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## 5. COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND COUNTY-SPECIFIC POLICIES

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### 5.1. Introduction

This section of the Plan examines specific strategic objectives and policies concerning waste management, as outlined in the following documents:

- National Spatial Strategy (2002)
- Regional Planning Guidelines Greater Dublin Area (2004 – 2016)
- Kildare County Development Plan (2005 – 2011)
- Kildare 2012
- Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development (RAPID)
- Kildare Litter Management Plan (2003)
- Kildare County Council Corporate Plan (2002)

### 5.2. National Spatial Strategy

The National Spatial Strategy (2002) is a 20-year strategy document, which outlines a framework for future development and growth in Ireland. The 2005 – 2011 Kildare County Development Plan summarises the impact of the National Spatial Strategy on the County as follows:

“Kildare is part of the Dublin and Mid East Regions, which are considered jointly due to their strong functional relationship. These regions are identified for consolidation and in strategic terms the following issues are of particular importance for Kildare:

- Effective integration of land use and transportation policy
- Supporting the region’s capacity for innovation
- Facilitating ease of movement of people and goods
- Maintaining a high quality environment

The National Spatial Strategy strongly recognises that quality of life is increasingly important to people. People want to spend less time in traffic or travelling long distances and more time at home with their families or enjoying leisure activities. It recognises the need to ensure that our cities, towns and rural area develop in a way that meets the economic and social needs of a growing population and that future development focuses on growing the attractiveness and competitiveness of places in a sustainable way. The focus is on the needs and desires of people forming communities.”

### 5.3. Regional Planning Guidelines Greater Dublin Area

The Greater Dublin Area incorporates the geographical area of Dublin City, Fingal, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, South Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow. The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area (2004 – 2016) set out a strategy for development in two main areas:

- Metropolitan Area, which includes Celbridge, Kilcock, Leixlip and Maynooth
- Hinterland, which includes the remainder of County Kildare

The Guidelines classify urban centres including towns and villages based on their size and function:

1. Metropolitan Consolidation Towns – which will be the main growth areas within the Metropolitan Area
2. Large Growth Towns I & II – such towns occur both within the Metropolitan and Hinterland Area
3. Moderate Growth Towns (over 5,000 Population) – such towns occur both in the Metropolitan and Hinterland Areas
4. Small Growth Towns (population 1,000 – 5,000) – such towns occur in the Hinterland Area
5. Villages (< 1,000 population)

Table 5.1 summaries the proposed hierarchy.

**Table 5.1: Proposed Hierarchy of Development**

Settlement Type	Population Range	Accessibility	Typical Distance from Higher-level Settlement	Economic Function
Metropolitan Consolidation Towns	40,000 to 100,000	quality bus corridors/rail/major radial routes	close to city centre	main attractor for major investment; strong international marketing
Large Growth Towns I	25,000 to 40,000	at junction of major and orbital multi-modal transport corridors. commuter rail	within 40 km from Dublin	main attractor for major investment; strong international marketing
Large Growth Towns II	15,000 to 25,000	on major radial multi-modal transport corridor commuter rail	15 km from satellite or Dublin	subsidiary attractor for inward investment
Moderate Growth Towns	5,000 to 1,000	on a near multi modal transport corridor rail if possible	10 km from large town	attractor for substantial investment
Small Growth Towns	1,000 to 5,000	on a national primary or secondary road good bus links to railway and major settlements	10 km from large town	attractor for investment
Villages	Up to 1,000	improved rural roads bus links to railway and larger settlements.	10 km from small town	small rural-based enterprises

Source: Regional Planning Guidelines Greater Dublin Area

The aim of this hierarchy is to achieve a balance between development in towns, villages, settlements, etc.

The Regional Planning Guidelines introduce the concept of primary and secondary clusters which comprise the different settlements outlined in the hierarchy. The idea of cluster settlements is that several towns or villages are developed in a mutually dependent way, and are readily accessible from larger settlements. With respect to waste management, the Guidelines recommend that an integrated solution be sought while, at the same time, achieving regional dispersal of development.

