

8 Water, Drainage and Environmental Services

Aim: To develop, protect, improve and extend water and wastewater and environmental services throughout Athy and to prioritise the sustainable provision of water services infrastructure to complement the overall strategy for the economic and population growth of the town and achieve enhanced environmental protection.

8.1 Background

The Core Strategy for Athy identifies a need to accommodate an additional 1,389 housing units by 2018. This level of growth, which does not include parallel commercial development, highlights the need for continued investment in the infrastructure of the town and its surrounding area. The Development Plan and key infrastructural advancements throughout the lifetime of this plan must therefore provide for this level of growth in Athy during the Plan period.

Athy is dependent on strategic national / regional solutions to the provision of future water and wastewater infrastructure. The development of new regional water supply sources and the implementation of the recommendations of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study are central to the longer term sustainable development of the town.

8.2 Policy / Legislative Context

The provision of water, drainage and environmental services infrastructure in Athy must have regard to relevant policy/legislation.

8.2.1 Water Services Act (2007)

The Water Services Act 2007 provides the legislative framework in relation to the planning, management and delivery of water supply and wastewater collection and treatment services. The Act incorporates a comprehensive review, update and consolidation of all existing water services legislation and facilitates the establishment of a comprehensive supervisory regime to ensure

compliance with specified performance standards.

Other legislative provisions which the Council must comply with include;

- Drinking Water Regulations 2007
- Waste Water Discharge Regulations 2007
- Urban Wastewater Regulations 2001

8.2.2 Water Framework Directive (2000)

The EU Water Framework Directive, Directive 2000/60/EC, was adopted in 2000 as a single piece of legislation covering rivers, lakes, groundwater and transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters and includes heavily modified and artificial water bodies. Its objectives include prevention of further deterioration of and the protection, enhancement and restoration of the status of all bodies of water with the aim of achieving at least “good” ecological status by 2015.

8.2.3 Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (2005)

The Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study investigated sewerage, drainage and river systems in the Greater Dublin Area up to 2031. The study identified new practices, processes and techniques to take advantage of the latest developments in hydraulic monitoring, geographical information systems and database management. The study recommended that regional and local policies should incorporate up to date and best practice in drainage design, operation and management. A co-ordinated regional approach is required to deliver on the recommendations of the strategy. Flood risk management should be integrated into spatial planning policies at all levels.

8.2.4 The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (November 2009)

The Guidelines introduced comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification assessment and management into the planning process. Implementation of the Guidelines will be achieved through actions at national, regional, local authority and site specific levels.

The Guidelines require planning authorities to;

- Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, particularly flood plains, unless there are proven sustainability grounds that justify appropriate development and where flood risk can be reduced or managed to an acceptable level, without increasing flood risk elsewhere;
- Adopt a sequential approach to flood risk management when assessing the location for new development based on avoidance, substitution, justification and mitigation of flood risk;
- Incorporate flood risk assessment into all stages of the planning process in accordance with the Guidelines.
- Carry out a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the Guidelines for the Athy Town Development Plan (2012-2018).

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been prepared in conjunction with this Plan and the recommendations of the SFRA have been incorporated in the Plan.

8.2.5 Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme.

The OPW has developed a Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme, which lies at the core of the assessment of flood risk and the long-term planning of the flood risk management measures throughout the country, including capital structural and non-structural measures. The CFRAM Programme will, as well as delivering on national policy, meet the

requirements of the EU 'Floods' Directive that came into force in November 2007.

This Directive requires the production of flood maps for the Areas of Potentially Significant Risk by the end of 2013, and the development of Flood Risk Management Plans to manage risk within the Areas of Potentially Significant Risk by the end of 2015.

The outcomes of these studies together with any Local Authority policies should be used to inform flood risk assessments in the planning process in accordance with the Guidelines described in Section 8.2.4.

8.2.6 Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area (2010-2022)

Continued investment in waste water treatment is required during the life of the RPGs;

- (i) To ensure high water quality standards to meet the Water Framework Directive targets,
- (ii) To ensure necessary new economic and housing developments can take place in the most optimal locations.

Local Authorities are advised to assess existing systems on a catchment basis and identify funding for the renewal, upgrading and replacement of surface water infrastructure where needed to meet existing and future demands.

