

KILDARE COUNTY

# DEVELOPMENT

# PLAN

# 2017–2023

2 YEAR PROGRESS REPORT



PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL  
MAY 2019

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (CDP) was adopted by the Elected Members in February 2017 by members and came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017. The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires the Chief Executive Officer to provide a 2-year report to the members of the Council on the progress achieved, since the adoption of the Plan.

Since the plan became effective, there have been significant changes in the national and regional planning context with the adoption of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the forthcoming adoption of the Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). The NPF and RSES project slower rates of population growth for County Kildare than the CDP. In the coming months, the Council will be reviewing or varying the CDP and the consistency of policies contained therein with national and regional planning policies, following the adoption of the RSES.

There has been a notable increase in the number of planning applications and building commencement notices received over the last two years and uplift in investment activity generally. The objectives of the CDP, in seeking to consolidate 'compact growth', are reflective of the objectives of the NPF and RSES and have seen developers seeking to maximise appropriately serviced and available land in development proposals. Since March 2017, the Council has engaged with the developers of 31 Strategic Housing Developments i.e. for residential development proposals of 100 housing units or more.

The Council has acquired new social housing units and approved a number of schemes for Part 8 development in seeking to address the objectives of the CDP and the Council's obligations for housing. The Council, through the Local Enterprise Office, continues to advise and provide grant aid to local businesses and encouraging the developing of indigenous and foreign direct investment. The development of a Digital Technology Supercluster, based in the Mid-Eastern Region Innovation Think Space (MERITS) in Naas, and due to open in 2020 represents the ambition of the Council and will support the CDP objectives to diversify local economic opportunities and support small and medium-sized businesses.

The Council has continued to invest in recreation, amenity and tourism in the development of new and expanded parks and open space in Sallins and Newbridge. The Barrow Blueway and Grand Canal Greenway have both received planning or Part 8 approval since the CDP was adopted. The progress towards delivery of these projects will assist in realising the objectives of the CDP to improve the quality of life for the people of Kildare and the tourism offer of the county.

Significant progress has been made on the motorway widening project on the M7, a key transport objective of the CDP, with completion of this nationally strategic project scheduled for the end of 2019. Funding has been secured through the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) for the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road and Naas Inner Relief Road. Work has now commenced on the Athy Distributor Road and each of these projects will assist in relieving congestion around these strategically important towns for the county, in line with the objectives of the CDP.

The Council has engaged with Irish Water and continues to promote the prioritisation, upgrade and expansion of the water utilities network, particularly throughout the county's towns and villages to encourage consolidated and compact growth and support rural Kildare, in line with the objectives of the CDP.

As the policies of the NPF and RSES become embedded in planning policy, the forthcoming challenges for Kildare County Council in months and years ahead will be ensuring that the growth trajectory and investment in the county in the last 2 years is sustained over the Development Plan period and beyond. The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires the CDP to be varied or replaced and the process of variation or replacement will begin in summer 2019, after the adoption of the RSES. This report sets out the achievements of the Council in delivering on the objectives of the CDP and will form an intrinsic part in reviewing the success or otherwise on delivering the vision for County Kildare in a varied or replaced County Development Plan.

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**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 (AS AMENDED).**

**SECTION 15 REPORT TO ELECTED MEMBERS ON PROGRESS ON SECURING THE OBJECTIVES OF  
THE KILDARE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017 -2023**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

On the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017, the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (CDP) was adopted by the Elected Members of Kildare County Council, following an extensive period of public consultation and statutory process, in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Plan came into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

The CDP is one of the most important policy documents for the county as it sets out an agreed vision that will guide the growth and sustainable development of Kildare over the period of the Plan. The broad range of policies and objectives contained in the Plan reflect the county's capacity to play a key role in accommodating sustainable growth and to support quality of life and prosperity among all citizens, whilst maintaining the county's unique natural and built environment.

The implementation of the County Development Plan is fundamental to achieving the Council's corporate vision, which is to make County Kildare an attractive place in which to live, work and do business.

### 1.1 Legislative Context for this Report

Section 15 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) sets out the general duty of a planning authority to secure the objectives of a development plan and the requirement of the Chief Executive of a planning authority to give a report to the members of the authority on the progress achieved in doing so. Section 95 of the Act states that the report of the Chief Executive under Section 15(2) shall include a review of the progress achieved in implementing the housing strategy.

### 1.2 Changing Planning Context

The context in which the County Development Plan 2017-2023 was prepared differed significantly to that of the preceding County Development Plan (2011-2017) in terms of political, economic, social and environmental circumstances. Since its adoption in February 2017, economic circumstances have improved. However, the legacy of the recent recession remains and Brexit poses a threat to continuous economic development. Significant changes have resulted in terms of national policy and legislation which have a bearing on the functions and operations of the Council and, in turn, the implementation of the County Development Plan. Key changes and emerging new areas are highlighted below.

#### – Local Government Reform

Consequent to the implementation of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the County Development Plan now incorporates the areas formerly within the administrative areas of Naas Town Council and Athy Town Council. The Local Government Reform Act 2014 also established a Municipal District (MD) system of local administration; in Kildare this entails Naas MD, Athy MD, Maynooth MD, Celbridge-Leixlip MD and Kildare-Newbridge MD. These new organisational structures are reflected in the County Development Plan and in this report.

### – Strategic Housing Development

In 2016, the *Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016* was introduced to allow planning applications for housing developments of more than 100 residential units and/or 200 plus student bed spaces be made directly to An Bord Pleanála under a new ‘fast-track’ planning process. The *Planning and Development (Strategic Housing Development) Regulations 2017* came in to effect in July 2017 and have had a consequential impact on the delivery of housing and on the Development Management functions of the Council. Strategic Housing Developments (SHDs) are further detailed in Section 15 Development Management of this report.

### – Vacant Sites

The *Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015* introduced the vacant site levy as a site activation measure to ensure that vacant or underutilised land in urban areas is brought into beneficial use. The primary purpose of the legislation is to assist in addressing the current housing supply shortage and to stimulate increased activity in the construction sector. Under this Act, each local authority is required to compile a register of lands in its area that are suitable for housing but are not coming forward for development, a Vacant Sites Register (VSR). The Act defines a vacant site and the conditions under which it can be entered on the Register. A site entered on the VSR is subject to the Vacant Site Levy (VSL), payable in arrears each year. The VSR for Kildare was established on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

### – Rebuilding Ireland & LIHAF

*Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing* sets out government policy focused on tackling the national housing supply shortage across tenures. The Action Plan provides a multi-stranded, action-oriented approach to increase the supply of social housing, to double the output of overall housing to at least 25,000 per annum by 2020, to service all tenure types, and to tackle homelessness in a comprehensive manner. The Action Plan includes a comprehensive Five Pillar approach: (1) Address Homelessness; (2) Accelerate Social Housing; (3) Build more Homes; (4) Improve the Rental Sector and (5) Utilise existing housing.

The Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) is a key element of Pillar 3 of the Action Plan. The objective of LIHAF is to provide public off-site infrastructure to relieve critical infrastructure blockages. This will enable the accelerated delivery of housing on key development sites in urban areas of high demand for housing. Kildare County Council was successful in receiving funding commitments under LIHAF for three applications for projects in Sallins (Amenity lands), Naas (Inner relief road) and Maynooth (Eastern relief road), with a total value of over €21.4 million.

### – Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework and National Development Plan.

Project Ireland 2040 is the Government’s overarching policy initiative and is informed by the Programme for a Partnership Government 2016, bringing together the National Planning Framework (NPF) to 2040 and the National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2027. Its aim is to ensure a consistent approach between planning objectives under the National Planning Framework and investment commitments under the National Development Plan. Project Ireland 2040 seeks to achieve ten

strategic outcomes, building around the overarching themes of wellbeing, equality and opportunity and representing the ten priorities of the National Planning Framework; i.e.

- Compact Growth;
- Enhanced Regional Accessibility;
- Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities;
- Sustainable Mobility;
- A Strong Economy supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills;
- High-Quality International Connectivity;
- Enhanced Amenity and Heritage;
- Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society;
- Sustainable Management of water Waste and other Environmental Resources;
- Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services.

The NPF has a number of implications for County Kildare in relation to planning, housing and infrastructure policy development (e.g. the requirement to review County Development Plans, produce Infrastructure Assessment and Housing Needs Demand Assessments). The NPF represents a step-change in planning policy and implementation of planning policy in the country, using active land management to direct development, seeking to ensure brownfield land is prioritised and making sure policy and planning decision are fully evidentially based.

A number of key structures have been put in place to ensure the efficient, coordinated and timely implementation of the NDP and NPF, including the Land Development Agency (to coordinate the use of appropriate State-owned lands for regeneration and development – primarily for new housing) and four National Development Plan Funds, i.e.

- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund: To secure more compact, sustainable growth in Ireland's five cities and other large urban centres;
- Rural Regeneration and Development Fund: To support job creation in rural areas, address depopulation of rural communities and support improvements in towns, villages and their hinterlands that enhance the quality of life of communities and enhance their attractiveness for families who want to live and work there;
- Climate Action Fund: To support initiatives that contribute to the achievement of Ireland's climate and energy targets; and
- Disruptive Technologies Fund: To see investment in the development and deployment of disruptive innovative technologies and applications, on a commercial basis, targeted at tackling national and global challenges.

The Planning Department co-ordinated submissions on behalf of the Council to the Department in relation to the National Planning Framework.



### – Eastern and Midlands Regional Authority: Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

The Draft Regional and Spatial Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Regional Authority (EMRA) was published and placed on public display between 05/11/2018 and 23/01/2019. On foot of the consideration of submissions to the Draft RSES, Material Amendments to the RSES were proposed and subject to public consultation between 05/03/2019 and 12/04/2019. It is anticipated that the RSES will be finalised and adopted in May 2019.

The RSES provides a Spatial Strategy, an Economic Strategy, a Metropolitan Plan, an investment Framework and a Climate Action Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region. It sets out sixteen Regional Strategic Outcomes which Kildare County Council must have regard to in setting the framework for future Development Plans and Local Area Plans.

The strategy for the region is based on the continued growth of Dublin, sustainable growth of the Dublin Metropolitan Area, targeted growth at the regional centres of Athlone, Dundalk and Drogheda, the collaboration and growth of the Dublin Belfast corridor and a network of key towns throughout the region to deliver sustainable regional development. The strategy places part of County Kildare in the Dublin Metropolitan Area (including Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip and Kilcock) and the majority of the remainder of the county within the Hinterland, and only small areas in the south west of the county in the Outer Region.

In terms of the CDP Settlement Hierarchy, Naas and Maynooth are identified as key towns in the RSES hierarchy, with lower tier settlements to be defined by the Development Plan. The Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for the Dublin Metropolitan Area includes two residential and employment development corridors integrated with transport planning, two of which run through the county (north-west corridor and south-west corridor).

The RSES identifies key economic drivers for the region including retail, tourism, marine, agriculture and low carbon. The environmental theme focuses on flood risk management, green and blue infrastructure and climate change actions, including five primary areas of transition at the core of the strategy.

### – Aligning the County Development Plan and Local Area Plans with the NPF and the RSES

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2018 provides for the alignment of City and County Development Plans with the NPF and RSES. The Kildare County Development Plan will require to be made consistent with the RSES either through either a variation of the plan or, if considered more appropriate, a full review of the CDP. This must commence within a maximum period of 26 weeks after the making of the RSES. The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2018 requires that a LAP is consistent with NPF and RSES. It is expected that all Local Area Plans will be similarly brought into alignment during or immediately after the 2019-21 review period.

### 1.3 Structure of Report

Sections 2 onwards set out progress achieved in relation to the County Development Plan policies and objectives, according to the chapters of the Plan. A summary of the overall development strategy of the county is provided, and key trends arising from Census 2016 are highlighted.

Given the quantity and complexity of the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan it is not practical to address each one individually, and many of the objectives of the plan do not require specific actions but continuous implementation over the lifetime of the plan. It is further noted that some of the policies and objectives of the CDP relate to the future strategic development of the county and have a much longer time horizon than the six year period of the Plan itself.

Therefore each of Sections 2 – 16 summarises the overarching aims of the relevant chapter and outlines progress in relation to individual topics over the two year period since the adoption of the CDP. Key projects delivered and specific progress is outlined where appropriate. Section 15 provides detail on recent overall trends in Development Management activity. Section 17 relates to Volume 2 of the CDP - Small Town, Villages and Rural Settlements.

## 2. CORE STRATEGY

The overall strategy is framed by the Core Strategy which sets out the strategic approach to the future growth and management of development in the county. In accordance with statutory requirements, it was informed by the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) for the Greater Dublin Areas (2010-2022) and relevant national policy.

### 2.1 Core Strategy - Context

Chapter 1 of the County Development Plan details the policy context in which the Core Strategy was prepared, with key characteristics of population and household patterns in the county.

As required by the RPGs at the time of drafting the CDP, a minimum of 35% of overall growth is directed into the Metropolitan area (Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip and Kilcock) and the remaining 65% to the Hinterland area. Of the proportion allocated to the Hinterland, in line with national and regional policy to direct growth into designated growth centres, a minimum of 60% of the allocation is directed to the main urban centres (Naas, Newbridge, Kildare, Monasterevin, Athy and Kilcullen) with the remaining 40% to small towns/villages and the rural countryside.

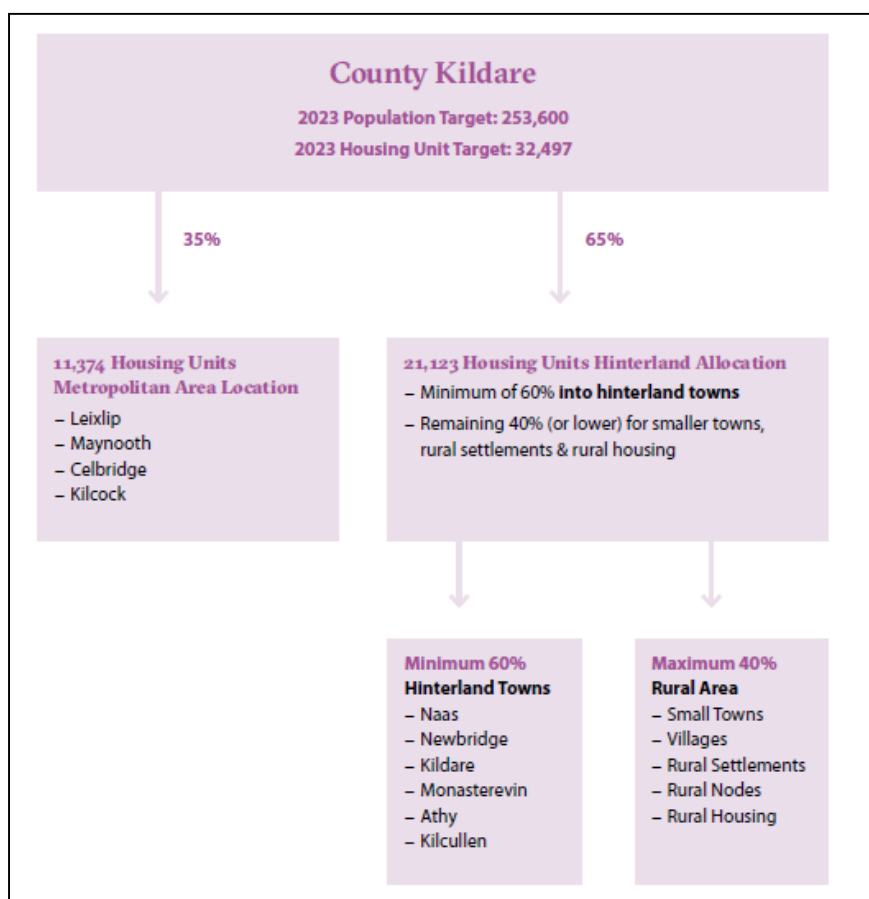


Figure 2.1: Population and Housing Unit Targets 2023

## 2.2 Delivery of Core Strategy

Figure 2-2 below depicts the Core Strategy, the delivery of which is structured around five policy areas:

- Settlement Strategy;
- Economic Development;
- Sustainable and Integrated Communities;
- Balancing the Environment with Sustainable and Appropriate Development; and
- National Climate Change Strategy.

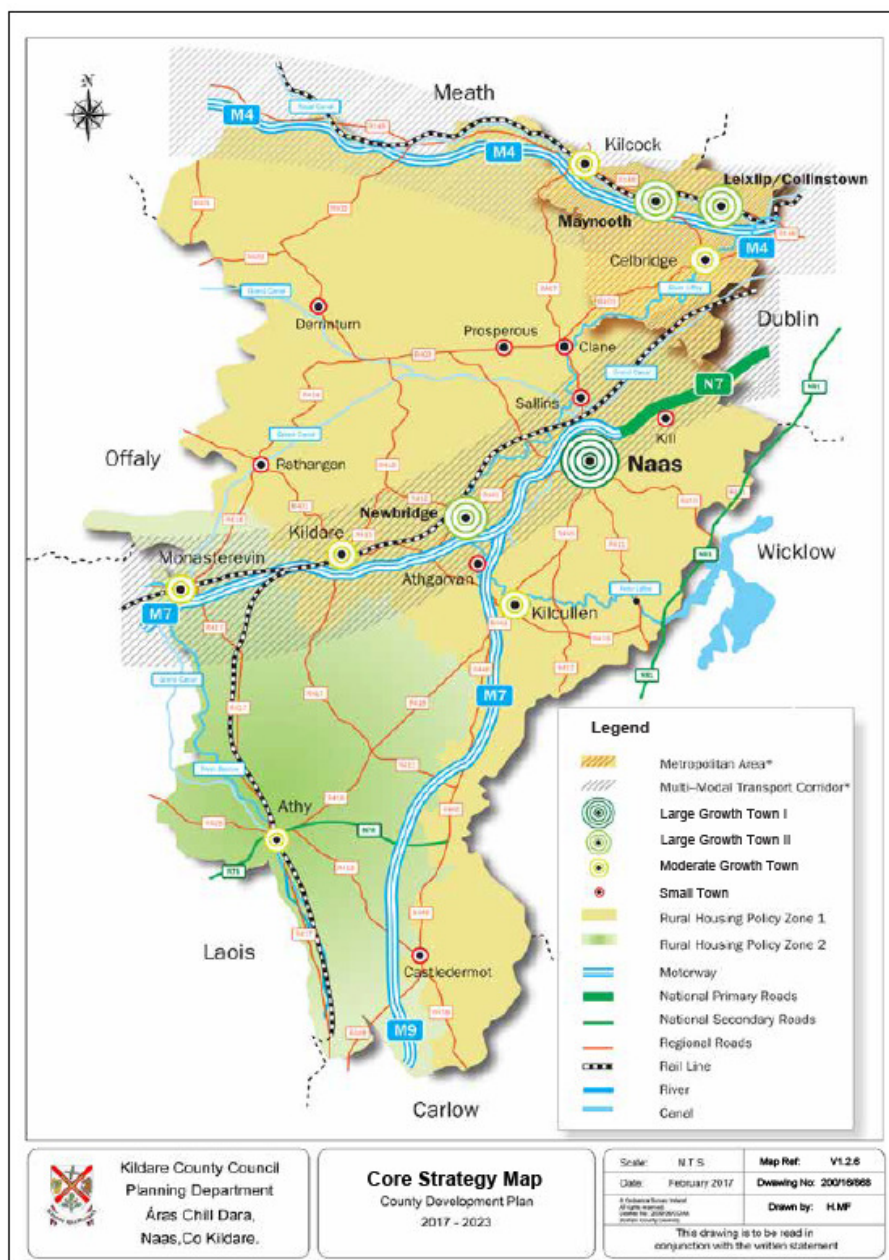


Figure 2.2: Core Strategy Map

The delivery of the Core Strategy under these policy areas is expanded upon in the remainder of the County Development Plan. Section 3 of this report details the implementation of the Settlement Strategy aspect of the Core Strategy.

