</b> - Support and facilitate the development of a Green Enterprise Zone associated with the peat era in accordance with the provisions of Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, subject to planning and environmental considerations.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O84</b> - Support EMRA in undertaking a bioeconomy feasibility study for the region to identify areas of potential growth to inform investment.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>To be progressed through the EMRA.</p>
<p><b>Agri-Food Sector</b></p>		
<p><b>RE O85</b> - Support the development of the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub and other appropriately located projects of</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub at the former Model School is currently under construction.</p>

<p>this nature in the wider Athy Municipal District Area.</p>		
<p><b>RE O86</b> - Support the development of an AgTech Connector Innovation Hub at the UCD Lyons Farm in Co. Kildare.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Innovation Hub completed and further development at the UCD Lyons Farm is ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O87</b> - Maximise the ability of communities to be self-sufficient in food production, energy savings and production, waste disposal etc.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing for multiple KCC Departments.</p>
<p><b>RE O88</b> - Create a strategy to develop and promote Monasterevin as a centre for Distilling and Brewing that builds on the history of Monasterevin (Cassidy Distillery and Brewing Co.) and the current investment at the Church of Oak Distillery.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>KCC published a Conservation Management Plan for the Cassidy Distillery Building in 2024 which assesses the history, cultural significance, threats and viable reuse of a large cluster of industrial structures, collectively known as Cassidy’s Complex.</p> <p>A development strategy for the town of Monasterevin will emerge in the upcoming Draft Settlement Plan for Monasterevin, which is anticipated to be published in 2025 following a pre-draft consultation process undertaken in 2024.</p>
<p><b>Agriculture</b></p>		
<p><b>RE O89</b> - Protect agriculture and traditional rural enterprises from haphazard and/or incompatible development.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O90</b> - Promote the ‘Smart Farming’ initiative, the ‘Kildare Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2019)’ and the ‘National Climate Action Plan 2021’ to farmers across Kildare to inform them of environmental sustainability and resource management, so as to reduce CO2</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Climate Action Team of KCC, with support from the wider Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department.</p>

production on farms in accordance with the National Climate Action Plan 2021.		
<b>RE O91</b> - Support the provision of allotments, community markets and gardens within each municipal district in the county.	Ongoing	The Allotment and Community Garden Strategy 2024 was published by KCC in December 2024 and includes a commitment to developing a pilot program of allotment and community garden projects, subject to the availability of funding and resources.
<b>Equine</b>		
<b>RE O92</b> - Support the continued redevelopment and upgrading of the National Stud, Curragh, Punchestown and Naas racecourses and their associated facilities.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>RE O93</b> - Facilitate and support the development and expansion of equine pharmaceuticals / equine food businesses and other related industries in the County.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC. It is noted that KCC and the LEO supported the development of the National Equine Innovation Centre at the National Stud.
<b>RE O94</b> - Promote and support the redevelopment of the Irish Equine Centre in Johnstown as a new Irish Equine Health and Welfare Campus, ensuring world leading facilities and expertise are available in this critical research and diagnostic facility.	Ongoing	No planning applications forthcoming in this regard.
<b>RE O95</b> - Protect and nurture the environment which allows the equine industry to flourish in Co. Kildare and	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

support the conserving and development of equine walking paths, bridle ways, tracks and trails.		
<b>RE O96</b> - Promote and facilitate, at appropriate locations, commercial activities that are directly associated with the Horse Racing and Sport Horse industries.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>Tourism</b>		
<b>RE O97</b> – Support and facilitate the erection of standardised signage for tourism facilities and tourist attractions in Irish and English as part of national and regional initiatives. Consideration should also be given to gateway signage at county boundaries in consultation with relevant agencies.	Ongoing	Ongoing through relevant agencies (including INTO Kildare and Failte Ireland) in consultation with relevant KCC Departments and the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team, noting the new provision of welcome/gateway signage in Kilcock and Prosperous.
<b>RE O98</b> - Identify strategic sites capable of accommodating new tourism ventures while also ensuring the preservation of the natural landscape of the area having regard to economic, environmental and social sustainability considerations.	Ongoing	Ongoing through other agencies, and through the relevant departments and strategies of KCC subject to the availability of funding and resources.  Into Kildare's Strategic Plan for Tourism in Kildare 2022-2027 was prepared in consultation with KCC and incorporates a strategic framework for the continuing development of tourism opportunities in the county.  Feasibility studies commissioned by the County Development Plan Implementation Team in relation to a recreational project along the Corbally Canal (between Naas Harbour, Corbally Harbour and the River Liffey) and the provision of a Liffey Valley Park (between Leixlip and Celbridge) will seek to identify potential tourism opportunities.

<p><b>RE O99</b> - Support the expansion and development of tourism in Kildare, investigating the feasibility of key opportunities such as those centred on the racing industry, motorsports, retail, heritage, historical heritage (both persons and places), geology, peatlands, golf and eco-tourism to include: Arthur’s Way, the Dublin – Galway Greenway, the Barrow Blueway, the Shackleton Trail, Shackleton Museum, Mondello the Gordon Bennett Route, the Grand Canal Greenway, Brigid 1500, a Fitzgerald Family Trail, the Made of Athy Trail, Castledermot Town Wall, the Columbian Way and other opportunities. Such developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through other agencies, and through the relevant departments, projects and strategies of KCC subject to the availability of funding and resources. Further detail of individual projects are provided throughout this Report.</p>
<p><b>RE O100</b> - Support additional and diversification of tourist accommodation and other types of tourism infrastructure such as motorhome parking and toilet facilities at appropriate, sustainable locations, where the vitality and vibrancy of nearby serviced centres is not compromised.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O101</b> - Support INTO Kildare’s County Kildare Tourism Strategy to maximise</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and through the delivery of projects by various KCC Departments.</p>

<p>Kildare’s potential to become a dedicated and recognised location for recreational and cultural tourism within the Greater Dublin Area.</p>		
<p><b>RE O102</b> - Identify all opportunities for funding, including LEADER, Urban and Rural Regeneration Development Fund, National and European funding schemes and seek to maximise the benefit of such funding opportunities to the county.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>KCC actively seeks to leverage all available funding mechanisms at regional, national and EU levels through each of its departments.</p>
<p><b>RE O103</b> - Facilitate the implementation of the Kildare Local Economic Community Plan; Economic and Community Actions related to tourism development.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing and to be reported through the 2-year monitoring system established in the LECP and the associated Implementation Plan.</p>
<p><b>RE O104</b> – Direct the provision of tourist related facilities such as Tourist Information Centres, self-service brochure units, kiosks, and cultural centres, into town and village locations to support and strengthen the existing economic infrastructure of such centres. Consider the potential for co-locating such facilities with existing facilities such as libraries and citizen information centres.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with other KCC Departments such as the library service.</p>
<p><b>RE O105</b> - Promote and facilitate the development of rural tourism inter alia open farms, on-farm craft villages and</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC. Examples of this include:</p>



<p>visitor centres and the reuse and refurbishment of vernacular buildings (houses or farm/industrial buildings) for tourist related facilities, including holiday home accommodation; subject to compliance with both the Rural Housing Policies and Development Management Standards of this Plan. It is important that such development does not have a detrimental impact on the residential amenities of rural residents.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The permitted Agri-Tourism Glamping and Cycling scheme at Tully East, Kildare (Ref 23257) comprising of the conversion of a stable block to holiday accommodation, the installation of glamping pods and the utilisation of the existing certified organic livestock farm as an attraction to holidaymakers.</li> <li>• The permitted Burtown Eco Cabins at Burtown House, Burtown Little, Athy ((Ref 2460386).</li> </ul>
<p><b>RE O106</b> - Encourage the clustering of tourism enterprise in town and village centres in the interest of sustainable tourism development and the enhancement of the public realms of town and village centres to maximise their tourism potential. In all cases, applicants must submit a robust assessment setting out the sustainability of any proposal with respect to economic, environmental and social sustainability.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O107</b> - Continue to protect and enhance the unique landscape of the Curragh Plains and all its associated history.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Curragh Plains Conservation Management Plan and the Curragh Plains Interpretation, Branding and Wayfinding Strategy was published in December 2024. KCC will seek to support the recommended policies and actions of the recently published Plan and Strategy in conjunction with other stakeholders, subject to the availability of resources.</p>

<p><b>RE O108</b> - Encourage and support start-up enterprises in tourism across Kildare.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the work programme of the economic/enterprise development section of KCC in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Office.</p>
<p><b>RE O109</b> - Support the development of sustainable forest-based tourism facilities and accommodation at appropriate locations within the Coillte estate. Such developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.  An example of this is the development permitted at Donadea Forest Park (Ref 23772) for a highwire adventure activity course.</p>
<p><b>RE O110</b> - Support the preparation and implementation of a Conservation Management Plan and a Branding and Interpretation Plan, in partnership with the Department of Defence, for the Curragh Plains.</p>	<p>Ongoing?</p>	<p>The Curragh Plains Conservation Management Plan and the Curragh Plains Interpretation, Branding and Wayfinding Strategy was published in December 2024. KCC will seek to support the recommended policies and actions of the recently published Plan and Strategy in conjunction with other stakeholders, subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>RE O111</b> - Work with local community groups, schools and service providers to promote the establishment of community gardens.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Allotment and Community Garden Strategy 2024 was published by KCC in December 2024 and includes a commitment to developing pilot program of allotment and community garden projects, subject to the availability of funding and resources and on an incremental basis. At least one potential site is identified in each Municipal District. To meet the identified demand, Kildare County Council will focus on five pilot project locations over the period 2024-2030.</p>
<p><b>RE O112</b> – Support the provision of accessible tourism and to provide appropriate access for the disabled and appropriate changing places at all key tourist centres within the County.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning process of KCC.</p>

<p><b>RE O113</b> - Examine the feasibility of establishing another tourist office (Kildare Town has a Fáilte Ireland approved tourist office) or visitor information point in the Key Town of Maynooth, which would serve the north of the County.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources in co-operation with Failte Ireland.</p>
<p><b>RE O114</b> - Ensure that innovative tourism ideas are assessed on their merits on a case-by-case basis. In all cases, applicants must submit a robust assessment setting out the sustainability of any proposal with respect to economic, environmental and social sustainability.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O115</b> - Liaise with Dublin Local Authorities and look at the feasibility of implementing the Liffey Valley Strategy.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>A feasibility study has commenced in relation to the provision of a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge to Leixlip. It is anticipated that this project could form the first phase in the delivery of a wider Liffey Valley Park envisaged in the Liffey Valley Park Strategy (2006).</p>
<p><b>RE O116</b> - Support the development of tourist attractions at Mullaghmast Rath and Moone High Cross'</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O117</b> - Protect all landscape types from inappropriate tourism development by ensuring that developments and other activities associated with tourism or recreational activity are sensitively located so that they do not cause damage, are not detrimental to or detract from the traditional character or appearance of</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. The County Development Plan Implementation Team is currently progressing the preparation of a new Landscape Character Assessment for the County - anticipated to be published as a Variation to the CDP in 2025/2026.</p>

areas of scenic or visual amenities and ensure that the layout, design, and associated infrastructure are of the highest quality.		
<b>RE O118</b> - Ensure the highest standards of design are used in the development of tourism related facilities to ensure that there are no significant adverse impacts on the landscape, including Natura 2000 sites and historic archaeological sites. Such facilities must be integrated into the landscape to take advantage of natural screening and topography.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>Environmental Sustainability and Tourism</b>		
<b>RE O119</b> - Promote Kildare as a hub for sustainable tourism and the sustainable development of low impact activities including orienteering, angling, equestrian activities, bird watching, canoeing, kayaking, paragliding, botany, photography, painting, yoga and meditation, in appropriate locations in order to diversify the range of tourist experiences available in the county and to extend the tourism season.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and with promotion ongoing by external agencies.
<b>RE O120</b> - Encourage all new tourism related development proposals to	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p>maximise energy efficiency through siting, layout and design and incorporate best practice in energy technologies, conservation and smart technology.</p>		
<p><b>RE O121</b> - Require the preparation of 'Attraction Management Plans' for new developments / projects which may impact on areas of ecological or heritage sensitivity in County Kildare. These plans should consider (but not limited to) potential for loss of habitat and disturbance by increased visitor numbers. Applications or proposals will be accompanied by a management plan indicating projected numbers of users, hours of operation, seasons of operation, and an undertaking to protect the natural environment in the form of a risk assessment with proposed amelioration measures in respect of flora, fauna, hydrology, geology and soils. The Attraction Management Plans should have regard to any mitigation as detailed within a Stage 2 AA or EclA.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O122</b> - Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations / along particular</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals and should have regard to any mitigation as detailed within a Stage 2 AA or EclA.</p>		
<p><b>RE O123</b> - Strengthen resilience to climate change by ensuring that all new major tourist developments provide a climate vulnerability assessment within sensitive and vulnerable sites.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O124</b> - Consider the following criteria in assessing tourism development proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The need for the development and facility to be provided.</li> <li>- Justification for the proposed site location.</li> <li>- Details in relation to accessibility including pedestrian and cycle provisions and linkages to the proposed development.</li> <li>- Proposed developments should be modest in scale, sensitively located and designed having regard to existing buildings and topography.</li> <li>- Proposed developments must be</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

adequately landscaped, serviced and suitably managed.		
<b>RE O125</b> - Facilitate tourist-based developments such as information centres and cultural centres into existing settlements where there is adequate infrastructure to service these activities.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>Failte Ireland Strategies / Ireland's Ancient East</b>		
<b>RE O126</b> - Support the preparation and implementation of a Regional Tourism Strategy and to support the continued collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and all relevant tourism stakeholders.	Ongoing	Ireland's Ancient East Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2027 was published by Failte Ireland in May 2023.
<b>RE O127</b> - Support the preparation of Destination Experience Development Plans (DEDP) and other tourism masterplans both within County Kildare and also those which cross from County Kildare into neighbouring counties in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and other tourism stakeholders.	Ongoing	KCC provides ongoing support and collaborates in the preparation of DEDP's and any other tourism related plans by external agencies.
<b>RE O128</b> - Continue to work with Fáilte Ireland and tourism stakeholders to implement the Thoroughbred Country Destination Development Plan and its key catalyst projects including, 'The New	Ongoing	Ongoing through the economic/enterprise function of KCC, in conjunction with other relevant KCC Departments and external agencies.

International Thoroughbred Trail’ and ‘The Thoroughbred County’		
<b>RE O129</b> - Continue to collaborate with Fáilte Ireland, the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and other key stakeholders in the development and implementation of a signage programme associated with Ireland’s Ancient East to include branded orientation signage and roadside signage in Irish and English.	Ongoing	Ongoing for many departments in KCC.
<b>RE O130</b> - Facilitate the enhancement of appropriate visitor infrastructure and facilities in Kildare associated with Ireland’s Ancient East sites and other places with tourism potential.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC. During 2023 and 2024, planning permission was granted for 236 tourist accommodation rooms (including glamping pods) across the county.
<b>RE O131</b> - Continue to work in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and other key stakeholders on the development of the Ireland’s Ancient East branding strategy, to implement the programmes and plans of the Ireland’s Ancient East initiative over the lifetime of the plan and to maximise the tourism potential of the county	Ongoing	Ongoing and led by Failte Ireland.
<b>RE O132</b> - Facilitate and promote Kildare Town’s development as a National Tourism	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning, development management and economic/enterprise development function of KCC.



<p>Hub, in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland and INTO Kildare.</p>		
<p><b>RE O133</b> - Investigate the feasibility of developing a Tourism Destination Centre within the Curragh which would focus on the equine and military history of the area, in conjunction with INTO Kildare and other tourism stakeholders.</p>	<p>Medum Term</p>	<p>Into Kildare's Strategic Plan for Tourism in Kildare 2022-2027 (launched in November 2021) was prepared in consultation with KCC and incorporates a strategic framework for the continuing development of tourism opportunities in the county, including in relation to the Curragh and the potential for the development of a visitor hub/destination centre.</p> <p>The Curragh Plains Conservation Management Plan and the Interpretation, Branding and Wayfinding Strategy were launched in December 2024 with a policy/action for the establishment of a Curragh Visitor, Management and Archive Centre.</p>
<p><b>RE O134</b> - Continue to work with INTO Kildare to:</p> <p>(a) Implement a tourism development strategy in the county and identify the particular role and competence of all partner agencies.</p> <p>(b) Develop an appropriate and compelling marketing proposition and plan for Kildare as a tourism destination.</p> <p>(c) Continue to develop a suite of training programmes that will ensure that tourism businesses in the county recruit staff with appropriate skills and provide for career development; and</p> <p>(d) Promote the Green Hospitality Programme.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through INTO Kildare with support from various KCC Departments.</p>
<p><b>Peatland Tourism</b></p>		

<p><b>RE O135 -</b></p> <p>(a) Support and facilitate the development of Umeras Bog into a Peatlands Park.</p> <p>(b) Develop the tourism potential of peatlands and in particular support the proposed Umeras Peatlands Park and existing Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park as tourist and ecological amenities subject to proper planning, environmental protection and sustainable development.</p> <p>(c) Explore what linkages could be created between raised boglands and fens and nearby blueways and greenways, whilst ensuring that the environment and nearby properties would not be negatively affected or where there will be no potential for likely significant effects on a European Site or on a site that shares a hydrological connection with a European Site.</p> <p>(d) Look at the feasibility of creating linkages between the proposed Umeras Peatlands Park and Monasterevin train station.</p> <p>(e) Look at the feasibility of creating linkages between Mouds Bog and the nearby town of Newbridge.</p> <p>Such developments shall be subject to AA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing and subject to the availability of resources, noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KCC will support the ongoing efforts of the Umeras Community Development to develop the Umeras Peatlands Park in conjunction with relevant stakeholders. It is noted that Umeras Community Development has joined the Community Wetlands Forum to assist in leveraging funding and resources.</li> <li>• Through the Just Transition Tourism Activation Programme, one local SME has applied for funding for design and planning of a new peatland regenerative tourism amenity and is awaiting a decision. In addition, two peatland sites that are not managed by Bord na Móna have joined the Tóchar re-wetting scheme with the NPWS.</li> <li>• Under the EU Just Transition Fund (Failte Ireland - EU Just Transition Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme) 3.6 million euro was provided to Bord na Mona to bring to planning stage c.60-79 km of trails across its lands to support ancillary tourism across Longford, Westmeath and Offaly. Whilst such projects have yet to come forward in Kildare, projects currently funded in Kildare include the regeneration of Emily Square in Athy (€2,735,425) and the development of a visitor masterplan for Donadea Forest Park (€67,650).</li> </ul>
--	----------------	---

<p>screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA, and should have regard to any mitigation as detailed within a Stage 2 AA or EclA.</p>		
<p><b>RE O136</b> - Facilitate the development of a tourism resource using cutaway peatlands in conjunction with Bord na Móna and Fáilte Ireland, subject to environmental considerations and nature designations, for example, recreational forestry, outdoor pursuits, peat ways on the network of bogs and industrial railways and a designation of a National Peatlands Park. Such developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing and subject to the availability of resources, noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KCC supports the ongoing efforts of the Umeras Community Development to develop the Umeras Peatlands Park in conjunction with relevant stakeholders. It is noted that Umeras Community Development has joined the Community Wetlands Forum to assist in leveraging funding and resources.</li> <li>• KCC supports the ongoing efforts of the National Peatlands Park Group in the provision of a National Peatlands Park centred on the Irish Peatland Conservation Council’s Bog of Allen Nature Centre and the Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and the NPWS, subject to the availability of resources.</li> <li>• Through the Just Transition Tourism Activation Programme, one local SME has applied for funding for design and planning of a new peatland regenerative tourism amenity and is awaiting a decision. In addition, two peatland sites that are not managed by Bord na Móna have joined the Tóchar re-wetting scheme with the NPWS.</li> <li>• Under the EU Just Transition Fund (Failte Ireland - EU Just Transition Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme) 3.6 million euro was provided to Bord na Mona to bring to planning stage c.60-79 km of trails across its lands to support ancillary tourism across, Longford, Westmeath and Offaly. Whilst such projects have yet to come forward in Kildare, other projects currently funded under Just Transition in Kildare include the regeneration of Emily Square in Athy (€2,735,425) and the development of a visitor masterplan for Donadea Forest Park (€67,650).</li> </ul>

<p><b>RE O137</b> - Support in conjunction with Offaly County Council, Laois County Council and all other relevant stakeholders such as Bord na Mona, Coillte, the NPWS and environmental Non-Governmental Organisations, any proposal for a new National Peatland Park centred in Kildare on state-owned cutaway bogs in Kildare, Laois and Offaly having regard to other relevant land use plans where appropriate.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>KCC will support the ongoing efforts of the National Peatlands Park Group in the provision of a National Peatlands Park centred on the Irish Peatland Conservation Council's Bog of Allen Nature Centre and the Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and the NPWS, subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>RE O138</b> - Acknowledge the special status of Kilberry as an Industrial Village and to facilitate its tourism economic potential in conjunction with Bord na Móna, Fáilte Ireland and other relevant agencies.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RE O139</b> - Require applicants to prepare a peatland stability assessment, carbon emissions balance assessment and hydrological and ecological impact assessments, as required, when developing project proposals for development on peatlands.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>The Barrow Blueway</b></p>		
<p><b>RE O140</b> - Support the development and marketing of the Barrow Blueway, including the Barrow Blueway Economic Plan, and facilitate related commercial</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The SPPR Team is leading the delivery of the Barrow Blueway project within County Kildare and its delivery is ongoing.</p>

<p>opportunities throughout the county, subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive. Considering the River Barrow is a designated European Site, all developments within and adjacent to the Barrow Blueway should be subject to AA screening and where applicable Stage 2 AA.</p>		
<p><b>RE O141</b> - Support the development of a tourism masterplan for the River Barrow which sets out an integrated framework for tourism development along the River Barrow.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>The Barrow Blueway Placemaking Plan was published in February 2023.</p>
<p><b>RE O142</b> - (a) Recognise the importance of Monasterevin as a Blueway arrival town in Kildare and invest resources into developing the town into a heritage and nature tourism destination. (b) Seek to facilitate linkages between the Blueway and the nearby Ballykelly Mills and the proposed Umeras Peatlands Park.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC and the CKLP through the Barrow Blueway Economic Plan. Pre-draft consultation in relation to the Monasterevin LAP was conducted in 2024 and the publication of a Draft Settlement Plan is anticipated in 2025. In addition, the Town Renewal Masterplan for Monasterevin was published in 2023 and includes a range of proposals that seek to revitalise the town and further its tourism potential.</p>
<p><b>RE O143</b> - Support and facilitate the development of Athy as a Blueway destination based on the potential of the town's natural and built heritage assets.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC, noting that Athy is referenced in the Barrow Blueway Placemaking Plan.</p>
<p><b>RE O144</b> - Support and facilitate the development of Rathangan and Robertstown as Blueway destination</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC, noting that Rathangan and Robertstown are referenced in the Barrow Blueway Placemaking Plan.</p>

<p>locations having regard to their natural and built heritage assets.</p>		
<p><b>Greenways / The Barrow Blueway</b></p>		
<p><b>RE O145</b> - Promote the development of existing and new walking and cycling routes throughout the county as an activity for both international visitors and local tourists, in a manner that is compatible with road safety, nature conservation and other environmental policies. Where developments of new and existing walking and cycling routes exist within 15km of a European Site, the project should be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Active Travel Team and the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team of KCC, in conjunction with the forward planning and development management functions of KCC. Relevant projects include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Naas to Sallins Greenway Project (to Osberstown Bridge) was delivered in 2024.</li> <li>• Grand Canal Greenway is ongoing with Phase 1 complete to Sallins.</li> <li>• Construction of the Royal Canal Greenway is ongoing and substantially complete to Maynooth.</li> <li>• The Kilcullen Road cycle scheme in Naas was completed in 2024.</li> <li>• The Mill Street Active Travel Scheme in Maynooth commenced in 2025.</li> </ul>
<p><b>RE O146</b> - Liaise with Offaly and Meath County Council and explore the feasibility of a flagship greenway in Kildare between Edenderry in Co. Offaly and Enfield Co. Meath along the path of the former railway. This would form part of an outer loop between the Royal and Grand Canals. The loop could also connect with the River Slate at Rathangan.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>RE O147</b> - Investigate the feasibility of developing a walkway/cycleway along the</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>

<p>former Tullow/ Harristown railway line/ Naas-Baltinglass Greenway and, where considered feasible, to initiate the delivery of this project within the lifetime of the Plan in conjunction with all relevant landowners.</p>		
<p><b>RE O148</b> - Continue to promote and develop the towpaths along the Grand Canal, the Royal Canal, the Barrow Line, the Milltown Feeder and the Corbally Line as cycleways and walkways, in co-operation with Waterways Ireland and neighbouring Local Authorities. Support the linking of these cycleways and walkways to the county's towns and villages.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of various KCC Departments including the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team, the Active Travel Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department. The following is noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Naas to Sallins Greenway Project (to Osberstown Bridge) was delivered in 2024.</li> <li>• Grand Canal Greenway is ongoing with Phase 1 complete to Sallins.</li> <li>• Construction of the Royal Canal Greenway is ongoing and substantially complete to Maynooth.</li> <li>• Consultants have been commissioned by the County Development Plan Implementation Team to undertake a feasibility study in relation to a potential recreational project along the Corbally Canal between Naas Harbour, Corbally Harbour and the River Liffey.</li> </ul>
<p><b>RE O149</b> - Explore the potential of locating tourist services and facilities along the county's greenways and blueways where these could be provided in an accessible, sustainable manner and where they would complement the offering of nearby service centres.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and the economic/enterprise development function of KCC, supported by the policies and objectives of the KCDP and Local Area Plans in relation to tourism and the efforts of external agencies such as Failte Ireland, Into Kildare etc.</p>

<p><b>RE O150</b> - Work with Waterways Ireland to progress the delivery of the (i) Naas to Sallins Greenway and (ii) Naas to Corbally Harbour Greenway and to develop the Naas Harbour and the Corbally Harbour for amenity purposes.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>The Naas-Sallins Greenway Project (to Osberstown Bridge) was delivered in 2024, and consultants have been appointed to undertake a feasibility study in relation to a potential recreational project (potential for greenway / blueway and watersport/leisure activities) along the Corbally Canal between Naas Harbour, Corbally Harbour and the River Liffey, due for publication in 2025.</p>
<p><b>RE O151</b> - Liaise with Wicklow County Council, South Dublin County Council and all relevant landowners to investigate the feasibility of a walking trail within Ballymore Eustace village, which spreads out along the River Liffey and connects to Golden Falls, Poulaphouca and Russborough House.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>To be progressed pending further investigation, noting the delivery of the Ballymore Eustace 5K Village Centric Biodiversity and Heritage walking trail.</p>
<p><b>RE O152</b> - Investigate the feasibility of developing walkways/cycleways to access raised bog lands and fens, particularly as an offshoot of the Royal and Grand Canal Greenways.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources and following the completion of blueways/greenways in the county.</p>
<p><b>RE O153</b> - Promote and support proposals, which maximise the connectivity of the Greenways and Blueways infrastructure, particularly through cycleways.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of various KCC Departments including the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team, the Active Travel Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department. The following is noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Naas to Sallins Greenway Project (to Osberstown Bridge) was delivered in 2024.</li> <li>• Grand Canal Greenway is ongoing with Phase 1 complete to Sallins.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of the Royal Canal Greenway is ongoing and substantially complete to Maynooth.</li> <li>• The Barrow Blueway is under construction and substantially complete.</li> </ul> <p>Progression of further connections/inter-connectivity to the blueways and greenways through the county are to be explored following completion of the above projects in the county.</p>
<b>RE O154</b> - Continue to work with Irish Waterways in order to remove 'Kissing Gates' which make canals inaccessible for many wheelchair users and cyclists.	Ongoing	Considered as this issue may arise through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with external agencies and the work programme and projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team, the Active Travel Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department on a case-by-case basis.
<b>RE O155</b> - Support both the enhancement of existing and development of new access routes to water locations in the County for recreation purposes at appropriate locations and subject to all relevant planning and environmental considerations.	Ongoing	<p>The following is noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Naas to Sallins Greenway Project (to Osberstown Bridge) was delivered in 2024.</li> <li>• Grand Canal Greenway is ongoing with Phase 1 complete to Sallins.</li> <li>• Construction of the Royal Canal Greenway is ongoing and substantially complete to Maynooth.</li> <li>• The Barrow Blueway is under construction and substantially complete.</li> <li>• Consultants have been commissioned by the County Development Plan Implementation Team to undertake a feasibility study in relation to a potential recreational project along the Corbally Canal between Naas Harbour, Corbally Harbour and the River Liffey.</li> <li>• A feasibility study has commenced in relation to the provision of a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge to Leixlip.</li> <li>• Planning permission was granted to the Monasterevin Development Association for the development of a Water Sports Hub in February 2024 under Planning Reference 2360116.</li> </ul>

<p><b>RE O156</b> - Support and promote the adoption of the Government’s ‘Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways (published in December 2021)’ for all Greenway developments within the county.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through various KCC Departments in the progression of Greenway projects through the county.</p>
<p><b>Heritage Tourism</b></p>		
<p><b>RE O157</b> - Ensure heritage assets (built and natural) that are the focus for tourism development, are appropriately managed and their special interest conserved from potential adverse effects from visitors or development in general and that best practice standards in relation to the environmental management of tourism enterprises are adhered to.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects and work programmes of various KCC Departments, relevant stakeholders and agencies.</p>
<p><b>RE O158</b> - Support and promote, with the co-operation of landowners, public access to heritage sites and features at appropriate locations whilst ensuring heritage related development does not result in negative impacts on the fabric or setting of Kildare’s heritage assets.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC in conjunction with the projects of various KCC departments and external agencies, noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Wonderful Barn Part 8 proposal (Ref. P82024.10) was approved in November 2024 and provides for its development as an integrated public amenity park, tourism and heritage asset.</li> <li>• A feasibility study has commenced in relation to the provision of a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge to Leixlip, including Castletown House and lands recently acquired at Donaghcumper House.</li> <li>• Delivery of the Royal and Grand Canal Greenways, incorporating additional permeability links are ongoing.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DeBurgh Woodland Gardens opened to the public (on a ticketed basis) in July 2024.</li> <li>• The Barrow Blueway is under construction and substantially complete.</li> <li>• Consultants have been commissioned by the County Development Plan Implementation Team to undertake a feasibility study in relation to a potential recreational project along the Corbally Canal between Naas Harbour, Corbally Harbour and the River Liffey.</li> </ul>
<p><b>RE O159</b> - Recognise the sensitive and unique quality and importance of Castletown House and its demesne and history as a unique element of heritage, tourism and educational potential, to ensure that the integrity of the house and its demesne, as well as its collection of buildings, artefacts, landscapes, views and prospects, is fully protected, and to ensure that any future development within or without the demesne and its environs which impacts on it, is appropriate to its status as a house and demesne of national and international significance.</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function in the assessment of planning applications where within or surrounding Castletown House.
<p><b>RE O160</b> - Protect and promote key sites and tourist facilities in the north of the county such as the Wonderful Barn, Obelisk, Arthur’s Way and other key sites linked to the estates of Carton, Lyons and Castletown. Encourage the development of Leixlip and Celbridge as tourism gateways</p>	Ongoing	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC in conjunction with the projects of various KCC Departments and external agencies, noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Wonderful Barn Part 8 proposal (Ref. P82024.10) was approved in November 2024 and provides for its development as an integrated public amenity park, tourism and heritage asset, informed by a conservation led design.</li> </ul>

<p>to these significant tourism sites and facilities.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning permission was granted for a single storey building for a high-performance golf centre and ancillary works at Carton House (Ref. 2460615).</li> <li>• A feasibility study has commenced in relation to the provision of a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge to Leixlip, potentially including Castletown House and lands recently acquired at Donaghcumper House.</li> <li>• Delivery of the Royal and Grand Canal Greenways are ongoing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>RE O161</b> - Support and facilitate the integration of greenways and blueways with Heritage/Tourist Trails.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of various KCC Departments including the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team, the Active Travel Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>RE A7</b> - To prepare an integrated public amenity park and tourism destination at The Wonderful Barn and associated lands, to be informed by a detailed conservation and management plan.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>The Wonderful Barn Part 8 proposal (Ref. P82024.10) was approved in November 2024 and provides for the development of the Wonderful Barn as an integrated public amenity park, tourism and heritage asset to the county, informed by a conservation led design. Works have commenced.</p>
<p><b>Arts and Culture</b></p>		
<p><b>RE O162</b> – Support and promote the development of an arts and crafts hub within the County that will attract tourism.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>KCC and the Local Enterprise Office are progressing the delivery of a Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub at the Kildare Town Courthouse, as provided for in the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029. This builds upon the success of the temporary craft retail unit (GATHER) in Kildare Village which hosted a collective of 24 makers / designers.</p>
<p><b>RE O163</b> - That an employment hub be established in Kildare town that promotes activities associated with its status as the county tourist town.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 supports the ongoing development of the town as a key centre for bloodstock, tourism and manufacturing and has zoned sufficient land for employment purposes to facilitate an increase in the job ratio of the town from 0.6 to 0.7. The Town Renewal Masterplan identifies a range of potential delivery projects to improve the public realm and functioning of the town.</p>
<p><b>Events and Festivals</b></p>		

<p><b>RE O164</b> - Identify existing local festivals within the county that have the potential to become national and international events and actively support them in exploiting this potential.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the efforts of multiple KCC departments (including the Community Section and the Heritage and Nature Unit) and the Local Enterprise Office.</p> <p>Festivals of note during 2023 and 2024 in Kildare include The Brigid Festivals, Taste of Kildare, Punchestown Festival, Irish Derby Festival, Forever Young Festival, At the Manor Festivals, D8 in the Garden etc.</p> <p>During 2023 and 2024, KCC issued 4 no. outdoor event licences and 217 festival applications were funded under the Community Festival Grant scheme (€201,000). The funding has been provided for both small local events and larger scale events, such as St Patrick’s Day festivities, Junefest, HOLI- Festival of Colour and Naas Wild Foods festival. In addition, elected members through Local Property Tax allocations, provided support of €531,000 to local groups for these events.</p>
<p><b>RE O165</b> - Support Mondello Park as a tourism, leisure, and education centre and to support its development as a nationally significant automotive innovation centre subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p> <p>2 no. planning applications have been granted to Mondello Park Sports since the coming into effect of the KCDP - including the refurbishment of the existing museum and viewing areas, together with associated works (Ref. 245)</p>
<p><b>RE O166</b> - Support and encourage the ‘greening’ of all festivals and events within the county. Guidance in this regard could be sourced from ‘Green Hospitality’, an Irish Hospitality, Travel &amp; Tourism Resource for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism (<a href="https://greenhospitality.ie">https://greenhospitality.ie</a>).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the efforts of multiple KCC departments (including the Community Section and the Heritage and Nature Unit) and the Local Enterprise Office.</p> <p>The range of festivals supported and funded by KCC are detailed in the response to RE O164 above.</p> <p>KCC actively seeks to encourage environmentally friendly practices at such events, where relevant.</p>
<p><b>Agri-Tourism</b></p>		

<p><b>RE O167</b> - Facilitate and encourage the re-use of redundant farm buildings of vernacular importance for appropriate owner-run agri-tourism enterprises subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC. An example of this is the permitted development (23/257) at Tully East for an agri-tourism glamping and cycling business with glamping pods.</p>
<p><b>Sports, Recreation and Tourism</b></p>		
<p><b>RE O168</b> - Support and encourage further appropriate development of tourism and recreational facilities (such as golf, angling and horse racing) at key sites of national and international significance.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC. An example of this is the permitted development at Carton House (Ref 2460615) for a high performance golf centre.</p>
<p><b>RE O169</b> - Recognise the sensitive and unique quality of Carton House as a tourism facility of national and international significance and to ensure that its integrity is protected. The Council will support and encourage further appropriate development of the tourism and recreational facilities at Carton House, having regard to its status as a house and demesne of international heritage importance.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. It is noted that the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 includes additional objectives to ensure the protection of the character and integrity of the landscape and setting of Carton House in relation to external development proposals.</p> <p>A planning application was granted by KCC in relation to the ongoing development of tourism and recreational facilities at Carton House between 2023 and 2024 - Ref. 2460615. The permitted development provides a single storey building for a high-performance golf centre and ancillary works.</p>
<p><b>Inland Waterways</b></p>		
<p><b>RE O170</b> - Preserve the undeveloped sections of the Liffey Valley as a resource for tourism and to develop paths and</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. A feasibility study has commenced in relation to the provision of a Liffey Valley Park from</p>

walkways where appropriate, subject to environmental and other constraints and considerations.		Celbridge to Leixlip. It is anticipated that this project could form the first phase in the delivery of a wider Liffey Valley Park envisaged in the Liffey Valley Park Strategy (2006).
<b>RE O171</b> - Develop, in conjunction with the relevant authorities, berthing and other ancillary infrastructure at key locations along the canal systems, particularly in areas where tourism is underdeveloped at present.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and agencies, including Waterways Ireland. It is noted that the potential use of the Canal between Corbally and Naas Harbours for navigation and mooring is being considered in the preparation of the Naas Canal Quarter masterplan and through the Corbally Canal and Liffey Corridor Enhancement Project.
<b>RE O172</b> - Support the only circular boating route in Ireland that links the Royal Canal, Shannon, Liffey and Grand Canal where it passes through Kildare.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

#### A1.4 Chapter 5 – Sustainable Mobility & Transport

Policy Objective	Timeline	CE Comments
<b>Overarching Goals, Policies and Objectives</b>		
<b>TM O1</b> - Support the NTA Draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (2022-2042) and facilitate and secure the implementation of projects identified within the Strategy.	Ongoing	The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022-2042 (Transport Strategy) was published by the NTA in January 2023. The delivery of larger and regionally important projects identified in the Transport Strategy is ongoing through relevant agencies, service providers and statutory consents, supported by the relevant departments of KCC. Many of the projects undertaken by KCC are related to or directly supported by the NTA's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area, with funding where possible, particularly in relation to active travel and public realm improvement measures.

<p><b>TM 02</b> - Promote and drive a human-centred, whole journey approach to improving transport infrastructure and accessibility in County Kildare to ensure a seamless user experience. The use of kissing gates in active travel projects will not be permitted in cases where they would deny access to those using mobility aids and non-standard bicycles.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC and through the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>TM 03</b> - Ensure the application of universal design principles in all new transport infrastructure (including public transport pick up points) and strive to adapt existing infrastructure to become more accessible, where feasible, in accordance with the County Kildare Access Strategy – A Universal Access Approach (2020-2022) and the Department of Justice and Equality’s National Disability Inclusion Strategy (2017- 2021).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is ongoing through the forward planning and development management process of KCC and through the projects of many departments at KCC, notably the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>TM 04</b> - Support the use of gas in transport by a presumption in favour of applications for CNG refuelling infrastructure, subject to the satisfaction of normal planning and environmental criteria.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>No applications for CNG refuelling infrastructure were received in 2023 or 2024.</p>



<p><b>TM 05</b> - Encourage the use of materials and engineering solutions that optimise natural surface water drainage as part of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) with all new active travel, public transport, parking, road and street developments and ensure adequate replacement and additional planting of pollinator-friendly and native species.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is ongoing through the forward planning and development management process of KCC and through the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p> <p>The Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance Document was published by KCC in May 2024.</p>
<p><b>TM 06</b> - Support and encourage employers to develop and implement Workplace Travel Plans based on the NTA's Workplace Travel Plans: A Guide for Implementers (2013), in order to promote more sustainable travel options.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM 07</b> - Introduce measures to reduce traffic congestion in town centres such as pedestrianisation, pedestrian priority and/or improved pedestrian/cycling facilities, in particular increasing the number of safe crossings.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management process of KCC and through the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Active Travel Team / Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p> <p>Local Transport plans, including Area Based Transport Assessments, are carried out to inform settlement plans in this regard.</p>
<p><b>TM 08</b> - Investigate the feasibility of locations for car-free residential, town centre and other developments, in appropriate locations near high quality, frequent public transport services, as part</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management process.</p>

<p>of the preparation of the suite of Local Area Plans.</p>		
<p><b>TM 09</b> - Support and encourage the transition from fossil fuel use and consider the preparation of guidance for decommissioning of changing infrastructure to more sustainable uses, through the preparation of the Local Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning processes. Kildare Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 was adopted in 2024.</p>
<p><b>TM A1</b> - Prepare a County Kildare Sustainable Mobility Plan that addresses the long-term mobility needs of communities and businesses in the county in co-operation with the National Transport Authority that is aligned with the National Sustainable Mobility Policy (2022), the National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland and the Draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022-2042. The plan should address urban and rural transport issues, the integration of transport modes and public transport connections between the towns and villages of the county.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>The preparation of a Sustainable Mobility Plan on a county wide level is a substantive resource and time intensive commitment by KCC and is not currently on the work programme of the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p> <p>The Department are committed to the delivery of a range of substantive projects to improve mobility throughout the county, together with a programme of detailed and robust Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies for settlements.</p>
<p><b>TM A2</b> - Prepare, implement and review (where appropriate) Local Transport Plans (LTPs)/ Area Based Transport Assessments (ABTAs) for each of the statutory LAP</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department are committed to the delivery of a programme of detailed and robust Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies for settlements. Examples since the adoption of the KCDP include the Maynooth ABTA to inform the preparation of the Maynooth Joint Local Area Plan 2025-</p>

<p>settlements (footnote6) in County Kildare in consultation with TII and the NTA, based on the following ABTA guidelines published by the TII/NTA – ABTA ‘How to Guide’, Pilot Methodology (September, 2021) and the Area Based Transport Assessment Advice Note (December, 2018). LTPs/ABTAs will include the transport priorities for each settlement in terms of public transport infrastructure and services; cycle investment; improvements to the pedestrian environment; parking measures and road enhancements. LTPs/ABTAs must be developed to provide a framework to cater for the movement of pedestrians, cyclists, public transport services and private vehicles which are aligned with the hierarchy of users and modal shift targets set out in this Plan. The Accessibility and Movement Objectives of Local Area Plans should be based on relevant LTPs/ABTAs.</p>		<p>2031 and the Draft Newbridge ABTA to inform the Draft Newbridge Local Area Plan 2025-2031.</p>
<p><b>TM A3</b> - Identify filtered permeability measures including, home zones and low-traffic neighbourhoods in all towns throughout the county in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote a</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Local permeability measures within settlements are identified in preparation of Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies and subject to the Local Area Plan process. Delivery of identified permeability measures are progressed through the development management process (planning permission for new development), Part 8 procedures or through Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 - as detailed in the Permeability Guidelines issued by KCC in April 2024.</p>

<p>more sustainable, connected way of life for the citizens of the county.</p>		
<p><b>County Kildare: Travel Mode Share</b></p>		
<p><b>TM O10</b> - Facilitate and secure the delivery/implementation of the public transport projects that relate to County Kildare as identified within the Integrated Implementation Plan (2019-2024), (or any superseding document), including the DART+ programme (Including DART+ West and DART+ South West), BusConnects and the light rail investments. The DART+ projects present an opportunity to improve journey time, reliability, and train frequency.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Public transportation projects and/or improvements to existing services are ongoing through relevant providers and agencies, supported by the relevant departments of KCC, including through the forward planning and development management function. KCC continues to work in conjunction with the NTA, TII, CIE and other agencies in facilitating the delivery of improved and/or additional public transport service.</p> <p>Relevant public transport improvement projects include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Railway Orders were granted by An Bord Pleanála in relation to the delivery of Dart+ West (serving Dublin-Leixlip-Maynooth) and Dart+ South-West (Dublin to Hazelhatch/Celbridge) in July and November 2024 respectively.</li> <li>• The eastbound element of the M4 Bus Corridor project between Maynooth and Leixlip is at an advanced stage of construction and Arup has been appointed (September 2024) as technical advisor for the design and consenting process of the westbound element.</li> <li>• Revised bus networks serving the north-east of the County (Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge) under the Bus Connects programme include the C3, C4, C5, C6, W6, X25, X26, X27, X28, X31, X32, L54, L58 and L59. Most of these routes commenced under Phase 2 (November 2021) of the Bus Connects programme, with the W6 route commencing under Phase 5A in June 2023.</li> <li>• Revised bus networks serving the County under the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Programme, introduced since the coming into effect of the KCDDP, include the 129, 139, 880, 800/885, 880, 888 and 892. These routes are in addition to existing, revised and additional routes operating under the TFI Local Link Kildare South Dublin, as one of the Transport Co-Ordination Units within the remit of the NTA, funded by the Rural Transport Programme.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In July 2023, The TFI Local Link Kildare South Dublin announced details of a Social Transport Fund 2023 (July - December) to assist community and voluntary groups in facilitating trips to engage in activities. This fund was boosted by the County Kildare LEADER partnership.</li> <li>• KCC, in consultation with the NTA and other service providers, continues to provide improved bus shelters throughout the County in accordance with an annual delivery programme.</li> </ul>
<p><b>TM O11</b> - Facilitate and secure the delivery/implementation of the public transport regional corridor proposals that relate to County Kildare and the County Kildare local route proposals as identified within the NTA’s ‘The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan’ (November 2021), specifically prioritising the proposed new local route from Naas to Newbridge. Such developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>The delivery and implementation of the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan occurs on an annual phased basis (Phase 1 - 2022, Phase 2 - 2023, Phase 3 - 2024 etc). The NTA publishes quarterly bulletins and annual reviews which detail the progress made in the implementation of new or improved routes under the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan.</p> <p>Revised/enhanced bus networks serving the County under the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Programme, introduced since the coming into effect of the KCDP, include the 129, 139, 880, 800/885, 880, 888 and 892.</p>
<p><b>TM O12</b> - Investigate the feasibility of developing high-quality, suitable, safe and sustainable cycling pathways:  i) from Leixlip, Maynooth and Naas into Dublin; and  ii) between Naas and Newbridge,  iii) Kildare town to Newbridge and westwards towards Portlaoise as far as the Kildare county boundary, and</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Implementation of this objective is ongoing through the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department in conjunction with the forward planning and development management functions of KCC. The current priority of the Active Travel Team work programme relates to improving sustainable travel within the settlements of the County.</p> <p>Relevant projects currently being progressed include the Royal Canal Greenway Project. The feasibility of other corridors will be investigated subject to the work programme of the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department and the availability of resources.</p>

<p>iv) Kildare Town to Monasterevin.</p> <p>Where feasibility is established, a Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages”, Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p>		
<p><b>TM O13</b> - Promote and facilitate the implementation of public transport projects (bus and rail) and encourage transport providers and other agencies (e.g. NTA, developers etc.) to improve public transport (bus and rail) and to have regard to and support recently implemented and/or planned routes under NTA’s Bus Connects and proposed / planned routes under NTA’s Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan; Including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kilcock, Maynooth and Leixlip into Dublin;</li> <li>2. Celbridge into Dublin;</li> <li>3. Maynooth to Naas;</li> <li>4. Leixlip to Naas;</li> <li>5. Celbridge to Naas;</li> <li>6. Naas to Caragh.</li> </ol>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Refer to the response to TM O10 above.</p>

<p>in addition to a range of rural transport routes. Such developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p>		
<p><b>TM O14</b> - Support the implementation of the Bus Connects projects in County Kildare and those that connect towns in Kildare with towns in adjoining counties.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Refer to the response to TM O10 above.</p>
<p><b>TM O15</b> - Ensure the delivery of the transport proposals of the Strategic Land Use, Employment and Transportation Study of North East Kildare, when prepared, in co-operation with all relevant stakeholders. (Refer to Objective RE O17).</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>The preparation of a Strategic Land Use, Employment and Transportation Study of North East Kildare is a substantive resource and time intensive commitment by KCC and is not currently on the work programme. KCC are committed to the delivery of a range of substantive studies and projects related to north-east Kildare. In this regard, the following studies/projects are relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An ABTA was prepared to inform the Draft Maynooth Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031. It is anticipated that the ongoing programme of detailed and robust Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies for settlements will include the remaining towns of north-east Kildare in due course.</li> <li>• The County Development Plan Implementation Team are in the process of preparing a Strategic Employment Lands Study which covers the entire county. It is anticipated that this study will be published in Q3 2025.</li> </ul>
<p><b>TM O16</b> – Support and facilitate the improvement of public transport for Monasterevin.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>New bus routes provided since the coming into effect of the KCDP include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Link 806 between Portarlinton and Monasterevin - 23rd December 2024.</li> <li>• Expression of Interest was issued for Local Link 888 (Athy to Monasterevin to Rathangan and Allenwood) in September 2024.</li> </ul>

<p><b>TM O17</b> - Support and facilitate the provision of electric vehicles including Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV) and Plugin Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV) including electric cars, bikes and scooters as a more sustainable low carbon option to the conventional private motor vehicle. The support of e-scooters will be subject to the enactment of legislation to regulate and legalise e-scooters.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. The Road Traffic (Electric Scooters) Regulations 2024 came into operation on the 20th May 2024 (S.I. No. 199/2024).</p>
<p><b>TM O18</b> - Support action 87 of the National Sustainable Mobility Policy   Action Plan 2022-2025. In this regard, the Council will support the NTA to expand shared car, bike and powered personal transporters (PPT) services at transport hubs and interchanges.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>The National Sustainable Mobility Policy and associated Action Plan 2022-2025 was published in April 2022. The stated output of Action 87 of the Action Plan 2022-2025 is the publication of a strategy for the rollout of expanded shared services (car, bike and PPT) at transport hubs and interchanges. An issues paper on shared mobility hubs was published on the 11th of March 2024 for public consultation until the 03rd May 2024.</p> <p>In addition, the Two-Year Progress Report on the implementation of the Action Plan (August 2024) states that a draft strategy has been prepared and anticipates finalisation in the coming months.</p>
<p><b>TM A4</b> - Continue to work with NTA to identify best route options to serve the county over the period of the plan in line with the NTA's Connecting Ireland Plan, Bus Connects, Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan, GDA Transport Strategy and other relevant strategies and to continue to seek funding from the NTA for suitable Smarter Travel projects.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Engagement with the NTA and other relevant agencies in relation to the progression of Kildare related public transportation and active travel projects is ongoing through the relevant teams of the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department, together with the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>



<p><b>TM T1</b> - As a minimum, reduce the current car-based trips to work from 74% to 50% and the car-based trips to education from 50% to 40% by the end of this Plan period.<sup>18</sup></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The reduction of car-based trips to work and school/college is facilitated through the ABTA and LAP process, during which active travel measures are brought forward as alternatives to help reduce car-based travel. Achieving a significant reduction in car dependency as proposed in this Target is beyond the scope of a Local Authority alone and would require an all of Government approach. Accurate national data in this regard will not be available until Census 2027 is completed, which will be used to inform the preparation of the next County Development Plan 2029-2039.</p>
<p><b>Walking and Cycling</b></p>		
<p><b>TM O19</b> - Ensure regular maintenance of walking and cycling routes and ensure that all roads in new developments are designed in accordance with the principles, approaches and standards contained in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets 2019, the National Cycle Manual (NTA, 2011 – or the pending update) and the Draft GDA Cycle Network Plan (NTA, 2021).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Maintenance of walking and cycling routes is an operational matter for the Municipal District offices. New developments are considered through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM O20</b> - Ensure new development areas are fully permeable for walking and cycling at a minimum, public transport (where appropriate) and provide for filtered permeability for private vehicle access in accordance with the NTA Permeability Best Practice Guide in order to give a competitive advantage to active travel modes for local trip making.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>

<p><b>TM O21</b> - Ensure site layout proposals detail present and possible future connections to pedestrian/cycle links and improve permeability between existing and proposed developments including adjacent developments thereby facilitating the '10-minute settlement' concept.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, having regard to the policies and objectives of the KCDP and relevant Local Area Plans / Settlement Plans.</p>
<p><b>TM O22</b> - Investigate the feasibility of dedicating a street(s) to pedestrian only activity on certain days of the week or at certain times of the day, in a pilot town during the life of this Plan.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>The canal road in Naas was reallocated as a priority corridor for pedestrian and cycle use as part of the Naas to Sallins Greenway (2024), following the implementation of a weekend only pilot project.</p>
<p><b>TM O23</b> - Secure the development and delivery of the cycle network identified in the Draft Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan (2021) and any subsequent updates to same to be published alongside the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022-2042 and the TII National Cycle Network, subject to funding from the NTA.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Cycle Network Plan was adopted as part of the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022-2042 in January 2023. The TII National Cycle Network relates to a series of national corridors connecting large settlements and encompasses the provision of greenways.</p> <p>Key projects currently being pursued (both construction delivery and planning) include the Royal Canal Greenway, the Grand Canal Greenway, the Naas to Sallins Greenway, the Green Lane (Leixlip) Active Travel Scheme, the Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme, the Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme, the Monread Road Active Travel Scheme, the Dublin Road Active Travel Scheme, the Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme and the Newbridge Road Active Travel Scheme.</p>
<p><b>TM O24</b> - Implement the greenway and blueway projects that promote walking and cycling in conjunction with the relevant organisations and bodies including:</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>KCC is committed to continuing engagement with relevant national agencies (TII, NTA, etc) in the delivery of a range of substantive projects to improve the mobility of pedestrians and cyclists throughout the county. Projects currently being progressed include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Naas to Sallins Greenway Project (to Osberstown Bridge) was delivered in 2024.</li> </ul>

<p>- Naas to Sallins Greenway and Naas to Corbally Harbour greenways and linking these to the national Grand Canal Greenway network.</p> <p>- The development of a walking route from Palmerstown House through Kerdiffstown Amenity lands to link with the Sallins Aylmer Greenway in consultation with all relevant landowners subject to appropriate environmental assessments and considerations.</p> <p>- The development of a walking route between Lullymore, Killinthomas Woods and Rathangan in consultation with all relevant landowners. The delivery of the Barrow Blueway with Waterways Ireland and associated works to enhance the amenity use of the river and canal area.</p> <p>- The development of further Sli na Sláinte routes in the county. Investigate the feasibility of further connections from existing and proposed greenways in County Kildare.</p> <p>- Investigate the feasibility of re-opening/upgrading and re-developing the historic Barrow Drainage Scheme access routes and trail along the eastern bank of</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Royal Canal Greenway Project is substantially complete between Maynooth and Leixlip.</li> <li>• The Grand Canal Greenway Project is complete to Sallins.</li> <li>• The Barrow Blueway is substantially complete.</li> <li>• Consultants have been commissioned by the County Development Plan Implementation Team to undertake a feasibility study in relation to a potential recreational project along the Corbally Canal between Naas Harbour, Corbally Harbour and the River Liffey.</li> </ul> <p>Other projects will be progressed subject to the availability of resources and funding.</p>
---	--	--

<p>the river Barrow between Monasterevin and Athy.</p>		
<p><b>TM O25</b> - Investigate the feasibility of connecting the Naas to Corbally Harbour Greenway with the proposed Greenway along the former Tullow/Harristown railway line/ Naas-Baltinglass Greenway and, where considered feasible, to initiate the delivery of this project within the lifetime of the Plan in conjunction with all relevant landowners.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Consultants have been commissioned by the County Development Plan Implementation Team to undertake a feasibility study in relation to a potential recreational project along the Corbally Canal between Naas Harbour, Corbally Harbour and the River Liffey.</p>
<p><b>TM O26</b> - Investigate the feasibility of developing a cycle connection between the Royal Canal and Grand Canal Greenways between Leixlip, Louisa Bridge and Hazelhatch.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources. The following projects are considered relevant to the implementation of this objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Royal Canal Greenway Project is substantially complete between Maynooth and Leixlip.</li> <li>• The Grand Canal Greenway Project is complete to Sallins.</li> <li>• A feasibility study has commenced in relation to the provision of a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge to Leixlip.</li> <li>• Planning permission was granted in 2024 (Ref. 23/60047) for development which includes the provision of a new pedestrian and cycle overpass across the M4 to connect The Wonderful Barn to the Kildare Innovation Campus.</li> <li>• The Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplan published in March 2024 includes for the provision of public realm improvement works and pedestrian infrastructure in the town centre, together with improved pedestrian and cycle infrastructure between The Wonderful Barn and the town centre.</li> </ul>

<p><b>TM O27</b> - Support the development of the Grand Canal Greenway and all associated infrastructure, from Aylmer Bridge to Clonkeen.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Grand Canal Greenway Project is complete to Sallins, with the Sallins-Clonkeen section representing Phase 2 of the project. A Part 8 proposal for associated works in Sallins were agreed in 2024.</p>
<p><b>TM O28</b> - Investigate the feasibility of developing a greenway/cycle way connecting the Corbally Line through Dowdingstown Wood and Two Mile House to Kilcullen.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Consultants have been commissioned by the County Development Plan Implementation Team to undertake a feasibility study in relation to a potential recreational project along the Corbally Canal between Naas Harbour, Corbally Harbour and the River Liffey.</p>
<p><b>TM O29</b> – Support the creation of a ‘learn to cycle park’ as part of the development of Greenways, adjacent to existing playgrounds and/or other suitably sized amenity areas in the county.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources and in conjunction with relevant stakeholders. The Kildare Sports Partnership, in conjunction with Sports Ireland and other groups provide annual Learn To Cycle programmes throughout the county. The programme is suitable for children and teenagers with additional needs above the age of 4 and is generally run by the Cycling Safety School.</p>
<p><b>TM O30</b> – Support action 27 of the National Sustainable Mobility Policy   Action Plan 2022-2025. In this regard, the Council will support the NTA and TII to develop and implement an active travel infrastructure programme for Naas.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The National Sustainable Mobility Policy and associated Action Plan 2022-2025 was published in April 2022. The stated output of Action 27 of the Action Plan 2022-2025 is the development of urban cycle networks for regional growth centres and key towns outside of the Greater Dublin Area (2023) and for 100km to be constructed or under construction in such centres/towns. The Two-Year Progress Report on the implementation of the Action Plan (published in August 2024) details that cycle network plans have been developed for all counties, encompassing growth centres and key towns, and that approximately 303km of cycle and 266km of walking infrastructure is in development outside the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Key projects in Naas (both construction delivery and planning) include the Naas to Sallins Greenway (to Osberstown Bridge), the Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme, the Monread Road Active Travel Scheme, the Dublin Road Active Travel Scheme and the Newbridge Road Active Travel Scheme.</p>

