



**Limerick City and
County Council**

Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy

Access & Connectivity and People, Health & Wellbeing

Stakeholder Workshop

Prepared by LUC

May 2021



Sign in Sheet

Melissa
Mc Ginley
LUC

Sarah
O'Malley
LCCC

Anne
Goggin
LCCC

Aisling
O'Loughlen
GoGreenRoutes
Maynooth
University

Tadhg
MacIntyre
GoGreenRoutes

Gemma
Tooze,
LUC

Sofie
Swindlehurst
Ecologist,
LUC

Aidan Finn
Limerick
Metropolitan
District Engineer
LCCC

Seamas
O Reilly
LCCC

Dara
McGuigan
LCCC

Lucy
Beagley
LUC

John
O'Shaughnessy
DHLGH

Phelim
Macken
Sports
Partnership

Morag
MacGregor
LUC

Shelley
Bontje
Mobycon

Eileen
Coleman

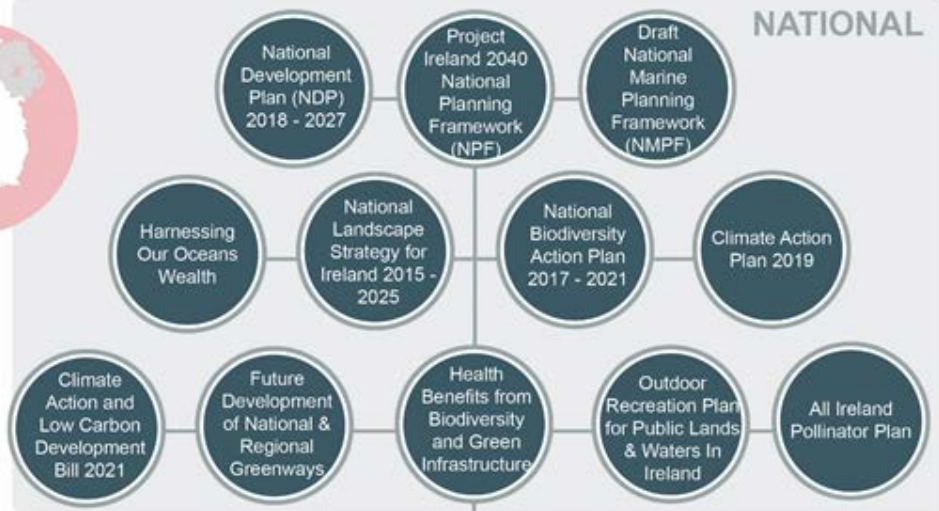
Tom
Joyce
LCCC

Phelim
Macken
Sports
Partnership

Yvie Murphy
Limerick
Women's
Network



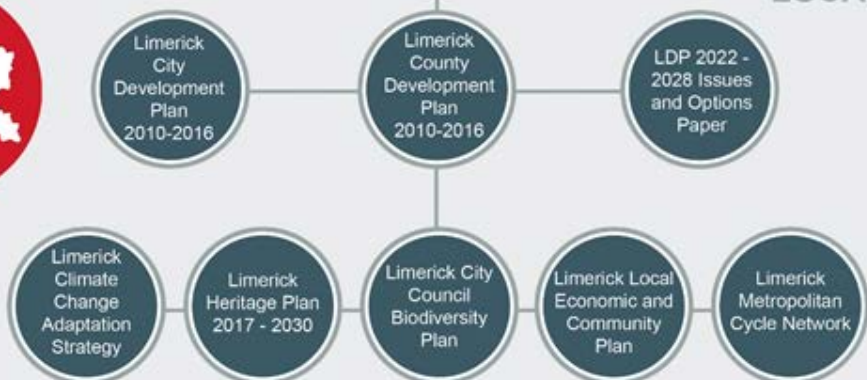
NATIONAL



REGIONAL



LOCAL



Limerick City and Environs
Green and Blue Infrastructure
Study

What is GBI, Why GBI?



"a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services' in both rural and urban settings"

European Commission
definition of Green
Infrastructure

Examples of GBI



Ponds



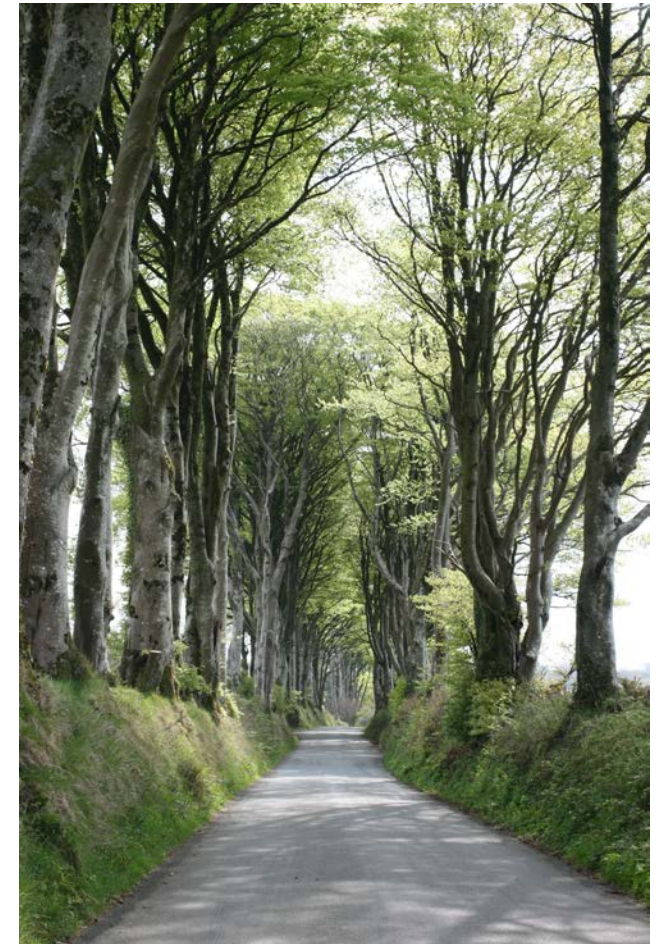
Verges



Allotments



**Footpaths and
cycle routes**



Street Trees

GBI Benefits





Improving resident's and visitor's physical & mental health



Aesthetic value and reinforcing sense / pride of place



Play, education and interaction with nature



Improving air quality and noise regulation



Active transport opportunities, such as walking and cycling



Reducing the risk of flooding and improving water quality



Opportunities for community growing



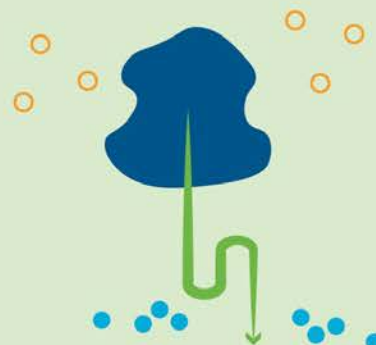
Increased economic activity and improved house prices



Space for biodiversity and improved ecological resilience



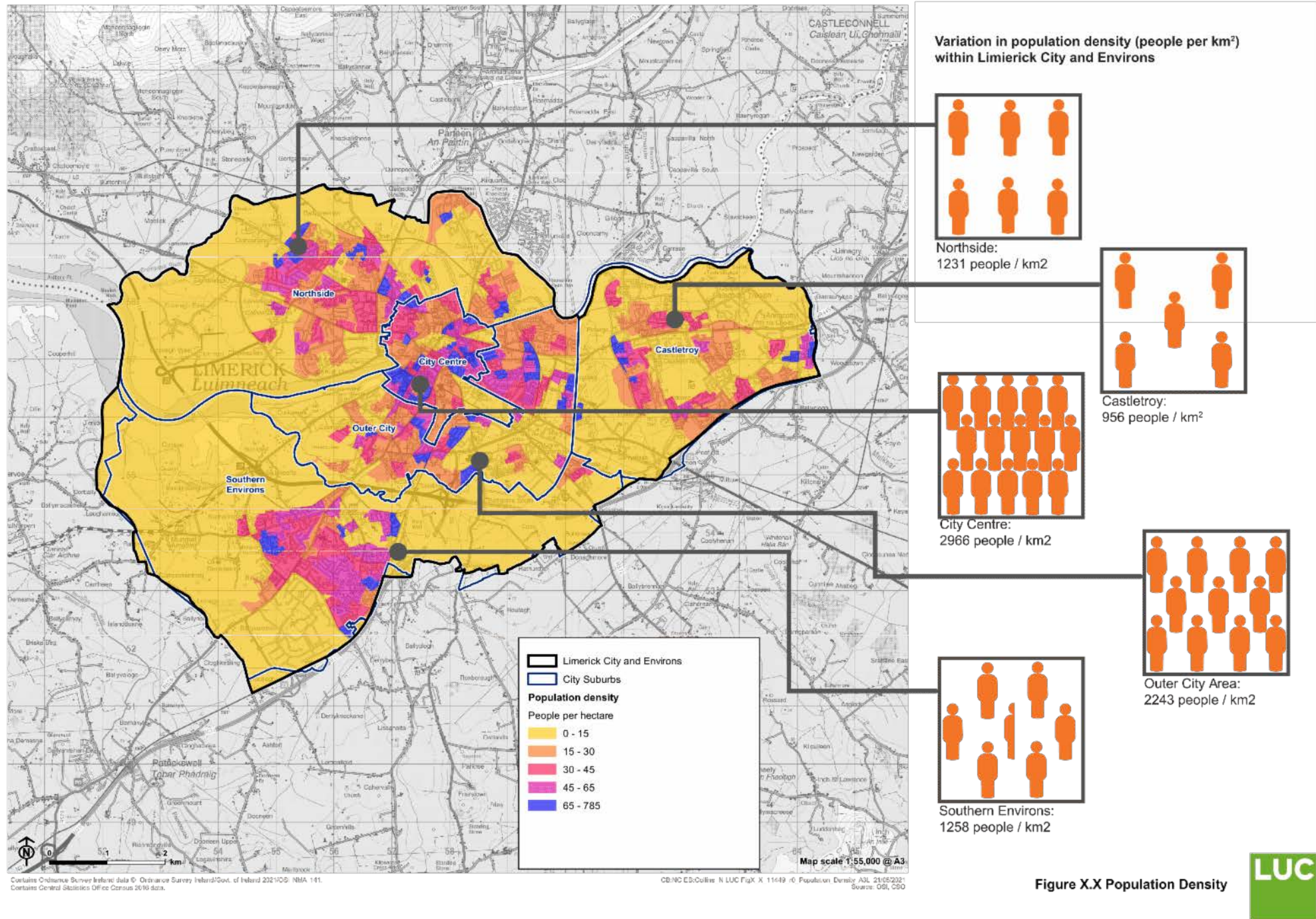
Opportunities for social interactions & community cohesion