### 2.3 NPF and RSES – Implications for Delivery of Core Strategy.

As outlined in Section 1, since the adoption of the County Development Plan 2017-2023 the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the draft Regional Spatial Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern Midland Region Assembly (EMRA) have been published.

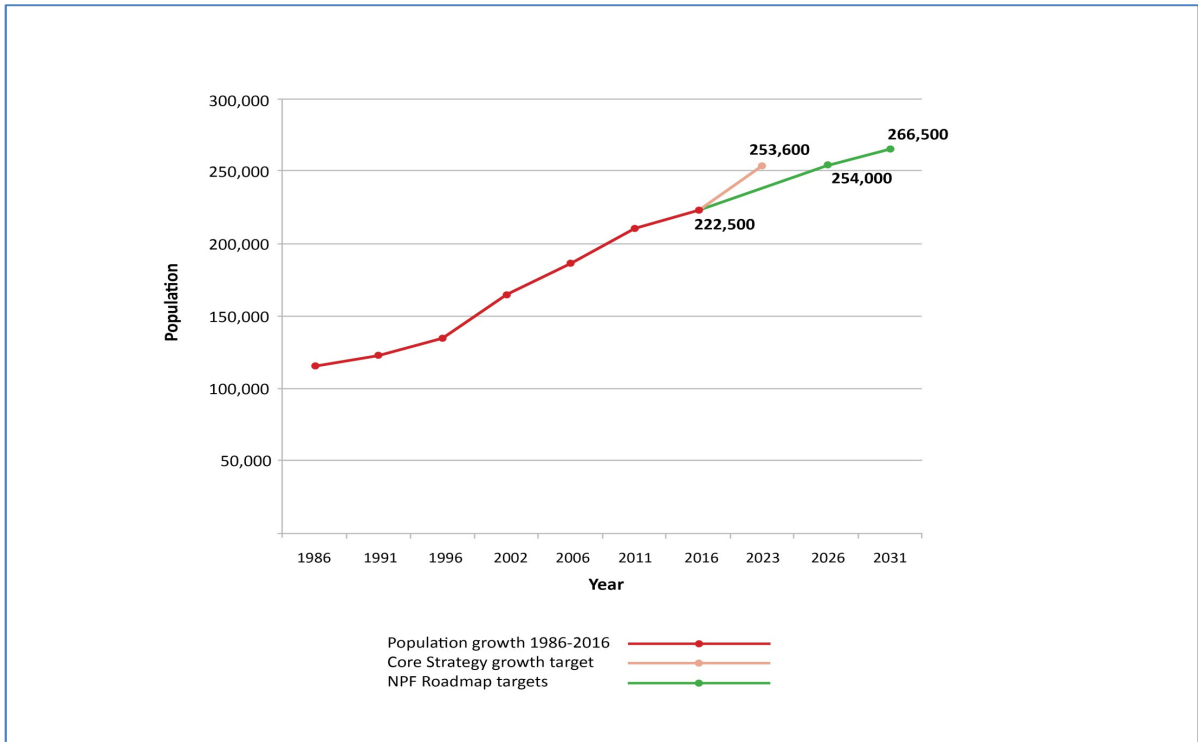
The NPF is a national document that guides, at a high-level, strategic planning and development for the country over the next 20+ years. Of the extra 1 million people due to be added to Ireland’s 2018 estimated population, 50% of that growth is set to occur in key regional centres, towns, villages and rural areas. The RSESs are required to direct the delivery of the growth identified in the NPF within each region.

#### National Planning Framework

The National Planning Framework - Roadmap for Delivery set out regional and county population projections to 2031. Considering the CDP period to 2023, the NPF anticipates similar growth in the County, but over a longer period, compared to the CDP Core Strategy. It should be noted that this is taking the upper range of the NPF growth projections.

NPF Growth Projection for Kildare	Kildare CDP 2017-2023 Growth Projection
<b>2016:</b> 222,273	<b>2023:</b> 253,552 (as per RPGs) (2016 – 2023: <b>14.1%</b> growth)
<b>2026:</b> 254,000 (upper range) (2016 –2026: <b>14.3 %</b> growth)	
<b>2031:</b> 266,500 (upper range) (2026 – 2031: 5%)	

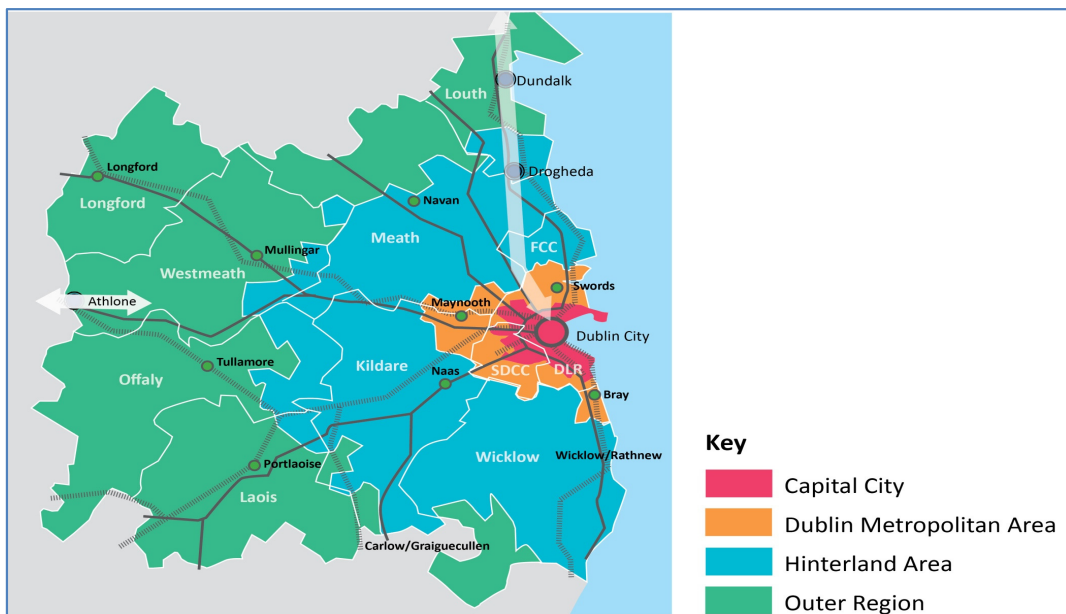
**Table 2-1: Comparison of NPF/CDP Growth Projections**



**Figure 2.3: Comparison of NPF/CDP Growth Projections**

**Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy**

As set out in Section 1, the draft the Draft Regional and Spatial Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Regional Authority (EMRA) was published on in November 2018 and Material Amendments were published in March 2019. The RSES Growth Strategy identifies Growth Enablers for each of its four functional areas (shown below) which must be considered in the development of the Core Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy.



**Figure 2.4: EMRA Functional Areas**

As parts of the county are in the Dublin Metropolitan Area, and the majority of the remainder of county is within the Hinterland area, the draft RSES contains a number of significant impacts for Kildare in terms of its Core Strategy;

- Areas in Kildare (see Figure 2.6 below) will be required to comply with the MASP (Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan). The MASP includes the towns of Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip and Kilcock;
- Maynooth and Naas are referenced as Key Towns in the RSES so these specific roles will need to be incorporated into County Settlement hierarchy and LAPs. A hierarchy of other towns must be identified by local authorities at County Development Plan stage;
- An allowance of transition population up to 20% of the targeted growth in the city (250,000 people) may be transferred to other settlements in the MASP specifically to the Key Towns of Maynooth, Bray and Swords, subject to considerations of compact growth, high capacity public transport and significant employment provision;
- A cross-boundary Joint Local Area Plan (LAP) will be required to be prepared by Kildare County Council and Meath County Council in Maynooth;
- Higher densities to be applied to higher order settlements with a graded reduction to lower order settlements;
- Land Prioritisation measures will be necessary where there is a surplus of land;
- Compact Urban Growth – settlement plans must provide for 30% of new housing to be within and close to the existing built up urban areas; and
- Promotion of regeneration of rural towns and villages, alternatives to one-off housing, and measures to manage one-off housing is required.

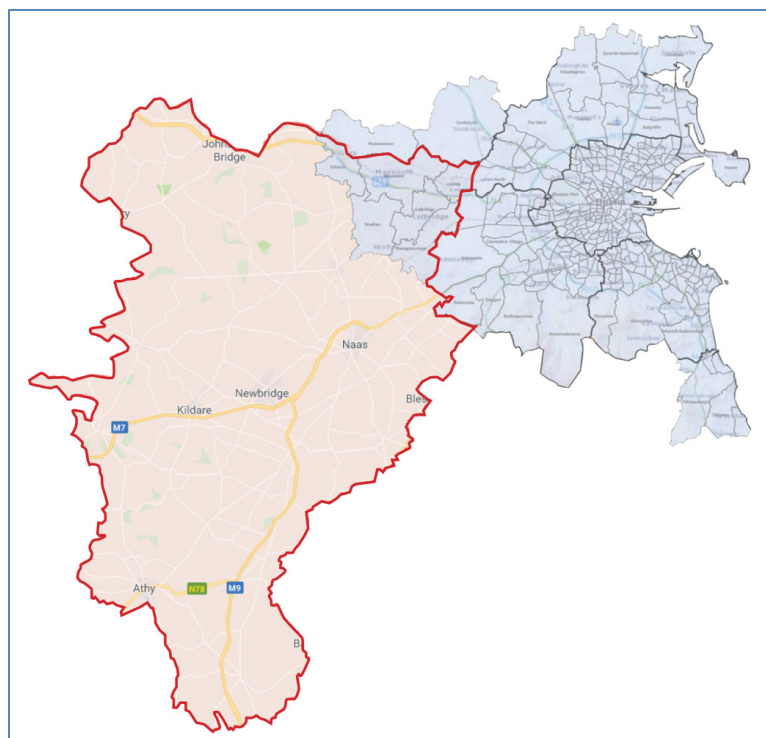


Figure 2.5: Map of Kildare/Dublin Metropolitan Area (Source: Draft RSES)

It is evident that the implementation of the CDP in terms of its current Core Strategy may not align with the emerging new national and regional planning policy context. For this reason, and in accordance with Guidance from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, the programme of LAPs has not been progressed as anticipated and review has been deferred in some instances. Further detail on this aspect is set out in Section 3. Following the final adoption of the RSES, the CDP will be reviewed or varied, as appropriate and the Core Strategy made consistent with the RSES.



### 3. SETTLEMENT STRATEGY

The Settlement Strategy of the CDP seeks to provide a coherent planning framework for the development of the county, founded on a well-developed urban structure supporting diverse rural areas, protecting the rural environment and delivering on more sustainable living.

#### 3.1 Census Trends

Since the adoption of the CDP, the results of Census 2016 have been published. The following section outlines some of the highlights of the Census and some implications for land-use planning.

##### County Population

Table 3.1 shows the county population over the last 25 years. The Census indicates an increase of 12,192 in the county population over the 2011-2016 period, (5.8% over 5 years). This represents a much lower growth rate compared to the previous inter-censal periods.

Year	Population	Increase	% Increase in Inter-censal Period
1991	122,656	-	-
1996	134,881	12,225	10%
2002	163,944	29,113	21.6%
2006	186,335	22,391	13.7%
2011	210,312	23,977	12.9%
2016	222,504	12,192	5.8%

Table 3-1: Population Change in County Kildare 1991-2016

##### Households

Census 2016 recorded 70,763 households within the county. This represents an increase of 3.5% since 2011, compared to 16% in the previous inter-censal period 2006-2011. Average household sizes have decreased from 2.9 persons per household in 2011 to 2.78 persons in 2016.

##### Population Changes of Main Urban Centres

Table 4 outlines population changes over the census period 2011 – 2016 for the higher order settlements within the county comprised of Large Growth Towns, Moderate Sustainable Growth Towns and Small Towns. The highest percentage increases took place in Newbridge (+32.78%) followed by Maynooth (+16.59%), Athgarvan (+15.75%) and Monasterevin (+14.45%). The largest numerical increase took place in Newbridge (+5,615 persons) followed by Maynooth (+2,075 persons). The lowest levels of growth occurred in Leixlip (0.34%) followed by Athy (0.94%).

Settlement	Population 2011	Population 2016	Actual Change 2011-2016	% Change 2011-2016
Naas	20,713	21,393	680	3.28%
Maynooth	12,510	14,585	2,075	16.59%
Leixlip	15,452	15,504	52	0.34%
Newbridge	17,127	22,742	5,615	32.78%
Celbridge	19,537	20,288	751	3.84%
Kilcock	5,533	6,093	560	10.12%
Kildare	8,142	8,634	492	6.04%
Monasterevin	3,710	4,246	536	14.45%
Kilcullen	3,473	3,710	237	6.82%
Athy	9,587	9,677	90	0.94%
Clane	6,702	7,280	578	8.62%
Prosperous	2,248	2,333	85	3.78%
Rathangan	2,374	2,611	237	9.98%
Sallins	5,283	5,849	566	10.71%
Athgarvan	1,016	1,176	160	15.75%
Castledermot	1,398	1,475	77	5.51%
Derrinturn	1,541	1,602	61	3.96%
Kill	3,095	3,348	253	8.17%

Table 2-2: Population Change in Main Urban Centres 2011-2016

### 3.2 Comparison of Settlement Strategy/Census 2016 Figures

Table 3.4 outlines results from the 2016 Census of Population compared to allocations and forecasts set out in Table 3.3. of the County Development Plan.

Settlement Type	Towns / Villages	2011 Census Population	2016 Pop Est.	2016 Census Population	2023 Dwellings Forecast	2023 Pop Forecast
<b>Large Growth Town 1</b>	Naas*	20,713	21,873	21,393 (9.61%*)	12,719	28,111
<b>Large Growth Town II</b>	Maynooth**	12,510	13,211	14,585 (6.55%)	8,588	18,996
	Leixlip	15,452	16,317	15,504 (6.97%)	8,958	19,794
	Newbridge	21,561	22,768	22,742 (10.22%)	12,191	26,896
<b>Moderate Sustainable Growth Towns (6)</b>	Celbridge	19,537	20,631	20,288 (9.12%)	10,333	22,801
	Kilcock**	5,533	5,843	6,093 (2.74%)	3,514	7,764
	Kildare	8,142	8,598	8,634 (3.88%)	4,872	10,750
	Monasterevin	3,710	3,918	4,246 (1.91%)	2,502	5,525
	Kilcullen	3,437	3,629	3,710 (1.67%)	2,230	4,927
	Athy*	9,926	10,482	9,677 (4.35%)	5,968	13,152
<b>Small Towns (8)</b>	Clane	6,702	7,077	7,280 (3.27%)	3,483	7,668
	Prosperous	2,248	2,374	2,333 (1.05%)	1,103	2,432
	Rathangan	2,374	2,507	2,611 (1.17%)	1,244	2,739

	Sallins	5,283	5,579	5,849 (2.63%)	2,645	5,824
	Athgarvan	1,016	1,073	1,176 (0.53%)	573	1,267
	Castledermot	1,398	1,476	1,475 (0.66%)	814	1,792
	Derrinturn	1,541	1,627	1,602 (0.72%)	633	1,396
	Kill	3,095	3,268	3,348 (1.50%)	1,652	3,641
<b>Villages (15)</b>	Johnstown, Straffan, Ballymore-Eustace, Allenwood, Johnstownbridge, Coill Dubh, Coolearagh, Kilmeague, Caragh, Kildangan, Suncroft, Robertstown, Ballitore, Crookstown, Moone, Timolin	9,779	10,327	Census Data not available for all villages	4,307	9,495
<b>Rural Settlements (18)</b>	Broadford, Milltown, Killeel, Staplestown, Ardclough, Allen, Brannockstown, Twomilehouse, Brownstown, Cutbush, Maddenstown, Nurney, Calverstown, Rathcoffey, Narraghmore, Maganey/Levitstown, Kilmead & Kilberry	2,960	3,126	No Census Data	2,421	5,324
<b>Rural Nodes (23)</b>	Clogherinka, Cadamstown, Kilshanchoe, Newtown, Tirmoghan, Carbury, Timahoe, Lackagh/Mounrice, Ballyshannon, Ballyroe, Kilkea, Ellistown, Newtownmoneenluggagh, Kildoon, Booleigh, Castlemitchell, Williamstown, Clongorey/Blacktrench, Ballyteague, Lullymore, Ticknevin, Tipperkevin & Killina, Moyvalley, Rathmore/Eadestown	53,395	56,385	No Census Data	19,340	52,198
<b>Rural Dwellers</b>				No Census Data	2,600	
<b>Blessington Env</b>		429	453	No Census Data	489	1064
<b>County Total</b>		<b>210,312</b>	<b>222,130</b>	<b>222,504</b>	<b>113,181</b>	<b>253,552</b>

**Table 3-3: Settlement Hierarchy – Population/Housing Targets updated with Census 2016 Figures**  
(\*Percentage expressed as a percentage of total population of the County i.e. 21,393 is 9.61% of 222,504)

### 3.3 Progress on Settlement Strategy Objectives

The Council supports the sustainable growth of the settlements within the County Settlement Hierarchy on an ongoing basis, through the Development Management function and Local Area Plan programme. Land is zoned as appropriate during the preparation of settlement plans, having regard to the DoEHLG Development Plan Guidelines, including the sequential approach. Table 3.4 outlines progress on the Local Area Plan programme and the status of plans for the higher order settlements in the settlement hierarchy.

The implementation of the settlement strategy is facilitated in part through the prioritisation of key strategic infrastructure under the Capital Works Programme, on an ongoing basis.

CDP objectives relating to appropriate scale and form of development are implemented through the Development Management process, and having regard to relevant guidelines issued under S28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

While agricultural land-use zonings and green infrastructure features have typically acted as natural greenbelts, and thus defined settlements, it is a National Policy Objective under the NPF to identify

and strengthen the value of greenbelts and green spaces, to enable enhanced connectivity to wider strategic networks, prevent coalescence of settlements and to allow for the long-term strategic expansion of urban areas. This emphasis is carried through in the RSES, particularly for the metropolitan area. The forthcoming review/variation of the CDP will provide an opportunity for greater consideration of the identification of green belts throughout the settlement hierarchy.

The Council has commenced a review of residential zonings within the settlement hierarchy and an audit of available undeveloped lands. This will be continued and completed following the adoption of the RSES, to inform the required subsequent review/variation of the CDP. The implications of the Census 2016 data will also be considered as part of this process.

