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ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE &
PLANNING

LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement

Prepared for:
Waterford City and County Council

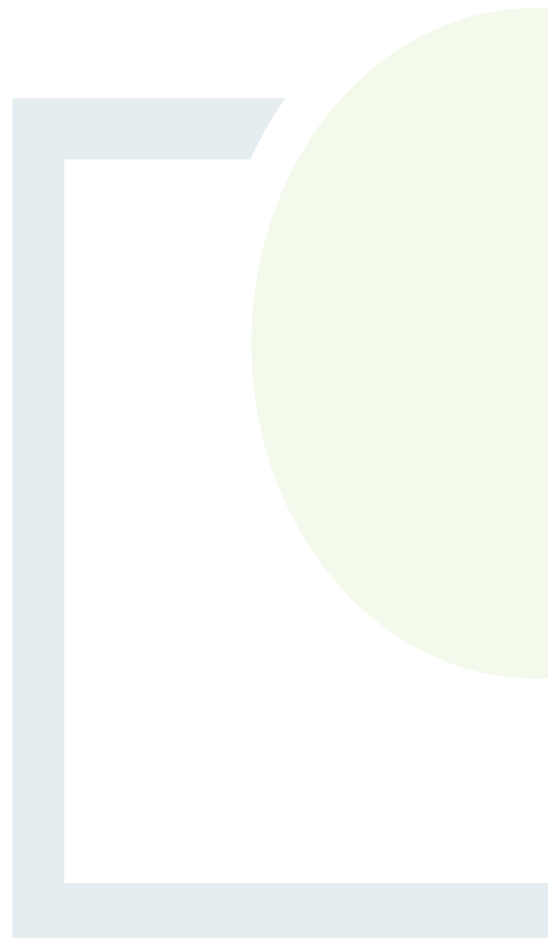


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Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement

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Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement for the Waterford Local Authority Climate Action Plan to Waterford for publication alongside the Plan. This Statement provided information on the decision in accordance with Article 16 of S.I. No. 435/2004 - European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Background.....	1
1.2	Legislative Context	1
2.	HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS WERE INTEGRATED INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024 - 2029	3
2.1	SEA Scoping	3
2.2	Environmental Assessment and Mitigation	6
2.2.1	Mitigation through consideration of alternatives	6
2.2.2	Mitigation through integration of environmental considerations into the LACAP	6
2.2.3	Mitigation through consideration of development management standards/environmental protection objectives contained in the CDP	16
2.3	Appropriate Assessment	16
2.4	Consultation on SEA Environmental Report.....	16
2.5	SEA and Plan Modifications.....	27
3.	CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES	29
3.1	Introduction.....	29
3.2	Approach to Developing Reasonable Alternatives.....	29
3.3	Identification and Description of Reasonable Alternatives.....	30
3.4	Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives and Reasons for Choosing the Preferred Plan	32
4.	SEA CONCLUSION	33
5.	SEA MONITORING	34

LIST OF FIGURES

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 3-1: 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model for framing alternatives - Adapted from Figure 4.3 Developing and Assessing Alternatives in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process (EPA, 2015).....	30

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1: Summary Detail on Scoping Consultation Submissions Received from Environmental Authorities	4
Table 2-2: Proposed Environmental Mitigation Measures - Additional text included in Plan actions relating to environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities	7
Table 2-3: Proposed Environmental Mitigation Measures - Environmental Governance Principles included in the plan	15
Table 2-4: Responses to Consultation Submissions	17
Table 2-5: Plan Action Modifications	27
Table 3-1: Reasonable Alternatives to the LACAP	31
Table 5-1: SEA Monitoring Programme	35



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Waterford City and County Council (WCCC) have adopted the Waterford Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) 2024 - 2029. This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement for the LACAP. This SEA Statement provides information on the following:

1. How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the LACAP.
2. How the SEA Environmental Report and consultation submissions and observations on it have been taken into account during the preparation of the LACAP.
3. The reasons for choosing the LACAP as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives considered.
4. The measures decided concerning monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the LACAP.

The EPA in their Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statements and Monitoring (2023) succinctly summarize the role SEA Statement have under the SEA process, as follows: *'SEA Statements have the potential to play a central role in summarising the effectiveness of the SEA process. They can capture how environmental considerations have shaped the plan/programme (e.g., through policy wordings, revisited zonings and other measures) and how the process has contributed to making the plan or programme more sustainable'*.

1.2 Legislative Context

SEA is required under the EU Council Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (the SEA Directive)¹. The SEA Directive requires that an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The overarching objective of the SEA Directive is *'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans....with a view to promoting sustainable development'*²

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

¹ Transposing Irish Regulations: S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011). S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).

² Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2004)



Article 16 of S.I. No. 435/2004 - European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended) requires that a competent authority provide information on the decision to approve a Plan that has been subject to SEA. Article 16(2)(b) requires that a statement is produced summarized, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme subject to SEA.



2. HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS WERE INTEGRATED INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024 - 2029

2.1 SEA Scoping

The first stage of the SEA process was to carry out SEA Screening to determine the requirement for SEA of the LACAP. It was determined the LACAP was a statutory Plan and had the potential to give rise to likely significant environmental effects and therefore SEA is required for the Plan.

The second stage of the SEA process was carrying out SEA Scoping. The purpose of SEA Scoping is to establish the spatial and temporal scope of the SEA and a decision-making framework that can be used to evaluate impacts of the LACAP. A SEA Scoping Report was produced to document the scoping process. The SEA Scoping Report outlined information on the emerging LACAP, including the need for the LACAP, its temporal and geographical area and overall objectives. It facilitated scoping the Environmental Components and understanding the environmental issues to be considered under the SEA process.

A copy of this report was made available to the statutory Environmental Authorities. Environmental Authorities made scoping submissions on the SEA Scoping Report. The SEA Scoping Report was finalized in light of these submissions. The SEA Scoping Report, along with SEA scoping consultation submissions and consideration of these submissions by the SEA process, helped communicate and define the scope of the environmental issues which are to be dealt with by the SEA, the methods which will be used to address these issues, and the level of detail required to address these issues, as per the SEA Guidelines³. Summary detail on the scoping consultation submissions received from Environmental Authorities and how these were taken into account during the SEA process is presented in Table 2-1.

³ Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2004), Page 18: "It is recommended that at the end of the scoping procedure, the plan-making authority should prepare a brief scoping report of its conclusions as to what information is to be included in the environmental report, taking account of any recommendations from the environmental authorities."



Table 2-1: Summary Detail on Scoping Consultation Submissions Received from Environmental Authorities

Environmental Authority	Summary on the Scoping Consultation Submission	How was this submission taken into account during the SEA?
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	<p>An overview on how climate resilience could be promoted in agriculture setting was provided (e.g., maintaining a fodder reserve, measures to promote biodiversity and carbon sequestration, measures to improve soil structure and function). An overview on invasive species risk associated with climate change and the need for appropriate need to promote resilience was provided</p>	<p>The content of this submission served to inform the focus of the environmental assessment of agriculture related action defined in the LACAP. It informed the nature and focus of mitigation measures defined for related climate mitigation and adaptation action defined in the LACAP. A number of Environmental Governance principles defined in the LACAP specifically reflect the recommendations contained in this submission.</p>
EPA	<p>An overview of the nature of climate change challenges was provided. The EPA acknowledged the nature, focus and goals of the emerging LACAP was made. It was advised the SEA should seek to maximize climate action co-benefits for air quality, human health, biodiversity, water quality and other interrelated areas (i.e. win-win solutions).</p> <p>Other measures advised on which were relevant to the SEA included: the need to consider the Plan influence on Greenhouse Gas (GHG emissions) the need to manage climate change influenced invasive species spread, the need to have regard to the receiving water quality and air quality environment during the plan-making process.</p> <p>In relation to the SEA specifically, commentary was provided on the approach to mitigation, and on how the plan should consider impacts on air and water quality, water resource, soils/geology, landscape and material assets.</p> <p>The EPA recommended integrating the environmental mitigation defined under the SEA into the Plan, and advised on other interrelated plans and programmes to consider during plan-making and SEA processes.</p>	<p>The recommendation to ensure climate action defined in the Plan created co-benefits underpinned the SEA process and the defined mitigation measures. Where relevant, mitigation measures ultimately defined serve to holistically maximize environmental benefits. The promotion of climate action co-benefits is embedded into the Environmental Governance Principle framework defined for the Plan.</p> <p>Appropriate regard was had to the need to consider the climate change influenced invasive species spread. This was considered when shaping defined climate action and also within the Environmental Governance principle framework defined under the Plan.</p> <p>The receiving water and air quality environmental were appropriately considered and evaluated during the SEA process, in light of the EPA's commentary on baseline water quality and air quality data and information.</p> <p>The nature, focus and level of mitigation measures defined in the SEA Environmental Report were informed by the EPA's commentary. All mitigation measures defined were integrated into the Plan itself. The wording of climate action defined in the Plan was shaped having regard to relevant environmental considerations. A set of Environmental Governance Principles were included in the Plan.</p>
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications	<p>Background information on the Geological Survey of Ireland was provided initially in this submission. An overview of county level geoheritage and groundwater assets and databases was provided. Information was provided on geological, geotechnical, geothermal, natural resources, geochemistry and geophysical data sources.</p>	<p>Appropriate regard was had to these baseline geological and hydrogeological data sources and considerations during the preparation of the SEA Environmental Report for the LACAP.</p>



Environmental Authority	Summary on the Scoping Consultation Submission	How was this submission taken into account during the SEA?
	<p>Specific advise on geological/hydrogeological considerations that need to be take into account during the making of the Plan was provided, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Proposed developments need to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general.<li>2. Geohazards should be considered during the Plan-making and development processes.<li>3. 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.	



2.2 Environmental Assessment and Mitigation

Taking into account the scope detailed in the SEA Scoping Report which was produced for the initial draft version on the LACAP, the environmental effects associated with the implementation of the LACAP were identified, evaluated and described in a SEA Environmental Report.

This report defined mitigation measures to prevent adverse environmental effects due to the implementation of the LACAP. The following forms of mitigation have been adopted to ameliorate the negative environments of the LACAP and maximize potential positive effects of the plan:

- Mitigation through consideration of alternatives.
- Mitigation through integration of environmental considerations into the LACAP.
- Mitigation through consideration of development management standards/environmental protection objectives contained in the CDP.

