

Kildare County Council

SEA Statement

Kildare County Council Development Plan 2023-2029

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Issue | 23 January 2023


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1. Introduction

1.1 The Purpose of the SEA Statement

This Statement forms part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the adopted Kildare County Development Plan 2023 - 2029 (the 'Plan' or the 'KCDP'). SEA is a systematic, on-going process for evaluating (at the earliest possible stage) the quantity and consequences of implementing certain plans and programmes on the environment. This SEA Statement is the final stage of the SEA process and it is required under the European Communities Regulations 2004¹ (EU SEA Regulations) and national legislation² (SEA Regulations).

The purpose of the SEA Statement is to provide information on the decision-making process, and to document environmental considerations, the views of stakeholders and outline how recommendations arising from the SEA have been taken into account in the Plan. The four key requirements of this SEA Statement are to highlight:

- The incorporation of environmental considerations;
- Stakeholder involvement;
- Alterations considered; and
- Monitoring.

The SEA Statement is chronological in nature and includes the following:

- An outline of the methodology for undertaking a SEA;
- Scoping - an overview of the scoping process and summary of how the submissions received from stakeholders have been taken into account;
- Environmental Assessment- description of how environmental considerations have been integrated into the SEA;
- Alternatives - an outline of the reasons for choosing the plan to be adopted, in light of the other reasonable alternatives considered;
- Monitoring - an overview of the measures to monitor the plan going forward; and
- Final Appraisal - evaluation of the effectiveness of the SEA.

This SEA Statement will accompany the adopted KCDP 2023 - 2029 and be made available to the public.

1.2 Statement of the SEA Process for the adopted Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029

The adopted KCDP 2023 - 2029 is a statutory document containing guidelines as to how County Kildare should develop over the plan period. The adopted KCDP provides the overall strategy for the proposed planning and sustainable development within the plan area in the context of the National Planning Framework Project Ireland 2040 and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region (2019-2031). It represents the main public statements of planning policies and objectives for the plan area.

¹ European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations, as amended by European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2004

² Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations

The policies and objectives are critical in determining the appropriate location and form of different types of development as the KCDP is the primary statutory land use policy framework against which planning applications are assessed. The objectives also guide Kildare County Council's (KCC) activities and indicate priority areas or action and investment such as focusing on attracting employment into town, improving infrastructure or enhancing the town as a centre for sustainable tourism.

Current planning legislation identifies mandatory objectives which a plan must address including land use zoning and provision of services and infrastructure, the integration of social, community and cultural requirements, sustainable development and protection of the environment amongst others. In addition to these mandatory objectives, there is a Core Strategy contained in the KCDP 2023-2029, which sets out medium to longer term quantitative targets for the plan area. The Core Strategy sets out the overall population projection for the county and the extent of population growth to be accommodated in the towns, villages and rural areas and demonstrates that the KCDP and its objectives are consistent with the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region (2019-2031).

A broad SEA was carried out using an objective led approach to assess likely significant impact. The assessment was mostly qualitative in nature, with some assessment based on expert judgement. This qualitative assessment compared the likely impacts against the SEA objectives, targets and indicators to see which policies and objectives meet these and which, if any, contradict these.

A matrix system was developed to facilitate the assessment and to highlight potential impacts under a number of environmental headings namely population and human health, biodiversity, land and soils, water resources, air, noise and climate factors, archaeology, architectural and cultural heritage, landscape and visuals and material assets.

2. SEA Methodology

2.1 Overview

This section describes how the SEA was undertaken in accordance with legislative requirements including EU's Council Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive), national legislation and associated regulations. The SEA was undertaken iteratively to facilitate discussions with KCC to implement mitigation where possible at the earliest possible stage.

The methodology for the SEA is based on legislative requirements and guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) thus ensuring compliance with the SEA Directive and associated national legislation. The EPA's SEA Pack (Version 18/02/2020) was also used as a source of information during the scoping process. The key stages outlined in Figure 2.1 were identified and are discussed in the following sections.

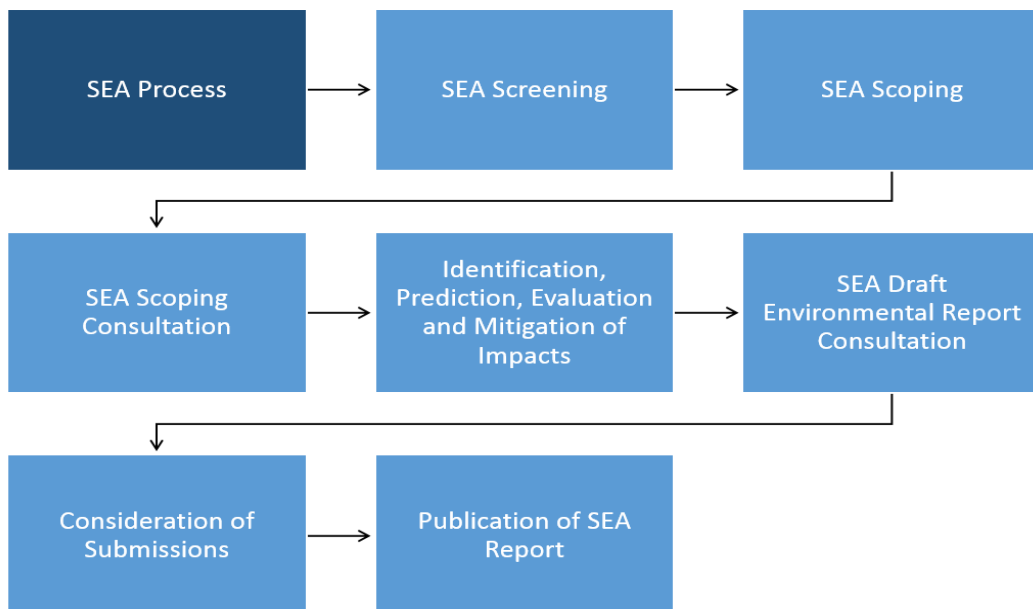


Figure 2.1 Key Stages of the SEA Process

2.2 Screening

Screening is the process for deciding whether a particular plan would warrant SEA at the earliest possible opportunity, it also facilitates the assessment findings so that they can be factored into the development plan process.

Screening in the case of the KCDP was not required as SEA is mandatory with any CDP produced.

2.3 Scoping

Scoping is the process for establishing the range of environmental issues to be covered in the SEA and the level of detail that the assessment will investigate.

Scoping also allows input from the environmental authorities and stakeholders to be incorporated. Essentially, responses submitted as part of the scoping process provide greater focus on the evolution of the adopted KCDP.

The considerations addressed during the scoping process for the KCDP are as follows:

- Determine the key elements of the KCDP to be assessed;
- Determine the environmental issues to be assessed;
- Collect and report on relevant international, national and local plans, objectives and environmental standards that may influence or impact on the KCDP;
- Develop environmental objectives, indicators and targets to allow the evaluation of impacts; and
- Identify reasonable alternative means of achieving the strategic goals of the KCDP.

A scoping report for this SEA was prepared on behalf of KCC which asked key questions of stakeholders.

2.4 Baseline Assessment

Gathering relevant information relating to the state of the environment for a plan area is an integral part of the SEA process. The SEA Directive requires that certain information relating to the relevant environmental baseline is presented in order to help test the performance of the plan's implementation, as well as helping establish how the environment would change if the plan were not to implemented.

Baseline information has been collected from readily available sources, including the 2020 EPA State of the Environment Report. A Geographical Information System (GIS) was used to graphically present relevant information. The baseline information is reported in Section 5 of the SEA Environmental Report ('Current State of the Environment').

2.5 Environmental Assessment

The environmental assessment process ran in parallel to the development and preparation of the KCDP. The environmental assessment process was undertaken in accordance with best practice SEA principles and guidance. This included desk reviews of all of the available GIS data, specialist investigation into the likely effects associated with the KCDP and recommendations for suitable mitigation measures along with monitoring.

An appraisal matrix was developed to facilitate the assessment of the policies and objectives outlined in the adopted KCDP and its material alterations (MAs). The matrix-led assessment provided a holistic, integrated and interactive approach to the formation of the policies and objectives in the adopted KCDP.

The assessment also considered the findings of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA).

2.6 Consideration of Alternatives

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives to the plan be assessed in order to demonstrate how the preferred strategy performs against all other forms of action. Alternatives must be developed, described and assessed within the SEA process, with the results presented in the Environmental Report. This is discussed in more detail in Section 4.

2.7 Flood Risk

An SFRA was prepared on behalf of KCC to provide information on the areas of flood risk and enable informed strategic land use planning decisions. This is discussed in more detail in Section 4.

2.8 Appropriate Assessment

Stage 1 and 2 AA was undertaken to identify if the potential for effects of implementing the adopted KCDP on the conservation status of designated Natura 2000 sites within the sphere of influence of the Plan. Some 19 No. European sites located within or downstream of County Kildare, were screened for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. No viable or realistic pathway (ecological, hydrological or otherwise) for impact on other European sites exists and potential for significant effect on same has been conclusively ruled out.

2.9 Consultation

An SEA Scoping Report was prepared in January 2021 in relation to the KCDP, which provided information to allow consultation with defined statutory bodies on the scope and level of detail to be considered in the environmental assessment. The SEA Scoping Report was issued to the statutory consultees, and the consultees were given a period of four weeks to respond with any observations or submissions on the content of the SEA Scoping Report. Refer to Section 3 for further information.

Further to the SEA Scoping consultation, the SEA Environmental Report was issued to the relevant statutory stakeholders and put on public display alongside the KCDP on 14th March 2022. The content of submissions and comments received during each consultation period were considered by Arup and KCC, and amendments were made to the KCDP and SEA Environmental Report in response to those consultation inputs, where considered appropriate.

2.10 Technical Difficulties Encountered

No major technical difficulties were encountered during any stage of the SEA process.

3. SEA Scoping

3.1 Scoping Process

The SEA Scoping was a key part of the assessment process as it set out the extent of the SEA and AA and provided information to allow consultation with defined statutory bodies and environmental authorities on the scope and level of detail to be considered and incorporated at an early stage in the assessment.

The scoping report for this SEA was published in January 2021 and outlined that the SEA would assess the following aspects:

- Population and Human Health;
- Biodiversity (including Flora and Fauna);
- Land and Soils;
- Water Resources;
- Air, Noise and Climate Factors;
- Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage;
- Landscape and Visuals; and
- Material Assets

The report summarised the key environmental issues and outlined relevant plans and programmes that were likely to affect or be affected by KCDP.

This information was then used to set out a series of SEA objectives, indicators and associated targets. The objectives and targets established aims and thresholds which would be taken into consideration to effectively assess the impact of KCDP on the environment. Indicators were used to track the achievements of objectives and targets, describe the baseline situation, monitor the impact on the environment and predict impacts.

Essentially, any issues/comments submitted as part of the scoping provides greater focus on the development of aspects of KCDP. The issues addressed as part of the Scoping Report were:

- The key elements of the KCDP to be assessed;
- The key environmental issues to be assessed;
- Research of the relevant international, national and local plans, objectives and environmental standards that may influence or impact on the KCDP;
- Development of environmental objectives, indicators and targets to allow the evaluation of impacts; and
- Identification of reasonable alternatives means of achieving the strategic goals of the KCDP.

3.2 Scoping Consultation

The SEA Scoping Report was published in January 2021 for review and comment by defined statutory bodies and environmental authorities.

During the SEA Scoping Report consultation period, two submissions were received, one from the Environmental Protection Agency EPA and one from the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment on behalf of Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI).

All comments, observations and submissions contained therein were considered and incorporated into the assessment process, as considered relevant. Appendix A of this report contains a summary of the submissions received on the SEA Scoping Report, and how they were responded to.

4. Environmental Assessment

As outlined in Section 2.5, the environmental assessment comprised a review of the baseline data, identification of likely impacts and development of appropriate mitigation measures for the KCDP. The environmental assessment was undertaken by way of the appraisal matrix and recorded in the SEA Environmental Report. The Environmental Report alongside the KCDP were placed on public display and were issued to the relevant statutory consultees from 14th March 2022 in order to seek feedback from stakeholders.

The KCDP was updated to reflect input from the public, statutory and non-statutory bodies and local representatives provided during the period of public consultation. The SEA team and KCC worked together on this, continuing the iterative process to optimise outcomes arising from the plan. Each time a revision of wording was considered, the appraisal matrix and associated Environmental Report were also adjusted as required.

Advice was provided to KCC regarding the options for mitigation that could be incorporated to optimise benefits and lessen adverse environmental impacts arising from the KCDP.

Appendix B (Table B.2) contains a summary of the submissions received during public consultation and consultation with statutory consultees (as they relate to the SEA only), and how they were responded to.

4.1 Establishment of the Baseline

The SEA requires the assessment of the likely impacts of the KCDP against the current environmental conditions, i.e. the baseline.

The baseline environment is assessed under the following heading:

- Population and Human Health;
- Biodiversity (including Flora and Fauna);
- Land and Soils;
- Water Resources;
- Air, Noise and Climate Factors;
- Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage;
- Landscape and Visuals; and
- Material Assets.

4.2 Objectives, Indicators and Targets

The objectives, indicators and targets are the aspects for which the KCDP is assessed against. The policies and recommendations in the KCDP are assessed against a range of environmental objectives and targets established for the purpose of the SEA. Further, indicators that are recommended in the SEA are utilised over the lifetime of the KCDP to quantify the level of impact that the proposed plan may have on the environment. It is then possible to establish whether KCC was successful in promoting the sustainable development of the plan area.

The objectives, indicators and targets have been listed in Table 4.1 .

Table 4.1 Objectives, Indicators and Targets

Environmental Component	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance human health and wellbeing. • Promote economic growth. • Consolidate growth and limit urban sprawl. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement the KCDP, which will contribute towards and facilitate economic growth. • No significant deterioration in human health as a result of environmental factors. • Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures. • To improve access to sustainable modes of transport • Promote compact growth. • Facilitate attractive environments within our urban settlements, utilise brownfield over greenfield sites and resist where possible urban generated rural housing unless genuine need exists. • Avoid developing land which is not likely to be serviced within the lifetime of the Development Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population growth statistics of settlements identified in the Core Strategy. • Number of new houses within settlement boundaries • Economic Growth Statistics. • Health statistics of the County. • Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures. • Statistics on access to sustainable modes of transport. • Number of compliances of waste-water infrastructure to legislation/regulations/conditions for relevant licenses, permits etc. for discharges. • Number of compliances of water supply schemes with relevant legislation/regulation/conditions for abstraction and consumption. • Number of compliances of infrastructure projects to relevant legislation/regulation/conditions re-noise, odour and/or air quality. • Number of compliances of waste management sites. • Implementation of the Noise Action Plan and relevant limit values.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species. • Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No loss of protected habitats and species during the lifetime of the Plan and seek to restore status where possible. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number and condition of European sites, and the maintenance of conservation objectives. • The status of water quality in the County’s water bodies. • The number of projects that have integrated ecosystem services considerations. • The number of EIAs and AAs as relevant for new projects. • The number of compliances of planning permissions with KCDP, measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna. • The number of provisions of green/blue infrastructure. • The number of developments permitted in proximity/within European sites/sites of ecological importance.