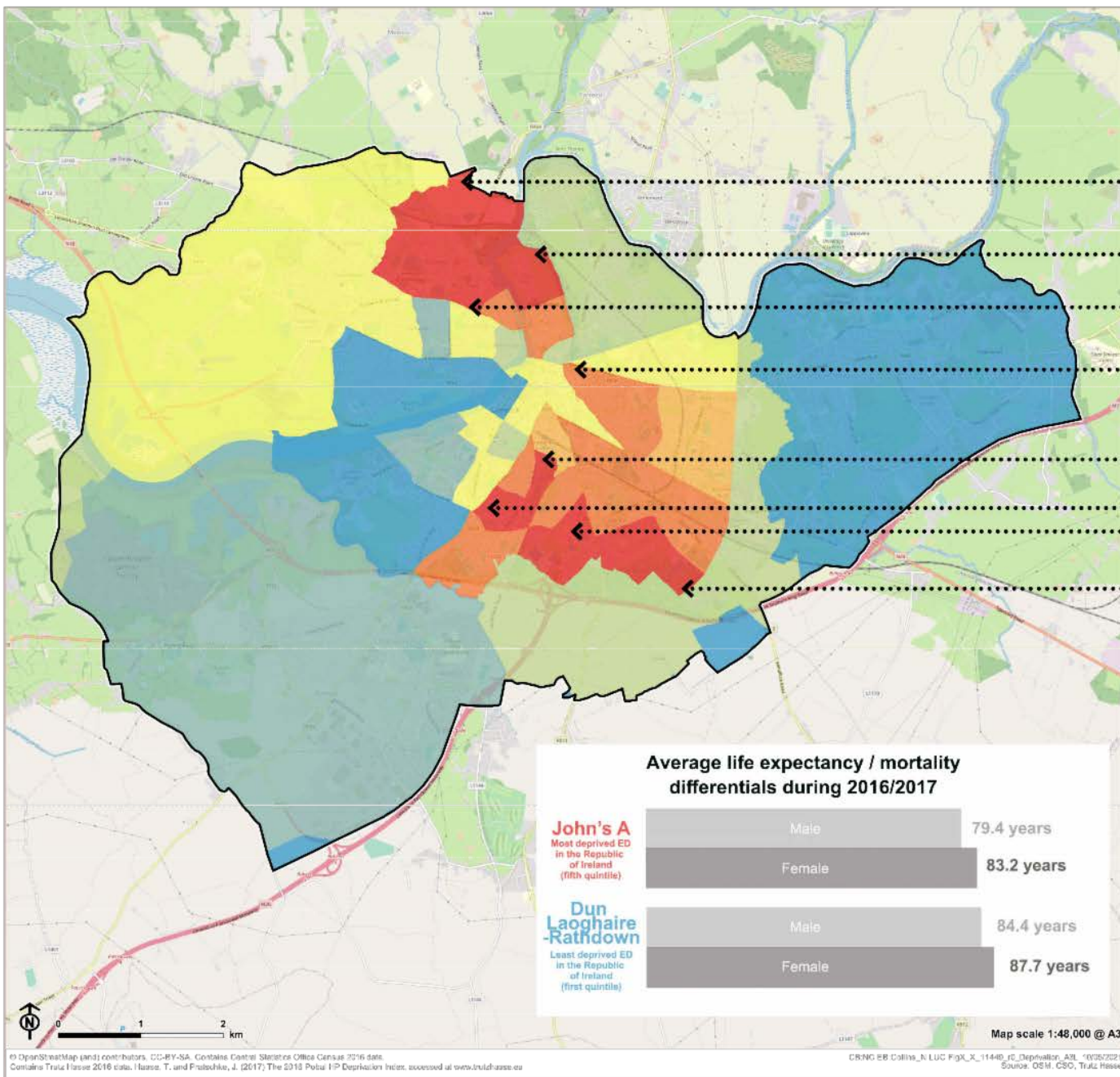


Carbon sequestration and mitigating climate change



Urban cooling and enhanced efficiency of building climate systems





Most deprived electoral divisions in the Republic of Ireland in 2016
Data source: Trinity College Dublin (2019) The Trinity National Deprivation Index for Health and Health Services Research 2016



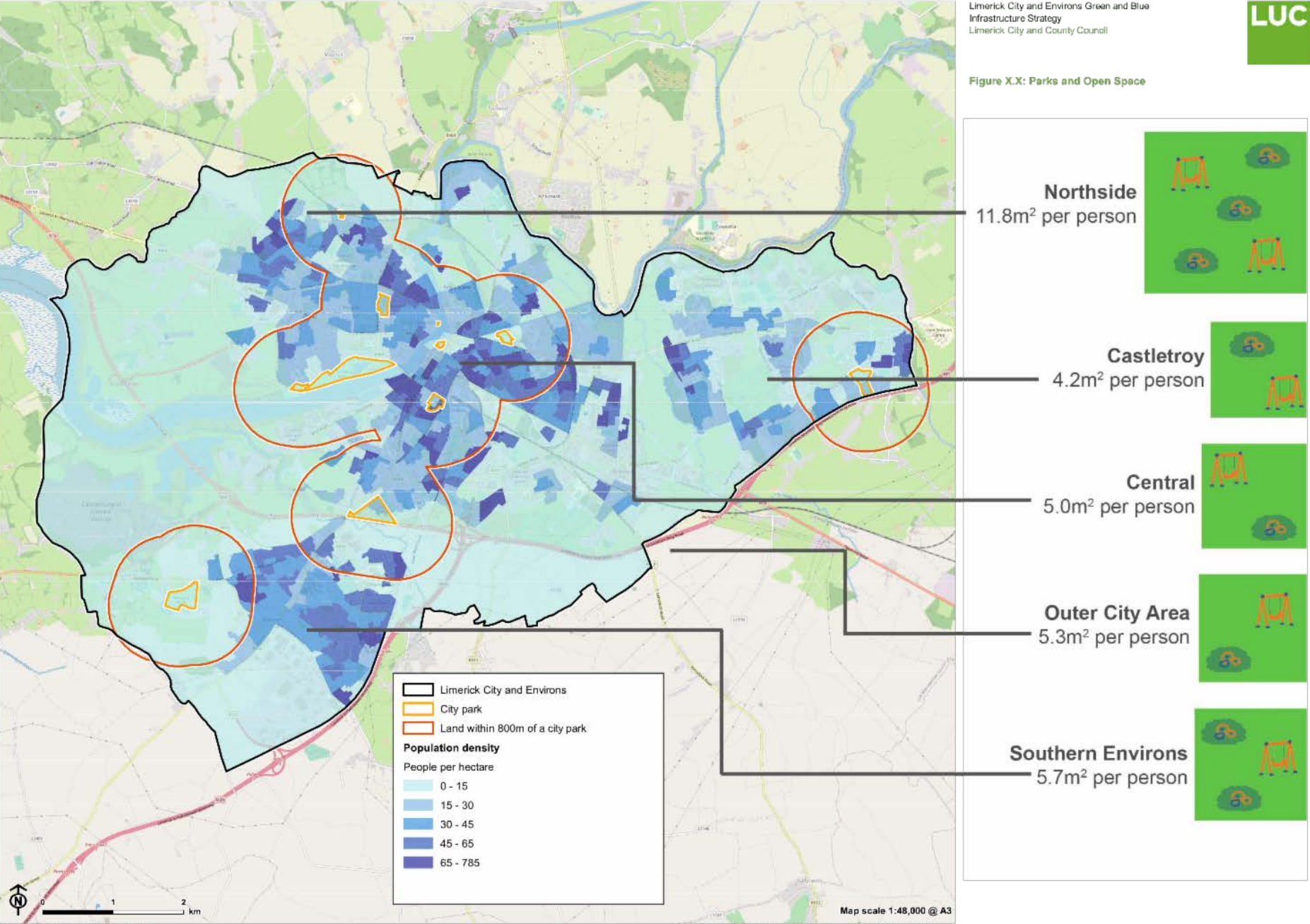
Average life expectancy / mortality differentials during 2016/2017