2.2.1 Mitigation through consideration of alternatives

A number of alternatives were considered at an early stage in the process. The environmental effects of these alternatives were evaluated during the SEA process. Detail on how Plan alternatives and their environmental effects were considered during plan-making is provided in Section 3.

2.2.2 Mitigation through integration of environmental considerations into the LACAP

The plan making process was carried out in parallel with the SEA and AA processes. Regular communication and interaction took place between the environmental assessment team and the plan making team. Environmental considerations that came to light during the SEA and AA processes, including consultation processes, were regularly communicated to the plan making team during the plan making process. As necessary, environmental mitigation measures to ameliorate the potential negative environmental effects of implementing the LACAP were developed and then integrated into the LACAP. Much of the environmental mitigation was embedded in the plan early on in the process as a result of this. This process was carried out in an iterative manner to ensure optimal plan making and environmental outcomes. Environmental considerations were also integrated into the plan so as to facilitate maximizing identified positive environmental effects of the LACAP.

Mitigation measures were suggested that maximize the co-benefits of climate action for other environmental components such local air quality, human health, biodiversity, water quality and other interrelated areas (i.e., win-win solutions).

Additional text clarifying environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities has been attached to a variety of defined actions in the plan. This text has been shaped to ensure that environmental considerations are appropriately taken into account during plan implementation. This text has also been shaped to ensure plan implementation generates the minimum level of negative environmental effects and the maximum level of positive environmental effects. These text additions are presented in Table 2-2.

Several environmental governance principles were established to ensure plan implementation generates the minimum level of negative environmental effects and the maximum level of positive environmental effects. These environmental governance principles shall underpin and guide plan implementation and shall apply to and be integrated into all actions/activities which result due to the implementation of the plan. These principles are defined in Table 2-3. The principles were incorporated into the plan itself.



These environmental mitigation measures were integrated into the LACAP and will prevent negative effects and maximize positive effects associated with the LACAP.

Table 2-2: Proposed Environmental Mitigation Measures - Additional text included in Plan actions relating to environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities

LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
1.23	County Council investment in partnership for renewable energy projects where a suitable project is identified	Attach the following text to the action: Promote - through control or influence as appropriate - the carrying out of such projects in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, landscape and visual amenity and sensitive human receptors.
1.24	Apply for Pathfinder funding and deliver energy projects and continue to apply for Better Energy Community funding	Attach the following text to the action: Apply for Pathfinder funding and deliver energy projects, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European Sites and sensitive human receptors. Continue to apply for Better Energy Community funding.
1.26	Develop a financial instrument to speed up the retrofit of social housing	Attach the following text to the action: whilst ensuring such projects are carried in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European site, sensitive human receptors and built heritage.
2.2	Replace fossil fuels with renewable fuel in WCCC Fleet	Attach the following text to the action: whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced.
2.3	Replace fossil fuel vehicles with Electric Vehicles (EV) in WCCC fleet	Attach the following text to the action: whilst ensuring appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for Electric Vehicles under the ownership of local authorities.
2.4	Deliver the County EV charging strategy and use findings to apply for funding for the residential neighbourhood EV charging scheme in the areas that have been identified as needing charge points	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure development supported by the strategy is delivered in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities (European sites, biodiversity, built heritage) and available grid capacity.
2.6	Deliver E-Mobility Hubs (Electric car, scooter and bike depot) where the public can rent vehicles and facilitate e-car clubs	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, air quality, and water quality.
2.9	Collaborate with Active Travel & Area Engineer to identify and work with schools to run a programme for safe routes to school (School Streets). Aim for one school per year in the County.	Attach the following text to the action: Collaborate with Active Travel & Area Engineer to identify and work with schools to run a programme for safe routes to school (School Streets), having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage. Aim for one school per year in the County.
2.16	Review roundabouts for improvements: Dutch style	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure any consequential development has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, air quality, water quality, and biodiversity.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
2.18	Integration of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and other nature-based solutions into plans	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure all SuDS related construction works are designed and implemented in a manner that does not result in the occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects.
2.19	Engage with Active Travel goals -secure cycle parking in main car parks, cycle lanes designed for daily commuter use (segregated if possible, curbing not plastic wands, design process to include consultation with cycling community)	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure any ancillary developments has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, air quality, water quality, and biodiversity.
2.26	Speed limit review as per Waterford Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy - 30km/hr. on urban roads	Attach the following text to the action: having appropriate regard to environmental sensitivities such as traffic and transport constraints and aspects.
2.27	Survey of roads/bridges/infrastructures vulnerable to extreme weather events, produce vulnerability report and reinforce those structures	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species or European sites.
2.33	Prepare and apply a protocol to enable and require a pre-set standard for 'Climate Proofing' including water sensitive urban design, Rainwater Management Plans, and Life Cycle Assessment of all local authority led plans, purchases and investment	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring the protocol has appropriate regard to environmental protection requirements and opportunities for promoting climate action co-benefits.
2.38	Support new privately owned regeneration through facilitating a cooperative community with a collective skillset to tackle renovation projects from within its own resources, building upon work conducted under the URDF	Attach the following text to the action: Promote with partners the carrying out of such projects in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities, including biodiversity, European sites and built heritage.
2.44	Additional km of upgraded footpaths by 2029 - 23.16 in the County, 3km in the city	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, and local air quality.
2.45	Additional km of new cycle lanes - 10.62km in the County, 33.92km in the city	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality.
2.48	Cycle parking target - cycle parking for 5,000 bikes across the County	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality.
2.49	Investigate renewable back-up power generation for servers vulnerable to power outages (Dungarvan)	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, air quality and water quality.
2.53	Develop a County Heritage Plan and Biodiversity Plan with climate action as a cross-cutting theme/goal (Climate Proofed)	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites and protect built heritage.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
2.54	Undertake climate risk assessment of local authority owned built heritage assets to identify buildings likely to be impacted by extreme weather or erosion	Correct the following typo: Undertake climate risk assessment of local authority owned built heritage assets to identify buildings likely to be impacted by extreme weather or erosion.
2.5	Regionally develop projects to promote adaptive reuse of historic structures using exemplar retrofitting projects, life cycle assessment and carbon budgets to demonstrate climate value	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species that may be present in such buildings and European sites, and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
2.59	Targeting of social homes still using solid fuels, or older social homes, as priority of retrofitting program	Attach the following text to the action: Targeting of social homes still using solid fuels, or older social homes , as priority of retrofitting program. Deliver retrofitting projects in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species, biodiversity and sensitive human receptors.
2.60	Continue moving to central heating systems only	Attach the following text to the action: Deliver retrofitting projects in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species, biodiversity and sensitive human receptors.
2.61	Continue delivering the Croi Conaithe programme, bringing vacant homes back to use	Attach the following text to the action: Promote - through control or influence as appropriate - the carrying out of regeneration works in manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species, biodiversity, air quality and water quality.
2.64	Avoid fossil fuel heating systems and continue to replace coal and oil heating systems	Attach the following text to the action: Deliver retrofitting projects in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species, biodiversity and sensitive human receptors.
2.67	Upgrade at least 25% of social houses (E/F/G BER to BER B2 or higher). This figure is based on the current funding allocation and may increase.	Attach the following text to the action: Upgrade at least 25% of social houses (E/F/G BER to BER B2 or higher), having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species, biodiversity, air quality and water quality. This figure is based on the current funding allocation and may increase.
2.69	50% improvement in energy efficiency across all Council operations	Attach the following text to the action: whilst having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as visual amenity, water and air quality, and biodiversity related sensitivities.
2.70	Phase out fossil-fuel based boilers from Council buildings by 2025.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as visual amenity, sensitive human receptors and biodiversity related sensitivities.
2.71	Replace streetlighting with LED energy efficient equivalents and enable lighting controls to save energy	Attach the following text to the action: while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects on biodiversity.
2.72	Addition of renewable energy to Council buildings that have a floor area of greater than 250m2 and do not have conservation restrictions.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as visual amenity and biodiversity related sensitivities.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
2.74	Assess Council land for Renewable Energy suitability. A target for example of 5MWh of installed capacity across the County developed in conjunction with a community (s) would require a solar farms of a 10ha size could be achieved.	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure planning and environmental constraints are considered during this assessment.
3.1	Complete county habitat and ecosystem service surveys with a focus on carbon sinks and stores and identify sites suitable for restoration (wetlands, woodlands, sand dunes, saltmarsh and sea grass beds).	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive. This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage these habitats.
3.2	Develop a County Biodiversity Plan with climate action as a cross-cutting theme/goal. Use the County Biodiversity Plan as a vehicle to highlight a range of biodiversity opportunities that can be taken up at farm level with particular emphasis on the new ECO scheme. Highlight schemes for biodiversity opportunities available to farmers	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive. This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage these habitats.
3.5	Develop nature-based flooding approaches in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Assessment made at whole-catchment level (catchment as the management unit). Prioritise delivery of Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM)	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure due regard is given to the need to promote Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.
3.12	Deliver a yearly increase in tree planting on local authority lands and in private and public	Attach the following text to the action: Deliver a yearly increase in native tree planting on local authority lands and in private and public
3.16	Identify sites and opportunities to work with other agencies and communities on restoration of water levels and 'slow the flow' measures to mitigate flood risk.	Attach the following text to the action: Promote - through control or influence as appropriate - the carrying out of development supported by this action in a manner that has due regard to opportunities to promote nature-based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
3.17	Deliver on a yearly increase in the application of Blue-Green Infrastructure, Nature Based-Solutions (NBS) and Integrated Rainwater Management in local authority, private and public projects. Collate a database and spatial map to track progress.	Attach the following text to the action: Deliver on a yearly increase in the application of Blue-Green Infrastructure, Nature Based-Solutions (NBS) and Integrated Rainwater Management in local authority, private and public projects, having due regard to environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value. Collate a database and spatial map to track progress.
3.19	Prepare strategic wildfire management plan for high-risk areas	Attach the following text to the action: Ecological expertise shall be sought during plan preparation. The plan and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately protect important habitats.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
3.20	Investment in increased green space in urban areas including a park of regional significance in Waterford city	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring local authority led development is carried out in a manner that has due regard to relevant planning and environmental protection requirements.
3.22	Act on the findings of the Copper Coast stabilisation report	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation, and amenity value.
3.26	Support and inform a climate-proofing programme for natural water resources to manage flooding at the catchment level. Through advising the farming community and running information campaigns.	Attach the following text to the action: The programme shall have due regard to the protection of biodiversity and European sites and avoidance of habitat fragmentation, as well as the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive.
3.27	Increase the amount of permeable spaces in the County. Ensure that new housing and streetscapes incorporate permeability (Nature Based Solutions and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems)	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure all SuDS related construction works are designed and implemented in a manner that does not result in the occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, visual amenity, recreation and amenity value and cultural heritage considerations.
4.1	Climate proofing of Community Funded Projects (e.g., Town & Village) (Sustainability and Climate Change scoring on grant assessment)	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring the protocol has appropriate regard to environmental protection requirements, environmental sensitivities such as European Sites, biodiversity and opportunities for promoting climate action co-benefits.
4.5	Renewable Energy Use for festivals. Review affordability of HVO generators from local suppliers. Review infrastructure needed to put in mains power for future festivals.	Attach the following text to the action: Renewable Energy Use for festivals. Review affordability of HVO generators from local suppliers, whilst ensuring energy/fuel used is sustainably sourced. Review infrastructure needed to put in mains power for future festivals - having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European Sites and biodiversity related sensitivities.
DZ 1.3	Develop a Carbon Neutral Community programme where we establish an energy cooperative in a pilot community and deliver renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions for homes and transport	Attach the following text to the action: Due regard shall be had to relevant planning and environmental protection criteria, including the need to protect European sites, when implementing this action.
DZ 1.4	Work on an area by area basis (City Centre, Ballybricken, Carrickpherish, Poleberry etc.) over a number of months to have a presence in the community to provide advice to the public and businesses while also delivering projects in Active Travel, Presentation, Roads, Climate Adaptation, Housing etc. To provide information on existing services and to collaborate with the community going forward to develop projects and source financing/funding. Breaking the Decarbonisation Zone plan down to manageable community actions.	Attach the following text to the action: Due regard shall be had to relevant planning and environmental protection criteria, including the need to protect European sites, when implementing this action.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
DZ 2.1	Sustainable Urban Drainage systems to be incorporated in street upgrades, Council building projects and private developments.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity, air and water quality.
DZ 2.3	Work with 4 regions in the city (e.g., Ballybricken, Carrickpherish) to co-design with the community climate adaptation interventions - planting, SUDS, green roofs rainwater harvesting etc.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
DZ 2.6	Put in place a park of regional significance as per County Development Plan incorporating Nature Based Solutions to reduce flood likelihood	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and traffic and transport conditions.
DZ 2.7	Climate Adaptation measures to be incorporated into all Council developments going forward - larger downpipes, SUDS, Nature Based Solutions	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
DZ 2.8	Implementing permeable surfaces (bioswales / rainbeds / pervious pavement) - requirement in new developments	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
DZ 4.2	Deliver a 50% energy efficiency improvement in Council owned buildings	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as landscape and visual amenity, European Sites, biodiversity, sensitive human receptors and the need appropriately conserve built and cultural heritage.
DZ 4.4	Work with partners to deliver a District Heating Scheme for Waterford City	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology, and air quality.
DZ 4.6	Upgrade of public buildings to BER B	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Biodiversity, European sites, and the need to appropriately conserve built and cultural heritage.
DZ 4.7	Do a review of Council owned land in the city for solar suitability. Develop solar energy projects. Study to be done in conjunction with SETU	Attach the following text to the action: Do a review of Council owned land in the city for solar suitability. Ensure such a review has appropriate regard to planning and environmental considerations. Develop solar energy projects - ensuring such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects. Study to be done in conjunction with SETU.
DZ 4.8	Deploy solar energy on all Council buildings with a floor area of greater than 250m ²	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as landscape and visual amenity, European Sites, biodiversity, sensitive human receptors and the need appropriately conserve built and cultural heritage.
DZ 4.9	Replace inefficient streetlights with LEDs	Attach the following text to the action: while having due regard for the impact the spectrum of light used will have on protected nocturnal species such as bats.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
DZ 4.10	Development of a Smart City District on O Connell Street and the Quays (centralised at the Munster Express Building) that will use sensors to maximise energy production, efficient energy use, report risk of drain flooding and communicate air quality impacts	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure due regard is had to environmental sensitivities during development processes.
DZ 4.12	Through the Croí Conaithe scheme bring existing buildings up to a high energy efficient standard ensuring occupancy rates are high in our city centre	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species associated with such buildings, European sites, biodiversity, and the need to appropriately conserve built and cultural heritage.
DZ 4.13	Removal of fossil fuel heating from all Council buildings	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species associated with such buildings, European sites, biodiversity, and the need to appropriately conserve built and cultural heritage.
DZ 4.14	In conjunction with the Local Enterprise Office compile a strategy for developing the Geothermal Industry in Waterford City Along with conducting a feasibility study for the city based on GSI recommendations	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure such a study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental considerations and constraints.
DZ 4.16	Update Renewable Energy Strategy, within City and County Development Plan	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure planning and environmental protection related factors are appropriately considered in the strategy.
DZ 4.18	North Quays to be an exemplary example of sustainable energy technologies	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard planning and environmental considerations.
DZ 4.19	Develop a "Hydrogen Energy Strategy" for Waterford City and resource implementation of aspects of the National Strategy that can be advanced in Waterford	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure planning and environmental protection related factors are appropriately considered in the strategy.
DZ 4.20	Exploit Waterford's Shallow Geothermal opportunities by including Geothermal as a heat source for a District Heating and by including Geothermal heating where suitable in Council redevelopment projects	Attach the following text to the action: Progress development supported by this action in a manner that maximizes climate action co-benefits and accords with relevant environmental protection requirements.
DZ 4.21	Develop Solar Car port projects (1MW) and a solar farm within the city (19MW)	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as landscape and visual amenity, European Sites, biodiversity, sensitive human receptors and the need appropriately conserve built and cultural heritage.
DZ 4.22	Investigate the requirements for large scale installation of low carbon sources of heating (air/ground/water source heat pumps), using council owned homes as a test bed in partnership with grid operators and supply chains	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to planning and environmental protection considerations associated with such projects.
DZ 6.1	Investigate the possibility of creating a Green Bond for the city which can be used to invest in renewable energy	Attach the following text to the action: Investigate the possibility of creating a Green Bond for the city which can be used to invest in appropriately planned renewable energy.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
DZ 2.10	Plant 100,000 trees within the Metropolitan area	Attach the following text to the action: Plant 100,000 native trees within the Metropolitan area
DZ 2.11	Carbon sequestration through detailed tree / meadow planting / growing, rewilding, soil management, waterways and wetland planning, informed by habitat mapping, opportunity mapping and tree canopy surveys	Attach the following text to the action: These actions shall be overseen by a competent ecology team and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage these habitats.
DZ 8.2	Integration of renewable energy, EV charging, active travel infrastructure into new developments	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to opportunities to promote climate action co-benefits, and relevant planning and environmental protection requirements.
DZ 8.3	In URDF projects facilitate a city centre cooperative community with a collective skill set that can tackle renovation projects from within its own resources. This work should have a focus on Circular Economy, making tools and skills available for people to do up properties that they can live in	Attach the following text to the action: whilst promoting the need for supported projects to adhere to relevant planning and environmental protection requirements.
DZ 5.8	Continue to engage with businesses encouraging them to save energy with the Commercial Energy Rates Discount Scheme	Attach the following text to the action: whilst promoting the need for support projects to adhere to relevant planning and environmental protection requirements.
DZ 10.3	Install 33.9 Km of cycle lanes	Attach the following text to the action: whilst having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and water and air quality.
DZ 10.4	Review public parking and staff parking to see the impact of car pooling, car sharing, public transport and active travel to identify areas where different usages could be applied for those spaces	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to opportunities to promote climate action co-benefits, nature-based solutions, SuDS, and relevant environmental protection requirements.
DZ 10.6	Install 3 Km of upgraded footpaths along with maintaining existing footpaths	Attach the following text to the action: whilst having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and water and air quality.
DZ 10.14	Complete an EV charging strategy and apply for the Neighbourhood Charging Fund for the required number of chargers and ensure that all new plannings for developments include the legally mandated EV charger requirement	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure development supported by the strategy is delivered in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities (European sites, biodiversity, built heritage) and available grid capacity.
DZ 10.15	Deliver at least 5 Safe Routes to Schools campaigns at City Schools - this will depend on school demand	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure any ancillary development has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.
DZ 10.17	Review of bus lanes in the city and extension as part of the Bus Connects programme	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to transport planning related factors.
DZ 10.28	Delivery of Park and Ride -	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to planning and environmental protection considerations, including transport planning factors.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
DZ 10.1	Completion of the Sustainable Transport Bridge between Ferrybank and Waterford City	Attach the following text to the action: subject to planning and environmental protection related requirements.
DZ 10.30	Continue to work with the NTA to provide infrastructure for the bus network - the city bus network will be electrified and extended within this period with input from the Council	Attach the following text to the action: Promote integrated planning and consultation and adherence to planning and environmental protection requirements, including the appropriate consideration of available grid capacity, during projects supported by this action.