Environmental Component	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Plan and its targets To protect, maintain and conserve natural capital. 		
Land and Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect soils against pollution and prevent degradation of the soil resource. Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield. Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate compliance with growth targets for delivery of housing within the existing built-up footprint of settlements and urban areas. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of. Number of planning applications granted on brownfield and/or infill sites. Volume of construction and demolition waste recycled. Status/risk of groundwater waterbodies under the WFD. Number of application granted for soil importation/inert waste facilities Number of planning permissions granted, and area of land permitted for excavation and extraction of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits.
Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and Marine KCDP Framework Directive. Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, particularly coastal areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All waters within the plan area to achieve the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the relevant River Basin Management Plan by 2027. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD. Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas. The number of sustainable water management solutions (such as SUDS, porous surfacing, etc.) into new projects.

Environmental Component	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SUDS, porous surfacing, etc.) into new projects 		
Air, noise and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from transport. Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Promote continuing improvement in air quality. Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution. Meet Air Quality standards for the protection of human health and vegetation Significantly decrease noise pollution and move closer to WHO recommended levels. To minimise emissions of greenhouse gases. Integrate sustainable design solutions into infrastructure. Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous CSO figures. 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. Increase number of cycle lanes and pedestrian routes in the plan area. Implementation of Noise Action Plans. To implement the KCDP, 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 KCDP. Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in Carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions reductions 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of compliances with EPA emission limits for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter. Number of compliances with existing legislation/regulations/conditions for air quality e.g., IPPC/IE licences. Travel patterns and the number of modes of transport within the county. Number of new air monitoring stations in the county. Implementation of the KCDP, which will contribute towards and facilitate climate action and the relevant targets for emission reductions. The quantity of GHG emission changes over the plan period. Energy consumption, the amount of uptake in renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating. Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels. Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures.

Environmental Component	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change. Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport. 		
Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 KCDP. 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 KCDP. No permitted development which involves loss of cultural heritage, including protected structures, archaeological sites, Architectural Conservations Areas and landscape features. To increase the number of uninhabited and derelict structures that are restored. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 KCDP. 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 KCDP. Archaeological Impact Assessments, and/or the number and types of archaeological investigations undertaken. Recorded numbers of non-designated built heritage e.g., vernacular buildings. The number of design statements/public realm plans/Masterplans undertaken for settlements/opportunity sites. Visitor numbers for iconic cultural heritage sites. Number of literary, musical, artistic and other cultural initiatives undertaken in the county.
Landscape and Visuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement the identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 KCDP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 KCDP. Number of planning permissions granted in areas of high value landscape. Number of permissions granted within 500m of a scenic route.

Environmental Component	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote sustainable development that matches existing and new infrastructure with the proposed population growth for the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of completed of infrastructure projects identified in the KCDP. Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures. The number and extent of Water Treatment Plans on EPAs Remedial Action List. The amount of access to sustainable modes of transport. 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. The number of renewable energy projects permitted, and enabling/supporting infrastructure provided.

4.3 Consideration of Alternatives

This first stage of the SEA involved an environmental assessment of the alternative scenarios considered for the KCDP. The alternatives considered are summarised below:

Alternative Scenario 1- Business as Usual.

This scenario includes:

- Very strong, but weakly co-ordinated growth within and adjacent to major settlement within the Strategic Transportation Corridors and the Metropolitan Areas of the Northeast; and
- Elsewhere there would be markedly weaker growth due to the lack of integrated provision of services and accommodation.

Alternative Scenario 2- Mixed Planning.

This scenario includes:

- There would be very strong growth within the Strategic Transportation Corridor and the Metropolitan Areas of the Northeast with co-ordination of key infrastructural resources in these areas;
- Elsewhere however an ad hoc approach to the future land use development of the county would result in the location of residential, economic and supporting community infrastructure in an unsustainable manner that would promote development on the periphery of towns, villages and settlements as well as sporadically throughout the countryside at the expense of developing sites that are well located, close to public transport hubs or along public transport routes; and
- There would be strong and persistent patterns of social and economic imbalance between the north-east and southern parts of the county.

Alternative Scenario 3- Plan-Led Approach.

This scenario includes:

- A plan led approach would reflect both Government policy as established through the National Planning Framework and Regional policy through the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy for the Eastern Region including County Kildare. This approach would be reflected in the KCDP primarily through compact growth at a level commensurate with the housing and population targets of the proposed Settlement Hierarchy removing undeveloped, zoned parcels of land that are located on the edges of settlements and replacing them, as appropriate, with more centrally located, more sustainable infill and greenfield sites. In this regard the Settlement Strategy would be devised to primarily direct growth to the identified Key Towns but also to those areas that would benefit from either the delivery of key pieces of infrastructure or the development of key strategic sites over the lifetime of this Plan. In order to reduce the unsustainable trends for one off housing in the rural countryside the Plan would also identify a number of areas deemed suitable for serviced sites that are centrally located within identified towns, villages and rural settlements, as appropriate.
- This Scenario also envisages that the planning framework provided by the County Development Plan, the Kildare 2025 Economic Development strategy and the emerging Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan would, collectively, provide for the planned residential and supporting economic and community facilities in sustainable locations throughout the county. Reliance on the use of private modes of transport would be reduced through specific objectives and targets that would increase more sustainable modes of travel within and between settlements, in order to positively enhance the lives of all the citizens of County Kildare.

The SEA team determined that based on the assessment findings, the emerging preferred scenario was Alternative Scenario 3. This development scenario would reflect both Government policy as establishment through the National Planning Framework and Regional policy through the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy for the Eastern Region including County Kildare.

4.4 Assessment Stage 1 – Initial Draft Plan

The first stage of the SEA assessment process comprised the first draft of the appraisal matrix that was completed by the SEA team based on the initial draft of the KCDP.

This objectives-led assessment compared the likely effects of each policy and objective in the initial draft KCDP against the strategic environmental objectives (as described in Section 4.2) with respect to the baseline information. Particular reference was made to the potential for cumulative effects in association with other relevant plan and programmes within KCC and the Eastern and Midlands Region.

The assessment process categorised environmental effects using the ratings outlined in Table 4.2 which is based on the impact assessment criteria defined by the EPA for environmental impact assessment.

Table 4.2 Significance Ratings

Significance of Effects	
	Positive
	Neutral
	Negative
	Uncertain

The assessment also considered the cumulative effects of policies on each other to determine if certain policies working in combination could have an environmental impact.

Upon completion of the first appraisal matrix, a number of recommendations were made which were then reviewed in detail by KCC and where appropriate, incorporated into the KCDP.

4.5 Assessment Stage 2 – Final Draft Plan

The next stage of the assessment comprised the revision of the appraisal matrix to take on board comments received from KCC on the initial draft plan and the associated first draft appraisal matrix.

This appraisal matrix was incorporated into the SEA Draft Environmental Report that accompanied the KCDP that went out for public consultation on 14th March 2022. The principle environmental effects, as per the assessment matrix, identified are summarised below.

4.5.1 Volume 1 of KCDP

Biodiversity

A potentially negative environmental effect is identified with regards to the development of a Technical and Innovation Park in Maynooth and supporting infrastructure.

A development such as this is likely to be large-scale, with the potential to give rise to increased traffic movements and increased emissions. Potential negative environmental effects are therefore identified for the purposes of this assessment on biodiversity.

The development of large-scale public transport projects/ infrastructure however, such as DART+ and BusConnects does have the potential to result in temporary negative environmental effects due to the often linear and intrusive nature of transport infrastructure. Environmental effects such as habitat degradation or fragmentation, disturbance to fauna, birds and bats, ground or water contamination and increased air and noise emissions are likely to occur, particularly during the construction phase. The development of any new roads, or upgrade to existing roads or junctions have the potential to result in the same environmental effects

The Plan sets out a number of objectives of KCC relating to the development and promotion of greenways and blueways for tourism purposes. While the development and support of the same can result in positive effects, particularly on population, air quality and climate and material assets through the accommodation of pedestrian and cyclists and the subsequent provision of alternative, sustainable means of transport and reduced dependency on private vehicle use.

However, any level of development and increased footfall along waterways or areas of habitat importance could result in a negative environmental effect, particularly with regard to biodiversity.

The plan measures are thus likely to result in an overall positive effect on biodiversity, water, land and soils, air quality and climate, heritage and the landscape. A positive effect on the population is identified as an extension of the increased economic activity and recreational area that will be facilitated by the development and promotion of greenways and blueways for tourism purposes in Kildare.

Population and Human Health

The delivery of the Settlement Strategy in County Kildare is likely to result in an overall positive effect on population and human health through the accommodation of an additional 25,146 people. The stipulation in the Core Strategy that development be delivered in a sustainable and compact way is likely to result in a neutral environmental effect as development will be focused within the existing built-up footprint on suitably zoned, previously developed land insofar as possible. This discourages urban sprawl, reduces traffic movements, enhances the public realm and encourages more sustainable transport methods.

The successful implementation of the policies and objectives relating to a resilient economy and job creation are likely to result in a general, overall positive effect on population and human health through the provision of job opportunities, educational opportunities, tourism opportunities and subsequent economic growth in the County.

Similarly, the provision of high-quality transport systems and sustainable transport in County Kildare is likely to result in a positive effect on population and human health through the facilitation of movement through the county and increased opportunities for movement and exercise. However, the development of new transport infrastructure has the potential to result in negative environmental effects.

The Plan additionally sets out a policy and range of objectives relating to peatland tourism. There is some potential for negative environmental effects with regards to increased human interaction with peatland in the county, which can often carry national or European significance due to its unique biodiversity sensitivity. Any proposals for development on or near peatland should be designed in compliance with all relevant planning and environmental conditions and following detailed environmental assessments.

Land and Soils

Positive effects on land and soils are identified through the provision of adequately treated water and wastewater discharge.

The Council's policy and objectives relating to the accommodation of data centres in the County have the potential to result in a negative environmental effect. Data centre projects can be large-scale developments, with the potential to give rise to increased traffic movements and subsequent emissions and are extremely resource intensive. Potential negative environmental effects are therefore identified for the purposes of this assessment on land and soils.

Similarly, a potentially negative environmental effect is identified with regards to the development of a Technical and Innovation Park in Maynooth and supporting infrastructure.

A development such as this is likely to be large-scale, with the potential to give rise to increased traffic movements and increased emissions. Potential negative environmental effects are therefore identified for the purposes of this assessment on land and soils.

Water Resources

The range of objectives surrounding SUDS are welcomed and are likely to result in positive effects on water quality through the provision of ecosystem services and the management of surface water run-off. Positive effects on water quality are also identified through the provision of adequately treated water and wastewater discharge.

The Plan sets out a number of objectives of KCC relating to the development and promotion of greenways and blueways for tourism purposes. While the development and support of the same can result in positive effects, particularly on population, air quality and climate and material assets through the accommodation of pedestrian and cyclists and the subsequent provision of alternative, sustainable means of transport and reduced dependency on private vehicle use. However, any level of development and increased footfall along waterways or areas of habitat importance could result in a negative environmental effect, particularly with regard to water quality.

Also, a potentially negative environmental effect is identified with regards to the development of a Technical and Innovation Park in Maynooth and supporting infrastructure. A development such as this is likely to be large-scale, with the potential to give rise to increased traffic movements and increased emissions. Potential negative environmental effects are therefore identified for the purposes of this assessment on water.

Similarly, there is potential for some temporary negative environmental effects with regards to the development of new infrastructure, particularly large-scale linear developments such as water supply schemes (IN O2). However, mitigation measures are proposed which will reduce or avoid significant negative effects arising.

Air, Noise and Climate Factors

The compact growth approach taken in this Development Plan, with its potential for helping to achieve climate action targets at local and national level, applies not just to residential development but also to economic development within the County. The promotion of compact growth and the renewal of towns and villages will likely have a positive impact on air quality and climate as it discourages urban sprawl, reduces traffic movements and encourages more sustainable transport methods.

A number of objectives relate to the support and accommodation of businesses in the green and circular economy, as well as the general promotion of net-zero carbon and compliance with the Kildare Climate Adaptation Strategy which is likely to result in an overall positive environmental effect.

The provision of wind farms and the supply of wind energy is likely to result in an overall positive effect on air and climate factors, through the provision of renewable sources of required energy in the county.

The policies and objectives relating to agriculture or the Agri food sector will likely result in an overall positive effect on the population through opportunities for enterprise development, economic growth job and employment. However, development of agriculture or Agri food sector related developments in County Kildare are likely to result in an overall negative effect on air quality in the climate given the levels of carbon emissions associated with some agricultural practices.

Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

The policies and objectives set with regards to built heritage and cultural heritage are all likely to result in an overall positive effect on heritage and the landscape and visual setting in County Kildare through appropriate protection, conservation and enhancement measures.

Similarly, positive effects are particularly likely to occur with regards to the objectives relating to the preservation and protection of his historic gardens and demesne landscapes.

Redevelopment of a town centre has the potential to impact architectural heritage, depending on the heritage value of the town.

An uncertain effect is identified on heritage impact for the purpose of this assessment.

Landscape and Visuals

A large number of the Plan objectives relate to the management and protection of the existing landscape and, as such, an overall positive effect on the landscape and visual setting of Kildare is identified.

The provision of wind farms and the supply of wind energy is likely to result in an overall positive effect on the population, material assets and on air and climate factors, through the provision of renewable sources of required energy in the county. Wind farms can however be visually intrusive, depending on the landscape setting, given the scale of the turbines. A potential negative effect on landscape and visual setting is therefore identified for the purposes of this assessment.

Additionally, higher density buildings will have a negative effect on the landscape and visual setting.

Uncertain environmental effects have been identified for the purposes of this assessment where objectives relate to the facilitation of appropriate development through the stipulation of certain landscape or visual conditions (e.g., LR 015). As the nature, extent and type of development is not known at the time of this assessment- it is not possible to determine potential for environmental effects.

Material Assets

The Plan objectives outlined will generally result in positive effects on material assets through the provision of required infrastructure to enable society and the economy to flourish- such as broadband, telecommunications electricity etc.

Compact growth and regeneration such as this can result in a positive effect on material assets through the consolidation of services, and increased reliance on public transport, it can also put a strain on resources, should there not be sufficient capacity. An uncertain effect on material assets is therefore identified for the purposes of this assessment.