<p><b>TM O31</b> - Ensure the delivery of robust and efficient cycle and walking infrastructure in Naas by enhancing permeability and improving linkages between Naas Town Centre, surrounding residential and employment areas, Sallins Railway Station and the Northwest Quadrant.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027 includes a suite of permeability and cycling measures, which emanated from the Naas-Sallins Transport Strategy. Key active travel projects in Naas are identified in the response to TM O30 above.</p> <p>In addition, KCC has commenced the process for preparing masterplans for the Northwest Quadrant and the Canal Quarter of Naas. It is anticipated that both masterplans will provide for enhanced permeability and linkages through these lands through robust and efficient infrastructure, connecting to existing areas of the town.</p>
<p><b>TM O32</b> - Ensure the provision of improved cycle and walking infrastructure linking Maynooth Town Centre, the Royal Canal Greenway, the train station, the proposed Maynooth Outer Orbital Route and to Kilcock, Celbridge and Leixlip.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Maynooth and Environs Local Area Plan 2025-2031 LAP identifies a range of improvements and measures in relation to cycle and walking infrastructure, emanating from the Area Based Transport Assessment (MEABTA). Such measures will be delivered in tandem with new development and undertaken as resources allow through the Active Travel Team.</p> <p>The Royal Canal Greenway Project is substantially complete and improves the pedestrian and cycle connectivity between Leixlip/Confey to Intel to Maynooth, and onwards to Kilcock. This includes local connection improvement works where feasible. Other key projects to be progressed include the Mill Street Active Travel Scheme and the Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme.</p>
<p><b>TM O33</b> - Liaise with Irish Rail with respect to identifying and developing a new pedestrian crossing over the Rail line (separate to DART +) from Kilmacreddock to Intel/Greenway in order to promote "Active Travel" permeability links to the Strategic Employment Lands at Collinstown.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective does not currently form part of the work programme.</p>

<p><b>TM O34</b> - Investigate the feasibility of developing a cycle-way at the following locations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- from Milltown to Newbridge along the R416.</li> <li>- from Ballitore to Crookstown.</li> <li>- from Castledermot to the southwest, along the R448 to the county boundary.</li> <li>- from Athy along the N78 to the east as far as the M9 Motorway, subject to the requirements of TII publication.</li> <li>- from Caragh Village to Naas along the R409 and R445.</li> </ul>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>TM O35</b> - Investigate the feasibility of developing a walking route within and connecting the villages of Brannockstown, Gilltown, Two Mile House and Carnalway.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective does not currently form part of the work programme.</p>
<p><b>TM O36</b> - Investigate the feasibility of providing for footpaths / cycleways from towns and villages to nearby services and amenities, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>The provision of new or improved footpaths/cycleways from towns and villages to nearby services and amenities is ongoing as part of the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the implementation and progression of specific projects through the Active Travel Team of the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>TM O37</b> - Support the creation of a walking route within the de Burgh (Oldtown) Demesne in Naas where it can be sensitively designed to take into account existing trees and hedgerows within this landscape and also where it</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>The De Burgh Woodland Gardens opened to the public (on a ticketed basis) in July 2024. This objective will be considered further in the formulation of the Northwest Quadrant Masterplan which is currently underway.</p>

<p>incorporates permeability routes at suitable locations along its perimeter.</p>		
<p><b>TM O38</b> - Support the development of accessible and barrier free cycling as a practical transport choice by providing secure, well-designed and well- lit cycle parking facilities, including electrical and cargo/delivery bicycle parking in towns, at public service destinations and in all new residential and commercial developments in accordance with cycle parking design guidelines; The National Cycle Manual (NTA, 2011 – or the pending update), The Draft GDA Cycle Network Plan (NTA, 2021) and the Standards for Cycle Parking and Associated Cycling Facilities for New Developments document (Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, 2018).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is ongoing as part of the development management and forward planning function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>TM O39</b> - Promote and encourage the use of the Toolkit for School Travel (2019) by teachers, parents and others and promote and encourage, in consultation with the Department of Education, substantial changes in relation to the items that learners are expected to bring to and from school daily to encourage more learners to cycle to school.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>This is a matter for the Department of Education.</p>



<p><b>TM O40</b> - Support the Cycle Café Scheme by identifying additional suitable 'Cycle Café' premises in the County in order to create a network of 'pit stops' for cyclists in order to boost the profile of cycling and tourism in County Kildare and to promote sustainable travel.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM A5</b> - Prepare a walking and cycling strategy to identify and invest in new high-quality, suitable, safe, and sustainable walking and cycling routes, in consultation with stakeholders with links from towns and villages to public transport services, amenities, services, schools, and existing and proposed developments. These walking and cycling routes should be segregated and the cycling routes should accommodate two-way access, whenever possible.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>The preparation of a Walking and Cycling Strategy on a county wide level is a substantive resource and time intensive commitment by KCC and is not currently on the work programme of the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p> <p>The Department are committed to continuing engagement with relevant national agencies (TII, NTA, etc), the delivery of a range of substantive projects to improve the mobility of pedestrians and cyclists throughout the county and a programme of detailed and robust Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies which address walking and cycling at the settlement level.</p> <p>Key projects (both construction delivery and planning) include the Royal and Grand Canal Greenways, the Green Lane Active Travel Scheme, the Naas to Sallins Greenway, the Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme, the Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme, the Monread Road Active Travel Scheme, the Dublin Road Active Travel Scheme, the Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme and the Newbridge Road Active Travel Scheme.</p>
<p><b>TM A6</b> - Support action 26 of the National Sustainable Mobility Policy   Action Plan 2022-2025, to develop pedestrian enhancement plans for Naas and Maynooth in co-operation with the NTA.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>The stated output of Action 26 of the Action Plan 2022-2025 is the development of pedestrian enhancement plans for regional growth plans and key towns. The Two Year Progress Report on the implementation of the Action Plan (August 2024) notes that initial scoping work has commenced in relation to Action 26. Accordingly, KCC will engage with the relevant agencies in implementing such enhancement plans as required following publication.</p>

<p><b>TM A7</b>- Develop a new pedestrian and cycle link from Celbridge/Backweston to Leixlip, via Castletown House, through Kildare Innovation Campus (former Hewlett Packard site), across the M4 to the Wonderful Barn and onto Leixlip Town Centre and Leixlip Louisa Bridge Station, in accordance with the requirements of TII publications.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>The following projects are considered relevant to the implementation of this objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Royal Canal Greenway Project is substantially complete.</li> <li>• A feasibility study has commenced in relation to the provision of a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge town centre to Leixlip town centre.</li> <li>• Planning permission was granted in 2024 (Ref. 23/60047) for development which includes the provision of a new pedestrian and cycle overpass across the M4 to connect The Wonderful Barn to the Kildare Innovation Campus.</li> <li>• The Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplan was published in 2024 and includes for the provision of public realm improvement works and pedestrian infrastructure in the town centre, together with improved pedestrian and cycle infrastructure between The Wonderful Barn and the town centre.</li> </ul>
<p><b>TM A8</b> - Investigate the feasibility of providing a dedicated shared path connection between the settlements in the MASP area to align with the proposed routes identified in the National Transport Authority’s Draft Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network (2021) or any subsequent updates to same.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>The Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Cycle Network Plan was adopted as part of the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022-2042 in January 2023. The implementation of the Network Plans is ongoing through the forward planning and development management functions of KCC, in conjunction with the Active Travel Team within the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department. In this regard, the Royal Canal Greenway is substantially complete and will provide enhanced pedestrian and cycle connectivity between Kilcock, Maynooth and Leixlip.</p>
<p><b>TM A9</b> - Investigate the feasibility of providing a footpath and cycle lane along the R405 between Maynooth and Celbridge.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is currently at design stage.</p>
<p><b>TM A10</b> - Identify appropriate opportunities to provide ‘Park and Stride’ facilities within towns and villages at locations that allow safe pedestrian access</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, particularly in relation to the preparation of Local Area Plans that are supported and informed by Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies for settlements.</p>

<p>to school sites. Consideration should be given to co-locating 'Park and Stride' facilities with other parking facilities at locations that will allow parents to park or drop children off and for children to walk safely to school. Improvements may be carried out in conjunction with the NTA, through the Sustainable Transport Management Grants Scheme.</p>		
<p><b>TM A11</b> - Support the development of a model for bike share schemes, the extension of the Dublin Bike Scheme and/or other bike sharing schemes to key settlements and towns and encourage the inclusion of a hybrid electric bike fleet in order to promote the use of the scheme for long distance commuting.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Bike share schemes are considered as part of the preparation of Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies, which inform the preparation of Local Area Plans.</p>
<p><b>TM A12</b> - Seek funding to develop Local Permeability Schemes in conjunction with the NTA in order to maximise access to town centres, local shops, schools, public transport services and other amenities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Local permeability measures within settlements are identified through the preparation of Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies and subject to the Local Area Plan process. Delivery of identified permeability measures are progressed through the development management process (planning permission for new development), Part 8 procedures or through Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 - as detailed in the Permeability Guidelines issued by KCC in April 2024.</p>
<p><b>TM A13</b> - Prepare 'Guidelines for Permeability Connections' in County Kildare to include a flagship permeability project in Kildare.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Permeability Guidelines were published by KCC in April 2024.</p>

<p><b>TM A14</b> - Prepare a Cycle Network Study for each of the key towns in County Kildare consisting of the primary links identified in both the TII's National Cycle Network (2022) and the NTA's Draft Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan (2021), connections between the major towns and surrounding settlements, key strategic cycle routes, greenways and local links, all in accordance with the National Cycle Manual. The study will include draft widths, levels of service and identify local targets.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>The Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department are committed to the delivery of a range of substantive projects to improve mobility throughout the county, together with a programme of detailed and robust Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies to inform the preparation of Local Area Plans. The preparation of such assessments, plans and strategies are directly influenced by the planned and actualised links, routes and works detailed in NTA and TII network plans.</p>
<p><b>TM A15</b> - Investigate the feasibility of providing a cycling route linking Donadea Forest to Killinthomas Woods.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Not on current work programme</p>
<p><b>TM A16</b> - Progress the delivery of key measures outlined in the Naas / Sallins Transport Strategy 2020 on a phased basis as funding is secured.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Key measures progressed since the adoption of the KCDP include the ongoing construction of the Grand Canal Greenway Project; the delivery of the Naas to Sallins Greenway Project (to Osberstown Bridge) and the Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme. Other projects include the Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme, the Monread Road Active Travel Scheme, the Dublin Road Active Travel Scheme and the Newbridge Road Active Travel Scheme.</p>
<p><b>TM A17</b> - Prepare cycle parking strategies and investigate the appropriate locations for cycle parking facilities within the county in order to ensure sufficient cycle parking on-street in towns and villages, in accordance with the NTA's Draft Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and Cycle</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, and through the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department - in consultation or in conjunction with external agencies such as the NTA/TII where relevant.</p> <p>The Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department are committed to the delivery of a range of substantive projects to improve mobility throughout the county, together with a</p>

<p>Network Plan (2021). The locations of such facilities can be identified where appropriate through the Local Area Plan process.</p>		<p>programme of detailed and robust Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies to inform the preparation of Local Area Plans. The preparation of such assessments, plans and strategies are directly influenced by the planned and actualised links, routes and works detailed in NTA and TII network plans.</p>
<p><b>TM A18</b> - Carry out local traffic management improvements to provide safer routes to schools in order to support the Green-Schools Travel Programme, including the 'School Street' initiative and the 'Safe Routes to School' Programme, in consultation with all the relevant stakeholders and agencies.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Two Kildare schools were listed in November 2024 to benefit from Round 3 of the Safe Routes to School programme; Kilkea National School and Scoil an Linbh Iosa, Prosperous. Between 2023 and 2024 a total of €410,000 in funding has been received for the Safe Routes to School programme.</p>
<p><b>TM A19</b> - Provide new or upgraded lighting for all footpath and cycle track schemes subject to the consideration of ecology and impacts on wildlife. Appropriate environmental assessments will be required and may result in unlit sections which may include some parts of the county's Greenways. Where applicable, all species-specific mitigation will be included within the relevant sections of the Appropriate Assessment.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, and through the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department - in consultation or in conjunction with external agencies as relevant. It is noted that the Naas-Sallins Greenway has been delivered (to Osberstown Bridge) and that the Grand Canal and Royal Canal Greenways are under construction.</p>
<p><b>TM A20</b> - Carry out quality audits of the existing pedestrian and cycle infrastructure in the towns and villages within County Kildare to ensure universal accessibility and that infrastructure is</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, and through the progression of key active travel projects by the Active Travel Team of the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>

<p>designed in accordance with the principles, approaches and standards contained in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets 2019, the NTA National Cycle Manual and other relevant standards.</p>		<p>High level reviews of existing pedestrian, cycle and road infrastructure inform the preparation of Local Area Plans / Settlement Plans and are supplemented by the statutory iterative consultation process. In addition, pre and post development quality audits form part of the delivery of new infrastructure by the private sector or through the projects of the Active Travel Team / the Road, Transportation and Public Safety Department.</p>
<p><b>TM A21</b> - Collaborate with Waterways Ireland and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that recreation, amenity and heritage sites in County Kildare are accessible to all, and that design solutions retain existing man-made, local features of interest such as 'kissing gates'. The retention of existing kissing gates will be assessed in the context of delivering a balanced approach to the protection of heritage and universal access where they would not deny access to those using mobility aids and nonstandard bicycles.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, and through the projects of the Heritage and Nature Unit, the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department - in consultation or in conjunction with external agencies as relevant.</p>
<p><b>TM A22</b> - Investigate the feasibility for a new pedestrian bridge crossing the River Liffey in the vicinity of Alexandra Bridge in Clane.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>To be progressed by the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department in the long term.</p>
<p><b>TM A23</b> - Actively seek funding for projects under the NTA's "Sustainable Transport Measures Grants" programme that contribute to improving the transport</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing matter for the active travel team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department. KCC secured approx. €20m in NTA Active Travel Investment Grants during 2023 and 2024 for over 50 projects across the county.</p>

offer for those choosing alternatives to the private car.		
<p><b>TM T2</b> - As a minimum, increase the current modal shares of trips to work by walking to 20% and cycling to 10% during the lifetime of this Plan. (footnote 19)</p> <p>19. Interim targets until completion of Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan when a review will occur.</p>	Ongoing	The reduction of car-based trips to work and school/college is facilitated through the ABTA and LAP process, during which active travel measures are brought forward as alternatives to help reduce car-based travel. Achieving a significant reduction in car dependency as proposed in this Target is beyond the scope of a Local Authority alone and would require an all of Government approach. Accurate national data in this regard will not be available until Census 2027 is completed, which will be used to inform the preparation of the KCDP 2029-2039.
<p><b>TM T3</b> - As a minimum, increase the current modal shares of trips to education by walking to 50% and cycling to 15% during the lifetime of this Plan. (footnote 20)</p> <p>20. Interim targets until completion of Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan when a review will occur.</p>	Ongoing	The reduction of car-based trips to work and school/college is facilitated through the ABTA and LAP process, during which active travel measures are brought forward as alternatives to help reduce car-based travel. Achieving a significant reduction in car dependency as proposed in this Target is beyond the scope of a Local Authority alone and would require an all of Government approach. Accurate national data in this regard will not be available until Census 2027 is completed, which will be used to inform the preparation of the KCDP 2029-2039.
<b>Public Transport</b>		
<p><b>TM O41</b> - Generate additional demand for public transport services by strengthening development around existing and planned high-capacity transport routes and interchanges and by reducing walking and cycling distances through the implementation of local permeability</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. Transport Oriented Developments (TODs) are provided for within the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 (at Maynooth West) and in the Leixlip Local Area Plan 2000 -2026 (at Confey).

<p>improvements and improving access to public transport as part of road improvement projects where possible.</p>		
<p><b>TM 042</b> - Seek to address urban congestion with particular emphasis on facilitating the development of local bus services for the Key Towns along with associated identified economic clusters within the county ensuring connectivity to and from residential areas, key employers, and public transport hubs such as train stations, along with retail and amenity sites.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Refer to the response to TM 010 above.</p>
<p><b>TM 043</b> - Support the implementation of the Local Link Rural Transport Programme Strategic Plan (2018-2022).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Further to the Local Link Rural Transport Programme Strategic Plan 2018-2022, the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan was introduced in 2022 and has been implemented on an annual phased basis (Phase 1 - 2022, Phase 2 - 2023, Phase 3 - 2024 etc). The NTA publishes quarterly bulletins and annual reviews which detail the progress made in the implementation of new or improved routes under the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan.</p> <p>Revised bus networks serving the County under the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Programme, introduced since the coming into effect of the KCDP, include the 129, 139, 880, 800/885, 880, 888 and 892. These routes are in addition to existing, revised and additional routes operating under the TFI Local Link Kildare South Dublin, as one of the Transport Co-Ordination Units within the remit of the NTA, funded by the Rural Transport Programme.</p>
<p><b>TM 044</b> - Liaise with and encourage transport providers and other agencies (e.g. NTA, developers etc.) to improve bus</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Refer to the response to TM 010 above.</p>



<p>transport movement, accessibility and reliability, to ensure pick up points are clearly identifiable (particularly in rural areas), to provide appropriate bus shelters, to provide real time information panels at bus stops and to integrate the timetabling of bus and rail services.</p>		
<p><b>TM O45</b> - Work with statutory agencies and stakeholders to promote and facilitate the development of a public transport hub in Naas and Sallins which will connect road, rail and public bus transport, including Park and Ride and interchange facilities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC and to be progressed through the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>TM O46</b> - Support the delivery of a bus-only link to the Sallins bypass through the Northwest Quadrant in Naas which will provide a direct bus service to the Sallins Railway Station from the town centre of Naas.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Ongoing as part of the Naas Northwest Quadrant Masterplan preparation process, which is being undertaken by the County Development Plan Implementation Team.</p>
<p><b>TM O47</b> - Support and facilitate the implementation of the Irish Rail Accessibility Programme and also to support and facilitate the NTA in order to ensure the inclusivity and mobility of persons with reduced mobility within the public transport network.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through Irish Rail and the NTA. Accessibility improvements have been and continue to be conducted at railway stations in Kildare by Irish Rail.</p>

<p><b>TM O48</b> - Support the implementation of the Irish Rail Customer Information Services (CIS) Strategy Report to provide reliable real time passenger information that is accessible to all, co-ordinated across the network in stations and on trains, and that is consistent across all media.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through Irish Rail and the NTA.</p>
<p><b>TM O49</b> - Support the implementation of the Irish Rail Multi-Modal Interchange Strategy to provide for ease of interchange between rail and all other modes, prioritising those that are sustainable – cycling, electric charging, wayfinding and shared mobility.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To be progressed through the forward planning function of KCC, in conjunction with the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department and subject to external agencies (Irish Rail and NTA). Accessibility improvements have been and continue to be conducted at railway stations in Kildare by Irish Rail.</p>
<p><b>TM O50</b> - Facilitate and support the extension of the DART+ line to Kilcock, the extension of the DART+ Southwest line to Naas/Sallins (and promote a future extension to Newbridge and Kildare Town in the next DART + programme / GDA Transport Strategy Review) and the extension of the LUAS network, in co-operation with Irish Rail, the Department of Transport and the National Transport Authority.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Railway Orders were permitted by An Bord Pleanála in relation to the delivery of Dart+ West (serving Dublin-Leixlip-Maynooth) and Dart+South-West (Dublin to Hazelhatch/Celbridge) in July and November 2024 respectively. KCC will seek further enhancements of the rail lines throughout the county as opportunities arise through formal and informal consultation processes.</p>

<p><b>TM 051</b> - Support the electrification of intercity routes.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Railway Orders were granted by An Bord Pleanála in relation to the delivery of Dart+ West (serving Dublin-Leixlip-Maynooth) and Dart+ South-West (Dublin to Hazelhatch/Celbridge) in July and November 2024 respectively.</p>
<p><b>TM 052</b> - Investigate, in co-operation with Irish Rail and the National Transport Authority, the provision of new railway stations and the upgrading/relocation of existing stations.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>To be progressed through the forward planning function of KCC, in conjunction with the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department and subject to external agencies (Irish Rail and NTA). Accessibility improvements have been and continue to be conducted at railway stations in Kildare by Irish Rail. In addition, Railway Orders were granted by An Bord Pleanála in relation to the delivery of Dart+ West (serving Dublin-Leixlip-Maynooth) and Dart+ South-West (Dublin to Hazelhatch/Celbridge) in July and November 2024 respectively.</p>
<p><b>TM 053</b> - Investigate the feasibility of a new train station at the Curragh in consultation with Irish Rail and the NTA.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>To be progressed through the forward planning function of KCC, in conjunction with the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department and subject to external agencies (Irish Rail and NTA).</p>
<p><b>TM 054</b> – Support and facilitate, in co-operation with Irish Rail and the National Transport Authority the delivery of the following proposed new facilities to connect to the existing and proposed rail network;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A second railway station, sited to the west of the existing station in Sallins, including a park and ride facility (1,000 spaces).</li> <li>- A second Maynooth railway station/depot sited to the west of Maynooth</li> <li>- A railway station at Collinstown including a Park and Ride facility (c. 1,000 spaces –</li> </ul>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>To be progressed through external agencies (Irish Rail &amp; NTA) in conjunction with the Planning Department and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>

500 initially) and - A Kill park and ride facility - bus based (500 spaces).		
<b>TM 055</b> - Investigate the feasibility of providing for a Park and Ride facility for Newbridge train station in consultation with Irish Rail and the NTA.	Long Term	An Area Based Transport Assessment has been prepared to inform the Draft Newbridge Local Area Plan 2025-2031. The ABTA has considered <i>inter alia</i> increasing car parking capacity at the Train Station to facilitate commuters.
<b>TM 056</b> - Assist the NTA with identifying stops and other facilities on proposed/planned bus routes.	Ongoing	Ongoing for Transport, Mobility and Open Space Department.
<b>TM 057</b> - Support Irish Rail with respect to increasing the number and frequency of shuttle buses that operate between train stations and nearby towns.	Ongoing	Ongoing for Transport, Mobility and Open Space Department.
<b>TM 058</b> - Support the implementation of the Irish Rail Freight Strategic Plan.	Ongoing	Ongoing through Irish Rail consultation with the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.
<b>TM 059</b> - Facilitate and encourage the provision of taxi and bus services and parking where required to improve access to tourism and heritage facilities.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.
<b>TM 060</b> - Support and liaise with Irish Rail with respect to the upgrade of the Athy/Waterford rail link.	Ongoing	To be progressed over the lifetime of the plan.
<b>TM 061</b> - Require all developments to undertake an assessment of the public	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

transport capacity related to the area of the proposed development site.		
<b>TM A23</b> - Actively seek funding for projects under the NTA’s “Sustainable Transport Measures Grants” programme that contribute to improving the transport offer for those choosing alternatives to the private car.	Ongoing	KCC received €9.965 million in 2023 for 32 projects and received €10.385 in 2024 for 22 projects in this regard.
<b>TM T4</b> - As a minimum, increase the current modal shares of work trips by bus to 13% and train to 14% during the lifetime of this Plan.	Ongoing	National and county level data in relation to this objective will not be available until the publication of the results of the next Census (Census 2027) are released in the form of POWSCAR data (Place of Work, School or College Census of Anonymised Records). This data will be used to inform the preparation of the next County Development Plan.
<b>TM T5</b> - As a minimum, increase the bus services for the rural areas of County Kildare by 25% to provide 70% of the people living in rural County Kildare access to public transport services.	Ongoing	National and county level data in relation to this objective will not be available until the publication of the results of the next Census (Census 2027) are released. This data will be used to inform the preparation of the next County Development Plan.
<b>TM T6</b> - As a minimum, increase the current modal share of education trips by public transport to 25% during the lifetime of this Plan.	Ongoing	National and county level data in relation to this objective will not be available until the publication of the results of the next Census (Census 2027) are released. This data will be used to inform the preparation of the next County Development Plan.
<b>Road and Street Network</b>		
<b>TM O62</b> - Ensure the protection of the strategic transport function of national roads, including motorways and their associated junctions, by maintaining and	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC.

<p>protecting their safety, capacity, efficiency and strategic function, in line with national policy as set out in the Spatial Planning and National Road Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012).</p>		
<p><b>TM O63</b> - Ensure that the planning, design and implementation of all road and street networks within urban areas across the county accord with the principles set out in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2019), the National Cycle Manual (2011 – or the pending update) and all other standards where relevant.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with KCC lead projects.</p>
<p><b>TM O64</b> - Investigate the requirement/feasibility for relief routes for towns, where considered necessary through the preparation of local transport plans.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC. Local Area Plans/Settlement Plans are informed by evidence-based Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies which analyse local connectivity and transportation issues, including the requirement for additional roads/relief routes.</p>
<p><b>TM O65</b> - Ensure a comprehensive assessment of all alternative grid connection route options is carried out prior to any proposals for grid connections utilising the national road network being considered.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM O66</b> - Secure the implementation of the Priority Road and Bridge Projects and the Regional Roads Identified for</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Appendix A1.4.1 of this Report provides an update on the implementation of the projects and upgrade works specified in Table 5.4 and 5.5 of the KCDP.</p>

<p>Improvement (Table 5.4 and 5.5, refer) and maintain corridors free from development to facilitate future roads, cycle facilities and other transport infrastructure improvement identified within this Plan and Local Area Plans.</p>		
<p><b>TM 067</b> - Support and facilitate in conjunction with Meath County Council, private developers and landowners, the construction of the Maynooth Outer Orbital Route.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. The Maynooth Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 provides for the phased delivery of the Maynooth Outer Orbital Route.</p>
<p><b>TM 068</b> - Co-operate with adjoining local authorities and other public authorities to secure new and/or improved road infrastructure in towns bordering the county boundary including those at locations in Blessington, Kilcock, Maynooth and Leixlip.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in consultation/conjunction with other local authorities and relevant agencies as appropriate.</p>
<p><b>TM 069</b> - Support and promote the delivery of a second bridge crossing in Newbridge as a priority of this development plan.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Planning permission was granted for a bridge and road connection from the R146 to Old Connell. A preliminary business case for Department of Transport funding for this crossing is currently in preparation.</p>
<p><b>TM 070</b> - Make provision for cattle grids on The Curragh, where considered necessary and appropriate.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>The Curragh Plains Conservation Management Plan was published in Q4 2024. Cattle grids are referenced in Section 7.8.5 as a design intervention at arrival points or thresholds into the Curragh Plains.</p>
<p><b>TM 071</b> - Ensure that all new developments in proximity to National</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>Routes and Regional Routes and other heavily trafficked roads are spatially and acoustically assessed and designed to minimise noise impact and to protect sensitive noise receptors from traffic noise in accordance with national and local planning guidance as may be issued.</p>		
<p><b>TM 072</b> - Implement the requirements of S.I. No. 140 of 2006 Environmental Noise Regulations and the recommendations of the Kildare Noise Action Plan 2019-2023, to seek to reduce, where necessary, the harmful effects of traffic noise, through appropriate mitigation measures that meet the best environmental options.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM 073</b> - Ensure that new developments in proximity to National Routes and Regional Routes are designed in such a way as to prevent light overspill onto adjacent public roads.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM 074</b> - Mitigating the negative impacts of infrastructure by incorporating wildlife crossings/underpasses and fish culverts in the instance of freshwater European Sites into the designs for new road infrastructure and where possible, by</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with relevant departments of KCC.</p>



incorporating such measures into the existing road network (as appropriate).		
<b>TM 075</b> - Require a Glint and Glare Assessment as part of all solar energy development proposals where there is a likelihood of impact on the national road network.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>TM 076</b> - Control the proliferation of non-road traffic signage on and adjacent to national roads.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.
<b>TM 077</b> - Safeguard the carrying capacity and efficiency of the national road network drainage regimes in County Kildare.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.
<b>TM 078</b> - Protect the amenity of St. Catherine's Park, no road proposal shall be considered by this Council through the park within the Council's ownership or jurisdiction.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department. No road proposals through St Catherine's Park within the administrative area of KCC have been progressed since the adoption of the KCDP.
<b>TM T7</b> - Increase the car share modal share for journeys to work from 4% to 8% during the lifetime of this Plan.	Ongoing	National and county level data in relation to this objective will not be available until the publication of the results of the next Census (Census 2027) are released. This data will be used to inform the preparation of the next County Development Plan.
<b>Motorways</b>		
<b>TM 079</b> - Support and facilitate enhanced orbital movement between the N3, the N4 and N7 national roads, by the widening of	Ongoing	Not on current work programme.

<p>existing roads and/or the development of new road links, for the purpose of providing resilience to the operation of the M50 and incorporating provision for sustainable transport as provided for in the NTAs Draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022-2042 and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p>		
<p><b>TM O80</b> - Undertake studies in consultation with TII and other relevant agencies to investigate the improvement of the safety and capacity at the M4 Maynooth Interchange (Junction 7) and investigate the provision of a future improved connection to the M4, either at the current location or elsewhere.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>The Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2042 seeks improvements to junctions 5 (Leixlip / Celbridge), 6 (Intel / Celbridge West and Leixlip West) and 7 (Maynooth) on the M4. In this regard, the M4 Maynooth - Leixlip Project has identified 2 no. options in relation to Maynooth and is subject to further consideration, approvals and funding.</p> <p>The eastbound element of the M4 Bus Corridor project between Maynooth and Leixlip is at an advanced stage of construction. Consultants have been appointed (September 2024) as technical advisor for the design and consenting process of the westbound element.</p>
<p><b>TM O81</b> - Examine the feasibility of delivering a pedestrian and cycle overpass of the M4 to link the Wonderful Barn at Leixlip to the Kildare Innovation Campus (the former Hewlett Packard site) and Castletown Demesne in Celbridge in consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland, while being sensitive to the heritage sensitivities of both sites.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Planning permission was granted in January 2024 (Ref. 23/60047) for development which includes the provision of a new pedestrian and cycle overpass across the M4 to connect The Wonderful Barn to the Kildare Innovation Campus.</p>
<p><b>TM O82</b> - Examine the feasibility of delivering an overpass of the M7 from the</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>The Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 includes a Permeability measure (no. 40) and a Cycling measure (no. 55) to facilitate the provision of this link.</p>

Cherry Avenue site in Kildare Town to the Irish National Stud in consultation with TII.		
<b>TM O83</b> - Undertake studies in consultation with TII and other relevant agencies to investigate the improvement of the safety and capacity of the M7 Monasterevin Interchange (Junction 14) through the provision of an upgrade to the interchange.	Long Term	To be progressed by the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department /Kildare National Roads Office and subject to external agencies.
<b>TM O84</b> - Undertake studies in consultation with TII and other relevant agencies to investigate how vehicle movements could be improved, from the west to the south as well as from the south to the west at the M7 (Junction 11) /M9 (Junction 1) Interchange and to investigate the feasibility of providing for a M9/M7 interchange connection along the M7 at Junction 12.	Long Term	To be progressed by the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department /Kildare National Roads Office and subject to external agencies.
<b>TM O85</b> - Ensure proposals for Motorway Service Areas are developed in accordance with the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG (2012) and TII Motorway Service Area Policy guidance document (2014 or as may be amended).	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p><b>TM O86</b> - Support and facilitate the continued operation of existing Motorway Service Areas throughout the county in accordance with the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG (2012) and TII Motorway Service Area Policy guidance document (2014 or as may be amended).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. Permission granted at Mayfield Motorway Service Station at Junction 14 of the M7 motorway for EV charging bays, staff parking and other improvement works (Ref 23/60035).</p>
<p><b>National Roads</b></p>		
<p><b>TM O87</b> - Identify the future needs of the network and co-operate in fulfilling these needs in conjunction with TII and in accordance with the Spatial Planning and National Roads: Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG (2012) and the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) Regulations.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC, and through the projects of Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department - in consultation or in conjunction with relevant external agencies.</p>
<p><b>TM O88</b> - Improve connectivity between the local road network and the national/regional road network. The Council will ensure that any future development in this regard complies with the guidance to safeguard the overall operational function of the national road network as set out in the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines, DECLG (2012). Such developments shall be subject to AA screening and where</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department and in consultation/conjunction with relevant agencies.</p>

<p>applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections.</p>		
<p><b>TM 089</b> - Avoid the creation of additional access points from new development or the generation of increased traffic from existing accesses to national roads to which speed limits greater than 50kph apply as set out in the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines, DECLG (2012).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM 090</b> - Co-operate with other agencies in the provision of additional links between the national road network and public transport especially rail and bus transport including strategic park and ride facilities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>TM 091</b> - Support “Measure Road 6” of the Draft GDA Transport Strategy to facilitate Orbital Movement in Leinster. In this regard, the Council will support the TII and other local authorities to deliver online improvements to existing road carriageways, and localised schemes on national and regional roads, to cater for orbital traffic movement, where issues related to the safety and capacity of the network have been identified.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>This objective is to be progressed in conjunction with relevant stakeholders as considered necessary. Refer to Appendix A1.4.1 in relation to regional road improvement works.</p>

<p><b>TM 092</b> - Preserve the N7 Johnstown Interchange (Junction 8) area free from development for the provision of future access to Naas.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM 093</b> - Support the future development of a connection between the N3-N4 Barnhill to Leixlip Interchange having regard to TM 078 of this Plan in accordance with strategic development objectives and the Spatial Planning and National Roads: Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG (2012).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To be progressed in conjunction with relevant agencies and stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>TM A24</b> - Upgrade the section of the N81 National Secondary Road (Tallaght/Baltinglass) that is located within County Kildare subject to funding and in accordance with the requirements of TII and subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>Regional Roads</b></p>		
<p><b>TM 094</b> - Preserve free from development proposed transport routes (or optional routes) identified in Local Area Plans and routes for additional crossings over the river Liffey in order to accommodate</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>

increased traffic (between the Dublin Metropolitan Area and the population and employment centres in Kildare).		
<b>TM 095</b> - Restrict new access onto regional roads where the 80km per hour speed limit currently applies, except in the following exceptional circumstances.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>TM 096</b> - Improve and re-align where necessary and as funds allow, the regional roads subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC in conjunction with the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department - refer to Appendix A1.4.2.
<b>TM 097</b> - Improve connectivity across the railways and canals in County Kildare, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders including Irish Rail and Waterways Ireland, to ensure new crossings do not impede the safe passage of boats navigating waterways. Subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department in consultation or in conjunction with external agencies.  A new active travel bridge was constructed across the canal in Sallins as part of the Grand Canal Greenway in 2024.
<b>Local Roads</b>		
<b>TM 098</b> - Maintain and improve all local roads to an appropriate standard as per	Ongoing	Ongoing through the annual Road Work Programmes.

the annual Road Work Programme, subject to availability of resources.		
<p><b>TM O99</b> - Ensure that all new streets in housing and mixed-use schemes are designed, in accordance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2019);</li> <li>- Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (2009) and accompanying Best Practice Design Manual (2009);</li> <li>- Architecture 2009-2015 Towards a Sustainable Future: Delivering Quality within the Built Environment (2009);</li> <li>- Any new guidance/standards from the DECLG; and</li> <li>- Any other relevant design standards.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<p><b>TM O100</b> - Ensure that all roads, streets and street networks within towns, villages and rural settlements, as appropriate, are designed to passively calm traffic through the creation of a self-regulating road/street environment, that clearly delineates village entrance points.</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department, together with the annual Road Work Programme.
<p><b>TM O101</b> - Ensure that all developments allow for full connectivity (pedestrian, cycle and vehicular) to adjacent road</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.



networks and to adjacent lands, which may be developed in the future.		
<b>TM O102</b> - Minimise the extent of hedgerow removal in order to achieve adequate sightlines. However, where it has been satisfactorily demonstrated that there is no other suitable development site (for planning reasons) any removed hedgerow shall be replaced with native hedgerow species. Opportunities should be sought to translocate existing species rich hedgerows, where possible, and subject to proper biosecurity protocols.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>TM O103</b> - Investigate the feasibility of the provision of a strategic cross county link from the R148 (Musgrave Distribution Centre/Roundabout) to the R158/ Balfeaghan Roundabout in consultation with Meath County Council.	Medium Term	To be progressed through the forward planning function of KCC, in conjunction with Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department in the medium term.
<b>TM O104</b> - Undertake an assessment and address any identified safety concerns as a priority, at the following junctions; (i) Firmount Cross (ii) Dagwelds Cross (iii) Allenwood Cross (iv) Prosperous Cross.	Ongoing	These junctions have been included in the Junction Improvement Project (Phase 1), which incorporates 10 no. junctions. Design option selection reports have been received for junctions at Prosperous, Dag Welds and Allenwood. Detailed design ongoing in relation to Allenwood and for Phase 1 works at Dag Welds.
<b>Road and Street Design</b>		

<p><b>TM O105</b> - Ensure that all streets and street networks are designed considering the hierarchy of users in Figure 5.9 above and includes the provision of high-quality walking and cycling infrastructure and traffic calming measures which may include speed ramps.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management process, together with the projects of the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>Traffic and Transportation Management</b></p>		
<p><b>TM O106</b> - Support the use of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) technology for pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular traffic, public transport and parking management in all new developments.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM O107</b> - Maintain existing vehicle actuated (VA) traffic signals to MOVA1 or SCOOT2 traffic signals as appropriate and improve energy efficiency of signals through use of ELV or LED lights.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Implementation of this objective is ongoing through the services provided by traffic management and public lighting sections of the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>TM O108</b> - Seek to channel HGV traffic associated with: (i) landfill and extractive sites onto the regional and national road networks insofar as possible and to seek appropriate and proportionate contributions towards the cost of road improvements which benefit a specific development, in accordance with Sections 48 or 49 of the</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management, forward planning and enforcement functions of KCC, in conjunction with the services of the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>

<p>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and (ii) to assess the potential for HGV management measures in town centres where appropriate.</p>		
<p><b>TM O109</b> - Undertake HGV management measures in town centres as appropriate in order to alleviate HGV parking in non-industrial areas including housing estates.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management, forward planning and enforcement functions of KCC, in conjunction with the services of the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>TM A25</b> - Require all multi-unit developments and schools to submit mobility management plans and travel plans, including an assessment of the public transport capacity in a manner consistent with existing NTA guidance and to implement mobility management initiatives to minimise the impact of new developments on the road and street network of the County.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM A26</b> - Require the preparation of a Road Safety Audit as part of any proposed development / project of a significant scale which may have potential implications on major transport infrastructure. Such assessments shall be in accordance with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland publications 'Road Safety Audit, GE-STY-01024, (Dec 2017)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

and Road Safety Audit Guidelines, GE-STY-01027, (Dec 2017).		
<b>Parking</b>		
<b>TM O110</b> - Design car parking layouts in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2019) and ensure that car parking, including the provision of fully accessible EV charging facilities, do not detract from the comfort and safety of pedestrians and cyclists or the attractiveness of the landscape.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>TM O111</b> - All non-residential development proposals will be subject to maximum car parking standards (and minimum cycle parking standards) and all residential development proposals in areas within walking distances of town centres (800 metres i.e. a 10-minute walk) and high-capacity public transport services (including but not limited to DART+ services, Bus Connects routes and any designated bus only/ bus priority route) will be subject to maximum car parking standards (and minimum cycle parking standards) as a limitation to restrict car parking provision and achieve modal shifts to sustainable modes of transport.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p><b>TM 0112</b> - Consider car parking limits on an area wide basis, where appropriate, in locations where the highest density of development occurs.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC. Local Area Plans/Settlement Plans are informed by evidence-based Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies which analyse local connectivity and transportation issues.</p>
<p><b>TM 0113</b> - The quantum of car parking or the requirements for any such provision for apartment developments will have regard to the proximity and accessibility to urban locations, public transport and employment locations as outlined in the Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments (2020).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC - refer to Sections 3.2 and 6 of this Report in relation to updated Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines.</p>
<p><b>TM 0114</b> - Seek to reduce the level of on-street parking with a view to the reallocation of the roadspace to sustainable modes and to investigate the feasibility of delivering parking on suitable backland sites that would not jeopardise the vitality and vibrancy of the relevant town/village centre, while also ensuring the needs of persons with disabilities are met.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC, together with the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department (incl. Active Travel Team). Local Area Plans/Settlement Plans are informed by evidence-based Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies which analyse local connectivity and transportation issues.</p>
<p><b>TM 0115</b> - Minimise the impact of out-of-town parking on urban regeneration by ensuring adequate active transport infrastructure and/or public transport services between parking facilities and</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC, together with the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department (incl. Active Travel Team). Local Area Plans/Settlement Plans are informed by evidence-based Area Based Transport Assessments</p>

<p>urban centres such as Naas, Newbridge, Maynooth etc.</p>		<p>/ Local Transport Plans or Strategies which analyse local connectivity and transportation issues.</p>
<p><b>TM O116</b> - Facilitate, along with the NTA and TII, the conversion of the private car fleet to electric in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing public charging points at key destinations such as public car parks, Park and Ride facilities, on-street in town centres, and public parks;</li> <li>- Ensuring that where car parking is proposed as part of all new developments either public or private, provision is made for all spaces to be dedicated over time to electric cars with provision for charging infrastructure built-in from the outset;</li> <li>- Providing significantly expanded electric car charging facilities at service stations on the national road network;</li> <li>- Ensuring provision is made for fast charging points at service stations and public carparks in order to make provision for a shorter charging time than domestic charging;</li> <li>- Ensuring that charging infrastructure does not encroach on footpaths or otherwise compromise the free movement of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC, together with the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department. In addition, KCC is a member of the SEAI Decarbonisation Partnership Programme and is committed to decarbonising the Council's vehicle fleet.</p> <p>KCC has introduced EV charging points at Aras Chill Dara and adding electric vehicles to KCC fleet.</p> <p>A planning application was submitted for a new Electric Vehicle Charging Hub (amongst other uses) at the former Cemex site, Maudlins Roundabout in Naas in 2024 which is currently under consideration.</p>

<p>- Ensuring EV charging points are accessible to all, where possible.</p>		
<p><b>TM 0117</b> - Support the Government’s targets for electric vehicles on roads by prioritising parking for Electric Vehicles (EVs) in central locations, by supporting the provision of charging facilities on public and private land. Ensure a future proofed approach to the rollout of EV charging infrastructure by means of planning decisions by applying the following requirements of the EU (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 393 2021) for Electric Vehicle recharging infrastructure.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC, together with the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>TM 0118</b> - Ensure the electrical wiring that developers install for all new residential units includes a double socket Home Charge Point for Electric Vehicles in order to comply with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Triple E Register and to promote the use of night-time renewable electricity in transport. In this regard developers shall provide for within curtilage / driveway car parking unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Planning Authority.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>TM O119</b> - Ensure car parking particularly parking associated with retail areas is designed in such a manner as to reduce visual impact and promote carbon sequestration, green infrastructure, and nature-based surface water drainage solutions by requiring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The landscape design to include planting of trees and pollinator species to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified Landscape Architect and in collaboration with an appropriately qualified ecologist to ensure the biodiversity in the general area will support European Sites;</li> <li>- The construction details for the root zones of the proposed trees in accordance with best practice and to specify which locations utilise systems such as ‘root barriers’ to avoid future conflict between roots, roads, footpath surfaces and underground utility services;</li> <li>- The provision of not more than two parallel or five perpendicular spaces between trees/planting bays; and</li> <li>- The use of permeable paving, where appropriate.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
---	----------------	--



<p><b>TM O120</b> - Promote appropriate parking arrangements for specific user requirements including age friendly parking, hidden disabled, disabled parking, bicycle parking and motorcycle parking in towns, public transport nodes and other destinations.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC, together with the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>TM O121</b> - Where appropriate, to require the provision of HGV parking facilities at motorway service areas, fuel filling stations, new industrial developments and other appropriate locations within the County.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM O122</b> - Support car sharing initiatives as part of new housing developments and workplaces.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM O123</b> – Facilitate the provision of appropriately sized bus parking facilities at appropriate locations in all towns (Key Towns, Self-Sustaining Growth Towns and Self-Sustaining Towns).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC, particularly in relation to the preparation of Local Area Plans/Settlement Plans, informed by evidence-based Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies.</p>
<p><b>TM A27</b> - Prepare parking strategies and investigate the appropriate locations for car parking facilities within the county. The locations of such facilities can be identified where appropriate through the Local Area Plan process.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC, particularly in relation to the preparation of Local Area Plans/Settlement Plans, informed by evidence-based Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies.</p>

<b>Public Lighting</b>		
<p><b>TM 0124</b> - Expand the existing public lighting network and ensure that all new developments are provided with adequate public lighting for the safety of all pedestrians, cyclists and minority groups. Such lighting networks shall have regard for protected species such as bats which can potentially be affected by lighting systems. The Lux, wavelength and TTC28 (Total Transfer Capability) will be considered in the selection of appropriate lighting.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Facilitated through the development management function of KCC, together with the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team, the Parks Department and Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department (incl. Public Lighting Team).</p>
<p><b>TM 0125</b> - Ensure that landscape proposals detail public lighting locations and that proposed street lighting is not compromised by tree planting. The landscape proposals should ensure that the trees are planted a sufficient distance from public lighting so that when the canopy matures it does not cover the light standard.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, together with the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team, the Parks Department and Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department (incl. Public Lighting Team).</p>
<p><b>TM 0126</b> - Remove all inappropriate and unnecessary street lighting and cabling and ensure future street lighting installations do not adversely impact</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, together with the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team, the Parks Department and Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department (incl. Public Lighting Team).</p>

sensitive physical, environmental, natural and heritage resources within the county.		
<b>TM O127</b> - Ensure that all new street lighting is provided in accordance with best practice guidelines and standards in terms of the type of lighting columns, lantern types, lighting class, lux levels and LEDs being provided. The ‘white light’ delivered by LED lights will provide greater colour rendering and provide sharper contrast and improved safety for road users.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, together with the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team, the Parks Department and Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department (incl. Public Lighting Team). KCC announced Phase 1 (survey) of the 4 phase countywide Public Lighting Upgrade Programme in February 2024.
<b>TM O128</b> – Explore the possibility of providing solar powered lighting for new street lighting schemes, where appropriate.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, together with KCC projects.
<b>TM O129</b> - Consider replacing sodium lights with Smart LEDs and motion sensors and deploying Central Management Systems, to improve the efficiency of the existing public lighting assets in order to minimise electricity usage as upgrades or improvements occur.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, together with KCC projects.
<b>TM O130</b> - Ensure that the design of external lighting schemes minimises the incidence of light spillage or pollution in the immediate surrounding environment	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, together with KCC projects.

<p>and has due regard to the residential amenity of surrounding areas and the need to mitigate adverse impacts on sensitive fauna and protected species.</p>		
<p><b>TM A28</b> - Require that any lighting design strategies to be developed to minimise impacts on biodiversity. The chosen luminaires should have an optimum light control and a tightly controlled distribution to minimise light spillage or pollution outside of the immediate site area and potential impact on biodiversity in particular navigation routes and natural habitats. Cowls/shields should be utilised to provide directional lighting. In general lighting luminaires should be positioned to avoid up-lighting where possible. Consideration should be taken regarding lux level, wavelength and Total Transfer Capability (TTC) so as to avoid any potential harmful impacts on protected species such as bats.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, together with KCC projects.</p>
<p><b>TM A29</b> - Require the undergrounding of wiring for public lights as part of all appropriate infrastructural projects.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, together with KCC projects.</p>
<p><b>Aviation</b></p>		

<p><b>TM 0131</b> - Safeguard aerodromes and air navigation in Kildare by application of international ‘obstacle limitation standards’ – in particular the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices contained in “Annex 14” to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (for those aerodromes subject to ICAO Standards), and the EASA Aerodrome Certification Specifications (for any aerodrome subject to EASA Specifications), and to take into account (per ICAO guidance) any ‘shielding’ that may be provided by existing ‘obstacles’ in the vicinity.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM 0132</b> - Analyse the impact of any new aerodromes, or of an intensification of use of existing aerodromes, on the established character and amenities of an area, with a general presumption against development where the technical and safety requirements associated with such development would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM 0133</b> - Consult with the Irish Aviation Authority in regard to applications in the vicinity of aerodromes, and in regard to</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>developments that may exceed 45 metres in height above ground level, or 45m above the aerodrome’s datum level, or where it is considered appropriate.</p>		
<p><b>TM 0134</b> – Refer, where appropriate, proposed wind farm development applications located within MOA4 (as per Map 5.2) and refer proposed solar farm development applications located within 3km of the Curragh Camp to the Department of Defence.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM 0135</b> - Restrict or prohibit development such as landfills (or other attractants to birds) in the vicinity of aerodromes or flight paths, or within 13km of Casement Aerodrome, or within 8km of Weston Airport.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM 0136</b> - Limit residential development and other land uses impacted by noise, such as nursing homes, schools, hospitals and conference centres within the Noise Significant Area Boundary delineated for Weston (Map 5.3) and Casement (Map 5.4) and ensure that any noise sensitive uses are subject to an appropriate noise assessment and mitigation measures to protect residential amenity.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>TM 0137</b> - Restrict or prohibit smoke-, dust-, steam-, or thermal-plume-producing development under Approaches to aerodrome runways, which may interfere with the safe navigation of aircraft; and to require new external lighting and any solar / PV arrays in such locations to be analysed in relation to potential visual interference.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM 0138</b> - Restrict or prohibit development or industrial processes in the vicinity of aviation Communication, Navigation or Surveillance equipment which might interfere with such equipment, and to refer such development to the IAA.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM 0139</b> - Refer any proposed overhead power or communication cables in the vicinity of an aerodrome to the IAA, and to require any such cables to be routed underground within 100m of a runway and under all Public Safety Zone areas.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM 0140</b> - Require an aviation analysis to be provided for any proposed development within the areas coloured dark grey on the CDP “Map of Areas of Aviation Significance”, and to require aviation analysis for development of over</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>15m in height (above ground level) within the areas coloured light grey on the same map, and for development of over 30m in height above ground level in all other areas (and this analysis should take into account the elevations-OD/AMSL (a) of the proposed development, and (b) of the ground levels on the site, and (c) of any relevant aviation 'obstacle limitation surfaces'. Please see Map Ref. 5.2.</p>		
<p><b>TM 0141</b> - Seek, when considered necessary, information such as aircraft movement (and/or passenger) logs, and aircraft movement and passenger forecasts, and aviation noise records and forecasts, in relation to any significant proposed developments at existing airports/ aerodromes or at any proposed airports/aerodromes.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>Public Safety Zones</b></p>		
<p><b>TM 0142</b> - Prohibit all new development involving human occupancy in the Inner Public Safety Zones (of 1km length by 100m width) at all aerodromes in Kildare, as identified on the Development Plan maps.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>



<p><b>TM O143</b> - Coordinate with South Dublin in limiting all new development in the new Outer Public Safety Zones (of 2km by 200m) at Weston Airport with occupancies per half hectare of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 60 persons or less for housing/residential,</li> <li>- 85 persons or less for retail or leisure,</li> <li>- 110 persons or less for working premises, and</li> <li>- with a prohibition (in all Public Safety Zone areas) on sports stadia, and on any new sensitive / institutional development such as schools or medical facilities, and on any new development involving 24-hour occupancy such as retirement homes.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM O144</b> - Review Public Safety Zone dimensions and occupancy limits in accordance with actual and predicted air traffic figures and having regard for any recommended international airport Public Safety Zone practice. Review Public Safety Zone dimensions and occupancy limits in accordance with actual and predicted air traffic figures and having regard for any recommended international airport Public Safety Zone practice.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC and to be progressed through the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>

<b>Weston Airport</b>		
<b>TM O145</b> - Prevent encroachment of development, and incompatible development, in the vicinity of Weston Aerodrome which may interfere with its safe operation.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.
<b>TM O146</b> - Have regard for the advice of the statutory bodies responsible for the control and safety of operations at Weston Aerodrome, in the context of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and the protection of amenities.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.
<b>TM O147</b> - Refer any development within 3.6km of Weston Aerodrome's runway (i.e. within the plan area of its Horizontal and Conical Surfaces, as are indicated on Kildare CDP Maps) to the Irish Aviation Authority, and to limit the heights of development in its vicinity in accordance with ICAO 'obstacle limitation' requirements.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>TM O148</b> - Ensure a balanced approach to any further lengthening of the permitted runway or over-run areas having regard to the need for environmental and other assessments including noise and	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

assessment of the impact on local communities.		
<b>TM O149</b> - Continue to develop a common protocol with South Dublin County Council to guide the consideration of planning applications at Weston Airport.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.
<b>Casement Aerodrome &amp; Air Corps Operations</b>		
<b>TM O150</b> - Prevent encroachment of incompatible development, on the approaches to Casement Aerodrome which may interfere with its safe operation.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.
<b>TM O151</b> - Refer any significant proposed development (including wind and solar farms), where appropriate, within 6km of Casement Aerodrome's runways (i.e. within the plan area of its Inner Horizontal and Conical Surfaces) or under its Approach Surfaces, to the Department of Defence, and to limit the heights of development under its 'obstacle limitation surfaces' which extend into Kildare (as are indicated on Kildare CDP Maps) in accordance with ICAO 'obstacle limitation' guidance.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>TM O152</b> - Refer any development of greater than 45m height above ground	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

level within 37km of Casement Aerodrome to the Department of Defence.		
<b>Other Small Aerodromes and Helipads</b>		
<b>TM O153</b> - Ensure that any new development within a 2.7km radius of Kilrush Aerodrome, or within 2.7km of Gowran grange Aerodrome, or of permitted airfields at Clarkestown and Stramillan (i.e. within the outlines of their Conical Surface as indicated on the CDP maps) will be subject to the obstacle limitation requirements of ICAO's 'Annex 14', and also be referred to the IAA.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>TM O154</b> - Require that any new development in the vicinity of an existing permitted helipad not project above a 1 in 8 gradient commencing at 10m from the centre of the helipad.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>Aerodromes in Other Counties which affect Kildare</b>		
<b>TM O155</b> - Have regard for the ICAO obstacle limitation requirements of airports/aerodromes in adjoining counties whose 'obstacle limitation surfaces' extend above Kildare.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.
<b>TM O156</b> - Refer to the IAA, the IAA-ANSP (Air Navigation Services Provider) and to	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p>Dublin Airport Authority any proposed development of more than 90m above ground level which might lie under the small part of Dublin Airport’s Obstacle Limitation Surface which lies above Kildare.</p>		
<p><b>Future Aviation Facilities in Kildare</b></p>		
<p><b>TM O157</b> – Require that any future aviation facilities will be compatible with the sustainable development of the surrounding area and amenities, and will be compatible with local transport strategies, and will be subject to appropriate noise control.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM O158</b> - Ensure that any future aviation facilities will comply with ICAO “Annex 14” Standards and Recommended Practices (or with EASA Specifications, if applicable).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM O159</b> - Require that any extended or new aviation recreational facility will comply with IAA guidelines and will not cause interference to existing military aviation.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>TM O160</b> - Require that there will be no obstacle extending above a 1 in 8 gradient (commencing at 10m from the centre of</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>

the helipad) at any new heliport or private helipad.		
--	--	--

A1.4.1 Chapter 5 – Priority Roads and Bridge Projects

No.	Name	Route	CE Comments
A	Maynooth Eastern Ring Road (MERR)	R148 to R405 - Leixlip Road to Celbridge Road	Part 8 planning permission has been secured, and the Compulsory Purchase Order has been granted by An Bord Pleanála with negotiations currently ongoing. Tender for the MERR issued in Q4 2024.
B	Maynooth Outer Orbital Route (North)	L1012 Moyglare Road and Dunboyne Road (Co. Meath) to be delivered by Meath County Council under Section 85 agreement.	The Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031, prepared in conjunction with Meath County Council, provides for the delivery of the north-eastern portion of the Maynooth Outer Orbital Route (MOOR) in tandem with development on surrounding lands, subject to a future masterplan.
C	Maynooth Outer Orbital Route (West/Southwest)	R148 to L1012 c. 3km – Kilcock Road to Moyglare Road and from the Kilcock Road south to Rathcoffey/Straffan Road.	The Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 provides for the delivery of the Kilcock Road to Moyglare Road portion of the MOOR in tandem with development on surrounding lands and the preparation of a masterplan (where required). The Kilcock Road to Rathcoffey/Straffan Road is also identified as a road measure in the Plan.
D	Examine options in consultation with South Dublin County Council, Fingal County Council, Meath County Council, TII and other statutory agencies for the	Preferred route to be examined and determined.	To be progressed over the lifetime of the plan.

	delivery of a M50 resilient outer orbital link road connecting the M3 to the M4.		
E	The Gallops Avenue, Naas (in accordance with Objective MTO3.3 of the Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027)	Blessington Road to Dublin Road	To be progressed over the lifetime of the plan.
F	A new bridge for pedestrians and cyclists will be constructed parallel to the existing bridge in Celbridge providing enhanced Vulnerable Road User (VDU) infrastructure.	A new bridge parallel to the existing River Liffey Bridge, Celbridge	At detailed design stage.
G	Second River Crossing- Celbridge	From R403 Clane Road to Hazelhatch Train Station	Documentation for consenting and purchasing process in preparation for submission by KCC to ABP in 2025.
H	Second River Crossing - Newbridge.	From Old Connell Road to R416 Athgarvan Road.	Planning permission granted for a bridge and road connecting the R146 to Old Connell. A preliminary business case for Department of Transport funding for this crossing is currently in preparation.
I	Examine options for a Western Inner Relief Road in Maynooth.	From Kilcock Road to Rathcoffey/ Straffan road.	The Draft Maynooth Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 provides for the delivery of the south-western portions of the MOOR in tandem with development on surrounding lands, connecting the Kilcock Road, the Newtown (Rathcoffey) Road and the R406 (to Straffan).

J	Inner Relief Road, Newbridge.	L2028 to R416 Between Great Connell Road and Athgarvan Road (Liffey Hall Junction) with bridge crossing over River Liffey.	Planning permission granted for a bridge and road connecting the R146 to Old Connell. A preliminary business case for Department of Transport funding for this crossing is currently in preparation.
K	Investigate the feasibility of developing an Orbital Road around Newbridge (Barrettstown / Milltown).		The feasibility of options for outer orbital routes have been considered in the preparation of the Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment, anticipated to be finalised in Q1 2025.
L	Improvement to Morristown Bridge in Newbridge.		Improvements to Morristown Bridge have been considered in the preparation of the Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment, anticipated to be finalised in Q1 2025.
M	Improvements to Sex's Bridge, Newbridge.		Improvements to Sex's Bridge have been considered in the preparation of the Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment, anticipated to be finalised in Q1 2025.
N	Inner Relief Road, Newbridge (Newbridge LAP roads objective SR05(a))	R445 to L2018 Between Naas Road and Great Connell Road	Delivered
O	To examine the feasibility of developing a ring road on the north and north-east of Newbridge to connect with the orbital relief road and to link with the M7 south-west of the town.	North and north-east of Newbridge.	The feasibility of options for outer orbital routes have been considered in the preparation of the Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment, anticipated to be finalised in Q1 2025.
P	Kilcock Ring Road	Kilcock	To be progressed.