Table 2-3: Proposed Environmental Mitigation Measures - Environmental Governance Principles included in the plan

Promote climate action projects that support and maximise environmental co-benefits, such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.
Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions.
Ensure local authority development underpinned or supported by plan actions is planned and implemented in a manner that appropriately considers the potential for environmental co-benefits, potential environmental impacts and environmental protection requirements. No local authority climate action related development project that is likely to have significant negative effects on the receiving environment shall be supported.
Promote - through control or influence as appropriate - the carrying out of flood resilience measures underpinned by plan actions in a manner that supports climate action-biodiversity related co-benefits, and which has due regard for the protection and enhancement of rare, protected or important habitats and species.
Promote the carrying out of climate action related projects supported by the plan in a manner that supports climate action-cultural heritage co-benefits, and which has due regard to cultural, archaeological or architectural features and sensitivities.
Promote the carrying out of climate action related projects underpinned by the plan in a manner that supports climate action water quality co-benefits, and the achievement of Water Framework Directive objectives.
Promote climate action projects that support protected trees, hedgerows and other habitats such as wetlands, flood zones which contribute to green infrastructure.
Support opportunities to improve ecological connectivity of non-designated habitats and sites to improve overall ecosystem resilience and functioning while supporting climate action within the county.
Ensure local authority projects supported by plan actions have taken the necessary precautions to identify and manage invasives species, particularly with regard to Schedule III species. No local authority climate action related development project that is likely to cause the spread of invasives species listed in Schedule III shall be supported.
Support opportunities to promote peatland restoration, rehabilitation and maintenance while achieving climate targets through the implementation of the climate actions within the plan.



2.2.3 Mitigation through consideration of development management standards/environmental protection objectives contained in the CDP

In addition to the environmental mitigation measures integrated into the LACAP, the development management standards and environmental protection measures defined in the CDP will serve to mitigate the environmental effects of any development proposals supported by the LACAP. These development management standards/environmental protection measures have been defined for the express purpose of ensuring proper planning and sustainable development in the County. The CDP has been subject to its own SEA and AA. The LACAP was prepared having appropriate regard to the policies and objectives contained in the County Development Plan.

2.3 Appropriate Assessment

The environmental assessment for the Plan undertaken was carried out in accordance with an Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment based methodology in accordance with EPA's guidance document entitled '*Final Report: Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment, Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes. Best Practice Guidance.*' (2012).

The methodology employed facilitated the integration of SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes relating to biodiversity impact assessment to ensure the effective and streamlined assessment of biodiversity impacts. The plan-making, SEA and AA processes - including scoping, baseline evaluation, impact assessment and mitigation/monitoring measure development processes - were carried out concurrently to facilitate holistic and complete assessment of biodiversity impacts. The effective communication and integration of scientific knowledge and analysis between assessments took place. The SEA was suitably informed by the analysis and conclusions in AA.

2.4 Consultation on SEA Environmental Report

A draft version of the SEA Environmental Report accompanied a draft version of the LACAP on public display as part of the statutory public consultation required under Article 13 of S.I. No. 435/2004 - European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004. A draft version of the Natura Impact Report (NIR) produced under the AA process for the Draft LACAP also accompanied the Draft LACAP on public display. Environmental Authorities, relevant interested stakeholder and members of the public were notified of the Draft LACAP being placed on display and the opportunity to make consultation submissions in relation to the Draft LACAP. Members of public were made aware of the Draft LACAP and associated environmental reports through a notification published by the local authority on its website. Environmental Authorities and interested stakeholders were notified through notification correspondence.

Various parties made consultation submissions and observations on the Draft LACAP and associated environmental reports. Detail on submissions received relevant to SEA and AA issues and documentation, responses to these submissions, and any changes made to SEA Environmental Report (ER) and NIR documents on foot of these submissions, is provided in Table 2-4. Updates were made to the SEA and AA documentation where relevant following on from receipt and consideration of the consultation submissions.



Table 2-4: Responses to Consultation Submissions

Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
Nephin Renewable Gas (excerpts from the submission relevant to SEA and AA)	Suggested text: Signpost farms towards the Teagasc emissions reduction programme on Farm Inspection Visits, with an emphasis on the benefits of anaerobic digestion.	It was recommended the local authority consider including this text as appropriate. This action is focused on awareness building. The suggested text amendment will not result in any additional material environmental effects.	None.	None.
	Suggested text: Deliver a number of water protection projects focused on preventing nitrate run off from farms. Special emphasis should be directed towards existing case studies where water quality has improved on account of agricultural land management practices, such as the Timoleague watercourse, studied by Teagasc	It was recommended the local authority consider including this text as appropriate. This action is focused on awareness building. The suggested text amendment will not result in any additional material environmental effects.	None.	None.
	Suggested text: Renewable Energy Use for festivals, including future use of Biomethane from a proposed AD plant at Reatagh, at the nearby All Together Now festival. Review affordability of HVO generators from local suppliers, whilst ensuring energy/fuel used is sustainably sourced. Review infrastructure needed to put in mains power for future festivals - having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European Sites and biodiversity related sensitivities.	It was recommended the local authority consider including this text as appropriate. This action is underpinned by the need to ensure renewable fuel used in generators is sustainably sourced. The suggested text amendment does not introduce additional environmental effects not already considered at plan level (i.e., the impact of renewable fuel production and supply at high-level). It was noted the development of any Anaerobic Digestion facility will be separately environmentally assessed and mitigated against at project and operational level (via development consent, and the EPA licensing consent process, respectively).	None.	None.
	Adopt a policy to purchase a proportion of biomethane to offset the Council's gas consumption. Conduct a feasibility into the benefits of treating grass cuttings through AD.	It was recommended the local authority consider including this text as appropriate. It was noted that WCCC have an existing action in relation to renewable fuels, as below: Action 2.2 Replace fossil fuels with renewable fuel in WCCC Fleet whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced.	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
		<p>The potential effects of this action have been mitigated by the inclusion of the text ‘whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced.’</p> <p>The suggested text amendment does not introduce additional environmental effects not already considered at plan level (i.e., the impact of renewable fuel production and supply at high-level).</p>		
	Work with GNI (Gas Networks Ireland) to facilitate installation of connections to the gas distribution and transmission systems	<p>It was recommended the local authority consider including this text as appropriate.</p> <p>This is an engagement related action and does not introduce material environmental effects.</p> <p>The defined Environmental Governance Principles that underpin Plan actions will ensure this action is progressed in a manner that suitably promotes climate action, climate action co-benefits and environmental protection</p>	None	None.
Sea Fisheries coordination DAFM (excerpts from the submission relevant to SEA and AA)	Ireland’s seafood industry (fishing and aquaculture) is one of the key stakeholders operating in the marine area and plays a vital role in the sustainability of our coastal communities. Over 15,000 people are employed around our coast both directly and indirectly. Many of these communities have very limited alternative employment and economic activity options. It is therefore essential that the socio-economic reliance on the seafood sector is fully recognised and is factored into any Climate Change Action plan. Fishing and food security is a key part of Government Policy. Food Vision 2030 recognises and values the role of primary food producers.	Noted.	None	None.
	The Seafood industry is experiencing a period of difficult change, arising from the ongoing consequences of the EU UK Trade and Co-operation agreement which are specific and impactful on Ireland’s seafood sector.	Noted.	None	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	There is now ever-increasing demand on the marine space from Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE), Marine Spatial Planning, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and other environmental measures.			
	Our coastal communities and maritime sectors will continue to play a significant role in contributing to our climate goals and will continue to be consulted and supported in the transition to carbon neutrality. The seafood industry, through both the Sectoral Adaptation Plan (Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan) and the annual Climate Action Plan (CAP23) continue to support initiatives to improve understanding of our marine area and ensure sustainable resource use, including through bio and circular economy initiatives. These plans require consideration in the SEA process.	The National Climate Action Plan (2023) and Sectoral Adaptation Plans were considered in the SEA Process. The relationship of the Plan with other relevant Plans and Programmes has been defined in Appendix 1 of the SEA. Inter-plan cumulative effects were evaluated in Section 7 of the SEA ER.	None	None.
	Also for consideration in the SEA process is the European Commission's Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector as part of its Fisheries Policy Package. This proposes the establishment of an Energy Transition Partnership (ETP) to develop a roadmap for the energy transition of the sector towards climate neutrality by 2050. The roadmap will set out investment needs, sector initiatives and inform policy decisions to help achieve this transition. The ETP is a multi-stakeholder platform intended to promote co-operation, knowledge sharing and dialogue between private and public stakeholders in order to accelerate the energy transition in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. This Partnership will help to shape the development of future transitional actions for Ireland's seafood sector. Local authorities should include relevant steps to support a Just Transition for the sea fisheries and aquaculture sectors in their Climate Action Plans.	This commentary was noted. Local authorities in Ireland do not have a direct remit over the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The actions defined in the Plan are however mutually symbiotic and harmonious with the vision and measures defined in European Commission's Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. As far as the local authority's remit extends, the plan supports the protection and enhancement of the marine environment. The climate action defined in the plan has the potential to generate multiple climate action benefits, and co-benefits for the water and biodiversity environments and by extension the marine environment (i.e., biodiversity conservation and enhancement, coastal protection, water quality protection and improvements etc.).	Reference was made to the European Commission's Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Section 3.4 - <i>In-combination effects with Other Plans and Programmes</i> , and Appendix 2 - <i>Relationship with other plans and programmes</i> , as appropriate.	Reference was made to the European Commission's Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Section 7.3 - <i>Potential Cumulative Effect of the LACAP in combination with other Plans and Projects</i> , and Appendix 1 - <i>Relationship of the Plan with other relevant Plans and Programmes</i> , as appropriate.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
Clonea Power Solar Action Group (excerpts from the submission relevant to SEA and AA)	We request that ALL proposed planning applications for Energy Production will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European Sites, built heritage, protected species, riparian environments, water quality, air quality, landscape and visual amenity, cultural heritage, and sensitive human receptors. Particular emphasis was placed on nocturnal bats throughout the draft.	The County Development Plan provides the framework for proper planning and sustainable development, including environmental protection requirements. The CDP has been subject to its own SEA and AA.	None	None
	We request that all planning applications for renewable energy projects consult with ENERGY Experts.	The County Development Plan provides the framework for proper planning and sustainable development, including environmental protection requirements. The CDP has been subject to its own SEA and AA.	None.	None.
	Consultation with experts in individual Specialised fields to ensure any plans or projects WILL NOT adversely affect our natural habitats and protected species.	All plans and projects are required to be environmentally assessed by competent persons under relevant SEA, AA and EIA legislation.	None.	None.
	Planting of 100,000 trees. The Plan must include where they will be planted and what species of native trees. While vital for sequestering carbon, consideration must be given to the long-term effects of planting such a high number of trees such as damage to footpaths and roads, maintenance, and Health & Safety when storms occur in the latter periods of their lifespan.	This level of detail is not available and not required for a plan of this order. Tree planting will be undertaken in accordance with tree management policy defined in the CDP and in the Waterford City and County Tree Management Strategy 2021, which have undergone appropriate environmental assessment separately.	None.	None.
D. Heffernan (excerpts from the submission relevant to SEA and AA)	I would like to bring the council's attention to the Governments call for proposals to help vulnerable wading birds. There has been a decrease of 98% in recent decades of our wading bird populations, of which the Curlew is one. This is caused by habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration of both breeding grounds and wintering grounds. Protecting and enhancing our wading bird populations in Waterford must be part of any plan going forward.	Noted. All potential effects on ecology that would have been associated with Plan action were identified, characterized and mitigated against under the Plan.	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
B. Nowlan (excerpts from the submission relevant to SEA and AA)	Regarding 2.4: Please do not forget about small towns with terraces and narrow roads. Some solution is required to allow residents easy access to charging points for electric vehicles.	Appropriate mitigation has been defined to ensure charging infrastructure supported by Plan actions is developed in a manner that has due regard to all environmental sensitivities, including localized traffic and transport related sensitivities. Further, it was noted that a separate EV Charging Strategy is being developed for the Waterford functional area. This Strategy, which will define the charging infrastructure development strategy for the county on a somewhat more granular level, will be subject to its own SEA and AA.	None.	None.
Cian O'Mahony SEA Section Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring Environmental Protection Agency	The SEA should also assist in identifying ways to maximise the potential co-benefits of climate-related measures for air quality, human health, biodiversity, water quality and other interrelated areas (i.e. win-win solutions).	Noted and agreed. It was noted that the SEA Environmental Report (ER) has defined Environmental Governance Principles and action amendment suggestions to ensure climate action co-benefit opportunities are maximized. Various defined mitigation measures serve to promote win-win solutions.	None.	None.
	We recommend that the findings of the SEA ER and NIS are fully reflected in the Plan, to ensure that the relevant recommendations are fully considered and integrated as appropriate.	Noted and agreed. Environmental mitigation measures in the form of Environmental Governance Principles and climate action amendment suggestions were fully integrated into the Plan itself.	None	None
	<p>Environmental Authorities Under the SEA Regulations, you should consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency; • Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; • Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications; • Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. <p>If you have any queries or need further information in relation to this submission, please contact me directly at c.omahony@epa.ie. I would be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: sea@epa.ie</p>	<p>Noted. All listed Environmental Authorities were consulted with as part of the SEA process.</p> <p>It was recommended the Council confirm receipt of this submission with Cian O' Mahony, if this hasn't been done already.</p>	None	None