Also, a positive effect on material assets is identified, through the facilitation of a reduced dependency on private vehicle use, as well as a positive effect on air quality, noise and climate through reduced emissions.

Some uncertain environmental effects are identified with regards to hydro, geothermal and bio- energy as the extent and nature of development is not yet known. However, an overall positive effect on the population, material assets and on air and climate factors is identified because of the provision of this renewable energy infrastructure, through the provision of required energy in the county.

4.5.2 Volume 2 of KCDP

The overarching aims and objectives for the rural settlements of County Kildare are likely to result in overall positive and neutral environmental effects as they largely support and mirror the objectives of volume one and the Core Strategy of the KCDP and the principles of sustainable development.

Biodiversity

The land use zonings and objectives of the CDP will primarily result in a neutral or positive impact on Biodiversity. Development will be largely consolidated within existing zoned or developed lands, with a large portion of development within the existing urban centres of the CDP area.

In general, there is a potential negative effect on biodiversity with regards to improvement of regional roads (road projects, be they upgrade works widening or indeed development of new roads) and also where public lighting is proposed to be installed in rural environments.

Uncertain environmental effects are also identified where objectives relate to the encouragement and facilitation of tourism, recreational facilities and amenities in proximity to the River Liffey. It is recommended to the Council that prior to the development of any tourism initiatives such as these that environmental assessments- particularly assessments relating to biodiversity is carried out.

The KCDP sets out a number of objectives of KCC relating to the development and promotion of greenways and blueways for tourism purposes. While the development and support of the same can result in positive effects, particularly on population, air quality and climate and material assets through the accommodation of pedestrian and cyclists and the subsequent provision of alternative, sustainable means of transport and reduced dependency on private vehicle use.

However, any level of development and increased footfall along waterways or areas of habitat importance could result in a negative environmental effect, particularly with regard to biodiversity.

Development in forested areas is likely to result in a negative effect on a range of environmental factors particularly where deforestation or tree removal is required.

Population and Human Health

The potential impacts for Population and Human Health are predominantly positive with regards to proposed opportunity sites and provision of required housing. However, the development of rural housing outside of settlements has the potential to result in a negative effect on the environmental aspects indicated in this assessment.

Also, the more generalized objectives such as those relating to the facilitation of population growth or housing demands have been identified as ‘uncertain’ for the purposes of this assessment in the absence of further information. Similarly, objectives relating to development in villages and settlements that does not specify scale, nature or location have also been identified as uncertain for the purposes of this assessment.

Uncertain environmental effects are identified for the purposes of this assessment with regards to the expansion of local services and businesses. This is because the nature scale or location of these businesses are not defined. Some uncertain environmental effects are also identified with regards objectives relating to tourism, social and community development, in that increased human interaction with water sources or areas of natural heritage has the potential to give rise to negative effects. However, the nature, scale and location of the tourism, community and recreation proposals are not known at this time.

Land and Soils

The majority of potential impacts for Land and Soils are neutral or positive as development will primarily be consolidated within existing zoned or developed lands.

An overall uncertainty on environmental effect is identified for the purposes of this assessment in the absence of further design information. Similarly uncertain environmental effects have been identified with regards to the development of a new secondary school, as details on the sale or location of the same is not known at this time.

Water Resources

In general, there is a potential negative effect on water with regards to improvement of regional roads (road projects, be they upgrade works widening or indeed development of new roads).

Uncertain environmental effects are also identified where objectives relate to the encouragement and facilitation of tourism, recreational facilities and amenities in proximity to the River Liffey. It is recommended to the Council that prior to the development of any tourism initiatives such as these that environmental assessments- particularly assessments relating to water quality is carried out.

Air, Noise and Climate Factors

The potential impacts on Air, Noise and Climate are predominantly positive or neutral as the proposals to consolidate the town centres will likely result in a reduction in traffic movements. The plan also promotes sustainable travel modes while making provisions for improved pedestrian and cycle routes in, and around the town centre. Such measures will have a positive effect on air, noise and climate.

The Plan comprises a range of climate change adaptation objectives relating to the promotion of renewable energies, sustainable transport, energy reduction etc. These objectives will likely result in a positive impact on air quality and climate change mitigation.

In general, there is a potential significant negative effect on air quality and climate with regards to improvement of regional roads (Road projects, be they upgrade works widening or indeed development of new roads) and widening / upgrade of an existing railway bridge at Caragh. Proposed new road schemes have the potential to result in a negative air quality, noise and climate impacts due to both the materials used in construction, but also by means of the encouragement of private vehicle use.

Uncertainties will occur where the precise nature and extent of proposed new development is unknown. There is the potential for negative impacts to occur where new roads objectives are proposed.

Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

The land use zonings and objectives of the CDP will primarily result in a positive or neutral impact on Heritage as development will largely take place within existing zoned or developed lands.

Some uncertain environmental effects are identified with regards to objectives relating to tourism social and community development, in that increased human interaction with water sources or areas of natural heritage has the potential to give rise to negative effects. However, the nature, scale and location of the tourism, community and recreation proposals are not known at this time.

Landscape and Visuals

The majority of potential impacts for Landscape and Visuals are considered neutral.

Objectives relating to development in villages and settlements that does not specify scale, nature or location have also been identified as uncertain for the purposes of this assessment.

A potentially negative environmental effect is identified with regards to the development of a Technical and Innovation Park in Maynooth and supporting infrastructure and also, data centre projects. A development such as this is likely to be large-scale, with the potential to give rise to increased traffic movements and increased emissions. Potential negative environmental effects are therefore identified for the purposes of this assessment on the landscape and visual setting.

Material Assets

In general, the potential impacts on Material Assets are largely considered as positive with regards to proposed opportunity sites, an overall uncertain environmental effect is identified for the purposes of the assessment in the absence of further design information.

A potential negative environmental effect is identified with the delivery of strategic infrastructure in the County to support future development. This objective has the potential to give rise to a positive effect on material assets through the provision of required infrastructure, particularly sustainable transport infrastructure. An otherwise potentially negative effect is identified for the purposes of this assessment in that large scale linear infrastructure such as road or rail can give rise to negative environmental effects.

Interactions and Interrelationships

In accordance with the SEA Directive, the inter-relationship between environmental aspects must be considered.

The interaction and inter-relationships of relevance for the environmental baseline aspects was an important consideration for the environmental assessment.

Table 4.3 outlines the identifiable inter-relationships that were considered during the environmental assessment. It is noted that all environmental aspects interact with each other to some extent, however only significant relationships were considered.

Table 4.3 Key Inter-relationships between Environmental Aspects.

	Biodiversity	Population and Human Health	Land and Soils	Water Resources	Air, Noise, Climate Factors	Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage	Landscape & Visuals	Material Assets
Biodiversity								
Population and Human Health	No							
Land and Soils	Yes	Yes						
Water Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes					

	Biodiversity	Population and Human Health	Land and Soils	Water Resources	Air, Noise, Climate Factors	Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage	Landscape & Visuals	Material Assets
Air, Noise, Climate Factors	Yes	Yes	No	No				
Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage	No	No	Yes	No	No			
Landscape & Visuals	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes		
Material Assets	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

4.5.3 SEA Environmental Report- Consultation

As outlined in Section 2.9, the SEA Environmental Report was subject to a period of statutory consultation to gather feedback in accordance with legislative requirements. The documents were sent to statutory stakeholders and made available for public viewing at KCC’s dedicated online public consultation portal and a public notice in the Leinster Leader.

Upon completion of the consultation period, a Chief Executive’s Report on the 615 No. submissions received was prepared to take into consideration the comments and observations made.

Submissions were also reviewed to consider any comments received in relation to the SEA. As previously stated, Appendix B, Table B.2, contains a summary of the submissions received (as they relate to the SEA only), and how they were responded to.

4.6 Assessment Stage 3 - Material Alterations (MAs)

In accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), it was resolved by the Members at a Special Meeting of KCC on the Monday 12th September 2022 to alter the KCDP, and that these modifications constituted a material alteration to the KCDP.

The 634 No. (585 No. in Volume 1 and 49 No. in Volume 2) amendments related to a change in the plan area as well as modifications to some objectives and the provision of additional objectives.

A screening exercise was undertaken, and 175 No. (162 No. MAs in Volume 1, and 13 No. MAs in Volume 2) of the proposed MAs were deemed to have the potential for significant environmental effects and were brought forward for full Strategic Environmental Assessment.

An appraisal matrix was developed to facilitate the assessment of these proposed MAs. The screening exercise identified that twenty-two of the proposed MAs (18 No. in Volume 1 and 4 No. in Volume 2) has the potential to give rise to negative environmental effects.

The findings of this assessment were set out in the addendum which was prepared to support the SEA Environmental Report.

4.6.1 Proposed Material Alterations - Consultation

This addendum and the amended KCDP were subject to a four-week period of consultation from 28th September to 27th October 2022 inclusive.

Some 266 No. submissions were received in relation to the material amendments and/or the SEA addendum, including one from Office of the Planning Regulator and 45 from other prescribed authorities. Upon completion of the consultation period, the Chief Executive’s Report on submissions was prepared to take into account comments received. A second Addendum to SEA was also created in December to incorporate any further material alterations that arose on the back of submissions received. Both Addenda are to be read in conjunction with the SEA Environmental Report and the KCDP.

Table C.3 in Appendix C provides a summary of the Submissions and /or Material Alterations received during consultation of the Proposed Material Alterations. These were then finalised within the Chief Executive’s Report. The material alterations and or submissions listed are those which relate to the SEA only.

5. Mitigation

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged and designed to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the KCDP. All mitigation measures have been developed and agreed with KCC as part of the SEA iterative process. The primary mitigation measure is to ensure the sustainable and appropriate development of the plan area without compromising the integrity of the natural and built environment. It is recommended that all legislation, policies and guidelines outlined in this Environmental Report are adhered to. In addition, future legislation, policies and guidelines should also be fully integrated into the KCDP and Environmental Report. In addition, many impacts will be more adequately identified and mitigated at project and EIA level. In general terms, all proposals for development will be required to have due regard to environmental considerations outlined in this Environmental Report and associated AA Screening. In this section the mitigation measures are discussed under each environmental parameter heading. Table 5.1 summarises the proposed mitigation measures.

Table 5.1 Proposed Mitigation Measures

Aspect	Mitigation Measures
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To afford the highest level of protection to all designated European sites and species in accordance with the relevant legislation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To require all planning applications for development that may have (or cannot rule out) likely significant effects on European Sites in view of the site’s Conservation Objectives, either in isolation or in combination with other plans or projects, to submit a Natura Impact Statement in accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive and the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). To recognise and afford appropriate protection to any existing, new, or modified SPAs or SACs that are identified during the lifetime of the KCDP.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement Article 6(3) and where necessary 6(4) of the Habitats Directive and to ensure that Appropriate Assessment is carried out in relation to works, plans and projects likely to impact on European sites (SACs and SPAs), whether directly or indirectly or in combination with any other plan(s) or project(s). To have regard to Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 or any updated version.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To actively promote the conservation and protection of areas designated as an NHA (including proposed sites) and to only consider proposals for development within or affecting an NHA where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposed development will not have a significant adverse effect on the NHA or pNHA. To identify and afford appropriate protection to any new, proposed or modified NHAs identified during the lifetime of this plan.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological networks/corridors of biodiversity value outside of designated sites throughout the country and to require an ecological assessment to accompany development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species.

Aspect	Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement the EIA Directive, ensuring that all elements/stages or components of the project are included in one overall assessment and all reasonable alternatives are taken into consideration in choosing the option with the least environmental impact. To have regard to “Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments (2013)’ when considering proposals for which an EIA is required. To protect and promote the sustainable management of the natural heritage, flora and fauna of the county through the promotion of biodiversity, the conservation of natural habitats and the enhancement of new and existing habitats. To promote the conservation of biodiversity through the protection of sites of biodiversity importance and wildlife corridors, both within and between the designated sites and the wider Plan area. To ensure that development proposals support and enhance the connectivity and integrity of habitats in the plan area by incorporating natural features into the design of development proposals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness of the threat of alien invasive species and take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of non-native invasive species and noxious weeds in the plan area, including requiring landowners, developers and boat operators to adhere to best practice guidance in relation to their control. To implement the requirements of EU Regulations 1143/2014 on the Prevention and Management of the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Alien Species. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of new infrastructure should be subject to site options assessment and environmental assessment, where required.
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that access to adequate health and education facilities to meet the demand of the current and projected populace are included in development plans. To consult with and have regard to the technical advice of the Health and Safety Authority and assessing planning applications where the Major Accidents Directive and any associated regulations are relevant. Encourage the further development of regional sustainable and public transport infrastructure including rail and bus corridors.
Land and Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that contaminated soil is disposed of in accordance with the Waste Management Regulations (S.I.821 of 2007). Perform a survey of obsolete urban renewal areas and facilitate and promote the reuse and regeneration of brownfield sites, derelict land and buildings in and around urban centres. To recognise the importance of Geological Heritage Sites and to protect the character and integrity of these sites. To work with the GSI and relevant stakeholders to undertake a review of Geological Heritage Sites in the county during the lifetime of this Plan.
Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with all relevant stakeholders to protect and manage inland waters, river corridors and their floodplains, turloughs, lakes, fens and other water bodies from degradation and damage, and to recognise and promote them as natural assets and key elements in the green infrastructure network in the county. To facilitate the implementation of the relevant River Basin Management Plan for ground, surface, estuarine, coastal and transitional waters in the plan area as part of the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. To protect groundwater resources in accordance with the statutory requirements and specific measures as set out in the relevant River Basin Management Plan. To consider proposals for development where it can be clearly demonstrated that the development will meet the requirements of the relevant River Basin Management Plan. To ensure that developments that would have an unacceptable impact on water resources, including surface water and groundwater quality and quantity, designated sources protection areas, estuarine, coastal transitional waters, river corridors and associated wetlands will not be permitted. In areas of potable groundwater resources or over vulnerable aquifer areas, development proposals will only be considered if the applicant can clearly demonstrate that the proposed development will not pose a risk to the quality of the underlying groundwater. Prevent the alteration of natural drainage systems and in the case of development works require the provision of acceptable mitigation measures in order to minimise the risk of flooding and negative impacts on water quality.

