

CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PLANNING

# STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

## SEA SCREENING REPORT FOR THE KILDARE LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN 2024-2029

#### **Prepared for:**

**Kildare County Council** 



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#### **REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT**

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

#### 1.1 Background

The Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is a shared and integrated plan intended to guide the sustainable economic and community development of the County by meeting the needs of communities and businesses over the six-year period of 2024 to 2029. The LECP 2024-2029 supersedes the first Kildare LECP which was formulated in 2016 and incorporates updated goals, objectives and actions in response to the contemporary socio-economic landscape.

The LECP is a statutory Plan designed in compliance with the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, and the Guidelines for Local Economic and Community Plans, which aims to promote the economic and community development of the Local Authority Area.

Having regard to Article 9 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004) as amended by European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 200 of 2011), Kildare County Council is required to determine whether the LECP is subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The first stage of this assessment involves an SEA Screening to determine whether a full SEA is required for the plan.

As part of the overall environmental assessment process, an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required to be undertaken of a plan in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC, transposed nationally by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011). Where a Plan requires a full AA, it shall also require a full SEA.

This report documents the SEA Screening undertaken to identify the need for full SEA for the Kildare LECP. This Screening Report should be read in conjunction with the corresponding Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and the Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan.

#### **1.2** Overview of the SEA Process

The SEA Directive – Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, requires that an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The overarching objective of the SEA Directive is 'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans....with a view to promoting sustainable development'<sup>1</sup>

SEA is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental consequences of implementing Plan or Programme (P/P) initiatives prepared by authorities at a national, regional or local level or which have been prepared for adoption through legislative means.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2004)



SEA is described within the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government's (2004) Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities on the Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) as the 'formal systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme'.

The SEA process comprises the following steps:

• Screening – the process whereby a decision is made on whether a particular P/P, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would require SEA. This is the current stage of the SEA process to which this report relates.

If SEA is required following the Screening Determination, the following steps are necessary:

- Scoping Scope and level of detail in the environmental assessment is decided upon, in consultation with the identified statutory bodies;
- Environmental Assessment An assessment of the likely significant impacts on the environment as a result of the relevant P/P;
- Preparation of an Environmental Report;
- Consultation of the P/P and associated Environmental Report;
- Evaluation of the submission and observations made on the P/P and environmental report; and
- Provision of an SEA Statement, identifying how environmental considerations and consultation have been integrated into the Final P/P.

SEA is intended to provide the framework for influencing decision-making at an earlier stage when P/Ps – which give rise to individual projects – are being developed. It is noted that SEA should result in more sustainable development through the systematic appraisal of policy options.

#### 1.3 Overview of the SEA Screening Process

The first step of the SEA process is to carry out SEA Screening to determine the requirement for SEA of a P/P.

The first stage in determining whether a P/P requires SEA is the carrying out of a 'Pre-screening Check' (also known as a 'Stage 1 Applicability'). This allows rapid screening-out of P/P that are clearly not going to have any environmental impact and screening-in of those that do require SEA. The second stage in determining whether a P/P requires SEA is known as 'Stage 2 Screening.' The purpose of this stage is to determine whether a P/P is likely to have significant effects on the environment and whether SEA must be carried out in conjunction with a P/P. The application of environmental significance criteria is important in determining whether an SEA is required. Annex II of Directive 2001/42/EC sets out the 'statutory' criteria that should be addressed when undertaking this stage. This process is typically undertaken following an 8-step approach Figure 1-1.

The first environmental significance criterion relates to the characteristics of the P/P, having regard to: the degree to which the P/P sets out a framework for other projects and activities; the influence of the P/P on other projects, plans or activities; the role of the plan for integrating environmental considerations to promote sustainable development; environmental issues of relevance to the P/P and the relevance of the P/P for the implementation of EU legislation on the environment.



The second environmental significance criterion refers to the characteristics of the effects and area likely to be affected, having regard to; the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects; the cumulative nature of the effects; the transboundary nature of the effects; the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values or intensive use; the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European or international protection status.



Figure 1-1: SEA Screening steps as per the EPAs Good Practice Guidance on SEA Screening

#### 1.4 Legislative Context

The screening stage of SEA is primarily addressed through Article 2 and Article 3 of the SEA Directive and Annex II which sets out the considerations in relation to determining significant environmental effects.

Article 2(a) of the SEA Directive establishes two cumulative conditions which P/P must satisfy in order for the further elements of the SEA Directive to be applicable to them:

- They must have been prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure, by a parliament or government; and
- They must be required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.

If these conditions are not satisfied, the measure is not regarded as a P/P which comes within the scope of the SEA Directive.



Once a P/P has been determined to be within the scope of the SEA Directive, Article 3 sets out the criteria for determining which P/P require environmental assessment. Again, several conditions must be met. A P/P must (a) belong to the list of sectors and (b) set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive, or (c) require an AA under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

Annex II of the SEA Directive presents the criteria for determining the likely significant effects referred to in Article 3(5) of the Directive. The significance of effects is determined with reference to the type and nature of the P/P, its position in the planning hierarchy and its influence on other P/P. It also has regard to the nature of the effects and the sensitivity of the receiving environment as well as the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects. Cumulative and transboundary issues must also be considered.

The SEA Directive is transposed into Irish legislation by the following:

- European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations (S.I. 435/2004)
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations (S.I. 436/2004). Both pieces of legislation were amended in 2011 through the following amendment regulations:
  - European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Amendment Regulations (S.I. 200/2011)
  - Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Amendment Regulations (S.I. 01/2011).

The criteria defined in Annex II of the SEA Directive has been transposed into national legislation via Schedule 1 of S.I. 435/2004.

This SEA Screening has been carried out in accordance with above legislation.

#### 1.5 Relevant SEA Guidance

This SEA Screening has been carried out in accordance with and having appropriate regard to the following guidance documents:

- SEA Screening Good Practice (EPA, 2021).
- Synthesis Report on Developing A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies For Plans And Programmes In Ireland (EPA, 2013).
- Synthesis Report on Developing A Strategic Environmental Assessment (Sea) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland (EPA, 2003).
- Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities
- Implementation of Directive 2001/43 on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (European Commission, ND).

#### **1.6** Appropriate Assessment and Relationship to SEA Screening

The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires an AA to be carried out where a plan or project is likely to have a significant impact on a European site. European sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).



The first step in the process is to establish whether AA is required for the particular plan or project. This first step is referred to as 'AA Screening' and the purpose is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project, alone and in combination with other plans or projects, could have significant effects on a European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

Article 3(c) of the SEA Directive requires that an SEA is carried out on a P/P wherever such a P/P requires an AA under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).



#### 2. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE KILDARE LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN

#### 2.1 Overview of the Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029

The Kildare LECP 2024-2029 was developed by Kildare County Council and their Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), to replace the former LECP (2016-2021). In the interest of a strongly integrated, collaborative approach and a mutual understanding that a strong economy and strong communities are mutually beneficial, an Advisory Steering Group (ASG), composed of members from the LCDC, SPC, and other key agencies, was established to oversee the development of this LECP. The Plan is due to be Adopted by the Council's Elected Members.

The purpose of the LECP is to, over a six-year period, identify goals, objectives, actions and outcomes to promote the economic and community development of the Kildare Local Authority Area, both by the Kildare County Council and other economic and community stakeholders. The LECP is an important way to set out how Kildare County Council and other stakeholders can work together to ensure that their initiatives, programmes, and projects support an improved quality of life for people living and working in the County. The draft vision of the Kildare LECP 2023-2029 is "*County Kildare; working together as a sustainable, fair, healthy, economically vibrant county for all.*"

As the framework for the economic development and local/community development of the Local Authority area, the LECP will also be the primary mechanism at local level to bring forward relevant actions arising from the proposed high-level goals and specific objectives in addition to other government policies. The high-level goals, objectives and outcomes within the LECP will have a direct effect on the services, supports and amenities in the Local Authority area.

A two-year implementation plan has been developed by the relevant Kildare County Council Departments and stakeholders. The implementation of the LECP has been delegated to relevant agencies/bodies, inclusive of, but not limited to, Kildare County Council. A collaborative approach between Kildare LCDC and SPC has been proposed for the implementation of their respective elements in the Plan. The ASG will be responsible for collating an LECP Monitoring and Implementation Team post adoption who will be supported by Kildare County Council staff.

#### 2.2 High-Level Goals and Objectives of the LECP

A High-Level Goal is an idea of the future or a desired result that an individual, group or organisation plan and commit to achieve.

Four high-level goals and forty-eight objectives have been developed for the Plan. These goals and objectives were development to be in alignment with policy objectives in the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029. These were developed having regard to findings and insights that emerged from socio-economic analyses and consultation with relevant stakeholders. The high-level goals seek to recognise the challenges the County will face over the lifetime of the new LECP and are broader in scope. The Objectives underpinning each of these Goals are more defined and measurable. Table 2-1 lists the High-Level Goals and Objectives as outlined in the LECP.