8.3 Strategy

The strategy seeks to maintain, enhance and extend, as appropriate a sustainable water supply, wastewater and drainage service in Athy by:

- Working alongside Kildare County Council in preserving the capacity of water and wastewater services primarily for the use of developments within Athy and to make provision for improved and additional wastewater services on a planned basis, in accordance with the present and future needs of housing, industry and commerce in Athy.
- Continuing the sustainable development and improvement of the water supply and foul drainage systems throughout the town to meet the anticipated water and drainage requirements of the area.
- Protecting surface water catchments and managing catchment areas where appropriate to protect the surface water drainage infrastructure and minimise the risk of flooding within the town.
- Implementing the provisions of national policy and legislation in the control of water pollution.
- Ensuring that existing and proposed developments are not subject to undue risk of flooding.
- Conserving treated water by active leakage detection, non-domestic metering and development of infrastructure and water conservation methods.
- Actively pursuing and resolving water leakage.
- Preserving free from development the way leaves of all public sewers and water mains.

8.4 Water Services Investment Programme – Assessment of Needs 2010-2012

Local Authorities are required to prepare an “Assessment of Needs” for water services capital works in their areas at regular intervals. These assessments highlight the strategic context within which the county is set and the current constraints facing the county particularly in relation to water supply and wastewater treatment and provide the basis for scheme approval and scheduling under the Water Services Investment Programme. In 2009 a ‘Needs Assessment’ was prepared by Kildare County Council, which informed the Water Services Investment Programme for the period 2010 – 2012.

A list of priority projects has been drawn up and submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for consideration. The upgrade of the Athy Sewerage Network and the Barrow Abstraction Scheme have been included as projects to be commenced between 2010-2012.

8.5 Provision of Infrastructure

Kildare County Council, being the Water Services Authority for Athy, is responsible for providing and maintaining adequate public water supply and waste water infrastructure throughout the town and continues to invest in the improvement of the existing water supply and wastewater treatment, in accordance with the Water Services Investment Programme.

8.5.1 Water Supply

At present, Athy town’s daily water demand is in excess of 4,000 cubic metres and is supplied from 4 separate sources within the town located along the north western bank of the River Barrow. An additional source is also obtained from the Regional Supply from the Poulaphouca Reservoir to supplement the town’s own supply. This can be extended into the town should any of the local sources need to be shut off.

Construction of a new 150mm diameter trunk main on the Monasterevin Road which will link

to Wellfields Monasterevin is currently being carried out. This will provide an additional source of water supply when required. It is envisaged that the Barrow Abstraction Scheme should be completed by 2012 which will further consolidate and improve the town's water supply.

It is the policy of the Council:

- WS1: To secure the timely development of the priorities relating to Athy outlined in the Water Services Investment Programme - Assessment of Needs 2010 to 2012.
- WS2: To secure priorities outlined in the Water Services Investment Programme - Assessment of Needs 2010 to 2012 including the network upgrade of the Athy Sewerage Scheme and the Barrow Abstraction Scheme.
- WS 3: To prepare a Water Services Strategic Plan - in compliance with the Water Services Act - for the functional area of the Council. Such a Plan may be prepared jointly with other Water Services Authorities.
- WS4: To provide water, sufficient in quantity and quality to serve the needs of existing and future population.
- WS5: To examine ways of improving and upgrading the drinking water supply in Athy to cater for existing development in line with changing EU and National Directives, and concurrently to allow for increased residential, industrial and commercial growth in line with the objectives of this Plan.
- WS6: To upgrade the existing water supply network infrastructure with the aim of improving the supply and quality of drinking water and reducing the level of unaccounted for water.
- WS7: To promote conservation of water resources and where possible effect a reduction in the overall demand for treated water.

WS8: To promote water conservation measures within Athy by requiring the installation of water meters in all new residential units and in cases where planning permission is required for an extension.

WS9: To explore sustainable water conservation initiatives including large scale rainwater harvesting, re-use of grey water and improved leakage controls.

WS10: To require developments to connect to the public water supply.

WS11: To actively minimise leakage from the water supply network.

