

Chapter 2 Development Context and Framing Documents

2.0 Introduction

Dungarvan Town is a coastal town located in the south-east of Ireland, in the heart of County Waterford. Dungarvan is the administrative centre for the County and is the second largest urban settlement. The County is otherwise predominantly rural in character. Dungarvan's proximity to Waterford and Cork City exerts a strong influence over the physical, social and economic development of the Town. In addition, a number of other large urban centres influence the town including Clonmel, Youghal, Carrick-on-Suir and Fermoy. These centres manifest their influence on the Town in terms of various 'push-pull' factors.

The Gaeltacht area of An Rinn/Seanphobal with its own particular heritage and culture is situated to the south-east of Dungarvan.

2.1 Physical Context

The Town occupies a geographic area of 6km². It is defined by a level landscape, the River Colligan running through the central core of the town and the harbour and estuaries to the south.

2.2 Infrastructure

The N25 National Primary Route traverses the Town on the Gateways of Cork and Waterford. To the north of the Town, linked by the R672 regional road, the N72 National Secondary Road connects Dungarvan with the Kerry/Limerick region. Waterford's coastal route along the R675 Regional road links into the east of Dungarvan. A map of the Roads network is set out in Appendix A5.

2.3 National Documents

2.3.1 National Development Plan 2007 – 2013

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2007-2013 identifies key areas of investment for development in the areas of health, social and community facilities, roads, education, rural development and industry. The



strategies and funding as set out in the NDP 2007-2013 feed into the National Spatial Strategy and promote balanced regional development, sustainable economic development and greater social inclusion.

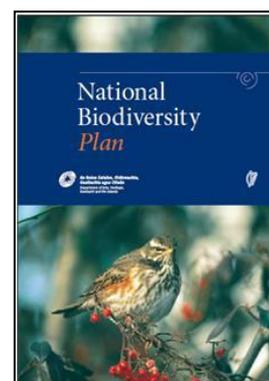
2.3.2 National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020

The National Spatial Strategy (NSS) 2002-2020 is a planning framework designed to achieve a sustainable balance of social, economic, and physical development and population growth, at both the micro and macro levels within the 8 Regional Authority areas. The NSS emphasises the central role of the designated Gateways, Hubs and County Towns in functioning as the economic drivers for their respective regions.

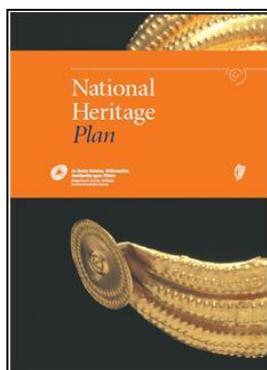


2.3.3 The National Biodiversity Plan 2002

The cornerstone of the National Biodiversity Plan recognises that conservation and enhancement of biological diversity is essential for sustainable development, and for maintaining the quality of human life. All sectors and actors are responsible for advancing the conservation of biological diversity in their respective areas. This includes preparation and implementation of Local Biodiversity Action Plans by local authorities. The first Biodiversity Action Plan for County Waterford was published by in 2008.

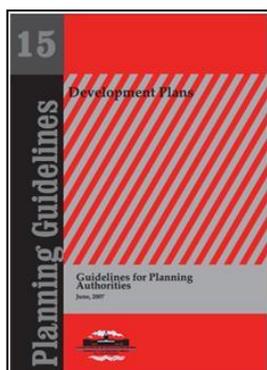


2.3.4 The National Heritage Plan 2002



The National Heritage Plan sets out a clear and coherent strategy and framework for the protection and enhancement of Ireland's National heritage. The core objective of the Plan is to protect the National heritage as well as promoting it as a resource to be enjoyed by all. A key objective of the plan is the preparation and delivery of County Heritage Plans. The County Waterford Heritage Plan 2006 - 2010 has regard to this National Plan. Its aim is to inform people of what the County has, how it can be managed, and the range of organisations involved in heritage.

2.3.5 Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DoEHLG

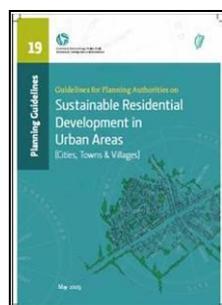


The Development Plan Guidelines issued in June 2007 provide guidance on the production, content, presentation, implementation and subsequent monitoring of development plans. By building on the legislative framework of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and through the employment of knowledge gained from past experience these guidelines detail how Ireland can develop an increasingly dynamic, objective, and inclusive planning system so as to structure future development that will meet wider socio-economic, environmental and heritage objectives.

The guidelines state that development plans should:

1. Be strategic in nature;
2. Be a catalyst for positive change and progress;
3. Anticipate future needs on an objective basis; and
4. Have a role in protecting the environment and heritage.