Q	Inner Relief Road, Clane	R403 to R407 Capdoo, Celbridge Road to Kilcock Road	Under construction and anticipated to open in 2025.
R	Examine options for a link road from the R407 to the R403 including a new Liffey Crossing east of Clane.		To be progressed.
S	Improvement to Moore's Bridge on the Rathbride Road in the Curragh.		To be progressed, subject to discussions with CIE
T	Examine options for road improvements on the L2030 from Newhall to Caragh.	L2030	To be progressed.
U	Investigate the feasibility of a new river crossing to the south-east of Caragh village.	South-east of Caragh village.	To be progressed.
V	R416 Athgarvan road improvement works on approach roads into the village.	R416 into Athgarvan, c. 1km.	Project to be progressed to construction stage in 2025.
W	Examine options for road improvements on the R409 from Halverstown Cross Roads to Blackwood Cross Roads	R409	To be progressed.
X	Realignment of bend at Castlemitchell on R428	R428	To be progressed.

Y	Examine the feasibility of developing a ring road at Kilcullen.	Kilcullen	The provision of an eastern ring road at Kilcullen forms part of the Proposed Variation 1 of the KCDP which replaces the Local Area Plan with a Settlement Plan within Volume 2 of the KCDP.
---	---	-----------	--

#### A1.4.2 Chapter 5 – Regional Roads for Improvement

Road No.	Location	CE Comments
R409	Naas to Junction of R403 at Blackwood	Design option selection report received in for Dag Welds junction, with detailed design for Phase 1 works ongoing.
R410	Naas to county boundary via Eadestown.	To be progressed.
R411	Naas to county boundary via Ballymore.	To be progressed.
R455	Naas to county boundary at Killinure via Newbridge, Kildare & Monasterevin.	To be progressed.
R448	Naas to Kilcullen and junction with M9.	To be progressed.
R407	Kilcock to Naas via Clane Inner Relief Road.	To be progressed.
R405	Maynooth to county boundary at Hazelhatch via Celbridge.	To be progressed.
R406	Maynooth to Barberstown.	To be progressed.
R408	Prosperous to Maynooth.	To be progressed.
R157	Junction with R148 at Maynooth to county boundary.	To be progressed.
R148	County boundary at Leixlip to county boundary at Cloncurry via Maynooth and Kilcock.	To be progressed.

R149	Leixlip to county boundary.	To be progressed.
R404	Leixlip to Junction with the R403.	To be progressed.
R449	Junction with R148 at Intel to junction with R405 at Celbridge.	To be progressed.
R403	County boundary at Backweston to Clane via Celbridge	To be progressed.
R125	Kilcock to county boundary	To be progressed.
R158	Allen Bridge, Kilcock to county boundary.	To be progressed.
R416	Junction with R413 at Kinneagh to Newbridge	To be progressed.
R416	Newbridge to Junction with the R415 at Milltown.	To be progressed.
R413	Ballymany to Kildare.	To be progressed.
R418	Kilcullen to Athy including road improvement works on the approach road to Kilcullen from Athy at Thompson's Cross/ Sunnyhill Road exit.	Design option selection report received for Thompsons Cross.
R418	Athy to county boundary at Newtown via Castledermot.	To be progressed.
R417	Monasterevin to county boundary at Newacre via Athy.	To be progressed.
R428	Athy to county boundary at Blackford.	To be progressed.
R415	Allenwood to Kildare via Kilmeague.	To be progressed.
R145	Kildare to junction with the R448 at Crookstown.	To be progressed.

R403	Clane to Junction with R402 via Prosperous, Allenwood & Derrinturn.	Design option selection report received in for junctions at Prosperous, Dag Welds and Allenwood. Detailed design ongoing in relation to Allenwood and for Phase 1 works at Dag Welds.
R414	Monasterevin to Junction with R403 at Allenwood via Rathangan.	To be progressed.
R424	Monasterevin to county boundary.	To be progressed.
R419	Rathangan to county boundary.	To be progressed.
R401	Junction with R413 at the Curragh to county boundary at Ballinure via Rathangan.	To be progressed.
R402	County boundary at Kishawanny to county boundary at Johnstown Bridge.	To be progressed.
R157	County boundary at Offaly Bridge to county boundary at Catherinestown.	To be progressed.
R148	County boundary at Kilmurry to county boundary at Clonard.	To be progressed.
R160	Ballynadrummy to county boundary.	To be progressed.
R401	County boundary at Boyne Bridge to county boundary at Ballyboggan.	To be progressed.
R412	Junction with R448 at Sidegate to county boundary at Tober Lower via Brannockstown.	To be progressed.
R413	Ballymore to Brannockstown.	To be progressed.
R413	Brannockstown to Ballymany via Kilcullen	To be progressed.
R427	Junction with R417 at Cloney to county boundary.	To be progressed.

R448	Kilcullen to county boundary at Gorteengrone.	To be progressed.
R747	Ballitore to county boundary.	To be progressed.
General	To improve regional road links between Wicklow and other counties, in particular the Blessington to Naas route and routes from Dunlavin and Baltinglass to the M9/N9 in accordance with national transport policy requirements and in consultation with TII and other statutory agencies, as appropriate.	To be progressed.
General	To continue to improve regional roads to the appropriate standards consistent with predicted traffic flow and in accordance with Government policy and the Roads Programme adopted by the Council. New and existing road space will be allocated to provide for bus, cycle and pedestrian facilities.	To be progressed.

#### A1.5 Chapter 6 – Infrastructure & Environmental Services

Policy Objective	Timeline	CE Comments
<b>Water Services</b>		
<b>IN 01</b> - Work with Irish Water to protect existing water infrastructure, reduce leakage, improve water quality and upgrade water supply infrastructure throughout Kildare.	Ongoing	KCC liaises with Uisce Éireann in relation to the protection and improvement of water supply and wastewater infrastructure on a regular basis to meet existing and future needs. Infrastructure upgrades are ongoing and subject to the priorities and funding of Uisce Éireann.

<p><b>IN 02</b> - Support Irish Water in delivering key water service projects in the county as set out in the Water Services Strategic Plan (2015) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Eastern and Midlands Regions Water Supply Project and to preserve the corridor for this scheme free of development.</li> <li>- The Barrow Water Supply Scheme Area Extension Project.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Eastern and Midlands Regions Water Supply Project received Government approval in June 2024 and a planning application (SID) to An Bord Pleanála is anticipated in 2025. The Barrow Water Supply Scheme Area Extension Project has seen substantial works carried out and commissioning works are underway.</p>
<p><b>IN 03</b> - Promote water conservation and best practice water conservation in all developments, including rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN 04</b> - Ensure that adequate water services will be available to service development prior to the granting of planning permission and to require developers to provide evidence of consultation with Irish Water regarding capacity in the network prior to applying for planning permission.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN 05</b> - Manage, protect, and enhance surface water and groundwater quality to meet the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management functions of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN 06</b> - Require an undisturbed edge or buffer zone to be maintained, where</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management functions of KCC.</p>

<p>appropriate, having regard to the riparian buffer zones (Table 12.4 refers) to maintain the natural function of existing ecosystems associated with water courses and their riparian zones, and to enable sustainable public access. The width of the edge or buffer zone shall be determined during the appropriate environmental assessment such as EclA or AA.</p>		
<p><b>IN 07</b> - Protect recognised salmonid water courses in conjunction with Inland Fisheries Ireland such as the Liffey catchment, which are recognised to be exceptional in supporting salmonid fish species.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management functions of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN 08</b> - Support the implementation of Irish Water’s Water Safety Plans to ensure that public drinking water sources and their contributing catchments are protected from pollution.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Draft Water Services Strategic Plan 2050 (May 2024) details that Uisce Éireann will prepare and implement Drinking Water Safety Plans (DWSPs). KCC will support the implementation of such DWSP's.</p>
<p><b>IN 09</b> - Actively implement the provision of public water fountains within town centres to help reduce plastic waste.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>A public water fountain is included in the approved Part 8 for the redevelopment of Market Square in Kildare Town.</p>
<p><b>IN 010</b> - Work with the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) to identify issues affecting water quality in Kildare.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Kildare County Council engaged with LAWPRO and the DHLGH in the preparation of the Nature Based Management of Urban Rainwater and Urban Surface Water Discharges, A National Strategy published in 2024.</p>

<p><b>IN O11</b> - Promote the protection of private water sources, and the development of community connections in accordance with national policy and regulations, and to administer the multi annual Rural Water Programme (2019-2021).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process.</p>
<p><b>IN A1</b> - Install public water fountains in two towns as pilot schemes within 1 year of the adoption of this Plan.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>To be progressed. A public water fountain is included in the approved Part 8 for the redevelopment of Market Square in Kildare Town.</p>
<p><b>Wastewater Services</b></p>		
<p><b>IN O12</b> -                  (A) Work in conjunction with Irish Water to promote the ongoing upgrade and expansion of wastewater services to meet the future needs of the county and the region including facilitating the provision and zoning of appropriate sites required for wastewater services infrastructure as necessary.                   (B) Pursue with Irish Water, additional investment commitment in the provision of increased capacity of waste-water treatment plants (WWTPs), increasing the number of projects under the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme (STVGP),</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>KCC liaise with Uisce Éireann (UE) in relation to the protection and improvement of water supply and wastewater infrastructure on a regular basis to meet existing and future needs. Infrastructure upgrades throughout the county are ongoing and subject to the priorities and funding of Uisce Éireann.</p> <p>The map-based system developed by UE (<a href="https://www.water.ie/projects?map=our-projects">https://www.water.ie/projects?map=our-projects</a> ) provides updates on all projects currently in progress in Kildare. It is noted that upgrade projects for Derrinturn and Timolin, covered by the STVGP are at Stage 3 (Final Business Case, incorporating detailed design, statutory approvals and tender).</p> <p>In addition, UE has provided water supply and waste-water treatment capacity registers to indicate the ability of UE treatment and production infrastructure to accommodate growth.</p>



<p>so as to ensure sustainable growth patterns in the County.</p>		
<p><b>IN O13</b> – Ensure that adequate wastewater services will be available to service development prior to the granting of planning permission and to require developers to provide evidence of consultation with Irish Water regarding capacity in the network prior to applying for planning permission.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN O14</b> - Maximise the use of existing capacity in wastewater services in the planning of new development and to ensure that full consideration is given to the level of investment required in the provision of wastewater services, particularly in environmentally sensitive areas, when zoning for new development.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management functions of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN O15</b> - Ensure all new developments connect to public wastewater infrastructure where available.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN O16</b> - Prohibit the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>IN O17</b> - Promote the changeover from septic tanks to collection networks where feasible and desirable (subject to a connection agreement with Irish Water).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN O18</b> - Discourage the provision of single house septic tanks and treatment plants in the plan area to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution. Where such facilities are permitted, full compliance with the prevailing regulations and standards, including the EPA's Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (pe≤10), (2021) as may be amended, will be required.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC. These objective forms part of the Standard Operating Procedure employed by the inspectors of the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department when assessing referred planning applications.</p>
<p><b>IN O19</b> - Ensure that existing and permitted private wastewater treatment plants are operated in compliance with their wastewater discharge licenses, to protect water quality.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department carries out risk-based inspections of licenced private wastewater treatment discharges under Section 40 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977. A register is maintained of all sites with live Section 4 discharge licences in the county.</p>
<p><b>IN A2</b> - Carry out ongoing monitoring and registration of private septic tanks in the County in line with the Environmental Protection Agency's National Inspection Plan.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department carries out inspections of domestic waste-water treatment systems (DWWTS) in accordance with the National Inspection Plan Domestic Waste-Water Treatment Systems 2022-2026, published by the EPA. The National Inspection Plan has allocated a total of 121 inspections to be carried out in Kildare between 2022 and 2026, with a minimum annual target of 25 inspections between 2023 and 2026.</p>

		The Climate, Community, Environment and Water Departments continues to engage with and advise members of the public on how to register their DWWTS with Protect Our Water online or by post. Grants for the remediation, repair, upgrade, or replacement of a DWWTS are administered by the Climate, Community, Environment and Water sections of KCC.
<b>Surface Water / Drainage</b>		
<b>IN O20</b> - Maintain, protect and enhance capacity of the existing surface water drainage systems in the county.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC. The Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department maintains river channels and watercourses within the Drainage Districts of Kildare under the drainage maintenance programme.
<b>IN O21</b> - Facilitate the development of nature based Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, including the retrofitting of SuDS in established urban areas. Culverting entire drains and streams will generally be prohibited; interference with natural drainage systems is to be minimised and the Council will explore opportunities to remove culverted drainage systems in favour of open, natural drainage systems.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. The County Development Plan Implementation Team, in conjunction with the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department, directed the preparation and subsequent publication of the KCC Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance Document in December 2024.
<b>IN O22</b> - Require the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and other nature-based surface water drainage as an integral part of all new development proposals.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p><b>IN O23</b> - Require new developments to reduce the generation of storm water run-off and ensure all storm water generated is disposed of on-site OR attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved water system, with consideration for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The infiltration into the ground through the provision of porous pavement such as permeable paving, swales, and detention basins.</li> <li>- The holding of water in storage areas through the construction of green roofs, rainwater harvesting, detention basins, ponds, and wetlands.</li> <li>- The slow-down in the movement of water.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC. The KCC Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance Document was published in December 2024.</p>
<p><b>IN O24</b> - Only consider underground retention solutions when all other options have been exhausted. Underground tanks and storage systems will not be accepted under public open space, as part of a SuDS solution.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN O25</b> - Promote the use of green infrastructure (e.g., green roofs, green walls, planting, and green spaces) as natural water retention measures.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC. The KCC Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance Document was published in December 2024.</p>

<p><b>IN O26</b> - Ensure as far as practical that the design of SuDS enhances the quality of open spaces. SuDS do not form part of the public open space provision, except where it contributes in a significant and positive way to the design and quality of open space. In instances where the Council determines that SuDS make a significant and positive contribution to open space, a maximum of 10% of open space provision shall be taken up by SuDS. The Council will consider the provision of SuDS on existing open space, where appropriate. The 'Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Guidance Document' prepared as an action of this plan shall supersede this standard.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC. The KCC Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance Document was published in December 2024.</p>
<p><b>IN O27</b> - Ensure that all development, including rural one-off residential developments will maintain existing surface water drainage systems, particularly at access points to the development.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC. The KCC Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance Document was published in December 2024.</p>
<p><b>IN O28</b> - Ensure development proposals in rural areas demonstrate compliance with the following:          - The ability of a site in an un-serviced area to accommodate an on- site wastewater disposal system in accordance with the</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>County Kildare Groundwater Protection Scheme, and any other relevant documents and legislation as may be introduced during the Plan period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The ability of a site in an un-serviced area to accommodate an appropriate on-site surface water management system in accordance with the policies of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (2005), in particular those of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS).</li> <li>- The need to comply with the requirements of the Planning Systems and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities, published by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government (2009).</li> </ul>		
<p><b>IN O29</b> - Support the conservation, protection and enhancement of Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM), as appropriate to the individual catchment.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN O30</b> - Require all plans and projects to comply with the Best Practice Interim Guidance Document 'Nature-based solutions to the management of rainwater and surface water runoff in Urban Areas (2021)' published by the Department of</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC. The KCC Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance Document was published in December 2024.</p>

Housing, Local Government and Heritage, or any subsequent updates to same.		
<b>IN A3</b> - Develop a 'Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Guidance Document' for County Kildare within one year of the adoption of the Plan.	Short Term	The KCC Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance Document was published in December 2024.
<b>Flood Risk Management</b>		
<b>IN O31</b> - Support and co-operate with the Office of Public Works (OPW) in delivering the Flood Relief/Alleviation schemes and measures contained in the Flood Risk Management Plans adopted by the Council in July 2018, and in other flood management works and schemes, as may arise, through the OPW Non-Coastal Minor Works Programme.	Ongoing	<p>The Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department is currently supporting the delivery of the following flood relief schemes (FRS) with the OPW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morrell FRS</li> <li>• Naas FRS</li> <li>• Athy FRS</li> </ul> <p>The Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department will continue to support and co-operate with the OPW in the delivery of FRS and other alleviation schemes/works as they arise.</p>
<b>IN O32</b> - Support the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC) on the assessment and management of flood risks and the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No 122 of 2010).	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning functions of KCC. Strategic Flood Risk Assessments accompany local area plans/settlement plans in this regard.
<b>IN O33</b> - Manage flood risk in the county in accordance with the sequential approach and requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG and OPW (2009) and circular PL02/2014 (August	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning functions of KCC. Strategic Flood Risk Assessments are prepared to inform development strategies in local area plans, and to advise elected members on the zoning of land where flood risk exists.

<p>2014), when preparing plans, programmes, and assessing development proposals. To require, for lands identified in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment to an appropriate level of detail, addressing all potential sources of flood risk, demonstrating compliance with the Guidelines or any updated version of these guidelines, paying particular attention to avoidance of known flood risk, residual flood risks and any proposed site-specific flood management measures.</p>		
<p><b>IN O34</b> – Recognise the important role of boglands, rehabilitated peatlands and other wetland areas in filtering water and contributing to sound ecological status in rivers as well as flooding patterns. Development in these areas shall be subject to a Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the relevant guidelines.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning functions of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN O35</b> - Require development proposals which may affect canals and their associated infrastructure to prepare a Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the relevant guidance.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN O36</b> - Require that development along urban watercourses comply with the Inland Fisheries Ireland Guidance: Planning for</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning functions of KCC.</p>



<p>Watercourses in the Urban Environment (2020), including the maintenance of a minimum riparian zone of 35 metres for river channels greater than 10 meters in width, and 20 meters for river channels less than 10 metres in width. Development within this zone will only be considered for water compatible developments as defined in the OPW Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009).</p>		
<p><b>IN O37</b> - Protect any implemented/constructed flood relief schemes from inappropriate development or otherwise.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN O38</b> - Support Inland Fisheries Irelands' pilot projects to investigate the incorporation of habitat restoration measures into flood management schemes on the upper Barrow and its tributaries for native species such as salmon and to address invasive fish species, subject to all necessary planning and environmental assessments.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Kildare County Council will endeavour to support Inland Fisheries Ireland in undertaking projects within the Council's administrative area as resources allow.</p>
<p><b>IN A4</b> - Map key flood risk infrastructure in the county where it is not otherwise readily identified or protected from</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Work has commenced on the implementation of this objective and forms part of the annual work programme of the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department.</p>

interference or removal and to maintain the details of same on a County Register.		
<b>IN A5</b> - Prepare and carry out any identified actions of a maintenance programme for river channels, including those identified as historical drainage districts, the responsibility for which lies with Kildare County Council. Such actions must be subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive.	Ongoing	The Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department maintains river channels and watercourses within the Drainage Districts of Kildare under the drainage maintenance programme.
<b>Waste Management</b>		
<b>IN O39</b> - Encourage a just transition from a waste economy to a green circular economy in accordance with 'A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy 2020-2025' and the Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy 2022-2023 'Living More, Using Less'.	Ongoing	Ongoing consideration for multiple departments of KCC.
<b>IN O40</b> - Provide, promote, and facilitate high quality sustainable waste recovery and disposal infrastructure / technology in keeping with the EU waste hierarchy to cater for anticipated population growth and the business sector in the County.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p><b>IN O41</b> - Ensure the provision of adequately sized public recycling facilities in association with new commercial developments and in tandem with significant change of use / extensions of existing commercial developments where appropriate to maximise access by the public.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN O42</b> - Require the appropriate provision for the sustainable management of waste within developments (particularly apartment buildings), including the provision of facilities for storage, separation, and collection of waste.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN O43</b> - Require the submission of either a certificate of exemption or a valid planning permission for a Waste Facility Permit or a Certificate of Registration application, in accordance with the Waste Management Regulations 2007 (as amended).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the EPA, the National Waste Collection Permit Office, the development management and licencing functions of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN O44</b> - Encourage waste prevention, minimisation, re-use, recycling, and recovery as methods for managing waste.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing consideration for multiple departments of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN O45</b> - Promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community-based waste recycling and</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department, Tidy Towns and Green Schools. An Environmental Awareness Officer has been appointed by KCC.</p>

reduction initiatives, which lead to a circular economy and local sustainable waste management practices.		
<b>IN O46</b> - Ensure the provision of waste management facilities in the county (both public and private) are subject to the specific requirements of the Eastern-Midlands Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 (or as amended / updated).	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department. KCC and the Regional Waste Management Planning Office (RWMPO) seek to ensure that any waste management facilities in the County meet the requirements of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030.
<b>IN O47</b> - Support and facilitate the separation of waste at source into organic and non-organic streams or other waste management systems that divert waste from landfill and maximise the potential for each waste type to be re-used, recycled or composted.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>IN O48</b> - Facilitate the development of waste management infrastructure and the ongoing operation of the Drehid waste facility at an appropriate scale to cater for the waste management needs of Kildare and the Eastern and Midlands Waste Region, subject to the protection of the environment, landscape character, road network and amenities of the area.	Ongoing	In September 2024, An Bord Pleanála granted permission to Bord na Mona to extend and amend the Drehid Waste Management Facility at Drehid to accept up to 400,000 tonnes of waste under application reference PA09.317292.
<b>IN O49</b> - Support the implementation of the actions outlined in the Kildare Litter	Ongoing	A revised plan is currently being prepared and will be published for public consultation in 2025.

Management Plan 2020-2023 (and any subsequent updates).		
<b>IN O50</b> - Use statutory powers to prohibit the illegal deposit and disposal of waste, refuse and litter and to authorise and regulate waste disposal within the county in an environmentally sustainable manner.	Ongoing	Ongoing as part of the functions of the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department under both the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended) and the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended).
<b>IN O51</b> - Encourage the use of CCTV at appropriate locations to discourage fly tipping and illegal dumping.	Ongoing	KCC notes that CCTV can only be provided in specified locations, subject to detailed data protection and operational considerations, when the need for such systems has been demonstrated following the attempted use of other measures, in compliance with the Code of Practice for the Operation of CCTV for the Purposes of Prevention, Detection and Prosecution of Waste Offences.
<b>IN O52</b> - Examine the possibility of providing a recycling facility in each Municipal District within the County and seek new markets for recycling in existing centres, including North Kildare.	Medium Term	KCC currently provides 2 no. Civic Amenity sites in the County at Silliot Hill just outside Kilcullen and at Gallows Hill in Athy. The feasibility of a third Civic Amenity site in Kildare is currently being considered.
<b>IN O53</b> - Ensure that hazardous waste is addressed through an integrated approach of prevention, collection and recycling and encourage the development of industry-led producer responsibility schemes for key waste streams.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the EPA; the Regional Waste Management Planning Office (RWMPO); the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLA); the development management function of KCC; and the waste management (Civic Amenity Sites) and licencing function of KCC.
<b>IN O54</b> - Support the implementation of the 'Deposit Return Scheme', currently	Ongoing	Deposit Return Scheme introduced in February 2024, with many retailers incorporating reverse vending machines on site.

<p>being considered by Government, when it is published.</p>		
<p><b>IN O55</b> - Support 'repair cafes' and upcycling facilities throughout the county at appropriate locations, in order to reduce the quantum of waste going to landfill.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN A6</b> - Achieve the vision of the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy 2020-2025 and the Eastern-Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 (and future revisions) by meeting the following targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure a 5% reduction per annum in the quantity of household waste generated per capita over the period of the Plan.</li> <li>- Support the target to achieve a recycling rate of 55% of Managed Municipal Waste (household and commercial) by 2025 leading to 60% by 2030.</li> <li>- Reduce to 0% the direct disposal of unprocessed residual municipal waste to landfill over the lifetime of this plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>KCC works with the Regional Waste Management Planning Office (RWMPO) and the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLA) to achieve the targets in the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030.</p>
<p><b>IN A7</b>- Provide each town, village, or settlement as necessary with appropriate recycling facilities in the form of a kerbside collection, civic sites, and bring bank recycling facilities.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing for the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department and through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p> <p>Domestic waste collection and disposal is managed through authorised commercial waste collectors.</p>

		KCC currently provides 2 no. Civic Amenity sites in the County at Silliot Hill just outside Kilcullen and at Gallows Hill in Athy. The feasibility of a third Civic Amenity site in Kildare is currently being considered. There are approximately 41 no. bring/bottle banks of varying scales in Kildare. Many electrical retailers, hardware stores and other appropriate retailers in Kildare accept WEEE and Batteries or Bulbs for disposal.
<b>Pollution Control – Water, Air, Noise and Light</b>		
<b>IN O56</b> - Protect water quality from pollution by agricultural sources and to promote the use of good farming practices in accordance with the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and Ireland’s Nitrates Action Programme 2017- 2021 (including any subsequent update).	Ongoing	<p>The National Agricultural Inspection Programme was established by the EPA in 2022 in response to the Fifth Nitrates Action Programme, the Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters Regulations 2022 (as amended) and the associated DHLGH Circular (WQ 01/2022). Resourcing for the implementation of the NIAP by local authorities was sanctioned in late 2023, with associated recruitment measures being undertaken in early 2024.</p> <p>KCC conducted over 50 good agricultural practice (GAP) inspections (initial and follow up) and over 40 enforcement actions during 2023, receiving a Strong or Excellent result across all of the National Enforcement Priorities for the year, as detailed in the EPA's Environmental Enforcement Performance Report 2023.</p> <p>For 2024 and 2025, the EPA has allocated additional initial inspections to be completed by each local authority, informed by the latest river basin management plan (the Water Action Plan) published in late 2024. 106 inspections are to be carried out by KCC in 2024 and 139 are to be carried out in 2025. The final number of inspections carried out in 2024 are currently being compiled for reporting to the EPA in Q1 2025.</p>
<b>IN O57</b> - Assess applications for developments, having regard to the impact on the quality of surface waters and any targets and measures set out in the River	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

Basin Management Plan and any subsequent local or regional plans. AA.		
<b>IN O58</b> - Require development proposals which may have an impact on water quality to undertake site specific assessments to determine localised pressures and demonstrate suitable mitigation measures to protect water quality.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>IN O59</b> - Ensure that all future development is in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFÉ) Directive (2008/50/EC).	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>IN O60</b> - Continue to monitor air quality at selected locations throughout the county in co-operation with the Health Service Executive and the Environmental Protection Agency.	Ongoing	KCC monitors live real-time data from 4 no. Air Quality Monitoring Stations within the County at Leixlip, Celbridge, Newbridge and Naas. This live data is available for the public to view on the Council's website.  The Celbridge and Newbridge Air Quality Monitoring Stations were upgraded by the EPA in 2024. KCC continues to liaise with the HSE and the EPA with regard to air quality issues as well as future upgrade and maintenance works at these Air Quality Monitoring Stations.
<b>IN O61</b> - Support the use of air quality monitors at schools throughout Kildare.	Ongoing	The implementation of this objective is a matter for the Department of Education. KCC supports the use of local Air Quality Monitoring Stations, including in schools.
<b>IN O62</b> - Promote and support the ban on the use, marketing, sale, and distribution of bituminous coal in Naas, Newbridge, Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth.	Ongoing	KCC carries out Solid Fuel Inspections, particularly during the winter (Heating Season) months, in accordance with Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022 which came into effect on the 31st October 2022. These regulations relate to the entirety of the state and revoke previous Regulations, which in particular, related to urban areas.



		<p>Enforcement of this legislation is carried out where necessary by the Council to ensure that polluting solid fuels such as smoky coal is taken off the market, thereby protecting public health and the Environment.</p> <p>The Council also promote an annual Social Media Communication campaign titled “Clean Air” to promote the use of cleaner solid fuels and to inform the public about the regulations and prohibited use of polluting solid fuels such as smoky coal.</p>
<p><b>IN O63</b> - Implement the relevant spatial planning recommendations and actions of the Kildare Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 (and any subsequent update).</p>	Ongoing	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management process.</p> <p>The Draft Noise Action Plan 2024-28 was published by the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department in Q4 2024</p>
<p><b>IN O64</b> - Ensure that future developments are designed and constructed to minimise noise disturbance and consider the multi-functional uses of streets including movement and recreation, as detailed in the Urban Design Manual (2009) and the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2013).</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<p><b>IN O65</b> - Ensure that noise levels caused by new and existing developments throughout the county do not exceed normally accepted standards.</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<p><b>IN O66</b> - Enforce and comply with European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018 by: - Regulating and controlling activities likely to give rise to excessive noise (other than</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and enforcement functions of KCC.

<p>those activities which require regulation by the EPA)                  - Requiring new developments and / or activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures and monitors.</p>		
<p><b>IN 067</b> - Ensure noise sensitive development in proximity to national and other roads provides a noise impact assessment / Acoustic Design Statement to the requirements set out in the Noise Action Plan and Local Planning Advice Notes etc.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN 068</b> - Require the design of external lighting schemes to minimise the incidence of light spillage or pollution into the surrounding environment having regard to the residential amenity of surrounding areas and the need to mitigate adverse impacts on sensitive fauna and protected species.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>IN 069</b> - Investigate measures to improve the approach to street lighting and ensure new developments are lit appropriately protecting environmentally sensitive areas.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

A1.6 Chapter 7 – Energy and Communications

Policy Objective	Timeline	CE Comments
<b>Climate Adaptation and Mitigation</b>		
<p><b>EC O1</b> - Ensure that energy intensive sectors incorporate significant renewable energy sources to reduce their carbon footprint.</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<p><b>EC A1</b> - Prepare, within 1 year of the adoption of the County Development Plan a Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan (SECAP) for County Kildare to identify the target which County Kildare can contribute in delivering its share of overall Government targets on renewable energy and climate change mitigation over the plan period, and in particular wind energy production and the potential wind energy resource (in megawatts), and commence a variation to the County Development Plan, as appropriate.</p>	Short Term	<p>In line with the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and Ministerial guidelines issued to support local authorities on their approach to developing their plans, Kildare County Council prepared a LACAP which was adopted by the members of Kildare County Council in December 2023. The Plan is underpinned by a robust evidence-base, that includes the Countywide Baseline Emissions Inventory (Appendix C to the Plan).</p> <p>Kildare County Council has dedicated climate action and energy efficiency resources working to implement the plan to 2029 and to deliver the targets prescribed by national climate legislation. Work continues to mainstream climate considerations into all services and function of the Council and Climate governance exists to oversee climate activity and progress</p> <p>No planning applications for wind farms have been applied for through Kildare County Council since the adoption of the KCDP, whereas a significant number of applications have been received for solar farms (see below).</p>
<b>Renewable Energy</b>		
<p><b>EC O2</b> - Adopt an informed and positive approach to renewable energy proposals, having regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area,</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p>including community, environmental and landscape impacts and impacts on protected or designated heritage areas / structures.</p>		<p>Whilst no planning applications for wind farms have been received by KCC in 2023 and 2024, KCC has granted permission for 9 solar farms and solar panel installations at existing / planned developments (see below).</p>
<p><b>EC O3</b> - Support initiatives for limiting emissions of greenhouse gases through energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy sources which make use of the natural resources in an environmentally and socially acceptable manner.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>EC O4</b> - Support infrastructural renewal and development of electricity and gas networks in the county, subject to safety and amenity requirements, subject to AA etc.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>EC O5</b> - Support and encourage the sustainable development of renewable energy auto production units (the production of energy primarily for on-site usage) for existing and proposed developments in line with relevant design criteria, amenity and heritage considerations and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, subject to AA etc.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>EC 06</b> - Require developers of proposed large scale renewable energy projects to carry out community consultation (including, but not limited to Sustainable Energy Communities, where established) in accordance with best practice and to commence the consultation at the commencement of project planning. Details of all such consultation shall accompany planning applications for proposed renewable energy developments.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>EC 07</b> - Support, encourage and co-operate with Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) in the preparation of energy masterplans for their communities and in the delivery of infrastructure and services and to assist in the development of SECs in communities (both urban and rural) throughout the County.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Climate Action Team provides financial support to approx. 30 SEC groups to prepare masterplans. 7 SECs have been funded since 2023.</p>
<p><b>EC 08</b> - Support the roll out of the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS), which enables communities to become involved in energy generation projects and, where possible, provide the use of public land for the development of community owned Renewable Energy projects.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Funding has been awarded to the Maynooth SEC under the Climate Innovation Fund for a feasibility study to be carried out for consideration of excess renewable energy storage in Q4 2024.</p>

<p><b>EC O9</b> - Ensure that whenever possible and appropriate, community benefits are derived from all renewable energy developments in the county.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>EC O10</b> - Support energy efficient lighting at appropriate locations in both urban and rural areas.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>EC A2</b> - Establish a Mid-East Energy Bureau in collaboration with Wicklow County Council, Meath County Council and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>The Mid-East Energy Unit was established in 2023.</p>
<p><b>EC A3</b> - Prepare and implement an overall Renewable Energy Strategy for the County in accordance with the current Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for County Kildare.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>This objective will be progressed following the completion of the Landscape Character Assessment which is under review and due for completion in 2025.</p>
<p><b>Wind Energy</b></p>		
<p><b>EC O11</b> - Encourage wind energy developments in suitable locations in an environmentally sustainable manner whilst having regard to Government policy and the County Wind Energy Strategy, while being sensitive to the EU and national target of 30% of land for biodiversity. Subject to AA etc.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>No planning applications have been received by KCC for wind farms developments since the adoption of the KCDP.</p>

<p><b>EC O12</b> - Support small to medium scale wind energy developments within agricultural, industrial or business areas and support small community- based proposals in urban and rural areas where they do not negatively impact upon the environmental quality (i.e. the habitats, species, hydrological connections and air quality of the area) and visual or residential amenities of the area, subject to AA etc.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>EC O13</b> - Support the repowering (by replacing existing wind turbines) of existing windfarm development and the extension of existing and permitted wind farms on a case-by-case basis subject to further appropriate public consultation and proper planning considerations and environmental considerations such as the movement of qualifying interest species of European Sites. Projects shall provide mitigation and monitoring where applicable.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>EC O14</b> - Support the establishment of a local Community Benefit Fund as part of any significant wind energy development application, which supports the development of local recreation amenities, provides additional community project</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>funding or community owned Renewable Energy projects.</p>		
<p><b>EC O15</b> - Require applicants to submit a report addressing the issues contained in Section 6 of the County Wind Energy Strategy ‘Considerations for Wind Farm Development Planning Applications’ at application stage. Decommissioning and site rehabilitation plans shall also be submitted at application stage and shall identify sustainable waste management solutions for wind turbine components (battery storage, blades etc.) at end-of-life in accordance with the waste management hierarchy. The disposal of same to landfill will not generally be permitted.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC. No planning applications have been received in KCC for new wind farms since the adoption of the KCDP.</p>
<p><b>EC O16</b> - Require comprehensive winter and summer bird and wildlife surveys for all proposed wind farms sites in accordance with EIA, EU Habitats and Species Directives and all other relevant environmental legislation, so that impacts on wildlife can be fully assessed and evaluated and so that appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures can be considered. Turbine design and adaptation should use the best available technology to minimise harm to birds and other wildlife.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>



<p><b>EC T1</b> - Support the target in the Climate Action Plan 2021 for a doubling of existing on-shore wind energy from circa 4GW (today) to 8GW by 2030.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>Solar Energy</b></p>		
<p><b>EC O17</b> - Support the building of integrated and commercial-scale solar projects at appropriate locations subject to a viability assessment and environmental safeguards including the protection of natural or built heritage features, biodiversity and views and prospects.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Planning permission has been granted for 566 Megawatts of renewable solar energy during 2023 and 2024. This figure includes a total of 561 Megawatts from 7 no. permitted solar farms across the county (Refs 22/111; 23/567; 23/683; 23/837; 23/60073; 24/291 (EOD); 26/61046) and 5.1 Megawatts at 7 no. existing large scale commercial or infrastructural premises (see below) 22/1026, 23/615, 24/60958; 22/1371; 22/1533; 22/1343 and 23/60047).</p>
<p><b>EC O18</b> - Encourage and support the use of appropriately scaled solar energy in residential, commercial and industrial developments. The incorporation of solar technologies into the built fabric of existing buildings will also be encouraged where it does not materially affect the character of the structure or adjoining structures.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.  5.1 Megawatts of solar energy have been permitted at 7 no. existing large scale commercial or infrastructural premises including Monread Shopping Centre in Naas, Clongowes College, Newbridge Business Park, as part of the permitted data centre at Kildare Innovation Campus, Barnhall and by Uisce Eireann at Ballymore Eustace WTP and Osberstown WWTP.</p>
<p><b>EC O19</b> - Promote the development of solar energy infrastructure for on-site energy use, including solar PV and solar thermal technologies. On-site battery storage projects shall be considered subject to fire safety, environmental safeguards and the protection of natural or</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

built heritage features, biodiversity views and prospects.		
<b>EC O20</b> - Support and favour the ongoing delivery of solar technology on Council owned buildings and sites and projects in accordance with the Kildare County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (and any successor to same).	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>EC O21</b> - Support the provision of solar farms in appropriate locations in accordance with the criteria as set out in Section 7.6 of this Plan and environmental considerations such as the movement of qualifying interest species of European Sites. Projects shall provide mitigation and monitoring where applicable.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>EC O22</b> - Support the installation of solar panels on residential roof spaces.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>EC O23</b> - Support the installation of solar collectors and panels for the production of heat or electricity in commercial and industrial buildings in line with relevant design criteria, building regulations and technical guidance documents.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>EC O24</b> - Require the submission of a Glint and Glare Assessment as part of any solar energy development proposal where there	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

is likely to be any impact on neighbouring uses, transportation and aviation safety.		
<b>EC O25</b> - Require decommissioning and site rehabilitation plans (including phasing where appropriate) as part of any solar farm development application, including identification of sustainable waste management solutions for components (PV solar arrays, steel support frames, battery storage, etc.) at end-of-life in accordance with the waste management hierarchy. The disposal of same to landfill will not generally be permitted.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>EC O26</b> - Only permit the removal of hedgerow where the removal of same has been clearly demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, to be necessary for the development of a solar farm(s).	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>Hydro Energy</b>		
<b>EC O27</b> - Support proposals for hydro energy installations, including small-scale hydroelectric projects on the rivers, watercourses, freshwater dams and weirs across the County, where projects do not negatively impact on freshwater species, biodiversity and natural or built heritage	Ongoing	No planning applications received in this regard.

<p>features. Many of the rivers and tributaries in the county are protected under the Birds and Habitats Directives or other heritage designations, which will require consideration during the investigation of any possible suitable site.</p>		
<p><b>EC O28</b> - Require that, in sensitive landscapes, powerlines connecting the hydro unit to the national grid shall be laid underground.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process.</p>
<p><b>EC O29</b> - Require, appropriate buffer zones around dams, reservoirs and embankments constructed for the purpose of electricity generation.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process.</p>
<p><b>EC O30</b> - Support the development of small-scale hydro-electricity projects in the county, in particular for on-site consumption to meet the electricity requirements of proposed new buildings, or refurbishment of existing buildings appropriate to their riverside location and setting. Such developments shall be subject to an AA Screening Report, and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. They shall have a regard for any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and shall account for any potential likely</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process.</p>

significant effects and provide mitigation and monitoring where appropriate.		
<b>EC O31</b> - Proposals for hydro-electric energy schemes, including micro-hydro schemes shall incorporate landscaping of dam walls and ancillary developments and also include measures to minimise noise emissions and to reduce the overall impact of schemes.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>Geo-Thermal Energy</b>		
<b>EC O32</b> - Promote the use of geothermal heat pumps for space heating and cooling as well as water heating in domestic, commercial and recreational buildings subject to the protection of water quality and any other relevant considerations such as the Geological Survey of Ireland's (GSIs) Geothermal Suitability maps.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>Bio-Energy</b>		
<b>EC O33</b> - Support the location of biomass installations, particularly where the operator can demonstrate that the wood chip/wood pellets utilised are derived from environmentally sustainable sources, in areas that do not affect residential or visual amenity which are subject to normal siting, design, environmental and planning	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.

considerations and which are served by public roads with sufficient capacity to accommodate increased traffic flows.		
<b>EC O34</b> - Support and promote domestic biological treatment including composting of kitchen and garden waste.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>Strategic Energy Zones</b>		
<b>EC O35</b> - Identify Strategic Energy Zones in conjunction with EMRA as areas suitable for larger energy generating projects, community and micro energy production, whilst ensuring environmental factors (including landscape, biodiversity and archaeology) and a regional landscape strategy are considered.	Medium Term	Not in current work programme.
<b>Low Carbon District Heating</b>		
<b>EC O36</b> - Promote and encourage the use of district heating systems in new residential and commercial developments where such development does not have a negative impact on the surrounding environment, landscape, biodiversity or local amenities.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning processes.
<b>EC O37</b> - Facilitate the use of heat mapping or other appropriate analysis to support developments which deliver energy	Ongoing	Ongoing through development management process.

efficiency and the recovery of energy that would otherwise be wasted.		
<b>EC O38</b> - Promote district heating proposals in conjunction with neighbouring authorities.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning processes.
<b>EC A4</b> - Carry out a feasibility assessment for district heating in County Kildare and identify local waste heat sources or renewable energy sources to facilitate such proposals.	Medium Term	A District Heating feasibility report is currently being prepared for Naas.
<b>Air to Water Heat Pumps</b>		
<b>EC O39</b> - Support air to water heat developments, including the retrofitting into existing homes, in conjunction with other renewable energy projects, subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and consideration of environmental and ecological sensitivities.	Ongoing	Ongoing through development management process.
<b>EC O40</b> - Support and promote the use of air to water heat pumps in domestic, commercial and recreational buildings subject to the protection of water quality and any other relevant considerations.	Ongoing	Ongoing through development management process.
<b>Energy from Waste</b>		

<p><b>EC O41</b> - Promote the circular economy in terms of waste planning and management by promoting the development of local biodigesters subject to the prior grant of an Industrial Emissions License from the EPA.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through development management process.</p>
<p><b>Energy Efficiency in Buildings</b></p>		
<p><b>EC O42</b> - Prioritise the reuse and improvement of existing buildings over demolition where possible</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through development management process.</p>
<p><b>EC O43</b> - Ensure that measures to upgrade the energy efficiency of vernacular buildings acknowledge their inherent vernacular characteristics, techniques and materials and do not have a detrimental physical or visual impact.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through development management process.</p>
<p><b>EC O44</b> - Require all new development to be designed to take account of the impacts of climate change, and that energy conservation, energy efficiency and energy renewable measures are incorporated in new and existing buildings through the appropriate design and location of new development, in accordance with relevant building regulations and guidelines.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through development management process.</p>
<p><b>EC A5</b> - Report annually on energy usage in all Council public buildings and strive for a</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Ongoing operational matter for KCC.</p>



significant improvement in energy efficiency in all public buildings in line with the requirements of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP)		
<b>EC T2</b> - Achieve a target of 33% improvement in energy efficiency in all buildings in line with the requirements of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP).	Medium Term	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>EC T3</b> - Retrofit all existing council housing stock before 2030.	Long Term	The Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme is an ongoing operational matter that forms part of the Housing and Regeneration Department's work programme. Targets for 2023 and 2024 are on track for completion by Q2 2025.
<b>Electric Vehicles</b>		
<b>EC O45</b> - Promote the delivery of EV charging facilities across the County where demand is proven, both on sites owned and occupied by Kildare County Council and private sites and ensure that EV charging points are installed in such a way that they do not cause significant obstruction to footpaths, cycle lanes, access to Train stations, or bus lanes/stops. The EV charger should be compatible with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's Triple E Register.	Ongoing	Ongoing through development management and Part 8 process.
<b>EC O46</b> - Ensure that all new suitable fleet vehicles purchased or replaced in the	Ongoing	Ongoing as an operational matter for KCC.

Council's fleet meets latest procurement guidelines relating to fleet electric vehicles.		
<b>Decarbonising Zones</b>		
<b>EC O47</b> - Work with the Council's Climate Action Office and other stakeholders to identify decarbonisation zones in the County.	Ongoing	Maynooth was identified as the County's inaugural Decarbonisation Zone, as contained in the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.
<b>EC O48</b> - Ensure that all new developments within decarbonising zone fully commit to the identified aims of those zones.	Ongoing	Provided for in the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and the MEJLAP 2025-2031
<b>EC O49</b> - Promote the generation and supply of low carbon and renewable energy alternatives within decarbonization zones	Ongoing	Provided for in the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and the MEJLAP 2025-2031
<b>EC A6</b> - Work with the Council's Climate Action Office, and other appropriate stakeholders to prepare an Implementation Plan for the county's designated Decarbonisation Zone.	Medium Term	Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 includes the Decarbonising Zone for Maynooth and Implementation for the County.
<b>EC A7</b> – Require that the Council explore integrating solar PV for EV charging in Kildare County Council owned car parks throughout the County, potentially utilizing the space on the roof tops of publicly owned buildings	Ongoing	Ongoing operational matter for KCC.
<b>Peatlands</b>		

<p><b>EC O50</b> - Prioritise the sourcing of E.U. and National funding to support projects which assist the transition of the industrial peatlands and the communities traditionally dependant on them, to sustainable after uses.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In April 2024, KCC appointed a Just Transition Fund Tourism Activator to support private and community based small and medium enterprises in developing proposals and grant applications through Failte Ireland's EU JT Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme.</p>
<p><b>EC O51</b> - Support Bord na Mona in the preparation of a long-term strategic plan for the former industrial peatlands.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>No strategic plan published by Bord na Mona to date.</p>
<p><b>EC O52</b> - Support Bord Na Mona (and their company Powergen) with their redevelopment proposals for their headquarters at Newbridge, with a view to Kildare County Council promoting the area as a Green Energy Hub, which focuses on the higher order aspects of the renewable energy industry and a climate action training centre.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Permission granted to Bord na Mona in March 2023 (Ref 22/802) for new headquarters in Newbridge.</p>
<p><b>EC O53</b> - Support the implementation of the recommendations contained in the National Peatlands Strategy 2015 and any subsequent revisions, including the creation of a National Peatlands Park and Peatland Centre of Excellence.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The National Peatlands Strategy 2015 has not been updated by the NPWS to date. The policies and objectives of the Plan are supportive of a National Peatlands Park, however no plans have emerged to date.</p>
<p><b>EC O54</b> - Require an Ecological Impact Assessment to be carried out and submitted with any planning application</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through development management process.</p>

for energy infrastructure projects (e.g., wind and solar developments).		
<b>EC O55</b> - Estimate an overall carbon balance when evaluating renewable energy project applications on peatlands, especially those proposed for wind or solar projects taking into account the lifetime of the project versus the potential carbon sequestration over 1000s of years of a site once rehabilitated fully.	Ongoing	Ongoing through development management process.
<b>EC O56</b> - Support the implementation of the 'Local Just Transition Plan for West Kildare, 2022' which identifies 15 no. thematic actions and 3 no. priority enabling actions to support and advance sustainable, social, economic, environmental development in the transition to a low carbon future in the West Kildare region.	Ongoing	In April 2024, KCC appointed an EU Just Transition Fund Tourism Activator to play a pivotal part in supporting and guiding private and community-based Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in developing high-quality project proposals and grant applications through Fáilte Ireland's EU Just Transition Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme.
<b>EC O57</b> - Ensure that renewable energy projects located on or near peatlands do not negatively impact on any rehabilitation measures including enhanced rehabilitation measures (i.e. blocking and re-wetting).	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>EC O58</b> - Undertake a peatland stability assessment, carbon emissions balance	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.

<p>assessment and hydrological and ecological impact assessments, as required, when developing project proposals for development on peatlands.</p>		
<p><b>EC A8</b> - Support in conjunction with Offaly County Council and Laois County Council any proposal for a new National Peatlands Park on Bord Na Mona cutaway bogs in Kildare, Laois and Offaly.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>KCC will support the ongoing efforts of the National Peatlands Park Group in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and the NPWS, subject to the availability of resources. In this regard, through the Just Transition Tourism Activation Programme, one local SME has applied for funding for design and planning of a new peatland regenerative tourism amenity and is awaiting a decision. In addition, two peatland sites that are not managed by Bord na Móna have joined the Tóchar re-wetting scheme with the NPWS.</p>
<p><b>Data Centres &amp; Energy Supply</b></p>		
<p><b>EC O59</b> - Consider applications for data centres having regard to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accessibility/ease of connection to power</li> <li>- Availability of renewable energy to power any proposed data centre.</li> <li>- Availability of high-powered fibre optic infrastructure</li> <li>- Transport/road accessibility</li> <li>- Compatibility of surrounding land uses/zoning</li> <li>- Avoidance of designated sites including specifically avoidance of development of data centres where they would adversely affect the integrity of a European Site</li> <li>- Availability of significant landbanks</li> <li>- Noise</li> <li>- Visual impact</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Planning permission was granted in Jan 2024 for a data centre development at the Kildare Innovation Campus at Barnhall, Leixlip (Ref 23/60047).</p> <p>A planning application has also been received for a Data Centre to the west of Naas adjoining the Newhall Business Park (24/60787) and is under consideration.</p>

<p>- Flood risk Such developments shall be subject to an AA Screening Report, and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. They shall have a regard for any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and shall account for any potential likely significant effects and provide mitigation and monitoring where appropriate.</p>		
<p><b>EC O60</b> - Require that any application for a data centre shall take account of the cumulative visual impact of the proposed connections of the data centre with electricity transmission, renewable energy and broadband infrastructure in the area.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process.</p>
<p><b>EC O61</b> - Require data centres to include strong energy efficiency measures to reduce their carbon footprint in support of national targets towards a net zero carbon economy, through the use of sustainable sources of energy generation in the first instance and then the use of renewable sources of energy to power their operations, where on site demand cannot be met in this way, to provide evidence of engagement with power purchase agreements (PPA) In Ireland. All data centre developments shall provide</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process.</p>

evidence of sign up to the Climate Neutral Data Centre Pact.		
<b>EC O62</b> - All data centre development applications shall have regard to the DECLG guidance document 'Towards nearly Zero Energy Buildings in Ireland – Planning for 2020 and Beyond', which promotes the increase of near Zero Energy Buildings (nZEB).	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>EC O63</b> - Ensure that all significant development proposals for Data Centres are accompanied by an Energy Analysis that explores the potential for the development of low carbon district heating networks.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>Energy Supply and Infrastructure</b>		
<b>EC O64</b> - Support and safeguard the efficient and reliable supply of electricity to all homes and businesses in County Kildare.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>EC O65</b> - Support the reinforcement and strengthening of the electricity transmission and distribution network, including the installation of Battery Energy Storage System plants Synchronous Condenser plants, and associated dispatchable power plants associated with high energy users, to facilitate planned	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.

<p>growth and transmission/distribution of a renewable energy focused generation, at appropriate locations and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, where they are adjacent and/or proximate to the grid network.</p>		
<p><b>EC O66</b> - Facilitate the delivery of necessary integration of transmission network requirements to allow linkages of renewable energy proposals to the electricity transmission grid in a sustainable and timely manner.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process.</p>
<p><b>EC O67</b> - Require that developments involving the siting of overhead cables shall minimise visual impact by avoiding areas of high landscape sensitivity, sites and areas important for biodiversity and/or archaeological, cultural or heritage interest.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process.</p>
<p><b>EC O68</b> - Require that all electricity lines of 38kV and over, comply with all internationally recognised standards with regards to proximity to sensitive receptors including dwellings, nursing homes, hospitals, other inhabited structures and schools/crèches.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process.</p>



<p><b>EC O69</b> - Support the statutory providers of national grid infrastructure by safeguarding strategic corridors (where strategic route corridors have been identified) from encroachment by other development, that might compromise the provision of energy networks.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management process.</p>
<p><b>EC O70</b> - Facilitate the development of grid reinforcements including grid connections and a trans-boundary network into and through the county and between all adjacent counties. Such projects shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. The developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation and monitoring where applicable.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process.</p>
<p><b>EC O71</b> - Support and facilitate the Kildare-Meath Grid Upgrade (also known as Capital Project 966) to enable further renewable energy generation in line with the Governments' target of 80% renewable energy generation by 2030.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>A Strategic Infrastructure Development planning application has been submitted by Eirgrid to ABP for approval, Ref ABP 316372.</p>
<p><b>EC O72</b> - Require that in all new developments, local services such as electricity shall be located underground. Multiple services shall be accommodated</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process.</p>

<p>in shared strips underground and access covers shall be shared, where possible.</p>		
<p><b>EC O73</b> - Consider the removal of trees (singular or in stands) and hedgerows (in part or in whole) only in circumstances where it can be clearly demonstrated that the removal of hedgerow material and or tree(s) is essential for the provision of energy and cannot be designed out. Where proven, the vegetation is to be replaced with equivalent number, species, variety and size as was in situ. Where non-native species are removed, they will be required to be replaced with native species. In all cases, plants of local provenance are to be planted within 1 year of removal and maintained to establishment to negate the habitat and biodiversity loss within 3 years. Existing vegetative or 'stepping-stone' linkages are to be maintained and improved upon to increase wildlife corridors. Opportunities should be sought to translocate existing species rich hedgerows, where possible, and subject to proper biosecurity protocols.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process.</p>
<p><b>EC O74</b> - Ensure that future upgrades / new overhead cable installations in town centres are located underground to</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and part 8 processes as they relate to public realm projects.</p>

protect the visual amenity of town centres and in particular Heritage Towns and Architectural Conservation Areas.		
<b>Telecommunications Infrastructure</b>		
<b>EC 075</b> - Promote and facilitate the provision of appropriate telecommunications infrastructure, including broadband connectivity and other technologies within the county. Such projects shall be subject to AA etc.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>EC 076</b> - Co-operate and co-ordinate with relevant bodies regarding the laying of key infrastructural services within towns and villages and, where practicable, to encourage the efficient and shared use of said infrastructural services.	Ongoing	Ongoing
<b>EC 077</b> - Co-operate with telecommunication service providers in the development of the service, having regard to proper planning and sustainable development.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>EC 078</b> - Have regard to the provisions of the Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures Guidelines for Planning Authorities (1996) and circular letter PL07/12 and to such other publications and	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.

<p>material as may be relevant during the period of the Plan.</p>		
<p><b>EC 079</b> - Achieve a balance between facilitating the provision of telecommunications infrastructure in the interests of social and economic progress and sustaining residential amenity and environmental quality including to protect the visual amenity of town centres and in particular Heritage Towns and Architectural Conservation Areas.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process.</p>
<p><b>EC 080</b> - Ensure that the location of telecommunications structures minimises and/or mitigates any adverse impacts on communities, public rights of way, historical sites, or amenities, and the built or natural environment. Innovative design solutions will be encouraged.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process.</p>
<p><b>EC 081</b> - Promote co-location to minimise the number of masts and their visual impact on the environment, by continuing to facilitate appropriate development in a clustered manner, where feasible, respecting the scale, character and sensitivities of the local landscape, whilst recognising the need for economic activity within the county. It will be a requirement for applicants to satisfy the planning</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process.</p>

<p>authority, through the development management process, that a reasonable effort has been made to share installations. In situations where it is not possible to share a support structure, masts and antennae shall be clustered.</p>		
<p><b>EC 082</b> - Minimise the provision of overground masts and antennae within the following areas:                  - Areas of high amenity/sensitive landscape areas.                  - Areas within or adjoining the curtilage of protected structures.                  - On or within the setting of archaeological sites</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<p><b>EC 083</b> - Discourage the development of individual telecommunications support structures and antennae for private use.</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<p><b>EC 084</b> - Place telecommunications services underground where possible, and that any works carried out on footpaths make provision for future services.</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<p><b>EC 085</b> - Co-operate with service providers in securing a greater range and coverage of telecommunications services in order to ensure that people and businesses have equitable access to a wide range of</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.

services and the latest technologies as they become available.		
<b>EC O86</b> - Avoid free-standing masts in the immediate surrounds of small towns and villages. In the vicinity of larger towns communications providers should endeavour to locate infrastructure in industrial estates or on industrial zoned land. Only as a last resort when all other alternatives have been exhausted should free standing masts be located in residential areas or close to schools and hospitals.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>EC O87</b> - Support the erection of additional masts in some areas to ensure the delivery of "smart metering" to all areas.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>Gas</b>		
<b>EC O88</b> - Support the maintenance of the existing gas network and the further upgrading and expansion of the gas grid across County Kildare to serve existing and future residential, commercial and industrial development.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>EC O89</b> - Support and facilitate the production of low carbon or renewable gases such as hydrogen produced using renewable electricity, and biomethane,	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process. An example of this is the biogas and biofertiliser facility granted planning permission in 2023 at Lackaghmore, Monasterevin (Ref 22/1035)

produced largely from agricultural organic matter, and food waste, that can be injected into the national gas network, subject to appropriate environmental assessments.		
<b>EC O90</b> - Support the provision of measures such as the use of renewable gas injection points and Bio-CNG re-fuelling stations at appropriate locations in County Kildare.	Ongoing	No planning applications received in this regard to date.
<b>EC O91</b> - Support the research and development of green hydrogen as a fuel for power generation, manufacturing, energy storage and transport.	Ongoing	No planning applications received in this regard to date.
<b>Broadband</b>		
<b>EC O92</b> - Support and facilitate the delivery of the National Broadband Plan and the Government's 'Harnessing Digital' the Digital Ireland Framework (2022) with particular regard to 5G rollout as a means of developing further opportunities for enterprise, employment, education, innovation, and skills development for those who live and work in rural areas.	Ongoing	National Broadband Ireland provides regular updates on their website regarding the roll out of the National Broadband Plan as it affects County Kildare. As of November 2024, approx. 12,300 premises in Co Kildare can avail of a high-speed connection in this regard.
<b>EC O93</b> - Facilitate the delivery of high-capacity Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure, broadband	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.

network and digital broadcasting throughout the county at appropriate locations in order to achieve balanced social, economic and environmental development, whilst protecting the amenities of urban and rural areas.		
<b>EC O94</b> - Continue to provide public Wi-Fi zones in and around all public buildings.	Ongoing	Ongoing operation matter for KCC.
<b>EC O95</b> - Support the provision of open access fibre connections in all new developments.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>EC O96</b> - Have regard to EU Directive 2014/61/EU (SI 391 of 2016), the broadband cost reduction directive, aimed at reducing the costs of deploying high-speed communications networks.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.