Settlement	Last plan period	Comment
Naas	2011-2017 (Town Plan)	Draft Naas LAP 2019 – 2023 has been published for public consultation.
Maynooth	2013-2019 LAP	In effect. Amendment No. 1 adopted 09/10/2018.
Leixlip	2017-2023 LAP	Arising from Ministerial Direction on 2017 LAP, new Draft Leixlip LAP 2019 – 2025 is at an advanced stage and expected to be published for public consultation shortly.
Newbridge	2013-2019 LAP	Extended in December 2018 to 22nd December 2022.
Celbridge	2017-2023 LAP	In effect. Was subject to Ministerial Direction (quashed by High Court).
Kilcock	2015-2021 LAP	In effect.
Kildare	2012-2018 LAP	Pre-draft public consultation in 2018. Preparation of Draft LAP Deferred pending adoption of RSES.
Monasterevin	2016-2022 LAP	In effect.
Kilcullen	2014-2020 LAP	In effect.
Athy	2011-2017 (Town Plan)	Pre-draft public consultation in 2018. Preparation of Draft LAP Deferred pending adoption of RSES.
Clane	2017-2023 LAP	In effect.
Prosperous	2017-2023	In effect. Contained within County Development Plan
Rathangan	2017-2023	In effect. Contained within County Development Plan
Sallins	2016-2022 LAP	In effect. Was subject to Ministerial Direction.
Athgarvan	2017-2023	In effect. Contained within County Development Plan
Castledermot	2017-2023	In effect. Contained within County Development Plan
Derrinturn	2017-2023	In effect. Contained within County Development Plan
Kill	2017-2023	In effect. Contained within County Development Plan

**Table 3-4: Status of Local Area Plan/Settlement Plans**

## 4. HOUSING

The County Development Plan seeks to facilitate the provision of high quality residential developments at appropriate locations in line with the settlement strategy; to ensure the provision of appropriate densities at suitable locations; to include an appropriate mix of house sizes, types and tenures in order to meet a variety of household needs and to promote balanced and sustainable communities.

The Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy of the County Development Plan set out population and housing unit allocations for settlements across the county; and the LAP programme identifies lands in each settlement suitable for the provision of housing, thus ensuring adequate lands are zoned to meet projected housing requirements of the county over the plan period.

### 4.1 Housing Strategy

It is an objective of the CDP to secure the implementation of the Housing Strategy.

*Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness* was published in 2016 and has a significant bearing on the implementation of the Housing Strategy. The Action Plan is comprehensive and addresses all aspects of the housing system under five Pillars:

- Address Homelessness;
- Accelerate Social Housing;
- Build More Homes;
- Improve the Rental Sector; and
- Utilise Existing Housing.

The overarching aim of this Action Plan is to ramp up delivery of housing across all tenures, to help individuals and families meet their housing needs and to help those who are currently housed to remain in their homes or be provided with appropriate options of alternative accommodation, especially those families in emergency accommodation.

Kildare County Council's Housing Department has put in place a strategic plan for delivery of social housing units under a number of delivery mechanisms. The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DoHPLG) provides funding under two main delivery streams; Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme and Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme. To this end social housing units are delivered by both the Local Authority and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) through a combination of construction (including Part V), acquisition and leasing. In addition social housing applicants are accommodated under the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP) and the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS).

The Housing Department works closely with house builders and developers to ensure delivery of suitable social housing units through Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to meet the needs of social housing applicants. It is worth noting that two-thirds of the applicants for social housing in the county have been assessed as having a one or two bed housing need.

Government investment for the provision of social housing in recent years has resulted in an increase in the Council’s housing stock. The NOAC Performance Indicator report for 2017 shows that the Council’s housing stock had increased by 136 units in the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017, with a total stock at the end of 2107 of 3,879 units. Total stock as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 was 4,159, a further increase of 280 units. In the period 2017 - 2018, the Housing Department acquired 10 social housing developments through the Part 8 planning process.

The Council’s current Allocation Scheme for Social Housing was adopted by the members of the Council on 28 November 2016. The basis for allocations of social housing under the scheme is time on the list, however, in certain circumstances, overall priority will be afforded to applicants under specific criteria, such as for example medical need, disability, homelessness.

While the Allocation Scheme is the overarching policy for allocation of social housing, the Housing Department also takes cognisance of other policies/plans which relate in particular to applicants who are afforded overall priority such as:

- Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with a Disability.
- Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 (currently under review)
- Mid East Region Homelessness Action Plan 2018-2020

## 4.2 Housing Supply

Overall housing stock has increased by approximately 2% since 2011, as shown in Table 4.1. There has also been a notable drop in the vacancy rate since 2011.

Year	Housing Stock	Vacancy	Vacancy Rate
1991	35,580	1,812	5.1%
1996	41,477	1,480	3.6%
2002	54,589	3,198	5.8%
2006	68,840	6,838	9.9%
2011	78,794	6,311	8.0%
2016	80,158	4712	5.9%

**Table 4-1: County Housing Stock 1991 - 2016**

The Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy of the County Development Plan set out population and housing unit allocations for settlements across the county. The settlement hierarchy in the CDP was calculated to provide c. 1170 ha of undeveloped zoned land, with a target of 32,497 new dwellings for the period 2017 – 2023.

The LAP programme identifies lands in each settlement suitable for the provision of housing, thus ensuring adequate lands are zoned to meet projected housing requirements of the county over the plan period. A review and update of the development capacity of settlements will be carried out as part of the forthcoming review/variation to the CDP, following the adoption of the RSES.

The Council’s Building Control Section has seen a surge of activity over the past 12 months notably:

- 33% increase in the active development sites in the county;
- 19% increase in valid commencement notices received in 2018; and
- 25% increase in certificates of compliance on completions submitted in 2018.

Commencement notices relating to 3,051 dwelling units were received in 2017 and 2018.

The Council has continued to make significant progress in the taking in charge of residential estates. Twenty four estates were taken in charge since the beginning of 2017 comprised of 2331 units. The Taking in Charge policy has been reviewed and an updated policy is expected to be put to SPC later in the year.

### 4.3 Sustainable Communities & Residential Urban Design

Through the Development Management process, and in the design of new social housing developments, Kildare County Council is mindful of the need to establish sustainable communities. The Council has delivered two new social housing construction projects since 2017; one is an extension to an existing local authority estate, the Paddock, Highfield, in Kilcock where the design of the new dwellings was sympathetic to the design of the existing dwellings. The second involved the demolition of a former local authority housing development on a prominent site in Newbridge and the construction of 13 dwellings and apartments on the site.

### 4.4 Dwelling Mix & Design

The average household size in Kildare decreased again in the inter-census period to 2016, to 2.78 persons. This trend, along with growing diversity in household type, reflects a need for greater consideration of housing mix in the Council’s housing and planning policies and in particular, the provision of smaller and adaptable/life-long units to meet specific needs.

Year	2002	2006	2011	2016
Average Household Size	3.19	3.01	2.94	2.78

**Table 4-2: Average Household Size County Kildare**

The policy of the CDP is to specify target housing mixes as appropriate during the Local Area Plan, Small Town Plan, or Settlement Plan for preparation process, and to require that applicants for or residential development include a statement of housing mix with such an application. The Council has not applied target housing mixes to date in its settlement plans, largely due to the absence of government guidance and an evidence base to determine appropriate standards.

National Policy Objective (NPO) 37 of the NPF requires that a Housing Need Demand Assessment (HNDA) is to be undertaken for each Local Authority Area, to inform housing policies, housing strategies and associated land-use zoning policies and to correlate and accurately align future housing requirements. Undertaking a detailed profile of housing stock and pressures is a key input to the HNDA. It is anticipated that the preparation of a HNDA will allow the consideration of target



housing mixes, during the preparation of settlement plans. This will be considered further during the review/variation of the CDP, following the adoption of the RSES.

Kildare County Council's Architects Department completed the development of 13 residential units in Athgarvan Road, Newbridge (referred to above) in October 2018. This project is an example of high quality design of residential units in an urban setting delivering high quality living environments suitable for residents of all ages. These energy efficient units achieve a BER of A2 and incorporate air to water heat pump technology for primary heating and were funded through a "Towards Carbon Neutral" pilot housing initiative. The scheme is a good example of contemporary residential design in an urban setting.

The Architects Department has developed 2 and 3 bedroom adaptable house types. These prototype lifetime adaptable units have been designed so that they can be converted into an accessible ground floor apartment with a 2 bedroom duplex family unit above, each with own door access allowing different generations of the same family to live within the same building. These units have been showcased at the National Smart Ageing Housing programme in several venues around the country and have been presented to other local authorities who are interested in this model. Ways of funding these lifetime adaptable units through the social housing investment programme are being explored.

#### **4.5 Specific Needs Housing**

The preparation of a HNDA will also inform the consideration of specific needs housing in private developments, as part of the Development Management process.

The Council works closely with a number of AHBs and NGOs in the delivery of units to meet the specific needs of some housing applicants, in addition to supported temporary accommodation for homelessness. The work of the Housing Department in collaborating with AHBs and NGOs is extremely beneficial, both on a one-to-one basis and through statutory fora such as:

- Housing Disability Steering Group
- Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
- Mid East Region Homelessness Forum and the Homeless Action Team (HAT)
- Aftercare Steering Group (Tusla are the lead agency)

The Council recognises that the needs of people with a disability must be factored into emerging housing projects from the outset. This type of housing is delivered through collaboration between the Housing Department allocations team and the capital delivery and acquisition teams. The national Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with a Disability, when published, has set targets for the Council in the delivery of special needs housing as follows:

Type	Target
Acquisitions	Target of 10%, but depending on market availability
New Build	Minimum of 12% suitable for persons with a disability
Vacant	Priority for adapted properties to be allocated to social housing applicants with a disability.
Part V	Use negotiations to deliver units where appropriate
RAS/HAP/Leasing	Suitable properties will be prioritised accordingly
Other	Principle of Universal Design incorporated into new builds where appropriate continue to develop with AHBs under CAS Continue with Grants Scheme for Owner Occupiers

**Table 4-3: Targets for Housing Persons with a Disability**

In 2017, 16.6% of all social housing allocations were to a person with a disability; of these 14% were acquisitions (i.e. 17/119 units) and 33% were new build (i.e. 2/6 units). Figures for 2018 demonstrate allocations are being exceeded:

Category	Total number of allocations	Number allocated to persons with a disability	%
Acquisitions	160	31	19%
New Build	26	12	46%
Casual Vacancies	123	20	16%
Part V	30	3	10%
AHBs	161	42	26%
RAS	25	5	20%

**Table 4-4: Social Housing Allocations 2018**

### Traveller Accommodation

The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee meets on a quarterly basis and one of the standing agenda items is to review progress of the Traveller Accommodation Programme. The Programme runs in tandem with the term of the Council. A new programme is due to be adopted by 30th September 2019. The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 had set a target for delivery of 76 units for both standard housing and traveller specific housing to accommodate members of the travelling community. During this period 68 traveller families were housed in either standard housing or traveller specific accommodation.

## Homeless

The Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan 2018-2020 was adopted by Kildare, Meath and Wicklow county councils in December 2018. The Plan contains actions which reflect the objectives of the key national and local housing/homelessness policies. Statistical information with regard to progress is collated on a quarterly basis for review by the Mid East Region Homelessness Statutory Management Group (SMG) and for noting by the Regional Homelessness Forum. In 2018 130 households (i.e. 134 adults and 130 children) exited emergency accommodation in Kildare. Of these 30 (29%) secured private rented/HAP tenancies and a further 22 (21%) were allocated social housing either by Kildare County Council or an AHB. The remaining 50% left emergency accommodation for a number of reasons, however, the majority (29%) returned to live with family.

## Aftercare

During 2017, Tusla established the Aftercare Steering Committee for the Dublin South West/Kildare West Wicklow area and a representative of Kildare County Council's Housing Department is a member of this committee. The multi-agency approach of the committee helps to inform the housing department in relation to needs of young adults who are leaving care and, in particular, identifies those who are at risk of homelessness. To date, engagement with the Steering Committee and Tusla has identified a number of young people who are potentially in need of housing and who are now on the housing list and qualified for social housing support, such as HAP.

## Housing for Older People

Kildare County Council has identified two potential sites from its land bank, at Dominican land in Athy and the former ESB site in Leixlip which are considered suitable for the development of older persons housing. Expressions of interest were sought in 2018 from the AHB sector and, as a result, an Cluid Housing has been identified as the preferred provider for this housing. Work will progress during 2019 on developing plans and proposals for delivery of older persons housing on these sites.

## 4.6 Housing in Rural Areas

The County Development Plan seeks to encourage the sustainable provision of one off rural housing in accordance with the settlement strategy and to ensure that development of rural areas takes place in a way that is compatible with the protection of key economic, environmental, natural and cultural heritage resources of the county. To this end CDP policy sets out rural housing policy zones, categories of applicant and provides guidance on siting, design, access, restoration and replacement of dwellings, as well as identifying twenty-three rural notes as an alternative, to accommodate limited development for immediate local need through cluster development.

In 2017, 164 one-off dwellings were granted permission in Kildare, and in 2018 184 were granted.

In April 2018, the Council published Pre-Planning Guidelines for Single Rural Houses. These assist those intending to apply for planning permission for a single dwelling within the rural areas of County Kildare. The Guidelines are the first step in the preparation of a Kildare Single Rural Houses Design Guide, the preparation of which are is an objective of the CDP.

The Council monitors and maps the level and pattern of one of housing in conjunction with AIRO. Monitoring indicates that rural dwellings continue to represent approximately 25% of housing in the county.

Figure 1: Rural 'One-Off' Housing in Kildare, 1998 to 2018

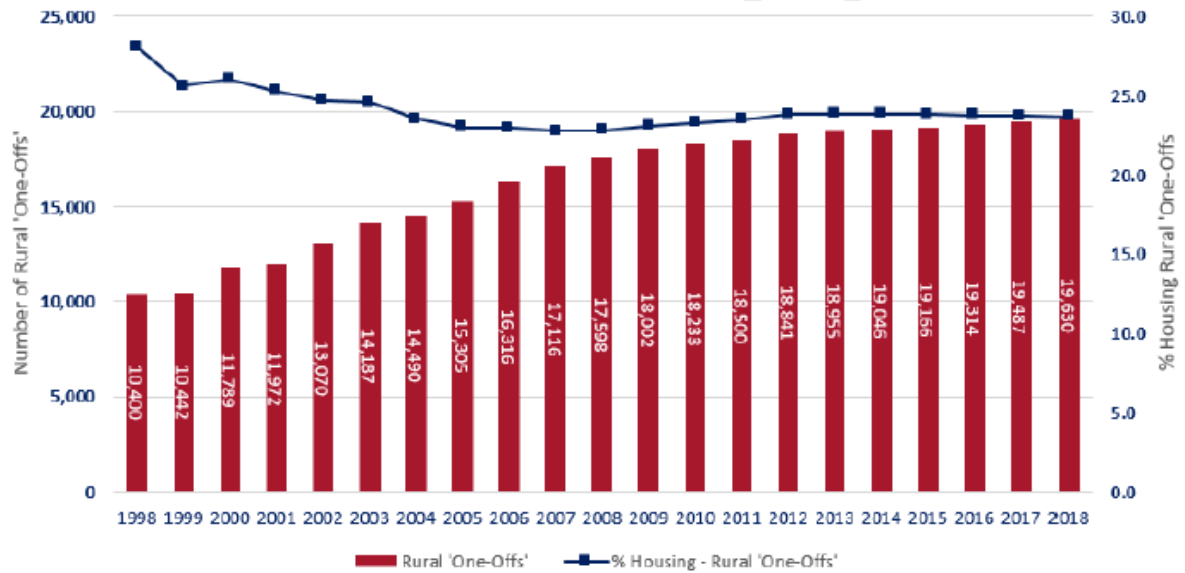


Figure 4.1: Rural One-Off Housing in Kildare 1998 – 2018

The spatial distribution of these dwellings reflects the impact of urban settlements including Dublin and major transport routes.

Map 2: Rural 'One-Off' Dwellings as of Q3 2018 (by Electoral Division)

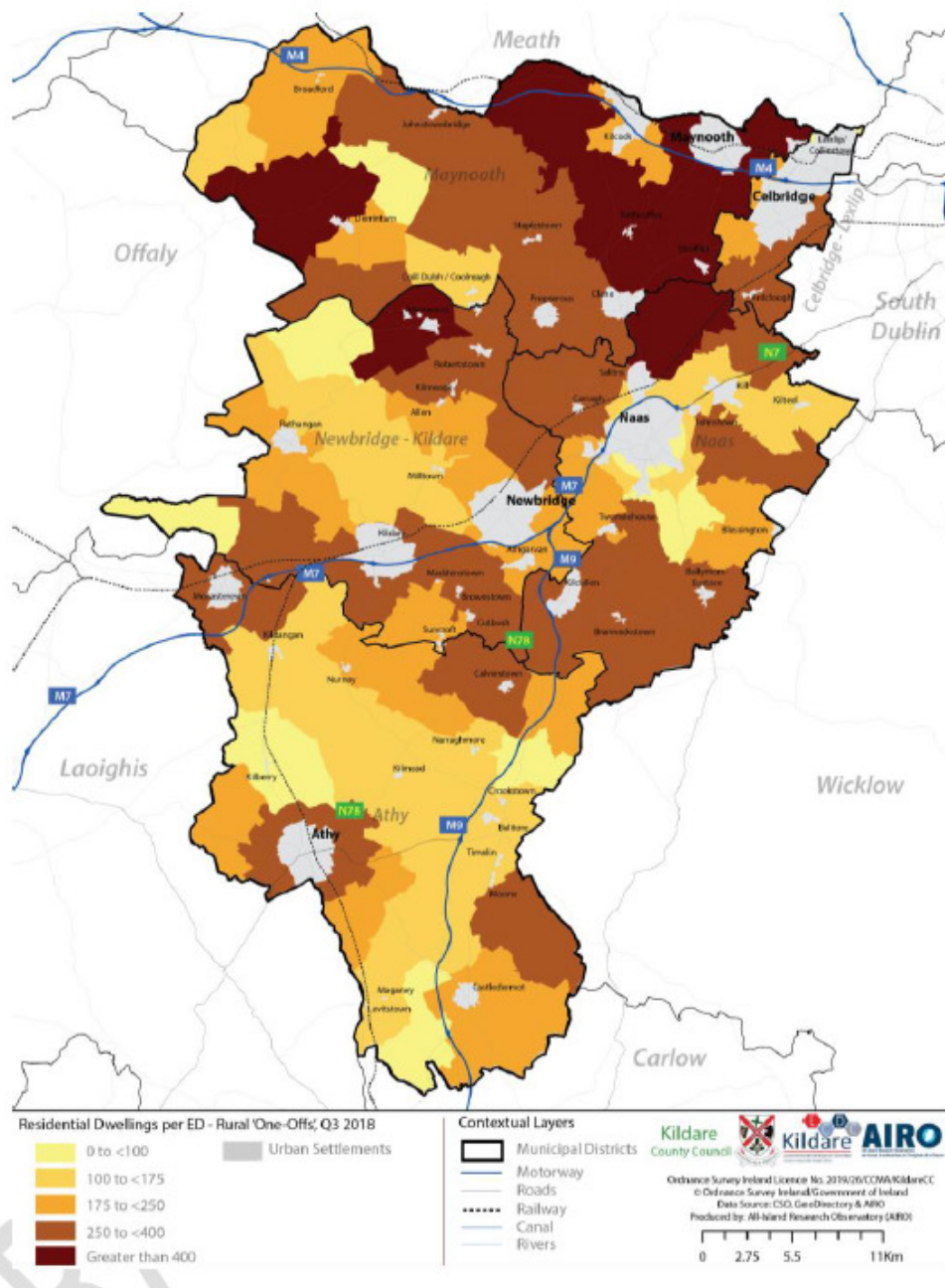


Figure 4.2: Rural One-Off Dwellings as of Q3 2018 by ED

The Council also monitors the robustness of its decision making on rural housing applications, through the review of appeal decisions from An Bord Pleanála. Analysis of appeals in 2017 and 2018 demonstrate that An Bord Pleanála’s decisions are consistent with that of Kildare County Council, as shown below.