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>Non-Technical Summary</p> <p>You should ensure that the Non-Technical Summary includes the relevant information as required under Schedule 2 of S.I No. 434 Of 2004, as amended.</p>	<p>It was assumed that SI No. 434 is a typo and SI No. 435 is what was intended to be addressed with this statement.</p> <p>The requirements of Schedule 2 of SI No 435 were noted and amendments to the NTS were made as appropriate.</p>	None	Updated the NTS to reflect the relevant information as required under Schedule 2 of SI No 435 of 2004 as amended.
	<p>Relationship with other plans and programmes</p> <p>We acknowledge that the Plan has been prepared taking account of the key National plans including the National Climate Action Plan 2023. We also acknowledge that the Plan sets out the key plans, programmes and policies considered in preparing the SEA.</p> <p>The Plan should include a commitment to remain aligned with high level plans and programmes, Guidelines, and legislation over its lifetime. The Climate Action Plan 2024 is currently being prepared and work will be commencing on the review of the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies also. Any relevant updates of these plans/strategies should be integrated as appropriate into the Plan as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>The Plan should include a commitment to consider any relevant updated actions, measures or recommendations that may arise in updates to the National Climate Action Plan (or the National Planning Framework) over the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. It was noted that this is in reference to the LACAP and not the SEA ER or AA NIR documentation.</p> <p>It was recommended the Council includes a commitment in the Plan to remain aligned with high level plans and programmes if this wasn't the case already.</p> <p>It was recommended the plan includes a commitment in the Plan to consider and appropriately integrate relevant updates to the national Climate Action Plan and National Planning Framework over the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	None	None
	<p>Strategic Environmental Objectives</p> <p>We recommend that in considering strategic environmental objectives, they should where possible reflect the plan being prepared, rather than use more generic environmental objectives. This will help both in considering more specific monitoring and mitigation measures, when required.</p>	<p>Noted. The Strategic Environmental Objectives defined were very specifically defined to reflect the themes, goals, objectives and climate action contained in the plan and in light of the potential environmental effects associated with Plan implementation.</p>	None	None



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>Alternatives</p> <p>We note the alternatives considered in the SEA and acknowledge the preferred option selected.</p>	Noted.	None	None.
	<p>Mitigation Measures</p> <p>Where the potential for likely significant effects has been identified, you should provide appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or minimise these. You should also ensure that the Plan includes clear commitments to implement the relevant mitigation measures.</p>	<p>The SEA produced recommended a suite of mitigation measures in response to climate actions considered to have potentially significant environmental effects.</p> <p>Environmental Governance Principles were defined for the purpose of underpinning and framing the defined climate actions. All activities and development supported by the defined climate actions shall be undertaken or influenced by the local authority, as appropriate, in accordance with these Environmental Governance Principles.</p> <p>Mitigation has also been achieved by the integration of environmental considerations into the defined LACAP climate actions.</p> <p>These mitigation measures have been wholly integrated into the LACAPs.</p> <p>Section 8 of the SEA ER provides full detail of these environmental mitigation measures.</p> <p>It was recommended the Plan provides a clear commitment to implement these mitigation measures, if this isn't the case already.</p>	None	None.
	<p>Monitoring, Implementation & Reporting</p> <p>The Monitoring Programme should be flexible to take account of specific environmental issues and unforeseen adverse impacts should they arise. It should consider and deal with the possibility of cumulative effects. Monitoring of both positive and negative effects should be considered. The monitoring programme should set out the various data sources, monitoring frequencies and responsibilities</p>	<p>The SEA Monitoring Programme established for the LACAP is contained in the SEA ER. This monitoring programme was developed in accordance with EPA guidelines entitled '<i>Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring</i>' (2020).</p> <p>The monitoring programme is multi-faceted, broad in scope and has been designed to allow for a flexible and adaptive approach to SEA monitoring during Plan implementation.</p>	None	<p>Updated the SEA monitoring programme to ensure SEOs PHH1, L1, AQN2, TR1 accommodate the monitoring of positive effects arising due to plan implementation.</p> <p>Provided additional detail on monitoring programme data sources</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>If the monitoring identifies adverse impacts during the implementation of the Plan, then you should ensure that suitable and effective remedial action is taken.</p> <p>Guidance on SEA-related monitoring is available on the EPA website at 06695-EPA-SEA-Statements-and-Monitoring-Report.pdf</p>	<p>The monitoring programme was designed to inherently measure cumulative effects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>This plan considers both positive and negative effects, as per the following statement from the SEA text:</p> <p><i>‘Where monitoring identifies that the implementation of the LACAP is having a significant negative environmental effect, an in-depth review of the LACAP should take place and the LACAP should be updated in a manner that satisfactorily mitigates these environmental effects (i.e., through the adoption of additional environmental mitigation measures.). Similarly, where monitoring indicates that potential positive environmental effects associated with LACAP implementation are not being adequately realized, the LACAP should be reviewed and updated in a manner that supports the realization of all potential positive environmental effects, having regard to the overall vision and high-level objectives of the plan.’</i></p> <p>It was noted however that additional opportunities exist in relation to monitoring the positive environmental effects of defined climate action – in connection with SEOs PHH1, L1, AQN2, TR1. The SEA monitoring programme was updated to ensure SEOs PHH1, L1, AQN2, TR1 accommodate the monitoring of positive effects arising due to plan implementation.</p> <p>The monitoring programme includes detail on the indicators, targets and data sources to be used to monitor and measure progress. Some additional detail on data sources was however provided to better guide the SEA monitoring to be carried out across plan implementation.</p> <p>A commitment to remedial action in the event SEA monitoring shows the implementation of the Plan is having adverse environmental effects was made in the SEA.</p>		



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>EPA State of the Environment Report</p> <p>Our State of Environment Report, Ireland’s Environment - An Integrated Assessment 2020 (SOER2020) identifies thirteen ‘Key Messages for Ireland’. Delivering Ireland’s long-term sustainable development and environmental objectives will involve many different stakeholders to address these key actions. The report recognises the need for full implementation of existing environmental legislation and review of governance/coordination on environmental protection across public bodies.</p> <p>The EPA are currently preparing the next iteration of the SOER report, which will be published in 2024. We recommend that a commitment is made in the Plan, to take account of any relevant recommendations in the SOER 2024 report, once published, in implementing the Plan over its lifetime.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>It was recommended the Council make a commitment to take account of any relevant recommendations in the SOER 2024 report, once published, in implementing the Plan over its lifetime.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
	<p>SEA Statement – “Information on the Decision”</p> <p>Once the Plan is adopted, you should prepare an SEA Statement that summarises:</p> <p>How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;</p> <p>How the Environmental Report, submissions, observations and consultations have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan;</p> <p>The reasons for choosing the Plan adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and,</p> <p>The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>You should send a copy of the SEA Statement with the above information to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process.</p>	<p>Noted. An SEA statement will be produced and circulated to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	Future Amendments to the Plan You should screen any future amendments to the Plan for likely significant effects, using the same method of assessment applied in the “environmental assessment” of the Plan	Noted.	None	None



2.5 SEA and Plan Modifications

WCCC prepared a Chief Executive (CE) Report responding to consultation submissions from Environmental Authorities, interested stakeholders and members of the public.

The CE Report recommended Plan modifications in light of the consultations submissions received in relation to the Plan and associated environmental reports and subsequent consideration of these submissions. The CE Report was appropriately informed by recommendations made by the SEA (and AA) team on foot of their review of consultation submissions relating to SEA (and AA) issues and documentation. Recommendations were taken on board by the plan-making team as appropriate.

Plan modifications made were screened for SEA and AA. All Plan modifications made during the plan-making process were determined to be non-material and did not introduce any additional environmental effects not previously considered and mitigated during the SEA and AA processes.