#### Table 2-1:Overview of High-Level Goals of the Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029

High Level Goal	Substainable Objective	Objective Category <sup>2</sup>
High Level Goal 1 - County Kildare is a PLACE with resilient communities where all people live full, healthy and inclusive lives	1.1 To advance the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 to progress a range of universally accessible, multi-use and inclusive social facilities. This includes community, arts/cultural, museums, enterprise, sports, family resource centres, childcare and recreational facilities in close proximity to the communities that they serve. These facilities will also support and promote social inclusion and enterprise development.	
	1.2 To increase the provision of children's play facilities, teen spaces, sports fields, civic spaces, outdoor gyms, open space and adult exercise equipment in central locations that are accessible to all and promote social inclusion.	
	1.3 To support the ongoing development and upgrading of existing library facilities in central accessible locations and encourage their use as key facilitators of community, arts, educational, social and cultural activities.	
	1.4 To cater for the needs of all school-going children and young people across the county, particularly targeting high-growth areas, by actively planning for the expansion and building of centrally located schools that support sustainable transport access through continued collaboration with the Department of Education and Children and with Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board and other applicable patrons.	
	1.5 To increase the range and types of childcare facilities across the county, particularly in high-growth areas, to enable children to develop equitably and to support parents to return to employment, education/training and caring duties.	

<sup>2</sup> Table Key

Table Rey	
Community Objectives	
Economic Objectives	
Joint Objectives	



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective	Objective Category <sup>2</sup>
	1.6 To increase the provision and range of healthcare and eldercare facilities/ services across the county, particularly in areas of high growth and where service deficits are identified. These will respond to general healthcare requirements across the lifecycle and to specific health needs such as mental health, addiction and disability.	
	1.7 To continue to work with central Government, relevant State Agencies, local organisations and communities to support the provision of accommodation and other services for International Protection Applicants and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection from Ukraine and to support their longer-term economic and community inclusion.	
	1.8 To establish a comprehensive and integrated network of remote working hubs and identify suitable locations and support existing co-working facilities, digital hubs/e-hubs and e-working centres across the county, targeting city-based employers and promoting flexible, local working.	
	1.9 To promote and support economic development across the county, particularly targeting areas where economic engagement is weak and where traditional economic activity is no longer viable/sustainable, e.g., due to the closure of the peat industry.	
	1.10 To facilitate and support the expansion and sustainment of the retail offering in County Kildare.	
	1.11 To develop and promote Kildare as an attractive and age-friendly retail destination.	
	1.12 Encourage promotion of mixed-use developments and support dwellings over shopfront buildings to regenerate urban living and increase housing availability in towns and villages.	
	1.13 To provide high quality, accessible, sustainable and environmentally friendly housing to respond to the varied and strong housing demands in Kildare, particularly responding to those with specialist accommodation needs.	
	1.14 To progress policy outlined in Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 through the provision of appropriate infrastructure to promote sustainable development through facilitating movement to, from and through the County that is accessible to all and that prioritises walking, cycling and public transport.	
	1.15 Encourage and support Irish Rail and other transport agencies in the delivery of sustainable transport projects in the County such as Dart+West and Bus Connects project.	



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective	Objective Category <sup>2</sup>
	1.16 To continue to develop the infrastructure of the Greenways/ Blueways/Peatways and their surrounding towns/villages across the county to support tourism and healthy lifestyles.	
	1.17 To support the safety of our citizens through the provision of Gardaí, fire and emergency services that are in line with the requirements of a county of our size.	
	1.18 To increase high-quality broadband and telecom infrastructure across the county.	
High Level Goal 2 - County Kildare nurtures its PEOPLE to reach their full potential and to enjoy a high quality of life at all stages	2.1 Through networks, including the Kildare Public Participation Network, Comhairle na nÓg, Older Persons Council, Disability Access Groups, Kildare Traveller Action, Kildare Volunteer Centre and other representative voluntary groups, meaningful engagement will be encouraged and supported to inform local community initiatives, planning and decision- making, as well as to promote social inclusion in line with national policy	
	2.2 To support people of all ages across Kildare, particularly in newly developing, socially excluded and expanding communities, to meet and engage in social, educational, health, employment, recreational, arts and cultural opportunities through a range of community development, social inclusion, community arts, education, health and other targeted programmes. This will develop local leadership, ownership, inclusion and a sense of pride and belonging in local communities.	
	2.3 To fully utilise libraries, museums and arts opportunities across Kildare to engage people, particularly those least likely to use them, in order to learn, develop new skills, meet new people, and build strong, inclusive communities.	
	2.4 To promote, encourage and support volunteering and to recognise its role in developing communities across Kildare.	
	2.5 To establish an ongoing awareness of the skills required by local enterprises. This will help educators and trainers to proactively support people into employment opportunities - particularly people and areas experiencing unemployment.	
	2.6 To encourage and support businesses across Kildare to become more accessible and proactively employ groups who experience challenges to engage in the labour force, e.g., long-term unemployed, older people, people with disabilities, people with low educational attainment, lone parents, ethnic minorities and Travellers.	



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective	Objective Category <sup>2</sup>
	2.7 To promote local entrepreneurship through models of clustering and support their ongoing development through integrated, accessible support services targeting micro, small business and social enterprises across the county.	
	2.8 To increase the competitiveness and productivity of small and micro enterprises and support the ambition of local businesses to scale and compete internationally.	
	2.9 To promote Kildare as the Thoroughbred County through the discovery, sharing and application of new knowledge that will enhance the health, performance and management of horses.	
	2.10 To encourage and support upskilling, job mobility and enterprise creation management.	
	2.11 To recognise, increase awareness of and embrace minority ethnic groups by listening and responding to their distinct needs. This will promote and support full inclusion in community and economic development across Kildare.	
	2.12 To develop and promote locally based festivals and cultural events across Kildare to support community engagement, pride and inclusion. Larger festivals such as Brigid 1500 will also serve to promote and support Kildare's tourism potential.	
	2.13 To ensure that the developing smart economy and digital upskilling impacts towns and villages across the county, benefiting all communities - particularly areas and people that are traditionally excluded from technology (e.g., older people, people with low education levels, Travellers).	
	2.14 To progress the Kildare Climate Action Plan to embed the principles of sustainability and the circular economy through empowering local people, state agencies and businesses, particularly more vulnerable communities within the county, to make informed, sustainable, circular and climate-positive choices.	
	2.15 To promote and support the full utilisation of public transport and active travel as a means of accessing employment, education, recreation and other day-to-day activities.	
High Level Goal 3 - County Kildare promotes and prioritises CLIMATE	3.1 To increase the awareness and understanding of local communities to build their capacity for climate action and a just transition for economic and community development, particularly targeting more excluded groups/communities.	



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective	Objective Category <sup>2</sup>
ACTION, CLIMATE JUSTICE and SUSTAINABILITY	3.2 To support local businesses to become leaders in sustainable energy through the provision of energy efficiency training and supports. This will result in increased competitiveness.	
	3.3 To progress the implementation of the County Kildare Climate Action Plan with Kildare County Council as leaders in mitigating climate emissions and mainstreaming climate action in conjunction with the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO).	
	3.4 Support the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan to ensure that the public transport network encourages and supports changes in demand for transport, improves regional connectivity, and provides an enhanced alternative to the private car.	
	3.5 To progress the objectives in the County Kildare Climate Action Plan to protect and enhance the natural environment and green infrastructure by supporting biodiversity and natural water systems, reducing the risk of negative impacts of climate change, and enhancing the health and wellbeing of all citizens.	
	3.6 To promote the design and delivery of environmentally sustainable and energy efficient housing, including through the refurbishment and upgrading of existing local authority housing stock.	
	3.7 Promote and support the development of eco-tourism, particularly in rural Kildare, to diversify farm income, increase use of the Barrow Blueway and Greenways, and increase employment opportunities in line with planning and environmental considerations.	
	3.8 That Kildare will be a leader in low-carbon development, with a focus on sustainable sectors including the circular/green economy, land use diversification and the potential of the bioeconomy, and that this leadership be recognised nationally and internationally.	
	3.9 That the Agricultural sector will be supported and will continue to be an important part of the county's economy while transitioning to reduce emissions and become more sustainable.	
High Level Goal 4 - County Kildare attracts the RESOURCES and	4.1 To fully utilise recently developed strategic plans highlighting the need for additional resourcing to respond to the needs of children, young people, older people, vulnerable communities, Family Resource Centres, Travellers, and other groups.	



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective	<b>Objective Category</b> <sup>2</sup>
INVESTMENT to be a sustainable, inclusive, economically vibrant community for all	4.2 To highlight and seek resourcing to expand education provision, particularly targeting secondary provision in the north and high-growth areas of the county. In addition to increasing the number of DEIS schools in the county.	
	4.3 To continue to highlight the need for ongoing, committed and sustainable resources to reduce social exclusion and to prevent further increases in the gap between affluence and poverty in the county.	
	4.4 To promote Kildare as the location of choice for new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and support existing FDI companies in sustaining and expanding their business	
	4.5 To utilise the social infrastructure audits carried out as part of KCC Local Area Planning to allocate existing resources and work with Government Departments and Agencies to identify funding opportunities to inform funding applications to support community and economic development across the county.	
	4.6 To ensure that the systems are in place to collate and analyse accurate and timely data to inform resource priorities and allocations for business and community development across the county. This includes data to supplement the Haase deprivation index for Kildare.	

