



# Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement



Comhairle  
Chontae  
Liatroma | Leitrim  
County  
Council

# SEA STATEMENT

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FOR THE

## LEITRIM COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023-2029

**for: Leitrim County Council**

Áras An Chontae  
St. George's Terrace  
Carrick on Shannon  
County Leitrim



**Comhairle Chontae Liatroma  
Leitrim County Council**

**by: CAAS Ltd.**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
24-26 Ormond Quay Upper  
Dublin 7



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# Section 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Introduction and Legislative Context

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029.

SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a plan, or other strategic action, in order to ensure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making on a par with economic and social considerations.

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27<sup>th</sup> June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, referred to hereafter as the SEA Directive, introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes which are prepared for a number of sectors, including land use. The SEA Directive was transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004. The Regulations have been amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

## 1.2 Content of the SEA Statement

Where SEA is undertaken, the Regulations require that a Statement is made available to

the public and the competent environmental authorities after the making of the Plan.

This Statement is referred to as an SEA Statement.

The SEA Statement is required to include information summarising:

- a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
- b) how the following have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan:
  - the environmental report,
  - submissions and observations made to the planning authority on the Draft Plan and Environmental Report, and
  - any transboundary consultations.
- c) the reasons for choosing the Plan in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- d) the measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

## 1.3 Implications of SEA for the Plan

SEA has been undertaken on the Plan and the findings of the SEA are expressed in an Environmental Report, the first published version of which accompanied the Draft Plan on public display. The Environmental Report was updated in order to take account of changes to the original Draft Plan that were made on foot of submissions and recommendations in the submissions.

Leitrim County Council has been provided with the findings of SEA output during their consideration of the Plan and before the Plan was adopted.

## Section 2 How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Plan

### 2.1 Overview

Environmental considerations were presented to the Council for its consideration through:

1. Consultations;
2. Communication of environmental sensitivities throughout the SEA process;
3. Appropriate Assessment;
4. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;
5. Consideration of alternatives;
6. Integration of environmental considerations; and
7. Integration of individual SEA and AA provisions into the Plan.

All parts of the Plan-preparation process were informed by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes - this includes the preparation of the Chief Executive's Draft Plan, Members' Amendments to that Plan in advance of public display, Proposed Material Alterations and Further Modifications.

### 2.2 Consultations

As environmental authorities identified under the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended, the following authorities were sent SEA scoping notices indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to Leitrim County Council<sup>1</sup>: Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Environment, Climate and Communications; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media; Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Sligo County Council; Donegal County Council; Roscommon County Council; Longford County Council; and Cavan County Council. In addition to the environmental authorities, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, part of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and

<sup>1</sup> The names of some of the relevant authorities have changed since notification was provided.

Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland, was also notified.

Detail on submissions made on foot of the SEA scoping notice is provided under Section 3.2.

Detail is also provided on submissions that were made on the Draft Plan and/or the SEA Environmental Report while they were on public display (see Section 3).

### 2.3 Communication of environmental sensitivities throughout the SEA process

Environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan before it was placed on public display. Individual sensitivities that were considered by the Planning Team preparing the Plan included the following:

- European Sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas);
- Other Ecological Designations;
- Status of Surface and Ground Waters;
- Various entries to the Water Framework Directive's Register of Protected Areas;
- Groundwater Vulnerability;
- Water Services Capacity, Performance and Demand;
- Cultural heritage (archaeological and architectural) sensitivities; and
- Landscape Designations.

A number of these sensitivities are mapped on Figures 2.1 to 2.3.

Overlay mapping of environmental sensitivities was also prepared and a number of the environmental sensitivities described above were weighted and mapped overlapping each other. Figure 2.4 provides the overlay mapping of Environmental Sensitivities that was prepared. Environmental sensitivities are

indicated by colours which range from higher to lower sensitivity.

## 2.4 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC).

The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.<sup>2</sup>

The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA.

## 2.5 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for SFRA is provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014.

## 2.6 Consideration of Alternatives

Consideration of the environmental effects arising from a variety of different alternatives for the Plan (see Section 4) has contributed towards the protection and management of the environment within the Plan area.

## 2.7 Integration of environmental considerations into Zoning of the Plan

Environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach.

Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF and Northern and Western RSES.

The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or ecological sensitivity. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan that provide for flood risk management and ecological protection and management at project level.

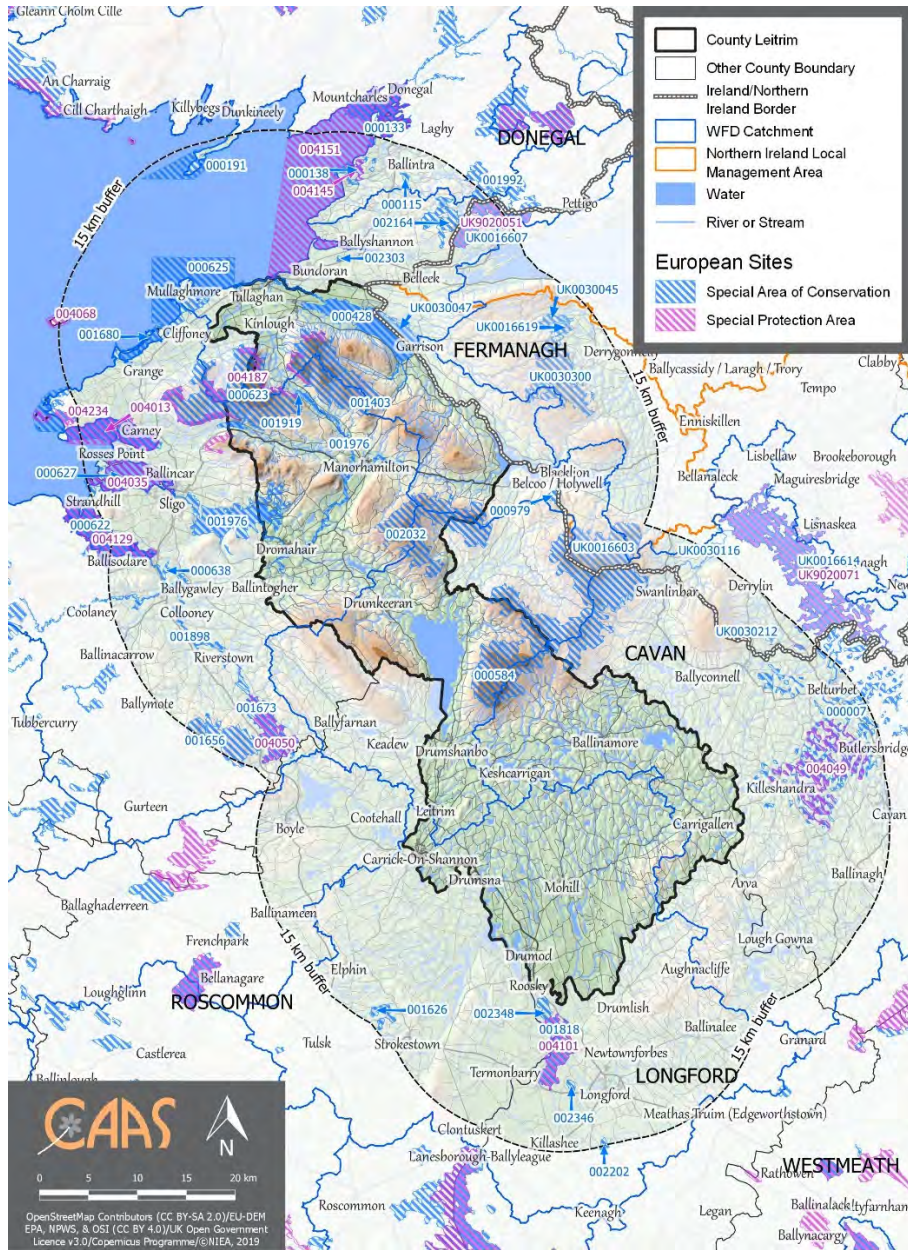
Also considered were environmental sensitivities relating to ecology, cultural heritage, landscape and water, as well as the overlay mapping of environmental sensitivities.

## 2.8 Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan

Table 2.1 links key mitigation measure(s) - which have been integrated into the Plan - to the potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated. The integration of these measures into the Plan occurred over a number of iterations and was informed by, inter alia, various communications through the SEA, AA and SFRA processes. The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna could beneficially impact upon the minimisation of flood risk and the protection of human health, for example.

<sup>2</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.





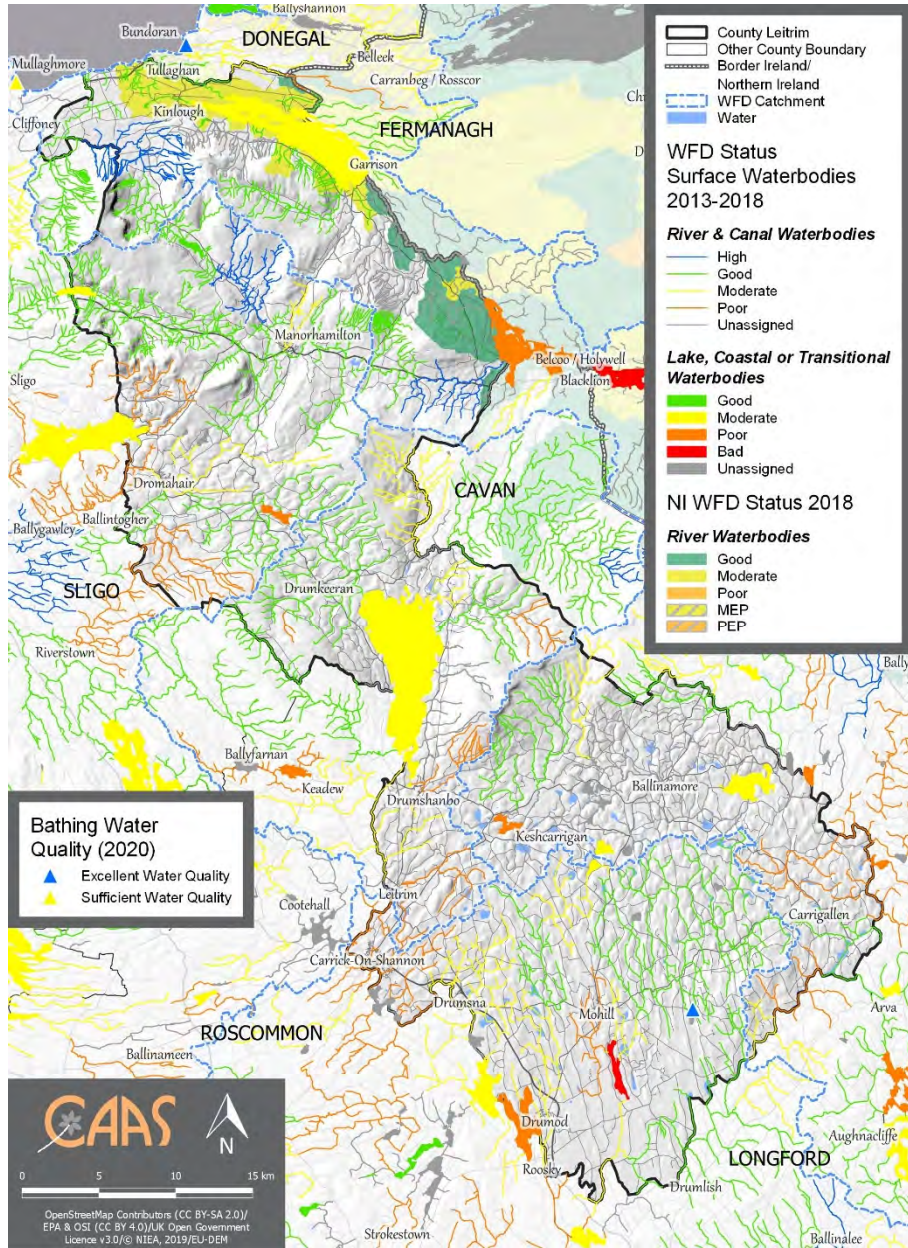
European Sites within and adjacent to the Plan area



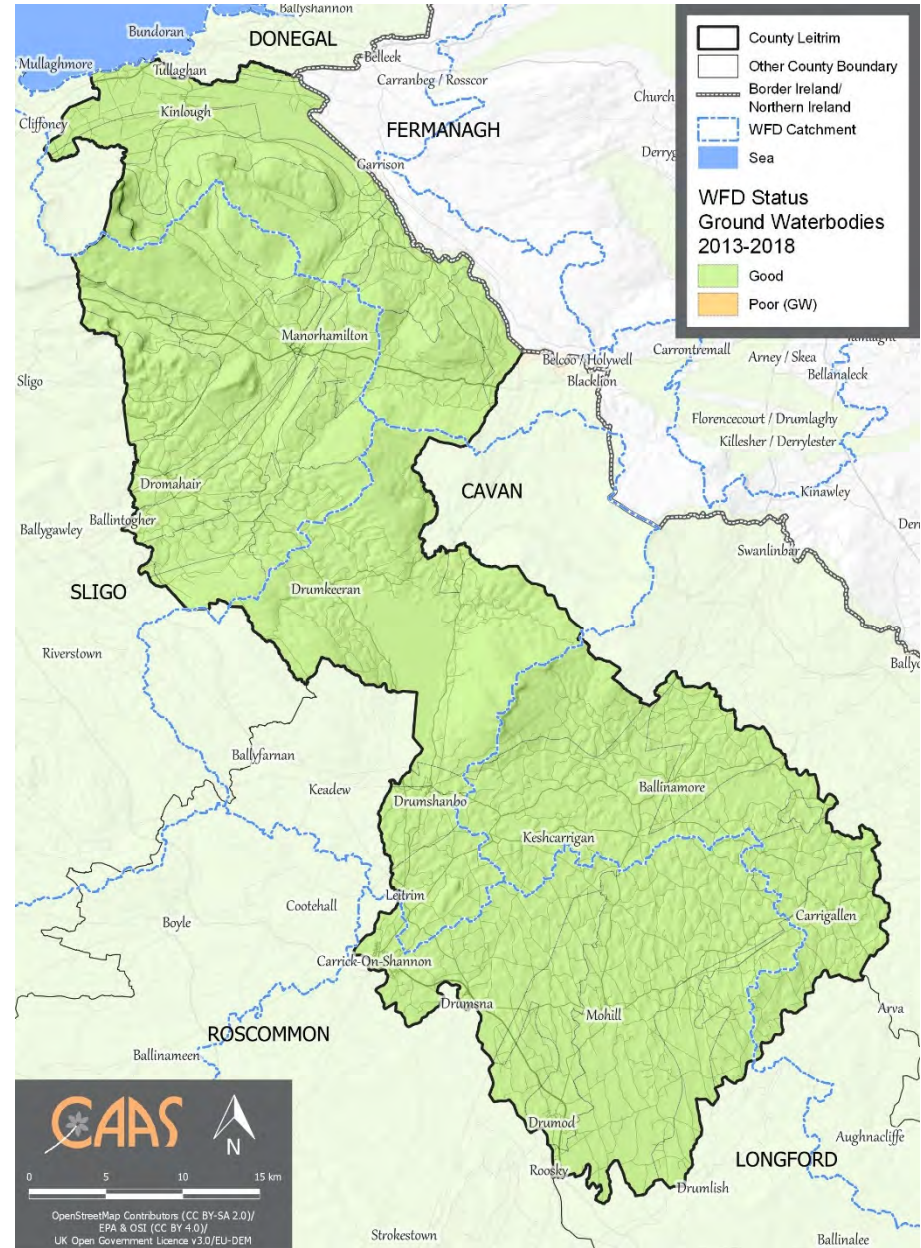
Selection of Other Ecological Designations within and adjacent to the Plan area