2017			2018		
No of Appeals	LA Decision	ABP Decision	No of Appeals	LA Decision	ABP Decision
7	Refusal	Refusal	10	Refusal	Refusal
0	Refusal	Withdrawn	2	Refusal	Withdrawn
1	Grant	Refused	1	Grant	Refused
5	Grant	Grant	2	Grant	Grant
13			15		

**Table 4-5: Comparison of KCC/ABP Rural Housing Decisions 2017 - 2018**

Monitoring of the performance of the CDP Rural Housing policy will continue and inform the review/variation of the CDP, following the adoption of the RSES.

## 5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE & TOURISM

A primary aim of the Council is to provide for the future well-being of the residents of the county by promoting and facilitating economic development, enterprise and employment opportunities in all sectors.

### 5.1 Economic Development Strategy

The Economic Development Strategy for the county is aligned with the core strategy and settlement strategy, set out in the CDP. This strategy has established a framework for encouraging economic activity and employment development at appropriate locations. It informs the Local Area Plan programme, which ensures the availability of appropriately zoned land supported by services. As part of the forthcoming review of the County Development Plan, following the adoption of the RSES, an audit of available employment lands will be carried out.

The Development Management process seeks to ensure, on an ongoing basis, that proposals are consistent with the economic strategy of the county, are of a high quality and of benefit to local communities. The Head of Enterprise in KCC is now directly involved in the pre-application consultation process for large employment generating proposals.

The Council has continued to promote the regional economic role of County Kildare and in its submission to the draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, among other issues, sought:

- a shift in strategic planning towards the concept of the polycentric urban region and highly networked economic nodes to include, inter alia, Maynooth and Naas/Newbridge;
- an acknowledgement in the MASP of the role of strategic sites and land banks that are close to the multi-modal corridors in areas such as Maynooth, Collinstown in Leixlip and Millennium Park in Naas
- recognition of Collinstown, Leixlip as an area for regional scale employment development.

The forthcoming review of the CDP will integrate relevant policies, objectives and actions from the RSES, and also actions from the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan.

The Council works closely with local, regional and national enterprise authorities and has continued to meet the IDA and Enterprise Ireland on a bi-monthly basis to discuss the needs of the county, regional objectives and mutual projects. The formation of a best practice learning network between KCC and the FDI sector is also currently being progressed as part of a series of Round Table Meetings proposed between KCC and 19 FDI companies in 2019.

KCC has also continued to work on joint initiatives with Maynooth University (MU) and Carlow IT to develop and improve linkages between the third level sector and relevant employment providers, and it is intended to reach out to TU Dublin - Tallaght (formerly Tallaght IT) in 2019. KCC's Innovation Superclusters Initiative (detailed below) is underpinned by the research and development of MU and KCC works directly with students and lecturers in the University to foster entrepreneurship through a number of initiatives.

KCC has continued to promote Kildare as a strategically located economic and employment hub within the Greater Dublin Area and 2019 will see the development of a new economic development brand for future promotion. The Council's Economic Forum has recognised the importance of the provision of high quality broadband and fibre network to the economic development of the County and has placed this as a priority objective in the Enterprise 2025 plan.

There are two firms in Kildare which are Upper Tier Seveso sites; Irish Industrial Explosives (IIE) in Enfield and Intel Ireland Limited in Collinstown, Leixlip. External Emergency Plans are in place for both of these facilities and exercises are carried out in accordance with the statutory requirements.

## **5.2 Enterprise Supports and Initiatives Progressed**

Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office (LEO) continues to engage with employers to offer support and incentives to maximize job opportunities in the county. The LEO is the first-stop-shop to develop, encourage and create an environment for innovation, enterprise and entrepreneurship within the county and continues to deliver annually on all KPI'S set by Enterprise Ireland. Since the adoption of the CDP, many of the economic and enterprise objectives of the Plan have been progressed by the LEO through measures including the following:

- Provision of a comprehensive range of services and supports that equip entrepreneurs, owners and managers with the skills to identify and exploit business opportunities, and compete successfully within a competitive business environment;
- Delivery of a comprehensive business skills development program and other programs in association with LEADER, Chamber of Commerce, Kildare County Childcare, Kildare Fáilte and the Kildare Library Service;
- Working directly with the unemployed through the LEADER Partnership to deliver Pathway to Enterprise Program;
- Funding 68 small indigenous industries in 2018 to create 285 local employment jobs; this will continue to be the primary work of the LEO; and
- Funding and supporting the roll out of the Passport to Work initiative, in partnership with Kildare Chamber and the Transition school teachers.

KCC is currently creating five superclusters under its "Innovation Superclusters Initiative". This initiative will form the centrepiece of Kildare's Innovation and Skills Plan, a multi-year strategy to prepare Kildare for the innovative jobs of today and tomorrow and will form part of the Mid-East Region Enterprise Plan Network. All five superclusters will benefit Ireland's digital industries, in particular the Digital Technology Supercluster, based (in the MERITS building in Naas which is currently under construction) and due to open in 2020. The cluster in the National Stud will use digital technologies to unlock new potential in important sectors such as Equine. Athy, in addition to a Commercial Kitchen will have a space for an Agtech cluster. The intention in the Leixlip Advance Manufacturing Supercluster and the Newbridge Greentech Supercluster is for both to integrate Artificial Intelligence into their strategies, in addition to Maynooth's expansion.

In terms of support and promotion for individual sectors, KCC LEO has developed a Food Network, delivered a number of Food Start Programs and supported clients in securing retail space nationally.



The LEO office is currently commissioning a Kildare Food Strategy and has developed plans to transform the former Model School in Athy into an Agtec “Innovation SuperCluster and Food Innovation & Skills Hub.

In support of agriculture, bloodstock, horticultural and rural related enterprises in the county, the LEO has just completed the first national pilot of an equine management development program.

The Council encourages remote working, home working, live-work units, and other innovative forms of working which reduce the need to travel and unsustainable commuting patterns. The development of suitable spaces is supported through the Council’s Remote Working Strategy 2020, and the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020. Kildare leads one of the four objectives to create a network of Enterprise Spaces in the Region with a focus on cluster expertise and remote working as well as providing assistance for FDI companies.

### **5.3 Regeneration and Renewal**

The Council continues to progress and support renewal and public realm projects in settlements throughout the county, harnessing funding from the Town & Village Renewal (TVR) Scheme, Urban Regeneration Development Fund, Rural Regeneration Development Fund and other sources and directly providing financial support.

Kildare County Council LEO supported 61 premises that availed of the Shop Front/Town Centre grant scheme in 2018 and this scheme will be enhanced in 2019 by introducing the Pride of Place awards.

Two significant new funding streams were launched nationally in 2018; the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), primarily intended to support the compact growth and sustainable development of Ireland’s five cities and other large urban centres, and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF), intended to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland and rural communities, and to address de-population in small rural towns, villages and rural areas. Both funds operate as bid based competitions and a wide variety of projects are open to consideration. Kildare County Council submitted 19 applications to these funds in September 2018 and was successful in securing contributory funding for the following projects.

- Naas Library and Cultural Centre
- Naas Canal Quarter
- Newbridge Cultural & Civic Quarter
- Celbridge Southern Relief Road & Second Liffey Crossing
- Athy Emily Square/Ernest Shackleton Centre
- Monasterevin Town Centre Regeneration/ Public realm interventions
- Athy Town Centre Regeneration

Since 2017 a number of ‘Health Checks’ have been progressed for settlements in the county, mainly with funding from TVR. These include (to differing stages) Clane, Kilcock, Maynooth, Prosperous, Ardclough, Athgarvan, Castledermot, Derrinturn, Straffan, Johnstownbridge, Celbridge, Leixlip and Monasterevin. On foot of this, town signage and branding is being progressed for four initial towns.

Research is ongoing for the Kildare Town Renewal Plan and a public consultation evening took place on 1<sup>st</sup> February in this regard. Proposals for upgrades to the Market Square in Kilcullen and in Rathangan have been advanced and it is anticipated that Part 8 proposals will go to public consultation by Q2 2019.

A number of regeneration and public realm initiatives have been advanced in Athy, through effective collaboration of different bodies, drawing on various funding sources. These include public realm proposals for the Dominican Lands, the regeneration of Emily Square and the new Shackleton Museum. These are underpinned by the Athy Regeneration Strategy, which is being driven forward through the establishment of a 'town team', led by the KCC Head of Enterprise.

Kildare County Council has recently established a dedicated unit to drive the delivery of strategic regeneration and public realm projects such as those outlined above, which will also target government funding available under such schemes.

The Council continues to maintain the Derelict Sites Register and add properties as appropriate.

As a result of new legislative requirements relating to Vacant Sites, the Council has carried out preliminary research/assessments on more than 141 potential vacant sites in 10 towns around the County. S7(1) notices have been issued, under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, to the owners of 41 sites, outlining the Council's intent to enter sites onto the Vacant Sites Register.

#### **5.4 Energy and the Green Economy**

The Council is committed to a reduction in energy consumption of 33% by 2020 in accordance with the overall public sector energy efficiency target. 65% of Council energy expenditure relates to public lighting and a reduction in consumption and cost is anticipated in conjunction with Kildare County Council's participation in the National Public Lighting Upgrade Project.

The Council owns in excess of thirty buildings, and minimizes energy consumption through the use of more sustainable energy sources, energy efficient materials and best practice in energy management. Since March 2017 this includes projects and measures such as

- Solar panels on the roof of Áras Chill Dara, to generate 15% of the building's energy requirements;
- LED lighting upgrades to most of the libraries and in Newbridge Leisure Centre;
- Intelligent lighting controls within buildings; and
- The Athy Library, which has a certified SEAI 'EXCEED' (Excellence in Energy Efficiency Design) distinction, providing a level of assurance of sustained energy savings in terms of design, construction and operation.

An Energy Team was established within Kildare County Council in 2012 and the Council is currently procuring an Energy Consultant to operate across all sections of the Council. The SEAI Advanced Diagnostic Report is due shortly and will make recommendations in relation to energy practices.

Kildare County Council is supporting communities in the establishment of a network of SECs (Sustainable Economic Communities), which harness funding from the SEAI to conduct energy

audits, establish a baseline of energy use and develop a masterplan for energy reduction. It is anticipated that 10 No. SECs will be in existence by the end of 2019.

Further detail on Energy and Communications is set out in Section 8.

## **5.5 Tourism**

The tourism industry is of key importance to the economic wellbeing of Kildare. CSO figures show that the value of tourism to Kildare's economy increased from €120 million in 2016 to €123 million in 2017. Kildare County Council has significantly increased resources in this area since 2017. The county's first full-time CEO of Kildare Fáilte was appointed in 2017, along with a full-time marketing assistant in 2019 and plans have progressed to hire a part-time events manager in 2019. With the support of Fáilte Ireland a full strategic tourism plan was commissioned and published in 2017, entitled *2020 Vision for Kildare Tourism*.

### **Tourist Attractions**

Kildare County Council recognizes the key tourism assets in Kildare including its culture and natural heritage, inland waterways including walking/cycling offer, sporting/recreational events such as racing, and retail attractions such as Kildare Village. Key attractions developed and promoted since 2017 include:

- St. Brigid's Trail;
- Shackleton Trail and Shackleton Museum;
- Gordon Bennett statue and route;
- Sport of Kings Trail;
- Taste of Kildare including "Farm to Fork" dining; and
- Royal Canal Greenway, Grand Canal Greenway, Barrow Blueway.

Kildare Fáilte actively encourages local businesses to form tourism clusters to better promote Kildare as a tourism destination. The LEO office has been working with Kildare Farm Foods, Athy Waterways project and Kildare Brewing in this regard. In September 2017, twenty tourism companies from Kildare united under the Kildare Fáilte umbrella at Connect17 – the largest tourism tradeshow in Ireland that year.

### **Marketing and Promotion**

Kildare Fáilte has undertaken a number of innovative marketing and PR campaigns since 2017 which have had national media coverage. These include:

- The visit of the 2018 Rose of Tralee contestants and tour showcasing tourism infrastructure;
- The inaugural Taste of Kildare;
- St. Brigid's Day – presentation of St. Brigid's Cross to President Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin and
- Late Late Show competition highlighting the county's tourism offer.

The LEO has developed a suite of digital marketing programmes to support and increase Kildare's digital tourism marketing capability, and offers financial support to tourism providers to develop an online presence and stronger social media platforms

### Partners

Kildare Fáilte has worked closely with Fáilte Ireland since 2017, aligning appropriate events, festivals and attractions to the Ireland's Ancient East initiative. The rich equine heritage of the county has led to the development of The Sport of Kings Trail – and also aligning to Ireland's Ancient East's Sport of Kings pillar. Kildare Fáilte also works closely with Dublin Convention Bureau (DCB), promoting business tourism in Kildare. 2019 will see a closer partnership formed between the two entities, with DCB supporting a Kildare Sales Mission to the UK or US.

Tourism Ireland is another key partner, with Kildare Fáilte promoting the county's tourism amenities at a number of national and international tradeshows including Asia Convention and Fáilte Ireland Workshop, International Travel Market.

As well as tourism bodies, Kildare Fáilte works closely with the Wicklow, Carlow and Laois County Councils to support and develop joint initiatives such as the Kildare-Wicklow Grand Destination Tour, the Gordon Bennett Route and the Barrow Blueway.

## 6. MOVEMENT & TRANSPORT

Kildare County Council aims to promote ease of movement within, and access to, the county by integrating sustainable land use planning with a high quality integrated transport system. The Council supports improvements to the road, rail and public transport network, together with cycleway and pedestrian facilities. Reduced congestion, public realm improvements and healthier lifestyles are the product of greater levels of sustainable transportation and movement patterns. Walking and cycling will continue to be promoted as a priority mode of transport. The Council works with statutory authorities, transport providers and other agencies, such as the National Transport Authority (NTA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTas) and local access groups in this regard.

### 6.1 Land Use and Transportation

It is the policy of the Council to encourage attractive and convenient alternatives to the car and to support sustainable modes of transport. Strengthening development around existing and planned high capacity transport routes through integrated land use and transport planning generates additional demand to sustain public transport. Strategic Land Use and Transportation Studies/Integrated Transport Studies inform the strategic development of settlements and provide a framework to cater for the movement of pedestrian, cyclists, public transport and private vehicles. Such studies have been undertaken or are underway for Maynooth, Leixlip, Celbridge, Naas, Newbridge and Kildare Town, as part of the LAP process or in support of project development, and are supported by the NTA.

### 6.2 Public Transport, Walking and Cycling

The Council continues to work with statutory authorities, transport providers and other agencies to improve services and infrastructure in the County, and continuously seeks available funding for projects. A number of projects have been advanced since March 2017 in conjunction with the NTA's Sustainable Transport Measures Grants programme; these include the Maynooth North South Corridor, the Royal Canal Greenway, the Dublin Road Cycle Corridor Scheme in Naas and some of the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Cycle Networks projects.

In relation to the GDA cycle network, Part 8 approval is now in place for schemes on the Kilcullen Road and the Dublin Road Naas, and from Kill to Naas. It is expected that a Part 8 will be prepared in the coming months for Naas to Sallins. In relation to the North Kildare Cycleway (Dublin Galway route) it is anticipated that Maynooth West will be completed this year and Maynooth East will go to construction this year. Progress on the Maynooth Town North South Corridor is ongoing, with five out of six phases underway. Part 8 approval has been secured for the Grand Canal Greenway, through the county from the border of South County Dublin to Offaly. Planning permission has also been approved from the Barrow Blueway from Lowtown, Robertstown to Horse Bridge, Athy.

### 6.3 Road and Street Network

The Council maintains and improves its road and street network on an ongoing basis, and this is progressed on a Municipal District basis (the detail regarding each of the various settlements in section 18 below). In new developments, the Council continues to ensure, through the Development

Management process, that all roads, footpaths and cycle lanes are designed in accordance with the principles, approaches and standards contained in Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) and the NTA National Cycle Manual and other appropriate standards).

The CDP outlines a number of priority road and bridge projects in Table 6.1. Progress of note includes:

- Athy Distributor Road: Advance works between Corran Árd and Fortbarrington Road have commenced on site.
- Sallins Bypass: Under construction and on schedule to be completed by Quarter 4, 2019
- Newbridge Link Road (Newbridge Southern Outer Orbital Route): Work commenced and being part delivered by Lidl Ireland as part of the development of regional distribution centre.
- Maynooth Eastern Ring Road: Funding secured under LIHAF. Ground investigation works have commenced and a Part 8 application is due to be published in summer 2019.
- Maynooth Moyglare Road (Road Improvements under Phase 6 of North South Corridor) Contract for construction has been awarded and construction plan under preparation.
- Naas Inner Relief Road: Funding secured under LIHAF. Three options assessed with regard to economic, environmental and economic criteria; preferred route has been identified and Part 8 process in on-going.
- Clane Inner Relief Road: Expected to progress in conjunction with application for Strategic Housing Development proposal in Capdoo.
- Celbridge new bridge crossing: Options study published in 2018 and funding secured from URDF to progress route selection for second bridge and southern relief road.

#### **6.4 National Roads and Motorways**

Substantial progress has been made on the M7 Naas to Newbridge Bypass Upgrade, M7 Osberstown Interchange and R407 Sallins Bypass project. This is a national scheme with an overall project value of €120 million, supported and funded under Project Ireland 2040, National Development Plan 2018 – 2027, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTaS), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Kildare County Council. The project objective is to improve traffic movements along the M7 corridor which connects to the M9 and M8 as well as improving local connectivity for Naas, Sallins and the Midlands area for the 70,000 vehicles, on average, that use this route each day. This project addresses objectives in the CDP relating to an additional interchange at Osberstown serving Millennium Park, the upgrade of Junction 10 and the development of an additional lane in each direction along the M7. The M7 Upgrade works, Osberstown Interchange and Sallins Bypass are scheduled for completion by the end of 2019.

It is an objective of the CDP to improve safety and capacity at the M4 Maynooth interchange (Junction 7) and investigate the provision of an improved connection at this location or elsewhere. The M4 Maynooth to Leixlip is listed as a major road development to be prioritised for delivery under the National Development Plan 2018–2027 and forms part of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) comprehensive network. A Project Appraisal Plan was submitted to DTTaS in November 2018 seeking approval to proceed with an assessment of the needs of the M4 mainline

corridor from Junction 5 Leixlip to Junction 7 Maynooth, in terms of catering for future demand from a capacity, safety and operational perspective. Approval was obtained in January 2019 to proceed with this assessment. It is an objective of the CDP to improve facilities for persons using the motorway system. A new motorway service area is being developed at Kilgowan.