#### 2.3 Relationship with other Relevant Plans and Programmes

The LECP has been informed by and is consistent with the aims and objectives of other plans, programmes and strategies that were or are being developed at international, national, regional and local levels. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals provide the overarching global framework for the policy context within which the LECP is situated. Other international and European Union policy that impact the LECP include the EU Green Deal and the Common Agricultural Policy.

The Kildare LECP is placed within a hierarchy of plans and strategies that were or are being developed at national, regional and local levels. These include but are not limited to:

#### National Level

- Project Ireland 2040 : National Planning Framework 2018
- Project Ireland 2040: National Development Plan 2021-2030
- National Recovery and Resilience Plan
- Climate Action Plan 2024
- Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy
- National Volunteering Strategy 2021 2025
- Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A Five-Year Strategy to Support the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland 2019 2024
- Our Rural Future Rural Development Strategy 2021-2025
- Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026
- Housing for All a New Housing Plan for Ireland
- Heritage Ireland 2030: A Framework for Heritage (2022)
- Town Centre First: A Policy Approach for Irish Towns 2022
- Enterprise 2025 Strategy
- Action Plan for Jobs
- National Anti-Poverty Strategy
- Investing in Our Transport Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport
- Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025
- HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025
- National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017-2030
- People Place and Policy Growing Tourism to 2025 (DTTAS, 2014)

#### Regional and Local Level

- Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2019-2031
- Eastern Midlands Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021
- Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024
- Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029
- Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024

- A Digital Strategy for County Kildare to 2025
- Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy 2022-2042
- Kildare County Council Corporate Procurement Plan 2022-2026
- Healthy Kildare Plan 2022-2026
- County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025
- County Kildare Biodiversity Plan 2009-2014
- Kildare Hub Strategy 2022-2025
- Kildare Local Enterprise Development Plan 2021-2024
- Kildare Play Strategy 2018-2028
- County Childcare Committee Plan 2023-2026
- Kildare LEADER Local Development Strategy 2023-2027
- County Kildare Integration Strategy 2021-2026
- Age Friendly Kildare Strategy 2023-2027
- Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) Plan 2023-2027
- Kildare County Council's Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029
- Kildare County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024
- Kildare Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027
- Kildare Library Service Interim Development Plan 2020-2022
- Kildare Public Participation Network (PPN) Vision for Community Wellbeing Statement 2023
- Any other Local Area Plan Provisions responsible for the protection and management of the environment including environmental sensitivities

#### 3. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING

This section of the report documents the SEA Screening undertaken.

Stage 1 Applicability Analysis was undertaken initially. This analysis is detailed in Section 3.1 of this report (Table 3-1 and Table 3-2).

Stage 2 Screening Analysis was then undertaken. This analysis is detailed in Section 3.2 of this report (Table 3-3, Table 3-4, and Table 3-5).

#### 3.1 Stage 1 - SEA Applicability Analysis

#### Table 3-1: SEA Applicability Analysis

SEA Applicability Analysis				
Status of Plan/Programme Maker				
Is the P/P prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	The Kildare LECP has been prepared by Kildare County Council in collaboration with an Advisory Steering Group composed of representatives from the Local Community Development (LCDC), the Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy (SPC) and other key stakeholders.			
	A competent authority for the purpose of SEA is defined under S.I. 435 of 2004 as 'the authority which is, or the authorities which are jointly, responsible for the preparation of a plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme.'			
	Therefore, the Plan can be considered a document prepared by an 'authority' at a local level.			
Is the P/P required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions?	The Kildare LECP is required under the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, which is national legislation.			
	The purpose of the LECP is to strengthen and develop the economic and community-related aspects of the County over a six-year period.			
	Having regard to the foregoing, the LECP is required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.			
Nature of the Plan/Programme				
Is the P/P prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use?	The Kildare LECP has been prepared at the Local Authority level with multi-sectoral objectives that focus on economic coordination and strategic support.			
Does the P/P provide a framework for the development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive?	The LECP does not set the framework for future development consent of projects.			

SEA Applicability Analysis		
Is the P/P likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site which leads to a requirement for Article 6 or 7 assessments?	No, as determined by Appropriate Assessment Screening undertaken for the Plan.	
Exemptions		
Is the sole purpose of the P/P to serve national defence or civil emergency or is it a financial/budget P/P or is it co- financed by the current SF/RDF programme?	No.	

#### Table 3-2: Summary of SEA Applicability Analysis

Summary of SEA Applicability Analysis	
Applicability Analysis Criterion	Outcome (Yes or No)
Is the P/P prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	Yes
Is the P/P required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions?	Yes
Is the P/P prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use?	Yes
Does the P/P provide a framework for the development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive?	No
Is the P/P likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site which leads to a requirement for Article 6 or 7 assessments?	No
Is the sole purpose of the P/P to serve national defence or civil emergency or is it a financial/budget P/P or is it co-financed by the current SF/RDF programme?	No
Conclusion	

Having regard to the SEA Screening steps outlined by EPA guidance (See Figure 1-1), it has been concluded that a Stage 2 SEA Screening Analysis is required to determine whether the LECP is likely to have significant effects on the environment, and whether a full SEA of the LECP is needed.



#### 3.2 Stage 2 - SEA Screening Analysis

To inform the Stage 2 SEA Screening Analysis, an evaluation of the potential environmental implications of each Objective underpinning the proposed High-Level Goals in the LECP has been undertaken. This evaluation is presented in Table 3-3.

High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
High Level Goal 1 - County Kildare is a PLACE with resilient communities where all people live full, healthy and inclusive lives	1.1 To advance the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 to progress a range of universally accessible, multi-use and inclusive social facilities. This includes community, arts/cultural, museums, enterprise, sports, family resource centres, childcare and recreational facilities in close proximity to the communities that they serve. These facilities will also support and promote social inclusion and enterprise development.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty and social exclusion. The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and the need for continued investment and retain industry. Sustainable Objective 1.1 is in harmony with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy's (RSES) Regional Policy Objectives (RPO) 9.13 (Healthy Placemaking), 9.14 and 9.17 (Recreation and Open Space), 9.20 (Childcare, Education and Life Long Learning) and 9.24 (Arts, Culture, Language and Heritage). The objective is furthermore consistent with Kildare CDP Policies SC P2, P3, and P5. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA.

#### Table 3-3: Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each High-Level Goal and Objectives of the LECP 2024-2029

<sup>3</sup> Table Key

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Community Objectives	
Economic Objectives	
Joint Objectives	



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		The objective pertains to supporting and advancing proposed social facilities (as outlined in the Kildare CDP) and is an overall positive effect for the communities using those facilities. Supporting social inclusion and entrepreneurship in the County will benefit the local economy and contribute to the overall wellbeing and resilience in the communities.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP, other inter-related plans and programmes and associated environmental assessments.
	1.2 To increase the provision of children's play facilities, teen spaces, sports fields, civic spaces, outdoor gyms, open space	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	and adult exercise equipment in central locations that are accessible to all and promote social inclusion.	The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty and social exclusion. The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and the need for continued investment and retain industry.
		Sustainable Objective 1.2 is in harmony with the RSES RPOs 9.16 and 9.17 (Recreation and Open Space) and Kildare CDP policy objectives SC P4. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		As the objective pertains to increasing the provision of sports facilities and playgrounds, this will have an overall positive effect on the physical and mental wellbeing of the communities using those facilities.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs.