#### A1.7 Chapter 8 – Urban Centres and Retail

Policy Objective	Timeline	CE Comments
<b>Retail Policy Context</b>		
<b>RET O1</b> - Ensure that the retail needs of the county's residents are met as extensively as possible within Kildare, taking cognisance of the Regional and County Retail Hierarchies, to enable the reduction in the requirement to travel to meet these	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning processes.



needs and in the interests of achieving greater social inclusion and universal accessibility to shopping and services across all sectors of the community.		
<b>RET O2</b> - Provide clear guidance on where major new retail floorspace would be acceptable throughout the county having regard to the County Retail Hierarchy as part of the preparation of the Local Area Plans	Medium Term	Ongoing through the forward planning process. An example of this can be found in the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 which includes a bespoke approach to the zoning of land for Retail Outlet use.
<b>RET O3</b> - Continue to address leakage of retail expenditure from Kildare through securing the development of the appropriate quality and quantum of additional convenience, comparison and bulky goods floorspace at appropriate locations throughout the county.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning processes.
<b>RET O4</b> - Sustain and enhance the increase in comparison expenditure inflows to the county, at regional, national and international level, through delivering a quality and quantum of retail offer in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines 2012.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning processes.
<b>RET O5</b> - Reinforce the core of town and village centres as the priority location for new retail development, with quality of	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning processes.

design and integration/linkage being fundamental prerequisites and bring forward zoning designations within the zoning matrix in Local Area Plans specifically for large convenience stores, where appropriate.		
<b>RET 06</b> - Align, as far as practicable, new retail development with existing and proposed public transport infrastructure and services and encourage access by foot and bicycle to reduce the dominance of access by private car.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning processes.
<b>RET 07</b> - Improve the universal accessibility of the town centre with particular emphasis on creating a high quality, safe and permeable environment that is easily accessible to pedestrians and cyclists.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning processes. Accessibility is considered in Town Renewal Masterplans progressed by the Special Projects and Public Realm team and in projects brought forward by the Roads, Transportation and Open Space Department.
<b>RET 08</b> - Encourage and facilitate the preservation and enhancement of the retail and services role of both individual villages and village/ settlement clusters around the county.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>RET 09</b> - Promote retail-led tourism in Kildare and to facilitate the provision of tourism infrastructure.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.

<b>RET O10</b> - Encourage and facilitate innovation and diversification in the county's retail profile and offer.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning processes.
<b>RET O11</b> - Support existing retail facilities and to facilitate the provision of new facilities as appropriate where such proposals are in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines, the Regional Retail Strategy, the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.  The Local Enterprise Office's annual Shop Front and Accessibility Grant offers financial assistance to independent business owners to improve the appearance of their shop fronts or commercial properties and to enhance accessibility and/or add age friendly elements to the premises. During 2023 and 2024, 188 no. grants were awarded across the County under this scheme.
<b>RET O12</b> - Support and encourage diversity in the retail offer, including the sustainability of the independent retail sector in the county.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>Innovation in the County's Retail Offer</b>		
<b>RET O13</b> - Encourage and facilitate innovation in the county's retail offer and attraction and supporting and facilitating local businesses and trades to develop and market products locally, where possible.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process. LEO provides ongoing support to local businesses, such as the 'Start your own Company Course' which had 320 participants in 2024.
<b>RET O14</b> - Support innovativeness in the provision of sustainable retailing throughout the county which reduces food miles and encourages more sustainable forms of transport.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.

<b>Sequential Approach</b>		
<b>RET O15</b> - Guide retail development to town and village centres in the first instance where practical and viable in accordance with the Sequential Approach as set out in Section 8.5 above, in order to ensure that the vitality and viability of existing town and village centres is sustained and strengthened.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning processes.
<b>Core Retail Areas</b>		
<b>RET O16</b> - Ensure that Core Retail Areas, as defined in this County Development Plan, are carried through to Local Area Plans and other land use plans to clarify the extent of the core area for primacy of the retail function and to guide the application of the sequential approach to retail development.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning process
<b>RET O17</b> - Ensure that Town Centre zoning is applied in Local Area Plans and, where appropriate, designate further Town Centre Expansion Areas subject to the tests of the Sequential Approach to enable the retail vision for these centres to be achieved and to provide appropriate guidance to applicants.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning process. The Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 designated land for Town Centre Extension.
<b>RET O18</b> - Encourage and facilitate the re-use and regeneration of	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning processes.

<p>derelict/underutilised brownfield land, vacant sites and buildings for retail and other town centre uses, having regard to the Sequential Approach outlined in the Retail Planning Guidelines and as set out in Section 8.5 above.</p>		
<p><b>RET O19</b> - Protect and enhance the retail primacy and character of the town/village centre by particularly supporting development that consolidates the existing urban core and responds positively to its established built form, scale and character.</p>		<p>Ongoing through the development management process.</p>
<p><b>Naas</b></p>		
<p><b>RET O20</b> - Promote and encourage major enhancement and expansion of mainstream comparison floorspace and town centre functions in Naas, to reflect its role as a Major Town Centre and further develop its competitiveness and importance as a key town in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process.  Planning permission was granted in 2023 for works to provide a new entrance plaza to the unfinished Naas Shopping Centre from South Main Street which have been implemented and completed.</p>
<p><b>RET O21</b> – Support and facilitate the development of retail, retail services and niche retailing in the town centre area, where it will consolidate and strengthen the primacy of town centre areas, including</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process.</p>

new/infill development and redevelopment of an appropriate scale.		
<b>Newbridge</b>		
<b>RET O22</b> - Support the appropriate development of underutilised lands and buildings within the existing Core Retail Area of Newbridge Town Centre (See Map V1 - 8.11).	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>RET O23</b> - Support the framework for a more integrated approach to the planning of the town centre through the review of the Newbridge Local Area Plan 2013 – 2019, and in particular Edward Street/Main Street North/Charlotte Street/ Eyre Street area being a focus for achieving greater linkage and commercial synergy.	Short Term	The Draft Newbridge Local Area Plan 2025-2031 will be published in March 2025 and will contain objectives pertaining to particular town centre areas in Newbridge.
<b>RET O24</b> - Continue to enhance the profile of Newbridge through strategic environmental enhancement, the creation of vibrant urban spaces, places of interest and the introduction of public art.	Ongoing	<p>Part 8 Planning permission has been secured for the County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre in Newbridge (2023) which addresses a prominent urban corner on Main Street and the Athgarvan Road.</p> <p>St. Conleth's Park was re-developed and completed in 2024.</p> <p>Planning permission was granted in 2023 to Bord na Mona for a substantial new headquarters building on Main Street.</p> <p>A natural play area was delivered in the Liffey Linear Park in 2024.</p>
<b>RET O25</b> - Monitor and restrict the number of lower order retail/commercial uses.	Ongoing	The Draft Newbridge Local Area Plan 2025-2031 will be published in March 2025 and will include objectives in this regard.

<b>Maynooth</b>		
<b>RET O26</b> - Reinforce the heart of the town as the priority location for new retail development, with quality of design and integration/linkage within the existing urban form/layout being fundamental prerequisites.	Ongoing	This is detailed in the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 through the zoning of land, the land use zoning matrix, movement measures and urban design briefs.
<b>RET O27</b> - Facilitate the development of appropriately scaled retail development in the Leinster Street and Canal Harbour areas.	Ongoing	The Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 includes an Urban Design Framework for the Maynooth Central Settlement Consolidation Site which includes Leinster Street and the Canal Harbour areas, in which retail uses are encouraged at ground floor level.
<b>RET O28</b> - Secure the continued consolidation of Maynooth Town Centre through progressing the implementation of the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan and the regeneration of backland and brownfield areas in the town centre.	Short Term	The Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 was adopted in February 2025 and provides for town centre consolidation and renewal. The SPPR team has secured URDF funding to prepare a Maynooth Town Centre Renewal Masterplan.
<b>RET O29</b> - Encourage and facilitate the development of a combined and unique heritage, retailing and tourism experience within Maynooth and to encourage strong linkages between these attractions.	Ongoing	Heritage, retailing and tourism are addressed in detail in the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031.
<b>RET O30</b> - Restrict any out-of-town retail developments, other than local neighbourhood centres in Maynooth to be	Ongoing	Retailing and local neighbourhood centres are addressed in detail in the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031.

considered as part of the Joint Local Area Plan for Maynooth and Environs.		
<b>Celbridge</b>		
<b>RET O31</b> - Protect the quality, ambience, vibrancy and vitality of Celbridge town centre by promoting an appropriate mix of day and nighttime commercial uses.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>RET O32</b> - Support development that will strengthen the town centre and act as a catalyst for renewal.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>RET O33</b> - Encourage and facilitate the re-use and regeneration of vacant or underused sites for appropriate town centre uses and encourage the full use of buildings and in particular, upper floors and back lands.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>RET O34</b> - Support KDA 1 in the Celbridge Local Area Plan which requires a masterplan for a mixed-use scheme with a retail element at St. Raphael's (Oakley Park).	Ongoing	No projects or masterplan forthcoming to date.
<b>Kilcock</b>		
<b>RET O35</b> - Encourage and facilitate the regeneration of land and buildings in the Kilcock Core Retail Area and other Town Centre zoned lands in the first instance and	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.



to only permit retail development outside the Core Retail area where to do so is proposed in line with the Sequential Approach, to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.		
<b>RET O36</b> - Work with all stakeholders in further promoting the asset of Kilcock's heritage townscape and location on the Royal Canal.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>RET O37</b> - Reinforce the Main Street as the priority location for new retail development, with quality of design and integration/linkage within the existing urban form/layout being fundamental prerequisites.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>RET O38</b> - Encourage and facilitate the development of a combined and unique heritage, retailing and tourism experience within the town and to encourage strong linkages between these attractions.	Ongoing	Into Kildare promotes the Royal Canal Greenway.
<b>Athy</b>		
<b>RET O39</b> - Consolidate existing retail development and to develop/regenerate opportunity sites/areas within the town centre, in particular the regeneration site to the rear of Leinster Street identified in	Medium Term	No planning applications received on Leinster Street site to date.

the Urban Regeneration Framework as part of the Athy Local Area Plan 2021- 2027.		
<b>RET O40</b> - Work with all stakeholders in Athy to redress the high retail expenditure leakage from the town, its catchment area and the south of the county as a whole and deliver the vision and potential of the town, as set out in the Athy Local Area Plan 2021 – 2027.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process. .
<b>RET O41</b> - Particularly support the redevelopment of vacant units in the town centre and generally encourage owners of such properties to avail of any grant aid funding that may assist with their rejuvenation, in order to add to the attractiveness of the town of Athy.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process. The Local Enterprise Office's annual Shop Front and Accessibility Grant offers financial assistance to independent business owners to improve the appearance of their shop fronts or commercial properties and to enhance accessibility and/or add age friendly elements to the premises. During 2023 and 2024, 19 no. grants were awarded to premises in Athy Town in this regard.
<b>Kildare</b>		
<b>RET O42</b> - Facilitate the consolidation/expansion of the town centre of Kildare Town through infill development and the redevelopment/regeneration of derelict/under-utilised sites and buildings particularly those within the Core Retail Area.	Ongoing	Provided for in the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 and ongoing through the development management process.

<p><b>RET O43</b> - Encourage the development of independent retail outlets and markets in the town centre that will create a unique character and shopping experience for tourists and visitors and add to the attractiveness of Kildare Town.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Provided for in the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 and ongoing through the development management process.</p>
<p><b>RET O44</b> - Develop a well-designed pedestrian link from the Kildare Tourist Outlet Village (KTOV) to the town centre, in consultation with the various third party landowners, with a view to better integration, enhancing visitor experience and promoting the heritage and evening economy of the town centre in accordance with the guidance in the Retail Planning Guidelines 2012 and accompanying Retail Design Manual.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>This objective is included in the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 as objective MTO 1.2 and is being progressed by the Special Projects and Public Realm Team through the Kildare Town Renewal Masterplan.</p>
<p><b>Monasterevin</b></p>		
<p><b>RET O45</b> - Encourage the growth and development of retail and other town centre services/ functions in Monasterevin within the Core Retail Area (see Map V1 - 8.9), to enable the town to grow into a more self-sustaining town. While also progressing the redevelopment/regeneration of town centre sites, with the emphasis on</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process. Preparation of the Monasterevin Settlement Plan, to replace the current Local Area Plan, is underway and due for publication in 2025.</p>

consolidation of the town centre through mixed-use retail-led regeneration.		
<b>RET O46</b> - Develop and build on the tourism potential of Monasterevin’s heritage, including distilling and brewing and its natural environments as part of an integrated strategy for raising their profiles and identities.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.  Preparation of the Draft Monasterevin Settlement Plan, to replace the current Local Area Plan, is underway and due for publication in 2025.  KCC published a Conservation Management Plan for the Cassidy Distillery Building in 2024 which assesses the history, cultural significance, threats and viable reuse of a large cluster of industrial structures, collectively known as Cassidy’s Complex.
<b>Clane</b>		
<b>RET O47</b> - Reinforce the town centre as a priority location for retail development and to promote new development that consolidates the existing urban core.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>RET O48</b> - Protect the quality, ambience, vibrancy and vitality of Clane Town Centre by promoting an appropriate mix of day and night time uses.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>RET O49</b> - Encourage and facilitate the full use of buildings and sites and in particular the use of upper floors and backlands, with due cognisance to the sequential approach to retail development, quality of urban design, integration and linkage.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management process.
<b>Leixlip</b>		

<p><b>RET O50</b> - Protect the visual character, cultural heritage, ambience and vitality of the traditional heart of the town centre in order to meet the retailing and service needs of the area, in addition to offering a pleasant and attractive environment for shopping, business, tourism, recreation and living.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>On-going through the development management process.</p>
<p><b>RET O51</b> - Support the retail function of Leixlip through a combination of redevelopment of appropriate infill and opportunity sites in the town centre and on other suitably zoned lands within the local area plan boundary.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>On-going through the development management process.</p>
<p><b>Kilcullen</b></p>		
<p><b>RET O52</b> - Reinforce the Main Street as the priority location for new retail development, with quality of design and integration/linkage within the existing urban form/layout being fundamental prerequisites.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Provided for in the Draft Kilcullen Settlement plan published in Q4 2024.</p>
<p><b>RET O53</b> - Work with all stakeholders in further promoting the asset of Kilcullen's townscape and location on the River Liffey.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Provided for in the Draft Kilcullen Settlement plan published in Q4 2024.</p>
<p><b>RET O54</b> - Protect the quality, ambience, vibrancy and vitality of Kilcullen Centre by</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>On-going through the development management process.</p>

<p>promoting an appropriate mix of day and nighttime uses.</p>		
<p><b>Level 4 - Neighbourhood Centres, Local Centres-Small Towns and Villages</b></p>		
<p><b>RET O55</b> - Facilitate and encourage the provision of shops and services to consolidate and strengthen the role of Level 4, Tier 1 Small Town Centres in meeting the needs of their existing and expanding populations and those of their rural hinterlands, by responding positively to applications for retail and other town centre developments in Castledermot, Prosperous, Rathangan, Derrinturn, Kill and Sallins where they serve to consolidate the town centres and respect and enhance the existing built fabric.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>On-going through the development management process.</p>
<p><b>RET O56</b> - Encourage and facilitate the re-use and regeneration of derelict/underutilised vacant premises, brownfield land, vacant sites for retail and other town centre uses, having regard to the Sequential Approach outlined in the Retail Planning Guidelines.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>On-going through the development management process.</p>
<p><b>Villages Centres</b></p>		
<p><b>RET O57</b> - Encourage applications for retail and tourism related development that</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>On-going through the development management process.</p>

serve to consolidate and enhance the quality of the village centre.		
<b>RET O58</b> - Facilitate the local provision of shops and services that promote vitality in Village Centres in order to meet the needs of existing and expanding populations.	Ongoing	On-going through the development management process.
<b>RET O59</b> - Support and facilitate preservation of retail, other services and tourism potential within established rural centres.	Ongoing	On-going through the development management process.
<b>Opening Times</b>		
<b>RET O60</b> - Require applicants for retail planning consents to confirm their proposed hours of opening. 24 hour opening of shops will only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that there will be no negative impact on the residential amenity of neighbouring areas. Proposed hours of opening for various uses may also be prescribed in Local Area Plans.	Ongoing	On-going through the development management process.
<b>Convenience Retailing</b>		
<b>RET O61</b> - Require the nature of the comparison component of proposed large convenience stores is provided in detail, and a transparent and evidence-based Retail Impact Assessment (RIA) / Retail	Ongoing	On-going through the development management process.

Impact Statement (RIS) to be provided with the of retail application.		
<b>Corner Shops and Smaller Villages/Settlements</b>		
<b>RET O62</b> - Support and encourage the retail offering of Smaller Villages/Settlements and traditional local shops in rural centres.	Ongoing	On-going through the development management process.
<b>Enhanced Vitality and Vibrancy of Towns and Villages</b>		
<b>RET O63</b> - Promote investment in public realm improvements within the Core Retail Areas and town centres generally, so that shoppers, visitors and tourists have a pleasant environment in which to spend time and shop.	Ongoing	On-going through the development management process.
<b>RET O64</b> - Ensure that the best quality of design is achieved for all new retail development and that it respects and enhances the specific characteristics of the towns and villages' townscape, streetscape and heritage with particular attention to its scale and the architectural quality of the façade, shopfront design, fascia/nameplate and external finishes.	Ongoing	On-going through the development management process.
<b>RET A1</b> - Pursue all avenues of funding to secure resources for the enhancement, renewal and regeneration of the public realm of the county's towns and villages.	Ongoing	Ongoing for the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team.



<p><b>RET A2</b> - Prepare public realm strategies for the Main Streets of Level 2 Town Centres during the course of this plan, and depending on resources, a priority number of Level 3 Town Centres and pursue funding for the implementation of same.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team have progressed Town and Village Renewal Masterplans for Monasterevin, Johnstownbridge, Straffan, Derrinturn, Ardclough, Castledermot, Athgarvan, Leixlip, Kildare Town, Celbridge, Coill Dubh / Cooleragh, Robertstown, Kilmeague and Allenwood since the coming into effect of the KCDP. Further Town Renewal Masterplans will be prepared and published in 2025.</p>
<p><b>New Neighbourhood Centres</b></p>		
<p><b>RET O65</b> - Consider the impact any new neighbourhood centre would have on the vitality and vibrancy of the county's Core Retail Areas (see Maps V1 - 8.1 to 8.11) and to only consider where they would complement and not compete with the established Core Retail Areas.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management functions.</p>
<p><b>RET O66</b> - Investigate the need for any additional retail provision in the form of a neighbourhood centre, within existing and expanding residential areas in future Local Area Plans and to zone land accordingly.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function.</p>
<p><b>RET O67</b> - Implement the 10-minute settlement concept when preparing local area plans to ensure land is zoned for the provision of neighbourhood retail centre uses within reasonable walking and cycling distance of newly planned neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function.</p>

<b>RET O68</b> - Use assessment criteria for retail developments as outlined in Chapter 15, Development Management Standards when assessing neighbourhood centres.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function.
<b>Retail Warehouse Parks</b>		
<b>RET O69</b> - Discourage the development of further out-of-town retail parks.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function.
<b>RET O70</b> - Prohibit mainstream comparison floorspace and discount convenience retail developments in retail parks.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function.
<b>RET O71</b> - Restrict by condition the range of goods sold in retail parks to the sale of bulky goods.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function.
<b>RET O72</b> – Only consider standalone retail units in retail warehouse car parks where they do not detract from the vitality and vibrancy of nearby town centres.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function.
<b>Retail Development in Business Parks and Employment Areas</b>		
<b>RET O73</b> - Ensure that the level of convenience retail and local services provision in existing and new major employment areas serves an ancillary supporting role.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function.
<b>RET O74</b> - Provide the land-use and retail planning framework to ensure that the	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management functions.

<p>mixed-use strategies for new employment areas respond to the wider context of need and demand in the interests of ensuring that these locations are attractive to workers and employers while supporting and not competing with Core Retail Areas.</p>		
<p><b>RET O75</b> - Limit the level of shopping and local services provision in existing and proposed industrial estates or business parks. Stand-alone mainstream and discount convenience or comparison floorspace will not be permitted in existing and proposed or emerging employment areas, unless it is proven to be part of the wholesale retail market sector such as bathroom showrooms, fireplace/stove showrooms, furniture showrooms, etc.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function.</p>
<p><b>RET O76</b> - Ensure any further retail floorspace in employment areas will be restricted to meeting the convenience and non-retail services needs of employees rather than facilitating the creation of a new Neighbourhood or District Centres.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function.</p>
<p><b>Re-Use and Regeneration of Derelict and Underutilised Land and Buildings</b></p>		
<p><b>RET O77</b> - Work with applicants and development interests to explore the potential of suitable, available and viable</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function.</p>

<p>land and buildings for retail and other town centre uses across all centres in the County Retail Hierarchy. The Council may facilitate and engage in active land management strategies so as to encourage regeneration and ensure viable land parcels for retail development in preference to edge of centre and out-of-town sites.</p>		
<p><b>RET A3</b> - Identify obsolete and potential renewal areas and, through active and positive engagement with landowners, to encourage and facilitate the re-use and regeneration of derelict land and buildings in the county's main towns, villages and smaller centres. The Council will use its statutory powers, including the Derelict Sites Act (as amended), the Vacant Site Levy 4 and/or Compulsory Purchase Order, where necessary.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function. Settlement Consolidation Sites are considered through Local Area Plans where appropriate.</p>
<p><b>Retailing in Tourism and Leisure</b></p>		
<p><b>RET O78</b> - Encourage and facilitate the development of retailing in the tourism and leisure sectors at appropriate and sustainable locations, subject to protecting tourism and leisure amenities from</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function.</p>

insensitive and inappropriate development.		
<b>Garden Centres and Agri-Business Diversification</b>		
<p><b>RET 079</b> - Require the undertaking of a Retail Impact Assessment/Retail Impact Statement and/or other appropriate studies, for all proposals for new garden centres or agri-businesses or extensions to either (which include retail and restaurant/cafe floorspace) to enable an assessment of their potential impact on nearby small towns and villages, in particular. In addition, such proposals may also require the submission of a Traffic and Transport Assessment, under the TII Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014) or any update to same. Where ancillary uses are proposed and where it is considered that such uses would negatively impact upon the vitality and vibrancy of nearby towns and villages, these uses (either in whole or in part) may not be permitted as part of the overall development scheme.</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function.
<b>Casual Trading</b>		
<p><b>RET 080</b> - Take cognisance of the proper and sustainable development of the</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the trading permits process.

<p>county's towns and villages, including the preservation and improvement of amenities, the safety and convenience of pedestrians and the traffic likely to be generated by Casual Trading and the promotion of tourism.</p>		
<p><b>RET O81</b> - Encourage, support and promote the development and attraction of quality town markets selling artisan food and craft produce in centres at all levels of the County Retail Hierarchy, in recognition of their potential to sustain and increase the attractiveness of town centres and to promote local and more sustainable food sources. The Council will work with SME's in particular to promote/support the provision of such markets in town centre locations over out-of-town locations.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Enterprise and Economic Development Department is preparing a Markets Strategy for County Kildare in 2025.</p>
<p><b>What RET O82</b> - Actively and appropriately manage and control temporary, commercial activity involving mobile retail/ café/ food vendor units save where permission has been granted for consent provided by relevant bye-laws.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function.</p>
<p><b>Outdoor Dining</b></p>		
<p><b>RET O83</b> - Encourage, support and promote outdoor dining facilities that</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function.</p>

<p>contribute to vitality and vibrancy of centres at all levels of the County Retail Hierarchy, while ensuring these facilities have appropriate layouts, adequate management and contain high quality design components in line with Section 254 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the Licensing Outdoor Dining and Seating Guidance Document August 2021 by Kildare County Council.</p>		
<p><b>Non-Retail Uses in Core Retail Areas and Other Main Streets</b></p>		
<p><b>RET O84</b> - Discourage the proliferation of non-retail uses in Core Retail Areas and other streets, in the interests of maintaining and sustaining the retail attraction of the county's centres.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function.</p>
<p><b>RET O85</b> - Prevent an over-supply or dominance of fast-food outlets, takeaways, off licences and betting offices along the main streets of the county's towns and villages, within shopping centres and local centres in order to ensure that a balance of all retail services is provided in creating sustainable and vibrant centres.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function.</p>
<p><b>Criteria for Assessing Retail Proposals</b></p>		
<p><b>RET O86</b> - Assess all applications for all retail development in accordance with the</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function.</p>

<p>criteria set out above and in Chapter 15, Development Management Standards of this Plan.</p>		
<p><b>RET O87</b> - Note all proposals not in compliance with the County Retail Hierarchy should have a full assessment, specifically in respect of the tests of the Sequential Approach. This guidance is in accordance with that provided in the Regional Retail Strategy 2008.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function.</p>
<p><b>RET O88</b> - Require applicants to ensure that proposal for retail development which are above the Plan's assessment criteria thresholds demonstrate compliance with the assessment criteria of both the Regional Planning Guidelines 2012 and the Regional Retail Strategy.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function.</p>
<p><b>RET O89</b> - Require applicants to demonstrate convincingly that their proposal is in compliance with the development plan. Where there is doubt on any aspect of a planning application, the Council will require a detailed justification related to the matter that is not wholly in compliance.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function.</p>



A1.8 Chapter 9 – Our Rural Economy

Policy Objective	Timeline	CE Comments
<b>Retail Policy Context</b>		
<p><b>RD 01</b> - Encourage the development of appropriately scaled alternative rural based small-scale enterprises that are appropriate in rural areas. All planning applications for one off enterprises in rural areas shall have regard to the criteria listed in Table 9.1 of the Plan.</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<p><b>RD 02</b> - Facilitate agriculture, horticulture, forestry, tourism, energy production and rural resource-based enterprise within the rural settlements and in appropriate rural locations subject to relevant development management standards.</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<p><b>RD 03</b> - Promote resource efficiency and support the shift toward a low-carbon and climate resilient economy in the agriculture (including signpost farms), food, and forestry sectors in County Kildare.</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and through ongoing collaboration with Signpost and Teagasc.
<p><b>RD 04</b> - Encourage and facilitate the sensitive re-use of vernacular houses or farm buildings for farm diversification, agri-</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.  An example of this it the permitted Agri-Tourism Glamping and Cycling scheme at Tully East, Kildare (Ref 23257) comprising of the conversion of a stable block to holiday

tourism, and other appropriate rural based development.		accommodation, the installation of glamping pods and the utilisation of the existing certified organic livestock farm as an attraction to holidaymakers.
<b>RD 05</b> - Require new buildings and structures: - To be sited as unobtrusively as possible. - To be clustered to form a distinct and unified feature in the landscape. - To utilise suitable materials and colours. - To utilise native species in screen planting to integrate development into the landscape.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>RD 06</b> - Encourage the conservation and promotion of biodiversity in all rural development activities whilst supporting the restoration, preservation, and enhancement of ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>RD 07</b> - Support the development of renewable energy production in rural areas where appropriate.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>RD 08</b> - Promote the provision of broadband and other communications infrastructure in rural areas of the county through supporting the continued roll out of the National Broadband Scheme.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC. It is noted that Kildare will receive circa €53 million of Government investment under the National Broadband Plan.

<p><b>RD 09</b> - Support the European Network for Rural Development's Smart Villages initiative to improve economic performance and quality of life in rural areas through digital and social innovation in co-operation with West Kildare SMART Rural Alliance and all other relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the County Kildare Leader Partnership and the Rural Development Programme 2023-2027.</p>
<p><b>Agri Food Sector</b></p>		
<p><b>RD 010</b> - Encourage the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, to ensure that development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside and that the quality of the natural environment (watercourses, wildlife habitats and areas of ecological importance) is maintained and protected from the threat of pollution to support the achievement of climate targets.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and the work programme of the Climate, Community Environment and Water Department.</p>
<p><b>RD 011</b> - Facilitate the development of alternative farm enterprises, and appropriate small scale start-up rural enterprise in the countryside with the intention to supplement existing farm incomes e.g., converting redundant farm buildings for other farm-based activities such as agri- food, tourism, crafts, and energy whilst balancing this with the need</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function and economic/enterprise development function of KCC, together with the work programmes of the Local Enterprise Office and the Climate, Community Environment and Water Department.</p>

to protect, promote, and enhance the viability and environmental quality of the existing rural economy and agricultural land.		
<b>RD O12</b> - Support the implementation of the objectives identified in the County Biodiversity Action Plan 2009-2014 (or as updated).	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, together with the work programmes of various departments including the Biodiversity Officer, the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department and the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department. The National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 requires all local authorities to have a Biodiversity Action Plan in place by the end of 2026. In this regard, KCC has commenced preparation of the new County Biodiversity Action Plan - anticipated to be published in 2025.
<b>RD O13</b> - Encourage farmers markets and local food Hubs for the sale of locally produced goods at appropriate locations in the towns and villages across the county.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management, forward planning and economic/enterprise development function of KCC in conjunction with the work programme of other departments, the Local Enterprise Office and the County Kildare Leader Partnership.
<b>RD O14</b> - Preserve the open character of commonage land.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.
<b>Equine</b>		
<b>RD O15</b> - Encourage the expansion of the bloodstock industry by appropriately protecting the environment and amenity value of rural areas from encroachment by urban sprawl and incompatible development.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.
<b>RD O16</b> - Ensure that equine based developments are located on suitable and	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p>viable landholdings and are subject to normal planning, siting and design considerations.</p>		
<p><b>RD O17</b> - Protect the Curragh, Punchestown, and Naas racecourses from any development that would interfere with their amenity value and qualities while, at the same time promoting the enhancement of facilities as an attraction for visitors / attendees.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RD O18</b> - Promote and encourage the development of activities that relate to the equine industry in the county such as riding schools, pony trekking and the development of bridle paths.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RD O19</b> - To continue to promote Kildare’s world-renowned reputation for breeding and racing (at The Curragh, Naas, and Punchestown) and to support the ongoing operation of training and educational facilities and other bodies and organisations established in County Kildare.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning, development management and economic/enterprise function of KCC in conjunction with the work programmes of the programme of other departments, the Local Enterprise Office and the County Kildare Leader Partnership.</p>
<p><b>Horticulture</b></p>		

<p><b>RD O20</b> - Support and encourage the work of the horticultural sector and third level institutions in the development of peat free media/compost to assist growers, producers, garden centres and homeowners with a sustainable alternative to peat-based compost and the negative environmental impacts associated with peat extraction.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning, development management and economic/enterprise function of KCC in conjunction with the work programmes of the programme of other departments, the Local Enterprise Office and the County Kildare Leader Partnership.</p>
<p><b>RD O21</b> - Encourage the development of environmentally sustainable horticultural practices, to ensure that development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside and that watercourses, wildlife habitats and areas of ecological importance are protected from the threat of pollution.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through development management function of KCC, together with the work programmes of various departments including the Local Enterprise Office; the County Kildare Leader Partnership; the Biodiversity Officer; the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department; and, the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department.</p>
<p><b>Forestry</b></p>		
<p><b>RD O22</b> - Encourage public and private owners to allow / provide public access to forests for recreational and amenity use e.g., walking, biking and equine trails to enhance health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing where appropriate through the development management function of KCC, together with the work programmes of various departments including Strategic Projects and Public Realm, the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department and the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department.</p>
<p><b>RD O23</b> - Encourage appropriately located forestry and forestry related development, as a means of diversifying from traditional farming activity.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>RD O24</b> - Facilitate tourism infrastructure and visitor services including tourism accommodation at appropriate locations in forest estates in accordance with all relevant planning and environmental conditions.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RD O25</b> - Support the use of sustainable timber products as a renewable raw material.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RD O26</b> - Support new forestry plantation and works related to forestry, subject to protection of visually sensitive areas, ecology, water resources and abstractions, and compliance with national regulations with respect to protection of the environment.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RD O27</b> - Support the development of forestry resources with several functions including, flood retention, biodiversity, water quality/catchment management, tourism, and recreation in conjunction with Coillte and other relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RD O28</b> - Discourage monocultural forestry and encourage a greater range of tree species in forestry plantations and promote, in particular, more native, deciduous hardwood woodlands. Such</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

forestry plantations shall be subject to best practice and appropriate biosecurity measures and protocols.		
<b>RD O29</b> - Ensure that existing public rights of ways and walking routes are not obstructed during the planting of forests.	Ongoing	Ongoing where appropriate/relevant through the development management function of KCC.
<b>RD O30</b> - Ensure that development is appropriate in scale and character and does not have a negative visual impact on the countryside including public access, rights of way, walking routes and recreational facilities or cause degradation of wildlife habitats, nature conservation areas or areas of ecological importance.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>RD O31</b> - Recognise the potential of forestry including Coillte's "open forest" policy and protect and encourage access to forestry and woodlands (including private forestry) in co-operation with all relevant stakeholders for walking routes, long-distance and looped walks, mountain trails, nature trails, bridle paths, orienteering and hiking.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, together with the work programmes of various departments including Strategic Projects and Public Realm, the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department and the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department.
<b>Bogs and Peatlands</b>		
<b>RD O32</b> - Encourage the re-wetting, restoring and/or re-wilding of former cutaway bogs and peatlands with an	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and in support of rehabilitation plans developed and undertaken by Bord Na Móna.



<p>emphasis on maximising biodiversity and carbon sequestration to account for approximately 70% of cutaway bogs. Such projects shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment; shall have regard to any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and their qualifying interest species; shall not adversely affect drainage of surrounding lands; and shall account for any potential likely significant effects and provide mitigation and monitoring where appropriate.</p>		
<p><b>RD O33</b> - Work with all relevant stakeholders including Bord na Móna to support the sustainable re-use and sustainable development of up to approximately 30% of cutaway boglands (within County Kildare) for economic purposes, including inter alia renewable energy (wind and solar) in appropriate locations, subject to relevant environmental assessments. Such projects shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment; shall have regard to any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and their qualifying interest species; shall not adversely affect drainage of surrounding lands; and shall account for</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>any potential likely significant, cumulative and in combination effects.</p>		
<p><b>RD O34</b> - Proposals brought forward for any development on the county’s cutaway peatlands shall be accompanied by an independent biodiversity profile of the landholding, setting out how the proposed development was formulated having regard to the following step by step, biodiversity-led process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identification of areas of greatest ecological value and how the proposal is compatible with peatland restoration.</li> <li>2. Identification of areas of greatest carbon sequestration value.</li> <li>3. Identification of areas of amenity value and potential, and incorporation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy (see Section 12.14.5).</li> <li>4. Identification of the subject site as a percentage of the overall landholding and justification for the proposed use having regard to Objective RD O33.</li> </ol>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RD O35</b> - Support diversification and re-use of buildings previously associated with peat extraction to waste management and resource recovery infrastructure.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>RD O36</b> - Support the development of a National Peatlands Park in co-operation with Bord na Mona, NPWS, Inland Fisheries Ireland, local community groups and other relevant stakeholders as per recommendation 9 of the BOGLAND Report from the EPA in 2011, Action A28 of the National Peatland Strategy 2014 and the Local Just Transition Plan for West Kildare 2022.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>KCC will support the ongoing efforts of the National Peatlands Park Group in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and the NPWS, subject to the availability of resources. In this regard, through the Just Transition Tourism Activation Programme, one local SME has applied for funding for design and planning of a new peatland regenerative tourism amenity and is awaiting a decision. In addition, two peatland sites that are not managed by Bord na M6nna have joined the T6ochar re-wetting scheme with the NPWS.</p>
<p><b>RD O37</b> - Recognise the importance of cutover and cutaway bogs in providing some critical ecosystem services such as potential carbon sinks. Cutover bogs should be identified for immediate management interventions to prevent further degradation, particularly the ongoing loss of their carbon store.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and through the restoration/management programmes/plans of Bord Na M6nna and the NPWS.</p>
<p><b>RD O38</b> - Encourage, where possible, the return to a natural functioning peatland ecosystem in the first instance.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and in support of rehabilitation plans developed and undertaken by Bord Na M6nna.</p>
<p><b>RD O39</b> - Protect peatlands from inappropriate development having regard to the Wind Energy Strategy for County Kildare (see Appendix 2).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RD O40</b> - Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological and archaeological significance.</p>		
<p><b>RD O41</b> - When developing project proposals for development on peatlands, undertake a peatland stability assessment, carbon emissions balance assessment and hydrological and ecological impact assessments, as required.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC, together with the work programmes of various departments including Strategic Projects and Public Realm, the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department and the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department.</p>
<p><b>RD A1</b> - Promote and support the development and operation of a number of long distance peatways that traverse the Bog of Allen utilising former industrial peat railway tracks and lines at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From Ticknevin Bridge (Grand Canal) to Rathangan</li> <li>- Enfield (Royal Canal)/Kilshancoe (Raven's Cross)/Killyon/Doogary through Timahoe Bog to Allenwood Community Development Association Ltd. and onto the Grand Canal and from there through Lullymore East and onto the Rathangan. These routes would also provide a loop walk comprising elements of the above two routes.</li> </ul>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>Extractive Industry</b></p>		

<p><b>RD O42</b> - Ensure that development for aggregate extraction, processing and associated concrete production does not significantly impact the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)</li> <li>- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)</li> <li>- Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs)</li> <li>- Other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna.</li> <li>- Zones of Archaeological Potential.</li> <li>- The vicinity of a recorded monument.</li> <li>- Sensitive landscape areas as identified in Chapter 13 of this Plan.</li> <li>- Scenic views and prospects.</li> <li>- Protected Structures.</li> <li>- Established rights of way and walking routes.</li> <li>- Potential World Heritage Sites in Kildare on the UNESCO Tentative List, Ireland.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p> <p>Two permissions were granted at Glenaree, Rathangan for the continuation of use of the sand and gravel quarry for concrete batching etc., refs 22533 and 2360102.</p>
<p><b>RD O43</b> - Consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), with regard to any developments likely to have an impact on sites of Geological Importance listed in Chapter 12 of this Plan.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>RD O44</b> - Require applications for mineral or other extraction to include (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An Appropriate Assessment Screening</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>where there is any potential for effects on a Natura 2000 site (see Chapter 12).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).</li> <li>- An Ecological Impact Assessment may also be required for sub-threshold developments to evaluate the existence of any protected species / habitats on site.</li> <li>- A detailed landscaping plan to be submitted indicating proposed screening for the operational life of the site. The predominant use of native plant species in the proposed landscaping plan will be expected.</li> <li>- Detailed landscaping and quarry restoration plans. Habitats and species surveying shall be carried out and shall influence the restoration plan for the site.</li> <li>- Comprehensive Site Restoration Plan and/or After-Use Strategy having regard to the principles of 'Rehabilitation Ecology'</li> <li>- Transport Impact Assessment</li> </ul>		
<p><b>RD O45</b> - Require, where permission is granted for quarrying / extraction of aggregates, the submission by the developer of a bond (cash deposit, bond from an insurance company or other security acceptable to the planning</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

authority) to ensure the satisfactory completion and restoration of the site.		
<b>RD O46</b> - Require road re-instatement work to be ongoing during operations, in the interests of road and traffic safety. Works undertaken to re-instate/improve the public road should be undertaken by the quarry developer or paid by them and completed by the Council.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>RD O47</b> - Protect and safeguard the county's natural aggregate resources from inappropriate development.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>RD O48</b> - Manage the finite aggregate resources being mined by the extractive industries in the county to supply the future needs of our region while working to reach our climate change targets.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>RD O49</b> – Have regard to the following guidance documents (as may be amended, replaced, or supplemented) in the assessment of planning applications for quarries, ancillary services, restoration and after-use: - Quarries and Ancillary Activities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DEHLG (2004). - Environmental Management Guidelines	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (Non-Scheduled Minerals), EPA (2006).</li> <li>- Archaeological Code of Practice between the DEHLG an ICF (2009).</li> <li>- Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry (2008).</li> <li>- Wildlife, Habitats, and the Extractive Industry</li> <li>- Guidelines for the protection of biodiversity within the extractive industry, NPWS (2009).</li> </ul>		
<p><b>RD O50</b> - Ensure the satisfactory and sensitive re-instatement and/or re-use of disused quarries and extraction facilities, where active extraction use has ceased. Future uses should include amenity, recreation and biodiversity areas shall be informed by an assessment of the specific site/lands and shall be subject to an ecological impact assessment or other environmental assessments as appropriate. Where it is proposed to reclaim, regenerate, or rehabilitate old quarries by filling or re-grading with inert soil or similar material, or to use worked-out quarries as disposal locations for inert materials, the acceptability of the proposal shall be</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>



<p>evaluated against the criteria set out in Section 15.9.6 of this Plan. The Council will resist development that would significantly or unnecessarily alter the natural landscape and topography, including land infilling/ reclamation projects or projects involving significant landscape remodelling, unless it can be demonstrated that the development would enhance the landscape and / or not give rise to adverse impacts.</p>		
<p><b>RD O51</b> - Require that quarry remediation plans provide for environmental benefit, biodiversity and re- wilding in all instances. The 80% requirement for environmental/biodiversity may be waived at sites closer to urban areas where a significant portion of the site is being provided for sports, recreation, and amenity.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

A1.9 Chapter 10 – Community Infrastructure & Creative Places

Policy Objective	Timeline	CE Comments
<b>Policy Context</b>		
<p><b>SC O1</b> - Liaise with community and economic stakeholders to promote the</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning, development management and economic/enterprise function of KCC, together with the work programme of the LEO and the Community Section.</p>

<p>sustainable development of economic and community services and infrastructure in the county, in accordance with the objectives and actions set out in the Kildare LECP 2016-2021 (or any subsequent replacement).</p>		<p>The Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029 (LECP) and associated Implementation Plan 2024-2026 was approved in April 2024. KCC endeavour to deliver and/or assist in the delivery of the actions outlined the LECP, subject to the availability of funding and resources.</p>
<p><b>SC 02</b> - Make provision, through appropriate land use zoning in the CDP settlement plans and Local Area Plans to deliver community infrastructure, supports and services in a planned and co-ordinated manner within the county, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC in the preparation of Local Area Plans subject of review during the lifetime of the KCDP.</p>
<p><b>SC 03</b> - Utilise the Kildare LECP Baseline Report (2015), and any subsequent update of this evidence base, to inform the development of policies, objectives, and actions for the delivery of community facilities and services within Local Area Plans and planning schemes.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC in the preparation of Local Area Plans subject of review during the lifetime of the KCDP. The preparation of the LECP and the Implementation Plan was informed by up-to-date socio-economic data (including Census 2022) and a comprehensive consultation process, including with the Planning Department of KCC. All Local Area Plans use the most up to date evidence base available in the formulation of policies, objectives and actions.</p>
<p><b>SC 04</b> - Support and encourage youth and community engagement in local decision making through a range of methods and channels, and through networks including among others, the Kildare Public Participation Network.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC and through the work of the Community Section of the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department - which actively engages with the Kildare Public Participation Network, the Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board, InSync, Comhairle na nÓg and other youth related groups in Kildare.</p>

<p><b>SC 05</b> - Promote volunteerism by supporting the work of the Kildare Volunteer Centre as well as other voluntary groups and networks.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Community Section of the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department, which provides annual funding to the Kildare Volunteer Centre.</p>
<p><b>Community Services and Facilities</b></p>		
<p><b>SC 06</b> - Protect and enhance existing social infrastructure / community facilities and increase the provision as required in accessible and sustainable locations including the development of new and expansion of existing facilities and services.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function, and other Departments of KCC.</p> <p>The Community Section undertakes an annual maintenance and upgrade programme for 25 community buildings situated throughout the county, in addition to a pipeline of projects for the provision of new facilities. Examples of additional or enhanced facilities provided since the adoption of the KCDP include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new Carbury Community Centre at the former HSE Dispensary Site following refurbishment.</li> <li>• Refurbishment of the Allenwood Credit Union for community use. KCC are now seeking expressions of interest from groups that may be interested in entering into a Management Agreement regarding the operation and use of the community centre.</li> <li>• Establishment of a Caretakers Agreement with the Anne Street Residents Association in Prosperous for the use of a refurbished dwelling for community group(s) at Anne Street Community House.</li> <li>• The Kilcock Community Centre officially opened in May 2024 by the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team.</li> <li>• Additional facilities are anticipated to be delivered during the lifetime of the KCDP, primarily utilising vacant building stock.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SC 07</b> - Support and encourage the clustering of community facilities such as community centres, with a priority</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, together with the work programmes of the Community Section; the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department. Local Area Plans seek to</p>

<p>towards community and youth facilities, sports and leisure facilities, schools, childcare facilities, facilities for older persons, and open spaces to create multi-purpose community hubs.</p>		<p>facilitate and support the clustering of community, educational, sporting and leisure facilities at appropriate locations.</p>
<p><b>SC 08</b> - Ensure that communities across the county have access to multifunctional and intergenerational community centres that provide a focal point for community activities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function, and through the work programme of the Community Section. It is noted that the Kilcock Community Centre opened in May 2024 and that planning permission was granted in March 2024 to the Kildare Town Community Development Association for a community centre at Maple Lawns, Kildare Town.</p>
<p><b>SC 09</b> - Ensure that all communities are supported by a range of sporting facilities that are fit for purpose, accessible and adaptable and that recreational and sports amenity space is provided that supports the work of Kildare Sports Partnership in promoting participation in sports and physical activity for all.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function, together with the projects and work programme and other Departments of KCC.</p> <p>Notable sporting facilities delivered or progressed since the adoption of the KCDP include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kilcock Community Centre officially opened in May 2024 and includes a range of sporting and recreational infrastructure.</li> <li>• Kerdiffstown Park, incorporating a range of recreational and sporting facilities and infrastructure, opened in October 2024.</li> <li>• The Sallins Amenity Lands Part 8 proposal (Ref. P82022.01) includes a range of recreational, sporting and amenity facilities. The amenity lands are currently at detailed design stage with tender for the delivery of the first phase anticipated to be issued in 2025.</li> <li>• Planning permission was granted to the Monasterevin Development Association for the development of a Water Sports Hub in February 2024 under Planning Reference 2360116.</li> <li>• KCC welcomed Swim Ireland Pop-Up Pool to Leixlip for a 6-month period in 2023. KCC continues to advance plans for 2 no. swimming pools in the north of the county.</li> </ul>

		KCC has commenced preparation of the County Kildare Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, the County Kildare Outdoor Recreation Plan and the County Kildare Local Sports Plan. A survey was conducted in September/October 2024 to inform these plans.
<b>SC O10</b> - Support the work of Kildare Sports Partnership and their Strategic Plan 2017-2021 (and any subsequent replacement) to promote participation in sports and physical activity.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC, together with the work programme and projects of the Community Section, the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.
<b>SC O11</b> - Support and encourage the co-location and sharing of educational, community and sporting facilities for non-school purposes, to maximise the sustainable use of such infrastructure.	Ongoing	The co-location of educational, community and sporting facilities is ongoing through the land use zoning function of Local Area Plan / Settlement Plan process and through the development management function of KCC. Examples include the Southgreen Key Development Area (KDA) in the Kildare Town LAP and the Crewhill KDA in the Maynooth and Environs Joint LAP, where land has been zoned for new sporting facilities adjacent to schools and existing, proposed or planned community uses.  In addition, maximising the sustainable use of community, recreational and sporting infrastructure / facilities forms a key element of the projects of the Community Section, the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.
<b>SC O12</b> - Proactively seek suitable sites within the Key Towns of Naas and Maynooth for the provision of Municipal Sporting Facilities where shared amenities are provided for sports clubs and the general public.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning function. A site for a Municipal Sporting Facility has been identified at Crewhill in the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031. In addition, it is anticipated that a site for a Municipal Sporting Facility in Naas will be identified through the ongoing preparation of the masterplan for the Northwest Quadrant.
<b>SC O13</b> - Facilitate the provision of appropriately scaled children’s play facilities and teen space facilities at	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function, and other Departments of KCC. KCC actively seeks to provide appropriate play and teen facilities in its

<p>suitable locations within existing and new residential development.</p>		<p>settlements subject to the identification of appropriate sites and the availability of resources. Notable facilities progressed since the adoption of the KCDP includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A community park and playground was opened in Allenwood in May 2024.</li> <li>• A natural play area was opened in the Liffey Linear Park in Newbridge in December 2024.</li> <li>• Consultants have been appointed to complete the installation of a hangout area at The Slip in Celbridge. Project to be progressed into 2025.</li> <li>• KCC is investigating the feasibility of providing a playground in Ballymore Eustace.</li> <li>• The development of a new playground at the Leixlip Amenities Centre is ongoing (Part 8 Ref. P82023.03).</li> <li>• The Sallins Amenity Lands Part 8 proposal (Ref. P82022.01) includes a playground and teen space area. The amenity lands are currently at detailed design stage with tender for the delivery of the first phase anticipated to be issued in 2025.</li> <li>• The Wonderful Barn Part 8 proposal (Ref. P82024.10) includes the provision of a playground/natural play area.</li> <li>• KCC is currently in the process of securing the Celbridge Parochial House and lands with the intention of redeveloping this significant building and site on the Main Street for community uses. This community development will serve Celbridge and the wider community of North Kildare. Subject to detailed design, the redeveloped site may incorporate a playground and/or other outdoor amenity facilities.</li> <li>• The County Development Plan Implementation Team has commenced a feasibility study regarding a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge to Leixlip. The provision of additional play facilities is likely to form part of the feasibility study.</li> <li>• Sites for the future provision of playgrounds have been identified in Town Renewal Plans published since the coming into effect of the KCDP at Kilmeague, Coill Dubh / Cooleragh, Ardclough and Johnstownbridge. The preparation of further Town Renewal Masterplans is ongoing.</li> </ul>
--	--	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition, since the coming into effect of the KCDP, larger residential developments have or will provide natural play areas in settlements throughout the county.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SC O14</b> - Investigate the feasibility of making available suitable unused council owned brownfield sites and buildings for sport, the arts and community groups on a temporary or long-term lease basis, where possible.</p>	Short Term	<p>Ongoing through multiple departments of KCC, particularly through the projects of the Community Section, that actively seeks to establish Service Level Agreements / Caretaker Agreements with local community groups in relation to the operation of community facilities in redeveloped buildings or sites.</p>
<p><b>SC O15</b> - Require that community facilities are provided in new communities on a phased basis in tandem with the provision of new housing or other large-scale developments. In cases where there is a deficiency of a certain type of infrastructure as part of the development proposal, the frontloading of such infrastructure will be required as part of the first phase of development and must be fully operational prior to the occupation of any residential unit on the subject site. Such deficiencies should be identified in the Social Infrastructure Audit prepared to accompany the planning application. Where the Planning Authority is not satisfied with the information supplied as part of the Social Infrastructure Audit or where inadequate measures are proposed to address any identified shortfalls in social</p>	Ongoing	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC. It is now a requirement of KCC that any childcare facility required for a new residential development is delivered in Phase 1.</p>

<p>infrastructure as part of a proposed development scheme, a planning application for new housing developments or large-scale developments may not be favourably considered.</p>		
<p><b>SC O16</b> - Require residential schemes of 20 units or greater to submit a Social Infrastructure Audit which shall determine how the capacity of the assessed infrastructure will be affected by the proposed increase in population. Where a deficit is identified, the developer will be required to make provisions/submit proposals to address such deficits.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC O17</b> - (a) Require social infrastructure audits submitted in accordance with SC O15 of this Plan to include a map of educational, community, childcare, healthcare, sporting, and open space/play facilities within a 10-15 minute (800-1200 metre radius) walk of the proposed development. The audit should identify public / non-fee paying and private/fee paying facilities. Such audits may consider, where appropriate, services which are accessed by car. Capacities must be confirmed with supporting documentation submitted from service providers in order</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>



<p>to verify the assessment as set out in the audit. (b) Include an assessment of the availability of or the provision of a new neighbourhood centre.</p>		
<p><b>SC O18</b> - Encourage and facilitate, where appropriate, the introduction of accessible amenities in parks and other suitable locations, which may include outdoor gyms and adult exercise equipment.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in addition to the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team, the Community Section and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p> <p>KCC actively seeks to maximise the range of amenities and facilities available in open space areas, including the ongoing provision of outdoor gyms/exercise equipment. Examples of outdoor gyms provided over 2023 and 2024 include the Celbridge Abbey Car Park and the Allenwood Community Park.</p>
<p><b>SC O19</b> - Support, facilitate and acquire, where possible, playing facilities for sporting organisations across the county including the County Kildare Ladies GAA and Camogie Association for their continued development.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Maximising the sustainable use of community, recreational and sporting infrastructure / facilities forms a key element of the projects of KCC, noting the key progress made as identified in response to SC O9 above.</p> <p>KCC has commenced preparation of the County Kildare Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, the County Kildare Outdoor Recreation Plan and the County Kildare Local Sports Plan. A survey was conducted in September/October 2024 to inform these plans.</p>
<p><b>SC O20</b> - Engage with relevant sporting agencies/organisations/entities to identify lands for the provision of a national and/or regional sports facility/venue at appropriate locations in County Kildare.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>SC A1</b> - Examine the feasibility of providing a regional sports centre for all which may include provision for Air Domes in the county during the life of the Plan that will</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>

<p>particularly encourage female participation in sport as well as including facilities for minority sport and people with disabilities.</p>		
<p><b>SC A2</b> – Prepare Social Infrastructure Audits as part of the suite of mandatory Local Area Plans to identify gaps/deficiencies in community facilities and services including the mapping of existing community, educational, sporting, childcare, and healthcare facilities and to zone sufficient lands to accommodate identified requirements.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Social Infrastructure Audits have been prepared during the lifetime of the KCDP for the following Local Area Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029;</li> <li>• The Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031; and,</li> <li>• The upcoming Draft Newbridge Local Area Plan 2025-2031.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SC A3</b> - Undertake to prepare an audit of community, religious and disused school buildings in villages and rural settlements throughout the county in order to determine their suitability to accommodate community uses where they are not already being used for such purposes. Where it is determined that there is an identified need for the provision of community uses in these areas, the Council will liaise with the relevant landowners in order to revitalise these structures for suitable community uses.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Audit completed in Q4 2024 and will inform the ongoing work programme of the Community Section.</p>

<p><b>SC A4</b> - Where lands currently zoned 'Open Space &amp; Amenity' are being re- zoned, an equitable replacement will be so zoned.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC A5</b> - Progress plans for the provision of a new fully accessible regional swimming pool in North Kildare in conjunction with other relevant bodies.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Community Section of the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department are currently investigating the potential for the future delivery of 2 no. community swimming facilities in North Kildare at Leixlip and Maynooth (in collaboration with Maynooth University) respectively.</p>
<p><b>SC A6</b> – Carry out an audit of leisure facilities across the County, within the lifetime of the Plan, including in Kildare County Council owned/operated facilities to provide standards on the basic level of social infrastructure provision based on population thresholds and reasonable travel times to services and put in place provisions for additional facilities where deficiencies are identified.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>KCC has commenced preparation of the County Kildare Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, the County Kildare Outdoor Recreation Plan and the County Kildare Local Sports Plan. A survey was conducted in September/October 2024 to inform these plans. It is anticipated that the Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Sports Plan will to be published in 2025.</p>
<p><b>Social Inclusion, Spatial Justice and Community Development</b></p>		
<p><b>SC O21</b> - Work with all target groups, such as young people (including among other networks, Comhairle na nÓg), older people, people with disabilities, migrants, ethnic minorities, including Traveller and Roma communities, to advance, encourage and support their full participation in society.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing for many Departments of KCC.</p>

<p><b>SC O22</b> – Ensure that all arts and cultural facilities in the ownership and management of the Council are accessible to the wider community and to promote these facilities as focal points for the community.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the work of the Accessibility Officer in conjunction with the Community Section, the Arts Service and the Library Service of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC O23</b> - Support and encourage communities in the restoration and rehabilitation of community halls/centres, thereby facilitating a greater level of social and community inclusion.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the work and grant schemes administered by the Community Section of KCC and the Kildare Local Community Development Committee. Grant schemes include the Community Grant Scheme, the Our Rural Future: Community Recognition Fund, the Drehid Grant Scheme and the Local Enhancement Programme. The improvement works to the Council Hall in Monasterevin is an example of the works undertaken with allocated funding.</p>
<p><b>SC O24</b> - Ensure, where feasible, that facilities and services are located close to identified areas of deprivation, public transport links, and on walking/cycling routes in order to encourage use and participation.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC and the work programmes of the Community Section, the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>Children and Young People</b></p>		
<p><b>SC O25</b> - Increase the quantity and improve the quality of children’s play facilities across the county particularly in areas where a lack of provision has been identified (e.g., play areas should be within a 10-minute walk of new and existing residential areas), subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>KCC actively seeks to provide appropriate play facilities in its settlements subject to the identification of appropriate sites and the availability of resources. Examples of playgrounds delivered or planned in 2023 and 2024 include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A community park and playground was opened in Allenwood in May 2024.</li> <li>• A natural play area was opened in the Liffey Linear Park in Newbridge in December 2024.</li> <li>• The development of a new playground at the Leixlip Amenities Centre is ongoing (Part 8 Ref. P82023.03).</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sallins Amenity Lands Part 8 proposal (Ref. P82022.01) includes a playground. The amenity lands are currently at detailed design stage with tender for the delivery of the first phase anticipated to be issued in 2025.</li> <li>• The Wonderful Barn Part 8 proposal (Ref. P82024.10) includes the provision of a playground/natural play area.</li> <li>• The County Development Plan Implementation Team has commenced a feasibility study regarding a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge to Leixlip. The provision of additional play facilities is likely to form part of the feasibility study.</li> <li>• Sites for the future provision of playgrounds have been identified in Town Renewal Plans published since the coming into effect of the KCDP at Kilmeague, Coill Dubh / Cooleragh, Ardclough and Johnstownbridge. The preparation of further Town Renewal Masterplans is ongoing.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, since the coming into effect of the KCDP, larger residential developments have or will provide natural play areas in settlements throughout the county.</p>
<p><b>SC O26</b> - Identify deficiencies of play space for children and teenagers as part of the local area plan process to ensure provision is made in future developments to cater for the projected population.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC, noting that detailed Social Infrastructure Audits were carried out to inform the preparation of the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 and the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023 - 2029.</p>
<p><b>SC O27</b> - Integrate, where possible and practical, the design of youth space facilities as part of all newly planned and proposed extensions to community facilities in the county.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management process and the Community Section in conjunction with the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team, the Housing Department and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department where relevant.</p>
<p><b>SC O28</b> - Support the provision of multi-purpose sports (to include minority sports, and arts / drama activities) halls, outdoor</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management process, in addition to the work programmes of the Community Section, the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Open Spaces Section. Maximising the sustainable use of community, recreational and</p>