## 6.5 Car Parking

The Council continues to implement the Parking Framework adopted by Elected Members in 2016, which has the objective of achieving consistency in the drafting and regulation of parking bye-laws, including, but not solely, tariffs, regulation, times of regulation, public information, accessibility and administration. 11

Parking bye-laws are now in operation in eleven towns, Naas, Sallins, Clane and Kilcock being the most recently reviewed, in 2017. All bye-laws provide for short term parking in town centres with a long term parking facility in close proximity to town centre and commuter/transport facilities, and address tariffs payable, in order ensure an adequate turnover of spaces to assist business and visitors to the town. Parking spaces for those with disabilities and "Age friendly" parking spaces are provided, in accordance with national policy

The Council seeks to ensure that proposed park and ride facilities are plan-led in a co-ordinated manner in consultation with the NTA and TII where appropriate. A park and ride facility opened in Kilcock in November 2018 providing additional long stay parking to assist commuters using Irish Rail, Bus Éireann and other commuter bus services. An additional park and ride facility is being progressed for Castledermot subject to funding from the NTA.

Car-parking is designed in accordance with DMURS. The adequacy and standard of parking provision in association with private development is considered through the Development Management process. This includes the use of materials, surface water drainage, the relationship of the parking to pedestrians/cyclists and visual impact.

## 6.6 Public Lighting

Appropriate lighting of the road network positively contributes to road safety, personal safety and the night time environment. Requested lighting schemes are scored and placed on KLIPS (Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Scheme) register accordingly. Installation of this lighting is carried out as funding becomes available and according to KLIPS priority. In 2018, a total of 20 schemes countywide were progressed with installation of 107 new columns and 165 LED lanterns, and total KLIPS expenditure of c. €420,000.

Notable infrastructure upgrades have occurred at the following locations: Main Street, Celbridge, Ardclough Road, Celbridge, Maryville/Woodside Park in Kildare Town, and Naas Main Street, with total expenditure of c. €434,000

Fault repairs are carried out on an ongoing basis. Since the beginning of 2018 (due to the cessation of manufacture of SOX lamps) faulty lamps are repaired with LED lanterns. 1074 LED lanterns were installed in 2018.

Kildare County Council is participating in the National Public Lighting Upgrade Project which involves a countywide retrofit of all public lights maintained by the authority to LED. Approximately 25,000 lights will be upgraded to LED at an estimated cost in excess of €9 million. It is anticipated that Region 2, which includes Kildare, will go to tender in Q3 of 2019, followed by a 2 year upgrade programme expected to commence in January 2020. Public lighting currently accounts for approximately 50% of the local authority's energy consumption. It is anticipated that the upgrade programme will reduce this consumption by approximately 40% and also reduce maintenance costs given the longer life-cycle of LED.



## 7. INFRASTRUCTURE

The County Development Plan seeks to develop, protect, improve and extend water, waste water and flood alleviation and environmental services throughout the county in conjunction with other statutory bodies and to prioritise the provision of water services infrastructure to complement the overall strategy for economic and population growth and to achieve improved environmental protection.

### 7.1 Water Supply and Wastewater

On January 1st 2014, Irish Water replaced local authorities as the provider of public water and wastewater services in the country. Irish Water is now responsible for the operation of public water and wastewater services, including the management of national water assets, maintenance of the system, investment and planning and management of capital projects. The Water Services Strategic Plan sets out the strategic objectives for Irish Water including

- Ensuring safe and reliable water supply;
- Effective management of wastewater;
- Environmental protection and
- Supporting social and economic growth

The operation of water assets is carried out through Service Level Agreements (SLAs) between Irish Water and local authorities who continue to provide day to day operations.

#### – Water Supply and Water Quality

Along with Clonuff Bore hole at Clonuff, near Broadford and Ard Carrig borehole, Clogherinkoe. there are seven primary water supplies zones within the county;

- Ballymore Water Treatment Plant (operated by Dublin City Council);
- Leixlip Water Treatment Plant (operated by Fingal County Council);
- Srowland Water Treatment Plant (Athy River Barrow - Abstraction);
- Monasterevin – Wellfield (groundwater);
- Rathangan - Wellfield (groundwater);
- Barrow – Poulaphouca (blended water from both schemes at Kilcullen Reservoir); and
- South Kildare – Rathvilly waterworks operated by Carlow County Council.

Veolia, on behalf of Irish Water, operates the facilities relating to Monasterevin and Rathangan wellfields and Srowland Water treatment Plant in the county.

The Council works on an-going basis with, and on behalf of, Irish Water to protect and promote existing water infrastructure and promote its upgrade and expansion to meet the county's needs.

The Council has continued to facilitate the implementation of the Water Conservation Project targeting leak reduction, and promotes best practice in water conservation and demand management in all developments.

Applications for planning permission are referred to Irish Water for comment, with input from KCC Water Services Section, and Irish Water engages with potential applicants at pre-planning stage to advise on water supply capacity prior to applying for planning permission.

In terms of surface water and groundwater quality the Council continues to fulfil the statutory requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plans and associated Programme of Measures.

#### – Wastewater

Kildare is served by circa 37 wastewater treatment plants. The largest wastewater treatment plants are located at Leixlip, (serving Kilcock, Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip and Straffan) and Osberstown (serving Naas, Newbridge, Kilcullen, Athgarvan, Prosperous, Sallins, Clane and Kill). There are also smaller plants located in Athy, Kildare Monasterevin, Castledermot, Robertstown and Ballymore Eustace among others.

The Council works on an-going basis with, and on behalf of, Irish Water to protect and promote existing drainage infrastructure and promote its upgrade and expansion to meet the county's needs. Key projects include

- Osberstown Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade: This scheme provides for an upgrade from 80,000 p.e. to 130,000 p.e. and operations and is scheduled to be taken over by Kildare County Council, on behalf of Irish Water (IW), in January 2020.
- Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade: Plant upgraded from 80,000 p.e. to 150,000 p.e. and operations and was taken over by Kildare County Council, on behalf of IW.
- Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme: This commenced with the Newbridge Sewer Interceptor works in February 2019.
- Kildare Town Network Upgrade: Completed in 2017
- Local Network Reinforcement Projects: Existing pressures on the Liffey (arising from large-scale developments) are being examined by Irish Water with a view to diverting outfall to another location, in turn freeing up capacity to improve local networks.

Irish Water engages with potential applicants at pre-planning stage to advise on wastewater capacity prior to applying for planning permission. Applications for planning permission are referred to Irish Water for comment, with input from KCC Water Services Section. Residential development requiring provision of private wastewater facilities (other than single dwellings) are not supported.

The Council works on an-going basis to promote the upgrade and expansion of the county's wastewater infrastructure by Irish Water, in particular to accommodate planned growth in the County's settlements. The availability of water services infrastructure is key to accommodating population and employment growth and an emphasis is placed on this in the NPF and RSES. The current Water Services Strategic Plan by Irish Water will require to be updated in light of the policies

in the National Planning Framework. NPF National Policy Objective 18B is noted in this regard: to develop a programme for 'new homes in small towns and villages' with local authorities, public infrastructure agencies such as Irish Water and local communities to provide serviced sites with appropriate infrastructure to attract people to build their own homes and live in small towns and villages.

Currently, the smaller towns and villages in the county are experiencing servicing issues. Progress on addressing this has been limited by Irish Water budgetary constraints, the prioritisation of other projects in the county (e.g. Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme Contract 2B) and the strategic priorities of Irish Water i.e. water conservation, leak reduction and compliance with standards relating to water quality and environmental protection. It is anticipated that Irish Water will be in a better position to engage with the Council on servicing growth settlements in Q3 of 2019.

Asset Type	Project Name	Status	Completion Date
Water	Ardcarrig WTP Upgrade	Design	Q4 2019
Water	County Kildare Disinfection Programme	Construction	Q2 2018
Water	Crophill Watermains Rehabilitation	Complete	Q2 2017
Water	Kildare Telemetry W programme	Construction	Q4 2019
Water	Kildare Watermains Rehabilitation Maynooth Mains and Backyard Services Replacement	Complete	Q4 2017
Water	Kildare DMA Programme	Complete	Q4 2017
Water	Kilmeague Mains Rehab	Complete	Q4 2018
Water	Leixlip Car Park PS Pump Upgrade	Construction	Q1 2019
Water	Old Grange Pipeline	Complete	Q2 2015
Water	Red Bog BH Rationalisation	Complete	Q3 2018
Water	Reservoir Cleaning and Inspection Programme	Construction	Q4 2019
Water	Advanced Investigation - Raw water monitoring, jar testing and filter assessments	Design	Q4 2019
Wastewater	Allenwood WWTP and Network Assessment	Design	Q4 2019
Wastewater	Athgarvan WWTP Rationalisation	Complete	Q1 2017
Wastewater	Calverstown WWTP Capital Upgrade	Pre-Construction	Q2 2019
Wastewater	Coill Dubh WWTP Upgrade	Complete	Q4 2017
Wastewater	Flow Monitoring and Sampling Programme	Construction	Q4 2020
Wastewater	IWSS (Storm) Programme Management Services	Design	Q4 2021
Wastewater	Kilmeague WWTP Upgrade Works	Pre-Construction	Q3 2019
Wastewater	Lower Liffey Valley Drainage Area Plan	Design	Q2 2024
Wastewater	Kildare WWBG PS Telemetry	Pre-Construction	Q2 2019
Wastewater	Monread Road Sewer Rehabilitation	Complete	Q1 2017
Wastewater	Naas and Newbridge Sewer Rehabilitation Bundle	Complete	Q4 2018
Wastewater	Narraghmore WWTP Upgrade	Complete	Q4 2018
Wastewater	NCAP Site Assessments	Design	Q4 2019

Wastewater	Newbridge (Main Street) Survey and Rehabilitation Works	Complete	Q4 2018
Wastewater	Newhall WWPS Upgrade - Kildare	Complete	Q1 2017
Wastewater	Rathangan Pumping Station Civil Works Upgrade	Complete	Q3 2016
Wastewater	Rathangan WWTP Upgrade	Design	Q4 2019
Wastewater	Tankardsgarden WW Pump Station - Pumps Upgrade	Complete	Q1 2017
Water	Ballygoran Access Platforms	Complete	Q3 2018
Various	HSQE Programmes - AHEP, Emergency Showers and Eyewashes	Construction	Q2 2019

**Table7-1: Irish Water Status of Capital Programme projects since Q1 2017. Source: Irish Water**

## 7.2 Surface Water and Flooding

The control of surface water and appropriate measures for eliminating flood risk are part of the Council's sustainable water services policy. The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the lead agency for flood risk management in Ireland and has responsibility for the coordination of government policy in terms of flood risk identification, assessment and management.

The Council works, on an ongoing basis with the OPW in the advancement of its programme of Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM). Flood Risk Management Plans have been delivered by the OPW and were adopted by Kildare County Council in July 2018, including fifteen areas of Areas of Further Assessment (AFAs). Arising from CFRAM works, Flood Risk Management Schemes are to be prioritised for Naas and Leixlip. Steering groups have been established and consultants will be appointed in the coming months. Athy is then anticipated to be progressed.

The Council is actively working with the OPW to deliver a flood management study at Hazlehatch, where flood mapping is not considered to represent conditions on the ground. A brief has been agreed with the OPW to carry out an in-depth study and this is expected to begin by the end of Q2 of 2019. Revised mapping will be produced as required and will inform the future planning of the area.

Kildare County Council has carried out improvement works in a number of locations that were prone to flooding including Clane, Sallins and Johnstown, and continues to apply to the OPW for funding for minor works where provision of 100 year flood protection is not possible. This has recently been carried out in Levittstown and an application is currently underway for Courtown Little and Kilmeague. Section 17 of this report sets out works carried out in smaller towns and villages around the county.

The Council has also secured funding from the OPW to establish a dedicated team to deliver the CFRAMs programme to a value of €46 million over the next 8-10 years including works at Athy, Castledermot, Celbridge, Clane, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas, Newbridge and Suncroft.

The Council maintains river channels as part of on-going maintenance programmes for its six drainage districts on an ongoing basis and operates a shared service with Offaly County Council in this regard.

The Council has regard to the Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities and integrates consideration of flood risk into its planning functions on an ongoing basis. through the preparation of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the County Development Plan and for settlements including those in the LAP programme. SFRA has been carried out for Clane, Celbridge, Leixlip and Naas since the adoption of the CDP. During the planning application process, Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment (SSFRA) is required to be carried out, as appropriate, along with the incorporation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) into developments.

### **7.3 Waste Management, Water, Air and Noise**

The Council works on an ongoing basis to implement EU, national and regional environmental policy, guidance and codes of practice, in relation to water, waste, air quality, light pollution and noise pollution.

As part of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 – 2021, the Council participates in both the Midlands and Eastern and South East Regional Operational Committees and supports the activities of the Local Authorities Catchment Assessment Team in the Priority Areas for Action in these Regions.

The Council supports the implementation of the Eastern-Midlands Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 as updated, through its steering and operational groups.

New Waste Management (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Byelaws for the county, prepared by the regional authority, came into effect on Friday, 1st March, 2019.

The Council operates two civic amenity sites, at Silliot Hill and in Athy. A new civic amenity site is being advanced for the north-east of the county in Celbridge and is expected to go to Part 8 shortly.

The Council has a role in supporting and promoting waste prevention, recovery and recycling. The Council has continued an active programme in terms of awareness and education through initiatives such as Green Schools, National Spring Clean and Lily White Clean Up Day, and Tidy Towns. Other measures of note in 2018 include:

- over 90 school visits;
- waste educational leaflet delivered to all households in the county;
- provision of an Education Room in new Celbridge Civic Amenity Facility; and
- social media campaign on pesticides.

Although commercial and residential waste is collected through private operators, the Council has a role in enforcing the terms of waste collection permits granted to service providers in conjunction with the National Waste Collection Permit Office NWPCO. In particular the Council has been active in recent times with regard to the Brown Bin Initiative, enforcing the requirement that brown bins

are provided to households in villages with more than 500 people as part of their refuse collection service, and encouraging their use.

The Council has also made significant progress to progress the remediation of Kerdiffstown Landfill; the Compulsory Purchase Order has been approved, an IED (Industrial Emissions) License has been granted by the EPA and it is expected that procurement for contracts for construction will commence shortly. A programme of work relating to high risk legacy landfills is also on-going, harnessing funding for Environmental Risk Assessment, five of which have been completed to date.

In terms of air quality, a ban on bitumous coal remains in place on Naas, Newbridge, Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth and it is expected that bitumous coal will be regulated nationally in the future. Ambient air quality is monitored by the EPA; an Air Quality Monitoring Station has been set up in Newbridge in conjunction with the EPA and HSE and it is anticipated that a further station will be established in Celbridge.

The Litter Action Plan 2016-2019 is being implemented by Council on an ongoing basis. The draft Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 is currently with the EPA for review and following approval of this it is intended to go to public consultation in 2019.

## 8. ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS

The Council seeks to encourage and support energy and communications efficiency and to achieve a reasonable balance between responding to EU and national policies on climate change, renewable energy and communications and enabling resources to be harnessed in a manner consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the county.

### 8.1 Energy and Climate Strategy

Section 5 of this report outlined actions by Kildare County Council in relation to energy in terms of establishment of an Energy Team, procurement of an energy consultant, best practice in energy management and supporting a network of Sustainable Economic Communities. In addition, Members of Kildare County Council have recently voted for Kildare to join the EU Covenant of Mayors, an initiative that brings together thousands of local governments voluntarily committed to implementing EU climate and energy objectives. Arising from this it is intended that an Energy Steering Group will be established for County Kildare (incorporating Public Private Partnership between the Local Authority, Local Enterprise Office, Maynooth University and significant local enterprises/employers in the County) to achieve the required reduction in energy consumption across the county of 40% by 2030 and other agreed actions arising from the Covenant of Mayors.

In terms climate change adaptation, the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) identifies the critical role to be played by local authorities, and under the NAF each local authority must develop their own Local Adaptation Strategy. A Climate Team was established within the Council in 2018, incorporating representation from all service area. The Local Adaptation Strategy has been drafted and it is expected that this will be published for public consultation in the Q2 2019 and to be finalised by September 2019.

In 2018 the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment committed to establishing four Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) in the state, each operated by a lead local authority. Kildare County Council was successful in its bid to lead Eastern and Midlands CARO which will enable coordinated engagement across seventeen local authorities.

### 8.2 Renewable Energy and Energy Related Development Applications

It is the policy of the Council to encourage renewable energy proposals in appropriate locations, having regard to the policy of the CDP, statutory national guidance and local policy guidance.

The preparation of a Wind Energy Development Strategy for the county remains dependent on the completion of the review of the DECLG Wind Energy Guidelines. It is expected that a public consultation on the revised draft Guidelines, together with the comprehensive Environmental Report under the SEA process, will be published in 2019.

The CDP promotes the development of solar energy in the county, subject to planning considerations; this is a growing area and there have been fifteen applications in the County since the adoption of the CDP. Developments relating to bio-mass, geothermal energy and energy production from waste are also to be facilitated, subject to considerations such as scale, siting, design and environmental considerations, etc. The Council supports energy infrastructure renewal



and development on an ongoing basis, and works with statutory providers of infrastructure in terms of safeguarding strategic corridors.

There have been nineteen significant energy related applications to the Council since the adoption of the CDP. This includes

- 15 solar PV energy developments;
- energy storage facility;
- renewable gas injection facility;
- gas upgrading unit and pressurization unit;
- grid system services facility; and
- a windfarm.

The Council is involved in two current applications for Strategic Infrastructure Developments, which are made directly to An Bord Pleanála;

- Drehid Waste Management Facility
- Timahoe Electricity Substation

### **8.3 Communications**

The Council does not have a direct role in the delivery of broadband and ICT infrastructure, but works on an on-going basis with Government departments and service providers and other bodies in promoting and facilitating its provision. The Council's Economic Forum has recognised the importance of the provision of high quality broadband and fibre network to the economic development of the County and has placed this as a priority objective in the Enterprise 2025 plan.

It is an objective of the CDP to seek to provide public Wi-Fi zones in and around all public buildings. The Council provides a free public Wi-Fi service in all public libraries and "KCC Free Wi-Fi" is also operational at the following individual locations:

- Naas Town Hall (facing Main Street)
- Newbridge: Liffey Linear Park – adjacent to the branch library.
- Leixlip Library: Park area adjacent to the branch library.
- Maynooth Main Street, area adjacent to the branch library.
- Athy: covering Emily Square.
- Ballitore: The square area adjacent to branch library

## 9. RETAIL

The County Development Plan recognises the importance of retail to the Kildare economy and aims to continue to sustain and improve the retail profile and competitiveness of County Kildare within the retail economy of the Greater Dublin Area and beyond, through harnessing the assets and potential of centres at all levels of the County Retail Hierarchy.