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High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP, other inter-related plans and programmes and associated environmental assessments.
	1.3 To support the ongoing development and upgrading of existing library facilities in central accessible locations and encourage their use as key facilitators of community, arts, educational, social and cultural activities.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty and social exclusion. The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and the need for continued investment and retain industry. Sustainable Objective 1.3 is in harmony with RSES RPOS 9.14 (Recreation and Open Space) and 9.24 (Arts, Culture, Language and Heritage), and Kildare CDP policy objectives SC P10 and P11. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP. The objective supports the development of library facilities in the County, which is positive for environmental receptors such as Population and Human Health and Cultural Heritage. The communities in the County will benefit from improved accessibility to available socio- economic supports. No land-use changes are associated with this objective.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP, other inter-related plans and programmes and associated environmental assessments.
	1.4 To cater for the needs of all school- going children and young people across the county, particularly targeting high- growth areas, by actively planning for the expansion and building of centrally located schools that support sustainable transport access through continued collaboration with the Department of	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty and social exclusion.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
	Education and Children and with Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board and other applicable patrons.	The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and the need for continued investment and retain industry.
		Sustainable Objective 1.4 is in harmony with RSES RPO 9.21 (Childcare, Education and Life Long Learning) and Kildare CDP policy objective SC P12. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		The objective pertains to the development of education facilities in the county. County Kildare has seen unprecedented population growth and the key towns such as Maynooth and Naas will require centrally-located, well-connected schools to support the current and any future residents with school-going children. The objective will have an overall positive effect on the communities in County Kildare.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP, other inter-related plans and programmes and associated environmental assessments.
	1.5 To increase the range and types of childcare facilities across the county, particularly in high-growth areas, to enable children to develop equitably and to support parents to return to employment, education/training and caring duties.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty and social exclusion. The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and the need for continued investment and retain industry. Sustainable Objective 1.5 is in harmony with RSES RPO 9.20 (Childcare, Education and Life Long Learning) and Kildare CDP policy objective SC P13. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		The objective pertains to the development of childcare facilities in the county. County Kildare has seen unprecedented population growth and the key towns such as Maynooth and Naas will require childcare facilities to support the current and any future residents with young children to enable return to employment or education and other obligations. The objective will have an overall positive effect on the communities in County Kildare. The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP, other inter-related plans and programmes and associated environmental assessments.
	1.6 To increase the provision and range of healthcare and eldercare facilities/ services across the county, particularly in areas of high growth and where service deficits are identified. These will respond to general healthcare requirements across the lifecycle and to specific health needs such as mental health, addiction and disability.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty and social exclusion. The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and the need for continued investment and retain industry. Sustainable Objective 1.6 is in harmony with RSES RPOS 9.12 and 9.13 (Healthy Placemaking), and 9.23 (Provision of Health Services) and Kildare CDP policy objectives SC P6 and P14. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP. The objective intends to support the expansion of healthcare and elderly care facilities in the county, which will have an overall positive on the community, particularly for the elderly and vulnerable and marginalised groups. The objective ensures physical and mental wellbeing of these groups, in addition to addressing and reducing social exclusion.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP, other inter-related plans and programmes and associated environmental assessments.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3 1.7 To continue to work with central Government, relevant State Agencies, local organisations and communities to support the provision of accommodation and other services for International Protection Applicants and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection from Ukraine and to support their longer-term economic and community inclusion.	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP ObjectivesThe objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aimsand objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as wellas the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and EconomicStrategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty andsocial exclusion. The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and theneed for continued investment and retain industry.Sustainable Objective 1.7 is in harmony with RSES RPOS 9.3 and 9.6 (Housing) and KildareCDP policy objective Housing HO P8. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. Theobjective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within theKildare CDP.This objective focusses on advocacy, engagement and support, rather than supportingenvironmentally impactful development or activities not already provided for andconsidered under the land use planning framework or other plans.The objective intends to facilitate refugees and asylum seekers and their integration withintheir mew communities through provision of stable accommodation and access to otherservices and supports. This will have a direct positive effect on social inclusivity and
		land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP, other inter-related plans and programmes and associated environmental assessments.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
	1.8 To establish a comprehensive and integrated network of remote working hubs and identify suitable locations and	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	support existing co-working facilities, digital hubs/e-hubs and e-working centres across the county, targeting city-based employers and promoting flexible, local working.	The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty and social exclusion. The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and the need for continued investment and retain industry.
		Sustainable Objective 1.8 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 4.51 (Naas Key Town), 6.5 and 6.6 (Rural Economy), 6.29 (Technology and Innovation Poles - Anchors: Regional Scientific Centres), 6.30 (Smart Cities, Towns and Villages), and 6.31 (Innovation Policy), and Kildare CDP policy objectives Rural Economy (RE) P5, P6, and P8. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goals 1 and 3 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy and the Goal 2 of the Kildare Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) 2024-2029. The objective supports business development through improving access to spaces where people can work at. If implemented successfully, this will have an overall positive effect on the environment (Air and Climate in particular through the reduction in emissions associated with business travel) and wellbeing of the communities.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP, other inter-related plans and programmes and associated environmental assessments.
	1.9 To promote and support economic development across the county, particularly targeting areas where economic engagement is weak and where traditional economic activity is no longer	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty and social exclusion.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
	viable/sustainable, e.g., due to the closure of the peat industry.	The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and the need for continued investment and retain industry.
		Sustainable Objective 1.9 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 6.2 (Unexpected Opportunities for Enterprise Development), 6.4, 6.5, and 6.7 (Rural Economy), 6.38 (Anticipating Economic Structural Change), and 7.25 (Greenways, Blueways and Peatways), and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P1, P2, P3, P4, P7 and RD P1. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goals 1, 3 and 6 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy. The objective intends to identify gaps and weaknesses in the target areas where previously established industries may have extinguished and offer alternative livelihoods to the local community. This will have an overall positive effect on the local economy and the community without leading to any real environmental effects.
		This objective focusses on advocacy, engagement and support, rather than supporting environmentally impactful development or activities not already provided for and considered under the land use planning framework or other plans.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP, other inter-related plans and programmes and associated environmental assessments.
	1.10 To facilitate and support the expansion and sustainment of the retail offering in County Kildare.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
		The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty and social exclusion. The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and the need for continued investment and retain industry.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		Sustainable Objective 1.10 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 4.27 (Key Towns), 4.34 (Maynooth Key Town), 6.10 and 6.11 (Retail Strategies and Retail Planning Guidelines), and Kildare CDP policy objectives RET P1 and P2. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 7 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy. The objective intends to support existing retail operations and facilitate their expansion in a sustainable manner. If implemented successfully, this will lead to an overall positive effect on the local economy.
		This objective focusses on advocacy, engagement and support, rather than supporting environmentally impactful development or activities not already provided for and considered under the land use planning framework or other plans.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP, other inter-related plans and programmes and associated environmental assessments.
	1.11 To develop and promote Kildare as an attractive and age-friendly retail destination.	<ul> <li>The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.</li> <li>The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty and social exclusion. The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and the need for continued investment and retain industry.</li> </ul>
		Sustainable Objective 1.11 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 4.27 (Key Towns), 4.34 (Maynooth Key Town), 6.10 and 6.11 (Retail Strategies and Retail Planning Guidelines), 9.12 and 9.13 (Healthy Placemaking), and Kildare CDP policy objectives RET P1, P2, and P4. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 7 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy. The objective will promote Kildare as an attractive destination for commerce. No land-use changes have been proposed as part of this objective. If implemented successfully, there will be positive economic effects without the possibility of any significant environmental effects.
		This objective focusses on advocacy, engagement and support, rather than supporting environmentally impactful development or activities not already provided for and considered under the land use planning framework or other plans.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP, other inter-related plans and programmes and associated environmental assessments.
	1.12 Encourage promotion of mixed-use developments and support dwellings over shopfront buildings to regenerate urban	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	living and increase housing availability in towns and villages.	The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty and social exclusion. The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and the need for continued investment and retain industry.
		Sustainable Objective 1.12 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 4.36 (Maynooth Key Town) and 6.14 (Town Centre Renewal), and Kildare CDP policy objectives RET P1 and P2 and HO P5. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP, but aligns with the promotion of mixed-use developments and urban regeneration to address housing challenges in the County.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP, other inter-related plans and programmes and associated environmental assessments.
	1.13 To provide high quality, accessible, sustainable and environmentally friendly housing to respond to the varied and strong housing demands in Kildare, particularly responding to those with specialist accommodation needs.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty and social exclusion. The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and the need for continued investment and retain industry.
		Sustainable Objective 1.13 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 5.4 and 5.5 (MASP Housing and Regeneration), and 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, and 9.6 (Housing), and Kildare CDP policy objectives SC P7 and HO P3, P7, and P8. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP, instead aligning with and emphasising on the need to address housing challenges and needs in the County. If implemented successfully, this will have an overall positive effect on communities and the environment.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 2 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP, other inter-related plans and programmes and associated environmental assessments.
	1.14 To progress policy outlined in Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 through the provision of appropriate	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
development through facilit movement to, from and thr	infrastructure to promote sustainable development through facilitating movement to, from and through the County that is accessible to all and that	The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty and social exclusion.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
	prioritises walking, cycling and public transport.	The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and the need for continued investment and retain industry.
		Sustainable Objective 1.14 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 5.3 (MASP Sustainable Transport), 8.2 and 8.3 (Integration of Transport and Land Use Planning), 8.13 (Rural Transport Programme), 9.1 (Diverse and Inclusive Region), and 9.10 (Healthy Placemaking), and Kildare CDP policy objectives TM P1 and P3. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 8 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy and Goal 2 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029. The objective focuses on the delivery of sustainable modes of transport, which, if implemented successfully, will lead to positive effects on the environment.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP, other inter-related plans and programmes and associated environmental assessments.
	1.15 Encourage and support Irish Rail and other transport agencies in the delivery of sustainable transport projects in the	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	County such as Dart+West and Bus Connects project.	The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty and social exclusion. The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and the need for continued investment and retain industry.
		Sustainable Objective 1.15 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 5.2 (MASP Sustainable Transport), 8.8 (Rail Infrastructure) and 8.9 (Bus Infrastructure), and Kildare CDP policy objective TM P3.