<p>playing pitches, allweather playing pitches, tennis courts, basketball courts, swimming pools, and associated facilities in appropriate locations and to particularly encourage flexibility in the design of sports facilities in order to accommodate a range of sporting activities, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p>		<p>sporting infrastructure / facilities forms a key element of the projects of the KCC, with the following key projects of note in relation to sporting infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A site for a Municipal Sporting Facility has been identified at Crewhill in the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031.</li> <li>• The Kilcock Community Centre officially opened in May 2024 and includes a range of sporting and recreational infrastructure.</li> <li>• The Sallins Amenity Lands Part 8 proposal (Ref. P82022.01) includes a range of recreational, sporting and amenity facilities. The amenity lands are currently at detailed design stage with tender for the delivery of the first phase anticipated to be issued in 2025.</li> <li>• Kerdiffstown Park, incorporating a range of recreational and sporting facilities and infrastructure opened in October 2024.</li> <li>• Planning permission was granted to the Monasterevin Development Association for the development of a Water Sports Hub in February 2024 under Planning Reference 2360116.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, KCC has commenced preparation of the County Kildare Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, the County Kildare Outdoor Recreation Plan and the County Kildare Local Sports Plan. A survey was conducted in September/October 2024 to inform these plans.</p>
<p><b>SC O29</b> – Make available/lease, vacant or unused council owned buildings/land to community groups, youth groups and clubs.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through multiple departments of KCC, particularly through the projects of the Community Section of the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department.</p> <p>The Community Section actively seeks to establish Service Level Agreements / Caretaker Agreements with local community groups in relation to the operation of community facilities in redeveloped buildings or sites, requiring that such facilities be available to the widest array of community-based groups and clubs.</p>
<p><b>SC O30</b> – Ensure facilities are provided close to/within residential areas, public transport links, and cycling/walking routes</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC in addition to the projects of the Community Section in facilitating the redevelopment of buildings</p>

<p>allowing them to be more accessible for all members of the community.</p>		<p>or sites for community use and through the development of new community facilities and infrastructure.</p>
<p><b>SC A7</b> - Facilitate local community groups/sporting organisations in the development of sport and recreational facilities through land use zoning within the local area plan process as appropriate.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. It is noted that detailed Social Infrastructure Audits and comprehensive public consultation was carried out to inform the preparation of the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 and the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023 - 2029.</p>
<p><b>SC A8</b> - Continue to develop open spaces throughout the county which encourage a range of recreational and amenity activities that will cater for both active and passive recreation, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management process, together with the work programmes of the Community Section, the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department, noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites for the future provision of amenities have been identified in the Local Area Plans and Town Renewal Plans published since the coming into effect of the KCDP.</li> <li>• Planning permissions have been granted for the delivery of a public parkland along the River Liffey at Clane under Refs. 2360433 and 22889.</li> <li>• Kerdiffstown Park opened in October 2024, a community park and playground was opened in Allenwood in May 2024, additional bike parking has been provided in St Catherine's Park and outdoor gyms have been provided in Prosperous, Celbridge and Bawnogues/Kilcock.</li> <li>• The Sallins Amenity Lands (Part 8 proposal Ref. P82022.01) are currently at detailed design stage with tender for the delivery of the first phase anticipated to be issued in 2025.</li> <li>• Works in relation to the further enhancement of The Wonderful Barn as a heritage and parkland amenity asset are ongoing.</li> <li>• KCC has commenced preparation of the County Kildare Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, the County Kildare Outdoor Recreation Plan and the County Kildare Local Sports Plan. A survey was conducted in September/October 2024 to inform these plans.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A natural play area was opened in the Liffey Linear Park in Newbridge in December 2024.</li> <li>• A site has been identified in Ballymore Eustace for the potential provision of a playground pending further investigation.</li> <li>• The development of a new playground at the Leixlip Amenities Centre is ongoing (Part 8 Ref. P82023.03).</li> <li>• KCC is currently in the process of securing the Celbridge Parochial House and lands with the intention of redeveloping this significant building and site on the Main Street for community uses. This community development will serve Celbridge and the wider community of North Kildare. Subject to detailed design, the redeveloped site may incorporate a playground and/or other outdoor recreation/amenity facilities.</li> <li>• The County Development Plan Implementation Team has commenced a feasibility study regarding a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge to Leixlip (encompassing Castletown and Donaghcumper House).</li> </ul>
<b>People with Disabilities</b>		
<p><b>SC O31</b> – Ensure that parking spaces provided for people with disabilities are appropriately indicated and located in a manner which has regard to dismounting and the safety of drivers and passengers. In addition, all parking spaces for the disabled shall be suitably marked both on the ground and by clearly visible vertical signs.</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and through the projects of multiple departments that include the provision of parking spaces.
<p><b>SC O32</b> – Ensure the needs of people with visual difficulties is integrated into the</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and through the projects of multiple departments where upgraded pedestrian facilities are being provided in accordance



<p>design of pedestrian facilities, by assessing the options available and choosing the most appropriate design.</p>		<p>with the requirements of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS). An example of this is the requirement for tactile paving at pedestrian crossings.</p>
<p><b>SC O33</b> – Promote the provision of ‘changing places’ in public buildings, community facilities, key tourist sites and shopping centres in the county and promote the use of a universal key-lock system for ease of access to wheelchair accessible toilets.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In March 2023, a fully accessible ‘Changing Places’ facility for people with complex disabilities located in Newbridge Sports Centre was opened and in 2024 a facility was opened at Naas Library.</p>
<p><b>SC O34</b> – Ensure that, where possible, all footpaths are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Sufficiently wide and suitable for wheelchair use,</li> <li>(ii) Free from barriers,</li> <li>(iii) Well lit,</li> <li>(iv) Appropriately surfaced, and</li> <li>(v) Include kerb drops at all appropriate locations.</li> </ul> <p>As part of any redevelopment works, the accessibility of circulation routes must be considered and items (i) to (v) above must be addressed where possible and appropriate.</p> <p>Crossing points shall also be provided at suitable locations to allow for the</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and through the projects of multiple departments where upgraded pedestrian facilities are being provided, particularly the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department and the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team.</p>

uninterrupted movement of disabled users through the county's towns and villages.		
<b>SC A9</b> - Ensure that all footpaths and public areas are accessible and safe for people with disabilities and/or reduced mobility by continuing a programme of footpath development and improvements.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and through the projects of multiple departments where upgraded pedestrian facilities are being provided, particularly the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department and the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team.
<b>SC A10</b> - Conduct an accessibility audit throughout the county to include access to public buildings, parks, amenity areas, playgrounds, heritage/tourist sites and graveyards in conjunction with the Kildare County Council Parks and Access Officer.	Medium Term	An Accessibility Audit was completed for Leixlip Library in 2024 and an audit of Aras Chill Dara will take place in 2025.  Ensuring accessibility is an essential element in the design of all new facilities/open spaces or refurbished/redeveloped facilities/open spaces provided through the work of KCC departments, and through the development management function in the assessment of planning applications.
<b>SC A11</b> - Develop and maintain a directory of universally accessible recreational areas, sports and play facilities, community facilities and tourist attractions, throughout the county and develop additional facilities, where there is an identified need, in conjunction with the Kildare County Council Access Officer and to publish the accessibility directory online, through the medium of an interactive map, subject to resourcing and data protection (GDPR) requirements.	Medium Term	To be progressed in the medium term subject to resources.
<b>Age Friendly Kildare</b>		

<p><b>SC O35</b> - Cater for the diversity of older people’s needs by promoting adaptability and flexibility in the design of homes and the promotion of appropriate commercial and community facilities in population centres with higher proportions of older people.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of multiple departments in KCC.</p> <p>Ensuring flexibility of use and universal accessibility is an essential element in the design of all new community facilities or refurbished/redeveloped facilities provided. Universal accessibility and the needs of older or disabled persons is a consideration in the provision of social housing units through the Housing and Regeneration Department. A total of 85 no. universally designed housing units have been included in Part 8 proposals for social housing approved since 2023.</p>
<p><b>SC O36</b> - Provide for nursing homes in urban and appropriately located rural settings in the county and to site residential care facilities for older persons close to community and social facilities (e.g., shops, health services etc.) ensuring older persons can remain part of and contribute to existing communities, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC, in particular the preparation of Social Infrastructure Audits. It is noted that 2 no. additional nursing homes were permitted in 2023/2024 - refer to the Housing objectives above.</p>
<p><b>SC O37</b> - Require a mobility strategy to accompany applications for nursing homes and residential care facilities detailing connections to amenities, parks, open spaces and local town/village/neighbourhood centres for access to services and facilities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC O38</b> - Require nursing home proposals to include appropriately sized open space,</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

gardens and recreational areas that are accessible to residents.		
<b>SC O39</b> - Facilitate the aims and objectives outlined in the Kildare Age Friendly Strategy 2019-2021 (or any subsequent/updated version).	Ongoing	Ongoing through the Age Friendly Programme, noting that the Age Friendly Kildare County Strategy 2023-2027 was published through Age Friendly Ireland and the Kildare LCDC in August 2023. Ballymore Eustace is working towards becoming an age friendly village, Celbridge is working towards becoming an age friendly town and the Naas Racecourse has been accredited as being age friendly.
<b>SC O40</b> - Adopt the ethos of McAuley Place, Naas as a recognised model of excellence for Positive Aging and best practice in Ireland in planning and delivering services to older people and aim to emulate this model within each of the five municipal districts in Kildare, at appropriate and sustainable locations.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. Both the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 and the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 recognise McAuley Place as a model of excellence and include objectives to facilitate similar uses in both settlements.
<b>SC O41</b> - Assess the suitability and demand for older persons care facilities as part of the review of Local Area Plans and to facilitate the use of appropriate sites and the refurbishment of existing buildings within towns and villages for such uses.	Medium Term	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC, noting that detailed Social Infrastructure Audits were carried out to inform the preparation of the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 and the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023 - 2029.
<b>Traveller Community</b>		
<b>SC O42</b> - Support the role of community organisations, groups, and programmes in the delivery of facilities and services to members of the Travelling Community	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of multiple departments in KCC - particularly through the Community Section and the Housing and Regeneration Department.

<p><b>SC O43</b> - Support the actions and objectives outlined in the County Kildare Traveller and Roma inclusion Strategy 2019-2023.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Community Section and the Housing and Regeneration Department of KCC.</p>
<p><b>Ethnic Minority Groups</b></p>		
<p><b>SC O44</b> - Support the actions and objectives set out in the Kildare Integration Strategy 2021-2026 and the National Migration Integration Strategy 2017-2020 (or any subsequent updated strategies).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Community Section of the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department.</p>
<p><b>Local Development/Community Groups</b></p>		
<p><b>SC O45</b> - Assist community and voluntary groups in developing and enhancing facilities to meet the needs of the entire community and to promote the recruitment and retention of volunteers within community organisations.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the work, projects and support programmes provided by the Community Section in conjunction with other relevant KCC departments and stakeholders. KCC has assisted an extensive range of community and voluntary groups in developing or enhancing facilities for communities. Examples include the ongoing development of the Robertstown eco-park and the Johnstown Village community garden.</p>
<p><b>SC O46</b> - Facilitate the development of new facilities in built up areas close to walking/cycling infrastructure and public transport links, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p> <p>Examples of additional or enhanced facilities provided through the Community Section since the adoption of the KCDP include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new Carbury Community Centre at the former HSE Dispensary Site following refurbishment.</li> <li>• Refurbishment of the Allenwood Credit Union for community use.</li> <li>• Establishment of a Caretakers Agreement with the Anne Street Residents Association in Prosperous for the use of a refurbished dwelling for community group(s) at Anne Street Community House.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kilcock Community Centre officially opened in May 2024 following construction led by the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team.</li> </ul> <p>Additional facilities are anticipated to be delivered during the lifetime of the KCDP, primarily utilising vacant building stock.</p>
<b>SC O47</b> - Facilitate the expansion of existing facilities to cater for the needs of community groups and the growing population in Kildare, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, together with the work programmes of the Community Section of the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department; the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.
<b>SC O48</b> - Encourage community groups to share facilities with other community groups, clubs and organisations to ensure the use of community facilities are maximised throughout the county.	Ongoing	KCC actively seek to ensure that new or enhanced community/recreation/open space facilities provided by the Council are multi-functional and accessible to all community groups and organisations through design, operational agreements (Service Level Agreements and/or Caretaker Agreements) and active monitoring. In addition, KCC seeks to ensure that proposed new facilities are available for use by multiple groups, clubs and organisations through the development management process.
<b>Arts and Culture in the Community</b>		
<b>SC O49</b> - Ensure that all arts and cultural facilities in the ownership and management of the Council are accessible to the wider community and promote the role of these facilities as focal points for the community.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, the Library Service, the Arts Service, the Community Section and the Access Officer. This is a requirement of the Building Regulations.
<b>SC O50</b> - Continue to enhance art and creative spaces in libraries, including visual	Ongoing	Ongoing through the workplan of the Kildare Library Service. The new Naas Library and Cultural Centre opened in January 2024 and contains a Maker Space, a dedicated Art Gallery, a multifunction area used for performances and workshops and an outdoor

<p>arts and gallery performance and workshop facilities.</p>		<p>courtyard/amphitheatre area. The external space has been used to facilitate a teen music festival, a concert for the launch of the Brigid Festival and for other performances. Since opening almost 150,000 people have visited the Library, over 140,000 items have been issued, and 13,000 people have registered as members.</p>
<p><b>SC O51</b> - Support the existing Heritage Centres by the promotion of further heritage services within the county and ensure they are accessible to all members of the community.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC O52</b> - Promote the provision of public art, including temporary art and sculpture, through such mechanisms as the government supported 'Per Cent for Art' scheme.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is ongoing as part of the annual workplan of the KCC Arts Service, working in conjunction with internal KCC departments and external stakeholders. Recent art commissions include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'The Stones of the Hollow Hill' by James Winnett at Kerdiffstown Park, Naas;</li> <li>• 'Pobal Le Chéile, Ag Foghlaim Le Chéile, Níos Fearr Le Chéile' by Peter Mrtin at the Naas Library and Cultural Centre.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SC O53</b> - Facilitate the creation and display of art works at appropriate public locations within streetscapes.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is ongoing as part of the annual workplan of the KCC Arts Service, working in conjunction with internal KCC departments, elected members and external stakeholders (including members of the public).</p>
<p><b>SC O54</b> - Facilitate community groups to use vacant or unused council premises for exhibitions, performances and other uses related to community arts, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Community Section and the KCC Arts Service, which supports Regularly Funded Organisations, some of whom hold lease agreements with KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC O55</b> - Promote and support Kildare as a film friendly destination by identifying potential sites for filming and film studios.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Promotional and support efforts form part of the annual workplan of the KCC Arts Service in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and internal KCC departments.</p>

		The identification of potential filming sites and sites for film studios are not on the current work programme of the KCC Arts Service or the Forward Planning section of the Planning Department.
<b>SC O56</b> - Support and promote additional cultural, Irish language and arts spaces or centres throughout Kildare and support temporary or 'pop-up' opportunities as they arise.	Ongoing	The implementation of this objective is ongoing through the Community Section and the KCC Arts Service through the administration of appropriate grants and schemes for such spaces. An example of this is the pop-ups provided for Christmas Markets and the Brigid Festival.
<b>SC O57</b> – Include Arts and Cultural facilities (museums, art centres, galleries, and libraries) in Social Infrastructure Audits undertaken as part of the local area plan process and liaise with relevant stakeholders to identify deficiencies.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning function in the preparation of Social Infrastructure Audits to inform Local Area Plans. Social Infrastructure Audits and comprehensive consultation formed part of the preparation of the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 and the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031.
<b>SC O58</b> – Support the establishment of Youth Music hubs in appropriate locations within each Municipal District.	Medium Term	To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.
<b>SC O59</b> - Support and encourage community groups in their pursuit of Lónra Gaeilge (Irish Language Network) for their area.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the supports provided by KCC, including to Cill Dara le Gaeilge which launched its Irish Language Plan for County Kildare 2024-2030 in Q4 2024. This plan aims to support and promote the use of the Irish language in Kildare, for those wanting to learn and speak it. This launch is a milestone for the county of Kildare as it is the only county to establish a language plan to date.
<b>SC A12</b> - Examine the feasibility of identifying a location for a performing arts space/theatre in North East Kildare taking account of the needs of existing groups operating in these areas.	Medium Term	The preparation of a feasibility study in relation to the identification of a site for a dedicated performance art space / theatre is not currently on the work programme of the Arts Service. However, the planning and provision of multi-functional space in KCC public facilities is ongoing through the Community Section and forward planning function of KCC in consultation with the Arts Service, including the following:



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Maynooth Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 provides for a community hub on the lands of the current fire station on Leinster Street, with envisaged uses including performing arts/theatre space.</li> <li>• The Confey Masterplan, incorporated into the Leixlip Local Area Plan 2020-2023 (extended to 2026) on the 25th March 2024, includes a community hub character area that will provide for a mix of uses including a civic/community building that will incorporate a dedicated performance space. A feasibility study for such a civic/community space is to be undertaken as part of the first phase of development at Confey.</li> <li>• KCC is currently in the process of securing the Celbridge Parochial House and lands with the intention of redeveloping this significant building and site on the Main Street for community uses to include outdoor performance area, subject to the design stage of the project and available resourcing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SC A13</b> – Support the development of the Shackleton Museum, including the Shackleton exhibition and incorporating the potential of the Dominican Lands and Library and Community Arts Centre, as a unique cluster of Arts, Culture and Heritage in the south of the county.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Site development works are progressing at the Shackleton Museum and at Emily Square. The preparation of a Masterplan for the Dominican Lands is ongoing, pending the outcome of the Athy Flood Relief Scheme.</p>
<p><b>SC A14</b> – Support the extension of Kildare town heritage centre and develop a museum or a cluster of museums in Kildare Town featuring the heritage and attractions of the town including natural heritage, history, the equine industry, the Defence Forces and St Brigid, subject to AA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>This is supported by the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 and the Kildare Town Renewal Plan.</p> <p>It is noted that the works to the Kildare Town Market Square (surrounding the heritage centre) are ongoing with Phase 1 complete by Strategic Projects and Public Realm and Phase 2 being assessed by the Capital Delivery Team. In addition, the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team are currently liaising with the Kildare Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Rural and Community Development to progress the provision of infrastructure for market stalls.</p>

screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.		
<b>SC A15</b> - Continue to support the Riverbank Arts Centre, as the flagship centre for the arts in Kildare, including the capital redevelopment of the theatre.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the support provided by the Community Section, the Arts Service and the Library Service of KCC. It is noted that the Newbridge Library, County Archives and Cultural Centre Project, adjoining the Riverbank Arts Centre is at Stage 2 with Part 8 approved (Ref. P82022.21) and funding secured to progress to Stages 3 and 4.
<b>SC A16</b> - Continue to support and encourage the development and growth of Youth and Community Theatre in the county.	Ongoing	<p>Community Section support, in conjunction with the Library and Arts Service, is ongoing. €78,560 of funding has been provided to fund youth and community theatre projects within the county.</p> <p>During 2023, the Lasair project was awarded funding to create 15 short films arising from monologues devised in 15 inter-generational theatre workshops given all around the county by Crooked House Theatre Company. Lasair celebrated Crooked House's 30th birthday in 2023 by making one film for every century of Brigid's legacy. Participants of the project were teenagers and senior citizens, each sharing stories about the impact and legacy of the other generation in their lives. Workshops were run from Athy to Carbury with themes of the key principles that were represented by the goddess and saint, while including under-served and marginalised citizens and communities.</p> <p>In 2024, to honour Ireland's patron saint of learning, this project integrated the young theatrical disability artists of Run of the Mill Youth Theatre with the young theatrical artists of PlayActing Youth Theatre. In July 2024, the young people spent time exploring the life and legacy of St. Brigid through a variety of art forms, while reflecting on and celebrating the different ways in which we learn. Their collaboration resulted in a multi-disciplinary installation in the Slip Hall in Celbridge which was opened to the public.</p>

<p><b>SC A17</b> - Examine the feasibility of providing an Arts and Crafts Co-Operative on Council owned lands/within Council owned buildings during the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>The preparation of a separate and dedicated feasibility study in relation to the provision of an Arts and Crafts Co-Operative within Council owned lands/buildings is not currently on the work programme of the Arts Service.</p> <p>However, the Library and Arts Services of KCC host community, arts/craft and cultural activities across the 15 no. libraries across the county and in other council and/or community operated spaces.</p> <p>In addition, KCC / Local Enterprise Office is progressing the delivery of a Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub at the Kildare Town Courthouse, as provided for in the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029. This builds upon the success of the temporary craft retail unit (GATHER) in Kildare Village which hosted a collective of 24 makers / designers.</p>
<p><b>SC A18</b> - Investigate the feasibility of providing a museum attraction in North Kildare.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>Library Services</b></p>		
<p><b>SC O60</b> – Encourage the use of library facilities for other community, arts, and cultural activities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>KCC operates 15 no. libraries throughout the county, and they are regularly used for community, arts and cultural activities. The KCC Library Service runs an annual programme of community, cultural and arts events in all libraries, including in partnership with local groups and organisations.</p>
<p><b>SC O61</b> – Promote the clustering of other community facilities around existing library buildings.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC O62</b> – Provide and improve access to library services for all users in proposed and existing library accommodation and</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The KCC Library Service was awarded the Age Friendly Recognition Charter in 2023, in consideration of the progress made by the public library service in developing enhanced services for older communities. In this regard, KCC's public libraries reviewed their collections, event</p>

<p>provide an integrated approach to the delivery of library, arts, genealogy, archives, and local studies services.</p>		<p>programmes, facilities and services to identified improvements to meet older person’s needs.</p> <p>All KCC libraries have Disability Access Certificates and are accessible to all users. In addition, the new Naas Library and Cultural Centre contains enhanced accessibility measures including 2 no. lifts (incl. a wheelchair lift), ramps, electronic doors, a looped hearing system and enhanced lighting. The KCC Library Service also provides an extensive range of free and accessible online / e-services including eBooks, eMagazines, eLearning courses, Audiobooks and online Newspapers.</p>
<p><b>SC O63</b> – Support the aims/actions set out in the Kildare Library Service Interim Development Plan 2020 - 2022 (or any subsequent updated version) to deliver additional services and facilities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>A new Kildare Library Development Plan is anticipated to be published in Q1 2025 and follows the conclusion and review of the Interim Development Plan 2020-2022. The preparation of the new Library Development Plan included a wide-ranging and extensive consultation process using a Design Thinking user centred approach.</p>
<p><b>SC O64</b> - Support and facilitate the expansion of library facilities throughout the county, as necessary and appropriate.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In 2024, the new Naas Library and Cultural Centre was opened, and the Kildare Town Community Library refurbishment project was completed. Library related capital projects that are currently in progress include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clane Library at Stage 3 approval - Part 8 Ref. P82023.01;</li> <li>• Newbridge Library, County Archives and Cultural Centre at Stage 2 with Part 8 approved (Ref. P82022.21) and funding secured to progress to Stages 3 and 4;</li> <li>• Grant funding has been secured for a new Mobile Library, with tender due to be issued in Q1 2025;</li> <li>• Initial plans for new libraries at Celbridge and Maynooth are at an early stage of consideration.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SC O65</b> - Support and encourage Library services to engage with complementary commercial outlets.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Kildare Library Service partners with local bookshops annually as part of the Kildare Readers Festival and at outreach Kildare Reads events.</p>

<p><b>SC O66</b> – Support the development and delivery of new library services for Celbridge where appropriate and to consider the feasibility of co-locating these services with other appropriate community-based services.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>KCC is currently in the process of purchasing the Celbridge Parochial House and lands, with the intention of redeveloping it for community uses, to provide a multi-purpose community facility with a library and cultural centre, incorporating meeting spaces, a playground, outdoor performance area, sensory garden and outdoor amenities for all ages. The range of facilities incorporated will be subject to the design stage of the project and available resourcing.</p>
<p><b>Educational Facilities</b></p>		
<p><b>SC O67</b> - Support the Department of Education’s School Building Programme by actively identifying sites for primary and post primary schools at suitable locations, based on forecast need, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. The Kildare County Council Planning Team engage on a continuous and regular basis with the Department of Education under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Education and the City and County Management Association. The Forward Planning Team engage with the Department of Education’s Statutory Plans, Forward Planning and Site Acquisition Teams throughout County Development and Local Area Plan preparation, with specific reference to the Social Infrastructure Audit, which inform the plan making processes in terms of educational requirements.</p>
<p><b>SC O68</b> - Ensure designated sites/new schools are located and designed to promote walking, cycling and the use of public transport. Permeability links and infrastructure should be provided within school sites at design stage to promote sustainable travel. Permeability to adjacent residential areas must be facilitated wherever possible.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC O69</b> - Support the aims of the ‘Safe Routes to School Design Guide’ by ensuring school development proposals</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>incorporate the principles outlined in the guide and contain sustainable travel plans with appropriate and implementable measures.</p>		
<p><b>SC 070</b> - Require social infrastructure audits to be submitted with development proposals to outline up to date capacity and enrolment figures of schools within the catchment (10-20 minute walk/cycle) of the proposed development noting that Second Level Schools serve a wider catchment and as such, the assessment of these should include schools within a 5km radius or otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority. The data should be verified in writing by individual schools.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC 071</b> - Continue to identify school capacities through Social Infrastructure Audits undertaken as part of the local area plan process.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC in the preparation of Social Infrastructure Audits to inform Local Area Plans. Detailed Social Infrastructure Audits and comprehensive consultation formed part of the preparation of the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 and the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031.</p>
<p><b>SC 072</b> - Encourage the dual use of amenity facilities associated with educational facilities (whether outdoor or indoor) by clubs/groups/organisations, where the use of such facilities is agreed in writing in advance with the property</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC.</p>

owner/school authority/patron of the subject school in each instance.		
<b>SC 073</b> - Promote the clustering of education related services and facilities proximate to existing/planned community, recreation, sporting, and childcare facilities that are linked to cycle/pedestrian infrastructure.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.
<b>SC 074</b> - Continue to facilitate the re-development and expansion of existing schools including ancillary amenity areas based on identified needs as part of the Government's School Building Programme, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.
<b>SC 075</b> - Promote and encourage links between Maynooth University and other education and training facilities in the county.	Ongoing	Ongoing operational matter for Maynooth University. The Department of Education and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science with support from KCC.
<b>SC 076</b> - Explore the potential for a dedicated technical college within the county.	Ongoing	To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.
<b>Childcare Facilities</b>		
<b>SC 077</b> – Have regard to the criteria specified in the Childcare Facilities for Planning Authorities, DEHLG (2001),	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p>Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2020) and any updated policy guidance, regarding the provision of childcare and early years education facilities.</p>		
<p><b>SC 078</b> – Require the provision of childcare facilities close to existing built-up areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Business Parks and major employment centres</li> <li>- Neighbourhood and district retail centres</li> <li>- Large scale retail developments</li> <li>- The vicinity of schools and major educational facilities</li> <li>- Adjacent to community centres and facilities</li> <li>- Adjacent to public transport nodes</li> <li>- Convenient to new and existing residential developments</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. It is noted that approximately 20 no. additional childcare facilities were permitted in Kildare in 2023/2024.</p>
<p><b>SC 079</b> – Ensure childcare provision is delivered in new communities prior to or in tandem with phase 1 of any residential or commercial development and is fully operational prior to the occupation of any residential units within the subject site.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and required by condition of permission.</p>



<p><b>SC O80</b> – Support the provision of childcare facilities within or co-located with community buildings, such as community centres and schools.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC O81</b> – Support the provision of outdoor based childcare services in the county as an alternative, and in addition to providing purpose-built services in appropriate locations with toilet and shelter facilities for mealtimes, rest, etc., subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC O82</b> – Encourage community childcare facilities through social enterprise initiatives at appropriate locations throughout Kildare.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the continuing support for Family Resource Centres and associated childcare services situated throughout the county, and through the membership of the Kildare County Childcare Committee in the Kildare LCDC. Planning permission was granted for extensions and alterations to the Newbridge Family Resource Centre (Refs. 22811 and 221279) which includes community childcare.</p>
<p><b>SC O83</b> – Ensure development proposals for childcare facilities incorporate Universal Design Guidelines for Early Learning and Care Settings.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC O84</b> – Require childcare facilities to incorporate a flexible design approach whereby their use could be adapted for other community purposes as the profile of the area changes. Evening uses should</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>also be considered (e.g., a youth facility or activities for older persons).</p>		
<p><b>SC O85</b> – Require proposals that include childcare facilities to liaise with key stakeholders including the Kildare County Childcare Committee and to submit written correspondence from such stakeholders with their comments regarding the development proposal.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC O86</b> – Require development proposals for more than 20 residential units or over 2,000sqm in the case of commercial developments (including office/industrial developments) to prepare and submit a social infrastructure audit detailing the level of childcare infrastructure in the catchment which shall outline available capacity and types of service provided in each facility which must be verified in writing by the relevant service providers.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC O87</b> – Require the provision of appropriately located and purpose-built early learning and childcare facilities to meet the pro rata childcare needs of housing development during the plan period. Childcare facilities will be required, by a condition of planning permission, to</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>be developed within the first phase of any new residential development, except where an exceptional circumstance can be provided and agreed with the Planning Authority.</p>		
<p><b>SC A19</b> - Continue to identify childcare deficiencies in social infrastructure audits as part of Local Area Plan processes, ensuring lands are zoned in appropriate locations to facilitate childcare services through the application of a location specific objective in Local Area Plans, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC in the preparation of Social Infrastructure Audits to inform Local Area Plans. Detailed Social Infrastructure Audits and comprehensive consultation formed part of the preparation of the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 and the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031. These LAPs include a new single-use zoning objective for the provision of childcare facilities.</p>
<p><b>Health Services</b></p>		
<p><b>SC O88</b> - Facilitate the integration of appropriate healthcare facilities within new and existing communities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC O89</b> - Support the provision of primary care centres and GP practices within existing settlements particularly where they are close to public transport links and safe walking and cycling infrastructure.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC O90</b> - Facilitate the further development of Naas General Hospital as an important and major centre for healthcare in the county, subject to AA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.		
<b>SC 091</b> - Support the provision of after-care facilities for vulnerable groups (i.e., older persons, people with disabilities and those undergoing addiction treatment) within primary care centres to improve social inclusion across the county.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.  An example of this is a step-down mental health care facility at Straffan (Ref 211286) for Kyrie Therapeutic Farm CLG granted by ABP in 2024.
<b>SC 092</b> - Support the increased provision of sufficient and accessible mental health services at appropriate locations across the county.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.  An example of this is a step-down mental health care facility at Straffan (Ref 211286) for Kyrie Therapeutic Farm CLG granted by ABP in 2024.
<b>SC 093</b> - Ensure healthcare facilities are delivered prior to or developed on a phased basis in tandem with the delivery of new housing and new communities particularly where deficiencies are identified in an area.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. Detailed Social Infrastructure Audits and comprehensive consultation form part of the preparation of Local Area Plans subject to review during the lifetime of the KCDP.
<b>SC 094</b> – Require development proposals of greater than 20 residential units or commercial developments (including office/industrial developments) greater than 2,000sqm to submit a detailed audit of health services (including GP service hours) and facilities in the area as part of a social infrastructure audit.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p><b>SC O95</b> - Support the goals and objectives outlined in 'Healthy Ireland, Strategic Action Plan 2021 – 2025', 'The National Physical Activity Plan' and the 'Kildare Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2017-2021'.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC and the ongoing work/projects of the Community Section, the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department, in consultation with the Kildare Sports Partnership and other relevant stakeholders. In this regard, KCC has commenced preparation of the County Kildare Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, the County Kildare Outdoor Recreation Plan and the County Kildare Local Sports Plan. A survey was conducted in September/October 2024 to inform these plans.</p>
<p><b>SC A20</b> - Identify deficiencies in healthcare services/facilities within social infrastructure audits as part of the local area plan process.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC in the preparation of Social Infrastructure Audits to inform Local Area Plans. Detailed Social Infrastructure Audits and comprehensive consultation formed part of the preparation of the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 and the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031.</p>
<p><b>Fire Services</b></p>		
<p><b>SC O96</b> - Ensure the fire service in the county is maintained and improved to meet the needs of all citizens.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Workplace Relations Commission agreement of September 2023 has resulted in a larger number of staff available in each fire station. Technical staff continue to be recruited and employed to fulfil technical fire safety roles.</p>
<p><b>SC O97</b> - Facilitate the accommodation of fire service facilities in locations that allow ease of access and safe functioning with respect to the road network.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>A new fire station (Part 8 Ref. P82022.13) in Maynooth is currently under construction with an expected completion date of July 2025. A site for a new fire station in Monasterevin is actively being sought.</p>
<p><b>Places of Worship/Burial Grounds</b></p>		
<p><b>SC O98</b> - Protect historic graveyards, in co-operation with the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, including through the avoidance of extensions</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC in consultation with the Environment Department.</p> <p>It is noted that the Kildare County Council (Cemeteries) Byelaws 2018 provide that, in relation to acquiring a right of burial, no new burial plot shall be permitted within an historic graveyard</p>

<p>where such extensions would have an inappropriate level of impact on sub-surface archaeological remains or on their setting or amenity and, in that regard, as an alternative to extensions to historic graveyards to endeavour to find alternative locations where additional land for burial is considered necessary.</p>		<p>identified in the Record of Monuments and Places. In addition, in relation to Monuments under the National Monuments Acts and Protected Structures, no new burials shall take place in burial grounds deemed full by the Council. Those with existing rights may exercise those rights providing that there is sufficient space within an existing plot and providing that the burial will not have an adverse impact.</p>
<p><b>SC O99</b> - Zone lands for the accommodation of burial facilities adjoining existing facilities at suitable locations, where such lands are located within or adjacent to existing towns, villages and rural settlements, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC in consultation with the Environment Section of the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department.</p>
<p><b>SC O100</b> - Facilitate the development of new or extended burial grounds, including green cemeteries, eco-burial grounds, and crematoria having consideration for the burial preferences of multi-faith and non-religious communities by reservation of land at suitable locations and provision of local authority burial grounds subject to appropriate safeguards having regard to environmental, noise, and traffic impacts.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The development of new or extended burial grounds is progressed through the Environment Department in conjunction with the forward planning and development management function of KCC. Burial ground expansions have recently occurred at Allen Cemetery, Rathangan (St Patricks) Cemetery and at Staplestown Cemetery. It is noted that all active public burial grounds administered by KCC do not require membership of any faith denominations.</p>

<p><b>SC O101</b> - Facilitate the use of environmentally sound burial site options such as Columbarium Walls, in appropriate locations.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The provision of Columbarium Walls in Kildare is subject to a delivery programme. Columbarium Walls are currently in place in Maynooth Cemetery, Naas Cemetery, Rathangan Cemetery, Churchtown Cemetery and Crookstown Cemetery. Works are ongoing for the delivery of Columbarium Walls at Athy, Newbridge and Leixlip.</p>
<p><b>SC O102</b> - Encourage community centres/facilities to provide use of their facilities for worship spaces as a temporary solution as communities become more established.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC O103</b> - Encourage and facilitate the development of places of worship in appropriate locations in urban centres and proximate to residential communities, public transport links and walking/cycling infrastructure.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC O104</b> - Continue to monitor and assess capacity of burial ground space at existing cemeteries in the county and ensure future demand in the area is provided for.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Monitoring and assessing burial capacity at existing cemeteries is an ongoing function and operational matter for the Environment Department. The development of new or extended burial grounds is progressed through the Environment Section in conjunction with the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC O105</b> - Facilitate the extension of existing burial grounds on unzoned lands at suitable locations.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The development of new or extended burial grounds is progressed through the Environment Section in conjunction with the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>SC A21</b> – Explore the feasibility of the provision of a district-type burial ground, including crematoria (subject to a site-specific feasibility study), in the:</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective does not form part of the current work programme of the Environment Section of the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department.</p>

<p>(i) North-east of the county and (ii) Centre of the county</p>		
<p><b>SC A22</b> – Investigate the feasibility of developing lands adjacent to Bodenstown cemetery to facilitate an extension to the existing graveyard and to facilitate development of suitable facilities for visitors to Wolfe Tone’s grave.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Planning permission was granted in August 2018 (Ref. 17/1143) for a new private cemetery adjoining Bodenstown cemetery, incorporating car parking facilities and enhanced pedestrian facilities along the road frontage of the site - providing connectivity to the existing Bodenstown cemetery. The lifetime of this permission was extended by a total of 2 years under Planning Refs. 23/842 and 24/304. Construction of this new cemetery has commenced.</p>
<p><b>SC A23</b> - Undertake an audit of all burial facilities within the county within the lifetime of the County Development Plan, in order to:</p> <p>(i) Determine the available remaining capacity of all burial facilities.</p> <p>(ii) Identify where extensions to existing burial facilities could be accommodated where facilities are at or close to capacity, having regard to any site restrictions.</p> <p>(iii) Actively pursue lands to accommodate additional burial facilities whether by way of extension or new sites, subject to appropriate environmental assessments and considerations, and to appropriately zone lands for the accommodation of burial facilities.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Monitoring and assessing burial capacity at existing cemeteries is an ongoing function and operational matter for the Environment Section. The development of new or extended burial grounds is progressed through the Environment Department in conjunction with the forward planning and development management function of KCC. Additional land has been zoned for a cemetery extension in the Maynooth Joint LAP.</p>
<p><b>SC A24</b> - Ensure that historic graveyards in the ownership or care of the local</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the maintenance programme of the Environment Section in consultation with the Heritage and Nature Unit of KCC. In addition, the Heritage and Nature Unit actively seeks to</p>



<p>authority are managed and maintained in accordance with appropriate conservation standards and that local communities involved in the care and maintenance of historic graveyards receive appropriate advice in relation to management and maintenance.</p>		<p>support local groups in the care and maintenance of historic graveyards. Community groups in Kildare are encouraged by the Heritage and Nature Unit of KCC to apply to join The Heritage Council's Adopt a Monument scheme on an annual basis. The scheme empowers local communities to become involved in the care and conservation of monuments (including historic graveyards) and offers expertise, mentoring and support to help them to care for their local heritage. In addition, tours of historic graveyards are organised each year as part of Heritage Week.</p>
<p><b>SC A25</b> - Provide Columbarium Wall facilities in Confey, Derrinturn, Donaghcumper, Newbridge, Rathangan, Monasterevin, and Athy.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>The provision of Columbarium Walls in Kildare is subject to a delivery programme. Columbarium Walls are currently in place in Maynooth Cemetery, Naas Cemetery, Rathangan Cemetery, Churchtown Cemetery and Crookstown Cemetery. Works are ongoing for the delivery of Columbarium Walls at Athy, Newbridge and Leixlip.</p>
<p><b>Social, Community and Cultural Events</b></p>		
<p><b>SC O106</b> - Support inclusive social, community and cultural events in the county, such as outdoor concerts and annual festivals at appropriate locations and at an appropriate type and scale, in accordance with planning regulations and health and safety requirements.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through multiple KCC Departments. Throughout 2023 and 2024, KCC funded 217 festival applications under its Community Festival Grant scheme. A total funding of €201,000 was awarded to support festivals around the county. Funding was used to support both small local events and larger scale events, such as St Patrick's Day festivities, Junefest, HOLI- Festival of Colour and Naas Wild Foods festival. In addition, elected members through Local Property Tax allocations, provided support of €531,000 to local groups for these events.</p> <p>During 2023 and 2024, a programme of events took place to celebrate the values championed by St. Brigid, including faith, biodiversity, arts, social justice, and education. The events showcased Kildare's historic sites, reaching global audiences through media coverage and streaming. Programmes were tailored to suit different settings such as libraries, churches, schools, and GAA clubs. Local artists and community groups received support of €500,000 from funding through Brigid 1500 grant schemes. The program featured a variety of events, from festivals and concerts to art commissions and craft workshops, along with a school program that was designed to solidify St. Brigid's legacy.</p>

<p><b>SC O107</b> - Liaise with relevant stakeholders to develop and improve public realm spaces throughout Kildare that can facilitate cultural, social and community events.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through forward planning function of KCC and the work programme of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team.</p>
--	----------------	---

A1.10 Chapter 11 – Built & Cultural Heritage

Policy Objective	Timeframe	CE Comments
<p><b>Conservation Plans</b></p>		
<p><b>AH O1</b> - Implement the actions of the County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025 and subsequent heritage plans, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the County Kildare Heritage Forum and the efforts of the Heritage and Nature Unit of the KCC Planning Department.</p>
<p><b>AH A1</b> - Explore the feasibility of signing up to the Blue Shield Principles to protect cultural and natural heritage.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>To be progressed through the forward planning function of KCC subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>Kildare Archaeology Resource</b></p>		
<p><b>AH O2</b> - Manage development in a manner that protects and conserves the archaeological heritage of County Kildare, avoids adverse impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest and secures the preservation in-situ or by record of all sites and features</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>of historical and archaeological interest, including underwater cultural heritage. The Council will favour preservation in – situ in accordance with the recommendation of the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (1999) and the Council will seek and have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>		
<p><b>AH 03</b> - In co-operation with the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage require archaeological impact assessment, surveys, test excavation and/or monitoring and/or underwater archaeological impact assessments for planning applications in areas of archaeological importance and where a development proposal is likely to impact upon in-situ archaeological monuments, their setting and archaeological deposits, based on recommendations of a suitably qualified archaeologist and the Council will seek and have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Department</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>		
<p><b>AH 04</b> - Ensure that development in the vicinity of a site of archaeological interest is not detrimental to the character of the archaeological site or its setting by reason of its location, scale, bulk or detailing and to ensure that such proposed developments are subject to an archaeological assessment prepared by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Such an assessment will seek to ensure that the development can be sited and designed in such a way as to avoid impacting on archaeological heritage that is of significant interest including previously unknown sites, features, objects and areas of underwater archaeological heritage.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH 05</b> - Require the preservation of the context, amenity, visual integrity and connection of the setting of archaeological monuments. As a general principle, views to and from archaeological monuments shall not be obscured by inappropriate development. Where appropriate, archaeological visual impact assessments will be required to</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>demonstrate the continued preservation of an archaeological monument's siting and context.</p>		
<p><b>AH 06</b> - Secure the preservation in-situ or by record of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994</li> <li>• any sites and features of historical and archaeological interest including underwater cultural heritage and protected wrecks.</li> <li>• any subsurface archaeological features including those underwater, that may be discovered during the course of infrastructural / development works in the operational area of the Plan.</li> </ul> <p>Preservation relates to archaeological sites or objects and their settings.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH 07</b> - Contribute towards the protection and preservation of the archaeological value of underwater or archaeological sites associated with rivers and associated features.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH 08</b> – Protect historic burial grounds that are recorded monuments and</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>encourage their maintenance in accordance with best conservation principles in co-operation with the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee and the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Development may be restricted or conditions requiring substantial excavation may be imposed in and adjacent to former burial grounds.</p>		
<p><b>AH O9</b> - Promote and support in partnership with the National Monuments Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), the concept of Archaeological Landscapes where areas contain several Recorded Monuments.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Review of the Landscape Character Assessment is underway which will have regard to archaeological landscapes.</p>
<p><b>AH O10</b> - Require that all development proposals for industrial buildings and sites identified in Kildare Industrial Archaeology Survey (2007) or otherwise identified as being of industrial archaeological importance be accompanied by an industrial archaeology assessment of the surrounding environment. New development should be designed in</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

sympathy with and to protect existing features and structures.		
<b>AH A2</b> - Where possible, facilitate and enhance public access to and understanding of the archaeological heritage and disseminate archaeological information and advice to prospective developers and the general public.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, together with the projects and promotional campaigns by the Heritage and Nature Unit, the Community Department, the Tourist Office and Heritage Centre and the Library Service - including Heritage Week, St Brigid's Festival etc.
<b>AH A3</b> - Identify appropriate archaeological sites in the Plan area to which public access could be provided and work to secure public access, where appropriate, in consultation with the landowners.	Short Term	To be progressed through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction and consultation with the Heritage and Nature Unit, subject to the availability of resources.
<b>AH A4</b> - Support and encourage the provision of signage in Irish and English to publicly accessible recorded monuments.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC in conjunction and consultation with relevant stakeholders, including through the projects of the Heritage and Nature Unit, the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.
<b>AH A5</b> - Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Curragh Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan, when, prepared, in association with relevant stakeholders, within the lifetime of this Development Plan.	Ongoing	The Curragh Plains Conservation Management Plan and the Curragh Plains Interpretation, Branding and Wayfinding Strategy was published in December 2024. KCC will seek to support the recommended policies and actions of the recently published Plan and Strategy in conjunction with other stakeholders, subject to the availability of resources.

<p><b>AH A6</b> - Encourage and promote the appropriate management and enhancement of archaeological heritage, to include community initiatives.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. It is noted that KCC administers the annual Community Heritage Grant Scheme.</p>
<p><b>Walled Towns</b></p>		
<p><b>AH O11</b> - Avoid disturbance, removal and alteration of the line of identified town walls as detailed in Conservation Management and Interpretation Plans or the potential line of the town walls as identified in the Urban Archaeological Survey.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH O12</b> - Retain, where possible and practical, the existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH O13</b> - Support and maintain the membership of Kildare, Naas, Athy and Castledermot in the Walled Towns Network.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management process. Kildare, Naas, Athy and Castledermot are within the Walled Towns Network.</p>
<p><b>AH O14</b> - Support the inclusion of walled towns in County Kildare in the Historic Towns Initiative piloted by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Castledermot, Athy, Naas and Kildare Town are included in the Irish Walled Towns Network, which is governed by The Heritage Council.</p>



<p><b>AH O15</b> - Seek the preparation and implementation of heritage led regeneration plans for the historic core of towns in Co Kildare.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Since the coming into effect of the KCDP, Town Renewal Masterplans have been prepared and published for Monasterevin, Johnstownbridge, Straffan, Derrinturn, Ardclough, Castledermot, Athgarvan, Leixlip, Kildare Town, Celbridge, Coill Dubh / Cooleragh, Robertstown, Kilmeague and Allenwood. Further Town Renewal Masterplans will be prepared and published in 2025.</p>
<p><b>AH A7</b> - Prepare a Conservation and Management Plan for Naas Town Walls and other defences categorised as 'National Monuments' (rather than 'Recorded Monuments') under the National Walled Towns Policy, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (2008).</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>The Naas Town Defences Conservation and Management Plan was published in 2022, commissioned by KCC with funding by the Irish Walled Towns Network.</p>
<p><b>AH A8</b> - Continue to develop the programme of survey and maintenance of Council-owned monuments and structures of historic interest through the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee and with the support of the National Monuments Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>World Heritage</b></p>		
<p><b>AH O16</b> - Support the State in the nomination process of Dun Ailinne to World Heritage status as part of an assemblage of Royal and Monastic Sites</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Dun Ailinne has been included in the 2022 UNESCO tentative list under the Royal Sites of Ireland as the first step in the nomination process. Kildare has joined Tipperary, Meath, Roscommon and Westmeath in establishing a working group and a "Royal Sites Coordinator" post has been occupied which is financed by all Local Authorities. Further progress can take a number of years to complete (c.4-6 years).</p>

<p>in co-operation with the relevant Local Authorities.</p>		
<p><b>AH O17</b> - Protect and enhance the setting of Dun Ailinne and support managed limited public access to the site. Only sensitive development that does not undermine the archaeological and cultural significance of the site will be permitted.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH O18</b> - Protect and sustain the established appearance and character of views associated with Dun Ailinne. Require any development proposals within/around Dun Ailinne to demonstrate that no adverse effects will occur on the established appearance or character of Dun Ailinne as viewed from either the Protected Panoramic Views or from surrounding public roads.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>Features of Historical Interest</b></p>		
<p><b>AH O19</b> - Ensure that development within the county including Council development retains, refurbishes and incorporates features of historical interest, as deemed appropriate in each instance.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC in conjunction with the Heritage and Nature Unit.</p>

<p><b>AH A9</b> - Develop a database of features of historical interest including street furniture, surface finishes, roadside installations, items of industrial heritage, riverine heritage, and other stand-alone features of interest (items not listed on the RMP or RPS) within villages and towns in County Kildare and ensure they are included in relevant Local Area Plans.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Not on current work programme.</p>
<p><b>Protected Structures</b></p>		
<p><b>AH O20</b> - Conserve and protect buildings, structures and sites contained on the Record of Protected Structures of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Planning Department administers funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage via the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) and the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS). During 2023 and 2024, the total amount administered by KCC under these funds were €377,000 and €282,500 respectively.</p>
<p><b>AH O21</b> - Protect the curtilage of protected structures or proposed protected structures and to refuse planning permission for inappropriate development that would adversely impact on the setting, curtilage, or attendant grounds of a protected structure, cause loss of or damage to the special character of the protected structure and/or any structures of architectural heritage value within its curtilage. Any proposed development</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>within the curtilage and/or attendant grounds must demonstrate that it is part of an overall strategy for the future conservation of the entire built heritage complex and contributes positively to that aim.</p>		
<p><b>AH O22</b> - Refuse planning permission for the demolition of any protected structure unless the Council is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist. The demolition of a protected structure with the retention of its façade will likewise not generally be permitted.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH O23</b> - Require an Architectural Heritage Assessment Report, as described in Appendix B of the Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011), to accompany all applications with potential for visual or physical impacts on a Protected Structure, its curtilage, demesne and setting. This report should be prepared by a person with conservation expertise that is appropriate to the significance of the historic building or site and the complexity of the proposed works.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>AH O24</b> - Safeguard the amenities of Castletown House including the main avenue, Donaghcumper, St Wolstans and the River Liffey environs as shown on Map V1 - 11.14. Safeguard the amenities of The Wonderful Barn including the adjacent buildings.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. Part 8 planning permission secured for restoration of existing structures at the Wonderful Barn for recreational and cultural amenities in Q4 2024.</p>
<p><b>AH O25</b> - Maintain the views from Castletown House to the River Liffey and to protect the integrity of the designed landscape at Castletown Demesne, including the pathways, avenues, and the following views:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Axial views between Castletown House and the Conolly Folly, Obelisk.</li> <li>- Views between Castletown House and the Wonderful Barn including the trees and natural growth areas within same.</li> <li>- Views from the House to the river and across the back parterre</li> <li>- Views across the river and to the linked demesnes of Donaghcumper and St. Wolstans.</li> <li>- Views from the main avenue to, and across, the river towards Castletown, and up and down the river to Celbridge and New Bridges.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>AH O26</b> - Require that planning applications in proximity to ‘Views to be Preserved’ are accompanied by a Visual Impact Assessment.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH O27</b> - Maintain the views to and from Carton House and protect the character of the historic designed landscape within Carton Demesne, as outlined in Map V1 - 11.13.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH O28</b> - Support the re-development of Clongowes Wood College to ensure the continued and enhanced educational use of this protected structure. Any proposed development within the curtilage and/or attendant grounds must demonstrate that it is part of an overall strategy for the future conservation of the entire complex including the structures, demesne and/or attendant grounds.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH O29</b> – Preserve and protect the historic, architectural, and military heritage of The Curragh Camp. Ensure that proposed development within the curtilage and/or attendant grounds demonstrates that it is part of an overall strategy to protect the heritage significance of the entire Curragh Camp.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>AH O30</b> - Ensure that, in the event of planning permission being granted for development within the curtilage and attendant grounds of a protected structure, a sustainable use and appropriate maintenance plan is in place for the structure and any associated buildings or structures of heritage interest. The proposed works to the protected structure should occur in the first phase of the development to prevent endangerment, abandonment and dereliction of the structure.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH O31</b> - Protect the designed landscapes associated with protected structures and retain important elements of the built heritage including historic gardens, stone walls, pathways, and avenues within the curtilage and attendant grounds of protected structures.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH O32</b> - Ensure that new development will not adversely impact on the setting of a protected structure or obscure established views of its principal elevations.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH O33</b> - Promote best practice and the use of skilled specialist practitioners in the conservation of, and any works to,</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>protected structures. Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment reports should make reference to the DHLGH Advice Series on how best to repair and maintain historic buildings. The AHIA report should summarise the principal impacts on the character and special interest of the structure or site and describe how it is proposed to minimise these impacts. It may also describe how the works have been designed or specified to have regard to the character of the architectural heritage.</p>		
<p><b>AH O34</b> - Encourage high quality design in relation to planning applications that are made for the construction of extensions or new buildings affecting protected structures or older buildings of architectural merit not included in the RPS. The Council will have regard for the visual impacts on the setting and character of protected structures and/or buildings of architectural merit not included on the RPS, when considering applications on neighbouring sites.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH O35</b> - Favourably consider the change of use of any structure included on the Record of Protected Structures, where</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>



<p>such a change of use does not adversely impact on its intrinsic character or special interest and where such a use may otherwise not conform to the zoning matrix associated with any Local Area Plan.</p>		
<p><b>AH 036</b> - Actively encourage uses that are compatible with the character of protected structures. In certain cases, the Planning Authority may relax site restrictions / development standards in order to secure the preservation and restoration of a protected structure or building of architectural merit that is not included on the RPS.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH 037</b> - Promote the use of energy upgrade materials and technologies that follow good conservation practice and are compatible with the character and vapour permeable construction of traditionally built structures.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH 038</b> - Support appropriate and sensitive thermal upgrade of protected structures and other heritage buildings.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH 039</b> - Promote the maintenance and appropriate re-use of buildings of architectural, cultural, historic and</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>aesthetic merit which make a positive contribution to the character, appearance and quality of the streetscape or landscape and the sustainable development of the county. Any works associated with the re-use of such buildings should be carried out in accordance with best conservation practice.</p>		
<p><b>AH O40</b> - Encourage appropriate change of use and reuse of industrial buildings of heritage interest, provided such a change does not seriously impact on the intrinsic character of the structure and that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH O41</b> - Promote the retention of original or early building fabric including timber sash windows, stonework, brickwork, joinery, render and slate. Likewise, the Council will encourage the re-instatement of historically correct traditional features.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH O42</b> - Retain where practicable a protected structure which has been damaged by fire, and to retain those elements of that structure that have</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

survived (either in whole or in part) and that contribute to its special interest.		
<b>AH O43</b> - Ensure that national guidelines and the principles of conservation best practice are followed in assessing the significance of a Protected Structure and in considering the impact of proposed development on the character and special interest of the structure, its curtilage, demesne and setting.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>AH O44</b> - Co-operate with Waterways Ireland in the management, maintenance and enhancement of the Royal Canal and Grand Canal and associated structures/features. Such projects shall be subject to an AA Screening Report, and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. They shall have a regard for any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and their qualifying interest species. The project shall account for any potential likely significant effects and provide mitigation and monitoring where appropriate.	Ongoing	The SPPR team has progressed the Grand Canal Greenway Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen to Part 8 stage in Q4 2024.
<b>AH O45</b> - Support the implementation of the National Policy on Architecture, 'Places for People' prepared by the	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.		
<b>AH A10</b> - Review and amend on an ongoing basis the Record of Protected Structures and make additions, deletions and corrections as appropriate over the period of this Plan.	Ongoing	A Thatch Cottage at Derryoughter East was added to the Record of Protected Structures in July 2023 following the adoption of the KCDP. Further structures will be considered for addition/deletion over the lifetime of the plan and where resources allow.
<b>AH A11</b> - Prepare a Buildings at Risk Register to prevent the endangerment of Protected Structures, historic or vernacular buildings.	Ongoing	To be progressed in the medium term subject to the availability of resources.
<b>AH A12</b> - Carry out an audit and assess the condition of all protected structures within the Council's ownership and devise a management plan including a range of proposed uses for these structures, which may include community uses.	Short Term	To be progressed in the medium term subject to the availability of resources.
<b>AH A13</b> - Carry out field surveys of industrial heritage in the county and make recommendations for its protection.	Medium Term	To be progressed in the medium term subject to the availability of resources.
<b>AH A14</b> - Carry out an audit of all historic rail and road bridges and disused railway lines in Kildare and liaise with Iarnród Eireann and Transport Infrastructure	Medium Term	To be progressed in the medium term subject to the availability of resources.

Ireland regarding the management, maintenance and enhancement of same.		
<b>AH A15</b> - Carry out a pilot study on the sympathetic re-use of a Protected Structure/ or groups of buildings in an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) to address high quality residential reuse in historic urban cores of towns and villages.	Short Term	To be progressed in the medium term subject to the availability of resources.
<b>Country Houses and Demesnes</b>		
<b>AH O46</b> - Encourage conservation, renewal and improvement which enhances the character and the setting of parks, gardens, and demesnes of historic interest within the county.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.
<b>AH O47</b> - Assess the demesnes and historic designed landscapes within Kildare and promote the conservation of their essential character, both built and natural, while allowing for appropriate re-use.	Medium Term	To be progressed in the medium term subject to the availability of resources.
<b>AH O48</b> - Co-operate with owners in the protection, promotion and enhancement of heritage gardens and parks in the county, to support public awareness, enjoyment of and access to these sites and to seek the co-operation and assistance of other interested parties,	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.

including Government Departments and state agencies, in this regard.		
<b>AH O49</b> - Preserve, protect and where necessary encourage the use of heritage/traditional varieties of plants and trees that form part of the local/ regional biodiversity resource and that contribute to local identity.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>AH O50</b> - Require where appropriate that an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment report is prepared in accordance with DHLGH Guidelines and conservation best practice to inform visual or physical impacts of a proposed development on a demesne, designed landscape, or park, that is associated with a protected structure or located within an Architectural Conservation Area.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>AH O51</b> - Require that planning applications take into consideration the impacts of the development on their landscapes and demonstrate that the development proposal has been designed to take account of the heritage resource of the landscape.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>AH O52</b> - Designate and protect historic landscape areas including demesnes and	Short Term	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

ensure that new development enhances the special character and visual setting of these historic landscapes and to prevent development that would have a negative impact on the character of the lands within these historic landscape areas.		
<b>AH A16</b> - Designate Architectural Conservation Areas, through the local area plan process, and where considered appropriate, to preserve the character of a historic designed landscape.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC.
<b>AH A17</b> - Carry out a pilot study to protect and enhance the amenity value of significant demesnes in the county, in cooperation with the property owners.	Medium Term	To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.
<b>AH A18</b> - Review and update Map V1 - 11.13, with respect to the extent of existing woodland within the Demesne Walls of Carton Demesne, during the life of the Plan.	Medium Term	To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.
<b>Vernacular Architecture</b>		
<b>AH O53</b> - Ensure that an assessment of the existing buildings on site is undertaken through an analysis of historic maps and an appraisal of the historic fabric and features. Development proposals should retain and incorporate	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

existing buildings of merit and any elements that contribute to their distinctive character.		
<b>AH 054</b> - Have regard to guidance in the DHLGH Guidelines and conservation best practice in assessing proposed interventions to vernacular structures, traditional farmhouses, their curtilage, out buildings and settings.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>AH 055</b> - Resist the demolition of built vernacular heritage, in particular thatched cottages and farmhouses, and to encourage their sensitive reuse having regard to the intrinsic character of the structure and the potential to prolong the life cycle of the embodied carbon contained within the structure.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>AH 056</b> - Require that a sustainable use and appropriate maintenance plan is in place for earlier dwellings of heritage interest on farms or rural sites, where planning permission is sought for a new dwelling.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>AH 057</b> - Require the submission of a written report from a suitably qualified professional where it is proposed to redevelop a derelict property or one that	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.