Two primary dynamic clusters have been identified for County Kildare:

- Kilcock, Leixlip, Maynooth, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, and Dunboyne, Co. Meath
- Naas, Newbridge and Kilcullen, Co. Kildare

Monastervin, Kildare Town and Athy have been identified as Secondary Dynamic Clusters in Kildare.

#### **5.4. Kildare County Development Plan**

The newly adopted Kildare County Development Plan (2005 – 2011) identifies specific policies and objectives for waste management in Kildare. It is the Council's policy to:

- have regard to the following in the assessment of planning applications for waste management facilities:
  - Waste Management Plan for County Kildare
  - Waste Management Act 1996
  - EU Landfill Directive
  - EPA Landfill Manuals
  - EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive
  - DoEHLG policy statement including “Changing Our Ways” and “Preventing and Recycling Waste – Delivering Change”
- only issue waste permits where applications have obtained either a certificate of exemption or a valid planning permission
- ensure the provision of recycling facilities in the form of a separate type collection, civic amenity sites and/or bring-bank/recycling facilities in each town, village or settlement
- encourage waste prevention, minimisation, re-use, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste; where waste management is not being carried out properly, the Waste Management Acts, 1996 to 2001 will be used as a means of ensuring that specific national policies and regulations are adhered to
- encourage recycling facilities (for example, bottle banks, bring centres, etc.) in close proximity to sites of higher density and large-scale residential development
- promote and facilitate community involvement in environmental awareness activities and community-based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices
- ensure the provision of a residual landfill facility in County Kildare either directly by the Council or in co-operation or partnership with the private sector, subject to the specific requirements of the objectives of the County Kildare Waste Management Plan

## 5.5. Kildare 2012

“Kildare 2012” is an economic, social and cultural strategy for the development of Kildare during the period 2002 – 2012. The document was prepared by the Kildare County Development Board. The strategy identifies six key themes, as follows:

- Transport and Communication
- New Settlement Patterns
- A County of Contrasts – Economic progress
- Environmental Issues
- Education, Training and Capacity Building
- A Sense of Place

“Kildare 2012” sets out four specific goals for the environment and waste management. These are:

- Goal 1: to minimise waste and subsequently ensure its effective management
- Goal 2: to protect the natural and built environment of the County
- Goal 3: to implement effective programmes of environmental awareness and education
- Goal 4: to create community-based environmental activity

## 5.6. Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development

The “Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development” (RAPID) programme was initiated by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The programme is about “improving the quality of life of communities in [these] towns and in doing so giving a lift to the whole town”.

RAPID comprises two Strands. Strand I relates to major urban areas. Strand II deals with provincial towns. Athy has been selected under Strand II, and is classified as a smaller town. In the case of smaller towns, the whole town will be incorporated into the programme.

Twenty towns, including Athy, have been nominated nationally under the programme. A co-ordinator will be appointed by the relevant local authorities for each of the towns. The co-ordinator will work with an Area Implementation Team. This will include local residents and State Agencies. The Area Implementation Team will draw up an action plan for the towns, which will identify various needs. The targeted areas within the towns will then be prioritised for investment and development in a number of key areas, including health, education, housing, childcare and community facilities.

## 5.7. Kildare Litter Management Plan

Kildare County Council published the latest revision of its Litter Management Plan in 2003. The Plan sets out the Council’s objectives to prevent and control litter. It specifies the measures being undertaken to encourage public awareness of the litter problem, with particular emphasis on educational and information strategies aimed at young people. There are five key areas of the plan, all of which are integral to the waste management plan, as follows:

- education and information
- litter prevention and control
- enforcement
- community involvement
- recycling and recovery

## **5.8. Kildare County Council Corporate Plan**

The second Corporate Plan for Kildare County Council was published in 2002. The Corporate Plan provides a framework for the implementation of a broad, coherent strategy for the development of Kildare. Its purpose is to clearly set out the Council's key objectives, the means (strategies) to achieve them, and outcomes against which performance will be measured. There are five directorates in Kildare County Council, one of which is Transportation and Environment. The aim of that directorate is to secure the protection, preservation and improvement of the natural and man-made environment. Two objectives of the corporate plan relate to waste management, as follows:

- the disposal of solid waste
- the management of waste services

These objectives are reflected in this Waste Management Plan.