Aspect	Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with the objectives and policies of the Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management Study. • Promote SUDS principles for all drainage including the integration of storm water attenuation facilities for new developments and existing catchment areas. • Ensure that any new development does not present an inappropriate risk of flooding or does not cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations. • Comply with the DoECLG/OPW guidance on development and flood risk through the control of development in any flood plain so that new and existing developments are not exposed to increased risk of flooding and that any loss of flood storage is compensated for elsewhere in the river catchment.
Air Noise and Climate Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the objectives and policies of EU Air Quality legislation are incorporated into plans and programmes upon implementation into Irish law. • Promote the reduction of emissions of Greenhouse Gases and facilitate measures which seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases to ensure Ireland’s compliance with our Emission Targets. • Facilitate sustainable transport modes and the use of walking, cycling and public transport. • Consideration of existing noise policy in County Kildare for example noise mapping and noise action plans produced by the Local Authority. • Consideration of likely noise impacts/effects associated with new developments. This includes being cognisant of proximity to sensitive receptors when siting new developments and consideration of existing noise sources when zoning lands for residential development. • To support the implementation of the Climate Change policy documents and legislation outlined in the ER. • To ensure that developments do not give rise to negative effects on air quality, during both construction and operation.
Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the protection of the architectural heritage through the identification of Protected Structures, the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas, the safeguarding historic gardens, and the recognition of structures and elements that contribute positively to vernacular and industrial heritage. • To protect, as set out in the Record of Protected Structures, all structures, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest. • To review the Record of Protected Structures periodically and add structures of special interest as appropriate, including significant elements of industrial, maritime or vernacular heritage and any twentieth century structures of merit. • To ensure that new developments within or adjacent to an ACA respect the established character context of the area and contribute positively to the ACA in terms of design, scale, setting and material finishes. • To protect existing buildings, structures, groups of structures, sites, landscapes and features such as street furniture and paving, which are considered to be intrinsic elements of the special character of the ACA, from demolition or removal and non-sympathetic alterations. • To ensure that all new signage, lighting, advertising and utilities to buildings within an ACA are designed, constructed and located in a manner that does not detract from is complementary to the character of the ACA. • To safeguard sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally. • To secure the preservation (i.e., preservation in situ or in exceptional cases preservation by record) of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological and historical interest generally. • To have regard to the government publication Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1999 in relation to protecting sites, features and objects of archaeological interest. • To protect and preserve archaeological sites discovered since the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places. • To protect the Zones of Archaeological Potential located within both urban and rural areas as identified in the Record of Monuments and Places. • To have regard to archaeological concerns when considering proposed service schemes located in close proximity to Recorded Monuments and Places and the Zones of Archaeological Potential.

Aspect	Mitigation Measures
Landscape and Visuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all new plans and programmes incorporate the findings of the County Landscape Character Assessments. • To require that all proposed developments in Heritage Landscapes demonstrate that every effort has been made to reduce visual impact. This must be demonstrated for all aspects of the proposal from site selection through to details of siting and design. All other relevant provisions of the development plan must be complied with. • Protect and enhance the streetscape of Naas' Main Street through the appropriate control of alterations to existing buildings and the development of new structures; in particular building and roof lines and heights which diverge from the established form will require to be justified. • To protect sensitive areas from inappropriate development while providing for development and change that will benefit the rural community. • To ensure that proposed developments take into consideration their effects on views from the public road towards scenic features or areas and are designed and located to minimise their impact. • To ensure that appropriate standards of location, siting, design, finishing, and landscaping are achieved.
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the implementation of the Waste Management Plan together with any future National or Regional Waste Management Plans. Additionally, ensure national policies and regulations regarding waste are adhered to. • Encourage waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste. • Promote the development of sufficient energy resources to meet the needs of the plan area and promote the use of renewable energies to meet those needs. • Protect the hydrological environment from adverse effects of the wastewater discharges by ensuring that there is suitable wastewater treatment to meet demands before discharge to the environment. • Promote the development of sustainable transportation infrastructure where considered feasible.

6. Monitoring

Article 10 of the SEA Directive requires that 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 KCDP. The monitoring programme is presented in **Error! Reference source not found.**

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 and evaluation reports, the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action.

Table 6.1 Proposed Monitoring Measures

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Monitoring Source	Monitoring Frequency and Responsibility
Population and Human Health				
<p>Protect and enhance human health and well being</p> <p>Promote economic growth</p> <p>Consolidate growth and limit urban sprawl.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement the KCDP, which will contribute towards and facilitate economic growth. No significant deterioration in human health as a result of environmental factors. Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures. To improve access to sustainable modes of transport. Promote compact growth. Facilitate attractive environments within our urban settlements, utilise brownfield over greenfield sites and resist where possible urban generated rural housing unless genuine need exists. Avoid developing land which is not likely to be serviced within the lifetime of the Development Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population growth statistics of settlements identified in the Core Strategy. Number of new houses within settlement boundaries. Economic Growth Statistics. Health statistics of the County. Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures. Statistics on access to sustainable modes of transport. Number of compliances of waste-water infrastructure to legislation/regulations/conditions for relevant licences, permits etc. for discharges. Number of compliances of water supply schemes with relevant legislation/regulation/conditions for abstraction and consumption. Number of compliances of infrastructure projects to relevant legislation/regulation/conditions re-noise, odour and/or air quality. Number of compliances of waste management sites. Implementation of the Noise Action Plan and relevant limit values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Bord Pleanala/Kildare County Council Planning Records. Census Information on Population and Economy. Monitoring related to relevant Local Area Plans and County Development Plan. EPA State of the Environment Report. EPA Remedial Action Lists. EPA Urban WasteWater Treatment Reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning records from An Bord Pleanala or KCC should be reviewed and recorded at least at the plan min-term review stage (3 years). Assessment and recording of trends is recommended on an annual basis if feasible. Census Information is updated every five years by the CSO and thus monitoring of any changes in population or economic trends in the County should be carried out each new Census year. Any monitoring data carried out by KCC as part of LAP reviews within the County should be gathered, accumulated and analysed by KCC, as available (at least every 6 years). The State of the Environment Report is updated by the EPA every 4 years and should be examined by KCC on release in order to inform the Council of any change in the baseline environment. The EPA releases a Remedial Action List every Quarter which identifies problems with drinking water supply. KCC should have regard to issues pertaining to KCC water treatment plants. The EPA publish an Urban WasteWater Treatment Report each year which identifies areas in Ireland where there are issues with treatment and effluent quality as well as capacity issues. KCC should have regard to issues pertaining to KCC treatment plants.

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Monitoring Source	Monitoring Frequency and Responsibility
Biodiversity				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species. Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function. Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Plan and its targets. To protect, maintain and conserve natural capital. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No loss of protected habitats and species during the lifetime of the Plan and seek to restore status where possible. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number and condition of European sites, and the maintenance of conservation objectives. The status of water quality in the County's water bodies. The number of projects that have integrated ecosystem services considerations. The number of EIAs and AAs as relevant for new projects. The number of compliances of planning permissions with KCDP, measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna. The number of provisions of green/blue infrastructure. The number of developments permitted in proximity/within European sites/sites of ecological importance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (NPWS) report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive – as required by Article 17 of the Directive and The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland Report (Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht). Monitoring related to relevant Local Area Plans and County/City Development Plans. EPA State of the Environment Report. Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPWS undertake surveillance of the conservation status of the natural habitats and species in the Annexes and under Article 17, report to the European Commission every six years on their status and on the implementation of the measures taken under the Directive. KCC should thus have regard to the monitoring reports as they are published in advance of any mid-term review or new/varied KCDP. Any monitoring data carried out by KCC as part of LAP reviews within the County should be gathered, accumulated and analysed by KCC, as available (at least every 6 years). The State of the Environment Report is updated by the EPA every 4 years and should be examined by KCC on release in order to inform the Council of any change in the baseline environment. The EPA run a national rivers monitoring programme. The biology is monitored once every three years, while the physical and chemical parameters are measured several times a year.

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Monitoring Source	Monitoring Frequency and Responsibility
Land and Soils				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect soils against pollution and prevent degradation of the soil resource. Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield. Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate compliance with growth targets for delivery of housing within the existing built-up footprint of settlements and urban areas. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of. Number of planning applications granted on brownfield and/or infill sites. Volume of construction and demolition waste recycled. Status/risk of groundwater waterbodies under the WFD. Number of application granted for soil importation/inert waste facilities. Number of planning permissions granted, and area of land permitted for excavation and extraction of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CORINE mapping survey. EPA State of the Environment Report. EPA National Waste Statistics. Monitoring related to relevant Local Area Plans and County/City Development Plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Ireland, the EPA coordinate and update the CORINE project. The dataset is updated every 6 years and should be examined by KCC on release in order to inform the Council of any change in the baseline environment. The State of the Environment Report is updated by the EPA every 4 years and should be examined by KCC on release in order to inform the Council of any change in the baseline environment. The EPA publish a National Waste Statistics Summary annually which the Council should review periodically in order to identify any emerging issues with waste soil. Any monitoring data carried out by KCC as part of LAP reviews within the County should be gathered, accumulated and analysed by KCC, as available (at least every 6 years). Any monitoring data carried out by KCC as part of LAP reviews within the County should be gathered, accumulated and analysed by KCC, as available (at least every 6 years).
Water Resources				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and Marine KCDP Framework Directive. 	<p>All waters within the plan area to achieve the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the relevant River Basin Management Plan by 2027.</p> <p>Achieve compliance with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC (protection of groundwater).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD. Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Bord Pleanala/Kildare County Council Planning Records. EPA Water Quality Status for surface and ground water. EPA State of the Environment Report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning records from An Bord Pleanala or KCC should be reviewed and recorded at least at the plan min-term review stage (3 years). Assessment and recording of trends is recommended on an annual basis if feasible. The EPA run a national rivers monitoring programme.

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Monitoring Source	Monitoring Frequency and Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, particularly coastal areas. • Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing, etc.) into new projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing, etc.) into new projects. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biology is monitored once every three years, while the physical and chemical parameters are measured several times a year. • The State of the Environment Report is updated by the EPA every 4 years and should be examined by KCC on release in order to inform the Council of any change in the baseline environment.
Air, Noise and Climate Factors				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from transport. • Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency. • Promote continuing improvement in air quality. • Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous CSO figures. • 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. • Increase number of cycle lanes and pedestrian routes in the plan area. • Implementation of Noise Action Plans. • To implement the KCDP, which will contribute towards and facilitate climate action. • Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with EPA emission limits for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter. • Number of compliances with EPA emission limits for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter. • Number of compliances with existing legislation/regulations/conditions for air quality e.g., IPPC/IE. • Travel patterns and the number of modes of transport within the county. • Number of new air monitoring stations in the county. • Implementation of the KCDP, which will contribute towards and facilitate climate action and the relevant targets for emission reductions. • The quantity of GHG emission increases over the plan period. • Energy consumption, the amount of uptake in renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA Air Quality Monitoring. • EPA State of the Environment Report. • EPA Air Quality in Ireland Report. • Monitoring related to relevant Local Area Plans and County/City Development Plans or RSES's – such as noise action plans. • EPA Greenhouse Gas Reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EPA operate real-time air monitoring stations and report in real-time on their website. KCC should have regard to the monitoring results periodically and review in advance of any mid-term review or preparation of a new plan. • The State of the Environment Report is updated by the EPA every 4 years and should be examined by KCC on release in order to inform the Council of any change in the baseline environment. • The EPA release an Air Quality in Ireland report annually which summarizes ambient air quality in Ireland for the year (EPA, 2020f). • The report should be examined by KCC on release in order to inform the Council of any change in the baseline environment and reviewed in detail prior to any mid-term review or new/varied plan.

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Monitoring Source	Monitoring Frequency and Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive. Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels. To minimize emissions of greenhouse gasses. Integrate sustainable design solutions into infrastructure. Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets. <p>Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 KCDP. Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in line with the Climate Act and 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels. Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any monitoring data carried out by KCC as part of LAP reviews within the County should be gathered, accumulated and analysed by KCC, as available (at least every 6 years). The EPA report on greenhouse gas emissions sectorally on an annual basis.
Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 KCDP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 KCDP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Bord Pleanala/Kildare County Council Planning Records. Monitoring related to relevant Local Area Plans and County/City Development Plans or RSES's. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning records from An Bord Pleanala or KCC should be reviewed and recorded at least at the plan min-term review stage (3 years). Assessment and recording of trends are recommended on an annual basis if feasible.

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Monitoring Source	Monitoring Frequency and Responsibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 KCDP. No permitted development which involves loss of cultural heritage, including protected structures, archaeological sites, Architectural Conservations Areas and landscape features. To increase the number of uninhabited and derelict structures that are restored. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 KCDP. Archaeological Impact Assessments, and/or the number and types of archaeological investigations undertaken. Recorded numbers of non-designated built heritage e.g., vernacular buildings. The number of design statements/public realm plans/Masterplans undertaken for settlements/opportunity sites. Visitor numbers for iconic cultural heritage sites. Number of literary, musical, artistic and other cultural initiatives undertaken in the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of the effects of capital investment project development required under separate processes (EIA, AA). Registers of nationally protected sites and structures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any monitoring data carried out by KCC as part of LAP reviews within the County should be gathered, accumulated and analysed by KCC, as available (at least every 6 years). In accordance with the monitoring provisions of EIA/ AA. NPWS (National Parks and Wildlife Services), NMS (National Monuments Service), UNESCO, the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage are responsible for monitoring the conditions of, recording the presence of, and conserving Ireland’s protected sites on a routine basis.
Landscape and Visuals				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement the identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 KCDP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 KCDP. Number of planning permissions granted in areas of high value landscape. Number of permissions granted within 500m of a scenic route. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Bord Pleanala/Kildare County Council Planning Records. Landscape Characters Assessments as part of County Development Plans. Monitoring of the effects of capital investment project development required under separate processes (EIA, AA). Monitoring related to relevant Local Area Plans and County/City. CORINE mapping resurvey. 	<p>Planning records from An Bord Pleanala or KCC should be reviewed and recorded at least at the plan min-term review stage (3 years). Assessment and recording of trends are recommended on an annual basis if feasible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape Character Assessments to be conducted by the local authority as part of County Development Plans, every six-years. In accordance with the monitoring provisions of EIA/ AA

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Monitoring Source	Monitoring Frequency and Responsibility
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any monitoring data carried out by KCC as part of LAP reviews within the County should be gathered, accumulated and analysed by KCC, as available (at least every 6 years). European Communities (EC), varies.
Material Assets				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote sustainable development that matches existing and new infrastructure with the proposed population growth for the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of completed infrastructure projects identified in the KCDP. Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures. The number and extent of Water Treatment Plans on EPAs Remedial Action List. The amount of access to sustainable modes of transport. 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. The number of renewable energy projects permitted and enabling/supporting infrastructure provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Bord Pleanala/Kildare County Council Planning Records. EPA Remedial Action Lists. EPA Urban Wastewater Treatment Reports. Monitoring of the effects of capital investment project development required under separate processes (EIA, AA). Monitoring related to relevant Local Area Plans and County/City Development Plans or RSES's. CSO Population and Gas Consumption Data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning records from An Bord Pleanala or KCC should be reviewed and recorded at least at the plan min-term review stage (3 years). Assessment and recording of trends are recommended on an annual basis if feasible. The EPA releases a Remedial Action List every Quarter which identifies problems with drinking water supply. KCC should have regard to issues pertaining to KCC water treatment plants. The EPA publish an Urban Wastewater Treatment Report each year which identifies areas in Ireland where there are issues with treatment and effluent quality as well as capacity issues. KCC should have regard to issues pertaining to KCC treatment plants. In accordance with the monitoring provisions of EIA/ AA. Any monitoring data carried out by KCC as part of LAP reviews within the County should be gathered, accumulated and analysed by KCC, as available (at least every 6 years). CSO, every 6 years.