<p>has been unoccupied for a long period of time. The report must demonstrate that any proposal will not structurally compromise the subject building and shall outline the measures to be taken in order to protect the building from collapse, both prior to and during construction works.</p>		
<p><b>AH 058</b> - Have regard to guidance in The Thatched Houses of Kildare (2005) and Reusing Farm Buildings, A Kildare Perspective (2007) published by Kildare County Council and A Living Tradition – A Strategy to Enhance the Understanding, Minding and Handling of our Built Heritage (2021) published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in assessing planning applications relating to vernacular buildings, thatched cottages, and traditional farm buildings.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH 059</b> - Respect the setting, form, scale and materials of existing vernacular structures and to only permit changes to these structures where they are sympathetic to their special features and character.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>AH O60</b> - Preserve the character, including original building features or materials should be retained such as windows, doors, roof coverings and setting (e.g. gates, gate piers, boundary treatments, courtyards etc) of vernacular buildings, where deemed appropriate by the planning authority. Proposals for extensions to historic or vernacular buildings should not erode the setting and design qualities of the original structure and should be in proportion or subservient to the existing building.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH O61</b> - Require the use of appropriate materials and methods when undertaking repairs to the historic fabric.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH O62</b> - Protect (through the use of ACAs, the RPS and in the normal course of development management) vernacular buildings where they contribute to the character of areas and/or where they are rare examples of a structure type.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH O63</b> - Ensure that new buildings adjacent to vernacular structures and extensions to vernacular buildings are of an appropriate design and do not detract from the character of these structures.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>AH O64</b> - Seek the repair and retention of traditional timber and/or rendered shop fronts and pub fronts, including those that may not be protected structures.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH A19</b> - Identify and retain good examples of historic street furniture in situ e.g. cast-iron post-boxes, water pumps, signage, street lighting, kerbing and traditional road and street surface coverings.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning functions of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH A20</b> - Develop and publish guidelines on the conservation and appropriate re-use of Local Authority cottages and similar vernacular structures.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>To be progressed through the forward planning function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>Architectural Conservation Areas</b></p>		
<p><b>AH O65</b> - Ensure that any development, modifications, alterations, or extensions within an ACA are sited and designed appropriately and are not detrimental to the character of the structure or to its setting or the general character of the ACA and are in keeping with any Architectural Conservation Area Statement of Character Guidance Documents prepared for the relevant ACA.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>AH O66</b> - Ensure that all planning applications for new developments within or immediately contiguous to an ACA include an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment and Design Rationale addressing design considerations such as urban structure and grain, density and mix, scale, height, materials, landscape, views and landmarks and historic development.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH A21</b> - Investigate the designation of further ACAs at appropriate locations throughout the county including The Curragh Camp, Johnstown, Ballymore Eustace, Kilcullen, Brannockstown, Rathmore, Clane, Newbridge and Castledermot.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>To be progressed through the forward planning function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH A22</b> – (a) Prepare “Guidelines for the Management and Development of ACAs” identified in this plan. (b) Carry out a pilot study on developing a pro-active and dynamic framework for ACAs for the physical and economic enhancement of the built heritage character of a town/village.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>To be progressed through the forward planning function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>AH A23</b> - Have regard to DHLGH Guidelines and conservation best practice in assessing the character and</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC.</p>

significance of a historic town or urban area and the formulation of an ACA or in assessing development proposals relating to an ACA.		
<b>AH A24</b> - Require where appropriate that an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment report is prepared in accordance with DHLGH Guidelines and conservation best practice to inform the visual or physical impacts of a proposed development on an ACA.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC.
<b>AH A25</b> - Prepare a character statement appraisal and area specific policy for each ACA within the county and to preserve, protect and enhance the character of these areas.	Medium Term	Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC.

#### A1.11 Chapter 12 – Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure

Policy Objective	Timeframe	CE Comments
<b>Legislative Context</b>		
<b>BI O1</b> - Require, as part of the Development Management Process, the preparation of Ecological Impact Assessments that adequately assess the biodiversity resource within proposed development sites, to avoid habitat loss	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p>and fragmentation and to integrate this biodiversity resource into the design and layout of new development and to increase biodiversity within the proposed development. Such assessments shall be carried out in line with the CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine.</p>		
<p><b>BI 02</b> - Require, wherever possible, the retention and creation of green corridors within and between built up urban areas and industrial scale developments to protect wildlife habitat value including areas that are not subject to public access.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management functions of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI 03</b> - Actively support the implementation of national biodiversity initiatives such as the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2026.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management functions of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department (incl. pollinator friendly planting in parklands, engagement with No-Mow-May, reduced use of pesticides and a future review of grass cutting policy) and the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department.</p>
<p><b>BI 04</b> - Promote increased public participation in biodiversity conservation by supporting and encouraging community-led initiatives such as native tree planting, the removal of invasive species and the continued preparation of Local Biodiversity Actions Plans for</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Public awareness programmes are ongoing through the Heritage and Nature Unit and the Biodiversity Officer of KCC, including annual 'Kildare Biodiversity Conferences'. The first Biodiversity Conference occurred in October 2023 and a subsequent conference occurred in October 2024.</p>

<p>settlements in County Kildare1.</p> <p>1. LBAPS prepared Allenwood, Ballitore, Ballymore Eustace, Carbury, Celbridge, Clane, Kilcullen, Kill, Leixlip, Maynooth, Monasterevin, Newbridge, (a further 10 will be prepared in 2022)</p>		<p>23 Local Biodiversity Action Plans have been prepared/funded through KCC in conjunction with local community groups. Other Community Biodiversity Action Plans are supported and funded by the Community Foundation Ireland.</p> <p>10 Local Biodiversity Action Plans were prepared and published through KCC in 2021 - Allenwood, Ballitore, Ballymore Eustace, Carbury, Celbridge, Clane, Kilcullen, Kill, Monasterevin and Newbridge to cover 2021-2025. It is anticipated that this initial group of Biodiversity Action Plans will be reviewed following the publication of the new County Biodiversity Action Plan - anticipated 2025.</p> <p>Further Biodiversity Action Plans (Local/Community) have also been prepared for Ardclough, Athy, Caragh, Kilcock, Maynooth, Naas, Narraghmore, Prosperous, Rathangan, Sallins, Straffan, Leixlip and Ballyshannon.</p>
<p><b>BI 05</b> - Move towards no net loss of biodiversity through strategies, plan, mitigation measures, appropriate offsetting and/or investment in Blue-Green infrastructure.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is ongoing through the forward planning and development management functions of KCC, in conjunction with projects undertaken by KCC through its departments.</p>
<p><b>BI 06</b> - Apply the precautionary principle in relation to proposed developments in environmentally sensitive areas to ensure that all potential adverse impacts on a designated NHA or Natura 2000 Site arising from any proposed development or land use activity are avoided, remedied, or mitigated.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>BI 07</b> – Pursue insofar as possible and practical, a policy of biodiversity net gain through strategies, plans, developments, mitigation measures, appropriate offsetting and/or investment in Blue-Green infrastructure.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is ongoing through the forward planning and development management functions of KCC, in conjunction with projects undertaken by KCC through its departments.</p>
<p><b>BI A1</b> - Continue to implement natural heritage actions in the County Heritage Plan 2019-2025, the County Biodiversity Plan, the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2021 and any subsequent plans, in partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, relevant stakeholders and the community.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is ongoing through the Heritage and Nature Unit and Biodiversity Officer of KCC, in conjunction with other relevant departments of KCC and in consultation with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>The National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 requires all local authorities to have a Biodiversity Action Plan in place by the end of 2026. In this regard, KCC has commenced preparation of the new County Biodiversity Action Plan - anticipated to be published in 2025.</p>
<p><b>BI A2</b> - Carry out habitat mapping on a phased basis and integrate biodiversity considerations and protection measures into the suite of mandatory Local Area Plans and to develop specific policies and objectives that could be incorporated into council programmes and activities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Habitat/Green Infrastructure Mapping was carried out to inform the Kildare Town LAP 2021-2027, the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031, the Draft Kilcullen Settlement Plan and for the forthcoming Draft Newbridge Local Area Plan 2025-2031.</p>
<p><b>BI A3</b> - Review the County Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan in the short term during the lifetime of this Plan and leverage appropriate funding to establish a Biodiversity Officer for Kildare County Council.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>KCC appointed its first Biodiversity Officer in 2023. The National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 requires all local authorities to have a Biodiversity Action Plan in place by the end of 2026. In this regard, KCC has commenced preparation of the new County Biodiversity Action Plan - anticipated to be published in 2025.</p>



<p><b>BI A4</b> - Continue to prepare and roll-out Local Biodiversity Action Plans on an annual basis, in partnership, where appropriate with LEADER, subject to funding.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the Heritage and Nature Unit and the Biodiversity Officer of KCC. 23 Local Biodiversity Action Plans have been prepared/funded through KCC in conjunction with local community groups. Other Community Biodiversity Action Plans are supported and funded by the Community Foundation Ireland.</p> <p>10 Local Biodiversity Action Plans were prepared and published through KCC in 2021 - Allenwood, Ballitore, Ballymore Eustace, Carbury, Celbridge, Clane, Kilcullen, Kill, Monasterevin and Newbridge to cover 2021-2025. It is anticipated that this initial group of Biodiversity Action Plans will be reviewed following the publication of the new County Biodiversity Action Plan - anticipated 2025.</p> <p>Further Biodiversity Action Plans (Local/Community) have also been prepared for Ardclough, Athy, Caragh, Kilcock, Maynooth, Naas, Narraghmore, Prosperous, Rathangan, Sallins, Straffan, Leixlip and Ballyshannon.</p>
<p><b>BI A5</b> - Engage with Residents Associations to educate and encourage the roll out of the Pollinator and Biodiversity Plans, specifically working towards less spraying and more pollinator friendly practices.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is ongoing for the Heritage and Nature Unit and the Biodiversity Officer of KCC, in collaboration with the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI A6</b> - Collate and publish a list of County Biodiversity Sites as part of the review of the County Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>KCC is currently engaged with the Heritage Council, via the Biodiversity Officer Programme, to support a co-ordinated national approach to identifying and recognising locally important biodiversity sites.</p>
<p><b>Natura 2000</b></p>		
<p><b>BI O8</b> - Support the implementation of the National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017-2022.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management functions of KCC.</p>

<p><b>BI 09</b> - Avoid development that would adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site and promote favourable conservation status of habitats and protected species including those listed under the Birds Directive, the Wildlife Acts and the Habitats Directive, to support the conservation and enhancement of Natura 2000 Sites including any additional sites that may be proposed for designation during the period of this Plan and protect the Natura 2000 network from any plans and projects that are likely to have a significant effect on the coherence or integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and through the projects undertaken by KCC through its various departments.</p>
<p><b>BI 010</b> - Ensure an Appropriate Assessment Screening, in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, Section 177A of the Planning and Development Act (2001-2022) or any superseding legislation and with DEHLG guidance (2009), is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site to determine the likelihood of the plan or project having a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and through the projects undertaken by KCC through its various departments.</p>

<p>other plans or projects and to ensure that projects which may give rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites will not be permitted (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) unless for reasons of overriding public interest.</p>		
<p><b>BI O11</b> - Support the establishment of conservation measures and the preparation and implementation of management plans for the conservation of Natura 2000 sites by NPWS, as required by Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. This is primarily a matter and function of the NPWS.</p>
<p><b>BI A7</b> - Identify and provide appropriate buffer zones between Designated Sites and areas zoned for development.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and Nature Reserves</b></p>		
<p><b>BI O12</b> - Require the preparation of an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) by a suitably qualified professional for proposals for development within or adjacent to a Natural Heritage Area (NHA)/proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA), to ensure the development is designed and sited to minimise its impact on the biodiversity, ecological, geological</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and through the projects undertaken by KCC through its various departments.</p>

<p>and landscape value of the site, particularly plant and animal species listed under the Wildlife Acts. Such assessments shall be carried out in line with the CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine.</p>		
<p><b>BI O13</b> - Support the establishment of conservation measures and preparation and implementation of management plans for the conservation of NHA sites by NPWS.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. This is primarily a matter and function of the NPWS.</p>
<p><b>BI O14</b> - Conserve, preserve and protect the integrity of and maintain the favourable conservation value/status within or adjacent to Ramsar Sites, Statutory Nature Reserves, Biogenetic Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries, all existing and proposed NHAs. They should be designed and sited so as to minimise their impact on the ecological and landscape values of these sites under National and European legislation and International Agreements.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI A8</b> - Work with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to identify an appropriate buffer surrounding Pollardstown Fen,</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>To be progressed in collaboration with the NPWS, subject to the availability of resources. It is noted that the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage is currently inviting</p>

<p>based on best available scientific information, in order to protect the ecological integrity of the Fen as a pNHA and SAC and to prevent urban encroachment and environmental degradation of the site in order to support the qualifying interests of the site.</p>		<p>tenders for a wetland’s restoration project at Pollardstown Fen (Tóchar Midlands Wetlands Restoration).</p>
<p><b>Protected Habitats and Species</b></p>		
<p><b>BI O15</b> - Ensure that any new development proposal does not have a significant adverse impact on rare and threatened species, including those protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2012, the Birds Directive 1979 the Habitats Directive 1992 and the Flora Protection Order species and any species listed under the national red lists or that could be listed on a national red list.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI O16</b> - Ensure appropriate species and habitat avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into all new development proposals.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI O17</b> - Require a derogation licence, where necessary, issued by the DHLGH, in the event of a proposed development impacting on a site known to be a breeding</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

or resting site of species listed in the Habitats Directive (Annex IV species)		
<b>BI O18</b> - Require all applications for new developments to identify, protect and sensitively enhance the most important ecological features and habitats, and incorporate these into the overall open space network, keeping free from development and to provide links to the wider Green Infrastructure network as an essential part of the design process and by making provision for local biodiversity (e.g. through provision of swift boxes or towers, bat roost sites, hedgehog highways, green roofs, etc.).	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>BI O19</b> - Require that all biodiversity data gathered in the preparation of planning applications will be made available to the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NDBC).	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.  Biodiversity data gathered during local authority led projects are issued to the NDBC, where relevant.
<b>BI O20</b> - Conserve and protect habitats and species listed in the Annexes of the EU Habitats Directive (92143/EEC) (as amended), the Birds Directive (20091147/EC), Directive Annex 2, the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2000, The Wildlife Acts 1976 (as amended) and the Flora Protection Order No 94 of 1999.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.

<p><b>BI O21</b> - Work with bodies such as the NPWS and National Biodiversity Data Centre to ensure that species for which Kildare is a national stronghold such as Green-Flowered Helleborine Orchid, Yellowhammer and Linnet, which are nationally rare or declining, are supported to flourish and seek to ensure the habitat conditions favourable to such species are retained in the county.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI O22</b> - Identify and protect areas of high nature conservation value (including but not limited to SAC/SPA/pNHA) and support the landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping-stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows, and road verges so as to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI A9</b> - Undertake surveys and collect data to provide an evidence-base to assist the Council in meeting its obligations under Article 6 of the Habitats Directives (92/43/EEC) as transposed into Irish Law, subject to available resources.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with projects undertaken by KCC through its departments. Habitat/Green Infrastructure Mapping has been carried out to inform Local Area Plans / Settlement Plans in this regard.</p>

<b>County Biodiversity Sites</b>		
<b>BI O23</b> - Protect, in co-operation with the relevant statutory agencies and other relevant groups, sites of local biodiversity importance (County Biodiversity Sites), not otherwise protected by legislation.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the Heritage and Nature Unit and the Biodiversity Officer of KCC.  KCC is currently engaged with the Heritage Council, via the Biodiversity Officer Programme, to support a co-ordinated national approach to identifying and recognising locally important biodiversity sites.
<b>BI O24</b> - Identify biodiversity corridors, watercourses, significant as well as native and indigenous hedgerows, or marginal habitat, between County Biodiversity Sites in order to appropriately landscape same in order to ensure population recovery and survival, abundance, productivity, genetic diversity and species richness.	Ongoing	KCC is currently engaged with the Heritage Council, via the Biodiversity Officer Programme, to support a co-ordinated national approach to identifying and recognising locally important biodiversity sites. In addition, habitat/green infrastructure mapping has and will continue to directly inform the preparation of Local Area Plans / Settlement Plans that are reviewed during the lifetime of the KCDP.
<b>BI O25</b> - Support the designation of County Biodiversity Sites, as NHAs or SACs where appropriate.	Ongoing	To be progressed subject to the availability of resources. KCC is currently engaged with the Heritage Council, via the Biodiversity Officer Programme, to support a co-ordinated national approach to identifying and recognising locally important biodiversity sites.
<b>BI A10</b> - Identify and map County Biodiversity Sites in cooperation with the relevant statutory agencies, other relevant groups and the general public, not otherwise protected by legislation and to identify specific peatland areas of biodiversity interest for protection, including legal protection where mechanisms are available (including but not limited to Lullymore/Allen/Lodge Bog,	Short Term	To be progressed subject to the availability of resources. KCC is currently engaged with the Heritage Council, via the Biodiversity Officer Programme, to support a co-ordinated national approach to identifying and recognising locally important biodiversity sites.



Harristown/Dunshane Common, Kingsbog Common, and Suncroft Common).		
<b>BI A11</b> - Develop Management Plans for County Biodiversity Sites where appropriate.	Medium Term	Ongoing through the Heritage and Nature Unit and the Biodiversity Officer of KCC, subject to the availability of resources.  KCC is currently engaged with the Heritage Council, via the Biodiversity Officer Programme, to support a co-ordinated national approach to identifying and recognising locally important biodiversity sites. In addition, work has progressed in relation to Leixlip Spa and Ballynafagh Lake through collaboration between the NPWS and KCC.
<b>BI A12</b> - Support the development, where appropriate and feasible, of biodiversity awareness signage in the county.	Ongoing	To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.
<b>BI A13</b> - Work with Teagasc and landowners throughout the county in order to identify suitable, appropriately designed 'Hare's Corner' projects which would create pocket sized habitats that are linked with compatible habitats in the wider landscape in order to enhance biodiversity.	Ongoing	To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.
<b>Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows</b>		
<b>BI O26</b> - Prevent, in the first instance, the removal of hedgerows to facilitate development. Where their removal is unavoidable, same must be clearly and satisfactorily demonstrated to the Planning Authority. In any event, removal shall be	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p>kept to an absolute minimum and there shall be a requirement for mitigation planting comprising a hedge of similar length and species composition to the original, established as close as is practicable to the original and where possible linking to existing adjacent hedges. Ideally, native plants of a local provenance and origin should be used for any such planting. Removal of hedgerows and trees prior to submitting a planning application will be viewed negatively by the planning authority and may result in an outright refusal.</p>		
<p><b>BI O27</b> - Require the retention and appropriate management of hedgerows and to require infill or suitably sized transplanted planting where possible in order to ensure an uninterrupted green infrastructure network.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI O28</b> - Promote the integration of boundary hedges within and along development sites into development design so as to avoid “trapped hedges” located to the boundary of houses within the development layout. Encourage the planting of woodlands, trees and hedgerows as part of new developments</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of KCC were deemed feasible and relevant.</p>

<p>and as part of the Council’s own landscaping works ideally using native plants of local provenance and origin.</p>		
<p><b>BI O29</b> - Require the undertaking of a comprehensive tree survey carried out by a suitably qualified arborist where development proposals require felling of mature trees; the tree survey shall assess the condition, ecological and amenity value of the tree stock proposed for removal as well as mitigation planting and a management scheme. It should be noted that rotting and decaying trees are an integral part of a woodland ecosystem and can host a range of fungi and invertebrates, important for biodiversity. While single or avenue trees that are decaying may be removed, others that are part of group or cluster may be subject to retention.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI O30</b> - Ensure a Tree Management Plan is provided to ensure that trees are adequately protected during development and incorporated into the design of new developments.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI O31</b> - Restrict the cutting of hedges during the bird-nesting season (1st March until 31st August), except in certain legally</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing for KCC, in conjunction with the NPWS and An Garda Síochána.</p>

defined circumstances, in accordance with the provisions of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.		
<b>BI O32</b> - Protect trees which are the subject of Tree Preservation Orders (see Table 12.3) and the 57 Champion and Heritage Trees in Kildare, which are identified on the Tree Register of Ireland.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>BI O33</b> - Ensure that when considering new forest proposals: a) Landscapes of scenic value are not unduly eroded. b) Areas with environmental and archaeological protections are safeguarded. c) A mixture of broadleaf and native conifer species (yew, juniper, and Scot's pine) are planted where possible so as to support a variety of flora and fauna species and to enliven forestry landscapes. d) Promote the avoidance of deforestation or commercial afforestation within Natura 2000 sites unless directly linked to the management of the site for its qualifying interests.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>BI O34</b> – Manage, maintain, enhance, preserve, promote, encourage, and facilitate, as far as practicable, the	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p>preservation, proper provision, and retention of the existing network of native ancient woodlands and semi- natural woodlands of amenity value especially broadleaf species.</p>		
<p><b>BI O35</b> - Protect existing woodlands and trees and substantial areas of deciduous forest which are of amenity value and/or contribute to and interact with their landscape character and ensure that proper provision is made for their protection and management.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI O36</b> - Natural regeneration of peatlands, river, canal and railway corridors, grass verges along public roads and existing and future greenways shall be encouraged and the use of “Wildflower mixes” shall not be permitted unless they can be certified as being of both native Irish provenance and origin. Where tree planting occurs within semi-natural areas, native species of local provenance and origin should ideally be used, however in the interests of species diversity, non-native species may also be considered. Reduced mowing of vegetation along peatlands, river, canal, and railway corridors is encouraged.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>BI A14</b> – Carry out a survey of trees within the main urban settlements as part of the preparation of Habitat Mapping for local area plans and to include policies for the protection of trees and hedgerows within local area plans where appropriate.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Habitat/green infrastructure mapping was carried out to inform the Kildare Town LAP 2021-2027, the Maynooth Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 and the upcoming Draft Newbridge LAP 2025-2031.</p>
<p><b>BI A15</b> – Identify and include additional trees and stands of trees on the TPO register that are deemed to be of particular significance during the life of the plan.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>BI A16</b> – Encourage the awareness and engagement of the public in the identification and submission of trees for consideration for Tree Preservation Orders.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>BI A17</b> - Develop, in conjunction with the Parks Department of Kildare County Council a Tree Strategy for the county which would include policies on tree pruning, tree removals, tree planting, tree preservation and the treatment of trees in relation to services and utilities.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>To be progressed by the Parks Section of the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department in 2025.</p>
<p><b>BI A18</b> - Encourage initiatives supporting private and community-driven native tree and woodland planting schemes utilising available funding schemes.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>

<p><b>BI A19</b> - Engage with the Forestry Division of the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine to develop a suite of “Neighbourwood” exemplar projects with local communities throughout Kildare.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>BI A20</b> - Review the County Kildare Hedgerow Survey (2006), over the life of the Development Plan, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>The County Kildare Hedgerow Appraisal Survey was completed and published in 2022. In addition, a survey of townland hedgerows across the Municipal District of Celbridge/Leixlip was carried out in May 2024.</p>
<p><b>BI A21</b> - Develop a pilot project to demonstrate traditional hedgerow management skills including hedge laying.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>BI A22</b> – Develop a dataset of best quality hedgerows in the County, i.e. hedgerow hotspots and ensure ongoing conservation of these biodiverse areas.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>Inland Waters: Lakes, Rivers, Streams and Groundwater</b></p>		
<p><b>BI O37</b> - Ensure the protection of rivers, streams and other watercourses and, wherever possible, maintain them in an open state capable of providing suitable habitats for fauna and flora while discouraging culverting or realignment. Endeavour to re-open previously culverted streams and watercourses through any future development/redevelopment proposals.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC in conjunction with the Climate, Community and Environment Department.</p>

<p><b>BI O38</b> - Require the preparation and submission of an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) including, but not limited to, bat and otter surveys for developments along river or canal corridors.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI O39</b> - Consult with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and Waterways Ireland in relation to any development (greenfield development or redevelopment of brownfield sites) that could potentially impact on the aquatic ecosystems and associated riparian habitats while taking account of 'Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries Habitat during Construction and Development Works at River Sites' (IFI, 2004) and 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' (IFI, 2020).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI O40</b> - Support Inland Fisheries Ireland's pilot projects to investigate the incorporation of habitat restoration measures on waters draining the Bog of Allen into flood management schemes.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>KCC continues to engage with and support Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to a range of projects where necessary.</p>
<p><b>BI O41</b> - Maintain riparian buffer zones and potential uses as identified in Table 12.4 when considering potential development</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>



<p>and proposed development layouts within or adjacent to waterways.</p>		
<p><b>BI O42</b> - Ensure that any proposals for a National Peatlands Park will consider the important rivers and populations of native fish and other species, when draining the Bog of Allen area.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To be considered as part of the ongoing efforts in the provision of a National Peatlands Park.</p>
<p><b>BI O43</b> - Consult with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and Waterways Ireland in relation to any structures designed for crossing fisheries waters. In this regard consideration must be given to the following biological criteria:          - species of fish required to safely pass          - size of fish required to pass (life stage)          - time of year in which fish passage is required          - high and low design passage flows etc.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI O44</b> - Require that expert advice is sought from a suitably qualified bat expert, in developing lighting proposals along river and stream corridors or other important locations or corridors for wildlife, to mitigate impacts of lighting on bats and other species. The use of artificial lighting shall be avoided in streamside zones (see Figure 12.2) and artificial lighting should be restricted unless absolutely necessary in</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC and were considered necessary in the provision of lighting by KCC.</p>

<p>the middle zone (See Table 12.4). LEDs should, where permitted, be warm white to minimise disturbance to wildlife.</p>		
<p><b>BI O45</b> - Ensure that any runoff from developed areas does not result in any deterioration of downstream watercourses or habitats and require that pollution generated by a development is treated within the development area prior to discharge to local watercourses.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI O46</b> - Generally, prohibit infilling of land adjacent to rivers, including natural floodplains, prior to or during any development. This will only be permitted, where, in the opinion of the planning authority, there is an over-riding public interest in order to provide a key public infrastructure or to provide a more coherent design approach (in line with an approved urban design strategy) but, it will be subject to ensuring that adequate compensatory flood storage (if necessary) is provided elsewhere.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI O47</b> - Ensure the protection, improvement or restoration of riverine floodplains and to promote strategic measures to accommodate flooding at appropriate locations including nature-</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

based solutions, in order to protect ground and surface water quality and build resilience to climate change.		
<b>BI 048</b> - Avoid developing walking/cycling trails through sensitive ecological habitats. A multi-disciplinary team including an ecologist and flood risk expert shall review all riverine sites to determine the appropriate zonation (ref Table 12.4) and permissible uses.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>Peatland, Wetlands and Ramsar Sites</b>		
<b>BI 049</b> - Protect wetland sites that have been rated A (International), B (National) C+ (County) and C (Local) importance as identified in the County Kildare Wetlands Survey 2012-2014, (See Tables 12.5 & 12.6). Any development within the zone of influence of these listed wetland sites should be subject to EclA and where appropriate, hydrological impact assessment.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>BI 050</b> - Protect and conserve wetlands from infilling, drainage, fragmentation, degradation, and resist development that would destroy, fragment, or degrade any wetland identified as part of the County	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p>Kildare Wetland Survey 2012-2014, (See Table 12.6).</p>		
<p><b>BI 051</b> - Ensure that an ecological impact assessment is undertaken in conjunction with proposals involving drainage or reclamation of wetlands identified in Table 12.6. Impact assessment of all developments on peatlands shall consider peatland stability, carbon emissions balance, Hydrology and Ecology.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI 052</b> - Require the preparation and submission of a Hydrological Report/Assessment for significant developments within and in close proximity to protected raised bogs and to take account of same in the assessment of impacts on the integrity of peatland ecosystems.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI 053</b> - Work with relevant stakeholders on suitable peatland sites in order to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques to promote their heritage and educational value subject to ecological impact assessment and appropriate assessment screening.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>

<p><b>BI O54</b> - Work with relevant agencies such as EMRA, BnM, the NPWS, Coillte and adjacent councils to prepare a comprehensive after use framework plan for large cutaway bog sites and associated workshops, office buildings and industrial sites which provide for future sustainable environmental needs and are a significant resource for amenities when peat harvesting ends.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>BI O55</b> - Protect, conserve, and manage the character and appearance of ecological and archaeological heritage and amenity values of peatland landscapes and historic/ancient walkways through bogs, by promoting high environmental standards.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI O56</b> - Ensure that development proposals or activities that may impact on sensitive water habitats, in particular wetlands (identified as part of the County Kildare Wetland Survey 2012-2014, (See Table 12.6), shall not be permitted without the introduction of mitigation measures agreed in writing with the Council to eliminate negative environmental impacts.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>BI O57</b> - Support the implementation of the recommendations of the National Peatlands Strategy 2015, as they relate to County Kildare.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the Heritage and Nature Unit / Biodiversity Officer and the Climate, Community and Environment Department.</p>
<p><b>BI A23</b> - Review and update the County Kildare Wetland Survey 2012-2014 during the lifetime of the plan.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>BI A24</b> - Run a public awareness campaign related to the diverse and valued wetland resource of the county, to include, inter alia, the provision of important ecosystem services.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>KCC commissioned and launched a booklet entitled 'County Kildare's Wonderful Wetlands' in 2024. In addition, World Wetlands Day takes place annually in February and has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Talk on Wetland Birds in the Naas Library and Cultural Centre during World Wetlands Day 2025.</li> <li>• A Walk and Talk tour of Pollardstown Fen, a Scrub Removal Event at Lodge Bog and a talk on wetlands at McAuley Place in Naas occurred during World Wetlands Day 2024.</li> </ul>
<p><b>BI A25</b> - Provide training for Local Authority staff on wetland issues when assessing development proposals and planning applications.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds</b></p>		
<p><b>BI O58</b> - Require all development proposals to address the presence or absence of invasive alien species on proposed development sites and (if necessary) require applicants to prepare and submit an Invasive Species Management Plan where such species exist, in order to comply with the</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

provisions of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015.		
<b>BI O59</b> – Encourage, through Citizen Science, the public’s awareness in the identification and eradication of invasive species and to provide training with respect to potential threats caused by invasive species, particularly their methods of dispersal and appropriate control and removal measures in association with relevant authorities.	Ongoing	The appropriate management of invasive species is a key element in the preparation of Local/Community Biodiversity Action Plans. The Biodiversity Officer of KCC has delivered 2 no. training events on Invasive Alien Species to local community groups based along the River Liffey. These training events focused on the safe management, removal and eradication of Himalayan Balsam. A community group engaged in this work delivered a presentation at the Kildare Biodiversity Conference 2024.
<b>BI A26</b> - Prepare a programme of mapping of invasive species in the county and explore the development of a web portal to allow residents of County Kildare to report invasive species in the County, during the lifetime of this Plan.	Medium Term	The Transport, Mobility and Open Space Department currently maintains a mapped record of invasive species encountered during its projects/maintenance works and undertakes a programme of treatment and removals. In addition, local community groups that have completed appropriate training also undertake to treat and remove invasive species. The development of a web portal for reporting is ongoing at a national level through the Heritage Council, the NPWS and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
<b>BI A27</b> – Determine, as a priority, whether there is a potential threat of invasive species to the protected sites within the County, and to begin a dedicated programme of eradication, beginning with the Natura 2000 sites.	Medium Term	Ongoing through the inspections and monitoring carried out by the NPWS, in conjunction with the Transport, Mobility and Open Space Department.
<b>BI A28</b> - Begin a dedicated campaign to build awareness of invasive species amongst all residents of the county.	Short Term	The appropriate management of invasive species are a key element in the preparation of Local/Community Biodiversity Action Plans. The Biodiversity Officer of KCC has delivered 2 no. training events on Invasive Alien Species to local community groups based along the River

<p>Additionally, this programme will provide training to Community Groups on appropriate control and removal measures for responsive species.</p>		<p>Liffey. These training events focused on the safe management, removal and eradication of Himalayan Balsam. A community group engaged in this work delivered a presentation at the Kildare Biodiversity Conference 2024.</p>
<p><b>Geology</b></p>		
<p><b>BI O60</b> - Consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland regarding any development proposals within or likely to have an impact on Sites of Geological Importance set out in Table 12.7.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI O61</b> - Contribute towards the protection from inappropriate development of Geological Natural Heritage Areas that become designated during the lifetime of this Plan.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management functions of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI O62</b> - Promote, encourage, and support the provision of access to geological and geo-morphological features of interest in cooperation/consultation with landowners (where appropriate/practicable).</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function.</p>
<p><b>BI O63</b> - Where appropriate support the restoration of Sites of Geological Importance (identified in Table 12.7).</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function.</p>
<p><b>Green Infrastructure (GI)</b></p>		
<p><b>BI A29</b> - Map tree canopy coverage in urban areas in conjunction with the</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>This has been addressed in the Kildare Town Local Area Plan, the Maynooth JLAP and the upcoming Draft Newbridge LAP.</p>



preparation of statutory Local Area Plans with a view to increasing same by, where possible, 30%, as a minimum.		
<b>BI 064</b> - Ensure the protection, enhancement and maintenance of Green Infrastructure in Kildare.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function.
<b>BI 065</b> - Support the development of a Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy and the identification, management, development and protection of strategic GI connections in co-operation with Kildare's neighbouring counties and the Midland and Eastern Regional Assembly.	Ongoing	To be progressed by the Midland and Eastern Regional Assembly with the support of KCC.
<b>BI 066</b> - Develop a strategy, to identify a series of greenbelt/green spaces (in addition to those identified in this CDP) to retain and protect between the growing settlements within Kildare during the lifetime of the Plan with particular attention to the undeveloped areas between Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth and to collaborate with South Dublin County Council, where appropriate.	Long Term	To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.
<b>BI 067</b> - Require that all Local Area Plans protect and manage the Green Infrastructure network in an integrated and coherent manner and add additional	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC in the review of Local Area Plans during the lifetime of the KCDP.

local Green Infrastructure corridors where possible.		
<b>BI O68</b> - Provide for the incorporation of underpasses and/or Green Bridges at ecologically sensitive locations on the county's road and rail corridors (including those along disused railway corridors) that will facilitate the free movement of people and species through the urban and rural environment.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC.
<b>BI O69</b> - Promote a network of paths and cycle tracks to enhance accessibility to the Green Infrastructure network across the County, while ensuring that the design and operation of the routes respect, and where possible, enhance the ecological potential of each site.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of the Active Travel Team / Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department. Key recent projects include the ongoing works for the delivery of the Grand Canal Greenway, the Royal Canal Greenway and the Barrow Blueway, together with the delivery of the Naas-Sallins Greenway (to Osberstown Bridge) in 2024.
<b>BI A30</b> - Complete the mapping of Green Infrastructure for each town and village in County Kildare and to develop specific policies and objectives for each town specifically by incorporating green infrastructure policies and objectives into the various Local Area Plans as they are being prepared.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. Habitat/Green Infrastructure Mapping has and will continue to directly inform the preparation of Local Area Plans / Settlement Plans that are reviewed during the lifetime of the KCDP.
<b>BI A31</b> - Work with Bord Na Mona and other stakeholders to prepare a Green	Medium Term	To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.

<p>Infrastructure Masterplan that will inform the delineation of core areas, stepping stones and corridors (long distance peatways) as identified in Sections 12.14.6, 12.14.7 and 12.14.8, that may inform the designation of an interconnected Bog of Allen Nature Reserve, Special Amenity Area Order and/or National Peatlands Park.</p>		
<p><b>Urban Green Infrastructure</b></p>		
<p><b>BI O70</b> - Ensure that the Green Infrastructure Strategy and Network identified in this County Development Plan and Local Area Plans is used to inform the development management process to ensure that new residential areas, business/ industrial development tourism and other relevant projects contribute towards the conservation and protection of Kildare’s habitats and species, and the protection, management and enhancement of the existing Green Infrastructure in terms of design, layout and landscaping.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI O71</b> - Identify existing Green Infrastructure at the initial stages of the planning process and to use this information to guide the overall design of</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>an appropriate site layout which is reflected in the developments landscaping plan. The landscaping plan submitted with an application should clearly illustrate how existing Green Infrastructure, and opportunities to create more linkages, have informed and been incorporated into the development, layout and, if appropriate, management proposals</p>		
<p><b>BI 072</b> - Ensure that the design of new development does not cause fragmentation of the Green Infrastructure network.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI 073</b> - Encourage the use and incorporation of Biophilic design into all new development schemes, increasing proximity of and/or views to nature, landscape and landscape features, in the interests of public health.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>Green Infrastructure within Public Open Spaces and Parks</b></p>		
<p><b>BI 074</b> - Strengthen ecological networks between urban areas to create greater linkages to Natura 2000 sites, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, parks and open spaces and the wider regional Green Infrastructure network.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management functions of KCC.</p>

<p><b>BI 075</b> - Require multifunctional open space provision within all new developments; this includes provision for ecology and sustainable water management.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems</b></p>		
<p><b>BI 076</b> - Promote and support the development of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) such as integrated constructed wetlands, permeable surfaces, filter strips, ponds, swales and basins at a site, district and county level and to maximise the amenity and bio-diversity value of these systems.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC. The KCC Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance Document was published in December 2024.</p>
<p><b>BI 077</b> - Integrate nature-based solutions and climate change considerations into the design, planning, and implementation of infrastructure provision/ works and development proposals at the earliest possible stage of the design process.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>BI 078</b> - Actively promote and encourage nature-based approaches and green infrastructure solutions as viable mitigation and adaptation measures to surface water management.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<b>BI O79</b> - Promote the provision of Green Roofs and/ or Living Walls in developments where expansive roofs are proposed.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>BI A32</b> - Showcase good examples of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) which maximise amenity and biodiversity through the use of systems such as (but not limited to) swales, rain gardens as part of local authority developments.	Medium Term	The KCC Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance Document, published in December 2024, includes good examples of SuDS in Ireland and the UK.

A1.12 Chapter 13 – Landscape, Recreation & Amenity

<b>Policy Objective</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>CE Comments</b>
<b>Landscape Character Assessment</b>		
<b>LR O1</b> - Ensure that consideration of landscape sensitivity is an important factor in determining development uses. In areas of high landscape sensitivity, the design, type and the choice of location of the proposed development in the landscape will be critical considerations.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.
<b>LR O2</b> - Require a Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment to accompany proposals that are likely to significantly affect: - Landscape Sensitivity Factors; - A Class 4 or 5 Sensitivity Landscape (i.e.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p>within 500m of the boundary);          - A route or view identified in Map V1 - 13.3 (i.e. within 500m of the site boundary).          - All Wind Farm development applications irrespective of location, shall be required to be accompanied by a detailed Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment including a series of photomontages at locations to be agreed with the Planning Authority, including from scenic routes and views identified in Chapter 13.</p>		
<p><b>LR 03</b> - Require all Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments of specified linear infrastructure projects to be undertaken in line with the guidance on best practice methodology of the TII publication Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of Specified Infrastructure Projects (2020).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR 04</b> - Ensure that local landscape features, including historic features and buildings, hedgerows, shelter belts and stone walls, are retained, protected and enhanced where appropriate, so as to preserve the local landscape and character of an area.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>LR 05</b> - Preserve, where appropriate, the open character of commonage.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR 06</b> - Investigate the feasibility of preparing a Landscape Conservation Area Assessment within the county to identify any area(s) or place(s) within the county as a Landscape Conservation Area, in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources. The County Development Plan Implementation Team is currently progressing the preparation of a new Landscape Character Assessment for the County - anticipated to be published in 2025/2026.</p>
<p><b>LR 07</b> - Restrict the quarrying of sensitive sites within the Landscape Character Areas in line with Table 13.3 and Table 13.4 above and to protect and conserve the ecological, archaeological, biodiversity and visual amenity surrounding quarry sites.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR 08</b> - Ensure that all quarrying activities and projects associated with the extractive industry comply with all relevant Planning and Environmental Legislation and the Guidelines for the Protection of Biodiversity within the Extractive Industry document 'Wildlife, Habitats &amp; the Extractive Industry'.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR 09</b> - Continue to support development that can utilise existing structures, settlement areas and infrastructure, whilst taking account of local absorption</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>



<p>opportunities provided by the landscape, landform and prevailing vegetation.</p>		
<p><b>LR O10</b> - Recognise that the lowlands and the transitional area are made up of a variety of working landscapes, which are critical resources for sustaining the economic and social well-being of the county and include areas of significant landscape and ecological value, which are worthy of protection. Such landscapes include the internationally recognised landscape of Punchestown and its environs.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR O11</b> - Support collaboration between Kildare County Council, the Midlands Regional Transition Team and all other relevant stakeholders and the development of partnership approaches to integrated peatland management for a just transition that incorporates the management, rehabilitation and restoration / re-wetting of significant tracts of peatlands in conjunction with appropriate developed after uses.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>KCC supports the ongoing collaboration between a range of stakeholders in relation to peatland management towards a just transition.</p>
<p><b>LR O12</b> - Recognise that boglands, including cutaway and cut-over bogs, are critical natural resources for ecological and environmental reasons, particularly for</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>climate mitigation and adaptation. Development proposals for boglands that reduce biodiversity and increase greenhouse gas will not be considered. Appropriate environmental assessment should be carried out for any development proposals which impact on boglands.</p>		
<p><b>LR O13</b> - Recognise that some cutaway and cut-over boglands may represent degraded landscapes and thus may potentially be fit to absorb a variety of development provided that the development proposal does not increase Green House Gas emissions or damage protected habitats or species. Projects which result in increases in ammonia emissions to watercourses will not be considered.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR O14</b> - Maintain the visual integrity of Eastern Transition Lands which have retained an upland character.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR O15</b> - Continue to facilitate appropriate development in the Eastern Transition Lands, in an incremental and clustered manner, where feasible, that respects the scale, character and sensitivities of the local landscape, recognising the need for</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>sustainable settlement patterns and economic activity within the county.</p>		
<p><b>LR O16</b> - Require the undertaking of a peatland stability assessment, carbon emissions balance assessment and hydrological and ecological impact assessments, as appropriate, when developing project proposals for development on peatlands.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR A1</b> - Review and update the County Landscape Character Assessment, within two years of the adoption of this Plan<sup>1</sup>, having regard to the European Landscape Convention Florence 2000, in accordance with all relevant legislation and guidance documents and to ensure consistency with the forthcoming National and Regional Landscape Character Assessment. All landscape character designations will be fully reviewed having regard to updated best practice guidance, LCAs of adjoining Local Authorities and other local relevant considerations, including clusters of biodiversity rich areas and the Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy.</p> <p>1. Should material changes be identified, a statutory variation may be required.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>The County Development Plan Implementation Team is currently progressing the preparation of a new Landscape Character Assessment for the County - anticipated to be published as a Variation to the County Development Plan in 2025/2026.</p>

<p><b>LR A2</b> - Investigate the feasibility of preparing a Historic Landscape Characterisation of the county.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is being progressed through the preparation of a new Landscape Character Assessment for the County - anticipated to be published in 2025/2026.</p>
<p><b>LR A3</b> - Plant gateway roundabouts within the county with innovative design themes, having regard to traffic safety.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>To be progressed through the Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces Department subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>LR T1</b> - Endeavour to increase the territory of County Kildare designated to increase nature by 27% from its current base of 3% by the end of this Plan period, in response to the Government’s commitment to designate 30% of the territory of Ireland for nature by 2030 and in accordance with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030. This may be achieved, in part, by the development of the proposed National Peatlands Park (see objectives in Section 13.6). Such endeavours, such as the development of the National Peatlands Park, shall be subject to an AA Screening Report, and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. They shall have a regard for any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and their qualifying interest species. The project shall account for any potential likely significant effects and provide mitigation and monitoring where appropriate.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Kildare Climate Action Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan review and KCC land acquisitions are working towards increased land cover designated to nature. KCC purchased 50 acres of land at Feighcullen for biodiversity and woodland projects.</p>

<p><b>LR T2</b> - Increase newly planted forest in line with the Government’s Climate Action Plan (2021) and the emerging Forestry Programme (expected to be published in 2023).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>KCC purchased 50 acres of land at Feighcullen for biodiversity and woodland projects in 2023.</p>
<p><b>LR O17</b> - Control development that will adversely affect the visual integrity of Areas of High Amenity by restricting the development of incongruous structures that are out of scale with the landscape within the Areas of High Amenity including advertising signs, hoardings, fencing etc. which create visual clutter and disrupt the open nature of these areas.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR O18</b> - Facilitate appropriate development in areas of high amenity that can utilise existing structures, settlement areas and infrastructure, taking account of the visual absorption opportunities provided by existing topography and vegetation.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR O19</b> - Restrict the over development of the edge of the Curragh Plains and development that obtrudes on the skyline as viewed from the Plains.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>LR O20</b> - Co-operate with all relevant stakeholders including the Department of Defence, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the racehorse industry, those with sheep grazing rights and the various interests currently with rights to the Curragh in the implementation of the Curragh Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan, designated as a cNHA (footnote 3)</p> <p>3. Candidate Natural Heritage Area</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Curragh Plains Conservation Management Plan, together with the Interpretation, Branding and Wayfinding Strategy, was published in December 2024. KCC will seek to support the recommended policies and actions of the Plan in conjunction with other stakeholders, subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>LR O21</b> - Restrict development which may have a negative impact on the water quality and quantity of the Pollardstown Fen, in particular groundwater sources.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR O22</b> - Co-operate with the relevant government departments and other statutory bodies in the protection and conservation of the Fen, a designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>KCC seeks to co-operate with relevant government departments and statutory bodies in relation to the conservation of all Natura 2000 sites and other sites subject to statutory protection.</p>
<p><b>LR O23</b> - Co-operate with the relevant government departments in the protection and conservation of both the Royal and Grand Canals and the River Barrow, designated as a cNHA and SAC respectively</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>KCC seeks to co-operate with relevant government departments and statutory bodies in relation to the conservation of all Natura 2000 sites and other sites subject to statutory protection.</p>

and in the sections of the River Liffey designated as a cNHA.		
<b>LR 024</b> - Support and promote an extension of the proposed Special Amenity Area Order for the Liffey Valley from Lucan to Leixlip and other parts of the Valley within County Kildare.	Ongoing	The County Development Plan Implementation Team has commenced a feasibility study regarding a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge to Leixlip. The progression of this objective is subject to appropriate resourcing and will be informed by the progression of the above project.
<b>LR 025</b> - Work closely with the relevant State bodies, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), UNESCO and local stakeholders to support the designation of the Dun Ailinne Royal Site as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.	Short Term	Dun Ailinne has been included in the 2022 UNESCO tentative list under the Royal Sites of Ireland as the first step in the nomination process. Kildare has joined Tipperary, Meath, Roscommon and Westmeath in establishing a working group and a “Royal Sites Coordinator” post has been occupied which is financed by all Local Authorities. Further progress can take a number of years to complete (c.4-6 years).
<b>LR 026</b> - Contribute towards the protection of waterbodies and watercourses, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains, from inappropriate development. This will include buffers free of development in riverine and wetland areas, as per chapter 12.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>LR 027</b> - Support the recreational amenity of wetlands.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with other relevant departments, agencies and stakeholders.
<b>LR 028</b> - Have regard to the four major steps in the integrated watercourse protection strategy of Inland Fisheries	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p>Ireland’s publication ‘Planning for Watercourses in an Urban Environment – 2020 Update’.</p>		
<p><b>LR 029</b> - Ensure that the Streamside buffer zone (minimum of 10m plus) is kept free from development and existing vegetation is retained undisturbed to contribute to biodiversity and to ensure that bike paths and/or larger footpaths along rivers and streams are provided in the Middle buffer zone (15m-30m), in line with the Inland Fisheries Ireland’s publication ‘Planning for Watercourses in an Urban Environment – 2020 Update. Planting if required should be in keeping with the recommendations of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR 030</b> - Sensitively consider developments in the Upland Character Areas including East Kildare Uplands that have a functional and locational requirement to be situated on steep or elevated sites (e.g. reservoirs, telecommunication masts or wind energy structures) where it can be explicitly demonstrated that residual adverse visual impacts are minimised or mitigated.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR 031</b> - Have regard to the potential for screening vegetation when evaluating</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>



proposals for development within the Upland Character Areas including East Kildare Uplands.		
<b>LR A4</b> - Deliver a Conservation Management Plan and a Branding & Interpretation Plan, in partnership with the Department of Defence, for the Curragh Plains, in order to address the conservation, management and interpretation of the Curragh.	Medium Term	The Curragh Plains Conservation Management Plan and the Curragh Plains Interpretation, Branding and Wayfinding Strategy was published in December 2024. KCC will seek to support the recommended policies and actions of the recently published Plan and Strategy in conjunction with other stakeholders, subject to the availability of resources.
<b>LR A5</b> - Explore the establishment of the Barrow Valley and the Royal and Grand Canals as Areas of Special Amenity, as per section 202 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).	Short Term	Not on current work programme.
<b>Scenic Routes and Protected Views</b>		
<b>LR O32</b> - Avoid any development that could disrupt the vistas or have a disproportionate impact on the landscape character of the area, particularly upland views, river views, canal views, views across the Curragh, views of historical or cultural significance (including buildings and townscapes), views of natural beauty and specifically those views listed in Tables 13.5 – 13.7 of this plan.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.

<p><b>LR O33</b> - Ensure developments (due to excessive bulk, scale, inappropriate siting or siting on steep slopes i.e. &gt;10%) do not have a disproportionate visual impact or significantly interfere with or detract from scenic upland vistas when viewed from nearby areas, scenic routes, viewpoints and settlements.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR O34</b> - Control development that will adversely affect the visual integrity of distinctive linear sections of water corridors and river valleys and open floodplains.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR O35</b> - Encourage appropriate landscaping and screen planting of developments along scenic routes. Where scenic routes run through settlements, street trees and ornamental landscaping may be required.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR O36</b> - Strictly prohibit advertising structures and hoardings in the open countryside. The Council will use its enforcement powers under the Planning Acts to secure the removal of unauthorised advertising signs and hoardings including those that are affixed to trailers, wheeled vehicles etc.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>LR O37</b> - Fencing, particularly in commonage, upland, highly scenic or amenity areas, will not be permitted unless such fencing is essential to the viability of farmland. The nature of the material to be used, the height of the fence, and in the case of a wire fence the type of wire to be used, will be taken into account. Stiles or gates may be required at appropriate locations.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR O38</b> - Ensure unenclosed land which has not been fenced in the last 10 years remains not fenced as per the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, Art 9 (l)(a)(x) - Restrictions on exemption.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR A6</b> - Review and update all Scenic Routes and Views in the county within two years of the adoption of this Plan (Tables 13.5 - 13.7 refer).</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is being progressed through the preparation of a new Landscape Character Assessment for the County - anticipated to be published in 2025/2026.</p>
<p><b>LR A7</b> - Prepare further detailed guidance in relation to views and prospects available along scenic routes occurring within the boundaries of Local Area Plans.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC through the preparation of Local Area Plans subject to review during the lifetime of the KCDP.</p>
<p><b>Recreation and Amenities</b></p>		
<p><b>LR O39</b> - Promote and enhance public access for all (footnote 6) to the upland areas, rivers, lakes and other natural</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>As opportunities arise through the development management and projects of KCC departments.</p>

<p>amenities of County Kildare, in conjunction with the relevant landowners and agencies, while protecting environmental sensitivities, ecological corridors and built heritage.</p> <p>6. Regardless of age, physical mobility, disability or social disadvantage.</p>		
<p><b>LR O40</b> - Ensure the biodiversity value of all sites are considered and protected in the development of outdoor recreational facilities including greenways through the preparation of an Ecological Impact Assessment, to include the impacts of recreational disturbance to ground-nesting birds, particularly within cutover and cutaway bogs which shall guide the location and design of such facilities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of KCC related to the development of outdoor recreation facilities and greenways – through the Community Section, Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>LR O41</b> - Support Coillte, Bord na Mona, Waterways Ireland and other state agencies to explore the provision of more recreational infrastructure at appropriate locations to include access ways and nature trails with a view to opening up state lands for recreational use.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of multiple KCC Departments. KCC actively seeks to support external agencies in the provision of recreational infrastructure in Kildare.</p>
<p><b>LR O42</b> - Support and facilitate Waterways Ireland and other relevant stakeholders with the provision of additional mooring</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>and berthing facilities at appropriate locations throughout the County.</p>		
<p><b>LR O43</b> - Normally only permit development proposals associated with water sports adjacent to waterways (including lakes) where the proposed facilities are compatible with the existing use of water including nonrecreational uses, which will not result in damage to important features of archaeological heritage or Natura 2000 sites and where they can be satisfactorily integrated into the landscape so that they will not have an unacceptable impact on visual or environmental amenities especially in areas of high amenity or scenic importance.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. Planning permission was granted in 2023 in Monasterevin for a Water Sports Hub adjacent to the River Barrow.</p>
<p><b>LR O44</b> - Support and facilitate the development of a National Peatlands Park in consultation with Offaly and Laois County Councils, Bord na Móna, Coillte, NPWS, local landowners and all other relevant stakeholders to include areas of (inter alia) high nature value, amenity, education/science and eco-tourism potential.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>KCC will support the ongoing efforts of the National Peatlands Park Group in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and the NPWS, subject to the availability of resources. In this regard, through the Just Transition Tourism Activation Programme, one local SME has applied for funding for design and planning of a new peatland regenerative tourism amenity and is awaiting a decision. In addition, two peatland sites that are not managed by Bord na Móna have joined the Tóchar re-wetting scheme with the NPWS.</p>

<p><b>LR O45</b> - Support the proposed Umeras Peatlands Park development of Umeras Community Development and explore links between the bog and nearby blueways and greenways, whilst ensuring nearby properties would not be negatively affected, in consultation with Offaly County Council, Waterways Ireland and all other relevant stakeholders. The proposed development shall be subject to an AA Screening Report, and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. They shall have regard for any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and their qualifying interest species. The project shall account for any potential likely significant effects and provide mitigation and monitoring where appropriate.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>KCC will support the ongoing efforts of the Umeras Community Development to develop the Umeras Peatlands Park in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>LR O46</b> - Lead and support the extension and interconnection of Greenways, Blueways, Peatways and trails within and outside County Kildare in consultation with Coillte, Bord na Móna and all other relevant stakeholders, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections. Such</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>KCC is committed to continuing engagement with relevant national agencies and stakeholders in the delivery of a range of substantive projects to improve the mobility of pedestrians and cyclists throughout the county. Projects currently being progressed include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Naas to Sallins Greenway Project (to Osberstown Bridge) was delivered in 2024.</li> <li>• The Royal Canal Greenway Project is substantially complete between Maynooth and Leixlip.</li> <li>• The Grand Canal Greenway Project complete to Sallins, with further progress occurring through consenting processes.</li> <li>• The Barrow Blueway is substantially complete.</li> </ul>

<p>developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation where applicable.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultants have been appointed to conduct a feasibility study in relation to connecting the Barrow Blueway to Portarlinton.</li> <li>• Consultants have been commissioned by the County Development Plan Implementation Team to undertake a feasibility study in relation to a potential recreational project along the Corbally Canal between Naas Harbour, Corbally Harbour and the River Liffey.</li> </ul>
<p><b>LR O47</b> - Investigate the feasibility of connecting the Barrow Blueway with Portarlinton, Co. Laois along the Mountmellick Grand Canal and Peatways, and, where considered feasible, to undertake all necessary works, subject to all appropriate consents, in consultation with Laois County Council and Waterways Ireland.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Consultants have been appointed, and feasibility study is due to be completed by the end of 2025.</p>
<p><b>LR O48</b> - Promote the expansion of cycle facilities throughout the county and to liaise with Fáilte Ireland, the Sports Council, the National Transport Authority and other bodies in the development of cycling touring routes throughout the county and adjoining counties, in particular in areas of high amenity.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To be progressed through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p> <p>Improving / expanding cycle facilities and infrastructure is a key consideration in the preparation of Local Area Plans, Town Renewal Masterplans, Part 8 proposals and Section 38 developments - taking into account the network plans of TII and the NTA.</p> <p>The development management function of KCC actively seeks to ensure that adequate and appropriate bicycle parking facilities are provided in new developments in accordance with the policies, objectives and development management standards of the KCDP.</p> <p>Into Kildare and Failte Ireland actively promote cycling routes throughout Ireland and in Kildare, particularly in relation to Greenways (Royal Canal and Grand Canal)</p>

<p><b>LR O49</b> - Explore the feasibility of developing the route of the Slí Mór and Slí Dála as long-distance walking routes in co-operation with the Irish Sports Council, Fáilte Ireland and other Local Authorities.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>LR O50</b> - Support the development of the Turas Columbanus walking trail in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders and neighbouring Local Authorities, subject to obtaining all relevant assessments and consents.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>The Heritage and Nature Unit of KCC is involved with a steering group for the development of a feasibility study for the Turas Columbanus trail from Wexford, through Kildare, to Bangor. Funding for this feasibility study was awarded under the Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund.</p>
<p><b>LR O51</b> - Facilitate the development of a walking route between Ballymore Eustace, Golden Falls, Poulaphouca/Blessington Greenway, Russborough and Barrettstown, in cooperation with landowners and government agencies, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections. Such developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation where applicable.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To be further progressed subject to the availability of resources and noting the delivery of the Ballymore 5K Circular heritage walk.</p>
<p><b>LR O52</b> - Explore the feasibility of developing a walking route around the</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Feasibility of this project is on the work programme of the KCC Biodiversity Officer.</p>



<p>Ballynafagh Lake, in cooperation with landowners and government agencies.</p>		
<p><b>LR 053</b> - Identify and assess the impact of the development of cycle and walkways on built and archaeological heritage in the location and design of all cycleways and greenways.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Active Travel Team / Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>LR 054</b> - Ensure any proposed walking or cycling route does not significantly impact the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)</li> <li>- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)</li> <li>- Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs)</li> <li>- Other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna.</li> <li>- Known sites of Flora Protection Order species</li> <li>- Zones of Archaeological Potential.</li> <li>- The vicinity of a recorded monument.</li> <li>- Sensitive landscape areas as identified in Chapter 13 of this Plan.</li> <li>- Scenic views and prospects.</li> <li>- Protected Structures.</li> <li>- Established rights of way and walking routes.</li> </ul>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Active Travel Team / Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>