**Figure 2.1 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (1 of 3)**





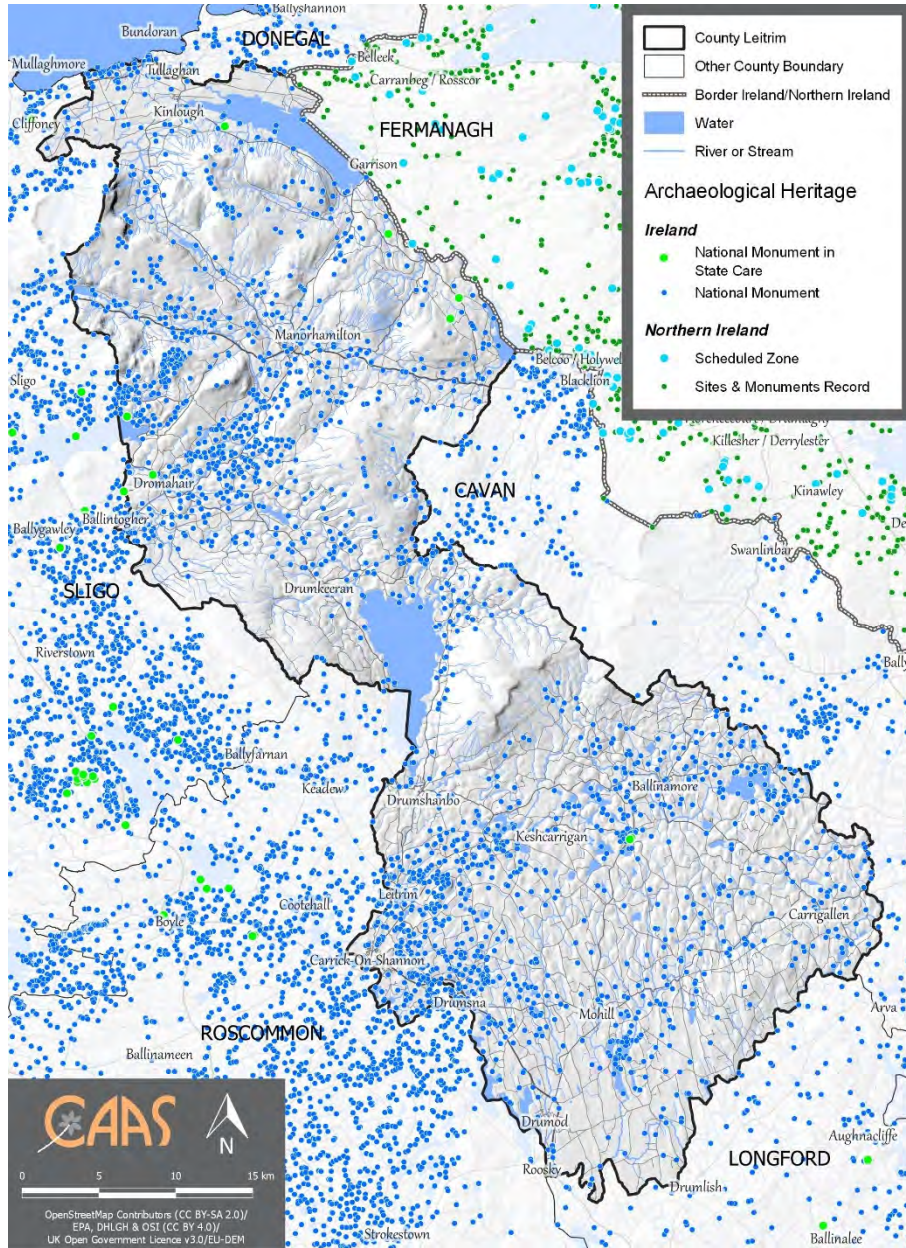
Surface Water Status



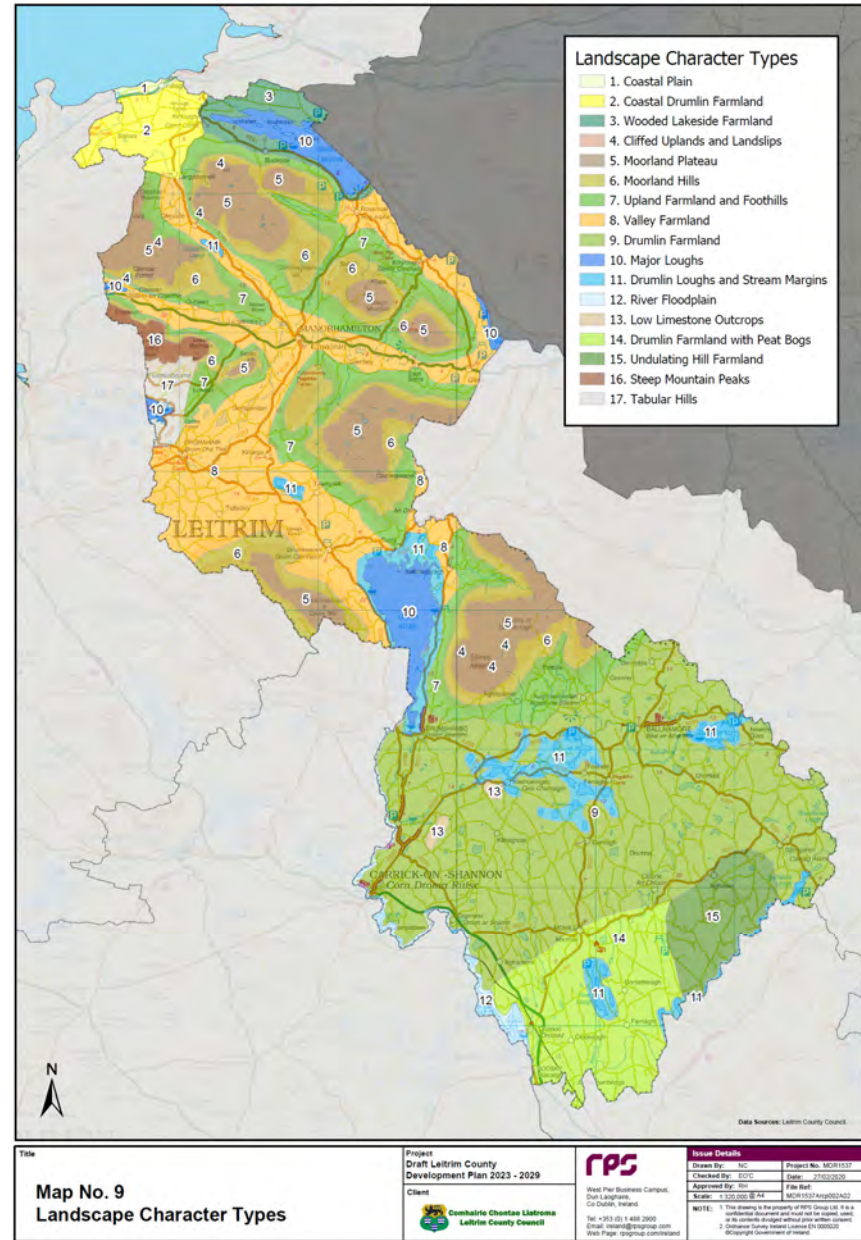
Groundwater Status

Figure 2.2 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (2 of 3)





Archaeological Designations



Landscape Types

Figure 2.3 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (3 of 3)



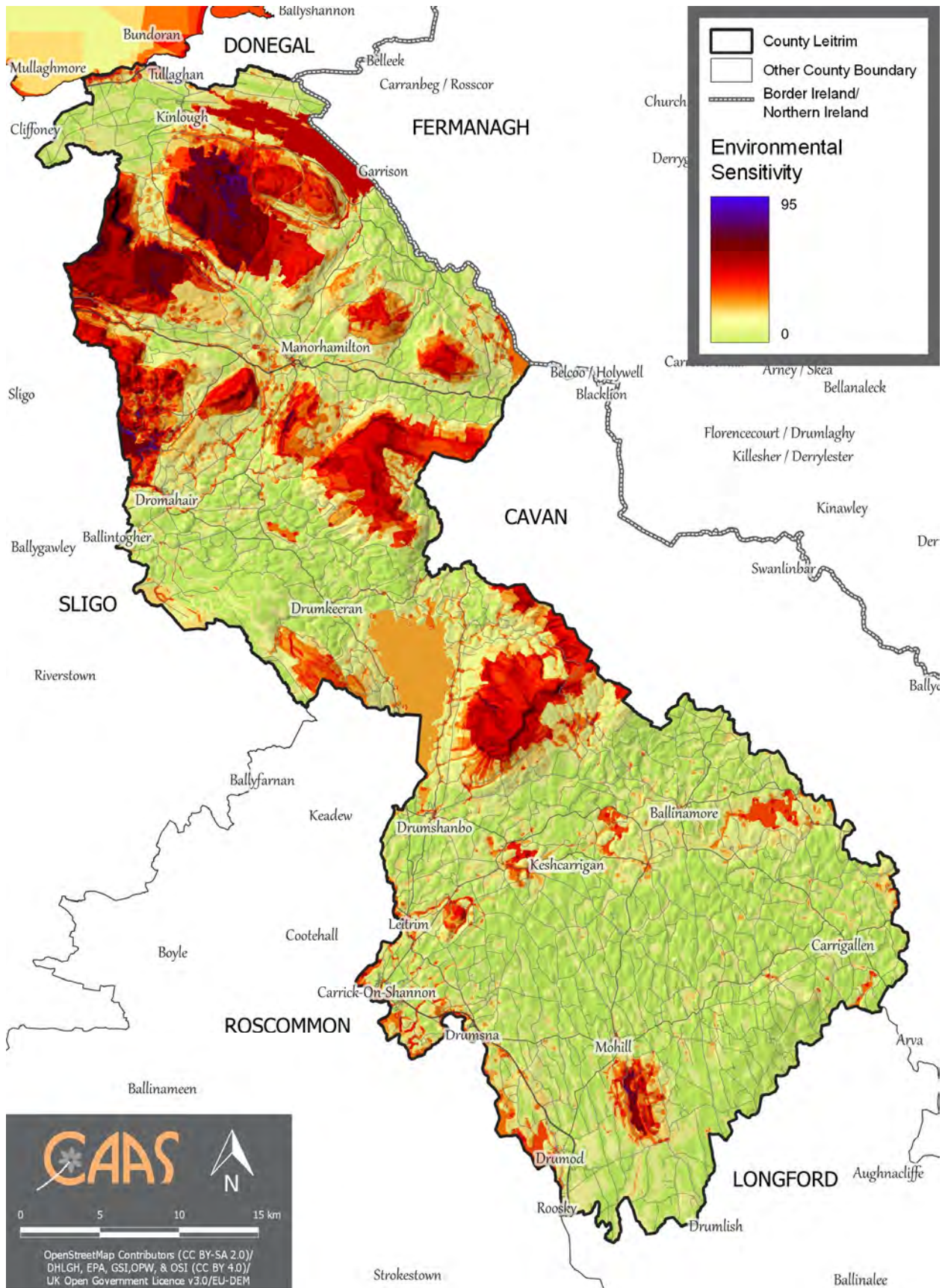


Figure 2.4 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities

**Table 2.1 Integration of Environmental Considerations<sup>3</sup>**

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
Various	Various	<p>Development Management Standards from Chapter 13 of the Plan</p> <p>ILU POL 6 New transport infrastructure projects, including blueways and greenways, that are not already provided for by existing plans/programmes, which have been subject to environmental assessment, or are not already permitted, will be subject to feasibility assessment, considering need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report, and objectives relating to sustainable mobility. Where feasibility is established, a Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken, where appropriate, in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection; and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection. This Corridor and Route Selection Process will not be applicable to national roads schemes which are required to be progressed in accordance with statutory processes and TII Publications, including the Project Management Guidelines and Project Appraisal Guidelines.</p> <p>RUR SET POL 7 To have regard to the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities, April 2005, and any replacement guidance which require that new houses in rural areas be sited and designed to integrate with their physical surroundings and be generally compatible with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The protection of water quality in the arrangements made for onsite wastewater disposal facilities,</li> <li>The provision of a safe means of access in relation to road and public safety, and,</li> <li>The conservation of sensitive areas such as natural habitats, protected landscapes, the environs of protected structures and other aspects of our heritage.</li> </ol> <p>BG OBJ 1 To facilitate and lead in the delivery and completion of the Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railway Greenway along / adjoining the former Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) between Collooney, Co. Sligo and Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh in co-operation with Sligo and Cavan County Councils and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council subject to obtaining the necessary planning consent and only where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EU Directives.</p> <p>BG OBJ 2 To seek to advance the design and obtaining necessary planning consent to construct a Greenway along / adjoining the former Cavan &amp; Leitrim Rail line between Dromod and Belturbet, Co. Cavan in co-operation with Cavan County Council. The required planning consent will require the demonstration that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EU Directives.</p> <p>BG OBJ 4 To deliver a Blueway linking Carrick-on-Shannon to Leitrim Village and onwards to Battlebridge subject to obtaining the necessary planning consent and only where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EU Directives.</p> <p>BG OBJ 3 To complete the Blueway from Kilclare to Ballinamore subject to obtaining the necessary planning consent and only where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive,</p>

<sup>3</sup> Note that non-material changes to individual Plan provisions referenced in this report may be updated during the finalisation of the Plan, including numbering, formatting and graphic design.



Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EU Directives.</p> <p>WI POL 5 To ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure, in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development requirements and a cleaner environment. Water abstractions should ensure appropriate levels of environmental management and protection, including ensuring compliance with the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive.</p> <p>PL POL 1 To control lighting in urban and rural areas and in particular in sensitive locations, in order to minimise impacts on residential amenity, habitats and species of importance.</p> <p>AGG RES POL 7 To ensure that development for aggregates / mineral extraction, processing and associated processes does not significantly impact in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special Areas of Conservation and / or Special Protection Areas,</li> <li>Natural Heritage Areas and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas,</li> <li>Other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna,</li> <li>Areas of significant archaeological potential,</li> <li>In the vicinity of a recorded National Monument,</li> <li>Sensitive Landscapes and,</li> <li>County Geological Sites and/or sites of geological importance</li> </ol> <p>WE POL 2 To ensure that the assessment of wind energy development proposals will have regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sensitivities of the county's landscapes;</li> <li>visual impact on protected views, prospects, designated landscapes, as well as local visual impacts;</li> <li>impacts on nature conservation designations, archaeological areas, county geological sites, historic structures, public rights of way and walking routes;</li> <li>local environmental impacts, including those on residential properties, such as noise and shadow flicker;</li> <li>visual and environmental impacts of associated development, such as access roads, plant and grid connections from the proposed wind farm to the electricity transmission network;</li> <li>scale, size and layout of the project and any cumulative effects due to other projects;</li> <li>the impact of the proposed development on protected bird and mammal species.</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity and flora and fauna</b>	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites,</li> </ul>	<p>TOUR POL 6 To seek to sustainably manage any increase in visitor numbers in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance, including ensuring that any new projects, such as blueways and greenways, are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities, such as riparian zones.</p> <p>TOUR POL 7 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving consent for development shall seek to sustainably manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects to sensitive habitats, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>ADV TOUR OBJ 4 To prepare Habitat and Visitor Management Plans for the protection of areas which are particularly sensitive to visitors subject to the availability of funding. The first such plan will be developed for Sheemore</p> <p>LAND USE POL 3 To protect the integrity of Special Areas of Conservation where such European Sites traverse through</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>Wildlife Sites and Areas of Special Scientific Interest) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and</li> <li>• Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.</li> </ul>	<p>town and village settlements which includes lands identified for development within Dromahair, Kinlough, Manorhamilton and Rossinver development envelopes. These European Sites are protected from inappropriate development under the European Habitats Directive, transposing national legislation and various provisions under this Plan, which take primacy over other Development Plan provisions.</p> <p>RUR ECON POL 5 The Council will provide for the sustainable development of fisheries, where this is in compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives and other ecological protection objectives. Where new infrastructure is being provided, it should be positioned at already modified locations where feasible and sedimentation and siltation issues should be considered, with floating infrastructure used where feasible. Fishery related developments may necessitate the preparation of a Visitor/Habitat Management Plan that includes requirements in relation to sustainable fishing practices that would not affect the ecological site integrity and invasive species.</p> <p>AGR OBJ 1 To facilitate the development of agriculture while ensuring that natural waters, wildlife habitats and conservation areas are protected from pollution.</p> <p>FOR POL 3 To have regard to the recommendations contained in the Landscape Capacity Study for Commercial Forestry (March 2022) which forms Appendix VI to this Plan in informing the responses submitted by the Local Authority to all relevant applications for Tree Planting and Tree Felling licenses to the Forest Service or subsequent appeals to the Forestry Appeals Committee. This will be in line with the content of Section 10.6.5.</p> <p>AGG RES POL 4 To ensure that projects associated with the extractive industry carry out screening for Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the E.C. Habitats Directive and comply with all relevant Environmental Legislation as required.</p> <p><b>Natural Heritage Policies</b></p> <p>NH POL 1 To protect and conserve Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.</p> <p>NH POL 2 To implement Article 6(3) and where necessary Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, including to ensure that Appropriate Assessment is carried out in relation to works, plans and projects with the potential to impact European sites (SACs and SPAs), whether directly or indirectly or in combination with any other plan(s) or project(s). All assessments must be in compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, and the Planning and Development Act, as relevant.</p> <p>NH POL 3 To protect designated Natural Heritage Area (NHA) sites, including proposed Natural Heritage Area sites (pNHA) and seek to develop linkages between designated sites and other non-designated sites of ecological importance, where feasible and as resources permit.</p> <p>NH POL 4 To consult with relevant prescribed bodies, such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service (DoHLGH), and take account of any licensing requirements when undertaking, approving and authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species or habitats protected by law.</p> <p>NH POL 5 To ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on plant, animal or bird species or habitats protected by law, subject to satisfactory mitigation measures.</p> <p>NH POL 6 To protect and where possible enhance wildlife habitats and landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows and road verges, and to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside (such as ponds, wetlands, trees) which are not within designated sites.</p> <p>NH POL 7 To treat the uplands of North Leitrim located above the 160m contour, as an ecologically-sensitive entity, where</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>these uplands are not already designated as such.</p> <p>NH POL 8 To protect ecological networks linking protected and designated important sites within the County, in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>NH POL 9 To ensure that appropriate mitigation and/or compensation measures to conserve biodiversity, landscape character and green infrastructure networks are required in developments where habitats are at risk or lost as part of a development.</p> <p>NH POL 10 To ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of the biodiversity of the county.</p> <p><b>Natural Heritage Objectives</b></p> <p>NH OBJ 1 To ensure that no project or programme giving rise to significant adverse, direct, indirect, secondary or cumulative impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site(s), having regard to their qualifying interests and conservation objectives, arising from their size, scale, area or land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) .</p> <p>NH OBJ 2 To protect and conserve those sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) during the lifetime of this plan. The list of current SACs is contained in Table 1 of this chapter.</p> <p>NH OBJ 3 To protect and conserve those sites designated as Special Protection Areas during the lifetime of this plan. There is current one SPA in Co. Leitrim which is contained in Table 2 of this chapter.</p> <p>NH OBJ 4 To protect and conserve Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) that become designated and notified to the Local Authority during the lifetime of this plan. The list of current NHAs and proposed NHAs are contained in Table 3 and 4 of this chapter.</p> <p>NH OBJ 5 To protect the character, appearance and quality of the habitats and semi-natural features in County Leitrim such as woodlands, hedgerows, peatlands, wetlands and artificial waterways of historic or ecological importance.</p> <p>NH OBJ 6 To promote, in partnership with the relevant agencies, the development and implementation of codes of best practice through initiatives such as the Local Floral Pride initiatives, Community Environmental Action and the Green Schools projects.</p> <p>NH OBJ 7 To encourage appropriate management of landscape features, particularly through the development management process and using planning agreements with landowners and developers, where appropriate.</p> <p>NH OBJ 8 To identify and map over the lifetime of the Plan habitats and green infrastructure / sites of local biodiversity value of county importance and to raise awareness and understanding of the county's natural heritage and biodiversity.</p> <p>NH OBJ 9 To support the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.</p> <p>NH OBJ 10 To support the implementation of the actions contained in the Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025 when finalised, or any successor plan, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and subject to the availability of the necessary funding sources.</p> <p><b>Peatlands Policies</b></p> <p>PEAT POL 1 To conserve peatlands and protect peatland landscapes within the County.</p> <p>PEAT POL 2 To seek hydrological reports for significant developments within and close to peatlands, to assess potential</p>



Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>impacts on the integrity of the peatland ecosystems.</p> <p><b>Trees, Woodlands &amp; Hedgerows Policies</b></p> <p>TWH POL 1 To discourage the felling of healthy mature trees to facilitate development and to encourage the retention of healthy mature trees within developments to the maximum extent practicable.</p> <p>TWH POL 2 To require the planting of native broadleaved species, and species of local provenance, in new developments as appropriate. (See Table 5 in this regard).</p> <p>TWH POL 3 To support the Native Woodland and Neighbourwood schemes and other initiatives that aim to establish and enhance woodlands for recreational and wildlife benefits, in partnership with local communities.</p> <p>TWH POL 4 To protect and preserve existing hedgerows and minimise their removal. Where their removal is necessary, to seek their replacement with new hedgerow material native to the area (See Table 5 in this regard).</p> <p>TWH POL 5 To retain distinctive boundary treatment such as stone walls, when undertaking, authorising or approving development. Where the loss of the existing boundary is unavoidable as part of development, to ensure that the wall is re-built using local stone and local vernacular design.</p> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p>TWH OBJ 1 To use Tree Preservation Orders to protect important trees, groups of trees or woodlands, as appropriate which may be at risk or have an amenity, biodiversity or historic value during the lifetime of this plan.</p> <p><b>Pollinators Objective</b></p> <p>POLL OBJ 1 To manage and restore semi-natural habitats and their native plants on Council land in as far as is practicable and affordable.</p> <p><b>Invasive Species Policy</b></p> <p>IS POL 1 To require relevant development proposals to address the presence or absence of invasive alien species on proposed development sites and (if necessary) require applicants to prepare and submit an Invasive Species Management Plan where such a species exists to comply with the provisions of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015 and the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species 1143/2014.</p> <p><b>Nature-Based Approaches and Green Infrastructure – Policies</b></p> <p>NBGI POL 1 To actively promote and encourage nature-based approaches and green infrastructure solutions as viable mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce GHG emissions, increase the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and optimise the multifaceted benefits through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation, promotion, and restoration of the natural environment;</li> <li>• Integrating an ecosystem services approach and promote healthy living environments through enhanced connection with nature and recreation/amenity;</li> <li>• Enhancing biodiversity in urban and rural settings;</li> <li>• Assist with water and flood risk management; and</li> <li>• Carbon storage or sequestration.</li> </ul>
<b>Population and human health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects arising from flood events.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p><b>Major Accident Directive Policies</b></p> <p>SEV POL 1 To comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.</li> </ul>	<p>industrial accidents.</p> <p>SEV POL 2 To have regard to the advice of the Health &amp; Safety Authority when considering proposals for new SEVESO sites.</p> <p>SEV POL 3 To permit new Seveso development only in low risk locations within acceptable distances from vulnerable residential, retail and commercial development.</p> <p><b>Air Quality Policies</b></p> <p>AQ POL 1 To promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/5/0/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 201) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p> <p>AQ POL 2 To promote air quality improvements, where practicable, through a shift to more sustainable modes of transport, reduced use of fossil fuels and a resulting reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.</p> <p><b>Noise Pollution Policies</b></p> <p>NP POL 1 To support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>NP POL 2 To require individual development proposals to be assessed against the Noise Assessment Criteria contained in Section ** of Chapter 12, Development Management Standards.</p> <p>NP POL 3 To have regard to acoustical planning in the planning process to ensure that future developments include provisions to protect the population from the effects of environmental noise in the interests of residential amenity and public health.</p> <p>NP POL 4 Development proposals should identify and implement noise mitigation measures, where warranted, for development proposed in the vicinity of existing or proposed national roads. The costs of implementing mitigation measures shall be borne by the developer, as the Authority will not be responsible for the provision of additional noise mitigation.</p> <p><b>Noise Pollution Objective</b></p> <p>NP OBJ 1 To implement the actions contained in the Leitrim Noise Plan 2018-2023 (or any replacement Plan) which seeks to address environmental noise from major roads in the county and which endeavours to maintain satisfactory noise environments where they exist.</p>
<b>Soil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.</li> <li>Potential for</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>WQ POL 10 To assess proposals for development in terms of their impact on human health to include, inter alia, the potential impact on existing adjacent developments, on existing land uses and / or the surrounding landscape. Where proposed developments would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, odours, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, mitigation measures shall be introduced in order to eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p> <p>WQ POL 11 Where brownfield redevelopment is proposed, adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work.</p> <p>WE POL 2 To ensure that the assessment of wind energy development proposals will have regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sensitivities of the county's landscapes;</li> <li>visual impact on protected views, prospects, designated landscapes, as well as local visual impacts;</li> </ul>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	riverbank and coastal erosion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• impacts on nature conservation designations, archaeological areas, county geological sites, historic structures, public rights of way and walking routes;</li> <li>• local environmental impacts, including those on residential properties, such as noise and shadow flicker;</li> <li>• visual and environmental impacts of associated development, such as access roads, plant and grid connections from the proposed wind farm to the electricity transmission network;</li> <li>• scale, size and layout of the project and any cumulative effects due to other projects;</li> <li>• the impact of the proposed development on protected bird and mammal species.</li> </ul> <p><b>Peatlands Policies</b>            PEAT POL 1 To conserve peatlands and protect peatland landscapes within the County.            PEAT POL 2 To seek hydrological reports for significant developments within and close to peatlands, to assess potential impacts on the integrity of the peatland ecosystems.</p> <p><b>Areas of Geological Interest Policies</b>            AGI POL 1 To recognise the need to identify sites of geological interest in the County and to protect these sites in the interest of protecting our geological heritage.            AGI POL 2 To protect County Geological Sites from inappropriate development, as outlined in Appendix ** of this Plan.</p> <p><b>Aggregate Resources</b>            AGG RES POL 8: To ensure that the extraction of minerals and aggregates protects to the maximum practicable extent the visual quality of the receiving landscape and do not adversely affect the environment or adjoining existing land uses.            AGG RES POL 9: The use of the following chemicals as a processing agent shall not be permitted as part of any proposed processing operation located above or adjacent to surface or ground waters, or which could potentially impact such waters regardless of their location - mercury, cyanide or cyanide compounds, breakdown products of cyanide, or sulfuric acid. These present an unreasonable risk of environmental harm due to the toxicity of such chemicals and their demonstrated potential to cause damage to the environment.</p>
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>• Increase in flood</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p>WI POL 5 To ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure, in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development requirements and a cleaner environment. Water abstractions should ensure appropriate levels of environmental management and protection, including ensuring compliance with the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Water Quality Policies</b>            WQ POL 1 To protect existing groundwater sources and aquifers in the county and to manage development in a manner consistent with the protection of these resources.            WQ POL 2 To support the preparation of Drinking Water Protection Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the current and future cycles of River Basin Management Plans. In this regard, the Council supports mitigation and protection measures for all protected areas, including Drinking Water Protected Areas.            WQ POL 3 In conjunction with Irish Water, to have regard to the EPA 2019 publication “Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies 2018” (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County.</p>



Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	risk and associated effects associated with flood events.	<p>WQ POL 4 To ensure that the delivery and phasing of water services are subject to the required appraisal, planning and environmental assessment processes and avoid impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>WQ POL 5 To encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and to comply with the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>WQ POL 6 To discourage the over-concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plants in any given area to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p> <p>WQ POL 7 To seek to protect water quality in areas of high groundwater vulnerability in the consideration of development proposals which rely on individual wastewater treatment systems and which would increase effluent loading from such systems within a concentrated area.</p> <p>WQ POL 8 To provide guidance and advice regarding the protection of water supply to private wells with the overall responsibility remaining with the householder.</p> <p>WQ POL 9 To permit new development only in instances where it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of Irish Water that there is sufficient capacity (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal of waste water to cater for the anticipated loading arising from the proposed development.</p> <p>WQ POL 10 To assess proposals for development in terms of their impact on human health to include, inter alia, the potential impact on existing adjacent developments, on existing land uses and / or the surrounding landscape. Where proposed developments would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, odours, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, mitigation measures shall be introduced in order to eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p> <p>WQ POL 11 Where brownfield redevelopment is proposed, adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work.</p> <p><b>Water Quality Objectives</b></p> <p>WQ OBJ 1 To promote public awareness of water quality issues and the measures required to protect surface water, coastal and transitional waters and groundwater bodies from inappropriate and damaging development.</p> <p>WQ OBJ 2 To achieve our targets of attaining and maintaining a minimum of 'good status' in all water bodies in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and to co-operate with the implementation of the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, and subsequent replacement plans. This includes contributing towards the protection of blue dot catchments and drinking water resources whilst having cognisance of the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Documents No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>WQ OBJ 3 To implement the measures of the River Basin Management Plan, including continuing to work with communities through the Local Authority Waters Programme to restore and improve water quality in the identified areas of action.</p> <p>WQ OBJ 4 To ensure that development will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on water quality including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands.</p> <p>WQ OBJ 5 To request the Geological Survey of Ireland to complete a Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Leitrim to assist in decision making by the Local Authority on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>WQ OBJ 6 To promote the sustainable use of water and water conservation measures in existing and new development within the County and encourage demand management measures among all water users.</p> <p><b>Flood Risk Management Policies</b></p> <p>FRM POL 1 To adopt a comprehensive risk-based planning approach to flood management to prevent or minimise future flood risk. In accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, the avoidance of development in areas where flood risk has been identified shall be the primary response.</p> <p>FRM POL 2 To ensure that a flood risk assessment is carried out for any development proposal, in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management (DoEHLG/OPW 2009) and Circular PL2/2014. This assessment shall be appropriate to the scale and nature of risk to the potential development.</p> <p>FRM POL 3 To consult with the OPW in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and to retain a strip on either side of such channels where required, to facilitate maintenance access thereto. In addition, to promote the sustainable management and uses of water bodies and avoid culverting or realignment of these features.</p> <p>FRM POL 4 To protect and enhance the County's floodplains and wetlands as 'green infrastructure' which provides space for storage and conveyance of floodwater, enabling flood risk to be more effectively managed and reducing the need to provide flood defences in the future, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>FRM POL 5 To protect the integrity of any formal flood risk management infrastructure, thereby ensuring that any new development does not negatively impact any existing defense infrastructure or compromise any proposed new defense infrastructure.</p> <p>FRM POL 6 To ensure that where flood risk management works take place that the natural, cultural and built heritage, rivers, streams and watercourses are protected and enhanced to the maximum extent possible.</p> <p>FRM POL 7 To ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p> <p>FRM POL 8 To consult, where necessary, with Inland Fisheries Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other relevant agencies in the provision of flood alleviation measures in the County.</p> <p>FRM POL 9 To ensure that in assessing applications for developments, that consideration is had to the impact on the quality of surface waters having regard to targets and measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 and any subsequent local or regional plans.</p> <p>FRM POL 10 Development proposals will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test when required by the Guidelines. Where only a small proportion of a site is at risk of flooding, the sequential approach shall be applied in site planning, in order to seek to ensure that no encroachment onto or loss of the flood plain occurs and/or that only water compatible development such as 'Open Space' would be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within that site.</p> <p>FRM POL 11 To require proposals for development to comply with requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines including providing detailed design specifications as may be required to facilitate the impact of development.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>a) Extensions of existing uses or minor development within flood risk areas shall not: obstruct important flow paths; introduce a number of people into flood risk areas; entail the storage of hazardous substances; have adverse impacts or impede access to a watercourse, floodplain or flood protection and management facilities; or increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.</p> <p>b) Applications for development within Flood Zones A or B, and on lands subject to the mid-range future scenario floods extents, as published by the Office of Public Works, shall be subject to site specific flood risk assessment. Such assessments shall consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures and shall provide details of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures, to include, but not be limited to specifications of the following:</p> <p><b>Floor Levels</b>  In areas of limited flood depth, the specification of the threshold and floor levels of new structures shall be raised above expected flood levels to reduce the risk of flood losses to a building, by raising floor heights within the building structure using a suspended floor arrangement or raised internal concrete platforms.  When designing an extension or modification to an existing building, an appropriate flood risk reduction measure shall be specified to ensure the threshold levels into the building are above the design flood level. However, care must also be taken to ensure access for all is provided in compliance with Part M of the Building Regulations.  Where threshold levels cannot be raised to the street for streetscape, conservation or other reasons, the design shall specify a mixing of uses vertically in buildings - with less vulnerable uses located at ground floor level, along with other measures for dealing with residual flood risk.</p> <p><b>Internal Layout</b>  Internal layout of internal space shall be designed and specified to reduce the impact of flooding [for example, living accommodation, essential services, storage space for provisions and equipment shall be designed to be located above the predicted flood level]. In addition, designs and specifications shall ensure that, wherever reasonably practicable, the siting of living accommodation (particularly sleeping areas) shall be above flood level.  With the exception of single storey extensions to existing properties, new single storey accommodation shall not be deemed appropriate where predicted flood levels are above design floor levels. In all cases, specifications for safe access, refuge and evacuation shall be incorporated into the design of the development.</p> <p><b>Flood-Resistant Construction</b>  Developments in flood vulnerable zones shall specify the use of flood-resistant construction aimed at preventing water from entering buildings - to mitigate the damage floodwater caused to buildings.  Developments shall specify the use of flood resistant construction prepared using specialist technical input to the design and specification of the external building envelope – with measures to resist hydrostatic pressure (commonly referred to as “tanking”) specified for the outside of the building fabric.  The design of the flood resistant construction shall specify the need to protect the main entry points for floodwater into buildings - including doors and windows (including gaps in sealant around frames), vents, air-bricks and gaps around conduits or pipes passing through external building fabric.  The design of the flood resistant construction shall also specify the need to protect against flood water entry through sanitary appliances as a result of backflow through the drainage system.</p> <p><b>Flood-Resilient Construction</b></p>



Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>Developments in flood vulnerable zones that are at risk of occasional inundation shall incorporate design and specification for flood resilient construction which accepts that floodwater will enter buildings and provides for this in the design and specification of internal building services and finishes. These measures limit damage caused by floodwater and allow relatively quick recovery. This can be achieved by specifying wall and floor materials such as ceramic tiling that can be cleaned and dried relatively easily, provided that the substrate materials (e.g. blockwork) are also resilient. Electrics, appliances and kitchen fittings shall also be specified to be raised above floor level, and one-way valves shall be incorporated into drainage pipes.</p> <p><b>Emergency Response Planning</b> In addition to considering physical design issues for developments in flood vulnerable zones, the developer shall specify that the planning of new development also takes account of the need for effective emergency response planning for flood events in areas of new development.</p> <p>Applications for developments in flood vulnerable zones shall provide details that the following measures will be put in place and maintained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of flood warnings, evacuation plans and ensuring public awareness of flood risks to people where they live and work;</li> <li>• Coordination of responses and discussion with relevant emergency services i.e. Local Authorities, Fire and Rescue, Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána through the SFRA; and</li> <li>• Awareness of risks and evacuation procedures and the need for family flood plans.</li> </ul> <p><b>Access and Egress During Flood Events</b> Applications for developments in flood vulnerable zones shall include details of arrangements for access and egress during flood events. Such details shall specify that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• flood escape routes have been kept to publicly accessible land;</li> <li>• such routes will have signage and other flood awareness measures in place, to inform local communities what to do in case of flooding;</li> <li>• this information will be provided in a welcome pack to new occupants.</li> </ul> <p><b>Further Information</b> Further and more detailed guidance and advice can be found at <a href="http://www.flooding.ie">http://www.flooding.ie</a> and in the Building Regulations.</p> <p>c) In Flood Zone C, where the probability of flooding is low (less than 0.1%, Flood Zone C), site-specific Flood Risk Assessment may be required and the developer should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed. The County Development Plan SFRA datasets and the most up to date information on flood risk, including that relating to climate scenarios, should be consulted by prospective applicants for developments in this regard and will be made available to lower-tier Development Management processes in the Council.</p> <p><b>FRM POL 12</b> To require that Strategic Flood Risk Assessments and site-specific Flood Risk Assessments shall provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations. The 2009 OPW Draft Guidance on Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management (or any superseding document) shall be consulted with to this effect.</p> <p><b>FRM POL 13</b> To require the submission of site-specific Flood Risk Assessments for developments undertaken within Flood Zones A &amp; B and on lands subject to the mid-range future scenario floods extents, as published by the Office of Public Works. These Flood Risk Assessments shall consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures including details of structural and non-structural</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>flood risk management measures, such as those relating to floor levels, internal layout, flood-resistant construction, flood-resilient construction, emergency response planning and access and egress during flood events.</p> <p>FRM POL 14 To require the undertaking of site-specific flood risk assessments for applications for development on land identified as benefitting land which may be prone to flooding</p> <p>FRM POL 15 To ensure that new developments proposed in Arterial Drainage Schemes and Drainage Districts do not result in a significant negative impact on the integrity, function and management of these areas.</p> <p>FRM POL 16 Any potential future variations to and review of the Plan shall consider, as appropriate any new and/or emerging data relating to flood risk.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <p>FRM OBJ 1 To implement and comply fully with the recommendations of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment prepared as part of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029.</p> <p>FRM OBJ 2 To implement in conjunction with the Office of Public Works the recommendations contained in the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP's), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk, subject to obtaining the necessary planning consent and undertaking the required environmental assessments.</p> <p><b>Storm Water Management Policies</b></p> <p>SWM POL 1 To implement Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) in developments to encourage a more sustainable approach to storm water management.</p> <p>SWM POL 2 To resist the discharge of additional surface water to combined sewers and promote Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) and solutions to maximise the capacity of towns with combined drainage systems, where practicable.</p> <p>SWM POL 3 To require that new developments are adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure which meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, associated River Basin Management Plans and CFRAM Management Plans.</p> <p>SWM POL 4 To limit the rate of surface water run off to pre development levels for all green-field developments.</p> <p>SWM POL 5 In the case of one-off rural dwellings, surface water shall be disposed of, in its entirety within the curtilage of the development site by way of suitably sized soak holes.</p> <p><b>Storm Water Management Objectives</b></p> <p>SWM OBJ 1 To require the use of SuDS to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques where appropriate, for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.</p> <p>SWM OBJ 2 To encourage the use of Green Roof technology particularly on apartment, commercial, leisure and educational buildings.</p>
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to Plan's various sustainable transport provisions and detailed measures for Climate Action in the Draft Plan.</p> <p><b>Air Quality Policies</b></p> <p>AQ POL 1 To promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/5/0/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 201) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.</li> </ul>	<p>AQ POL 2 To promote air quality improvements, where practicable, through a shift to more sustainable modes of transport, reduced use of fossil fuels and a resulting reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.</p> <p><b>Noise Pollution Policies</b></p> <p>NP POL 1 To support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>NP POL 2 To require individual development proposals to be assessed against the Noise Assessment Criteria contained in Section ** of Chapter 12, Development Management Standards.</p> <p>NP POL 3 To have regard to acoustical planning in the planning process to ensure that future developments include provisions to protect the population from the effects of environmental noise in the interests of residential amenity and public health.</p> <p>NP POL 4 Development proposals should identify and implement noise mitigation measures, where warranted, for development proposed in the vicinity of existing or proposed national roads. The costs of implementing mitigation measures shall be borne by the developer, as the Authority will not be responsible for the provision of additional noise mitigation.</p> <p><b>Noise Pollution Objective</b></p> <p>NP OBJ 1 To implement the actions contained in the Leitrim Noise Plan 2018-2023 (or any replacement Plan) which seeks to address environmental noise from major roads in the county and which endeavours to maintain satisfactory noise environments where they exist.</p> <p><b>Climate Action – Overarching Policies</b></p> <p>CA POL 1 To support the implementation of the European, national, regional and local objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation detailed in the EU Green Deal, Programme for Government 2020, Climate Action Plan 2019, National Climate Change Adaptation Framework 2018, Climate Adaptation Strategy, any Regional Decarbonisation Plan, relevant sectoral adaptation plans prepared to comply with the requirements of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, the Leitrim Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024, or any replacement plans or strategies.</p> <p>CA POL 2 To support the transition of the County towards a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 by providing for consolidated development forms which facilitate the reduction of energy demand and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and which supports sustainable travel patterns in line with the Core Strategy.</p> <p>CA POL 3 To co-operate with and support the role of the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO).</p> <p>CA POL 4 To provide for a reduction in energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions by providing for consolidated development forms in settlements in Co. Leitrim.</p> <p>CA POL 5 To promote and encourage positive community and / co-operative led climate action initiatives and projects that seek to reduce emissions, improve energy efficiency, enhance green infrastructure and encourage awareness on climate change issues.</p> <p>CA POL 6 To encourage innovation and facilitate the development of pilot schemes that support climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.</p> <p><b>Climate Action – Overarching Objectives</b></p> <p>CA OBJ 1 To work in collaboration with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and relevant stakeholders to deliver and support a number of Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) throughout the county.</p>



Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>CA OBJ 2 To develop a Decarbonisation Zone in Carrick on Shannon in accordance with Action 165 of the Climate Action Plan 2019. (see also CS OBJ 10 for further detail in this regard).</p> <p>CA OBJ 3 To review the outcomes of the forthcoming update to the Development Plan Guidelines when finalised and to consider reasonable steps to align with the approach to climate change advocated in the guidelines over the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>CA OBJ 4 To support the development of both climate mitigation and climate adaptation initiatives and seek funding for the implementation of these initiatives from available sources including the Climate Action Fund administered by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC).</p>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>• Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>• Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air, various Land Use and Phasing provisions.</p> <p><b>Water Infrastructure Policies</b></p> <p>WI POL 1 To collaborate with Irish Water in the preparation and prioritisation of their Investment Plans to ensure that the required piped water services capacity and infrastructure in the County is provided in a timely manner to facilitate future growth in accordance with the Core Strategy.</p> <p>WI POL 2 To prohibit the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water.</p> <p>WI POL 3 To support Irish Water in the promotion of effective management of trade discharges to sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing sewer networks and minimise detrimental impacts on wastewater treatment works.</p> <p>WI POL 4 To ensure that all new developments connect to the public wastewater infrastructure, where available, and to encourage existing developments that are in close proximity to a public sewer to connect to that sewer subject to obtaining a connection agreement with Irish Water.</p> <p>WI POL 5 To ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure, in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development requirements and a cleaner environment. Water abstractions should ensure appropriate levels of environmental management and protection, including ensuring compliance with the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive.</p> <p>WI POL 6 To ensure that adequate water services will be available to service development and that existing water services are not negatively impacted upon prior to making a decision to grant planning permission.</p> <p>WI POL 7 To require all new development to provide a separate foul and surface water drainage system and to incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate in new development and the public realm.</p> <p>WI POL 8 To require developments to connect to public water supplies where available.</p> <p><b>Water Infrastructure Objectives</b></p> <p>WI OBJ 1 To work closely with Irish Water to identify and facilitate the timely delivery of the water services infrastructure required to realize the development objectives of this plan.</p> <p>WI OBJ 2 To pursue and support Irish Water in the upgrade of the Carrick-on-Shannon Water Treatment Plant as a project necessary to deliver the growth model outlined in the Core Strategy of the new County Development Plan.</p> <p>WI OBJ 3 To protect both ground and surface water resources including taking account of the impacts of climate change, and to support Irish Water in the development and implementation of Drinking Water Safety Plans and the National Water Resources Plan.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>the mitigation of potential conflicts).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increases in waste levels.</li> <li>Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.</li> <li>Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.</li> <li>Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation.</li> </ul>	<p>WI OBJ 4 To promote water conservation and demand management measures among all water users, and to support Irish Water in implementing water conservation measures such as leakage reduction and network improvements.</p> <p>WI OBJ 5 To ensure that adequate storm water infrastructure is provided in order to accommodate the planned levels of growth within the plan area and to ensure that appropriate flood management measures are implemented to protect property and infrastructure.</p> <p>WI OBJ 6 To support the servicing of rural villages and graigs to include the development of serviced sites as an alternative to one-off housing in the countryside.</p> <p>WI OBJ 7 To facilitate the provision of appropriate sites for required water services infrastructure.</p> <p>WI OBJ 8 To proactively implement the Rural Water Programme and to transfer / transition rural schemes to Irish Water where possible and appropriate.</p> <p><b>Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Policies</b></p> <p>WWT POL 1 To ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with the EPA Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Population Equivalent <math>\leq 10</math>) (March 2021), as may be amended.</p> <p>WWT POL 2 To promote the discontinuation of use of septic tanks / individual wastewater treatment systems and the connection of houses to piped foul sewers in all cases where this is feasible (subject to connection agreements with Irish Water) and require that all new developments utilise and connect to the piped wastewater infrastructure where available.</p> <p>WWT POL 3 The Planning Authority will consider where appropriate proposals for private communal sewerage schemes, subject to the protection of the receiving environment, in the following cases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In areas where Irish Water do not propose to carry out a piped wastewater collection and treatment scheme.</li> <li>In areas where Irish Water intend at a later stage to provide a piped wastewater collection and treatment scheme.</li> </ol> <p>In the latter case, schemes should be so designed as to be capable of being connected to the Irish Water scheme in due course. Such schemes shall be purpose designed, appropriate in scale, specification and capacity, designed to the needs of users and shall be subject to legally binding maintenance and bonding arrangements agreed with the County Council. Such proposals shall adhere to the EPA Code of Practice for Small Communities.</p> <p><b>Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Objective</b></p> <p>WWT OBJ 1 To continue to research and trial options in conjunction with academic partners and other stakeholders to provide an acceptable waste water treatment system solution to the poor percolation characteristics of sub soils which affect the majority of the county that would be suitable, affordable and not represent a risk of pollution to ground or surface waters or to public health.</p> <p><b>Storm Water Management Objectives</b></p> <p>SWM OBJ 1 To require the use of SuDS to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques where appropriate, for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.</p> <p>SWM OBJ 2 To encourage the use of Green Roof technology particularly on apartment, commercial, leisure and educational buildings.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p><b>Waste Management Policies</b></p> <p>WM POL 1 To support the implementation of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021(as amended) or any replacement plan with particular emphasis on encouraging reuse, recycling and disposal of residual waste.</p> <p>WM POL 2 To encourage and support waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste.</p> <p>WM POL 3 To facilitate the transition from a waste management economy to a green circular economy to increase the value recovery and recirculation of resources.</p> <p>WM POL 4 To encourage and support the provision of separate collection of waste in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, the Waste Framework Directive Regulations, 2011 and other relevant legislation.</p> <p>WM POL 5 To promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p> <p>WM POL 6 To encourage the development of waste infrastructure and associated developments in appropriate locations, as deemed necessary in accordance with the requirements of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021(as amended) or any replacement plan.</p> <p>WM POL 7 To require the provision of bring banks, bottle banks or other appropriate recycling facilities as part of the overall development in the case of new or extended commercial, employment, educational, recreational facilities and managed residential developments (in excess of 20 no. residential units).</p> <p>WM POL 8 To encourage the recycling of construction and demolition waste and the reuse of aggregate and other materials in future construction projects.</p> <p>WM POL 9 To facilitate high quality sustainable waste recovery and disposal infrastructure / technology including composting (anaerobic digester) plants for managing organic solid waste, at appropriate locations, within the County subject to the protection of the amenities of the surrounding environment including European Sites, and in keeping with the EU waste hierarchy.</p> <p><b>Waste Management Objectives</b></p> <p>WM OBJ 1 To continue to maintain the level of provision of existing civic amenity sites in the County in accordance with Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021.</p> <p>WM OBJ 2 To ensure that the Council fulfils its duties under the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p> <p>WM OBJ 3 To identify suitable sites for additional recycling centres and bring bank facilities subject to the availability of appropriate funding and infrastructure, through the public or private sector, as appropriate.</p> <p>WM OBJ 4 To facilitate the provision of appropriate waste recovery and disposal facilities in accordance with the principles set out in the appropriate Waste Management Plan applicable from time to time made in accordance with the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended).</p> <p>WM OBJ 5 To continue to reduce incidents of littering through the continued implementation and updating of the Council's Litter Management Plan.</p> <p>WM OBJ 6 To continue to support and work with local Tidy Towns groups in the maintenance and conservation of our towns</p>



Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>and villages throughout the county.</p> <p><b>Energy Networks Infrastructure Policies</b></p> <p>ENI POL 1 To support the development of a safe, secure and reliable electricity network which assists EirGrid in their grid development programme, as set out in the Grid Development Strategy – Your Grid, Your Tomorrow, 2017 and Tomorrow’s Energy Scenarios 2017: Planning our Energy Future, 2017.</p> <p>ENI POL 2 To co-operate and liaise with statutory and other energy providers in relation to power generation in order to ensure that the energy needs of future population and economic expansion within designated growth areas and across the wider region can be delivered in a sustainable and timely manner, which minimizes impacts on environmental sensitive and high visual quality areas and that capacity is available at local and regional scale to meet future needs.</p> <p>ENI POL 3 To require comprehensive studies to be undertaken for all technical and environmental considerations, to inform the assessment of proposed transmission routes brought forward for planning consent.</p> <p>ENI POL 3 To support the renewal, reinforcement and strengthening of the electricity transmission network with particular reference to the regionally important projects such as Renewable Integration Development Project.</p> <p>ENI POL 4 To support the necessary integration of the transmission network requirements to allow linkages with renewable energy proposals at all levels to the electricity transmission grid in a sustainable and timely manner.</p> <p>ENI POL 6 To support the build-out of the gas supply network into Co. Leitrim.</p> <p><b>Energy Networks Infrastructure Objective</b></p> <p>ENI OBJ 1 To safeguard existing strategic energy corridors from encroachment by other developments that could compromise the delivery of energy networks.</p> <p><b>Information Communications and Technology Policy</b></p> <p>DS POL 1 To support the implementation and roll out of action contained in the Digital Strategy for Leitrim 2021-2023 or any replacement Strategy.</p> <p><b>Broadband Policies</b></p> <p>BR POL 1 To support and facilitate the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and public and private agencies as appropriate, in improving high quality broadband infrastructure throughout the county and supporting the roll out of the National Broadband Plan.</p> <p>BR POL 2 To support and facilitate the delivery of the National Broadband Plan and Leitrim County Councils Digital Strategy as a means of developing further opportunities for enterprise, employment, education, innovation and skills development, for those who live and work in rural areas throughout Leitrim, where appropriate.</p> <p>BR POL 3 To promote the potential of the Metropolitan Area Network fibre optic cable managed by eNET.</p> <p><b>Telecommunications Policies</b></p> <p>TEL POL 1 To promote and facilitate the provision of a high quality telecommunications infrastructure network throughout the county having regard to the requirements of the “Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures – Guidelines for Planning Authorities”.</p> <p>TEL POL 2 To support service providers in the development of key telecommunications infrastructure.</p> <p>TEL POL 3 To support the delivery of high capacity Information Communications Technology Infrastructure, broadband connectivity and digital broadcasting, throughout the county, in order to ensure economic competitiveness and in enabling more</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>flexible work practices.</p> <p>TEL POL 4 To encourage co-location of antennae on existing telecommunications structures. The shared use of existing structures will be required where the numbers of masts located in any single area is considered to have an excessive concentration.</p> <p>TEL POL 5 To ensure that telecommunications structures are located to minimise and /or mitigate any adverse impacts on communities, residential properties, schools and the built or natural environment.</p> <p><b>Telecommunications Objectives</b></p> <p>TEL OBJ 1 To ensure that all areas of the county have adequate mobile communication coverage and in particular to require service providers to provide services in areas where existing coverage is poor.</p>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology<sup>4</sup> and protected architecture<sup>5</sup> arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Protection of the Built Environment Policies</b></p> <p>BH POL 1 To protect all structures in the Record of Protected Structures (Appendix ** of this plan).</p> <p>BH POL 2 To promote best conservation principles and practice with regard to protecting Leitrim's considerable architectural heritage.</p> <p>BH POL 3 To encourage the sympathetic retention, reuse and rehabilitation of Protected Structures and their setting.</p> <p>BH POL 4 To ensure that proposed development within the curtilage or attendant grounds of a Protected Structure respects the Protected Structure and its setting.</p> <p>BH POL 5 To have regard to the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (October 2011) or replacement Section 28 Guidelines as may be issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage when assessing proposals for development affecting a protected structure and buildings listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.</p> <p>BH POL 6 To require the preparation of an Architectural Impact Assessment undertaken by an architect or other suitably qualified professional with conservation expertise, where appropriate, for developments which include or relate to a Protected Structure or their curtilage and attendant grounds.</p> <p>BH POL 7 To promote the principles of best practice in conservation in terms of use of appropriate materials, repair techniques, and thermal upgrades by adhering to the guidelines as set out in Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's Advice Series publications or their replacement.</p> <p>BH POL 8 To promote awareness and the appropriate adaptation of the county's architectural and archaeological heritage to deal with the effects of climate change.</p> <p><b>Protection of the Built Environment Objectives</b></p> <p>BH OBJ 1 To seek the protection of all structures within the County that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.</p> <p>BH OBJ 2 To maximise funding opportunities for the conservation and restoration of Protected Structures.</p>