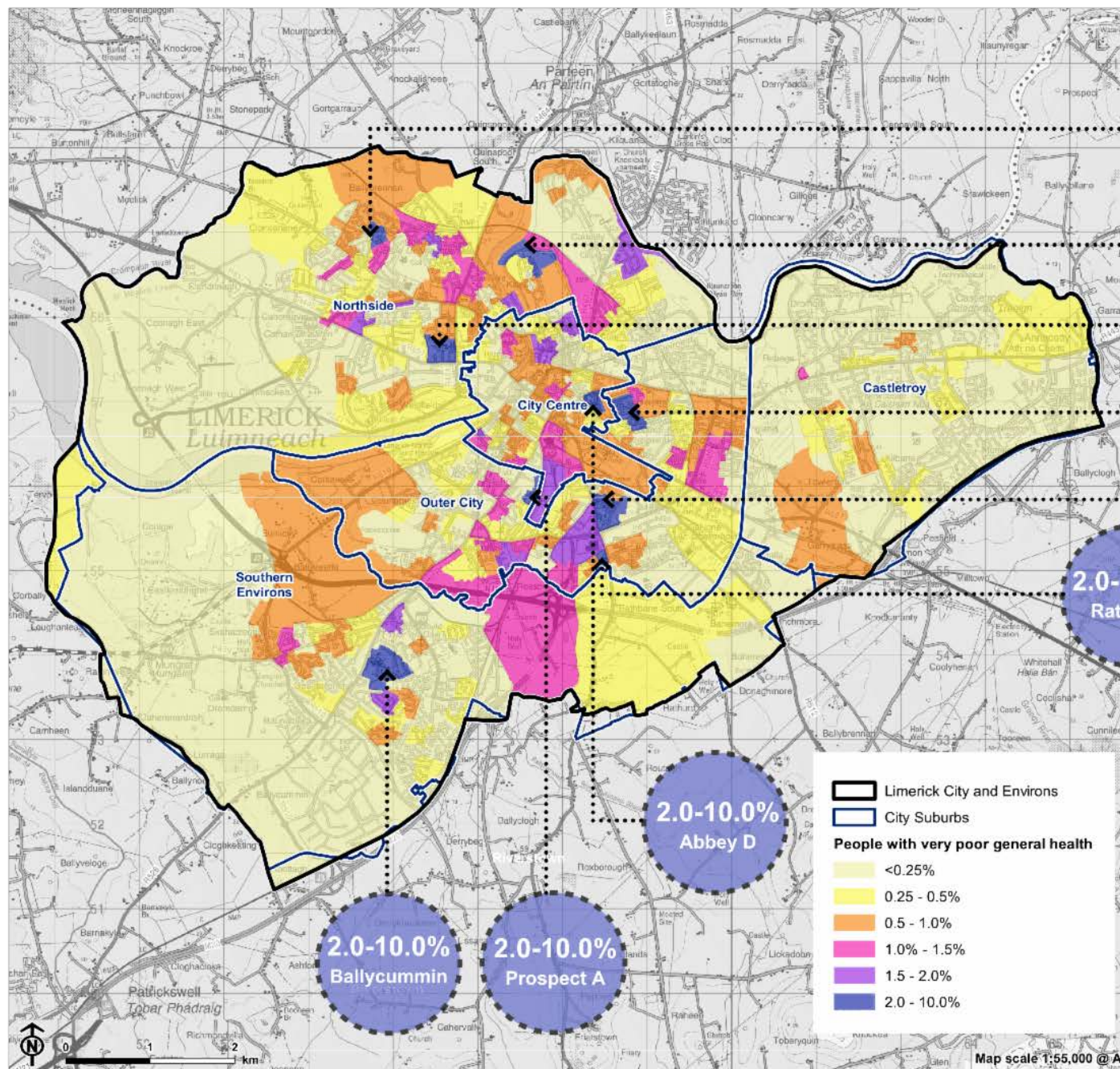


Figure X.X Deprivation



Figure X.X: Parks and Open Space





2.0-10.0% of Population with Poor General Health

2.0-10.0%
Limerick North Rural

2.0-10.0%
John's A

2.0-10.0%
Farranshane

2.0-10.0%
Abbey D

2.0-10.0%
Galvone A

2.0-10.0%
Rathbane

2.0-10.0%
Abbey D

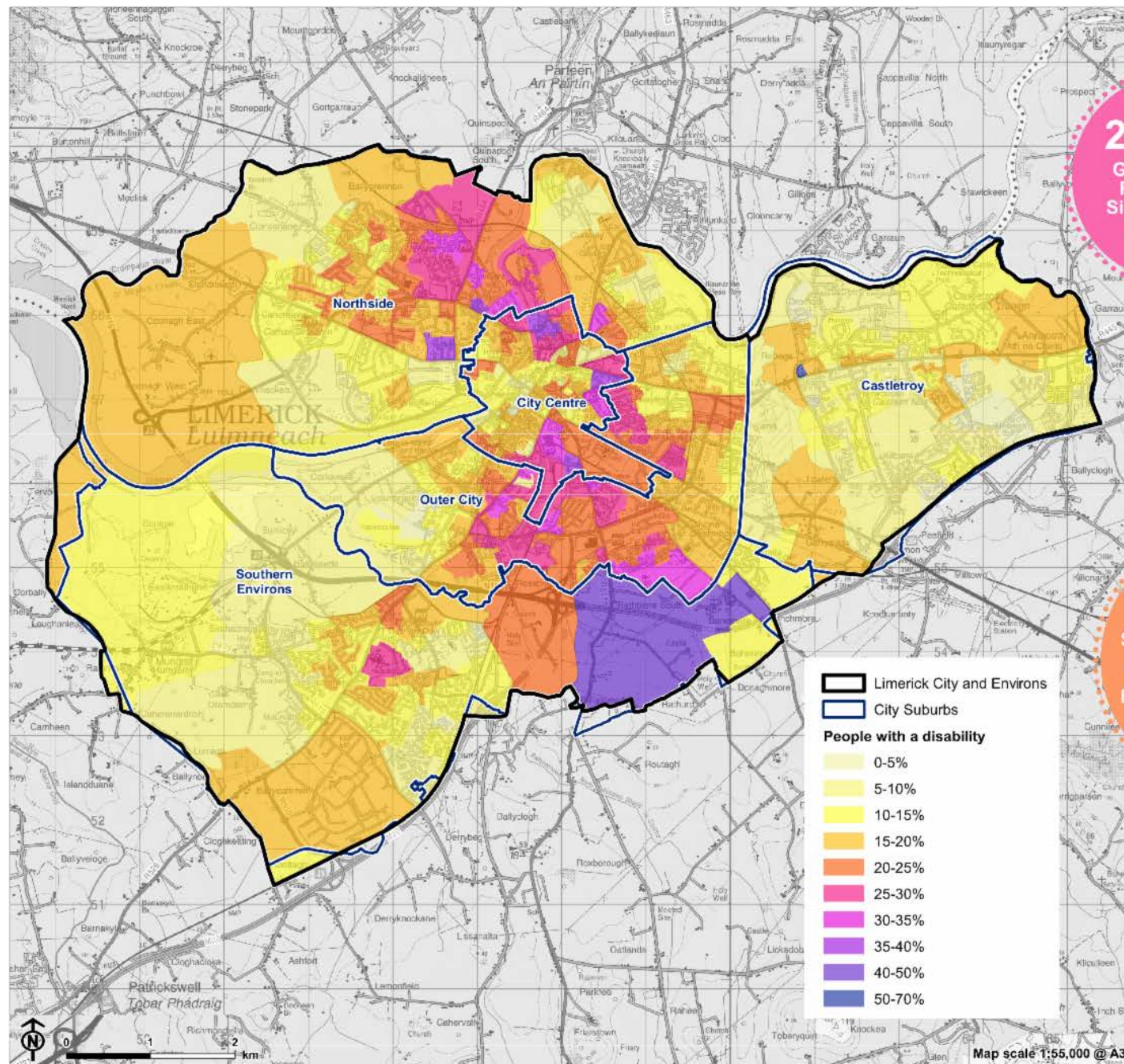
2.0-10.0%
Ballycummin

2.0-10.0%
Prospect A



Figure X.X % People with Very Poor Health





25-30%
Glentworth C,
Prospect B,
Singland A and
Killeely A

40-50%
Farranshone,
Glentworth A,
John's B and
Galvone B

0-5%
Limerick South
Rural, Ballysimon,
Ballycummin,
Ballinacurra A and
Abbey A

15-20%
Limerick North
Rural, Ballinacurra
B and Castle A

20-25%
St. Laurence, Galvone
A, Glentworth B,
Coolrairie, Singland
B, Rathbone, John's A
and Ballynanty

10-15%
Ballyvarra,
Ballycummin,
Limerick North
Fringe, Abbey
A, Abbey B and
Dock D

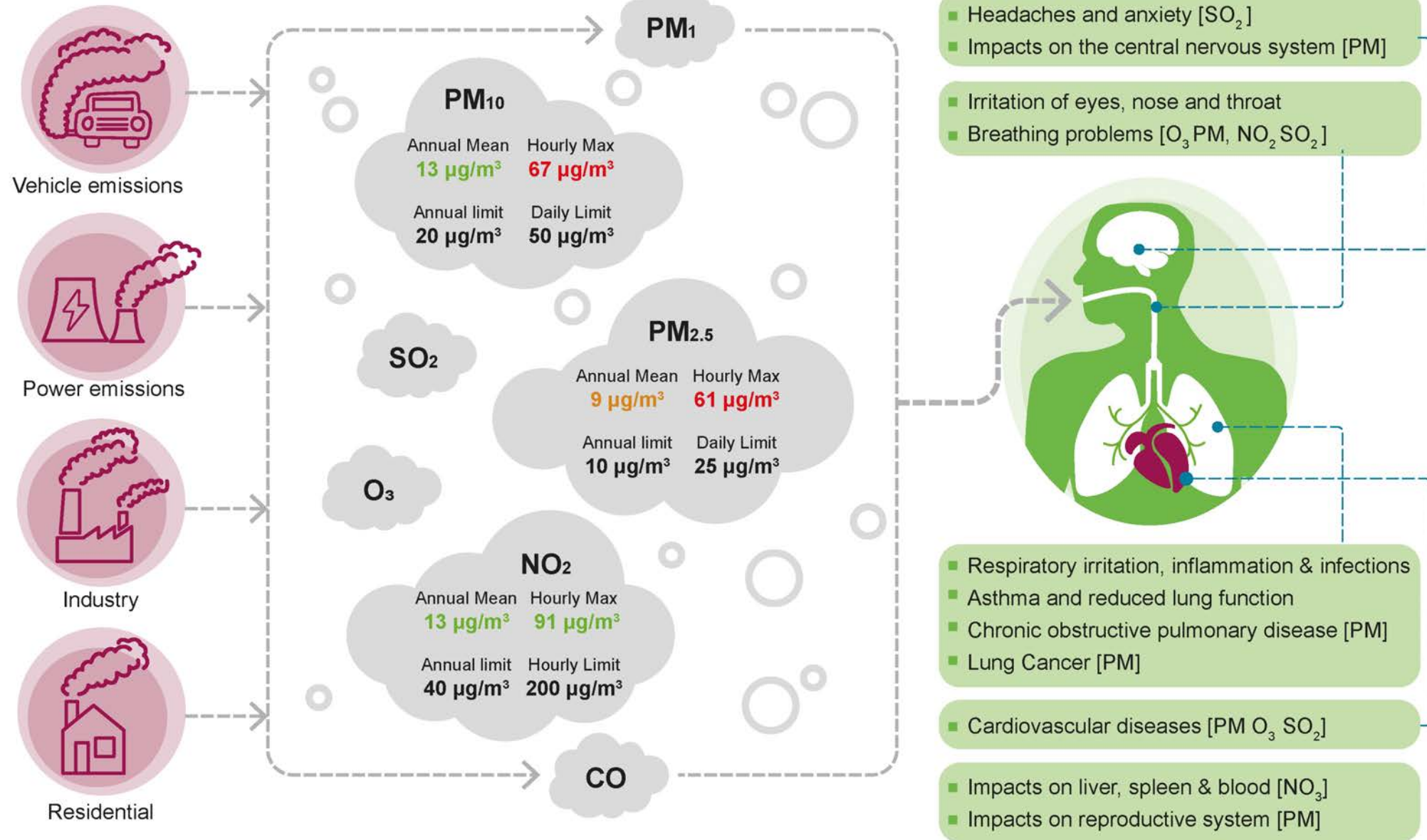
**Figure X.X % People
with a disability**



Pollutant Source

Key Pollutants in Limerick

Health Impact



GBI Themes



Landscape and Recreation

- Landscape character
- Regional parks
- Urban greening
- Sense of place



Biodiversity

- Local conservation priorities
- Designated sites
- Habitat networks



Access and Connectivity

- Active travel
- Public transport and the road network
- Public rights of way



Blue Infrastructure

- Water courses
- Flood risk
- Water quality



People, Health and Wellbeing

- Amenity greenspace
- Areas of deficiency
- Food growing
- Health and well-being



Tourism, Culture and the Economy

- Historic and heritage features
- Economic benefits
- Key destination for tourism

GBI Themes



Landscape and Recreation

- Landscape character
- Regional parks
- Urban greening
- Sense of place



Biodiversity

- Local conservation priorities
- Designated sites
- Habitat networks



Access and Connectivity

- Active travel
- Public transport and the road network
- Public rights of way



Blue Infrastructure

- Water courses
- Flood risk
- Water quality



People, Health and Wellbeing

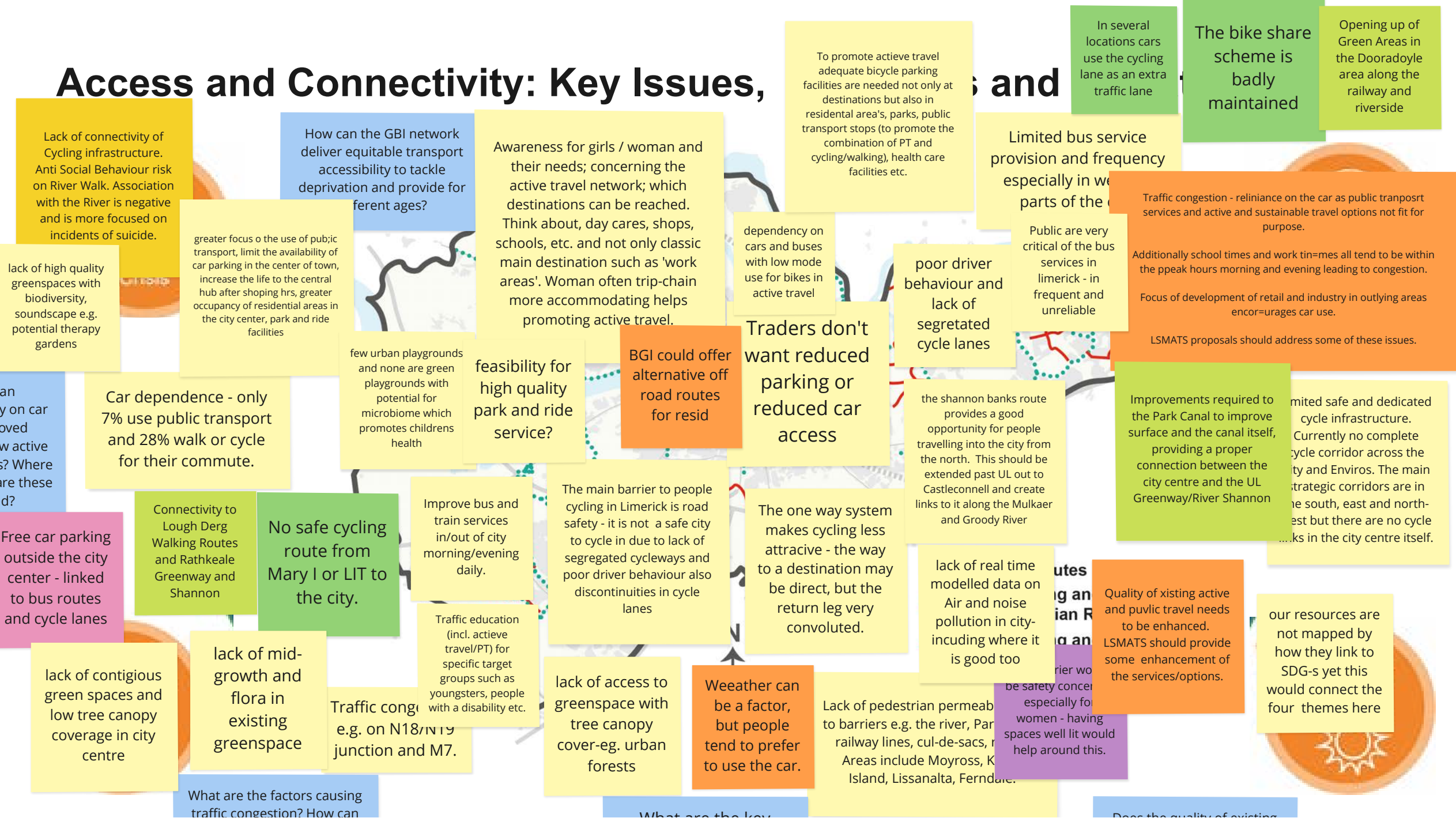
- Amenity greenspace
- Areas of deficiency
- Food growing
- Health and well-being



Tourism, Culture and the Economy

- Historic and heritage features
- Economic benefits
- Key destination for tourism

Access and Connectivity: Key Issues,



Access and Connectivity: What is valued? What works? What should be replicated?

Some existing active travel routes for walkers and cyclists.

Several promoted walking routes e.g. City Centre Slí na Sláinte, Riverside Walk, The Three Bridges

Bus links across the city and one rail station

3 Bridges Walks
River Back Walk
UL to City
River Access

The greenway from the Abbey Bridge to UL is excellent - segregated and safe and offers an amenity as well as an active travel route

Bike share doesn't extend to the suburbs or UL

the continuation of cycle route from the Canal (that connects with Shannon Walkway) as this has potential to be a safe cycle route into the city

Local Parks are great but need additional additions, BB Court, Older Adult related activities, Teenage Focus

Low speed levels for all modes of transport if segregated bicycle lanes aren't available, with low speed levels it's ok to mix bicycle with car or bicycle with pedestrians

The Three Bridges Walk is very popular, but it is not particularly green. There may be opportunities to develop routes that take in some of the parks such as westfields and the Baggot Estate.

The Castletroy Greenway links schools and residential areas in Castletroy - currently under construction but likely to be a good model.

Limerick Cycling Bus where parents collect and accompany children to school on their bikes is a great initiative

quality pedestrian cycle routes from outskirts of city (built up suburban areas) into the heart of the city.

Existing walking/cycling routes are good but could expand; need to identify more eg use of former rail lines

Bike Scheme Needs an upgrade and could be expanded

Change Roundabouts to Traffic Light Junctions

The shared surface on Bishop's Street seems to work well and the new segregated cycle way across the Shannon Bridge which joins with it - The latter was introduced as a temporary measure due to Covid, but hopefully will remain in place. Very popular with the Limerick Cycling Campaign.

