

Kildare County Council

**Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the
Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-
2019**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment
Statement**

Ref/1

Issue | 31 October 2018

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client.

It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

Job number 257722-00

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Contents

	Page
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Purpose of the SEA Statement	1
1.2 Statement of the SEA Process for the Proposed Amendment to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019	2
2 SEA Methodology	4
2.1 Introduction	4
2.2 Screening	5
2.3 Scoping	6
2.4 Baseline	6
2.5 Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Amendment	7
2.6 Consideration of Alternatives	8
2.7 Flood Risk	8
2.8 Appropriate Assessment	8
2.9 Consultations	8
2.10 Technical Difficulties Encountered	8
3 Scoping	9
3.1 Scoping Process	9
3.2 Outcomes of Scoping	10
4 Environmental Assessment	11
4.1 Establishment of the Baseline	11
4.2 Interactions and Inter-Relationships	11
4.3 Objectives, Indicators and Targets	12
4.4 Assessment Stage 1 – Initial Draft Proposed Amendment	14
4.5 Assessment Stage 2 – Final Draft Proposed Amendment	14
4.6 Assessment Stage 3 – Material Alterations	15
4.7 Assessment Stage 4 – Elected Members	15
4.8 Principal Environmental Impacts	15
5 Alternatives	18
5.1 Introduction	18
5.2 Alternative Considered	18
5.3 Outcomes	19
6 SEA Monitoring	20
7 Final Appraisal	26
7.1 Team Integration	26
7.2 Assessment of Effectiveness	26

7.3 Concluding Assessment

26

Appendices

Appendix A

Appraisal Matrix

Appendix B

Scoping Submissions

Appendix C

Summary of Submissions on the Draft SEA Environmental Report

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the SEA Statement

This Statement forms part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Proposed Amendment No. 1 of the Maynooth Local Area Plan (LAP) 2013-2019 ('Proposed Amendment'). SEA is a systematic, on-going process for evaluating (at the earliest possible stage) the quality 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 Proposed Amendment. The four key requirements of this SEA statement are to highlight:

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

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

- An outline of the methodology for undertaking an SEA;
- Screening
- 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 the 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.

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.

This SEA Statement will accompany the adopted Proposed Amendment No.1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019 and will be made available to the public.

1.2 Statement of the SEA Process for the Proposed Amendment to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019

The Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019 (the LAP), as amended by the Proposed Amendment No. 1, is a statutory document containing guidelines as to how the town and environment should develop over that plan period. The LAP provides the overall strategy for the proposed planning and sustainable development within the plan area in the context of Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (CDP) and Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022. It represents the main public statements of planning policies and objectives for the plan area.

The policies and objectives are critical in determining the appropriate location and form of different types of development as the LAP is the primary statutory land use policy framework against which planning applications are assessed. The objectives of the LAP are also used by Kildare County Council to guide their activities and to indicate priority areas for action and investment by the Council such as focusing on attracting employment into the town or enhancing the town as a centre for 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, the LAP also includes a Core Strategy that sets out a medium to longer term quantitatively targets for the plan area. The Core Strategy demonstrates that the LAP and its objectives are consistent with the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area. The Core Strategy has been guided by the Core Strategy contained in the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2022 (CDP) which 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.

The Proposed Amendment No.1 was developed to:

- (i) to further align the Maynooth LAP with the ‘Core Strategy’ of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023;
- (ii) To maximise the benefit accruing from current funding and resource opportunities under Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF), and;
- (iii) To align the land use zoning matrix within the Maynooth Local Area Plan with other adopted local area plans within County Kildare and the Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023.

The LAP must be consistent with the CDP. The Maynooth LAP 2013 - 2019 was adopted in August 2013 and had been prepared to align with the CDP adopted at that time (CDP 2011 – 2017). During the lifetime of the LAP, the CDP was updated for the 2017 - 2023 period, and with it the Core Strategy which incorporated preliminary population and household figures from Census 2016 (CSO July 2016). This CDP was adopted in February 2017. Therefore, the current LAP 2013-2019 ceases to be aligned with the current CDP 2017 - 2023 and Core Strategy and is amended for this reason.

A broad SEA was carried out using an objectives-led approach to assess likely significant impacts of the Proposed Amendment. 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 Biodiversity, Population and Human Health, Land and Soils, Water (Hydrology and Hydrogeology), Air, Noise and Climate factors, Cultural Heritage (Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage), Landscape and Visual, and Material Assets.

2 SEA Methodology

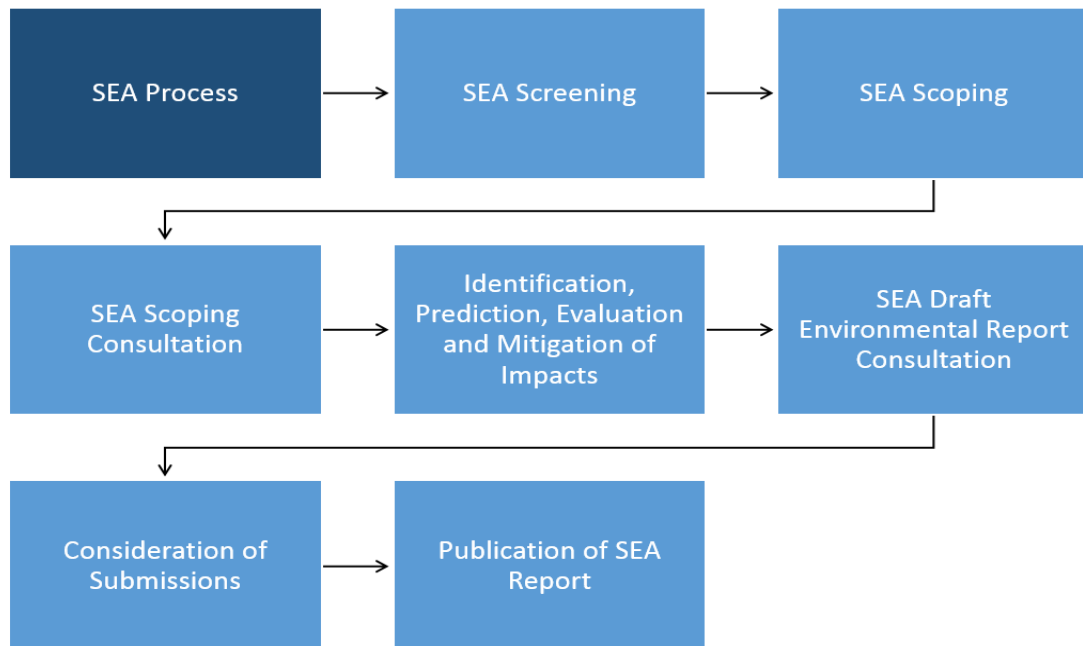
2.1 Introduction

The objective of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive is ‘*to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans ... with a view to promoting sustainable development*’ (Article 1 SEA Directive). It is a systematic, on-going process for evaluating, at the earliest possible stage, the environmental quality and consequences of implementing certain plans and programmes on the environment.

This section describes how the SEA has been undertaken for the Proposed Amendment No.1 in accordance with the legislative requirements set out in the following Regulations:

- European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations (S.I. No. 435 of 2004) as amended by European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations (S.I. No. 200 of 2011); and
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations (S.I. No. 436 of 2004) as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations (S.I. No. 201 of 2011).

The SEA methodology is based on legislative requirements and relevant Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance and will ensure compliance with the SEA Directive and associated legislation. The EPA’s SEA Pack (Version March 2018) was also used as a source of information during the scoping process. The key stages outlined in **Figure 1: Key Stages of the SEA Process** were identified and are discussed in the following sections.

Figure 1: Key Stages of the SEA Process

2.2 Screening

The screening process allows Kildare County Council to identify at the earliest possible opportunity whether the SEA process applies to a LAP amendment. Under the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC), the SEA process known as Strategic Environmental Assessment must be applied to plans and programmes prepared by public sector bodies.

Under Article 14A of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004, as amended, (S.I. No. 436 of 2004 and S.I. No. 201 of 2011), a determination of need for an environmental assessment (strategic environmental assessment) for a LAP or an amendment to a LAP is considered under sub-article (1) and (2):

(1) This article applied to a local area plan or an amendment to a local area plan for an area the population or the target population of which is less than 5,000 persons or where the area covered by the local area plan is less than 50 square kilometres.

According to the Census 2016 data for urban settlement (i.e. population of 1,500 persons or more), the population of the Maynooth was recorded as 14,585. As the target population is greater than 5,000 persons a SEA is mandatory.

2.2.1 Screening for Environmental Report

The Proposed Amendment No.1 to the Maynooth LAP was screened for the need for an Environmental Report. This screening process was documented in the SEA Scoping Report.

The SEA screening process determined under Article 14B (d) of the Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004), as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011, and the criteria set out in Schedule 2A of S.I. No. 436 of 2004. Under the criteria set out in Schedule 2A, it was determined that the implementation of the Proposed Amendment would likely have significant effects on the environment and therefore an Environmental Report is required.

2.3 Scoping

The scoping phase of the SEA is a key part of the assessment process as it established the likely extent (geographic, temporal and thematic) of the assessment, the range of environmental issues to be covered and the level of detail the assessment will investigate.

The Scoping Process allows input from the environmental authorities and relevant stakeholders to be incorporated.

Essentially any issues/comments submitted as part of the scoping process will provide greater focus on the development of aspects of the Proposed Amendment.

The issues addressed during the scoping process are as follows:

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

A Scoping Report was prepared as part of this SEA on behalf of Kildare County Council which asked key questions of environmental authorities and key stakeholders. The responses received were addressed in the preparation of the Environmental Report.

The Proposed Amendment and SEA Scoping Report was sent to the environmental authorities and stakeholders for consultation specified in Article 13A(4) of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004, as amended (S.I. No. 436 of 2004). These included the Environmental Protection Agency Ireland (EPA) and Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI).

2.4 Baseline

Gathering relevant information that describes the current environment within the plan area is an integral part of the SEA process.

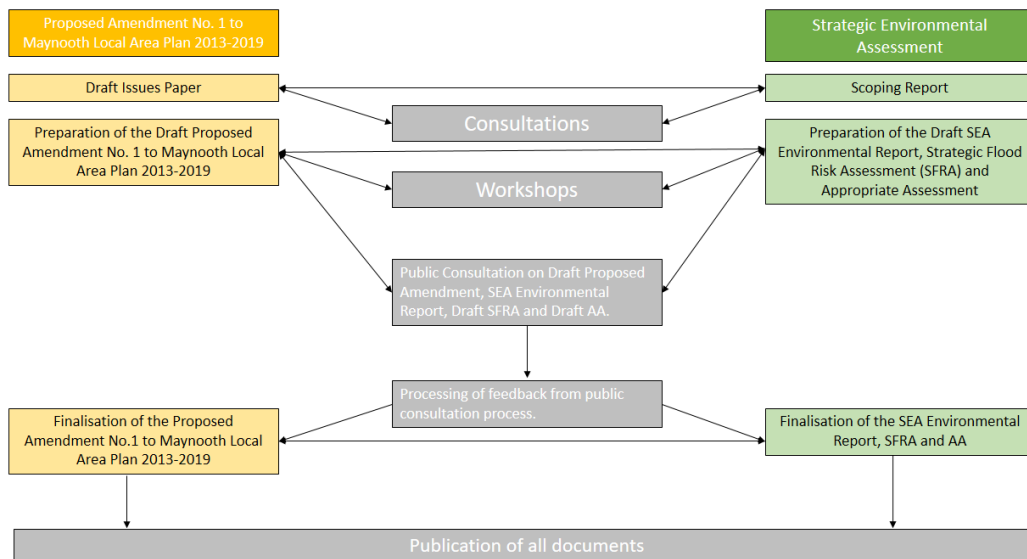
The SEA Directive requires that certain information on the existing environment is presented to help assess the implementation of the Proposed Amendment, as well as helping establish how the environment would change if the Proposed Amendment is not implemented.

Baseline information was collated from readily available sources, and Geographical Information System (GIS) was used to graphically present and analyse relevant information.

2.5 Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Amendment

The environmental assessment process ran in parallel to the development and preparation of the Proposed Amendment. Interaction between the Proposed Amendment and the SEA process is depicted in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2: Interaction between the Proposed Amendment No.1 and SEA.



The environmental assessment process was undertaken in accordance with best practice SEA principals and guidance. This included desk reviews of all the available geographical information system (GIS) based data, specialist investigation into the likely impacts associated with the Proposed Amendment 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 Proposed Amendment. The matrix lead assessment basis provided a holistic, integrated and iterative approach to the formation of the policies and objectives in the Proposed Amendment.

The final appraisal matrix is outlined in **Appendix A**. 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 be assessed in order to demonstrate how the preferred strategy performs against 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 examined in more detail in Section 5.

2.7 Flood Risk

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was prepared on behalf of Kildare County Council to provide information on the areas of flood risk and enable informed strategic land use planning decisions. This report is publicly available.

2.8 Appropriate Assessment

Stage 1 AA (Screening) was undertaken by Kildare County Council to identify if the potential for effects of implementing the Proposed Amendment on the conservation status of designated Natura 2000 sites within the zone of influence of the plan (or project). It was determined as part of this screening that there was no potential for significant effects and/or in-combination effects on European sites as a result of implementing the Proposed Amendment.

2.9 Consultations

Two phases of consultation were carried out during the Scoping process.

The Proposed Amendment and SEA Scoping Report was sent to the environmental authorities and stakeholders for consultation in January and February 2018, as specified in Article 13A(4) of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004, as amended (S.I. No. 436 of 2004). Submissions were made by the Environmental Protection Agency Ireland (EPA) and Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), regarding the Scoping Report.

A second statutory consultation process took place during June and July 2018 to gather feedback on the Proposed Amendment. A copy of Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019, together with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report, the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, the Report for Appropriate Assessment Screening and the Infrastructural Assessment, were put on public display from 18 June to 30 July 2018.

The content of submissions and comments received during each consultation period were considered by the team and amendments were made in response to those consultation inputs where considered appropriate.