<sup>4</sup> Archaeological heritage encompasses designated and unknown archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, underwater archaeology, entries to the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record and Northern Ireland Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest and Archaeological Potential. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between archaeological heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

<sup>5</sup> Architectural heritage encompasses that which is designated or included within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), NIAH Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Records of Protected Structures and Northern Ireland's Listed Buildings and Northern Ireland's Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between architectural heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>BH OBJ 3 To administer grant schemes which provide funding opportunities for the conservation and restoration of Protected Structures.</p> <p>BH OBJ 4 To support and implement the actions listed in the County Heritage Plan 2020 – 2025, and subsequent heritage plans, during the lifetime of this plan, subject to the availability of specific funding and resources.</p> <p>BH OBJ 5 To seek the appointment of a Conservation Officer to improve the level of expertise available to the Council and to support the protection and conservation of the rich built and cultural heritage within the County. However the Council will seek to develop in-house expertise in the interim in the absence of this appointment.</p> <p><b>Architectural Conservation Areas Policies</b></p> <p>ACA POL 1 To ensure the preservation of the special character of each Architectural Conservation Area listed in this Plan (See Table 6) by exercising specific design control with particular regard to building scale, proportions, historical plot sizes, building lines, height, general land use, fenestration, signage, and other appendages such as electrical wiring, building materials, historic street furniture, paving and shopfronts.</p> <p>ACA POL 2 To have regard to the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (October 2011) or replacement Section 28 Guidelines as may be issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage when assessing proposals for development affecting the character of an Architectural Conservation Area.</p> <p>ACA POL 3 To ensure the retention, repair and the regular maintenance, rather than replacement, of original / early features in buildings which contribute to the character of an Architectural Conservation Area such as chimney stacks, roof coverings, roof profiles, external wall treatments, doors and windows, shopfronts and pub fronts, while ensuring appropriate materials and repair techniques are used when repairs are being carried out.</p> <p>ACA POL 4 To ensure that inappropriate materials for windows, doors and rainwater goods constructed in aluminium or uPVC are not introduced to buildings within Architectural Conservation Areas.</p> <p>ACA POL 5 To encourage high quality, contemporary design and materials where appropriate when new buildings are being introduced into an Architectural Conservation Area and the retention of the historic scale and plot size. Such buildings should contribute to the visual enhancement of the area and respect the character of the Architectural Conservation Area as set out in the statement of character (when prepared).</p> <p>ACA POL 6 To ensure that new fascia boards inserted in the shopfront entablature are seamless without visible vertical joints or fixing materials. Hand painted fascia are encouraged and will be favoured over glossy, reflective signage.</p> <p>ACA POL 7 To retain historic items of street furniture where they contribute to the character of the ACA, such as, post boxes, benchmarks, gates, plaques, milestones, railings, etc.,</p> <p>ACA POL 8 To facilitate the removal of overhead cables throughout the Architectural Conservation Areas.</p> <p>ACA POL 9 To ensure the embodied energy of the current building stock within Architectural Conservation Area are acknowledged when considering proposed developments, and to encourage the reuse of these building over demolition.</p> <p><b>Architectural Conservation Areas Objectives</b></p> <p>ACA OBJ 1 To prepare a statement of character for each of the listed Architectural Conservation Areas in Table 6 within 2 years of the adoption of the County Development Plan in order to identify the character that is worthy of protection for each.</p> <p>ACA OBJ 2 To designate additional Architectural Conservation Areas where appropriate and provide a local policy framework for the preservation of the character of these areas. Consideration will be given to Lough Rynn and Drumsna in the first instance.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>ACA OBJ 3 To review the County Leitrim Shopfront Guidelines within the life of the County Development Plan.</p> <p><b>Archaeological Heritage Policies</b></p> <p>ARCH POL 1 To secure the preservation (i.e. preservation in-situ or in particular circumstances where the Council is satisfied that this is not possible, preservation by record as a minimum) of all archaeological remains and sites of importance such as National Monuments, Recorded Monuments, their setting and context.</p> <p>ARCH POL 2 To promote public awareness of the rich archaeological heritage that exists in County Leitrim.</p> <p>ARCH POL 3 To protect and enhance public accessibility to the County's industrial heritage.</p> <p>ARCH POL 4 To protect, preserve and promote the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites and objects in rivers, lakes, intertidal and subtidal environments. In assessing proposals for development, the Council will take account of the archaeological potential of rivers, lakes, intertidal and sub-tidal environments. Where flood relief schemes are being undertaken, the Council will have regard to the 'Archaeological Guidelines for Flood Relief Schemes' (DHLGH and OPW 2021).</p> <p>ARCH POL 5 To support community initiatives and projects regarding preservation, presentation, publication of and access to archaeological heritage and underwater cultural heritage, provided such are compatible with appropriate conservation policies and standards, having regard to the guidance and advice of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p> <p><b>Archaeological Heritage Objectives</b></p> <p>ARCH OBJ 1 To promote the County's archaeological heritage as a tourism resource, in partnership with tourism organisations and stakeholders.</p> <p>ARCH OBJ 2 To ensure that any development (above or below ground or underwater), within the vicinity of a site of archaeological interest or protected wreck or area of underwater archaeological heritage shall not be detrimental to the archaeological remains, character of the site or its setting.</p> <p>ARCH OBJ 3 To require, where appropriate, that an archaeological assessment or underwater archaeological impact assessment be carried out by a suitably qualified person prior to the commencement of any activity that may impact upon archaeological heritage, including underwater archaeological heritage.</p> <p>ARCH OBJ 4 To protect the zones of archaeological potential, as identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, protected recks and underwater archaeological heritage.</p> <p>ARCH OBJ 5 To protect archaeological sites, protected wrecks and underwater archaeological heritage discovered since the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places, which are recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record.</p>
<b>Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p><b>Landscape Policies</b></p> <p>LCA POL 1 To conserve and enhance the high nature conservation value of the Landscape Character Areas in order to create/protect ecologically resilient and varied landscapes.</p> <p>LCA POL 2 To protect, enhance and contribute to the physical, visual and scenic character of County Leitrim and to preserve its unique landscape character.</p> <p>LCA POL 3 To ensure that landscape sensitivity and the preservation of the uniqueness of a landscape character area (where appropriate) is an important consideration in determining the appropriateness of development uses and proposals in areas of landscape sensitivity, (scenery, nature conservation or archaeology) in conjunction with the siting, design and materials proposed.</p> <p>LCA POL 4 To seek to ensure that local landscape features, including historic features and buildings, hedgerows, shelter belts</p>



Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>and stone walls, are retained, protected and enhanced where appropriate, so as to preserve the local landscape and character of an area, whilst providing for future development</p> <p>LCA POL 5 To require landscape and visual impact assessments prepared by suitably qualified professionals be submitted with planning applications for development which may have significant impact on landscape character areas of medium or high sensitivity.</p> <p><b>Landscape Objectives</b></p> <p>LCA OBJ 1 To protect and enhance the quality, character, and distinctiveness of the physical, visual and scenic character of landscapes of the County in accordance with national policy and guidelines and the recommendations of the Leitrim Landscape Character Assessment (2020) in Appendix *.</p> <p>LCA OBJ 2 To ensure that the management of development will have regard to the value of the landscape, its character, importance, sensitivity and capacity to absorb change as outlined in Appendix * Leitrim Landscape Character Assessment (2020) and its recommendations.</p> <p><b>Landscape Designations Policies</b></p> <p>LD POL 1 To safeguard the protected views and prospects contained in Table 6 and on Map ** from intrusive development which would interfere unduly with the character and visual amenity of the landscape.</p> <p>LD POL 2 To protect Areas of High Visual Amenity from inappropriate development and reinforce their character, distinctiveness and sense of place.</p> <p>LD POL 3 To permit development in an Area of High Visual Amenity only where the applicant has demonstrated a very high standard of site selection, site layout and design and where the Planning Authority is satisfied that the development could not be accommodated in a less-sensitive location.</p> <p>LD POL 4 To require that a landscape and visual impact assessment, prepared by a suitably qualified professional, be submitted with planning applications for development which may have an impact on the landscape character of the area.</p> <p>LD POL 5 To ensure that development proposals have regard to the Landscape Character Assessment, the value of the landscape, its character, importance, sensitivity and capacity to absorb change.</p> <p>LD POL 6 To protect lakeshores from inappropriate development which would detract from the natural amenity of the area.</p> <p>LD POL 7 To permit development in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty where the applicant can satisfy the Planning Authority that it is not practicable to develop in a less-sensitive location and where it is demonstrated that the development will not impinge in any significant way on the character, integrity or uniformity of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Landscape Designations Objectives</b></p> <p>LD OBJ 1 To protect the quality, character and distinctiveness of the landscapes of the County.</p> <p>LD OBJ 2 To provide and maintain facilities, including viewing areas, lay-bys, safe pedestrian access and/or car parking, and where appropriate, associated seats and signs in the immediate vicinity of views that are identified in this Plan and as funds allow.</p> <p>LD OBJ 3 To undertake and adopt a landscape capacity assessment of the county for commercial afforestation.</p> <p>LD OBJ 4 To protect Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Areas of High Visual Amenity from inappropriate forms of development.</p>

## Section 3 Environmental Report and Submissions/ Observations

### 3.1 Introduction

This section details how both the Environmental Report and submissions and observations made to Leitrim County Council on the Environmental Report and SEA process have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan and the SEA.

the Plan, including through the selection of Plan provisions identified on Table 2.1.

### 3.2 SEA Scoping Notices and Submissions

As part of the scoping process for preparation of the Plan, environmental authorities<sup>6</sup> were notified that a submission or observation in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report could be made to the Council.

Submissions were made by the following environmental authorities:

- Environmental Protection Agency;
- Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (one from the Geological Survey Ireland and one from the Waste Policy and Resource Efficiency Division);
- Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine;
- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media; and
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

The issues raised in these submissions and how these issues have been taken into account during preparation of the Plan and the SEA are provided on Table 3.1 below. Taking into account these submissions included integrating environmental considerations into

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<sup>6</sup> The following authorities were notified: Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Environment, Climate and Communications; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media; Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Sligo County Council; Donegal County Council; Roscommon County Council; Longford County Council; and Cavan County Council. In addition to the environmental authorities, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, part of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland, was also notified.

Table 3.1 Taking into account SEA Scoping Submissions

Ref	Issue raised in submission	SEA Response
<b>1. Submission from the Environmental Protection Agency</b>		
<b>A</b>	The EPA is one of five statutory environmental authorities under the SEA Regulations. In our role as an SEA environmental authority, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the plan. Our functions as an SEA environmental authority do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans.	Noted.
<b>B</b>	As a priority, we focus our efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans. For land use plans at county and local level, we provide a 'self-service approach' via the guidance document 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources'. This document is updated regularly and sets out our key recommendations for integrating environmental considerations into Local Authority land use Plans. We recommend that you take this guidance document into account in preparing the Plan and SEA.	The 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources' document has been considered in the preparation of this SEA Scoping Report and will be kept on file for reference throughout the SEA process.
<b>C</b>	<p>We refer you to our Issues Paper submission, dated 24th July 2020, which includes a number of specific environmental considerations and available resources relevant to the Plan. This submission is attached and should be taken into account at this time.</p> <p>In preparing the Plan, Leitrim County Council should also ensure that the Plan aligns with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region.</p>	The EPA's earlier submission has been considered in the preparation of this SEA Scoping Report and will be kept on file for reference throughout the SEA process. The National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region and other relevant plans and programmes will be considered as part of the preparation of the Plan and associated environmental assessments, as relevant.
<b>D</b>	<p><b>Available Guidance &amp; Resources</b></p> <p>Our website contains various SEA resources and guidance, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEA process guidance and checklists</li> <li>- Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA</li> <li>- topic specific SEA guidance (including <i>Good practice note on Cumulative Effects Assessment</i> (EPA, 2020), <i>Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring</i> (EPA, 2020), <i>Integrating climatic factors into SEA</i> (EPA, 2019), <i>Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA</i> (EPA, 2015), and <i>Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment</i></li> </ul>	These resources and guidance have been considered in the preparation of this SEA Scoping Report and will be accessed, as relevant, for



Ref	Issue raised in submission	SEA Response
	(EPA, 2012)) You can access these resources at: <a href="http://www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/">www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/</a>	reference throughout the SEA process.
E	<b>Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) Webtool</b> The ESM Webtool is a new decision support tool to assist SEA and planning processes in Ireland. The tool brings together over 100 datasets and allows users to explore environmental considerations within a particular area and create plan-specific environmental sensitivity maps. These maps can help planners anticipate potential land-use conflicts and help identify suitable development locations, while also protecting the environment. The ESM Webtool is available at <a href="http://www.enviromap.ie">www.enviromap.ie</a> .	The ESM Webtool has been considered in the preparation of this report and will be considered throughout the SEA process, where relevant.
F	<b>EPA SEA WebGIS Tool</b> Our SEA WebGIS Tool has been updated recently and is now publicly available at <a href="https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA">https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA</a> . It allows public authorities to produce an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area. It is intended to assist public authorities in SEA screening and scoping exercises.	Available online EPA resources, including mapping resources, have been considered in the preparation of this report and will be considered throughout the SEA and AA processes.
G	<b>EPA WFD Application</b> Our WFD Application provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the national WFD monitoring programme. The Application is accessed through EDEN <a href="https://wfd.edenireland.ie/">https://wfd.edenireland.ie/</a> and is available to public agencies. Publicly available data can be accessed via the <a href="http://Catchments.ie">Catchments.ie</a> website.	
H	<b>EPA AA GeoTool</b> Our AA GeoTool application has been developed in partnership with the NPWS. It allows users to select a location, specify a search area and gather available information for each European Site within the area. It is available at: <a href="http://www.epa.ie/terminalfour/ApproAssess/index.jsp">http://www.epa.ie/terminalfour/ApproAssess/index.jsp</a>	
I	<b>State of the Environment Report – Ireland's Environment 2016</b> In preparing the Plan and SEA, the recommendations, key issues and challenges described within our most recent State of the Environment Report Ireland's Environment - An Assessment 2016 (EPA, 2016) should be considered, as relevant and appropriate to the Plan.	The recommendations, key issues and challenges described within the current version of Ireland's Environment will be considered in the preparation of the Plan.
J	<b>Transition to a low carbon climate resilient economy and society</b> You should ensure that the Plan aligns with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.	The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan aligns with national commitments on climate change and adaptation, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.
K	<b>Environmental Authorities</b> Under the SEA Regulations, you should also consult with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government,</li> <li>• The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, where it appears to you as the competent authority that the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment,</li> <li>• The Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht where it appears to you as the competent authority that the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, might have significant effects in relation to the architectural or</li> </ul>	Notice has also been given to relevant environmental authorities as part of the SEA scoping process.

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	archaeological heritage or to nature conservation, and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan.</li> </ul>	
<b>2. Submission from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (from the Geological Survey Ireland)</b>		
A	<p>Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and has datasets including Bedrock Geology, Quaternary Geology, Geological Heritage Sites, Mineral deposits, Groundwater Resources, Geohazards and the Irish Seabed. These comprise maps, reports and extensive databases that include mineral occurrences, bedrock/mineral exploration groundwater/site investigation boreholes, karst features, wells and springs. Please see our website for data availability and we recommend using these various data sets, when undergoing the EIAR, planning and scoping processes. Geological Survey Ireland should be referenced to as such and should any data or geological maps be used, they should be attributed correctly to Geological Survey Ireland.</p> <p>With reference to your letter dated 09 October 2020, concerning the SEA Scoping for preparation of a new Leitrim County Development Plan, Geological Survey Ireland (a division of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications) welcome the opportunity to be included in the consultation process at this early 'SEA scoping' stage.</p>	Noted.
B	<p><b><u>Geoheritage</u></b></p> <p>The Geological heritage county audit for Leitrim has not yet been published and is currently in progress. It is expected that this will be completed in November 2020 and on completion there will be a revised list of county geological sites. We welcome mention of the County Geological Sites (CGSs) within the SEA scoping under Section 3.4 'Soil'. However, we would encourage their inclusion as specific policy objectives within the County Development Plan (CDP). Please note that it should be the revised list that should be included in the CDP, Sarah Malone in Leitrim County Council should be able to provide the revised list. The following points are suggested by the Geoheritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland, as appropriate ways in which to address the need to protect geological heritage in any one of Ireland's local authority areas:</p> <p>As a minimum, Geological Survey Ireland would like the Local Authority to include a policy objective with wording such as:</p> <p>"to protect from inappropriate development the scheduled list of geological heritage sites [Appendix X]." Or "to protect from inappropriate development the following list of County Geological Sites"</p> <p>The Geoheritage Programme views the Local Authorities as critical partners in protecting, through the planning system, those CGS which fall within their county limits. In many cases these are often sites of high amenity or educational value, already zoned or listed in the plan.</p> <p>Listing in the CDP provides protection of the sites against potentially damaging developments that normally require planning permission, such as building, quarrying, landfilling or forestry. It is also important that the democratic process of public consultation and approval by councillors of the CDP means that stakeholders in the sites and all the local community can buy into the process.</p> <p>CGSs have been adopted in the National Heritage Plan, and will form a major strand of geological nature conservation to complement the various ecological and cultural conservation measures.</p> <p>It is important to note however, that management issues for the majority of geological heritage sites may differ from ecological sites, and in some cases development may facilitate enhanced geological understanding of a site by exposing more rock sections - for example, in a quarry extension. Consultation at the earliest stages can identify any issues relevant to an individual site or proposed development.</p> <p>County Geological Sites are the optimal way of addressing the responsibility of each</p>	This information will be considered when preparing the Draft Plan and undertaking the SEA.