Wayfinding to parks is not good. In particular the Baggot Estate. The majority of Limerick people don't know it is there and the entrance is not signed and very difficult to find.

Quality of wayfinding to BGI assets could be improved. Could look at linking map/app of BGI assets.

Which public transport links are most effective and cater for the needs of residents and visitors?

What is the quality of wayfinding to GBI assets across the City? What are the best examples, and what can be improved?

Which of the existing and proposed active travel routes for walkers and cyclists are most used and effective for connectivity? Have any routes specifically enhanced connectivity to GBI assets?

Which residential and industrial areas of the city have good access infrastructure and permeability?

People, Health and Wellbeing: Key Issues, Pressures and Threats

Public toilets that are friendly to people who are blind or have visual impairments - eg: the public toilet by the People's Park is relatively impossible for an unassisted blind person to use

Link green spaces to classes offered by LCETB - teach people how to grow food and how to improve green space and upkeep - have people make flower boxes for green spaces - teach people about flowers and wildlife

Limerick has huge areas of green space which are entirely under developed and under used and often attracts antisocial behaviour - in particular horses in the more deprived areas. examples of this are in Garryowen, St Mary's Park (Kings Island), Moyross, Ballynanty but generally all residential greenspaces are maintained as feature less amenity grass often without any trees, paths or landscape features which would attract people in and offer opportunities for natural play.

Work with local community centres and Family Resource Centres to access local communities and get buy in from them - predevelopment work is incredibly important

Anti Social Behaviour requires an area to have a higher Footfall in order to deter. But it is a Chi

Disadvantaged areas all have green space but the quality of it tends to be low.

In which deprived areas of Limerick is GBI most deficient?

Currently large scale funding for programs (active cities) but need to do PPP with local companies

Public toilets and changing areas. More are needed around the city - covid has highlighted this very much

Ballynanty is probably the deprived area of the city with the poorest access to quality greenspace. It is adjacent to Moyross but not strictly a Regeneration area and tends to get forgotten. But even with in the regen areas the access to green space is poor. Facilities like playground have been provided but little else.

Need for a large scale Behaviour Change approach as high % of Disadvantaged do not value PA

the canal is a good diverse area that if it was opened up to some stalls or over looking business it may eliminate anti social

From, Memory thye Baggot Estate is an area that would benefit from greater activity and is also well on the road to NBS

antisocial behaviour can be somewhat mitigated by ensuring they are active travel routes -perhaps for the colleges -high footfall discourages ASB

the shannon riverside walk from Corbally to UL is an excellent amenity but doesn't tend to get used after dark even though lit

Speak with local resident groups, local environmental groups, primary schools, youth organisations, after school services/groups, community centres. Ask them what they would like to see/use/have on a green area close to where they live. What do they not want to see/have/use? Each community might like something slightly different for a green area and by meeting with representatives is a good starting point!

Allotments - Trial or pilot allotments in established settings in the city. Give people an opportunity to try growing their own food and then scale up within a wider strategy? St. Joseph's hospital, for example, is planning on using old/established growing facilities (early stage discussion but infrastructure is there). Also is there a demand for growing food in allotments? Perhaps a public consultation to gauge needs/wants?

we need initiatives that supporting the link between local food production with consumption- a sustainability index for local shops

Accessibility - for people with disabilities is vital. Outside sitting areas that accommodate people who use wheelchairs so they are not excluded - note this should not be doubled as anti-homeless architecture

There is no formal allotment, community garden or urban farming programme in Limerick. There are many underused greenspaces which would be ideal for this. A concern is maintenance requirements and there is a need for a model for how these can be maintained by the users. There is a woman in Garryowen (Helena) who has a great vision for a n urban farm in th earea.

Good lighting discourages anti-social behaviour. Grounds keepers.

showcasing of good examples in cities with large stakeholders-eg. first 7 week program on sustainability for all the colleges with a local environment week celebration

Car dependency.

Other open spaces

How can accessibility and functionality of GBI assets be

How can GBI be used

Anti Social Behaviour Access Time, Opening and Closing.

Biodiversity

Economic Crisis

People, Health and Wellbeing: What is valued? What works? What should be replicated? What is Limerick best at?

There are number of public parks both large (Baggott Estate, Westfields Wetlands) and small (O'Brien Park, People's Park, Shelbourne Park).

Parkrun & junior Parkrun have been successful at 3 locations 1 in City and 2 in suburbs

Local Parks can and are utilised by Migrants and New Communities more than local residents

I am not aware of allotment areas in Limerick but there is good evidence of their use in Tipperary and Shannon

Clare Street Park and Mungret Park well utilised for sporting and social activities

Need to include opportunities for natural play in greenspaces rather than the more formal playgrounds

Which spaces provide good access to nature? Community cohesion? Tranquility? Play and recreation space?

How and where does GBI enhance health and wellbeing and community cohesion? Particularly in the most deprived areas of Limerick?

Are there good examples of community food growing?

Are any spaces used for social prescribing, or have the opportunity to do so?

all parks need a quiet space for recovery-a key learning from CV19 times

Last year areas of Castletroy park were allowed to develop into wildflower meadows. This was hugely popular with park users. This will be rolled out more widely this year.

There has been occasional efforts to develop either council owned or community managed allotments. However, in my experience there is either insufficient interest or where they are started they tend to die out due to waning interest.

let citizens be architects of their greenspace with guidance and let children or local users name the park and features

Walkways and cycleways along the rivers

Baggott Estate and river walks and westfields provide access to nature.

parks need to be multi-functional including play, recreation and high quality GS to promote biodiversity

protecting forest areas within the city environs and opportunities to expand these

Westfields is a good example of a park that is managed as much for wildlife as for people. A management plan is currently being produced which has had significant input from locals and interest groups.

Forest school in Baggott Estate is a wonderful initiative that could be replicated elsewhere - This one also deals with special needs children (mainly hearing impaired, but also autistic).

A Connected network for Cycling and Walking from City to suburbs

Improved Pathways in Baggott Estate and the addition of 3 Orienteering Maps

engage using CSR time from SME's to work in citizen science activity

we need to provide info.on the cost of driving and the benefits of active travel-overcome overestimation of active travel time

Exercise 3: Existing projects

Moyross Community Centre have an urban garden area connected to them - this will be open to the community for classes and projects - gives the community a sense of ownership over the space

Cycle bus - some parents and children on the Northside of the city get together every morning and cycle to local schools as one large group

Think about those which provide active travel, green urban areas, provide access to nature, create sense of place, promote community cohesion

Grass paths in parks have opened up areas which previously wouldn't have been used - Castletroy Neighbourhood APrk, Mungret Park.

Castletroy Urban Greenway - currently under construction.

Paths have been added to several greenspaces which were previously under used.

A trial dog park has been created in Mungret Park.

The Active Cities Programme is at a very early stage and will hopefully have 3 years of funding to support more PA across all areas, open spaces, River, walkways

Athlunkard Boat Club has been designated as a Urban Adventure Outdoor Hub. Will have community based programmes over the coming 12 months.

Public bike scheme Coca-Cola Zero Bikes.

UL green campus initiative has been upgraded in ambition under new presidency :-)

Local ← → City Wide

Upgrade of footpaths in city parks have increased accessibility and enjoyment eg Baggott Estate

Castletroy greenway is nearing completion

Orienteering maps have been developed for Baggot Estate to encourage use of the park.

LSP Target Programmes and Initiatives are

URBACT Health and Greenspace is working to create plans for several underused greenspaces in the city in consultation with local residents and other stakeholders. The plans will aim to enhance and animate the greenspaces. The particular focus areas are in: Garryowen , Moyross ,Ballynanty, Mayorstone Park, Johnns Gate ,Mt. St Lawrence. Baggot Estate. St. Joseph's Hospital

Existing project local / site specific scale

river projects and events- Riverfest could add a sustainability dimension and there are swimmable limerick and reclaim the river activities

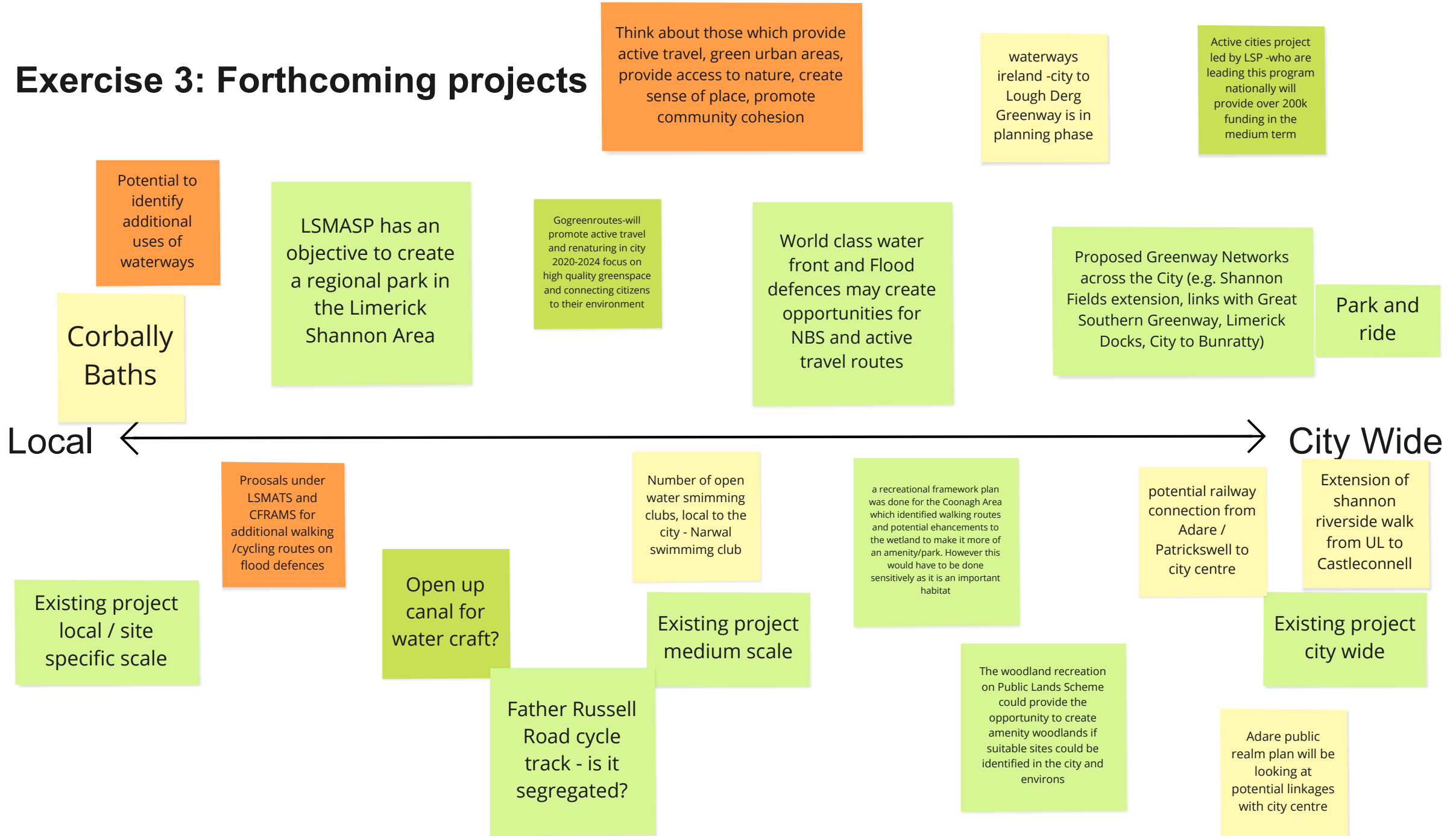
Skate park near the dock road is a great area for young people

H2020 Go Green routes looking to promote active mobility routes and healthy lifestyles

Existing project medium scale

Hush project -noise pollution has been ongoing

Exercise 3: Forthcoming projects



Exercise 3: Useful Datasets

[illegible]

LSMATS
Demand
Analysis
Supporting
Documentation

mobility data-
strava, INRIX and
TOMTOM provide
info.
congestion for
example

copernicus
and epa
data sets

Apps that model pollution at city level- <https://map.elichens.com/#/location/limerick>