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Monitoring Source	Monitoring Frequency and Responsibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in community assets, facilities and services in an area. 			

7. Final Appraisal: How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Adopted KCDP

This Section summarises how environmental considerations were integrated into the adopted KCDP, throughout the SEA process.

Identification of environmental constraints

As described in **Section 4.1**, the SEA team undertook an assessment of baseline environmental conditions of the KCDP area, with reference to biodiversity, population and human health, land and soils, water resources, air, noise and climate factors, archaeology, architectural and cultural heritage, landscape and visuals and material assets. This information was used to focus the SEA objectives, develop alternatives and assess potential positive and negative impacts associated with the implementation of the proposed KCDP. An Environmental Sensitivity Map was prepared to enable this assessment and to influence alternatives discussions and assessment of policies.

SEA Scoping

As described in Section 3, the SEA Scoping was a key part of the assessment process as it provided information to allow consultation with defined statutory bodies and environmental authorities on the scope and level of detail to be considered and incorporated at an early stage in the assessment.

Assessment of alternatives

The environmental baseline and objectives were used to identify key sensitivities and inform development of the alternatives and ultimately the assessment of the preferred alternative.

Assessment of Plan Provisions

As outlined in Section 4.5, a detailed environmental assessment was carried out of the plan provisions in order to determine, and illustrate to KCC, the potential for significant negative effects as a result of implementing the plan, as it was then proposed.

Proposed mitigation measures

Mitigation measures were proposed to address negative environmental impacts identified during the assessment process. These included amendments to the wording of policies and objectives in the KCDP.

Required environmental monitoring programme

A monitoring programme has been developed based on the indicators (noted in Section 6) in order to track progress towards achieving strategic environmental objectives and reaching targets, enabling positive and negative impacts on the environment to be measured.

The indicators have been developed to illustrate changes that would be attributable to the implementation of the KCDP 2023-2029.

Consultation

Further to the SEA Scoping consultation, the SEA Environmental Report, the Report for the purposes of AA Screening the KCDP, and the proposed material alterations to the KCDP were put on wider display on the KCC's website. All changes to policies and actions have been screened by the SEA and AA teams to determine if they would result in significant effects, and all submissions and objections received were reviewed.

Appendix A

SEA Scoping Report - Submission Responses

Table A.1 SEA Scoping Report- Response to Submissions

Consultee/ Stakeholder	SEA Scoping Response	SEA Actions
<p>Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications – Geological Survey Ireland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geoheritage: In the Kildare County Geological Sites (CGSs) within the SEA Scoping document in Table 4.7 and as a map in Figure 4.4. CGS ‘Rathcore Spring’ has been omitted and we would like to see this CGS included within the listing in the new KCDP (2023-2029). • Encouraged the inclusion of specific policy objectives relating to the County Geological Sites (CGSs) within the KCDP and suggest the following wording as an example: "to protect from inappropriate development the scheduled list of geological heritage sites [Appendix X]." Or "to protect from inappropriate development the following list of County Geological Sites" • Listing CGSs in the KCDP provides protection of the sites against potentially damaging developments that normally require planning permission, such as building, quarrying, landfilling or forestry. In many cases CGSs are also sites of high amenity or educational value, already zoned or listed in the • KCDP. • Recommend using Geological Survey Ireland’s datasets that include Bedrock Geology, Quaternary Geology, Geological Heritage Sites, Mineral deposits, Groundwater Resources, Geohazards and the Irish Seabed, mapping when undergoing the EIAR, planning and scoping processes. • Geological Survey Ireland should be referenced to as such and should any data or geological maps be used; they should be attributed correctly to Geological Survey Ireland. • Noted the democratic process of public consultation and approval by councillors of the KCDP means that stakeholders in the CGSs and all of the local community can buy into the process. • CGSs adopted in the National Heritage Plan, will form a major strand of geological nature conservation to complement the various ecological and cultural conservation measures. Noted that management issues for the majority of geological heritage sites may differ from ecological sites, and in some cases, development may facilitate enhanced geological understanding of a site by exposing more rock sections - for example, in a quarry extension. • Noted consultation at the earliest stages can identify any issues relevant to an individual site or proposed development. • Noted County Geological Sites are the optimal way of addressing the responsibility of each authority under the Planning and Development Act 2000 and its amendments, to protect sites of geological interest. • Noted it would be necessary to include a policy objective to protect geological NHAs as they become designated and notified to the Local Authority, during the lifetime of the Plan. 	<p>CGS ‘Rathcore Spring’ has been noted in the SEA.</p> <p>The inclusion of specific policy objectives relating to the County Geological Sites (CGSs) has been noted</p> <p>GSI’s datasets will be utilised and referenced as such in the SEA.</p> <p>Consultation has taken place at the earliest stages to identify any issues relevant to an individual site or proposed development in scoping reports for this SEA.</p> <p>GSI’s Groundwater programme run GW Climate has been reviewed,</p> <p>Use of the Geological Survey Ireland’s online mapping data sets for Landslide Events and Landslide Susceptibility have been reviewed</p> <p>The GSI’s Geothermal Suitability maps and documents have been reviewed</p> <p>GSI’s Map Viewer has been reviewed</p>

Consultee/ Stakeholder	SEA Scoping Response	SEA Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture and Tourism: Encouraged KCC to continue the trend of using geology as a large part of Irish tourism, for example: UNESCO Global Geoparks, the Wild Atlantic Way, Irelands Ancient East, and Irelands Hidden Heartlands. • Also encouraged using the geological audit information making it easily available to the general public, to make geology a significant part of any tourism initiative that may be introduced. • Geological Mapping: Pleased to see use of Bedrock geology map within the SEA scoping report. • Recommended to use the GSI's online data sets of bedrock and subsoils geological mapping that is reliable and accessible. Including depth to bedrock data and subsoil classifications, it is encouraged to use this data in any planned SEA reports and for informing your County Development Plan (2023-2029). • Groundwater: Commended the use of groundwater online mapping data in Figure 4.8 showing karst features, wells, springs and Public Supply Source Protection Zones and in Figure 4.9 Groundwater Vulnerability in the SEA Scoping document. • Useful data may be found in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans. Within GSI's Groundwater programme run GW Climate. • Geohazards: Noted in Section 4.4.2.2 Climate Change, mention of rainfall events which can have detrimental effects for slope stability and recommended for consideration of use of Geological Survey Ireland's online mapping data sets for Landslide Events and Landslide Susceptibility. • Geothermal Energy: The GSI's Geothermal Suitability maps and documents could also be considered in Section 5.2 Draft Objectives and Targets as part of the renewable energy potential under the Climate and Resilience heading. • Natural Resources (Minerals/Aggregates): The Active Quarries, Mineral Localities and the Aggregate Potential maps available on GSI's Map Viewer are welcomed as consideration of aggregate potential sterilisation included as part of the planned SEA report. 	
EPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The thirteen Key Messages for Ireland within the Environment Report Ireland's Environment - An Assessment 2020 (EPA, 2020) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should be taken into account in preparing the Plan and SEA and reflected in the principles/objectives/measures in the Plan • Community Engagement: Recommended in preparing the Plan and carrying out the SEA (including developing alternatives), the need to proactively engage local communities should be a core consideration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Report Ireland's Environment - An Assessment 2020 has been reviewed in full and relied on for the description of much of the baseline environment. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been taken into throughout the entirety of the SEA process • Proper planning and sustainable development have been prioritised throughout the entirety of the SEA process and plan development. • The SEA has been prepared with reference to all biodiversity related legislation.

Consultee/ Stakeholder	SEA Scoping Response	SEA Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical service infrastructure: In proposing and in implementing the Plan, it was noted to ensure that the Plan is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development. Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure should be in place, or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the Plan. • Biodiversity: The Plan should include specific actions/objectives and commitments to protect designated habitats and protected species (and associated ecological corridors/linkages) within, and adjacent to, the Plan area. The EPA guidance on Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment - Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes. Best Practice Guidance. It is encouraged to inform practitioners, plan/project proponents and consent authorities on integrating SEA, EIA and AA processes and requirements to streamline biodiversity considerations. • The need to protect non-designated aspects of biodiversity, including ecological corridors/linkages/green infrastructure and areas of important local biodiversity should also be considered. • Invasive Alien Species Control and Management: A clear commitment should be included to ensure that implementation of the Plan, in particular any proposed development associated with the Plan, addresses the control and management of invasive species. • Climate Action: In preparing the Plan, account should be taken into the need to align with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, including those set out in the Climate Action Plan 2019, as well as incorporating any relevant recommendations and measures in sectoral, regional and local climate adaptation and mitigation plans. • Ireland’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections for 2018-2040 (EPA, 2019) should be taken into account in preparing the Plan, as appropriate and relevant. • Update of the existing good practice guidance note on how to incorporate climatic factors into plans and programmes falling under the remit of the SEA Directive should be reviewed – Integrating Climatic Factors into the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process in Ireland (EPA, 2019). • Key climate-related aspects to consider in the Plan and SEA include: • Direct and indirect impacts of the Plan on greenhouse gas emissions and removals (Mitigation) • Direct and indirect impacts of climate change on the implementation of the Plan, e.g., the resilience of critical water service infrastructure to flooding and drought (Adaptation). • The linkages between mitigation and adaptation (inter-relationships). • Key Plans and Programmes: Suggested national / regional / sectoral plans to consider in preparing the Plan and SEA • National Clean Air Strategy (DCCAIE, in prep) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Climate Action Plan 2021 has been considered throughout the SEA and national commitments on climate change have been aligned. • Ireland’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections for 2018-2040 have been taken into account. • Integrating Climatic Factors into the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process in Ireland has been reviewed for the SEA. • The EPA website was utilised for guidance on SEA process guidance and checklists and the inventory of spatial datasets, relevant to SEA topic specific SEA guidance. • The ESM Webtool has been noted and reviewed as a useful support tool to assist the SEA process. • The relevant environmental authorities have been consulted with for the SEA process, under the SEA Regulations.

Consultee/ Stakeholder	SEA Scoping Response	SEA Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - National Air Pollution Control Programme (DCCAE, 2019) • Available Guidance & Resources: <p>EPA website should be used for guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEA process guidance and checklists • Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA topic specific SEA guidance (including Good practice note on Cumulative Effects Assessment (EPA, 2020), Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring (EPA, 2020), Integrating climatic factors into SEA (EPA, 2019), Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA (EPA, 2015), and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment (EPA, 2012)). • Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) Webtool: New ESM Webtool should be used as a support tool to assist SEA and planning processes in Ireland and to help planners anticipate potential land-use conflicts and help identify suitable development locations, while also protecting the environment. Encouraged to use EPA tools including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EPA SEA WebGIS Tool - EPA AA GeoTool <p>Should ensure that the Plan/Variation aligns with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Authorities: Under the SEA Regulations, encouraged to also consult with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (formerly Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (functions transferred from Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government/ Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht by S.I. 192 of 2011). - Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications (formerly Minister of Communications, Climate Change and the Environment). - Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine; and - any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan. 	

Appendix B

SEA Environmental Report - Response to Submissions on the Plan

A total of 615 submissions were received from the public consultation on the Plan, as listed in Table B.1.

Table B.1 Submissions Received on KCDP and SEA Environmental Report

No.	Name/Organization	No.	Name/Organisation
1	Laura Nolan	308	Irene O'Neill
2	Greenway Delivery	309	Doris Whelehan
3	Conleth & Noel Stynes	310	Declan Holahan
4	Noel Stynes	311	Joe and Anna Headon
5	Punchestown Area Community Grp	312	Elizabeth Williamson
6	Tom Halligan	313	Andre Duesterhus
7	Punchestown Area Community Grp	314	Lyndsey Sweeney
8	Punchestown Area Community Grp	315	Seamus Dolan
9	Greenway Delivery	316	Focus Capital
10	Hazel Whiteley	317	Bridget Armstrong
11	Hazel Whiteley	318	Orla O'Neil
12	Raymond Conlan	319	Conor Prasad
13	Dermot Rowan	320	Vera Louise Behan
14	Felipe Reitz	321	Mark Doyle
15	H.S.A	322	Rathangan Tidy Towns
16	Roadstone Ltd	323	Adrian McAndrew
17	Noelle Wall	324	Sinead Malone
18	Dysart Properties	325	Ravi Prasad
19	Mary Brennan	326	Claran Boyle
20	Demesne Architects	327	Munoo Prasad
21	Punchestown Area Community Grp	328	Teresa Bourke
22	Responsible Solar for Kildare	329	Venessa Mack
23	EPA	330	Maynooth Cycling Campaign
24	Kathryna Phibbs	331	Fionnuala Corcoran
25	Cathy Meade	332	Robert Kennedy
26	Butterfly Conservation Ireland	333	Conor Clavin
27	Cathy Meade	334	Marion Rackard
28	Cathy Meade	335	Mariam Colleran

No.	Name/Organization	No.	Name/Organisation
29	David & Hilary Creighton	336	Punchestown Area Community Group
30	Celbridge Cycling Campaign	337	Sabina Reddy
31	Michael Kinane	338	Claire Prasad
32	Nayomi Duff	339	Mary Garrick
33	Thomas Dunne	340	Kings Court Residents' Association
34	Clifford Reid	341	Grainne Mac Glinchey
35	Noel Lawler	342	Adrian Geissel
36	Annamarie Doody	343	Endress + Hauser (Ireland) Ltd.
37	Mary Flaherty	344	Mark Neylon
38	Miriam Brosnan	345	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
39	Treasa Nangle	346	P.M Conaghan
40	Alan Hyland	347	Valerie Chartton
41	Paul McGrane	348	Patrick Shore
42	E O'Loughlin	349	Westin Homes Ltd.
43	Henry Kilmurray	350	Lorraine Benson
44	Yvonne Codd	351	Eco Advocacy
45	Deiric McCann	352	Millennium Falcon Holdings Ltd
46	Ciaran McDonnell	353	Bracq Ltd.
47	EMRA	354	Naoise Ó Cearúil
48	Mark Deasy	355	Keith Mason
49	Michelle O'Rafferty	356	Dermot Cox
50	CIr. Anne Breen & Larry Breen	357	Dermot Cox
51	Robert Doyle	358	Deirdre Lane
52	Andrew Mc	359	Dermot Cox
53	Gerard Delaney	360	Dermot Tom O'Donovan
54	John K	361	Jackie Rasmus
55	Rosemary Bryne	362	Ardlea Construction Ltd
56	Aine Quinn	363	Johnstown Garden Centre
57	Conor McCaffrey	364	Ursula King