2.3.6 Planning Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas - DoEHLG

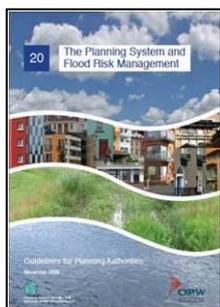


The Guidelines issued in May 2009 are informed by the '1999 Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Residential Density'. The aim of the guidelines is to set

out the key planning principles which should be reflected in development plans and local area plans, and which should guide the preparation and evaluation of planning applications for residential developments in urban areas. The objectives of the new guidelines are as follows:

1. Set out stronger planning requirements to facilitate the development of sustainable communities through strengthening planning and the provision of necessary supporting services and amenities;
2. Assist in achieving the most efficient use of urban areas through the employment of housing densities that are appropriate to the location involved and availability of supporting services and infrastructure, particularly transport; and
3. Set high standards in terms of space and facilities to meet the needs of the Irish context.

2.3.7 The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities



These Guidelines were issued in November 2009 and seek to ensure that flood risk is taken fully into account both in the preparation of regional plans, development plans and local area plans, and in the determining of applications for planning permission. The Guidelines also address environmental considerations including the need to manage the potential impacts of climate change.

2.3.8 Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive¹ (WFD) represents a major revision of EU water policy and establishes a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters and groundwater. The WFD sets out that Member States shall implement the necessary measures to prevent deterioration of the status of all bodies of surface water, and shall protect, enhance and restore all bodies of surface water with the aim of achieving good status by 2015. One of the main requirements of the Water Framework Directive is the development of River



¹ The European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 722 of 2003) transposed Directive 2000/60/EC (the Water Framework Directive, WFD) into Irish Law.

Basin Management Plans and the designation of a competent authority for each river basin district (RBD).

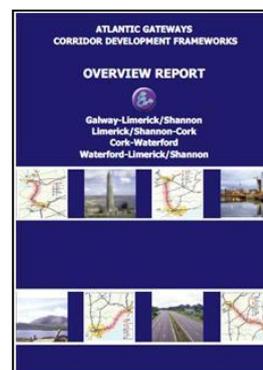
County Waterford is covered by the South East River Basin Management Plan and the South West River Basin Management Plan. These management plans set out programmes of measures which require planning authorities to take cognisance of impacts of development on the river basin.

2.3.9 The Regional Planning Guidelines Review, Gateway and Hub Population Targets, 2009

This document recommends that, in the areas beyond Gateways and Hubs, a strategy is put in place for a distribution of future development in relation to housing, employment and retailing by achieving compact sustainable urban development; integrating future housing, employment, retailing and other community services; and promoting development at locations both along existing or future planned public transport corridors and or that have been serviced or have good prospects of being serviced by water services infrastructure and in line with the availability of public resources. It also sets out population targets for the State and the Regions.

2.3.10 Atlantic Gateways Corridor Overview Report

The National Spatial Strategy provided for an integrated approach to regional development in Ireland. It identified that the development of the Gateway cities of Cork, Limerick/Shannon, Galway and Waterford – otherwise known as the Atlantic Gateways – would be key to more balanced regional development. This would be achieved through the establishment of a linked metropolitan region in the western and southern parts of Ireland. It is envisaged that this region would have the critical mass of population, connectivity and infrastructure capable of sustaining and attracting new development.



The Report sets out the strategic goals for the development of the rural and hinterland areas between the Atlantic Gateway cities whilst also ensuring that the policies adopted at local and regional level are consistent with enhancing critical mass and driving growth in the Gateways themselves.

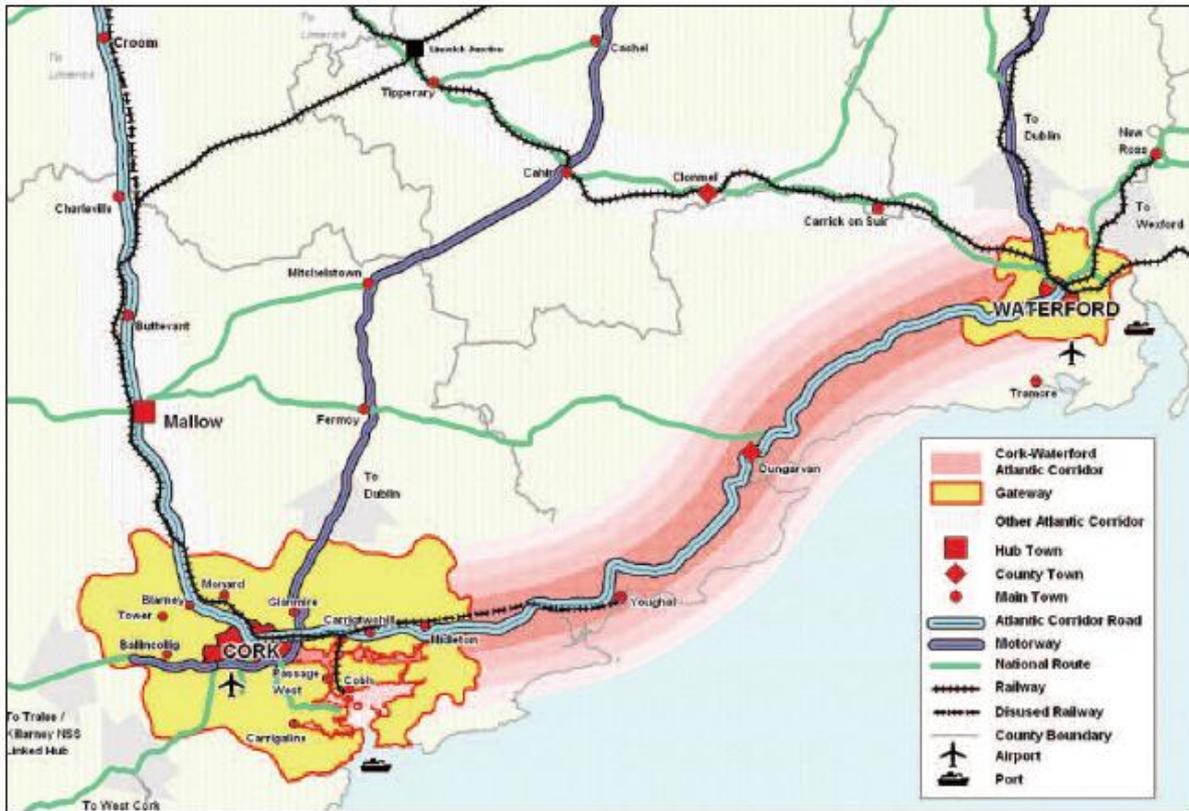
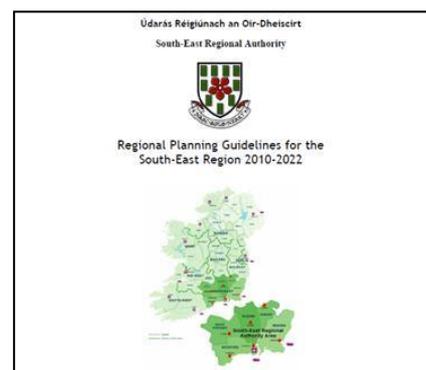