Local ← park run have database → SDG indicator reporting → City Wide

park run have
database
which gives
nos. each
week

SDG indicator
reporting-
see city
scorecards

Adventure Walk App

Access and Connectivity

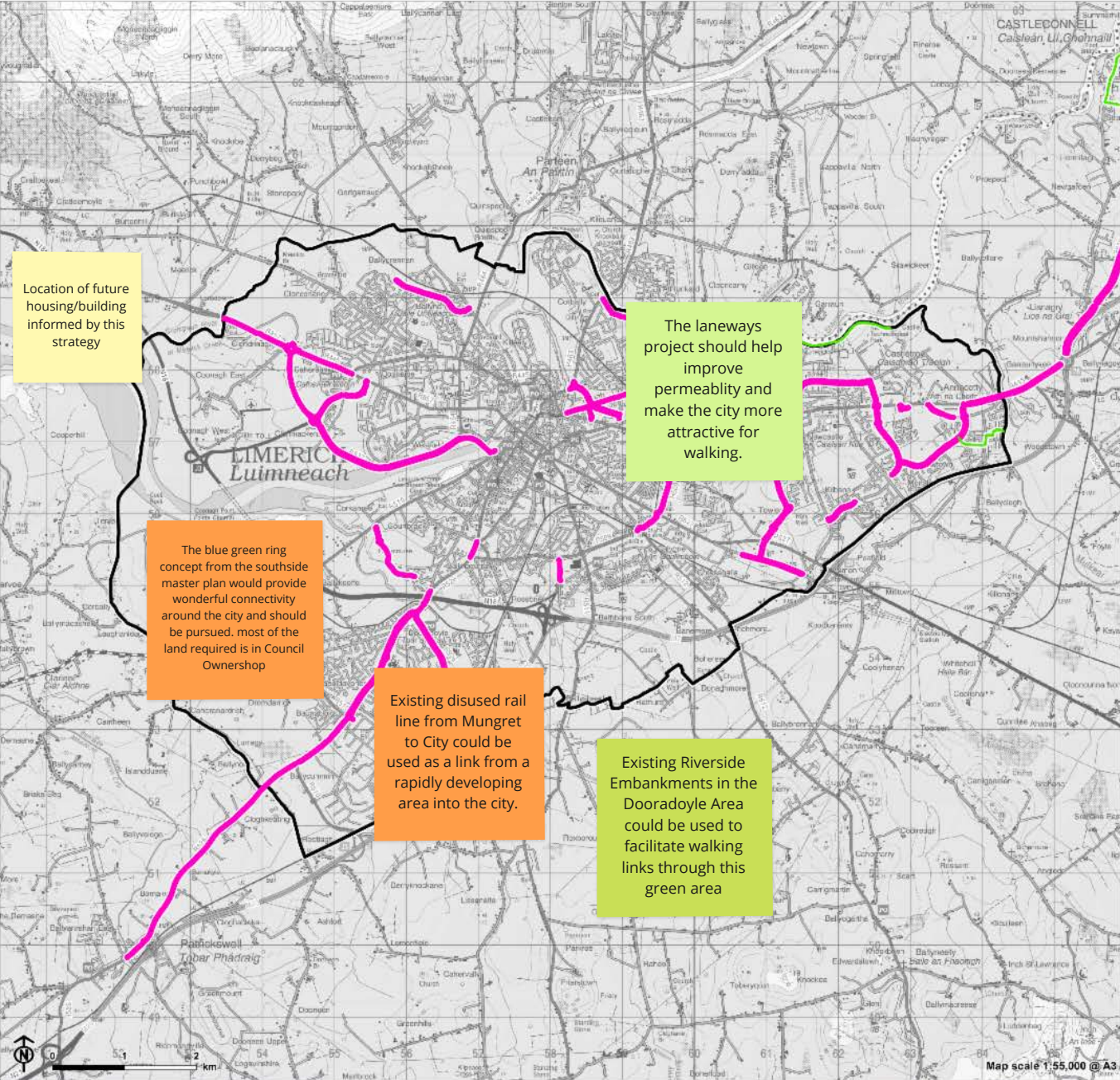


Figure X.X: Existing active travel corridors

- Limerick City and Environs
- Existing recreational routes
- Existing cycle lanes

Figure X.X: Existing active travel corridors in City Centre

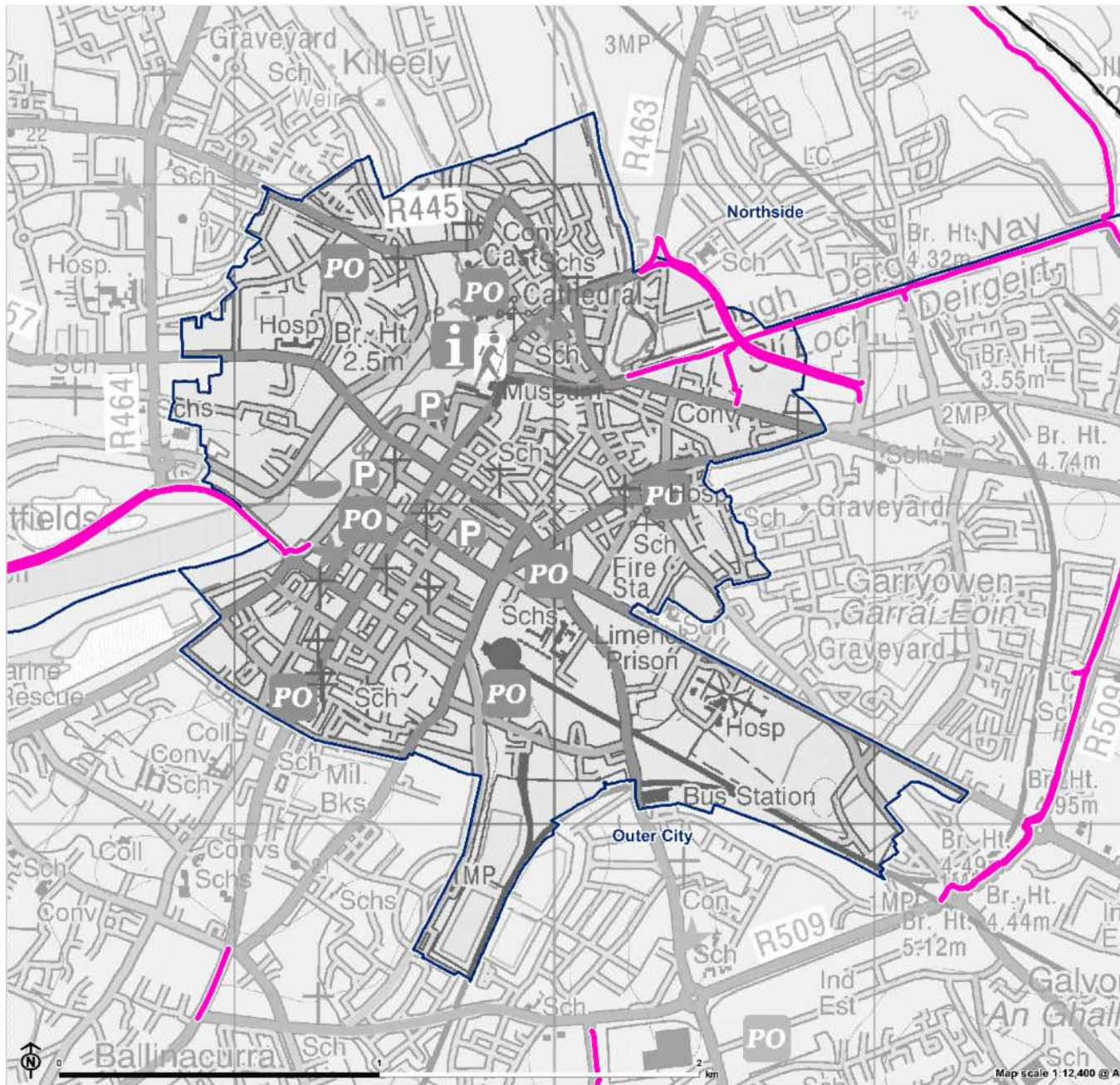
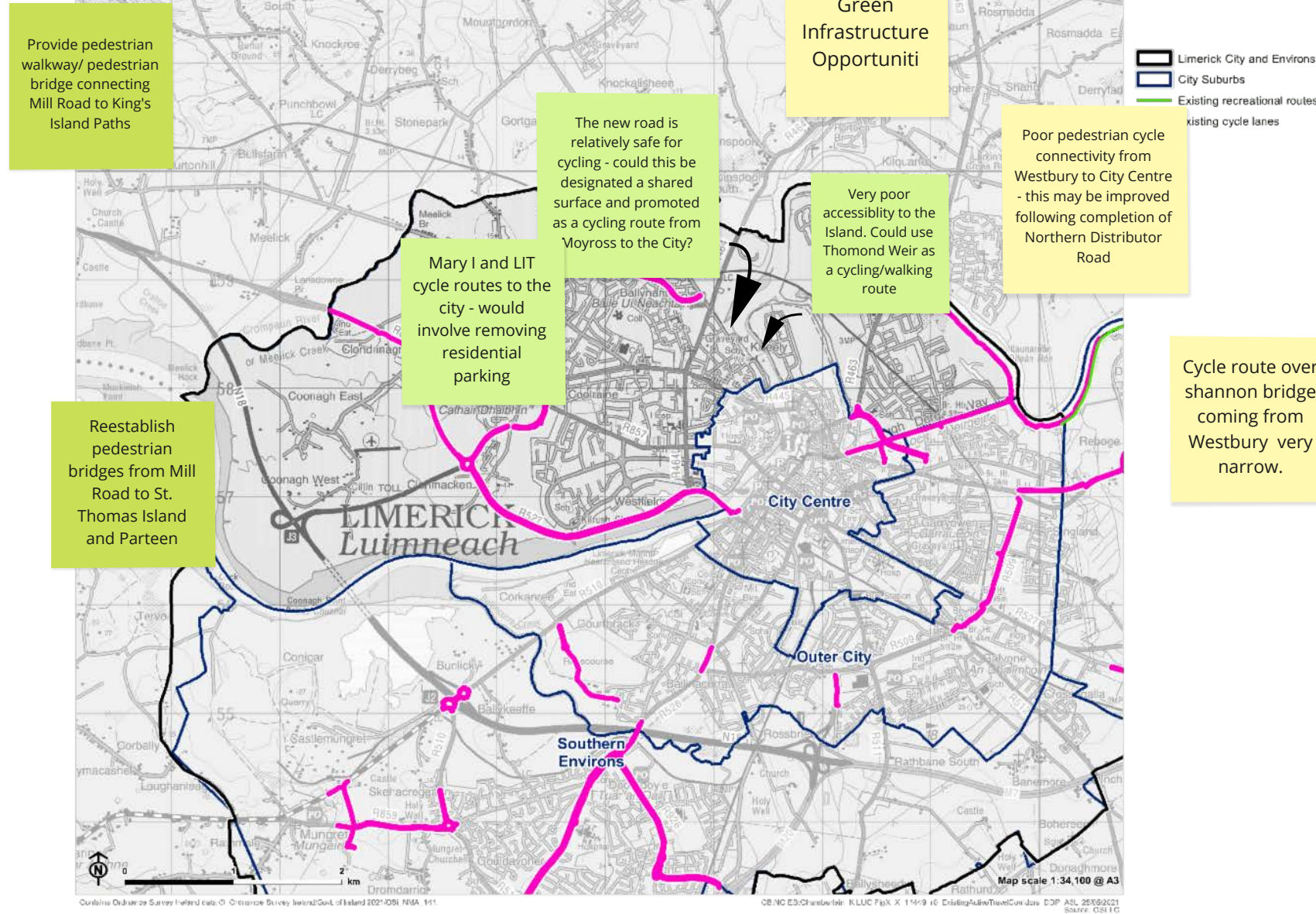