### 9.1 Retail Hierarchy & Core Retail Areas

The CDP sets out a retail hierarchy for the county, which remains unaltered since the adoption of the Plan. Core Retail Areas are defined for Naas, Newbridge, Leixlip, Celbridge, Kilcock, Maynooth, Athy, Clane and Kildare Town. Since the adoption of the CDP, the Council has continued to confirm Core Retail Areas and areas zoned Town Centre/Town Centre Expansion Areas through the LAP programme, including those in Clane, Celbridge, Leixlip and Naas. The need for new district and neighbourhood centres have been considered through the LAP programme, and have been provided for in the policies and objectives in the Celbridge, Leixlip and Naas LAPs. The regional Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (2011) has not been reviewed. It is an objective of the draft Eastern RSES to support the preparation of a Retail Strategy / Strategies for the region.

### 9.2 New retail floor space

The Council, through its Development Management function, ensures that proposed retail development accords with the County Retail Strategy as set out in the CDP, any relevant LAP and the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities published by the Department of Environment Community and Local Government in 2012, which includes a requirement to apply the Sequential Approach and have regard to the protection of the vibrancy and vitality of town centres. Along with other smaller developments, additional retail floorspace in the county granted since the adoption of CDP include:

- Re-use of former Tesco supermarket Maynooth;
- Upgrade/modernisation of former Superquinn site, Naas;
- Extension to Kildare Village Outlet Centre;
- Extension to Newbridge Court Shopping Centre;
- Two applications for Retail Warehouses in Monread, Naas.

Efforts are ongoing in relation to securing the completion of the Corban's Lane Shopping Centre in Naas.

The Council has also refused permission for developments in the interest of protecting the vitality/vibrancy of our town centres, e.g. recent proposed supermarket development at Maudlins, Naas.

### 9.3 Retail function and the built environment

The County Development Plan acknowledges the relationship between the retail function of town/village centres and their physical enhancement, including the re-use of derelict and

underutilized land and buildings and the quality of the public realm. Section 5 outlines significant efforts and progress made by the Council in relation to Regeneration, Town and Village Renewal, Health Checks and Public Realm works in this regard.

## 10. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The CDP aims to support the provision of a high quality rural environment; encourage diversification and improved competitiveness of the rural economy; sustain the livelihood of rural communities and promote the development of the wider rural economy, all within the context of the sustainable management of land and resources.

### 10.1 Rural Employment and Development

Diversification of the rural economy is achieved by promoting economic growth in key towns and villages and settlements to support local populations. Traditional rural based activities including agriculture, equine industry, agri-food, tourism, leisure etc. are facilitated as appropriate, together with diversification into alternative appropriate uses.

The role of agriculture in the county has fluctuated in recent years. There was an increase in employment in the “agriculture, fishing and forestry” occupational group from 2.6% in 2006 to 3.7% in 2011 (CSO). The 2016 census shows a decrease in this sector to 3.3%.

The CDP acknowledges the importance of the equine industry in the economy of Kildare. The industry attracts a large number of tourists each year and generates significant foreign direct investment. There were 851 registered breeders in Kildare in 2018 (2nd highest in the country). There were 82 licensed trainers in Kildare in 2018 (highest in the country).

On an on-going basis, the Council supports developments relating to agriculture, horticulture, equine, forestry and food, tourism and energy industries, subject to appropriate scale, siting, impact on habitats, landscapes, biodiversity, and other planning considerations. To advise prospective applicants, the CDP sets out clear criteria for the assessment of one-off enterprises proposed in rural areas.

Sections 5 Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism and Section 11 Social, Community & Cultural Development of this report sets out progress on objectives in the CDP relating to rural enterprise, rural tourism and the support of rural communities, including initiatives/projects being progressed which to support rural areas and development. Section 11 also details progress relating to the Rural Development Programme (RDP) and County Kildare Leader Partnership, which support rural development and communities, which is driven by the LCDC.

### 10.2 Extractive industry and boglands

The CDP seeks to ensure that adequate supplies of aggregates are available to meet the future needs of the county and region in line with the principles of sustainable development and environmental management.

It is an objective of the CDP to continue to implement the provisions of S261A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), including taking enforcement action against quarry owners/operators who do not comply with the requirements of the Act, and also to ensure that the

extractive industry minimises and / or mitigates any adverse visual and / or environmental impacts on the built or natural environment.

13 quarries were inspected in the county in 2017 in the context of unauthorised developments. Briefings with the Council's legal advisors, indications of new planning legislation in relation to quarries and on-going legal cases in the superior courts have constrained the Council to taking a case by case approach as matters arise. However a review of the S.261A cases is planned for 2019.

In terms of boglands, the Council seeks to take a balanced approach to the development of the county's peat resources, and seeks a balance between peat extraction and protection of biodiversity and the archaeological and cultural heritage of the county. It should be noted that in January 2019 new regulations were published which exempt peat extraction of 30 hectares (ha) or more from any requirement to obtain planning permission. This is a reduction from 50ha. While such development will require a license from the EPA, it reduces the role of the Council in managing peatland development.

## 11. SOCIAL, COMMUNITY & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The County Development Plan seeks to ensure that the Kildare is an attractive place to live and work by building strong, inclusive communities that have a sense of place and belonging, supported by the provision of accessible community based facilities from which services and supports can be provided.

### 11.1 LCDC & Social Inclusion

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provided an expanded role for the functions of Local Authorities in terms of economic, community and local development, and required each Local Authority to prepare a Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and to form a Local Community Development Committee. The Kildare LECP 2016-2021 was adopted in December 2015. Delivery on the objectives and actions of the LECP is an ongoing matter for Kildare County Council; the Council continues through the LCDC and LECP to liaise with community and economic stakeholders to promote the sustainable development of economic and community services and infrastructure in the county.

The Council updated the baseline report published as part of the preparation of the LECP to reflect Census 2016, and this was launched in Athy Library in June 2018. The Council has also through the LCDC engaged AIRO to map the relationship between social deprivation and housing provision, to inform its policy on RAS, HAP and Social Housing and to determine if public housing provision requires a changed geographical focus for the targeting of resources. This research will be completed by mid 2019.

Athy has been prioritized by the LCDC in terms of social inclusion action and the LCDC is progressing a co-ordinated approach to issues, through the Athy Inter-Agency Steering Group. This approach aims to work in a collaborative way with the Athy Town Team which is focusing on economic regeneration.

Along with the LECP, the LCDC oversees and monitors the national social inclusion programme Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) in Kildare. This programme is contracted to County Kildare LEADER Partnership and has funding of over €1m annually to respond to disadvantage in the county. The LCDC also oversees the Rural Development Programme (RDP) LEADER, which is implemented by the County Kildare Leader Partnership (CKLP). This programme supports rural communities, businesses, tourism and environmental initiatives to promote sustainable life in rural areas. New initiatives and funding streams such as Healthy Ireland to promote health and wellbeing across the county, Community Enhancement Programme to support small scale capital infrastructure development and Community Weekend initiatives are also under the auspices of the LCDC. Examples of projects progressed under SICAP since March 2017 include

- Back to Work;
- Heads Up;
- Traveller and Roma Strategy; and
- Migrant Integration Strategy.

The Council continues to support and promote volunteerism and community involvement through its Public Participation Network which now has 747 members. The PPN invites nominations for representatives to sit on the PPN, SPC and LCDC and is currently focusing on linkages for groups for consultation processes. Membership of the PPN by community groups is encouraged to maximise community awareness, participation in events and to access funding.

### **11.2 Community Services/Facilities**

The Council seeks to ensure sufficient social infrastructure is provided for throughout the county, ensuring adequate lands are zoned for social and community needs, by requiring Social Infrastructure Assessment for significant development proposals and by phasing development to ensure new facilities are provided in tandem with the provision of housing.

The Council continues to operate Community Development Projects in local authority estates e.g. Castlefen, Sallins where community workers identify needs in the locality and assist in the delivery of services addressing same, e.g. homework clubs, youth clubs, football initiatives. Significant community facilities are being directly progressed in Kilcock (Bawnogues) and Kildare Town (Cherry Avenue) and the conversion of the former Dominican church in Athy to a library has been completed. In addition Members recently agreed to advance proposals for a swimming pool in Maynooth and an application for funding to the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund will be made.

The Council has expanded GIS to include mapped community facilities across the county which strengthens its baseline information and will assist in anticipating future needs. In addition, the Council is working to optimise the use of, and access to, facilities through improved management arrangements, on-line booking capabilities, etc.

Although the Integrated Services Programme has been discontinued, the Council through its various service areas continues to support initiatives established under the ISP including for example the Hive in Kildare Town and the Celbridge Tourism Group.

The Council works to promote the highest levels of access in community facilities. For example, the Council is collaborating with TrinityHaus, the National Centre from Universal Design and Age Friendly Design on proposals for the new Primary Care centre in Athy, to ensure the building and surrounding environment are age-friendly.

### **11.3 Community Groups and Events**

The Council supports community groups and events on an ongoing basis and has continued to operate a number of grant schemes since the adoption of the CDP in March 2017 including:

- Community Grant Scheme (to provide financial assistance to Community groups engaged in activities which encourage community participation and promote the well being of communities);
- Community Enhancement Programme (Provides funding to communities to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas or with disadvantaged groups);
- Festival Grants (to assist voluntary groups who promote key festival events in County Kildare);
- Drehid Community Grant Scheme (Provides financial assistance to community organisations located in County Kildare which are within a 9km radius of the Drehid Facility);
- Residents Association Grants
- 846 grants to value of €1.28 were allocated in 2018.

The CDP contains a specific objective to support facilities and services at Barrettstown, which is operated entirely on the basis of fundraising and volunteerism. Barrettstown won a Pride of Place community recognition award in 2017.

#### **11.4 Groups with Specific Design/Planning Needs**

##### **Children and Young People**

The needs of children and young people are considered through the LAP programme and in the Development Management process on an on-going basis, through the application of DoELG Childcare Guidelines and through a requirement for provision of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities in conjunction with development. The Council's parks, library and arts services has also continued to consider the needs of children and young people in these service areas (see Section 14 for further details).

The Children First Act 2015 was given full effect on 11th December 2017 and sets out additional statutory obligations for defined categories of persons and for organisations providing relevant services to children. Policy and procedures for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children have been adopted by Kildare County Council and a Child Safeguarding Statement has been prepared and recently published, in accordance with the Act and Children First Guidance.

The LCDC has a strong and structured working relationship with the Kildare Children and Young Persons Services Committee (CYPSC). Both work closely together to progress identified issues, a recent example being work to highlight the need for additional Family Resource Centres across the county, and efforts to support applications for same. In 2018 Kildare was successful in securing Tusla funding for two additional Family Resource Centres in 2018, in Kildare Town and Athy. This has doubled the number of such centres in the County. Family resource centres provide supports for vulnerable families including parenting information/advice, training, childcare etc. The collaborative work also helped the KWETB to secure a dedicated Youth Officer post for Kildare, an important post to support the development of youth work services across the county

##### **Older People & People with Disabilities**

County Kildare has the third fastest ageing population in the country. The Age Friendly County Strategy has been reviewed and the new strategy will be launched in 2019. The Alliance works closely with the LCDC and implements county-wide actions from the LECP.



Building on work done in Naas, Celbridge and Athy are being progressed as age-friendly towns. Significant work has been carried out in Celbridge in terms of walkability and crossing improvements, including a resting place at the crossing at the entrance to Castletown House, which has also slowed through-traffic in the town.

The Council is actively progressing two housing schemes for older people in the county under the Capital Assistance Scheme, on the former ESB site in Leixlip and on the former Dominican lands in Athy. These schemes are expected to yield 20-25 units each, at centrally located sites with a variety of services within a 5 minute walking distance. Expressions of interest were sought from Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) and design concepts are currently under preparation, with delivery anticipated in 2-3 years. The Council has and is keen to engage with private housing developers in terms of housing for older people, and in terms of adaptive housing, and has had some pre-planning discussions in relation to the National Smart Ageing Housing Programme, a government initiative to encourage innovative solutions for housing for older people.

Older people and people with disabilities often experience similar issues in terms of access. The Council's Building Control Section and Access Officer work on an ongoing basis to ensure footpaths and public areas are accessible and safe for those with mobility issues. Parking spaces for those with disabilities are provided and "age friendly" parking spaces are also provided, in accordance with national policy, through the Council's Parking Framework and bye-laws.

The Council is also progressing an Inter-Generation Cohesiveness project through Urbact which will strengthen volunteerism and actions around youth and older people together.

### **Traveller Community and Ethnic Minorities**

Kildare County Council, along with Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) have substantially progressed the Traveller and Roma Strategy 2019 – 2024 which is expected to be finalised shortly. As set out in Section 4, the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 is also currently under review and this work is ongoing through the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

The Migrant Integration Strategy for the County, also prepared by KCC and CKLP with the support of the Integration Centre, was adopted in 2015 and review of same will commence later this year. A Diversity Charter was recently adopted under one of the actions of the strategy. KCC along with CKLP employ an Integration Resource worker who works with residents

### **11.5 Childcare, Health and Education**

Childcare provision is considered through the LAP programme and in the Development Management process on an on-going basis, through the application of DoELG Childcare Guidelines and through a requirement for provision of facilities in conjunction with development. Kildare County Childcare Committee is responsible for the promotion of cross-agency cooperation and coordination in the delivery of childcare services at a local level in County Kildare, for all children from birth to 14 years. KCC has continued to provide advice and support and training to 198 Registered Childcare Services in the county and 3 Notified Childminders. 6,240 children enrolled to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education pre-school years in September 2018 and 11 grants were made to Parent and Toddler Groups in 2018.

The Council has continued to support and co-operate with promoters and operators of public and private health facilities, and has facilitated the integration of appropriate facilities within new and existing communities. The continued provision of high quality amenity spaces and recreational facilities (as set out in Section 14) promotes healthy lifestyles and the Council works closely with Kildare Sports Partnership to increase participation in sports and physical activity.

In terms of education, the Council seeks to ensure adequate lands are zoned for facilities during the LAP process, in consultation with the Department of Education and Skills. Since the adoption of the CDP, it has worked with the Department in relation to Clane, Celbridge, Leixlip, Naas, Athy and Kildare in this regard. There are currently 25 projects in County Kildare on the Department's large-scale projects delivery programme, in various stages of delivery. Three other projects have reached completion since March 2017, in Newbridge, Kildare Town and Ballymany. The Council has continued to work with the Department on the acquisition of sites for schools, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department and the County and City Managers Association. Since March 2017, the Council has been progressing sites in conjunction with the Department in Naas, Blessington and Celbridge and considering preliminary issues around accommodation in Kildare and Kilcullen. The Council and the DoES meet quarterly in the above regard.

## **11.6 Arts and Culture**

### **11.7 'Short Grass Stories: An Arts Strategy for Kildare County Council 2018-2022 was adopted by the members in March 2018, under the guidance of the Economic, Community and Culture Strategic Policy Committee. It was further informed by a Framework Agreement with the Arts Council. Priorities include Children & Young People, Arts, Health & Wellbeing, art form development and support for artists. Library Services**

Library services across the County have continued and improved since March 2017. Key strategic national programmes such as *Work Matters*, *Right to Read* and *Healthy Ireland at Your Library* were delivered across Kildare's library network.

The Central Programming Library and Arts Team has worked together to produce a countywide calendar of events for all ages including the Support for Secondary Schools Programme, the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths (STEAM) Programme, the Parenting Programme and the Age Friendly Programme. In addition 7,184 cultural, arts, educational and information-provision based events were hosted throughout the network in 2018. Funding was secured to develop digital technology in libraries including the purchase of equipment laptops, PCs, tablets, 3D Printers, VR headsets and coding and robotics equipment, which will allow users to access and receive training in new and emerging technologies at their local libraries

Athy Community Library moved to a new facility in March 2018 following the redevelopment of a former Dominican Church, with increased opening hours, innovative technology and new meeting/event spaces. The Library collected the Best Library Service Award at the Excellence in Local Government Awards in 2018. A design team was also appointed for the redevelopment of Naas Town Hall to a Library and Cultural Centre; the Part 8 proposal went on display in November 2018 and project delivery will be part funded by the URDF. An application for funding for project

development of Newbridge Cultural Quarter also received funding under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund; this will advance proposals for redevelopment of the County Library and Archive Facility. Increased opening hours are in place in Ballitore, Kilcock, Monasterevin and Rathangan libraries and preliminary work is underway to provide a new and improved library service in Clane.

### **11.8 Fire Service**

The Council's Fire and Emergency Operations Plan 2017-2022 (FEOP) was adopted in November 2017, and incorporates standards for fire service delivery from the national policy document "Keeping Communities Safe". The FEOP identified the need for new Fire Stations in Maynooth and Monasterevin; negotiations are an advanced stage with a landowner in relation to a site in Maynooth. Based on monitoring of population trends, the profile of fire calls and response times, it has been determined additional fire stations are not currently required.

The Fire Service received 356 applications for Fire Safety Certificates between 1/3/2017 and 31/1/2019. This number includes Standard Fire Safety Certificates, 7 Day Notice, Revised Fire Safety Certificates and Regularisation Fire Safety Certificates.

### **11.9 Burial Grounds**

There are currently thirty-one active cemeteries in County Kildare. Since the adoption of the CDP in March 2017, projects/works have been progressed at the following locations:

- Athy Cemetery - Improvement Works (New St. Michael's);
- Churchtown Cemetery - New Cemetery;
- Crookstown Cemetery- Extension;
- Derrinturn Cemetery- Extension;
- Newbridge Cemetery - Extension.

In addition, the Council has constructed a Columbarium Wall in Naas (for the interment of cremated remains) with four at construction stage - Churchtown (Athy), Crookstown, Laraghbryan (Maynooth) and Rathangan.

The Council facilitates the development of new or extended burial grounds through the reservation of land at suitable locations during the LAP programme and through the Development Management process. In 2018 permission was granted for a private graveyard adjacent to the historic graveyard at Bodenstown.

Grants continue to be made available to parish/voluntary groups who undertake work of a clean-up/maintenance nature in local cemeteries. Historical graveyards continue to be protected in the county (see Section 12 below).

## 12. ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

It is an objective of the Council to protect, conserve and manage the archaeological and architectural heritage of the county and to encourage sensitive sustainable development so as to ensure its survival and maintenance for future generations. In addition to the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan, the Council has adopted more location-specific policies within Local Area Plans for settlements around the county. Practical effect is given to these policies and objectives through the Development Management process.

The main functions of the planning authority in regard to architectural heritage are:

- The compilation and maintenance of the Record of Protected Structures;
- Ensuring the protection of structures included in the RPS;
- Selection and management of Architectural Conservation Areas;
- Ensuring the preservation of the character of Architectural Conservation Areas;
- Provision of architectural conservation guidance on a statutory basis through Part 4 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

### 12.1 Record of Protected Structures (RPS)

Historic buildings and their setting are protected through their addition to the RPS. Following the implementation of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the County Development Plan 2017-2023 incorporates the areas formerly within the administrative areas of Naas Town Council and Athy Town Council. Consequently, Protected Structures within these areas have now been incorporated into the County Development Plan RPS.

A full review of all buildings on the RPS for County Kildare was conducted as part of the preparation of the CDP. There are currently 1282 structures on the RPS for the County.