Figure 2.1 Cork – Waterford Corridor

2.4 Regional Documents

2.4.1 South East Regional Planning Guidelines

In accordance with Section 24(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) the Regional Authorities are entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the National Spatial Strategy at the regional level. To this end, the members of the South East Regional Authority, Counties Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford prepared the Regional Planning Guidelines. These Guidelines constitute a 20-year strategic planning framework for the development of the South-East region and contain policies and objectives relating to inter alia settlement, transportation, industrial development, community facilities and environmental protection. The Guidelines provide the framework within which county, city, town and local area development plans are prepared.



In order to enhance the strategic dimension of planning at local level the Planning Authority has given due consideration to the policies and objectives of the Guidelines in the preparation of this Development Plan.

2.4.2 Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region

The Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region seeks to secure the best environmental management of all waste (including prevention and minimisation) for the next 20 years and will be reviewed every 5 years. The purpose of the Plan is:

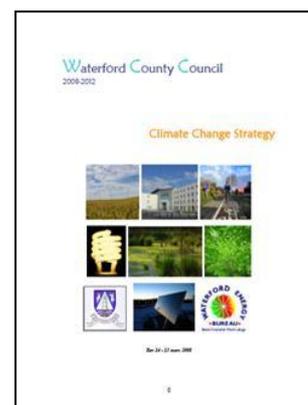


1. The promotion of waste prevention and minimisation through source reduction, producer responsibility and public awareness; and
2. The management for the recovery/recycling/disposal of waste arising on a regional basis.

2.5 County Documents

2.5.1 Waterford County Climate Change Strategy 2008 – 2012

It is now accepted that the world is warming up and that the developed world's consumption of fossil fuels such as oil, coal and gas is a major contributory factor to the temperature rise. In May 2007, Waterford County Council established an internal Climate Change Forum which meets periodically to develop practical policies and actions which seek to make the maximum contribution to the National effort to address climate change. The Climate Change Strategy has resulted from this forum and its recommendations will be implemented through statutory and non-statutory means.



2.6 Other Framing Documents

Other documents which were referred to in the preparation of this Plan include:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland- Guidance for Planning Authorities;
- Building for Everyone: Inclusion, Access and Use;
- Building Ireland's Smart Economy - A Framework for Sustainable Economic Renewal;
- County Waterford Needs Assessment 2009;
- Development Plan of Waterford County;
- Development Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities;
- Delivering Homes, Sustaining Communities 2007;
- European Charter of Pedestrian Rights (1998);
- Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015 - Towards a Sustainable Future Delivering Quality within the Built Environment;
- National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012;
- Planning Guidelines on Design Standards for New Apartments;
- Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities, Best Practice Guidelines 2007;
- Regional Bio-Energy Implementation Plan for the South-East Region 2008-2013;
- Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future. A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020;
- South East Regional Biodiversity Management Plan;
- South West Regional Biodiversity Management Plan;
- Sustainable Development - A Strategy for Ireland, 1997;
- Urban Design Manual, A Best Practice Guide 2009;
- Waterford Planning, Land Use and Transportation Study (PLUTS); and
- Waterford Sports Partnership Strategy 2007-2011.
- Spatial Planning and National Roads (Draft) Guidelines for Planning Authorities.
- Development Control Advice and Guidelines (1982)
- Sustainable Rural Housing guidelines for Planning Authorities (2005)