Figure X.X: Existing active travel corridors in Northside



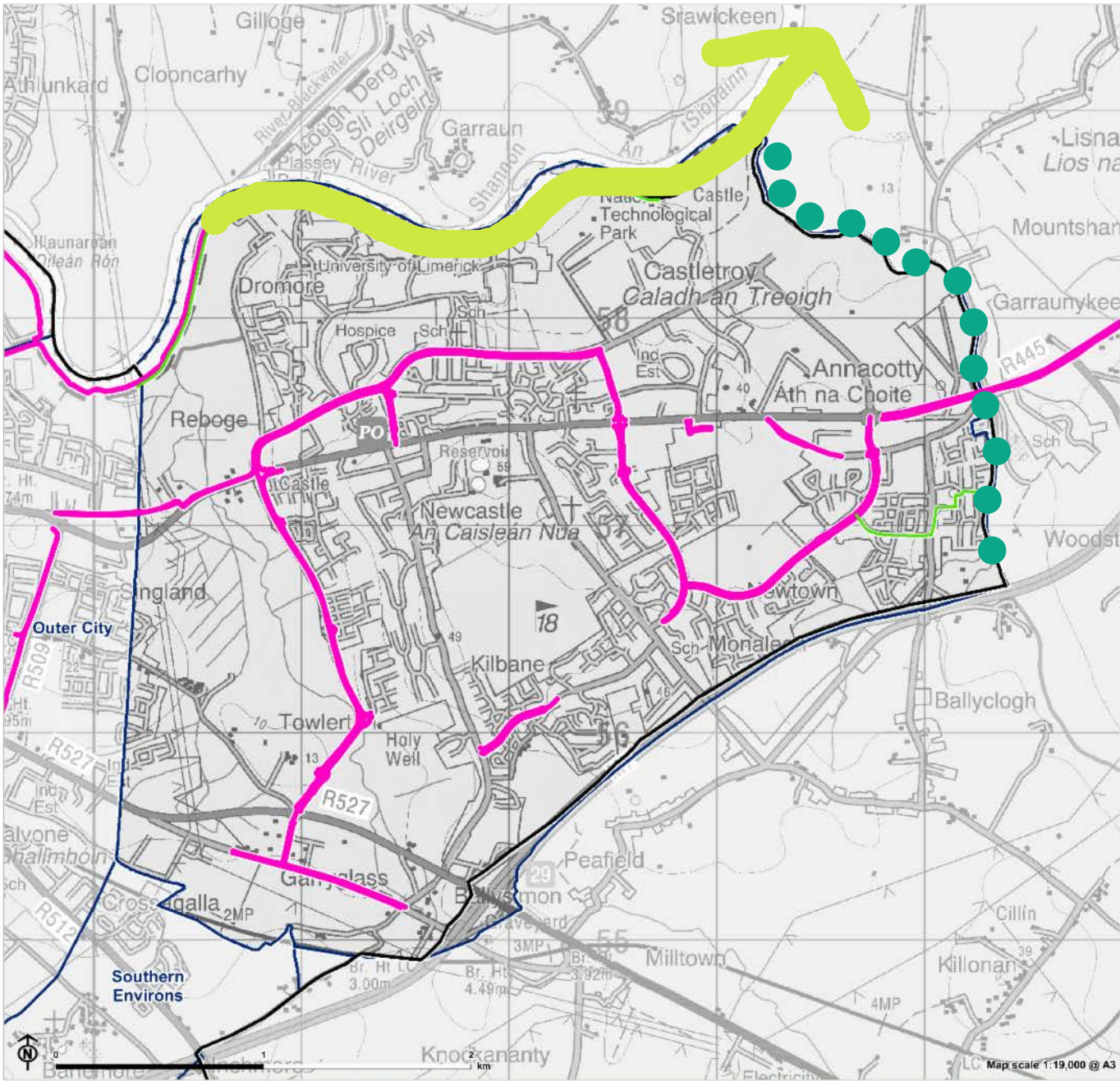
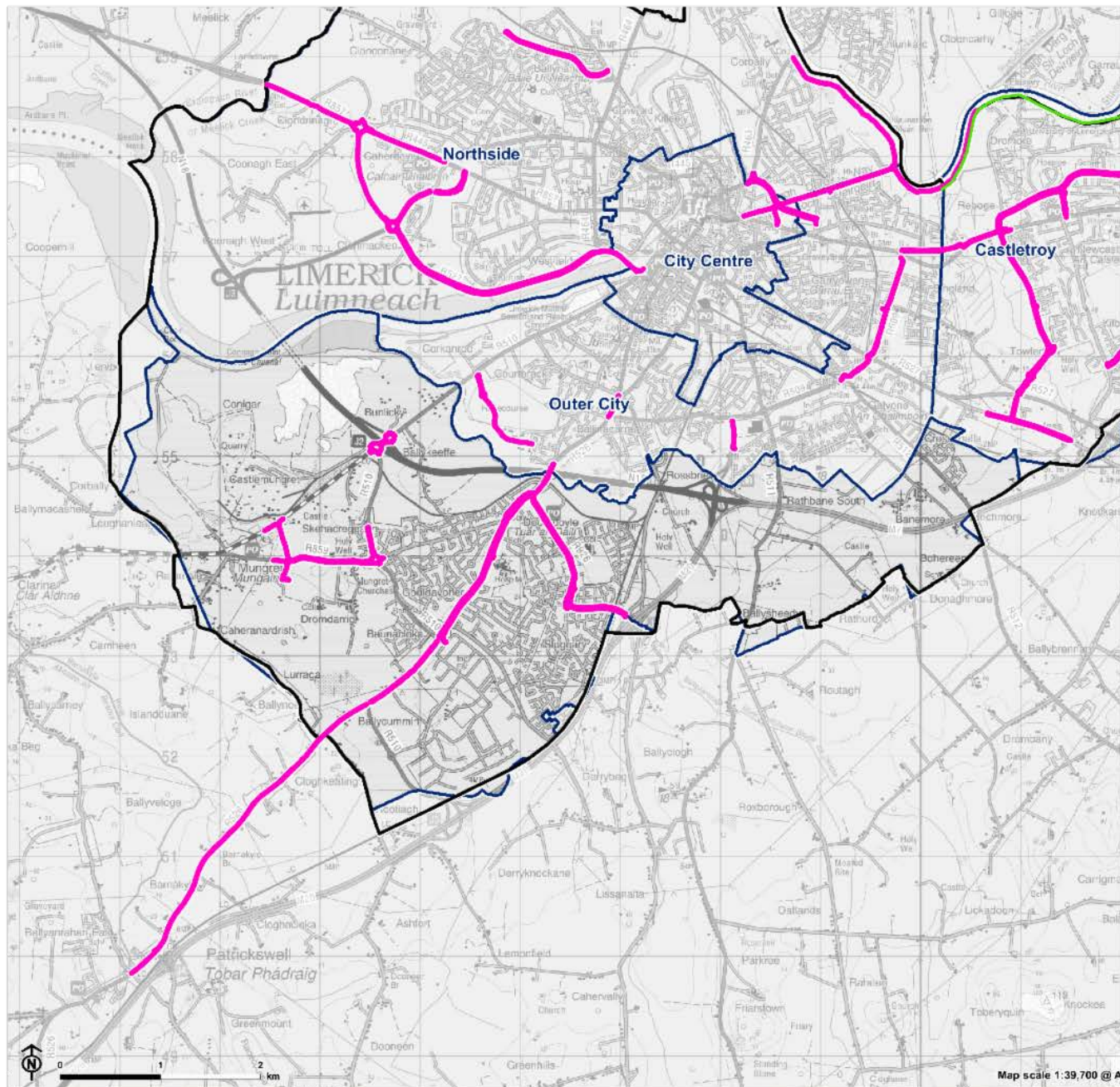


Figure X.X: Existing active travel corridors in Castletroy

Figure X.X: Existing active travel corridors in Southern
Environs



People. Health and Wellbeing

any bespoke greenspaces and notably restorative spaces-need significant GI to mitigate the co-hazards of noise and air pollution-mix of conifers and deciduous trees

generally-protect homes and schools-because these levels are high and this could influence configuration of green routes