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	<p>authority under the Planning and Development Act 2000 and its amendments, to protect sites of geological interest. It would also be necessary to include a policy objective to protect geological NHAs as they become designated and notified to the Local Authority, during the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>As always we are available if you require any further information, please feel free to contact Clare Glanville (Clare.Glanville@gsi.ie).</p>	
C	<p><b><u>Culture and Tourism</u></b></p> <p>Over the past number of years geology has become a large part of Irish tourism. Ireland currently has three UNESCO Global Geoparks, with one aspiring Geopark, Joyce Country and Western Lakes Aspiring Geopark. These Geoparks, along with other tourism initiatives such as the Wild Atlantic Way, Irelands Ancient East, and Irelands Hidden Heartlands have bolstered tourism in various parts of Ireland and helped to increase its levels in areas that were previously not as popular with tourists. We would encourage Leitrim County Council to continue this trend, and to use the geological audit information making it easily available to the general public. We would encourage geology to be a significant part of any tourism initiative that may be introduced.</p>	<p>This information will be considered when preparing the Draft Plan and undertaking the SEA, where relevant.</p>
D	<p><b><u>Dimension Stone/Stone Built Ireland</u></b></p> <p>Geological Survey Ireland recently signed a research collaboration agreement between Geological Survey Ireland, TCD &amp; OPW, to run for a 2 year period with the aim of documenting building and decorative stone in Ireland to inform government agencies, building owners and conservationists of the sources for suitable replacement stone in restoration work and to develop a greater awareness among the general public. In addition to promoting citizen science and awareness of local materials, the inventory will aid the public in complying with part 4 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, which requires owners to conserve protected structures. It will also assist local authorities in issuing Section 57 Declarations, which outline 'the type of works which it considers would or would not materially affect the character of the structure or any element of the structure'.</p> <p>This project will build on work already completed funded by the Irish Research Council (March 2019 - September 2020) that carried on primary research on the topic and developed a simple database and web-based platform as well as hosting various heritage displays at venues. The project described above could also be considered as part of Section 3.8.2 'Architectural Heritage' within the CDP.</p>	<p>This information will be considered when preparing the Draft Plan and undertaking the SEA, where relevant.</p>
E	<p><b><u>Geological Mapping</u></b></p> <p>Geological Survey Ireland's geological mapping programme creates maps that depict the rocks (Bedrock Mapping) and subsoils (Quaternary &amp; Physiographic Mapping) of the onshore area of Ireland. We collect new data by field surveying and borehole drilling, and combine them with existing mapping to produce map products at various scales and levels of complexity. We maintain online data sets of bedrock and subsoils geological mapping that is reliable, accessible and meets the requirements of all users. These data sets include depth to bedrock data and subsoil classifications. We would encourage you to use this data for informing your CDP (2022-2028).</p>	<p>Mineral resources will be recognised as a material asset by the SEA.</p> <p>Aquifer productivity and vulnerability mapping will be included in the SEA Environmental Report and the SEA will reference datasets available from GSI that may be useful to lower-tier project planning, including those relating to Aquifer Productivity, Aquifer Vulnerability, Bedrock Geology, Quaternary Geology, Mineral</p>
F	<p><b><u>Groundwater</u></b></p> <p>Groundwater is important as a source of drinking water, and it supports river flows, lake levels and ecosystems. It contains natural substances dissolved from the soils and rocks that it flows through, and can also be contaminated by human actions on the land surface. As a clean, but vulnerable, resource, groundwater needs to be understood, managed and protected.</p> <p>Through our Groundwater Programme, Geological Survey Ireland provides advice and maps to members of the public, consultancies and public bodies about groundwater quality, quantity and distribution. Geological Survey Ireland monitors groundwater nationwide by characterising aquifers, investigating karst landscapes and landforms and by helping to protect public and group scheme water supplies. We recommend the use of our National Aquifer, Vulnerability and Recharge maps within the CDP. Further information is available on our Map viewer.</p> <p>With regard to Flood Risk Management, there is a need to identify areas for</p>	<p>Mineral resources will be recognised as a material asset by the SEA.</p> <p>Aquifer productivity and vulnerability mapping will be included in the SEA Environmental Report and the SEA will reference datasets available from GSI that may be useful to lower-tier project planning, including those relating to Aquifer Productivity, Aquifer Vulnerability, Bedrock Geology, Quaternary Geology, Mineral</p>

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	<p>integrated mitigation and management and we note reference within the draft SEA scoping report to the OPW datasets on flooding in Section 3.5.2 'Flooding'. Our GW Flood project is a groundwater flood monitoring and mapping programme aimed at addressing the knowledge gaps surrounding groundwater flooding in Ireland. The project is providing the data and analysis tools required by local and national authorities to make scientifically-informed decisions regarding groundwater flooding. Although primarily focused on karst areas, this may provide information to benefit the proposed CDP. We recommend using our GW Flood tools found under our programme activities (in conjunction with OPW data) to this end.</p> <p>With regards to Climate Change, there is a need to improve the monitoring capacity of groundwater levels in Ireland so that the potential impacts of climate change can be monitored and assessed. In this context the Geological Survey Ireland has established the GW Climate project in January 2020. GW Climate will 1) establish a long-term strategic groundwater level monitoring network and 2) develop modelling and analytical approaches for evaluating the impacts of Climate Change to Irish groundwater systems. Further information can be found on the Groundwater flooding page of the Groundwater Programme.</p>	<p>deposits, Aggregate Potential, Groundwater Resources and Geohazards, such as Landslide Events and Landslide Susceptibility Mapping.</p> <p>Regarding geothermal energy, SEA considers the environmental effects of Plan policies and objectives – including any providing for geothermal energy. Potential environmental effects arising from geothermal energy may include contributions towards greenhouse gas emission targets and effects on water quality, ecology, soil stability. Inclusion of Geothermal Suitability mapping is not within the scope of the SEA, however where it forms part of Plan policies/objectives, it would be considered by the SEA.</p>
<b>G</b>	<p><b><u>Geohazards</u></b></p> <p>Geohazards can cause widespread damage to landscapes, wildlife, human property and human life. While in Ireland, landslides are the most prevalent of these hazards flooding is becoming an increasing risk. Geological Survey Ireland has information available on past landslides for viewing as a layer on our Map Viewer.</p> <p>Geological Survey Ireland also engages in national projects such as Landslide Susceptibility Mapping and Groundwater Flooding (GW Flood), and in international projects, such as the Tsunami Warning System, coordinated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO. Historical records and geological evidence indicate that, while tsunamis are unlikely events around Ireland, the Irish coast is vulnerable to tsunamis from submarine landslides and distant earthquakes. Associated levels of coastal flooding are expected to be similar to those seen during storm surges, but with much more energetic inundation and a much shorter time to react. Ireland participates in an international tsunami detection and alerting system, coordinated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.</p> <p>We recommend that geohazards and particularly flooding be taken into consideration, especially when developing areas where these risks are prevalent, and we encourage the use of our data when doing so.</p> <p>We welcome the inclusion in Section 3.4 'Soils', for consideration of use of Geological Survey Ireland's online mapping data sets for Landslide Events and Landslide Susceptibility.</p>	<p>Potential environmental effects arising from geothermal energy may include contributions towards greenhouse gas emission targets and effects on water quality, ecology, soil stability. Inclusion of Geothermal Suitability mapping is not within the scope of the SEA, however where it forms part of Plan policies/objectives, it would be considered by the SEA.</p>
<b>H</b>	<p><b><u>Geothermal Energy</u></b></p> <p>Geothermal energy harnesses the heat beneath the surface of the Earth for heating applications and electricity generation, and has proven to be secure, environmentally sustainable and cost effective over long time periods. Geothermal applications can range in depth from a few metres below the surface to several kilometres.</p> <p>Ireland has widespread shallow geothermal resources for small and medium-scale heating applications, which can be explored online through Geological Survey Ireland's Geothermal Suitability maps for both domestic and commercial use. We recommend use of our Geothermal Suitability maps to determine the most suitable type of ground source heat collector for use with heat pump technologies. The Geothermal Suitability maps could also be considered in Section 3.7.7 as part of the Renewable Energy Potential for the CDP.</p> <p>Ireland also has recognised potential for 'deep' (&gt;400m) geothermal resources. Geological Survey Ireland currently supports and funds research into this national energy resource. Along with our partners in research and industry we have been investigating the potential for geothermal energy in Ireland. Although Ireland does not possess high temperature (high enthalpy) reserves such as those in Iceland or the Azores, we do have the potential to use our resources for low enthalpy application such as district heating and industrial processes that require</p>	<p>it would be considered by the SEA.</p>



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	heating/cooling. We are currently completing a roadmap for geothermal energy use in Ireland which we expect to publish in 2020. For further information please see our geoenery pages on our website or contact the Groundwater Programme of the Geological Survey Ireland directly.	
<b>I</b>	<p><b><u>Natural Resources (Minerals/Aggregates)</u></b></p> <p>We welcome the reference to mineral locations and aggregate potential in Section 3.7 'Material Assets'. These are important resources for the future, particularly in relation to the projected public developments, such as sustainable infrastructure development, roads, schools etc., and housing requirements for the County. Geological Survey Ireland is of the view that the sustainable development of our natural resources should be an integral part of all development plans from a national to regional to local level to ensure that the materials required for our society are available when required. Geological Survey Ireland provides data, maps, interpretations and advice on matters related to minerals, their use and their development in our Minerals section of the website.</p> <p>Aggregates are an essential natural resource for the construction industry and with the Government of Ireland "Building Ireland 2040" plan, understanding of aggregate source and supply will be important. The Active Quarries, Mineral Localities and the Aggregate Potential maps are available on our Map Viewer. We would welcome the consideration of aggregate potential sterilisation included as part of the scoping document.</p>	
<p><b>3. Submission from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (from the Waste Policy and Resource Efficiency Division)</b></p>		
<b>A</b>	Please see below reply on behalf of the Waste Policy & Resource Efficiency division: In respect of waste in the within documentation, we would be obliged if the local authority would consult directly with their respective Regional Waste Management Planning Office regarding development of the final plans.	Noted. The Draft Plan will be placed on public display in the future and submissions will be invited. Any submissions made on the Draft Plan and associated environmental assessments will be taken into account before the Plan is finalised.
<p><b>4. Submission from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine</b></p>		
<b>A</b>	<p>Where SEA scoping indicates potential impacts on sea-fisheries and the marine environment, the following information should be taken into account in the SEA.</p> <p><b><u>Relevant Legislation, Plans and Policies</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011</li> <li>• Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 and amendments)</li> <li>• Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 &amp; Sea-Fisheries Regulations</li> <li>• Fisheries Natura Plans &amp; Declarations made under European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-fisheries) Regulations 2013 (online at <a href="http://www.fishingnet.ie/sea-fisheriesinnaturaareas/natura2000sitesundermanagement/">http://www.fishingnet.ie/sea-fisheriesinnaturaareas/natura2000sitesundermanagement/</a> )</li> <li>• National Seafood Operational Programme (EMFF requirement) &amp; National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture (CFP requirement) currently under preparation for 2014 – 2020</li> <li>• Food Harvest 2020</li> <li>• Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth – the national integrated marine plan for</li> </ul>	These plans and programmes will be taken into account by the SEA process, as relevant.

Ref	Issue raised in submission	SEA Response
	<p>Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of pollution reduction programmes for designated shellfish waters (Shellfish Waters Directive 2006/113/EC)</li> <li>• Classified Shellfish Production areas (classified for food safety and consumer protection purposes under Regulation (EC) No 854/2004)</li> <li>• National Climate Change Adaptation Framework – particularly sector adaptation plans (including marine) due to undergo consultation in 2014.</li> </ul>	
<b>B</b>	<p><b><u>Issues for consideration</u></b> In the development of any Plans or Programmes due consideration should be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impacts, both positive and negative, on marine environmental quality including potential impacts on designated Shellfish Growing Waters. Examples include, but are not limited to the following: increased sedimentation; re-suspension of contaminants; discharge of contaminants; and introduction of non-native or invasive species.</li> <li>• Potential impacts, both positive and negative, on the microbiological quality of shellfish in Classified Shellfish Production areas</li> <li>• Potential impacts on human health resulting from the placing on the market of microbiologically contaminated shellfish</li> <li>• Potential impacts on commercially important fish and shellfish stocks, licensed aquaculture sites and areas of importance for fish / shellfish and fisheries e.g. spawning grounds, nursery areas</li> <li>• Potential impacts on freshwater aquaculture operations including the requirement for water abstraction and capacity of the receiving waters to assimilate discharges</li> <li>• Future designations of areas of importance to the Aquaculture &amp; Fisheries Sector</li> <li>• Relevant EU Directives and National Legislation in the area of Marine Spatial Planning</li> </ul>	<p>The SEA will consider potential issues relating to the marine environment as relevant.</p>
<b>C</b>	<p><b><u>Potential Impacts on Sea-Fisheries &amp; Aquaculture</u></b> Major land-use changes can significantly impact the quality of the marine (particularly coastal) environment (e.g. sedimentation, hydrographic change, impacts on benthic eco-system, etc). All aspects of the seafood sector rely on safe high quality water and assessment of potential impacts on water quality should include the seafood sector. To guarantee food safety the growing waters must attain certain standards. This is of relevance to the fishing and aquaculture sectors. In freshwater aquaculture (on land) a continuity of supply is important to ensure animal welfare and quality. Water supplies in this instance are sourced from rivers, wells and occasionally from mains supplies. The seafood processing sector also requires a safe and reliable water supply to support its operations. Designated shellfish waters are very important to the shellfish sector in Ireland working to maintain standards in product safety and quality and enabling sale for direct consumption from many areas, reducing production costs and contributing to the good international reputation of the products. The role of filter-feeding shellfish as a nutrient sink thus helping to reduce eutrophication potential and improve water quality is also important to consider in assessments.</p>	<p>The SEA will consider potential issues relating to Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture including those related to water quality and supply.</p>
<b>D</b>	<p><b><u>Sources of Marine Data</u></b> Details of designated shellfish growing areas which are protected by law (2006/113/EC) are available at: <a href="http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Water/WaterQuality/ShellfishWaterDirective/">http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Water/WaterQuality/ShellfishWaterDirective/</a> Details of Classified Shellfish Production areas (classified for food safety and consumer protection purposes under Regulation (EC) No 854/2004) are available on the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority website: <a href="http://www.sfpa.ie/">http://www.sfpa.ie/</a> The Marine Institute publishes a range of corporate reports, scientific and technical reports, peer reviewed articles and conference papers which are relevant to the SEA process. These can be found on the Marine Institute website: <a href="http://www.marine.ie/home/Publications/">http://www.marine.ie/home/Publications/</a> or Marine Institute Open Access Repository. Relevant reports and on line GIS include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shellfish Stocks and Fisheries Review 2011: An Assessment of Selected</li> </ul>	<p>These information sources will be utilised by the SEA process as relevant.</p>