No.	Name/Organization	No.	Name/Organisation
58	Christine O'Sullivan	365	An Post
59	Owen Counihan	366	Harry Travers
60	Aisling Twomey	367	Cliff at Lyons Unlimited Company
61	Collette Coyne	368	Pat Sutton
62	Patricia & Kieron Gammell	369	Shaun Malone
63		370	Newtonslane (Kill) Limited
64	Sunday Well Residents Association	371	Dublin Airport Authority
65	Roddy & Louise Cummins	372	Derek Whyte
66	Orlaith Cahalan Bergin	373	Coill Dubh Hurting Club
67	Paul Drennan	374	Sean Kennelly
68	Padraig Sheehan	375	Land Development Agency
69	Mary Taaffe	376	Alan Byrne
70	Edmund Murphy	377	Paul Kenny
71	Shane Blake	378	Iarnród Éireann
72	Community Gardens Ireland	379	Value Retail Dublin Ltd.
73	Roisin Stewart	380	Alan Byrne
74	Cormac Ahern	381	EirGrid
75	Orla Ahern	382	Ruth Murphy
76	Pat Breen	383	Fáilte Ireland
77	Naas Combined Residents Group	384	Ruth Neylon
78	Conor O'Reilly	385	County Kildare Chamber
79	John Johnson	386	Jennifer Whitty
80	CIr. Suzanne Doyle	387	Sinéad Ruane
81	Mondello Park	388	John O'Connell
82	Noel Geary	389	Niall Hynan
83	Kevin Mullaney	390	Philip O'Reilly
84	Lana Mullaney	391	Grace Clancy Hynan
85	Derek Leahy	392	Department of Defence
86	Joseph Kenny	393	Age Friendly Village Partnership

No.	Name/Organization	No.	Name/Organisation
87	Melanie Tierney	394	St. Laurence O'Toole Diocesan Trust
88	Bridget Leahy	395	Department of Environment Climate and Communications
89	Michael Skelton	396	Gavin Lawlor
90	Noleen Farrell	397	Nina McCawley
91	Cormac O'Donovan	398	Cathal Quinn
92	Chris Bergin	399	Michael Dunne
93	Mary Smith	400	Devondale Ltd.
94	Alan Kernan	401	Helen O'Brien and The Donovan Family
95	Gerard Burns	402	NAMA
96	Lioncor	403	Caim PLC
97	Ciara Kernan	404	Charlton and Leeson (Thoval Properties Ltd)
98	Nyles	405	Climate Action Linkage group PPN
99	Joe Mulligan	406	Annette Delaney
100	Joe Mulligan	407	Rathcoffey G.A.A.
101	Kildare County Childcare Committee	408	Creative Rathangan Meitheal
102	Aideen O'Sullivan	409	Irish Water
103	Catherine Corrigan	410	Celbridge Community Council
104	Office of Public Works	411	Elizabeth Geissel
105	Ivan Codd	412	Marcella Sheehan
106	Audrey Barlow	413	Kildare Public Participation
107	Joan McLoughlin	414	Statkraft Ireland
108	Colman E Mooney	415	Kevin Bonner
109	Ken Tyrell	416	Deirdre Delaney
110	Margret Mooney	417	St. Patrick's College, Maynooth
111	Andrew Tierney	418	Kildare Town Tidy Towns
112	David Valentine	419	Ardclough Community Council
113	HSE	420	Alder Hormes

No.	Name/Organization	No.	Name/Organisation
114	Owen Phibbs	421	Electricity Supply Board
115	John Phibbs	422	Fintan Flood
116	Cyril Condell	423	Electricity Supply Board
117	Anne Crowe	424	Anthony McNamee
118	Colm Farrell	425	Melinda Lyons
119	Eleanor Grogan	426	O'Flynn Group
120	Francis Dowling	427	The Connacht Hospitality Group
121	Kilway developments	428	Beans Land
122	Ann Moran	429	Wester Group
123	Tara Doorey	430	John Kehoe
124	Kate Doorey	431	O'Flynn Group
125	Antoinette Doorey	432	West Kildare SMART Rural Alliance (SRA)
126	Aidan Doorey	433	John Lawler
127	Naas Action Group	434	Maynooth Community Council
128	James Corrigan	435	Kildare Children & Young People's Services Committee
129	Naas action group	436	Melanie Young
130	Giles O'Neill	437	Kieran Curtin
131	MA Tudor Ltd	438	Sandra Forde
132	JJ & Deidre Power	439	Mick Carroll
133	Sean Flannery	440	John de Robeck
134	MA Tudor Ltd	441	David Forde
135	Patrick Dempsey	442	Off Square Partnership
136	Patrick Oman	443	Clane Community Council
137	Robert Frayne	444	James McInerney
138	Streamstown Development	445	IWAN Kildare (Kildare Branch)
139	Thomas Carroll	446	David Knox
140	Jim O'Sullivan	447	Brendan O'Donoghue
141	Maureen Boylan	448	Pat O'Mahony
142	James Codd	449	Seamas Caulfield

No.	Name/Organization	No.	Name/Organisation
143	Inland Fisheries Ireland	450	Eric Galbraith
144	Two Mile House Parish Pastoral CI	451	RJ Goffs
145	Fergal Gaffney	452	Harmony Solar Ireland Ltd
146	Alan Devine	453	John Murray
147	National Peatlands Park group	454	Narraghmore Development CLG
148	Irene Hogarty	455	Tara Lawlor
149	Laura Byrne	456	Brendan Colivet
150	Eddie Lenehan	457	Glenveagh Properties
151	Jana Drennan	458	Martins Wisely
152	Catriona Carton	459	Curragh Property DAC
153	Ronan Maguire	460	Gail Mooney Collins
154	Marzena Kelleher	461	Laurmic stores Ltd T/A Centra Johnstown
155	Ciaran Kelleher	462	Kilcloon Environmental Action Assoc.
156	Donal McCormack	463	Raymond Keaney
157	Bridget Geary	464	Patrick, Paul & James O'Reilly
158	Michelle Blake	465	Johnstown Community Association
159	Breeda Woods	466	Makros Ltd
160	Dunne Family	467	Harristown Coughlanstown Community Group
161	WTNB Partnership	468	Ann Behan
162	KDM Construction Ltd	469	Davy Platform ICAV (Ireland)
163	Athgarvan GAA	470	Irish Peatland Conservation
164	Philip O'Reilly	471	Circle K Ireland Energy Group Limited
165	Colin Rafferty	472	Keep Ireland Open
166	Kathy Merrins	473	John Collins
167	Mariann Klay	474	Barry McCarthy
168	Climate Action Linkage Group	475	June Stuart

No.	Name/Organization	No.	Name/Organisation
169	Mark Bruns	476	Circle K Ireland Energy Group Limited
170	Mark Bruns	477	Paul Murphy
171	Mark Bruns	478	Stephen Bourke
172	Umerus community Development	479	The McGrath Group
173	Mark Bruns	480	Richard Behan
174	Mark Bruns	481	Cathal Ruane
175	Sandra Nugent	482	Kilcock 4 Climate Action
176	KOCF Ltd	483	Environmental Protection Agency
177	Mark Murray	484	Circle K Ireland Energy Group Limited
178	Carmel Geissel	485	Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland
179	Martin Flinter	486	Punchestown Area Community Group
180	Mark Grainger	487	Imelda Behan
181	Lullymore Heritage Park	488	Sky Castle Ltd
182	CM Redmond	489	Teresa Behan
183	Eoghan Redmond	490	Sherwood Homes
184	Padraig Redmond	491	Blockstar Ltd
185	Barry Redmond	492	Amstrong Fenton Ltd
186	Mountain View Res Assoc	493	J.L Sheridan
187	Kathleen Moran	494	Dr. Noel Cawley & Anita Cawley
188	Frank Fogarty	495	Suzanne Murphy
189	Endress & Hauser Ireland Ltd	496	Seamus & Patrick O'Reilly
190	Catherine D	497	Niamh Young
191	Fergal Reidy	498	National Transport Authority
192	Deirdre Brett	499	Kimberlite
193	Deirdre Brett	500	David R Weld
194	Deirdre Brett	501	Fiona O'Loughlin
195	Elizabeth Cullen	502	Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary
196	Noel Coyle	503	Evelyn Cullen

No.	Name/Organization	No.	Name/Organisation
197	Angela Kearns	504	O'Flynn Construction Ltd
198	Brian Clohessy	505	Pierce Fagan
199	JPM Energy & Planning Consultants	506	Richard & Eileen Kearns
200	JP Quinn & Planning Consultant	507	Brian McArdle
201	Seamus Scully	508	Brannach Developments Ltd
202	Liam Knowles	509	Beoadfield Stud
203	Edwards Hill	510	Seán ÓFearghaíl TD
204	Louise Hyland	511	Land & Utility Compensation Consultant Limited
205	Beet Ireland	512	Tommy Leeson
206	Gerry Quirke	513	Ann Cashman
207	Deirdre Lane	514	Mark Hendrick
208	Etienne duPlessis	515	Meath County Council
209	James O'Dwyer	516	Niall Kennelly
210	Naas Action Group	517	Eric Carter
211	Dr Louie Harris and Babette	518	Strategic Power Project Ltd
212	Louise Donnelly	519	Kate McCoy
213	Suzanne Doyle	520	Newbridge Community Development
214	Jim & John Moran	521	South Western Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force
215	Derrinstown Stud Ltd	522	Brendan Colivet
216	Oakway Homes	523	Raymond Conlan
217	Cllr. Brian Dooley	524	Emma Fitzgerald
218	Helena Hearne	525	Rhonda Willoughby
219	Cormac Ahem	526	Conradh na Gaeilge
220	Ciara & Harvey Applebe	527	Michael Deegan
221	O.P.W	528	Punchestown Area Community Group
222	David Wright	529	Consortium of housebuilders (Glenveagh Properties plc, Cairn Homes plc, O'Flynn Group and Ballymore)
223	Colm Walsh	530	Fiona Duigan

No.	Name/Organization	No.	Name/Organisation
224	Gemma Byrne	531	Bernard Flanagan
225	Matthew McKeon	532	Swindon Investment Company Limited
226	Ciara & Harvey Applebe	533	Cill Dara le Gaeilge
227	James O'Dwyer	534	Irish Traveller Movement
228	Seamus Reilly	535	Paul O'Reilly
229	Eva Walsh	536	Dan Boland
230	JPM Energy and Planning Consultants	537	Emer Hynan
231	Lorraine McNamara	538	Senator Mark Wall
232	Martin Waters	539	Stephen Talbot
233	Nathan Flaherty	540	Barbara Hennessy
234	Lorraine McNamara	541	John Downey
235	Gavin McDermott	542	David Mulcahy
236	Deidre Grace	543	Leslie Kelly
237	Ronan Foley	544	Sult na Sollán
238	Gilmar Uyema	545	Emma Fitzgerald
239	Mark Noonan	546	Bernad Moran
240	Cobb Straffan Ireland Ltd	547	Siobhan Parker
241	Colm Walsh	548	Niamh Morrin
242	Tir Na Mona	549	Comer Group Ireland
243	Gus Whelan	550	Office of the Planning Regulator
244	Conor & Jane Horan	551	St. John of God (Trust) Ireland
245	Fiona Uyema	552	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
246	Mark Byrne on behalf of Hubert Beaumont	553	Rosemary Flanagan
247	James Delaney	554	Emma Fitzgerald
248	Aine Loughran	555	Irish Solar Energy Association
249	Centra Store	556	Mary Flaherty
250	Niall Purcell	557	University College Dublin – Lyons Farm

No.	Name/Organization	No.	Name/Organisation
251	Albert Greville	558	Irish Wind Energy Association
252	Sur Le Pont Car Dealers	559	Newbridge Community Development
253	Lena Lenehan	560	Suzanne Doyle
254	Blossom Pre-School	561	Sarah & Shay Sargent
255	Edward Carey	562	Stephen Harris
256	Ballyshannon Action Group	563	Green Road Partnership
257	Avison Young (on behalf of Tesco)	564	Stephen Harris
258	Johnstownbridge GAA	565	Department of Education and Skills
259	Mrs DeRoeck	566	Joe Foran
260	Steven Fadian	567	Des Flanagan
261	Tony McNally & JAJ Construction Ltd	568	Rosemary Morrissey
262	The Hamlet Court Hotel	569	Hester McAllister
263	Highway Marking Ltd	570	Anna Byrne
264	Joshua Bakker	571	Anthony
265	Kelly O'Reilly Certified Accountants	572	Margaret & Graeme Beere
266	IFA	573	Aidan Kelly
267	Majella O'Keefe	574	David Weld
268	Paddy Byrne (on behalf of Colin Braithwaite)	575	Dr. Colette M Halpin
269	Nordstone Holdings	576	County Kildare Leader Partnership
270	Donal Knight	577	JP Price
271	Deirdre Curtin	578	Gerard Masterson
272	Deirdre McCarthy	579	The Residents of Boston Hill
273	Donal Knight	580	Angela O'Beirne
274	DC Architects & Engineers Ltd	581	Liam O'Beirne
275	Benduff Ireland Limited	582	Ballymore Group
276	County Kildare Access Network	583	Ballymore Group

No.	Name/Organization	No.	Name/Organisation
277	John Brady & Anne/Ray Crofton	584	Marina Carpenter
278	Donal Knight	585	Breffni Carpenter
279	Ashcroft Developments	586	Maria & JP Grogan
280	Stephen James O'Bryrne	587	Aimee Carpenter
281	Donal Knight	588	Tom McParland & Sassabunda Ltd
282	Dept of Further & Higher Ed	589	Shelagh Minihane & John Minihane
283	Ray Nolan	590	Paul Carroll
284	Kingsfurze Avenue Residents Association	591	Landowners at Milltown
285	Crylock Developments Ltd	592	Brian Connolly
286	The Paddocks Residents Assoc	593	Dan McNally
287	Arts Council	594	Gavin O'Connor
288	Barberstown Castle	595	John Noone
289	Dept of Transport	596	Peter Robinson
290	Newbridge Family Resource Centre	597	David, Robert & Joe Osborne
291	Sharon Mooney	598	Friends of Harristown
292	Palm Logistics	599	Dr. Hugh Dillon
293	Dermot Rowan	600	Shane Martin
294	Maria Hutchin	601	Katie Gammell
295	Dermot Rowan	602	Samuel Gammell
296	John Downey	603	Broadfield Stud
297	Paul Barry	604	Sarah McGinn & Family
298	Smullen Transport	605	Val Leeson
299	Anna Moran	606	Enda O'Flaherty
300	Noel Dowling	607	Tommy Cullen
301	In Sync Youth & Family Services	608	Sherwood Group
302	Anna Moran	609	Fernside Homes Ltd
303	Gas Network Ireland	610	Carmel Kenny
304	Carole Frost	611	Thoval Properties Ltd