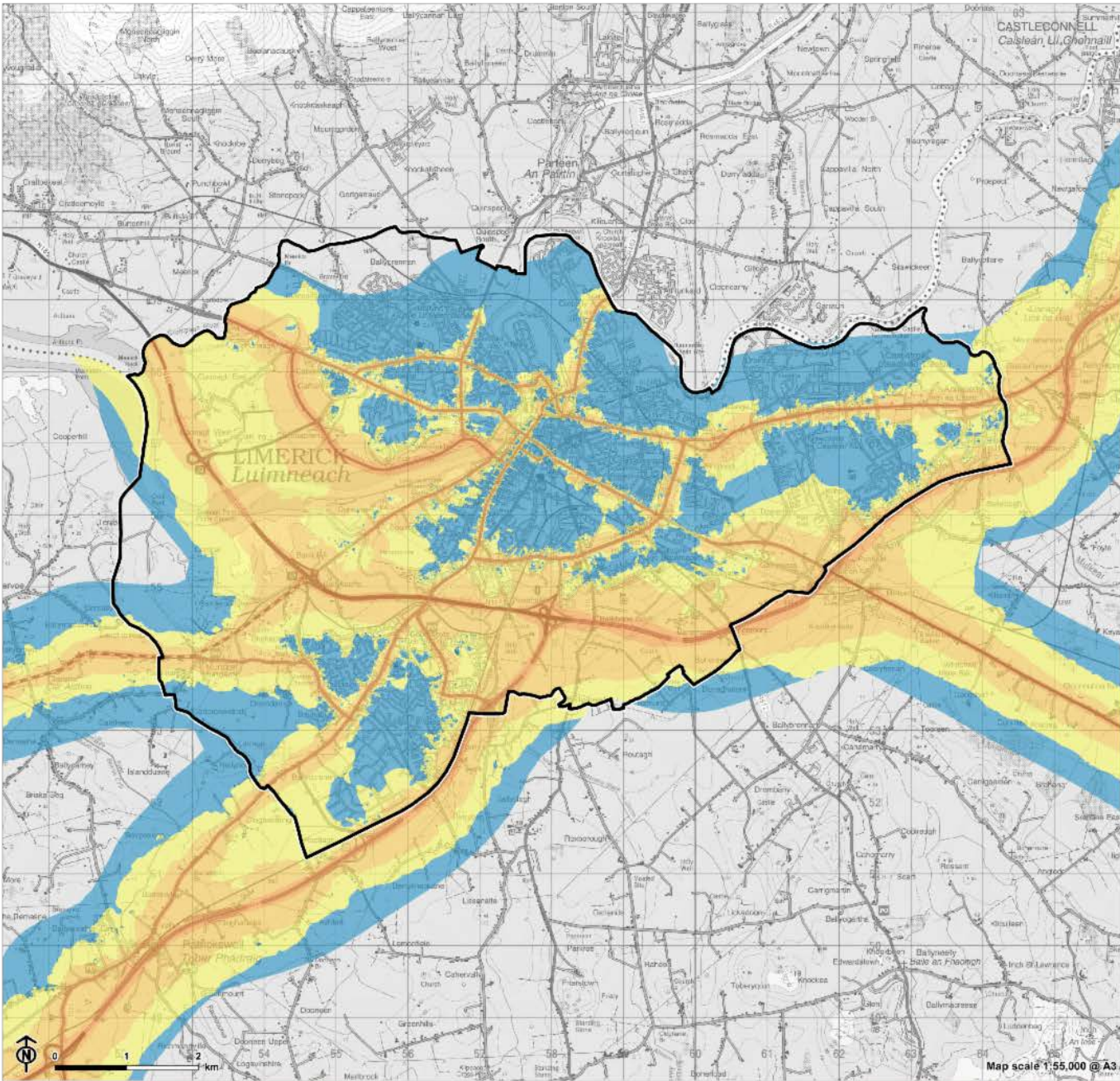


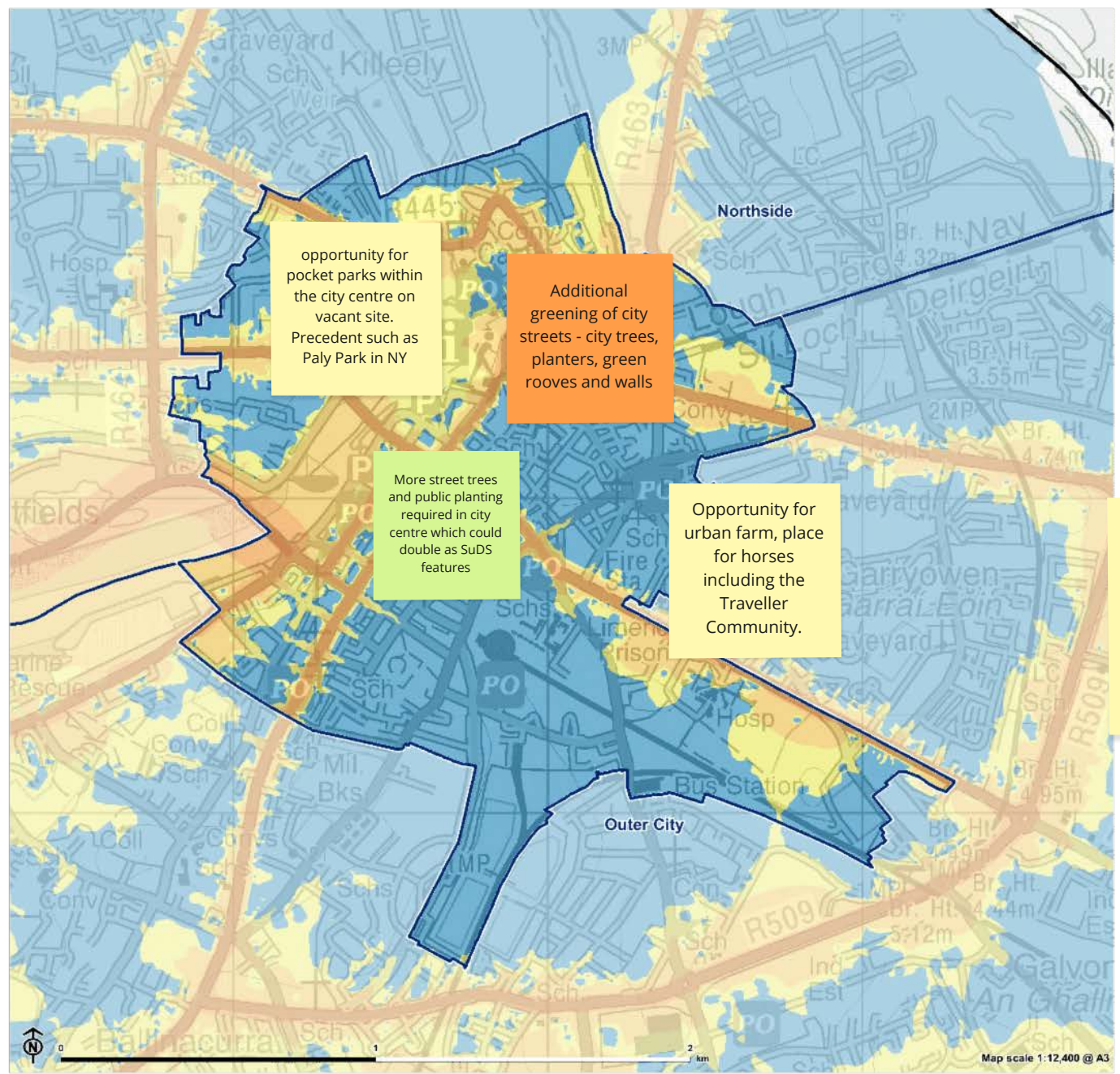
Figure X.X: Road Noise

on trees that
note birdlife and
fe in park areas-
would create a
al soundscape to
open effects of
ise pollution

city centre requires
higher density of
trees -mix of
conifers and
deciduous to increase
tree canopy cover-
hedges required too

Develop tree species
index to ensure use
of resilient species
and use of those
which don't have
high levels of pollen

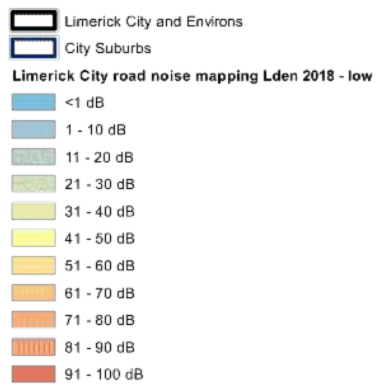
Green walls and
pocket parks would
make great short
term solution to add
GI and showcase its
benefits



Limerick City and Environs Green and Blue
Infrastructure Strategy
Limerick City and County Council



Figure X.X: Road Noise in City Centre



More
support/resources to
needed to provide
activities in public
parks eg LSP courses,
sli and slainte, park
runs etc

Use tree boxes and only
green one side of street
where pedestrians can
travel to ensure sufficient
space for trees and mid-
growth to promote
biodiversity

ensure co-creation is part
of any new developments-
naming the parks after
local heroes-Dolores, Axel
etc. and involve
communities in aesthetic
design too

Analysis of Storm
Water Network to see
where engineered
wetlands can be
introduced to improve
quality of run off

Figure X.X: Road Noise in Outer City

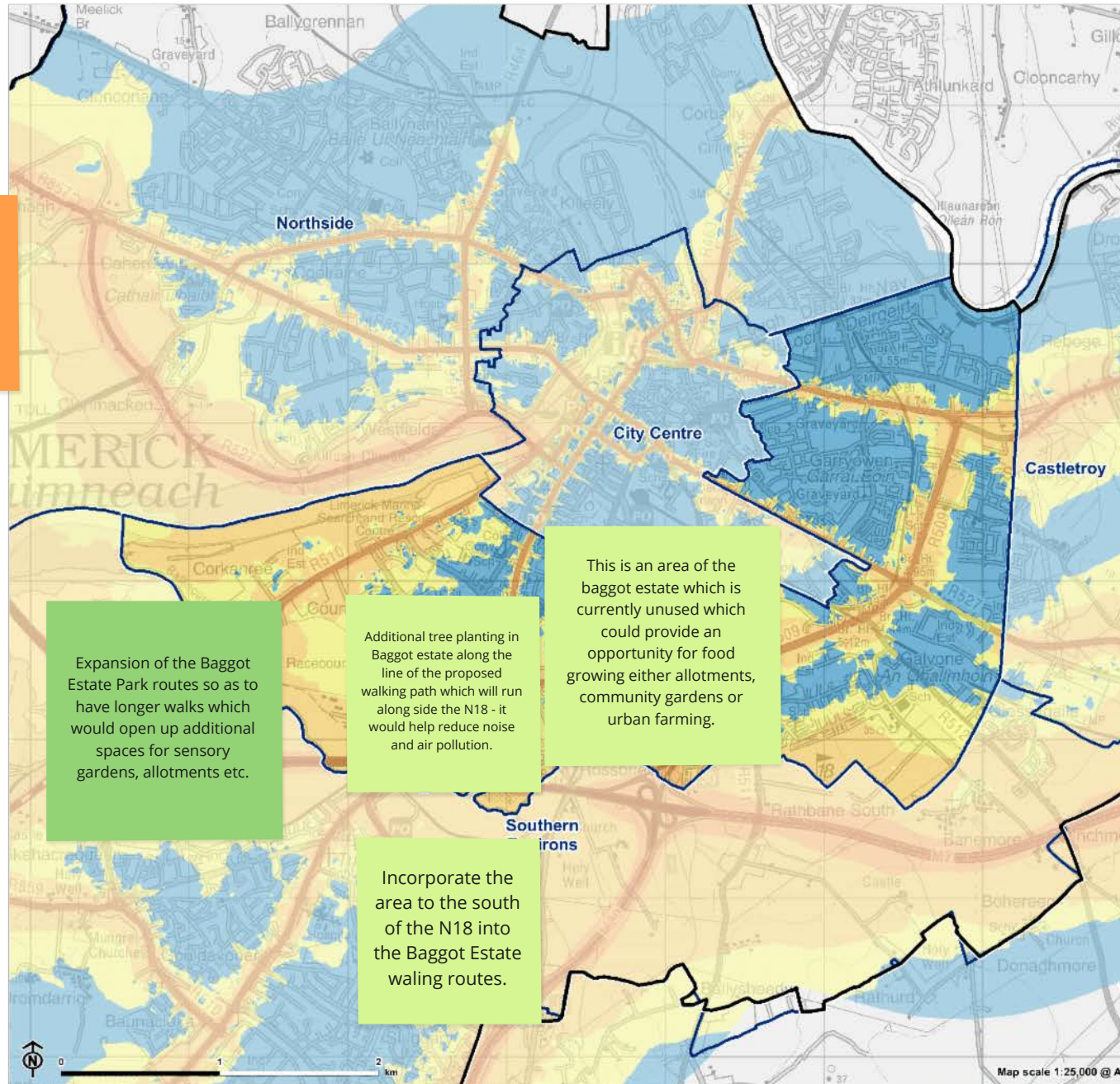
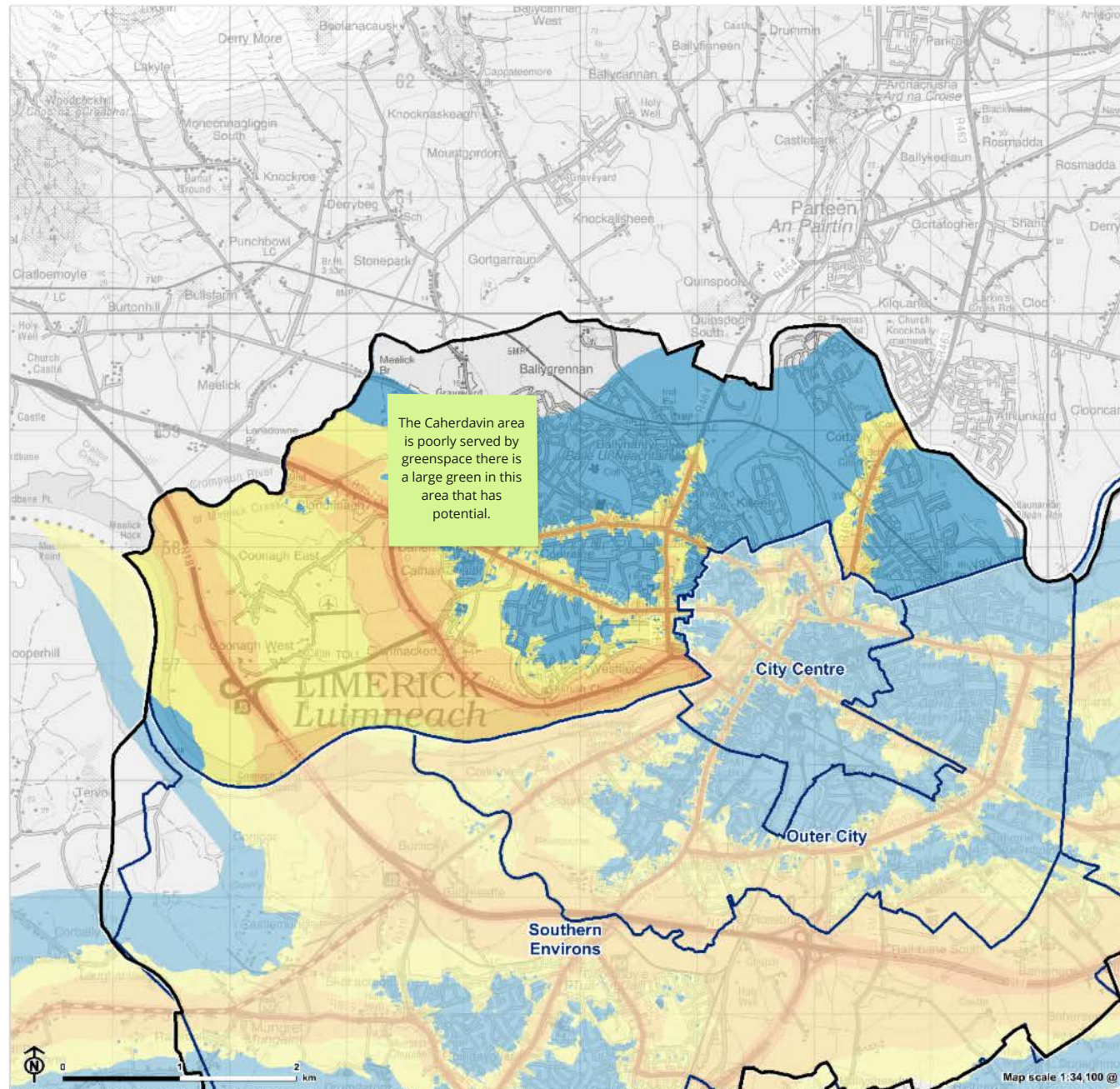