Ref	Issue raised in submission	SEA Response
	<p>Stocks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atlas of Commercial Fisheries Around Ireland</li> <li>• Atlas of Commercial Discarding</li> <li>• Ireland's Marine Atlas</li> <li>• Information on the Initial Assessment of Ireland's marine waters, required under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, is available at <a href="http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Water/WaterQuality/Marine/">http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Water/WaterQuality/Marine/</a></li> </ul>	
E	<p><b>Who to Consult With</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DAFM – Policies, plans and legislation concerning sea-fisheries &amp; aquaculture</li> <li>• SFPA – Competent Authority for Seafood Safety (classifications, monitoring &amp; sanitary surveys) &amp; Sea-fisheries Control</li> <li>• Marine Institute – Fisheries &amp; Marine Environment</li> <li>• BIM – Seafood Development Agency</li> </ul> <p>Consideration should also be given to consulting directly with the seafood sector. This may include regional inshore fisheries forums, Fisheries Local Action Groups, fisheries representative bodies, including producer organisations, local advisory committees, associations, co-operatives; seafood processors; aquaculture representative bodies, etc.</p>	<p>Designated environmental authorities have been consulted with as part of the SEA Scoping process. The Draft Plan will be placed on public display in the future and submissions will be invited. Any submissions made on the Draft Plan and associated environmental assessments will be taken into account before the Plan is finalised.</p>
<p><b>5. Submission from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (from the Development Applications Unit)</b></p>		
A	<p>Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated heading(s).</p> <p><b>Nature Conservation</b></p> <p>The SEA process is designed to evaluate likely significant environmental consequences of a plan, in this manner SEA helps us to decide what we can do and where we can do it. To that end, the SEA process should identify and address the environmental issues that will be affected by the proposed CDP in a clear and concise manner. Typically, a scoping request for SEA should describe the plan, baseline environment, level of decision making and assessment methods. The Department welcomes the level of detail given for Biodiversity matters in the SEA scoping document. Specifically, the scoping in of the effects arising from developing forestry (e.g. conifer plantations) in the county on Biodiversity is welcomed. The EPA Good practice note on SEA for the Forestry Sector provides guidance on how to carry out SEA on forestry strategies/ plans may be of assistance in that regard. SEA is particularly important for assessing indirect impacts and interactions, cumulative impacts and reasonable alternatives before project stage. Within that context, the Department recommends that Leitrim County Council ensure that the SEA process ensures the County Development Plan (CDP) aligns fully with the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021, All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015 -2020 and the National Peatlands Strategy 2015. SEA is a stepped process that involves, setting environmental quality goals, collating baseline data as well as the monitoring of the effects of the CDP plan on the environment (Section 4.8). This final step is essential to the process and should underpin subsequent plans. Monitoring is a learning process that identifies issues and impacts. It follows that the results of monitoring from the current CDP should inform the scoping for SEA of the proposed CDP. Without effective monitoring and follow up, each new plan operates from a shifted reference baseline for biodiversity and environment and as a result it is more likely that issues will perpetuate beyond each plan. The Department recommends that the description and assessment of the baseline environment incorporates the SEA</p>	<p>This information will be considered when preparing the Draft Plan and SEA recommendations for biodiversity and flora and fauna for integration into the Plan.</p> <p>The EPA Good practice note on SEA for the Forestry Sector provides guidance will be considered throughout the SEA processes.</p>

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	monitoring from the current CDP.	
<b>B</b>	Looking to the CDP for 2022 - 2028, the SEA should establish definitive measurable indicators for environmental and particularly Biodiversity impacts. A key driver of Biodiversity loss is habitat loss and the SEA process is particularly important for assessing the cumulative impact and wider trends of habitat loss that arise from sub-threshold EIA projects. Consequently, monitoring should be embedded into the plan and given clear quantifiable targets. Specifically, the SEA and CDP should establish effective and implementable monitoring of habitat loss, e.g. quantify and monitor the area of hedgerow, native woodland, semi natural grassland, peat based and or heath habitat loss within the lifetime of the CDP. Such quantifiable data can be gained from stipulations within the CDP requiring all new development applications to quantify and state the predicted habitat or Biodiversity loss associated with the project. Furthermore, all losses and gains of important biodiversity features should be quantified with regard to development over the lifetime of the plan and the SEA process should report on them at the beginning of the next draft plan.	Definitive measurable indicators for environmental, including biodiversity impacts, will be included in the SEA Monitoring Programme.
<b>C</b>	With regard to Mitigation (Section 4.7). The Department recommends that Leitrim County Council ensures that the scale and level of detail of maps and data in the SEA is relevant to the scale of impacts that have been predicted. Furthermore, mitigation measures should be fully integrated into the CDP itself and the final CDP should fully reflect the findings of SEA and AA because they are integrated processes that complement each other. Additionally, it is important to align the SEA and AA, however, they are separate independent processes that serve to ensure compliance with separate legislative requirements, and cross referencing in these documents is to be avoided.	The assessment and future development management under the Plan will be tiered with recognition that certain matters are more appropriately assessed under different tiers of the framework for land use planning. The Plan will take into account the findings of the SEA and AA and the SEA will be informed by the findings of the AA.
<b>D</b>	Finally, the Department looks forward to contributing to the next stages of the CDP drafting process and to supporting Leitrim County Council in their efforts to comply with environmental legislation going forward.	Any submissions made on the Draft Plan and associated environmental assessments will be taken into account before the Plan is finalised.
<b>1. Northern Ireland Environment Agency, part of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland.</b>		
<b>A</b>	Thank you for your correspondence regarding the SEA Scoping Report for a new Leitrim County Development Plan. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA) has considered the consultation document and our opinions are set out below. The scoping in of transboundary issues is welcomed. DAERA would like the SEA Environmental Report to contain a clear statement indicating the opinion about whether or not the implementation of the of the strategy is likely to have a significant effect on Northern Ireland, in combination with any identified measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.	Noted. The SEA and associated AA will determine whether or not the implementation of the Plan is likely to have a significant effect on Northern Ireland in combination with any identified



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		<p>measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.</p> <p>The SEA will seek to integrate appropriate measures into the Plan that will contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development.</p> <p>Submissions on the Draft Plan and associated environmental assessments documents will be allowed during public consultation period.</p>
<b>B</b>	<p><b><u>Natural Environment Division Comments</u></b></p> <p>A number of useful information sources that highlight the current state of the environment in Northern Ireland at a regional level and which could be referenced are:</p> <p>Northern Ireland State of the Environment Reports: <a href="https://www.daerani.gov.uk/publications/state-environment-report-2013">https://www.daerani.gov.uk/publications/state-environment-report-2013</a></p> <p>Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Reports: <a href="https://www.daerani.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report">https://www.daerani.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report</a></p> <p>In terms of the scoping of transboundary SEA issues, the information to be considered by the SEA is broad. When refining targets, the potential disturbance to/impact on NI/RoI migratory/mobile species such as salmon (for example within the Lough Melvin Special Area of Conservation which lies within both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland), Marsh Fritillary butterfly meta-populations in the Ross Area of Special Scientific Interest on the Fermanagh and Leitrim boundary. Bats and other bird species should be given consideration. Cross border peatlands, river basins, European sites in Northern Ireland adjacent to or with pathways to the Republic of Ireland and other landscape types also require special attention as ecological functionality and 'views' of landscape cross political boundaries.</p> <p>Other relevant web-links are;</p> <p>Designated Scientific Sites: <a href="http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/protected-areas">www.daera-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/protected-areas</a></p> <p>Regional Landscape Character Map viewer: <a href="https://www.daerani.gov.uk/services/regional-landscape-character-areas-map-viewer">https://www.daerani.gov.uk/services/regional-landscape-character-areas-map-viewer</a></p> <p>DAERA have a map browser for NI protected sites and known priority habitat: <a href="http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/natural-environment-map-viewer">www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/natural-environment-map-viewer</a></p> <p>Our natural environment datasets are available at the link below: <a href="http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets">www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets</a></p> <p>Appropriate Assessments should refer to the status of habitats and species in the relevant reports available on the JNCC website as follows: UK Article 17 report</p>	<p>Available online Northern Ireland resources, including mapping resources, and guidance will be considered throughout the SEA and AA processes.</p>

Ref	Issue raised in submission	SEA Response
	for the Habitats Directive <a href="https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/article-17-habitats-directivereport-2019/">https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/article-17-habitats-directivereport-2019/</a> and the UK Article 12 report for the Birds Directive <a href="https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/european-reporting/#birds-directive-reporting">https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/european-reporting/#birds-directive-reporting</a>	
C	<p><b><u>Drinking Water Inspectorate Comments</u></b></p> <p>The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) is supportive of scoping reports and requests that the applicant should ensure to consult the DAERA Environmental Advice for Planners guidance available at: <a href="https://www.daerani.gov.uk/topics/environmental-advice-planning">https://www.daerani.gov.uk/topics/environmental-advice-planning</a> , and <a href="https://www.daerani.gov.uk/publications/standing-advice-development-may-have-effect-water-environment-including-groundwater-and-fisheries">https://www.daerani.gov.uk/publications/standing-advice-development-may-have-effect-water-environment-including-groundwater-and-fisheries</a>. There are transboundary issues to keep in mind for this proposal as the area under consideration for the development plan includes the Erne River and its associated catchment.</p> <p><b><u>Summary:</u></b></p> <p>A development must not impact on either the quality or sufficiency of a private water supply. Taking into account the scale, type, location and the potential impacts the proposal may have on private water supplies, a developer should as appropriate: (i) undertake searches and investigations; and (ii) follow the Standing Advice / Guidance, as detailed within Considerations.</p> <p><b><u>Considerations:</u></b></p> <p>1. Identification of Private Water Supplies - A development must not impact on either the quality or sufficiency of a private water supply, and mitigation measures must be put in place, where required, in the protection of such drinking water supplies. Therefore dependent on the scale, type, location and the potential impacts the proposal may have on such supplies the developer should, if appropriate, undertake a scoping exercise to determine the location of any private water supplies. Details on undertaking a search for potential private water supplies within the vicinity of the proposed development can be undertaken by accessing the following link:  <a href="https://docs.spatialni.gov.uk/applications/drinkingwaterinspectorate/Generalinformation.pdf">https://docs.spatialni.gov.uk/applications/drinkingwaterinspectorate/Generalinformation.pdf</a></p> <p>2: Engagement from an early stage with NI Water: To establish if there are public water supplies in the vicinity which potentially may be impacted by the project, and provide details on proposed mitigation, should be this be applicable.</p>	Noted. This information and associated recommendations will be considered throughout the Plan-preparation/SEA process. The protection of the water resources within and adjacent to the County will be a priority for both the Plan and the SEA.
D	<p><b><u>Historic Environment Division Comments</u></b></p> <p>DfC Historic Environment Division (HED) operate via a Service Level Agreement with colleagues in DAERA in relation to SEA, whereby, we provide authoritative comment and advice in relation to matters of Cultural Heritage including archaeological and architectural heritage. We make the following comments in respect of the documentation received by our office on 12/10/2020. HED welcome that the historic environment and cultural heritage scoped in for assessment. We highlight that given the intertwined nature of the historic environment with landscape and the natural environment, consideration of transboundary impacts is likely to be relevant with regard to this topic. A large number of heritage assets predate the border itself. Some, such as canals and ancient earthworks (such as the Black Pig's Dyke), traverse it, and transboundary qualities such as the inter-relationships of sites, buildings and places and the potential effects with regard to impacts on their setting and the understanding and the experience of them should be considered. Our historic environment datasets are available at the link below and may aid spatial understanding of the historic landscape context to inform the assessment. <a href="https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/historic-environment-digitaldatasets">https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/historic-environment-digitaldatasets</a> We also advise that datasets in relation to the marine historic environment, including shipwrecks can be sourced by contacting <a href="mailto:rory.mcneary@daerani.gov.uk">rory.mcneary@daerani.gov.uk</a>. In addition to the above we also highlight the value of considering potential impacts on understanding of transboundary post medieval vernacular heritage and historic settlement patterns, aspects of the historic environment which are very much intertwined with landscape, and which can be indicated through historic ordnance survey maps.</p>	These issues will be fully considered in the SEA for the Plan. The Plan and the SEA will carefully consider cultural heritage common to both sides of the border.

### 3.3 Submissions on the Environmental Report for the Draft Plan

Various submissions were made on the Draft Plan, Proposed Material Alterations and/or associated environmental assessment documents while these documents were on public display.

Updates made on foot of submissions include:

- To including reference to the GSI's Upland Karst Area Overview report for County Leitrim, Geochemistry mapping, Geophysical mapping and INFOMAR mapping in Section 4 of the SEA Environmental Report.
- To update Section 8 of the SEA Environmental Report to address the potential impact with regard to wind energy identified in submission by adding the following text: loss of soil/subsoil/geological stability, including peat slippage; and erosion of peatlands as a result of wind farm and ancillary infrastructure (e.g. roads) development, alone and in combination with forestry.
- To update Plan Tables 6.1 and 6.2 with the following text: "Note A - Only water compatible tourism use will be considered on undeveloped lands in Flood Zone A."
- To add the following objectives to settlement plans:
  - Ballinamore  
Permissible uses for undeveloped lands within Flood Zones A and B that are zoned Tourism Related Development in this settlement shall be constrained to those 'water compatible' and 'less vulnerable' uses as appropriate to the particular Flood Zone (please refer to the Flood Risk Management provisions in Volume I of the Draft Plan and to the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).
  - Dromahair  
Permissible uses for undeveloped lands within Flood Zones A and B

that are zoned Tourism Related Development in this settlement shall be constrained to those 'water compatible' and 'less vulnerable' uses as appropriate to the particular Flood Zone (please refer to the Flood Risk Management provisions in Volume I of the Draft Plan and to the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).

- Drumshanbo  
Permissible uses for undeveloped lands within Flood Zones A and B that are zoned Social & Community and Tourism Related Development in this settlement shall be constrained to those 'water compatible' and 'less vulnerable' uses as appropriate to the particular Flood Zone (please refer to the Flood Risk Management provisions in Volume I of the Draft Plan and to the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).
- Mohill  
Permissible uses for undeveloped lands within Flood Zones A and B that are zoned Tourism Related Development in this settlement shall be constrained to those 'water compatible' and 'less vulnerable' uses as appropriate to the particular Flood Zone (please refer to the Flood Risk Management provisions in Volume I of the Draft Plan and to the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).
- Dromod  
Permissible uses for undeveloped lands within Flood Zones A and B that are zoned Tourism Related Development in this settlement shall be constrained to those 'water compatible' and 'less vulnerable' uses as appropriate to the particular Flood Zone (please refer to the Flood Risk Management provisions in Volume I of the Draft Plan and to the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).
- Dumsna  
Permissible uses for undeveloped lands within Flood Zones A or B

- that are zoned for 'Tourism Related Development' land use in this settlement shall be constrained to those "water compatible" and "less vulnerable" uses as appropriate to the particular Flood Zone (please refer to the flood risk management provisions in Volume I Written Statement and to the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment).
- Leitrim Village  
Permissible uses for undeveloped lands within Flood Zones A or B that are zoned for 'Tourism Related Development' land use in this settlement shall be constrained to those "water compatible" and "less vulnerable" uses as appropriate to the particular Flood Zone (please refer to the flood risk management provisions in Volume I Written Statement and to the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment).
  - Fenagh  
Permissible uses for undeveloped lands within Flood Zones A or B identified for 'General Development' in this settlement shall be constrained to those "water compatible" and "less vulnerable" uses as appropriate to the particular Flood Zone (please refer to the flood risk management provisions in Volume I Written Statement and to the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment).
  - Keshcarrigan  
Permissible uses for undeveloped lands within Flood Zones A or B identified for 'General Development' in this settlement shall be constrained to those "water compatible" and "less vulnerable" uses as appropriate to the particular Flood Zone (please refer to the flood risk management provisions in Volume I Written Statement and to the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment).
- Amend text that is part of policy FRM POL 11 as follows (new text in bold):  
"....b) Applications for development within Flood Zones A or B, **and on lands subject to the mid-range future scenario floods extents, as published by the Office of Public Works**, shall be subject to site specific flood risk assessment. Such assessments shall **consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures and** shall provide details of structural and nonstructural flood risk management measures, to include, but not be limited to specifications of the following:...."
- Update the Plan and associated documents to refer to the Flood Risk Management – Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2019 instead of the OPW Draft Guidance on Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management.
- To make reference in the SFRA to the Flood Risk Management – Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2019 and the guidance on potential future scenarios contained therein.
  - Amend the text under the 'Provision' heading in reference to Chapter 9 Infrastructure and Energy of the SFRA (page 22) as follows (new text in **bold**): "To require that Strategic Flood Risk Assessments and site-specific Flood Risk Assessments shall provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations. The 2009 OPW Draft Guidance on Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management (or any superseding document) **and the Flood Risk Management – Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2019, and the guidance on potential future scenarios contained therein**, shall be consulted with to this effect."
  - Include additional detail to the Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) text in the final SFRA (Section 3.5) of the Plan, including detail as to what types of SuDS may be suited to



certain opportunity sites in the county and identify the types of areas in settlements where integrated and area-based provision of SuDS may be appropriate.

- Include an additional breakdown of each criterion in part 2 of the Justification Test in the final Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) of the Plan.

become a final Environmental Report that is consistent with the adopted Plan, taking into account all changes that were made to the original Draft Plan that was placed on public display.

For further information on how submissions were considered, refer to the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received on the Draft Plan and associated documents and the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received on the Proposed Material Alterations and associated documentation – both available at <https://www.leitrimcoco.ie/>.

All parts of the Plan-preparation process were informed by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes - this includes the preparation of the Chief Executive's Draft Plan, Members' Amendments to that Plan in advance of public display, Proposed Material Alterations and Further Modifications. The mitigation integrated into the final, adopted Plan includes that identified at Table 2.1 of this report.

### **3.4 SEA documents including SEA Environmental Report**

The Draft Plan and accompanying documents (including SEA Environmental Report and AA and SFRA documents) were placed on public display, having integrated various recommendations arising from the SEA, AA and SFRA processes. Responses to submissions made during the period of public display of a Draft Plan were integrated into a Chief Executive's Report and considered by Leitrim County Council.

A number of material alterations were proposed after public display of the Draft Plan. The Proposed Material Alterations were subject to Screening for SEA and AA and a selection of Alterations were subject to SEA and Stage 2 AA.

On adoption of the Plan, the Environmental Report that had been placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan was updated to

## Section 4 Summary of Alternatives considered

### 4.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Available reasonable alternatives for the County Development Plan are identified in this section which also summarises the environmental assessment provided in the main SEA Environmental Report.

### 4.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The Plan is required to be prepared by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan. The alternatives available for the Plan are limited by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, including those of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Northern and Western Region. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan including on topics such as settlement typology, land use zoning and the sustainable development of rural areas<sup>7</sup>.