An earlier draft version of the SEA Environmental Report was finalized having appropriate regard to the consultation submissions made during the SEA consultation period, recommendations made in the CE Report on consultation submissions, and the modifications made to the original draft version of the LACAP that was put on display for consultation. The updates made to the report were clerical or minor and non-material in nature and did not materially change the parameters of the environmental assessment undertaken or the environmental mitigation defined.

The CE Report on consultation submissions received on the Plan and associated environmental reports accompany the adopted Plan and this SEA Statement and provides exact detail on how consultation submissions were considered by the local authority during the plan-making process. This CE Report also documents the Plan modifications made by the local authority following its consideration of consultation submissions relating to both the content, focus and goals of the Plan and the environmental assessment of the Plan presented in the associated SEA and AA documentation. All Plan Action modifications are presented in Table 2-5. No further modifications affecting the SEA and AA processes were made upon Plan Adoption.

Table 2-5: Plan Action Modifications

Action	Summary of Revision
2.2	The following text has been added to the action after the word "fleet": Replace fossil fuels with renewable fuel in WCCC Fleet whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced.
5.11	The following text has been added to the action after the word "services": Run waste engagement campaigns through the library services including events such as seed library exchanges, clothes swaps and repair cafes.
4.31	The word "public" has replaced the words "community and employers representatives" in the following action: Create regular Climate Communications to keep the public up to date on how they can contribute to Climate Action in Waterford.
4.16	The word "plan" has replaced the words "devise planning" in the following action: Plan events around 'playful city' principles, E.g. Community Car Free afternoons on Sundays or on days of community festivals.
3.26	The following action has been reworded; the sentence "The Council will identify a sub-catchment where water quality objectives are not being met, and where there is an established flood risk" has been deleted and the sentence "Through advising the farming community and running information campaigns" has been added: Support and inform a climate-proofing programme for natural water resources to manage flooding at the catchment level. Through advising the farming community and running information campaigns.



Action	Summary of Revision
3.8	The following text has been added to the action after the word "spaces": Map green infrastructure (GI) – identify wildlife corridors, conservation and restoration spaces. Under the County Development Plan a Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy is being developed.
2.56	The following action has been reworded: Ensure climate-proofing of heritage funding administered by WCCC, with an emphasis on improved energy performance along with the main goal of conservation of buildings.
2.37	The following action has been reworded: Life Cycle Analysis methodology, consideration of carbon emissions, and consideration of water quality impact to be used in housing and building works planning and for planning permission from 2027 following adoption of National Policy on Life Cycle Assessment.
2.36	The following text has been added to the action after the word "County": Carry out a geothermal survey of the county to identify areas with the greatest opportunity for heat production near Council buildings. Survey will include a feasibility assessment for the incorporation of Geothermal into existing heating systems.
2.34	The word "application" has been replaced with the word "decisions" in the following action: Planning decisions process to assess impact of new development proposed in areas determined to have a water supply and quality constraint (i.e., from climate related drought, extreme rainfall events). Assess impact on wastewater discharges and DWWTS and mitigate impacts.
2.8	The words "bus connects" have been added at the end of the following action: Liaise with the NTA to improve systems:- Integration between rail and WMATS (North Quays)- Bus stop facilities- Bus Connects



3. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

3.1 Introduction

Article 5(1) of the SEA Directive states that: *'Where an environmental assessment is required under Article 3(1), an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated.'*

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternative means of achieving the strategic goals of the LACAP (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of a plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Such reasonable alternative must be realistic and capable of implementation.

Reasonable alternatives to the LACAP were initially explored and examined during the SEA Scoping stage of the SEA process, having regard to the scope, function and strategic aims and main objectives of the LACAP, as defined in the Local Authority Climate Action Plan. This process facilitated the accurate identification of reasonable alternatives to the LACAP and also suitably informed the plan-making process, ensuring optimal environmental outcomes.

Reasonable alternatives were assessed against the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) established for the aspects of the baseline environment which are likely to be significantly affected by the LACAP.

3.2 Approach to Developing Reasonable Alternatives

A range of alternatives to the LACAP were considered during the plan-making process. The approach for identifying reasonable alternatives to the LACAP is defined below:

1. Iterative communication was held between the plan-making and environmental assessment teams to identify the various alternative approaches and options being considered to achieve the vision of the plan - the reduction of GHG emissions at Local Authority organizational level and within the Community in support of Climate Action policy. This communication commenced early on during the plan-making process.
2. Reasonable alternatives considered were identified. For an alternative to be considered reasonable, it must be practical/functional, realistic and implementable. An evaluation of whether each alternative was practical/functional, reasonable and implementable took place. This evaluation considered the following factors:
 - 2.1. The vision of high-level objectives of the LACAP.
 - 2.2. The geographic scope of the LACAP.
 - 2.3. The actual powers and functions of the Local Authority.
 - 2.4. The climate action merits of the alternative.
 - 2.5. The genuine ability of the alternative to achieve the plan vision and high-level objectives.
 - 2.6. The technical feasibility of the alternative.
 - 2.7. The availability of resources, including financial resources to deliver the plan within the required timeframe.
 - 2.8. The policy hierarchy and the parameters placed around the LACAP by higher-level policy.
 - 2.9. The legislative context and the parameters placed around the DLACAP by climate action and environmental related legislation.



The toolkit contained in the EPA's guidelines entitled 'Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment Good Practice Guidance' (2015) was utilized when identifying reasonable alternatives. The 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model defined in the guidelines were used when framing reasonable alternatives, as shown in Figure 3-1:

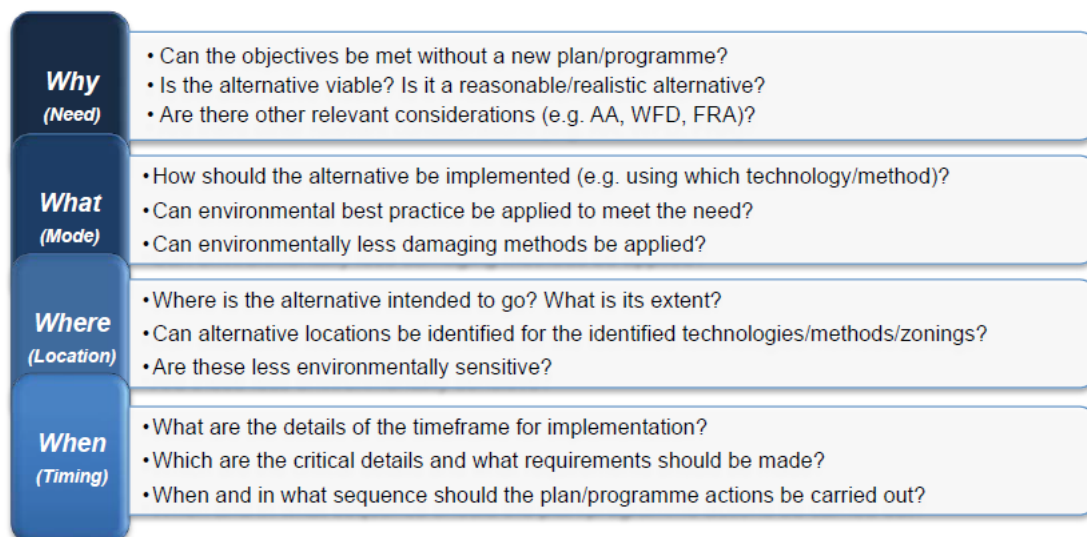


Figure 3-1: 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model for framing alternatives - Adapted from Figure 4.3 Developing and Assessing Alternatives in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process (EPA, 2015).

3.3 Identification and Description of Reasonable Alternatives

Reasonable alternatives to the LACAP were identified. A description of these reasonable alternatives and the reasons for selecting these reasonable alternatives are presented in Table 3-1.

A 'Do Nothing' or 'Do Minimum' alternative was not a reasonable alternative in this instance as the preparation of an effective LACAP is a statutory requirement under Section 16 of the Climate Act.



Table 3-1: Reasonable Alternatives to the LACAP

Reasonable Alternative	Description of Reasonable Alternative	Reasoning for selecting this Reasonable Alternative
<p>Alternative 1 - The Pareto Approach: Prioritize reducing GHG emissions from largest GHG emitting sectors to mitigate against climate change impacts.</p>	<p>This alternative involved developing a LACAP that primarily focusses on climate mitigation and reducing GHG emissions associated with the largest GHG emitting sectors in the County that a local authority can reasonable influence having regard to the functions of a local authority - the Residential and Transport sectors.</p>	<p>This was a viable alternative that could achieve a significant reduction in GHG emissions by prioritizing and supporting climate mitigation related action for the Residential and Transport sectors. The alternative would cover the period from 2024 to 2029 (the duration of the prospective LACAP).</p>
<p>Alternative 2 - The Holistic Approach: Adopt a multi-pronged approach and focus on a range of priority areas to mitigate against and adapt to climate change impacts.</p>	<p>This alternative involved developing a LACAP that has a balanced focus on both climate mitigation and adaptation across several theme areas and all socio-economic sectors.</p>	<p>This was a viable alternative that would have enhanced potential to reduce GHG emissions across multiple sectors, potential to offset GHG emissions, and greater potential to protect the local community and the environment from climate change related risks. Climate mitigation and adaptation actions across a wide breath of theme areas would be supported by the LACAP. The alternative would cover the period from 2024 to 2029 (the duration of the prospective LACAP).</p>
<p>Alternative 3 - The Holistic and Participatory Approach (Current LACAP): Adopt a multi-pronged approach - that has a strong community engagement emphasis - and focus on a range of priority areas to mitigate against and adapt to climate change impacts.</p>	<p>This alternative involved developing a LACAP that has a balanced focus on both climate mitigation and adaptation across several theme areas and all socio-economic sectors, and which has a strong community engagement emphasis, which underpins, supports and drives the climate action contained in the plan.</p>	<p>This was a viable alternative that would have enhanced potential to reduce GHG emissions across multiple sectors, potential to offset GHG emissions, and greater potential to protect the local community and the environment from climate change related risks. Climate mitigation and adaptation actions across a wide breath of theme areas would be supported by the LACAP. The range of climate mitigation and adaptation actions defined in the LACAP is likely to have better community level and organizational support given its strong community engagement emphasis. The alternative would cover the period from 2024 to 2029 (the duration of the prospective LACAP).</p>



3.4 Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives and Reasons for Choosing the Preferred Plan

An evaluation of the potential effects of the reasonable alternatives on the baseline environment was carried out in accordance with the SEA Directive and best practice guidelines. This evaluation is documented in the SEA Environmental Report for the LACAP. A summary of this evaluation and the reason for choosing the preferred Plan is presented below.