<p><b>LR O55</b> - Allow for narrower cycleways and greenways when located within highly sensitive ecological areas along the length of the route, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Active Travel Team / Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>LR O56</b> - Require that applications or proposals for recreational / amenity activities involving natural areas such as watercourses, bogs, etc. be accompanied by a management plan which shall indicate projected numbers of users, hours of operation and seasons of operation. There shall also be an undertaking to protect the natural environment in the form of a risk assessment with proposed amelioration measures in respect of flora, fauna, hydrology, geology and soils.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR O57</b> - Require the undertaking of a feasibility assessment with respect to new cycling trails and pedestrian routes in the first instance. Where feasibility is established, a Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new infrastructure in two stages, Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is ongoing and forms a continuous part of the work programme of the Active Travel Team / Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department, the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and through the development management and forward planning function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>LR 058</b> - Support the development of ancillary infrastructure for Greenways and cycle routes (i.e. trailheads, signage, rest areas, parking, lighting, toilets, etc.) in line with the Greenways and Cycle Routes Ancillary Infrastructure Guidelines (2018) of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in co-operation with landowners, Waterways Ireland, Government Departments and other Local Authorities. For the provision of larger infrastructure, regard will be given to European sites, their hydrological connections and qualifying interest species where potential likely significant effects may occur.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Active Travel Team / Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>LR 059</b> - Facilitate the delivery of the (i) Naas to Sallins Greenway and (ii) Naas to Corbally Harbour Greenway, in co-operation with landowners, Waterways Ireland and Government Departments.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Naas-Sallins Greenway Project (to Osberstown Bridge) was delivered in 2024. Consultants have been commissioned by the County Development Plan Implementation Team to undertake a feasibility study in relation to a potential recreational project (potential for greenway / blueway and watersport/leisure activities) along the Corbally Canal between Naas Harbour, Corbally Harbour and the River Liffey, due for publication in 2025.</p>
<p><b>LR 060</b> - Explore the feasibility of developing a greenway/cycle for amenity purposes, in cooperation with Waterways Ireland and Government Departments. (a) Naas to Corbally harbour (b) Corbally Harbour to Newbridge.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Consultants have been commissioned by the County Development Plan Implementation Team to undertake a feasibility study in relation to a potential recreational project (potential for greenway / blueway and watersport/leisure activities) along the Corbally Canal between Naas Harbour, Corbally Harbour and the River Liffey, due for publication in 2025.</p>

<p><b>LR O61</b> - Explore, in conjunction with Waterways Ireland, the feasibility of re-opening the canal between Naas and Corbally Harbour for navigation, mooring and launching vessels, to encourage its use for recreational water sports.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>To be progressed through the ongoing preparation of the Naas Canal Quater Masterplan. In addition, it is noted that consultants have been commissioned by the County Development Plan Implementation Team to undertake a feasibility study in relation to a potential recreational project (potential for greenway / blueway and water sport/leisure activities) along the Corbally Canal between Naas Harbour, Corbally Harbour and the River Liffey.</p>
<p><b>LR O62</b> - Explore the feasibility of restoring the dry dock in Athy, in consultation with Waterways Ireland.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources in conjunction with Waterways Ireland. The Athy Dry Dock was discussed as part of a presentation to the Athy MD members by Waterways Ireland in 2024. The OPW have acknowledged the condition of the dry dock as an important asset on the canal network, subject to a number of issues being resolved.</p>
<p><b>LR O63</b> - Encourage and support the development of water safety awareness initiatives in association with Kildare Water Safety and related statutory bodies.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through Water Safety Ireland Kildare.</p>
<p><b>LR O64</b> - Ensure that any increase in visitor numbers to countryside recreational facilities are managed to avoid significant negative effects including loss of habitat and disturbance.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR O65</b> - Facilitate and support the development of a Liffey Valley Linear Park in collaboration with Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council, relevant government departments, existing landowners, and other relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC in a staged manner as opportunities arise. In this regard, a feasibility study has commenced in relation to the provision of a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge to Leixlip. It is anticipated that this project could form the first phase in the delivery of a wider Liffey Valley Park envisaged in the Liffey Valley Park Strategy (2006).</p>

<p><b>LR O66</b> - Progress the implementation of the following flagship projects identified in the report 'Towards a Liffey Valley Park Strategy' (2006) or any superseding plan, while ensuring that environmental and built heritage sensitivities are not negatively impacted upon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhancement work of the Celbridge Town Centre, specifically the refurbishment of the pedestrian bridge over the River Liffey adjacent to The Mill building.</li> <li>- The acquisition and development of the Donaghcumper land into a public park with the opportunity to create a linkage with Castletown estate in co-operation with the OPW and all other relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>- Preparation of a Masterplan for the Donaghcumper land.</li> <li>- The development and installation of high-quality interpretative boards in each of the towns and villages along the Liffey from Leixlip to Ballymore Eustace.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with other Departments of KCC, noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KCC announced the purchase of Donaghcumper House and approximately 26.3 hectares of surrounding lands in July 2024. KCC has subsequently transferred ownership of Donaghcumper House including circa 7 hectares of land to the OPW to facilitate the appropriate conservation of the historic built asset. It is anticipated that a masterplan for the lands will be prepared in the future.</li> <li>• A feasibility study has commenced in relation to the provision of a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge to Leixlip, incorporating Castletown and Donaghcumper. It is anticipated that this project could form the first phase in the delivery of a wider Liffey Valley Park envisaged in the Liffey Valley Park Strategy (2006).</li> <li>• The Celbridge Town Renewal Masterplan was published in 2024 to guide the rejuvenation of the town centre.</li> <li>• KCC is currently in the process of purchasing the Celbridge Parochial House and lands, with the intention of redeveloping this significant building and site on the Main Street for community uses, serving Celbridge and the wider community of North Kildare.</li> <li>• Detailed design of the approved Part 8 pedestrian bridge structure (P82022.07) progressing with a view to having construction documents completed in 2025.</li> </ul>
<p><b>LR O67</b> - Investigate the feasibility of; (i) creating a pedestrian link between the Liffey Valley, the Wicklow Mountains and the Wicklow Way, in consultation with</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Not on current work programme.</p>

<p>Wicklow County Council, as recommended in the report 'Towards a Liffey Valley Park Strategy'.</p> <p>(ii) The possible expansion of recreational open space at other locations along the River Liffey, all subject to environmental considerations.</p>		
<p><b>LR O68</b> - Preserve the pedestrian and cycle link between the River Liffey and the Grand Canal at the Leinster Aqueduct and to explore making the existing underpass fully accessible as recommended in the report 'Towards a Liffey Valley Park Strategy.'</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC, and through the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Public Open Spaces Department. Anticipated to be considered in the next phases of the delivery of the Grand Canal Greenway.</p>
<p><b>LR O69</b> - Preserve, protect, promote and improve for the common good, existing rights of way which contribute to general amenity, particularly those which provide access to archaeological sites and National Monuments and amenities, including upland areas and water corridors, and to create new ones or extend existing ones where appropriate either by agreement with landowners or through the use of compulsory powers, without adversely affecting landscape conservation interests, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, where applicable.</p>

<p>protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections. Such developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation where applicable.</p>		
<p><b>LR 070</b> - Identify existing rights of way and walking routes prior to any new forestry planting, infrastructural development and any energy/ telecommunications or golf course developments and ensure that new development does not have a negative impact on established walking routes/public rights of way.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, where applicable.</p>
<p><b>LR 071</b> - Take the potential impact of proposed development into account when considering/assessing applications for permission in the vicinity of established walking routes that might impinge on walking routes (including long distance or potential walking routes).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR 072</b> - Protect, enhance and improve existing public rights of way and where possible, provide additional access to inland waterways through agreement, permissive access and/or the acquisition of land for public rights of way and parking and lay-by facilities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, where applicable.</p>

<p><b>LR 073</b> - Seek to identify, list and map public rights of way in County Kildare that gives access to riverbanks, canal banks or other places of natural beauty or recreational value over the lifetime of this Plan and to provide for the preservation of such public rights of way.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Not on current work programme.</p>
<p><b>LR 074</b> - Protect and enhance existing biodiversity rich areas within state and publicly owned land, peatlands, river, canal and railway corridors, grass verges along public roads and existing and future greenways, public parks and public open spaces in towns and villages.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR 075</b> - All developments that would be visible from the canal network shall be required to submit a visual assessment of the proposal relative to the canal in order to determine any negative impacts on the visual amenity and environmental quality of the canal.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR 076</b> - Promote the role of parks and open spaces in conserving and restoring biodiversity, ecosystems and the ecosystem services they provide in accordance with the objectives of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017-2021), the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the work programme of the Transport, Mobility and Public Open Spaces Department.</p>



<p>(2021- 2025), the Council’s Biodiversity Action Plan (2009-2014) and Heritage Plan (2019-2025) or any superseding plans. In the development of individual management plans for parks the requirements of the aforementioned biodiversity and pollinator plans will be taken into consideration and will form part of the management requirements for the park. The development of individual management plans for parks will include consultation with local stakeholders.</p>		
<p><b>LR 077</b> - Encourage the planting of pollinator friendly trees and plants, where appropriate, to improve pollinator populations within state and publicly owned land, public parks and public open spaces in towns and villages, including as part of mixed use and residential developments, in accordance with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015- 2020.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC, together with the work programme of the Transport, Mobility and Public Open Spaces Department - incorporating pollinator friendly planting in public parks, engagement in No-Mow-May and reduced pesticide spraying. All parks, open spaces and verges are now being strimmed instead of spraying. It is anticipated that a new grass cutting regime will be established during the lifetime of the KCDP.</p>
<p><b>LR 078</b> - Liaise with Bord na Móna to investigate the feasibility of providing access for a local amenity/heritage site at Prosperous Bog.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>To be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p><b>LR 079</b> - Support the protection and retention of peatland railway lines including narrow gauge railway lines and</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>

rolling stock where possible to support amenity use of the peatlands.		
<b>LR A8</b> - Review all public rights of way, having regard to the Office of the Planning Regulators recent Case Study Paper titled “Public Rights of Way and the Local Authority Development Plan” June 2021 (Survey Report on the Operation of Section 10(2)(o) of the Planning Act), during the lifetime of this Plan.	Medium Term	Not on current work programme.
<b>LR A9</b> - Prepare and implement a County Walking Strategy, within the lifetime of the Plan, in consultation with statutory bodies and landowners and in accordance with the recommendations of the County Kildare Walking Routes Project, 2005. This strategy will seek to identify established and proposed walking routes in the county, evaluate these routes and make recommendations for their promotion.	Long Term	To be progressed subject to the availability of resources. It is noted that the 'Get Kildare Walking Programme' is ongoing through the Kildare Sports Partnership, including the Kildare Walking Festival in July. In addition, LCC has commenced preparation of the County Kildare Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, the County Kildare Outdoor Recreation Plan and the County Kildare Local Sports Plan. A survey was conducted in September/October 2024 to inform these plans.
<b>LR A10</b> - Develop a strategy for the Barrow & Rye Valleys to enhance and protect their historical, ecological, and amenity value, in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders.	Long Term	Not on current work programme.
<b>LR A11</b> - Investigate the feasibility of developing long distance walking and	Short Term	KCC has committed to undertaking a range of feasibility studies and projects related to improving pedestrian and cycle connectivity throughout the county, noting the following:

<p>cycling routes along disused sections of railway lines (e.g. Tullow line, Edenderry to Enfield (former Midland Great Western) line, Harristown Railway line) and canals (Corbally Line, Blackwood Feeder, and Mountmellick Line) or through boglands, possibly using the bog railway routes, during the lifetime of the Plan, in conjunction with the Irish Sports Council and adjoining Local Authorities. These walking and cycling routes will be segregated where possible.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultants have been appointed to prepare a feasibility study in relation to a connection between Monasterevin / Barrow to Portarlinton - due to be completed by the end of 2025.</li> <li>• Consultants have been commissioned by the County Development Plan Implementation Team to undertake a feasibility study in relation to a potential recreational project along the Corbally Canal between Naas Harbour, Corbally Harbour and the River Liffey.</li> <li>• Grand Canal and Royal Canal Greenways currently being implemented.</li> <li>• Naas-Sallins Greenway Project has been delivered.</li> </ul>
<p><b>LR A12</b> - Develop, in conjunction with local communities, short walking routes, such as looped walks, heritage/historic trails, famine trails, historical trails, and Slí Na Sláinte routes.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Not on current work programme.</p>
<p><b>LR A13</b> - Develop Monitoring and Management Plans for Greenways, Blueways, Peatways and Trails, in their ownership, with the protection and enhancement of biodiversity at their core, to ensure the success of these routes and environmental sustainability.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Not on current work programme – to be investigated and progressed following the completion of relevant blueway, greenway, peatway and trail projects.</p>
<p><b>LR A14</b> - Liaise with Waterways Ireland and other agencies to investigate the feasibility of creating inland Marinas / mooring</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Not on current work programme - to be progressed subject to the availability of resources.</p>

<p>facilities on canals at Lullymore / Lodge, Ummeras, and Ticknevin Bogs.</p>		
<p><b>LR A15</b> - To progress the implementation of the Liffey Valley Linear Park. A map showing the full extent of the routes shall be prepared and policies shall be identified that support the development of the linear park which shall then be included in relevant Local Area Plans.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC, together with the projects and work programmes of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p> <p>In this regard, a feasibility study has commenced in relation to the provision of a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge to Leixlip. It is anticipated that this project could form the first phase in the delivery of a wider Liffey Valley Park envisaged in the Liffey Valley Park Strategy (2006).</p>
<p><b>Urban Recreation and Amenities</b></p>		
<p><b>LR O80</b> - Provide or facilitate the development of suitable sites of appropriate scale for recreational and amenity use, through this Plan and the Development Management process in accordance with the forthcoming National Outdoor Recreation Strategy, the Ready, Steady, Play! A National Play Policy (2004) and the TeenSpace: National Recreation Policy for Young People (2007). Such land shall be easily accessible to the public and located in or adjacent to areas of existing or proposed residential use, or close to centres of rural communities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management process, together with the work programmes of the Community Section, the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department, noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites for the future provision of amenities have been identified in the Local Area Plans and Town Renewal Plans published since the coming into effect of the KCDP.</li> <li>• Planning permissions have been granted for the delivery of a public parkland along the River Liffey at Clane under Refs. 2360433 and 22889. Since the coming into effect of the KCDP, larger residential developments have or will provide play areas and open spaces.</li> <li>• Kerdiffstown Park opened in October 2024, a community park and playground was opened in Allenwood in May 2024, additional bike parking has been provided in St Catherine's Park and outdoor gyms have been provided in Prosperous, Celbridge and Bawnogues/Kilcock.</li> <li>• The Sallins Amenity Lands (Part 8 proposal Ref. P82022.01) are currently at detailed design stage with tender for the delivery of the first phase anticipated to be issued in 2025.</li> <li>• Part 8 proposal in relation to the further enhancement of the Wonderful Barn as a heritage and parkland amenity asset approved in 2024.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Allotment and Community Garden Strategy 2024 was published by KCC in December 2024 and includes a commitment to developing pilot program of allotment and community garden projects, subject to the availability of funding and resources and on an incremental basis. At least one potential site is identified in each Municipal District. To meet the identified demand, Kildare County Council will focus on five pilot project locations over the period 2024-2030.</li> <li>• KCC has commenced preparation of the County Kildare Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, the County Kildare Outdoor Recreation Plan and the County Kildare Local Sports Plan. A survey was conducted in September/October 2024 to inform these plans.</li> <li>• A natural play area was opened in the Liffey Linear Park in Newbridge in December 2024.</li> <li>• A site has been identified in Ballymore Eustace for the potential provision of a playground pending further investigation.</li> <li>• The development of a new playground at the Leixlip Amenities Centre is ongoing (Part 8 Ref. P82023.03).</li> <li>• KCC is currently in the process of securing the Celbridge Parochial House and lands with the intention of redeveloping this significant building and site on the Main Street for community uses. This community development will serve Celbridge and the wider community of North Kildare. Subject to detailed design, the redeveloped site may incorporate a playground and/or other outdoor recreation/amenity facilities.</li> <li>• The County Development Plan Implementation Team has commenced a feasibility study regarding a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge to Leixlip. The provision of additional play facilities is likely to form part of the feasibility study.</li> <li>• Feasibility studies are ongoing in relation to a heritage walk in old Kilcullen and a walking trail between Monasterevin and Portarlinton.</li> </ul>
<p><b>LR 081</b> - Ensure that new developments are compatible with the availability and</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>size of passive and active open space and recreational facilities,  i) within 10 minutes' walk from people's homes;  ii) accessible to all, regardless of age, physical mobility, disability or social disadvantage;  iii) are in line with the Settlement Strategy and the 'Sustainable Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities,' (DEHLG, 2009);  iv) include disabled parking bays, and  v) include accessible play recreational facilities/equipment.</p>		
<p><b>LR O82</b> - Require the provision of good quality, well located and functional open space in new residential developments, including landscaping with native species and scale appropriate natural play areas to cater for all age groups.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR O83</b> - Ensure development proposals provide for hedgerow and woodland creation and augmentation within developments (footnote 7) at the start of the construction phase and encourage the block planting of woodland and the joining up of hedgerows and woodlands between developments in order to support habitat</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

creation, in so far as possible. 7. Including residential, industrial and retail developments.		
<b>LR O84</b> - Ensure that all development proposals include comprehensive landscaping schemes including trees, suitable to their environment and to require that the planting of same should either be carried out in full as part of Phase 1 for larger phased schemes or prior to the occupation of any units on the overall development site on all other schemes.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.
<b>LR O85</b> - Facilitate additional non-mainstream facilities for the youth and sport facilities that lend themselves to lifelong participation for older persons through the provision of suitable facilities in all towns and villages.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, together with the work programme of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.
<b>LR O86</b> - Provide play facilities adjacent to other community and childcare facilities, in so far as is possible, and to ensure their proper management and maintenance.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, together with the work programme of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.
<b>LR O87</b> - Implement the Kildare Play Strategy (2018-2028) to address the play and recreational needs of children and	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, together with the work programme of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.

<p>young people growing up in County Kildare.</p>		
<p><b>LR 088</b> - Avoid the loss of an existing amenity or recreational facility through any development proposal, unless:                  (i) The facility or amenity was established as an interim use pending the completion of an improved or satisfactory replacement facility; or                  (ii) The applicant can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that there is an insufficient local demand for the existing facility; or                  (iii) Satisfactory alternative provision can be made by the applicant that will be fully operational either prior to the commencement of development or prior to the occupation of any residential units directly associated with the subject recreational facility.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR 089</b> - Liaise with sporting organisations to ensure that where possible the needs of sports clubs and the communities are met in the provision of quality facilities in line with the vision and objectives of the National Sports Policy, 2018-2027.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. KCC has commenced preparation of the County Kildare Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, the County Kildare Outdoor Recreation Plan and the County Kildare Local Sports Plan. A survey was conducted in September/October 2024 to inform these plans.</p>
<p><b>LR 090</b> - Work with other government, non-government, sporting organisations</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management process. KCC has commenced preparation of the County Kildare Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, the</p>



<p>and other relevant organisations to develop synergies in relation to the provision of recreational and amenity facilities.</p>		<p>County Kildare Outdoor Recreation Plan and the County Kildare Local Sports Plan. A survey was conducted in September/October 2024 to inform these plans.</p>
<p><b>LR 091</b> - Consider future needs in the provision of new or in the expansion of existing sport and recreational facilities, by encouraging the clustering of facilities, improving the range, quality, access and capacity of facilities and catering for all age-groups and abilities through initiatives in partnership with community groups and sporting organisations.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR 092</b> - Support the Sports and Recreation Strategic Plan 2012 – 2016 (or any subsequent updates) for the county, in co-operation with Kildare Sports Partnership, during the lifetime of this Plan.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Kildare Sports Partnership Strategic Plan has been reviewed and updated for 2022-2023.</p>
<p><b>LR 093</b> - Prevent the development of areas zoned open space/amenity or areas which have been indicated in a previous planning application as being open space for uses other than open space and recreation related.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>LR 094</b> - Identify potential sites for regional type parks in the Naas-Newbridge Allenwood, Celbridge-Maynooth-Leixlip and Athy areas, and to commence the process of delivery of same, as outlined in the Council’s Kildare Open Space Strategy, 2021.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC, in conjunction with the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department. Initial investigations conducted in 2024 - further progress on future work programmes subject to available resources.</p>
<p><b>LR 095</b> - Implement the recommendations of the Kildare Open Space Strategy 2021 and make provision for a hierarchy of public parks, open spaces and outdoor recreation areas within towns and villages so that the population can participate in a wide range of active and passive recreational pursuits within easy reach of their homes and places of work.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing for the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the annual work programme of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department, noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kerdiffstown Park opened in October 2024</li> <li>• A community park and playground was opened in Allenwood in May 2024.</li> <li>• The Sallins Amenity Lands (Part 8 proposal Ref. P82022.01) are currently at detailed design stage with tender for the delivery of the first phase anticipated to be issued in 2025.</li> <li>• Part 8 proposal in relation to the further enhancement of The Wonderful Barn as a heritage and parkland amenity asset approved in 2024.</li> <li>• The County Development Plan Implementation Team has commenced a feasibility study regarding a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge to Leixlip. The provision of additional play facilities is likely to form part of the feasibility study.</li> <li>• Planning permissions have been granted for the delivery of a public parkland along the River Liffey at Clane under Refs. 23/60433 and 22/889</li> <li>• In addition, since the coming into effect of the KCDP, larger residential developments have or will provide natural play areas and open spaces in settlements throughout the county.</li> </ul>

<p><b>LR 096</b> - Support and facilitate the provision of a network of high quality, well connected and well located multifunctional public parks and open spaces throughout the county, while protecting and enhancing the environmental capacity and ecological function of these spaces, in order to aid the movement of biodiversity and people and to strengthen the overall Green Infrastructure network.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing for the forward planning and development management function of KCC, in conjunction with the annual work programme of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team and the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department.</p>
<p><b>LR 097</b> - Investigate the feasibility of increasing linkages between the Park at Kerdiffstown, the proposed Sallins Amenity Lands and the Grand Canal Greenway in co-operation with Waterways Ireland.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Not on current work programme.</p>
<p><b>LR 098</b> - Explore the feasibility of developing an Urban Neighbourhood Park by integrating the existing local park at Abbeyland and undeveloped strategic open space as a River Liffey Park in Clane.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. Planning permissions have been granted for the delivery of a public parkland along the River Liffey in Clane under Refs. 2360433 and 22889.</p>
<p><b>LR 099</b> - Retain, where appropriate, areas adjacent to waterways as a linear park, particularly where these link into the wider open space network.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC.</p>

<p><b>LR O100</b> - Support and facilitate, the establishment of a community run nursery to grow native plants, at an appropriate location.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC. The Allotment and Community Garden Strategy 2024 was published by KCC in December 2024 and includes a commitment to developing pilot program of allotment and community garden projects, subject to the availability of funding and resources and on an incremental basis. At least one potential site is identified in each Municipal District. To meet the identified demand, Kildare County Council will focus on five pilot project locations over the period 2024-2030.</p>
<p><b>LR O101</b> - Ensure that residual land in developments can be used for the provision of green infrastructure including for community food programmes/ allotments and pollination.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR O102</b> - Support and facilitate allotments/ community gardens on roofs of buildings where they do not pose a safety risk to the users of such spaces. Each proposal shall be assessed on its own merits.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR O103</b> - Support and facilitate allotments/ community gardens on vacant, underutilised and derelict sites throughout the county.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC. The Allotment and Community Garden Strategy 2024 was published by KCC in December 2024 and includes a commitment to developing pilot program of allotment and community garden projects, subject to the availability of funding and resources and on an incremental basis. At least one potential site is identified in each Municipal District. To meet the identified demand, Kildare County Council will focus on five pilot project locations over the period 2024-2030.</p>
<p><b>LR O104</b> - Support and facilitate the development of allotments/community gardens that's accessible to all and meet the following criteria:</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management and forward planning function of KCC. The Allotment and Community Garden Strategy 2024 was published by KCC in December 2024 and includes a commitment to developing pilot program of allotment and community garden projects, subject to the availability of funding and resources and on an incremental basis. At</p>

<p>(i) The lands are of appropriate scale and at appropriate locations, situated within or immediately adjacent to the edge of towns/ villages;</p> <p>(ii) Proximate to public transport links and walking/cycling infrastructure; and</p> <p>(iii) Adequate water supply and adequate parking facilities can be provided.</p>		<p>least one potential site is identified in each Municipal District. To meet the identified demand, Kildare County Council will focus on five pilot project locations over the period 2024-2030.</p>
<p><b>LR O105</b> - Minimise the environmental impact of external lighting at sensitive locations within the Green Infrastructure network to mitigate adverse impacts on sensitive fauna and protected species, and to achieve a sustainable balance between the recreational needs of an area, the safety of walking and cycling routes and the protection of light sensitive species such as bats.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the development management function of KCC.</p>
<p><b>LR A16</b> - Identify public land for the planting of woodlands under the Woodland Creation on Public Lands scheme, as well as public land for community gardens, and other measures to improve biodiversity (including bee and insect houses), and parkland meadows within the county's open spaces and parks to promote the development of multifunctional amenity areas with</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Ongoing through the work programme and projects of the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department; the Climate, Community, Environment and Water Department; the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team; and through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p> <p>In 2023, Kildare County Council acquired a 50-acre site in Feighcullen with a view to creating a protected biodiversity habitat, incorporating native tree planting - development is ongoing. In addition, the 2023 tree planting programme established 475 semi mature trees and 1800 sapling and hedging plants throughout the county.</p>

enhanced biodiversity value in every urban settlement, where possible.		
<b>LR A17</b> - Investigate the feasibility of developing the Donaghcumper lands as an amenity for local people and link the lands with Castletown, in cooperation with the National Historic Properties unit of the Office of Public Works and all other relevant stakeholders.	Short Term	KCC acquired lands at Donaghcumper in July 2024. It is expected that the lands could accommodate a new public parkland with potential opportunities for sports, recreation, amenity and biodiversity initiatives together with some community and mixed uses. In this regard, the County Development Plan Implementation Team has commenced a feasibility study regarding a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge to Leixlip.
<b>LR A18</b> - Refurbish the existing playground in the Leixlip Amenities Centre and all other playgrounds around the county as necessary.	Ongoing	An approved Part 8 proposal for improvement works to Leixlip Amenities (Part 8 Ref. P82023.03) is in progress. Works related to the car park were completed in 2024 and the delivery of the playground is ongoing. Work on new and upgraded playgrounds will continue into 2025, including at Leixlip and Kilcock.
<b>LR A19</b> - Develop an outdoor youth facility in Celbridge as a pilot scheme to inform the development of other play facilities in County Kildare.	Medium Term	The Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department, in conjunction with the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team have conducted extensive public consultation in relation to the provision of an outdoor youth facility. Consultants have been appointed to complete the installation of a hangout area at The Slip in Celbridge. Project to be progressed into 2025.
<b>LR A20</b> - a) Develop a new playground at Allenwood during the lifetime of this Plan. b) Support new and additional playgrounds/play facilities for communities in Brannockstown, Kildangan, Cutbush, Straffan, Johnstownbridge, Carbury, Derrinturn, Donadea, Maynooth, Leixlip, Celbridge, Robertstown, Kilmeague, Two Mile House, Newbridge,	Long Term	KCC actively seeks to provide appropriate play facilities in its settlements subject to the identification of appropriate sites and the availability of resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A community park and playground was opened in Allenwood in May 2024.</li> <li>• A natural play area was opened in the Liffey Linear Park in Newbridge in December 2024.</li> <li>• Investigations are ongoing to provide a playground in Ballymore Eustace.</li> <li>• The development of a new playground at the Leixlip Amenities Centre is ongoing (Part 8 Ref. P82023.03).</li> </ul>

<p>Athgarvan, Kildare, The Curragh, Calverstown, Kilberry, Ballitore, Kilkea, Maganey and Ardclough and to deliver same, if deemed appropriate, during the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p>c) Support the community to deliver a playground in Ballymore Eustace during the lifetime of this Plan.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sallins Amenity Lands Part 8 proposal (Ref. P82022.01) includes a playground. The amenity lands are currently at detailed design stage with tender for the delivery of the first phase anticipated to be issued in 2025.</li> <li>• The Wonderful Barn Part 8 proposal (Ref. P82024.10) includes the provision of a playground/natural play area.</li> <li>• KCC is currently in the process of securing the Celbridge Parochial House and lands with the intention of redeveloping this significant building and site on the Main Street for community uses. This community development will serve Celbridge and the wider community of North Kildare. Subject to detailed design, the redeveloped site may incorporate a playground and/or other outdoor amenity facilities.</li> <li>• The County Development Plan Implementation Team has commenced a feasibility study regarding a Liffey Valley Park from Celbridge to Leixlip. The provision of additional play facilities is likely to form part of the feasibility study.</li> <li>• Sites for the future provision of playgrounds have been identified in Town Renewal Plans published since the coming into effect of the KCDP at Kilmeague, Coill Dubh / Cooleragh, Ardclough and Johnstownbridge. The preparation of further Town Renewal Masterplans is ongoing.</li> <li>• In addition, since the coming into effect of the KCDP, larger residential developments have or will provide natural play areas in settlements throughout the county.</li> </ul>
<p><b>LR A21</b> - Progress plans for the delivery of recreational and amenity facilities on the Sallins Amenity Lands in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>The Sallins Amenity Lands Part 8 proposal (Ref. P82022.01) includes a range of recreational and amenity facilities including a teen play area, outdoor gym equipment, a playground, a courtyard area, allotments, a birdwatching tower, tennis courts and pitches. The amenity lands are currently at detailed design stage with tender for the delivery of the first phase anticipated to be issued in 2025.</p>
<p><b>LR A22</b> - Progress plans for the development of Sports, Recreational &amp; Water Hub facilities in Monasterevin in partnership with the Monasterevin</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Planning permission was granted to the Monasterevin Development Association for the development of a Water Sports Hub in February 2024 under Planning Reference 23/60116.</p>

Development Association, Waterways Ireland, the Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary and all other relevant stakeholders.		
<b>LR A23</b> – Support sustainable management of our parks and residential areas which will include areas of reduced mowing.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the work programme of the Transport, Mobility and Public Open Spaces Department - incorporating pollinator friendly planting in public parks, engagement in No-Mow-May and reduced pesticide spraying. It is anticipated that a new grass cutting regime will be established during the lifetime of the KCDP.
<b>LR A24</b> - Deliver Cherry Avenue Park in Kildare Town as a recreation and amenity centre to include (inter alia) dedicated facilities for teenagers.	Medium Term	Tender issued in December 2024 for the detailed design for Phase 1 of the Cherry Avenue Public Park for progression in 2025.
<b>LR A25</b> - Prepare an integrated public amenity park and tourism destination at the Wonderful Barn and associated lands, to be informed by a detailed conservation and management plan.	Long Term	A Part 8 Proposal for the redevelopment of the Wonderful Barn was approved in 2024. The development seeks to protect and enhance the architectural heritage and amenity value of the site through the provision of an integrated public amenity park and tourism destination, incorporating a conservation led design approach.
<b>LR A26</b> - Investigate the feasibility of an Allotment Pilot Programme to consider matters relating to site identification, administration, leases/rental and resources required to deliver an allotment in each Municipal District in association with District Engineers and the Parks Department.	Short Term	The Allotment and Community Garden Strategy 2024 was published by KCC in December 2024 and includes a commitment to developing pilot program of allotment and community garden projects, subject to the availability of funding and resources and on an incremental basis. At least one potential site is identified in each Municipal District. To meet the identified demand, Kildare County Council will focus on five pilot project locations over the period 2024-2030.



## A1.13 Chapter 14 – Urban Design, Placemaking and Regeneration

Policy Objective	Timelines	CE Comments
<b>Urban Design and Placemaking</b>		
<b>UD 01</b> – Require a high standard of urban design to be integrated into the design and layout all new development and ensure compliance with the principles of healthy placemaking by providing increased opportunities for physical activities, social interaction and active travel, through the development of compact, permeable neighbourhoods which feature high-quality pedestrian and cyclist connectivity, accessible to a range of local services and amenities.	Ongoing	The implementation of this objective is ongoing as part of the forward planning and development management function of KCC.
<b>UD 02</b> - Ensure that town centres remain the focal point of their respective settlements by maintaining and enhancing their role as dynamic, attractive, resilient and inclusive environments, and as established destinations for commercial, retail, civic and recreational activities.	Ongoing	The implementation of this objective is ongoing as part of the forward planning and development management function of KCC.
<b>UD 03</b> - Support and promote the '10-minute settlement' concept across all towns and villages in the county and require that all Local Area Plans	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC. The 10-minute settlement principle has been incorporated into the Kildare Town Local Area Plan (LAP) 2023-2029 and the Maynooth Joint LAP 2025-2031 and will be applied to all Local Area Plans (or appropriate successors to same) that are subject to review during the lifetime of the KCDP.

incorporate policies and objectives that will assist in its implementation.		
<b>UD 04</b> - To require all proposals for multi-unit residential developments to demonstrate how the principles of 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design' have been considered and applied in the design and layout of the proposed scheme.	Ongoing	Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.
<b>Town and Village Renewal</b>		
<b>UD 05</b> - Apply a design-led approach to urban regeneration and development by supporting the preparation of placemaking strategies (as outlined in Table 14.1) and providing for their implementation on a phased basis over the life of the Plan and beyond.	Ongoing	<p>The placemaking strategies detailed in Table 14.1 of the KCDP relate to the preparation of Urban Design/Regeneration Frameworks, Masterplans, Town Renewal Masterplans, Key Development Areas and Design Statements. The implementation of this objective is ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Confey Masterplan was incorporated into the Leixlip Local Area Plan 2020-2023 (as extended) by amendment on the 25th March 2024</li> <li>• The Draft Maynooth Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 identifies a range of Key Development Areas, a Central Settlement Consolidation Site with an Urban Design Framework, an Urban Expansion area requiring the preparation of a Masterplan and 2 no. areas within the Maynooth Environs that also require the preparation of Masterplans.</li> <li>• For Town Renewal Masterplans see response to UD 06 below.</li> <li>• Design Statements are required to be submitted with planning applications for larger developments (10+ houses / 1000 sqm), for development on sensitive sites (within Architectural Conservation Areas or with potential effects on Protected Structures) or for sites identified in LAP's.</li> </ul>

<p><b>UD O6</b> - Continue to pursue a Town Centre First Approach to renewing and developing town centres through the following:</p> <p>(i) Prioritising the town centre as the primary location for commercial, civic, social and cultural development and promoting new high quality infill and backland development that consolidates and regenerates the existing urban core.</p> <p>(ii) Preparing and implementing Town/Village Renewal Masterplans for settlements of all sizes across the county.</p> <p>(iii) Actively engaging with the community, landowners, developers and other agencies to secure support and develop a shared vision for the renewal and enhancement of Kildare’s towns and villages.</p> <p>(iv) Implementing the provisions of Government’s ‘Housing For All’ plan (2021) with regard to addressing vacancy and maximising efficient use of existing stock in our town centres.</p> <p>(v) Implementing the provisions and Actions of ‘Town Centre First – A Policy Approach for Irish Towns’ (2022) including supporting the work of any appointed</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC, noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Renewal Masterplans have been prepared and published for Monasterevin, Johnstownbridge, Straffan, Derrinturn, Ardclough, Castledermot, Athgarvan, Leixlip, Kildare Town, Celbridge, Coill Dubh / Cooleragh, Robertstown, Kilmeague and Allenwood. Further Town Renewal Masterplans will be prepared and published in 2025.</li> <li>• A Town Regeneration Team have been established.</li> <li>• The Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team have and continue to undertake a range of projects to improve the public realm of towns and villages across the county, including the regeneration of Emily Square in Athy (construction stage), Kilcullen Market Square (detailed design / tender), Rathangan Market Square (detailed design / tender), Kildare Market Square (Phase 1 planning complete + Phase 2 planning underway), Monasterevin Square (preliminary design).</li> </ul>
---	----------------	--

<p>Town Regeneration Officers within the Council.</p>		
<p><b>UD 07</b> - Consider, through the preparation of Local Area Plans, the concept of quarter-based planning, which should be developed on a phased basis in tandem with the delivery of necessary social and physical infrastructure, and where appropriate include bespoke urban design codes to address the local characteristics.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC. It is noted that the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 incorporates quadrant-based planning in the implementation of the 10-minute settlement principle.</p>
<p><b>UD 08</b> - Provide for the effective presentation, development and management of a people-centred and universally accessible public realm within settlements, through the preparation and implementation of Public Realm Strategies.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning function of KCC. Town Renewal Masterplans have been prepared and published for Monasterevin, Johnstownbridge, Straffan, Derrinturn, Ardclough, Castledermot, Athgarvan, Leixlip, Kildare Town, Celbridge, Coill Dubh / Cooleragh, Robertstown, Kilmeague and Allenwood. Further Town Renewal Masterplans will be prepared and published in 2025.</p> <p>The Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team have and continue to undertake a range of projects to improve the public realm of towns and villages across the county, including the regeneration of Emily Square in Athy (construction stage), Kilcullen Market Square (detailed design / tender), Rathangan Market Square (detailed design / tender), Kildare Market Square (Phase 1 planning complete + Phase 2 planning underway), Monasterevin Square (preliminary design).</p>
<p><b>UD 09</b> - Support the establishment of alternative uses and functions for buildings within town centres and facilitate the implementation of the 'meanwhile use' concept to allow for</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>

<p>temporary uses to be established in vacant units, subject to the appropriate planning and environmental considerations.</p>		
<p><b>UD O10</b> - Review the Athy pilot scheme and implement similar town and village renewal schemes on a phased basis for the settlements of County Kildare in order to reduce vacancy levels in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Town and Village Renewal Schemes are being progressed through the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team.</p>
<p><b>UD A1</b> - Continue to seek funding from relevant agencies and Government sources including the Rural and Urban Regeneration and Development Funds (RRDF/URDF) to secure financial support for all town and village renewal projects in the county and to explore possibilities for community-led and social financing opportunities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>A total of €12,055,915.49 has been awarded to KCC under URDF and RRDF since the coming into effect of the KCDP for a range of projects led by the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The redevelopment of the Shackleton Museum (Status: works progressing).</li> <li>• Development of the Barrow Blueway (Status: Monasterevin (Irish Rail) works nearing completion).</li> <li>• Athy Dominican Lands Masterplan (Status: On hold pending decision and outcome of Athy Flood Relief Scheme).</li> <li>• Maynooth Town Centre Masterplan including Harbour Fields and District Heating Feasibility Study (Status: Tender assessed and report to be finalised).</li> <li>• Naas Town Renewal Masterplan (Status: Tender assessed and report to be finalised).</li> <li>• Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan (Status: Options referred to consultants for consideration).</li> </ul>
<p><b>UD A2</b> – Prepare a series of Masterplans / Urban Design Frameworks over the lifetime of the Plan, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, including but not</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Masterplans and/or Urban Design Frameworks progressed since the coming into effect of the KCDP include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Naas Northwest Quadrant commenced.</li> <li>• Naas Canal Quarter commenced.</li> </ul>

<p>limited to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Northwest Quadrant, Naas</li> <li>- The Canal Quarter, Naas</li> <li>- Naas to Newbridge Strategic Employment Zone</li> <li>- Lands at Confey, Leixlip</li> <li>- Dominican Lands, Athy</li> <li>- Lands at St. Raphael's / Oakley Park, Celbridge</li> <li>- Lands at Simmonstown, Celbridge</li> <li>- Collinstown (Strategic Employment lands), Leixlip</li> <li>- Collegelands (lands to west of Maynooth, adjoining Maynooth University and St. Patrick's College)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confey Masterplan completed.</li> <li>• Collegelands at Maynooth addressed through the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031.</li> <li>• Commencement of the Athy Dominican Lands Masterplan on hold pending the outcome of the Athy Flood Relief Scheme.</li> </ul>
<p><b>UD A3</b> - Prepare and implement on a phased basis Town/Village Renewal Masterplans for the following settlements: Naas, Maynooth, Newbridge, Leixlip, Kildare Town, Celbridge, Monasterevin, Clane, Athgarvan, Castledermot, Rathangan, Derrinturn, Straffan, Allenwood, Coill Dubh (inc. Coolearagh), Johnstownbridge, Kilmeague, Ardclough and a combined plan for the Curragh settlements (Ballysax, Brownstown, Curragh Camp, Cutbush, Maddenstown, Suncroft).</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Town Renewal Masterplans have been prepared and published for Monasterevin, Johnstownbridge, Straffan, Derrinturn, Ardclough, Castledermot, Athgarvan, Leixlip, Kildare Town, Celbridge, Coill Dubh / Cooleragh, Robertstown, Kilmeague and Allenwood since the coming into effect of the KCDP. Further Town Renewal Masterplans will be prepared and published in 2025.</p>

<p><b>UD A4</b> - Continue to monitor on an ongoing basis the overall health of town centres as part of the Town Centre Health Check Exercise of the Town Renewal Masterplan process, and in the preparation of Local Area Plans, in order to establish a 'live' baseline dataset relating to land use activities and vacancies in town centres.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Town Centre Health Checks are undertaken in the preparation of Local Area Plan's and Town Renewal Masterplans.</p>
<p><b>UD A5</b> - Continue to tackle vacant residential and derelict sites within town centres through various initiatives, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Targeted engagement with landowners.</li> <li>- Promoting awareness of the Buy and Renew and Repair and Lease Schemes.</li> <li>- Developing tailored responses through selected Town Renewal Masterplans.</li> <li>- Applying for any funds made available under the Government's Housing for All plan (2021) to increase residential living opportunities in vacant or underutilised buildings.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the housing, forward planning and development management functions of KCC, in conjunction with the projects of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team.</p>
<p><b>UD A6</b> - Continue to pursue tactile urbanism initiatives by using the public realm within selected settlements as an experimental space to test new design concepts and alternative layouts.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing through the forward planning and development management function of KCC in conjunction with the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team.</p>

<b>Building Heights and Development Sequencing</b>		
<p><b>UD O11</b> - Comply with the provisions of the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Urban Development and Building Heights (2018) by providing for the following.</p> <p>(a) Support increased building height and densities in appropriate locations, as outlined in Table 14.4, subject to the avoidance of undue impacts on the existing residential or visual amenities.</p> <p>(b) Utilising increased building heights to support mixed use development, including downsizing opportunities and residential units that facilitate an adaptable layout to suit long term changes in homeowner requirements.</p> <p>(c) In mixed use schemes, development proposals shall include details of the sequencing of uses to enable the timely activation of supporting infrastructure and services. New development greater than 4 storeys will be required to address the development management criteria set out in section 3.2 of the Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines (2018).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective is ongoing as part of the forward planning and development management function of KCC.</p>



A1.14 – Chapter 16 – Monitoring and Implementation

Policy Objective	Timeframe	CE Comments
<p><b>MI 01</b> - Undertake an ongoing programme of monitoring and evaluation of the County Development Plan over its lifetime, as follows, and to align these monitoring protocols with each other as part of the overall Implementation and Monitoring Framework of the Plan;</p> <p>i. Prepare an Annual Development Plan Monitoring Report in accordance with the Development Plans Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2022).</p> <p>ii. Prepare a 2-year Progress Report (as required under Section 15 (2) of the Act).</p> <p>iii. Prepare and submit a report to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly setting out the progress made in advancing objectives of the RSES (as required under Section 25A (1) of the Act, every two years, following the adoption of the Plan.</p> <p>iv. Prepare and publish a Baseline Report setting out the evidence basis for the review procedure of the Development Plan not later than four years after the adoption the Plan, in accordance with the</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>This report comprises the 2-Year Progress Report as required under Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).</p> <p>The first Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 Annual Monitoring Report for 2023 was published by KCC in May 2024. To avoid repetition and overlap, the data of the annual monitoring data for 2023 and 2024 have been provided as responses to the relevant objectives/actions/targets of the County Development Plan in this report.</p> <p>This report, in conjunction with the annual monitoring data will form the basis of reporting to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly on KCC's efforts in advancing the objectives RSES.</p> <p>A baseline report will be published as the evidence base for the review procedure of the County Development Plan, subject to the enactment of the Planning and Development Act 2024 and any associated transitional arrangements.</p>

Development Plans Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2022).		
<p><b>MI 02</b> - Require the preparation of an Infrastructure Assessment for all Local Area Plans to inform a phasing and infrastructure programme including physical, social, transport and economic Infrastructure to ensure key servicing and community infrastructure is delivered prior to or in tandem with development.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Local Transport Plans/Strategies or Area Based Transport Assessments, together with Social Infrastructure Assessments and Settlement Capacity Audits directly inform the preparation of Local Area Plans (LAPs) in Kildare.</p> <p>Where considered appropriate and necessary, LAPs incorporate infrastructure delivery and phasing schedules to facilitate the timely provision of the physical and social infrastructure required to ensure sustainable growth.</p> <p>Since the coming into effect of the KCDP, the following Local Area Plans have been, or are currently being, reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kildare Town LAP 2023-2029 was adopted on the 26th of October 2023 and came into effect on the 6th of December 2023.</li> <li>• The Maynooth and Environs Joint LAP 2025-2031 adopted in February 2025.</li> <li>• The Draft Newbridge LAP 2025-2031 will be published in March 2025.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MI 03</b> - Implement the mitigation measures as set out in the SEA Environmental Report.</p>	Long Term	<p>Implementation of the mitigation measures of the SEA Environmental Report is ongoing through the various departments of Kildare County Council.</p> <p>Appendix 2 of this report contains the SEA Monitoring Report prepared by ARUPS.</p>
<p><b>MI 04</b> - Implement the monitoring programme as set out in the SEA Environmental Report. This will include the preparation of standalone SEA Monitoring Reports to accompany:</p> <p>a) The report required of the Chief Executive under section 15(2) of the Act, including information in relation to progress on, and the results of, monitoring</p>	Medium Term	<p>Implementation of the monitoring programme of the SEA Environmental Report is ongoing through the various departments of Kildare County Council.</p> <p>Appendix 2 of this report contains the SEA Monitoring Report prepared by ARUP.</p>

<p>the significant environmental effects of implementation of the development plan. b) In advance of the beginning of the review of the next County Development Plan, on the significant environmental effects of implementing this Plan.</p>		
<p><b>MI A1</b> - Establish a 'live' GIS (recently updated) and supported database which shall contain information relating to planning and development in the County, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The provision of key indicators, as outlined in Section 10.3.2 of the Development Plan Guidelines (2022), to assist in monitoring the implementation of the Core Strategy (to be updated on a quarterly basis).</li> <li>- The provision of data and mapping relating to town centre land uses (including vacancies and brownfield sites) for the twelve settlements in the county subject to local area plans.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>A '<i>Planning Data Collection and Coding System</i>' (PDCCS) database was established as part of the preparation of the first KCDP Annual Monitoring Report 2023. Updating of the PDCCS database is ongoing as part of the development management process.</p> <p>Incorporation of the PDCCS database into a GIS mapping system will continue to be progressed by the planning department as resources allow.</p> <p>Identification and mapping of town centre land uses and settlement consolidation sites forms part of the preparation of Local Area Plans settlements. Incorporation of this data into a formalised database and GIS mapping system will continue to be progressed by the planning department as resources allow.</p>

## Appendix 2:

# Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Monitoring Report

**Kildare County Council (KCC)**

# Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Monitoring of Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 - Two Year Progress Report

SEA Monitoring of Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 - Two Year  
Progress Report

Reference: Issue

Issue | 20 February 2025

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client. It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

Job number 305928-00

**Ove Arup & Partners Ireland Limited**  
50 Ringsend Road  
Dublin 4  
D04 T6X0  
Ireland  
[arup.com](http://arup.com)

## Contents

---

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Monitoring Objectives and Methods	1
3.	Baseline Environment and Monitoring Results	3
3.1	Population and Human Health	3
3.2	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	8
3.3	Land and Soils	10
3.4	Water	11
3.5	Air, Noise and Climatic Factors	12
3.6	Cultural Heritage	17
3.7	Landscape and Visual	18
3.8	Material Assets	19
4.	Summary and Conclusions	23

### Tables

Table 3.1	Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Population and Human Health within the Plan	3
Table 3.2	Active Modes of Transport Comparison 2016 vs. 2022 in Kildare (Source: CSO, 2022)	5
Table 3.3	Public Modes of Transport Comparison 2016 vs. 2022 in Kildare (Source: CSO, 2022)	5
Table 3.4	Private Modes of Transport Comparison 2016 vs. 2022 in Kildare (Source: CSO, 2022)	6
Table 3.5	Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna within the Plan	8
Table 3.6	Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Land and Soils within the Plan	10
Table 3.7	Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Water within the Plan.	11
Table 3.8	Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Air Quality within the Plan	12
Table 3.9	Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Air Quality within the Plan.	12
Table 3.10	Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Cultural Heritage within the Plan	17
Table 3.11	Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Landscape and Visual within the Plan	18
Table 3.12	Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Material Assets within the Plan	19
Table 3.13	Planning applications relating to solar farm developments in Kildare County.	21

### Figures

Figure 1	Baseline Emission Inventory for County Kildare (2018). Source: Kildare Climate Action Plan 2024-2029	15
----------	--	----

# 1. Introduction

Kildare County Council (KCC) adopted the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (hereafter referred to as ‘the Plan’) on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and came into legal effect on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The Plan is the key strategy document which structures the proper planning and sustainable development of land-use across County Kildare over the six-year statutory time period of the Plan. The Plan seeks to address the physical, economic, social, and environmental needs of the community, in terms of supporting structured new development, protecting the environment, enhancing valued assets and amenities.

The Plan was subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the SEA Directive 2001/42/EEC (the ‘SEA Directive’), which introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes that are prepared for a number of sectors, including land use planning. An SEA Environmental Report, outlining the potential for the Plan to give rise to significant environmental effects, was prepared by Arup in 2022.

Article 10 of the SEA Directive requires that any significant environmental effects arising from the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. Monitoring can both demonstrate the positive effects facilitated by the Plan and can enable, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action.

Arup has been commissioned by KCC to prepare a report outlining the environmental effects of implementing the Plan at its two-year progress point (2025), i.e. an SEA Monitoring Report.

Section 2 of this report provides greater context to the objectives and methods of the report, and the approach applied. Section 3 of this report sets out the baseline environment and monitoring results, with monitoring conclusions set out in Section 4.

## 2. Monitoring Objectives and Methods

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2015) defines monitoring as “*the periodic or continuous observation of environmental indicators and of other parameters that may affect the environment for any changes that may occur over time, in order to confirm/test predictions made with respect to likely effects and identify adverse changes that may require remedial action*”.

SEA monitoring is the responsibility of plan-making authorities to monitor potential significant effects arising from the implementation of plans and programmes. S.I. No 436 of 2004 (Article 13J) notes that:

1. *The planning authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the development plan in order, inter alia, to identify at an early-stage unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action and, for this purpose, existing monitoring arrangements may be used, if appropriate, with a view to avoiding duplication of monitoring.*
2. *The report required of the manager under section 15(2) of the Act shall include information in relation to progress on, and the results of, monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the development plan.*

As described in Section 9.2 of the SEA Environmental Report for the Plan (Arup, 2022), “*monitoring should be carried out in order to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse impacts associated with the implementation of the plan or programme.*”

*A monitoring programme is developed based on the indicators selected to track progress towards achieving strategic environmental objectives and reaching targets, enabling positive and negative impacts on the environment to be measured. As previously described, the environmental indicators have been developed to show changes that would be attributable to implementation of the [County Development Plan] CDP.*

*The SEA carried out has ensured that any potential significant environmental impacts have been identified and given due consideration. KCC is responsible for collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of preliminary and final monitoring evaluation reports, the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action.”*

Table 9.1.2 of the SEA Environmental Report provides the indicators and targets which have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan. Thus, it is the indicators and targets set out in Table 9.1.2 which are considered in this report.

The EPA published the Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring (the ‘EPA Guidance’)<sup>1</sup> following a review of the effectiveness of SEA in Ireland. The EPA Guidance notes that the foremost shortcoming of SEA monitoring in Ireland is that monitoring often focuses on the plan or programme implementation, rather than the environmental effects of the plan/programme implementation.

Thus, the progress made towards the targets and indicators set out in Table 9.1.2 of the SEA Environmental Report are set out in Section 3. The assessment of potential environmental effects on each of the relevant environmental topics identified in Section 3 are provided in Section 3.1.3, Section 3.2.3, Section 3.3.3, Section 3.4.3, Section 3.5.3, Section 3.6.3, Section 3.7.3 and Section 3.8.3. As previously discussed, monitoring conclusions are set out in Section 4.

This Report has also been prepared having regard to:

- Chapter 8 of the SEA Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2022) which refers to Monitoring and Implementation, and
- Chapter 10 of the Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2022) which refers to Plan Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting.

As previously discussed, this report relates to the monitoring results of Kildare County Development Plan (KCDP), however the progress of the County’s Local Area Plans (LAPs) has also been taken into consideration. The progress of LAPs and settlement plans has been reported upon in the draft KCDP 2 Year Progress Report, as follows:

- The Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 was adopted by the Elected Members of Kildare Newbridge Municipal District in October 2023;
- The Maynooth & Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 was adopted by the Elected Members of the Clane Maynooth Municipal District and the Elected Members of Meath County Council in February 2025;
- The Leixlip Local Area Plan 2020 was extended by 3 years to 2026 and amended to include the Confey Masterplan in 2024 by the Elected Members of the Full Council;
- The Draft Kilcullen Settlement Plan was published as a Variation to Volume 2 of the KCDP in 2024 and is anticipated to be adopted by the Full Council in Q2 2025;
- The Draft Newbridge Local Area Plan 2025-2031 will be published in March 2025; and
- The pre-draft consultation is completed for review of Monasterevin Local Area Plan. The draft Settlement Plan is set to be published in 2025.

---

<sup>1</sup> EPA (2023) Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statements and Monitoring. Available at: [06695-EPA-SEA-Statements-and-Monitoring-Report.pdf](https://www.epa.ie/publications-and-reports/strategic-environmental-assessment/06695-EPA-SEA-Statements-and-Monitoring-Report.pdf)



In accordance with the *Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2022)*, the SEA monitoring programmes for the LAPs adopted since the publication of the Plan have been reviewed. All of the aforementioned LAPs have been/ are in the process of being subjected to SEA and AA. It must be noted that since the publication of the new Planning and Development Act 2024 (which will be enacted in 2025), LAPs will no longer be required or supported by legislation. Thus, towns that heretofore required a LAP will be integrated into Volume II of the KCDP as ‘Settlement Plans’. This has been recently conducted for the area of Kilcullen<sup>2</sup>, which has since been subjected to SEA and AA. Similarly, a variation will be undertaken to integrate a new Settlement Plan for Monasterevin into Volume II of the KCDP, to replace the current LAP and will also be subject to SEA and AA. At the time of writing this report there is no data available on the monitoring progress of these LAPs (and variations). Thus, the effects of implementing these LAPs (and variations) cannot be expanded upon at this time.

## 3. Baseline Environment and Monitoring Results

### 3.1 Population and Human Health

#### 3.1.1 Targets and Indicators

The targets and indicators presented in Table 9.1.2 of the SEA Environmental Report of relevance to population and human health are included in Table 3.1 below.

**Table 3.1 Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Population and Human Health within the Plan**

Targets	Indicators
To implement the CDP, which will contribute towards and facilitate economic growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population growth statistics of settlements identified in the Core Strategy.</li> </ul>
No significant deterioration in human health as a result of environmental factors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of new houses within settlement boundaries.</li> <li>Economic Growth Statistics.</li> <li>Health statistics of the County.</li> </ul>
Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures.</li> </ul>
To improve access to sustainable modes of transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics on access to sustainable modes of transport.</li> </ul>
Promote compact growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of compliances of waste-water infrastructure to legislation/regulations/conditions for relevant licences, permits etc. for discharges.</li> </ul>
Facilitate attractive environments within our urban settlements, utilise brownfield over greenfield sites and resist where possible urban generated rural housing unless genuine need exists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of compliances of water supply schemes with relevant legislation/regulation/conditions for abstraction and consumption.</li> <li>Number of compliances of infrastructure projects to relevant legislation/regulation/conditions re-noise, odour and/or air quality.</li> </ul>
Avoid developing land which is not likely to be serviced within the lifetime of the Development Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of compliances of waste management sites.</li> <li>Implementation of the Noise Action Plan and relevant limit values.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Variation No. 1 to Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 which includes Settlement Plan for Kilcullen in Volume II.

### 3.1.2 Monitoring Results

Since the publication of the Plan, the 2022 Census results have been published. According to the 2022 Census results, County Kildare had a total population of 246,977 persons in 2022, making it the fifth most populated local authority area in the State. Over the course of the six years to 2022, Kildare experienced population growth of 11%, an additional 24,472 persons (equivalent to the population of Newbridge). The County's population grew at a much higher rate than that of the State (+7.6%).

According to the Pobal Deprivation Index (PDI), a social gradient tool which measures the level of disadvantage in an area used by the government to target resources where necessary, Kildare is considered to be Marginally Above Average in terms of level of deprivation, which is unchanged since 2016<sup>3</sup>. In total, a population of 21,270 or just over eight percent of the population in County Kildare are classed as being disadvantaged. At the Municipal District (MD) level, the Athy MD is the only MD in the County that is classed as 'marginally below average'. Within the Athy MD, nearly a fifth of the population (19.5%) are residing in areas classed as being disadvantaged.

In 2022, 86% of the County Kildare population reported that they were in good or very good health. This represents a decrease from 2016 where approximately 90% of the population had reported being in good or very good health. This aligns with national trends which have reported an overall decrease of people reporting good or very good health from 87% in 2016 to 83% in 2022. No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors are evident as a result of implementing the Plan.

KCC published their first Annual Monitoring Report<sup>4</sup> since the publication of the Plan. As part of this monitoring, KCC reviewed the progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 4 of the Plan "Economy, Tourism, Education and Retail" and Chapter 2 "Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy" for the County. Chapter 2 of the Plan sets out a housing target of 9,144 additional units for the period between Q1 2023 to the end of Q4 2028. The Plan outlines a target to complete 1,524 homes per year over the eight full years from Q1 2021 to Q4 2028 before the Plan expires in Q1 2029.

As detailed in the Annual Monitoring Report<sup>4</sup>, the target to complete 1,524 homes per year was exceeded in 2023 as some 2,720 new dwellings were constructed in Kildare<sup>5</sup>.