### 12.2 Architectural Conservation Areas

Designed landscapes and demesnes, historic spaces and their material, urban or rural setting can be protected by establishing Architectural Conservation Areas. Boundaries for architectural conservation areas have been incorporated into the CDP for Ballitore, Kilcock, Leixlip, Maynooth, Monasterevin, Moone, Prosperous, Rathangan, Kildare, Athy and Naas. Preliminary survey work has been undertaken on buildings and structures within these towns which will help inform objectives to preserve the character of these towns. The preparation of Character Appraisal Statements is in progress for Athy, Naas and Leixlip, as part of preliminary work for Local Area Plans for these towns.

### 12.3 Built Heritage Conservation Advice

The Council, through the Planning Department, provides conservation advice on a statutory basis under the framework of Part 4 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Advice is given on the impact of change and the appropriate reuse of historic structures, along with technical advice on the repair and best conservation practice for built heritage. Sample projects advised on since March 2017 include:

- Carton House, Maynooth: Repair, refurbishment, conservation of the house; re-instatement of historic landscape.
- Dominican Church, Athy: Sensitive re-use of deconsecrated Dominican church as a library
- Model School, Athy: Re-roofing of fire damaged building
- Riverstown House, Kildangan
- West end terrace, Monasterevin
- Kildare Gate House
- Various medieval ruins in the guardianship of cemetery groups such as Kildare and Clane Friaries and Tea Lane.

#### **12.4 Financial Assistance**

Kildare County Council provides and facilitates a number of financial supports for built heritage.

In recognition of the costs associated with the development of a Protected Structure, where a planning application to Kildare County Council proposes works which substantially contribute to the restoration or protection of such a structure, a 50% waiver of Development Contributions is available.

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht offers financial assistance through two schemes;

- The Built Heritage Investment Scheme and
- The Historic Structures Fund (formerly the Structures at Risk Fund),

These schemes are administered by local authorities and operate on a match funding basis. In 2017 and 2018 Kildare County Council secured funding for 22 projects to a combined value of c. €122,000 under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme. In 2017 and 2018, five projects were funded under the Structures at Risk Fund, to a combined value of €119,000.

Kildare County Council also administers a small thatching grant to assist owners in the repair of their roofs. 4 No. grants were issued, to the combined value of €14,500, between 2017 and 2018.

#### **12.5 Archaeological Heritage**

While additions to the Record of Monuments and Places are within the remit of the National Monuments Service, the policy to protect the archaeological heritage of the county is implemented through the Development Management process and Local Area Plan programme. Planning permission granted within a 'Zone of Archaeological Potential' of a National Monument is conditioned to carry out pre-development testing at the site and applicants are required to engage the services of a suitably qualified archaeologist licensed under the National Monuments Acts.

The Council continues to survey and develop a programme of maintenance for Council-owned monuments and structures of historic interest. With regard to World Heritage Sites, the Council is committed to progressing the recommendation of Dún Ailinne as a World Heritage Site, and is

actively working with the landowner and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on its nomination and appropriate protection.

Technical advice is provided by the local authority to the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee on the ongoing maintenance and repair of medieval monuments and graveyards, and the Heritage Officer also works closely with local community groups on this matter. Since March 2017, key projects include:

- Donaghcumper graveyard, Celbridge
- Passlands Graveyard, Monasterevin
- Tea Lane Graveyard, Celbridge

The Council continues to support the existing membership of Athy, Kildare and Castledermot in the 'Irish Walled Towns Network' (IWTN). Conservation Management and Interpretation Plans (CMIPs) now exist for all three towns. The Council will continue to support the proposed membership of the IWTN of Naas and the subsequent preparation of a CMIP.

A database of features of historical interest within villages and towns in the county is being developed. Since 2017 a survey of plaques and similar features across the county has been completed and these will be included in relevant Local Area Plans in due course.

## 13. NATURAL HERITAGE & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The Council seeks to protect, conserve and manage natural heritage including sites designated at national and EU level, protected species and habitats outside of designated sites and to secure heritage conservation objectives in the interests of the proper planning and sustainable development of the county. The implementation of the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan in relation to natural heritage and green infrastructure is largely provided for through the Development Management and the Local Area Plan processes.

### 13.1 Designated Sites & Natural Heritage Areas

There are eight Natura 2000 sites within the county. Due regard is taken of any updated boundaries of these sites, and the Council's GIS is updated to reflect any changes. Appropriate Assessment screening for the impacts of proposed developments or plans/projects on Natura 2000 sites are carried out as standard and, where required, Natura Impact Reports and Statements are sought or prepared. Two SAC sites continue to be maintained by the County Council; Leixlip Spa (part of the Ryewater SAC) and Ballynafagh Lake. In addition, since March 2017 a number of Appropriate Assessment training events have been organised for departments within the Council.

There are 29 designated or proposed Natural Heritage Areas within the county. The Development Management process and Local Area Plan process contributes to the protection and enhancement of such areas, in addition to actions under the County Biodiversity Plan and County Heritage Plan, outlined below.

### 13.2 Protected Habitats and Species & Invasive Species

Outside of designated sites, the Council promotes the conservation of other habitats and species and seeks appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures on an on-going basis, through the planning process and actions under the County Biodiversity Plan and County Heritage Plan. Best practice regarding invasive species and their management is also promoted in this manner.

### 13.3 Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

The *County Biodiversity Plan* provides a framework for conserving biodiversity and natural heritage at a local level. It complements the *County Heritage Plan* by including detailed actions to deliver positive outcomes focused on species and habitats. A key focus of the plan is gathering information on, and managing, the biodiversity resource, education, awareness raising and the promotion of effective cooperation between stakeholders. In recent years there has been no dedicated funding stream to carry out the actions in the County Biodiversity Plan. These actions are carried out through the Heritage Plan.

Actions such as Habitat Mapping, development of Green Infrastructure maps and the wetland survey all address actions in the County Biodiversity Plan. Since March 2017, habitat mapping has been carried out for Athy, Naas, Clane and Leixlip, and, on the basis of these, local biodiversity areas have been identified. Habitat mapping has informed the identification of key Green Infrastructure features in these settlements. Policies and objectives to protect Green Infrastructure in these areas

have been developed on the basis of such mapped features, and have been incorporated into relevant LAPs, for implementation through the Development Management process.

Other biodiversity considerations incorporated into LAPs include the identification of trees worthy of protection. A number of tree surveys have been undertaken for Athy, Naas, Kildare, Newbridge, Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge and further trees will be identified for protection and survey on an on-going basis during the process of forthcoming LAPs.

In order to maintain riparian habits and enhance Green Infrastructure on an on-going basis, the Council continues to seek appropriate setbacks along rivers in proposed developments through the Development Management process. In a more strategic context, opportunities are secured through the LAP process, for example along the River Liffey in Clane, as was achieved in the Clane LAP 2017 - 2023.

### **13.4 Geology**

It is expected that the findings of the audit of the Geological Heritage of County Kildare will be published by Kildare County Council in 2020.

### **13.5 County Heritage Plan**

The actions of the first *County Kildare Heritage Plan (2005-2009)* continue to be implemented with support from the Heritage Council and Kildare Leader Partnership. The actions completed since the adoption of the current County Development Plan include:

- Life Stories- in conjunction with Wicklow and South Dublin County Council a series of videos celebrating the heritage of the river have been developed.
- Audit of memorials and plaques on the County
- Turas Columbanus- Feasibility of the development of a long distance pilgrim route with adjoining counties has been explored.
- Arts and Heritage Seminar
- European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018

The new County Heritage Plan has been drafted and been public display as part of the statutory consultation process. It is expected that the new plan will be adopted in May 2019.



## 14. LANDSCAPE, RECREATION & AMENITY

It is the policy of the Council, through the implementation of appropriate policies and objectives, to provide for the protection, management and enhancement of the landscape of the county and to ensure that development does not disproportionately impact on the landscape character areas, scenic routes or protected views, and to develop recreation areas and the amenities of the county in an equitable, environmental and sustainable way.

### 14.1 Landscape

The Development Management process is the key tool in the protection, management and enhancement of the County Kildare landscape. The CDP contains a robust framework in this regard, setting out distinct Landscape Character Areas, their sensitivities, and the likely compatibilities between a range of land uses and proximity to principal landscape sensitivity factors. Proposed developments which have significant potential to impact on the landscape (i.e. agriculture, forestry, rural housing, urban expansion, industrial projects, tourism projects, major powerlines, extraction projects and windfarm/solar energy projects) are required to demonstrate that such development is compatible with the relevant Landscape Character Area in which is located, and the landscape sensitivity factors to which it is proximate. Detailed consideration is given to these matters during the planning application process.

It is intended to review and update the County Landscape Character Assessment following the finalisation of the National Landscape Character Assessment.

### 14.2 Recreation and Amenity

Access to opportunities for recreation and amenity is an important factor in improving quality of life. The Council's Open Space Strategy 2011 makes provision for a hierarchy of parks, open spaces and outdoor recreation areas within settlements to support their populations. The Open Space Strategy is currently under review and it is intended to appoint consultants within the year to develop the new strategy. This will set out a hierarchy of need and provision in terms of open spaces/recreational facilities, identify locations and sites for appropriate provision, set out a programme of works and also address funding mechanisms for securing same.

The LAP programme seeks to ensure the designation of adequately zoned lands throughout the settlement hierarchy to support the provision of recreation and amenity facilities, and provides for the protection and promotion of existing assets. The Development Management function ensures the delivery of adequate open space within housing developments to serve their residents. The Council also seeks to secure strategic recreation and amenity facilities in conjunction with private development, in particular Strategic Housing Development. An extension of the linear park along the Liffey in Newbridge is being progressed in this regard.

The Council actively encourages clustering and multifunctional sports and community facilities. The Bawnogues project in Kilcock, currently under construction, is a significant achievement in this regard, co-locating an athletics track, soccer pitches and walkways alongside a primary care facility and community centre. The proposed Cherry Avenue Project in Kildare intends to provide a multi-use community facility alongside other recreational uses and spaces.

Community allotments are located at the Wonderful Barn, Leixlip. The delivery of a community garden has been supported in Rathcoffey recently, and a community garden is also proposed within Cherry Avenue, and at Carton Avenue. Green infrastructure and natural heritage potential are actively considered on an on-going basis, including provision for habitat creation and biodiversity enhancement throughout the county. Wildflower meadows have been incorporated into Bawnogues, St. Catherine's Park, the Wonderful Barn and in roundabout/hedgerow management around the county.

The River Liffey is a significant asset to the recreation and amenity potential of the county. The Council has recently supported and progressed a number of projects relating to the Liffey, for example in Leixlip at William Roantree Park where access to the river has been opened and a conservation plan for the Leixlip Boathouse is underway. A masterplan is under preparation for a boardwalk along the Liffey at Newbridge and a masterplan for lands along the Liffey at Athgarvan is also intended to be put to tender later this year.

The Council's Play Policy was adopted in March 2018 and sets out a strategy to identify the play and recreational needs of children and young people growing up in Kildare from 0-18, setting out a series of objectives and actions under various themes. Non-mainstream facilities for children and teenagers have been progressed since March 2017, such as Newbridge skate park which opened recently. A 'hangout' area also forms part of current proposals in Caragh.

There are c. 25 playgrounds in the direct control of Kildare County Council. Since the adoption of the County Development Plan, the Council has been actively seeking or securing playground sites in Ardclough, Derrintrun and Ballymore Eustace. Plans for new parks and playgrounds have been substantially progressed in Ellistown, Caragh, Prosperous and Castledermot. Initial proposals for the redevelopment of the playground in Monread, Naas and in Coill Dubh, have also been considered. Playgrounds are also being progressed with preliminary community centre proposals, in conjunction with the local communities in Johnstown and Robertstown. Playgrounds are currently under construction in Sallins and Eadestown and the Council has taken over the playground in Castlemitchell.

An outdoor gym has been installed in Naas, and are being progressed in Kildare, Allenwood, Timahoe, Caragh and Moone. A walking/running track is being progressed as part of more extensive proposals in Caragh and a looped walk is being progressed with the community at Trinity Crescent in Derrinturn. A dog park has been trialled in Monread Park, Naas and will form part of the masterplan brief for the redevelopment of the park.

A multi-use games area is being progressed in Allenwood and also forms part of proposals in the new park in Sallins Amenity Lands, Cherry Avenue in Kildare and the Harbour Field in Maynooth, each of which is at various stages of planning/masterplanning. A masterplan will also be prepared for Carton Avenue in Maynooth.

The Council has also carried out landscaping (including landscaping of roundabouts and tree planting) in several locations since March 2017, including Naas, Celbridge, Monsasterevin, Straffan, Timolin, Milltown, Maganey-Levittstown, Kilberry, Carbury, Kilkee, Castlemitchell and Ticknevin.

It is acknowledged that many of the above projects are being progressed in conjunction with the local community and particular groups such as Tidy Towns, residents' associations and other local bodies.

## 15. URBAN AND RURAL DESIGN

The County Development Plan seeks to create vibrant and bustling towns and villages with a diverse mix of activities where residents can benefit from quality urban living. In rural areas of the county, the CDP promotes architecture and design which complements and reinforces the existing character of the rural landscape through the identification of guiding principles resulting in good quality design and sustainable development.

### 15.1 Urban Design

Promoting good quality design has become an important element of development plans and local area plans. Clearly defined policies give greater clarity and certainty to developers and their design teams and provide an agenda for pre-application discussions and the subsequent development management process.

Since the adoption of the CDP, the Government has published the Urban Development and Building Height Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2018). These Guidelines set out new and updated national planning policy on building heights in relation to urban areas, elaborating on the strategic policy framework set out in the NPF, and are part of a suite of integrated measures to create more compact and integrated communities. The Guidelines require that planning authorities:

- explicitly identify, areas where increased building height will be actively pursued for re-development, regeneration and infill;
- ensure appropriate mixtures of uses are provided for;
- ensure that greenfield/edge of city/town housing development secure minimum densities and appropriate mix, avoiding mono-type building typologies.

Kildare County Council, in its Development Management function, has regard to these guidelines, as will the forthcoming review/variation of the CDP.

The NPF and RSES also place an increased emphasis on urban design, given the National Strategic Outcomes of ‘Compact Growth’ and ‘Enhanced Amenities and Heritage’ and an emphasis on development achieving well-designed high quality outcomes in urban areas (NPO 13). The draft RSES also focuses on place-making and regeneration to realize sustained economic growth and employment, including the integration of better urban design, public realm, amenities and heritage to create attractive and liveable places that support active lifestyles and human health (e.g. RPO e.g. RPO 6.11, RPO 6.12). The funding streams and agencies established by Project 2040 also offer significant potential for urban design improvements on the ground and will be given consideration in the forthcoming review/variation of the CDP.

The key principles and design considerations contained within the guidelines are implemented further through the Local Area Plan process. Since the adoption of the CDP, Kildare County Council has prepared and included Urban Design Frameworks for Key Development Areas in Celbridge and Leixlip LAPs and these also form part of the draft LAPs for Naas and Leixlip, along with strong frameworks for Core Regeneration Areas in Naas. Further design briefs and urban design policies and

objectives to achieve more sustainable towns will be incorporated into further reviews of LAPs as deemed appropriate.

The Council continues to make significant progress in the implementation of urban design schemes in our towns, as set out previously in this document in Section 5 Renewal and Regeneration. In addition Kildare County Council has recently established a multi-disciplinary Strategic Projects & Public Realm Team, to harness funding and delivery strategic and innovative projects across the county. This will further deliver on the urban design initiatives in our settlements.

## **15.2 Rural Design**

There continues to be increased pressure for one off residential development within the rural areas of the county. The CDP seeks to promote architecture and design which complements and reinforces the existing character of the rural landscape by indicating guiding principles resulting in good quality design and sustainable development. The Rural Design Guidelines promote an understanding of key design principles and the characteristics of Kildare's heritage and landscape. The rural design guidelines encourage imaginative and innovative design as well as more traditional type solutions, which complement their rural surroundings.

In April 2018, the Council published Pre-Planning Guidelines for Single Rural Houses. These assist those intending to apply for planning permission for a single dwelling within the rural areas of County Kildare. The Guidelines are the first step in the preparation of a Kildare Single Rural Houses Design Guide, the preparation of which are is objective of the CDP.

## 16. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

There is an obligation on the Council to ensure that permissions granted under the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) are consistent with the policies and objectives set out in the County Development Plan. All development in Kildare for which planning permission is required is subject to Development Management Standards in the CDP, which are intended to ensure the orderly and sustainable development of the county.

### 16.1 Guidelines and Policy Documents

The Minister may, at any time, issue guidelines to planning authorities regarding their functions under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Since the adoption of the County Development Plan in March 2017, the following guidelines have been published by the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government:

- Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines (December 2018);
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (August 2018);
- Design Standards for New Apartments - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (March 2018).

The Council is also committed to preparing local guidance on various types of development. The Council previously adopted Signage Policy and Shopfront Guidelines. In April 2018 Pre-Planning Guidelines for Single Rural Houses were published. This document provides general guidance to those intending to apply for planning permission for a single dwelling within the rural areas of County Kildare by providing details relating to a number of key issues requiring consideration in preparing an application. A Policy Document on Naming of Residential Developments was also adopted by Council in February 2018. This sets out guidance for developers in naming new development and requirements for background research and local relevance.

### 16.2 Planning Applications

The following relates to aspects of the Development Management function between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

No. of applications (1 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 – 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2019)	Kildare County Council Decision
2,969	Applications received
2,551	Valid Applications
<b>73</b>	<b>Applications withdrawn</b>
<b>1,932</b>	<b>Applications granted</b>
<b>458</b>	<b>Applications refused</b>
337	Applications for retention granted

60	Extension of Duration applications granted
32	Applications for retention refused
8	Extension of Duration applications refused

**Table 16-1: Decisions of Kildare County Council on planning applications (Note: No. of application granted / refused / withdrawn does not equal no. of valid applications because of 8-week determination period / applications referred for 'Further Information')**

Decisions by the Planning Authority may be subject to appeal to An Bord Pleanála. 164 appeals were notified to KCC between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 which break down as follows:

Number of Cases	Appeals
85	<b>First Party Appeals</b>
79	<b>Third Party Appeals</b>
37	First Party Upheld
19	First Party Allowed
29	First Party Withdrawn / Undecided
57	Third Party Upheld
1	Third Party Refused
21	Third Party Withdrawn / Undecided

**Table 16-2: Comparison of KCC/ABP Decisions since the adoption of the CDP**

Of the 114 appeals which have been decided (i.e. excluding undecided or withdrawn cases) the decision of Kildare County Council was upheld in 67.5% of cases. 14.9% conditional decisions were modified and 17.5% of decisions were reversed.

### **16.3 Strategic Housing Developments (SHDs)**

Since March 2017 the Council has engaged with the developers of 31 proposed Strategic Housing Developments.

As of 31/1/2019, twenty of these have not progressed beyond pre-planning stage with KCC, 10 No. are at Stage 2 consultation with An Bord Pleanála and 11 No. have been submitted as applications to An Bord Pleanála.

Of the 11 applications submitted to ABP, five applications were granted by ABP, four refused and two are currently undecided. Details of these applications is set out in Table 16-2 below.