2.10 Technical Difficulties Encountered

No significant technical difficulties were encountered during the SEA process and preparation of the aforementioned reports.

3 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 2018 and outlined that the SEA would assess the following aspects:

- Biodiversity (including Flora and Fauna);
- Population and Human Health;
- Land and Soils
- Hydrology and Hydrogeology;
- Air, Noise and Climate Factors;
- Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage;
- Landscape and Visual; 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 the Proposed Amendment.

This information was then used to set out a series of draft 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 the Proposed Amendment 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 the Proposed Amendment. The issues addressed as part of the Scoping Report were:

- The key elements of the Proposed Amendments to be assessed;
- The key environmental issues to be assessed;
- Research of relevant international, national and local plans, objectives and environmental standards that may influence or impact on the Proposed Amendment;
- Development of draft environmental objectives, indicators and targets to allow the evaluation of impacts and

- Identification of reasonable alternative means of achieving the strategic goals of the Proposed Amendment.

Two submissions were received in response to the scoping report, one from the EPA and one from Inland Fisheries Ireland. All comments, observations and submissions contained therein were considered and incorporated into the assessment process. A copy of the responses received are available in **Appendix B**.

3.2 Outcomes of Scoping

Once scoping was completed, the project team (including the SEA, AA, SFRA teams and Kildare County Council) worked together to identify and resolve issues and mitigate potential impacts.

The matrix lead assessment basis of the SEA provided a holistic, integrated and iterative approach to the development of the policies in the Proposed Amendment. To this effect, the two processes were seamless and facilitated necessary amendments to accommodate the mitigation of environmental impacts.

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 Proposed Amendment. The environmental assessment was undertaken by way of the appraisal matrix and recorded in the Draft SEA Environmental Report, which went out for consultation in June and July 2018 seeking feedback from stakeholders.

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

Advice was provided to Kildare County Council regarding the options for mitigation that could be incorporated to optimise benefits and lessen adverse environmental impacts arising from the Proposed Amendment.

The final appraisal matrix is outlined in **Appendix A**.

4.1 Establishment of the Baseline

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

The establishment of the baseline was cognisant of the local nature of the lands within the boundary of lands of the Proposed Amendment and considered existing conditions within the Proposed Amendment area as well as pressures, inter-relationships and factors of relevance for the following environmental aspects:

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

4.2 Interactions and Inter-Relationships

In accordance with the SEA Directive, the inter-relationship between environmental aspects must be taken into account. The interaction and inter-

relationships of relevance for the environmental baseline aspects was an important consideration for the environmental assessment.

Figure 3: Key Interrelationships between environmental topics shows the identifiable inter-relationships that were taken into account during the environmental assessment. It is noted that all environmental aspects interact with each other to some extent, however only significant relationships were considered (where direct relationships are pink and indirect relationships are blue).

Figure 3: Key Interrelationships between environmental topics.

	Biodiversity	Population & Human Health	Soils and Geology	Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Air, Noise & Climate	Heritage*	Landscape & Visual	Material Assets
Biodiversity		Blue	Red	Red	Blue	Blue	Blue	Red
Population & Human Health	Blue		Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Soils & Geology	Red	Red		Red	Red	Blue	Red	Red
Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Red	Red	Red		Blue	Blue	Blue	Red
Air, Noise and Climate	Blue	Red	Red	Red		Blue	Blue	Red
Heritage	Blue	Red	Blue	Blue	Blue		Red	Blue
Landscape & Visual	Blue	Red	Red	Red	Red	Blue		Red
Material Assets	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	

* Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

4.3 Objectives, Indicators and Targets

The policies and recommendations in the Proposed Amendment 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 Proposed Amendment (and LAP) to quantify the level of impact

that the Proposed Amendment may have on the environment. This enables us to measure whether Kildare County Council were successful in promoting the sustainable development of the plan area.

The environmental objectives are as follows:

Biodiversity

To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly national and EU designated sites and protected species.

Population and Human Health

Improve people's quality of life based on high-quality residential, working and recreational environments and on sustainable travel patterns.

Soils and Geology

Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource.

Ensure the sustainable use and re-use of soils.

Hydrology and Hydrogeology

Improve/maintain and protect water quality and the management of watercourses to comply with the standards of the Water Framework Directive and incorporate the objectives of the Floods Directive into sustainable planning and development.

Air, Noise & Climate

Maintain and promote continuing environmental improvement, in particular a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and an improvement in air (including noise emissions). Avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air and noise.

Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

Promote the protection and conservation of the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage

Landscape and Visual

Conserve and enhance valued natural and historic landscapes and features within them.

Material Assets

Make best use of existing infrastructure, promote the sustainable development of new infrastructure and promote the sustainable efficient use of resources.

4.4 Assessment Stage 1 – Initial Draft Proposed Amendment

This first stage of assessment comprised the first draft of the appraisal matrix that was completed by the SEA team based on the Initial Draft of the Proposed Amendment and provided to Kildare County Council for their consideration.

This objectives-led assessment compared the likely impacts of each policy and objective in the Proposed Amendment against the strategic environmental objectives (as described in Section 4.3) with respect to the baseline information. Particular reference was made to the potential for cumulative effects in association with other relevant plans and programmes within Kildare and the Greater Dublin Area.

The assessment process categorised environmental impacts using the ratings outlined in **Table 1**, which is based on the impact assessment criteria defined by the EPA for environmental impact assessment.

Table 1: Impact Ratings

Significance of Impact	
	Neutral effects
	Positive effects
	Negative/adverse effects
	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 Kildare County Council and where appropriate incorporated into the Draft Proposed Amendment.

4.5 Assessment Stage 2 – Final Draft Proposed Amendment

The next stage of the assessment comprised the revision of the appraisal matrix to take on board submissions received from Kildare County Council 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 Draft Proposed Amendment that went out for public consultation in June 2018.

The final matrix is outlined in **Appendix A**.

4.5.1 Consultation

As outlined in Section 2.9, the Draft Proposed Amendment and SEA Draft Environmental Report was subject to a period of statutory consultation to gather feedback in accordance with legislative requirements.

A copy of Proposed Amendment No.1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019, together with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report, the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, the Report for Appropriate Assessment Screening and the Infrastructural Assessment were put on public display from 18 June to 30 July 2018.

The documents were sent to statutory stakeholders and made available on the Kildare County Council website, as well as hardcopies, which were made available from the Maynooth Branch Library and Maynooth Municipal District Office.

Upon completion of the consultation period, Kildare County Council collated and recorded each of the public submissions. A submission number was assigned to each submission. Where a number of people or parties made the same submission (e.g. a group of residents from the same estate) these submissions were addressed by one response. This method of collating the submissions resulted in 13 No. common submissions, which were each addressed.

Submissions were made to Kildare County Council from the following environmental authorities: the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Environmental Protection Agency. The details of all submissions received on the SEA Draft Environmental Report are provided in **Appendix C**.

4.6 Assessment Stage 3 – Material Alterations

In accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, following review of the manager's report (Chief Executive's report), the members of the planning authority were not of the view that any proposed alteration to the Proposed Amendment is not a material alteration.

4.7 Assessment Stage 4 – Elected Members

Under Section 20(3)(e) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, a special meeting of the Maynooth Municipal District was held on 9 October 2018. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the draft Proposed Amendment No.1 of the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019 (the Proposed Amendment) and the Chief Executive's Report on Submissions and Observations received. The meeting concluded with the Proposed Amendment being adopted by the elected members. A summary of the special meeting was recorded and is available for view on the Kildare County Council website³.

4.8 Principal Environmental Impacts

The principal findings of the assessment of environmental impacts are summarised in the following sections. It should be noted that the assessment

³<http://www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Planning/DevelopmentPlans/LocalAreaPlans/MaynoothLAP2013-2019/MaynoothLocalAreaPlanAmendmentNo1/Response%20to%20Motion%20181004.pdf>

considers the predicted residual (i.e. mitigated) impact on each environmental topic.

4.8.1 Population and Human Health

The impacts on population and human health are generally positive where the Proposed Amendment provides for additional housing in the future. Specific objectives regarding access and facilities for vulnerable road users i.e. pedestrians and cyclists, will also have a positive impact on the general population.

4.8.2 Biodiversity

The Proposed Amendment will generally have a negative effect on the environment where previously unzoned greenfield lands will be zoned or where zoned, greenfield lands will undergo a change of zoning from agriculture to residential development. Where the amendments do not result in development of undeveloped, greenfield land or relate to works on existing development, the impact is considered to be neutral to the biodiversity.

4.8.3 Hydrology and Hydrogeology

In general, the Proposed Amendment is considered to have a negative impact on the hydrology and hydrogeology where there will be a change in land use that facilitates development and therefore such associated activities may potentially have a negative impact on the local hydrology and hydrogeology. Such development may potentially alter the local hydrology or hydrogeology and will increase the overall hard surface area.

Where the amendments do not result in development of undeveloped, greenfield land or relate to works on existing development, the impact is considered to be neutral on the hydrology and hydrogeology.

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been carried out as part of this SEA. The findings of the SFRA demonstrates that the risk of fluvial, pluvial and groundwater flooding was deemed to be low.

4.8.4 Land and Soils

In general, there is considered to be a negative impact on the land and soils within the boundary of the Proposed Amendment where there will be a change in land use that facilitates development of that previously undeveloped, greenfield land.

Where the amendments do not result in development of undeveloped, greenfield land or relate to works on existing development, the impact is considered to be neutral on soils and geology.

4.8.5 Air, Noise and Climate

Negative impacts on air, noise and climate exist where there will be a change in land use, which facilitates development. Such development may result in increased local emissions (noise and air emissions from traffic) and as a result of associated infrastructure, for example the proposed residential development in Railpark, east of Maynooth town centre.

Where the amendments do not result in development of undeveloped, greenfield land or relate to works on existing development, the impact is considered to be neutral on air, noise and climate.

4.8.6 Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

Negative impacts exist where there will be a change in land use that facilitates development. Such development will have a potentially negative impact on the archaeological heritage of the area in particular where development is being proposed on undeveloped, greenfield land that may potentially contain unknown archaeological heritage.

Where the amendments do not result in development of undeveloped, greenfield land or relate to works on existing development, the impact is considered to be neutral on archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage.

4.8.7 Landscape and Visual

Negative impacts exist where there will be a change in land use that facilitates development. Such development will have a potentially negative impact on the landscape and visual where development occurs in areas of relatively limited development, for example agricultural lands.

Where the amendments do not result in development of undeveloped, greenfield land or relate to works on or near existing development, the impact is considered to be neutral on the local landscape and visual aspects of the affected lands.

4.8.8 Material Assets

Negative impacts exist where there will be a change in land use that facilitates development. Such development will have a potentially negative impact on the material assets where development will place additional demand on water supply, waste management facilities/resources or wastewater treatment capacity.

Where the amendments do not result in development or require additional material assets, the impact is considered to be neutral.

5 Alternatives

5.1 Introduction

Under the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC), the consideration of alternatives is a requirement. Article 5(1)⁴ states that:

“Where an environmental assessment is required under Article 3(1), an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated.”

5.2 Alternative Considered

Section 7 of the SEA Environmental Report describes the alternatives considered in preparation of the Proposed Amendment. The two alternatives are primarily related to alternative zoning of lands in the eastern lands of the Maynooth LAP.

5.2.1 Scenario 1

Scenario 1 seeks to address the increased housing unit target set out in the Kildare CDP 2017-2023, by amending zoning to lands in the eastern part of the Maynooth LAP, including lands along the eastern LAP boundary, from ‘I – Agriculture’ to ‘C – New Residential’, as part of the proposed Railpark South Eastern Quadrant. This will have a positive impact on population and human health by providing additional housing.

Also, lands that were zoned as ‘I – Agriculture’ under the existing LAP, and have existing residential dwellings are proposed to have zoning amended to ‘C – New Residential’.

Scenario 1 includes the amendment lands (2.9ha) zoned for ‘H4 – Office’ to ‘C – New Residential’. This is common to both Scenario 1 and Scenario 2.

5.2.2 Scenario 2

Scenario 2, like Scenario 1, also seeks to address the increased housing unit target set out in the Kildare CDP 2017 – 2023, by amending zoning to lands in the eastern part of the Maynooth LAP, including lands along the eastern LAP boundary, from ‘I – Agriculture’ to ‘C – New Residential’, as part of the proposed Railpark South Eastern Quadrant. However, the overall area (hectares) of greenfield land proposed to have the zoning amended under the Railpark South East Quadrant is less than Scenario 1. This will have an overall positive impact on population and human health by providing additional housing.

⁴ Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, EC 2001.

Also, lands that were zoned as 'I – Agriculture' and have existing residential dwellings are proposed to have zoning amended to 'B – Existing Residential & Infill'. This will have a neutral impact on the environment as there is existing development.

Scenario 2 includes the amendment lands (2.9ha) zoned for 'H4 – Office' to 'C – New Residential'. This is common to both Scenario 1 and Scenario 2.

5.3 Outcomes

The preferred development scenario for the Proposed Amendment to the Maynooth LAP 2013-2019, is Scenario 2 from an environmental perspective.

In Scenario 2, the area (hectares) of greenfield, 'I – Agriculture' zoned land that is proposed to be amended as 'C – New Residential' zoned land is less (29.6 ha) than what is proposed for Scenario 1 (55.7ha). This will give rise to less greenfield land being developed under the lifetime of the LAP and thus have less of a negative impact on the environment.

The rezoning of lands from 'I – Agriculture' to 'B – Existing Residential & Infill' in Scenario 2 is more suitable to the current use of the lands; under Scenario 1 these lands are rezoned 'C- New Residential'.

Scenario 1 will have a greater positive impact on population and human health as it would likely facilitate the building of a greater number of residential houses than Scenario 2. Scenario 2 prioritises amending zoning for lands that are closest to Maynooth town centre.

6 SEA 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 Proposed Amendment.

The SEA carried out has ensured that any potential significant environmental impacts have been identified and given due consideration. Refer to **Table 2** below.

Kildare County Council is responsible for collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of preliminary and final monitoring evaluation reports, the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action.

Table 2: Monitoring programme.