8.5.2 Wastewater Treatment

Wastewater is treated at the Athy Wastewater Treatment Plant at Boherbui located to the south west of the town centre area. The plant has an existing design capacity of 15,000 population equivalent (PE) with room for future expansion. The current loading of the treatment plant is approximately 10,000PE. It is anticipated that it will be necessary to extend the plant to 11,500 PE before 2014 to meet additional domestic and non-domestic demand. In addition the overall wastewater network requires improvement to facilitate possible future expansion of the town. In the interim however wastewater improvements under the Athy Sewerage Scheme include the provision of a new trunk foul sewer to the south east of the town to serve lands located at Prusselstown. Remediation of the existing sewer network to the east of the river Barrow was carried out in 2010 as the first phase of the Athy Sewerage Scheme.

It is the policy of the Council:

- WW1: To reserve and allocate a proportion of the capacity of the Athy Sewerage Treatment Plant to development that yields long term sustainable employment in the town.
- WW2: To minimise leakage from the foul sewer network and surface water

infiltration into the foul sewerage system while at the same time reducing groundwater pollution.

WW3: To ensure that public wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure - which fully complies with requirements of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban waste-water treatment) (amended by Directive 98/15/EEC) including the need to provide secondary treatment and other treatment as required - shall be operational and with adequate capacity to accommodate waste water arising from development, prior to developments being occupied. Discharges arising from this collection and treatment shall also comply with the requirements of the Directive.

WW4: To implement the relevant recommendations set out in *Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland for Population Equivalents Greater than 500 Persons - A Report for the Years 2006 and 2007* (EPA Office of Environment Enforcement, 2009).

8.6 Surface Water and Drainage

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems are advocated within the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GDSDS) with a specific objective to ensure that any future development does not increase flooding or pollution of rivers. The system aims to mimic the natural drainage of a site to minimise the effect of a development on flooding and pollution of waterways.

The control of surface water and appropriate measures for minimising flood risk is vital to a sustainable water services policy. The potential for increased incidences of flooding due to climate change is acknowledged and the Council will seek to include flood risk as a key consideration in both policy formulation and assessment of planning applications. The issue of surface water drainage is an increasingly important issue in the context of

climate change, with higher rainfall levels and increased flood frequency. A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment accompanies this Plan.

Increased urbanisation and the effects of climate change make surface water drainage and management of flood risk increasingly important issues.

Development will be informed by the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment carried out in accordance with "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities" published by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government in November 2009 which accompanies this Plan.

In order to be permitted, development proposals must demonstrate that the discharge of surface water runoff from the development will not lead to an increase in the risk of flooding in the receiving surface water drainage network.

Further information on SuDS is available at www.suds.com.

It is the policy of the Council:

SW1: To implement the requirements of the DoEHLG *The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (2009) in the carrying out of functions during the period of the Plan.

SW2: To ensure that appropriate drainage facilities are provided which will allow development to proceed without leading to an increased risk of pollution or flooding.

SW3: To ensure that all new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the *Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study* (GDSDS).

SW4: To ensure that development proposals on lands identified in the Athy Strategic Flood Risk Assessment are subject to

an appropriate Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the DoEHLG *The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (2009)

- SW5: Persons/Companies undertaking Flood Risk Assessments shall certify that the Flood Risk Assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the DoEHLG Planning System and Flood Risk Management ~ Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and utilising other flood information as it becomes available.
- SW6: To ensure that all structures adjacent to watercourses (including hard landscaping) adjacent to watercourses is set back from the edge of the watercourse to allow access for channel clearing/ maintenance. A set back of 10 metres will generally be required depending on channel width and location.
- SW7: To ensure that the requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland are adhered to in the construction of flood alleviation measures. This includes, but is not limited to:
- Allowance for dry weather flow conditions to be reflected in channel cross section;
 - Appropriate programming of any “instream works” to reflect the requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland.
- SW8: To protect groundwater resources and drinking water catchments having regard to the County Kildare Ground Water Protection Scheme 1999 (as amended) and Environmental Protection Agency Code of Practice or Building Regulations applicable at the time from the effects of flooding.

8.7 Water Quality

Water supplied to the town is tested regularly to ensure that it is consistently of the highest quality. The maintenance and improvement of water quality is a key objective of the River Basin Management Plans and other legislative provisions. Drinking water quality in Kildare is monitored on an agency basis, by the Environmental Health Service of the Health Service Executive (HSE) in accordance with the Council’s 2007 Drinking Water Monitoring Plan.

The European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 278 of 2007) transpose outstanding aspects of the EU Drinking Water Directive into Irish Law by underpinning comprehensive supervision and maintenance regimes for both sanitary authority and group water scheme supplies and by providing for increased penalties for non-compliance. Achieving and improving appropriate water quality standards are of significant importance to the Council.