Developer	Location	No. of Units	Student Accommodation	Decision
Ardstone Homes	Barnhall, Leixlip	394	0	Grant
Ballymount Properties	Magee Barracks, Kildare	203	0	Refusal
Ladas Property	Mill Street, Maynooth	135	0	Refusal
Cairn Homes	Mariavilla, Maynooth	403	164	Grant
Stennock Ltd	Morristownbiller, Newbridge	281	0	Grant
McCourt Investments	Kill Hill, Kill	123	0	Refusal
Ardstone Homes	Kilbelin, Newbridge	343	0	Granted
Glan Developments	Ballymany, Newbridge	180	0	Refusal
O'Flynn Construction	Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	251	0	Current
Ardstone	Bluebell, Naas	125	0	Grant
McCourt Investments	Kill Hill, Kill	136	0	Current

**Table 16-3: Strategic Housing Developments in Kildare 01/03/2017 to 31/01/2019**

#### **16.4 Pre-planning**

Planning law provides for pre-application consultations (also referred to as pre-planning meetings) between Kildare County Council and any person who has an interest in land and who intends to make a planning application.

This process is set out under section 247 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The Council gives advice on the procedures involved in considering a planning application and, as far as possible, indicates the relevant objectives of the development plan which may have a bearing on the decision on the application.

Between 01/03/2017 and 31/01/2019, 713 pre-applications meetings were held. These related to 396 proposed commercial developments (including SHDs) and 317 proposed single rural houses.

#### **16.5 Material Contravention**

In appropriate circumstances, the Council may permit a planning application as a Material Contravention of the County Development Plan or Local Area Plan. The Material Contravention process is a Reserved Function of the Elected Members and is voted upon after a period of public consultation. Since 01/03/2017 two Material Contraventions to the CDP or an LAP have been proposed:

- 17/1212 Value Retail: 375 car parking spaces at Grey Abbey Road, Kildare Town - (Application ultimately withdrawn);
- 18/1325 KWETB: Adult Training Centre at Crodaun, Celbridge - (Application Granted).

#### **16.6 Part 8 Developments**

31 Part 8 applications were launched between 01/03/2017 and 31/01/2019.



Location	Scheme Details
Rathangan	Cemetery extension
Curryhills, Prosperous	12 social housing units
Craddockstown, Naas	74 social housing units
Flinters Field, Athy	35 social housing units
The Paddocks, Kilcock	Modifications to 4 units
Timolin	Upgrade of treatment plan
Beechgrove, Rathangan	18 social housing units
Prosperous	Public park
Kildangan Railway Bridge	Footpath improvement scheme
Main Street, Celbridge	Upgrading of public lighting
Church Avenue, Sallins	Community playground
Naas to Kill	Cycleway
Portersize, Ballitore	Dog pound
Cloncurry to Ferrans Lock, Maynooth	Royal Canal Greenway
Maynooth Road, Kilcock	Carpark
Cherry Avenue, Kildare town	Park
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 social housing units
Devoy Park, Naas	Mid Eastern Regional Innovation Think Space
Castlefen, Sallins	29 social housing units
Craddockstown, Naas	3 social housing units on behalf of KARE
Sallins	Playground
Eadestown	Playground
Athy	Emily Square
Mountain View, Athgarvan	20 social housing units
Coill Dubh	10 social housing units
North Kildare	Grand Canal Greenway
Naas	Town Hall conversion to library/cultural centre
Castledermot	Playground & landscaping
Caragh	Playground
Allenwood	Playground
Athy	Town Hall conversion to Shackleton Museum

**Table 16-4: Part 8 Developments**

### 16.7 Exempted Development Certification

The Council, when formally requested to do so, assesses applications for proposed development to determine whether the development is or is not 'development' and it or is not exempted development under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Since 1st March 2017 a total of 51 Section 5 Certificates have been issued by the Council.

### 16.8 Enforcement

Alongside the Development Management function, the Council upholds planning legislation, dealing with breaches of planning permission and unauthorised development. Between 01/03/2017 and

31/01/2019 the Council, through its Planning Enforcement Section, has dealt with a large number of cases. These are shown below, and exclude non-compliance with conditions relating to payment of Development Contributions, which are pursued separately by the Finance Department.

Description	Number of Cases
Enforcement Notices Served	257
Warning Letters Served	656
New cases	336
Cases closed	458

**Table 16-5: Enforcement Cases**

## **16.9 Development Contributions**

Section 48 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, enables Planning Authorities, when granting a permission under Section 34 of the Act, to include conditions requiring the payment of a contribution in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in the area of the Planning Authority, and that is provided, or that it is intended will be provided, by or on behalf of a local authority. The current Development Contribution Scheme was adopted by Kildare County Council on the 5th November 2015 for the period 2015 - 2022. The total receipts in Development Contributions between March 2017 and January 2019 was €29,537,749. Development Contributions are collected to part fund projects identified in the Capital Programme adopted by the Elected Members.

## 17. SETTLEMENTS (VOLUME 2)

Volume 2 of the County Development Plan consists of the land use plans for the small towns, environs areas, villages and rural settlements in Kildare.

### 17.1 Small Towns & Environs

Under the Settlement Strategy, Athgarvan, Castledermot, Derrinturn, Kill, Prosperous and Rathangan are designated as small towns. Small towns have been designated to develop as key local centres for services, with levels of growth to cater for local need at an appropriate scale and to support local enterprise. Each small town plan contains policies and objectives relating to housing, movement & transport, town centre, recreation/amenity/open space and other policy areas, along with zoning objectives and a land use zoning map. There are also three environs areas - Blessington, Kilcock and Ladytown, located outside a specific Local Area Plan.

The absence of adequate infrastructural services in the towns and villages in Kildare has placed pressures on the development of the countryside surrounding towns and villages. The NPF includes an objective (National Policy Objective 18b) to *“develop a programme for ‘new homes in small towns and villages’ with local authorities, public infrastructure agencies such as Irish Water and local communities to provide serviced sites with appropriate infrastructure to attract people to build their own homes and live in small towns and villages.”* Kildare County Council Planning and Water Services Departments are actively engaging with Irish on these matters to include village settlements in capital investment priorities.

The following sections highlight selected work progressed in Small Towns and Environs since the adoption of the CDP in March 2017 with respect to the objectives set out in each settlement plan. It should be noted that less specific maintenance and minor resurfacing road works are carried out consistently throughout the county and may not be referenced below. The Development Management process also plays a significant role in securing the objectives of small town/environs plans, in conjunction with planning applications, on an ongoing basis.

**Athgarvan:** Road/footpath improvements will be progressed in conjunction with the development of the town centre site. Minor junction repairs and associated works have been undertaken at the centre of the town. Funding is available from the NTA for bus-stop provision. A masterplan for lands along the Liffey at Athgarvan is also intended to be put to tender later this year.

**Castledermot:** Castledermot has a high standard of infrastructure and it is estimated that approximately €2m has been invested by KCC in Castledermot in the last 2 years. Footpath improvements and road re-surfacing have been provided on the R448 and R418, along with significant works on the L4009 and L4011 between Ardalee and the town centre. A new footpath has also been constructed along the Baltinglass Road to the soccer pitch. Proposals have been advanced in conjunction with the NTA regarding the provision of a bus shelter within the public realm at the centre of the town.

A Part 8 for a playground has been progressed at the Hamilton Road and it is hoped to go to

construction in summer 2019. The Council carries out drainage maintenance in Castledermot as required.

**Derrinturn:** There has been limited footpath refurbishment on the R403 and L5023 to Drehid; these are on-going. Peat underlies the roads infrastructure in the area which incurs a high cost in terms of construction/maintenance particularly with Drehid traffic. Traffic calming measures in the vicinity of the school have been deferred pending the end of local construction. Some localised improvements to the surface water discharge pipeline have been carried out. The Council is actively seeking a site for a playground in Derrinturn. Landscaping has been carried out in conjunction with Tidy Towns along with a looped walk with residents.

**Kill:** The Naas/Johnstown/Kill cycleway has been progressed to Part 8 stage with NTA funding. A permanent pedestrian crossing is under consideration, to replace the temporary crossing in place until the completion of the N7 upgrade. Funding has been secured for bus shelters within the town; it is hoped to progress these in the short term, subject to resources. Kill playground opened in 2015.

**Prosperous:** The Council has carried out road improvements on the R403, R408, and at the old Main Street, footpaths have been completed at Buttermilk Lane between the GAA grounds and the Hatters and from McCormack's Garage to the Bus Éireann Bus Stop. Street lighting is under construction between Killybegs Manor and the GAA. A new surface water drain at the village centre site has resolved flooding issues which arose in November 2017 and this will in turn facilitate the creation of an area accommodating a town park, playground and car-parking. This is currently at Part 8 stage, with detailed design anticipated by end of 2019.

**Rathangan:** Works to resurface and improve the bridge and Main Street have been carried out to a value of €120,000. Lighting upgrades have also taken place along with improvement works in Ard Mhuire housing estate.

**Blessington Environs:** The Council, in conjunction with Wicklow County Council and the Department of Education and Skills, is progressing the proposed development of a new link road from the Naas Road to the Kilmalum Road, in conjunction with proposals for a new school also being progressed on the C1 zoned lands.

**Kilcock Environs and Ladytown Environs:** The policies/objectives of the CDP for these locations identify appropriate uses for each location and the requirement for SSFRA. These objectives will be secured through the Development Management process on receipt of planning applications.

## **17.2 Village and Settlement Plans.**

Villages are intended to develop as local centres for services with growth levels to cater for local demands at an appropriate scale. The level of expansion is to be controlled to minimise pressure on services, the environment and unsustainable commuting patterns, and to support local enterprise to cater for local demand. Each village plan sets out policies and objectives relating to housing, flooding, transport, community/education and recreation/amenity etc., along with zoning objectives and a land use zoning map.

The following section highlights selected work progressed in villages since the adoption of the CDP in March 2017 with respect to the objectives set out in the settlement plans. Again it should be noted

that less specific maintenance and minor resurfacing road works are carried out consistently throughout the county and may not be referenced below. The Development Management process also plays a significant role in securing the objectives of village plans, in conjunction with planning applications, on an ongoing basis.

**Allenwood:** A new footpath has been constructed from the Derrymullen Bridge to the village centre. A Part 8 for a playground, open gym and multi-use games areas has been completed.

**Ballitore:** Ballitore has benefitted from recent new national road infrastructure in the vicinity, reducing the pressure for more localised improvements within the village. Road improvements/repairs are carried out as required.

**Ballymore Eustace:** A preliminary assessment of issues relating to the Ballymore Bridge has taken place and the Council has been working with the Tidy Towns group to enhance the gateway to the village. The Council also works with local community groups in the development of walking routes in the locality.

**Caragh:** Localised footpath improvements have been carried out within the village and the railway bridge has been improved to better manage traffic movements. A part 8 has been prepared for a playground in the parish field, along with a meeting point, kick about area, pump track and outdoor exercise equipment.

**Coill Dubh/Coolearagh:** The Council has been progressing works to renovate the play area in the Bord na Móna estate and a Part 8 for 10 social housing units has also been advanced.

**Crookstown:** Crookstown has benefitted from recent new national road infrastructure in the vicinity, reducing the pressure for more localised improvements within the village. It is acknowledged that a plan is required to integrate the old and new road infrastructure, and improve the visual amenity at certain areas affected by infrastructural changes.

**Johnstown:** Pedestrian facilities have been improved in conjunction with residential development to the south-east of the town and other footpath improvements on the Main Street will be delivered as part of the Naas/Johnstown/Kill cycleway. The Council is progressing proposals for a community centre and playground in conjunction with the community. The Council carries out drainage maintenance in Johnstown as required and recently delivered a scheme in the village.

**Johnstownbridge:** Improvement works to street parking were carried out in Johnstownbridge in the past; these may be reviewed in relation to the road-width narrowing to improve traffic/pedestrian arrangements in the village.

**Kildangan:** Significant progress has been made in terms of the re-alignment of the road in order to make the railway bridge pedestrian friendly. Part 8 for these works has been approved and it is hoped to go to construction in 2019.

**Kilmeague:** There have been surface water improvements in conjunction with footpath upgrades in the village. Street improvements have taken place at the village centre to separate footpath and parking and there have also been improvements in Oaklawns.

**Moone:** It is intended to install an outdoor gym in the playground this year

**Robertstown:** A walkway and right of way is being progressed from the village centre to the GAA club. It is hoped to provide a playground in conjunction with the development of a Masterplan for the community lands.

**Straffan:** Flooding issues at the Straffan Inn have been resolved and the Council carries out drainage maintenance in Straffan as required. Landscaping has been carried out at the village centre.

**Suncroft:** Footpath improvement has been provided at the nursing home.

**Timolin:** The Council liaises with Tidy Towns in relation to the appearance of the village and tree planting has recently carried out.

### 17.3 Rural Settlements

Rural Settlements are located throughout the county and are intended to develop as local centres for their rural catchments, with growth appropriate to cater for local demand. Expansion will be controlled to minimise pressure on services, the environment and unsustainable commuting patterns. Each of the eighteen rural settlements is subject to a development strategy comprised of a settlement core, existing built up area, settlement expansion area and a settlement boundary. The CDP identifies common development objectives for rural settlements, the majority of which are secured through the Development Management process. Works and measures undertaken in support of some of the Rural Settlements are outlined below and minor maintenance/resurfacing road works are also carried out on an on-going basis throughout the county.

- The Council is progressing a site for a playground in the GAA grounds in Ardclough.
- Footpaths have been replaced on the main road through Brannockstown and resurfacing has taken place in the village centre. Local drainage improvement works have also taken place.
- Minor landscaping has been carried out with residents associations in Kilberry. The Council carries out drainage maintenance in Kilberry as required.
- A public realm proposal is being advanced in Kilmead.
- Resurfacing has taken place from Rathmore to the edge of Kiltel and is proposed to be extended through the village as required in 2019.
- Tree felling and replacement has been carried out in Maganey-Levittstown. The Council carries out drainage maintenance in the village as required.
- Public realm improvements are under construction in Narraghmore.
- New car-parking, footpaths and road re-surfacing has been undertaken at Sweep Lane in Nurney, and improved connectivity between housing and the school and graveyard. The Council carries out drainage maintenance in Nurney as required.
- Housing development is underway in Rathcoffey and associated improvements in road and footpath infrastructure will be sought in conjunction with same. Traffic calming at the church, including table-top ramps, is being progressed and parking provision and traffic calming will be reviewed along with this. The Council has also supported the development of a community garden in the village.

- Housing development is underway in Staplestown and associated improvements in road and footpath infrastructure will be sought in conjunction with same.
- Localised re-surfacing and maintenance has been carried out in Twomilehouse and the Council is investigating the possibility of footpath provision with landowners from the edge of the village along Dowdingstown Road.

Other projects in various settlements throughout the county are referenced elsewhere in this report, in particular in Section 5 Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism and section 11 Social, Community & Cultural Development

## APPENDIX 1: Review of Implementation of Housing Strategy

The main aim of Kildare County Council's Housing Department is to provide social housing support to persons who are unable to meet their housing need through their own resources. To this end the Housing Department is working in co-operation with stakeholders, in particular approved housing bodies and housing developers, in order to increase the supply of new social housing by means of construction, acquisition and leasing. There continues to be a significant demand for social housing supports and other related supports such as housing loans and grants in the county. Nonetheless the summary of social housing assessments carried out in 2018 showed a decrease of 22% in the number of people in the county who are qualified as eligible for social housing and not in receipt of any form of social housing (Table A refers).

Table A:

Kildare	2013	2016	2017	2018
Number of qualified households	5,454	5,572	5,103	3,962

### Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness:

In April 2018 the Council received revised targets under Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness, with Kildare County Council tasked with the delivery of 2,426 social housing units over the period 2018-2021 through build, acquisition, leasing. The initial target set under the National Housing Strategy for the county was 1,283. Funding for the delivery of the Rebuilding Ireland Programme comes from both the Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme and the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme, with units being delivered through the Construction and Acquisition Programme, Part V, HAP, RAS and Leasing.

Annual delivery targets are notified to each housing authority by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DoHPLG), having regard to the overall delivery target. Table B sets out Kildare County Council's targets and delivery for the period 2017-2019.

Table B:

Output 2017			Output 2018			Targets 2019		
Build, Acquisition & Leasing	HAP & RAS	Total	Build, Acquisition & Leasing	HAP & RAS	Total	Build, Acquisition & Leasing	HAP & RAS	Total
428	762	<b>1,190</b>	490	712	<b>1,202</b>	547	722	<b>1,269</b>

The overall build, acquisition and leasing output/target includes social housing units delivered by the AHB sector in the county. It should be noted that the build target incorporates the 10% requirement for delivery of social housing under Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). In this regard, the housing department continues to work with house builders and developers to ensure that Part V provision is meeting the demands for social housing in the county. In this context it should be noted that two-thirds of the applicants for social housing in Co Kildare have either a one or two bed housing requirement.



The Council has identified a pipeline of social housing construction on sites in local authority and State ownership (which has since 2017 delivered 32 new homes). The pipeline, which extends to 2020, envisages the delivery of over 600 new homes through various mechanisms including local authority construction, AHB construction, public private partnership, Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS). The construction projects will continue to be supplemented by the Council's acquisition programme, subject to funding by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

The Department has also set ambitious targets for the delivery of units through standard long-term leasing and enhanced leasing schemes and it is anticipated that the number of units being delivered under this mechanism will increase in the short to medium term.

The Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP) became available in the county in late 2015 and, as at 31 December 2018, there were 1,892 qualified social housing applicants availing of HAP in the county. A further 603 individuals/families are housed under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS).

### **Homelessness:**

Kildare County Council is the lead authority for the Mid East Region for homeless services, comprising Kildare, Meath and Wicklow, and reports to the DHPLG on homeless presentations and numbers of individuals and families in emergency/transitional accommodation across the region. As lead authority, Kildare is responsible for the budget for the region, which in 2018 was in excess of €4.9m.

The level of homelessness in the county continues to be a concern with 1,211 cases (individuals and family units) presenting as homeless to the Housing Department in 2018. 274 persons were accommodated in emergency accommodation in 2018. The Housing Department continues to work closely with AHBs and NGOs in an effort to provide supported temporary accommodation and permanent housing solutions for people exiting homelessness. To this end the National Implementation Plan for Housing First was published in 2018. The Housing First model is a participant-centred approach that focuses on ending homelessness for people with high and complex needs who have been rough sleeping or using emergency homeless accommodation for long periods of time. This is achieved by providing the individual with direct access to secure, independent housing without preconditions and this is accompanied by intensive wraparound housing and health supports. It is proposed to roll out Housing First on a regional basis.

### **Review of Housing Strategy:**

In accordance with Section 94 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) each planning authority must include a Housing Strategy in its development plan. The purpose of a housing strategy is to ensure that the development plan provides for the housing of the existing and future population of the area, in the manner set out in the strategy. The Act requires that the Core Strategy of a development plan provides relevant information to show that the development plan and housing strategy are consistent with the NPF, RSES and specific planning policy requirements set out under S28 Guidelines. As set out in Section 1 of this report, the Kildare County Development Plan will require to be made consistent with the RSES either through either a variation of the plan or,

if considered more appropriate, a full review of the CDP. This process will include a review and update, as necessary, of the Housing Strategy.