### 4.3 Type 1: Alternatives for an Ecosystem Services Approach to the Plan

Although many natural capital<sup>8</sup> and ecosystem<sup>9</sup> service issues have been taken into account over previous Plan periods, the importance of these in fulfilling environmental obligations has increasingly emerged. An Ecosystems Services Approach would provide a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.

**Alternative Type 1 A: “A Plan follows an Ecosystems Services Approach to a greater degree”** would integrate a strategy throughout the Plan for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.

Principles that would be integrated throughout the Plan, in a coordinated and comprehensive manner, would include:

- Consideration of natural systems - by using knowledge of interactions in nature and how ecosystems function;
- Taking into account of the services that ecosystems provide - including those that underpin social and economic well-being, such as flood and climate regulation or recreation, culture and quality of life; and
- Involving people - those who benefit from the ecosystem services and those managing them need to be involved in decisions that affect them.

This would mean that there would be:

- An increased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of positive effects occurring with regard to natural capital and ecosystem service issues, such as the management of air quality, noise pollution, light pollution, pollination, flood risk, water bodies and river basins and natural resources supporting energy production and recreation; and

<sup>7</sup> With respect to land use zoning, for example, the need to comply with the provisions of these higher level documents (including Appendix 3 to the National Planning Framework that provides a “Methodology for a Tiered Approach to Land Zoning”) combined with the relatively limited extent of growth means that there are currently no significant land use zoning alternatives available. Notwithstanding this, significant alternatives relating to land use zoning will be available for land use zoning when it comes to preparing the Local Area Plan for Carrick-on-Shannon. These alternatives will be considered during the preparation and assessment of that Plan.

<sup>8</sup> Renewable and non-renewable resources (e.g. plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals)

<sup>9</sup> Ecosystems are multifunctional communities of living organisms interacting with each other and their environment. Ecosystems provide a series of services for human well-being (ecosystem services) either directly or indirectly contributing towards human well-being

- A decreased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of adverse effects on natural capital and ecosystem services.

**Alternative Type 1 B: “A Plan that does not follow, or follows to a lesser degree, an Ecosystems Services Approach”** would not integrate a strategy throughout the Plan for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.

As has been the case over previous plan periods, many natural capital and ecosystem service issues would be integrated into decision making at lower tiers of plan preparation and development management. However, this approach would be less coordinated and comprehensive than would be the case under an Ecosystems Services Approach.

This would mean that there would be:

- A decreased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of positive effects occurring with regard to natural capital and ecosystem service issues; and
- An increased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of adverse effects on natural capital and ecosystem services.

**Selected Alternative for the Plan: Type 1 A.**

## 4.4 Type 2: Alternatives for Population Allocations

Allocating higher or lower population allocations/future growth to different tiers of the settlement hierarchy provide reasonable alternatives for consideration.

- **Alternative Type 2 A** provides for the minimum requirement of growth for Carrick on Shannon of 30% as required under the RSES. Ballinamore and Manorhamilton are provided with 8% of the total population allocation each. Tier 4 Villages are provided with 7% of the total population allocation, Tier 5 Graigs are provided with 5% and Rural Housing is provided with 12%.
- **Alternative Type 2 B** provides more than the minimum requirement of growth for Carrick on Shannon as required under the RSES; 40% of the total population allocation under this Alternative. Ballinamore and Manorhamilton are provided with 8% of the total population allocation each. Tier 4 Villages are provided with 4% of the total population allocation, Tier 5 Graigs are provided with 3% and Rural Housing is provided with 7%.
- **Alternative Type 2 C** provides more than the minimum requirement of growth for Carrick on Shannon as required under the RSES; 35% of the total population allocation under this Alternative. Ballinamore and Manorhamilton are provided with 5.5% of the total population allocation each. Tier 4 Villages are provided with 7% of the total population allocation, Tier 5 Graigs are provided with 5% and Rural Housing is provided with 12%.

In terms of allocating populations, and associated growth, across the County, concentrating allocations into the larger settlements (especially Carrick-on-Shannon but also Manorhamilton and, to a lesser extent, Ballinamore) would help to ensure a more sustainable type of growth, where there are greater opportunities to consolidate development within the existing urban footprint of settlements, through infill and brownfield development. These larger settlements generally have a number of positive attributes such as a greater range of services, transport links, stronger employment bases, and greater capacities to facilitate population and economic growth. By concentrating allocations into these settlements, lower levels of commuting would result, benefiting efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Development within these centres would generally be better serviced (including with transport and water services) and there would be a reduced need for greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-served, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County.

Directing development towards smaller settlements, including Rural Settlements, can also promote compact growth and provide viable alternatives to rural housing.

The more dispersed the allocation of population, the greater the difficulty in delivering key infrastructure and placemaking projects. Development is more likely to occur on greenfield lands as there are less infill and brownfield sites available in Rural Settlements and the Other Rural Areas. Services and public transport are more limited and there would generally be a greater dependence on commuting for employment and accessing services. Higher levels of commuting would conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Higher levels of greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) would manifest in less well-serviced, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County. This type of development would result in a elevated potential for adverse environmental impacts, including effects on water, drinking water, human health, ecology and landscape designations.

Alternative Type 2 A for Population Allocations would:

- Reinforce the critical mass of Carrick on Shannon which is the smallest county town in the country and the smallest of the Key Towns in the Region – to a lesser extent under this alternative than under Alternatives 2B or 2C;
- Help to ensure the return from investment in public infrastructure – to a lesser extent than Alternatives 2B and 2C;
- Provide an adequate allocation to Ballinamore and Manorhamilton, allowing for their sustainable development; and
- Provide a significant allocation for Rural Settlements and Other Rural Areas. This allocation would need to be accompanied by carefully prepared rural housing management and environmental protection/management policies.

Alternative Type 2 B for Population Allocations would:

- Reinforce the critical mass of Carrick on Shannon which is the smallest county town in the country and the smallest of the Key Towns in the Region – to the greatest extent of all three alternatives;
- Maximise the return from investment in public infrastructure – to the greatest extent of all three alternatives;
- Provide an adequate allocation to Ballinamore and Manorhamilton, allowing for their sustainable development; and
- Reduce the allocation for Rural Settlements and minimise the number of one-off houses Other Rural Areas, protecting the environment in rural areas to the greatest degree of all three alternatives. However, the reduced allocation, in particular for Rural Settlements, would have to be weighed against the socio-economic and societal impacts arising that are not fully within the scope of this assessment.

Alternative Type 2 C for Population Allocations would:

- Reinforce the critical mass of Carrick on Shannon which is the smallest county town in the country and the smallest of the Key Towns in the Region – to a lesser extent than Alternative 2B but to a greater extent than Alternative 2A;
- Help to ensure the return from investment in public infrastructure – to a lesser extent than Alternative 2B but to a greater extent than Alternative 2A;
- Not provide an adequate allocation Manorhamilton, as the town provides significant employment for its rural catchment to a greater extent presently than Carrick on Shannon. Ballinamore does not provide such an employment base presently; and
- Provide a significant allocation for Rural Settlements and Other Rural Areas. This allocation would need to be accompanied by carefully prepared rural housing management and environmental protection/management policies.

**Selected Alternative for the Plan: aligns closest to Type 2 A.**



## 4.5 Type 3: Alternatives for Settlement Role or Specialisms

- **Alternative Type 3 A** (A Plan that provides additional focus to the particular roles/specialisations for the larger towns<sup>10</sup> in the County) would support the County's settlements in attracting new development by focusing on the strengths and opportunities that are relevant to each settlement. Such development would contribute towards the success of the County's larger towns by: facilitating sustainable, compact growth; facilitating inward investment; and allowing them to become more desirable places to live and work in.

Compact, sustainable development within the County's larger towns would help to:

- Avoid potential adverse environmental effects on unzoned lands that are more environmentally sensitive, less well-serviced and less well-connected;
- Maximise benefits from infrastructural investment;;
- Contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health); and
- Deliver population growth targets and housing choice in line with the Core Strategy.

The expected development outcome would require a targeted economic marketing strategy to be prepared and pursued which identifies the sectors which the County seeks to develop for each urban centre. The success of such a strategy would also seek to provide additional employment opportunities in Ballinamore, Dromahair and Kinlough, again with a reduced carbon footprint associated with transport to and from work if more employment was provided locally. The reduction in the extent of commuting out of the County is an objective of the Plan but also to increase the level of employment within the County as a regional strength.

- **Alternative Type 3 B** (A Plan that does not provide additional focus to the particular roles/specialisations for the larger towns in the County) would be less likely to: facilitate sustainable, compact growth; facilitate inward investment into the County's larger towns; and allow County's larger towns to become more desirable places to live and work in.

**Selected Alternative for the Plan: Type 3 A.**

## 4.6 Type 4: Serviced Sites within Rural Settlements

- **Alternative Type 4 A:** Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Rural Settlements to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Serviced sites would be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Development would be required to be subject to siting, design, protection of residential amenities and normal development management criteria, subject to the satisfactory provision of infrastructure and services and in keeping with the character of the settlement.

- **Alternative Type 4 B:** Rural Settlements are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Alternative B would be less likely to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within the open countryside would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure) and less likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape.

<sup>10</sup> Comprising: Tier 1 Key Town - Carrick on Shannon; Tier 2A Sub Regional Growth Centres - Manorhamilton & Ballinamore; and Tier 2B Support Towns - Dromahair, Drumshanbo, Mohill & Kinlough.

Alternative B would be the least sustainable of these two alternatives and would be most harmful to the environment.

**Selected Alternative for the Plan: Type 4 A.**

## 4.7 Type 5: Alternatives for Renewable Energy

- **Alternative Type 5 A**, a less favourable approach to wind energy development, would have the potential to:
  - Undermine and negate practical measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in compliance with high-level climate action policy (this approach may be contrary to such policy); and
  - Restrict the potential for wind energy development in the County, to the extent that the Plan may be contrary to national energy policy that supports reductions in the reliance on fossil fuels and the development of renewable energy resources, including wind energy infrastructure.

However, the need to mitigate potential construction and operational adverse environmental impacts arising from wind energy development would be reduced. This mitigation includes that relating to potential visual effects in sensitive landscapes, potential effects on biodiversity, potential effects on soil stability and potential effects on human health arising from noise and shadow flicker.

- **Alternative Type 5 B**, a more favourable approach to wind energy development, would have the potential to:
  - Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in compliance with high-level climate action policy; and
  - Allow for appropriate wind energy development in the County, in line with national energy policy that supports reductions in the reliance on fossil fuels and the development of renewable energy resources, including wind energy infrastructure.

However, the need to mitigate potential construction and operational adverse environmental impacts arising from wind energy development would be increased. This mitigation includes that relating to potential visual effects in sensitive landscapes, potential effects on biodiversity, potential effects on soil stability and potential effects on human health arising from noise and shadow flicker.

**Selected Alternative for the Plan: Type 5 B, a more favourable approach to wind energy development. This alternative complies with Government policy on climate action and energy.**

## 4.8 Reasons for Choosing the Selected Alternatives in light of Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered

Selected alternatives for the Plan from each of the tiers of alternatives that emerged from the planning/SEA process are indicated above.

These alternatives have been incorporated into the Plan having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects which are identified by the SEA and are detailed above; and
2. Planning - including social and economic - effects that also were considered by the Members.

## Section 5 Monitoring Measures

### 5.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. This section details the measures which will be used in order to monitor the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan.

Monitoring can both demonstrate the positive effects facilitated by the Plan and can enable, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action.

The occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects not predicted and mitigated by this assessment, which are directly attributable to the implementation of the Plan, would necessitate consideration of these effects in the context of the Plan and potential remediation action(s) and/or review of part(s) of the Plan.

### 5.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around indicators which allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified in the main SEA Environmental Report and used in the evaluation. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant strategic actions. Given the position of the Development Plan in the land use planning hierarchy beneath the Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), the measures identified in that RSES SEA have been used – as they are or having been slightly modified – in most instances. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring programmes.

Table 5.1 overleaf shows the indicators and targets which have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated.

Monitoring is an ongoing process and the programme allows for flexibility and the further refinement of indicators and targets. The Monitoring Programme may be updated to deal with specific environmental issues – including unforeseen effects – as they arise.

### 5.3 Sources

The Plan will form part of the wider land use planning framework comprising a hierarchy of policies, plans, programmes, etc. This wider framework, including the National Planning Framework and the Northern and Western RSES, is subject to its own SEA (and associated monitoring) requirements. At lower tiers of the hierarchy, Local Area Plans and individual projects will be subject to their own monitoring requirements as relevant.

In implementing the Monitoring Programme the Council will take into account this hierarchy of planning and environmental monitoring.

Sources for indicators may include existing monitoring databases (including those maintained by planning authorities and national/regional government departments and agencies) and the output of lower-tier environmental assessment and decision making (including a review of project approvals granted and associated documents and the output of any EIA monitoring programmes).

### 5.4 Reporting and Responsibility

A stand-alone Monitoring Report on the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan will be prepared in advance of the beginning of the review of the Plan, in consultation with others. This report will seek to address the indicators set out on Table 5.1. The Council is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports (reports will be made available to the public) and, if necessary, the carrying out of remedial action.

**Table 5.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action**

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	<b>BFF</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condition of European sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species</li> <li>• Implement and review, as relevant, County Leitrim Local Biodiversity Action Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DHLGH report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years)<sup>11</sup></li> <li>• DHLGH National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the under Article 12 (every 3 years)<sup>12</sup></li> <li>• Consultations with the NPWS<sup>13</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species</li> <li>• Implement and review, as relevant, County Leitrim Local Biodiversity Action Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal review of local land use plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review internal systems</li> </ul>

<sup>11</sup> Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

<sup>12</sup> Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

<sup>13</sup> Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screen for and undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of preparation of local land use plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status of water quality in the County's water bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included under Water below</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included under Water below</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included under Water below</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 11 “Heritage”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 11 “Heritage”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<b>PHH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 4 “Economic Development, including Retail”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 4 “Economic Development, including Retail”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives</li> <li>Consultations with DECC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> <li>Consultations with DECC</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO data</li> <li>Monitoring of Leitrim County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal review of local land use plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Soil (and Land)</b>	<b>S</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF</li> <li>In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement</li> <li>To map brownfield and infill land parcels across the County</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA Geoportal</li> <li>Compilation of greenfield and brownfield development for the DHLGH</li> <li>AA/Screening for AA for each application</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly to establish reasons and coordinate actions to address constraints to doing so.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal review of grants of permission where contaminated material must be disposed of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations with the EPA and Development Management</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<b>W</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status'</li> <li>Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance<sup>14</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Irish Water to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.</li> <li>Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to</li> </ul>

<sup>14</sup> Including monitoring of water quality and nitrogen deposition due to bioenergy and agricultural projects where available.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<p>meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such grants are in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<b>MA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programmed delivery of Irish Water infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Irish Water Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated</li> <li>• Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan</li> <li>• Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in combination with other septic tanks– contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive</li> <li>• Facilitate, as appropriate, Irish Water in developing water and wastewater infrastructure</li> <li>• See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission Consultations with the Irish Water</li> <li>• DHLGH in conjunction with Local Authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity.</li> </ul>

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO data</li> <li>Monitoring of Leitrim County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.</li> </ul>
<b>Air</b>	<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels</li> <li>NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels</li> <li>Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO data</li> <li>Data from the National Travel Survey</li> <li>EPA Air Quality Monitoring</li> <li>Consultations with Department of Transport and DECC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic Factors<sup>15</sup></b>	<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets – including the legally binding targets of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended, for Ireland to reach a target of net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and a cut of 51% by 2030 (compared to 2018 levels).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of Leitrim County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where targets are not achieved, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of renewable energy in transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of renewable energy in transport by</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA Annual National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory reporting</li> <li>Climate Action Regional</li> </ul>	

<sup>15</sup> Please also refer to relevant legislation and requirements under Section 4.10, Section 8.6 and Section 8.8.11 and Appendix I of the SEA Environmental Report.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
			facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the Plan	Office • Consultations with DECC	
		• Carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) emissions across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute towards the target of reducing aggregate carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from electricity generation and large industry by 43% by 2030, relative to 2005 levels</li> <li>• Contribute towards the target of reducing aggregate carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from s from all other sectors, including agriculture, transport, buildings, and light industry, by 30% by 2030, relative to 2005 levels</li> </ul>		
		• Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating	• To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating		
		• Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels	• Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the County using private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSO data</li> <li>• Monitoring of Leitrim County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> </ul>	• Where trends toward carbon reduction are not recorded, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
		• Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures	• Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSO data</li> <li>• Monitoring of Leitrim County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> </ul>	• Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>CH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where monitoring reveals visitor pressure is causing negative effects on key tourist features along these routes, the Council will work with Regional Assembly, Fáilte Ireland and other stakeholders to address the pressures through additional mitigation tailored to the plans.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation with DHLGH.</li> </ul>	
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>L</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where monitoring reveals developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, the Council will re-examine Plan provisions and the effectiveness of their implementation</li> </ul>



## Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

Áras an Chontae  
Carrick-on-Shannon  
County Leitrim  
T: +353 (0)71 9620005

[www.leitrim.ie](http://www.leitrim.ie)



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