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High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
	Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.	
	Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 2 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029. The objective focuses on the delivery of sustainable modes of transport, which, if implemented successfully, will lead to positive effects on the environment.	
		This objective focusses on advocacy, engagement and support, rather than supporting environmentally impactful development or activities or other plans.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP, other inter-related plans and programmes and associated environmental assessments.
towns/villages across the county to		The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	towns/villages across the county to support tourism and healthy lifestyles.	The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty and social exclusion. The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and the need for continued investment and retain industry.
		Sustainable Objective 1.16 is in harmony with RSES RPO 7.24 and 7.25 (Greenways, Blueways and Peatways) and Kildare CDP policy objectives TM P1, P2, and P3, and RE P19, P20 and P21. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP, but aligns on the need to develop sustainable infrastructure in the County to support physical and mental wellbeing of the public. If implemented successfully, there will positive effects on both the environment and the people.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 6 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy and Goals 3 and 4 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP, other inter-related plans and programmes and associated environmental assessments.
	1.17 To support the safety of our citizens through the provision of Gardaí, fire and emergency services that are in line with	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	the requirements of a county of our size.	The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty and social exclusion. The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and the need for continued investment and retain industry.
		Sustainable Objective 1.17 is in harmony with Kildare CDP policy objective SC P15. The Kildare CDP has been subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP. The objective does not propose any land-use changes. It focuses on the building capability within the emergency services in the County for public wellbeing.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	1.18 To increase high-quality broadband and telecom infrastructure across the county.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
		The overarching High-Level Goal 1 is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019-2031) which prioritises placemaking and the mitigation of poverty and social exclusion.