No.	Name/Organization	No.	Name/Organisation
305	Ger Lane	612	Anthony, Miriam & Philip Lawlor
306	Camila Foley	613	Philip O'Reilly
307	Debbie Trundle	614	Alice & George Ryan
		615	Niall O'Dowda – Kildare Branch of Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

Table B.2 Response to Submissions, as they relate to the SEA

Submission No.	Name/ Organization	Summary of Submission/Observation related to SEA	SEA Response
280	Stephen James Byrne	<p>General</p> <p>The OPR has not ensured compliance in the area of SEA, AAs and other relevant EU Directives.</p>	<p>This submission has been noted however, it must be noted that the OPR is not the competent authority with respect to AA/SEA.</p>
405	<p>Kildare Climate Action Linkage Group</p> <p>Section: Pollution (Water, Air, Noise, Light)</p>	<p>The submission references the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 - SEA Environmental Report, EPA River catchment reports and a debate answer of Minister Darragh O’Brien and the EPA Focus on Local Authority Environmental Enforcement Activity Report 2019.</p> <p>Considering the aforementioned, the submission requests the following:</p> <p>Replace Policy IN P7 - To actively implement the Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, and the Local Authority Waters Programme and to attempt to achieve and maintain a high ecological status of all water bodies in the county by 2030. And at a minimum to achieve and maintain at least good ecological status for all water bodies in the county during the timeframe of this plan.</p> <p>Additional Objective - Ensure that adequate resources are in place to meet statutory water responsibilities.</p> <p>Additional Action - Active enforcement and reporting of the Nitrates Regulations within all of Kildare’s River catchment areas in line with statutory requirements. https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b87ad-nitrates-directive/</p> <p>Amend IN O58 - Promote and support the ban on the use, marketing, sale, and distribution of bituminous coal and peat in Naas, Newbridge, Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth</p>	<p>This submission has been noted, however, relates to the Actions, Policies and Objectives of the Plan. The Chief Executive’s Response has been included below as a result.</p> <p>In preparing the Development Plan, planning authorities must exercise caution not to inappropriately stray into the operation of other statutory codes and regulatory regimes that relate to the development sector, but are outside the remit of a county or city development plan. This is applicable to policy or objectives for non-planning functions governed by other legislation and regulations such as those raised in this part of this submission.</p>
468	Ann Behan	<p>Reference is made figures A7 and A8 from appendix A of the SEA, for the Plan, which shows the WFD status of River and Lake Waterbody’s in Kildare, 2010-2015. Links are provided to various EPA River catchment reports, pertaining to waterbodies at risk in both the River Barrow and the River Boyne catchment areas. The definition of “at risk” is outlined i.e., a waterbody either not achieving its objective for good / high status or an upward trend in nutrients / ammonia. Some notes are provided from the report which show the number of waterbodies in the Barrow and Boyne catchments to be 377. It is stated that 189 of these are at risk. It is also stated that agriculture is a significant pressure on many of these waterbodies. Reference is made to the role of local authorities in relation to water enforcement related responsibilities, the requirement to undertake inspections to determine on-farm compliance, and by monitoring and enforcing drinking water standards in all regulated private water supplies.</p>	<p>This submission has been noted, however, relates to the Actions, Policies and Objectives of the Plan. The Chief Executive’s Response has been included below as a result.</p> <p>In preparing the Development Plan, planning authorities must exercise caution not to inappropriately stray into the operation of other statutory codes and regulatory regimes that relate to the development sector, but are outside the remit of a county or city development plan.</p> <p>This is applicable to policy or objectives for non-planning functions governed by other legislation and regulations such as those raised in this part of this submission.</p>

Submission No.	Name/ Organization	Summary of Submission/Observation related to SEA	SEA Response
		<p>It is submitted that local authorities need to ensure they have resources to meet statutory water related responsibilities and increase enforcement action, maintain their key role in national water monitoring, and protecting public health.</p> <p>Where they are advised of a decline in water quality under the Red Dot+ programme investigations should be undertaken. Reference is made to the EPA reporting cycle, 2019 and the relatively low number of water inspections in Kildare compared with other counties. Given the significant pressure posed by agriculture to water quality it proposed to amend IN P7, as follows “to actively implement the Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, and the Local Authority Waters Programme and to attempt to achieve and maintain a high ecological status of all water bodies in the county by 2030. And at a minimum to achieve and maintain at least good ecological status for all water bodies in the county during the timeframe of this plan”</p> <p>An additional objective is also proposed to “ensure that adequate resources are in place to meet statutory water responsibilities”.</p> <p>An additional action is also proposed “Active enforcement and reporting of the Nitrates Regulations within all of Kildare’s River catchment areas in line with statutory requirements”.</p> <p>Amend IN O58 to include “and peat” and the words bituminous coal.</p>	
351	Eco Advocacy	<p>The submission questions whether any strategic environmental assessment (SEA) was conducted as part of the County Development Plan (CDP) which takes an overall look at where aggregates and sustainable energy is to come from. States that experience has shown that applications for individual solar installations and wind farms are looked at in isolation and not as a whole when at the same time deep-bore geothermal has been ignored.</p>	<p>This comment has been noted. Strategic Environmental Assessment has been undertaken for KCDP 2023-2019 in line with the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and best practice guidance. It should be noted that an iterative process of SEA was undertaken during the preparation of the Plan, with KCC. The objective of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is to provide a broader approach to environmental assessment of development plans, local area plans and regional spatial and economic strategies. A formal process of SEA was undertaken as an integral part of the preparation of this Plan, pursuant to the requirements of the EU SEA Directive (2001/42/EEC) and the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (as amended). This then provides a framework for environmental impact assessment (EIA) of projects when assessing planning applications for developments such as solar energy and wind farm developments.</p>

Submission No.	Name/ Organization	Summary of Submission/Observation related to SEA	SEA Response
395	Geological Survey of Ireland (to be read in conjunction with Dept. Environment, Climate & Communications submission, same number, submitted together)	<p>Geoheritage</p> <p>GSI requests the inclusion of the Rathcore Spring CGS in Table 12.7 and the separation of the two Louisa Bridge Springs (Cold and Warm). In relation to BI A18 to publish the findings of the audit of Geological Heritage on completion, the submission notes that this was published in 2005. GSI requests the separation of the two Louisa Bridge Springs (Cold and Warm) in Table 5.4.1 and that the text under Section 5.4.1.2 refer to the 22 County Geological Sites.</p> <p>Chief Executive's Response as included below with reference to the SEA Report:</p> <p>Chief Executive's Response</p> <p>The proposed changes in relation to the Geological Heritage Sites are accepted. In relation to BI A18, it is considered appropriate to delete this action.</p> <p>Chief Executive's Recommendation</p> <p>Amend paragraph one of section 12.13 as follows: ...An audit of the Geological Heritage of County Kildare was carried out in 2005, which identified 202 geological sites of interest in the county...</p> <p>Amend Table 12.7 as outlined in page 907 of CE Public Consultation Report</p> <p>Amend Table 5.4.1 in the SEA as outlined in page 907-908 of CE Public Consultation Report</p> <p>Amend paragraph one and two of section 5.4.1.2 of the SEA:</p> <p>'In 2005, the Council in partnership with the Irish Geological Heritage Programme of the Geological Survey of Ireland, assessed the geological heritage of Kildare and identified the 22 of the most important sites which are worthy of protection as County Geological Sites. It is the policy of the Council to maintain the conservation value and seek the sustainable management of the county's geological heritage resource.</p> <p>The locations of the 22 County Geological Heritage Sites within County Kildare are mapped on Figure A5 in Appendix A and listed in Table 5.4.1.'</p>	<p>This comment is noted.</p> <p>The relevant updates to Table 5.4.1 and paragraph one and two of Section 5.4.1.2 of the SEA ER have been incorporated and included in Appendix D of this report. The appended table will supersede Table 5.4.1 of the SEA ER, along with the additional text included for paragraph one and two of Section 5.4.1.2 of the SEA ER. The SEA ER should be read in conjunction with the KCDP, the SEA Addenda and this SEA Statement.</p>
405	Kildare Climate Action Linkage Group	The submission references the recommendations in relation to hedgerows in the SEA Environmental Report for the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and provides a link to 'Go Native, Planting for biodiversity, Guidelines for planting projects in the countryside.'	This comment is welcomed.
552	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	<p>Recommendations in Section 8.4 of the SEA should be implemented.</p> <p>Article 10 of the SEA Directive requires that 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.</p>	This comment is welcomed.

Submission No.	Name/ Organization	Summary of Submission/Observation related to SEA	SEA Response
		<p>Section 9.2 of the Environmental Report outlined proposed monitoring measures. While the Implementation and Monitoring Framework outlined in Section 16.2.3 of the plan will incorporate a level of monitoring of environment related objectives, the full and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation assessment, required to be undertaken under Article 10 of the SEA Directive, will be undertaken as part of a separate SEA monitoring process, which is outlined in the Environmental Report.</p> <p>The Department would welcome a clear and specific monitoring programme to be included with the Environmental Report, outlining how it is proposed to record the impacts of plan implementation on biodiversity, both in terms of biodiversity loss and biodiversity enhancement during the lifetime of the plan.</p> <p>The Department would also encourage making these reports publicly available.</p> <p>Consideration should also be given to monitoring of indirect development impacts on biodiversity such as nitrogen deposition related to bioenergy and agricultural developments, disturbance/visitor pressure, impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development and impacts on water quality.</p> <p>The Department recommends including a commitment in the CDP to undertake screening for SEA and if required, SEA, in relation to all downstream plans (which can be variously termed strategies', 'concept studies' 'programmes' and 'masterplans') as defined by Article 2(A) of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC). Furthermore, the Department recommends that the Council ensures that all plans, defined by Article 2(A) of the SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC), which are supported in whole or in part through policy objectives or otherwise have undergone screening for SEA and if required, SEA.</p>	<p>All comments within this submission have been noted and are largely welcomed. Section 9.1 of the SEA Environmental Report provides mitigation measures designed to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment that could be realised with the implementation of the CDP. Section 9.2 of the SEA Environmental Report provides the monitoring programme. During the development of the programme the guidance on SEA-related monitoring on the EPA website was consulted. Two new objectives were incorporated into Section 16.3.4 of the Plan, as detailed in the Chief Executive's Report on Submissions received to the Proposed Material Alterations to the KCDP 2023-2029, to ensure the implementation of the mitigation measures and the implementation of the monitoring programme set out in Section 9 of the SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>The two new objectives to be incorporated into the Plan are as follows 'Implement the mitigation measures as set out in the SEA Environmental Report' and 'Implement the monitoring programme as set out in the SEA Environmental Report.' This will include the preparation of standalone SEA Monitoring Reports to accompany: 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 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>Strategic Environmental Assessment has been undertaken for KCDP 2023-2019 in line with the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and best practice guidance. It should be noted that an iterative process of SEA was undertaken during the preparation of the Plan, with KCC.</p> <p>All plans and programmes which are supported in whole or in part through policy objectives or otherwise in the CDP, must also undertake SEA in accordance with the provisions of the SEA Directive.</p>

Submission No.	Name/ Organization	Summary of Submission/Observation related to SEA	SEA Response
483	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	<p>Submission notes the notice of the Council in relation to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (the 'Plan') and SEA Environmental Report. Notes the statutory role of the EPA is one as an SEA environmental authority. Function is also to promote the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the Plan.</p> <p>States that the Agency focuses its efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans. Notes that for land use plans at county/local level, it provides a 'self-service approach' via the attached guidance document 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources' which is updated regularly. Further states that the Council should also ensure that the Plan aligns with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the NPF and RSES.</p> <p>Content of the Environmental Report Mitigation Measures</p> <p>Submits that the Council has identified the potential for likely significant effects, it should provide appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or minimise these. States that the Council must ensure that the Plan includes clear commitments to implement the mitigation measures.</p> <p>Monitoring</p> <p>Submits that the Monitoring Programme should be flexible to take account of specific environmental issues and unforeseen adverse impacts should they arise and should consider and deal with the possibility of cumulative effects. States that monitoring of both positive and negative effects should be considered and that the programme should set out the various data sources, monitoring frequencies and responsibilities. Submits that if the monitoring identifies adverse impacts during the implementation of the Plan, the Council should ensure that suitable and effective remedial action is taken.</p> <p>Notes that guidance on SEA-related monitoring is available on the EPA website at: https://www.epa.ie/publications/research/environmental-technologies/research-306-guidance.php State of the Environment Report – Ireland's Environment 2020 States that in finalising the Plan and integrating the findings of the SEA into the Plan, the recommendations, key issues and challenges described in our 'State of the Environment Report Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA, 2020)' should be considered, as relevant and appropriate. States that this should also be taken into account, in preparing the Plan and SEA.</p>	<p>All comments listed in this submission have been noted. It is noted that the EPA focuses its efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans and in undertaking the SEAS of the KCDP 2023-2029, the guidance document 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources' was consulted.</p> <p>It should also be noted, that as part of the preparation of the Strategic Environmental Report, baseline information was collected from available sources, including the 2020 EPA State of the Environment report. Any subsequent updates to the emerging County Development Plan will also fully consider the contents of this report as they apply to SEA preparation. The preparation of the emerging Plan and the SEA have been iterative processes, with one continually being informed/ aligning with the other. In this regard, any future amendments to the Plan will be screened for likely significant effects. The screening of such will be assessed within an Addendum to the SEA of the KCDP, and any changes that constitute material alterations and would necessitate further assessment have also been subject to SEA within this Addendum report. The Planning Authority has been notified and is aware of the points raised in relation to procedures with respect to the SEA Statement upon the adoption of the Plan and the commentary regarding who the copy of the SEA Statement should be forwarded to. The Planning Authority acknowledges same and will follow due process in this regard.</p>