Environmental Category	Target	Indicators	Data Sources, Responsibility, and Frequency
Biodiversity including Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve protection for protected sites and species. ● Improve protection for important wildlife sites, particularly protection of ecological linkages through the provision of green infrastructure. ● Improve access for the appreciation and promotion of wildlife. ● Preferably, new site development in non-sensitive locations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number and extent of Protected Sites. ● Areas actively managed for conservation. ● Population and range of Protected Species. ● Achievement of the Objectives of Biodiversity Plans. 	<p>Sources: Kildare County Council, National Parks and Wildlife Services, IFI and EPA.</p> <p>Responsibility: Kildare County Council</p> <p>Frequency: Align with monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing Kildare County Development Plan.</p>
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduce population exposure to high levels of noise, vibration and air pollution. ● Increase modal shift to public transport. ● Co-ordination of land use and transportation policies. ● Reduction in journey to work (time/distance). ● Improve access to recreation opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Census population data. ● Rates of unemployment per area. ● % increase in housing (number and type). ● % change of commuter transport distances / times / range of public transport utilised. ● % of commuters using public transport. ● % change in education levels. 	<p>Sources: Kildare County Council and Central Statistics Office.</p> <p>Responsibility: Kildare County Council</p> <p>Frequency: Align with monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing Kildare County Development Plan.</p>

Environmental Category	Target	Indicators	Data Sources, Responsibility, and Frequency
Soils and Geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain the quality of soils. ● Safeguard strategic mineral reserves. ● Re-use of brownfield lands, rather than developing greenfield lands. ● Minimise the consumption of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rates of re-use / recycling of construction waste. ● Rates of quarrying. ● Rates of brownfield site and contaminated land reuse and development. ● Rates of greenfield development. 	<p>Sources: Kildare County Council and Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p>Responsibility: Kildare County Council</p> <p>Frequency: Align with monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing Kildare County Development Plan.</p>
Hydrology and Hydrogeology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve water quality in rivers, lakes, canals and groundwater. ● Protection of catchments/basins. ● Management of zones vulnerable to flooding. ● Promote sustainable drainage practices to improve water quality and flow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compliance of potable water sources to water quality regulations. ● Compliance of surface waters with national and international standards. ● Potable and wastewater treatment capacities versus population. ● % of wastewater requiring treatment. ● Achievement of the Objectives of the River Basin Management Plans. ● Amount of new developments within flood plains. ● Annual costs of damage related to flood events. 	<p>Sources: Kildare County Council, Environmental Protection Agency, Irish Water, Waterways Ireland and Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>Responsibility: Kildare County Council</p> <p>Frequency: Align with monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing Kildare County Development Plan.</p>

Environmental Category	Target	Indicators	Data Sources, Responsibility, and Frequency
Air, Noise and Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduce levels of air pollution including air and noise emissions. ● Consideration of noise exposure when zoning land for new developments. ● Minimise emissions of greenhouse gases. ● Reduce waste of energy, and maximise use of renewable energy sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Traffic, Transport and Vehicular survey data. ● National and region specific emission data. ● Compliance with national standards. ● Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. ● Compliance of emission at licensed facilities. ● Number of energy / renewable energy production facilities. ● % of dwellings / businesses using renewable energies. ● Rates of energy / renewable energy consumption. 	<p>Sources: Kildare County Council, Environmental Protection Agency, Central Statistics Office and Sustainable Energy Association Ireland.</p> <p>Responsibility: Kildare County Council</p> <p>Frequency: Align with monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing Kildare County Development.</p>

Environmental Category	Target	Indicators	Data Sources, Responsibility, and Frequency
Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enhance access to sites of heritage interest ● Regeneration of derelict and underutilised heritage sites. ● Improve appearance of areas with particular townscape character. ● Improve protection for protected archaeological sites and monuments and their settings, protected structures and conservation areas and areas of archaeological potential. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Updating of inventories to include new sites / features. ● Achieving the objectives of development plans regarding heritage protection. ● Range and extent of areas of heritage potential. ● Range and extent of areas of special planning controls. 	<p>Sources: Kildare County Council and Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>Responsibility: Kildare County Council</p> <p>Frequency: Align with monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing Kildare County Development.</p>
Landscape and Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve protection for landscapes of recognised quality. ● Maintain clear urban/rural distinctions. ● Enhance provision of, and access to, green space in urban areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Range and extent of Amenity Landscapes. ● Rates of development within designated landscapes. ● Rates of urban expansion. ● Rates of deforestation. ● Rates of agricultural land re-development likely to impact landscape. ● % change of land use from rural to urban. 	<p>Sources: Kildare County Council and Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government..</p> <p>Responsibility: Kildare County Council</p> <p>Frequency: Align with monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing Kildare County Development Plan.</p>

Environmental Category	Target	Indicators	Data Sources, Responsibility, and Frequency
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve availability and accessibility of commercially provided facilities and public services. ● Increase local employment opportunities. ● Improve efficiencies of transport, energy and communication infrastructure. ● Reduce the generation of waste and adopt a sustainable approach to waste management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Location / level of infrastructure. ● Achievement of development plan objectives. ● Rates of deprivation. ● Rate of waste disposal to landfill statistics. ● Range and extent of recycling facilities and services. ● Rates of recycling. 	<p>Sources: Kildare County Council, Central Statistics Office, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p>Responsibility: Kildare County Council</p> <p>Frequency: Align with monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing Kildare County Development Plan.</p>

7 Final Appraisal

7.1 Team Integration

The SEA involved interaction with Kildare County Council as well as those undertaking the SFRA and AA. The approach to interaction was based upon clear communication, transparent research, planning and an iterative assessment processes from inception to completion.

The SEA team and Kildare County Council regularly communicated in relation to developing the methodology for the SEA, alternatives to be considered in the SEA, the objectives, targets and indicators, mitigation measures and monitoring strategies to be implemented.

Close involvement of relevant team members in all stages of the project ensured integration of the SEA, SFRA, AA and Development Plan processes and the optimisation of outcomes associated with the Proposed Amendment.

7.2 Assessment of Effectiveness

The iterative assessment process enabled the development of the SEA in parallel to the Proposed Amendment. Consequently, policies and recommendations in the Proposed Amendment could be reworded and amended where necessary to accommodate the mitigation of impacts and optimisation of outcomes.

The Environmental Report identified the range of potential positive and negative impacts arising from the implementation of the Proposed Amendments. Some potential negative impacts remain; however, a range of mitigation measures have been identified (Refer to Section 10 of the Environmental Report) to lessen negative impacts.

Ultimately, the Proposed Amendment advocates for environmentally sustainable development within the plan area and is as positive for the environment as feasibly possible. The objectives and policies in the Proposed Amendment and the existing Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019, are cognisant of economic and social characteristics and the iterative development of the plan has optimised environmental outcomes where practicable.

7.3 Concluding Assessment

The adopted Proposed Amendment is considered the fairest plan in terms of equitable and sustainable development within the plan area. The chosen scenario was considered more appropriate is addressing the need to re-zone lands to facilitate projected growth in a sustainable, equitable manner.

The matrix lead assessment basis of the SEA provided a holistic, integrated and iterative approach to the formation of the objectives and policies for the Proposed

Amendment. The iterative process ensured that policies and recommendations considered were adjusted to mitigate environmental impacts.

Mitigation seeks to ensure the sustainable and appropriate development of Maynooth without compromising the integrity of the natural and built environment.

All new developments within the Proposed Amendment lands that are subject to Environmental Impact Assessment will need to consider the range of environmental objectives, indicators and targets and associated environmental mitigation measures identified as part of the Proposed Amendment and incorporate them into the project specific mitigation measures.

As outlined in Section 6, a monitoring programme has been developed to track progress towards achieving strategic environmental objectives and reaching targets, enabling positive and negative impacts on the environment to be measured. The SEA carried out has ensured that any potential significant environmental impacts have been identified and given due consideration.

Kildare County Council is responsible for collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of preliminary and final monitoring evaluation reports, the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action.

Appendix A

Appraisal Matrix

A1 Appraisal Matrix

Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019	SEA Environmental Objectives							Comments
	Biodiversity	Population & Human Health	Soils and Geology	Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Air, Noise & Climate	Heritage	Landscape & Visual	
(i) Amend the Local Area Plan boundary to the east of the town on Map No.'s 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6;								Increasing the zoning footprint of the LAP area does not mean increased development overall. The zoning does not necessarily entail development and the range of uses or permitted development on this land will be limited at most therefore a neutral impact assigned to all of the environmental objectives.

Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019		SEA Environmental Objectives							Comments	
		Biodiversity	Population & Human Health	Soils and Geology	Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Air, Noise & Climate	Heritage	Landscape & Visual		Material Assets
(ii) Amend zoning on Map No. 6:										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. to the east of the Local Area Plan from ‘H4: Office’ to ‘C: New Residential’ (2.9ha); b. to the south east of the Local Area Plan from ‘I: Agricultural’ to ‘C: New Residential’ (29.6ha); c. to the south east of the Local Area Plan from ‘I Agricultural ‘ to ‘B Existing Residential and Infill’; and d. for the additional lands within the revised LAP boundary to be zoned as ‘I: Agricultural’ (13ha). 										
a.	To the east of the Local Area Plan from ‘H4: Office’ to ‘C: New Residential’ (2.9ha).									The zoning of lands previously for office to new residential may have a positive impact on population and human health with the provision of housing. Under Development is part of both zoning categories, therefore the impact is likely to be neutral on the environment.

Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019		SEA Environmental Objectives							Comments
		Biodiversity	Population & Human Health	Soils and Geology	Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Air, Noise & Climate	Heritage	Landscape & Visual	
b	To the south east of the Local Area Plan from 'I: Agricultural' to 'C: New Residential' (29.6ha).								<p>The zoning of previously Agriculture-zoned land for residential development may have a negative impact on the environment, as it will involve development on greenfield land. Refer to Table 21 for mitigation measures.</p> <p>The zoning of agricultural land to new residential may however have a positive impact on population and human health through the provision of additional housing. However, the change in zoning is considered a negative impact on the other environmental objectives as it will result in development of greenfield land.</p>

Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019		SEA Environmental Objectives							Comments	
		Biodiversity	Population & Human Health	Soils and Geology	Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Air, Noise & Climate	Heritage	Landscape & Visual		Material Assets
c.	For the east of the Local Area Plan from 'I: Agriculture' to 'B: Existing Residential & Infill'.									This zoning amendment refers to lands that were previously zoned as Agriculture but contain residential units as well as structures associated with agricultural activities. Therefore, while the zoning will change, the land is already developed and used for residential development and land use is unlikely to change significantly under this zoning objective. A neutral impact on the environment is envisaged.
d.	For the additional lands within the revised LAP boundary to be zoned as 'I: Agricultural' (13ha).									The zoning of previously unzoned lands to I - Agriculture zoning is in keeping with the current management of these lands. Zoning land for Agriculture use may potential increase the intensity of land use however given the current land use and the limit to the range of uses and development permitted under this zoning objective, this zoning amendment is considered to have a neutral impact on the environment.

Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019		SEA Environmental Objectives							Comments		
		Biodiversity	Population & Human Health	Soils and Geology	Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Air, Noise & Climate	Heritage	Landscape & Visual		Material Assets	
(iii)	Insert section 7.1.4: ‘Key Development Area: Railpark’ relating to the future strategy for the development of these lands.									This assessment assumes that the Railpark development will proceed regardless strategy for development and therefore a neutral impact on environmental objectives other than Population and Human Health. The strategy focuses on creating a ‘high quality urban expansion of the town’ that would likely benefit the local population.	
(iv)	Amend / Add Roads Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. TRO 2(c): TRO 2 To facilitate the future construction of the following roads and in the interim protect their routes from development: (c) Between the Celbridge Road (B) and the Leixlip Road (E)(i) or (E)(ii). b. TRO 3(j): TRO 3: To carry out the following road realignments and improvements at: (j) Along the Leixlip Road, if required by the development of the Maynooth Eastern Relief Road [MERR]. c. TRO 8: To support vulnerable road user permeability between new and existing residential lands around the town and the town centre, Maynooth University and the schools around Maynooth. 										
a.	TRO 2(c): TRO 2 To facilitate the future construction of the following roads and in the										TRO 2(c) was included and assessed in the existing Maynooth LAP 2019-2013. The purpose of the

Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019		SEA Environmental Objectives							Comments	
		Biodiversity	Population & Human Health	Soils and Geology	Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Air, Noise & Climate	Heritage	Landscape & Visual		Material Assets
	interim protect their routes from development: (c) Between the Celbridge Road (B) and the Leixlip Road (E)(i) or (E)(ii).									Proposed Amendment No.1 for TRO 2(c) is to provide the proposed road between the Celbridge Road and Leixlip Road (the MERR), two alignment options for where it may link to the Leixlip Road when constructed. Therefore, while there are now two options for the alignment of the proposed MERR to link to the Leixlip Road, the inclusion of the road remains as per the existing Maynooth LAP and therefore the impact of the proposed MERR on the environment does not change and the impact is neutral.
b.	TRO 3(j): TRO 3: To carry out the following road realignments and improvements at: (j) Along the Leixlip Road, if required by the development of the Maynooth Eastern Relief Road [MERR].									TRO 3(j) relates to the proposed Maynooth Eastern Relief Road (MERR) and facilitating any road realignments and improvements should they be required in the future to link the MERR and the Leixlip road (TRO 3(j)). It will have a likely positive impact on road users (Population and Human Health) to facilitate access from any new residential development to the Leixlip Road. Given the existing Leixlip Road it is considered that the impact on

Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019		SEA Environmental Objectives							Comments
		Biodiversity	Population & Human Health	Soils and Geology	Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Air, Noise & Climate	Heritage	Landscape & Visual	
									landscape and visual will be neutral. These proposed realignment works will likely have a relatively small footprint however, the overall impact will be negative on the other environmental objectives as it will result in the development greenfield lands.
c.	TRO 8: To support vulnerable road user permeability between new and existing residential lands around the town and the town centre, Maynooth University and the schools around Maynooth.								TRO 8 will look to facilitate and increase of access for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, those with limited mobility, cyclists to allow ease of movement between residential lands, in and around Maynooth town, Maynooth University and schools around the town. Therefore, this will have positive effect on Population and Human Health. It will have a neutral impact on other environmental objectives.
(v)	PCO 4: To facilitate and encourage cycling as a more convenient and safe method of transport, through the designation of a cycle network, linking population, commercial, community facilities and								This amendment includes specific reference to provide cycling infrastructure to connect the proposed MERR to the town centre and train station. This will improve access for cyclists and pedestrians

Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019	SEA Environmental Objectives							Comments
	Biodiversity	Population & Human Health	Soils and Geology	Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Air, Noise & Climate	Heritage	Landscape & Visual	
transport nodes. The development of cycle paths shall be encouraged along the following routes: (p) From the new Maynooth Eastern Relief Road to the town centre and train station.								and therefore have a positive impact on Population and Human Health.
(vi) Amend Map No. 1 (Roads Objectives Map);								This amendment will update the map to include the amended local area plan boundary and proposed roads objective specific to the proposed MERR. This will have a neutral impact on all environmental objectives.
(vii) Amend Table 17: Land Use Zoning Matrix to permit ‘childcare / crèche / playschool’ uses to be ‘Open for Consideration’ in land zoned as ‘F: Open Space & Amenity’								This amendment is made to provide consistency and alignment with other Local Area Plans in Kildare and the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023. This will have a neutral impact on all environmental objectives.
(viii) A number of consequential changes arising to provide for these proposed amendments.								This relates to the supporting text and information that will be added/updated in order to facilitate the

Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019	SEA Environmental Objectives							Comments
	Biodiversity	Population & Human Health	Soils and Geology	Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Air, Noise & Climate	Heritage	Landscape & Visual	
								<p>inclusion proposed amendments (i) to (vi) above, and provide context for the Proposed Amendment No.1.</p> <p>As supporting text, this aspect of the Proposed Amendment No. 1 is not applicable to assessment.</p>

Appendix B

Scoping Submissions

B1



**Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland**

12/02/2018

Re: SEA for Amendment to Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019

Inland Fisheries Ireland is a Statutory Body with a remit encompassing the management, conservation, protection, development and improvement of the fisheries within its Region.

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

In order to facilitate the earliest possible access to the system, it is essential that IFI be contacted in relation to all works that may have an impact on surface waters (as per PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001, Section 28) at formal planning stage. We recommend the recognition in planning systems (local area planning, town planning, individual application assessment etc.) of surface waters and their riparian areas as key natural habitats inherently supporting significant floral and faunal biodiversity. As such, these features should be maintained, improved and enhanced through the planning process (open natural surface waters by default form a core element in the "Green Infrastructure" which can facilitate enhancement of a network of habitats and create clear linkages to help bind the existing patchwork of open spaces and green corridors in the County).

Development potentially impacting on aquatic habitats should be strictly controlled to ensure ecological protection and enhancement; the council should seek to establish riparian corridors free from development along all significant watercourses.

The maintenance of habitat integrity (both in-stream and riparian) is essential in safeguarding the ecological value of these important natural resources. The specific details of any works directly affecting watercourses or riparian habitats in the area, must first be submitted to IFI for assessment and approval.

WATER

IFI would highlight the 'at risk' status of most surface waters in the Maynooth area under the WFD characterisation process and would stress the availability of IFI's full cooperation in order to protect and enhance water and habitat quality in all surface waters within the broad WFD context.

The new rezoning of land for residential use will produce more pressures on water resources in the area. While Leixlip WWTP has recently been upgraded to final treatment capacity of 150, 000 PE, it is important to note that sufficient treatment capacity must be available both within the receiving sewerage system locally and downstream at Leixlip



**Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland**

WWTP over the full duration of the plan in order that the ecological integrity of the ultimate receiving water (River Liffey) is protected. Should the WWTP fail to provide expected capacities during the life of the plan, IFI would highlight the risk of associated significant environmental effects resulting from local development. Leixlip Water Treatment Plant must also have capacity for the proposed extra 1000 houses without having a negative impact on the ecology (through hydrological mechanisms, absence of groundwater recharge etc.) of those waters, thereby potentially contravening the range of relevant legislation (Fisheries Acts, Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive etc.).

Part II (5) of the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES (SURFACE WATERS) REGULATIONS, 2009 states '*A public authority shall not, in the performance of its functions, undertake those functions in a manner that knowingly causes or allows deterioration in chemical status or ecological status (or ecological potential as the case may be) of a body of surface water.* It is clear that in assessing future planning permission applications in the Maynooth Town area, the Council's decisions must be based on provisions of the above legislation and with the national long term objective of maintaining water quality of good status.

The new residential zoning area is in close proximity to the Royal canal. The Royal Canal in this area represents an important ecological resource and should not be impacted negatively as a result of proposed development. The canal supports significant populations of coarse fish not to mention a range of other freshwater aquatic species, plus all associated floral and faunal components in adjacent habitats. Waterways Ireland should be consulted on any development likely to impact on the Royal Canal

The proposed crossing of the Royal Canal as part of the Maynooth Relief road has the potential to negatively affect the canal. Detailed design at planning should be discussed and agreed with Waterways Ireland and IFI.

Please be in touch if we can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Roisin O' Callaghan

Fisheries Environmental Officer
Inland Fisheries Ireland - Dublin

**Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland**

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Ms Veronica Cooke
Forward Planning Department
Kildare County Council
Aras Chill Dara
Naas
Co. Kildare

23rd February 2018

Our Ref: SCP180201.1

Re: SEA Scoping for Proposed Amendment No.1 of the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019

Dear Ms. Cooke,

I refer to and acknowledge your correspondence, dated 30th January, in relation to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping for the Proposed Amendment No.1 of the Maynooth Local Area Plan (the Amendment).

The attached SEA integration guidance document sets out the key environmental issues, as relevant and appropriate, to be taken into account in the preparation of the SEA and Amendment.

A number of key aspects to be considered are outlined below and should be taken into account in the draft Plan and Amendment.

Specific Comments to be considered

Relationship with other plans and programmes

We note the various plans referred to in *Table 2.1 - Hierarchy of Relevant Legislation, Plans and Programmes*,

- The reference to the Draft National Planning Framework can be updated to reflect the now finalised Plan.
- Irish Water have also commenced work on preparing a National Water Resources Plan, which may be useful to consider.
- May also be useful to refer to the Environmental Noise Directive
- Eastern CFRAMS - Flood Risk Management Plan for UoM14.



Objectives and Targets

In the context of ensuring consistency with higher level plans/programmes objectives, there is merit in reviewing the proposed objectives and draft targets against those described in the SEA Environmental Report for the National Planning Framework.

The draft Objective for Biodiversity could be enhanced through reference to designated national and European sites and protected species.

Under 'Population and Human Health', we note the reference to the draft target relating to increasing the modal shift to public transport. This could also be expanded on, to include walking and cycling. Additional aspects to consider may include provision or support for establishing designated 'quiet zones'.

Further comment on the Plan may be provided upon receipt of the Draft Environmental Report and Plan and associated documents during the next statutory consultation phase of the SEA Process.

Scoping Process Guidance

Guidance on the SEA Scoping Process, including an SEA Pack, Integration Guidance, SEA Checklist, SEA Spatial Information Sources and guidance on Integrating Climate Change into SEA, is available on the EPA website and should be considered in the preparation of the SEA. This can be consulted at the following address: <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/>

Guidance on *Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA* (EPA, 2015) is also available at: <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/developingandassessingalternativesinsea.html>

EPA State of the Environment Report 2016

The EPA has recently published our State of the Environment Report for 2016 *'Ireland's Environment – An Assessment (EPA, 2016)*. The recommendations, key issues and challenges described within this report should be considered, as relevant and appropriate to the Plan area in preparing the Draft Plan and associated SEA. This report can be consulted at: <http://www.epa.ie/irelandsenvironment/stateoftheenvironmentreport/>

SEA WebGIS Search and Reporting Tool

The EPA SEA WebGIS Search and Reporting Tool is a GIS based web application that allows users to explore, interrogate and produce an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in specific geographic areas. These reports are indicative and will provide an overview of key aspects of the environment within a specific plan area. This may be used to inform the SEA screening and scoping stages for Plans and Programmes with reference in the first instance to the land use sector, though it is also applicable to other sector plans. It may be accessed via www.edenireland.ie

Environmental Authorities

Under the SEA Regulations (*S.I. No. 436 of 2004*), as amended by *S.I. No. 201 of 2011*, notice should also be given to the following:

- The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, where it appears to the planning authority that the plan or programme, or modification of the plan or programme, might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment



- where it appears to the competent authority that the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, might have significant effects in relation to the architectural or archaeological heritage or to nature conservation, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (now the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht), 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.

Should you have any queries or require further information in relation to the above please contact the undersigned. I would be grateful if an acknowledgement of receipt of this submission could be sent electronically to the following address: sea@epa.ie.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cian O'Mahony'.

Cian O'Mahony
Scientific Officer
SEA Section
Office of Evidence and Assessment
Environmental Protection Agency
Regional Inspectorate
Inniscarra, County Cork

GUIDANCE FOR INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a statutory Environmental Authority under the SEA Regulations. Our role in SEA in relation to Land Use Plans focuses on promoting full integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan. It is not the function of the EPA to either approve or enforce Land Use Plans. The EPA is focusing our efforts/resources in influencing the preparation of key national and regional plans within the planning hierarchy. This guidance document is updated on a regular basis and recent updates/additions are highlighted in **red font**.

In light of the above, we intend to provide a ‘self-service approach’ to responding to submissions on plans lower in the planning hierarchy through use of this template. In this respect, where specific comments are not provided on this particular Plan (and at this stage of the SEA process), we recommend that you take this guidance document into account, and also incorporate the more detailed available guidance and other available resources on our website at <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/>. These resources include:

- SEA process guidance,
- Integration of environmental considerations in land use planning guidance,
- List of available environmental spatial data sets.
- [SEA GIS Search and Reporting Tool](#) for local authority plan-makers which may be useful in the preparation of the SEA and Draft Plan.
- Recent EPA SEA related guidance on [Integrating Climate Change into SEA, Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA, Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines](#), and [GIS SEA Manual](#).

The Plan should be consistent with key relevant higher level plans / programmes in the planning hierarchy (at a regional and national level) and be set in the context of national SEA Regulations, Planning & Development Regulations and associated DECLG Guidelines including *Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities* (DECLG, 2004) and the *Development Plans - Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (DECLG, 2007).

Ireland’s environment is a key national strategic and valuable asset which needs to be protected and proactively managed to ensure it forms the basis of Ireland’s economic wellbeing and a healthy society. The Plan should ensure that the natural resources and environmental conditions that are fundamental to the economic and social wellbeing of future generations are protected and are not degraded or exhausted. Seven Key Actions for Ireland are identified in the EPA’s recent state of the environment report ‘*Ireland’s Environment 2016 -An Assessment*’ (EPA, 2016) to be taken into account in the Plan. These relate to the following: *Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Implementation of Legislation, Restore and Protect Water Quality, Sustainable Economic Activities, Nature and Wild Places, Community Engagement*. The integration of these actions will be important to deliver environmental protection and sustainable development.

Section II of *Ireland’s Environment 2016* describes the key thematic areas to be considered and assessed, as appropriate. These are: *Air Quality & Transboundary Air Emissions, Climate Change, Nature, Inland & Marine Waters, Waste and Land Use & Soil*. The relationship between the Environment, Health and Wellbeing (Section III) and between the Environment and the Economy (Section IV) are also discussed.

The Plan should consider how to implement the above key actions, taking into account the thematic areas described, to ensure proper planning and sustainable development is promoted in the lifetime of the Plan. The EPA website includes an ‘[Ireland’s Environment](#)’ section that provides an overview of the key issues in each thematic area with links to specific environmental indicator data.



In addition to the high-level goals and challenges described above, the EPA has summarised the key environmental aspects which should be incorporated, as appropriate, in the preparation of the SEA and Draft Plan.

Summary of Latest Updates in 2017

Changes	Comments
06/07/17	Updated link to Bathing Water Report for 2016 (EPA, 2017)
06/07/17	Added link to Beaches.ie (EPA portal for bathing water information)
28/08/17	Updated Climate Section and added links to resources/plans
28/08/17	Added Appendix III – Climate Mitigation Questions to consider
11/09/17	Added Energy section with Interim Wind Energy Guidelines information
11/09/17	Added reference to Water Quality Report for 2010-2015 (EPA, 2017)
12/09/17	Added link to Drinking Water Report-Public Water Supplies 2016 (EPA, 2017)
13/10/17	Updated Air Quality section – National Clean Air Strategy
01/11/17	Added link to Urban Wastewater Treatment in 2016 Report (EPA, 2017)

KEY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS TO CONSIDER

Water

Support the Provision of a Safe and Secure Drinking Water Supply

In considering additional zoning/development and growth of settlements within the Plan area, it is critical that development be closely linked to the ability to provide a safe and secure supply of drinking water and related critical service infrastructure. In this context, the Plan should include a commitment to collaborate with Irish Water and other relevant stakeholders, in the provision of and adequate and appropriate drinking water supply.

The EPA series of drinking water quality reports, including the *Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies – 2016* (EPA, 2017), should be consulted in the context of ensuring the relevant recommendations are implemented in relation to improving drinking water quality. Key issues identified with particular supplies, including significant issues identified through (Irish Water) Drinking Water Safety Plans, should be highlighted for individual plans. The Plan should include, where relevant, specific objectives to support the improvement of any water supplies in the Plan area, in collaboration with Irish Water.

A Remedial Action List (RAL) of problematic drinking water supplies is released by the EPA on a quarterly basis. It is a dynamic list which records identified and reported issues. Once appropriate mitigation measures are established and implemented, supplies are removed from the RAL. The Plan should commit to supporting Irish Water, in addressing issues where water supplies servicing the Plan area are included on the RAL. Further information can be found at: <http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/water/drinking/>.