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High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		The goal is additionally consistent with the Kildare CDP and the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy, which emphasise on the 10-minute town and the need for continued investment and retain industry.
		Sustainable Objective 1.18 is in harmony with RSES RPO 8.25 (Communications Networks and Digital Infrastructure) and Kildare CDP policy objective EC P22. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP. It emphasises on the essentiality of telecom infrastructure for supporting access to information and enable people in decision-making. If implemented successfully, this will have positive effects on the local community and economy.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 3 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy and Goal 2 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
High Level Goal 2 - County Kildare nurtures its PEOPLE to reach their full potential and to enjoy a high quality of life at all stages	2.1 Through networks, including the Kildare Public Participation Network, Comhairle na nÓg, Older Persons Council, Disability Access Groups, Kildare Traveller Action, Kildare Volunteer Centre and other representative voluntary groups, meaningful engagement will be encouraged and supported to inform local community initiatives, planning and decision-making, as well as to promote social inclusion in line with national policy	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 2 recognises the role of quality of life to supporting sustainable regional development and is reflective of the RSES's and Kildare CDP's aim to create a sustainable and competitive region supporting the health and wellbeing of the community and improving access to quality housing, travel and employment opportunities. Sustainable Objective 2.1 is in harmony with RSES RPO 9.18 (Social and Economic Opportunity) and Kildare CDP policy objectives SC P1, P3, P7, and P8 and UD P1. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 4 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029. The objective focuses on stakeholder engagement for informing decision-making regarding social inclusion.
		If implemented successfully, there will be positive social and economic effects, while foregoing the possibility of any adverse environmental effects.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	2.2 To support people of all ages across Kildare, particularly in newly developing, socially excluded and expanding	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	communities, to meet and engage in social, educational, health, employment, recreational, arts and cultural opportunities through a range of	The overarching High-Level Goal 2 recognises the role of quality of life to supporting sustainable regional development and is reflective of the RSES's and Kildare CDP's aim to create a sustainable and competitive region supporting the health and wellbeing of the community and improving access to quality housing, travel and employment opportunities.
	community development, social inclusion, community arts, education, health and other targeted programmes. This will develop local leadership, ownership, inclusion and a sense of pride and belopging in local communities	Sustainable Objective 2.2 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 9.14 and 9.15 (Recreation and Open Space), and 9.18 (Social and Economic Opportunity) and Kildare CDP policy objectives SC P3, P4, P5, P7, P8, and P9. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
	belonging in local communities.	The objective focuses on community engagement and improvement of social inclusion and public wellbeing. If implemented successfully, there will be positive social and economic effects, while foregoing the possibility of any adverse environmental effects.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
	2.3 To fully utilise libraries, museums and arts opportunities across Kildare to engage people, particularly those least likely to use them, in order to learn, develop new skills, meet new people, and build strong, inclusive communities.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 2 recognises the role of quality of life to supporting sustainable regional development and is reflective of the RSES's and Kildare CDP's aim to create a sustainable and competitive region supporting the health and wellbeing of the community and improving access to quality housing, travel and employment opportunities. Sustainable Objective 2.3 is in harmony with RSES RPOS 9.24 and 9.25 (Arts, Culture, Language and Heritage) and Kildare CDP policy objectives SC P10 and P11. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP. The objective focuses on community engagement and improvement of social inclusion and public wellbeing through the maximisation of available public services. If implemented successfully, there will be positive social and economic effects, while foregoing the possibility of any adverse environmental effects. The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	2.4 To promote, encourage and support volunteering and to recognise its role in developing communities across Kildare.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 2 recognises the role of quality of life to supporting sustainable regional development and is reflective of the RSES's and Kildare CDP's aim to create a sustainable and competitive region supporting the health and wellbeing of the community and improving access to quality housing, travel and employment opportunities. Sustainable Objective 2.4 is in harmony with RSES RPO 9.18 (Social and Economic Opportunity) and Kildare CDP policy objective SC P1.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		The objective focuses on community engagement through volunteering initiatives. If implemented successfully, there will be positive social and economic effects, while foregoing the possibility of any adverse environmental effects.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	2.5 To establish an ongoing awareness of the skills required by local enterprises. This will help educators and trainers to	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	proactively support people into employment opportunities - particularly people and areas experiencing unemployment.	The overarching High-Level Goal 2 recognises the role of quality of life to supporting sustainable regional development and is reflective of the RSES's and Kildare CDP's aim to create a sustainable and competitive region supporting the health and wellbeing of the community and improving access to quality housing, travel and employment opportunities.
		Sustainable Objective 2.5 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 6.25 and 6.27 (Skills and Innovation) and 9.22 (Childcare, Education and Life Long Learning) and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P2, P3, and P4. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 1 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy. The objective intends to identify the gaps in the labour market and the skills required to fill them, which will enable people seeking employment in choosing professional paths. If implemented successfully, there will be positive effects for the community and local economy, while foregoing the possibility of any adverse environmental effects.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	2.6 To encourage and support businesses across Kildare to become more accessible and proactively employ groups who experience challenges to engage in the labour force, e.g., long-term unemployed, older people, people with disabilities, people with low educational attainment, lone parents, ethnic minorities and Travellers.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 2 recognises the role of quality of life to supporting sustainable regional development and is reflective of the RSES's and Kildare CDP's aim to create a sustainable and competitive region supporting the health and wellbeing of the community and improving access to quality housing, travel and employment opportunities. Sustainable Objective 2.6 is in harmony with RSES RPO 6.28 (Social Enterprise) ) and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P2, P3, P4. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP. Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 1 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy. The objective focuses on businesses becoming more inclusive by employing groups that typically struggle with assimilating into the work force. If implemented successfully, there will be positive effects for the community and local economy, while foregoing the possibility of any adverse environmental effects. The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	2.7 To promote local entrepreneurship through models of clustering and support their ongoing development through integrated, accessible support services targeting micro, small business and social enterprises across the county.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 2 recognises the role of quality of life to supporting sustainable regional development and is reflective of the RSES's and Kildare CDP's aim to create a sustainable and competitive region supporting the health and wellbeing of the community and improving access to quality housing, travel and employment opportunities.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Catego	bry3 Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		Sustainable Objective 2.7 is in harmony with RSES RPO 6.31 (Innovation Capacity) and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P1, P2, P5, and P7. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 1 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy and Goals 2 and 5 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029. This objective supports business development. If successfully implemented, it will generate positive economic effects, however it will not lead to any real environmental effect. It should be noted that the term 'innovative clusters' relates to engagement and communication networks (and not development).
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	2.8 To increase the competitivene productivity of small and micro enterprises and support the ambi	and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well
	local businesses to scale and com internationally.	peteThe overarching High-Level Goal 2 recognises the role of quality of life to supporting sustainable regional development and is reflective of the RSES's and Kildare CDP's aim to create a sustainable and competitive region supporting the health and wellbeing of the community and improving access to quality housing, travel and employment opportunities.
		Sustainable Objective 2.8 is in harmony with RSES RPO 6.31 (Innovation Capacity) and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P4 and P7. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 1 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy. The objective plans to enable micro and small businesses to become more competitive in the market through improved productivity. If implemented successfully, there will be positive effects for the community and local economy, while foregoing the possibility of any adverse environmental effects.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	2.9 To promote Kildare as the Thoroughbred County through the discovery, sharing and application of new knowledge that will enhance the health, performance and management of horses.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 2 recognises the role of quality of life to supporting sustainable regional development and is reflective of the RSES's and Kildare CDP's aim to create a sustainable and competitive region supporting the health and wellbeing of the community and improving access to quality housing, travel and employment opportunities. Sustainable Objective 2.9 is in harmony with RSES RPO 6.34 (Branding) and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P14 and RD P3 and P4. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP. Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 4 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy. The objective intends to build on County Kildare's reputation for breeding and racing of Thoroughbred horses via continued research and knowledge dissemination for enhancing the horses' performance and management. If implemented successfully, there will be positive effects for the local economy, while foregoing the possibility of any adverse environmental effects. The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and
		associated environmental assessments.
	2.10 To encourage and support upskilling, job mobility and enterprise creation management.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		The overarching High-Level Goal 2 recognises the role of quality of life to supporting sustainable regional development and is reflective of the RSES's and Kildare CDP's aim to create a sustainable and competitive region supporting the health and wellbeing of the community and improving access to quality housing, travel and employment opportunities. Sustainable Objective 2.10 is in harmony with RSES RPOS 6.21 (Identification of Destination Towns) and 6.25 (Skills and Innovation), and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P1, P2, and P4 and RD P1. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP. Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 1 and 3 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy. The objective focuses on training and building capability within the work force, which will facilitate socioeconomic mobility and expand the labour market. If implemented successfully, there will be positive effects for the communities and local economy, while foregoing the possibility of any adverse environmental effects. This objective focusses on advocacy, engagement and support, rather than supporting environmentally impactful development or activities not already provided for and considered under the land use planning framework or other plans. The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	2.11 To recognise, increase awareness of and embrace minority ethnic groups by listening and responding to their distinct needs. This will promote and support full inclusion in community and economic development across Kildare.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 2 recognises the role of quality of life to supporting sustainable regional development and is reflective of the RSES's and Kildare CDP's aim to create a sustainable and competitive region supporting the health and wellbeing of the community and improving access to quality housing, travel and employment opportunities.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		Sustainable Objective 2.11 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 6.25 and 6.26 (Skills and Innovation) and Kildare CDP policy objectives SC P3 and P8. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 1 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy. The objective focuses on the empowerment and social inclusivity of marginalised groups through engagement. This will lead to improved comprehension of their needs and consequently, improved and tailored social supports to facilitate their participation in community and economic activities. No likelihood of significant adverse environmental effects were identified.
		This objective focusses on advocacy, engagement and support, rather than supporting environmentally impactful development or activities not already provided for and considered under the land use planning framework or other plans.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	2.12 To develop and promote locally based festivals and cultural events across Kildare to support community	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	engagement, pride and inclusion. Larger festivals such as Brigid 1500 will also serve to promote and support Kildare's tourism potential.	The overarching High-Level Goal 2 recognises the role of quality of life to supporting sustainable regional development and is reflective of the RSES's and Kildare CDP's aim to create a sustainable and competitive region supporting the health and wellbeing of the community and improving access to quality housing, travel and employment opportunities.
		Sustainable Objective 2.12 is in harmony with Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P23. The Kildare CDP was subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 6 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy. The objective will result in positive effects for the community, the local economy and cultural heritage, while foregoing the possibility of any real environmental effects.
		This objective provides for support related to festivals within the county; however, it does not specify any spatial detail in this regard beyond what is already provided for in the CDP. Festivals may generate environmental effects however these are already considered under the SEA of the Kildare CDP, and in particular within the scope of existing/new festivals supported under policy objective RE P23 in the CDP. Objective RE O166 contained in the CDP supports the carrying out of festival whilst having due regards to environmental matters.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	2.13 To ensure that the developing smart economy and digital upskilling impacts towns and villages across the county, benefiting all communities - particularly areas and people that are traditionally excluded from technology (e.g., older people, people with low education levels,	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 2 recognises the role of quality of life to supporting sustainable regional development and is reflective of the RSES's and Kildare CDP's aim to create a sustainable and competitive region supporting the health and wellbeing of the community and improving access to quality housing, travel and employment opportunities.
	Travellers).	Sustainable Objective 2.13 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 6.25 and 6.27 (Skills and Innovation), and 6.30 (Smart Cities, Towns and Villages) and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P8. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 3 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy and Goal 5 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029. The objective plans to ensure that the benefits of the growing digital economy does not exclude groups that may traditionally be limited in accessing technology.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		The objective will result in positive effects for the community and the local economy, while foregoing the possibility of any real environmental effects.
		This objective focusses on advocacy, engagement and support, rather than supporting environmentally impactful development or activities not already provided for and considered under the land use planning framework or other plans.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	2.14 To progress the Kildare Climate Action Plan to embed the principles of sustainability and the circular economy	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	through empowering local people, state agencies and businesses, particularly more vulnerable communities within the county, to make informed, sustainable,	The overarching High-Level Goal 2 recognises the role of quality of life to supporting sustainable regional development and is reflective of the RSES's and Kildare CDP's aim to create a sustainable and competitive region supporting the health and wellbeing of the community and improving access to quality housing, travel and employment opportunities.