It is the policy of the Council:

WQ 1: To co-operate with the EPA, HSE and other authorities, in the continued implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and assist and co-operate with the lead authorities for the South Eastern River Basin District.

WQ2: To ensure, through the implementation of the River Basin Management Plans and their associated Programmes of Measures and any other associated legislation, the protection and improvement of all drinking water, surface water and ground waters throughout the town.

WQ 3: To work, in co-operation with relevant organisations and major stakeholders, to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the protection and improvement of water resources.

WQ 4: To continue efforts to improve water quality under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977, (as amended) and by implementing the measures outlined under the Nitrates

Directive (91/676/EEC) and other relevant Regulations.

WQ 5: To promote public awareness of water quality issues and the measures required to protect both surface water and groundwater bodies.

WQ6: To ensure that all agricultural activities adhere to any current or future legislation on water quality, such as the Phosphorous Regulations, Water Framework Directive and Nitrate Directive.

WQ7: To ensure conformance with the relevant recommendations set out in *The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland - A Report for the Years 2007-2008* (EPA Office of Environment Enforcement, 2009).

8.8 Flood Risk Management

Historical flooding for County Kildare has been recorded in both the recent and distant past causing damage to homes and businesses. While it is noted that Athy is vulnerable to flooding particularly from the River Barrow, large areas of the floodplains within Athy are not built upon. The risk and frequency of flooding is likely to increase in the future as a result of climate change, with increased rainfall, rising sea levels and increased urbanisation. Flood risk due to climate change and other external factors is therefore continually changing and requires on-going assessment.

In order to minimise the impact of an increased future flood risk, the plan must have regard to the results and recommendations of SFRA in conjunction with various other steps that Local Authorities can take. These include flood protection works, storm water attenuation and more significantly, avoidance of development in floodplains and coastal areas subject to flooding except in very limited circumstances.

A major function performed by floodplains and wetlands subject to flooding is to hold excess water until it can be released slowly back into a river system or the sea or seep into the

ground as a storm or tidal surge subsides. Floodplains and wetlands subject to flooding should, therefore, be recognised and preserved to the maximum extent possible, in both urban and rural areas, as Green Infrastructure which provides a natural defence against flood risk.

The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines produced by the DoEHLG (2009) aim to ensure a rigorous assessment of flood risk at all levels to provide a consistency of approach throughout the whole country. Development at all levels will be required to comply with the recommendations of these guidelines. In achieving the aims and objectives of the Guidelines, planning authorities must:

- Ensure that development is not permitted in areas of flood risk, particularly floodplains and coastal areas subject to flooding, except where there are no suitable alternative sites available in areas at lower risk that are consistent with the objectives of proper planning and sustainable development.
- Adopt a sequential approach to flood risk management which aims to avoid flood risk, where possible, substitute less vulnerable uses, where avoidance is not possible, and to mitigate and manage the risk where avoidance and substitution are not possible.

A precautionary approach should also be applied to flood risk management to reflect uncertainties in flooding datasets, risk assessment techniques and the ability to predict the future climate, the performance of existing flood defences and the extent of future coastal erosion.

The EU Floods Directive was introduced in 2007 and sets out how member states must have a plan for the management of flood risk. The aims of the Directive will be achieved through a series of requirements which will be carried out at river catchment level and also in coastal zones.

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the Athy Town Development Plan (2012-2018) has

been prepared. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment which has been carried out in accordance with "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities" published by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government in November 2009 will be in keeping with the requirements of the EU Flood Directive and the Regional Planning Guidelines (2010-2022) for the Greater Dublin Area.

The key outputs of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment are:

- To provide for an improved understanding of flood risk issues within the town development plan and development management process, and to communicate this to a wide range of stakeholders;
- To produce an assessment of existing flood defence infrastructure and the consequences of failure of that infrastructure and to identify areas of natural floodplain to be safeguarded;
- To produce a suitably detailed flood risk assessment that supports the application of the sequential approach in key areas where there may be tension between development pressures and avoidance of flood risk;
- To inform, where necessary, the application of the Justification Test;
- To conclude whether measures to deal with flood risks to the area proposed for development can satisfactorily reduce the risks to an acceptable level while not increasing flood risk elsewhere; and
- To produce guidance on mitigation measures, how surface water should be managed and appropriate criteria.