Support the Provision of Adequate and Appropriate Waste Water Treatment

As referred to in the *Water Quality in Ireland 2010 – 2012* (EPA, 2015), one of the key causes of water pollution is from point sources including discharges from waste water treatment plants. The need to provide and maintain adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment infrastructure to service zoned lands and developments over the lifetime of the Plan should be included as a specific Policy/Objective in the Plan.

Where agglomerations with treatment or poorly performing (or at capacity) treatment plants within the Plan area are highlighted in the *Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2016* (EPA, 2017), the Plan should include a commitment to support the provision of appropriate measures to address these issues as a priority, in collaboration with Irish Water. The Plan should also include as appropriate, measures to ensure that combined storm water overflows, sewers and trade effluent in the area covered by the Plan is also managed properly.



With regard to any proposed rural residential development which may arise, or development proposals in unsewered rural area, or areas where connection to the public sewer is not feasible, the Plan should include a commitment to implement, as appropriate, the EPA's [Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses \(p.e < 10\)](#), (EPA, 2009). The EPA has also published the [2015 National Inspection Plan for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Implementation Report](#) (EPA, 2016), which should also be taken into consideration, as appropriate.

Water Framework Directive

Protection of Surface and Ground Water Resources

Protecting our valuable surface and ground water resources is of vital importance to protect both human health and provide for a healthy environment. In this context, the Plan should provide clear commitments to protect surface water, groundwater and coastal/estuarine resources and their associated habitats and species, including fisheries within and adjacent to the Plan area. Where specific recommendations/concerns for water bodies within the Plan area are identified in EPA water quality reports, including the *Water Quality in Ireland 2010 – 2015* (EPA, 2017) and relevant regional water quality reports, these should also be addressed/considered at an appropriate level in the Plan.

The Plan should also ensure that any specific relevant objectives and measures for individual water bodies, within the Plan area as set out in the existing relevant Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plan, are provided for in order to ensure water quality is protected/improved/maintained. The Plan should also consider that subsequent water management plans (including catchment management plans) may arise out of current review of the second cycle of WFD River Basin Management Planning should be integrated as appropriate upon their adoption. The 'integrated catchment management' approach for protecting and managing water resources, should also be supported in the Plan. The EPA's www.catchments.ie website provides useful resources such as GIS mapping and related information that should be useful in preparing the Plan.

The [European Union \(Water Policy\) Regulations 2014 \(S.I. No. 350 of 2014\)](#) sets out the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders and the associated requirements in relation to river basin management planning and should be integrated as appropriate. These responsibilities should be reflected in the Plan and the associated environmental monitoring.

Protection of Groundwater Resources

Groundwater aquifers form important sources of drinking water both locally and regionally. Much of the summer seasonal flow in many rivers is also derived from groundwater sources. To maintain high quality water resources within the Plan area, it is important that development is controlled and managed appropriately, in particular in areas of high groundwater vulnerability to avoid transmission of pollutants into important aquifers.

The Plan should include a clear Policy / Objective for the protection of groundwater resources and associated habitats and species. The Plan should also include a commitment to integrate any existing Groundwater Protection Schemes and Groundwater Source Protection Zones, as relevant and appropriate within the Plan area. The Plan should also include a commitment to comply with the [European Communities Environmental Objectives \(Groundwater\) Regulations 2010](#) (S.I. No. 9 of 2010).

Issues to consider relating to protection of groundwater include; *enforcement of planning conditions related to installation, operation and maintenance of on-site wastewater treatment / septic tank systems, connection of all remaining houses within settlement boundaries to wastewater treatment plant, the development of a wastewater leak detection programme* and the implementation and enforcement of the *European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009* and associated *European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice For Protection Of Waters) Regulations 2010* (S.I. No 610 of 2010).

Protection and Management of Bathing Waters

The obligation to protect bathing waters within (and adjacent to) the Plan area should also be reflected in the Plan. Bathing Waters are afforded protection under Directive 2006/7/EC, known as the '*Directive on bathing*



water', which is transposed into National legislation by the *Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 79) of 2008*. In addition, under the Water Framework Directive, recreational waters/bathing water areas are included on the Register of Protected Areas. The Plan should provide for the protection of any waters which are used for bathing within or adjacent to the Plan area.

The EPA's most recent report on bathing water quality '[Bathing Water Quality in Ireland – A Report for the Year 2016](#), (EPA, 2017)' sets out the status of Irish Seawater and Freshwater Bathing areas and should be integrated as appropriate. The EPA's available bathing water advice/guidance includes an online GIS resource called "[beaches.ie](#)" which should be considered.

Water Framework Directive & Biodiversity

Any sites of significant biodiversity value within or adjacent to the Plan area listed on the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas, (such as Fresh Water Pearl Mussel Catchments, designated Salmonid waters, fisheries / shellfisheries), should be protected in preparing the Plan.

Need for Conservation of Water Resources

The Plan should include an Objective/Policy promoting the need for the conservation of water resources and also the need for detection/mitigation of infrastructural leakages. It may also be useful to consider developing a Water Conservation Strategy, in association with Irish Water and adjoining local authorities, where appropriate.

Flood Prevention and Management

The Plan should fully comply with [The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities](#) (OPW/DEHLG, 2009). These Guidelines place requirements on planning authorities to carry out strategic flood risk assessments and also to ensure that development/zoning of vulnerable land uses, in areas at significant risk of flooding (flood zones A and B) is avoided. In effect, only flood/water compatible uses should be built in flood plains. Where this is not possible, any proposal for development/zoning is required to include a '*Justification Test*' in accordance with the Guidelines. Examples of vulnerable land uses include hospitals, residential developments and essential infrastructure such as transport and utilities (electricity generating power stations, water and sewage treatment) and potential significant sources of pollution (SEVESO sites, IPPC sites).

The Plan should include a commitment to carry out strategic flood risk assessments, in line with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines, to inform the development and implementation of the County Development Plan and lower level local area plans respectively.

A specific Policy should be included to provide for/promote appropriate flood risk assessments to be undertaken, where development / zoning is being proposed in the Plan area where there is significant risk of flooding, in accordance with the Guidelines referred to above.

The Plan should also promote the development, where appropriate, of adaptation measures to account for the likely increased risk of flooding due to climate change within the Plan area, including implementation of adequate and appropriate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems. Additionally, the Plan should provide for protection, management, and as appropriate, enhancement of existing wetland habitats where flood protection/management measures are necessary.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management should also be considered as relevant and appropriate, to inform the preparation of coastal plans and programmes.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity within the Plan area may include designated and undesignated sites, habitats, species and networks of importance at an international, national, regional or local level. The protection of ecological resources is a key consideration which needs to be addressed. In this regard, the Plan should include clear Policies/Objectives to conserve and protect all designated sites within and adjacent to the Plan area (including the habitats and/or

species for which they have been selected, or which they support), and should also promote the protection of undesignated sites and local biodiversity features.

The Plan should also promote the need to protect wider aspects of biodiversity including ecological corridors / linkages / green infrastructure, areas of important local biodiversity, the provision of buffer zones between developments and areas of significant biodiversity and ensuring appropriate control and management measures for invasive species.

Plans should be supported / informed by available habitat mapping (including wetland mapping) and other ecological surveys as relevant. The Plan should refer to and reflect the relevant commitments in *Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan – Actions for Biodiversity 2011-16* (DAHG, 2011). Local Heritage/Biodiversity plans should be highlighted and should promote the implementation of key actions set out in these plans. Where not established, commitments should be included to prepare these plans.

Appropriate Assessment

The Plan should promote the application of the guidance set out in the DECLG Publication '[Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland- Guidance for Planning Authorities](#)' (2009; revision 2010), in relation to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

The Plan should include a commitment to ensure compliance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. The Plan should also be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA). The Plan should include a clear Policy/Objective that sets out a requirement for AA Screening for new, reviewed or amended Plans and proposed projects, which may have the potential to impact on European sites. Potential for cumulative/in-combination effects associated with other relevant Plans/Programmes/Projects should also be determined.

Climate Change / Climatic Factors

Urgent action is needed to address climate change and to move Ireland towards a low carbon, climate resilient economy and society. Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures should be included in the Plan as appropriate and the Plan should be consistent with the *National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development*¹, the *National Mitigation Plan*² and the *National Adaptation Framework* (when available), as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.

The EPA has published a good practice guidance note on how to incorporate climate change into plans and programmes falling under the remit of the SEA Directive – *Integrating Climate Change into SEA* (EPA, 2016³). Key aspects to be considered in the Plan and SEA, where relevant, 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)

Mitigation

To fulfil national commitments on greenhouse gas emissions reduction, Ireland must effectively switch away from fossil fuel sources of energy by 2050. The Plan should reflect the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to protect, maintain and enhance carbon stocks. The National Mitigation Plan (NMP) identifies 106 actions to decarbonise electricity generation, the built environment and transport and to move towards carbon neutrality for agriculture, forest and land use sectors. Relevant actions in the NMP should be integrated into the Plan as appropriate. The inclusion of specific policies/objectives which promote the integration of climate change

¹ <http://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/climate-action/publications/Pages/National-Policy-Position.aspx>

² <http://www.dccae.gov.ie/documents/National%20Mitigation%20Plan%202017.pdf>

³ <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/Climate-Change-SEA-Ireland-Guide-Note.pdf>

mitigation measures at a regional and local level in land use planning within the Plan area should also be considered. In developing and implementing mitigation-related measures, opportunities should be sought to maximise the potential co-benefits of for the wider the environment and society, such as improvements in air quality, water quality, biodiversity, public amenity, renewable energy, tourism etc.

Appendix III contains some climate mitigation-related aspects to consider when preparing the SEA / Draft Plan.

Adaptation

The EPA has published guidelines to support local authorities in developing local climate adaptation strategies (EPA, 2016⁴). Climate change is already discernible in Ireland, especially within the temperature record, and projected climate change impacts include higher intensity rainfall events, more intense storms and storm surge, sea level rise, warmer temperatures and longer periods of low rainfall.

In preparing the Plan and associated SEA, the degree to which climate change impacts, individually and in combination, are likely to influence its implementation and operation should be considered. Aspects to be considered include the resilience of existing and proposed infrastructure and systems to climate variability. This analysis may include an assessment of responses to recent extreme weather events and the adequacy of existing systems and procedures. Other climate change impacts to be considered include changes in native species and habitats and the spread of invasive species, pests and pathogens. To minimise any adverse impacts identified in the SEA, the Plan should include appropriate climate change adaptation measures that can be implemented either directly or through relevant land use plans and/or specific plans e.g. Flood Risk Management Plans, Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans etc.

The ‘Climate Ireland’ website provides information, support and advice to help local authorities, sectors and government departments to adapt to climate change and includes a Local Authority Adaptation Support Wizard. It can be consulted at <http://www.climateireland.ie/#/>

Monitoring

The Plan and SEA should consider monitoring for both climate mitigation and climate adaptation monitoring aspects, where relevant and appropriate. Appendix III of this guidance document provides climate-related baseline information and questions to consider.

Air and Noise-related Factors

Noise

The objectives of EU and Irish noise legislation is “to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole”, and this includes noise nuisance. To this effect the Plan should ensure this requirement is complied with. The assessment and management of noise from the main infrastructural transport sources (roads, rail, and airports) are governed by the Environmental Noise Directive and associated 2006 Environmental Noise Regulations (S.I. 140 of 2006). In this context, as appropriate, the Plan should promote the implementation of Environmental Noise Directive and associated national regulations. <http://www.environ.ie/environment/noise/si-140-2006-environmental-noise-regulations-2006>

Available Noise Action Plans should be taken into account also and reviewed as required, to reflect the Plan period and associated development proposals. Consideration should be given to any relevant noise maps, and action plans. Strategic noise maps are designed to assess noise exposure resulting from major roads, railways and airports. Noise action plans are designed to act as a means of managing environmental noise through land use planning, traffic management and control of noise sources. The third round of noise mapping is currently underway in Ireland and will be completed in 2018. <http://noise.eionet.europa.eu/help.html>.

Consideration should be given to protect, where relevant, any designated quiet areas in open country. In 2003, the EPA commissioned a [research project](#) to establish baseline data for the identification of quiet areas in rural locations. Quiet Areas are defined as “an area in open country, substantially unaffected by anthropogenic noise.” A range of minimum distance criteria from man-made noise sources such as urban areas, industry and

⁴ http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/climate/EPA_Research_Report164.pdf



major road sources were defined, and the report includes a number of key recommendations for the identification and control of Quiet Areas.

Air

Air quality legislation in Ireland highlights the need “to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole”. In addition, it requires that Local Authorities where appropriate “shall promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development.”. These requirements should be incorporated by means of a specific plan objective / policy.

It is also worth noting that the [National Clean Air Strategy](#) (DCCAIE) is currently being prepared, with the intention of developing the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation, in addition to supporting climate change mitigation.

Recent [EPA reports on air quality](#) include the *Air Quality in Ireland 2015 Report*, (EPA, 2016) which sets out the most recent status in each of the four air quality zones in Ireland.

The EPA manages the national ambient air quality monitoring network and measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants. The pollutants of most concern are those whose main source is traffic such as Particulate Matter and Nitrogen Dioxide should to be taken into account. Information in relation to these aspects is available at: <http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/monitor/#>

Waste Management

The Plan should promote the integration of land use zoning and development to existing and planned availability of waste infrastructure and capacity. The Plan should also refer to and incorporate the relevant aspects of the relevant Regional Waste Management Plan.

In addition, the Plan should promote and incorporate the relevant recommendations in the following series of EPA reports including:

- *The Nature and Extent of Unauthorised Waste Activity in Ireland* (EPA, 2005)
- *National Waste Report 2012* (EPA, 2014)
- *National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2014-2020* (EPA, 2015)

These and other waste related resources are available at: <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/stats/>

Radon

Where significant concentrations of radon occur within the Plan area, these should be taken into account in the Plan or associated development control measures, as appropriate. Radon Maps are available at <http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap/> which should be useful in identifying potential for significant radon accumulations within the Plan area.