	circular and climate-positive choices.	Sustainable Objective 2.14 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 7.32 and 7.33 (Climate Change) and Kildare CDP policy objectives RD P8. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		The objective is in direct support of Goals 4 and 5 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029. However, the objective in itself supports the overall implementation of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan, which will lead to an overall positive effect for the environment.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
	2.15 To promote and support the full utilisation of public transport and active travel as a means of accessing employment, education, recreation and other day-to-day activities.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 2 recognises the role of quality of life to supporting sustainable regional development and is reflective of the RSES's and Kildare CDP's aim to create a sustainable and competitive region supporting the health and wellbeing of the community and improving access to quality housing, travel and employment opportunities.
		Sustainable Objective 2.15 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 8.2 (Integration of Transport and Land Use Planning), 8.7 (Mobility Management and Travel Plans), and 9.10 (Healthy Placemaking) and Kildare CDP policy objectives TM P1, P2, P3, and P4. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goals 2 and 4 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029. The objective intends to support the use of public transport, which is a more sustainable travel option over the private car and will have a positive impact on environmental receptors such as Air and Climate. No likelihood of significant environmental effects was identified in relation to this objective.
		This objective focusses on advocacy, engagement and support, rather than supporting environmentally impactful development or activities not already provided for and considered under the land use planning framework or other plans.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
High Level Goal 3 - County Kildare promotes and prioritises CLIMATE ACTION, CLIMATE	3.1 To increase the awareness and understanding of local communities to build their capacity for climate action and a just transition for economic and community development, particularly	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 3 recognises the need to prioritise climate change and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy and society.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
JUSTICE and SUSTAINABILITY	targeting more excluded groups/communities.	The Kildare LACAP 2024-2029 was developed in tandem with this LECP and provides a clear analysis to connect relevant strategies and objectives to inform the climate priorities for County Kildare. The High-Level Goal intends to ensure that vulnerable or marginalised communities, people or businesses are not excluded or disproportionately impacted by the transition to a more carbon-neutral County.
		Sustainable Objective 3.1 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 7.32 and 7.33 (Climate Change) and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P12. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goals 4 and 5 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029. The objective pertains to increasing awareness and comprehension within the communities regarding climate action, and the transition to a more sustainable and equitable economy through targeted actions aimed at more excluded groups and communities. If implemented successfully, there will be positive social and economic effects without the likelihood of significant effects on the environment.
		This objective focusses on advocacy, engagement and support, rather than supporting environmentally impactful development or activities not already provided for and considered under the land use planning framework or other plans.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	3.2 To support local businesses to becom leaders in sustainable energy through th provision of energy efficiency training an	and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well
	supports. This will result in increased competitiveness.	The overarching High-Level Goal 3 recognises the need to prioritise climate change and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy and society. The Kildare LACAP 2024-2029 was developed in tandem with this LECP and provides a clear analysis to connect relevant strategies and objectives to inform the climate priorities for County Kildare.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		The High-Level Goal intends to ensure that vulnerable or marginalised communities, people or businesses are not excluded or disproportionately impacted by the transition to a more carbon-neutral County.
		Sustainable Objective 3.2 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 6.23 (Low Carbon and Circular Economy), 7.35 (Decarbonising the Energy Sector) and 10.19 (Energy Infrastructure) and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P5, P6 and P12. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 8 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy and Goals 4 and 5 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029. The objective pertains to training local businesses in becoming more sustainable and boosting economic competitiveness. If implemented successfully, there will be positive effects on Air and Climate and positive socio-economic effects. No likelihood of significant adverse environmental effects were identified.
		This objective focusses on advocacy, engagement and support, rather than supporting environmentally impactful development or activities not already provided for and considered under the land use planning framework or other plans.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	3.3 To progress the implementation of the County Kildare Climate Action Plan with Kildare County Council as leaders in	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	mitigating climate emissions and mainstreaming climate action in conjunction with the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO).	The overarching High-Level Goal 3 recognises the need to prioritise climate change and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy and society. The Kildare LACAP 2024-2029 was developed in tandem with this LECP and provides a clear analysis to connect relevant strategies and objectives to inform the climate priorities for County Kildare.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		The High-Level Goal intends to ensure that vulnerable or marginalised communities, people or businesses are not excluded or disproportionately impacted by the transition to a more carbon-neutral County.
		Sustainable Objective 3.3 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 7.32 and 7.33 (Climate Change) and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P12. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 1 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029. The objective will support the implementation of the Plan in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and does not propose any land-use changes. If implemented successfully, there will be an overall positive effect on the environment.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	3.4 Support the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan to ensure that the public transport network encourages and	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	supports changes in demand for transport, improves regional connectivity, and provides an enhanced alternative to the private car.	The overarching High-Level Goal 3 recognises the need to prioritise climate change and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy and society. The Kildare LACAP 2024-2029 was developed in tandem with this LECP and provides a clear analysis to connect relevant strategies and objectives to inform the climate priorities for County Kildare. The High-Level Goal intends to ensure that vulnerable or marginalised communities, people or businesses are not excluded or disproportionately impacted by the transition to a more carbon-neutral County.
		Sustainable Objective 3.4 is in harmony with RSES RPO 8.13 (Rural Transport Programme) and Kildare CDP policy objectives TM P1, P2 and P3. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 2 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029. The objective intends to support the use and expansion of public transport network across the country. Improved regional connectivity will offer a more sustainable alternative to the private car, and this will lead to positive effects on environmental receptors such as Air and Climate and Population and Human Health. No likelihood of significant environmental effects was identified in relation to this objective.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	3.5 To progress the objectives in the County Kildare Climate Action Plan to protect and enhance the natural	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	environment and green infrastructure by supporting biodiversity and natural water systems, reducing the risk of negative impacts of climate change, and enhancing the health and wellbeing of all citizens.	The overarching High-Level Goal 3 recognises the need to prioritise climate change and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy and society. The Kildare LACAP 2024-2029 was developed in tandem with this LECP and provides a clear analysis to connect relevant strategies and objectives to inform the climate priorities for County Kildare. The High-Level Goal intends to ensure that vulnerable or marginalised communities, people or businesses are not excluded or disproportionately impacted by the transition to a more carbon-neutral County.
		Sustainable Objective 3.5 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 7.16 (Biodiversity and Natural Heritage), and 7.32, 7.33, and 7.34 (Climate Change) and Kildare CDP policy objectives BI P1. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in direct support of Goal 3 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029. However, the objective in itself supports the overall implementation of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan, which will lead to positive effects on all environmental receptors.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	3.6 To promote the design and delivery of environmentally sustainable and energy efficient housing, including through the refurbishment and upgrading of existing local authority housing stock.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 3 recognises the need to prioritise climate change and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy and society. The Kildare LACAP 2024- 2029 was developed in tandem with this LECP and provides a clear analysis to connect relevant strategies and objectives to inform the climate priorities for County Kildare. The High-Level Goal intends to ensure that vulnerable or marginalised communities, people or businesses are not excluded or disproportionately impacted by the transition to a more carbon-neutral County.
		Sustainable Objective 3.6 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 7.40 and 7.41 (Low Energy Buildings), and Kildare CDP policy objectives HO P7 and UD P2. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 2 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029. The objective underpins proposed actions in the Kildare CDP and emphasizes the need for sustainable housing in the County. This will be achieved through the combination of refurbishment and upgrading of existing stock and development of new stock and will have positive effects on the community and local economy.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	3.7 Promote and support the development of eco-tourism, particularly in rural Kildare, to diversify farm income, increase use of the Barrow Blueway and Greenways, and increase employment	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
	opportunities in line with planning and environmental considerations.	The overarching High-Level Goal 3 recognises the need to prioritise climate change and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy and society. The Kildare LACAP 2024-2029 was developed in tandem with this LECP and provides a clear analysis to connect relevant strategies and objectives to inform the climate priorities for County Kildare. The High-Level Goal intends to ensure that vulnerable or marginalised communities, people or businesses are not excluded or disproportionately impacted by the transition to a more carbon-neutral County.
		Sustainable Objective 3.7 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 6.16 (Natural and Cultural Tourism Assets), 6.23 (Low Carbon and Circular Economy), 6.24 (Agriculture), and 7.24 and 7.25 (Greenways, Blueways and Peatways), and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P19. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 3 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029. The development of sustainable, environmentally-friendly tourism initiatives will have positive effects for communities and the local economy.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	3.8 That Kildare will be a leader in low- carbon development, with a focus on sustainable sectors including the	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	circular/green economy, land use diversification and the potential of the bioeconomy, and that this leadership be recognised nationally and internationally.	The overarching High-Level Goal 3 recognises the need to prioritise climate change and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy and society. The Kildare LACAP 2024-2029 was developed in tandem with this LECP and provides a clear analysis to connect relevant strategies and objectives to inform the climate priorities for County Kildare. The High-Level Goal intends to ensure that vulnerable or marginalised communities, people or businesses are not excluded or disproportionately impacted by the transition to a more carbon-neutral County.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		Sustainable Objective 3.8 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 6.23 (Low Carbon and Circular Economy) and 6.24 (Agriculture) and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P12. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 8 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy and Goal 5 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029. The objective intends to support the transition to a low-carbon economy, which is a positive effect for all environmental receptors. No likelihood of significant environmental effects was identified.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	3.9 That the Agricultural sector will be supported and will continue to be an important part of the county's economy	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	while transitioning to reduce emissions and become more sustainable.	The overarching High-Level Goal 3 recognises the need to prioritise climate change and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy and society. The Kildare LACAP 2024-2029 was developed in tandem with this LECP and provides a clear analysis to connect relevant strategies and objectives to inform the climate priorities for County Kildare. The High-Level Goal intends to ensure that vulnerable or marginalised communities, people or businesses are not excluded or disproportionately impacted by the transition to a more carbon-neutral County.
		Sustainable Objective 3.8 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 6.23 (Low Carbon and Circular Economy) and 6.24 (Agriculture) and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P13. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 5 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy and Goal 3 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029. Ireland's agrarian economy will require consideration in its transition to a low-carbon economy and the objective intends to support the agricultural industry in County Kildare in doing so.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		Subject to successful implementation, there will be positive effects on the environment, economy and communities.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
High Level Goal 4 - County Kildare attracts the	4.1 To fully utilise recently developed strategic plans highlighting the need for additional resourcing to respond to the	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
RESOURCES and INVESTMENT to be a sustainable, inclusive,	needs of children, young people, older people, vulnerable communities, Family Resource Centres, Travellers, and other groups.	The overarching High-Level Goal 4 pertains to resourcing and investment to ensure that the actions for fostering sustainable community and economic development in County Kildare over the next six years can be implemented. This will involve securing, appropriately directing and maximising existing public and private sector funding.
economically vibrant community for all		Sustainable Objective 4.1 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 6.35 (Bidding Capacity), 9.13 (Healthy Placemaking), 9.14, 9.15 and 9.17 (Recreation and Open Space), 9.19 (Recreation and Open Space), 9.20 and 9.21 (Childcare, Education and Life Long Learning), and 9.23 (Provision of Health Services) and Kildare CDP policy objectives SC P1, P2, P8, P10, P11, P13, and P14. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		The objective intends to maximise the potential of existing strategic plans to plan and obtain resources for the varied needs of communities in County Kildare. If implemented successfully, positive economic effects will be generated without the likelihood of any significant environmental effects.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
	4.2 To highlight and seek resourcing to expand education provision, particularly targeting secondary provision in the north and high-growth areas of the county. In addition to increasing the number of DEIS schools in the county.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 4 pertains to resourcing and investment to ensure that the actions for fostering sustainable community and economic development in County Kildare over the next six years can be implemented. This will involve securing, appropriately directing and maximising existing public and private sector funding. Sustainable Objective 4.2 is in harmony with RSES RPOS 9.18 (Social and Economic Opportunity) and 9.21 (Childcare, Education and Life Long Learning) and Kildare CDP policy objectives SC P12. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP. Resourcing educational supports will result in a more resilient and economically capable community. The addition of Delivery Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) Schools will enable students from disadvantaged areas in achieving their Leaving Certificate. If implemented successfully, it will generate positive economic effects, while foregoing the possibility of any real environmental effects. The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	4.3 To continue to highlight the need for ongoing, committed and sustainable resources to reduce social exclusion and to prevent further increases in the gap between affluence and poverty in the county.	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level. The overarching High-Level Goal 4 pertains to resourcing and investment to ensure that the actions for fostering sustainable community and economic development in County Kildare over the next six years can be implemented. This will involve securing, appropriately directing and maximising existing public and private sector funding.