Alternative 1 - The Pareto Approach - would lead to some positive environmental effects and would have resulted in the reduction of GHG emissions in the sectors that the local authority can control or exert substantial influence on that contribute most in terms of GHG emission in the County - the Residential and Transport sectors. It is less likely that this alternative would have delivered the wide-ranging climate mitigation and offsetting related action required to fully realize GHG emission reduction potential in the County. It is also less likely this alternative would have defined a wide range of climate adaptation measures that would fully protect biodiversity, heritage resources, environmental receptors and people from climate change risks. This alternative approach may have generated several negative environmental effects, which would not be counterbalanced by the positive environmental effects associated with Alternatives 2 and 3.

Alternative 2 - The Holistic Approach - and Alternative 3 - The Holistic and Participatory Approach - would have both broadly delivered suitably wide ranging and effective climate action. These alternatives have the potential to generate multiple positive environmental effects, including a reduction in GHG emissions at organizational, community and sectoral levels, in addition to a variety of other environmental benefits. These alternatives would have placed a balanced emphasis on both climate mitigation and adaptation action, ensuring climate change related environmental risks are adequately understood and managed at community level.

Alternative 3 had the best potential to deliver effective climate action given its holistic, wide encompassing nature; and given its strong community engagement emphasis, which supports better participation in climate action at community level. Alternative 3 had better potential therefore to fully realize potential environmental effects than Alternative 2.

Reasonable Alternative 3 - The Holistic and Participatory Approach - therefore constituted the preferred alternative or preferred plan.



4. SEA CONCLUSION

The reasonable alternative evaluation presented in the preceding section resulted in the development of a LACAP that achieves the best environmental outcomes in comparison to other reasonable alternative considered.

The adoption of the mitigation measures to be integrated into the LACAP, in combination with the continued adoption of the development planning and control related environmental protection measures defined in the CDP will prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any potential negative environmental effects due to the implementation of the LACAP. No further mitigation measures are required for the LACAP.

With the adoption of the defined mitigation measures, the implementation of the adopted LACAP will not result in any likely, significant, adverse environmental effects.



5. SEA MONITORING

The SEA Directive requires that the environmental effects of the implementation of a plan are monitored in order 'to identify at an early stage unforeseen effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.'

A series of indicators and targets were established for identified SEOs to enable ongoing monitoring and measurement of LACAP implementation performance, the environmental effects of the implementation of the LACAP and the efficacy of environmental mitigation measures. Such monitoring will be carried out regularly to support plan implementation.

SEO indicators are simple and effective quantifiable indicators used to measure the environmental effects of implementing the LACAP and the progress of SEO objectives and targets. SEO targets set focussed, measurable aims and thresholds that the LACAP can support the achievement of.

WCCC are responsible for implementation of the SEA monitoring programme. The environmental effects (including positive, negative and cumulative effects) of LACAP implementation will be monitored once every year over the course of the plan's five-year lifetime. This monitoring will be carried out by the Climate Action section of Waterford City and County Council who will report on progress and performance to the relevant SPC annually. A monitoring report will be prepared to document monitoring outcomes. This report shall be made available for public inspection.

Where monitoring identifies that the implementation of the LACAP is having a significant negative environmental effect, an in-depth review of the LACAP should take place and the LACAP should be updated in a manner that satisfactorily mitigates these environmental effects (i.e., through the adoption of additional environmental mitigation measures.). Similarly, where monitoring indicates that potential positive environmental effects associated with LACAP implementation are not being adequately realized, the LACAP should be reviewed and updated in a manner that supports the realization of all potential positive environmental effects, having regard to the overall vision and high-level objectives of the plan.

The SEA Monitoring Programme established for the LACAP is contained in Table 5-1. This monitoring programme has been developed in accordance with EPA guidelines entitled 'Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring' (2020). The monitoring programme includes detail on the indicators, targets and data sources used to monitor and measure progress.

A stand-alone monitoring report on the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan will be prepared in advance of the plan review process. 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 and, if necessary, the carrying out of remedial action.



Table 5-1: SEA Monitoring Programme

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
Overall	O1	Ensure, where appropriate, that lower-level plans and projects contribute to overall environmental monitoring processes within the County.	Lower-level plan and project accordance with the plan.	Require all lower-level plans and projects have appropriate regard to and appropriately support all action and development proposals defined in the Plan. Ensure planning policy and climate action policy is aligned.	Review of Local Area Plans. Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Review of lower-level plan SEA documentation.
Population & Human Health	PHH1	Avoid or, minimise impacts to population and human health.	Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan.	No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan.	Consultation with the Health Service Executive (HSE)/Health Atlas Ireland and the EPA.
	PHH2	Ensure the Decarbonising Zone avoids and minimises impacts to the existing economic activities within the area and does not compromise/conflict with existing land use objectives.	Compliance of action and development supported by the plan with policies and land use objectives protective/supportive of economic development in the county defined in the County Development Plan (CDP) or County Local Area Plans.	No contravention of policies and land use objectives protective/supportive of economic development in the county defined in the CDP or County Local Area Plans. Planning consent for development proposals supported by the plan only to be granted where development will be carried out in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.	Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives. Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	B1	Ensure Climate Action does not conflict with biodiversity protection, restoration and rehabilitation.	Compliance of action and development supported by the plan with policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the CDP. Condition of habitats impacted by climate change (Area km ² /length metres).	No contravention of policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the CDP. Ensure no habitats are impacted by the effects of climate change. Ensure there is no reduction in the number of geographic distribution of	Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives. Internal monitoring of compliance with the County Biodiversity Action Plan. Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
			<p>Number and geographical distribution of Species or Species population trends impacted by climate change.</p> <p>Compliance of action and development supported by the plan with policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<p>species as a result of climate change effects.</p> <p>No contravention of policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Planning consent for development proposals supported by the plan only to be granted where development complies with policy supporting biodiversity protection and enhancement.</p>	
	B2	Ensure compliance with Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species ⁴ .	Condition of European Sites and annexed species.	No adverse impacts on the condition of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species as a result of plan implementation.	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Consultation with the NPWS.</p> <p>Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage report on the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive.</p> <p>Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the Birds Directive under Article 12.</p> <p>Review of NPWS publications regarding the status of European sites.</p>

⁴ 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	B3	Support Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.	<p>Condition of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora.</p> <p>Linear meters of riparian corridors enhanced with native planting.</p> <p>Fragmentation or breaks in continuity of habitats and loss of wildlife corridors, stepping stones and connectivity (km²).</p> <p>Number of developments consented that have significant greenspace proposals.</p>	<p>No adverse impacts on the condition of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as a result of plan implementation.</p> <p>Increase linear metres of riparian corridor enhanced with native planting.</p> <p>Reduce habitat fragmentation or breaks.</p> <p>Increase number of developments consented that have significant greenspace proposals.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Mapping of LR important habitats and species as part of the County Biodiversity Plan.</p>
	B4	To avoid or minimize significant impacts on semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features, or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation; and to comply with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2012 with regard to listed species.	<p>Condition of semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation.</p> <p>Status of listed species in the Wildlife Acts 1976 - 2012.</p>	<p>No adverse impacts on condition of semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation, as a result of plan implementation.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on listed species in the Wildlife Acts 1976 - 2012 as a result of plan implementation.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Mapping of LR important habitats and species as part of the County Biodiversity Plan.</p>
	B5	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration in response to the biodiversity emergency.	Compliance of development supported by the plan with policies providing for the protection and enhancement of	No contravention of policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the CDP.	<p>Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives.</p> <p>Internal monitoring of compliance with the County Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
			<p>Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined the CDP.</p> <p>No. of developments consented that have significant greenspace proposals.</p> <p>Improved biodiversity areas (Area km² /length metres).</p> <p>Compliance of development supported by the plan with policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<p>Increase number of developments consented that have significant greenspace proposals.</p> <p>Increase quantum of improved biodiversity areas.</p> <p>No contravention of policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Planning consent for development proposals supported by the plan only to be granted where development complies with policy supportive of biodiversity protection and enhancement.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Mapping of LR important habitats and species as part of the County Biodiversity Plan.</p>
Landscape & Visual Amenity	L1	Avoid or, minimise impacts to statutory landscape designations defined in the CDP.	<p>Status of Landscape Character Areas, High Amenity Zones, Historic Landscape Character Areas and Views and Prospects.</p> <p>Number of developments consented that result in avoidable adverse impacts on Landscape Character Areas, High Amenity Zones, Historic Landscape Character Areas and Views and Prospects.</p> <p>Number of areas in the local authority functional area designated for their landscape character or visual amenity.</p>	<p>All action and development proposals supported by the plan must comply with policy objectives relating to the protection of Landscape Character Areas, High Amenity Zones, Historic Landscape Character Areas and Views and Prospects defined in the CDP.</p> <p>No development supported by the plan should have an adverse impact on Landscape Character Areas, High Amenity Zones, Historic Landscape Character Areas and Views and Prospects.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives.</p> <p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Review of future iterations of the Landscape Character Assessment.</p>