Submission No.	Name/ Organization	Summary of Submission/Observation related to SEA	SEA Response
		<p>Future Amendments to the Plan</p> <p>Requests that any future amendments to the Plan should be screened for likely significant effects, using the same method of assessment applied in the “environmental assessment” of the Plan.</p> <p>SEA Statement – “Information on the Decision” Submits that once the Plan is adopted, the Council should prepare an SEA Statement that summarises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan; • How the Environmental Report, submissions, observations and consultations have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan; • The reasons for choosing the Plan adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and, • The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan. <p>Submission states that a copy of the SEA Statement with the above information should be sent to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process. Notes that guidance on preparing SEA Statements is available on the EPA website at the following link: https://www.epa.ie/publications/research/environmental-technologies/research-306-guidance.php</p> <p>Environmental Authorities</p> <p>Submission notes that the following environmental authorities are required to be consulted with under the SEA Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA; • Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; • Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications; • Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine; • Any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation, or local area plan. 	
23	EPA (SEA Section)	<p>Mitigation Measures</p> <p>Provide appropriate mitigation measures where the potential for likely significant effects is identified and ensure that the Plan includes clear commitments to implement the mitigation measures.</p> <p>Monitoring</p> <p>The submission provides guidance in relation to the SEA monitoring programme and provides a link to the ‘Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment Statements and Monitoring’ document.</p>	<p>The comments included in this submission have been noted. Section 9.1 of the SEA Environmental Report provides mitigation measures designed to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment that could be realised with the implementation of the CDP. Section 9.2 of the SEA Environmental Report provides the monitoring programme.</p>

Submission No.	Name/ Organization	Summary of Submission/Observation related to SEA	SEA Response
			During the development of the programme the guidance on SEA-related monitoring on the EPA website was consulted. Two new objectives were incorporated into Section 16.3.4 of the Plan, as detailed in the Chief Executive's Report on Submissions received to the Proposed Material Alterations to the KCDP 2023-2029, to ensure the implementation of the mitigation measures and the implementation of the monitoring programme set out in Section 9 of the SEA Environmental Report.
23.	EPA (SEA Section)	Future Amendments to the Plan Future amendments to the Plan should be screened for likely significant effects, using the same method of assessment as applied in the "environmental assessment" of the Plan.	Any amendments made following the Plan have been screened and where necessary, have been subject to SEA/AA in an Addendum to the SEA ER. This Addendum should be read in conjunction with the SEA ER and Plan.
23	EPA (SEA Section)	SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans The submission acknowledged the notice from the Council dated 24th March 2022 in relation to the Plan and the SEA Environmental Report. It is recommended that the Council take account of the 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans - EPA Recommendations and Resources' document and incorporate the relevant recommendations, in finalising and implementing the Plan	This comment has been noted and is welcomed. Section 1.2.3 of the SEA Environmental report specifies that the SEA methodology for the CDP is based on the guidance from the EPA, which includes the 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources' document.
23	EPA (SEA Section)	State of the Environment Report – Ireland's Environment 2020 It is submitted that the recommendations, key issues and challenges described in the State of the Environment Report Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA, 2020) should be taken into account, in preparing the Plan and SEA.	The referenced EPA report has been taken into account in the SEA report.
23	EPA (SEA Section)	SEA Statement – "Information on the Decision" Upon the adoption of the Plan the Council should prepare an SEA Statement that summarises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan; • How the Environmental Report, submissions, observations and consultations have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan; • The reasons for choosing the Plan adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and, The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan.	As the final step of the SEA process and on adoption of the CDP, the SEA Statement will be made public and will include information on how environmental considerations were integrated into the CDP. The SEA Statement will highlight the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main changes to the CDP which resulted from the SEA process. • How the Environmental Report and consultations were taken into account. • Summary of the key issues raised in consultations and in the Environmental Report indicating what action was taken in response.

Submission No.	Name/ Organization	Summary of Submission/Observation related to SEA	SEA Response
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reasons for choosing the CDP in the light of the other alternatives, identifying the other alternatives considered, commenting on their potential effects and explaining why the CDP was selected.
23	EPA (SEA Section)	<p>Environmental Authorities</p> <p>It is submitted that under the SEA Regulations, the Council should consult with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Protection Agency; Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications; Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine; and any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan. 	<p>All of the aforementioned authorities/agencies have been consulted and any comments received have been taken into account, as part of the making of the Plan and the SEA Environmental Report.</p>

Appendix C

Proposed Material Alterations to KCDP - Responses to Submissions

Table C.3 Proposed Material Alterations to KCDP- Responses to Submissions as they relate to SEA

MA No.	Submission No.	Summary of MA/Submission as they relate to SEA	Chief Executive's Response and Recommendation	SEA Response
5.59	<p>8,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,46,47,49,50,51,52,54,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,73,74,75,76,77,79,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,89,90,91,92,94,95,96,97,98,99,100,101,102,103,104,105,107,108,109,110,111,112,113,114,115,116,117,120,121,122,123,124,125,126,127,128,129,130,132,134,137,141,142,143,144,145,147,148,151,152,153,154,155,156,157,158,159,160,161,162,163,164,165,166,167,168,169,171,172,173,</p> <p>175,176,177,179,180,184,186,188,194,196,197,198,199,200,202,203,204,205,206,207,208,209,211,212,214,216,218,223,227,232,233,234,236,237,238,240,241,242,243,244,245,246,248,252,253,254,255,256,257,258,259.</p>	<p>Submission:</p> <p>Environmental Assessment</p> <p>It is submitted that the development of any road through or near the park would require a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment. It is requested that a more comprehensive SEA and AA is carried out to assess the impact on the skyline near the park and surrounding area. The road will be an eyesore in a place that people go to relax and enjoy the views.</p>	<p>Chief Executive's Response</p> <p>The concerns and issues raised in the submissions relating to PMA 5.59 are acknowledged. However, while the Council supports the future development of the N3-N4 Barnhill to Leixlip Interchange in accordance with strategic development objectives and the Spatial Planning and National Roads: Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG (2012), it should be noted that no route has been specifically identified. Furthermore, the Council is committed to protecting the amenity of St. Catherine's Park and shall not consider any road proposal through the section of the park within the ownership of KCC. The Council aims to protect the amenity of St. Catherine's Park and does not support any road proposal on park lands within the Council's ownership or jurisdiction. As such, the position of the Council has been clearly set out in the Draft KCDP 2023-2029 wherein Objective TM O70 in Section 5.5 of the Draft CDP already reads as follows: 'It is an objective of the Council to 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'. For clarity, it is proposed to include a minor amendment to PMA 5.59 to refer to TM O70.</p>	<p>Strategic Environmental Assessment has been undertaken for KCDP 2023-2019 in line with the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and best practice guidance. SEA was undertaken during the preparation of the Plan, with KCC. The objective of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is to provide a broader approach to environmental assessment of development plans, local area plans and regional spatial and economic strategies. A formal process of SEA was undertaken as an integral part of the preparation of this Plan, pursuant to the requirements of the EU SEA Directive (2001/42/EEC) and the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (as amended). This then provides a framework for environmental impact assessment (EIA) of projects when assessing planning applications for developments such as roads, as required.</p>

MA No.	Submission No.	Summary of MA/Submission as they relate to SEA	Chief Executive's Response and Recommendation	SEA Response
			<p>Chief Executive's Recommendation</p> <p>Accept Proposed Material Alteration 5.59, with the following minor amendment; Amend TM O84 as follows: Support the future development of a connection between the N3-N4 Barnhill to Leixlip Interchange having regard to TM O70* of this Plan in accordance with strategic development objectives and the Spatial Planning and National Roads: Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG (2012). *Footnote; TM O70; 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.</p>	
16.4	No submissions were received with respect to Proposed Material Alteration No. 16.4.	<p>MA:</p> <p>Add new objective to Section 16.3.4 as follows and renumber objectives accordingly:</p> <p>Implement the mitigation measures as set out in the SEA Environmental Report.</p>	<p>Chief Executive's Response</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Chief Executive's Recommendation</p> <p>Accept Proposed Material Alteration No. 16.4</p>	This MA is welcomed.
16.5	No submissions were received with respect to Proposed Material Alteration No. 16.5	<p>MA:</p> <p>Add new objective to Section 16.3.4 as follows and renumber objectives accordingly:</p> <p>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>Chief Executive's Response</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Chief Executive's Recommendation</p> <p>Accept Proposed Material Alteration No. 16.5.</p>	This MA is welcomed.

MA No.	Submission No.	Summary of MA/Submission as they relate to SEA	Chief Executive's Response and Recommendation	SEA Response
		<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 the significant environmental effects of implementation of the development plan.</p> <p>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>		
AWE 3	No. 228 welcomes the proposed amendments that recognise the impacts of the updated Climate Action Plan 2021 and other relevant national policy documents.	<p>MA:</p> <p>Add the following new section under Section 2.2.4.3 and renumber sections accordingly:</p> <p>2.2.4.3 Interim Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Statutory Plans, Renewable Energy and Climate Change 2017 It is a specific planning policy requirement of these Guidelines that, in making, reviewing, varying, or amending a development plan, or a local area plan, with policies or objectives that relate to wind energy developments, the relevant planning authority shall carry out the following:</p>	<p>Chief Executive's Response</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Chief Executive's Recommendation</p> <p>Accept Proposed Material Alteration No. AWE 3</p>	This MA is noted and welcomed.

MA No.	Submission No.	Summary of MA/Submission as they relate to SEA	Chief Executive's Response and Recommendation	SEA Response
		<p>1) Ensure that overall national policy on renewable energy as contained in documents such as the Government's 'White Paper on Energy Policy - Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Future', as well as the 'National Renewable Energy Action Plan', the 'Strategy for Renewable Energy' and the 'National Mitigation Plan', is acknowledged and documented in the relevant development plan or local area plan;</p> <p>2) Indicate how the implementation of the relevant development plan or local area plan over its effective period will contribute to realising overall national targets on renewable energy and climate change mitigation, and in particular wind energy production and the potential wind energy resource (in megawatts); and</p> <p>3) Demonstrate detailed compliance with item number (2) above in any proposal by them to introduce or vary a mandatory setback distance or distances for wind turbines from specified land uses or classes of land use into their development plan or local area plan. Such a proposal shall be subject to environmental assessment requirements, for example under the SEA and Habitats Directives.</p>		

MA No.	Submission No.	Summary of MA/Submission as they relate to SEA	Chief Executive's Response and Recommendation	SEA Response
		It shall also be a material consideration in SEA, when taking into account likely significant effects on climatic factors, in addition to other factors such as landscape and air, if a mandatory setback or variation to a mandatory setback proposed by a planning authority in a development plan or local area plan would create a significant limitation or constraint on renewable energy projects, including wind turbines, within the administrative area of the plan		
N/A	6 - EPA	<p>Submission:</p> <p>The document 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources' sets out the EPA's key recommendations for integrating environmental considerations into Local Authority land-use plans and should be considered, as appropriate and where relevant to the alterations.</p>	-	This submission has been noted and is welcomed. Section 1.2.3 of the SEA Environmental Report specifies that the SEA methodology for the KCDP is based on the guidance from the EPA, which includes the 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources' document.
N/A	247 - Environmental Health Services	<p>Submission:</p> <p>The EHS recommends that a review is carried out of the Plan to consider where other Plans and Policies of KCC can be integrated into the final Development Plan. It should be clear where this is happening.</p>	-	This submission is welcomed.

MA No.	Submission No.	Summary of MA/Submission as they relate to SEA	Chief Executive's Response and Recommendation	SEA Response
		<p>The EHS notes the report submitted by Arup and the identification of 156 MAs that might affect the SEA. It is considered that the mitigation measures set out in Chapter 9 of the SEA Environmental Report will work to avoid or reduce any potential negative environmental effects identified in this Addendum and should be complied with. Further, in accordance with environmental legislation, where the potential for significant environmental effects exist, site-specific environmental assessments will be carried out, as required. These assessments will include the incorporation of site-specific detailed mitigation measures to ameliorate the potential for significant environmental effects. To support environmental protection and public health protection in the development process KCC should ensure the timely referral of all planning applications accompanied by an EIAR to the HSE, as per their statutory responsibility under the Planning Acts. All strategic planning, for example Local Area Plans, should be referred to the HSE for any observations on the protection of public health in the development process and any opportunities for health gain.</p>		

Appendix D

Amendments to SEA ER

Table 5.4.1 in the SEA ER is now superseded by the relevant updates to Table D.1 as outlined below.

Table D.1 Amendments to SEA ER on the back of public and statutory consultation period

Site Name	Geological Interest	Location
Chair of Kildare	Precambrian – Devonian Palaeontology	Carricknearla, Conlanstown, Cannonstown
Dunmurry Hill	Precambrian – Devonian Palaeontology	Dunmurry
Hill of Allen	Cambrian-Silurian	Barnacrow
Slate Quarries	Cambrian-Silurian	Slate Quarries
Ballysax	Quaternary	Curragh
Glen Ding	Quaternary	Blessington, Athgarrett, NewtownGreat, Newtown Park
Pollardstown Fen and Springs	Quaternary	Scarlettstown, Roseberry, Rathbride, Cornelscourt
Moorhill	Quaternary	Kilcullen
The Curragh	Quaternary	St. Ledgers Bottoms
Ballykane Hill	Lower Carboniferous	Kilrainy
Carbury Castle	Lower Carboniferous	Carbury
Carrick Hill, Edenderry	Lower Carboniferous	Carrick
Liffey Oxbow	Fluvial/Lacustrine Geomorphology	Celbridge
Liffey Valley	Fluvial/Lacustrine Geomorphology	Ballymore Eustace-Kilcullen
Kilbrook Spring	Hydrogeology	Kilbrook
Louisa Bridge Springs (Cold)	Hydrogeology	Leixlip
Louisa Bridge Springs (Warm)	Hydrogeology	Leixlip
Rathcore Spring	Hydrogeology	Herbertstown
St Brigid’s Well – Japanese Gardens	Hydrogeology	Kildare
St. Patrick’s Well	Hydrogeology	Barrettstown, Naas
St. Patrick’s Well	Hydrogeology	Ardrass Lower
St. Peter’s Well	Hydrogeology	Dunmurraghill

Paragraph one and two of Section 5.4.1.2 of the SEA ER are now superseded by the following updates:

‘The predominant rock types in County Kildare are sedimentary rocks, limestone of Carboniferous age in particular. These sedimentary rocks have only been mildly affected by folding and retain many of their original sedimentary and depositional structures. There are also some minor igneous rocks and the larger Tullow Granite Pluton, which is a part of the Leinster Granite. The bedrock of County Kildare is illustrated in Figure A4 in Appendix A.

In 2005, the Council in partnership with the Irish Geological Heritage Programme of the Geological Survey of Ireland, assessed the geological heritage of County Kildare and identified the 22 of the most important sites which are worthy of protection as County Geological Sites. It is the policy of the Council to maintain the conservation value and seek the sustainable management of the county's geological heritage resource.

The locations of the 22 County Geological Heritage Sites within County Kildare are mapped on Figure A5 in Appendix A and listed in Table 5.4.1.'

The amendments included in this Appendix will not result in any change to the original SEA Environmental Report impact assessment and thus, do not necessitate any further mitigation or monitoring measures.