8.9 Water, Wastewater and Drainage Objectives

It is an objective of the Council:

WDO1: To improve the provision of water and drainage services in new

developments and in those areas of the town where deficiencies exist.

WDO2: To protect, improve and conserve the town's wastewater resources.

WDO3: To facilitate the provision of necessary water infrastructure in a sustainable manner.

WDO4: To improve water quality in the town in accordance with European and National legislation.

WDO5: To monitor and review the water quality standards of Athy Town Council in light of European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations 2007 (SI 278 of 2007), and to ensure continuing compliance with the regulations.

WDO6: To improve and expand the water supply to all areas in accordance with the Water Services Investment Programme for County Kildare.


WDO7: To promote rain water harvesting as a complementary surface water management system in all developments and in particular, for larger developments.

WDO8: To promote the changeover from septic tanks to mains connections in Athy where this is feasible.

WDO9: To carry out a survey of the surface water culverts in Athy to assess their current state, and to improve culverts where necessary.

WDO10: To carry out a programme of dredging surface water drains and to continue to ensure that the drains are regularly maintained to minimise the risk of flooding.

WDO11: To promote sustainable water conservation initiatives, particularly for larger developments including rainwater harvesting, re-use of grey water and improved leakage control



with a view to their implementation within the town's water supply and drainage network.

WDO12: To decommission as many lead public water mains as possible in older areas of Athy where they are present.

WDO13: To fulfil its responsibilities under the Flood Risk Directive 2007/60/EC and co-operate with the Office of Public Works in the development of any Catchment-based Flood Risk

Management Plan as necessary. Any relevant recommendations and outputs arising from Flood Risk Management Plan will be incorporated into the Development Plan.

WDO14: To integrate into the Plan, relevant findings of the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS) for the River Barrow Catchment when it is finalised in 2014, as appropriate.

8.10 Environmental Services

Aim: To conform with EU, national and regional policies in relation to waste management, to protect and enhance water, air and noise quality and to promote environmental awareness in Athy.

8.11 Context

Protection and enhancement of the physical environment is of primary importance to Athy Town Council. The role of the Council in this regard is to prevent water, air and noise pollution and to ensure the provision of the highest standards of waste management facilities.

8.12 Strategy

The strategy for environmental services seeks to conform with national and regional policy in relation to waste management and to maintain and improve environmental services in Athy. Central to the environmental strategy for the town is a focus on the promotion of environmental protection through education.

The strategy has regard to the internationally recognised hierarchy of waste management options which is:

- Prevention
- Minimisation
- Reuse/recycling
- Environmentally sustainable disposal of waste

8.13 Waste Management

The Council is obliged to collect or arrange for the collection of household waste in its jurisdiction. Waste collected is currently transferred to Dublin from the Integrated Waste Management Facility at Silliot Hill, Kilcullen for baling prior to disposal at Arthurstown Landfill Site. Presently Kildare Local Authorities operate the Civic

Amenity Centre located at Gallowshill off the Dublin Road in Athy. This facility provides a significant service to the local and wider community and accepts a wide range of recyclable materials including glass, paper, cardboard, hazardous household waste, material, plastic and cans.

The County Waste Management Plan 2005-2010 sets out the overall waste management objectives and includes details on waste production with specific objectives for infrastructure. Policies are outlined for waste prevention, minimisation, recovery/ reuse, recovery / recycling, energy recovery, disposal, waste collection, animal slurries, sludge, hazardous waste and litter prevention.

Section 22 of the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended by Section 4 of the Waste Management (Amendment) Act 2001) provides the link between a Development Plan under the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the Waste Management Plan.

It is the policy of the Council:

- WM1: To have regard to the County Kildare Waste Management Plan in the implementation, operation and management of schemes and services for the disposal of waste.
- WM 2: To seek to ensure that Athy is served by adequate recycling facilities in the form of kerbside collection, the continued operation and improvement of the existing Civic Amenity Centre and bring-bank recycling facilities.
- WM 3: To encourage waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste. Where waste management is not being carried out properly, the Waste Management Act, 1996 to 2008 will be used as a means to ensure specific national policies and regulations are adhered to.

WM 4: To promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness, community-based recycling initiatives and environmental management initiatives, which will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.