Energy Conservation/Renewable Energy

When considering energy conservation / renewable energy aspects of the Plan, where relevant, the recently published [Interim Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Statutory Plans, Renewable Energy and Climate Change](#) (DHPCLG, 2017) should be taken into account. The Government White Paper - *Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030*, (DCENR) should also be taken into consideration.

The relevant renewable energy / energy conservation actions in the National Mitigation Plan should be integrated. Additionally, the Plan should, where relevant, include a commitment to prepare and implement an ‘Energy Conservation Strategy’ and associated awareness campaign within the lifetime of the Plan where feasible.



The Plan should also support and promote the need for energy conservation measures to be incorporated into buildings. Relevant guidance in this regard, can be found on the website of Sustainable Energy Ireland: www.sei.ie.

There is merit in including a commitment where relevant and appropriate, to use energy derived from renewable energy systems (e.g. solar, wind, bioenergy, geothermal etc.) and energy storage networks and systems within the Plan area.

Landscape

The Plan should provide for the protection of designated scenic landscapes, scenic views, scenic routes and landscape features of national, regional, county and local value. The Plan should also take into account the landscape character adjoining the Plan area. Visual linkages between established landmarks and landscape features and views should be taken into account when land is being zoned and when individual development proposals are being assessed / considered. The *National Landscape Strategy* (DECLG, 2015) should be taken into account and integrated as appropriate into the Plan.

Geology / Geomorphology

The Plan should protect any designated Geological and Geomorphological NHAs/pNHAs, which may be present/designated within or adjacent to the Plan area in consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland.

Human Health / Quality of Life

The Plan should ensure provision of adequate and appropriate infrastructure and to serve both the existing community and likely future predicted increases in population within the Plan area. In preparing the Plan, there is merit in exploring current practice and opportunities with respect to promote the protection and, as appropriate, improvement of “Quality of Life”. Where relevant, the application of existing “Quality of Life Indices” would be considered in consultation with relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies/organisations. We also refer you to the relevant aspects already referred to above under water, biodiversity, air, energy.

Transportation

The Plan should promote and as appropriate, provide for the provision of sustainable modes of transport. The Department of Transport Tourism and Sport ‘*Smarter Transport – A Sustainable Transport Future*’ (DTTS, 2009) available at <http://smartertravel.ie/content/smartertravel-policy-document-0>. The Plan should include and provide support for appropriate access to public transport, dedicated cycleways and pedestrian pathways, access to rapid charging infrastructure etc.

The transport-related actions in the National Mitigation Plan, should also be considered and integrated, as appropriate in the Plan.

In seeking to support achieving a low carbon economy, it is important to consider and manage transport related emissions within the Plan area. In this regard the Plan should promote, and as appropriate provide for sustainable modes of transport. The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport Report ‘*Smarter Transport – A Sustainable Transport Future*’ (DTTAS, 2009) should be referred to, in the context of possible initiatives which could be included as objectives within the Plan.

Promoting the development of traffic management measures to reduce the potential for traffic congestion and associated vehicular emissions should be considered. In particular, it would be useful to prepare (and review existing) Integrated Traffic Management Plans, where relevant and appropriate, for the existing urban areas and



proposed new urban developments to consider and address the short, medium and long-term traffic management requirements within the Plan area.

Infrastructure Planning

Where zoning/rezoning of lands and the introduction of new development is being proposed within the Plan area, the Plan should promote the need for an integrated planning approach to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the Plan in collaboration with key stakeholders.

The Plan should, (when considering additional development proposals), support and promote the provision of adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure, surface and storm water drainage, public transport, waste management, community services and amenities etc. on a planned and phased basis. This is in the context of taking into account and addressing existing infrastructural inadequacies to meet the expected needs of predicted increases in population associated with the Plan implementation.

The potential impact on human health, habitats and species of ecological importance, flood risk and water quality should be taken into account in considering proposed additional infrastructure or in proposed upgrading of existing infrastructure.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Plan should highlight that, under the EIA and Planning & Development Regulations, certain projects arising during the implementation of the Plan may require an EIA. It should be noted that projects may also require Appropriate Assessment screening, as required by Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. It should be noted that the EPA's role in relation to EIA relates only to facilities/sites which are licensable by the EPA, namely IPPC, waste water and waste sites.

Appendix I: Some Useful Environmental Resources

Environmental Criteria	Selected Resources
State of Environment	http://www.epa.ie/irelandsenvironment/stateoftheenvironmentreport/
Surface Water	http://www.catchments.ie http://www.wfdireland.ie/index.html http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/waterqua/
Ground Water	http://j.mp/gsigroundwater http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/water/ground/ http://www.epa.ie/hydronet/#Water%20Levels
Drinking Water	http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/drinking/
Waste Water	http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/wastewater/
Bathing Water	http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/bathing http://www.beaches.ie
Marine	http://www.marine.ie/Home/site-area/home/home
Biodiversity	http://www.npws.ie/guidance-appropriate-assessment-planning-authorities http://www.npws.ie/publications http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/#/Home <i>EcoPLan Project (Green-Infrastructure/Ecosystems Approaches) Guide and Report</i>
Flood Prevention and Management	www.floodmaps.ie www.cfram.ie
Air	http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/air/quality/
Climate	http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Atmosphere/ClimateChange/ http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/climate/
Waste Management	http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/
Radon	http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap
Energy Conservation	www.sei.ie
Landscape Character Assessment	http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/
Geology / Geomorphology	http://www.gsi.ie/Mapping.htm
Transportation	https://www.nationaltransport.ie/planning-policy/ http://www.nra.ie/environment/
SEA	www.edenireland.ie (SEAGIS Reporting Tool) http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/
EIA	http://www.environ.ie/en/DevelopmentHousing/PlanningDevelopment/EnvironmentalAssessment/EIASEAGuidance
Spatial Planning GIS	www.myplan.ie http://www.epa.ie/soilandbiodiversity/soils/land/corine/
DECLG Guidelines / Legislation	http://www.environ.ie/en/DevelopmentHousing/PlanningDevelopment/Planning/
Flood Risk	www.cfram.ie www.floodmaps.ie

Appendix II: Suggested High Level Plans/Programmes/Strategies (PPS) to Consider*

Environmental Criteria	Suggested High Level Plans/Programmes/Strategies (PPS)
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Planning Framework (in preparation DHPCLG) - National Spatial Strategy (DECLG) - National Development Plan (DECLG) - Rural Development Programme (DECLG) - National CFRAMS Programme (DECLG) - National Renewable Electricity Policy Framework (in preparation DCENR) - Grid 25 Implementation Strategy (Eirgrid) - National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) - Food Harvest 2020 / FoodWise 2025 (DAFM) - National Forestry Programme / Forestry Policy Review (DAFM) - Seafood Operation Programme / Strategic Aquaculture Programme (DAFM) - Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth (DAFM) - National Broadband Plan (DCENR) - National Landscape Strategy (DECLG) - National Peatland Strategy, SAC Raised Bog Management Plan (DAHG) - National Biodiversity Plan (DAHG) - Water Services Strategic Plan / Capital Investment Programme (Irish Water) - Sectoral Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and Low Carbon Roadmaps - Smarter Transport / Strategic Framework for Integrated Land Transport (DTTAS) - Framework for Alternative Fuel Infrastructure in Transport (in preparation DTTAS) - Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (DCENR) - State of the Environment Report 2016 (EPA) - National Bioenergy Plan (in preparation) - National Mitigation Plan (DHPCLG) - National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (DCCAIE) - 5 Year Tourism Strategy (in preparation Fáilte Ireland) - National Greenway Strategy (in preparation, DTTAS) - National Water Resources Plan (in preparation, Irish Water)
Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies - Regional Planning Guidelines - Draft National River Basin Management Plans for Ireland & Programme of Measures - Relevant CFRAMS - Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters - Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub-basin Management Plans - Forestry and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Plan (DAFM, in preparation) - Regional Waste Management Plan - National Transport Strategy for Greater Dublin Area - Wild Atlantic Way - Shannon Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) - County Renewable Energy / Wind Energy Strategies - County Tourism Strategies

Note: *Plan-makers should identify key relevant PPS in the SEA. These Lists are indicative only and some may not always be relevant to a particular plan.

Appendix III – Baseline-related questions to consider for climate mitigation

Direct emissions:

- What emissions or removals arise during construction? Use of fossil fuels during development? What are the embedded emissions associated with the materials used in construction? Are there alternative materials with lower emissions intensity? Disturbance of biomass and soil carbon pools lead to very significant emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. The impact of drainage on carbon pools merits attention.
- Direct emissions: What are the emissions and removals associated with typical operation and maintenance of the Plan.

Indirect:

- To what extent would the existence of, or engagement with the Plan change behaviours or activities leading to reductions or increase in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Increased demand for emission intensity goods and services for example for transport, heat and energy, waste.

Gather any current emissions baseline for all relevant gases associated with sources and activities likely to be influenced by the Plan.

Consider projected emissions of gases on timescale relevant to the lifespan of the Plan, and likely including legacy.

Information on national estimates of emissions of greenhouse gases are available on the EPA website, including Inventories of historic emissions and projections of emissions based on existing policies and measures. <http://www.epa.ie/climate/emissionsinventoriesandprojections/>

Estimates of regional emissions are available through a spatial mapping project, which is developing a 1x1km gridded dataset for emissions of GHGs under an EPA research project. Data will be available in 2017. Note the data will also include main air pollutants and may be useful for air quality assessment. <http://projects.au.dk/mapeire/>

Appendix C

Summary of Submissions on the Draft SEA Environmental Report

C1

Maynooth Local Area Plan Amendment No. 1

Name *

First

Last

Address

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

County

Eir Code**Email *****Topics ***

- Amendment of the LAP Boundary
- Urban Design & Railpark Key Development Area
- Transport, Roads, Movement & Maynooth Eastern Relief Road
- Amendment to the Zoning Matrix

Comments: ***Upload File:**["DHPLG Submission to LA Proposed Amend No.1 Maynoot." "pdf"](#)**Upload File:**Drag & Drop (or) [Choose File](#)**Upload File:**Drag & Drop (or) [Choose File](#)



27 July, 2018

Senior Executive Officer,
Planning Department,
Kildare County Council,
Áras Chill Dara,
Naas,
Co. Kildare.

Re: Proposed Amendment No.1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019

A Chara,

I am directed by the Minister for Housing and Urban Development to refer to your recent letter in relation to the above and set out hereunder observations on behalf of the Minister.

It is noted that the Proposed Amendment to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-19 is intended to facilitate additional new residential development in the town on lands adjoining to the east of the existing built area. Their development for housing is in accordance with the core strategy of the adopted Kildare County Development Plan 2017-23 and also national policy objectives to provide new housing development in our towns and urban areas.

Importantly, the development of east Maynooth is being supported for new residential and other development through a Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) grant allocation by government. The LIHAF funding will specifically fund the delivery of the Maynooth Eastern Relief Road which will connect the Celbridge Road (R405) northwards to the Leixlip Road (R148) traversing the Royal Canal and the Dublin-Sligo railway via a new bridge. This important infrastructure will enable the development of these East Maynooth new residential lands and support the strategic transport movements of all modes through the area. The Department will continue to



work closely with the Council and the other stakeholders involved in delivering this important infrastructure which supports housing growth in the town.

The planning authority is reminded to have regard to any observations made by the Office of Public Works, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the National Parks & Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and Irish Water. In this regard, Kildare County Council must satisfy itself that it has met the relevant requirements as appropriate, and that the Proposed Amendment No.1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-19 is fully compliant with its obligations under planning legislation.

The officials of the Department are available to discuss the matters raised above and in the first instance you are advised to contact Mr. Stewart Logan, Planning Adviser on 01-8882419.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Ryan', is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Colin Ryan
Senior Adviser
Forward Planning Section

An Roinn Cultúir,
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht



Our Ref: FP2018/065

30 July 2018

Senior Executive Officer,
Planning Department,
Kildare County Council,
Ara Chill Dara,
Naas,
Co. Kildare.



Via email to lapsubmissions@kildarecoco.ie

Re: Proposed Amendment No. 1 Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019

A chara

On behalf of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, I refer to correspondence received in relation to the above.

Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations of the Department under the stated heading(s).

Nature Conservation

The Royal Canal proposed Natural Heritage Area Site Code 002103 lies directly north of land subject to the proposed plan amendment. It is an objective (NH 8) of the Kildare County Development Plan to ensure that any proposal for development within or adjacent to a Natural Heritage Area is designed and sited to minimise its impact on the biodiversity, ecological, geological and landscape value of the site particularly plant and animal species listed under the Wildlife Acts and the Habitats and Birds Directive including their habitats. Increased usage of the Royal Canal pNHA 002103 by both people and dogs associated with the nearby development of over 1000 housing units, in combination with increased usage of the pNHA due to the planned Royal Canal Greenway (Dublin to Galway) may have a significant impact on protected species such as birds, bats and otters as well as habitats with the pNHA. The Royal Canal Greenway (Dublin to Galway) may be a National high capacity flagship route

Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Y35AP90
Newtown Road, Wexford, Y35 AP90
Manager.dau@chg.gov.ie
www.chg.gov.ie



(DTTAS, 2018). This should be clarified as such a designation will inform any potential impacts of the route. Potential impacts include recreational disturbance, dumping of dog faeces and other waste including garden waste and spread of invasive species. This issue should be included in the SEA screening document which should also include any plans and strategies associated with the development of the Royal Canal Greenway (Dublin to Galway) as well as any plans to provide pedestrian access to the Royal Canal pNHA.

Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport (2018) Strategy for the future development of National and Regional Greenways

You are requested to send further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) via *eReferral*, where used, or to manager.dau@chg.gov.ie; if emailing is not possible, correspondence may alternatively be sent to:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit (DAU)
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

Is mise, le meas



Diarmuid Buttimer
Development Applications Unit

GUIDANCE FOR INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is one of five statutory Environmental Authority under the SEA Regulations. Our role in SEA focuses on promoting full integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan. It is not the function of the EPA to either approve or enforce Plans or SEAs. The EPA is focusing our efforts/resources in influencing the preparation of key national and regional plans within the planning hierarchy. This guidance document is updated on a regular basis and recent updates/additions are highlighted in **red font**.