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High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		Sustainable Objective 4.3 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 6.35 (Bidding Capacity), 9.18 and 9.19 (Social and Economic Opportunity) and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P3. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA.
		This objective focusses on advocacy, engagement and support, rather than supporting environmentally impactful development or activities not already provided for and considered under the land use planning framework or other plans.
		The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP. It intends to highlight the requirement of resources for addressing and reducing social exclusion and poverty in the County. If implemented successfully, it will generate positive economic effects, while foregoing the possibility of any real environmental effects.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	4.4 To promote Kildare as the location of choice for new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and support existing FDI companies	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	in sustaining and expanding their business	The overarching High-Level Goal 4 pertains to resourcing and investment to ensure that the actions for fostering sustainable community and economic development in County Kildare over the next six years can be implemented. This will involve securing, appropriately directing and maximising existing public and private sector funding.
		Sustainable Objective 4.4 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 6.34 (Branding) and 6.35 (Bidding Capacity) and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE O54. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		Moreover, the objective is in support of Goal 2 of the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy and Goal 2 of the Kildare LACAP 2024-2029.



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		The objective will promote County Kildare as an attractive location for commerce and support growth of existing businesses. If implemented successfully, it will generate positive economic effects, while foregoing the possibility of any real environmental effects.
		This objective focusses on advocacy, engagement and support, rather than supporting environmentally impactful development or activities not already provided for and considered under the land use planning framework or other plans.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	4.5 To utilise the social infrastructure audits carried out as part of KCC Local Area Planning to allocate existing	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	resources and work with Government Departments and Agencies to identify funding opportunities to inform funding applications to support community and	The overarching High-Level Goal 4 pertains to resourcing and investment to ensure that the actions for fostering sustainable community and economic development in County Kildare over the next six years can be implemented. This will involve securing, appropriately directing and maximising existing public and private sector funding.
	economic development across the county.	Sustainable Objective 4.3 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 6.35 (Bidding Capacity), 9.18 and 9.19 (Social and Economic Opportunity) and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P3. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		The objective has been additionally linked to enabling the action 'Bidding Capacity for Funds' in the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy. The objective does not propose any land-use objectives, instead focusing on research and analysis to inform decision-making and resource allocation in business and community development in the County. If implemented successfully, it will generate positive economic effects, while foregoing the possibility of any real environmental effects.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant



High Level Goal	Substainable Objective and Category3	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of LECP Objectives
		LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
	4.6 To ensure that the systems are in place to collate and analyse accurate and timely data to inform resource priorities	The objectives within the LECP have been informed by and are consistent with the aims and objectives of key policies and strategies at the national, regional and local level, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at an international level.
	and allocations for business and community development across the county. This includes data to supplement the Haase deprivation index for Kildare.	The overarching High-Level Goal 4 pertains to resourcing and investment to ensure that the actions for fostering sustainable community and economic development in County Kildare over the next six years can be implemented. This will involve securing, appropriately directing and maximising existing public and private sector funding.
		Sustainable Objective 4.6 is in harmony with RSES RPOs 6.35 (Bidding Capacity) and 9.18 (Social and Economic Opportunity) and Kildare CDP policy objectives RE P3. Both Plans were subject to full SEA and AA. The objective does not propose any developments outside what has been proposed within the Kildare CDP.
		The objective has been additionally linked to enabling the action 'Bidding Capacity for Funds' in the Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy. The objective does not propose any land-use objectives, instead focusing on data management and analysis to inform decision-making and resource allocation in business and community development in the County. If implemented successfully, it will generate positive economic effects, while foregoing the possibility of any real environmental effects.
		The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land-use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.

Table 3-4 presents the SEA Screening Assessment of the Kildare LECP against criteria for determining whether a plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment.



### Table 3-4: Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Environmental Effects - Characteristics of the Plan

Potential Signficant Effects Characteristics of the plan or programme having regard, in particular to:		
	The LECP provides a guiding framework through which stakeholders can collaborate to achieve the outlined goals and objectives, and as such, does not define a detailed framework for projects and other activities in relation to their location, nature, size, operating conditions or allocation of resources. The Plan will not give rise to any potential significant environmental effects.	
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	The LECP is influenced by a hierarchy of international, national, regional and local level plans, strategies and legislation. Due consideration was given to these plans, programmes and strategies and the LECP is consistent with the aims and objectives of the same, particularly with the current Kildare County Development Plan (2023-2029) and the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (2019-2031). Both preceding Plans have been subject to their own Strategic Environmental Assessment.	
	The LECP is placed at the lowest level (Local) within the hierarchy of plans it has been influenced by. While the LECP is applicable at the Local Authority level, it generally has low influence on other plans or programmes on the same level. The aim of the plan is to cohesively present objectives from existing plans, programmes and strategies to achieve common goals. Consequently, the role of LECP is complementary to other Plans, rather than having significant influence on the same.	
	The implementation of the LECP will not lead to any potential environmental effects via its interactions with other plans, programmes or strategies.	
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	The LECP has been informed by and is consistent with key policies and strategies, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the National Climate Action Plan (2024), and the Kildare Local Authority Climate Action Plan (2024 - 2029). All High-Level Goals and associated Objectives within the LECP have included actions for the development and promotion of a sustainable economy and improved community wellbeing.	
	This is consistent with the Core Strategy and objectives of the current Kildare CDP. The CDP was subject to SEA and AA to ensure that environmental considerations were fully integrated into the plan during its preparation.	



## Potential Signficant Effects

Characteristics of the plan or programme having regard, in particular to:		
	The LECP is consistent with the CDP in its consideration of sustainable development, in particular UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, the LCEP has not proposed any actions relating to sustainable development beyond those already included in the CDP.	
	Therefore, the implementation of the LECP will not lead to any potential of significant environmental effects.	
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	The High-Levels and Objectives in the LECP intend to improve economic and community aspects of the County in a sustainable fashion. The actions of the LECP were designed to be in compliance with the policy objectives of the Kildare CDP and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategic, which have been subject to a full SEA and AA.	
	The implementation of the LECP will be placed within the framework of appropriately-zoned areas, and will not lead to any additional likely significant environmental effects which have not been considered in the development of the Kildare CDP.	
	The implementation of the LECP will not create any environmental problems.	
The relevance of the plan or programme for the	The LECP does not relate to the direct implementation of any EU legislation.	
implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g., plans linked to waste- management or water protection)	However, the Plan broadly and indirectly support the achievement of principles and policies of various pieces of legislation, including relating to habitats, water quality and environmental protection through its compliance with preceding high-level plans and programmes.	
	The LECP will not result in any significant environmental effects in this regard.	

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### Table 3-5: Criteria for Determining Potential for Significant Effects - Characteristics of the Effects

Potential for Signficant Effects Characteristics of the Effects and the Area likely to be affected, having regard in particular to:	
The cumulative nature of the effects	The LECP aims to deliver positive changes that will guide and support economic and community development within the county, thereby creating an overall positive cumulative effect for the people, with a focus on local strategies and plans. The LECP will not create any cumulative or transboundary environmental impacts.
	The Plan is consistent with and conforms with these inter-related plans. Some of these plans - such as the Kildare County Development Plan provide a land use framework that supports a variety of projects in the county. Other listed plans support a variety of activities in the county (tourism, climate action, waste management activity etc.).
	The Plan sits within this hierarchy of plans a - which set policy for among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, recreation, environmental protection and environmental management. These plans have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant. The Plan must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions defined in these plans.
	The Plan provides a guiding framework through which stakeholders can engage and collaborate to achieve the outlined goals and objectives, and as such, does not define a detailed framework for projects and other activities that may give rise to environmental effects - in relation to their location, nature, size, operating conditions or allocation of resources.
	In and off itself, the Plan does not introduce any sources of environmental effect outside the scope of what has already been considered in inter-related plans such as the County Development Plan, Local Area Plans, County Heritage Plan etc.



## Potential for Signficant Effects

	The Plan does not therefore have any potential to contribute to in-combination environmental effects that may occur due to the wider implementation of inter-related plans or projects.
The transboundary nature of the effects	The High-Level Goals and Objectives of the LECP are restricted to the geographic location and extent of the Kildare Local Authority Area. The plan will not give rise to transboundary environmental effects.
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g., due to accidents)	Goals 1, 2 and 4 of the LECP pertain to the promotion of health and wellbeing of the community, and intends to enhance the same through supporting physical and mental health. Moreover, the Kiladare CDP contains protective objectives for Population and Human Health and other environmental receptors interacting with the same. No risks to human health or other environmental receptors, with particular regard to accidents, have been identified in connection with the Plan.
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The Kildare LECP applies to the Local Authority area of Kildare. However, it does not propose any spatial land-use changes or zoning objectives. The Plan is focused on the promotion and delivery of sustainable economic and community development. Any projects arising from the Plan will be subject to statutory Planning and Development and Environmental regulations and pre-existing higher-level plans, including the Kildare CDP, which has been subject to its own SEA and AA.
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:	The LECP will not result in specific environmental impacts not already considered under other inter-related plans.
Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;	The LECP will not result in environmental impacts on natural characteristics or cultural heritage not already considered under other inter-related plans.
	An Appropriate Assessment Screening of the LECP has been carried out (see accompanying AA Screening Document), and concluded that implementation of the Plan is not likely to give rise to significant impacts on the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 site i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs).



## Potential for Signficant Effects

Characteristics of the Effects and the Area likely to be affected, having regard in particular to:		
Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;	The LECP will not have introduce any environmental effect that will affect the sensitivity of the receiving environment or result in the exceedance of any prescribed Environmental Quality Standards.	
Intensive land-use	The Plan will also not introduce any intensive land use or land use change.	
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	The LECP will not give rise to any significant impact on areas or landscapes which have a recognized national, EU or international protection status. The Plan, in and of itself, does not support the carrying out of visually impactful development.	



#### Table 3-6: Summary of SEA Screening Analysis

#### Summary of SEA Screening Analysis

Having regard to the evaluation undertaken in Table 3-3 and the Stage 2 Screening Analysis undertaken in Table 3-4 and Table 3-5, it is concluded that the LECP will not introduce any likely, significant environmental effects not previously considered and mitigated against in the CDP or other inter-related plans.



# 4. CONCLUSIONS

An SEA Screening Assessment was undertaken to determine the need for an SEA for the Kildare LECP 2024-2029. On the basis of the pre-screening check and review of the Plan's High-Level Goals and Objectives against the environmental significance criteria (as set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive), it has been concluded that the LECP will not introduce any likely, significant environmental effects not previously considered and mitigated against in the CDP or other inter-related plans. Therefore, a full Strategic Environmental Assessment of the LECP is not required.



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