WM 5: To ensure that the “Code of Practice Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites” published by the EPA is adhered to regarding any contaminated sites within the town council boundary and to ensure that a risk based assessment procedure is carried out for all historic unregulated waste disposal sites; the potential risks are assessed and that the appropriate remedial measures or corrective actions are put in place before any development takes place.

8.13.1 Litter Management

In accordance with the Litter Pollution Act 1997 local authorities are required to adopt Litter Management Plans. A Litter Management Plan should set out the Council’s objectives to prevent and control litter as well as measures to encourage public awareness of the litter problem with particular emphasis on educational and information strategies. The Plan should include information on and should be prepared having regard to:

- The policies and objectives of the Council in relation to the prevention and control of litter.
- Litter prevention and control measures carried out by the Council.
- Litter prevention and control activities being carried out by agencies other than the Council.

- Recycling and recovery facilities provided for public use.
- The Council’s enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

Since the adoption of the Athy Town Development Plan in 2006, Athy Town Council has been actively involved in facilitating the delivery of a more sustainable approach to waste management and litter.

It is the policy of the Council:

- L1: To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act 1997.
- L2: To prepare a Litter Management Plan for Athy in accordance with the Litter Pollution Act 1997.
- L3: To continue education and awareness programmes in local schools and to promote grant schemes and initiatives to resident associations and other groups which aim to reduce litter in the town.
- L4: To require the provision of litter bins on or directly adjoining the premises of all neighbourhood facilities.

8.14 Pollution Control- Water, Air and Noise

The importance of a clean and attractive environment for the economic and social life of the town is well recognised. In this regard, continuous effective monitoring and enforcement in relation to pollution control measures is imperative and will continue over the period of the Plan.

The Council’s role in relation to water and air is to monitor and promote a reduction in water and air pollution, through implementation of relevant legislation and through the provision of advice and guidance on best practice.

The Kildare Noise Action Plan (2009) was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations (SI 140 2006). These Regulations give effect in Ireland to EU Directive 2002/49/EC, relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. Environmental noise is defined as unwanted or harmful outdoor sound created by human activities, including noise emitted by means of transport, road traffic, rail traffic, air traffic, and from sites of industrial activity. The Regulations do not address domestic or neighbourhood noise. The objectives of the Noise Action Plan are to avoid, prevent and reduce, where necessary, on a prioritised basis, the harmful effects, of long term exposure to environmental noise. The Plan promotes action on environmental noise through four avenues:

- Noise Reduction at source
- Land use planning adapted to noise goals
- Procedures to reduce noise impact
- Operating restrictions to reduce noise emissions.

It is the policy of the Council:

- N 1: To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.
- N 2: To seek to ensure that noise levels do not exceed accepted standards and that new developments incorporate measures to ensure compliance with the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 and any subsequent revision of these Regulations.
- N3: To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise (other than those activities

which require regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency).

- N4: To require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures and monitors.

8.14.1 Light

Light pollution can cause problems in a similar way to noise pollution; however the effects can be reduced. External lighting schemes and illuminated signage on commercial and industrial premises, sports grounds, and other developments, should be designed, installed and operated, so as to prevent nuisance to adjoining occupiers and road users, in the interests of amenity and public safety.


It is the policy of the Council:

- LT1: To seek to minimise the effects of all new external lighting on environmental amenity

8.15 Environmental Services Objectives

It is an objective of the Council:

- ENO 1: To facilitate the implementation of the County Kildare Waste Management Plan 2005-2010 and any subsequent revisions thereof during the period of this Plan.
- ENO 2: To investigate the possibility of the further provision of recycling facilities in Athy.
- ENO 3: To facilitate the preparation and implementation of the Kildare Noise Action Plan 2009 and Athy Litter Management Plan and any subsequent amendments during the period of the Plan.
- ENO 4: To continue to monitor air quality at selected locations throughout the town in co-operation with the



Health Service Executive and the
Environmental Protection Agency.

ENO 5: To continue to monitor
watercourses and other sensitive
areas of the town's environment
with a view to early detection and
prevention of pollution.

ENO 6: To continue to support Community
Groups, Resident's Associations
and Tidy Town's Committee, in the
promotion of Athy as a clean and
attractive town.

ENO 7: To continue to expand
environmental awareness
initiatives designed to create
increased public awareness of
waste prevention, minimisation
and reuse.