In light of the above, we intend to provide a ‘self-service approach’ to responding to submissions on plans lower in the planning hierarchy through use of this template. In this respect, where specific comments are not provided on this particular Plan (and at this stage of the SEA process), we recommend that you take this guidance document into account, and also incorporate the more detailed available guidance and other available resources on our website at <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/>. These resources include:

- SEA process guidance,
- Integration of environmental considerations in land use planning guidance,
- List of available environmental spatial data sets.
- [SEA GIS Search and Reporting Tool](#) for local authority plan-makers which may be useful in the preparation of the SEA and Draft Plan.
- Recent EPA SEA related guidance on [Integrating Climate Change into SEA, Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA, Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines](#), and [GIS SEA Manual](#).

The Plan should be consistent with key relevant higher level plans / programmes in the planning hierarchy (at a regional and national level) and be set in the context of national SEA Regulations, Planning & Development Regulations and associated DECLG Guidelines including *Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities* (DECLG, 2004) and the *Development Plans - Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (DECLG, 2007).

Ireland’s environment is a key national strategic and valuable asset which needs to be protected and proactively managed to ensure it forms the basis of Ireland’s economic wellbeing and a healthy society. The Plan should ensure that the natural resources and environmental conditions that are fundamental to the economic and social wellbeing of future generations are protected and are not degraded or exhausted. Seven Key Actions for Ireland are identified in the EPA’s recent state of the environment report ‘*Ireland’s Environment 2016 -An Assessment*’ (EPA, 2016) to be taken into account in the Plan. These relate to the following: *Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Implementation of Legislation, Restore and Protect Water Quality, Sustainable Economic Activities, Nature and Wild Places, Community Engagement*. The integration of these actions will be important to deliver environmental protection and sustainable development.

Section II of *Ireland’s Environment 2016* describes the key thematic areas to be considered and assessed, as appropriate. These are: *Air Quality & Transboundary Air Emissions, Climate Change, Nature, Inland & Marine Waters, Waste and Land Use & Soil*. The relationship between the Environment, Health and Wellbeing (Section III) and between the Environment and the Economy (Section IV) are also discussed.

The Plan should consider how to implement the above key actions, taking into account the thematic areas described, to ensure proper planning and sustainable development is promoted in the lifetime of the Plan. The EPA website includes an ‘[Ireland’s Environment](#)’ section that provides an overview of the key issues in each thematic area with links to specific environmental indicator data.

In addition to the high-level goals and challenges described above, the EPA has summarised the key environmental aspects which should be incorporated, as appropriate, in the preparation of the SEA and Draft Plan.

Summary of Latest Updates in 2018

Changes	Comments
16/03/18	Added reference to Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (DCHG, 2017)
16/03/18	Updated link to Air Quality in Ireland 2016 (EPA, 2017)
16/03/18	Added link to EPA Map resources in Appendix I
13/06/18	Updated to reference to latest drinking water report for 2017 (EPA, 2018)
13/06/18	GHG Emissions Projections Summary Report 2017-2025 (EPA, 2018)
13/06/18	Bathing Water Quality in Ireland 2017 (EPA, 2018)
13/06/18	Added OPW reference to new flooding information system (floodinfo.ie)

KEY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS TO CONSIDER

Water

Support the Provision of a Safe and Secure Drinking Water Supply

In considering additional zoning/development and growth of settlements within the Plan area, it is critical that development be closely linked to the ability to provide a safe and secure supply of drinking water and related critical service infrastructure. In this context, the Plan should include a commitment to collaborate with Irish Water and other relevant stakeholders, in the provision of an adequate and appropriate drinking water supply.

The EPA series of drinking water quality reports, including the *Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies – 2017* (EPA, 2018), should be consulted in the context of ensuring the relevant recommendations are implemented in relation to improving drinking water quality. Key issues identified with particular supplies, including significant issues identified through (Irish Water) Drinking Water Safety Plans, should be highlighted for individual plans. The Plan should include, where relevant, specific objectives to support the improvement of any water supplies in the Plan area, in collaboration with Irish Water.

A ‘Remedial Action List’ (RAL) of problematic drinking water supplies is released by the EPA on a quarterly basis. It is a dynamic list which records identified and reported issues. Once appropriate mitigation measures are established and implemented, supplies are removed from the RAL. The Plan should commit to supporting Irish Water, in addressing issues where water supplies servicing the Plan area are included on the RAL. Further information can be found at: <http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/water/drinking/>.

Support the Provision of Adequate and Appropriate Waste Water Treatment

As referred to in the *Water Quality in Ireland 2010 – 2012* (EPA, 2015), one of the key causes of water pollution is from point sources including discharges from waste water treatment plants. The need to provide and maintain adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment infrastructure to service zoned lands and developments over the lifetime of the Plan should be included as a specific Policy/Objective in the Plan.

Where agglomerations with treatment or poorly performing (or at capacity) treatment plants within the Plan area are highlighted in the *Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2016* (EPA, 2017), the Plan should include a commitment to support the provision of appropriate measures to address these issues as a priority, in collaboration with Irish Water. The Plan should also include as appropriate, measures to ensure that combined storm water overflows, sewers and trade effluent in the area covered by the Plan is also managed properly.

With regard to any proposed rural residential development which may arise, or development proposals in unsewered rural area, or areas where connection to the public sewer is not feasible, the Plan should include a commitment to implement, as appropriate, the EPA’s *Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal*

[Systems Serving Single Houses \(p.e < 10\)](#), (EPA, 2009). The EPA has also published the 2015 [National Inspection Plan for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Implementation Report](#) (EPA, 2016), which should also be taken into consideration, as appropriate.

Water Framework Directive

Protection of Surface and Ground Water Resources

Protecting our valuable surface and ground water resources is of vital importance to protect both human health and provide for a healthy environment. In this context, the Plan should provide clear commitments to protect surface water, groundwater and coastal/estuarine resources and their associated habitats and species, including fisheries within and adjacent to the Plan area. Where specific recommendations/concerns for water bodies within the Plan area are identified in EPA water quality reports, including the *Water Quality in Ireland 2010 – 2015*’ (EPA, 2017) and relevant regional water quality reports, these should also be addressed/considered at an appropriate level in the Plan.

The Plan should also ensure that any specific relevant objectives and measures for individual water bodies, within the Plan area as set out in the existing relevant Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plan, are provided for in order to ensure water quality is protected/improved/maintained. The Plan should also consider that subsequent water management plans (including catchment management plans) may arise out of current review of the second cycle of WFD River Basin Management Planning should be integrated as appropriate upon their adoption. The ‘integrated catchment management’ approach for protecting and managing water resources, should also be supported in the Plan. The EPA’s www.catchments.ie website provides useful resources such as GIS mapping and related information that should be useful in preparing the Plan.

The [European Union \(Water Policy\) Regulations 2014](#) (S.I. No. 350 of 2014) sets out the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders and the associated requirements in relation to river basin management planning and should be integrated as appropriate. These responsibilities should be reflected in the Plan and the associated environmental monitoring.

Protection of Groundwater Resources

Groundwater aquifers form important sources of drinking water both locally and regionally. Much of the summer seasonal flow in many rivers is also derived from groundwater sources. To maintain high quality water resources within the Plan area, it is important that development is controlled and managed appropriately, in particular in areas of high groundwater vulnerability to avoid transmission of pollutants into important aquifers.

The Plan should include a clear Policy / Objective for the protection of groundwater resources and associated habitats and species. The Plan should also include a commitment to integrate any existing Groundwater Protection Schemes and Groundwater Source Protection Zones, as relevant and appropriate within the Plan area. The Plan should also include a commitment to comply with the [European Communities Environmental Objectives \(Groundwater\) Regulations 2010](#) (S.I. No. 9 of 2010).

Issues to consider relating to protection of groundwater include; *enforcement of planning conditions related to installation, operation and maintenance of on-site wastewater treatment / septic tank systems, connection of all remaining houses within settlement boundaries to wastewater treatment plant, the development of a wastewater leak detection programme* and the implementation and enforcement of the *European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009* and associated *European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice For Protection Of Waters) Regulations 2010* (S.I. No 610 of 2010).

Protection and Management of Bathing Waters

The obligation to protect bathing waters within (and adjacent to) the Plan area should also be reflected in the Plan. Bathing Waters are afforded protection under Directive 2006/7/EC, known as the ‘*Directive on bathing water*’, which is transposed into National legislation by the *Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008* (S.I. No. 79) of 2008. In addition, under the Water Framework Directive, recreational waters/bathing water areas are



included on the Register of Protected Areas. The Plan should provide for the protection of any waters which are used for bathing within or adjacent to the Plan area.

The EPA's most recent report on bathing water quality '*Bathing Water Quality in Ireland – A Report for the Year 2017*, (EPA, 2017)' sets out the status of Irish Seawater and Freshwater Bathing areas and should be integrated as appropriate. The EPA's available bathing water advice/guidance includes an online GIS resource called "beaches.ie" which should be considered.

Water Framework Directive & Biodiversity

Any sites of significant biodiversity value within or adjacent to the Plan area listed on the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas, (such as Fresh Water Pearl Mussel Catchments, designated Salmonid waters, fisheries / shellfisheries), should be protected in preparing the Plan.

Need for Conservation of Water Resources

The Plan should include an Objective/Policy promoting the need for the conservation of water resources and also the need for detection/mitigation of infrastructural leakages. It may also be useful to consider developing a Water Conservation Strategy, in association with Irish Water and adjoining local authorities, where appropriate.

Flood Prevention and Management

The Plan should fully comply with [*The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities*](#) (OPW/DEHLG, 2009). These Guidelines place requirements on planning authorities to carry out strategic flood risk assessments and also to ensure that development/zoning of vulnerable land uses, in areas at significant risk of flooding (flood zones A and B) is avoided. In effect, only flood/water compatible uses should be built in flood plains. Where this is not possible, any proposal for development/zoning is required to include a '*Justification Test*' in accordance with the Guidelines. Examples of vulnerable land uses include hospitals, residential developments and essential infrastructure such as transport and utilities (electricity generating power stations, water and sewage treatment) and potential significant sources of pollution (SEVESO sites, IPPC sites).

In May 2018, the OPW have launched a new website providing access to flood risk management plans and flood maps and information on flood risk management in Ireland. It can be consulted at: www.floodinfo.ie.

The Plan should include a commitment to carry out strategic flood risk assessments, in line with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines, to inform the development and implementation of the County Development Plan and lower level local area plans respectively.

A specific Policy should be included to provide for/promote appropriate flood risk assessments to be undertaken, where development / zoning is being proposed in the Plan area where there is significant risk of flooding, in accordance with the Guidelines referred to above.

The Plan should also promote the development, where appropriate, of adaptation measures to account for the likely increased risk of flooding due to climate change within the Plan area, including implementation of adequate and appropriate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems. Additionally, the Plan should provide for protection, management, and as appropriate, enhancement of existing wetland habitats where flood protection/management measures are necessary.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management should also be considered as relevant and appropriate, to inform the preparation of coastal plans and programmes.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity within the Plan area may include designated and undesignated sites, habitats, species and networks of importance at an international, national, regional or local level. The protection of ecological resources is a key consideration which needs to be addressed. In this regard, the Plan should include clear Policies/Objectives

to conserve and protect all designated sites within and adjacent to the Plan area (including the habitats and/or species for which they have been selected, or which they support), and should also promote the protection of undesignated sites and local biodiversity features.

The Plan should also promote the need to protect wider aspects of biodiversity including ecological corridors / linkages / green infrastructure, areas of important local biodiversity, the provision of buffer zones between developments and areas of significant biodiversity and ensuring appropriate control and management measures for invasive species.

Plans should be supported / informed by available habitat mapping (including wetland mapping) and other ecological surveys as relevant. The Plan should refer to and reflect the relevant commitments in Ireland's *National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-21* (DCHG, 2017). Local Heritage/Biodiversity plans should be highlighted and should promote the implementation of key actions set out in these plans. Where not established, commitments should be included to prepare these plans.

Appropriate Assessment

The Plan should promote the application of the guidance set out in the DECLG Publication '[Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland- Guidance for Planning Authorities](#)' (2009; revision 2010), in relation to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

The Plan should include a commitment to ensure compliance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. The Plan should also be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA). The Plan should include a clear Policy/Objective that sets out a requirement for AA Screening for new, reviewed or amended Plans and proposed projects, which may have the potential to impact on European sites. Potential for cumulative/in-combination effects associated with other relevant Plans/Programmes/Projects should also be determined.

Climate Change / Climatic Factors

Urgent action is needed to address climate change and to move Ireland towards a low carbon, climate resilient economy and society. Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures should be included in the Plan as appropriate and the Plan should be consistent with the *National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development*¹, the *National Mitigation Plan*² and the *National Adaptation Framework*, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.

The Agency recently published [Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections for 2017-2035](#) (EPA, 2018) which should be taken into account in preparing the Plan, as appropriate and relevant.

The EPA has published a good practice guidance note on how to incorporate climate change into plans and programmes falling under the remit of the SEA Directive – *Integrating Climate Change into SEA* (EPA, 2016³). Key aspects to be considered in the Plan and SEA, where relevant, 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)

Mitigation

To fulfil national commitments on greenhouse gas emissions reduction, Ireland must effectively switch away from fossil fuel sources of energy by 2050. The Plan should reflect the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to protect, maintain and enhance carbon stocks. The National Mitigation Plan (NMP) identifies 106 actions

¹ <http://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/climate-action/publications/Pages/National-Policy-Position.aspx>

² <http://www.dccae.gov.ie/documents/National%20Mitigation%20Plan%202017.pdf>

³ <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/Climate-Change-SEA-Ireland-Guide-Note.pdf>



to decarbonise electricity generation, the built environment and transport and to move towards carbon neutrality for agriculture, forest and land use sectors. Relevant actions in the NMP should be integrated into the Plan as appropriate. The inclusion of specific policies/objectives which promote the integration of climate change mitigation measures at a regional and local level in land use planning within the Plan area should also be considered. In developing and implementing mitigation-related measures, opportunities should be sought to maximise the potential co-benefits of for the wider the environment and society, such as improvements in air quality, water quality, biodiversity, public amenity, renewable energy, tourism etc.