Figure X.X: Road Noise in Northside



Extend Natural
Woodland in
the Shannon
Fields Area

Provide surfacing
to Greenway
linking Lower Park
to Guinness
Bridge

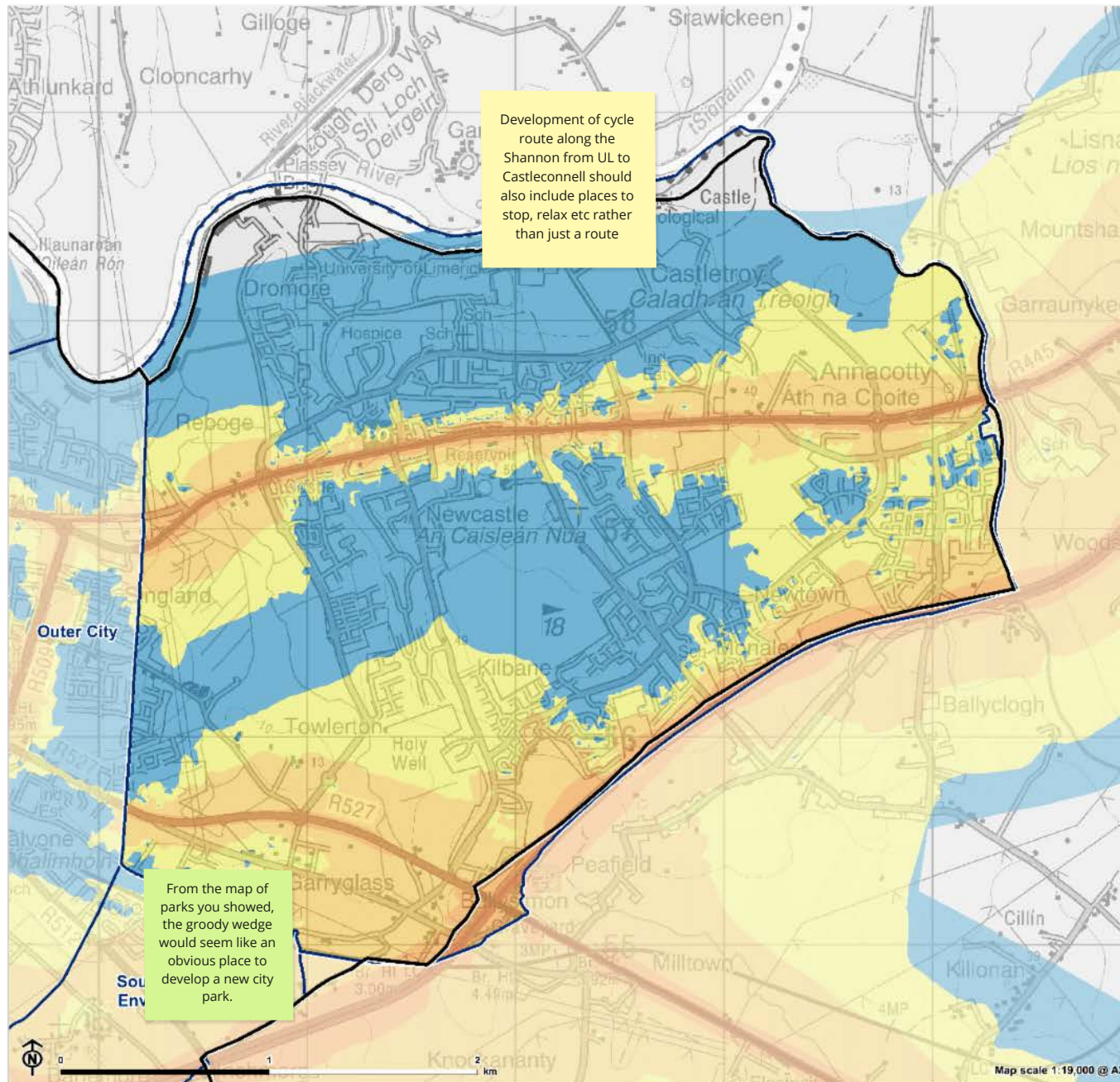
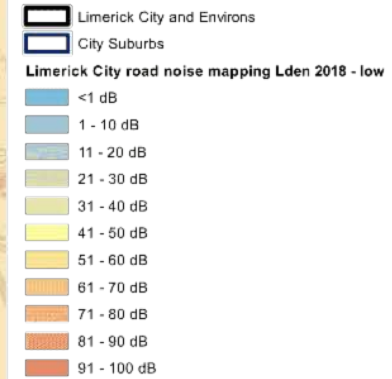


Figure X.X: Road Noise in Castletroy



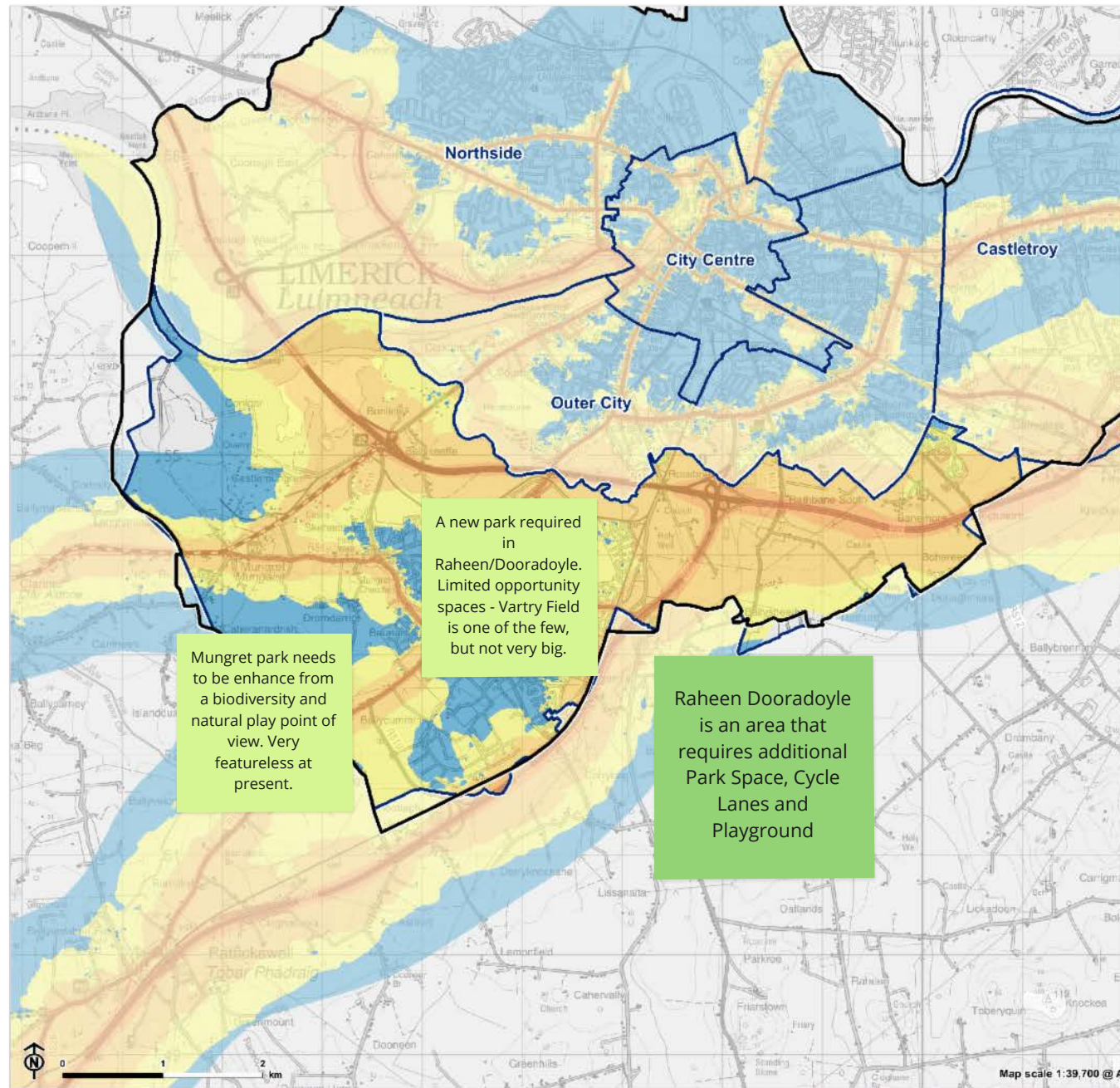
Limerick City road noise mapping Lden 2018 - low

Legend:

- Limerick City and Environs (Black outline)
- City Suburbs (Blue outline)

Noise Level Legend:

- <1 dB
- 1 - 10 dB
- 11 - 20 dB
- 21 - 30 dB
- 31 - 40 dB
- 41 - 50 dB
- 51 - 60 dB
- 61 - 70 dB
- 71 - 80 dB
- 81 - 90 dB
- 91 - 100 dB



Exercise

Open Space Assessment

Only Westfields Wetland is likely to fall into this category.

The Groody Wedge offers a great opportunity for a good sized park

Would the range and type of facilities for each park type also need to be identified?

small park should be parallel to WHO guidelines- so min. of 2 hectares within 3-400m or 5 min walk

We probably have a lot of green spaces that fall into th Pocket and small categories, but they are just grass. Should we specify what needs to be included before it can be called a park?

Local park 2-20ha is too loose-WHO says 20k within 2km-scale is required for multifunctionality-e.g. exercise within park and recreation

Destination Park
>20ha

Local Park
2 - 20ha
Within 1km
of every
residence

Small Park
0.2 - 2ha
Within 400m
of every
residence

Pocket Park
0.04 - 0.2ha
Within 100m
of every
residence

scale and distance criteria are great and ideally have crieria for biodiversity and multi-functionality

pocket parks are the right scale

ation pk-
is include
e forests-
major ones
circa 20km

Would City wide or district park be a better name than destination - that implies it is worth travelling significant distance to the park and there would be an expectation about facilities in that case.

Most of our existing parks would fall into the local park category. The 1km radius would still probably show the same gaps as you identified in your map.

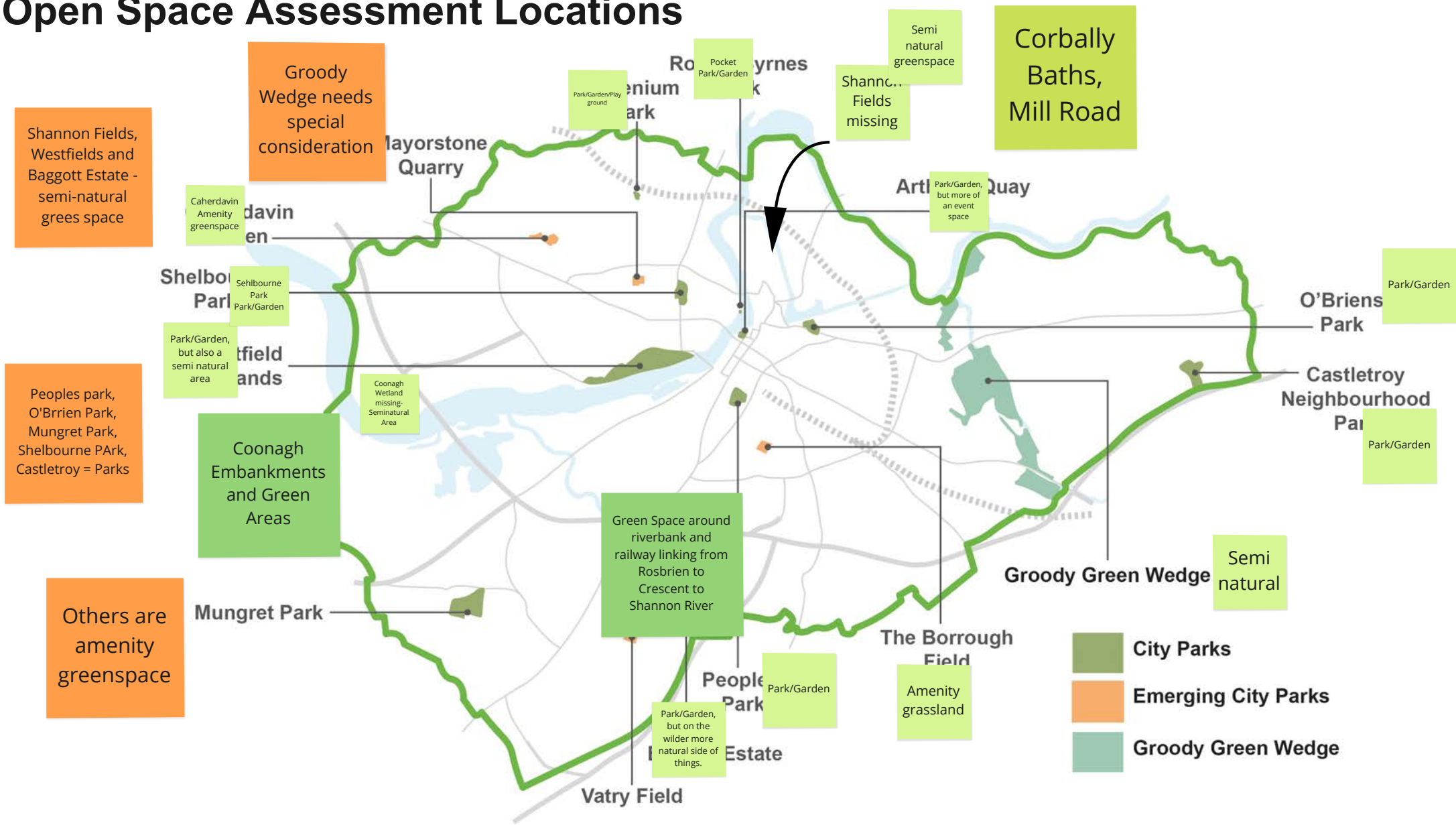
Rathbane Golf course is one of the biggest greenspaces in the city but it is enjoyed by a relatively small number of people - could the be repurposed as a park?

Many Green areas not designated as parks or not accessible

Once you get out of the City the council is no longer the biggest provider of amenity greenspace -

May have difficulty in achieving pocket parks within 100m

Open Space Assessment Locations



Thank you for your participation

**Please contact stephanie.crewe@landuse.co.uk for any
follow up queries or comments**