Further to this, the draft KCDP 2 Year Progress Report has since been prepared by KCC (2025). This report states that a total of 4,132 housing units were constructed in Kildare in 2023 and 2024 according to the CSO New Dwelling Completion Database. A gross total of approximately 4,084 housing units were granted planning permission during the same period (this includes 3,743 units granted planning permission and 341 units approved through the Part 8 process).

It is also reported that 53% of new dwellings built in County Kildare have been constructed within the urban footprint of existing settlements during this period. This amount significantly exceeds the 30% target for all new homes to be delivered within the built-up footprint of existing settlements under National Policy Objective 3c of the National Planning Framework. In relation to Traveller Accommodation in Kildare, KCC has also exceeded the target of the 2019 - 2024 Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP), providing 96 units (89 target) over this period.

KCC has continued to adopt a robust evidence-based approach to settlement plan making involving the preparation of social infrastructure audits, settlement capacity audits, local transport plans and green and blue infrastructure mapping to inform and devise carefully considered development strategies for settlements.

---

<sup>3</sup> Pobal (2022) HP Deprivation Indices 2022. Available at: [pobal.ie](http://pobal.ie)

<sup>4</sup> KCC (2024) Annual Monitoring Report. Available at: [Annual Monitoring Report 2023 High Res.pdf](#)

<sup>5</sup> While it is noted that Kildare exceeds the annual delivery target in 2023, such trends would be consistent with the cyclical nature of housing construction and economic trends.

In May 2023, the County Kildare Serviced Sites Scheme was published and in 2024, a pilot project was launched for 7 no. serviced sites in Clogherinkoe.

In terms of granted Business/Employment Planning Permissions in Kildare, approximately 360,000 square metres (sqm) of commercial/employment floorspace was granted planning permission in 2023 and 2024. The granting of these permissions will aid the promotion of economic growth across Kildare. It is however, noted that net losses were seen in terms of commercial floorspace occurring in Kilcock, Sallins, Ballitore, and Kildangan in 2023.

It is notable that KCC approved the County Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029 in April 2024 to continue the progress made from the first plan (2016-2021) and guide the sustainable development of the local economy. Inherent to the LECP are goals focused on economic development throughout the community in line with the Plan along with other local, regional and national policies. The roadmap provided in the LECP delivers a strong framework in which KCC can continue to effectively implement the targets and indicators outlined in Chapter 4 of the Plan.

According to the 2022 Census results, the number of people commuting to work, school or college in Kildare increased by a fifth since 2016 (+20.8% or +31,534). For those who commute to school, college or work in Kildare there has been an increase in the overall mode share, with ‘Private Mode’ still being the dominant mode. Private modes of transport represent over half of commuters in 2022 (61%), or an additional 12,545 private mode users since 2016. Those using ‘Active Mode’ (walking and cycling) has witnessed a slight increase between 2016 and 2022 and now represents 15% of all commuters to school, college or work. Overall, there has been an increase in the numbers commuting to work in Kildare since 2016 (+15% or +21,560 (including those ‘not stated’)). The biggest change in the modal share has been the increase in the number of workers who are classed as ‘Working Mainly from Home’. This grouping has increased from 3,842 in 2016 to 13,816 in 2022 (+260% or +9,974).

Refer to Table 3.2, Table 3.3 and Table 3.4 below for an overall outline of transportation modal share improvements between 2016 and 2022 for the portion of the population in Kildare County aged 5 years and over travelling to work, school and college.

**Table 3.2 Active Modes of Transport Comparison 2016 vs. 2022 in Kildare (Source: CSO, 2022)**

Transportation Mode	2016	2022
On Foot	20,814	22,840
Bicycle	2,405	3,848
Total active travel	23,219	26,688
<b>% change in active travellers</b>	<b>+14.94%<sup>6</sup></b>	

In terms of percentage change as it relates to total population in Kildare, according to CSO data, 10.4% of the total population travelled to work, school or college by means of active travel in 2016. In comparison, a marginal increase was noted in 2022 where the CSO reported that 10.8% of the total population travelled to work, school or college by means of active travel.

**Table 3.3 Public Modes of Transport Comparison 2016 vs. 2022 in Kildare (Source: CSO, 2022)**

Transportation Mode	2016	2022
Bus, minibus, or coach	14,365	14,174
Train, DART or LUAS	6,076	7,024
Total public transportation	20,441	21,198

<sup>6</sup> Note: This figure (%) represents the percentage increase in travel by means of active travel to work, school or college in Kildare from 2016 to 2022, aged 5 years and over.

Transportation Mode	2016	2022
% change in public transportation users	+3.70% <sup>7</sup>	

In terms of percentage change as it relates to total population in Kildare, according to CSO data, 9.2% of the total population travelled to work, school or college by means of public transportation in 2016. In comparison, a marginal decrease was noted in 2022 where the CSO reported that 8.6% of the total population travelled to work, school or college by means of active travel.

**Table 3.4 Private Modes of Transport Comparison 2016 vs. 2022 in Kildare (Source: CSO, 2022)**

Transportation Mode	2016	2022
Motorcycle or Scooter	424	446
Car Driver	64,152	68,132
Car passenger	28,077	35,319
Van	6,007	7,306
Other	562	564
Total	99,222	111,767
% change in private vehicle user	+12.64% <sup>8</sup>	

In terms of percentage change as it relates to total population in Kildare, according to CSO data, 44.6% of the total population travelled to work, school or college by means of private travel in 2016. In comparison, a marginal increase was noted in 2022 where the CSO reported that 45.3% of the total population travelled to work, school or college by means of private travel.

KCC is currently undertaking a number of incentives to promote active travel across the County. At a local level a number of Transport Strategies and assessments have been prepared, namely Kildare Town Transport Strategy, Naas Sallins Transport Strategy, the Maynooth and Environs Area Based Transport Assessment and the Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment, all of which aim to promote active travel in local areas and benefit surrounding communities. In 2023 and 2024, approximately €20 million in funding was allocated to KCC in order to support active travel across the County. This funding is set to fund approximately 800 Active Travel projects and contribute to the development of almost 1,000 kilometres (km) of new and improved walking and cycling infrastructure across Ireland from the period of 2020 to 2025. In terms of funding allocation for Kildare, some 24 active travel projects have been selected by the National Transport Authority (NTA), for example, the Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme, Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth - FCC Boundary) and Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme. Active travel projects in Kildare will include the development of segregated cycle lanes, widened footpaths, new walking and cycling bridges, and new pedestrian crossings<sup>9</sup>. Together, these incentives will enable the attainment of the targets for population and human health surrounding active travel.

In relation to Kildare’s Public Transport Network, a number of proposed public transport improvements have been prioritised in County Kildare. Since the publication of the Plan, the NTA announced that two Go-Ahead Ireland bus routes between Dublin and Rathangan in County Kildare were to be enhanced as of November 2023. The 120 and 126 bus timetables have since been revised in order to increase service frequency and expand capacity for commuters. Route 126 has received forty-six additional trips weekly, enhancing connectivity between these locations. The service improvement also included the addition of six new coaches along the 126 route. Further, a new bus stop has been introduced at Killeenlea near Celbridge and the Kill to Newbridge service will be extended to Kildare, to provide more options for commuters. These enhancements

<sup>7</sup> Note: This figure (%) represents the percentage increase in travel by means of public transportation to work, school or college in Kildare from 2016 to 2022, aged 5 years and over.

<sup>8</sup> Note: This figure (%) represents the percentage increase in travel by means of private modes of travel to work, school or college in Kildare from 2016 to 2022, aged 5 years and over.

<sup>9</sup> NTA (2024) Active Travel Investment Grants: 2024 Allocations. Available at: [Active Travel Investment Grants: 2024 Allocations - National Transport](#)

have been facilitated as part of the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan, and spearheaded and funded by the NTA with aims to improve rural mobility and connectivity across Ireland<sup>10</sup>.

In relation to recreation and amenity areas in Kildare, a community park and playground opened in Allenwood in May 2024, a natural play area opened in the Liffey Linear Park, Newbridge in December 2024 and consultants have been appointed to complete the installation of a hangout area at the Slip in Celbridge, which is set to be progressed into 2025. KCC are also currently investigating the potential for the future delivery of 2 no. community swimming facilities in North Kildare at Leixlip and Maynooth. A number of sites have also been identified for the future provision of playgrounds since the Plan has come into effect, including Kilmeague, Coill Dubh / Cooleragh, Ardclough and Johnstownbridge.

Finally, KCC has commenced preparation of the County Kildare Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, the County Kildare Outdoor Recreation Plan and the County Kildare Local Sports Plan. A survey was conducted in September/October 2024 to inform these plans, and it is anticipated that the Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Sports Plan will to be published in 2025.

Information regarding water schemes, services and compliances is included later in this report in Section 3.8.2. Information regarding funding for public and rural improvements is included later in this report, refer to Section 3.7.2.

### 3.1.3 Conclusions

Continued success of above housing targets will have a positive effect on population and human health.

KCC have successfully delivered an excess of the housing target set out in the Plan, including an excess of the target to deliver homes within existing settlements thus reducing urban sprawl and achieving compact growth. Additionally, reported increases in commercial/employment development permitted in the County indicate positive trends in economic growth and employment. Recent census information also illustrates that KCC have been successful in increasing active travel and public transport uptake.

It is noted however that there has been a 4% reduction in the portion of people reporting self-perceived health status of good or very good.

In relation to modal shifts, the continued increase, albeit marginal, of individuals travelling by means of active travel will have a positive effect on population and human health (10.4% in 2016 and 10.7% in 2022, as it relates to the total population of Kildare). However, it must be noted that there has also been a reduction in individuals travelling by means of public transportation, where 9.2% was reported in 2016 and 8.6% in 2022(as it relates to the total population of Kildare).

It has also been reported that there has been an increase in private vehicular usage in Kildare, where 44.6% of the total population travelled to work, school or college by means of private travel in 2016 and 45.1% of the total population travelled to work, school or college by means of private travel in 2022. Decreased public transport usage coupled with increased private vehicle usage has the potential to result in negative effects on population and human health. Although ease of movement and accessibility is facilitated through private vehicular usage, the emissions associated with these trends are likely to have negative effects on human health going forward.

Public realm and rural improvements, improved water services, supply and associated infrastructure, and increased recreational and amenity areas in Kildare are likely to result in a positive effect on population and human health.

---

<sup>10</sup> Go Ahead Ireland (2023) DCOM Timetable Change. Available at: [DCOM Timetable Change - November 2023 - Go Ahead Ireland](#)

## 3.2 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

### 3.2.1 Targets and Indicators

The targets and indicators presented in Table 9.1.2 of the SEA Environmental Report of relevance to biodiversity, flora and fauna are included in Table 3.5 below.

**Table 3.5 Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna within the Plan**

Targets	Indicators
No loss of protected habitats and species during the lifetime of the Plan and seek to restore status where possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number and condition of European sites, and the maintenance of conservation objectives.</li> <li>The status of water quality in the County’s water bodies.</li> <li>The number of projects that have integrated ecosystem services considerations.</li> <li>The number of EIAs and AAs as relevant for new projects.</li> <li>The number of compliances of planning permissions with CDP, measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna.</li> <li>The number of provisions of green/blue infrastructure.</li> <li>The number of developments permitted in proximity/within European sites/sites of ecological importance.</li> </ul>
That biodiversity, ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions are integrated into all decision making across the Plan and within lower-level plans, Council internal guidance documents, planning application considerations, and Council-led projects.	
Support features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.	
Identify invasive species in the County and develop appropriate management techniques for their control.	
Implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the County including the protection of green and blue ecological corridors and linkages	
Screen for and undertake EIA and AA as relevant for new projects	

### 3.2.2 Monitoring Results

Since the publication of the Plan, a new ‘State of the Environment Report’ has been published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). According to the Report, the overall current assessment for nature in Ireland is ‘very poor’ (the same as in 2020). Deteriorating trends dominate, especially for protected habitats and bird populations, and Ireland is not on track to achieve policy objectives for nature. While the recent expansion of marine protected areas is welcome, additional far-reaching measures are needed to address the declines in nature and biodiversity.

Since the time of publication of the Plan, the 4th iteration of the Biodiversity Action Plan (Government of Ireland, 2024) has also been published. The Biodiversity Action Plan notes that, in 2024, some 85% of European protected habitats across Ireland are in unfavourable status, with almost half (46%) demonstrating ongoing declines. This has resulted in almost a third of European protected species in Ireland are in unfavourable status, with over half of native Irish plant species declining.

The review of the Kildare County Biodiversity Action Plan is currently underway, and the Plan is anticipated to be published in 2025. When available, the publication of the new Plan will facilitate the identification of potential ecosystem services and will support the provision of green and blue infrastructure in future plans to align with the targets presented in Table 3.5 above. Since the publication of the Plan, a number of Community Biodiversity Plans have been prepared for towns throughout Kildare (for example, Maynooth, Ballyshannon, Kilcullen and Narraghmore). It is also notable that a Biodiversity Officer was appointed in Kildare in 2023 (May).

Kildare Wildlife Rescue, in partnership with KCC, held the second Kildare Biodiversity Conference in October 2024. This conference marked a significant milestone in the efforts to promote biodiversity, conservation and collaboration in Co Kildare.

A review of KCC LAPs that have been prepared since the publication of the Plan has been undertaken to identify the progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the preservation of biodiversity and sustainable development of Kildare County. The Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 was adopted in 2023, which was subject to SEA and AA. Chapter 9 of the LAP refers to Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure which concerns Biodiversity, Designated Sites, Green Infrastructure and Ecological Corridors.

The plan was informed by a separate Habitat Mapping Report. This Plan will aid and support the protection of biodiversity, and the facilitation of green infrastructure, ecological corridors and linkages at local level.

The Maynooth and Environs Joint LAP 2025 – 2031, adopted in February 2025, was also subject to SEA and AA. The Maynooth and Environs Joint LAP 2025 – 2031 includes a Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure Chapter (Chapter 9) which concerns Biodiversity, Designated Sites, Green Infrastructure and Ecological Corridors. This Plan will aid and support the protection of biodiversity, and the facilitation of green infrastructure, ecological corridors and linkages at local level. The Maynooth and Environs Joint LAP 2025 – 2031 contains a Habitat Mapping Report, which is appended to the LAP. This Report has surveyed, mapped and assessed habitats within Maynooth, to identify Green Infrastructure, and to raise awareness about the natural heritage in the town. The preparation of the Report represents a positive step towards biodiversity management.

The Leixlip LAP 2020-2023, as extended to 2026, was also subject to SEA and AA. The Leixlip LAP includes a Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure and Strategic Open Spaces Chapter (Chapter 11) which concerns Biodiversity, Designated Sites, Green Infrastructure and Ecological Corridors. This Plan will aid and support the protection of biodiversity, and the facilitation of green infrastructure, ecological corridors and linkages at local level. The Leixlip LAP 2020-2023, as extended also contains Habitat Mapping for Leixlip.

A Habitat Mapping Report has also been prepared for the Draft Newbridge LAP which is anticipated to be published in Q1 2025. Full SEA and AA are currently being undertaken for this the LAP.

The Draft Kilcullen Settlement Plan, published as Variation No. 1 to the KCDP, includes a map showing key green infrastructure with associated objectives for their protection. This variation was subject to SEA and AA.

A pre-draft consultation has been completed for Monasterevin LAP at this time, and the draft Settlement Plan is set to be published in 2025. A variation to integrate a new Settlement Plan for Monasterevin into Volume II of the KCDP, to replace the current LAP will be undertaken in accordance with the new Planning and Development Act 2024. This variation was subject to SEA and AA.

The LAPs discussed above, as well as any other council policies, plans, programmes published within the lifetime of the Plan will also have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European Sites as well as the provision of sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species.

Since the time of publication of the Plan, KCC has also adopted a ‘Green Kilometre scheme’ which is an initiative aimed at communities taking action to clean up rural areas in Kildare and planting native trees and shrubs in these areas, where permissible.

Finally, since the publication of the Plan, KCC have purchased 50 acres of land at Feighcullen for biodiversity and woodland projects, and in 2023, planted 475 semi-mature trees and 1800 sapling and hedgerows.

The status of water quality in Kildare is discussed in Section 3.4.

### 3.2.3 Conclusions

The Plan sets out an objective of KCC to prepare a new Biodiversity Action Plan within the Plan period, and preparatory work for this commenced in 2024 and still underway. It is anticipated that the Biodiversity Action Plan will be progressed and adopted in 2025. In the absence of the updated Biodiversity Action Plan there is potential for the degradation of biodiversity across the County, including to protected sites and

species. However, there are a suite of objectives contained in the plan to ensure protection of biodiversity through the development management process. It is further noted that various local Biodiversity Action Plans have been prepared since the preparation of the Plan demonstrating progress towards the biodiversity targets outlined in the Plan.

The facilitation and purchase of land for Council lead biodiversity and woodland projects, in addition to the facilitation of increased planting in Kildare is likely to result in positive effects on surrounding biodiversity.

Adoption of LAPs and settlement plans, which have been and will be subject to SEA and AA, and which contain provisions for biodiversity protection and green infrastructure, will further contribute to this progression.

### 3.3 Land and Soils

#### 3.3.1 Targets and Indicators

The Targets and Indicators presented in Table 9.1.2 of the SEA Environmental Report of relevance to land and soils are included in Table 3.6 below.

**Table 3.6 Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Land and Soils within the Plan**

Targets	Indicators
To facilitate compliance with growth targets for delivery of housing within the existing built-up footprint of settlements and urban areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of.</li> <li>• Number of planning applications granted on brownfield and/or infill sites.</li> <li>• Volume of construction and demolition waste recycled.</li> <li>• Status/risk of groundwater waterbodies under the WFD.</li> <li>• Number of application granted for soil importation/inert waste facilities.</li> <li>• Number of planning permissions granted, and area of land permitted for excavation and extraction of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits.</li> </ul>
Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements.	
Minimise the use of greenfield land.	
Reduce the rate of land use change on greenfield lands arising from urban sprawl and urban generated rural housing.	
Ensure sustainable extraction of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits and the reuse and recycling of construction and demolition waste.	

#### 3.3.2 Monitoring Results

The level of built surface cover within the boundaries of KCC and levels of sustainable extraction of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits in Kildare are not available at the time of writing this report.

There is limited data regarding the number of planning applications granted on brownfield and/or infill sites, as well as for soil importation/inert waste facilities and excavation and extraction of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits. However, since the publication of the Plan, the following two applications have been granted permission relating to the aforementioned sectors:

- Kilsaran Concrete Unlimited Company (Planning Ref. 24/60265): relating to intake of soil and stone and broken rock at the existing licensed soil recovery facility at Haverstown, Kilcullen (Planning Ref: 18/453) and an extension to the life of the existing facility of 3 year to accommodate the additional soil and stone intake.
- Kilsaran Concrete Unlimited Company (Planning Ref. 23/60266): relating to the increase in overall extraction area and importation of processed fine aggregate for concrete production at the existing quarry development (Planning Ref. 99/2042 and ABP Ref. PL09.123207).



There is no available information on the quantity of contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill sites in Kildare and the disposal of same. The most recent data from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on contaminated soil generation is from 2024<sup>11</sup> and is reported on a national level.

There have been no instances reported where contaminated material generated from brownfield or infill sites in Kildare have not been disposed of appropriately.

The status and risk of groundwater waterbodies in Kildare is discussed in Section 3.4.

### 3.3.3 Conclusions

Limited information is available on the targets set out in the Table 9.1.2 of the SEA Report pertaining to Land and Soils.

There have been no instances reported where contaminated material generated from brownfield or infill sites in Kildare have not been disposed of appropriately. Two applications have been granted permission relating to soil importation/inert waste facilities and excavation and extraction of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits.

## 3.4 Water

### 3.4.1 Targets and Indicators

The targets and indicators presented in Table 9.1.2 of the SEA Environmental Report of relevance to water are included in Table 3.7 below.

**Table 3.7 Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Water within the Plan.**

Targets	Indicators
All waters within the plan area to achieve the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the relevant River Basin Management Plan by 2027.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD.</li> <li>Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas.</li> <li>The number of sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing, etc.) into new projects.</li> </ul>
Achieve compliance with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC (protection of groundwater).	
Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk.	
Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing, etc.) into new projects as relevant.	
Implementation of flooding projects.	

### 3.4.2 Monitoring Results

Since the publication of the Plan the quality of the water courses in Kildare remain generally unchanged.

A new ‘State of the Environment Report’ was published in 2024 by the EPA. According to the Report, the overall current assessment for water in Ireland is ‘poor’ (the same as in 2020). Trends remain mixed, with no net improvement in river or lake water quality in recent years, a sharp decline in the number of monitored estuaries in satisfactory ecological condition and continued direct discharges of raw or inadequately treated sewage to water from 19 agglomerations. Significant challenges remain for achieving full compliance with relevant EU obligations and national policy objectives.

Since the publication of the Plan, in 2024, KCC has published a set of Development Guidelines for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). The guidelines are directed at those designing drainage systems, specifically SuDS, for new developments within the KCC region. These guidelines will be used in

<sup>11</sup> EPA (2024) State of the Environment Report. Available at: [Ireland's State of the Environment Report 2024](#)

conjunction with policies and objectives outlined in the KCDP, SFRA and Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study to support the planning process where sustainable drainage systems are included in planning applications to be assessed by KCC.<sup>12</sup>

Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRAs) have been prepared for the LAPs prepared by KCC at this time (Kildare Town LAP, Draft Maynooth and Environs Joint LAP, Draft Newbridge LAP and Kilcullen Settlement Plan). As a result of bespoke Surface Water Management Studies prepared for some of these towns, a number of locations have been established as part of these LAPs for Nature-Based Management Areas (NBMA) and indicative surface water pathways/ natural drainage paths. The LAPs also make provisions for the incorporation of nature-based water drainage solutions as part of all proposed plans and projects in Kildare Town and Maynooth and its Environs.

KCC’s Flood Risk Management Department is responsible for the delivery of flood relief schemes identified in the Office of Public Works (OPW) Flood Risk Management (FRM) Plans<sup>13</sup>. Since the publication of the Plan (2023), the Flood Risk Management Department at KCC has delivered/is delivering flood schemes for Naas FRS, Athy FRS and the Morell FRS.

Finally, since the publication of the Plan, the Eastern and Midlands Regions Water Supply Project received Government approval (June 2024) and a planning application (SID) to An Bord Pleanála is anticipated in 2025. The Barrow Water Supply Scheme Area Extension Project has also seen substantial works carried out and commissioning works are underway.

### 3.4.3 Conclusions

Since the publication of the Plan the quality of the water courses in Kildare remain generally unchanged. Since publication of the Plan, the EPA published the 2024 State of the Environment Report, indicating that water quality in Ireland remains poor and is currently at risk.

SFRAs for the Kildare Town and Draft Maynooth LAPs have identified Nature-Based Management Areas and natural drainage paths, promoting nature-based solutions and demonstrating progress towards the biodiversity targets outlined in the Plan. In 2024, KCC released Development Guidelines for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to guide new developments, aligning with existing policies and studies.

Any improvements to water supply and its associated infrastructure in Kildare is likely to result in positive effects.

## 3.5 Air, Noise and Climatic Factors

### 3.5.1 Targets and Indicators

The targets and indicators presented in Table 9.1.2 of the SEA Environmental Report of relevance to air quality are included in Table 3.8 below.

Table 3.8 Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Air Quality within the Plan

**Table 3.9 Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Air Quality within the Plan.**

Targets	Indicators
Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous CSO figures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of compliances with EPA emission limits for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter.</li> <li>Number of compliances with existing legislation/regulations/conditions for air quality e.g. IPPC/IE licences.</li> </ul>
Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures.	
Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NOx and particulate matter.	

<sup>12</sup> KCC (2024) Sustainable Drainage System – Guidance Document. Available at: [KCC Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance Spreads.pdf](#).

<sup>13</sup> KCC (2024) Flooding. Available at: [Flood Risk Management & River Drainage - Kildare County Council](#)

Targets	Indicators
Increase number of cycle lanes and pedestrian routes in the plan area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel patterns and the number of modes of transport within the County.</li> <li>• Number of new air monitoring stations in the County.</li> <li>• Implementation of the CDP, which will contribute towards and facilitate climate action and the relevant targets for emission reductions.</li> <li>• The quantity of GHG emission changes over the plan period.</li> <li>• Energy consumption, the amount of uptake in renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating.</li> <li>• Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels.</li> <li>• Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures.</li> </ul>
Implementation of Noise Action Plans.	
To implement the CDP, which will contribute towards and facilitate climate action.	
Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low- carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.	
Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of renewable energy in transport by facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the CDP.	
Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) emissions in accordance with the Climate Action Plan.	
To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating.	

### 3.5.2 Monitoring Results

#### Air Quality Factors

The national ambient air quality monitoring network has almost quadrupled in size since 2017 from 29 to 115 stations. Presently, there are 4 monitoring stations in County Kildare: Celbridge, Newbridge, Leixlip and Naas.

Since the publication of the Plan, the Air Quality in Ireland 2023 Report<sup>14</sup> has been published. According to the 2023 report:

- There was 1 no. instance of exceeded according to the Air Quality Bulletin 2023 at Naas monitoring station 8/9/2023 of PM<sub>10</sub> Days > 50 ug/m<sup>3</sup>
- Air quality in Ireland is generally good, however, there are concerning localised issues
- Fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) from solid fuel combustion in homes and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) from vehicle emissions are the main pollutants threatening good air quality in Ireland
- It is estimated that there are approximately 1,600 premature deaths annually in Ireland due to poor air quality from fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>); and
- Ireland met all of its EU legal requirements in 2023, but it did not meet the more stringent health-based World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality or the Clean Air Strategy guidelines.

These findings reflect those of the State of the Environment Report, also published since the preparation of the Plan. According to the Report, the overall current assessment for air is ‘moderate’ (the same as in 2020). Ireland is compliant with current air quality standards for many air pollutants. However, Ireland is not meeting the guidelines set by WHO for multiple pollutants, including fine particulate matter, and Ireland is non-compliant with the EU reduction target for ammonia and will remain so in the short term. Achieving the ambitions of the Clean Air Strategy and complying with the limit values of the proposed EU Air Quality Directive from 2030 onwards will be challenging but will have a significant and positive impact on health

The increase in active means of travel, as seen in Section 0, and the current air quality reported in Kildare County demonstrates an ongoing achievement of the indicators and targets identified in Table 3.9. However,

<sup>14</sup> EPA (2024) Air Quality in Ireland Report 2023. Available at: [Air Quality in Ireland 2023](#)

the over reliance on private vehicle use is still present in Kildare with over half of commuters (61%) travelling to work, college or school by private modes of transport in 2022.

According to the draft KCDP 2 Year Progress Report, additional road infrastructure has opened/ been granted planning permission since the publication of the Plan. For example, the Athy Southern Distributor Road opened in October 2023, a new bridge across the River Liffey in Newbridge was granted planning permission and an Inner Relief Road was delivered in Newbridge from Naas Road to Great Connell Road. Furthermore, Part 8 planning permission was secured for the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road and the Compulsory Purchase Order has been granted by An Bord Pleanála with negotiations currently ongoing. All of which will facilitate ease of movement and accessibility around Kildare, however, it is notable that this infrastructure may promote a further reliance on private vehicular usage.

It must also be noted that there is potential for positive effects associated with air quality and climate as increased and improved public transport and active travel infrastructure have also been approved / facilitated since the publication of the Plan. This is reflected in the Census data, which shows an increase in active travel uptake in Kildare from 2016 to 2022. Examples of improved public transport and active travel infrastructure approved / facilitated since the publication of the Plan are listed as follows:

- Railway Orders were granted by An Bord Pleanála in relation to the delivery of Dart+West (serving Dublin-Leixlip-Maynooth) and Dart+South-West (Dublin to Hazelhatch/Celbridge) in July and November 2024 respectively
- Canal Greenways have progressed significantly:
  - The Naas to Sallins Greenway Project was delivered in 2024, including new active travel bridge in Sallins.
  - The Royal Canal Greenway Project is currently under construction
  - The Grand Canal Greenway Project is under construction.
- The Barrow Blueway is under construction
- Permission was granted for a pedestrian overpass across the M4 linking The Wonderful Barn to the Kildare Innovation Campus
- Local permeability measures within settlements have been identified through the preparation of Area Based Transport Assessments / Local Transport Plans or Strategies and subject to the Local Area Plan process; and
- Revised bus networks serving the County under the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Programme, introduced since the coming into effect of the KCDP, include the 129, 139, 880, 800/885, 880, 888 and 892. These routes are in addition to existing, revised and additional routes operating under the TFI Local Link Kildare South Dublin, as one of the Transport Co-Ordination Units within the remit of the NTA, funded by the Rural Transport Programme.

### **Climate Factors**

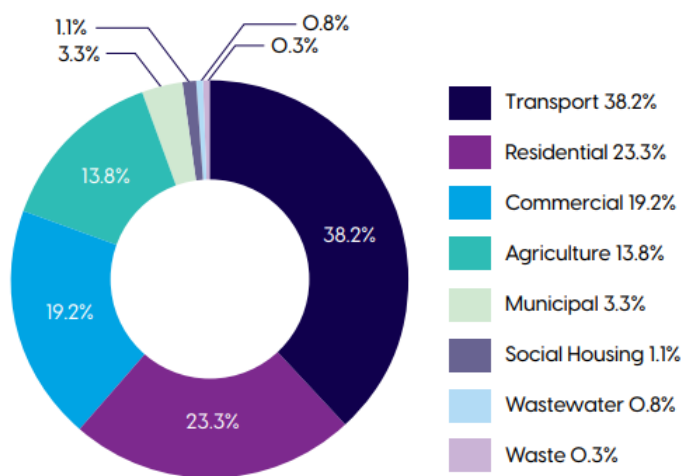
Since the publication of the Plan, a new ‘State of the Environment Report’ has been published by the EPA. According to the Report, while there has been progress in terms of beginning to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and in strengthening adaptation governance structures and support services, overall current assessment for climate is ‘poor’ (a slight improvement from ‘very poor’ in 2020). Full implementation of actions set out in the Climate Action Plan and additional actions are needed if Ireland is to meet its 2030 and 2050 climate targets.

KCC published the Kildare County Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2024-2029, in 2024. The CAP aims to align with the Government’s National Climate Objective and achieve the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050. It sets out actions to be delivered by the Council, business and citizens of the County to respond to climate change and provides a roadmap to achieve the reduction of the Council’s emissions by 51% by 2030. The Council is committed to reducing its own emissions by 50% by 2030 compared to the baseline year.<sup>15</sup>

The CAP sets out details of the Baseline Emission Inventory for County Kildare which was developed in accordance with the Climate Mitigation Assessment: Baseline Energy Inventory of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines 2023. The Guidelines require that all local authorities develop an emissions inventory for the 2018 baseline year as standard in line with the baseline year for the national emissions reduction objective. The County Kildare Baseline Emission Inventory is reproduced in Figure 1 below.

Sector	Kildare County Baseline Emissions Inventory 2018 (tCO <sub>2e</sub> )	Share of Baseline (%)
Transport	640,922	38.2%
Residential	391,323	23.3%
Commercial	322,199	19.2%
Agriculture	232,230	13.8%
Municipal	55,240	3.3%
Social Housing	18,482	1.1%
Wastewater	13,661	0.8%
Waste	4,525	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,678,583</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 3-4: 2018 Sectoral Emissions Profile for County Kildare**



**Figure 3-5: 2018 Emissions Profile for County Kildare**

**Figure 1 Baseline Emission Inventory for County Kildare (2018). Source: Kildare Climate Action Plan 2024-2029**

As evident from the Emission Baseline, transport represents the largest emissions profile in Kildare (38%), followed by residential (23%).

<sup>15</sup> Kildare Climate Action Office (2024) Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. Available at: [Kildare Climate Action Office, Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 to 2029](#)

KCC has, as set out in the CAP, designated Maynooth as a Decarbonising Zone. Decarbonising Zones are test bed areas that have been identified by a local authority where new ways of delivering climate actions will be developed in partnership with large employers and the public in the area.

In 2023, KCC began working in partnership with Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI) as part of their energy decarbonisation partnership programme to help achieve Ireland’s national climate action ambitions. As part of this collaboration, KCC committed to striving to achieve their 2030 and 2050 energy decarbonisation targets as set out in the Local Authority Climate Action Plan.

According to the 2022 Census Results which have been published since the preparation of the Plan, Kildare had the seventh-lowest per capita level of heat demand of all counties. Total energy demand, across all sectors in Kildare, amounted to 1,211 gigawatt hours (in 2022) – the fourteenth highest level in the State. County Kildare has no wind farms but has (Feb 2023) thirteen planned solar farms with a projected maximum export capacity (MEC) of 114MW - 5.9% of that planned for the State. Sales of electric and hybrid vehicles have been increasing over recent years, and in 2023, they accounted for almost fifty percent of all new car sales in County Kildare – up from seven percent in 2018.

KCC have been successful in increasing active travel and public transport uptake and have achieved significant funding for active travel projects into the future, however heavy reliance on private vehicle usage is still prominent in Kildare. Further information is set out in ‘Air Quality Factors’ above.

### **Noise Factors**

With regard to noise, a Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 was prepared in 2023 and published by KCC in 2024<sup>16</sup>. The Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 is founded upon results of strategic noise informing assessments of population exposure and harmful effects of noise and aims to provide strategic long-term management strategies for environmental noise from transport systems. The results of the noise assessments were used to identify regions within Kildare County in which noise management actions will be implemented should resources become available, referred to as Priority Important Areas.<sup>17</sup>

KCC has adopted a three-pronged approach to managing environmental noise levels from transport systems which aims to: prevent, protect and mitigate. Additionally, KCC commits to the following responsible aims: Policy and Guidance Development, Working Groups, Noise Mitigation, Protection, Prevention, Community Engagement, Manage Noise Complaints and Regulatory Engagement.<sup>18</sup>

### **3.5.3 Conclusions**

Air quality in Kildare and Ireland in general remains good. KCC are making positive strides towards climate action in the County. Notably, KCC published the Kildare County CAP in 2024 which contains significant targets for emission reductions. The successful implementation of these targets will have a positive effect on air quality and climate.

In relation to modal shifts, the continued increase of individuals travelling by means of active travel will have a positive effect on air quality, climate and noise. However, it must be noted that there has also been a reduction in individuals travelling by means of public transportation and an increase in private vehicular usage in Kildare. As previously discussed, decreased public transport usage coupled with increased private vehicle usage has the potential to result in negative effects on both air quality and climate. Although ease of movement and accessibility is facilitated through private vehicular usage, the emissions associated with these trends are likely to have negative effects on air quality and climate going forward.

---

<sup>16</sup> KCC (2024) Noise Action Plan 2024-20238 – Kildare County Council. Available at: [Kildare Noise Action Plan 2024 -2028 - Kildare County Council](#)

<sup>17</sup> KCC (2024) Noise Action Plan 2024-20238 – Kildare County Council. Available at: [Kildare Noise Action Plan 2024 -2028 - Kildare County Council](#)

<sup>18</sup> KCC (2024) Noise Action Plan 2024-20238 – Kildare County Council. Available at: [Kildare Noise Action Plan 2024 -2028 - Kildare County Council](#)

It must also be noted that there are positive effects associated with air quality and climate where increased and improved public transport and active travel infrastructure is also being facilitated.

### 3.6 Cultural Heritage

#### 3.6.1 Targets and Indicators

The targets and indicators presented in Table 9.1.2 of the SEA Environmental Report of relevance to cultural heritage are included in Table 3.10 below.

**Table 3.10 Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Cultural Heritage within the Plan**

Targets	Indicators
Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the CDP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the CDP.</li> </ul>
Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the CDP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the CDP.</li> </ul>
No permitted development which involves loss of cultural heritage, including protected structures, archaeological sites, Architectural Conservations Areas and landscape features.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archaeological Impact Assessments, and/or the number and types of archaeological investigations undertaken</li> <li>Recorded numbers of non-designated built heritage e.g., vernacular buildings.</li> </ul>
To increase the number of uninhabited and derelict structures that are restored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of design statements/public realm plans/Masterplans undertaken for settlements/opportunity sites.</li> <li>Visitor numbers for iconic cultural heritage sites.</li> <li>Number of literary, musical, artistic and other cultural initiatives undertaken in the County.</li> </ul>

#### 3.6.2 Monitoring Results

Since the publication of the KCDP 2023-2029, Part 8 projects pertaining to the Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) have been undertaken across Kildare. In line with the KCDP 2023-2029, these projects will improve upon public amenities, promote the heritage of the County and promote community engagement. Projects include but are not limited to: Barrow Blueway Trail Head; Sallins Grand Canal Greenway Link, Public Realm Improvement Works to Market Square in Kildare Town; Redevelopment of the Wonderful Barn in Leixlip; and the completion of Phase 2 of Grand Canal Greenway.<sup>19</sup> According to the draft KCDP 2 Year Progress Report, a Part 8 Proposal for the redevelopment of the Wonderful Barn was also approved by the members of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District in October 2024. This development seeks to protect and enhance the architectural heritage and amenity value of the site through the provision of an integrated public amenity park and tourism destination, whilst incorporating a conservation led design approach.

With regard to places of cultural heritage and monuments, the Kildare County Record of Protected Structures (RPS) was last updated on 9 October 2023 and a review of the RPS has yet to be undertaken.

In relation to world heritage sites, Dun Ailinne was included in the 2022 UNESCO tentative list which is the first step in the nomination process, however, the process and subsequent of nomination dossiers can take between 4-6 years.

KCC’s Planning Department continues to administer funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) via the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) and the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS). During 2023 and 2024, the total amount administered by KCC under these funds were €377,000 and €282,500 respectively.

<sup>19</sup> KCC (2024) Strategic Projects and Public Realm. Available at: [Strategic Projects and Public Realm - Kildare County Council](#)

At the time of writing this report, no new Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) have been designated in Kildare. Statements of Characters have been produced for ACAs in Athy, Kildare, Naas and Maynooth. Statements of Characters for the remainder of the ACAs will be prepared through the development/updating of Local Area Plans and depending on available resources. At the time of writing this report, KCC has yet to prepare “Guidelines for the Management and Development of ACAs” outlined as an action in the KCDP 2023-2029.

There is no further information available regarding entries to the Record of Monuments and Places from the information initially provided in the Environmental Reports of the Plan. One addition to the RPS was made since the CDP was adopted. However, since the publication of the KCDP 2023-2029 Conservation Management Plans (CMP) for the and Cassidy’s Mills Complex in Monasterevin and for the Clane Abbey Community Centre have been published. The CMP aims to address immediate concerns while aligning interventions with a long-term perspective.<sup>20</sup>

Concerning artistic, musical and other cultural initiatives undertaken in the County, two strategies have been published along with the KCDP 2023-2029:

- In Perpetual Motion (An Arts Strategy for Kildare County Council 2023-2027)<sup>21</sup> aims to encourage, support and inspire individuals, communities and artists, to improve the experience of the arts and creativity for all people living in the County. The strategy upholds six key values: quality, transparency/fairness, respect/integrity, learning/growth, innovation/inspiration and ethics
- Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027<sup>22</sup> is committed to enhancing access to, engagement with, and enjoyment of Ireland’s culture and creativity. The strategy was developed as part of the Creative Ireland Programme created by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

### 3.6.3 Conclusions

Limited information is available on the targets set out in the Table 9.1.2 of the SEA Report pertaining to Cultural Heritage.

Since publication of the Plan, KCC have implemented various projects to improve the public realm and promote heritage in the County. KCC have also successfully delivered cultural initiatives across the County.

## 3.7 Landscape and Visual

### 3.7.1 Targets and Indicators

The targets and indicators presented in Table 9.1.2 of the SEA Environmental Report of relevance to landscape and visual are included in Table 3.11 below.

**Table 3.11 Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Landscape and Visual within the Plan**

Targets	Indicators
No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the CDP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the CDP.</li> <li>• Number of planning permissions granted in areas of high value landscape.</li> <li>• Number of permissions granted within 500m of a scenic route.</li> </ul>

<sup>20</sup> KCC (2024) Conservation Plans. Available at: [Conservation Plans - Kildare County Council](#)

<sup>21</sup> KCC (2023) In Perpetual Motion. Available at: [In Perpetual Motion An Arts Strategy for Kildare County Council 20232027KCC.pdf](#)

<sup>22</sup> KCC (2023) Kildare Culture Creativity Strategy 2023-2027. Available at: [Kildare Culture Creativity Strategy 2023 - 2027](#)



### 3.7.2 Monitoring Results

Given the number and extent of developments which have been permitted over the two-year period since the established of the Plan, the designation of any developments resulting in adverse visual impacts is not provided in this report.

In relation to Landscape Character Assessments (LCA), the current LCA for the area was conducted in 2004 and so, no monitoring results have been included in relation to LCAs. KCC has however appointed consultants to review the County LCA, and it is anticipated that a Draft LCA will form a Variation to the KCDP (subject to AA, SEA and public consultation) in Q3/Q4 2025.

According to the draft KCDP 2 Year Progress Report, a total of €12,055,915 has been awarded to KCC under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) to fund key projects throughout County Kildare going forward.

Finally, the Curragh Plains Conservation Management Plan and the Curragh Plains Interpretation, Branding and Wayfinding Strategy was published in December 2024. KCC will seek to support the recommended policies and actions of the recently published Plan and Strategy in conjunction with other stakeholders, subject to the availability of resources going forward.

Information regarding recreation and amenity areas in Kildare has been detailed in Section 0.

### 3.7.3 Conclusions

Limited information is available on the targets set out in the Table 9.1.2 of the SEA Report pertaining to Landscape. However, the funding allocated under the URDF and the RRDF will have a positive effect on surrounding landscape and visuals in Kildare, alongside the provision of conservation management plans across Kildare and the increased and improved recreation and amenity areas across the County.

## 3.8 Material Assets

### 3.8.1 Targets and Indicators

The targets and indicators presented in Table 9.1.2 of the SEA Environmental Report of relevance to material assets are included in Table 3.12 below.

**Table 3.12 Targets and Indicators of Relevance to Material Assets within the Plan**

Targets	Indicators
Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of completed infrastructure projects identified in the KCDP.</li> <li>Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures.</li> <li>The number and extent of Water Treatment Plans on EPAs Remedial Action List.</li> <li>The amount of access to sustainable modes of transport.</li> <li>Roll out of National Broadband Plan - Number of households serviced and % of households with the minimum broadband speed of 30Mbps and % of households with the target broadband speed of 100Mbps.</li> <li>The number of renewable energy projects permitted, and enabling/supporting infrastructure provided.</li> </ul>
To improve access to sustainable modes of transport.	
Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes.	
Reduce waste sent to landfill and increase waste sent for recycling and energy generation.	
Not to permit development where it would result in a WWTP exceeding the terms of its discharge license.	
Promote population growth in areas served by urban wastewater treatment plants and public water supplies in accordance with the National Planning Framework.	
Support septic tank inspections in accordance with the Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems National Inspection Plan.	
Increase in community assets, facilities and services in an area.	

### 3.8.2 Monitoring Results

Refer to Section 3.1.2 for information on the proportion of people using active travel in their commutes, improvements in sustainable modes of transport, and progress made thus far during the lifecycle of the Plan.

The latest EPA Remedial Action List was published in 2024, and one Kildare based water supply system is included on it: Barrow supply (Srowland WTP)<sup>23</sup>. The Barrow supply serves a population of 81,613 and the proposed action on the Remedial Action List is to upgrade the Srowland WTP by December 2026<sup>24</sup>.

Since publishing of the Plan, Uisce Éireann began progressing a major upgrade to Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant in Kildare. The upgrade will ensure the continued delivery of a clean, safe drinking water supply in Dublin and the Greater Dublin Area (GDA). The upgrade will provide improved water quality, ensuring compliance with current drinking water quality regulations and will safeguard the water supply for current and future generations. Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant is the largest water treatment plant in Ireland, supplying over 50% of the GDA's drinking water supply, serving homes and businesses across Dublin and North Kildare<sup>25</sup>.

Further concerning water supply in the County, since the publication of the Plan, The Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region has been established. The project aims to provide Kildare, Dublin, Meath and Wicklow with a resilient, safe and secure water supply as well as created a treated water supply 'spine' across the country. This cross-regional project will deliver secure, climate-proof water supply for up to 50% of the Irish State's population. In doing so, the project will support competitiveness, sustainable economic growth, and increased demand for housing across the region.<sup>26</sup>

The number of developments at the time of writing which are appropriately served by wastewater treatment is not included within this report, nor is information pertaining to developments with septic tanks.

According to the EPA Urban Wastewater Treatment Report for 2023, none of the Kildare County wastewater treatment plants failed stringent EU treatment standards and/or secondary treatment standards.<sup>27</sup> Additionally, no treatment plants in the County were found to be discharging raw sewage nor were any treatment plants placed in the priority areas lists to prevent wastewater discharges from harming rivers, estuaries, lakes and coastal waters, freshwater peal mussel habitats or designated shellfish waters.<sup>28</sup> As a result, no treatment plants within Kildare County were found to have significant negative environmental impacts.

According to the draft KCDP 2 Year Progress Report, an Bord Pleanála granted permission (2024) to extend and amend the Drehid Waste Management Facility to accept up to 400,000 tonnes of waste since the publication of the Plan.

A review of the Local Authority Waste Facilities Register found that 16 new permits were granted permission between the start of 2023 and the time of writing of this report.<sup>29</sup>

With regard to renewable energy development, a Wind Energy Strategy<sup>30</sup> was published as an Appendix to the Plan, outlining the Council's objectives concerning the development of wind energy in the County and a methodology to identify suitable locations throughout the County. A review of the Wind Energy Ireland

---

<sup>23</sup> Note: Srowland WTP fully feeds the Barrow supply and partially feeds the Barrow Poulaphouca PWS (1400PUB1070), Monasterevin PWS (1400PUB1020) and Rathangan PWS (1400PUB1041).

<sup>24</sup> EPA (2024) EPA Remedial Action List. Available at: [Q2-2024-RAL-for-public-drinking-water-supplies-FINAL.pdf](#)

<sup>25</sup> Uisce Éireann (2023) Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant. Available at: [Upgrade of Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant to benefit almost 1 million customers | News | Uisce Éireann](#)

<sup>26</sup> DHLGH (2024) Water Supply Project [Press Release]. Available at: [gov.ie - Water Supply Project, critical to securing economic growth and housing needs for the future, gets government green light.](#)

<sup>27</sup> EPA (2024) Urban Wastewater Treatment in 2023. Available at: [Urban-Wastewater-Treatment-in-2023-report.pdf](#)

<sup>28</sup> EPA (2024) Urban Wastewater Treatment in 2023. Available at: [Urban-Wastewater-Treatment-in-2023-report.pdf](#)

<sup>29</sup> NWCPO (2024) Local Authority Waste Facility Register. Available at: [National Waste Collection Permit Office Home.](#)

<sup>30</sup> KCC (2023) Appendix 2 – Wind Energy Strategy. Available at: [FINAL Appendix 2 Wind Energy Strategy.pdf](#)

Wind Farm Map<sup>31</sup> indicates that there are currently no windfarms in County Kildare. Similarly, a review of the KCC and ABP planning portal indicate that no planning applications have been received or granted relating to the development of windfarms in the County since the adoption of the Plan. However, 1 no. Pre-Application Consultation occurred in March 2024<sup>32</sup> for the development of a 12-no. wind turbine farm in North Kildare by the Statkraft Group, the decision was decided in April 2024 to be *'Is a Strategic Infrastructure Development'*<sup>33</sup>. Additionally, Bord Na Mona has expressed their interest in developing a 47-turbine windfarm on the Ballydermot Bog Group located in Counties Kildare and Offaly. It should be noted the planning application for the Ballydermot Windfarm has not yet been lodged but is set to be lodged in 2025<sup>34</sup>.

A review of the Solar Atlas produced by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland<sup>35</sup> last updated in Q2 of 2024 indicates that there is currently 1 no. solar generator connected to the grid in County Kildare: Hortland PV (25MW<sup>36</sup>). Additionally, the map outlines that 10 no. solar farms had been contracted in County Kildare.

According to the draft KCDP 2 Year Progress Report, planning permission has been granted for 566 Megawatts of renewable solar energy during 2023 and 2024. This figure includes 561 Megawatts at 7 no. permitted solar farms across the County and 5.1 Megawatts at 7 no. existing large scale commercial or infrastructural premises. Further details on these permissions are included in Table 3.13 below.

**Table 3.13 Planning applications relating to solar farm developments in Kildare County.**

Ref.	Applicant	Decision Date	Status	Description
22111	Strategic Power Projects Limited	02/02/2024	Grant	a 10 year planning permission for development at Swordlestown North and Swordlestown South, County Kildare. The development will consist of the construction of solar PV development on a c.129 ha site consisting of: 1. The installation of solar panels on ground-mounted frames, 51 no. single storey electrical inverter/ transformer units, security fencing, a CCTV system with pole mounted cameras and landscaping; 2. The upgrading of an existing farm entrance off the L2023 and the creation of a second, new entrance, directly opposite to the north of the existing; 3. The provision of a new internal access road of a distance of c.170 m to provide access to a temporary construction compound; and 4. All associated ancillary development works...
23567	Delamain Solar Farm Ltd.,	20/08/2024	Grant	10 Year Planning Permission for a solar farm with a total area of circa 246 hectares in the townlands of Brannockstown, Brownstown, Carnalway, Coghlanstown West, Corbally, Delamain, Dunnstown, Gaganstown, Greenhills, Harristown, Hillsborough, Moorhill and Rochestown in County Kildare...
23683	BNRG Kerdiffstown Ltd.,	13/10/2023	Grant	to amend the design of the approved development (Planning Reference 17/463) which comprises consent for a Solar PV Energy Development.  Proposed amendments include; (1) Number of Transformer/Inverters to be reduced, (2) Change in length of deer fencing, (3) Slight alteration to the access tracks, (4) Temporary Construction Compound to decrease in size, (5) 2no. Storage Areas to be added to the layout, (6) Customer Substation to be removed from the layout, (7) Change in

<sup>31</sup> Wind Energy Ireland (2024) Wind Farm Map. Available at: [Wind Farm Map](#)

<sup>32</sup> An Bord Pleanála (2024) Case Reference 214463. Available at: [314463 | An Bord Pleanála](#)

<sup>33</sup> Statkraft (2023) Drehid Wind Farm. Available at: [Project Being Considered - Drehid Wind Farm](#)

<sup>34</sup> Kildare Now (2024) Plans for Kildare Bord Na Mona wind farm not due to be lodged until next year. Available at: [Plans for Kildare Bord Na Mona wind farm not due to be lodged until next year - Kildare Now](#)

<sup>35</sup> SEAI (2024) Solar Map. Available at: [Solar Map | SEAI GIS Maps | SEAI](#)

<sup>36</sup> Power Technology (n.d.) Hortland Solar PV Park. Available at: [Power plant profile: Hortland Solar PV Park, Ireland](#)

Ref.	Applicant	Decision Date	Status	Description
				lifetime of the permission from 5 to 10 years within the townlands of...
23837	Carbury Compost Unlimited at Monaghan Mushrooms	03/01/2024	Grant	the construction of a photovoltaic solar farm comprising of 54 no. table solar panel arrays erected on ground mounted galvanised steel frames/support structures located in the southeast corner of the existing mushroom, compost and farm facility...
23/60073	Coolcarrigan Farm Limited Coolcarrigan Farm Limited	07/11/2023	Grant	for an amendment to the granted planning (Planning Reference: 221203) which comprised consent for a solar PV energy development and battery storage compound at Coolcarrigan, Timahoe West, Co. Kildare. Proposed amendments include; (1) An increase in the quantum of energy export that the solar park can produce from 80MW to up to 120MW (2) an amendment to the wording of the battery energy storage from 80MWh to up to 80MW, which amends the power output from the energy capacity to the rated power, to provide battery energy storage to greater flexibility in how it imports and exports the electricity to the grid (3) clarification of adjacent permitted development 15/1172 (extension of duration under 20/1052) increasing the energy export from 15MW to up to 19.4MW)...
24291	EEPV5 Limited and Elgin Energy Services Limited	12/12/2024 (Grant Date currently unavailable)	Grant	for a solar farm development with an operational lifespan of 40 years comprising the installation of photovoltaic panels on ground mounted frames in rows on a site of circa 47.44 hectares...
2461046	AGB Landfill Holdings Limited	28/01/2025	Grant	for a solar farm to be installed over restored landfill with an export capacity of approximately 4.5MW comprising photovoltaic panels on concrete ballast supported frames...

Concerning access to National Broadband, according to the 2016 census, some 57,086 households out of a total of 73,348 households (nearly 77.8%) in Kildare County had access to broadband.<sup>37</sup> Furthermore, in December 2022 during the inception of the KCDP 2023-2029, only 2,260 Kildare homes, businesses and farms had been connected to the NBI network.<sup>38</sup> As of November 2024, under the National Broadband Plan, connections were made available for Kildare homes near Maynooth allowing nearly 12,300 premises in Kildare to avail of high-speed broadband connection with over 3,920 connections made so far.<sup>39</sup> Furthermore, County Kildare is set to receive 53 million euro from the government under the NBP as the biggest investment in rural Ireland since rural electrification.<sup>40</sup> The telecommunications company Eir announced that as of November 2024, 65,206 homes and business across Kildare have access to gigabit fibre broadband allowing for the fibre build project in Kildare to be 80% completed.<sup>41</sup> KCC has also adopted a Digital Strategy ‘Kildare Konnected’ since the publication of the Plan (June 2023).

According to the draft KCDP 2 Year Progress Report, a Strategic Infrastructure Development planning application has been submitted by Eirgrid to An Bord Pleanála for approval, Ref ABP 316372, for the Kildare Meath Grid Upgrade. At the time of writing this report, the decision is still ‘due to be decided’.

<sup>37</sup> CSO (2016) SAPMAP Motor Car Availability, PC Ownership, and Internet Access. Available at: [Interactive Data Visualisations | CSO Ireland](#).

<sup>38</sup> NBI (2022) National Broadband Plan. Available at: [Over 2,200 premises in Kildare towns and villages can avail of National Broadband Ireland high-speed fibre connection - NBI](#).

<sup>39</sup> NBI (2024) National Broadband Plan. Available at: [National Broadband Plan connection now available for Kildare homes near Maynooth - NBI](#).

<sup>40</sup> NBI (2024) National Broadband Plan. Available at: [National Broadband Plan connection now available for Kildare homes near Maynooth - NBI](#).

<sup>41</sup> Kildare Now (2024) Eir report shows large scale investment in Kildare since 2016 employing 200 within the county. Available at: [eir report shows large scale investment in Kildare since 2016 employing 200 within the county - Kildare Now](#)

In addition to the energy improvements and infrastructure listed above, the Mid-East Energy Unit has been established (2023), permission has been granted to Bord Na Mona (March 2023) for new headquarters in Newbridge (Ref 22/802) and a new biogas and biofertiliser facility has been granted planning permission (2023) at Lackaghmore, Monastervin (Ref 22/1035) since the publication of the Plan.

Finally, Maynooth was identified as County Kildare's inaugural Decarbonisation Zone which was outlined in the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme is an ongoing operational matter forming part of the Housing Department's work programme. KCC has reported that targets for 2023 and 2024 are on track for completion by Q2 2025.

Further information on new and improved transport infrastructure in Kildare has been outlined in Section 3.5.2.

### 3.8.3 Conclusions

Continued success of above targets will have a positive effect on material assets across the County.

As described in Section 3.1.2 KCC has been successful in delivering active travel and public transport improvements.

Water supply and wastewater treatment across the County remain good with no record of any exceedances of EU standards. Some 16 no. new waste facility permits were granted in Kildare since 2023.

The Wind Energy Strategy published alongside the Plan outlined objectives for wind energy development. However, no permissions have been granted by KCC for renewable wind energy in County Kildare since the adoption of the Plan.

The Solar Atlas shows one solar generator connected to the grid and planning permission has been granted for 566 Megawatts of renewable solar energy across the County. This figure includes 561 Megawatts at 7 no. permitted solar farms across the County and 5.1 Megawatts at 7 no. existing large scale commercial or infrastructural premises. Broadband access has also improved, with significant investments under the National Broadband Plan and 80% of the fibre build project completed in Kildare.

New and improved energy, broadband, grid and transport infrastructure in Kildare will have a positive effect on material assets across the County.

## 4. Summary and Conclusions

County Kildare has made significant strides in various sectors including compact growth, decarbonisation, active travel, public transport, waste management, renewable energy, and broadband infrastructure to date.

With regards to population and human health, positive effects have been identified in Kildare overall, whereby active travel, public transport, housing and public realm infrastructure has been improved. One area highlighted for improvement is that of Kildare's heavy reliance on private vehicular usage.

Overall, positive effects have been identified for biodiversity. It is noted that Kildare's Biodiversity Action Plan will be progressed and adopted in 2025, and it is anticipated that this Plan will aid further progress on biodiversity targets once published.

With regards to land and soils, it is noted that limited information is available on the targets set out in the Table 9.1.2 of the SEA Report pertaining to land and soils. However, positives have been noted, in that there have been no instances reported where contaminated material generated from brownfield or infill sites in Kildare have not been disposed of appropriately.

Predominantly positive effects have been assessed for water in that, water quality has remained relatively unchanged in Kildare and improvements to water supply and associated infrastructure has been facilitated.

Overall, positive effects have been identified for air quality, climate and noise, whereby KCC have been successful in increasing active travel and continue to make progress in decarbonisation. However, similar to the conclusions outlined in population and human health, one area highlighted for improvement is that of Kildare's heavy reliance on private vehicular usage.

With regards to cultural heritage, it is noted that limited information is available on the targets set out in the Table 9.1.2 of the SEA Report pertaining to cultural heritage. However, positives have been noted, in that KCC have implemented various projects and initiatives to improve the public realm and promote heritage in Kildare.

Similarly, it is also noted that limited information is available on the targets set out in the Table 9.1.2 of the SEA Report pertaining to landscape and visual. However, positives have been noted, in that the Landscape Character Assessment for the county is underway, and the provision of funding, conservation management plans and improved recreation and amenity will have a positive effect on surrounding landscape and visual in Kildare.

Finally with regards to material assets, largely positive effects have been identified, whereby the continuation of new and improved energy, broadband, grid, water and transport infrastructure in Kildare will have a positive effect on material assets across the County.

In conclusion, it is notable that substantial progress has been made across all environment components (population and human health, biodiversity, land and soils, water, air quality, climate and noise, cultural heritage, landscape and visuals and material assets) with regards to the targets set out in the SEA monitoring programme (Table 9.1.2 of the SEA Environmental Report).