Appendix III contains some climate mitigation-related aspects to consider when preparing the SEA / Draft Plan.

Adaptation

The EPA has published guidelines to support local authorities in developing local climate adaptation strategies (EPA, 2016⁴). Climate change is already discernible in Ireland, especially within the temperature record, and projected climate change impacts include higher intensity rainfall events, more intense storms and storm surge, sea level rise, warmer temperatures and longer periods of low rainfall.

In preparing the Plan and associated SEA, the degree to which climate change impacts, individually and in combination, are likely to influence its implementation and operation should be considered. Aspects to be considered include the resilience of existing and proposed infrastructure and systems to climate variability. This analysis may include an assessment of responses to recent extreme weather events and the adequacy of existing systems and procedures. Other climate change impacts to be considered include changes in native species and habitats and the spread of invasive species, pests and pathogens. To minimise any adverse impacts identified in the SEA, the Plan should include appropriate climate change adaptation measures that can be implemented either directly or through relevant land use plans and/or specific plans e.g. Flood Risk Management Plans, Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans etc.

The ‘Climate Ireland’ website provides information, support and advice to help local authorities, sectors and government departments to adapt to climate change and includes a Local Authority Adaptation Support Wizard. It can be consulted at <http://www.climateireland.ie/#/>

Monitoring

The Plan and SEA should consider monitoring for both climate mitigation and climate adaptation monitoring aspects, where relevant and appropriate. Appendix III of this guidance document provides climate-related baseline information and questions to consider.

Air and Noise-related Factors

Noise

The objectives of EU and Irish noise legislation is “to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole”, and this includes noise nuisance. To this effect the Plan should ensure this requirement is complied with. The assessment and management of noise from the main infrastructural transport sources (roads, rail, and airports) are governed by the Environmental Noise Directive and associated 2006 Environmental Noise Regulations (S.I. 140 of 2006). In this context, as appropriate, the Plan should promote the implementation of Environmental Noise Directive and associated national regulations. <http://www.environ.ie/environment/noise/si-140-2006-environmental-noise-regulations-2006>

Available Noise Action Plans should be taken into account also and reviewed as required, to reflect the Plan period and associated development proposals. Consideration should be given to any relevant noise maps, and action plans. Strategic noise maps are designed to assess noise exposure resulting from major roads, railways and airports. Noise action plans are designed to act as a means of managing environmental noise through land use planning, traffic management and control of noise sources. The third round of noise mapping is currently underway in Ireland and will be completed in 2018. <http://noise.eionet.europa.eu/help.html>.

Consideration should be given to protect, where relevant, any designated quiet areas in open country. In 2003, the EPA commissioned a [research project](#) to establish baseline data for the identification of quiet areas in rural

⁴ http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/climate/EPA_Research_Report164.pdf



locations. Quiet Areas are defined as “*an area in open country, substantially unaffected by anthropogenic noise.*” A range of minimum distance criteria from man-made noise sources such as urban areas, industry and major road sources were defined, and the report includes a number of key recommendations for the identification and control of Quiet Areas.

Air

Air quality legislation in Ireland highlights the need “*to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole*”. In addition, it requires that Local Authorities where appropriate “*shall promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development.*”. These requirements should be incorporated by means of a specific plan objective / policy.

It is also worth noting that the [National Clean Air Strategy](#) (DCCA) is currently being prepared, with the intention of developing the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation, in addition to supporting climate change mitigation.

Recent [EPA reports on air quality](#) include the [Air Quality in Ireland 2016 Report](#), (EPA, 2017) which sets out the most recent status in each of the four air quality zones in Ireland.

The EPA manages the national ambient air quality monitoring network and measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants. The pollutants of most concern are those whose main source is traffic such as Particulate Matter and Nitrogen Dioxide should be taken into account. Information in relation to these aspects is available at: <http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/monitor/#>

Waste Management

The Plan should promote the integration of land use zoning and development to existing and planned availability of waste infrastructure and capacity. The Plan should also refer to and incorporate the relevant aspects of the relevant Regional Waste Management Plan.

In addition, the Plan should promote and incorporate the relevant recommendations in the following series of EPA reports including:

- *The Nature and Extent of Unauthorised Waste Activity in Ireland* (EPA, 2005)
- *National Waste Report 2012* (EPA, 2014)
- *National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2014-2020* (EPA, 2015)

These and other waste related resources are available at: <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/stats/>

Radon

Where significant concentrations of radon occur within the Plan area, these should be taken into account in the Plan or associated development control measures, as appropriate. Radon Maps are available at <http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap/> which should be useful in identifying potential for significant radon accumulations within the Plan area.

Energy Conservation/Renewable Energy

When considering energy conservation / renewable energy aspects of the Plan, where relevant, the recently published [Interim Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Statutory Plans, Renewable Energy and Climate Change](#) (DHPCLG, 2017) should be taken into account. The Government White Paper - *Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030*, (DCENR) should also be taken into consideration.

The relevant renewable energy / energy conservation actions in the National Mitigation Plan should be integrated. Additionally, the Plan should, where relevant, include a commitment to prepare and implement an ‘Energy Conservation Strategy’ and associated awareness campaign within the lifetime of the Plan where feasible.



The Plan should also support and promote the need for energy conservation measures to be incorporated into buildings. Relevant guidance in this regard, can be found on the website of Sustainable Energy Ireland: www.sei.ie.

There is merit in including a commitment where relevant and appropriate, to use energy derived from renewable energy systems (e.g. solar, wind, bioenergy, geothermal etc.) and energy storage networks and systems within the Plan area.

Landscape

The Plan should provide for the protection of designated scenic landscapes, scenic views, scenic routes and landscape features of national, regional, county and local value. The Plan should also take into account the landscape character adjoining the Plan area. Visual linkages between established landmarks and landscape features and views should be taken into account when land is being zoned and when individual development proposals are being assessed / considered. The *National Landscape Strategy* (DECLG, 2015) should be taken into account and integrated as appropriate into the Plan.

Geology / Geomorphology

The Plan should protect any designated Geological and Geomorphological NHAs/pNHAs, which may be present/designated within or adjacent to the Plan area in consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland.

Human Health / Quality of Life

The Plan should ensure provision of adequate and appropriate infrastructure and to serve both the existing community and likely future predicted increases in population within the Plan area. In preparing the Plan, there is merit in exploring current practice and opportunities with respect to promote the protection and, as appropriate, improvement of “Quality of Life”. Where relevant, the application of existing “Quality of Life Indices” would be considered in consultation with relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies/organisations. We also refer you to the relevant aspects already referred to above under water, biodiversity, air, energy.

Transportation

The Plan should promote and as appropriate, provide for the provision of sustainable modes of transport. The Department of Transport Tourism and Sport ‘[Smarter Transport – A Sustainable Transport Future](#)’ (DTTAS, 2009) should be referred to, in the context of possible initiatives which could be included as objectives within the Plan. The Plan should include and provide support for appropriate access to public transport, dedicated cycleways and pedestrian pathways, access to rapid charging infrastructure etc.

The transport-related actions in the National Mitigation Plan, should also be considered and integrated, as appropriate in the Plan. In seeking to support achieving a low carbon economy, it is important to consider and manage transport related emissions within the Plan area. In this regard the Plan should promote, and as appropriate provide for sustainable modes of transport.

Promoting the development of traffic management measures to reduce the potential for traffic congestion and associated vehicular emissions should be considered. In particular, it would be useful to prepare (and review existing) Integrated Traffic Management Plans, where relevant and appropriate, for the existing urban areas and proposed new urban developments to consider and address the short, medium and long-term traffic management requirements within the Plan area.

Infrastructure Planning



Where zoning/rezoning of lands and the introduction of new development is being proposed within the Plan area, the Plan should promote the need for an integrated planning approach to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the Plan in collaboration with key stakeholders.

The Plan should, (when considering additional development proposals), support and promote the provision of adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure, surface and storm water drainage, public transport, waste management, community services and amenities etc. on a planned and phased basis. This is in the context of taking into account and addressing existing infrastructural inadequacies to meet the expected needs of predicted increases in population associated with the Plan implementation.

The potential impact on human health, habitats and species of ecological importance, flood risk and water quality should be taken into account in considering proposed additional infrastructure or in proposed upgrading of existing infrastructure.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Plan should highlight that, under the EIA and Planning & Development Regulations, certain projects arising during the implementation of the Plan may require an EIA. It should be noted that projects may also require Appropriate Assessment screening, as required by Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. It should be noted that the EPA's role in relation to EIA relates only to facilities/sites which are licensable by the EPA, namely IPPC, waste water and waste sites.

Appendix I: Some Useful Environmental Resources

Environmental Criteria	Selected Resources
State of Environment	http://www.epa.ie/irelandsenvironment/stateoftheenvironmentreport/
Surface Water	http://www.wfdireland.ie/index.html http://www.catchments.ie http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/waterqua/
Ground Water	http://j.mp/gsigroundwater http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/water/ground/ http://www.epa.ie/hydronet/#Water%20Levels
Drinking Water	http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/drinking/
Waste Water	http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/wastewater/
Bathing Water	http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/bathing http://www.beaches.ie
Marine	http://www.marine.ie/Home/site-area/home/home
Biodiversity	http://www.npws.ie/guidance-appropriate-assessment-planning-authorities http://www.npws.ie/publications http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/#/Home <i>EcoPLan Project (Green-Infrastructure/Ecosystems Approaches) Guide and Report</i>
Flood Prevention and Management	www.floodmaps.ie www.cfram.ie
Air	http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/air/quality/
Climate	http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Atmosphere/ClimateChange/ http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/climate/
Waste Management	http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/
Radon	http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap
Energy Conservation	www.sei.ie
Landscape Character Assessment	http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/
Geology / Geomorphology	http://www.gsi.ie/Mapping.htm
Transportation	https://www.nationaltransport.ie/planning-policy/ http://www.nra.ie/environment/
SEA	www.edenireland.ie (SEAGIS Reporting Tool) http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/
EIA	http://www.environ.ie/en/DevelopmentHousing/PlanningDevelopment/EnvironmentalAssessment/EIASEAGuidance
Spatial Planning GIS	www.myplan.ie http://www.epa.ie/soilandbiodiversity/soils/land/corine/ http://gis.epa.ie/SecMaps
DECLG Guidelines / Legislation	http://www.environ.ie/en/DevelopmentHousing/PlanningDevelopment/Planning/
Flood Risk	www.floodinfo.ie

Appendix II: Suggested High Level Plans/Programmes/Strategies (PPS) to Consider*

Environmental Criteria	Suggested High Level Plans/Programmes/Strategies (PPS)
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Planning Framework (DHPCLG) - National Spatial Strategy (DECLG) – being replaced by National Planning Framework - Rural Development Programme (DHPLG) - National CFRAMS Programme (DHPLG) - River Basin Management Plan for Ireland - National Renewable Electricity Policy Framework (in preparation DCCAIE) - Grid 25 Implementation Strategy (Eirgrid) - National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) - Food Harvest 2020 / FoodWise 2025 (DAFM) - National Forestry Programme / Forestry Policy Review (DAFM) - Seafood Operation Programme / Strategic Aquaculture Programme (DAFM) - Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth (DAFM) - National Broadband Plan (DCCAIE) - National Landscape Strategy (DCHG) - National Peatland Strategy, SAC Raised Bog Management Plan (DCHG) - National Biodiversity Plan (DCHG) - Water Services Strategic Plan / Capital Investment Programme (Irish Water) - Sectoral Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and Low Carbon Roadmaps - Smarter Transport / Strategic Framework for Integrated Land Transport (DTTAS) - Framework for Alternative Fuel Infrastructure in Transport (in preparation DTTAS) - Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (DCCAIE) - State of the Environment Report 2016 (EPA) - National Bioenergy Plan (DCCAIE) - National Mitigation Plan (DHPLG) - National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (DCCAIE) - 10 Year Tourism Strategy (in preparation Fáilte Ireland) - National Greenway Strategy (in preparation, DTTAS) - National Water Resources Plan (in preparation, Irish Water)
Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (replacing the Regional Planning Guidelines) - Draft National River Basin Management Plans for Ireland & Programme of Measures - Relevant CFRAMS - Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters - Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub-basin Management Plans - Forestry and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Plan (DAFM, in preparation) - Regional Waste Management Plans - Transport Strategy for Greater Dublin Area - Wild Atlantic Way - Shannon Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) - County Renewable Energy / Wind Energy Strategies - County Tourism Strategies

Note: *Plan-makers should identify key relevant PPS in the SEA. These Lists are indicative only and some may not always be relevant to a particular plan.

Appendix III – Baseline-related questions to consider for climate mitigation

Direct emissions:

- What emissions or removals arise during construction? Use of fossil fuels during development? What are the embedded emissions associated with the materials used in construction? Are there alternative materials with lower emissions intensity? Disturbance of biomass and soil carbon pools lead to very significant emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. The impact of drainage on carbon pools merits attention.
- Direct emissions: What are the emissions and removals associated with typical operation and maintenance of the Plan.

Indirect:

- To what extent would the existence of, or engagement with the Plan change behaviours or activities leading to reductions or increase in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Increased demand for emission intensity goods and services for example for transport, heat and energy, waste.

Gather any current emissions baseline for all relevant gases associated with sources and activities likely to be influenced by the Plan.

Consider projected emissions of gases on timescale relevant to the lifespan of the Plan, and likely including legacy.

Information on national estimates of emissions of greenhouse gases are available on the EPA website, including Inventories of historic emissions and projections of emissions based on existing policies and measures. <http://www.epa.ie/climate/emissionsinventoriesandprojections/>

Estimates of regional emissions are available through a spatial mapping project, which is developing a 1x1km gridded dataset for emissions of GHGs under an EPA research project. Data will be available in 2017. Note the data will also include main air pollutants and may be useful for air quality assessment. <http://projects.au.dk/mapeire/>