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	L2	Avoid or minimise adverse visual effects on residential receptors or other sensitive visual receptors.	<p>Number of developments consented result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on residential receptors or other sensitive visual receptors.</p> <p>Number of areas in the local authority functional area designated for their visual amenity.</p>	<p>No development supported by the plan should have a significant adverse visual impact on residential receptors or other sensitive visual receptors.</p> <p>All development supported by the plan should adhere to relevant Development Management Standards defined in the CDP, in particular standards defined in relation to physical and visual impacts.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Review of future iterations of the Landscape Character Assessment.</p>
Cultural Heritage - Archaeology & Architectural	CH1	Avoid impacts upon archaeological heritage (including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)) and architectural heritage (including entries to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAHs)).	<p>Percentage of features contained in the RMP (and, where relevant, the associated surrounding context) protected from adverse effects due to action and development occurring as a result of this plan.</p> <p>Percentage of features contained in the RPS and NIAH (and, where relevant, the associated surrounding context) protected from adverse effects due to action and development occurring as a result of this plan.</p>	<p>No features contained in the RMP (nor the associated surrounding context) should be significantly adversely affected as a result of the implementation of this plan.</p> <p>No features contained in the RPS and NIAH (nor the associated surrounding context) should be significantly adversely affected as a result of the implementation of this plan.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Consultation with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media</p> <p>Review of Heritage Plan environmental effect monitoring</p>
Soils	S1	Avoid or minimise effects on mineral resources or soils.	Number of instances of significant adverse impacts on mineral resources or soils occurring, including the pollution, loss or degradation of mineral resources or soils, as a result of action and development supported by the plan.	No instances of significant adverse impacts on mineral resources or soils occurring as a result of action and development supported by the plan.	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Consultation with Geological Survey of Ireland and review of published data on the soils environment.</p>



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
Land Use	LU1	Avoid or minimise effects on existing land use.	Number of instances of significant adverse impacts on existing land use as a result of plan implementation.	No instances of significant adverse impacts on existing land use as a result of plan implementation.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Review of Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry related Greenhouse Gas emissions calculated in the Baseline Emission Inventory.
Air Quality and Noise	AQN1	Increase the number of people travelling to work or school via public transport or by non-mechanical means.	% change in modal split. Length of new sustainable transport routes developed.	Reduction in private car use. Extension and improvement of the sustainable transport network in the plan area.	Central Statistics Office (CSO) Population data - Commuting in Ireland. Internal monitoring of length of new sustainable transport routes developed.
	AQN2	Avoid or minimise effects on local air quality.	Number of developments consented that result in avoidable adverse air quality impacts on sensitive receptors. Number of exceedances of ambient air quality standards in the County, as monitored under the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network. Improvements in air quality status in the county.	No development supported by the plan should have a significant adverse air quality impact on sensitive receptors. All development supported by the plan should adhere to relevant Development Management Standards defined in the CDP relating to the protection of air quality. Minimise ambient air quality standard exceedances in the County.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Consultation with the EPA. Review of EPA Air Quality Monitoring undertaken in the County. Review of EPA annual 'Air Quality in Ireland' Report
	AQN3	Avoid or minimise adverse noise impacts.	Number of sensitive receptors exposed to noise nuisance.	No sensitive receptors exposed to nuisance noise in the County.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Monitoring of internal noise complaint investigations undertaken. Consultation with the EPA.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
Water	W1	Maintain and/or improve, the quality and status of surface waters.	<p>Status of surface water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the Water Framework Directive (WFD)</p> <p>Status of bathing waters as monitored under the Bathing Water Directive.</p> <p>Number of water bodies achieving High or Good Ecological Status as defined by the WFD within the life-cycle of the Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>Number of Pollution Incidents detected due to poor bathing water quality results.</p> <p>Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status.'</p> <p>No deterioration in the status of any bathing waters, having appropriate regard to bathing water mandatory and guidelines values defined in the Bathing Water Directive.</p> <p>Implementation of the objectives of the second cycle of the national River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>Increase in number of water bodies achieving High or Good Ecological Status as defined by the WFD within the life-cycle of the Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>EPA surface water monitoring data and reports.</p> <p>EPA bathing water monitoring data and reports.</p> <p>Review of environmental quality data detailed in the EPA Maps Application</p>
	W2	Maintain and/or improve, the chemical and quantitative status of groundwaters.	Status of groundwater bodies as reported by the EPA National Groundwater Monitoring Programme for the WFD.	No deterioration in the status of groundwater quality, having appropriate regard to Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values defined under Directive 2006/118/EC.	EPA groundwater monitoring data and reports. Review of environmental quality data detailed in the EPA Maps Application
	W3	Prevent impact upon the WFD status of surface waters and groundwater in line with the requirements of the WFD.	Number of instances of significant adverse impact on surface water or groundwater bodies resulting in a reduction in water quality or the ability of a water body to achieve 'good' water quality status.	No instances of significant adverse impact on surface water or groundwater bodies resulting in a reduction in water quality or the ability of a water body to achieve 'good' water quality status.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Consultation with the EPA.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
			Number of water bodies achieving High or Good Ecological Status as defined by the WFD within the life-cycle of the Climate Action Plan.	Increase in number of water bodies achieving High or Good Ecological Status as defined by the WFD within the life-cycle of the Climate Action Plan.	
	W4	Comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.	Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) consented within flood risk areas.	Minimise developments (supported by the plan) granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk, having appropriate regard to the Flood Risk Management guidelines.	Internal monitoring of development projects granted planning consent.
	W5	Prevent impact upon drinking water quality	Number of non-compliances with Drinking Water Quality Standards defined in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023.	No non-compliances with Drinking Water Quality Standards defined in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023.	EPA Drinking Water Quality Reports. Review of environmental quality data detailed in the EPA Maps Application
Material Assets	MAI1	Avoid or minimise effects on built/amenity assets and infrastructure	Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) adversely affecting built/amenity assets and infrastructure.	No incompatible development (supported by the plan) adversely affecting built/amenity assets and infrastructure.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.
	MAI2	Avoid or minimise effects on existing and (where known) planned infrastructure.	Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) adversely affecting existing or planned infrastructure, including water supply, wastewater management, energy and transport infrastructure.	No incompatible development (supported by the plan) adversely affecting existing or planned material assets infrastructure.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects, including monitoring of effects on other future planned or committed material asset infrastructure projects. Consultation with Irish Water, Gas Networks Ireland, ESB Networks and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	MAI3	Promote sustainable transportation.	<p>% change in modal split.</p> <p>Kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network.</p> <p>Kilometres of permanent integrated cycling network.</p> <p>Number of Electric Vehicle charging points in the county.</p> <p>Total Area of road reallocated for sustainable alternatives (m²).</p>	<p>Percentage increase in the number of public transport users in the County</p> <p>Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network.</p> <p>Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network.</p> <p>Increase number of Electric Vehicle charging points in the county.</p> <p>Increase Total Area of road reallocated for sustainable alternatives.</p>	<p>CSO Population data - Commuting in Ireland.</p> <p>Internal monitoring of length of new sustainable transport routes developed.</p>
	MAI4	Promote sustainable waste management.	<p>Tonnes of hazardous waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.</p> <p>Tonnes of W.E.E.E. waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.</p> <p>Tonnes of Bulky waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.</p> <p>Tonnes of garden waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.</p>	<p>Increase waste recycling in the County.</p> <p>Reduce waste generation in the County.</p>	<p>EPA Waste Statistics. Consultation with the EPA.</p>
	MAI5	Promote sustainable water use and drainage management.	<p>Level of water use in the County.</p> <p>Compliance with Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) related development management standards defined in the CDP.</p>	<p>Reduced water use in the county.</p> <p>All development (supported by the plan) must comply with SuDS related development management standards defined in the CDP.</p>	<p>CSO water consumption data.</p> <p>Internal monitoring of flood risk associated with development projects and development project compliance with relevant flood risk and management related development management standards.</p>



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
Tourism & Recreation	TR1	Avoid or minimise effects upon tourism and recreation amenities.	Visitor trips to local authority functional area	Stable or increasing number of visitor trips to local authority functional area.	Fáilte Ireland Data on Tourism Performance
Climate Change	CF1	Delivery of the necessary action to support the national target of 80% electricity from renewable sources by 2030.	Level of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in the County. Level of renewable energy infrastructure in the County.	Reduce GHG emissions associated with the Energy sector in the County. Increase the level of renewable energy infrastructure in the County.	EPA National Emission Inventory. Baseline Emission Inventory for the County. Megawatt hour (MWh) output from renewable energy infrastructure in the county.
	CF2	Actively support the delivery of all national climate policy as appropriate to the county with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures.	Level of GHG emissions in the County	Reduce GHG emissions for all sectors in the County.	EPA National Emission Inventory. Baseline Emission Inventory for the County.
	CF3	Assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels.	Level of GHG emissions in the County. Level of GHG emissions in the Decarbonising Zone. Net addition of tree cover added.	Reduce GHG emission in the County to Net Zero. Reduce Decarbonising Zone GHG emissions to Net Zero. Increase level of tree cover in the County.	EPA National Emission Inventory. Baseline Emission Inventory for the County. Baseline Emission Inventory for the Decarbonising Zone.
	CF4	Deliver a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) within the local authority area to act as a test bed for a range of climate mitigation and adaptation measures in a specifically defined area through the identification of projects and outcomes that will assist in the delivery of the National Climate Objective.	Level of GHG emissions in the Decarbonising Zone.	Reduce Decarbonising Zone GHG emissions to Net Zero.	Baseline Emission Inventory for the Decarbonising Zone.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
Inter-relationships	IR1	Maintain and improve the health of people, ecosystems and natural processes Actively seek to integrate opportunities for environmental enhancement during adaptation to climate change	Number of blue and green infrastructure measures included as part of development projects that have been granted planning consent.	Increase the number of blue and green infrastructure measures included as part of development projects that have been granted planning consent.	Review of granted planning consents.



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Notice of Adoption under Article 16 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435/2004), as amended

Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 for the Waterford City & County Council functional area

Waterford City & County Council has prepared a Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) for the Waterford City & County Council functional area for the years 2024 – 2029 under Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

The LACAP was subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under SEA Directive 2001/42/EC as transposed into Irish law under the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435/2004), as amended; and Appropriate Assessment (AA) the EU's Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, as transposed into Irish law under Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011), as amended.

A copy of the LACAP and associated environmental reports are available for public inspection at the offices of the competent authority during office hours and on the website of the authority or at:

- Customer Care Baileys New Street, Dungarvan Offices, Lady Lane Library and Dungarvan Library during regular opening hours

from April 1st – April 29th

A SEA Statement is also available for inspection which summarises:

- i. how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme
- ii. how
 - a. the environmental report prepared pursuant to article 12,
 - b. submissions and observations made to the competent authority in response to a notice under article 13, and
 - c. any consultations under article 14,have been taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme,
- iii. the reasons for choosing the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with, and
- iv. the measures decided upon to monitor, in accordance with article 17, the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme.